



JUNE 20TH, 2018

1:00-4:00 PM

MASSACHUSETTS STATE
HOUSE

BOSTON, MA

*"THEY DON'T ALWAYS MAKE THE
NEWS, BUT THEY TRULY MAKE A
DIFFERENCE."*

Please join us in celebrating the 2018
Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts!

@MassCSW

#UnsungHeroines2018

THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Fifteenth
Annual
Unsung
Heroines of
Massachusetts

Thank You to Our Sponsors

This 2018 Unsung Heroines event would not be possible without our wonderful sponsors. We thank these exceptional businesses and individuals for their generosity and kind contributions.

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Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford Street, 6th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-6520 www.mass.gov/women

The MCSW is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The Commission provides a voice for Massachusetts women and is comprised of 19 members who are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Caucus of Women Legislators.

Commissioners

Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, Springfield

Rebecca Bact, Auburndale

Penny Blaisdell, Marblehead

Ruth Bramson, Boston

Denella Clark, Hyde Park

Jean Cotter Fox, Assonet

Marianne Fleckner, Westford

Liz Friedman, Northhampton

Becca Glenn, Waltham

Allison Goldberg, Marblehead

Denise Hurst, Springfield

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Erin Viola

Lucy Wen

Zoe Wennerholm

Greetings!

Welcome to the fifteenth annual Unsung Heroines celebration. It is an honor for us to identify extraordinary women from across the Commonwealth and we are proud to thank them publicly at the Massachusetts State House.

We would like to thank our many legislative partners who are with us today as we honor the 2018 Unsung Heroines from communities across the Commonwealth.

Every day, thousands of women from across our Commonwealth perform unheralded acts of public leadership and volunteerism that make our neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. They help advance the status of women and girls in Massachusetts in ways big and small, and the collective effort is meaningful.

The Unsung Heroines of 2018 are truly positive change makers. They may not always make the news, but they most assuredly make a difference. A grateful Commonwealth sings their praises today to show each of these special women how much we value their efforts and contributions.

As you read about and listen to their stories today, we know that you will be moved by all that is happening in our Commonwealth every day because not-so-ordinary women are doing extraordinary things. We thank the legislators who recognize the impact these women make every day. We are also deeply grateful to our corporate and individual sponsors, those who donated goods and services, and the volunteers who helped make this day so special for our honorees.

Sincerely,

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women

2018 Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts Celebration

Wednesday, June 20th, 2018

1:00-4:00 pm

Great Hall of Flags

Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA

Proceedings

1:00 pm: State House Greeting and Remarks

MCSW Leadership

MCSW Appointing Authorities

1:35 pm: We Sing Your Praises

MCSW Commissioners share brief bio of each 2018 Heroine

3:00 pm: 2018 Heroines Photo Assemblage

2018 Heroines gather for a group photo

3:10 pm: “Just Desserts” Refreshments & Reception

After the group photo, Heroines and their guests are invited to the

Just Desserts reception

THE HEROINES

2018



Palmira M. Aguiar, Fall River

Palmira is the Accreditation Coordinator at the Fall River Police Department. In addition to her daytime duties, Palmira is an advocate for the community and avid volunteer. Palmira is the President of We Love Children Organization which financially helps families that have children suffering from terrible illnesses. She is a volunteer for the Wish Come True Foundation, and Co-Chair for the Fall River Relay for Life. Palmira is an active member of the Lyons Club, volunteers at local soup kitchens, and donates much of her free time to any Fall River Police Department events including the Police and Public Palooza which intends to build partnerships, pride and peace within the community, and the annual Thomas J. Guinta Memorial Road Race. Palmira is a wonderful asset to this community and a great friend. We are lucky to have her. Heroine Palmira was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Fiola.

Rosalie is a Cambridge activist that specializes in environmental justice and transportation. She is an alumnus of Mount Holyoke College and has a Master's degree in social work from Hunter College School for Social Work in New York City. Before retiring, Anders practiced and taught as a family therapist for years. Later she worked as an Associate Planner with the City of Cambridge's Community Development Department where she authored the city's Pedestrian Plan, a set of guidelines intended to promote walking in the city. She chairs the Massachusetts Peace Action Education Fund board and co-founded the Climate and Peace Working Group of First Parish Church in Cambridge in 2016. She works as an activist regarding peace and environmental issues and is active with groups like 350 Massachusetts and Massachusetts Peace Action. Heroine Rosalie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Livingstone.



Rosalie Anders, Cambridge



Mary Antes, Wayland

Mary has long championed affordable housing and other local causes in Wayland. She is both a planner and do-er, genuinely dedicated to improving the quality of life in Wayland and surrounding communities. In addition to a 25-year career at Educational Development Center, Inc., Mary has made time to serve in many volunteer roles: She is beginning her 17th year as a Selectman and is serving on the boards of the Council on Aging, League of Women Voters, local and state METCO Program, Community Change, Wayland Housing Authority, Housing Partnership, and Housing Trust. She was instrumental in the construction by Habitat for Humanity of two duplexes on surplus Town-owned land. She shepherded the project through town meetings, permitting, and construction. Mary was key in getting Wayland accepted as a member of the MetroWest HOME Consortium and represents Wayland on two regional organizations. She has also chaired several town-wide celebrations. Heroine Mary was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Ross.



Elle Baker, Revere

As the energetic Neighborhood Organizer for the City of Revere, **Elle** is responsible for facilitating local neighborhood groups that make improvements to the community. Known as the “task master,” she has led efforts on community projects, including various playgrounds, parks, and city-wide cleanups. Elle goes above and beyond. She has taken the additional responsibility of managing neighborhood improvement projects, including writing grants to get them implemented and completed with significant neighborhood input. Elle is a founding member of the “Alliance for Health and Environment,” and her efforts for her neighbors earned her a “River Stewardship Award” from the Saugus River Watershed Council. Her enthusiasm, passion for community advocacy, and her skills to mobilize residents to improve the city show her love for the city of Revere. Heroine Elle was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Vincent.

Dianne cares deeply about education. She volunteered at Our Sisters School, a private, tuition-free middle school for girls in New Bedford. She then became the second president of the Westport Educational Foundation, raising money for STEM and AP courses. Three years ago, Dianne became chair of the School Building Committee, tasked with replacing an aged high school and a condemned middle school. She lead a diverse group and built consensus. The committee worked with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to get approval for a new, state of the art, middle and high school campus. Then, the hardest part yet, was to sell a debt exclusion of nearly fifty million dollars to a community already reluctant to invest in education. Dianne and a group of community leaders reached out to everyone in town, patiently listening, explaining and advocating. On February 27, 2018, by nearly two to one, Westport approved its new school! Heroine Dianne was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Schmid.



Dianne Baron, Westport Point



Laura Barton, Tyngsborough

Laura has been an active community volunteer in sports, civics, and educational capacities. She served on the Tyngsborough Youth Lacrosse Association for 10 years and is currently co-director of the TYLA girl's program. Additionally, she coached girl's lacrosse for a number of seasons. Laura has volunteered with Tyngsborough Youth Football as well as for numerous Girl Scout activities. Laura is on the Town of Tyngsborough Recreation Committee and has routinely volunteered for the annual Festival of Trees, Father/Daughter St. Patrick's Day Dance, summer youth track and field, and many other events. Laura dedicates her efforts to the Tyngsborough High School Grad Night Board and has also regularly volunteered to assist teachers at Tyngsborough Public Schools. Laura spends many of her summers volunteering at Glen Urquhart's summer camp for grieving families. Heroine Laura was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Garry.

Evelyn has dedicated her life to ensuring that Somerville's local history stays alive and accessible to the whole community. In 1973, Evelyn became a life member of the Somerville Historical Society, and since has put together over three decades worth of exhibits, programs, and community events. As a volunteer, she serves as the Executive Director, Secretary, and Trustee for the Somerville Museum, and is on the Board of Directors of Historic Somerville. She successfully recruits local artists and historians for exhibitions at the Somerville Museum, along with lectures, performances, and other events. Under her leadership, the Somerville Historic Society has expanded to run docent programs at three sites across Somerville, including one of the few intact relics of the Revolutionary War, the Somerville Powder House. Evelyn is truly a heroine of the Somerville community. Heroine Evelyn was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Provost.



Evelyn Battinelli, Somerville

Suzanne is a tremendous asset to the Town of Grafton and Commonwealth as a whole. This is readily apparent through her community service work and involvement with the Girl Scouts as Co-Leader of the Grafton Troop #30220. Over the years, Suzanne has been a friendly, warm-hearted individual who provides guidance and leadership to these young women. She is constantly working to make sure that there is always a fun and informative activity for the troop to participate in. Suzanne makes herself available to anyone who might need her personal attention. Her ability to manage the operations of such a busy troop only further proves her resourcefulness and determination to help make the Town of Grafton a better place for future generations to come. Heroine Suzanne was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Muradian.



**Suzanne Bayreuther,
Grafton**



Pamela Beale, Boston

Pamela is a small business owner in Kenmore Square and a co-founder of the Charlesgate Alliance, a neighborhood organization established to bring life and vitality to a long neglected stretch of parkland under the Bowker Overpass. Pamela works hard to educate and advance all new business owners and residents in the area in an attempt to create a cohesive vision for development and improvements to Kenmore Square. She believes it is important to capture the energy and vitality of all of the people who live, work or attend school in the area. Pamela has been appointed to several Impact Advisory Groups for various Kenmore and Fenway projects, serves as President of the Kenmore Association, and is a regular volunteer for neighborhood causes. Heroine Pamela was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Brownsberger.

After working in the family restaurant business for her entire life, **Evelyn** opened Fay's Restaurant, which has been a local favorite in Dartmouth for nearly 20 years. Evelyn has dedicated her considerable talents and energies to local causes. She has served on the Board of Directors at the Schwartz Center for Children for twelve years, and is incredibly generous in donating to various non-profits. Fay's Restaurant sponsors a group of walkers at the annual Schwartz Center Walk-A-Thon. Fay's Restaurant also hosts outings for local elementary school children where they learn about the restaurant business and how to make pizza. Evelyn has recently taken on the responsibility of rescuing a failing restaurant and bar at the Allendale Country Club. Her vision is to preserve a peaceful and welcomed place for Allendale's golfers, and to extend the opportunity for the entire local community to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the club. Heroine Evelyn was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Markey.



**Evelyn Bettencourt,
Dartmouth**



**Roseann Bongiovanni,
Chelsea**

Roseann has dedicated her life to serving her Chelsea community. Most recently, she has directed her efforts toward her work with the community nonprofit 'GreenRoots.' GreenRoots works toward achieving environmental justice and a greater quality of life for the city's residents and the residents of surrounding communities. Her organization skills promote collective action, unity, education and youth leadership across neighborhoods and communities. She is truly a trailblazer in the pursuit of environmental awareness across Massachusetts. She is a lifelong resident of Chelsea and a former city counselor. Her dedication and energy has touched the lives of countless Chelsea-area youth and adults alike. Heroine Roseann was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator DiDomenico.



Alicia Bowman, Newton

Alicia is a deeply committed and passionate advocate for transportation planning with a particular focus on encouraging walking and biking. As President of Bike Newton, she has advocated for safety-oriented bike infrastructure in the City of Newton. Alicia has worked to create biking and walking trails that connect to an MBTA stop. She is the Co-Founder and Chair of the Newton Safe Routes to School Task Force and also launched the Smart Streets summer camp program. Alicia is a board member of the Newton League of Women Voters and chairs the League's Transportation Committee. Alicia was appointed by the Mayor of Newton to the Newton Transportation Advisory Group. As Newton's Pedestrian Coordinator, she advocated for and developed ordinances to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians. Alicia has made a significant contribution to the health and safety of the people of Newton. Heroine Alicia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Balser.

