IN CELEBRATION:
The First 100 Years
The Great Neck Library
1889-1989
Dedicated to
The founders of our Library

Louise Udall Skidmore Eldridge
Harriet S. Onderdonk
Phoebe Catherine Conger Baker

and to

The people of Great Neck
who gave their time, energy and imagination to build, nurture and sustain
a library which honors learning and knowledge, welcomes the inquisitive
mind, and responds to, and encourages the participation of all
in the community it serves.

Acknowledgments
Dolly Relkin, member and former President of the Library Board, and curator of The Great Neck Library and Great Neck, The First One Hundred Years, A Photographic Exhibition, which served as the major resource of this publication; the Board Centennial Committee, co-chairs Jack Eber and Renée Zarin, Elayne Bernstein and Emanuel Kline; and Board members Arthur Lerner, Jo Ann Farley and Muriel Kane for their support of this project; the Library staff led by Ken Weil, Library Director; Assistant to the Director for Public Relations Muriel Turk – her unfailing good humor, creative spirit and attention to detail helped to bring this project to conclusion – and the Public Relations staff; Assistant to the Director for Reference Services Leila Mattson and Reference Librarian Risha Rosner; former Library Director Joe Covino, the architect of much of the spirit of today’s Library; and those Great Neck residents who recalled their own Library history for this book. The editors are also indebted to the authors of earlier reports on the Library, including Lucy M. Kinloch, “From Little Acorns...” which appeared in a 1941 issue of The Library Journal and Lorraine F. Katz, A History of the Great Neck Library, 1880-1960, which was submitted as a master’s thesis to the Graduate Library School of Long Island University in 1967.
IN CELEBRATION:
THE FIRST 100 YEARS

This book celebrates the Centennial of the Great Neck Library.
It is a history of our library in our town.

To trace the Library's roots, from its inception by a few philanthropic movers and shakers who created and guarded it, is also to glimpse the past of Great Neck itself. For the Library did not grow in a vacuum. With each passing year, it reflected and responded to the community's needs. As time passed, as our rural community blossomed, becoming ever more urban (and perhaps urbane), so, too, more democratic processes spread under the old eaves, and the Library grew and was strengthened by broader town participation.

Now here we are, poised to enter the 21st Century together. In looking back over the efforts of those who came before, participation, along with a dedication to preserving and expanding the resources of knowledge, is the key. The key is ours to cherish and to use.
Decisions... the high road, the low road or the one less traveled – Great Neck, L.I.

**A RURAL SCENE: 1644 TO 1899**

**Before the beginning:**
Few books, no library, just 30-40 families here in “Madnan’s Neck” in 1644... the Massapeke and Mattinicocke Indians and a handful of hardy English and Dutch settlers. By 1683, the peninsula, as well as the land from the Borough of Queens to Riverhead, was called “Queens County” and was owned by the British under the jurisdiction of the Duke of York. The town of North Hempstead was officially created in the late 1700’s. In 1898, Queens County became part of greater New York City, and one year later Nassau County was established. But we're jumping ahead... While travel to and from Great Neck during the 1800s was time consuming and often tedious on foot, by horse and buggy, on sloop or steamboat, the rural landscape, dotted with grist mills, orchards and sheep and cattle farms, was pleasing to the eye.

**Wall Street Route:**
During the 1830s, the construction of the North Hempstead and Flushing Turnpike (Northern Boulevard) as a 1¢ toll road symbolized the declining rural character of Long Island. Food, provisions and passenger transportation needs were also met by a steamboat service with a landing southwest of the Allen/Udall Grist Mill. A trip on the *Sun* or *Statesman* took two hours to New York. Later came the Great Neck Steamboat Wharf Company. This company subsequently provided ferry service on Long Island Sound from Sea Cliff to Great Neck and, with a fare of 50¢, a one hour ride to the 31st Street dock; its final destination was Peck’s Slip at Wall Street. The stagecoach on Northern Boulevard traveled east to Manhasset and Port Washington and west to Long Island City, timed (more or less) to connect with the ferry at Steamboat Landing in Great Neck.
End of the line:
1866 marked the start of service of the North Shore Railroad (now the LIRR) from Flushing to the end of the line at the “Thomaston” station in Great Neck. One of its largest stockholders was Mr. Messenger (father and grandfather of Library Board members, Emma and Elise Gignoux). For 46¢ each way, commuters could catch the lone train a day in each direction. They could leave Great Neck at 7:30 a.m. to Hunters Point where a ferry connected to the city. Return connection was from Hunters Point at 4 p.m. Twenty-three years later, the single track line from Great Neck to Port Washington was opened.

More than 1,000 people called Great Neck “home” by 1880. Land owners were engaged in commerce and agriculture, while merchants, shopkeepers and other villagers met the community’s needs for goods and services. In the village were hotels, saloons, blacksmiths, carriage makers, a variety of stores and a volunteer fire department. Growth prior to 1900 was marked by the establishment of schools, churches, new roads, new modes of transportation, commercial enterprises...and the beginning of the Great Neck Library.
Free Education:
Town Meetings were centers of decision making, and in 1813, free education was formally adopted at one such gathering. Shortly thereafter, the first school house was erected near Woolley’s Brook (spelling changed to Wooley’s later on). A few years later, a second schoolhouse was built across from the Village Green, and a third on the corner of Fairview Avenue and Middle Neck Road. A wood-frame schoolhouse on Arrandale Avenue and Middle Neck Road, serving grades 1-12, was erected in 1869. By 1898, with its first graduating class, the building had to be doubled in size. The two school districts were separated by the railroad with District #7 serving the north and District #8 the south. The third wood-frame schoolhouse to be built in School District #8 was called the Lakeville School (1877-1928).

That was the year that was:
1889 – a century ago...The young nation welcomed North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington to statehood, while Mark Twain penned *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur’s Court*. The world of entertainment would never be the same following the London debut of the *Barnum & Bailey Circus*. Other events of the year – of greater or lesser importance according to your perspective – included: The Eiffel Tower was designed for the Paris World Exhibition; Charlie Chaplin and George S. Kaufman were born; Gilbert & Sullivan wrote *The Gondoliers*.

Meanwhile, just about that time:
THE $100 BEGINNING

In 1880, the Great Neck Library began as an idea in the minds of a few enthusiastic, civic-minded women. Believing that the approximately 1,000 residents would benefit from the creation of a library, Louise Udall Skidmore organized a fund-raising “Magic Lantern” slide lecture on classical mythology. Thirty dollars were raised, additional funds were solicited and, with $100 in the treasury, the Library was born.

No records were kept for the first eight years, but it's known that the Board of Directors was composed of six women with Harriet Onderdonk serving as first president. The Library's original home was the telegraph office, and the telegraph operator's mother served as librarian.

On February 19, 1889, with 102 books and 40 subscribers, the Library was formally incorporated in the (then) County of Queens, as a private association library modeled after the N.Y. Mercantile Library Constitution. The six self-elected members of the Board of Directors at that time were the Reverend Louis deCormis of All Saints Church, President; Louise Udall Skidmore, Secretary; Helen Merritt, Treasurer; Harriet S. Onderdonk; Charles Gignoux; and Edward Morgan.

To form “noble men and noble women”: Expressing their concern with education and their responsibility to improve the quality of life for every person in Great Neck, the founders stated that “the good, the enrichment, the insight are permanent and incalculable possessions...of those who have read.” They believed the influence of a good library molds and refines people into “noble men and women.” Since they considered the children of Great Neck to be “the backbone of the library,” they offered a year's free subscription to four pupils from classes 1 and 2 who were “most truthful, obedient, respectful and industrious.”
PHOTO RIGHT:
One room in a young men’s social club – the League – was a welcome home for the fledgling library.

PHOTO TOP:

PHOTO BOTTOM:

Louise Udall Skidmore
Eldridge, Founding Member (1880-1947) and President (1916-1947).

Helen S. Merrill, Founding Member and Treasurer from incorporation (1889-1922).

Censored – The Three Musketeers:
Constant discussions were held on the quality of books on the shelves, comparing “solid” reading, i.e. non fiction, to fiction. Each Board member was required to read and approve every book before purchase and those books that were considered “unwholesome” didn’t get to the shelves...including The Three Musketeers. This form of censorship continued until 1900.

Money to run:
The Library’s operating income was derived from membership dues and subscription fees. Membership in the Association, $10 per family, was by Board approval. In 1921, the fee was reduced to $1.

“Free” for all:
By 1892, women had replaced the gentlemen on the Board of Directors. They set themselves the task of building a “free” library that would “rival in size and influence one of the large suburban libraries of New England.”

A place to call “home”:
Where to set up shop was the question from the time of incorporation. At first the home of the librarian (Mrs. Daniel Gordon, 1889-1892) served the purpose. Then the library moved to a room in the League Building (1892-1907), a young men’s social club located near 540 Middle Neck Road.
OUR TOWN: 1900-1915

At the turn of the century, as noted in the librarian’s report, the library was growing in “importance as part of the village life and has its place as surely as the school or even the Church.”

When it was no longer possible to rent space at the League, Louise Eldridge (Secretary of the Library Board) and her husband, Roswell, became the Library’s benefactors by erecting and donating a new building (now the Park District’s Great Neck House) on Arrandale Avenue, next to the Arrandale Schoolhouse. In its first year, the Arrandale Library recorded a collection of 2,500 books, circulation of 5,000 and a membership of 252.

In pursuit of funds:
The advent of free library service in 1907 led to increased circulation but didn’t improve finances. Although the library provided service to nearby communities without such facilities, membership drives to increase income from those areas were unsuccessful. Since the cost of maintaining the new building rose to $1,000 a year, the pursuit of private donations and new membership became more intense and was of constant concern to the Board and Library supporters.

PHOTO LEFT:
To meet the need, the Roswell Eldridges built and donated the Arrandale Avenue Library.

Loyal fund raisers – (l to r)
Librarian Mary S. Root,
Madams Dyson, Bullen,
Anne Hodges (Asst. Librarian)
Nellie White and Mrs.
Mitchell.
More books, more staff:
Circulation doubled to over 10,000 books a year within two years of the opening of the Arrandale building. The Library was open on Sunday afternoons; the reference section was expanded; scientific materials were added; Latin, French and German dictionaries were purchased to meet the needs of a “transient and foreign population,” and an Assistant Librarian and a Custodian were hired. Mindful of the need to keep the public informed, the Board purchased books of all kinds and published lists of newly acquired titles in the local newspaper.

By the turn of the century, the “Old Village” was the Village of Great Neck, the major population center of town.

“Thomaston” in the early 1900s was the area north of the railroad which is presently Great Neck Plaza and Kensington. The Kensington School was originally the Thomaston Schoolhouse (School #2), a wood-frame building erected in 1905. A new brick Arrandale High School was built in 1913 on a site between the Library and the existent wood-frame building.

The one-family village:
The Villages of Great Neck Estates and Saddle Rock were incorporated in 1911. Library benefactor Louise Eldridge owned the several hundred acre Village of Saddle Rock, which had the distinction of being the only one-family village in the State of New York. Mrs. Eldridge was the Mayor and those who lived or worked on her estate were the designated village officials. Her husband, Roswell, was also a founder of the Park District in 1916.
Time for frolic:
Villagers still ice skated and fished on open ponds and swam at the lakes and shore beaches. If you didn't mind waiting until dark for the film to start, an outdoor movie theater near the Village Green called the Airdome (with a dirt floor and no roof) provided another form of entertainment. Residents also enjoyed themselves at the Great Neck Country Club (on the north side of Susquehanna Ave.); at the Vanderbilt Race Course (a toll road for auto racing at Lake Success, now part of Northern State Parkway); and at the Great Neck Athletic Club.
BRANCHING OUT: 1920-1939

From the early 1900s, the Library’s chief source of support was provided by the Eldridge’s annual donation of $1,000-$1,500. Of necessity, the Board continued to seek ways to increase membership and secure private donations. In 1921, the School Board added $1,500 to its budget for the Library. State Certification was secured in 1921, and in that year membership fees were reduced from $10 to $1. Finally, in 1928, the Library became fully tax-supported.

