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**LWVCCA CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE**

November is [Native American Heritage Month](#). Efforts to proclaim a national day to honor First Americans began in the early 1900s. Red Fox James, a Blackfoot indigenous man, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for such a day. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. However, no action was taken until about a year later when the first American Indian Day was declared on the second Saturday by the governor of New York.

Since then, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.”

Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”), have been issued each year since 1994: “The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.”

Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard share the homeland of two federally recognized Wampanoag tribes, [Mashpees](#) and [Aquinnahs](#) as well as the tribal lands of one state recognized tribe, [Herring Pond](#): “These are the surviving tribes of the Wampanoag Nation which includes present day Southeastern Massachusetts and Eastern Rhode Island. Over 67 distinct tribal communities once inhabited these lands for more than 12,000 years. The Wampanoag people have undergone a very difficult history after assisting the Pilgrims in the early 1600s. Today, only six visible tribal communities remain in Massachusetts but they’re “still here,” maintaining their physical and cultural presence in their homelands, restoring and sharing their history and culture.” ([Wampanoag History: We Are Still Here](#)).

Linking these tribal communities through preservation efforts is essential for the survival of the language and many arts and traditions of their people. The Mashpee tribe currently has approximately 3,209 enrolled tribal members. Recently, multiple tribal members stepped to the microphone in [Mashpee Town Meeting](#) to urge the town to transfer [four town-owned parcels of land \(13+ acres\)](#), to Tribal jurisdiction. The article passed easily.

We encourage you to celebrate indigenous people and learn more about their history and

present day political engagement. And please support the [Mass Indigenous Legislative Agenda](#): The LWVMA supports [four of the five racial justice bills](#) before the Legislature.

November 7 is the [Barnstable Town Council](#) election, with all 13 seats up for vote. The Voter Service Committee has been busy with GOTV activities for this election: see the committee's article in this issue. LWVCCA hosted two forums in October:

- ICE Out of MA forum.  
See the article in this issue, which links to the video.
- Media, MisInformation, and the Protection of Democracy, 2nd in the Dr. Florence Seldin "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport" Speaker Series.  
See the article in this issue, which links to the video.

On October 28, LWVMA DEI Peer Group Quarterly meeting, Jeanne Morrison, Zippy Ostroy (LWV Brookline), and Marguerite Chatelier (LWV Brookline) presented an outline for discussion of how LWV members can work intentionally toward achieving diversity in the League.

Jeanne and Mary continue work with League members (including Falmouth) and diverse organizations to plan International Women's Day Breakfast on March 8, 2024, 7:00-9:30 am, at the Hyannis Resort and Conference Center. More information will be provided in the coming months: please *save the date!*

Jeanne is co-chair of the LWVMA Reparations Committee; Mary, Deb Dagwan, and Meghan Hanawalt (LWV Falmouth) are also on the committee. The Cape is well represented with 4 of the 11 committee members! In the spring, local leagues will be recruited to participate in this important study. Stay tuned.

And finally, Natalia Frois interviewed Jeanne on her [local TV show](#) to spread the word to the Portuguese-speaking community about the ICE Out of MA presentation and encourage qualified voters to register and vote in the Barnstable town elections. For her audience, Natalia (who has

interpreted events for us) interpreted Jeanne's responses. As Natalia mentioned on her show, Jeanne was awarded one of the [Six Over 60](#) awards presented by the [Cape Cod Women's Association](#) in recognition of their achievements. Congratulations, Jeanne.

*Jeanne and Mary*

Jeanne Morrison  
Mary Hunter Utt  
Co-Presidents, LWVCCA

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

[Native American Heritage Month](#)

[Daylight Savings time Ends](#)

SUNDAY November 5 | 92:00 a.m.

[Board Meeting](#)

TUESDAY November 7 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

[Veterans Day](#)

SATURDAY November 11

### UPCOMING

[Board Meeting](#)

TUESDAY December 5 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Zoom conference by invitation

[Holiday Brunch](#)

SATURDAY December 9 | 1:30 p.m.