Officer **Cynthia** Brewington is a member of Boston Police Department's Community Policing Unit and contributes greatly to B-3 Mattapan Precinct. Responding to both humanitarian issues and crime, she has been recognized nationally as the gold standard of community policing. Officer Brewington is a veteran and member of the William E. Carter American Legion Post #16 in Mattapan. A notable moment of Officer Brewington's career was when she became a life saver for a constituent whom doctors reported, were it not for Officer Brewington and her partner's intervention, would have died from insulin shock. She is known for substituting as a community servant, as well as a church, youth, elderly and social worker. Officer Brewington is the personification of love and light, and a jewel of the Mattapan community and City of Boston. Heroine Cynthia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Cullinane.



**Cynthia Brewington,
Boston**



**Janet Briggs Lettich,
Danvers**

Janet is a key member of her community of Danvers. Following the 2006 Danversport Explosion, Janet became involved with the Danvers Community Council (DCC). Janet's family and many others lost their homes, but thanks to people like Janet, they did not lose their neighborhood. Janet volunteered at the Danvers People to People Food Pantry, arranging weekly dinners and inviting speakers to offer practical advice on how families could successfully navigate the difficult path to restoration. She prepared Welcome Table meals and provided help in any way she could. Once Janet and her family were resettled, she became a DCC Board member and remained a Food Pantry volunteer. She offers a unique understanding of community-need through her personal experience and ensures that no one falls through the cracks. Heroine Janet was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Speliotis.

Linda currently works as a Vice President/Branch Manager for People's Bank. She dedicates most of her free time to helping others through the Methuen Exchange Club, which dedicates its efforts to preventing child abuse and promoting the well-being of youth in our community. Linda will be President of the Exchange Club for the third time this July, and has served twice as Treasurer, as well as a New England District President, Secretary, and Division Director. Linda has also been involved with the Michael B Christensen Family Support Center in Lawrence and served as a member of the Berkeley Retirement Home Board of Trustees. Heroine Linda was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Campbell.

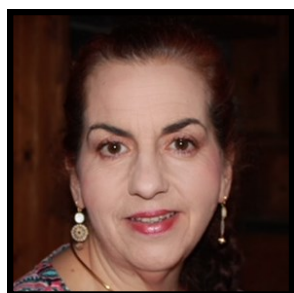


Linda L. Buell, Methuen

Marylou is the true epitome of community spirit. Marylou's love for her hometown of Randolph and its residents drives her to action as she seeks to make her town a better place to live, work, and study. An active participant in a wide-range of organizations in Randolph, Marylou truly cares for the well being of her neighbors and can frequently be spotted offering her support at community events. Marylou dedicates herself to improving the educational experience for Randolph's students through her service as a leader for both the Blue Hills Regional Technical School Boosters Club and the Young Elementary School PTO. Marylou, herself a graduate of Randolph Public Schools, goes above and beyond to help ensure Randolph students receive the best possible education, leveraging her creativity and passion to create opportunities for the students she serves. Heroine Marylou was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Timilty.



Marylou Burton, Randolph



Gloria Cabral, Westport

Gloria is a Culinary Arts Professor at Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA, and an advocate for educational and human rights. In addition to her many certificates and degrees, Gloria holds a Bachelor's in Baking and Pastry Arts from Johnson & Wales University, a Master's in Education from Cambridge College, and a Science of Management degree from Eastern Nazarene College. She is the Program Coordinator for BCC's Culinary Arts Department, and designed the Arts Associate Applied Science Degree Baking and Pastry Option program. Gloria received the American Academy of Chefs Fellowship in 2017, and previously worked at Le Meridien Boston and Catering Collaborative. She has done extensive volunteer work with St. Vincent's Home on the Human Rights Commission, SkillsUSA, the American Culinary Federation, and recently completed her term as Co-Commissioner with the Bristol County Commission of the Status of Women. Heroine Gloria was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Rodrigues.

As the first Latina woman elected to office in Lynn, **Maria** has truly made an impactful difference in the Lynn Community. Maria, who emigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic, is the epitome of a devoted public servant. Through her work with several non-profit organizations such as Operation Bootstrap, Neighbor to Neighbor, and Lynn United for Change, Maria has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for some of Lynn's most vulnerable citizens. Maria also spent more than eight years as a substance abuse counselor at the North Shore Career Center. Her efforts have made a lasting impact on the Lynn community. Heroine Maria was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Cahill.



Maria Carrasco, Lynn



Laura Chagnon, West Springfield

Laura is a remarkable person who survived a devastating assault by two individuals with substance use disorder. The assault left Laura with legal blindness and quadriplegia at the age of 26. Laura persevered after a 5-week coma and 4 years in physical rehab. She delved into poetry and has since written over 6,000 poems and published 2 books. Motivated by her own physical recovery and experience, four years ago, Laura decided she wanted to support those who battle through substance use disorder and recovery. She shares her story at correctional facilities, group homes, and homeless shelters. She has touched thousands of lives. When people hear her story of courage they are able to find hope and determination in their own struggles. Laura is doing her unique part to battle the opioid crisis that is pervasive in so many families and communities. Heroine Laura was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Welch.



**Rachel Chisholm,
Hyde Park**

Rachel is the Vice President and Area Manager of the Blue Hills Bank and oversees branches in Hyde Park, West Roxbury and Dedham. She has worked for Blue Hills Bank for her entire professional career and began as a part-time teller. Her combination of professional expertise, staff mentoring and community engagement earned her recognition as a 2017 Banker & Tradesman's Community Bank Hero. She is a graduate of the 2017 cohort of the Emerging Leaders Program for the Center for Collaborative Leadership at UMass Boston. Rachel is well-known throughout the Hyde Park neighborhood for her tireless volunteer work. She is the Treasurer of both the Hyde Park Board of Trade and Hyde Park Main Streets, where she serves on both the executive committee and the economic restructuring committee. She earned the Hyde Park Main Street's 2017 "Volunteer of the Year" Award in appreciation for her work on countless events. Heroine Rachel was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Scaccia.

Marie has improved the lives of generations of Stoneham residents through her decades of service and passion for a better education system. She has served as an elected member of the Stoneham School Committee for 36 years, and was chosen by her peers to be Chair and Vice-Chair during many of those years. Marie has been a driving force on the Stoneham School Building Committee, resulting in the construction of five new schools during her tenure. She was president of the PTO for four schools, a leader of the Stoneham Girl Scouts, on the Stoneham Renovation Committee, on the St. Patrick's Church Building Committee and on Search Committees for numerous town positions. Marie is a leader of the Stoneham Business and Community Foundation which raises and donates thousands of dollars annually to each of the Stoneham public schools. Heroine Marie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Day.



**Marie Christie,
Stoneham**



**Denise Clemence,
Southbridge**

During her tenure on the Southbridge Town Council, **Denise** has helped navigate the town through many issues, and has had a profound impact on everyday operations in addition to her impressive efforts in philanthropic work. Denise's resume not only includes a strong commitment toward public service, but also many hours of volunteerism for town events. She has played a vital role in the town's holiday festivities, parades, annual celebrations, and at the local hospital. As a town councilor, Denise worked tirelessly to rehab the town's public airport, improve schools, and provide solutions to a growing opioid crisis. Her commitment to Southbridge is inspiring. Heroine Denise was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Fattman.

As our nation watches students make heroic efforts to become involved in public policy and government, it is also important to remember the teachers who inspire them to do so.

Mary is a school teacher in Holbrook and a leader and mentor to the Holbrook Civics Club. She teaches her students to be upstanding, responsible, and engaged participants in their local and state government. With Mary's support and instruction, students as young as 12 have presented legislation to their Town Board of Selectmen and to the Massachusetts State Legislature creating official recognition for "Peace Day" in Massachusetts. Her students have also actively participated in policy discussions around prevention of bullying, tobacco cessation, student health, aid and relief for their peers in Puerto Rico, and many other important issues. Mary's impact has changed and inspired a generation of Holbrook's students and future leaders. Heroine Mary was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Keenan.



**Mary Clougher,
Holbrook**

Sister Leonore became a Sister of Notre Dame de Namour in 1962. She follows the teaching of Saint Julie Billiart who said, "Teach them everything that is necessary to equip them for life." Sister Leonore started as an elementary teacher in Greater Boston Area and went on to work at the Walnut St. Center for adults with Developmental Disabilities. This vocation was personal for Sister Leonore because she was her brother's strongest advocate, teaching her community about inclusion, choice and self-determination long before it was the norm. In 1990, she became the principal of St. John School in Peabody. For parents there, she was a moral compass. Sister Leonore is currently Director of Development for the SND, supporting under and unfunded missionaries in Africa and South America. Additionally, she works with the Ipswich Rotary "Family Promise" program, assisting homeless families in the North Shore. Heroine Sister Leonore was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Walsh.



**Leonore Coan, SNDdeN
Peabody**



**Karen Colón Hayes,
Malden**

Karen is an outstanding member of Malden's community. She currently serves as the Community Outreach Manager for the City of Malden, serving as a liaison between the Mayor's office, non-profits, and civic and community organizations. Outside of her work for the City of Malden, Karen is the President and founding member of Friends of Oak Grove, Inc. (FOOGI), which is a non-profit organization that is committed to serving the Oak Grove and West End neighborhoods of Malden. FOOGI mobilizes and energizes community members to take steps toward bettering the community by working on a variety of important environmental, social, and safety-related projects. Heroine Karen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Lewis.

Jean is a registered Nurse at St. Elisabeth's Hospital in Brighton, Massachusetts where she assists doctors in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab to successfully treat patients experiencing debilitating heart conditions. In addition to her career, she has taken on the task of making sure our veterans returning from and serving in the Afghanistan Global War on Terrorism are never forgotten. Several years ago she had a vision to erect a monument in the town of Pepperell honoring these veterans. She started an organization known as Middlesex GWOT (Global War on Terror) Veterans Monument. Jean passionately continues in her quest to erect this monument, all while maintaining her active professional career. She is an inspiration to the people of Pepperell. Heroine Jean was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Harrington.



**Jean Connolly,
Pepperell**



**Sharon L. Corbin,
Littleton**

Sharon is a hardworking volunteer for many organizations. She has offered her skills and efforts to the Newcomers Club, Woman's Club, Littleton Country Gardeners, St. Vincent De Paul, and the Littleton Council on Aging. Sharon is someone who is ready to help whenever or wherever she is needed. Sharon has made strong efforts to keep the seniors in Littleton active in the community through monthly luncheons and craft classes. She also volunteers her time at the Friends of the Council on Aging's Thrift Shop. Her desire to help others extends even beyond this country when she volunteers in Nova Scotia during her summer vacations. Sharon has a giving heart and makes Littleton a better place to live. Heroine Sharon was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Arciero



Julie Curtis, Danvers

Julie is a member of the Peabody Institute Library Trustees in Danvers, MA. She is a graduate of both North Shore Community College and Salem State College. She began working at Salem State University in 1978 and was one of two American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employee Stewards at Salem State for over 25 years. Julie recently retired from her position at Salem State. Julie was the first woman elected Vice President of the North Shore Labor Council. On March 1, 2016 she was elected Democratic State Committee Woman in the 2nd Essex Senatorial District. Over the course of her career she has been an active citizen in local government and politics. Julie has made the North Shore a better place to live, work and play. Heroine Julie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Lovely.

Jarita is a writer and community organizer with a long history of active involvement in promoting adult literacy. From teaching English as a second language to leading poetry education programs for all ages, Jarita has devoted countless hours to the continued growth and development of adult literacy across Falmouth. In addition to these efforts, Jarita has also served as a trustee on the Board of Arts and Library councils in her community, aiding in Falmouth's recognition of the importance of literature and the arts. Heroine Jarita was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Fernandes.



