



Cultivating rational inquiry, ethical values & human development.

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2009 ANNUAL MEETING – ELECTION OF BOARD

Dear Member,

It is time for our RBH Annual Membership Meeting and we hope you will be able to attend. The meeting will take just a few minutes at the beginning of our next Forum on Sunday, May 10, 2009.

Although it will be a very brief meeting, it is important that as many of you attend as possible. We need a quorum to conduct our business, which is simply to elect Board members to those Board seats with expiring terms. May 10th is Mother’s Day and some folks may not be able to attend.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR VOTE VIA MAIL OR EMAIL! Mail should be sent to **Red Bank Humanists, P.O. Box 8153, Red Bank, NJ 07701**, email to president@redbankhumanists.com Please respond by May 7th.

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| <p><u>Current Board members with expiring terms:</u> (*)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ron Steelman – President- Bruce Fowler - Vice President- Rosemary Quint – Secretary*- John Kalfus – Treasurer- Carol Auer*- Deborah Pye- Alex Rios*- Eric Seldner* | <p>The Nominating Committee has nominated the following RBH members for reelection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Carol Auer- Alex Rios- Eric Seldner <p>Nominated to replace retiring Board member Rosemary Quint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Irma Lester <p>(see attached Nominee Statement)</p> |
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The Board wishes to thank Rosemary Quint for her service to RBH!

The Nominating Committee will accept applications from any Member who wishes to run for election to one of these four open Board positions. Nomination applications must be received in writing (email is acceptable) by April 25, 2009. This written nomination must also include a statement of purpose/goals from the nominated member.

The Election: As our Bylaws state: “If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies, the nominees may be elected by acclamation.” Otherwise, we will actually have to count the votes! If this happens, it will still take only a few minutes. Immediately following our Annual Meeting, we will proceed with our May Forum.

Best Regards,

Ron Steelman, President

2009 RBH BOARD NOMINEE STATEMENTS

CAROL AUER

Profession – Experience / Current:

- Part time library assistant at the Middletown Public Library

Previous:

- 18 years at AT&T & Bell Labs mostly as a software developer

- 3 years associate librarian at Eastern Michigan University

- 2 years junior high math teacher, one year in Fair Lawn NJ and one in rural Michigan

- Masters degrees: one in Library Science and one in Computer Science

Statement:

I was brought up mostly in Syracuse, NY by parents who were atheists but were also strongly associated with our Jewish cultural heritage. I grew up unaware of the influence of religion on most people. Over the last 30 years, I (slowly at first) started paying attention to religious/spiritual feelings, trying to understand how other people felt these things. I have become more and more unhappy with the results of the influence religion has been having in the world. I have concluded that any spirituality I may have is manifested by my appreciation of nature, the arts, science and in the human spirit that struggles for good in a difficult world. While I enjoy my friends' great diversity, the Red Bank Humanists have given me a wonderful place to be among people who engage in intellectual adventures unconstrained by religion. I want to help this organization represent the humanist view to our community. ☼

IRMA LESTER

Profession/Experience

* I taught at Brookdale Community College from 1970 to 2007, and as Professor of English, helped to develop the Writing Lab, served as a faculty/administrator for English and Humanities, and developed a Women's Studies Option.

* I was one of the developers of the B.C.C. Basic Skills Committee, which greatly improved student retention.

* As a member of the International Committee, I helped to create and sponsor programs for our international students and opportunities for Brookdale students to study abroad.

* I offered a workshop for faculty at our Ecuador campus and traveled to France on a research grant with other New Jersey faculty members.

* I represented B.C.C. during The New Jersey Project, which worked to bring new research about race, class, gender and ethnicity to all courses in the curriculum.

* I was a co-leader of our "Diversity Across the Curriculum" program on campus.

