



WEDNESDAY, JUNE
21ST, 2017

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 2017
Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts!

@MassCSW

#MCSWUnsung2017

THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN'S

Fourteenth Annual Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts

Thank You to Our Sponsors

This 2017 Unsung Heroine 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

Carolina Avellaneda, Winchester

Penny Blaisdell, Marblehead

Denella Clark, Hyde Park

Marianne Fleckner, Westford

Becca Glenn, Waltham

Denise Hurst, Springfield

Nina Kimball, Plymouth

Joanne Fitzgerald McCrea, Salem

Sara La Cour, Amherst

Margot Parrot, Athol

Maria Puppolo, Springfield

Sara Schnorr, Holliston

Lauren Scribi, Quincy

Reena Thadhani, Boston

Marydith Tuitt, Boston

Staff

Jill Ashton, Director

Kelly Lynch, Outreach Coordinator

Interns

Ellie Adair

Grace Gustafsson

Elise Bohmer

Nadia Mohammad

Campbell Brown

Jordan Moskwiak

Sarah Chin

Lexie Serino

Arianna Davis

Morgan Trevett

Ellie French

Kate Vanier

Isabelle Greene

Sophie Zamarripa

Greetings,

Welcome to the fourteenth 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 2017 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 2017 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

Massachusetts Unsung Heroines of 2017 Celebration

Wednesday, June 21st, 2017

1:00-4:00 pm

Massachusetts State House

Boston, MA

Proceedings

1 pm: Welcome

MCSW Leadership

1:15 pm: State House Greeting

Senate President Stanley Rosenberg

Representative Colleen Garry, House Chair, MA Caucus of Women Legislators

1:35 pm: We Sing Your Praises

MCSW Commissioners share reading of 2017 Honorees

2:15 pm: Closing

MCSW Leadership

2:20 pm: 2017 Heroines Photo Assemblage

2:40 pm: “Just Desserts” Refreshments & Reception

After the group photo, all event attendees and their guests are invited to the Just Desserts reception.

THE HEROINES

2017



Wendy is the Assistant Director of Outreach and Education at Pathways for Change, the rape crisis center serving central Massachusetts, with offices in Worcester and Fitchburg. Throughout her many years on staff at Pathways, she has served as a bilingual counselor and as an advocate in both medical and legal settings. Wendy briefly left Pathways to work in the district court system as a Victim Witness Advocate. She has built deep roots in Leominster, raising five incredible children, after immigrating to the US from Honduras. She brings unwavering compassion, optimism, dedication, and laughter to all of her work.

Wendy Aguilar, Leominster

Sandra is East Boston's Unsung Heroine for her work with the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen. The Soup Kitchen, which operates at the Lutheran Church in Maverick Square, offers free meals and a sense of community for all those affected by hunger in East Boston. Since its inception last year, the Kitchen has provided thousands of meals and expanded its service beyond East Boston's homeless community to all families and individuals in need. Sandra, through her work at the Soup Kitchen, has displayed an unyielding commitment to community, service, and kindness.



**Sandra Aleman-Nijjar,
East Boston**



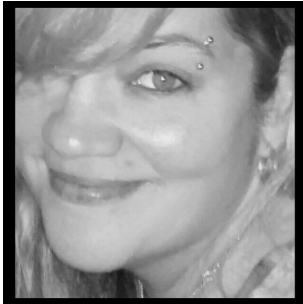
Lynda Allen, Hyannis

Lynda has been serving the needs of the most vulnerable young children and their families on Cape Cod for years. As Director of Crystal Garden Children's Learning Center in Hyannis, Lynda has established and sustained a culturally diverse, multi-ethnic, early education licensed learning center and continually fights for additional resources. Her commitment and passion for the children she serves is unmatched.

Lina has dedicated herself to improving the lives of those in her community, particularly the Town's senior population. Lina served as the Director of the Holliston Senior Center for nine years. Lina has been an extremely active member of the community, volunteering her time to the Celebrate Holliston Citizen of the Year Committee, helping organize the very successful Holliston Food Truck Festival to benefit the American Legion, and much more. Lina's creativity, contagious energy, and generous spirit are immediately apparent to all who come into contact with her.



**Arcangelina (Lina) Arena
-DeRosa, Holliston**



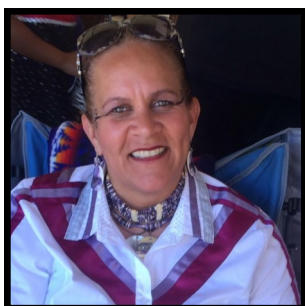
**Tammy Arguelles,
Fitchburg**

Tammy is Director of a small non-profit agency that reaches out and helps many individuals and families in the area. She organizes an army of people who cook and deliver 800 holiday meals at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter for the last several years. She also makes herself and her volunteers available any time there in a disaster in the community, including assisting numerous families affected by fires. She continually and tirelessly gives aid to the homeless and any others in need.

Crystal is an unwavering advocate for animal welfare. From Community Outreach director, to Shelter Program Manager, to her current position as Communications & Fundraising Manager at the Lowell Humane Society, Crystal has diligently served the community for almost a decade. She is responsible for managing and implementing fundraising events, cultivating relationships with small businesses for sponsorships, and recruiting volunteers from all over the community including university students. She serves as an advocate for not only the organization but also for its many friendly inhabitants who rely on her voice. It is not unusual for Crystal to work odd hours or stay late to save another life. Along with her work at the Lowell Humane Society, Crystal served as the Animal Care Supervisor for MSPCA's Nevins Farm. She is truly a remarkable person who is admired and loved by hundreds of families in the greater Lowell area.



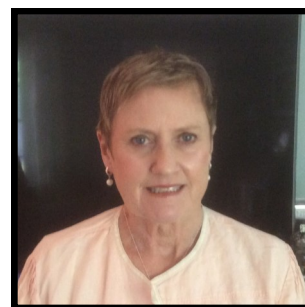
Crystal Arnott, Lowell



**Jessie (Little Doe) Baird,
Mashpee**

If there was one word to describe **Little Doe**, it would be 'tenacious.' After all, bringing back a language with no living speakers is no easy feat. In fact, most would consider it impossible. But with tenacity as her guide, Little Doe has, since 1993 — the year in which the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) was founded — remained undaunted in ensuring that Wôpanâak, the Wampanoag Language, could once again become the principal means of expression within her tribal community. Today, what she imagined over two decades ago has blossomed into something truly extraordinary, supported not only by a 9-person staff at WLRP but by the entire Wampanoag community.

Barbara is the epitome of strength. She is an Easton school psychologist, and has spent her career helping students. She is a loving wife and mother of two daughters. Barbara also has terminal stage IV metastatic breast cancer. Despite her diagnosis, she has an insatiable drive to help others. Barbara writes the blog "The Cancer Chronicles," and shares her struggles with readers. Her observations, dry wit, and keen understanding of the human spirit have reached and impacted people all over the world. Her blog shines a light on the need for research and funding for metastatic breast cancer. As a result of her efforts, significant funds have been raised for metavivor.org, an organization devoted to funding research for stage IV metastatic breast cancer. Her honesty, perseverance, and the love and appreciation she feels for her family, friends, and the beauty of nature is inspirational.



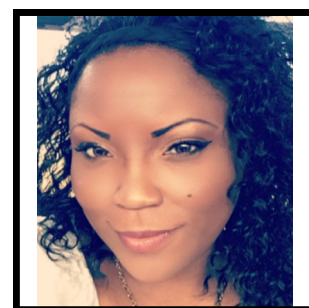
**Barbara Bigelow,
Easton**



**Marie Younger Blackburn,
Falmouth**

Marie is the visionary and event planner behind Driven: Cape Cod's Conference For Women, now entering its fourth year. Driven brings women together and inspires and empowers them to be change makers in their own communities. Driven has become a movement touching women not only on Cape Cod but across the country. Marie is the creator of Driven Women TV a vehicle that interviews business women and people of interest. She also serves as an appointed Commissioner with the Commission on the Status of Women on Cape Cod and the Islands, A Board Member for the Cape Cod YMCA, and a member of the YMCA's Youth Achievers Advisory Board. Marie is also the former Chair of the Mashpee Housing Authority and Mashpee Human Services, and a former member of the Falmouth Affordable Housing Task Force.

Shavelle is the volunteer creative genius of the Varsity Cheerleading Squad at Pittsfield High School. She inspires those she coaches through her high expectations of her students both as cheerleaders and in their academics. As a result, they learn hard work, professionalism, teamwork and determination. Shavelle doesn't allow those she coaches to give up, but instead pushes them to do their best in all aspects of their lives. Her relationship with those she coaches goes far beyond the time she spends with them coaching. Shavelle keeps in contact with the students as they maneuver through college, encouraging them to excel academically and offering a listening ear. The cheerleaders learn values and skills that they carry throughout their life



Shavelle Boire, Pittsfield



**Susan Borden, Pembroke/
Duxbury**

Susan exemplifies what it means to be a heroine. Susan's dedication to her community is evident from her longstanding volunteer work in both organizational and leadership positions for many different groups. Susan is a founding member of and Volunteer Coordinator for the Duxbury Bay Area Regional Medical Reserve Corps. She has represented the DBAR MRC at National Leadership conferences, is a lifelong volunteer with Massachusetts Special Olympics, and is active in her church community.

In addition to her volunteer work, Susan has worked intimately with the Marshfield Emergency Management Agency for the past 5 years.

