



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
ELLEN SCORDATO, 101ST PRESIDENT



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.
- Our Founder's Day Celebration raised money for our Scholarship Fund with a fascinating look at early New England families and settlement, presented by Ryan Woods of American Ancestors, The New England Historic Genealogical Society.

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.**

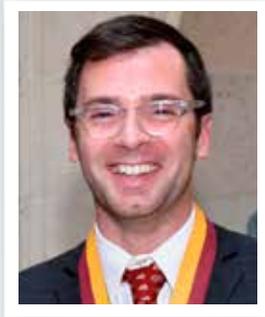
We'll be having an in-person cocktail party this summer and a Fall Member-Guest event as well. Keep an eye on your mailbox and your email for invitations and updates. I look forward to greeting everyone in person as we gather again to celebrate New England heritage and culture.

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.

# NES Board of Directors



**Ellen Scordato**  
**PRESIDENT**



**Matthew Rimi von Barton**  
**TREASURER**



**Danzey Burnham**  
**SECRETARY**



**Jan Whitman Ogden**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**



**Judith A. Bliss**  
(2024)



**Charles E. "Trip"  
Dorkey III** (2023)



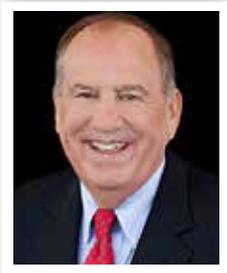
**Nancy "Sunny"  
Hayward** (2022)



**Katherine  
Johnson** (2024)



**Lucy Kirk**  
(2024)



**Michael Kovner**  
(2022)



**Leslie Middlebrook  
Moore** (2024)



**Mark Pearson**  
(2023)



**Sigourney (Ron)  
Romaine** (2024)



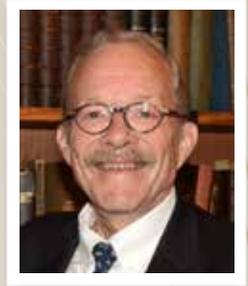
**Kendra Swee**  
(2022)



**Anne Teasdale**  
(2021)

# IN MEMORY OF ROLAND FOSTER MILLER

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, helping 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](http://www.pennmedicine.org/BrainCancerResearch).

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## 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.

### New Members welcomed since April 2020:

Alexandra Hoyle  
Carl Raymond

Karen Seda  
William Strain

Ellis Ward III

New Lifetime Member,  
G. William Haas

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](http://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*

# NEHS Book Awards

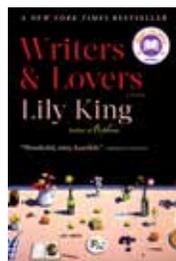
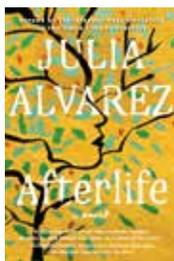
## 2021 Finalists

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)

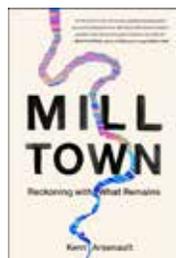
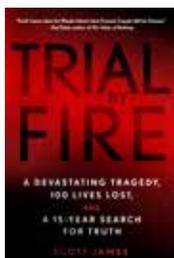
**Writers & Lovers** by Lily King  
(Grove Atlantic/Grove Press)



### 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)

**Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains** by Kerri Arsenault  
(St. Martin's Press)

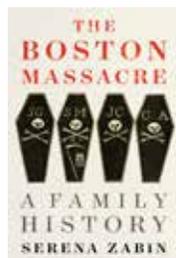
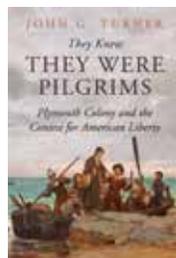
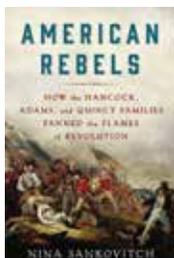


### Historical Nonfiction:

**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)

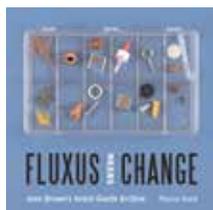
**The Boston Massacre: A Family History** by Serena Zabin  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)



### 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)



## 2020 Book Awards

### FICTION: **The Guest Book**

By Sarah Blake  
Flatiron Books



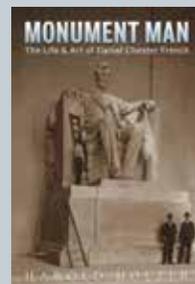
### HISTORICAL NONFICTION: **The Trial of Lizzie Borden**

By Cara Robertson  
Simon & Schuster



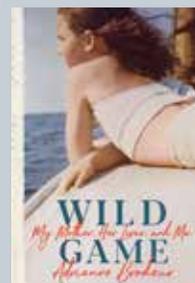
### ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY: **Monument Man**

By Harold Holzer  
Princeton Architectural Press



### NONFICTION: **BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR: Wild Game**

By Adrienne Brodeur  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt





## THE 2020 NES VIRTUAL GALA

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.**

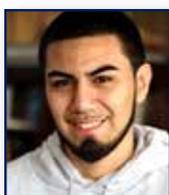
The group was divided into smaller chat rooms on Zoom. After 30 minutes, the official program began with emcees Phelps Hope and Robbie Gordy welcoming guests and introducing the five 2020 NES Scholarship Recipients through videos. New member Carl Raymond then entertained the guests with a magical Gilded 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.

