



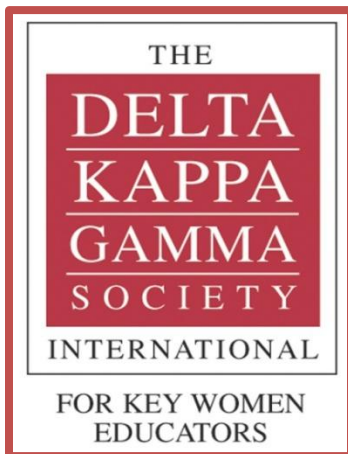
MA STATE ORGANIZATION of
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Baystater

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 4

Summer 2023



PROVOCATIVE
POINTS



Revitalizing Ourselves and Our Profession

Spring Conference, 2023

The thread of mindfulness, care, and renewal wove its way through our Spring Conference in Plymouth this May. Beginning with a thoughtful tribute to members we have lost over the past year, Gwen Miller directed a lovely Ceremony of Remembrance that started our day with reflection and love. This was Gwen's last act as our Necrology Chair, and we will miss the care and attention to detail she has fostered for us.

Our 5 presenters and our keynote speaker all reinforced the need for educators to live in each moment, take account of the surroundings, and move ahead with confidence and kindness.

Beginning with Jennifer Maynard Hoffer, participants learned of her journey and dedication to service within DKG, fostered by her mother, Dorothea Maynard, and her long association in Alpha Theta Chapter. Family and health challenges have not interfered with the commitment as educators who are always looking for ways to support and serve students and teachers. These two amazing women have illustrated just how mindful living keeps their optimism alive.

Cheryl Rocha and Julie Couture connected revitalization to the intervention they create for the children in their care as Occupational Therapists in the New Bedford Public Schools. Many of their activities directly align with sensory integration and regulating the body through mindful activities, and can also benefit the teachers who work with their students.

Susan Choquette shared her scholarship winning doctoral thesis work, which is based on connecting the arts to all with Engagement, Belonging, and Beliefs centered in the theater. Susan understands that every student can experience success through the arts, and her mindful work is to welcome all into this world.

CONTINUED on P. 3

ALPHA UPSILON STATE 2023-2025

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CHAPTER PRESIDENTS 2022-2024

AREA I

Kappa	Donna Brown (Contact)
Theta	Peggy Trudell
Alpha Beta	Louise O'Brien
Alpha Theta	Kaaren Harrington

AREA II

Alpha Gamma	Tammy Edmonds and Beth Clark
Alpha Mu	Susan Apteker and Kristine Beaudet

AREA III

Eta	Jo-Anne Butler and Tove Bendiksen
Zeta	Audrey Smith (Contact)
Alpha Lambda	Ellen Driscoll

AREA IV

Alpha	Elaine Karalekas
Alpha Epsilon	Lindsay Skelton

AREA V

Alpha Iota	Nanci Flaherty
Alpha Zeta	Gail Saccone

AREA VI

Epsilon	Irene Frangos Falite
Alpha Eta	Diane Swistak (Contact)

EDITOR'S CORNER

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baystaterma@gmail.com

I'd like to thank the following contributors to this issue: Kit Dunlap (Alpha Theta), Nancy Carroll (Theta), Irene Falite (Epsilon), Carol LaPolice (Alpha), Nanci Flaherty (Alpha Iota), Lynn Howard (Alpha Iota), and Diana Grady (Alpha Theta)

THANK YOU! Gail Saccone

We were delighted to welcome DKG North East Regional Director Carlo Herzog as our guest for the weekend. Bringing the International message of how women educators impact education worldwide, she helped extend our theme of revitalizing DKG goals through a thoughtful and intentional focus beyond Massachusetts.

As you might have noticed, the workshops knit together our theme from a focus on our families, to the students we serve, to extending our knowledge beyond our schools, to our connection, with DKG, to our international sisters.

And then, to cap it off, we heard from Gena Rotas, LICSW and author, on how to center ourselves, use our internal systems to find calmness and strength, and then to share this force with those around us. We found incredible power in her exercises, and were able to support Dorothea in strengthening her voice. It was a remarkable moment together.