Alison has been a well-respected math teacher, as well as a selfless and dedicated volunteer. She led a committee to raise \$40k for a 9/11 First Responders Memorial, as well as efforts to raise \$185k to improve the Greene's Field playground. She is president of the Needham Historical Society, director of the Needham Library Foundation, member of the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Committee, a member of Needham Town Meeting for Precinct F, Fundraiser for the Friends of the Elderly, volunteer for the Needham Community Council, and Co-President of Parent Talk Inc. She is also a wife, mother and owner of a photography business.



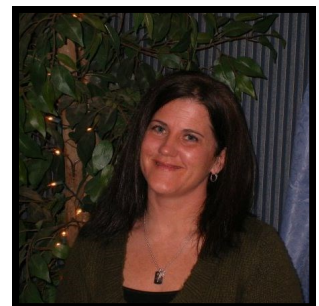
Alison Borrelli, Needham



**Marlene Bouffard, Fall
River**

Marlene is an exemplary volunteer, spending the past four years filing income tax returns for low income families and devoting two days a week helping those who could not afford to pay for tax preparation. Before this service, she was an elementary school teacher becoming a small business owner in 1980 doing bookkeeping, payroll, and tax preparation in Massachusetts. She grew up in the South-End of Fall River, attending Saint Patrick's Catholic Elementary School, Mt. St. Mary Academy, Northeastern University, and UMass Dartmouth. She is married, with one daughter. Marlene exemplifies volunteerism in community service.

Jennifer is richly deserving of this recognition, having been at the forefront of addressing the Merrimack Valley's opioid epidemic. Through her work with the Methuen Police Department's C.A.R.E.S. Initiative and Lawrence's New Beginnings Peer Recovery Center, Jennifer has helped countless addicts in the region, connecting them with detox programs and providing them with the resources needed to successfully recover. Jennifer has greatly educated the community on the substance abuse crisis, worked to decrease stigma surrounding addiction, and has been a true leader in bringing citizens together to raise awareness and promote both prevention and treatment of substance use.



Jennifer Burns, Methuen



**Caroline (Lola) Busta,
Peabody**

Lola's life of volunteerism and giving back to the community started in her early years at St. Joseph's Church on Pulaski Street in Peabody. There, she sang in the choir, was a member of the Ladies Guild, ran the kitchen for many years for the Polish picnics at the church, and always helped the Franciscan priests and Sisters, who ran the elementary school and the church. Since the church closed more than 25 years ago, Lola took it upon herself to start organizations that would forever hold the parishioners and people of Polish decent together. Lola constantly strives to give back to those in need in the community.

Dawn is the owner of TJ Callahan's Pub in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. An active member of the Tewksbury Lion's Club and the Tewksbury/Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, she is a strong supporter of local charities and initiatives including the New England Veteran's Liberty House and the Tewksbury Harvest Festival. Dawn is a frequent volunteer and often hosts events and fundraisers at her business that benefit community organizations in Tewksbury and the Greater Merrimack Valley. Dawn epitomizes the values of community partnership and collaboration and always does what she can to improve the Town of Tewksbury.



Dawn Callahan, Tewksbury



**Patricia (Patty) Chambers,
Maynard**

Patty is Vice President and Regional Branch Manager of Middlesex Bank in Maynard, and has been with the bank in various roles since 1977. Patty is a highly sought after leader and volunteer in the Maynard community. She is currently a Library Trustee with the town of Maynard and was a member of the Friends of the Maynard Public Library. She is a Corporator with Emerson Hospital, had previously served on the town's Finance and Facilities Committees as well as the Board of Directors of the Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce and has been instrumental in bringing Open Table community meals and food pantries to its new permanent home in downtown Maynard. She is currently the co-chairperson of the Board of Directors of Open Table and is active with Relay for Life.

Debra is a compassionate Outreach Coordinator for the Charlton community. She makes home visits to assess the needs of seniors and works tirelessly towards providing many essential services. Debra goes above and beyond to connect seniors with health supports, existing services, and important benefits available to them so that they will stay independent, allowing them to stay in their homes for as long as possible. Debra cares about the health and wellbeing of senior citizens, and she serves as a board volunteer member of the Residential Energy Assistance for Seniors Foundation helping Charlton seniors with their energy costs.



Debra Ciesluk, Charlton



Willie Pearl Clark, Boston

Willie is the Co-Chair of the Mission Main Tenant Task Force and has been organizing tenants around affordability, living conditions, neighborhood safety, recreation, and community empowerment for over 30 years. She and her partner in crime-reduction are largely heralded as the women responsible for the turnaround and improvement of the Mission Main Housing development. She is a fearless advocate for her community, a well-known go-to for everyone in the development and in the surrounding neighborhood, a political force to be reckoned with and one of the kindest souls ever to grace the earth. Willie doesn't work for accolades, and insists that others always take their share before she even gets a plate. She's a champion for equity, a voice for the underserved, and a staple of Roxbury and Mission Hill.

As Director of Elder Affairs for the Council on Aging, **Rachelle** goes above and beyond overseeing the operations of the Leicester Senior Center; she strives to ensure the senior center is welcoming to all and enjoyed further as a community resource center. The Leicester Senior Center is always bustling day and night with activities, meals, trips, and events. Always creative and innovative, Rachelle has implemented quality programs that connect all – bringing together seniors, students, veterans, and the business community. She has demonstrated initiative, advocacy, and dedication to the community.



**Rachelle Cloutier,
Leicester**



Liz Collins, Westport

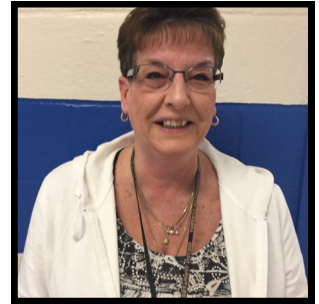
Liz has been unceasing in her support for her community. She served one term as Selectwoman and she has been an elected member of the affordable housing trust for 17 years. Liz is chair of Westport's affordable housing trust and has been instrumental in bringing 50 units of affordable housing to the cusp of completion. She has been a guiding force on the community preservation committee since its inception. Somehow, Liz also finds time to serve Westport on its economic development task force and on the water resource management committee. Liz is a volunteer who sets an example for all.

River East School-to-Career, Inc., a business and education partnership, was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in February 2004, with **Loretta** at the helm as Director. Since then, Loretta has worked passionately and tirelessly on the organization's mission to promote K-16 career education and to assist in preparing youth for the demands of the 21st century workplace. Loretta, in conjunction with the organization's board of directors and a handful of dedicated school Career Facilitators, has built one of the strongest partnerships of schools, businesses, and organizations in the state. Through this program, Loretta and her team have helped to ensure beneficial career exploration opportunities for thousands of students. Programs such as internships, co-op placements, job shadowing, career days, and work readiness workshops have helped students throughout the region make informed decisions regarding their career and educational goals. Her exemplary leadership skills, compassion, determination, and accomplishments make her a deserving nominee.



**Loretta Dansereau,
Belchertown**

Rose is a lifelong resident of West Springfield Massachusetts. She is a teacher at St. Thomas the Apostle School and has dedicated her life to serving her community through her volunteer efforts at First Congregational Church. Rose serves as director of the Ecumenical Outreach Group in West Springfield along with her husband. Each year they organize community events including community picnics and clothing drives for the homeless. Holidays are also a special time for the outreach group and include a festive Christmas Eve dinner and a take-out meals program for seniors. Rose's selfless contributions to the West Springfield community make her a true unsung heroine.



**Rose Desrosiers,
West Springfield**



Lisa Downs, Foxborough

Lisa has become synonymous with selfless volunteerism in Foxborough. Well known for her leadership in coaching the Foxborough High School girls' varsity basketball team to championship status for six seasons now, her passion for athletics and supporting youth sports in her community has extended over nearly two decades. Coaching youth basketball and serving on the boards of both the Foxborough Soccer Association and Baseball Association, Lisa has been attributed with the gift of inspiring a lifelong love of sports in so many children in her community. Lisa is also president and treasurer of the Foxborough Discretionary Fund and has served on the Foxborough Council on Aging for three years. Professionally, Lisa has taught at the New England Center for Autism, Foxborough High School, and she presently works in the administration at The Sage School for gifted students in Foxborough.

Helen grew up on Dunlap Farm in Dracut where she lives today and uses her biological education to help the environment. She continues her mother's legacy of protecting local farms and open space from development. The preservation of the Dunlap family farm was the first land in the Town of Dracut to be protected forever and was the catalyst for what would become hundreds of acres of protected farm land. Helen actively supported the passage of the Community Preservation Act and serves on the town's Open Space Committee; most recently as Chair, changing the face of the community forever. Several farms, as well as open space, in the community have been protected and a recreational complex developed under her leadership.



Helen Dunlap, Dracut



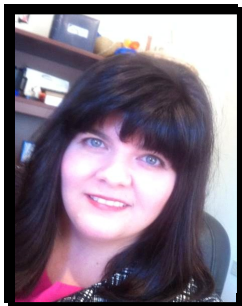
Tasha Espendez, Lawrence

Tasha works tirelessly in increasing literacy and family engagement in the Merimack Valley. Through her efforts, those families most at need are able to learn literacy habits that will result in measurable academic outcomes for their children. Since 2013, Tasha has been employing her energy and work-ethic by strengthening the importance of early-childhood literacy and family engagement in the home. When families, especially low-income families are meaningfully involved, their children's academic achievement improves. Through the Raising a Reader program and Tasha's leadership, children and families are provided with award-winning books each week that build families book sharing routines. Through Tasha's relentless work she has helped countless families in the Merimack Valley build and maintain reading routines in their homes, with special attention to those at highest-risk for educational failure. Her efforts help address the achievement gap, and are an invaluable contribution to her region.

