

**DRAFT**  
*Approved*  
2/9/99

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
January 25 and January 26, 1999**

The Annual Meeting of the Great Neck Library Association was held at the offices of the Great Library on Monday, January 25, 1999, and Tuesday, January 26, 1999. (Agenda attached.)

**Monday, January 25, 1999**

Dr. Mischa Schwartz, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 25, 1999, for the purpose of voting for two members of the Board of Trustees and three members of the Nominating Committee. Dr. Schwartz requested that the Library Director, Christine Salita, verify that over one hundred proxies had been received by the Library, constituting a quorum of the Association. The Library Director, Christine Salita, did so.

In-person voting took place from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at four locations: the Main Library on Bayview Avenue and the Branch Libraries: Lakeville, Parkville, and Station. After voting was concluded at 10:00 p.m. the business portion of the meeting was recessed until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 1999.

The proxy ballots were counted on Tuesday, January 26, 1999, by members of the Library's Administrative staff teamed with Nassau County certified election workers and inspectors under the supervision of the Library Director, Christine Salita.

**Tuesday, January 26, 1999**

The business part of the Annual Meeting of the Great Neck Library was held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 1999, at the offices of the Library on Bayview Ave. at Grist Mill Lane, Great Neck, N.Y. 11023.

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum of the Board:

Mischa Schwartz, President  
Elayne Bernstein, Vice President  
Catherine Moore, Treasurer  
Steve Glaser, Assistant Treasurer  
Renée Zarin, Secretary  
Ralene Adler  
Marietta DiCamillo

Also present:

Christine Salita, Library Director  
H. Neil Zitofsky, Business Manager

Attendance sheet attached

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Mischa Schwartz reconvened the Annual Meeting at 8:00 p.m. He asked the Board Secretary, Renée Zarin, to announce the election results:

TRUSTEE (For the four year term ending January, 2003, to fill the office currently encumbered by Ralene Adler)

Bette S. Weidman	1,740
Ralene Adler	1,603

TRUSTEE (For the four year term ending January, 2003, to fill the office currently encumbered by Renée Zarin)

Joyce L. Klein (Unopposed)	1,955
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE (For the two year term ending January, 2001, to fill the office currently encumbered by Marianna M. Wohlgemuth)

Marianna M. Wohlgemuth	1,731
Valerie Molinaro Birnbach	1,514

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (For the two year term ending January, 2001, to fill the office currently encumbered by Jean Christie)

John Brickman (Unopposed)	1,904
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE (For the two year term ending January, 2001, to fill the office currently encumbered by Linda Cohen)

Linda Cohen (Unopposed)	1,923
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Mrs. Zarin offered her congratulations to the winners, as did the Board President. Dr. Schwartz then thanked out-going trustee Ralene Adler for her service to the Library saying, in part, that "Mrs. Adler has always been an energetic, hard working Board Member. I admire her passionate commitment to the Library. She has shown herself to be a strong proponent of the Library that reaches all citizens of the community. We greatly appreciate her dedication. I'm sure the whole board joins me in thanking Ralene for her sustained efforts on behalf of the community." Dr. Schwartz invited Mrs. Adler to attend the February Board meeting at which time there will be a formal presentation of a plaque.

Upon motion made by Renée Zarin, seconded by Elayne Bernstein, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of January 26, and 27, 1998, Annual Meeting as corrected.

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 ( Adler, Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Moore, Schwartz, Zarin )  
*Motion Carried*

**REPORTS** (Annual Report appended)

Dr. Schwartz paraphrased the text of this printed President's message contained in the Annual Report. Text of message follows:

*1998 was a year of transition and change at the Great Neck Library. It saw a number of significant actions taken by the board of Trustees: A new Director of the Library was hired; a four-year contract with the Staff Association was negotiated; new carpeting was installed in the Main Building; the air-conditioner's water tower was replaced on the roof of the Main Library, the long planned renovation of Parkville and Lakeville Branches was begun; long-range planning for the Library was initiated; a major technology upgrade was implemented; and a Main Library "Ad Hoc" Committee was formed to focus on needed renovations.*

