

# **Board of Directors Candidates**

2015

Quabbin Harvest /  
North Quabbin Community Co-op



## **Amy Borezo**

I am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors of Quabbin Harvest. I am one of the founding members of the Co-op and have a deep knowledge of its history. Since 2009, I have also served as President of the Board. During my tenure as President, the Co-op has grown from a tiny roadside stand with a handful of member-owners to over 500 member-owners and a 1500 square foot retail space carrying a diverse range of products. During the expansion phase, I helped with the raising of over \$100,000 in one year to make the dream of a larger co-op a reality.

This is a critical time for the success of our Co-op. If I am re-elected, I will be able to provide much needed continuity during this transitional phase. In addition, I would like to be an advocate for our members and translate their needs to what the Co-op is in practice and what it can become.

I am a small business person who has lived in Orange for over ten years. I am a self-employed bookbinder and artist by trade and I currently employ one other individual in my own business. My experience includes marketing, finance, and business planning. I helped found the Co-op because I was having trouble sourcing the kinds of foods I wanted to buy in the North Quabbin without driving a significant distance. I am delighted that I can now stay in the area to spend my food dollars.

I am so excited and thrilled about the future of our Co-op and for its part in the revitalization of our area. Thank you for your consideration!



## **Julie Davis**

I would like to be considered for reelection to the Board of Directors of Quabbin Harvest. I have been involved with the Coop since it's inception. I am currently the coordinator of the CSA program. I enjoy working with all of our local producers to source the beautiful produce we have in our shares each week. In addition to sourcing the produce, I also coordinate the volunteer schedule to ensure that the shares are available in a timely manner.

I consider myself blessed to have been involved since our beginnings in an unheated hallway in the OIC to the beautiful store we have now. I currently volunteer in the store each week, working with the staff in a variety of ways. I help create displays, stock shelves, and am willing to do any job that is needed. I believe that is important for all members the board to be involved in all aspects of the store.

I am the chair of the Personell Committee, which works closely with Julie Robinson to develop a comprehensive employee handbook. I believe that a strong relationship ship between the Board and the staff of our store is key to ensuring our success and growth in the future.

I am also a member of the Strategic Planning committee. This committee is involved in developing a long term vision for the coop, so that in 10, 20, 100 years we as a coop are still a viable and valuable part of our community.

I would love to continue to serve the coop as a member of the Board, and look forward to the opportunity to help us continue to grow.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **Helen Franchi**

I moved to the North Quabbin in 1999 and I am committed to community and healthy food.

For 14 years I have helped organize an annual food fundraising disc golf tournament, known as “The Snow Bowl” at the Flat Rock Disc Golf Club inc. Each year we donate hundreds of pounds of canned and dry goods to local food banks, churches and other organizations. Five years ago we established a connection with The Orange Food Pantry and former colleague, Amy Clark. Additionally in the last three years we have raised over \$2000 for the Seeds of Solidarity Raised Garden Bed Project.

It is also through my job working with local youth where I think I can contribute to the board. I can deepen some connections, increase my own knowledge and help to educate young people around community, food and choice.



## **Cristina Garcia**

I have lived in Athol for the past 6 years and will be building a home in Orange this summer. The decision to sink roots here has deepened my desire to contribute to our community in a meaningful way.

I would like to be considered for a seat on the board of directors. I am the cook and a farmer teacher at The Farm School. I run the kitchen for our visiting school groups; at my side are children of all ages helping to prepare our meals. I also contribute to the curriculum for our adult education program and teach cooking classes for the Chicken Coop, our full-time middle school.

My culinary experience and time spent in food media (food styling, recipe testing, editorial) over the past ten years has positioned me to be an asset to Quabbin Harvest Cooperative. I have a great understanding of farms, kitchens, and consumers. My desire is to nourish and connect, and I sincerely hope to have the chance to work with a passionate group of people to help our neighbors do the same.



## **Kristen Knechtel**

I would like to express my interest in becoming a board member of Quabbin Harvest. I believe I possess the skills and enthusiasm to be a great asset to the board.

As a life-long resident of the area, I have a vested interest in seeing the community grow and thrive and believe Quabbin Harvest to be a keystone in that vision.

I am a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, and assisted in the start-up of a small, family-owned business in Orange by serving as its office manager and bookkeeper for ten years. For the past 8 years I have turned my focus toward raising a family, and also running a small housecleaning business. During this time, I have built an amazing community of friends and have taken great joy in organizing meal deliveries for new mothers and their families. I believe my passion for family, friends and community would make me a great addition to your board.

Thank you for considering my application, and I hope to join you in your endeavors at Quabbin Harvest.



## Margot Parrot

I have been an advocate for locally grown organic food since the early 1970's, when I raised my family in rural Maine. I moved to the North Quabbin region three years ago to purchase a small farm for my retirement. As a newcomer to this area, it was important to me to meet people who shared my views on the environment and green living, and the Co-op provided me with many new friends, as well as healthy local produce. Since that time I have actively volunteered at the Co-op: working weekly at the OIC store; serving on the Outreach Committee; taking on the role of Membership Secretary for 6 months; doing the closings for the member loan campaign; working on preparing the new store; and more recently helping in the back office with filing. I have 50 happy, free range chickens who supply eggs for Quabbin Harvest. Thus, it is very much in my own self-interest for the Co-op to thrive.