Following in the footsteps of her philanthropic family, **Sue** makes contributing to Shrewsbury her mission. Sue enjoyed a long career as an elementary school teacher, and her volunteer work spans decades and includes involvement with her church, the Shrewsbury Child Development Council, Shrewsbury Girl Scouts, Shrewsbury Historical Society and the Donahue Rowing Center. Sue is best known as one of the founding members of the Spirit of Shrewsbury, the annual town festival that grew out of an idea for a Shrewsbury High School Alumni Association Homecoming event, and is now in its 21st year. Though originally events were held the last weekend of September, the festival has evolved into a month long celebration including a boat parade on Lake Quinsigamond, a talent show and a Town Expo. Sue's contributions are too numerous and she makes Shrewsbury a better place to live.



Sue Falzoi, Shrewsbury



**Melissa Fetterhoff,
Shirley**

In May, **Melissa** celebrated her 15th year as the President and CEO of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. Under her leadership and guidance, the organization has grown to include more than 600 member businesses. She organizes a slate of events that everyone in the area looks forward to every year, including A Taste of Nashoba and the Nashoba Valley Job Fair. She works tirelessly for the businesses, large and small, of the region. Melissa deserves to be recognized as an Unsung Heroine for being a strong leader and advocate, and a vital part of the community.

Ana is a living testament to the values preached in her community. Her actions have constantly reflected the significance of hard work, dedication, and generosity. As a role model for women across the district, Ana successfully runs multiple businesses and organizations. Ana has helped run Davey's Supermarket for years as a welcoming business for a diverse neighborhood. She has also opened Nos Casa Café to offer the community a chance to experience authentic Cape Verdean Cuisine. Accustomed to overcoming obstacles, Ana has done all this while raising a family of 5 children after losing her husband to the violence in her community. Ana has been undeterred, and continued her husband's radio show, Nha Terra, to serve as a tool to uplift and unite her community.



Ana Fidalgo, Dorchester



Betty Foley, Hingham

Grace and ease under fire describes the style of **Betty**, long-time public servant and go-to manager in the Town of Hingham. Betty began working for Hingham in 1991 and retired last year from her role as Hingham's first Assistant Town Administrator. Betty kept Town Hall running – literally. She was in charge not only of the building itself, but making the office of the selectmen run smoothly, making sure citizens got their questions answered and issues dealt with, and most importantly, ensuring that Hingham's open Town Meeting came off without a hitch every year. Betty relished her role making it possible for every citizen to participate in their local government. She helped citizens get things done at Town Hall, and within the community. Betty possesses a dedication to the community, compassion, and her public service.

Pastor Janice is trained as a master's level clinical nurse specialist and is instrumental in the Reconciliation house in Webster. Her work with incarcerated men in recovery providing emotional support as well as spiritual support. She is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and was well known in her Diocese prior to her ordination through her work as Missioner for Health Ministries from 2000-2006. She has over twenty years of experience as a nurse educator, professional development leader, clinical nurse specialist, and health minister. She also served as a nurse in the U. S. Army Reserve for ten years. The provision of pastoral care and spiritual coaching to individuals dealing with addictions is of central importance to Pastor Janice's ministry. She meets twice a month with addicts incarcerated at the Worcester County House of Corrections in West Boylston, and is spearheading an effort to connect clergy and parishes with individuals being paroled in an effort to reduce the rate of recidivism.



Rev. Janice Ford, Webster



**Pamela (Pam) Fox,
Weston**

Pam has made numerous contributions to the Weston community. She moved to Weston with her family in 1991 and has been active in history, historical preservation, and land use issues in Weston ever since. Pam currently serves as President of the Weston Historical Society, a post she has held since 2005. In 1993-1994, Pam undertook a comprehensive survey of Weston's historic resources for the Weston Historical Commission, which eventually turned into a book. She has also served on the Planning Board, the Open Space Committee, the Community Preservation Committee, and the Weston Land Trust. In addition, she currently serves as an Advisory Board Member for Land's Sake. Furthermore, Pam served on the Weston300 Committee in 2013 and played an integral part in celebrating the town's 300th Anniversary. Pam has remained committed over the years to worthwhile causes.

Marilyn started her career as a Kindergarten school teacher in 1970 until her retirement in 1999. She is Vice Chairperson of the Democratic Town Committee and is often the Campaign Manager for local elected officials, (15 to be exact). Marilyn has sat on the Conservation Commission for 17 years and is the Vice Chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee for 15 years. As a Retiree, Marilyn works part-time in the Town Clerk's office, is co-owner of a bagel business, and works often at the Westford Farmer's Market. Marilyn is currently the President of the Retired Educators Association of Massachusetts.



**Marilyn Frank,
Westford**



Marie Fukuda, Boston

Marie is a tireless community activist in the Fenway neighborhood. She has worked for decades to make improvements, both large and small, to the community. She has particularly focus her efforts on improving parks and open spaces of the Fenway.



Barbara L. Garde, Springfield

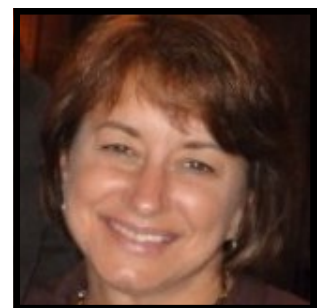
Barbara is a former Springfield City Councilor and dedicated woman who has worked tirelessly for many organizations and causes over the years. Her resume includes VP of Marketing and Business Development of AM B Care Ambulance Service, a business that dedicated efforts to helping the Springfield schools.



Smadar Gekow, Sharon

Smadar came to the US in her early teens from Israel as an immigrant, along with her family. She was hired as the Adult Literacy Coordinator at the Stoughton Public Library in 2006, originally as a part-time employee, and has been responsible for growing the program to meet the needs of the immigrant community. Her position became full-time last year, but she has always worked more than the hours on the schedule, helping to expanding the program in Stoughton and Sharon. This program succeeds because of the overwhelming kindness that Smadar shows every person that comes to the program. Her office provides 18 hours of training and constant support for the volunteer tutors, and tries to meet the wide variety of needs for the adult students. This program has helped to settle thousands of newcomers to Stoughton and the surrounding area over the past 19 years, with very little financial support or fanfare, and Smadar has played a key role in the many successes and accomplishments by adult students over the past 11 years.

Her goal was always to serve and protect, but **Carole** also broke down barriers throughout 28 years with the Danvers Police Department. Beginning as a reserve officer in 1985, she was the second woman on the force, rising through the ranks as a full-time officer, a detective, and retiring as a lieutenant/shift commander in 2007. As one of very few with special FBI training, Carole did most of the composite drawings at Logan Airport on September 11, 2001 which were key in identifying the terrorists. Her work with the Essex County DA's office also assisted in the conviction of a serial child molester. She served four years active duty as a Medic in the Army and six additional years in the Army Reserve. Carole's contributions have made the community, state ,and country safer for all.



Carole Germano, Danvers



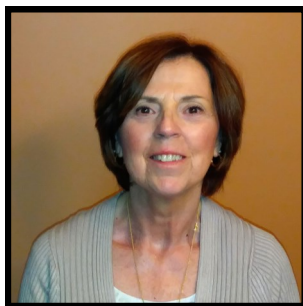
Phyllis Giller, Brookline

Phyllis is one of Brookline's most active and engaged citizens. An accomplished public relations professional in the health care sector, a Brookline Town Meeting Member for over 35 years, and a current Brookline PAX Board Member, Phyllis has extended her talent for building relationships into both the workplace and her community. She is a skilled community organizer willing to do what it takes to make change happen, whether that's standing outside the polls to advocate for specific ballot questions or initiating neighborhood meetings to hear residents' viewpoints on local issues. Phyllis's tireless dedication and progressive leadership have made a lasting impact on the town of Brookline.

Sue is a true heroine of Plymouth. She is the President of the Pilgrim Society at Pilgrim Hall Museum, the oldest continuously operating public museum in the country and America's museum of Pilgrim possessions. She is also a member of the Plymouth400 State Commission, working to commemorate America's story of challenge, perseverance, and thanksgiving that began with the 1620 landing of the Pilgrims and the relationship with the Wampanoag people. As a Jill of all trades, Sue worked as the Director of Advancement & Alumni Relations at Sacred Heart School in Kingston for nearly 20 years. Sue works tirelessly to better her community every day.



Suzanne (Sue) Giovanetti, Plymouth



Donna Girouard, Grafton

Donna is the backbone of the Grafton Town Government. In her capacity as the Town Clerk, she provides executive level administrative and technical support for the Town Manager's Office as well as the Board of Selectmen. In her 35 plus years working for the town, she has become an invaluable asset to the community. Her knowledge of administrative functions and her ability to work effectively and closely with members of the town government are a vital part of the town's nature. Donna is approachable with an open door policy and provides sound advice to help anyone looking for guidance. As a boss, she leads by example and is compassionate with her employees. She is respectful to anyone who crosses her path and is a dedicated employee with an outstanding work ethic.

