

Meet the Candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Lansing Library



Dale Robert Baker

I have currently been a Lansing resident for the past 12 years, although I grew up in North Lansing. I spent more than 20 years, with my family, in Duluth Minnesota where I worked at the University of Minnesota. I moved back to NY in 1995 and am currently the associate director for the NY Sea Grant Program located at Cornell. I have a strong interest in seeing the Lansing Community Library Center succeed. The library will be a key resource for all parts of the Lansing Community and I'm certain it will become a central gathering point and cultural center for the community. I look forward to working with the other trustees, volunteers and staff to see that this happens.



Barbara Barry

Lansing has been my hometown for 37 years. I raised my three daughters here and have been active in helping to develop community programs such as the Drop In Center and the Lansing Youth Commission. I have worked on the LCLC Fund Raising Committee since its inception. I also bring the experience of having served on several Boards of county agencies. Most important, however, is that I love books and reading. I feel that a community that has a library, a place where people have free access to information and knowledge, provides a richness to its citizens that has no measure. I look forward to serving on the Board of Trustees and I will work to ensure the Library is a well run institution that is responsive to the needs of this community.



Marcie Bean

Over forty years ago my family and I moved to Lansing. Our children attended and graduated from Lansing Schools. My professional life has been one closely aligned with literacy as a teacher, administrator and grants writer. Fifteen years ago, my concern for families without easy access to reading material led me to begin a program called Books for Babies. The premise of the grant was to assure that all babies born at our local hospital would leave the facility with a book. That tiny program has evolved into what many will recognize as the Tompkins County Reading Partnership. Also, for many years I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering for the Friends of the Library. A great deal of time has gone into the creation of a central area in Lansing to give focus to our town. Those people who have worked so diligently to bring the town hall and the new library to fruition have our gratitude for a job well done. Now it is our turn to support and continue their efforts.

Meet the Candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Lansing Library



Andra Benson

My husband and I are organic dairy farmers in Lansing. I have lived here for 36 yrs, but my husband's family has been in the area much longer. I have been involved in the life of Lansing in many ways over the years. I greatly appreciate the work that so many volunteers have done so far to create a library for this community, and I believe that now is the time to make the next step of establishing the library as an officially funded and chartered entity.



Julia Berens

I have been a Lansing resident and English teacher at Lansing High School since 1984. Four years ago I joined the LCLC board and served as secretary from 2004-2006. I have also worked on adult programming for the library, organizing presentations last spring by Jim Bell, Paul Hamill, and Tess Gerritsen. I am committed to working with other trustees and the Lansing community to continue providing the valuable services of the Lansing Library.



Deborah Wells Clinton

I have been a Lansing resident for four years, ever since I came back to the States from living overseas. I grew up in Western New York, but some of my family have been part of the Lansing community since the 1970s. I am a librarian, with more than thirty years' experience at schools and universities in the U.S. and around the world. I volunteer at the circulation desk and in the technical services operations of the Lansing Community Library Center, and I was happy to join the board of the Friends of the Library more than a year ago. Now I'm looking forward to working with other library trustees to move the Lansing Library forward as a valuable community resource.



Marlaine Darfler

I have been in Lansing for 17 years, raising my three boys and being a "professional volunteer" until returning to the work force 7 years ago to pursue a career as a massage therapist. I first became involved with the Lansing Community Library Center (LCLC) in 2000 when exploring the options for bringing library services back to Lansing ten years after the Book Mobile stopped servicing our community. I have served on the Friends of LCLC Board for six years, four of them as the Chairperson, as well as chairing the capital campaign that raised \$400,000 to renovate this building to meet the growing needs and demands of our patrons. Libraries are the foundation of democracy, creating thinkers, readers and doers and opening the doors of imagination and opportunity. Libraries create community and I am excited to work with the other trustees to establish LCLC as a stable permanent part of our community.

Meet the Candidates for the Board of Trustees of the Lansing Library



Ken Felch

We purchased the property on Lansing Station Road in 1965. We have been residents of Lansing since 1988. I practiced medicine in Ithaca for 35 years. I volunteered at the library. I feel a library is an asset to the community.



Dawn Kleeschulte

I have lived in Tompkins County for 22 years, 19 of them in Lansing. While the majority of my time is dedicated to the needs of my family (I have two school-aged children), I am employed part-time by Cornell Cooperative Extension as a Program Manager for a youth employment program that I coordinate from the Lansing High School. I have served as a LCLC volunteer and I am a regular patron (not presently on the delinquent list, I hope), but my primary connection to the organization has been through the placement of student employees at the library. The LCLC offers a unique and invaluable employment (and volunteer) opportunity for youths in our rural community. Youth workers meet and greet patrons of all ages, allowing them to hone their communication skills, while learning a marketable skill set under the mentorship of our fine volunteers. The LCLC is a fabulous resource for exploring and learning through reading and researching; and it also serves as a source of career exploration for teens with somewhat limited employment options. I look forward to working with the board of trustees as the library's central role in our community continues to expand.



Bobbi Wasenko

I have been a Lansing resident since 1998. When my family moved here I invested my time and energies by volunteering in the school district and Girl Scouts. Although I am still a very active volunteer in the school district, I have spent the last six years as a member of the board of directors of the Lansing Community Library Center. My main responsibility has been publicizing all the library events. It has been a joy to be involved in the "birth" and "growth" of the library, to watch our collection expand, and to be embraced by the community. I am pleased by the history of cautious spending that the board has shown, and am proud to be a part of a group of dedicated individuals who have brought such a valuable resource to our community. I would like to continue this service as a member of the board of trustees, and help continue the growth of the library to meet the needs of our reading community.