It is my hope, as your next State President, to hold on to the power we found in ourselves on May 6, and bring it forward into this biennium. Things are not going to stay the same. I will be encouraging change, I will connect us with new partners, I will support questions and concerns, and I certainly will laugh and find joy in the journey.

Already, I'd like to thank Linda Stewart and JoAnne Butler for taking the courageous step of working with me to combine some of our traditional roles. Linda stepped up to become both Executive Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. JoAnne has agreed to remain Coordinating Council Chair and Directory organizer, and also mentor Tova Bendiksen as she takes on Membership Chair. These positions seem a natural fit for combinations.

You will be seeing changes in the agenda for our Board Meetings, that reflect consolidation of offices where appropriate, and that can be accomplished without amended by-laws.

Thank you for extending your kind best wishes and "We're Off!"

Your DKG Sister,

Jill Flanders

jillayneflanders@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

July 8, 2023 Saturday: **State Planning Meeting**

9:00-10:15 This will be a remote meeting.

October 21, 2023 Saturday: **Fall Conference**

9:00-3:00 At MSAA Offices, Franklin MA

The Executive Board Meeting will be held remotely on an evening to be determined.

February 3, 2024 Saturday: **Winter Board Meeting**

9:00-10:30 This will be a remote meeting.

May 11, 2024 Saturday: **Spring Conference**

9:00-3:30 At MSAA Offices, Franklin MA

The Executive Board Meeting will be held remotely before the conference day.

DKG MULTI-STATE CREATIVE ARTS RETREAT

Lynn Howard and Jill Flanders



Members of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island State Organizations are busy planning a Multi-State Creative Arts Retreat. The retreat will be held on Wednesday, August 9th 9:00-3:00 p.m. at the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. We hope to offer a variety of workshops (singing, dancing, painting, writing, cake decorating, storytelling etc.) We are currently looking for workshop presenters. If you would be available to do a one hour or two hour workshop please contact Lynn Howard via email at lynnphoward4@gmail.com or text via 781-901-9120 as soon as possible. More information about the Creative Arts Retreat will be sent out in the coming weeks.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS LEADING THE WAY

Whether you are a seasoned Chapter President or in your second year of your first biennium I hope you will join a President's Roundtable at our Fall Conference on October 21st to be held at the MA School Administrators Association offices in Franklin.

I will be in contact with each of you over the summer to get your ideas on what you would like to discuss, learn more about or focus on to make your year the best it can be for you and your chapter. Please don't hesitate to contact me before then if needed, I am a phone call or email away and more than willing to do a zoom meeting so we can meet prior to our Fall Conference, too!

Don't forget your DKG website has some handy Chapter President tools. *REMINDERS FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS* are available on the <https://dkg.org> website when you log in and go to *RESOURCES* and click on the dropdown menu and *DKG Presidents Resources* for forms, calendar of deadlines, leadership calendar and the Chapter Leaders Guidelines Booklet.

One of the duties of a Chapter President is to stay in touch with her executive board to oversee what is happening. This is not micromanaging, but exercising leadership skills and working to keep the chapter functioning at top efficiency. For example, if there is a change of chapter treasurers, the treasurer has the responsibility to contact International by email with the required form 110 at mem@dkg.org. The Chapter Treasurer completes the form 87 (interactive online) if there is a new incoming treasurer immediately so the new treasurer has timely access to the portal for the upcoming year. We, in turn, can help our Chapter Presidents with reminders, too! It takes a team to get the work done.

Carol LaPolice

MA State 2nd Vice President

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATE SPRING CONFERENCE May 5 and 6, 2023 1620 Hotel, Plymouth, MA



"REVITALIZING OURSELVES AND OUR PROFESSION"

Keynote Speaker, Gena M. Rotas, LICSW provided her insights for developing a balance between personal growth and professional responsibilities in a mindful manner. With over 29 years of diverse experiences in clinical social work, Ms Rotas focused on Mindful and Compassionate Life Coaching. She is the author of Love You: Small Changes to Quiet the Gremlins and Tame Those Unhealthy Habits, Behaviors, and Addictions.