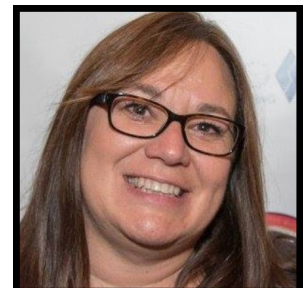
Jarita Davis, Falmouth



**Stephanie Deeley,
Framingham**

Stephanie, one of the new members of the MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women, has been committed to many causes in her 10 years as a Framingham resident. With a BA in English from UMass Boston, Stephanie has worked with the Workers Compensation Research Institute in Cambridge since 1999. She has also dedicated her time to a number of non-profits, as the Family Service Chair for the Attleboro Habitat for Humanity, Co-Chair of the 2014 Voices Against Violence Walk to Break the Silence, President of the Framingham League of Women Voters, and Board of Directors member for Kids Chance of Massachusetts. In addition to the fantastic work she has done with these organizations, Deeley worked closely with members of the Massachusetts state legislature to pass 'Heather's Law' in 2013, which addressed issues involving the Massachusetts medical examiner's office. Heroine Stephanie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Spilka.

Jennifer has been with The Fisher House of Boston since September of 2010, currently serving as its Executive Director, and is a tireless advocate for veterans and their families. The goal of the Fisher House is to "serve those that have served," and no one works harder to enact this mission than Jennifer. Through raising awareness, gathering support and funds, running the day-to-day operations; and creating the one-of-a-kind Hotel Program for visiting families, Jennifer's efforts at the Fisher House have been truly limitless. She understands that the sacrifices made by our Veterans did not just occur between 9 and 5, and makes herself available at all hours of the day and night to help ease the burden and stress accompanying illness and injury. Jennifer works every day to make sure that when a military family's loved one is hospitalized they are able to only focus on being there for their hero. Jennifer's unending commitment to seeing that no military family is left wanting is an example to all. Heroine Jennifer was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Dooley.



**Jennifer Deluca,
Norfolk**

Patricia has been a long time community leader in the town of Wilbraham. She has served on many town committees, and was instrumental in the Town's Peach Festival and the Peach Queen Contest. She's known affectionately as "Peach Mom" by many. Patricia also was the co-president of the Town of Wilbraham's 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee. She has and continues to be a well-respected and inspiring leader who never ceases to give back each and every day. Patricia is part of the fabric and sole of the Town of Wilbraham and epitomizes what it means to be a heroine. Heroine Patricia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Puppola.



**Patricia Diotalevi,
Wilbraham**



**Linda Doran,
South Boston**

Linda was born in South Boston where she continues to live and raise her family. Linda is an active member of the community who has made many outstanding contributions to South Boston, especially to the youth. She is an active member of the South Boston Association of Non Profits . In 2005 she began running the South Boston Youth Ambassadors program, a nonprofit program run by the South Boston Community Health Center consisting of youth ages 12-18. This program partners with adults from the neighborhood to demonstrate that young people care and can be active members in the community. Linda organizes and engages Youth in art projects, community service and hurricane relief trips, neighborhood clean-ups and more. Linda's hard work and dedication have been impactful to many young lives in South Boston. Heroine Linda was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Collins.

Susan has been a college mentor at Girls Inc., a nonprofit that mentors and advocates on behalf of girls, for over ten years. Susan has great advice and fantastic tips for the girls when she takes them on college tours. Susan stays in touch with all of her mentees after they leave the program. She once attended a family weekend event for a young woman in college whose family was unable to attend. Because Susan has been such a devoted and successful mentor, she has become a coach for other mentors in the program. Susan constantly goes above and beyond for both the mentees and other mentors. She is dedicated to the girls' college mentoring program and works hard to ensure that they reach their educational goals. Girls Inc. is a stronger program due to Susan's unparalleled commitment to the organization, the girls, and the other mentors. Heroine Susan was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Crighton.

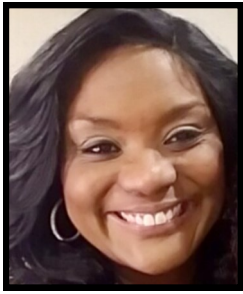


**Susan Dowds,
Marblehead**



**Kathleen Downey,
Byfield**

Kathleen is an incredible advocate for animal rights in the Commonwealth. She consistently reaches out to her local officials to stress the importance of various animal rights bills passing through the House of Representatives. Kathleen's political officials are far more educated and aware of animal abuse in Massachusetts because of her work and they are thankful for her diligence in combating such a pervasive issue. Kathleen's commitment to the safety and respect of animals all over the Commonwealth is unparalleled and deserves recognition. Heroine Kathleen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Mirra.



**Leona Earley Whetzel,
Fitchburg**

Leona is the Vice President of Community Programs for the Montachusett Opportunity Council, North Central Massachusetts's premier anti-poverty community action agency. Leona has over 25 years of experience in administration and management and is responsible for the oversight, implementation, and management of multiple program departments. She is an executive officer of the Three Pyramids and North Central MA Minority Coalition; a member of the Spanish American Center board of directors; a member of the local Department of Children's and Families board of directors; a member of the local YMCA Chapter board of directors; and the vice-chair of the Worcester County Emergency Food and Shelter Program of North Central Mass. Leona has been a resident of the city of Fitchburg for over 35 years and has lived in her home in West Fitchburg for the past 21 years. Heroine Leona was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Tran.

Maxine truly exemplifies Lowell's motto, "Art is the Handmaid of Human Good". She energetically contributes her time and knowledge to making Western Avenue Studios the largest community of working artists on the east coast. Maxine is a founding member of The Loading Dock Gallery and was appointed chairperson of the Lowell Cultural Council as well as the Destination Lowell Ambassador for the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau. She developed and coordinated public art projects for the annual Lowell Women's Week celebration. Maxine is also a founding member of ACTION (Acre Coalition to Improve Our Neighborhood) and volunteers annually to read scholarship applications for Greater Lowell Community Foundation and Lowell High School Scholarship Selection Committee. In the fall, Maxine lectures at UMass Lowell on the historical geography of Western Avenue Studios. Heroine Maxine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Mom.



Maxine Farkas, Lowell



Carol Finn, Amesbury

Carol is a well-known resident of Amesbury. She is a tireless volunteer in the community. Carol and her husband formed an organization to save the aging Main Street Congregational Church from being turned into condominiums by fundraising more than \$200,000. She is an ever-present volunteer at the local soup kitchen, 'Our Neighbors' Table.' On nice days, you can often find Carol cleaning up litter or removing weeds and sprucing up the gardens in front of the Amesbury Public Library. Carol is a member of the Amesbury Improvement Tree Committee and helps plant trees around the city. She always manages to find time when asked to help with any project or cause. Carol believes every citizen should give back to their community. Heroine Carol was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator O'Connor Ives.

Elizabeth is a remarkable member of the Franklin County community. Elizabeth offers up unlimited time and effort to many committees and organizations. She sits on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, the Greenfield Cooperative Bank, the Democratic Town Committee, and the Children's Advocacy Center, which provides a child-friendly house where physically and sexually abused children receive the services they need in a coordinated response. Elizabeth gives freely of her time and works tirelessly to improve her community and the experiences of those who reside in Franklin County. Her commitment to helping others is an inspiration to everyone she meets. Heroine Elizabeth was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Whipps.



**Elizabeth Fisk,
Greenfield**

Sheila was the lead organizer of the 2018 Ayer Women's March, held on the first anniversary of the inauguration of the current presidential administration. After learning that many people in the community would not be able to make the trip to the Boston Women's March, in a matter of days, Sheila and others planned a rally and march in the town center. The event was attended by over 400 people from Ayer and surrounding communities — an impressive feat in a small town 30 miles from Boston. Sheila succeeded in organizing an inspiring event that brought together activists, legislators, and citizens to champion the values of equality, diversity, and economic justice. She is an Unsung Heroine due to her lifelong commitment to these values, and her work in organizing the 2018 Ayer Women's March. Heroine Jennifer was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Benson.



**Sheila Fitzgerald
Kelly, Ayer**



**Mary Pat Flynn,
West Falmouth**

During her long service as a Falmouth Selectman, **Mary Pat** was a beacon for attracting important attention and funds from the Massachusetts State House for crucial community projects. As former Chair and current member of the Barnstable Cape Cod Commissioners, Mary Pat's advocacy and diplomacy have given her a unique "All Cape" view that has become contagious to Cape leaders. As both Chair and a member of Falmouth Economic Development Industrial Corporation, Mary Pat was instrumental in adding jobs to the community. She is an active member of Cape Cod Selectmen and Councilors Association and past chair. Pat is a former Chair of Children's Cove, the Cape & Islands Child Advocacy Center and member of West Falmouth Library's Board. She is also a long-time supporter of the arts. Mary Pat serves on the advisory board of the Falmouth Carousel of Light. Heroine Mary Pat was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator deMacedo.

Deborah began her career in social work as a mental health clinician performing outreach work in Holyoke for 24 years before her personal background in recovery led her to work with the recovery community. She launched the first peer recovery program for pregnant and parenting women in Holyoke and led it for eight years. Today, Deborah is the Program Director at Gándaras. Deborah is loved by the women, men, and children who consider the center a second home. Deborah received her bachelor's in social work at UMASS Amherst before going on to earn a master's in counseling and psychology from Cambridge College. She is fluent in Spanish and credits learning the language on the streets of Holyoke and from the mothers she worked with early in her career. Heroine Deborah was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Vega.



**Deborah Flynn-Gonzalez,
Chicopee**



Patricia Foley, Rockland

Patricia is a long time resident of Rockland, MA. Pat selflessly and faithfully serves on numerous committees and projects for the town, including the Board of Library Trustees, the Charter By-Law Study and Review Committee, the Community Development Advisory Committee, Housing Partnership Committee, 40R SGOD Committee, and the Lions Club. She is passionate and committed to the REiMAGINE ROCKLAND project and revitalization efforts in the downtown neighborhood. Pat is always the first to volunteer and assist in coordinating events throughout the year, such as Rockland Day and the Rockland Holiday Stroll. Additionally, she is a leader in beautifying the public flower gardens. Pat's kindness, warmth and compassion resonate in all she does within the community. Heroine Patricia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative DeCoste.



**Sheryl L. Goldstein,
Framingham**

Sheryl is one of the co-Chairs of the Framingham SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) and is steadfast in her belief that every child in Framingham and throughout the Commonwealth deserves the best education possible, regardless of that child's particular needs. Among her many volunteer activities, she is active in 'Decoding Dyslexia, Massachusetts' and is part of a working group establishing a Family and Educator Resource Center at Framingham State University. Sheryl knows the importance of being resourceful, understanding, and the ability to work productively with a wide variety of people. She has an uncanny knack for handling competing needs with grace, humor and wisdom. Sheryl is a true community asset in Framingham. Heroine Sheryl was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by the late Representative Walsh.

In 1999, **Wilma** and **Joan** co-founded 'Friendship Home' in Norwell, where disabled young people could make friends and build skills for employment. Later, Wilma and Joan worked with local business professionals and community members and in July of 2010 they began Friendship Club meetings and a newly formed Bridges to Work (BTW) vocational program. In 2012, after the completion of construction on the second floor of the home, Wilma and Joan began offering overnight respite services for participants. Today, the Friendship Club includes more than 130 members and Bridges to Work currently has 52 participants, with 42 in paid positions. Without these two remarkable women the community, relationships, support and love that is Friendship Home would not exist. They are unwavering advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the South Shore. Heroines Wilma and Joan were submitted as Unsung Heroines of 2018 by Senator O'Connor.



**Wilma Rae Goodhue & Joan
Mullare, Norwell**



**Dr. Patricia A. Gozemba,
Salem**

Patricia has been an educator and professor of English and Women's Studies at Salem State University for 38 years. She has been regarded as a mentor to her colleagues and students for decades. This is evidenced by the creation of an award in her name given to a member of the Salem State community who has served as a role model for the LGBTQ community. Pat is an author of many scholarly articles and together with her wife wrote a book called 'Courting Equality,' which chronicles the history of America's first legal same-sex marriage. Additionally, she has been a true champion for the environment and has co-chaired the Salem Alliance for the Environment, leading the effort for clean and renewable energy. Pat continues to stand up for LGBTQ and immigrant rights and is a tireless advocate for diversity, tolerance, civil rights and social justice. Heroine Patricia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Tucker.

