

## **Worcester World Affairs Council**

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION 2025-26**

#### **I. Board of Directors**

##### **1. Carolyn Erskine.** President.



Carolyn Erskine is a Reiki practitioner, teacher and owner of CaroReiki. She's served on numerous local and state non-profit boards, most recently as President of the League of Women Voters, Worcester Area and past co-chair of the YWCA Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. Carolyn joined the board of the WWAC in 2019. She is married to Matthew Erskine and lives in Paxton.

##### **2. Philomena Feighan.** Vice President. Chair, Nominating Committee



Philomena Feighan was relocated from Ireland to the US in 1995 and has lived in Westborough, Mass. ever since. A teacher for much of her life, she is now self-employed as an innkeeper at her 1857 home. She is also an instructor at the Worcester Institute for Senior Education and serves on several boards.

##### **3. Carol Seager.** Director. Treasurer



Carol Seager has been a member of WWAC for over 30 years. She has worked in Worcester for over 50 years. In 2017 she sold Carol Seager Associates, a geriatric care business. Carol has participated on many boards and was Chair of the Distribution Committee of Greater Worcester Community Foundation and a founding member of the Women's Initiative. In 2018 Carol moved to downtown Worcester, which she loves. Her passion is duplicate bridge.

**4. Carol Crowley.**

Director. Clerk



Carol Crowley is a native of Grafton Hill in Worcester and graduated from Worcester State University with a BS in Business and Finance. She spent many hours volunteering at Girls Inc. and St. Vincent Hospital. During her career, she worked as a corporate controller in technology and insurance. Then, out of her love of golf, she became the Director of Human Resources for the very first country club in the United States, established in 1882. In that role, she frequently saw people retire without clear plans. This inspired a career change to Edward Jones, where she has been a financial

advisor for 8 years. She feels her purpose is to serve others in finding financial security and living their best lives. She devotes time to the Northborough Food Pantry, Beaumont Nursing Home and the CASA Project, advocating for children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

**5. Darwin Kapitz.**

Director. Chair, Speakers' Committee.



Retired nuclear engineer Framatome Inc (North America)

**6. Elisabet Mandon.**

Director.



Elisabet Mandon was born in Argentina and did her studies in Germany. After her post-doctoral training, she began work at the UMass Chan School of Medicine where she has been for more than 25 years. She is currently a professor and runs a research laboratory at the Gene Therapy Center. She has been a board member of the Worcester Chamber Music Society for 5 years. She is a biochemist with a broad range of interests, including foreign affairs and policy. She is delighted to join the board of the Worcester World Affairs Council.

**7. Tracie Decker.**

Director. Chair, Membership Committee.



Tracie Decker was born and raised in Rochester, New York, where she graduated from Nazareth College. She relocated to California where she raised her two children with her husband Jim. She had a twenty-year career in Human Resources at various companies in Silicon Valley and then moved on to teaching at the pre-Kindergarten level. She and her husband relocated to Massachusetts in 2021 to be full time grandparents to their grandson and granddaughter.

**8. Margaret Wong.**

Director. Student Coordinator



Margaret Wong has been a Professor of English at Quinsigamond Community College since 2000, after teaching at the College of the Holy Cross from 1992 to 2000. She holds a B.A. from the University of Utah, an M.A. from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in Eighteenth-Century British Literature from Rice University. Active in the labor movement, she served as President of the Massachusetts Community College Council for four years and is currently President of the MCCC chapter at QCC.

She also contributes widely to the Worcester community, serving on the boards of Music Worcester, Mechanics Hall, the Worcester Chamber Music Society, and the Worcester Downtown Business Improvement District. She is dedicated to advancing knowledge and fostering vibrant communities through her lifelong work as a scholar, educator, labor leader, and civic board member.



## II. Speakers' Committee Members

**Committee:** Darwin Kapitz, Elaine Gordon, Oleg Pavlov, Margaret Wong

**Elaine Gordon**



Attorney, Worcester

**Oleg Pavlov**



Professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute