



ELECTION ~ 2017

RACHEL FIELD

INCUMBENT & CAUCUS CANDIDATE FOR A 3-YEAR TERM AS A LIBRARY TRUSTEE



#### Contact Information

Email

[anthropomedia@gmail.com](mailto:anthropomedia@gmail.com)

Phone

(339) 223-3111

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Rachel-Field-for-Bedford-Library-Trustee-1201787889942809>

#### Candidate Statement

I am honored to have been nominated by the Bedford Town Caucus to serve a fourth term as Trustee of our beloved Bedford Free Public Library, and hope I can count on your vote on March 11.

Tempus Fugit! I've lived in Bedford for 18 years – and it has been a privilege and a delight to sit on our Board of Trustees for the past 9.

Being a Library Trustee has always felt like a calling. I grew up surrounded by books, and my very first job, with newly minted working papers at 13, was at my local public library. I've been a library enthusiast ever since. As a professor and as a parent, I've always emphasized that libraries are a treasured resource:

a window to the world, a repository of historic documentation, providing free and open access to information, and *information literacy*, for all.

Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote: *"I have an unshaken conviction that democracy can never be undermined if*

*we maintain our library resources and a national intelligence capable of utilizing them.”* In today’s era of Wikipedia and a plethora of unsourced drivel and “fake news”, these words have profound resonance.

I bring to the Library Board an unusually varied and eclectic background.

I am a visual and medical anthropologist, a documentary filmmaker & a broadcast journalist. I’m also trained and certified as a mediator. I’m bilingual Spanish/English, speak fluent Portuguese, and some French. I was a Professor at Hampshire College and NYU, and was awarded a Post-Doctoral Fulbright Fellowship to teach and conduct research. I’ve worked as a journalist for NPR, and as a Writer/Producer/Director of primetime, nationally broadcast documentaries for WGBH-TV.

My positions as Chair of the Board of the national *Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers*, Vice President of *Women Make Movies*, and Project Development Manager for Children’s Programming at *WGBH-TV* provided me with extensive administrative, fiscal management and fundraising experience.

I’m deeply committed to my mission as a Trustee: to safeguard our funding and to bring in new sources of revenue; to ensure that we respond to the increased demands of our growing community by expanding our programming, services and resources; to enhance our welcoming and attentive ambience; and to stalwartly support the principle of, and the public right to, intellectual freedom.

In my 9 years as a Trustee I have brought leadership, energy and creativity to the Board, and there is yet much that I hope to do.

I’d like to see the Library better reflect and celebrate the breadth of cultural and linguistic diversity here in Bedford. I’ll work to help us get support for public art projects, including library-themed mosaics to decorate exterior walls that are now uninspiring bare cement. And I’ll embrace the challenge of creatively reconfiguring our space to provide more study and small meeting areas, as well as areas for new technologies – such as a *FabLab* or *Makerspace* for 3-d printing or educational robotics – as we strive to become a more vibrant nexus of collaboration and innovation.

Should I continue to serve, I will bring continuity and an historical perspective that is important to the Board of Trustees.

For all of the above, I ask for your enthusiastic support, and your vote on March 11!