Katie works day-in, day-out to create meaningful and innovative educational opportunities for children while also organizing and advocating for affordable housing policies on the local level. As the co-founder of Parts and Crafts, Katie has helped to ignite the creative potential of young people. In 2012, she co-founded the Semi-Conducted Learning Center, which fosters creative exploration and self-directed learning around technical projects for kids aged 7-13. As an organizer and advocate, starting with Occupy Boston and working more recently with community-based groups such as Union United and the Welcome Project, Katie has fought for affordable housing, community benefits, and development without displacement. Heroine Katie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Connolly.



**Katie Gradowski,
Somerville**

Christine is a dynamo in the Town of Yarmouth when it comes to teens and substance abuse. Christine is actively involved in helping the youth of Yarmouth avoid the perils of substance abuse. She was one of the organizers of the Town of Yarmouth Substance Abuse Committee and remains a driving force there today. Her efforts extend to a range of programs dealing with teens in the town making the right choice when it comes to drugs and alcohol, including pre-prom assemblies, and community forums for teens and their families that address the dangers of opiates. Christine was very active with Question Four on the 2016 Statewide Ballot and continues to be vocal about how cannabis will be regulated in Yarmouth and surrounding communities. Christine is a model for community involvement and truly deserves this award. Heroine Christine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Crocker.



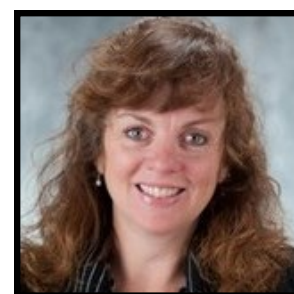
**Christine K. Greeley,
West Yarmouth**



**Kathleen E. Griffin,
North Brookfield**

Kathleen is involved in a myriad of organizations and has taken on leadership roles to assure that children flourish and the community thrives. She is a strong advocate for children on the Autism Spectrum. Kathleen organizes many events for the schools such as the Playground Committee Family and Friends Day, Halloween Parade and Party, coat and boot drives, community dinners, the town-wide Yard Sale, Christmas Lighted Parade, and a Touch A Truck event involving the police department bringing free bicycle helmets for the kids and child safety ID kits. Kathleen also assists at the Senior Center, helped create the Schools food pantry, assists with the Summer Reading program, renovated the elementary school library, raising \$5,000 and accepting \$8,000 worth of goods that were donated in 6 weeks, held the first ever Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration, and coaches bowling to special needs youth on Saturdays. Heroine Kathleen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Gobi.

Kara has been a terrific representative for the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce. Kara has impeccable business skills that reflect well as a professional, but also have great impacts on the community. Kara is also a dedicated and impeccable volunteer in the Mansfield community. Kara volunteers with Mansfield Girls Hockey, the United Way, the Southeastern Mass. Convention and Visitors Bureau, and lastly, the MA Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Kara is a wonderful person and an exemplary nominee for an Unsung Heroine Award. Heroine Kara was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Barrows.



Kara Griffin, Mansfield



**Judy Grinnell,
North Adams**

Judy single handedly imagined and created the Hoosic River Revival Project in order to enhance, with a 21st Century flood management design, the public use and beauty of the Hoosic River as it flows through North Adams, channelized in aging, three-sided concrete. Working with her Board of Directors, Judy was tenacious in the pursuit of funding and community support, and has created an organization that is well on its way to making a major impact in the region. Judy was required to work around and through many obstacles to create a viable project, but she never let anything stop her. Heroine Judy was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Barrett.



**Kathleen Gunning,
Somerset**

Kathleen is a lifelong resident of the town of Somerset. She is a former Somerset School Committeewoman, PTO President, and owner of a family home daycare center. Recently, Kathleen's efforts to coordinate and raise private funding for Somerset's participation in 'Wreaths Across America' was truly remarkable. In conjunction with key town offices, she worked to identify veteran's graves from every war and conflict. Kathleen rounded up scores of volunteers to assist in her efforts, and holiday balsam wreaths with red velvet bows were placed on each veteran's grave, memorializing those who served in conflicts ranging from the Revolutionary War to those in Afghanistan and Iraq. Every veteran's monument in town also displayed the commemorative wreaths. Heroine Kathleen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Haddad.

Ann is one of the most dedicated public servants Franklin County has ever seen. From her days as the first woman elected to the Greenfield Selectboard in 1980 to her 32 years as the heart and soul of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Ann has exemplified a rare combination of intelligence, thoughtfulness, humility and passionate determination. Ann has never failed to distinguish herself as an outstanding community leader. As a volunteer at Franklin Medical Center, creator of the enormously successful Green River Festival, a fierce advocate for local businesses, and everything in between, Ann always displayed a deep, abiding love and respect for Franklin County and its residents. Heroine Ann was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Rosenberg.



Ann Hamilton, Greenfield



**Gwendolyn Hampton
VanSant, Housatonic**

Gwendolyn is CEO and founding Director of Multicultural BRIDGE, a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting cultural competence and integration of diverse groups in Western Massachusetts. Gwendolyn also serves as an appointed official and chairwoman on the Berkshire County Commission on the Status of Women. In 2014/15, she designed and hosted a Civil Rights Conference featuring US Attorney Carmen Ortiz; designed employee and supervisor training corporation wide in cultural proficiency and micro-inequities at King Arthur Flour; and published and authored an anthology, Berkshire Mosaic: A Multicultural BRIDGE Living History Project. Gwendolyn is a noted diversity leader and trainer, bilingual certified interpreter, and community activist/organizer who designs curriculum for workplace language classes as well as highly customizable cultural competency, literacy & proficiency training. Heroine Gwendolyn was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Hinds.

Josephine's distinguished history of community service and stewardship in Westborough spans decades. Jody previously served on Westborough's School Committee and now serves on Westborough's Advisory Finance Committee. Jody has volunteered with the Housing Partnership, Fine Arts Education Association, and School Parent Groups. Perhaps Jody's most significant contribution is her devotion to fiercely lead the charge in ensuring the safety, health, and success of Westborough's youth in the wake of legalization of marijuana for recreational adult-use. Jody played a pivotal role in engaging and educating the Westborough community about ballot Question 4 and successfully advocated for Westborough to "opt out" of allowing recreational marijuana establishments. Jody's unwavering commitment and advocacy to limit recreational marijuana use across Massachusetts has inspired many to join her. Heroine Josephine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Kane.



**Josephine Hensley,
Westborough**

Denise is a lifelong Hopkinton resident and licensed social worker. She became the first full-time Director of Youth and Family Services for the Town of Hopkinton in 2015. She provides confidential counseling and referral to services for children and families in need. Denise works in collaboration with the Hopkinton Youth Commission and spearheaded the creation of Hopkinton Organizing for Prevention, a multi-stakeholder group focusing on community-driven substance abuse education and prevention. Denise has become a valued community resource who is known throughout the town as the first and best stop for anyone experiencing challenges related to mental health, addiction, or trauma. She is a passionate and committed advocate for families and she truly embodies what it means to be a public servant. Heroine Denise was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Dykema.



**Denise Hildreth,
Hopkinton**



**Michelle Holmgren,
Warren**

Michelle is the Public Relations Manager for the Baystate Health Eastern Region (BHER). Her responsibilities include internal and external communications for Baystate Wing and Baystate Mary Lane Hospitals, and all of the medical practices and services located in the region. Michelle is a member of the Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC), the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition (QHCC), The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, (QHSUA), the Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC), the Walk of Champions Committee, the Palmer and Ware Domestic Violence Task Forces, and the Palmer Mass in Motion program. Michelle is the local representative on the Executive Committee of Hampshire HOPE, the opioid abuse task force co-chaired by District Attorney David Sullivan, and is a supporter of the local Food Pantry. Heroine Michelle was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Smola.

Marblehead High School's **Melissa** is a beloved history and government teacher. Since 1994, she has instilled in her students a lasting sense of civic duty and engagement in and out of the classroom. Melissa weaves current events and civic engagement into the student experience by encouraging campaign involvement, and for those who are old enough, taking that first step to vote. She often plans a field trip to the State House to observe hearings or formal session while presenting various viewpoints to the students. As one teacher in one community, Melissa has been a mentor to generations of students who, in turn, share their love of civic engagement with others. At a time when our democracy most needs that infusion of knowledge and enthusiasm, we can look proudly to teachers like her to inspire new, bold leaders. Heroine Melissa was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Ehrlich.



**Melissa Humphrey,
Marblehead**



**Michele Hutcheon,
Clinton**

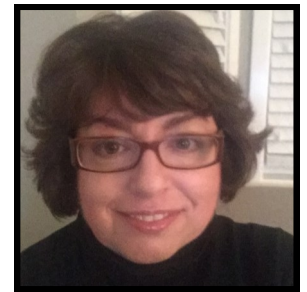
Michele has been Clinton resident since 1999. Michele serves on the Clinton Elks Lodge Fundraiser/Activities Committee, providing college scholarships for local students. She served as Chaplain for nine years and was a member on the Elks 100th Anniversary Planning Committee (2013). In 2014, she organized the first bus trip to four Elk lodges in the area. Michele also serves on the Entertainment Committee for the Clinton Turner Hall and assists in planning events. Michele was a member on Turners 150th Anniversary Planning Committee and participates in the annual bowling Tournament with North Adams and Holyoke Turners. In 2017, she organized the first bus trip to a casino and chicken farm in RI. Michele also serves on the Clinton Democratic Town Committee and has been politically active in the community since 1999. Heroine Michele was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Naughton.



**Kim Keene & Elizabeth McCarthy,
Newburyport**

Kim and Elizabeth co-founded the Pelican Intervention Fund after their experience with loved ones suffering from heroin addiction. They saw an urgent need for effective treatment and financial support for those battling addiction to opioid-based substances in Essex County. Today, the Pelican Intervention Fund supports recovery for adults in Amesbury, Byfield, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury. Their commitment to helping others has already made a major impact on those suffering from addiction, and they continue to improve the lives of citizens across their community. Heroines Kim and Elizabeth were submitted as Unsung Heroines of 2018 by Representative Kelcourse.

Malissa's efforts in creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are worthy of recognition. At just about any meeting you attend with Malissa, she is the one looking for ways to include students and developmentally challenged individuals programs. Malissa is Director of Operations at Cape Cod Collaborative Arts Network, Vice-Chair Plymouth Bay Cultural District, Plymouth DDS CAB member, Co-Founder New Heights (at Algonquin Heights), Co-President Healthy Plymouth, member Healthcare Literacy Partners in Prevention, and a Plymouth Patch volunteer. Malissa is passionate about kids, self-advocacy, inclusion, arts & culture, and recognition of one community, where all live, work and play. Malissa provides services, support and outreach in ways that demonstrate and instill respect, dignity, and appreciation. Heroine Malissa was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Muratore.



**Malissa Kenney,
Plymouth**



Bobbie Knable, Brookline

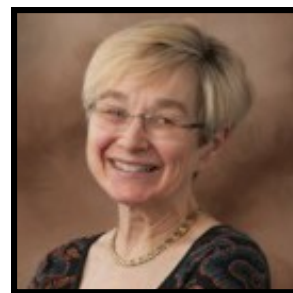
Bobbie, a longtime resident of Brookline, has devoted her life to the education of youth and the improvement of our collective community. Re-elected to Town Meeting for 18 years, her goal is to achieve "a more diverse and welcoming environment". She has served on the Town's Advisory Committee for 9 years, and on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee. Bobbie was an assistant professor of English at Tufts University before becoming Dean of Freshmen and then Dean of Students, her position for 20 years. At her retirement, she was praised for her "lasting contributions to the quality of academic experience," including establishing the Tufts Transsexual Lesbian Gay Bisexual Center and the Asian American and Latino Centers. She has served on the board of trustees for Bennington College, Pine Manor College, City on a Hill Charter High School, and as President of the Council on Higher Education for Urban Women. Heroine Bobbie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Creem.