A lease to lend:
With people moving to far flung ends of the peninsula, the Board decided it was time to branch out. “The Branch” (Station) started in the Black Bird Shop, but officially opened in January 1923 at Fardels’ Flower Shop on Middle Neck Road at the railroad station. It moved to Elm Street next to Dodge Brothers, and again a year later to the Eastern Construction Company office on Middle Neck Road. Registered with New York State in 1928, the Branch moved yet again in 1932 to 118 Middle Neck Road. Two wings were added to the main Arrandale Library – another gift of the Eldridges in 1924 – providing additional space for the children’s room, a workroom and an office. The Library’s close link to the schools led to the opening of a sub-station in a classroom of the Kensington School in 1925. For several years, the Library sent a staff member to the school to serve as librarian. From 1934-1938, another sub-station operated in a classroom at the Lakeville School, with a PTA member serving as librarian. By 1930, the earlier additions to the Arrandale building had proved inadequate, and a new children’s room, reference room and two floors of stacks were donated by Mrs. Eldridge. In 1939, taxpayers in New Hyde Park became eligible to use the library.
Bustle of growth:
Although Saddle Rock and Great Neck Estates were incorporated as early as 1911, 10 years passed before the Villages of Great Neck and Kensington followed suit. Then: Kings Point (1924), Lake Success (1927), Great Neck Plaza (1930), and Russell Gardens and Thomaston (1931), south of the railroad. All other sections of the peninsula are known as unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of the Town of North Hempstead.

Automobiles had replaced the horse and buggy, streets were paved, telephones were available, apartment houses and new businesses appeared. At the railroad, a new Gothic-style station building was constructed and the tracks lowered. Ten years later, in 1935, the railroad grade crossing was lowered, the Middle Neck Road bridge constructed, and a pedestrian walking bridge spanning the north and south tracks was added.

The burning down of the wood-frame Arrandale School and the burgeoning school population necessitated an addition to the brick Arrandale School. The last wing was built, followed by additions to the Kensington School in 1926 and 1931; the building of the new Lakeville School at Jayson Avenue in 1928; the High School on Polo Road in 1929; the annexation of the Lakeville School into the District in 1932; and the merging of District #7 and District #8 in the same year to form one Great Neck Union Free School District.
PHOTO RIGHT
Grace L. Merrit Vicario, member of the Library Board of Directors, joined the effort to pass the XIX Amendment.

Featured Players:
The years, show biz and literary luminaries have populated our town in larger-than-usual percentage. They were drawn to Great Neck for most of the same compelling reasons as other less celebrated residents. Those who enjoyed picking out a famous face while shopping in town – or perhaps at the library checkout desk – might well have recognized any of these national notables: Sam Warner, Paulette Goddard, Lillian Russell, Frederic March, Eddie Cantor, Clifton Webb, Leslie Howard, Maurice Chevalier, Groucho Marx, Oscar Hammerstein II, Martha Ray, P. G. Wodehouse, Norma Talmadge, Ed Wynn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ring Lardner, Eugene O’Neill and Will Durant.

Depression boom:
The depression years were boom years for library circulation. During 1939, 161,365 books were circulated in comparison to 24,000 in 1923. Local census figures for the years 1930 (13,610) and 1939 (17,500) reflect an increase of nearly 4,000 residents in less than a decade.

Despite the depression of the national economy and the rumblings of war in Europe, Great Neck was growing as real estate developers built hundreds of homes on the peninsula.
Give women the vote
and have a government
of the people, by the people, for the people.
In 1940, the interior of the Library on Arrandale Avenue was refurbished, providing better lighting, wider staircases, a new workroom, a staff room and an improved children's room. The following year a new Lakeville Library Branch opened its doors at 257-12 Northern Boulevard, the result of a petition campaign by Lakeville residents. In 1942, the Station Branch moved once again, this time to 5A Grace Avenue, expanding one year later to occupy a double store.

**Hitting the road:**
A creative new venture began for the Library in 1942, under the direction of Head Librarian Lucy Kinloch. Gasoline shortages caused by the war effort made it difficult for residents to get to the libraries...so the Library brought the books to the readers throughout the peninsula via a Library on Wheels.

Following the arrival of the United Nations to its new home at the Sperry Plant in Lake Success in 1946, a close working relationship was established with the Library. Carl Milam, the Director of the UN Library, was elected to the Great Neck Library Board, where he was a strong advocate of the branches. 1947 marked the death of Mrs. Louise Skidmore Eldridge, the Library’s benefactor for 67 years.