Presenter Carolyn Herzog, NERD



Presenter Jennifer Hoffer, Alpha Theta



Past President Lynn Howard with Outgoing President Claire LaBonte



Celebration of Life Ceremony: Chair Gwen Miller, Anita Newman, and Christine Bonci

US FORUM NEWS

The US Forum had another year of insightful and timely online presentations. On May3 the Educational Excellence Committee and Forum members hosted a Virtual Teachers' Lounge (VTL) is Saturday, June 10 with a discussion on banned books. It was a great discussion and current information was shared. If you have a chance to attend any of these events the topics are relevant to all. The next VTL will be in the Fall. I will continue to send any information on online discussions, seminars and workshops from the US Forum or others I receive to Chapter Presidents for dissemination as I receive them. The most recent was sent on June 9, 2023 on the following: an informative workshop on the Federal Mental Health legislation as a result of our members across the nation working on this will be held on June 29th and a discussion on accountability and ethics for our organization will be held on June 17th. Preregistration is required for the zoom meetings.

Make this a priority now if you are a resident of the towns shared below!

The increase in the MA Retirement Cost of Living Adjustment COLA base Amendment 808 was withdrawn, but here's another opportunity to increase your well-deserved earnings now and for future retirees. You have a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment yearly. However...

There is a one-time additional 2% COLA notice in FY23 was sent out to Chapter Presidents for affected communities where local government need to vote for the increase. By contacting my council action is being undertaken in Hampden County. If you have county government both your local and 2/3 of the county locals need to vote yes. Contact your select board or Mayor if you live in these towns:

Hampden County: Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Palmer, Southwick, Tolland, Wales, and Wilbraham.

Plymouth County: Abington, Bridgewater, Carver, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Lakeville, Marion, Marshfield, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Norwell, Pembroke, Plympton, Rochester, Rockland, Scituate, Wareham, West Bridgewater, and Whitman.

Fairhaven: Select Board

Leominster: Mayor, City Council

Medford: Mayor, City Council

Melrose: Mayor, City Council

Swampscott: Select Board

Weymouth: Mayor, Town Council

Woburn: Mayor, City Council

There is no additional appropriation or new cost to the town. The COLA addition is only for FY23, approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Baker in FY22. The Social Security COLA in 2022 was 5.9% and 8.7% in 2023, applied to the full benefit. You are aware that MA public employees do not participate in Social Security and many receive little or no benefit at all due to the WEP/GPO.

Since most boards meet hold general meetings twice per month you need to do this now. The vote must be taken *before June 30, 2023*. The power of networking -credits to MassRetirees Association for getting this information out to retirees.

Thank you for helping out your fellow educators and future retirees, too!

Don't Miss This Workshop at the Detroit Conference:

DKG US Forum, Friday, July 14th at 2:45-4:45 PM will be presenting a workshop titled Grow Your Garden of Mental Wellness. DKG members with expertise on the topic will give you games and strategies to use in chapters as well as classrooms.

Information on the National Legislative Seminar (NLS), a biennial event will be announced. The dates for NLS March 10-13, 2024 in Alexandria, VA.

Wishing you a delightful summer,

Carol LaPolice, State 2nd VP

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE LIVING MEMORIAL FUND

Submitted by G'tanya Small ~Chairperson

It's time to get back out there ladies! Is there a conference, workshop, or convention that you have been eyeing and would like to attend. If so, the Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund would like to help. Whether the event is near or far, teaching related or of personal interests we can help.

It's easy to apply, go to alupsma.weebly.com . Click on the "hamburger icon" in the upper left corner. Click on the Christa McAuliffe link. There you will find the link to download the application. Follow the directions for submission. The committee will review your application. If approved, you will be notified regarding the amount of your reimbursement award.