Mimi is a tireless organizer and fighter for social and economic justice. As a Child-care Licenser and Child Advocate for more than 25 years at the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), Mimi protected children by making sure day care centers provided a safe and healthy environment. As President of EEC Chapter of SEIU Local 509, she negotiated job quality and acceptable caseload standards for the workers to ensure local day care centers are safe. Mimi was appointed by the Mayor to the Medford Community Gardens Commission after her groundbreaking work in creating a community garden in her neighborhood. As a member of the Democratic City Committee, Mimi engages members of her community in the party. She canvasses her neighborhood on behalf of progressive candidates for office and important issues. On picket lines or marches, writing letters or meeting with elected officials, Mimi challenges discrimination at every level.



Mimi Gordon, Medford



**Deborah (Debbie) Grace,
Kingston**

Debbie is an extraordinary volunteer who gives quietly and generously. As a talented quilter, Debbie continues to organize and make baby quilts and hats with fellow quilters for children in need at Children's Hospital in Boston. They have donated more than 100 quilts and hats. Debbie also gives freely to many causes in her local community. Last year, she was instrumental in the construction of a handicap accessible playground. This project required immense volunteer hours, significant fundraising efforts, and was completed in 1 year with Debbie's advocacy. For the past several years, Debbie has helped organize the Kingston Veteran's Day Parade to honor veterans. She serves as the Town of Kingston's Girl Scout Service Unit Leader and has been a Girl Scout Troop leader for many years. Debbie is always involved wherever there is a need and is currently helping to raise money for the Kingston Public Library.

Barbara was first elected to serve on the Springfield School Committee in 2009. She is currently serving her second 4-year term and is the chairperson of the Student/Parent Concerns and the School Safety sub-committees. She is the president of the Old Hill Neighborhood Council. In addition to her profession as a Program Nurse for Springfield/Chicopee, Head Start, focusing on health, safety, and the well-being of children, she is the chairperson of the Springfield Public Health kick-off committee. She is active in several other community service associations such as the NAACP, serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services, and is an actively engaged member of the Greater Springfield Dad's Make a Difference Committee.



Barbara Gresham, Springfield



**Susan Grimes McPhee,
Winchester**

Under **Susan's** leadership, the Town of Winchester has successfully implemented many energy efficiency and sustainability initiatives. Some of these programs include the dozens of projects implemented by the Energy Management Committee, which has saved Winchester more than \$5 million in energy costs, including a 24% natural gas reduction at the Public Library since 2010, and Sustainable Winchester's Senior Energy Grant Program funds weatherization improvements for senior-residents. None of this progress would be possible without Susan's hard work and extensive collaboration with town employees and volunteers. Susan's efforts resulted in Winchester being recognized as a "Leading By Example" 2016 award winner for outstanding energy and environmental efforts.

Ann has selflessly served the Town of Bedford and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for more than 20 years as a tireless advocate for children with special needs and economically disadvantaged families. A member of Bedford School Committee, Ann also serves on the Board of Massachusetts Advocates for Children, the Massachusetts Autism Commission, Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, and the Nashoba Learning Group Human Rights Committee. A trained attorney, Ann was instrumental in the passage of the Children's Autism Medicaid Waiver Program. As a Volunteer Coordinator for the Bedford Housing Task Force, Ann coordinated assistance for families in transition placed by the Commonwealth in a Bedford hotel; she organized and executed a program that provided bagged lunches, school supplies and backpacks to the children to support them during this difficult period in their lives.



Ann Guay, Bedford



Nancy Hess, Sherborn

Nancy has served on the Sherborn Benevolent Society for a number of years. In this role, Nancy helps the organization fulfill its mission to bring relief to her neighbors who have fallen on hard times. Whether it is providing food for a table, clothes for children, heat for a home, or simple companionship, Nancy has dedicated much for her life to helping so many of the Commonwealth's families. In addition to her charitable efforts, Nancy is a committed public servant who has served as the Town of Sherborn's Collector for a number of years.

Deborah's first job was at a community health center in Boston where she made home visits to people in neighborhoods with the highest levels of hardship to ensure they went to medical appointments. From there, she moved on to the American Cancer Society to advocate for mammograms and cancer prevention in minority communities throughout the city. Deborah's passion to help people has been the driving force behind everything she has done and continues to do. She is president and CEO of Brookview House in Dorchester. Recognized nationally for its innovative and successful model, under Deborah's leadership 92 percent of mothers who have lived at Brookview maintain permanent housing after leaving, and 88 percent of the children who participate in Brookview's Youth Development Program graduate high school, compared to the national average of only 25 percent.



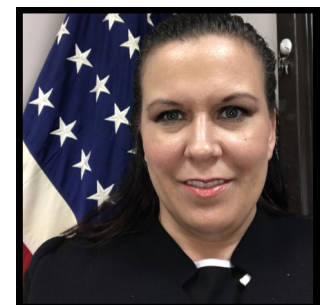
Deborah Hughes, Dorchester



Nekr Jenkins, Barr

When the Town of Barre started seeing overdose deaths, **Nekr** knew something needed to be done. She founded QDRUG (Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group) to engage youth, community leaders, police, emergency responders, health care professionals, current and former users to meet and come up with resources and action to prevent opioid deaths. Her tireless efforts have led to inspiring programs, getting more and more people involved through education, narcotics trainings, and partnerships that have led to help and steps to recovery. Nekr showed opioid abuse is a community issue and the community has responded. The purple ribbons that can be found on homes, businesses and at public sites in Barre is a testament to Nekr and the important work she has done.

After experiencing many childhood hardships and obstacles, **Rebecca** joined the United States Army at age 18 and remains involved in various capacities. She remains committed to veterans through her employment as the Army National Guard's Yellow Ribbon Event Coordinator, the Army National Guard's Family Assistance Center Specialist, the Massachusetts Military OneSource Consultant and, presently, as the Town of North Attleboro's Director of Veterans Services. She also maintains the military records, discharge, medical and VA claims for all the Veterans that have and continued to reside in the town of North Attleboro as well as plans, organizes, directs and coordinates the placement of flags on veteran's graves and all aspects of the veteran's participations in parades, ceremonies and remembrances. She also volunteers at various other organizations.



Rebecca Jennings, North Attleboro



**Anne Johansen,
Quincy**

For many years, **Anne** has been a tireless advocate for individuals with disabilities. She is a frequent attendee of lobbying events at the State House, meeting with legislators from the city of Quincy and surrounding communities to push for adequate housing for the disabled and lifting the cap on overtime restrictions for personal care attendants, among many other issues. Anne is disabled herself; she is confined to a wheelchair, but she doesn't let that stop her from advocating for issues she cares about. Anne lives closest to the Wollaston T Station, but it is not handicap-accessible; therefore, to meet with legislators and attend lobby day events at the State House, she takes to the sidewalks in her electric wheelchair and travels 2 miles down the road to the North Quincy T Station. She refuses to be defined by or limited by her disability, and has been a strong advocate for those in need.

Beverly has dedicated four+ decades to service in Marshfield, on the South Shore, and across the state. Serving the most vulnerable residents, Beverly has led projects to better the lives of at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, and the blind, all without fanfare. During her professional career, she worked as a social worker, rehabilitation counselor, and later served as Human Resources Director for the MA Commission for the Blind and Road to Responsibility. In 1978, she was a founding Board member of Marshfield's Talking Information Center, an award winning radio reading service that communicates local, state and national news to blind and low vision individuals. Now, in not-so quiet retirement, she remains actively involved in the Talking Information Center and recently took a leadership role to build the Marshfield Boys and Girls Club.



**Beverly Johnston,
Marshfield**



Marie Kane, Ashland

Marie has been a leading voice in Ashland over the last several decades. With her husband Bernie, Marie has raised nine children in the local schools. Her children, coupled with her countless volunteer commitments in town, make it difficult to meet anyone in Ashland who does not have a connection with Marie or her family. Marie lost her son Kevin in 1998 to angiosarcoma, a very rare form of lung cancer. Through her determined advocacy, Marie ensured that the Ashland Health Study take place to explore the connection between the Nyzanza Chemical Dye Plant and other instances of rare cancer in town. Marie has successfully worked to ensure that the state and federal government never forget the effects of Nyzanza on her community, and through the ongoing Kevin P. Kane Memorial Fund, she continues to support Ashland students as they head off to college.

The first female mayor in Weymouth's history, **Sue** served her town with great dedication and care for eight years from 2008-2016. She helped her town face the Great Recession with steadiness in a time of financial chaos while undergoing great personal turmoil with the death of her mother and husband just three months apart. For thirty-five years she served the people of Weymouth, at the local newspaper, as a selectwoman, as a councilor-at-large, and finally, as a mayor. Her greatest priority is always the well-being of the town and those who live in it. She continues to be a role model for those in public service and her contributions make her undeniably worthy of this award.



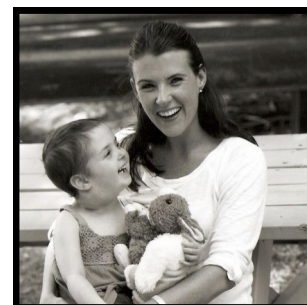
Sue Kay, Weymouth



Christine (Chris) Kelley,
Reading

Chris is a current board member and past President of the Reading Education Foundation and has worked to raise funds for Reading Public Schools. Additionally, she has worked in leadership roles in annual fundraisers for the Foundation. On top of that, Chris has supported the Reading Rotary club as Auction Committee member and Co-Chair, and a volunteer at Rosie's Place and the Snack Shack. She also plays a role in the Family Liturgy Music Ministry. Chris has experience as a Principal at multiple schools. She now serves as the Principal of the Pierce School in Brookline and an Adjunct Professor for AIC's graduate level certification program.