# New England Society In The City Of New York Announces 2020 Scholarship Winners

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 Scholarship Committee of the New England Society received 34 applications from eligible New York City students for the 2020 period. The applications covered students applying to 21 New England colleges and universities. Students were evaluated based on a broad range of criteria including their academic credentials, financial need, community service, extracurricular activities and personal character and interests. Seven particularly outstanding students were selected for personal interviews with the Committee and five were selected as scholarship recipients. The Scholarships were for four years each and totaled \$70,000. **The NES now actively supports 14 students at nine different New England colleges and universities.**



**Ramon Carrillo-Martinez** is attending Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut where he plans to study architecture and international relations. He hopes to use his architecture studies to address social justice issues such as the housing crisis. In New York, Ramon attended Manhattan Business Academy where he was Co-Salutatorian of his graduating class. Among Ramon's interesting experiences in high school were interning with the Kelly Clarkson show and spending time in Japan living with a host family to learn Japanese culture and language.



**Tracy Jiang** is attending Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, She would like to become an attorney and public servant. She attended Brooklyn Technical High School. Tracy received multiple recognitions in high school including the BTHS All-Tech Award for academic excellence, community service achievements and dedication to a variety of extracurricular activities. Tracy also received recognition as a clarinet player in All State Symphonic Band and as Best Speaker in her High School Mock Trial competition. She also was a tech volunteer throughout high school at the Brooklyn Public Library.



**Adrian Kuka** is attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he plans to study electrical engineering. He attended the High School of American Studies at Lehman College. Adrian enjoys taking things apart and building them back new, whether a Game Boy when he was younger, a family computer that wasn't working or a robot that uses artificial intelligence. Adrian has also helped out in his community serving as a small group math tutor in a local outreach program.



**Kai Raina Tung** is attending Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts where she plans to study science, math and engineering. She attended New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School. Raina's interests beyond academics extend to cars and driving as well as music. She produced a number of educational You Tube videos about driving. She also used her video editing skills to help the New York Youth Symphony, for which she played violin, produce a performance video when their 2020 Carnegie Hall performance was cancelled last spring due to Covid-19. The video comprised the individual recordings of the over 70 orchestra members edited into a single performance of the Youth Symphony. The video received over 50,000 views online.



**Shawnia Yon** is attending Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut where she will focus on Dance, Finance and Entrepreneurship. She attended Talent Unlimited High School. Shawnia is a dancer and has both danced and interned with the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. She has also been part of the Big Brother/Big Sister program at Memorial Sloane Kettering for several years as well as founding Prep for Excellent, a community service program providing mentorship to young girls. She also serves as a regular church acolyte. Shania plans to continue her focus on mentorship and community service while in college.

The New England Society extends its sincere congratulations to our 2020 scholarship recipients and to the many deserving students who applied.

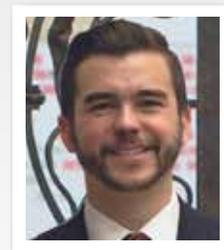
*The New England Society in the City of New York, founded in 1805, is one of the oldest charitable organizations in the United States. The Society celebrates New England heritage through its charitable works and social activities. Its philanthropic focus is education and historic preservation. For additional information about NES, please email [nes@nesnyc.org](mailto:nes@nesnyc.org) or visit [www.nesnyc.org](http://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

American Ancestors & New England Historic Genealogical Society shared a wonderful and deeply interesting presentation, "Pilgrims, Puritans and Beyond: The Origins and Legacies of Early New England Families" by Ryan J. Woods, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

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                   | Thomas Krouwer      |
| Charles E. (Trip) Dorkey, III | Jan Whitman Ogden   |
| Connie Greenspan              | Mark Pearson        |
| Nancy Hayward                 | Geoffrey von Barton |
| Thomas Hills                  | Matthew von Barton  |
| Lucille Kirk                  | 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](http://artfulcircle.com)





New England Society  
in the City of New York

355 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

212-297-2194

[www.nesnyc.org](http://www.nesnyc.org)

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## REMEMBER TO BE SOCIAL WITH NES

Check for updates about NES events  
and Society information!



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**RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
FOR 2021 NOW!**

Go to [www.nesnyc.org](http://www.nesnyc.org) or call  
the office at (212) 297-2194.



## Save the Date

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