

2008 RBH BOARD NOMINEE STATEMENTS

BRUCE FOWLER

Age: 66

Profession/Experience:

I retired from Lucent after a thirty-year career with Bell Laboratories and AT&T, working with large-scale software systems (along with many other adventures). I have contributed over the years to many civic organizations, including the Morristown Environmental Committee and the Morristown Zoning Board. After moving to "the shore," I was on the Board of the local Unitarian Church and also served as President of the the Fair Haven Shade Tree Commission and in various offices during two terms on the Rumson/Fair Haven Board of Education. I am currently Corresponding Secretary of the Shadow Lake Village Democratic Club. I am a member of the Brookdale Computer Users Group (BCUG) and run their Linux workshop. I was for many years a member of the Fair Haven Sailing Club (River Rats), including 20 years of participating in the teaching of the adult sailing class. I live with my wife (of 36 years) in Shadow Lake Village in Middletown and we have two children who live out of State.

Statement: I appreciate the fact that we live in a secular society. Humanism has been under-represented and misrepresented in the media and in public discourse. My background with the Unitarians convinced me that to improve society, one has to get involved at the grass-roots level and take action. I am a strong supporter of RBH, and I will work hard to see that the organization continues to succeed.

JON KALFUS

Age: 48

Career:

- Two professional degrees (NYU and CCNY) - former Accountant and currently a Registered Professional Engineer (~3 years in Accounting and 19 years in Electrical Engineering)
- 10 years at Underwriters Laboratories
- 3 years at Tyco Submarine Systems designing very high voltage power equipment
- 3 years at a medical products company that designed and built implants.
- 3 years working for a mid-cap manufacturer of wireless tracking systems.
- 6 months at a startup company that is designing solar energy systems.

I also like to drag race cars, appreciate a dry, fruity Merlot and would yield my sight for my

hearing, if forced to, as music speaks to me unlike any other form of communication.

I grew up in a conservative household where principles, discipline and the value of education were exemplified, as well as apparent dogmatic devotion to our religion. I tried to adopt the devotion others seemed to possess, feeling that this was one more thing to work towards, like good grades. But as I matured and developed my own ego, I came to realize that I could not truly integrate this belief system. With time, I created my own rooted sense of self.

Red Bank Humanists (and Humanism in general) resonates strongly with my sense of proportion, the natural order of things and simple logic. I am awed by the background, intelligence, and plain decency of the members of RBH. It would be an honor for me to serve on this Board so that I can contribute and give back in some measure to what you have given me. I have, and will continue to, commit myself to support RBH in the community.

DEBORAH PYE

Age: 47

Profession/Experience:

After spending the formative years of my career in the R&D community of AT&T, where I developed and deployed international telecommunications services, I am presently an Account Executive responsible for business-to-business sales with Verizon. My office is in New York City. I was a volunteer tutor with Aslan Youth Ministries, a faith-based organization in Red Bank – my hometown of 16 years. While I never supported the religiosity of this organization, I believe being a role model for at-risk youth through its secular tutoring program helped improve Red Bank overall ("Think globally; act locally"). I am an avid couturiere and dream of starting my own business, designing wedding gowns, upon retirement from my brilliant career in telecommunications. I am also an award-winning quilt designer. As a member of Rebecca's Reel Quilters Guild, based at Poricy Park in Middletown, I twice chaired our biannual quilt show. I cohabit with my main-squeeze of 15 years, Al Tino, a fellow humanist.

Statement:

I believe in human intelligence and in the supreme value of freedom. A key benefit I derive from RBH is the fellowship I develop with other members. I seek to nourish my community with secular humanism and view RBH as fertile ground for promoting its acceptance with society-at-large.

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(Page 2)

RON STEELMAN

Age: 61

Profession/Experience:

Current: Marketing Communications Consultant, Steelman & Co.

Previous:

- Co-founder and current President of Red Bank Humanists
- Director of Marketing, Two River Theatre Co., Red Bank, NJ
- Actor/Writer/Director/Producer in Television, Film, Regional Theater and Advertising
- A complete professional history resides at

www.steelmanonline.com

Statement:

Humanism offers all the things I had hoped to find during a lifetime of searching for something called "spirituality." Humanism led me up a rational path to all that is good in me. I have discovered that our spirituality is actually the good that already resides in each of us. What we must do is share it. To quote Robert Green Ingersoll, "Happiness is the only good. The place to be happy is here. The time to be happy is now. The way to be happy is to help make others so."

The philosophy of Humanism is freeing and exhilarating. I want to share that freedom and joy through our Red Bank Humanists. I want to use my mind and all my creative talents to explore, to learn, to teach, to share, and to help guide the growth of Red Bank Humanists as it evolves into an organization that fulfills all the needs of our burgeoning Humanist community. I believe our current, critically acclaimed, video project does just that!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

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