Patrice, alongside her family, founded Prayers for Charlotte and the annual Run for Charlotte in honor of her daughter, who passed away at the age of five from neuroblastoma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Turning tragedy into hope for other families, the foundation has donated over \$175,000 to pediatric cancer research and has made over 100 donations to assist families with the financial hardship that comes with a cancer diagnosis. In her work with the annual road race, Patrice has continually lived out the foundation's motto of "supporting the fighters, admiring the survivors, honoring the taken and never, ever giving up hope."



Patrice Kelly, Braintree



Susan Kelly, Gloucester

Generous Gardeners is a volunteer operation run by **Susan** that has cared for and continues to care for 24 public gardens in Gloucester. There are over 50 active volunteers who don bright green aprons every spring, summer, and fall to plant and care for gardens all across the city. They have been caring for gardens at the Fishermen's Wives Memorial for the last 5 years and have planted tulips along Stacy Boulevard to complement the seawall improvements there. Having planted 22,000 tulips last fall, they are hosting a fun filled day, complete with a Spring Promenade and official opening of the garden. Susan is not one to seek the spotlight but her work brings joy and beauty to the city, attracting locals and tourists as well. She is an integral part of Gloucester's dedicated volunteer work and her work makes people feel good about their city in bloom.

Lee is an extremely dedicated and professional woman who has given much to her community. For the past 18 years she has been deeply involved with the founding and continued success of the Norwood Circle of Hope Foundation. Lee started this wonderful non-profit in memory of her late daughter Michelle. Many years ago, Michelle was diagnosed with leukemia. The town of Norwood rallied around her during her illness and held several fundraisers to aid in her recovery. Unfortunately, Michelle lost her battle with this horrible disease. Out of this terrible tragedy, Lee created a lasting tribute to Michelle with the establishment of the Norwood Circle of Hope. Over the past eighteen years the foundation has raised and awarded several hundred thousand dollars to Norwood families facing tough times as a result of a catastrophic illness. Her commitment to helping other in need has made her town a special place to live.



Lee Kennedy, Norwood



Lori Kenschaft, Arlington

Lori is a life-long Unitarian Universalist who lives her faith by working for justice, compassion, and mutual understanding. She is the coordinator of the Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, which helps build a movement to end mass incarceration in Massachusetts. She is the Clerk of First Parish Arlington, co-chair of its Racial Justice Coordinating Committee, and a member of its Turning Outward Strategic Planning Group. She has offered adult religious education programs for more than a decade, and also worked for a progressive tax system that that would better support a good society and a healthy economy.

Edith is the founder of Friends of Friends Community Services Inc. a non-profit organization that provides seniors with fuel, financial, and medical assistance, all through the Council on Aging. Additionally she is a founder and member of her local Kiwanis chapter, holding several fundraising events every year to help children.



**Edith Krekorian,
Seekonk**



Alicia Kullas, Taunton

Alicia is an exceptional role model for girls and young women in the community. As a Life Member of the Girl Scouts of America, Alicia has been a leader in helping girls and young women succeed in striving for their dreams. Working with the Girl Scouts, Alicia has developed two programs that are used by many troops to help high school girls learn how to establish a budget, move on to higher education and gainful employment, and other responsibilities related to becoming independent and successful women. She has also developed a program teaching girls how to start their own business. Alicia's extraordinary efforts with the Girl Scouts on the local, regional and national level will help countless young women become confident, independent thinkers who are the leaders of tomorrow.

For the past four years, **Vicki** and her daughter have volunteered their time and services at the BeLikeBrit Orphanage in Haiti. Through her selflessness and eagerness to provide medical care and eyeglasses to the children of the orphanage, Vicki goes above and beyond what her official duties entail. Her commitment to the continual care of the BeLikeBrit orphans is truly inspiring and commendable.



**Dr. Vicki Kvedar,
Lynnfield**



**Marianne LaBarge,
Florence**

Northampton City Councilor **Marianne** is an outstanding public servant who strives to improve the quality of life for not only the residents of Ward 6, but for all the people of Northampton. When a road in her ward needs improvements to protect public safety, she is the first person to raise the issue, fight for funding and get the improvements done. She is relentless in her pursuit of what is best for her constituents. When a bad storm sent a huge tree limb through a resident's roof and cut off power, she was the person who contacted the utility, helped arrange temporary housing and coordinated meals for the family. When information on a pending public policy debate or critical local meeting needs to be distributed to residents she makes handmade flyers and delivers them door to door. Her attention to detail, tenacity and good heart make her a great candidate for this award.

Kathy has spent her entire life supporting the Neighborhood House, which was founded in 1901 to support local families in South Boston. Since its inception, the Neighborhood House has provided a wide range of services to residents of all ages, including early education, preschool; family engagement and support programs for isolated families; academic support and career mentoring for middle school and high school students; and senior programs to help elderly residents to maintain their dignity, health, independence, and self-confidence. Kathy has worked with the Neighborhood House for over twenty years. She started as the Director of the Day Camp Bus and then moved on to full-time Director of Teen Programs. She was recently named Executive Director for the Neighborhood House and has been a tireless advocate for the program and the families it supports.



**Kathy Lafferty, South
Boston**



Judith Lamb, Roxbury

Judith helped organize the community after a large explosion burned down her building in 2011. She appeared on the Ellen show after she had to drop her grandson out of a window during the fire. Judith organized a formal neighborhood association in 2014 after a series of shootings and other violent activities took place in her neighborhood. She has continued to work with the neighborhood association to build community through activities like applying for a Love Your Block grant through the City of Boston. Additionally, Judith led a group of community members to adopt a blighted park. She was appointed to serve as a member of the PLAN JP/ROX Advisory Group to advise the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) on the City's ongoing planning study for the area between Forest Hills, Egleston Square and Jackson Square.

Gladys has shown the city of Holyoke time and time again what it means to give back to the place that she so proudly calls home. As a mother and grandmother who sent all of her children through public school, she has proven through her professional role at Career Point and her community work that she is invested in the children of Holyoke. She served on the School Committee before being elected City Councilor; she has worked with both the Boys and Girls Club and manages the YouthWorks Summer Youth employment program, which employs around 100 young people. Currently she is serving her third term on City Council and was named Democrat of the Year by the Holyoke Democratic Committee in 2014.



**Gladys LeBron-Martinez,
Holyoke**



**MaryAnn (Mo) Levasseur,
Rowley**

Mo established Solace for Stephanie after the tragic passing of Stephanie Jenkins, a longtime Rowley resident who died of cancer in 2009. Solace for Stephanie raises money and provides financial assistance to locals battling cancer. Thus far, she has helped over 50 deserving people, and has awarded more than 10 college scholarships to local high schoolers. Mo, along with Stephanie and other local mothers, rose the original funding for Rowley's Kid's Kingdom to be built at Eiras Park in 1997. After Stephanie's death, Mo and Solace for Stephanie facilitated the rebuild of the playground in 2010 by recruiting 70 volunteers to install new equipment and dedicated it in Stephanie's memory. In 2016, Mo and Solace for Stephanie again recruited more volunteers for another rebuild. Beyond Solace for Stephanie, Mo also serves on the Town's Personnel Advisory Committee and has coached Little League.

Brooke has shown a steadfast commitment to political and civic activities working with and for the residents of Newton for over 40 years. Brooke has served in both elected and appointed offices, including time as President of the Board of Aldermen and Zoning Board of Appeals Chair. She helped found Green Newton and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force, served on the Board of Directors of Historic Newton, and is an active member of the Newton Democratic City Committee and Ward Committees. In her work on social justice, political and environmental issues, Brooke has been an outstanding facilitator, helping to build consensus on many important issues in Newton. Brooke has long been committed to educating and mobilizing individuals to take a stand on critical issues and take positive action to make a difference.



Brooke Lipsitt, Newtonville



**Rosanne (Rose) Litchman,
Middleboro**

In the five years that **Rose** has lived at Oak Point, an over 55+ community in Middleboro, her extraordinary volunteerism has had a tremendous community impact. Rose is first to arrive and last to leave whether it's decorating for holidays and special events or helping with Oak Point's Kids ride, a Pan-Mass Challenge bike-a-thon that raises money for cancer research. Rose's extensive club involvement includes: starting Oak Point Writers Club, leading Good Neighbors, a group of volunteers helping residents in need, organizing the Oak Point Passover Seder event, founding the Women's Group for Jewish Studies and recruiting new members for the Oak Point Women's Club. Rose was instrumental in running a yard sale that raised \$15,000 for local scholarships, doubling last year's efforts.

Despina started her journey with the Everett Public Schools in 1992. She has transformed the Culinary Arts Department into an award winning program. She was featured in the Boston Herald praising her accomplishments. She is a role model for every teacher and is admired by her students for her patience, kindness and her dedication. Because of her, hundreds of students have found their way into the culinary world and furthered their education. Despina feeds thousands of people each year at various Everett High School events. Those in attendance walk away astonished at what culinary delights she, her team, and the students have prepared. Despina makes all accommodations and requests that come to her without question.