Family Table Collaborative.

Details to Follow! Stay Tuned!

**To see our entire Google calendar, go to**

<http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar>.

**NOTE:** Click on "Agenda" to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

## DID YOU KNOW—?

Following decades of informational programs, research, proposed bills, and advocacy by patients and healthcare providers in Massachusetts, An Act Relative to End of Life Options (H.2246/S.1331) has been filed in both the Massachusetts House and Senate. Introduced in January 2023, this bill would authorize mentally capable adults with a terminal illness and a prognosis of six months or less to live to request medical aid in dying—a prescription for self-ingested medication in order to die peacefully in their sleep. One of the national advocacy groups for medical aid in dying—Compassion & Choices—maintains the position that an option to decide and apply for “medical aid in dying” is not the same as “physician-assisted suicide” or “euthanasia”. One important difference is that medical aid in dying requires the patient to ingest prescribed medication themselves and to remain in control of the process.

Confirming past research completed by the Boston Globe/Suffolk University and others, Boston-based Beacon Research published a 2023 survey reporting that nearly three out of four Massachusetts voters (73%) support a bill allowing terminally ill, mentally competent adults to have the option of medical aid in dying in order to end unbearable suffering. Nearly eight out of ten voters (79%) supported the bill after learning about its safeguards—written and oral application, strict guidelines for witnessing applications, penalties for coercion, diagnosis confirmation, physician consultation, waiting periods, and counseling requirements.

Studies show that, in the 25 years since Oregon approved the first Death with Dignity law in the nation, there has not been a proven case of coercion or abuse. Over the past decade, data from 10 additional states and D.C. with similar laws confirm this. Last December, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey added her support for medical aid in dying. So far, Rep. Flanagan, Rep. Fernandes, Sen. Cyr, and Sen. Moran from our Cape Cod delegation are petitioners for this bill. The bill is currently with the Joint Committee on Public Health, chaired by Sen. Cyr.

The LWVMA supports this bill. The League believes in individual liberties as established in the Constitution, including a citizen’s right to personal bodily autonomy in medical treatment. People must be free to make healthcare decisions for themselves. Read about the End of Life Options Act [here](#).

*Submitted by* Carole Young-Kleinfeld

## DAY ON THE HILL



*Suzanne Brock, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, and Rosemary Shields at the LWVMA “Day on the Hill”*

Three of us —Suzanne Brock, Rosemary Shields, and I— met at 6:45 am at the West Barnstable Park & Ride (the former Exit 6 Commuter Lot), hoping to beat the traffic to Boston. WRONG. Nevertheless, after a missed exit in the Tip O’Neil Tunnel and a brief foray into Charlestown and Kendall Square in Cambridge, we arrived at the Capitol.

Thanks to Senator Cyr’s staff, we were assigned a parking spot easily accessible to the Hooker Entrance, near the auditorium for the LWVMA’s opening session. Jennifer Muroff, Chair of the Legislative Action Committee, emceed the program that highlighted pending legislation on gun safety, maternal health, PFAS, and Same Day Registration. Senator Cindy Creem— a Brookline League member herself—welcomed us and thanked us for lobbying to make voting easier, public places and homes safer, healthcare more equitable, and water cleaner.

Jen and the LWVMA Board, who arranged meetings with our Senators and State Representatives, offered hand-outs for our legislators, bill summaries, and invaluable State House maps. We snapped group photos and the three of us set out to meet with Senator Cyr's staff.

Mr. Cyr is Assistant Majority Whip and represents most of the Cape Cod and Islands. Alex Nalley—the Senator's legislative director and deputy chief counsel—was welcoming, knowledgeable, and receptive to our questions. We shared personal experiences pertinent to the proposed bills and extended our thanks to Senator Cyr for his public health work on both PFAS and maternal health bills. We look forward to seeing the forthcoming Senate's firearm safety bill.

