

VERA CHEN:

I am excited about the opportunity to become a Trustee on the Board of the Manhasset Public Library. As a parent, business owner, and resident of Manhasset, for over 10 years, I am committed to actively participating in, and contributing to, the growth and success of our children, neighbors, businesses, and community. I have experienced the Manhasset Public Library's integral role in our community as a hub for education for all ages, culture that combines new and historic elements that enrich the lives of patrons, and the connection that is fostered when people come together in a safe, inviting space with access to trusted resources. It is my goal to actively support the library's current programs and help to expand offerings, in a fiscally responsible process, by collaborating with the Board, and community members to nurture rich programs and technological investment.

As a proud parent, I appreciate the role that the Manhasset Public Library holds for my two children. My 14-year-old daughter finds the library to be an essential resource for her academic and cultural studies, as well as a welcoming space for independent study. Her passion for literature and writing recently earned her a Scholastic Regional Gold Key in poetry; and her enthusiasm for reading inspires me to advocate for creative and literacy-focused programs. My 6-year-old son adores the children's corner, which has nurtured his curiosity and love for books through crafts, reading, and active play. These firsthand experiences have strengthened my commitment to fostering a space where learners of all ages can thrive and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Professionally, I have over 10 years of experience in accounting and finance, within the banking industry, and hold a master's degree in finance. My expertise includes the efficient management of resources, budgeting, and project management. These skills provide a solid foundation for my participation in the budgeting and project management of the current and future needs of the library. I used this experience to transition to small business ownership in Manhasset; so that I can contribute locally to the enrichment of my community. As the owner of the Huntington Learning Center in Manhasset, I work closely with students, families, local schools, and business, to promote educational excellence. This deeply satisfying investment enables me to work where I live and to contribute to accessible learning opportunities for children and adults of all ages.

I am honored to be a candidate to join the Board of Trustees of the Manhasset Public Library. I am eager to share my skills, experience, and passion with the Board of Trustees and to help the Manhasset Public Library continue to thrive as a cornerstone of our community.