As the 101st President of the New England Society in the City of New York, the very first thing I want to write to all our wonderful New England Society members is “I can’t wait to see you in person!”

After years of enjoying wonderful NES parties, galas, and dinner dances, I have been looking forward to beginning my tenure as the 101st president, but in the year 2020 and the first half of 2021, we were doomed to Zoom. The coronavirus pandemic upended all too many lives, and many were our losses, but The New England Society has persevered, just as it did through the War of 1812, the Civil War, the 1918 Flu Epidemic, and two World Wars. I want to thank each and every member for your past support. Your engagement and participation have been vital to the success of this organization.

The NES was not idle in 2020:

• We continued our Scholarship program with grants to 5 additional very deserving New York students attending New England colleges and universities, both on campus and virtually.

• Our online Book Awards program featuring distinguished authors and their books was a huge success.

• Monthly Trivia nights attracted new members and entertained current ones; enthusiastic groups of dozens of members gathered to compete every month.

• Our Annual Gala was held online and raised more than $30,000 for our Scholarship Program and featured a fantastic video tour of The Mount, Edith Wharton’s historic Berkshires home. Susan Wissler, Executive Director of The Mount, was honored with The Reginald T. Townsend Award, and we recognized Sara Hunter Hudson, who has consistently demonstrated outstanding service and devotion to NES, by presenting her with the 2020 J.P. Morgan Award.

• Sybil Groff gave us a lovely video presentation on the history of Christmas in New York City for our annual Holiday Party.

And in 2021, as I formally took the NES reins from the 100th President, Benedict Gedaminski, we’ve continued our active social agenda with an activity every month:

• We reached out to a sister society, the New England Society in the City of Brooklyn, and a large contingent from NES Brooklyn joined us for a highly competitive Trivia Night.

• We enjoyed a fantastic video tour of Central Park sculpture with the Artful Circle.

• The NES revisited The Mount, Edith Wharton’s historic home in the Berkshires, for a special in-depth video tour only for NES members—and more than 60 attended.


But of course, all these were … on Zoom.

No more!

• Our esteemed Book Awards will be held in-person, on September 14, at the National Arts Club.

• Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held in-person on November 12, at the Union Club.

We’ll be having an in-person cocktail party this summer and a Fall Member-Guest event as well. Keep an eye on your mailbox and your email for invitations and updates. I look forward to greeting everyone in person as we gather again to celebrate New England heritage and culture.

My President’s letter would not be complete without a note of sadness at the passing of NES Officer and Director, our Secretary, Roland Foster Miller. His unexpected illness and death was a great loss to his wife, friends, family, the NES, and many other organizations. A tribute appears on page 3.
It is with great sadness we commemorate NES Board Secretary Roland Foster Miller, 74, of Princeton, NJ. Roland passed away peacefully on March 4, 2021, after a short illness. On behalf of the Board and Past Presidents of the New England Society, we extend our deepest condolences to his wife of 38 years, Ireen Kudra Miller.

Roland was a stellar member and Director of the NES, helming the Book Awards program for the past two years to great success. He faithfully attended NES social events, both in-person and virtual, where his wit, charm, erudition, and good nature were always in evidence. Roland was a descendant of the family of James Watson, the first NES President, ancestry that initially drew him to the NES.

Roland was a wonderful, talented journalist and teacher, and many NES letters, programs, and emails benefited from his deft editorial touch. As a young man he worked for the Staten Island Advance and New York Post, and in 1977 he joined the New York Times, where he spent more than 40 years as an editor, retiring in 2009 and continuing there part-time until Christmas Eve, 2020, when he edited his last Op-Ed page at the Times. His long, distinguished career was marked by many journalism awards.

He was a talented musician, devoted to classical music, an avid genealogist, and a third-degree black belt in karate, as well as a member of many distinguished societies, clubs, and associations, including The Society of The Cincinnati in The State of Connecticut, The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey; the Thomas Stanton Society, the NewsGuild of New York; the Silurian Press Club; The National Arts Club; The Bryn Mawr-Wellesley Book Sale; and The Old Guard of Princeton New Jersey.