Recently, the committee has been able to award more than 75% of the requested amount. The committee determines the amount of the reimbursement based on how much money there is in the fund and the number of applicants. The 2022 Christa McAuliffe Living Memorial Fund recipient, Meghan Aycok, received 75% of the amount she requested in order to attend the ATIA Conference in Orlando, FL. There she learned about new technologies to support the visually impaired students she teaches.

Once you complete the application process, go to your chosen event...ENJOY! Upon your return submit receipts, write an article for the Baystater about your adventure and attend a Massachusetts State Organization DKG meeting to accept your award. If you would like to share what you learned with others, we would love to have you present at a DKG state meeting. Your name and expertise will be entered into our state speakers bureau database as someone that could possibly conduct a workshop session in the future.

So, find a topic that you would like to know more about and fill out the application today.

~~BAYSTATEMENTS~~

THETA

Submitted by Nancy Carroll

In September, 2022 to kick off the year, Theta members gathered for some Fall Flower Fun! Led by Alana Trudell, (owner of "Blooms by Faith" and daughter-in-law of Chapter President Peggy Trudell). Theta participants learned how best to create an arrangement. The choosing of the dried flowers was especially fun and there was lots of conversation while trying to decide and which flowers each member would use for their own dried flower bouquets. Alana shared all sorts of information about the flower assortment that was available to us. Not sure who said it, but it's true, "Flowers and friends make life more beautiful!" This was a wonderful for our members to connect.

In late November, Theta Chapter continued their annual Literacy Meeting. Through various book donations and the generosity of the Theta Members, we were able to purchase of \$900 worth of books to donate to area food pantries and shelters. During the meeting we separate books according to age level and bundle them up. Along with donating books, Theta Chapter has continued its tradition of donating to the organization, Dignity Matters. Dignity Matters with donations as well. Dignity Matters is a "non-profit organization that collects, purchases and supplies menstrual products, bras and underwear to women and girls who are homeless or disadvantaged, in order to help them stay healthy, regain self-confidence, and live with basic dignity." We are proud to support these two worthy projects.

April found the Theta members learning how to build fabulous Charcuterie boards. The instructor was no other than Adam Munroe of Perfect Strangers Boston. He created several boards right in front of us and taught us how to build the perfect charcuterie board. The best part of course, was the sampling afterwards. Who doesn't live some wine, cheese and chocolate!

Finally in June, we had our End of the Year dinner at Conrad's in Walpole. We began with a simple welcome and then held a Necrology Service for our dear, dear member Caroline Kiessling. She is truly missed by all of our members and has left a hole in our Chapter. After dinner our Guest speaker, Dolores Sheehan, owner of Wacky Women Wanderers of Norwood spoke about traveling. She gave some tips and tricks about traveling and then shared some of the experiences of her company. We sang happy birthday and had cake to celebrate Mary Rockwood Brady's 90th birthday. To end our evening we sang the DKG Song, led by Kathy Davis.

We have had a wonderful year full of a variety of activities. Looking forward to next year!.



ETA *Submitted by Jo-Anne Butler*

Eta chapter is pleased to finally be meeting in-person. At our March meeting we were honored to have a very interesting author, Beth Luey who spoke on her latest book: “**A House of Her Own: Women Writers in New England**”. She was warmly received and provided many interesting stories about many of the Women writers of New England.

Our April meeting hosted Jeanne LaRock, a nurse practitioner, who gave a very informative presentation on current women’s issues.

Finally, in May we held an induction ceremony and brought 4 new members into the Eta Chapter: Julie Couture, Mary Hough, Maryanne Kepinski and Rosemarie Santos. A Ceremony of Life service was done for 12 of our Chapter members including the three Past State Presidents, Patricia Bologna, Beverly Shaw Johnson, and Elvoid Mayers. A beautiful touching slide show prepared by Jo-Anne Butler was presented to honor those members who have passed since the Covid Pandemic. Following a lovely dinner, the entertainment for the evening was a presentation by Lucy Bly and Judy Roderiques on **The New Bedford Whaling and Hawaii Connection**. The presentation was done in clothing and the dialect and demure of the 1850’s. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

Sadly, Eta Chapter lost 2 beloved dedicated members in the end of May: Janet Ratcliffe, who was a member for 72 years, the oldest membership in the State, passed on May 29th 2023 at the age of 105. Many of the older members of the State

would surely remember Janet – she was an instrumental part of the music programs and chorus in Alpha Upsilon State. Janet was very active in our chapter until the age of 103. She surely is conducting the celestial choir now. Marie Madden who transferred into Eta after her chapter was dissolved was initiated in 1970. Both these ladies will be missed.