The Merchant Marine Academy, established (1942) on the estate of Walter Chrysler on Steamboat Road, brought close to 1,000 students and faculty to the peninsula.
Telling tales in school:
The need for expanded library services continued as the population increased, and in 1950, an after-school story hour was initiated at the Kensington School with 216 children in attendance during the first session.

The title of Head Librarian was changed to Library Director with Gilmore Aarestad assuming that position in 1952.

In 1954, the first Parkville Branch opened at 2052 Lakeville Road in a shopping center at Union Turnpike and Lakeville Road. With three Branches providing service for the peninsula, and a return to normal mobility on the part of residents, the Library on Wheels was retired. In 1953, the Station and Lakeville Branches moved to their current locations; the Parkville Branch moved to larger quarters in the Parkville School Annex in 1959.

Growth on all fronts continued unabated through the ‘50s. Three new schools were constructed: Great Neck North Junior High School in 1952; and Great Neck South Complex (Junior High and High Schools) in 1955 as more homes were built on the peninsula.
SEEKING A NEW HOME: THE 1960s

The public speaks:
Board meetings were opened to the public in 1965. Two years later the Library’s first Nominating Committee was formed, consisting of three individuals appointed by the Board and two Board Members. In 1968, the $1 fee for membership in the Library Association was dropped and membership became free and unlimited.

Mid-decade, the Library joined the Nassau Library System, a State-supported umbrella organization comprised of all public libraries in Nassau County. The system provides a variety of services to member libraries, such as centralized purchasing and cataloging of books. Over the years, services have expanded to include a film and video collection available to member libraries and their patrons, as well as the coordination of orders of audio/visual and other materials.

Site set:
From 1960-66, the Board recognized its need to expand or find a new library location. There simply was no space for additional books, seating and parking. Because of the space problems, programs for the public were limited. Prompted by constant public comment, a search for a new library location began. In 1966, a two-and-one-half acre site on Bayview Avenue and Grist Mill Lane was chosen. A Library Advisory Committee, requested by the League of Women Voters and others in the community, was established in 1968 as construction was begun. Responsive to community concern about the accessability of the new library, the Board made a commitment to provide bus transportation to the new building.

In 1969, Joseph Covino, the right man in the right place, became the Library Director, serving a public ready for new ideas and concepts redefining the place of the Library in Great Neck.
Music to their ears –
The pond provided the setting for many artists in performance.

QUINTESSENTIAL CULTURAL CENTER: 1970-1989

Gala parties attended by thousands of residents heralded the grand opening of the new library in May of 1970. Almost immediately thereafter, under the bold leadership of Library Director Covino, professional caliber concerts, art shows and film programs were initiated by inspired and enthusiastic volunteer committees, and a wide variety of childrens’ programs were presented to appreciative audiences. Always certain to draw the crowds are the Library’s annual art shows, among them a Contemporary Black Artists in America exhibit which has run each year since 1972. Nationally acclaimed poets, authors and musicians regularly appear at the Library. It soon became evident that – in addition to its commitment to education – the Library was filling many cultural needs of the community.

Shortly after the new building opened, a free Library bus began providing peninsula-wide service with stops from the Parkville Branch to Kings Point. An additional route including Spinney Hill was added in 1973, and summer bus service was jointly instituted with the Park District.
Hail to LEVELS:

LEVELS was conceived by Covino to meet the needs of Great Neck’s 7th grade through college-age young people. This unique facility, the first of its kind in any library, opened in 1975 and immediately became popular among the young people who always felt welcome at this out-of-school facility. They performed in dramatic and musical presentations (many of their own creation) and participated in workshops including: creative writing, voice, automotive fundamentals, jazz combo, computer programming and much more.

LEVELS achieved national recognition, and in 1983, representatives were selected to testify before the Congressional Committee on Adolescence detailing the “what” and “why” of this landmark project. The Library added JUNIOR LEVELS, a program for fifth and sixth graders, in 1986.

PHOTO LEFT:
On a high LEVEL – a downhome inspiration, country music, folk dancing, fun for everyone.

A shimmering, professional-calibre show – LEVEL’S production of “Stagedoor” (July, 1982).
Cross-cultural dynamic:
Reacting to Great Neck's changing demographics, a series of ethnic programs sponsored by the Library's Spanish, Japanese, Indian, Chinese and Iranian committees presented aspects of their cultural heritage to the community. Book talks (including a series presented at the Great Neck Senior Citizens Center), dramatic presentations and lectures for adults are offered on a regular basis.