I personally appreciated his generosity, superb writing, good counsel, and friendship. His wife Ireen wrote: “I know Roland was very excited and devoted to the New England Society – it gave him a lot of happiness, especially through the friends he met.”

His friends at the New England Society will miss him dearly.

A memorial service is planned for the summer. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be sent to The Brain Tumor Research Fund for glioblastoma research at Penn Medicine: www.pennmedicine.org/BrainCancerResearch.

From the Membership Committee

Members are the life blood of the New England Society! Your membership enables us to support our amazing NES Scholars, recognize outstanding books celebrating New England and also to host our fantastic events. Your membership committee co-chairs are really looking forward to having in-person events again soon. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have welcomed five new members since our last newsletter. You’ll find their names below.

<table>
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<th>New Members welcomed since April 2020:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Hoyle</td>
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<td>Carl Raymond</td>
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<td>Karen Seda</td>
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<td>William Strain</td>
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<td>Ellis Ward III</td>
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<td>New Lifetime Member, G. William Haas</td>
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If you enjoy participating in NES and our activities, we hope you, first of all, will make sure you have renewed your own membership for 2021 and, second of all, will share your interest in New England with others and invite your friends to join us. Recommending a new member is easy. The application can be found on the website (www.nesnyc.org); each proposed new member also needs a recommendation letter from a current member and another member to second the nomination. After an interview with the Membership Committee co-chairs, proposed members are submitted to the NES Board for approval. We encourage all of you to help us grow our membership.

If you have any questions or need any additional information about Membership, please contact any Board Member or the NES office at 212-297-2194.

Danzey Burnham and Charles “Trip” Dorkey III, Co-Chairs, NES Membership Committee
**NES Book Awards**

**2021 Finalists**

Winners will be chosen in mid-June, awards will be presented at an in-person celebration on September 14, 2021 at the National Arts Club. Save the date!

**Fiction:**
- *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez (Algonquin Books)
- *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King (Grove Atlantic/Grove Press)

**Contemporary Nonfiction:**
- *Trial By Fire: A Devastating Tragedy, 100 Lives Lost, and a 15-Year Search for Truth* by Scott James (St. Martin’s Press)

**Historical Nonfiction:**
- *American Rebels: How the Hancock, Adams, and Quincy Families Fanned the Flames of Revolution* by Nina Sankovitch (St. Martin’s Press)
- *They Knew They Were Pilgrims: Plymouth Colony and the Contest for American Liberty* by John G. Turner (Yale University Press)
- *The Boston Massacre: A Family History* by Serena Zabin (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

**Art & Photography**
- *Fluxus Means Change: Jean Brown’s Avant-Garde Archive* by Marcia Reed (Getty Research Institute)
- *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society* by Gerald W. R. Ward (NEHGS)
In an unprecedented pandemic year, The New England Society held its 215th Annual Gala online, celebrating our distinguished legacy and the glorious Gilded Age in New England, on Friday, November 13, 2020. All proceeds were given to the NES Scholarship Program, which awards deserving New York–based students four-year Scholarships to colleges and universities in New England.

The coveted Reginald T. Townsend Award was presented to Susan Wissler, Executive Director of The Mount, Edith Wharton’s historic home in the Berkshires. Susan Wissler in her 19 years of service at The Mount demonstrated the finest attributes of the New England character through revitalizing the property, including organizing the return of Wharton’s books to the library and retiring the Mount’s massive debt.

The New England Society also recognized Sara Hunter Hudson, a member who has consistently demonstrated outstanding service and devotion to NES by presenting her with the 2020 J.P. Morgan Award. Sara, our liaison to The Mount, was an invaluable member of our Annual Gala Committee.

A week before the event, NES launched a successful Silent Auction on a special website, which remained open until noon on the following Monday after the Gala. Among the 65-plus items were a New England Society Badge in gold circa 1900, the Great American Eagle desktop sculpture and a New England Society sterling silver salt spoon in addition to jewelry, clothing, artwork, and an irresistible plush giraffe named Jeffrey, who became the mascot of the auction! The highlight of the auction selections was a two-night stay at the five-star Blantyre resort and a tour of The Mount, including lunch on the terrace with Susan Wissler herself.

The evening began with over 165 participants, many appropriately dressed for The Gilded Age in long gowns, pompadour hairdos, and black tie.

The group was divided into smaller chat rooms on Zoom. After 30 minutes, the official program began with emcees Phelps Hope and Robbie Gordy welcoming guests and introducing the five 2020 NES Scholarship Recipients through videos. New member Carl Raymond then entertained the guests with a magical Gilded Age Feast Presentation, which included place settings. This was followed by an inspiring video of The Mount. The program concluded with a discussion of the presentation of The Townsend and J.P. Morgan Awards. Afterwards, many guests returned to the Zoom chat rooms for more revelry and conversation.

The evening was a huge success on many levels. We want to thank all of you for your generosity and participation, particularly during this challenging time. We do look forward to seeing all of you this year in person at the Union Club on November 12.
The New England Society in the City of New York announces that five incoming college freshmen were recently selected to receive scholarships from the Society. Each year, the New England Society awards scholarships to deserving New York City students attending colleges and universities in New England. The newly recognized scholars for 2020 are Ramon Carrillo-Martinez, Tracy Jiang, Adrian Kuka, Kai Raina Tung and Shawnia Yon.

The New England Society in the City of New York, founded in 1805, is one of the oldest charitable organizations in the United States. The Society celebrates New England heritage through its charitable works and social activities. Its philanthropic focus is education and historic preservation. For additional information about NES, please email nes@nesnyc.org or visit www.nesnyc.org.
On May 20th the New England Society in the City of New York collaborated with the American Ancestors & New England Historic Genealogical Society for our Founders’ Day 2021


The New England Society in the City of New York (NES) would like to acknowledge and thank all the individuals who contributed at the Supporter level in honor of Founders’ Day.

Anna Bulkot
Charles E. (Trip) Dorkey, III
Connie Greenspan
Nancy Hayward
Thomas Hills
Lucille Kirk

Thomas Krouwer
Jan Whitman Ogden
Mark Pearson
Geoffrey von Barton
Matthew von Barton
Ellis Ward

On February 18 we observed the 1872 First Ladies’ Reception with a (virtual) walk through Central Park and a guided tour of its statues.

Artful Circle was founded in 2013 by the expert team of Franklin Hill Perrell and Debbie Wells. In addition to art gallery, museum, and art fair events, Artful Circle works on major curatorial projects for museums and art collectors, including exhibitions, signage, catalog publications and presents customized lectures on all things art to private groups and organizations. Visit Artful Circle’s website to sign up for their Fun Art Fact of the Day newsletter and find out more about their programs. artfulcircle.com
SSAAVVEE TTHHEE DDAATTEE EEVVEENNTTSS

April 6 - Spring Member/Guest Party
(Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', Coast Guard, & Airmen's Club)

May 10 - Founders Day Reception
(Yale Club)

June 7 - Book Awards: Author's Wine & Cheese Reception
(Down Town Association)

June 8 - Book Awards Luncheon
(Union League Club)

June 21 - Summer Solstice
(Scandinavia House)

November 10 - 212th Annual Dinner Dance
(Metropolitan Club)

Don't We Look Dashing….
You can too!
(Check out the new NES Bow Ties)
Visit the NES website and shop for all our dashing deals.

www.nesnyc.org

Like us on Facebook!
Check for updates about NES events and Society information!

REMEMBER TO BE SOCIAL WITH NES

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021 NOW!

Save the Date

Our esteemed Book Awards will be held in-person on September 14 at the National Arts Club

Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held in-person on November 12 at the Union Club

Go to www.nesnyc.org or call the office at (212) 297-2194.