Eta provided books for each of 550 underprivileged students for this year's Dr. Seuss Day/Read Across America at the Hayden McFadden School. The students were very excited to have a book of their very own to take home. Our chapter plans to continue the endeavors of our Literacy Programs that started 15years to help promote literacy in our community.



Lucy Bly & Judy Roderigues from the
New Bedford Whaling and Hawaii



New Members: Julie Couture, Mary Hough,
Maryanne Kepinski, Rosemarie Santos



State Presidents: Joan Park (1977), Donna Brown (1991), and Jill Flanders (2023-25)



ALPHA THETA *Submitted by Kit Dunlap*

Nine chapter members attended the Spring Convention in Plymouth. Two members took part in the necrology service. Jessica Lupien read a poem and Past State President, Dr. Anita Newman, sang. Jennifer Hoffer gave a workshop that took members on her journey through DKG.

We held a potluck supper in April with a grand variety of foods. Our speaker was Lorrie Renker who spoke on Slavery in Colonial Massachusetts. We wrapped up the year with dinner and fellowship at Morin's in Attleboro.

The executive board's planning meeting filled in the calendar of places and programs for next year, subject to change of course. One of our favorites is retiree luncheon in January/February at La Familia in Taunton.



Jessica Lupien



Jennifer Hoffer

ALPHA IOTA *Submitted by Nanci Flaherty*

Alpha Iota has been very busy this past spring with events. Beginning in March, Alpha Iota met at the Tufts Library in Weymouth to create dignity bags for our charity Circle of Hope. Through Circle of Hope, adults are provided with bags containing personal items for their daily needs. Alpha Iota has been a proud supporter of this charity for several years.. Also during this meeting, we created floral centerpieces with items from the Dollar Tree. It was a fun, cost effective way of creating decor for the home. We wrapped up the event with lunch at Precinct 10 where we had a chance to socialize and catch up with each other.

Alpha Iota is currently planning our 50th Anniversary Celebration at Mia Regazza in Marshfield on June 24, 2023. The planning committee is putting together a fun presentation to celebrate this milestone.

Future plans for upcoming membership meetings and activities will be shared when plans are finalized but we are working on them. Also, we are looking for members to become more active in our committees and Executive Board. Current EBoard offices run through May 2024. Please reach out if interested or even curious. We'd be happy for anyone to attend our EBoard meetings, which occur both on zoom (winter months) and in person (warmer weather).

ALPHA IOTA PICTURES ON NEXT PAGE



EPSILON *Submitted by Irene Frangos Falite*

Happy Summer! Enjoy this beautiful season with your favorite activities in the sunshine. It's time for relaxation.

Our Sisters recently held a wonderful Scholarship dinner meeting on May 24th at the Wardhurst Restaurant in Peabody, Ma. A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all. We honored our Scholarship recipient, Magdalena Polska from Classical High School in Lynn, Ma. our Educator's Scholarship. She is a fine young lady who excelled in academics and is an accomplished violinist. Magdalena was a member of the high school orchestra and band, swim team, diving team, and played field hockey. She was also a Middle School teaching assistant, a church group volunteer, a member of the Future Teachers of America and the Educators Rising club. The Scholarship committee was impressed with Magdalena's academics and variety of involvement and chose her as their candidate. She was most gracious and appreciative of this scholarship and will attend Salem State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. We wish her much happiness and success as she moves forward.

In August, we will meet to plan for the next year.