Ruth Knapp of Lakeville is a retired school teacher and spends hours volunteering in a number of outreach efforts. Ruth serves as the coordinator for the Caring Center Food Pantry and has often delivered food to those who are unable to leave their homes. Ruth is active in the Central Congregational Church of Middleborough, where she has served on numerous committees and volunteers for the AWANA children's program. She serves on the Soule Homestead Education Center Board in Middleborough, a community-based nonprofit providing learning opportunities including environmental programs, organic farming, and traditional crafts. Ruth is also a Chaplain with the Community Chaplain Services providing care and guidance for those in nursing homes and on hospice. Ruth gives selflessly to others and truly makes her community a better place. Heroine Ruth was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Orrall.



Ruth Knapp, Lakeville

Lucia is a well known and highly respected English Professor at Assumption College and is recognized today for her many contributions to our community. She serves as a board member, program advisor, grant writer, professor, and photographer at Worcester's Clemente Course in the Humanities, which offers tuition free college courses for low income adults, some of whom are recent immigrants to the United States. She also volunteers with Mass Humanities and the Worcester Women's History Project. Additionally, Dr. Knoles is an advocate for the needs of nursing home residents and is a licensed Long-Term Care Ombudsman for Massachusetts. Lucia is certainly respected and admired by her colleagues, students, family, and friends, and does so much for others, often without recognition. As one colleague stated "Lucia is a woman who raises up other women". Her-
oine Lucia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Ferguson.



**Dr. Lucia Knoles,
Jefferson**



**Anne-Marie Lambert,
Belmont**

Anne-Marie is an environmentalist with deep knowledge of the land and water of Belmont. In 2014, she gave an illustrated history at the Belmont Historical Society, called "The Belmont Uplands: A History of the Changing Use of Land and Water". The battle over the Uplands, one of the last true urban wilds in the Greater Boston area, was long and difficult and ultimately environmentalists did not prevail. Anne-Marie transformed its lessons into creative pursuits, including the Belmont Stormwater Working Group to advocate successfully to reduce pollution and flooding from new developments, the Belmont "Staycation" campaign to reduce energy used by Belmont residents to fly around the globe, and Belmont nature walks with local poets and actors to connect residents with their environment. Anne-Marie has been a member of the board of the Belmont Citizens Forum Board of Directors for over 10 years. Heroine Anne-Marie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Rogers.

Nancy has volunteered at least once a week at the Milton Community Food Pantry for more than 25 years. She was instrumental in securing the pantry's home at the Parkway United Methodist Church where she is a parishioner and has always been its strongest supporter and advocate. She frequently meets local organizations to accept items collected for distribution to the pantry participants. She is essential to the Milton Community Food Pantry operations, handling all of the participant intake duties and working directly with the Milton social worker who reviews requests for food assistance. She leads volunteers in sorting and storing non-perishable food and assists individuals and families each week as they visit the pantry to select food. Miss Nancy is loved by volunteers and pantry participants alike. Heroine Nancy was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Driscoll.



Nancy Lanata, Milton



**Dianne Langford
James, Worcester**

Dianne is an entrepreneur, philanthropist and women's transformation specialist, committed to empowering women to discover and disrupt the cycles that are running their personal and professional lives. Dianne is the Founder of Yes We Care Academy. The Yes We Care vision is to expand services and support youth and families by offering programs, workshops, and mentoring opportunities. Yes We Care accomplishes this by offering after-school programs, homework assistance, workshops, and mentoring/coaching. Yes We Care seeks to address more broad concerns within the community such as school dropouts, gang violence, unemployment, health & wellness, and much more. Dianne's tireless efforts are truly transformational. Heroine Dianne was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Campanale.



April Laskey, Billerica

April has been serving healthy school meals to Billerica Public School's students for more than 12 years. April noticed that many families in Billerica were with limited access to nutritious foods. Her team partnered with the Greater Boston Food Bank to create the 'Billerica Public Schools Food Market.' Approximately 450 families visit Marshall Middle School once a month and receive anywhere from 30 to 50 pounds of fresh produce and frozen or shelf-stable foods. April also introduced many exciting programs to her district's cafeterias, including, "Taste it Thursday," where new menu items are introduced and taste tested with students, "Harvest of the Month," which provides lessons and samples for elementary students, "Chopped Challenge," a contest for middle and high school students, and a barbeque for Back to School night. April supports Billerica families and assures them that they can have wholesome essential food products in school and in their homes. Heroine April was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Lombardo.

Ellen is both chairwoman and member of the Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee. Ellen's leadership resulted in Wellesley being named the first Massachusetts municipality to receive a Green Power Communities designation by the Environmental Protection Agency. Ellen spearheaded the 'Power to Choose' campaign, encouraging residents and local businesses to buy a portion of their electricity from renewable sources. Ellen worked hard to reduce Wellesley's carbon emissions and push legislation in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. She recently helped organize a local food waste program, getting Wellesley Public Schools and local colleges and universities to donate serviceable leftover food to the Cambridge-based nonprofit Food For Free. Heroine Ellen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Peisch.



Ellen Ledley Korpi, Wellesley



Michelle Loranger, New Bedford

Michelle is the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County. Children who have experienced trauma are often re-traumatized by the process of reporting their story repeatedly to different authorities. The Children's Advocacy Center offers a child-focused, safe and supportive environment for victims to interact with the police, medical professionals, child protection specialists, and prosecutors, at the same time, indirectly, through a trained interviewer and family advocate. Families are then offered continuing support to meet their needs. From recruiting board members, organizing fundraisers, hosting legislative breakfasts, building relationships with police officers, prosecutors, doctors, and social workers to answering the phones and fixing the toilets, Michelle is a hero to the children and families her work has touched. Heroine Michelle was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Koczera.

Jade and **Rachel** are the Executive Directors of Craig's Doors, a non-profit organization that assists housing-insecure folks in the Amherst area. Rachel joined the Craig's Doors Shelter Staff in October of 2012. Once aboard, she helped to create and direct the Craig's Doors Housing Program. Jade joined the Craig's Doors team in September 2015 as a Shelter Manager. Together, these two women took over as Executive Directors for Craig's Doors in 2017. This past shelter season, under the strong leadership of these two women, Craig's Doors helped serve well over 150 individuals. While Rachel has recently resigned to pursue her educational goals, she leaves Craig's Doors in Jade's excellent care and supervision. Both women have contributed countless hours of their time to supporting their local community. Heroines Rachel and Jade were submitted as Unsung Heroines of 2018 by Representative Goldstein-Rose.



Jade Lovett & Rachel Weiss, Amherst

Kathleen co-founded the Woburn Historical Society in 2005 and is a founding member of the Woburn Historic District Commission. In 2015 she was appointed to the Massachusetts WWI Centennial Commission where she is working to establish the first permanent WWI memorial in Washington D.C. She has collaborated on many films about Woburn history, winning multiple Telly Awards. Kathleen has worked to create trolley tours for third-graders, educating them on Woburn history. She has also organized excursions to historic sites for all citizens. Kathleen has carefully recorded the history of our servicemen to preserve their experiences for future generations. Over the past year, as a member of the Woburn 375th Committee, Kathleen has worked with the Woburn Mayor's Office to bring programs to the City of Woburn in celebration of its distinguished birthday. Heroine Kathleen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Dwyer.



**Kathleen Lucero,
Woburn**



Maria Luise, Malden

Maria serves as Chief of Staff for Mayor Christenson of Malden. She is a passionate, intelligent and caring individual who places others first; her family, friends and those in need of help within her city and beyond. As a community activist, Maria is involved in the Zonta Club of Malden and the Junior Aid Association. She lives by the mission of both organizations by helping to empower and support women, raise funds for those in need and recognize those who have gone above and beyond in her community. Maria is committed to serving those in need. She is an attorney by trade and has also owned and operated a daycare center within the community. Maria is an integral part of Malden and her tireless efforts make her undeniably worthy of this award. Heroine Maria was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Ultrino.

Ana directs ACT Lawrence, a Latina-led non-profit community development corporation that has served the city of Lawrence for over two decades. Since its inception, Ana has been a resilient advocate for her community, working to empower and improve the quality of life of all Lawrence residents. Born in the Dominican Republic, Ana moved to the great City of Lawrence in 1985. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to become a capable leader and community activist. After completing a dual degree at Northern Essex Community College, she went on to attend Emerson College for her bachelor's degree. She later earned a master's degree in Public Policy from Tufts University. With Ana in charge, ACT Lawrence has advocated for proper land use practices and accessible housing; developed workforce and business development programs; partnered with Merrimack College to open a Financial Capability & Opportunity Center; and launched the Arlington Breakfast Club neighborhood association to further involve residents in community discussions. Heroine Ana was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Moran.



Ana Luna, Lawrence



**Flor M. Maldonado,
Methuen**

Flor is a passionate advocate for gender equality and women's rights. She serves as a Domestic Violence Specialist for the Department of Children and Families, working with families of abused and neglected children. Previously, she worked as a Women's Services Coordinator/Rape Crisis Counselor at the YWCA of Northeastern Massachusetts, where she counseled, advocated and supported survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In her spare time, Flor co-facilitates an Intimate Partner Violence group for male domestic violence offenders, and serves on the board of Delamano, Inc., a local domestic violence program. Flor's commitment to promoting social justice and equity and her willingness to go above and beyond to help those in need are only a few of the many qualities that her friends, colleagues and family admire. Heroine Flor was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative DiZoglio.



**Lidia Maldonado,
Lawrence**

Lidia was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Lawrence. While at Lawrence High School, Lidia became involved in student government with the goal of improving the education experience. Lidia was elected class president and took great pride in being a Lawrence Lancer. She earned degree in Sociology from Suffolk University in Boston and later returned to earn a master's degree in Public Administration. After years of working with families primarily from Lawrence, Lidia became a Probation Officer at Lawrence District Court, where she currently serves. It is her hope that the young people of Lawrence can overcome the negative stigma and barriers they face growing up with the help and support from individuals who can, want, and will give them the tools they need to help facilitate their success. Heroine Lidia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Matias.

Patricia is a long-serving champion for education in Lawrence. She was previously a principal of the Francis M. Leahy elementary school and now sits on the Lawrence School Committee. Pat chairs the Lawrence Cultural Council and most recently was chosen to sit on the Lawrence Alliance for Education, the receivership board overseeing Lawrence's schools. A faithful believer in the power of public education, Pat has dedicated her life to helping Lawrence, starting with the education of its youth. Her work has touched the lives of all Lawrencians. Beloved in her community, Pat is a true public servant. Lawrence has been tangibly improved because of her and her work. Heroine Patricia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator L'Italien.



**Patricia Mariano,
Lawrence**



**Susan C. Mathias,
Fall River**

Susan retired from state service after 37 ½ years at a Human Service Agency with the goal of continuing to help her community in any way possible. She has achieved this goal through her active participation with multiple organizations. Susan serves on the fundraising committee for Forever Paws, a "no kill" animal shelter, the Board of Directors for the Children's Museum, and also as Secretary of the South End Neighborhood Association. She is active in the Good Shepherd Parish, volunteering for as many parish activities as she can. When Fall River revised their City Charter, Susan served as treasurer of the Fall River Ballot Question Review Committee, whose mission to collect 10,000 signatures and place the question on the ballot, was achieved after four years of tireless work. Heroine Susan was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Silvia.

