

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHTS!

Library Board President, Miriam “Mim” Furey-Wagner

Miriam Furey-Wagner earned her B.A. in Biology at Barnard College of Columbia University and her M.S. in Zoology at the University of Rhode Island. She began her 32-year career in education at Clark Lane Middle School as a science teacher and retired as a middle school principal at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School in Regional School District 17. Mim has been married to Thomas Wagner, the former Director of Planning for the Town of Waterford, for 46 years. They are the proud parents of two Waterford High School graduates and doting grandparents. Mim is a Master Gardener and enjoys working in her perennial and vegetable beds. She currently serves as the Chair of the Civic Triangle Ad-Hoc committee and is looking forward to the completion of that project this summer. Mim has served on the library’s Board since 2015.



Board Vice President Constance "Connie" Giordano



Tell us about yourself.

I have lived in the Waterford-New London area since 1963 and was employed in Waterford as an elementary school teacher and later as the principal of Great Neck School retiring in 1999. Upon retiring, I was invited to supervise interns and student teachers for the University of New Haven. I was in that position for 16 years.

I enjoy being with people and giving back to the area. I volunteered at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital assisting in the Lobby Shop until COVID-19 emerged. I am an avid reader. My goal is to learn something new from each book.

I have been a resident of Waterford for many years.

What prompted you to join the Waterford Library Board?

I always understood the importance of a public library and the ability to read. The library is a free resource as a path to learning. With my experience in education, I am interested in promoting literacy for all ages. In addition, I want to lend my assistance to the Board to continue to ensure that the library remains on its path to serving the community with excellence, keeping in mind the needs and desires of the patrons and the entire community.

What are you reading now or what would you recommend?

Recently, I read *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. The story is set in Italy during the German invasion of northern Italy during World War II. Being of Italian descent I enjoy stories of Italy and its inhabitants. I was also able to relate to many of the characters. In reading this book, I learned more about Italy – its geography, weather, family values, the struggles the people endured, and their resilience. I strongly recommend this title!

What's your earliest or favorite memory of visiting your public library as a child?

When I was in elementary school, I enjoyed many field trips to the public library. The librarian explained how the library was organized, how to care for the books, programs held at the library, etc. We were encouraged to read, read, read, and to utilize the magic of the library!

Past President Aaron Rosenberg



What prompted you to join the Waterford Library Board?

I have truly enjoyed libraries since even before I could read. While in college and graduate school I practically lived in libraries. When we moved to Waterford 42 years ago, I immediately found a 2nd home of sorts at the Waterford Library. It has always made me feel like a kid in a toy factory. There is so much to explore. Where else could someone find so much free entertainment and learning opportunities? About 20 years ago I expressed an interest to be on the Library Board and I thought they forgot about it. Then, a couple of years later I mentioned it again, and before I knew it, I was the new kid on the Board.

Tell us about yourself.

I grew up in Chicago, then went to Indiana University and from there to Hebrew Union College, where I was ordained a rabbi. After serving two congregations in Ohio, in 1980, the Rosenbergs (my wife Karen and our 3 sons Ari, Elon and David) relocated to Waterford, where I served as Rabbi at Temple Emanu-El, until my retirement 7 years ago. I keep busy not only with Library matters, but also at Waterford Rotary Club, the New London Community Meal Center, and several hobbies like painting and struggling with golf. I stay in shape thanks to my personal trainer, Mocha, my dog.

What are you reading now or what would you recommend?

As an inveterate news junkie, I consume far too many articles and books on politics. I also enjoy a good mystery. As a child it was the Hardy Boys. These days it is books by Michael Connelly, Daniel Silva, Jeffery Deaver, and John Sandford. Rather than recommend a book, I suggest people browse through the stacks and let the book choose you.

What's your earliest memory of visiting your public library as a child?

Living in inner city Chicago, my mother would take me to the neighborhood library, and I would take out picture books.