Despina Makredes, Everett



**Colleen McCarthy,
Methuen**

Colleen is currently serving as the Human Resource Director for Methuen Public Schools. Parents, teachers, students, and city leaders alike come to Colleen with challenges, recommendations and requests because they are all very comfortable approaching her. She is honest, kind, knowledgeable and always puts the well-being of others first. Her dedication to the students of Methuen Schools is demonstrated in many additional ways. She is the driving force behind many events and groups like: Fundraising with Dollars for Scholars, Methuen Public Schools' Alumni awards banquet, Selection of Distinguished Alumni Awardees, Methuen Public Schools' Santa parade district wide participation, Coordinator for School Crossing Guards, Teaching Dance and Gymnastics, Methuen Public Schools' Transportation Coordinator, Coordinator of the City-wide wellness and health fairs. She always works behind the scenes and is one of those individuals who make the city a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Kathleen was an elementary school teacher in the Lowell Public Schools before opening the Building Blocks preschool in 1986. Her tireless efforts to better the education system for children have been extraordinary; she has been a lead advocate on behalf of the Lowell Collegiate Charter School, where she has been the president of the Board of Trustees since 2013. The school had over 300 applicants this year, which is double last year's total. The school currently has 645 students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Kathleen has also served on the board of the Lowell Community Charter School, and is on the Lowell Five Savings Bank's Board of Corporators.



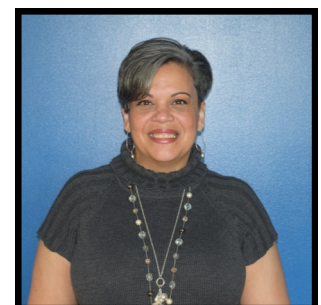
**Kathleen McCarthy,
Lowell**



**Josephine McNeil,
Newton**

Josephine serves as the Executive Director of CAN-DO, Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization- the only affordable housing developer in Newton (outside of 40B projects). Josephine co-founded the group in 1994, worked there part-time until 1999 when she became the full-time ED, and plans to retire in the near future. Over her 23 years of leadership, CAN-DO has developed 44 properties, 37 of which are deed-restricted, meaning they will remain affordable indefinitely. CAN-DO developments serve a wide range of populations including veterans, people with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, young parents at risk, and low-income families. Josephine has been highly successful in increasing the supply of affordable housing in Newton – a difficult task due to the high property values across the city.

Lesly is a dedicated Community Engagement Director of Groundwork Lawrence, previously working for GWL from 2004 – 2007 managing outreach, projects and events. Between working for GWL Lesly worked for Comcast and partnered with GWL to lead Earth Day/Comcast Cares Day for 5 years. She has served on numerous volunteer boards and on the City's Planning Board as a voting member and later as chair, and is currently board member of the Open Door Pantry in Lowell, MA. In 2016, Lesly completed a certificate program with the Institute for Non-Profit Practice through the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University. Lesly brings her love of writing, community and civic engagement and her passion for trees to GWL.



**Lesly Melendez,
Lawrence**



**Marie Merino Ryan,
Melrose**

Marie is the consummate volunteer. She has been an engaged and selfless member of the Melrose community for years. Marie, a widow of a veteran, has a strong appreciation for veterans and active members of the military, and has devoted her time and talents to volunteering at veterans-related events, fundraisers, and food drives in the community. As an enthusiastic member of the Melrose Veterans Advisory Board and Emblem Club, she has organized and assisted with the Veterans Memory Project fundraisers, the Veterans in the Classroom events, the Holiday Cards to Local Troops events, Veterans and Memorial Day events, as well as the monthly Mobile Food Marts. In addition, Marie volunteers at the local senior center, parish, and food pantry. She is vocal about highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of others, but never seeks the same recognition for herself.

Margaret is currently a strategic advisor for the Midas Collaborative. She has developed and managed many types of non-profit economic development programs, community leadership programs, business training and lending programs, and worker-owned companies. In 1999, she saw the promise of asset development when she joined Acre Family Daycare in Lowell, which started the first Individual Development Account Program in Massachusetts. She is the Commissioner on the Massachusetts Asset Development Commission, has spoken nationally on the topics of community-based economic development and asset-building, and is the author of a number of publications on financial education and asset-building, serves on the Steering Committee of the Massachusetts Financial Education Collaborative, the Advisory Council for Private Occupational Schools for Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, and represents Massachusetts in the Assets and Opportunity Scorecard partnership of the Corporation for Enterprise Development in Washington, DC.



Margaret Miley, Acton



**Laurie Millman,
Hampshire and Franklin**

Laurie holds a Master's degree from the School for International Training Graduate Institute and a TESOL certificate from the International Language Institute. Currently, she is the Executive Director of Center for New Americans. She has worked and volunteered in a variety of non-profit organizations in education, leadership development, and social justice for many years. Laurie joined Center for New Americans in 2009 as Marketing & Development Coordinator. She has also served as a substitute teacher in most of Center for New Americans' English classes.

Elaine is currently serving her second term on the Salem City Council, currently as the President. While she's a relative newcomer to elected office she has always been active in her community. Before serving on the City Council, she was involved in supporting candidates running for elected office and served on the Cemetery Commission for 16 years. Elaine has focused on decreasing the financial burden on homeowners by working to stabilize property taxes while also supporting important investments in education, senior and veterans' programming and services, and strategic improvements to public infrastructure and property.



Elaine Milo, Salem



Cathy Minehan, Boston

Cathy worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston as its first female President and CEO from 1994 to 2007. More recently, in 2014, as the Dean of the School of Management at Simmons College, she was one of the founders of Boston's Women's Workforce Council, which works to close the gender wage gap. She still serves as the Council's co-chair. In that role, Cathy played an important role supporting the successful Equal Pay Legislation passed by the General Court last year. In addition, she is the past recipient of the Pinnacle Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and New Englander of the Year award from the New England Council. Her other recognition include the New England Women's Leadership award, the International Women's Forum "Women That Make a Difference" award, and the Medal of Hope from the Organization for a New Equality.

Renee has worked tirelessly with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County for over thirty years- a program that pairs local children with mentors in the community so they may become productive and healthy adults. Renee, as the Program Director, has been a tireless advocate to provide resources and encouragement to the children that need it most. Renee's commitment to community collaboration has ensured that the program continues to grow—and her passion for helping the next generation to realize their full potential, regardless of their circumstances, is unrivaled. Renee is also active as a representative to the Hampshire County Council of Service Agencies, and has engaged students in advocacy at the State House and around the community.



Renee Moss, Amherst



Jayne Mulligan, Westfield

Jayne is ubiquitous around town from her work on several non-profits including the Westfield Athenaeum, Westfield Housing Authority, and her condo association. Westfield's former animal control officer is ready and willing to give a helping hand to local political action campaigns as well as church and school activities. She is "semi-retired and busier than ever".

Annie, Executive Director of the Framingham History Center, is a respected 35+ year Framingham resident. Annie is dedicated to the mission of the History Center -- to preserve and share Framingham's history. In her role, Annie has guided the History Center to become a vibrant community organization with a wide range of creative educational programming, including: a major multi-year plan to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Civil War and Framingham's role in it; an exhibition documenting the history of the Dennison Manufacturing Company which shaped the town's growth and social life from 1897-1990; and a memorable and nostalgic exhibition about the original "Shoppers World - 1951-1994." Annie's passion and leadership have put Framingham's preservation efforts on the radar of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.



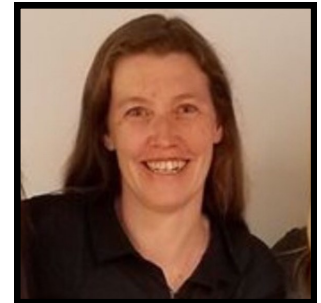
**Annie Murphy,
Framingham**



**Lynn Nadeau,
Marblehead**

For her entire life it seems, always leading with her heart, **Lynn** has been unafraid to take on seemingly impossible but vitally important issues. A tenacious and patient public school math teacher, she took on a decades-long effort organizing the community when a coal-burning power plant was making residents sick. With boundless energy and courage, organizing others comes naturally to her. A passionate environmentalist, she remains unintimidated to take on saving the world (quite literally) from global warming, all while standing up for civil rights and spearheading the creation a seaside park for the community to enjoy. She always inspires others to follow her lead.

Lisa is an energetic, engaged citizen and parent who is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with dyslexia. As a parent of a child with dyslexia, she experienced, firsthand, the challenges associated with identifying, remediating and supporting children with dyslexia. Instead of sitting idly by, Lisa has sprung to action to spread awareness and to propose public policy changes that would improve the lives of all people with dyslexia. As part of her efforts, legislation has been filed that would establish a standard, scientific definition for dyslexia and develop guidelines for the screening of students for dyslexia by the end of kindergarten. It comes as no surprise that Lisa co-founded Decoding Dyslexia Massachusetts as part of a national network of grassroots groups in all 50 states. Public attention to, and awareness about, dyslexia has significantly increased as a result of Lisa's initiatives.



Lisa Nelson, Grafton



**Priscilla Nickerson,
Revere**

As a small business owner in the community, **Priscilla** is always looking for ways to enhance the City in which she lives and works. She is a co-founder of the West Revere Neighborhood Group, a group of committed residents whose vision is to maintain and improve upon the quality of life enjoyed by the neighborhood. Through Priscilla's organization and because of her advocacy, the WRNG has been able to engage residents and sponsor projects which have greatly enriched the community. Always thinking creatively of ways to bring the people of Revere together for a good cause, Priscilla organized the "Revere Santa Walk" back in 2011. This now-annual event raises funds to go toward various projects which beautify the community. Additionally, Priscilla helped to organize the first city-wide spring cleanup, and she never hesitates to pick up litter in the street or to paint over public graffiti.