The Library's collections continued to grow, paralleled by the building's use by the public. In 1974, a music room to house specialized books and recordings and a multipurpose room, for programs and meetings, were created. To nourish the inner man (woman and child) a snack bar/vending area was added in 1978 - an amenity found in few libraries. Computerization of the circulation system came on-line in 1979.

During the first year of the '80s, a Photo Gallery, dedicated to Board member Morton A. Shapiro who had died in office, was established. Shapiro, a skilled photographer, had served as the first chairman of the Volunteer Art Committee. During the same year, the Saddle Rock property adjacent to the parking lot was acquired for future use.
For wider circulation:
During the mid-'80s, the Library newsletter, previously mailed only to Association members, was mailed to all school district residents; the quiet study room was enlarged and the parking lot entrance expanded. A new sound system was installed in the community room, and the Comtec system, for use by the hearing impaired, was made available during film programs. Video cassettes were added to the collection, and due to their popularity, were moved to open shelves for easier selection.

During the past two decades, Lakeville and Parkville Branches have twice undergone renovation, and Parkville was enlarged. The Station Branch was renovated, moved to larger quarters, and following “the great flood,” moved back to 40B Great Neck Road.

Taking an activist role:
The past two decades saw the Library Director and the Board taking an active role in community affairs. Activities included: organizing and becoming one of ten member organizations of the Great Neck Arts Council (1973-1976); preparing and issuing a Community Organization Directory (1974); overseeing the ecological condition of Udall’s Pond; participating actively in the commission established to bring Cable TV to Great Neck.

As an informational service to the public, the Library distributes the annual Voter’s Guide, prepared by the League of Women Voters. Copies of the League’s publication, This Is Great Neck, are available for purchase at the Library as well.

Since the opening of the Main Library, hundreds of community organizations have been welcomed and encouraged to use the building’s meeting rooms to further the educational, cultural and civic needs of the community.
Sine qua non:
Since the Library first received tax funds in 1928, the voters have – in good years and lean – voted in favor of the Library budget. In a community of approximately 45,000 people – Library card holders number 41,345 – from toddlers to senior citizens, they borrow materials, attend programs and make abundant use of Library resources.

And so our interwoven history continues… on into the new decade and, inexorably, on toward the new century. If numbers alone can sum up a century of library growth, these are those numbers: the collection of library materials, which began with 102 books in 1889, now stands at 365,323 items! This total includes a variety of audio and video recordings, periodicals and books. The Library’s newest director, Ken Weil, took up “residence” in 1988. In 1989, people entered the library 324,000 times borrowing 747,595 items. Not to be forgotten: the present staff whose dedicated efforts and exceptional professional expertise make the Library system work. Last year 40 members of the staff celebrated 660 collective years of service.
The next 100 years:

Not surprisingly, bigger and better things are on the horizon, including:

• A state-of-the-art on-line catalog (information retrieval system) which will eventually enable residents with personal computers and modems to dial-up information about the Library’s collection anytime of day or night from their homes and offices. Library users will have access to the same information from computer terminals located in all Great Neck Libraries.

• A good hard look at the 20 year-old Main Library building with a view to upgrading and expanding services.

• A review of the collections and programming to better serve the present and future community.

The strength of the Great Neck Library during the past hundred years lies in the heart of Great Neck...its residents. They have served enthusiastically and devotedly on Board after Board, committee after committee, forging a link with Director after Director, staff after staff, to provide a high caliber of service responsive to the needs of a changing population.

Upon the occasion of the Library’s 100th Birthday Party Celebration, Board President Elayne Bernstein stated: "The Library...is a home away from home for many...a place to return to for nourishment and refreshment of the mind and spirit...but it is you, the community, who are the heart of the Library. Your continuing presence and support, suggestions and even criticisms, keep us vital and responsive."
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From Formation of Library in 1880
It is known that Mrs. Onderdonk was a Founder and the first President; Louise Udall Skidmore, a Founding Member; and Kate Baker a member of Board starting 1883. There may have been other members prior to incorporation.
The Board consisted of six members until 1931 when it expanded to eight members.