Roseann has been an unsung heroine for many years in Winthrop. For the past five years she has served as the part time Veterans' Service Officer for the town, working more than full time hours to serve several thousand eligible veterans in Winthrop. Rose is a leader of the Winthrop Lodge of Elks, the American Legion, Women's Veterans' Network, Winthrop Parks and Recreation, and more. She is an active member of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and chief cook at their annual confirmation and communion retreats. She is a founding member of the Friends of Winthrop Beach, a CPR instructor with the Massachusetts Heart Association, a mother of four, and an unofficial mother to many young people in the neighborhood who need a safe place to stay, advice, encouragement, or a meal. Heroine Roseann was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative DeLeo.

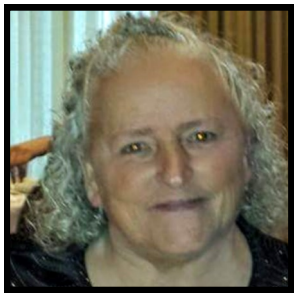


**Roseann Mazzuchelli,
Winthrop**

Gail has been an elementary school nurse for the past 17 years, 10 of which have been at the Lincoln Elementary School in Melrose. Lincoln Elementary School is a vibrant and diverse community serving over 400 students and their families along with a staff of 80. Whether Gail is addressing the needs of a student or a staff member, she does so with compassion and empathy. Her medical, health and first aid knowledge is second to none. Additionally, Gail has been a collaborative partner with the school's social worker and psychologist in helping to care for the mental well-being of all students. Some months, Gail can log 1200+ individual visits to her office! Gail is an essential member of her school community, administering Band-Aids and smiles to all those in need! Heroine Gail was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Brodeur.



Gail McCarthy, Melrose



**Sandra McNamara,
Lowell**

Sandra has dedicated great time and effort to preserving her neighborhood. As the President of the Centralville Community Coalition, Sandra works tirelessly for the betterment of the residents and the community. She notices what needs to be done and does it without delay or fanfare. The organization of multiple neighborhood cleanups, beautification projects, and providing food baskets to families that have fallen on hard times are just a few of the community contributions Sandra has made. As President, Sandra and the Centralville Community Coalition host National Night Out, an annual crime prevention and safety event that celebrates community partnerships. Through their efforts and dedication, they are able to bring together residents, first responders, local organizations, and businesses for a night of fun. Heroine Sandra was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Golden.

Julie is the Executive Director of the Gardner CAC which operates a food pantry, provides transportation services, and coordinates assistance resources for individuals and families in need in the Greater Gardner area. Julie has demonstrated an ability to stretch her budget to do the most good possible in the community. She has implemented new programs to fit the specific needs that arise while maintaining great relationships with private and public partners to assist in all the efforts of the CAC. Most importantly, she truly cares about the people the agency helps. Julie has done all this while shunning recognition. She prefers to work behind the scenes and delegate credit to others. Her passion and humility are an example to all. Heroine Julie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representatives Zlotnik.



Julie Meehan, Templeton



Puja Mehta, Brookline

Puja has had a wide-reaching impact in Brookline and beyond. A former Town Meeting Member and current Brookline PAX Board Member who also serves as District Director for Senator Karen E. Spilka, Puja's political involvement has been consistently community-oriented and people-centered. As Chair of the Brookline Public Library's Board of Trustees, Puja also advocates for critical funding to ensure the accessibility of library resources and programs. Dedicated and humble, Puja is appreciated by many for the relationships she cultivates. But even more admirable than the breadth of her work is the motivation behind it: a true desire to improve the well-being of individuals across the Commonwealth. For this reason, Puja is a shining example of what it means to be an Unsung Heroine. Heroine Puja was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Smizik.



**Francine Meigs,
Leonminster**

Francine is an 8th Grade Special Education teacher at Samoset Middle School in Leonminster. Francine is an exceptional educator and doesn't stop at the end of the school day. She also supports after school programming with Academic Support and Math Cafe. Francine is always looking for opportunities for her students to give back to the community. She has worked with the United Way Youth Venture to support student community service including book drives, support for veterans, and autism awareness. Francine believes her middle school students are change-makers and she goes above and beyond to empower her students to build a better community. Heroine Francine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Higgins.

Chanie Minkowitz (nee Wolosow) was born in Sharon. After High School, she spent two years at the prestigious Beth Chana Institute in Israel, a college for advanced Jewish studies for women. Upon returning to the US, she moved to New York City where she achieved an M.Ed in Special Ed from Touro University. In NYC she met and married Montreal born Rabbi Naftoli Minkowitz, moving soon after to her hometown to direct the local Friendship Circle, an international organization that coordinates visits of teenage volunteers to the homes of children with special needs. Chanie has used her platform to advocate for inclusion and teenage leadership opportunities in the community at large. She and her husband also direct youth programming at the Congregation Adath Sharon Synagogue and direct the acclaimed Hebrew School. Heroine Chanie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Kafka.



**Chanie Minkowitz,
Sharon**



**Carol Miranda,
Cambridge**

Carol is dedicated to anti-poverty initiatives in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. As a program coordinator for a family support, community engagement, and school readiness organization, Carol addressed the academic achievement gap among children from low income families and communities. Carol created the Family Exchange Boutique, Inc., a physical space that offers free household items and clothing exchange opportunities. Carol uses the space to engage families and connect them with resources. Recently, Carol was hired by Jamaica Plain Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida to work with families and mothers in JP and Roxbury. Her weekly Mothers' Café gatherings at South Street Boston Housing Authority Development encourage more neighborhood involvement. Carol is a bilingual, culturally sensitive, compassionate, and reliable leader. Known as the "mother of JP," her passion for service is tireless and contagious. Heroine Carol was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Malia.

Kelli, her husband David, and their two rescue pit bulls live in the Atwater Park neighborhood in Springfield. Kelli has been the Clerk of the Atwater Park Civic Association for the past decade. Recently, Kelli was appointed to the Springfield Community Police Relations Committee, a citizen body task force which engages Springfield citizens in dialogue regarding the community's interactions with the men/women in law enforcement. To extend her community service beyond her neighborhood, Kelli ran as a Springfield City Councilor At-Large Candidate. Although she was unable to garner a seat on the Council, Kelli declared that she will be on the campaign trail again because she is committed to the City of Springfield. Heroine Kelli was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Tosado.



**Kelli Moriarty-Finn,
Springfield**

Christine has led a career dedicated to youth safety, and their physical and mental health. She has served as the Project Director for Youth Mental Health First Aid for SYFS, a groundbreaking public education program in which participants learn to recognize and treat the early signs and symptoms of mental illnesses. She has recently been appointed the interim Executive Director of SYFS, promoted after her long years of passionate and change-making service. She is also the SYFS coordinator for the Shrewsbury Coalition for Drug Prevention and Education. She has been described as "a compatible person, very caring, loyal, responsible, a devoted mother, understanding of people problems, and a listener." Mowry is a person of upstanding character who is a model for hard work, dedication, and selflessness. Heroine Christine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Moore.



**Christine Mowry,
Shrewsbury**



**Rachel Mulroy,
New Bedford**

As organizer for the Coalition for Social Justice, **Rachel** worked tirelessly with low-income and working-families in New Bedford and southeastern Massachusetts to build agency support among disenfranchised constituents. Rachel worked to increase voter participation on state and municipal public policy issues based on CSJ's Campaign for Working Families. Rachel was the point person within CSJ for the statewide Mass Power Forward Coalition, Green Justice Coalition, South Coast Neighbors United (Board member), and Coalition for Clean Air South Coast. Through efforts with nonprofits and legislators across the state, Rachel and the Coalition have worked to bring environmental justice to the South Coast and Cape Cod. Rachel has also worked on connecting key climate issues like pollution mitigation, food security, and renewable energy with legislative policy and regulatory practices for the communities. Heroine Rachel was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Cabral.

As a board member of Cohasset's Social Services League, **Christine** worked to bring a vibrant senior center to Cohasset. She then turned the League's focus to the addiction crisis. Christine began by hosting community workshops and invited addiction experts, parents, and recovering addicts to educate themselves about the issues and strategies for action. Christine allied with Cohasset Public Schools, parents, and local officials to form the Safe Harbor Cohasset Coalition, and designed programming to reach local youth. Christine is now the go-to person for Cohasset residents and front-line addiction specialists for prevention, programming, and navigating the legalization of marijuana. She secured a Drug-Free Communities grant to hire the full-time professional team that now manages Safe Harbor Cohasset. Heroine Christine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Meschino.



**Christine Murphy,
Cohasset**



Barbara Nealon, Fitchburg

Barbara is incredibly involved in her community. She has worked tirelessly as Chair of the Fitchburg Disability Commission to ensure that all individuals with disabilities have a strong voice in the community, and that issues that affect them are promptly addressed. She has also been a long time member of the North Central MA Minority Coalition, a diverse group that advocates for all minority members in the community and works to protect human and civil rights. Barbara serves as co-leader of a Suicide Prevention Task Force, and is a leader of the CHNA 9 Steering Committee. She is a resource for all members of our community, whether they are looking for help or looking for ways to help others. Barbara's selflessness is admired and her community is a better place because of her efforts. Heroine Barbara was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Hay.



Julia Newhall, Revere

Julia is passionate about improving the policies and systems that impact those most affected by substance abuse as a person in long-term recovery. In 2007, Julia pursued a degree in social work, and although her initial goal was to provide direct services, she soon discovered a greater interest in addressing underlying issues at the macro level of addiction. In 2016, the City of Revere opened the Substance Use Disorder Initiative (SUDI) Office. As its Director, Julia is committed to SUDI's vision of creating data-driven drug and alcohol policies and systems that promote health, wellness and human rights. This includes challenging negative misconceptions of addiction, supporting people in the recovery process, and reducing the consequences of drug-related harm. Heroine Julia was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Boncore.

Eridania has dedicated her life to serving youth. She has made it a professional and personal goal to positively impact the lives of young people that are most marginalized by society. Her ability to navigate institutional inequities in order to get students in Haverhill on the right track has changed the lives of many. At Haverhill High she works with students facing difficult academic and personal challenges. However, her mission has also made it into her own home. She has been a foster parent multiple times. Her empathy, dedication, and unwavering optimism in young people has inspired so many in the Haverhill community. Heroine Eridania was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Vargas.



Eridania Nieves, Haverhill



**Judith O'Connor,
Millbury**

Judith is the Executive Director and only full-time employee of the Millbury Senior Center, responsible for coordinating the exceptional services she has developed over many years of devoted advocacy. Through her efforts the senior community has access to nutrition programs, health clinics, information/referrals for state and federal matters, and in-home and community-based outreach/events. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs has recognized her for running a model transportation program among the 349 Councils on Aging throughout Massachusetts, consistently providing more rides per senior than any surrounding town, with 1,300+ one-way trips every month. Judith also aids in the administration of social service programs for families, helping with SNAP applications, fuel assistance, and food/clothing pantries. With 40 years committed to going above and beyond to provide services for seniors, the disabled, and families in Millbury, Judith is praised. Heroine Judith was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Frost.

Kathy is a strong community activist, tirelessly advocating for the youth and families of East Boston. As President of East Boston Girls Softball, Kathy transformed the organization into one of EB's finest and most popular youth sports programs. Kathy serves as a board member of the East Boston Community Development Corporation where she helps local families find affordable housing and advocates for increases to East Boston's affordable housing stock. Kathy works to ensure that the community can remain a place where those who want to stay, can. Given East Boston's rapid gentrification, this work is critical. Kathy is active on the Ward 1 Democratic Committee where she helps plan community building events, from clean-ups to voter registration drives. Kathy is an agent of positive change and is truly one of East Boston's most well-respected and noble members. Heroine Kathy was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Madaro.



Kathy Orlando, Boston

Mary's career has been defined by her selfless service to the people of Massachusetts. Over the years, she has stood out in her pursuits, involving volunteering for local causes, fighting for democratic values, and making sure people get out and vote. She has gained a reputation as person who has always been willing to do the work, no matter how unglamorous and thankless it might be. Mary has demonstrated unmatched commitment and passion for Worcester and all of its residents, from her time on Beacon Hill with Tim Murray, to her numerous stints in City Hall - most recently with Mayor Joe Petty. She has devoted countless hours toward progress and innovation in Worcester. Mary continues to be a powerful voice for women in politics, having held top positions while continuing to mentor our next generation of young leaders. Heroine Mary was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Chandler.