*We were fortunate to have the services of a very capable Interim Director, Arlene Nevens, while the search for a new Director was in progress. The new Director, Christine Salita, took the helm in July and we have made substantial progress in the short time she has been associated with the Library. I thank them both and other members of our fine staff for their unstinting help.*

*As indicated above, renovation of Parkville and Lakeville has now begun with planning input from the Branch Advisory Committees and the staff. The Board approved the final architectural plans for the two renovations and the approved allocation of funds to support both the renovations and the purchase of new furniture and equipment to go with the space renovations. It selected a respected contractor to carry out the construction at both sites. It approved new, extended leases for the two rental properties to ensure the use of these properties for many more years in the future. We all look forward to the newly-renovated branches, much better designed and equipped to serve the community.*

*I would like to close this brief summary of what I consider to be the most significant Board actions this year, by focusing on long-range planning. It is a truism that libraries are much more driven now than in the past by computer and telecommunications technology. Most of us are book lovers. It is my own feeling that books will always remain the basic focus of libraries. Some of the key questions to be answered are: how do we maintain and continue to improve our fine book collection while at the same time move ahead with increased reference use of CD-ROMs, of the Internet and World Wide Web; how do we accommodate new computer systems and new*

*telecommunication facilities in a 30-year old building designed for the needs of the 1970's; what is to be done in carrying out a much-needed renovation of the Main Library building; how and to what extent do we bring new systems into the three branches and improve communication between them and the Main Library, as well as to the outside, Internet world? Working with the advice of the staff, the Board has already moved in the direction of answering some of these questions: the Board this year approved a significant upgrade of the telecommunication facilities interconnecting the branches and the Main Library, as well as providing improved Internet access; it approved purchase of additional PC's for both staff and public use; it devoted two meetings to long-range planning; the staff set up a committee to look into long-range planning, coming up with a preliminary assessment of technology needs as part of the planning process; and working through the summer, under Ms. Salita's leadership, to broaden the planning process to include other important issues such as the Main Building renovation. Finally, I set up a Main Library "Ad Hoc" Committee in November, charged with coming up with detailed plans to be presented to the Board within 12-18 months for renovation of the Main Library building to make it fully comply with the expected needs of the 21st century. The committee, chaired by Ms. Salita, and consisting of seven members of the community, four staff members, and three Trustees, has already started to meet and will be meeting monthly throughout 1999. During the spring of 1999, we hope to involve other members of the community as well, in providing input to the "Ad Hoc" Committee. Many library patrons responded to my call to participate in this planning process. Only a small number could be accommodated on this specific committee. We hope to involve all who responded to the call, as well as others in this additional input process.*

*It has been a sometimes difficult, but clearly productive year. I would like to thank all Trustees for working together on all of the tasks and accomplishments noted above.*

Treasurer, Catherine Moore, read the following report:

*The Great Neck Library stands on solid financial ground. At the close of business, December 31, 1998, total unadjusted operating fund holdings were \$1,670,204.28 where were on deposit at Marine Midland Bank and The Bank of New York, in U.S. Treasury Bills, and in Petty Cash funds at Main and the Branches. This sum includes \$670,803.51 in reserves designated for renovations to the Parkville and Lakeville branches.*

*Additionally, the unadjusted balance of the Main Building and Special Services Fund was \$1,210,155.80; the Automated Library Fund was \$174,230.38; the Restricted Gift Fund was \$11,077.90; the Branch and the Special Services Fund was \$188,565.70. These funds totaled \$1,584,029.78 on December 31, 1998.*

*1998 has seen the following accomplishments:*

*The accounting and payroll system have been upgraded with revised Y2K compliant software, ensuring that January 1, 2000, will not bring a disruption to the strides we have made in recent years in the processing and reporting of all*

*financial operations of the Library. Year 2000 readiness issues will continue to be addressed throughout the Library during the upcoming year.*

*The internal financing of a \$728,500 budget for total renovations to our Parkville and Lakeville branches with neither debt nor tax increases.*

*Capital expenditures of almost \$250,000 were made to enhance the Main Library, including new carpeting throughout, new and expanded shelving, new projectors and assistive listening devices for our film series, automatic door openers for the Main entrance, new seating in the Children's room and re-upholstery of our reading room chairs, and some much needed structural repairs to our building.*