Sticking together, we passed the State House's Grand Staircase and its Hall of Flags (featuring flags from each Commonwealth town and city) on our way to Representative Xiarhos's office. In his absence, Rep. Xiarhos (Barnstable's 5th District and Carole's State Rep.) had asked his legislative aide Stuart Daniels to meet with us. We had a friendly discussion of our positions, once again urging his support for the gun safety omnibus bill and thanking him for a recent conference call arranged by Renate Sands, another constituent from our League. Stuart promised to brief Rep. Xiarhos about our meeting.

It's SO easy to get disoriented in the immense State House, with its central rotunda, separate east/west wings, and complicated elevator banks. Our stops ranged from the fifth floor in one wing to the sub-basement in the opposite wing. Thankfully, each time we got lost, there were historic murals, sculpture, and architectural marvels everywhere to compensate for the confusion, as well as help from staffers to direct us.

We lucked out by encountering Rep. Chris Flanagan (Barnstable's 1st District and Suzanne's State Rep.) just as he was walking out his door to look for us! He and his Chief of Staff Courtney Butler talked about our bills, explained some complicated legislative procedures, and expressed support for all of our priorities.

Finally, Rosemary successfully scouted out the office of Rep. Sarah Peake, Barnstable's 4th District and Second Assistant Majority Leader, in Room 7 (Try to find it the next time you're there!) and shared the League's materials with the Representative's staff. Next stop, outdoor lunch at the historic building called the 21st Amendment Restaurant—where Louisa May Alcott stayed when it was a hotel, where John Kerry has a burger named for him, and where JFK reportedly wrote a few of his speeches. On to Cape Cod and home.

*Submitted by Carole Young-Kleinfeld*

## "DEMOCRACY is Not a SPECTATOR SPORT" SPEAKER SERIES

How do you  
decide what  
to believe?



**MEDIA,  
MISINFORMATION  
AND THE  
PROTECTION OF  
DEMOCRACY**

### Recording Now Available



The second annual event in the Dr. Florence Seldin "Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport" Speaker Series was held October 14 with approximately 75 people in attendance. The forum on Media, Misinformation, and the Protection of Democracy featured our speakers, Dr. Joan Donovan, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Emerging Studies at Boston University, and Dan Kennedy, Professor of

Journalism at Northeastern University. Each of them gave excellent presentations and communicated their expertise in a clear and relatable manner. Feedback through survey information and conversation with attendees was very positive.

The event was recorded by Falmouth Community TV and prepared for viewing by Richard Utt, who has now made it available on the LWVCCA YouTube Channel, which you can view by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W-117s3--g&t=1s>

The topic of misinformation and disinformation is a very timely topic as the internet and social media has proliferated it exponentially. Many organizations are offering presentations on this topic including the GBH Forum Network, which featured Dr. Donovan and Dr. Lee McIntyre in a program called Beyond Belief. AARP is featuring a webinar on Tips for Being News Savvy Online. The News Literacy Project features a website and many webinars dealing with this topic. Similarly, the topic of preserving local independent news that Dan Kennedy addressed is also gaining attention as an urgent problem and Mr. Kennedy provided several examples of local independent papers that were started in Massachusetts and New England.

In the question and answer period, a student asked, "What can a single individual do about the problem of misinformation?" While pointing out that this problem is bigger than one person can solve and that it will take a whole of society approach to address this problem, Dr. Donovan did conclude that on a personal level, people can take responsibility for making sure that they are getting their news from trusted sources. Our committee provided some tools in the program handout that we gave the audience participants that can help individuals be more mindful of the accuracy of the news sources they are using. Those resources are provided below.

- "[FactCheck.org](https://www.factcheck.org/) is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the university of Pennsylvania, a nonpartisan, nonprofit

consumer advocate for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. Politics. We monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TVads, debates, speeches, interview and news releases."