**Mary Oroszko,
Worcester**



Angela Ortiz, Woburn

Angela is an exemplary 'citizen advocate' with a passion for helping others and contributing to the Woburn community. Founder of the Massachusetts Pediatric Home Nursing Care Campaign, Angela has made strides in state government to improve care for medically fragile children. Angela has fiercely lobbied legislative offices and testified at numerous public hearings on behalf of her daughter, Ayla, and hundreds of children across the state with complex medical conditions and special in-home healthcare needs. Through her valuable work on the Campaign, Angela has shown her commitment to ensuring that all eligible families have skilled care, which expands and sustains our workforce, and improves the quality of long-term support services. Angela's strong advocacy skills as well as her passion, kindness, and enthusiasm for improving the lives of children and parents, make her a worthy recipient of this award. Heroine Angela was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Friedman.

When the Moriarty family of Longmeadow lost their home to a fire, all of their possessions were completely destroyed. **Krista**, also of Longmeadow, quickly contacted people throughout the community via Facebook and other means to start collecting winter clothing, socks, shoes, gift cards and monetary donations. Through Krista's efficient and tireless work, the Moriarty family got through the coldest part of the winter with the essentials they needed and received endless love and support from their community. Krista's efforts helped the Moriarty family get their lives back on track. No one ever thinks they will be in a tragic situation such as this, but women like Krista provide comfort to their communities and the reassurance that help will always be provided when it is needed most. Heroine Krista was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Ashe.



**Krista O'Shea,
Longmeadow**



**Carol Pallazolla,
Gloucester**

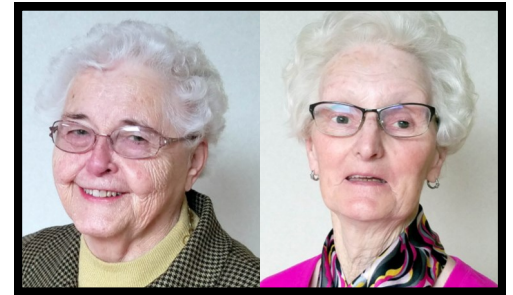
Carol has dedicated her life to giving back to her community. In her work for Element Care, she helps to see that local elders have the ability to stay at home instead of being placed in a nursing home. In her free time, Carol dedicates herself to a multitude of community causes. She has been teaching arthritis pain relief classes with the Arthritis Foundation of America for over 15 years and volunteers with the Cornell Orthotics and Prosthetics Amputee Association to provide a forum and support group for amputees and their families. She also volunteers with many community organizations, including the Addison Gilbert Hospital Citizens Fund and Cape Ann SNAP. Carol runs the City of Gloucester Harbor Loop Concerts and sits as a board member on the Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann. Heroine Carol was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Ferrante.



Molly Perdue, Brewster

Molly is co-founder and Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Family Support Center of Cape Cod, a non-profit organization devoted to supporting the 10,000 Cape Cod families, individuals and caregivers living with Alzheimer's and other Dementia-related illnesses. She is an educator, author, counselor, researcher, and an expert in the field of caregiving and dementia care. Molly has served on the Massachusetts working group to create the MA Alzheimer's Disease Plan and the MA Silver Alert Policy. She has participated in the National Alzheimer's Advisory Council, has spoken at the Barnstable County Disability Forum, and has participated nationally in numerous public forums, radio and print interviews. Thanks to Molly's dedication, the Alzheimer's Family Support Center has become a national model for supporting those with Alzheimer's, and their families and caregivers. Heroine Molly was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Whelan.

Loretta and **Mary** are two of Dorchester's most beloved seniors. Both are heavily involved in the St. Brendan's neighborhood of Dorchester. Being longtime members of the neighborhood, Loretta and Mary have both served on the Cedar Grove Civic Association's E-board, Loretta serving as the Chair of Elections and Mary as a board member. Each Christmas season, you can count on Loretta and Mary to be the first volunteers to help with the neighborhood Christmas tree lighting and party. Loretta and Mary remain active with the Keystone "K" Club, planning senior luncheons, bingos and socials that regularly draw out seniors from across the district. Loretta has been an active member on the Cedar Grove Cemetery Board for many years and Mary, avidly involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Boston, helps those in need around Thanksgiving and the Holidays. Heroines Loretta and Mary were submitted as Unsung Heroines of 2018 by Representative Hunt.



**Loretta Philbrick & Mary Shea,
Dorchester**



**Judith Pond-Pfeffer,
Franklin**

Judith has devoted her life to public service. She was a member of the Franklin Town Council for many years, and before that, a member of the Franklin Finance Committee. She is the clerk of the Franklin Housing Partnership, creating affordable housing opportunities in our community. Judith just completed her work as Chair of the Library Building Committee for America's first public library. The work involved significant renovations to the 23,011sq existing library, as well as the construction of an 8,320sq addition. She also works as a practicing attorney for a nonprofit that gets people back into homes lost through predatory lenders. Judith comes from a long line of family members who served the Town and she believes strongly that one should give back to their community to make it better for all citizens. Heroine Judith was submitted as Unsung Heroines of 2018 by Representative Roy.

Kim is fearless in her advocacy to help those who are addicted to opioids, and has been a pioneer in the field of harm reduction for people who inject drugs for over 30 years. As a specialist for the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Kim employs public health strategies aimed at reducing infectious disease transmission, preventing overdoses, and facilitating entry into treatment. Kim is highly respected in the Barnstable community for the work she has done to help people who use drugs in a non-judgmental and compassionate way. She is a member of Barnstable's Community Impact Unit where she works closely with law enforcement and local social services to build trust in the homeless population and get them connected to services. She ran a women's sober house for 10 years and volunteers at the annual Hyannis overdose vigil. Heroine Kim was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Cyr.



Kim Powers, Mashpee

Aruna manages her own day-care and pre-school called “Aruna’s Place.” She has held many volunteer positions including Publicity Chair for the Haynes School PTO, Council member on Aging Members, Girl Scout Leader, and Advisory Council member at the Peter Noyes School, assisting teachers and addressing children’s emotional needs. She is a trailblazer for Sudbury, starting an Early Childhood Council that provides workshops for parents and teachers, creating ‘Sudbury Day,’ an annual event celebrating family and community life, forming the NARI program which counsels domestic violence victims and their families, and spearheading the ‘Learn to Do for Others’ program for Lincoln Sudbury High School, where students complete 20 hours of community service before graduation. She was appointed by the Family Court as a pro bono advocate for children of South Asian Families. Aruna is truly a model citizen and role model to many. Heroine Aruna was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Gentile.



Aruna Pundit, Sudbury



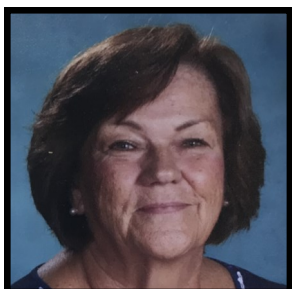
**Karen Reamsnyder,
Taunton**

Karen has led the organization of Corline Cronan's Family Dinners and served to the needy and homebound in Taunton on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas for the last 20 years. She started as a volunteer for Corline's Taunton Family in 1998, and agreed to become President of the newly-formed organization after Corline's passing in 2004. She spends hours helping to find volunteers, secure donations, and ensure there is a meal, take-home food, and clothing for everyone who attends the dinners, and deliveries of food to the homebound. Karen forgoes spending these holidays (both the day before and the holiday itself) with her family and friends, working the entire days at the dinners so that she may help those in need. Her work gives people a sense of pride, friendship, and hope. Karen is an extraordinary role model and inspiration in the community. Heroine Karen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative O'Connell.

Rosemary has dedicated her life to writing the news. For more than 70 years, Rosemary has worked as a reporter/editor for local newspapers and is currently a columnist for the Hudson Sun. In her “Keynotes” column, Rosemary alerts readers to upcoming community events and shares news and photos from around town. For her “Backward Glances” column, she pores through newspapers from long ago to offer readers slices of what an earlier Hudson was like. Her work documenting Hudson’s people and events keeps residents informed, connects neighbors, and enriches community life in Hudson. In addition to her journalistic work, Rosemary is a Eucharistic minister at St. Michael Parish, a steadfast supporter of Hudson High School arts and sports, and is active in the Hudson Historical Society. She and her husband, Vic, have 8 children and 10 grandchildren. Heroine Rosemary was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Hogan.

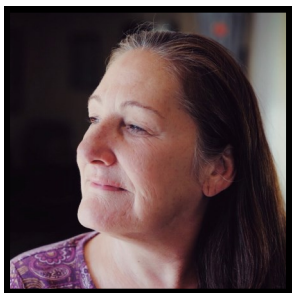


Rosemary Rimkus, Hudson



**Maureen Rooney,
Ludlow**

Maureen sits on the Board of Directors of the Michael J. Dias Foundation, a Ludlow-based organization committed to creating a drug free community. Her work with the Dias Foundation stems from her own experiences as both an educator and a mother of a child struggling with addiction. Maureen's dedication to this cause has enabled the organization to open its own sober living facility in Springfield called “Michael's House.” She has also organized candle light vigils and leads support groups for parents and family members of persons with addiction. Maureen embodies resilience and consistently inspires everyone around her. Heroine Maureen was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Lesser.



**Nancy Ross,
East Falmouth**

Nancy was violently attacked during her service as an Airman in the United States Navy in 1988 and has since struggled with the effects of that trauma, including addiction, depression, and PTSD. Nancy is resilient in her quest to heal herself and help other veterans cope with PTSD. Nancy is currently serving as DAV Commanding Officer Chapter 81, and is the Program Manager for the Veterans Horsemanship Program in Falmouth. The Program is for Veterans with PTSD, TBI, amputees and other disabilities, and Active duty military members dealing with unseen wounds of war. In 2014 Nancy took part in an acclaimed documentary film, "The Wounds We Cannot See", which tells her story. Nancy continues to give back to our disabled veterans and has changed lives with the Horsemanship Program. Heroine Nancy was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Vieira.

Kathryn serves as 1st Vice District Governor of the District 33-S Lions Club, covering 47 clubs and approximately 1,700 members. In July, she will be appointed Governor of District 33-S and has received many awards in recognition for her service with the Lions Club, including the Lions Club International Presidential Leadership Medal and President of the Year. As a former special education teacher and administrator, Kathryn chairs the "Read Across America" program in Abington, and heads the Peace Poster Contest for the Lions/United Nations International Poster Contest. Kathryn also gives back to her community as an educational consultant. She has been a special education team chair and mentor for the Abington Public Schools, supervised teacher candidates in special education at Boston University, and has assisted a variety of school districts in program evaluations, mentoring special education administrators, and providing professional development. Heroine Kathryn was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Diehl.



Kathryn Salem, Abington



**Amy Mah Sangiolo,
Newton**

Amy has dedicated her life to public service. She served on the Newton City Council for 20 years and ran for mayor in 2017. Throughout her career she has advocated for zoning improvements, affordable housing, and improvements to Newton Schools. She has worked with numerous environmental groups, and been extremely active in the Asian-American community. Prior to her retirement, Amy was the longest-serving Asian American elected official in Massachusetts. Heroine Amy was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Khan.

Debra is the Founder and Director of Kids Connect, a non-profit tutoring program serving the youth of Natick. Kids Connect provides educational services in math, language arts, chemistry, physics and Spanish, and provides tutoring to students K-12. Deb's passion and commitment to the future of Natick students shines through as she dedicates her time to ensure that they have access to these services, even if it means recycling cans to raise money! Debra also serves on the Executive Committee of the MetroWest Conference for Women, a group that works to provide an accessible and affordable opportunity for local women to come together and make meaningful connections, share relevant perspectives, and learn from inspiring world-class speakers. Additionally, she co-founded and has run the Natick Farmers Market for over 20 years. Heroine Debra was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Linsky.