*The expenditure of nearly \$150,000 on technology, including hardware, software and telecommunications upgrades, enhancing the capabilities of our Library.*

*The approval of our 1999 budget with an overall increase in projected expenditure of 2.9%, while keeping the increase in taxes to 2%.*

*Our independent auditors, Graber & Co., are currently in the process of completing their audit of the Library's financial statements for 1998. We expect the report to show a surplus in the vicinity of \$150,000 against our 1998 budget of \$6,106,120. It is anticipated that the final audit report will be presented at the March, 1999, meeting of the Board of Trustees.*

Library Director, Christine Salita, paraphrased the text of her printed message from the Annual Report. Text of message follows:

*Public Library...These are two simple words which, when joined, confer a wealth of meaning. Public libraries are the center for community interaction. People of all ages, incomes, cultures, and educational backgrounds come to the library for a variety of purposes: informational, cultural, recreational, and educational. Public libraries are democratizing agents which afford each person equal access to a broad spectrum of materials representing many divergent perspectives. In today's world, information is the currency of power. Public libraries empower people to lead more productive, enlightened, and satisfying lives. In essence, public libraries enhance the quality of life.*

*The Great Neck Library has a long and proud tradition of service dating back to its incorporation on February 19, 1889, when it boasted a collection of 102 books and 40 "subscribing" members. In the 110 subsequent years, the Library has grown to be a modern library of stature, presently offering nearly 400,000 items, in a wide variety of formats, to its community numbering approximately 38,460 persons. The Great Neck Library serves the public through four physical locations: the Main Library on Bayview Avenue and the three Branch Libraries: Lakeville, Parkville, and Station. Each of these facilities is well used, and well loved, by its patrons. Each day at the Main Library alone, close to 1,000 people come through its doors to avail themselves of the many resources readily available for their enjoyment.*

*As you can see from the report of the Board President, 1998 was a year of progress. 1999 promises to be a year of accomplishment and vision. Before the end of the year, we will have rededicated the totally renovated Lakeville and Parkville Branch Libraries. The Children's Room at the Main Library will be given a new look, which will significantly increase the space available for the book collection and will provide a more functional arrangement. Reallocation of space at the Station Branch will be investigated. Upgrading the technological infrastructure will definitely be a priority. Envisioning the renovation of the 30 year-old Main Library facility, with broad-based community input, is the charge of the "Ad Hoc" Committee. Much is being done and much is being planned in order to make the Great Neck Library even better than it is.*

*Through a dynamic process involving the Board, the staff, and the community, the Great Neck Library will embrace the challenges and opportunities of the new year.*

Dr. Schwartz then made two presentations, the first to retiring Board member Renée Zarin, the second to retiring Nominating Committee Member Jean Christie. A plaque with the following inscription was presented to Mrs. Zarin, along with a bouquet of roses:

*To Renée Zarin: Great Neck Library Board of Trustees 1986-1999, in appreciation of thirteen years of dedicated service in outstanding leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library. Throughout your tenure, you were firm in your commitment to excellence in library service to the community. This was manifested by your advocacy of adequate funding to assure that the Great Neck Library remains one of this nation's outstanding leadership libraries, by your adherence to a clearly defined role of the Board of Trustees as the Library's policy making body, by your tireless efforts to improve the physical facility and technological infrastructure of all the library sites, and by your willingness to explore new possibilities for the enhancement of library service in the community. Your dedication, expertise, leadership and good judgment were invaluable to us, your fellow Board Members. Presented by the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees, January 26, 1999.*

Mrs. Zarin thanked the Board for the plaque and reflected on her years of service on the Board.

A certificate with the following text was presented to Mrs. Christie:

*Great Neck Library Certificate of Excellence presented to Jean Christie in appreciation for your service on the Nominating Committee. Your dedication to the library and your efforts in selecting qualified candidates to maintain our institution's standards have been exemplary.*

Public Comment:

Barbara Zeller - commending Renée Zarin.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Steve Glaser, and seconded by Elayne Bernstein, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Zarin  
Secretary

Attachment: Great Neck Library  
Report to the Community  
for the year ending December 31, 1998