

**NJHN BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
FOR 2026-2028 ELECTION TERM
(in alphabetical order)**



Tamar Kieval Brill

I find it difficult to remember when I wasn't involved with NJHN. Although I've been an official member for nearly 20 years, I attended events for much longer than that with my husband, Gary Brill. I have served on the Board of Directors for 17 years and was also involved in the Humanist Community at Rutgers University. While on the Board, I've worked primarily with the Membership committee, first as a member and then as its chair for the last four years. I've also been a member of the Committee for the last five years and have been involved in the Book Club since its inception.

Originally from Albany, NY, I lived in Manhattan for ten years during college and graduate school before moving to NJ in 1982. I have a B.A. in psychology and education from Barnard College, Columbia University, and an M.A. in counseling from NYU. Apart from a five-year stint in corporate America, I've spent my working life in higher education, first at NYU and then for more than 30 years at Rutgers University, where I served as an assistant dean until my retirement in 2019. While raised in a very observant Jewish household, I realized in college that I did not believe in God and felt adrift for quite a long time before beginning to seek out Humanist organizations. I have tenuous connections with secular Jewish communities, but find my primary community in NJHN.



Denise Fedele

I was raised in a devout Catholic family in a small rural town in northcentral Pennsylvania. I grew to love nature and science and attended a Catholic university to study chemistry. My education there challenged me to question my religious beliefs while enabling my love for scientific research to blossom. That began the journey that finally led me to adopt a secular way of life as a non-believer. I continued my education to get a PhD in neuroscience and now manage the research labs at Rutgers RWJMS Dept of Neurosurgery.

Family is important to me; I have 3 children, ages 18, 16, and 14, and have worked to raise them with secular, humanistic values. I would like to make an impact on NJHN by helping to organize family-centered activities. I think it is important to help secular young people realize

they have a community who will support them as they question their and others' beliefs and who can show them the positive impact they can make in the name of humanity.

I have been an active part of NJHN for a little over a year and have enjoyed the thought-provoking programs and the stimulating book club discussions. I have also helped to organize the upcoming volunteer opportunity at the soup kitchen in New Brunswick. I look forward to the opportunity to help organize future NJHN programs as a board member.



Lisa Ridge

I've been a member of NJHN since 2002. I'm currently the President and have also served as Vice President. I've been responsible for directing the planning of NJHN programs, community outreach, and social activities, our Secular Student Scholarship and other fundraising efforts, as well as promoting our organization in our communities and on our social media accounts. With the help of members of our various Committees, we're always working to make NJHN an active and welcoming community that our members will value. My responsibilities also include working with our treasurer to maintain our financial stability and nonprofit tax-exempt status with federal and state agencies.

I'm committed to a positive, productive Humanist community in New Jersey and working with other organizations to achieve that goal, especially with the challenges we face in a diverse but divided society. I continue to attend conferences, webinars, and meetings to keep our community informed about issues, news, and events, and also connect with other secular leaders and activists. Expanding NJHN's visibility and outreach to existing and new members are always my most important goals. I live with my partner Tim and our four cats in Ewing in Mercer County.