

TRANSITIONS

by Phyllis Freeman, Trustee President

It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Eldredge Public Library for the past ten years, and the last two as President. Term limits are a good thing and my term is ending as this *Tidings* appears in your email or snail mail.

The new President of the Board of Trustees is Joe Gagliano. The Library is in very good hands.

During the past few years the Library has continued to receive a four-star rating, thanks to the leadership of Executive Director Irene Gillies and a very dedicated and energetic staff. We were finally able to procure a well deserved Cost of Living Adjustment for the staff, the first since 2009. Our hope is that library salaries will soon be commensurate with town employee salaries.

Every five years the library community comes together to put in place a five-year long range plan. This is the year, with a final plan on the books in August.

Various challenges remain for the Trustees including achieving our Annual Fund goal each year. It is critically important to have the support of our patrons, both in the community and from afar. Funds from the Town cover only about 60 percent of our annual budget. The rest comes from monthly withdrawals from our endowment, grants, and the Annual Fund. These pay for the necessities: staff salaries, materials, utilities, and equipment. We rely heavily on the generosity of the Friends for the extras: Youth programs, computers for the public, Learning Series, year round Book sale, and much more. Please continue to put the Library at the top of your "Giving" list!

In closing, many thanks to you all who are supporting the Library in so many ways. We are very grateful for the many services offered, the hard working volunteers and staff, and the very presence of the Library as a positive and productive force in the Chatham community and beyond.