Statement:

I grew up in a Jewish home that had a strong commitment to social justice and learned the importance of empathy and fighting for the rights of all people. As I matured I found myself drawn to a more secular philosophy. For many years with my own growing family, I was an active member of the Monmouth Ethical Society, where I helped to run their secular Sunday school, plan programs and participate in social activism. However, when the group disbanded, I found myself really missing that community forum where I could discuss and share views. How exciting it was, then, when my son, Brian, introduced me to the Red Bank Humanists, which he had discovered as a parent at the Red Bank Charter School.

My husband Dick and I have both been very much at home with RBH and I am honored to have been asked to be a board member. As one committed to education, diversity and feminism, I hope I can contribute to the growth of this group and spread the word to others in the community who may also find a much needed home here. ☼

ALEX RIOS

Professional Experience: Current:

Software Engineer at Future Skies, where I design, develop, and test software, review, compose, and present various kinds of software specifications.

Previous: AVAYA, Ion Networks, NCR, AT&T, Ascom Timeplex.

Current Avocations:

Reading science and math books, learning to play the classical guitar.

Statement:

I am a New Jersey native. I like to consider myself an amateur scientist and musician. I have been working as a software engineer in the Telecommunications industry for over 12 years. I was raised an Evangelical Christian of the Old Earth creationist Pentecostal variety. I have=2 0a BS in Electrical Engineering from Steven's Institute of Technology. I live in Ocean County, New Jersey.

I arrived at Secular Humanism around age 29 as a result of my doubt in authority, my "need" to question everything, the realization that my experience of reality rarely matches the Christian expectation of reality, the failure of prayer and miracles, my secular and scientific education, a very strong agreement with CFI/Council For Secular Humanism's "Affirmations of the Principles of Secular Humanism," and after reading Paul Kurtz's many books and publications.

2009 RBH BOARD NOMINEE STATEMENTS

After driving to far too many CFI meetings for a few years, I was very pleased to hear of RBH a few days before its very first meeting. I attended that meeting and was so glad to have a nearby organization of like-minded individuals that I personally committed myself to play any small role that the organization might need me to play. I greatly appreciate the existence of the organization and its members (a bunch of smart folks), as they help to validate my world view and myself.

I offer RBH my personal, secular, scientific, democratic, and moral views of reality, and offer myself as an advocate of the Principles of Secular Humanism. I can also easily access the distorted mindset of a Christian fundamentalist and therefore can also serve to fill in the gaps that Humanists often have when guessing how fundamentalists think. ✨

ERIC SELDNER

Age: 41

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Profession/Experience:

Principal Systems Engineer at Telcordia Technologies. In this capacity, I plan the operations capabilities of large telecommunications networks, write requirements, lead small teams, attend countless meetings and make presentations.

Current avocations:

- RBH Board Member
- Woodmere School PTA:

Chair of Curriculum Enrichment Subcommittee

Nominating Committee

Audit Committee

- Cornell Alumni Ambassador – meeting with high school seniors who have applied to Cornell University

Recent Avocations:

- Subcommittee chair of an employee participation committee at work (a semi-supported/semi-volunteer role) advocating for employee concerns and suggestions and working with top management to help them avoid alienating employees.
- Meetup Host during the Howard Dean Presidential Campaign
- Volunteer with Telephone Pioneers of America (a service fraternity of the old Bell System).

Statement:

I am a philosopher at heart, masquerading as an engineer working in the telecommunications industry. I am a New Jersey native and have spent most of my life in here in central NJ. I met my wife in college and married soon after graduation. We have two children: James 10 and Jessica 7.

I am a third generation atheist. I have never been attracted by the mystery of god, but I have always been fascinated by the mystery of why so many other people are.

My motivation in forming Red Bank Humanists with Ron Steelman was to develop a social context for myself and other humanists where we can “let down our hair” and feel at home. Having a philosophical bent, I am always looking for partners in an intellectual exploration of humanism and its application to our everyday lives.

Being a father, I am eager to compare notes with other parents and learn how best to convey to my children a positive humanist outlook and equip them to fend off the seductions of religion.

I intend to continue to shape Red Bank Humanists into a thriving, stimulating community that is responsive to its members and a positive force in the civil society of the Red Bank Area. ✨