Debra Sayre, Natick

Laura serves as the Town Clerk for the town of Rehoboth. She conducts monthly outreach programs to the senior population by bringing the services of her department to the Senior Center. Laura writes monthly articles to keep citizens updated on Town events, meetings, and elections. She works to teach middle and high school students about civic engagement. She is the President of the Anawan Lions Club, a Trustee of the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, Chairperson of the Rehoboth 375th Anniversary Ball Committee, and a member of the Rehoboth 375th Anniversary Parade Committee. As a Justice of the Peace, Laura conducts wedding ceremonies for active military personnel on a pro bono basis. Prior to becoming Town Clerk, Laura was an educator at the Palmer River Elementary School where she taught technology skills to over 600 children each week. Heroine Laura was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Howitt.



**Laura L. Schwall,
Rehoboth**



**Adrianne Simeone,
Burlington**

Adrianne is the founder and president of the Mama Bear Effect, Inc. She lives in Burlington with her husband John and their two children, Angela and Cameron. Adrianne founded the Mama Bear Effect in September of 2012 after the birth of her daughter. The Mama Bear Effect seeks to empower adults to actively protect children from sexual abuse by raising awareness and promoting conversations and behaviors that can prevent abuse. Through the organization, Adrianne hopes to clarify misconceptions, specifically the reality of child sexual abuse, and tear down the obstacles that prevent individuals from educating themselves, their families, and their communities. Adrianne believes that with the power of social media, the Mama Bear Effect can create change and encourage people to protect children from sexual abuse. Heroine Adrianne was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Gordon.

Dottie has been the Chief of Staff to State Representative Sarah K. Peake for over 11 years. As Chief of Staff, Dottie acts as a community liaison to any constituent in need and ensures that they receive outstanding support from state agencies. Dottie's impressive work far exceeds the expectations of her role through the personal care and attention she offers to every constituent she encounters. Dottie is an engaged member in her community and involved with many local organizations including the Orleans DTC, the Cape Rep Theatre, Business Professional Women of Lower Cape Cod, and Women's Empowerment through Cape Area Networking (WE CAN.) She heads the annual Thanksgiving food distribution at St. Joan of Arc and serves as the Chair of the AAA Advisory Board. Dottie's unheralded acts of kindness enrich the daily lives of many in the Lower Cape. Heroine Dottie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Peake.



Dottie Smith, Orleans



**Mary Ann Smith,
Pembroke**

Mary Ann has been an integral part of the community of Pembroke for the past 37 years. She served 27 of these years as the assistant to the building inspector, and 10 years as Pembroke's Town Clerk. During her seasoned tenure as Town Clerk, Mary Ann helped oversee and implement several important town, state, and federal elections. In 2016, Mary Ann helped implement early voting access for the people of Pembroke. Mary Ann is active with St. Thecla's Church and the Firehouse Food Pantry. This year marks Mary Ann's retirement, but her impact on the community will endure for many years to come. Heroine Mary Ann was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Cutler.



Bernadette Souza,
New Bedford

A New Bedford native and life-long resident, **Bernadette** has dedicated her career to helping local youth. After attending Rhode Island College, she received her certification in Youth Ministry Studies from the Diocese of Worcester and Assumption College. She pursued her passion of working to empower youth by joining the Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford as Assistant Director, spending 15 years administering after school and summer programming. She then joined Youth Opportunities Unlimited to help provide children in the city's South End with quality experiences that instill confidence and basic skills for lifelong safe, educational adventures. Heroine Bernadette was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Montigny.

Rachel has been the Assistant Principal at Squantum Elementary School for a number of years. Through her time as an educator, she has gone above and beyond her job description to cultivate an atmosphere of inclusion; create a sense of community; and encourage kids to realize their full potential. Every day she comes to school with a smile on her face; she has impacted thousands of students throughout her career, and she has always emulated the values and principles of the Squantum community. Aside from serving as Vice Principal, Rachel also works as the student council advisor; each year she works with her student leaders to promote a number of charitable endeavors, including a toy drive during the holiday season to provide assistance for families in need. Outside of her school work, Rachel has written a book detailing the definitive history of Squantum School; it is a treasured asset to the Squantum community. Heroine Rachel was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Ayers.



Rachel Squires Bloom,
Quincy



Kim Stewart, Scituate

Kim has served for 22 years as Scituate Animal Control Officer. She was chosen by several animal welfare groups as the 2017 MA Animal Control Officer. However, Kim's work extends beyond her dedication to animals. She works to improve the lives of Scituate residents. As co-chair of Scituate Community Christmas, she leads the organization in providing gifts and assistance to families facing hardships. Kim was instrumental in recently establishing the organizations permanent home. Kim serves on the Board of the Scituate Alliance of Natural Disaster Services (SANDS), an organization which responds to resident's needs when confronted by natural disasters such as coastal storms and fires. Kim is an extraordinarily empathetic and generous person who shuns the limelight and never seeks credit for the good work she has done in the community. Heroine Kim was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Cantwell.

Sabrina lives in Lee and spends her days in Pittsfield as chef and co-owner, with her husband Chin, of Flavours of Malaysia, a small, family owned restaurant that caters to open minded food-loving patrons. Born and raised in Malaysia, Sabrina and her Chin, have fully devoted to their Berkshire community. They are dedicated supporters of the Elizabeth Freeman Center, which provides services to address domestic and sexual violence. Each year they host a International Women's Day fundraising dinner for the Center and enthusiastically play an outsized role in their annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Responding to the region's increased food insecurity, Sabrina has utilized her cooking talents and huge heart and makes large pots of soup, sponsored by local individuals, that are delivered to local soup kitchens. Heroine Sabrina was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representatives Farley-Bouvier and Pignatelli.



Sabrina Tan, Lee

Mendy brought the Hate Has No Home Here campaign to MetroWest Massachusetts in January 2017 in order to bring hope and kindness to the forefront in Medway. Feeling somewhat powerless, frustrated, and appalled at divisive messages surrounding us, this campaign provided an opportunity to make a positive and immediate impact in Medway. She saw that there are many living in Massachusetts who can unite behind one simple message: Hate Has No Home Here. The campaign runs completely on donations, and Mendy volunteers her time with many others. Mendy also volunteers for her children's school events and Medway Pride Day. She is a member of the Democratic Town Committee and serves as Vice Chair of the MNW Democratic Alliance. Heroine Mendy was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Murray.



**Mendy Tarkowski,
Medway**



**Christine Tibor,
Framingham**

Born and raised in Framingham, **Christine** is a product of its public schools, where she has worked for the past 33 years. She has held several positions, including Elementary school ESL teacher, Acting Director of Bilingual Education, and Director of Framingham Adult ESL Plus. She serves currently as the Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement. It is her tireless work with the Framingham Adult ESL program, however, that deserves particular recognition. Since being hired as its first teacher in 1984, Christine has overseen the growth of the program from 1 to 35 classes, serving over 800 students each semester with a wait-list of over 700. She has made it her mission over the years to help as many area newcomers as possible to improve their English skills, enabling them to achieve the dreams they have for themselves and their families. Heroine Christine was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Lewis.

Hazel is a longtime resident and educator in Easton. Whether it is through her role as teacher, her work as Board Secretary of the Ames Free Library in Easton, or her work with the Easton Historical Society, she is focused on preserving the history of Easton and educating our youth. Hazel has been a teacher in the Easton School System for 41 years and she continues to teach at Curry College. Hazel is dedicated to preserving the history of Easton. She worked with the Easton Historical Society and Museum since 1967 in various roles and currently serves as Secretary. Her commitment to the historical preservation of Easton is further seen in her work with the Easton Historical Commission, where she served until 1997. Heroine Hazel was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Cronin.



**Hazel Luke Varella,
North Easton**



**Lynda Walsh,
Foxborough**

Lynda is the embodiment of a civil servant, selflessly dedicating herself to the benefit of everyone who calls the town of Foxborough home. Those who have the privilege of meeting Lynda gush about her work ethic, persistence, and sense of humor. These traits have allowed her to accomplish tremendous feats. Since joining the Jaycees in 1993, she has served as the President of the Foxborough Chapter as well as Massachusetts Jaycees President, sharing her leadership skills across the entire Commonwealth. Furthermore, Lynda served as a Foxborough Select-woman from 2007-2013 and has volunteered her time to the Founder's Day Committee and the Board of Trustees for the Doolittle Home. Additionally, she was a founding member of the Foxborough Child Abuse Awareness Committee. Heroine Lynda was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Feeney.



**Pauline Wheeler,
Hinsdale**

Pauline has served in the thankless, yet extremely important role of Tax Collector for the Town of Hinsdale for more than 25 years. In a small town like Hinsdale, town board positions are difficult to fill and those who do volunteer are almost never compensated for their time and efforts. Pauline's work allows the town to function and serve its residents properly. She has done this work with honor and grace, and is truly deserving of recognition as an unsung heroine. Heroine Pauline was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Mark.

Susan began volunteering with the Cape Ann Veterans Service office nearly 20 years ago. She plays an essential role in the city's Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies and parades. Susan also plans a number of events including Support the Troops, Purple Heart Highway, and the Welcome Home Ceremony for Cape Ann's veterans. Every Friday morning Susan attends the breakfast get-together for veterans at the Veteran's Center. Susan also separates and packs boxes to send to the troops overseas, fills Christmas stockings for our local Coast Guard personnel, and sews tattered American flags. Susan was instrumental in researching missing information on more than 5,500 men and women from Gloucester who served in World War II so they could be honored through the erection of a World War II Memorial. Heroine Susan was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Tarr.



**Susan Williams Canning,
Gloucester**



Launa Zimmaro, Carlisle

Launa is a tireless advocate for the environment and works closely with Rep. Atkins' office to press for more progressive legislation on carbon pricing, solar energy, and the green economy. Launa has a large depth of knowledge and is a natural teacher. As her community's scientific understanding is constantly evolving, Launa is there to keep her legislative office informed and up-to-date on the latest in environmental legislation. Launa serves on the Legislative Action Committee and Co-Chairs the Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee for the Massachusetts League of Women Voters. She also serves as the liaison for environmental issues between the Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters and the statewide organization. Heroine Launa was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Representative Atkins.

Zaurie is the founder of Zaurie Zimmerman Associates, Inc., which has planned and managed design and construction projects for environmentally-conscious institutions for over 25 years. She is both an MIT-trained architect and the author of 'Practical Passive Solar Design.' Zaurie is co-founder of Business Leaders for Climate Action, co-leader of Citizens' Climate Lobby's Boston MetroWest chapter, and a founding board member of Climate Xchange/CABA. She is a leading advocate in the fight against climate change and specializes in approaches that bring politically right-leaning people around to carbon pricing advocacy. Zaurie's work as an advocate for clean energy and carbon pricing at the state and federal level make her truly remarkable. Heroine Zaurie was submitted as an Unsung Heroine of 2018 by Senator Barrett.



**Zaurie Zimmerman,
Lexington**



The Meaning of the Yellow Rose

The yellow rose is a symbol of the women who struggled for 72 years to be included in the United States Constitution. They achieved their goal through a peaceful revolution without firing a single shot.

Courageous suffragists faced jail, hunger strikes, years of organizing, ridicule, and great disappointment before achieving full suffrage when the 19th Amendment was finally adopted in 1920.

They came from rural and urban backgrounds, different economic classes, different races and generations. They worked together. Diversity became their strength as they united under a symbol: the yellow rose. The yellow rose stood for unity, friendship, and determination.

Today, the yellow rose reminds us that our own work to improve the status of women in the Commonwealth continues... requiring diversity, unity, and determination. We must strive for victory in our own peaceful revolutions.



**THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN**



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