Deb is the Director and Co-Founder (along with her husband, Ralph) of the Josh Thibodeau Helping Hearts Foundation. The Foundation was established shortly after the Thibodeau's 12 year old son collapsed and passed away from an undiagnosed heart condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy on a soccer field in Holden, Massachusetts. The purpose of this foundation is to save lives and prevent anyone from going through her own family's tragedy. They are dedicated to raising awareness in preventing sudden cardiac death in children and adolescents, and providing charitable assistance to individuals, families, and organizations. In addition to advocacy work, the foundation has provided countless hours of education, screenings, and assistance for CPR training and AED access. In 2016 Deb also played a key role in the passage of Senate Bill 2449 - An Act Requiring Automated External Defibrillators In Schools.



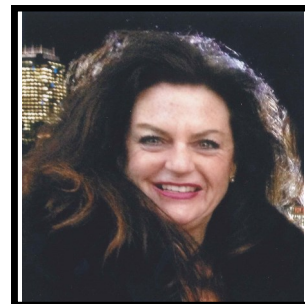
**Deborah (Deb) O'Brien-
Thibodeau, Holden**



RoseMary O'Connor,
Salem

RoseMary is an incredible advocate for Salem's neighborhoods and public safety. She is President of Mack Park Neighborhood Association which is a vibrant group offering guest speakers, community outreach and area improvements. She led the drive to raise over 65 thousand dollars to fund three Police K-9's for Salem Police Department and continues to work on behalf of local police. She attends City Council meetings and is considered one of Salem's leading voices to keeping a high quality of life in her city. RoseMary is a positive force who leads by example and her city of Salem a better place in so many ways.

Marybeth began her career as a Licensed Social Worker in 1985 at the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and went on to serve the City of Worcester in 2000 and then the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. For over 30 years, she dedicated her time, energy, resources, and heart to child welfare protection, and an emergency hotline for the MSPCC in order to be available around the clock to those in need. She has been an emergency response worker, outreach & tracking caseworker, investigator, community health worker, and protective case worker. Her input of providing quality services to the Commonwealth and commitment to children and families in the community is truly overwhelming.



Marybeth O'Day, West
Boylston



Tara Parrish, Springfield

Tara is a community organizer who has worked for progressive social change in communities across the country and internationally. Since the mid 1990's, Tara has been developing grassroots leaders from rural south Louisiana to suburban Chicago, from Pueblo reservations in New Mexico to Hartford, Connecticut and now in Springfield, Massachusetts. At the center of Tara's work is the belief that all people should have a voice in the political and economic decisions that affect their lives. Tara led organizing efforts that resulted in the passage of groundbreaking local and state immigrant rights legislation in Connecticut. She co-founded the Capitol Cinema Collective, directed the Hartford International Film Festival, and worked with grassroots leaders and refugees in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. She is the currently the Director and Lead Organizer at the Pioneer Valley Project.

Mary Ann has served her community not only as Tax Collector, but as a Treasurer of the Chester Library Board of Trustees, a member of the Chester Rail foundation, and an active member of her Council on Aging. Mary Ann also serves as Chester's representative to Hilltown Community Ambulance Association, where she has been elected President of HCAA's Board of Directors. Mary Ann commits countless hours each week to improving her community and mentoring new volunteers, and those working alongside her. Mary Ann is a perfect example of the kind of dedication and civic participation all communities wish they could have.



Mary Ann Pease, Chester

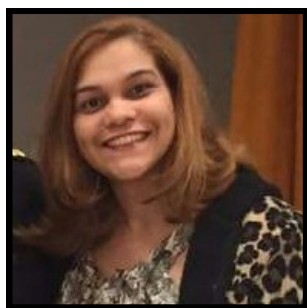


Alice M. Pierce, Lexington

Nicole started Blooms of Hope in 2007, inspired by a quote from Lady Bird Johnson, "Where flowers bloom, so does hope." Her business donates 50% of its profits to various charities. She has also provided small fresh floral arrangements every month to patients at the acute adolescent temporary residential treatment at McLean Hospital in Belmont.



Nicole Pirani, Belmont



Wendy Polanco, Jamaica Plain

Wendy does outstanding work in the Jamaica Plain community, whether it is working and attending her meetings as the Mildred C. Hailey Tenant Task Force Secretary or just volunteering for events all across JP, like those hosted by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation. Wendy makes an enormous impact on her community and always does so with a smile on her face. She also has a family of her own that she cares for, but never gives the community any less than 110%. She is a major part of her community, one that is grateful for her and her service.

Diane is the founder and CEO of The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. in Malden, MA, which serves immigrants by providing English language classes to immigrants and refugees within her community, informing Americans about the many contributions of immigrants in society, and conducts research on the economic contributions of immigrants. As an immigrant herself and the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors, Diane saw firsthand the difficulties faced by immigrants in her community. Under her leadership, the ILC has grown in both size and impact, now serving over 900 students a year and has served over 9,000 immigrants in the area since 1992. In addition, Diane is accomplished in the field of adult education and frequently speaks in public forums about immigration and immigrant struggles. She has also published a book called "Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts", examining the contributions of immigrant groups despite the discrimination they have faced.



Diane Portnoy, Malden



**Margaret Poulin,
Gardner**

Margaret has, for many years, gone above and beyond the responsibilities of her position at Gardner High School. She has been a go-to volunteer for many extra-curricular groups and activities. She has taken it upon herself to institute and run many programs for the betterment of the students that go way beyond her job description. Most recently she was instrumental in starting a food backpack program to help with students' nutritional needs over the weekends. She humbly conducts herself and does not seek recognition or praise for these acts.

Francie co-founded the Truro Agricultural Fair with two farming friends in 2009, and then founded the non-profit Sustainable CAPE, an umbrella organization under which the Truro Agricultural Fair, Truro Children's Community Garden, Truro Educational Farmers' Market, and Farm to Schools Programs exist. Her overall mission is to celebrate local food and to educate and empower individuals to become agents of change by understanding the direct link between local food, sustainable health and wellness, and the importance of preserving fragile land and water resources. Additionally, she created the first in-state pilot program to allow SNAP benefits at a farmer's market. Through the Farmer's Market Coalition, she has created replicable initiatives to share with others.



Francie Randolph, Truro



Carol Read, Medfield

Carol stands out as a committed leader in addressing the public health issue of substance use and addiction through prevention and education. With her most pleasant demeanor, she brings a dogged determination to ensuring that the hard work of substance use prevention and education is a top priority in the community of Needham, where she works, and in Medfield, where she lives and volunteers. Carol brings together key stakeholders, community leaders and residents through a data-driven approach that supports youth in their growth and helps them develop to be substance-free and healthy in mind, body and spirit. Carol is a passionate and committed activist on substance use prevention and education in her hometown of Medfield, and has been a speaker, educator, and thought leader on many of the social, emotional, and educational needs of its youth.

Dora began leading the United Way of the Pioneer Valley in 2009. Under her leadership, the organization launched several new strategies to diversify revenues contributing to education, homelessness, basic needs, and financial-security programs, among others. During her tenure, she co-founded the UWPV Women's Leadership Council to engage local women leaders in supporting financial literacy and health initiatives for women and girls. She also led the effort to establish UWPV as a support organization for local and regional disaster-recovery efforts.



Dora Robinson, Springfield



**Flannery du Rivage Rogers,
Falmouth**

Flannery is deeply involved in Falmouth and has worked to be a voice for positive change in the community. With others, Flannery founded the group Engage Falmouth which promotes civic engagement and social justice. Through Engage Falmouth, Flannery has hosted events that bring residents together to volunteer and work on causes ranging from climate change, immigration, affordable housing, and more.

Cheryl is a woman with lots of energy. She is the Athletic Director at Ste. Jeanne d'Arc School, the girl's varsity basketball coach and varsity softball coach at Innovation Academy, the vice president and website coordinator of the Ecumenical Athletic Association (EAA), and the director of the SJA Summer Basketball League. Cheryl was involved with the EAA, an athletic program that encourages good sportsmanship and promotes academic achievement and school spirit, a few years before she became President of the League. When the league first started, they only had basketball and cheerleading. Cheryl helped in adding many new sports to the Association such as Volleyball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Cross Country, Bowling, Tennis, and Track and Field. She served as President from 2004 to 2016.



Cheryl A. Saba, Lowell



**Helen Sakovich,
Worcester**

Helen has been the crossing guard at the corner of West and Elm Street in Worcester for the last 30 years. She is a constant in the Piedmont neighborhood. Helen lives nearly a mile and half away from her crossing and she walks to and fro in all kinds of weather. Close to 100 kids cross under her watch every day, almost 18,000 per school year or over half a million during her career! The only thing Helen doesn't like is summertime. When you meet her in the summer she will tell you exactly how many days there are left until school starts and how she can hardly wait. She loves her job and the kids.

Founder and executive director of ExtraSpecialTeas, **Cherri** enriches the lives of the special needs adult community in the Berkshires. ExtraSpecialTeas opened in April 2016 as the first ever nonprofit Tea House operated by special needs adults. Cherri's son, Jache, challenged with autism, aged out of public school when he turned 22 years old in May of 2014 and inspired this project. Cherri wanted Jache, and young adults with similar challenges, to be included, not excluded from the community. With her mantra that "The future belongs to everyone belonging", she put all of her passion and energy into creating a Tea House filled with spirituality and joy as a haven for special needs young adults to work and interact with the community of Great Barrington just steps from Main Street.



Cherri Sanes, Sheffield



Faith Scallion, Fall River

Faith is dedicated to helping others with food security in the same way she had been personally helped 15 years ago. Faith's initial involvement at her church allowed her to give back to the community by overseeing three food pantries and soup kitchens that operated three times a week. Over the last few years, Faith created a faith-based non-profit food rescue, Gates of Hope Inc. Gates of Hope Inc. reaches over 600 families and individuals a month by providing many different recovered foods, pet food, as well as clothing assistance. As a volunteer, she brings community members together to efficiently serve those in desperate need in the Greater Fall River Area. Her kind-heartedness is what keeps her community together.