I have served as a board member of numerous community organizations, on governmental boards and commissions, and on political committees. I have frequently held the position of Board Secretary, and I have been the Treasurer of one state political campaign and one Democratic Town Committee. In the private sector, I have owned and operated two businesses: a retail store on Martha's Vineyard and a law firm. I did my business accounting in Quickbooks; I used Microsoft Publisher for marketing; and I also personally created a web site for my store using Yahoo web tools. I am familiar with Microsoft Office, including Word, PowerPoint, Access and Excel. I have some limited familiarity with social networking sites and would be willing to learn more. I hold a BA from UMASS (Amherst), and both JD and LLM degrees from Western New England School of Law (Springfield), where I currently hold the position of Adjunct Professor of Law. I am also a trained Mediator. My personal interests are broad, ranging from farming to art to politics. I believe my skills would be useful to the Co-op Board and I am eager to serve.





## **Maile Shoul**

Please accept this letter of intent as my application to volunteer on the Quabbin Harvest Board of Directors. I am deeply committed to the co-op's mission of supporting local farmers and bringing healthy food to community residents. I believe that my work experience in project management and public health make me a strong candidate for the Board.

I have a very strong personal interest in issues of food justice and nutrition. I was born and raised in Royalston and recently moved back to Athol after being away from the North Quabbin for 15 years. As a North Quabbin native who left and then chose to return, I have a very deep appreciation for the culture and the priorities of local residents. I believe that the local and organic food movements are vital to our economic, physical and spiritual well-being, but are often seen as out of reach and out of touch with working class families. I am proud to be a member of Quabbin Harvest, which has a welcoming, inclusive feel. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors to help bring the co-op's services and products to an even wider audience.

I currently work as a Project Manager at Heywood Hospital, where I work with staff to implement new workflows and new systems, like a newly-created training process for staff. I am also responsible for creating several new operating policies for issues ranging from online communication to medical records transfers.

My previous job was at a public health non-profit called Health Leads, located in Boston Medical Center. At Health Leads, I supervised a team of 50 volunteers who worked with low-income families to connect them with resources such as food pantries, subsidized housing and subsidized child care. I enjoy creating and implementing workflow systems that increase efficiency.

I am hardworking and love working with a team to achieve a goal. I also enjoy rolling up my sleeves and getting my hands dirty, both literally and figuratively. Lastly, I try to bring a sense of humor and fun to my work whenever possible! I would be very excited to have the opportunity to become more involved with Quabbin Harvest.





## **Robin Shtulman**

I am seeking re-election to the board. As a board and community, we have come so far, and accomplished so much! I am eager to do the work of the next few years, moving Quabbin Harvest from a start-up to well-established.

I have been a member of the Co-op and on the board since 2009. From 2009 - 2014 I was a regular weekly store volunteer, and from 2009 - 2010 I frequently coordinated the produce share distribution. From 2010 - 2014, I served as Board Secretary, maintaining the Co-op's archives, membership data, and e-mail lists. During this time I also contributed to the upkeep of the Co-op's facebook page and website. In 2014, I co-chaired the Store Manager Hiring Committee and in 2014 - 2015 chaired the By-Laws Revision Working Group. I currently serve on the Outreach Committee.

Long, long ago, I worked at Cornucopia in Thorne's Market, and was produce manager at the Mixed Nuts Food Co-op at Hampshire College in the late 1980s. I am assistant director at the Athol Public Library. Many of the skills and experiences from these are directly applicable to the needs of Co-op now, especially in the areas of policy crafting and long term strategic planning.

Thank you for your consideration!



## **Nina Wellen**

I would very much like to submit my letter of application to the board to be considered for another term. I have enjoyed being a part of the board so far, and am excited to see where the next few years will take us. As one of the original board members I have gotten to help see our vision grow into reality. This has meant hard work for all of us, and commitment to an ideal. I still have that commitment.

My favorite part of being on the board, is getting to go into the community and explain how a Co-op works, and what it will mean to members to have a working Co-op in their community. I believe we have come so far by getting the store open, and I am looking forward to helping the Co-op grow and expand even more.

As the Treasurer I have had a certain amount of responsibilities with regards to the running of the Co-op. I believe I have been as helpful as possible in this role, and hope to be a contributing member of the board for the next few years. I am willing to do this in whatever capacity I can, either as the Treasurer, or handing that role over, and continuing on as a director. I would like to continue to be on the Outreach Committee, and the Garden Committee, and to support the store and the staff in expanding into the community.

I hope you will consider me as one of the future board members as we move forward in our dream to make Quabbin Harvest successful.

Qualifications: Founding Board Member; Member- Outreach Committee; Member- Garden Committee; Member- Finance Committee; Past member of Orange Cultural Council; Full time art teacher/ reading specialist; Active member of my community.



## **Sylvia Wetherby**

I would like to be considered as a candidate for the board of directors of the Quabbin Harvest. I have been a member of this coop since December 2011, but my history with coops goes back about 30 years to the old Our Daily Bread, the last attempt at a coop in Orange. When that collapsed, Jaylin Dibble and I co-managed the pre-order group of small buying clubs called Green Hills. Since then I have tried to continue to support local farmers and find sources of organic food through Green Fields Market, farmers's markets and CSAs.

I am very impressed with the thought that has gone into forming the Quabbin Harvest. Even more, I am delighted to have a store in Orange that meets most of my shopping needs. The board has done a wonderful job of organizing, planning and getting the word out. It would be honored to be part of such a team and I would hope that some of my experience and knowledge of the community might be useful. I am a lifelong resident of the North Quabbin area and have been employed in the area for most of my career in human services.