- [Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com/)- "The definitive Internet reference source for urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation."
- PolitiFact at [politifact.com](https://www.politifact.com/)- This Pulitzer Prize winning website rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials. Run by editors and reporters from the independent newspaper Tampa Bay Times, it features the Truth-O-Meter that rates the accuracy of statements.
- MediaBias/FactCheck at [mediabiasfactcheck.com](https://www.mediabiasfactcheck.com/)- A bias rating resource with multiple fake news checking apps. It is a source to check the bias of one's favorite news websites.
- The News Literacy Project at [newslit.org](https://www.newslit.org/)- The Library of Congress awarded NLP their highest literacy award, the David M. Rubenstein award in recognition of the project's "outstanding efforts to help people of all ages identify misinformation and stop its spread."
- The Media Manipulation Casebook is a digital research platform linking together theory, methods, and practice for mapping media manipulation and disinformation campaigns. This resource is intended for researchers, journalists, technologists, policymakers, educators, and civil society organizers who want to learn about detecting, documenting, describing, and debunking misinformation, disinformation, and media manipulation.
- NOTE: The Media Manipulation Casebook was a project of the Technology and Social Change Project, which was active from 2019-2023. The Casebook will remain at this URL as a publicly accessible resource, but is no longer being updated as of September 1, 2023. It can be found at <https://mediamanipulation.org/>.

*Submitted by Karen Mazza*

## ICE Out of MA Forum

### Recording Now Available

On Wednesday, October 18, our League, collaborating with several other organizations, hosted a public education forum by the ACLU of MA describing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agreements in Massachusetts, their chilling effects on migrants who legally reside in the Commonwealth, and the importance of H.1401/S.997 "An Act Relative to Massachusetts State Sovereignty," which ends ICE detention agreements in MA.

Specifically, the Section 287(g) program allows state and local law enforcement agencies to engage in federal immigration enforcement activities. The ACLU has strongly opposed the 287(g) program, believing it has led to illegal racial profiling and civil rights abuses while diverting scarce resources from traditional local law enforcement functions and distorting immigration enforcement priorities.

To date, individual county sheriffs -- who are elected officials -- have the authority to enter into these agreements. Our current Sheriff Donna Buckley campaigned on a promise to end her predecessor's 287(g) agreement with ICE. She kept this promise, but a successor in her office could decide to enter into such an agreement. In fact, the office of the Plymouth County Sheriff in September extended its federal contract to detain immigrants.

The ICE Out of MA forum was a collaborative effort of the LWVCCA (Jeanne Morrison and Mary Hunter Utt) and the Nauset Interfaith Association Refugee Support Team (Rod Macdonald, Karen Boujoukos, and Nancy Dann). The presentation was authored and given by Javier Luengo-Garrido, Organizing Strategist, and Olivia Santoro, Community Outreach Strategist, both of the ACLU of MA. Spanish and Portuguese interpretation was provided by Jeb Mays and Natalya Frois. Richard Utt of the LWVCCA provided the technical support for the Zoom session. We had 40 registrations and 15 attendees; we shared the link to the video with all registrations.

The recording of the program is at [YouTube: ICE Out of MA](#).

As we did at the end of the program, we ask that you write your legislators in support of H.1401/S.997, "An Act Relative to Massachusetts State Sovereignty."

The ACLU of Mass provides an easy way to do this on their website, at [ACLU Action: MA ICE Detention](#). Simply fill out the form, modify the sample message if you wish, click Submit Message, and your message will be sent automatically to your legislators.

Mary Hunter Utt, Co-President, LWVCCA

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

On Monday, October 2 the Barnstable town hall agreed to host the League's candidates forums later in the month. The Voter Service Committee then had to hustle, contacting all the candidates of the 6 contested races for the upcoming Barnstable election. Unfortunately, only Precinct 11's candidates were available on October 24. We did get commitments from half the candidates in Precincts 1, 2, 5, 9 and 12 but the other half were either out of town, having day surgery or "busy." The League is not permitted to hold "empty seat" forums, we need at least 2 candidates for each race. It was crushing to us but we worked with what we had. Planning and executing one candidates forum is as much work as planning six but we were determined to honor our commitment to the candidates of Precinct 11, Kristine Clark and Toby Leary. The day after Columbus Day the candidates sent back the League's agreement form on the format of the meeting. With that assurance, we felt confident to blanket our press release to the media and the League's coalition partners. The result was thus:

