

International Women's Day March 8, 2022
International Women's Club of New England
Women We Admire

Cindy Sayers:

I admire the suffragists at the turn of the last century who worked tirelessly to give women in our country and our state the right to vote. My admiration for them knows no bounds as I think of what they endured to deliver me to the ballot box.

Based on this history, my present day inspiration is a young woman in her thirties who ran for office in my town and won. She is a bright, vibrant woman who has embraced local politics and works to make a difference in our community every day. She, (like all of her elected sisters), is the embodiment of a woman doing a job for which the suffragists would be proud and that's something I admire!

Lucille Gentsch:

I greatly admire my friend for 50 years, Sue Maden. We met right out of Library School (second career for her) and she became a good friend and mentor. She is a historian, author and dog rescuer. She has always inspired me with her intelligence and enormous capacity for learning. Despite the many adversities life has thrown at her, including, among other things, two types of cancer, losing a beloved husband to a brain tumor and a chronic condition which lands her in the hospital regularly, she perseveres and stays incredibly active. In addition, perhaps most important of all, she taught me through example how to entertain successfully, the right guest list, food, ambience, etc. Hosting a dinner party is an art and she is a Master. It has been my honor and pleasure to be her apprentice.

Anna Kristina Sawtelle

There are several women I have admired in my lifetime but the most important one is my late mother. A woman who did so much for other people. Through her profession, as a gymnastic director, and physical therapist, she made life changes for so many of her patients.

She lived in Sweden. My hometown had a public swimming pool with cold water. She got the town to heat part of the pool once a week for her polio patients so that they could exercise their muscles. She got the red cross to drive her patients to site. For some of her underprivileged patients she got her friends to assist financially so that they could attend higher education. One year during Easter she took some of her patients from Sweden to Rom, Italy. She got the Red Cross to drive the bus all the way. It took several days. She wrote to the Pope and got permission for some of her patients who couldn't walk to be carried into St Peter's cathedral.

At the beach where we swam during the summer, there were no toilets. She got the town to put some up after she was told, and did go, around to other beaches and evaluated similar facilities.

But her most important task in life was probably when the doctor told her, that I at, 8 years of age, contracted Polio and was told, I would never walk. My mother said, SHE WILL WALK and through grueling therapy 2 times a day for a long time (She told me that after each session she would go into another room and cry), numerous surgeries and hospital stays away from my family, she got me to walk and live a normal life. If she had not chosen her profession I likely would not be here today.

She died in 1971 at the age of 66 and to this day frequently someone, a patient or their family puts flowers on her grave.

She was a gift from God to so many. who would not have been able to walk if it had not been for my mother.

Birgit Chritiansen

Many years ago I found this money bank issued by a Danish savings bank in which Golda Meir was number 7 of famous country heads I found number 77/4000 a number I though was quite significant. I have always been an admire of Golda and loved how she through her strength and her belief became the prime minister of Israel. Like it's said "Woman becomes what she values"....



Gwyneth Wykes

History provides us with the names of many women we admire and their accomplishments are legendary, now present times of such difficulty again challenge we women . I have chosen a young woman in her thirties so worthy of my admiration, her background and training as a Traditional Medicine Practitioner, have enabled her to be a bridge between Modern and Traditional medicine philosophies, Her programs are already the mainstay of many hospital alternative practices to support professionals in the medical ,social work, practitioner and home care field. Her great hope is to provide support and care to the people that are on the front lines and she works tirelessly for the people of this pandemic. Her work, as well as her international work in surf education and ocean rescue led her to develop teaching skills in a variety of settings all so valuable and worthy of such admiration.

Her name is Ashley Gwyneth Imonetti, and is my beloved Granddaughter, presently living in Canada.

Marian Stanton

A person that I admire is Marjorie Maguire. She is a wonderful example of a loving wife, mother and community leader, both to her children and others. She is a mother to five children and nine grandchildren. She and her husband have provided volunteer, hands on service to thousands, in collaboration, with the St. Vincent de Paul organization, for more than forty years. As a girl, she took off her coat and gave it to someone who was cold. No show, no comment. It had to be done so she did it.

She has embodied what it means to be a family to all of her children and siblings. Whether it's joy or troubles, you "circle the wagons" and bring support.

All of Marjorie's children are outstanding, yet humble people, who have been taught by their parents to be grateful for, and generous to, one another and their community.

Marjorie has lived a life of compassion, intelligence, faith and nobility. Similar to our Linda Kahn, she shared all, with a big, welcoming smile. I have been honored to know Marjorie.

Lynne Gass

This wonderful woman is eloquent and elegant, comforting and caring to her dear husband and to all she meets, gracious and giving - a peace rose to all of our speakers and of herself to all those in need. Through so much trauma and tragedy, there is always a smile and a positive attitude. Thank you, dearest Gwyneth Wykes, for your love and sunshine and inspiring me and all of us every day.