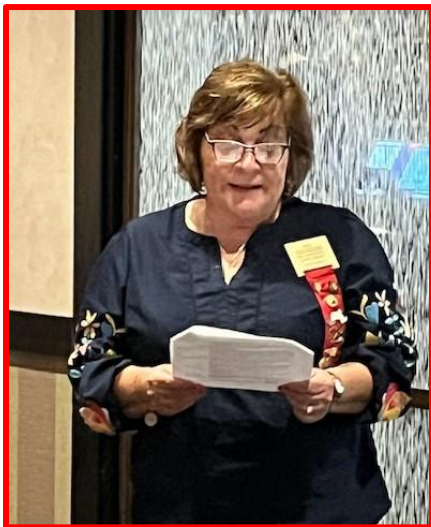


ALPHA *Submitted by Carol LaPolice*

Alpha Chapter celebrated their end of the year with a dinner at the 110 Grill in Holyoke, MA. A quick viewing of Vimeo of Alpha, State and International events was followed by great dinners and a meeting presided by President Elaine Karalekas. Highlights included a report of a fantastic tag sale fundraiser chaired by Dr. Sharon MacDonald. She also chaired the Grants-in-Aid Committee for High School Seniors. Grants are given to those who will major in educational fields and are chosen by the guidance department of their high schools. Six \$200 grants were given this year! Two new members were inducted into the chapter in a beautiful candlelight and rose ceremony organized by newly retired 2nd Vice President Elaine Squeglia. Karen Amato recently retired from the Springfield Public Schools and her mentee, Michaela Ryan who completed her first year of teaching at Balliet School were inducted. Congratulations also go to Jennifer Montano, Alpha Recording Secretary, on her retirement as principal in the Springfield School System and to BetDanforth who served as Alpha Chapter Treasurer for 8 years!

Retirees held a luncheon at UNO Pizzeria on June 6th. Pictured (below) seated outside enjoying a beautiful day are our Past State President Marilyn Spedding; Recording Secretary, Dr. Sharon MacDonald; 2nd Vice President Carol LaPolice. Standing are Past Chapter President Kathy Balakier; and Past State President Gwen Miller, new State President, Jill Flanders; Laura Aiello.

We will be having an ice cream social on June 23 at Elsie's Creamery in Ludlow at 2:00 P.M. Voted one of the best in the area so anyone coming this way, feel free to join us. It is located at Randall's farm & Green house on Center Street.



Carol LaPolice, 1st VP



Elaine Squeglia, 2nd VP



Elaine Karalekas, President



Katie Dell'Olio



Inductees Katie Amato and Michaela Ryan

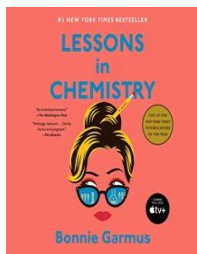


Standing: Past Chapter Pres. Kathy Balakier, Past State Pres. Gwen Miller,
New State Pres. Jill Flanders, Laura Aiello
Seated: Past State Pres. Marilyn Spedding, State Recording Secretary Sharon
MacDonald, State 2nd VP Carol LaPolice

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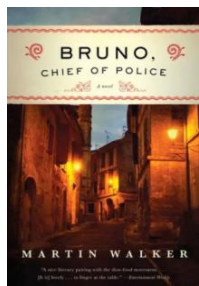
THE DKG BOOK CLUB

Upcoming Books



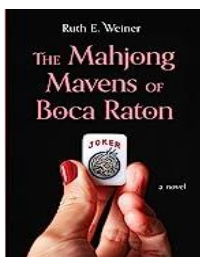
JULY: LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY by Bonnie Garmus

All's fair in love and chemistry. It's 1960s California and there are certain things that women just don't do. When scientist Elizabeth Zott finds herself the host of a television cooking show, she kicks off a revolution that does more than just challenge the status quo.