<https://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/10794?channel=1>



We were disappointed with audience attendance but those who were there had excellent questions. The candidates were appreciative of our format and by the added bonus that the proceedings were broadcast, recorded and will be televised several more times before the election. And we all got coverage from the Cape Cod Times:

[Barnstable Precinct 11 candidates make their cases at League of Women Voters forum](#)



**Barnstable Precinct 11 candidates make their cases at League of Women Vo...**

Housing and the environment are hot topics at Barnstable Precinct 11 candidates forum with Kristine Clark and To...

We believe that we have established a good relationship with the Barnstable town hall and that we will be able to follow up in future elections. We want to thank Anita Rogers, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Tova Soyt, Debbie Winnock, Janet McCroskery and Mary O'Connor for attending and giving support to the forum.

\* \* \* \* \*

On the morning of October 20, Anita Rogers, Susan Cameron and Rosemary Shields set up a Voter Information / Registration table at the Dennis Yarmouth (DY) Regional High School. We are coordinating with Cape Cod Five's "Credit for

Life" program for seniors and will be going to more high schools in November and December. At DY we gave out innumerable voter-registration-status cards and many of the students checked to see that they were already registered. Probably because most people who get driver's licenses are automatically registered to vote (via the MA Automatic Voter Registration law). If the students don't have a driver's license, we register them with a paper registration card or have them take the card home if they don't know their social security number. We saw dozens of students and their energy and enthusiasm was stimulating.



Susan Cameron at our Voter Information table at Dennis Yarmouth High School

\* \* \* \* \*

And, finally, the highlights are in for 2023 National Voter Registration Day:

We were one of 3,000 community partners that included 18,000 volunteers nationwide. There were 130,000 new and updated voter registrations with over 300,000 registration checks. See a description of our participation at Cape Cod Community College in October's *Voter*.



*Submitted by*  
Lynne Pleffner and Rosemary Shields  
Co-Chairs Voter Service Committee

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members,

For those of you who have noticed an upsurge of “Action Alerts” from both the LWVMA and the LWVCCA, you will probably realize that things have been moving hot and heavily in the Statehouse. It has been crazy! Carole and I have been to Boston twice this month. The first time was with the Coalition Against Gun Violence, to lobby our legislative coalition for better gun legislation. The second time, Carole and I were joined by Rosemary to take part in the MA State League Lobby Day. (See “Day on the Hill” article) That day we focused on four pieces of legislation, gun legislation again, elections and voting, maternal health and the PFAS legislation. League members from all over the state were present and at least in the gun legislation area, our voices were heard.

The Legislative Committee has continued to be busy behind the scenes following our bills and writing testimony to the committees at the State House where hearings were taking place. Sometimes we only get a couple of days’ notice for new hearings being scheduled. To date we have submitted 31 pieces of testimony. In many cases, you will get a request from us to contact your legislator regarding a current piece of legislation. The Legislative Committee thanks those of you who are able to send off an email or make a call. As many of you are aware, our efforts sometimes pay off. Congratulations to all who helped to get the House to pass H.4135, the revised gun legislation. However, that does not mean that our work is finished. The bill now goes to the Senate where they may accept it, amend it or create something on their own which would then have to be reconciled. So keep your calls and emails going to our Senators.

In addition to following bills, writing testimony and meeting with legislators at the State House some of our members met via Zoom with Rep. Xiarhos regarding the two domestic violence bills, [H.1547/S.1077](#) *An Act to Improve Protections Relative to Domestic Violence*, which would update the definition of domestic violence to include coercive control and technological abuse and H.1399/S.1079 which would restrict litigation abuses.