From Date of Incorporation February 19, 1889
Louis deCormis 1889-1892,
Helen S. Merritt 1889-1922
Louise Udall Skidmore Eldridge 1889-1947
Charles Gignoux 1889-1892
Edward Morgan 1889-1892
Harriet S. Onderdonk 1889-1904
Phoebe Catherine Conger Baker 1892-1907
Sara E. Hoag 1892-1907
Emma Messenger Gignoux 1893-1915
Elise Gignoux 1905-1932
Grace L. Merritt Vicario 1908-1921
Louise Post McBee 1915
Lucile Alger 1915-1924
Frances Oviatt Lewis 1919-1931
Nellie V. White 1921-1938
Elizabeth Ayres Mellick Baker 1924-1934 & 1938-1945
Mrs. Frederick Dewey 1925-1933
Edward Streeter 1931-1933
William. A. Eldridge 1932-1937
Boudinot Atterbury 1932-1933
Hattie Grauer 1932-1964
Mrs. Frederick Keays 1933-1934
Harrison Craver 1934-1945
George D. Olds Jr. 1934
Mrs. Howard Clark Jr. 1935-1943
Hunter Delatour 1935-1964
Ethel Grose 1936-1947
Wheelock Bigelow 1937-1942
Ruel Tucker 1943-1965
Thomas Craven 1943-1948
Mrs. Hugh McNair 1945-1958
William Huckel 1945-1957
Earl Collins 1947-1955

Muriel T. Eden 1947-1957
Carl H. Milam 1948-1950
Stillman M. Hobbs 1950-1959
John L. Grose 1955-1968
Robert E. Cummings 1955-1963
Mrs. Richard W. Meyer 1958
Ellen Hirschland 1958-1961
Esther Meyer 1959-1965
Thomas C. Houts 1959-1970
Ida L. Spicer 1962-1964
Gilbert Tiltes 1963-1971
Charles A. Maier 1964-1970
Josephine November 1964-1969
Mrs. J. L. Sinn 1965-1966
Philip Paulson 1965-1977
Rita Schiffmacher 1965-1966
Corinne Coe 1967-1978
George Lehr 1969-1979
Olive Cohn 1970-1971
Cyrus Rudman 1970-1980
Matthew Flood 1971-1973
Kathleen Gayle 1971-1975
Hyman Needleman 1971-1974
Dr. Daniel Blatman 1972-1973
Morton Shapiro 1974-1979
Dr. Harold Blank 1974-1975
Herbert Granoff 1975-1978
Herbert Waxman 1976
Dolly Dorothea Relkin 1976-
Marcia Gewanter 1977-1985
Elayne P. Bernstein 1978-
Margery Binder 1979-1984
Godfrey Murrain 1979-1983
Muriel Kane 1979-
Martin Waldman 1979-1982
Emanuel Kline 1980-
Jack Eber 1983-
Arthur Lerner 1984-
Jo Ann Farley 1985-
Renée Zarin 1986-
Nominating Committee
Established in 1967

Bernard Cohen, 1967, 1980-86
Doris Friedman, 1967
Marvin Florman, 1968
Donald Marks, 1968
Alfred Udow, 1968
Murray T. Bloom, 1969
Rex Lidox, 1969
Arthur Reisfeld, 1969
Harold Blank, 1970
Olga Jenkins, 1970
Sarane Kaplan, 1970
Daniel Blatman, 1971
Joseph Borzell, 1971
Claire Speciner, 1971-72
Lucille Okoshkin, 1972
Irma Sherman, 1972-73
Millicent Charles, 1973-74
Ronda Gersten, 1974-75
Suzanne Wurman, 1974
Judy Berk, 1975-76
Robert MacIntyre, 1975-76
Joyce Reiss, 1976-78
William Pincus, 1977
Arnold Prensky, 1977-78
Jo Ann Farley, 1978-83
Hazel King, 1978-83
Emanuel Kline, 1979
Sandra O'Connor, 1982 to present
Nancy Clark, 1982-84
Mona Oppenheim, 1984 to present
Curtis Kendrick, 1984-85
Leah Foodim, 1986 to present
Sidney Wenokor, 1986 to present
William Grauer, 1987 to present