Betsy has served as the executive director of the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce since 2013. In this position, she manages a 300 member organization and works with local and state officials, as well as private businesses, to advance the economic interests of the town. She organizes numerous annual events for the region including the Taste of Winthrop, the Community Awards Dinner and the Holiday Lighting. Her leadership at the Chamber has been a vital part of shaping the future of Winthrop and its economy. Her friendship and guidance has been invaluable to me in my work to advocate for the needs of Winthrop.



Elizabeth (Betsy) Shane, Winthrop



Paula Skalinski, Dorchester

If you ask anyone in Dorchester what **Paula** does, 10 times out of 10, they'll tell you "everything." While Paula's official title is Director of Religious Education, she also plays the role of CYO Basketball coordinator, family ministries coordinator and community outreach. Paula's dedication to not only the members of both St. Ann's and St. Brendan's Parishes, but to each and every member of the neighborhood, is unmatched. Each year at Thanksgiving, Paula works with a local neighborhood group to provide meals for at least 20 families. After the tragic Marathon Bombing in 2013 where the community lost a young member, Paula helped to organize a candlelight vigil in Garvey Park, drawing thousands of people sharing a moment of silence, peace and unity.

Shanique is dedicated to helping and empowering women, girls, immigrants, and people of color in her community. She has a passion that drives much of the work she does in her community as an organizer with a history of working on local, state and national elections as both volunteer and staff. She has been working for the YWCA of Western MA advocating for victims of domestic abuse. Community activists in the Greater Springfield region recognize her as a hard worker that is willing to roll up her sleeves and do whatever it takes to advocate on behalf of others through the democratic process as well as through her work in the community, serving on various boards and groups such as League of Women Voters, Progressive Massachusetts of Pioneer Valley, Kiwanis Club and Keep Springfield Beautiful and the Springfield Ward 8 Democratic Committee.



Shanique Spalding, Springfield



Helene Stein, Newton

Helene is a dedicated and talented psychologist who, throughout her career, supported the recovery of many clients. Upon retirement, she devoted herself to community activism. Motivated by a deep commitment to social justice, and an unapologetic partisan, she has thrown herself into the campaigns of Democratic candidates. She knocked on every door in her ward to support Elizabeth Warren's run for Senate. She was tireless on the phones and at the doors in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the recent presidential contest. She has devoted the same commitment and energy in municipal races. She has brainstormed how to increase voter engagement. She initiated voter registration and volunteer recruitment drives. She supports and encourages other volunteers. Willing to do the hard work without ever seeking any recognition, Helene is the grassroots activist par excellence.

For the past five plus years **Laura** has taken on and excelled at the role of Parent Volunteer Coordinator for the Clinton Public Schools. While she works tirelessly in her full-time role as Coordinator of the Clinton Early Childhood Resource Center, she has still found time to build extensive volunteer programs at both the Clinton Elementary School and now at the Middle School. While being instrumental in creating the Parent Volunteer Program at the Middle School, she has developed original, community oriented and engaging events that have only seen an increase in popularity each and every year. She has planned, organized, promoted, and improved the Clinton Middle School Veterans Day Event each of the past five years.



Laura Taylor, Clinton



**Bertha (Bert) Terhune,
Lakeville**

Bert is a tireless volunteer in several areas of need in the community. Bert has worked for over a decade as the treasurer of the Soule Homestead Education Center in Middleborough which is a community-based nonprofit. Along with being the treasurer, she leads hands on learning opportunities centered around environmental programs, organic farming, and traditional crafts. For over 20 years, Bert has also served with Father Bill's Mainspring House in Brockton providing meals for the homeless. Additionally she helps at the Central Congregational Food Pantry. She is active in the First Congregational Church of Middleborough where she has served for years on numerous committees. When she is not volunteering, Bert enjoys spending time with her daughter, three grandchildren, and great grandchild. Bert selflessly gives her time and energy to many great causes and is truly an unsung heroine in her area.

Edie has utilized her B.S. in Music Education as both a public and private school music teacher, a church choir director and organist for nearly 50 years, the founder and director of the annual Groton Community Christmas Concert, and the Director of the Country Day Drama Program. A composer and playwright, she is a co-founder of Arts Nashoba (formerly Three Rivers Youth Theatre). Her extensive experience includes Concord Youth Theatre, Blanchard Productions (Westford), Fort Devens Players, Groton/Littleton Theatre, and Theatre III (Acton) to name a few. Edie, along with her late husband, Bert, originally headed up the Groton Center of the Arts Board of Directors, and she continues now, decades later, in her quest to support the artistic endeavors of youth and adults throughout the region.



**Edith (Edie) Tompkins,
Groton**

Amanda continually demonstrates her commitment to her community and the youth she serves, in her occupation at the Old Colony YMCA . She listens to youth voices and offers patience, thoughtfulness, creativity and compassion, while providing them support and guidance. Amanda is able to recognize the inherent challenges in working with youth and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure all barriers are considered and addressed. For the past three years Amanda has served as the co-chair of the Brockton's Promise Caring Adults Team, where she has helped develop mentoring opportunities within Brockton. In addition, she has helped plan and host the annual community -wide Recruitment Rally and Celebration, which brings together hundreds of individuals to recognize and recruit mentors. Regardless of the task that Amanda is given, she gives 100 percent.



Amanda Trask, Brockton



**Dorothy (Dottie) Tripp,
Hanover/Pembroke/
Duxbury**

Dottie was born in 1926 in Rockland, MA. After serving in the Navy as a Navy Corpsman Nurse in Long Beach, California she returned from WWII and went to Business School in Rockland. She married in 1948 and moved to Hanover where she raised 3 daughters. She was elected the Town of Hanover Treasurer/Town Clerk and when the positions became separate she was elected the Town Treasurer. After retiring, she first volunteered at South Shore Hospital in the Social Services office then became a staff member of the department and retired at the age of 80 from that position. She was the Director of the Rainbow Girls Camp in Halifax for a number of years, an active election worker for over 30 years, a volunteer for the Hanover's Congregational Church and John Curtis Library book room. She has been dedicated to her country and community for over 76 years.

Anna is a very active member of the community in many aspects. Anna is not only a passionate advocate for seniors, she is a passionate advocate for social issues affecting people across the Commonwealth. Additionally, Anna has brought translation services to the Malden Senior Center, Malden Access TV and a variety of media outlets in order to effectively communicate with largely diverse community. Anna never stops working and her energy is contagious. She serves as the President of the Malden YWCA working on community programs that empower women and strives to eliminate racism. Anna's knowledge, passion, and commitment to helping people make Malden a more welcoming and healthier place to live and work for all people.



Anna Tse, Malden



**Elizabeth (Liz) Tucker,
Dennis**

Liz has built a Community Crisis Intervention Team through the Dennis Police Department which builds relationships between many local advocates and organizations serving the substance abuse, mental health, Alzheimer's and dementia, and elder services fields. Her work has been critical in building bridges between these vulnerable populations and needed services. She is recognized in court for her expertise in addressing Section 35, dual diagnosis cases, and has helped many residents in crisis with gaining housing stability and in finding work. Her efforts are now extending to working with local Veterans in crisis. Liz has also initiated a Rape Aggression Defense program for high school girls, and she coaches girls' youth soccer.

Jennifer oversees numerous programs at the Milford Youth Center, providing a safe environment during after school hours and monthly events that address adolescent risk factors as well as promote partnerships with community members to ensure a comprehensive vision and plan for the health of Milford youngsters. In addition to her regular duties, Jennifer has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours as Director. The youth center underwent recent extensive renovations which required her daily collaboration and oversight on several building issues, as well as recruiting and working with community volunteers on such things as landscaping and interior improvements. She also worked with the local humanitarian Coalition to host a summer food service program that helped provide over 1,000 lunches to young people. Jennifer consistently goes above and beyond her regular duties, on a strictly voluntary basis, to improve the lives of the young people in the greater Milford area in any way that she can.



Jennifer Ward, Milford



Gretchen Wood, Manchester

Gretchen is a dedicated resident of Manchester-by-the-Sea. She has always made time to give back to her community through volunteering efforts and devotion to town government despite various personal tragedies. From 1979 to 1987, Gretchen worked as both a census taker in town, and a school crossing guard. From 1979 to 1983, she was the Town Meeting Teller. Until 2010, she was the Town Clerk, and served as the ADA Committee Coordinator, where she still serves as a member. Despite retirement, Gretchen continues to serve Manchester as a member of the Housing Authority, as well as the Town's Representative for ACTION, Inc. She has been a member of the Sacred Heart Parish Choir for over 30 years, and serves as a Parish Council Member, a Eucharistic Minister and serves on the Hospitality Committee. She also consistently volunteers at the Manchester Public Library Book Sale.

Rather than relaxing in her retirement after a distinguished career as a supervisor with the Department of Children and Families, **Irene** has chosen to do the important and challenging work of leading the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Area. She is dedicated and innovative in her approach as CAC Executive Director, working tirelessly to serve children and families affected by abuse in her region. Irene also volunteers for community organizations, particularly those that serve women and children, such as the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition, where Irene was a Board member. In her free time, she travels the world and runs marathons, proving she is truly unstoppable.



Irene Woods, Greenfield



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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