Jen Muroff, LWVMA Legislative Action Committee Chair, organized this meeting for Renate Sands, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Eileen Elias, Phyllis Helfrich and Margot Critchfield who are constituents of Rep. Xiarhos. Prior to the meeting he was in support of H.1547/S.1077 only. Hopefully their frank discussion was able to sway him to support both bills.

Going forward, the Health Committee and the Legislative Committee are working together to put together a forum for the spring focused on the End of Life Options legislation [H.2246/S.1331](#) *An Act Relative to End of Life Options*. The Governor is in favor of this legislation with the proper safeguards in place. The forum will address the legislation and how it will function if passed. In addition, the spring is the usual time for the Legislative Committee to host its Legislative Event. The planning for this will be discussed at our Legislative Committee meeting next week.

Thank you, members, for your support when requested, and Legislative Committee members for your ongoing efforts in staying on top of the bills on our list.

There is always more to do,  
Sue Brock – Legislative Chair

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCCA Health and Legislative Committees are planning for the April 2024 Compassionate Care Forum per the End-of-Life Options Act in partnership with the North East Compassionate Care Organization. This important and advocacy and education-based Forum will explain the Act and address its benefits and concerns. This Act has been discussed by the Massachusetts Legislature over numerous sessions. If passed, the Act would give certain patients the right to medical aid in dying.

Those interested in getting involved and addressing health matters, do join the Health Committee by contacting Eileen Elias, Chair at [eileen.elias@comcast.net](mailto:eileen.elias@comcast.net).



## HOLIDAY BRUNCH

### Save the Date!

Planning for the annual holiday event is proceeding for Saturday December 9, at 1:30pm.

**More details are coming soon!**



[Family Table Collaborative](#),  
1338 MA-28,  
South Yarmouth,  
MA 02664



The speaker will be Julia Johnson, of the  
[Zion Union Heritage Museum](#)

Our speaker will be Julia Johnson, the Acting President of the Zion Union Heritage Museum in Hyannis, a place filled with Cape history and art. The museum celebrates the African-American and Cape Verdean population as well as other ethnic and demographic diversity of the Town of Barnstable and Cape Cod. It is unique among the many Cape museums, and is housed in a building with a singular story of its own. Debra Dagwan and Mati Ligon will provide a brief summary of that background and will introduce Julia in her new role at a venue that TripAdvisor calls “one of the hidden gems of the Cape...the real heritage of a nation in transition...[with] unique and thoughtful exhibits like no other in the country.” We look forward to a rich and enlightening presentation.

*Submitted by Program V.P. Patricia Burke*

## DEI Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is holding its first meeting of this LWVCCA year

- Wednesday, November 1, 2023
- 2:00 pm Eastern Time
- via Zoom

We are looking for additional members to serve as liaisons with committees and groups within LWVCCA.

Please contact Mary O'Connor at [moconnor8cox@gmail.com](mailto:moconnor8cox@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us (even if you are reading this after November 1 st !!).

*Submitted by DEI Chair Mary O'Connor*

**LWVCCA Board & Contact information**

**LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2023-2024**

**Officers for 2023-2024**

<b>Co-Presidents</b>	Mary Hunter Utt and Jeanne Morrison
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	
<b>Programs</b>	Patricia Burke
<b>Operations</b>	Sue Cameron
<b>Treasurer</b>	Amy Harris
<b>Co-Secretaries</b>	Laura Lerner Debbie Winnick *

**Committee Chairs:**

<b>Membership</b>	Mati Ligon
<b>Voter Service</b>	Rosemary Shields Lynne Pleffner
<b>Youth Service</b>	Karen Mazza
<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>	Mary O'Connor
<b>Communications, Newsletter</b>	Richard Utt

**Members At Large:**

Madeline Zevon Carole Young-Kleinfeld
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**Off-Board Committee Chairs**

<b>Legislation</b>	Suzanne Brock *
<b>Housing</b>	Open *
<b>Florence Seldin Lecture Series</b>	Karen Mazza *
<b>Health</b>	Eileen Elias *

\* = Off-Board

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