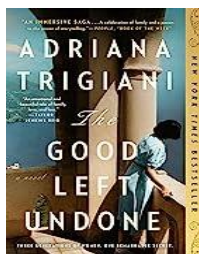
AUGUST: BRUNO CHIEF OF POLICE by Martin Walker

The first installment in the delightful, internationally acclaimed series featuring Chief of Police Bruno. Meet Benoît Courrèges, aka Bruno, a policeman in a small village in the South of France. He's a former soldier who has embraced the pleasures and slow rhythms of country life. He has a gun but never wears it; he has the power to arrest but never uses it. But then the murder of an elderly North African who fought in the French army changes all that.



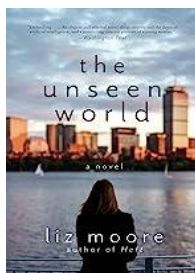
SEPTEMBER: THE MAH JONG MAVENS OF BOCA RATON by Ruth Weiner

Seventy-eight-year-old Mavis rides a motorcycle, smokes a stogie, and swears like a sailor. Eighty-four-year-old Blooma bakes tasty strudel, as long as she doesn't confuse the sugar with the salt. Nothing satisfies sixty-eight-year-old Gertrude who complains that the early bird specials aren't early enough. And seventy-two-year-old Winnie stands as rigid as a clothes hanger on a designer rack.



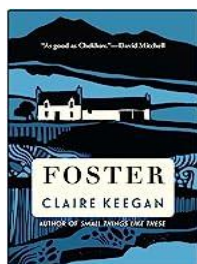
OCTOBER: THE GOOD LIFE LEFT UNDONE by Adriana Trigiani

Matelda, the Cabrelli family's matriarch, has always been brusque and opinionated. Now, as she faces the end of her life, she is determined to share a long-held secret with her family about her own mother's great love story: with her childhood friend, Silvio, and with dashing Scottish sea captain John Lawrie McVicar. **Adriana Trigiani will speak at UMass Dartmouth on October 15.**



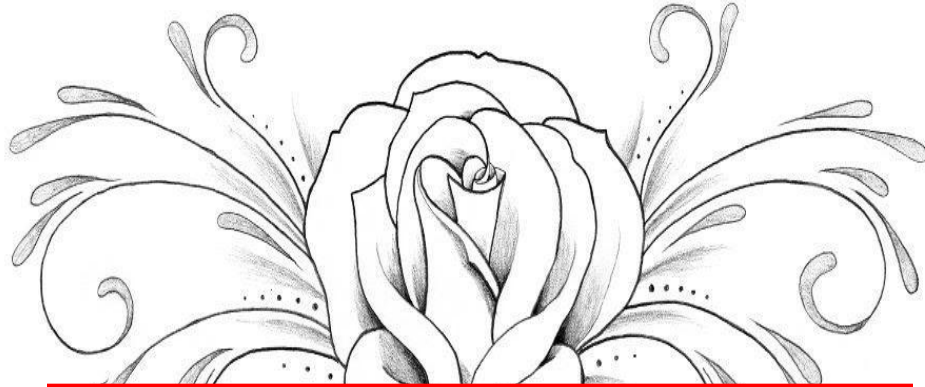
NOVEMBER : THE UNSEEN WORLD by Liz Moore

Ada Sibelius embarks on a mission to uncover her father's secrets: a process that carries her from childhood to adulthood. What Ada discovers on her journey into a virtual universe will keep the reader riveted until *The Unseen World's* heart-stopping, fascinating conclusion.



DECEMBER: FOSTER by Claire Keegan

Claire Keegan's piercing contemporary classic *Foster* is a heartbreaking story of childhood, loss, and love; a story of astonishing emotional depth, *Foster* showcases Keegan's great talent.



WHITE ROSE MEMORIAM
~A life that touches others goes on forever~

	2023	<i>Joined</i>	<i>Died</i>
<i>ETA</i>	<i>Marie Madden</i>	<i>May 1, 1970</i>	<i>May 27, 2023</i>
<i>ETA</i>	<i>Janet Ratcliffe</i>	<i>May 1, 1951</i>	<i>May 29, 2023</i>



Janet Ratcliffe, ETA, as a 72-year member Janet was the longest member in the state.



Marie Madden, ETA, 53-year member.