Dear Members and Friends:

As I write this letter, we are experiencing a classic NYC heat wave which only means that we can look forward to a lively Fall of activities and events. This year, our 214th year, we are focused on building a stronger Society and creating more efficiencies within the management of the organization. As a Society, we cannot continue to do things just because “we’ve always done it that way.” We must embrace “Kaizen,” a Japanese term meaning “change for the better” or “continuous improvement.” It is a Japanese business philosophy regarding the processes that continuously improve operations and involve all stakeholders. Kaizen sees improvement in productivity as a gradual and methodical process.

We have already seen a significant increase in membership renewals through the 2018 implementation of our new Association Management System (AMS). Have you renewed?

So far this year, we have had many wonderful events. We started in February with our 3rd annual NES 1872 First Ladies’ Reception at the Down Town Association. The Spring Member/Guest event was held in April and Founders’ Day in May at the beautiful Colony Club. Continuing with tradition, the finalists for our 8th annual Book Awards were announced at Founders’ Day.

The first half of the year culminated in our Book Awards event at the National Arts Club. This year, we changed things up by combining the Awards Luncheon with the Literary Salon, formerly held the prior evening. This year we created a single evening event celebrating the awards, and it was a huge success. Don’t miss Roland Foster Miller’s brilliant summary of it elsewhere in this issue.

It’s now time to focus on the second half of the year and our planned events. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 18 in the Community Room of St. Jean Baptiste Church, 76th Street at Lexington Avenue. Our Fall Member/Guest party on Thursday, October 10th will once again find us at the Arader Galleries on Madison Avenue.

Let’s not forget our main event, our Annual Dinner Dance on November 8th at the Metropolitan Club. This year, for the first time, we are offering special early bird pricing: Between now and September 21st, Junior and Supporter level tickets can be purchased for 2017 prices!

I look forward to seeing you at all of these events.

Sincerely,

Benedict Gedaminski, 100th President
Founders’ Day
(Wednesday, May 15 — Colony Club)
New England Society in the City of New York follow us on

See more photos at nesnyc.org/events!
A record number of members and guests turned out on a fine summer night for the 2019 New England Society Book Awards at the National Arts Club on Gramercy Park. On the evening of June 26, the Awards Presentations and Salon melded into one outstanding event celebrating the books of the previous year that best represent the culture, history and individualism that form the essence of New England.

The rooms were expansive and the crowd was bordered by a wonderful Arts Club exhibit: a rainbow of 19th and 20th century Central Asian prayer rugs, traditional dress and other handmade textiles made by artists still using 2,000-year-old weaving techniques. A pasta station (penne and ravioli) and popular carving station (roast aged filet of beef) were culinary winners with the gathering.

After socializing and dining, 2019 winning authors and their representatives gathered onstage for the Salon, first fielding questions supplied by Book Awards jury members and later from the audience itself. The authors explained their intentions in writing their books and offered personal observations and additional background about their books and interests.

Several NES Student Scholars added another dimension to the night. They presented the awards to the winning authors and thus linked the Scholarship Program and the Book Awards in a joint venture for the first time.

In looking forward to next year’s Book Awards festivities, please consider joining the ranks of the 2020 jury readers. It’s a special team, indeed, and a lively, collegial way to enjoy meeting other members.

Roland Foster Miller and Ellen Scordato, 2019 Book Awards Co-Chairs

THE WINNERS FOR 2019 ARE:

**ART & PHOTOGRAPHY**
The Art of Curating: Paul J. Sachs and the Museum Course at Harvard by Sally Anne Duncan and Andrew McClellan (Getty Publications)

**FICTION**
The Maze at Windermere by Gregory Blake Smith (Penguin Random House, Viking)

**CONTEMPORARY NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY**
Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine by Alan Lightman (Pantheon Books)

**HISTORICAL NONFICTION**
Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War by Lisa Brooks (Yale University Press)

**SPECIALTY TITLE**
A Naturalist at Large by Bernd Heinrich (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
NES Scholarship Update

Jennifer Mitchell, Scholarship Committee Chair

As the high point of its program year, the NES Scholarship Committee held its annual scholar interviews in late July. Six outstanding applicants were interviewed and final selections made. Notifications of the awardees for 2019 will be made soon!

The preparation leading up to this annual event involves coordination with NYC schools and New England colleges, marketing and promotion, and ongoing fundraising efforts. The application process city-wide for students begins in April, and this year we launched a new digital application process that reduces paperwork and manual processing, saving time and trees! Trying a new approach to fundraising, we launched a GoFundMe Summer Campaign program in early summer.

For the popular NES Book Awards event in June, we combined program forces for the first time as three of our NES scholars presented the award winners at the evening Salon event.

SCHOLAR UPDATES

RECENT SCHOLARS STILL STUDYING

Artur Kalandarov is a government/legal studies and Russian double major at Bowdoin College. He has been awarded the Sarah and James Bowdoin award (Dean’s List) for academic achievement the past two years, and he also won the ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate award. This summer, he is interning at the Cohen Group, a DC consulting firm. He hopes to pursue a career in law after graduation in May 2020.

Rahma Ibrahim is majoring in biology and public health at Brown University and is on track to graduate in May 2022. Her extracurricular activities include working as a staff writer for The Brown Daily Herald; assisting at Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere where she serves as an advocate and speaks to representatives at the RI State House; and chairing Panels/Networking of the Brown Research Club.

SCHOLARS WHO HAVE GRADUATED AND ARE PURSUITING POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES OR CAREERS

Christian Catacutan graduated in 2019 from Brown University as a biology major with an area of concentration in neuroscience. While in school he performed research in a cognition lab and also led a breakdancing group. His postgraduate plans are to study for the MCATs and apply to medical school.

Harrison Dunne-Polite graduated from Bowdoin College in 2019 and is working in Boston as an associate with Fidelity Investments.

Tysha Vulcain-Murrell is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education at NYU following graduation from Mount Holyoke College in 2017.

Pamela Escano graduated from Brandeis in 2017 and works as a Student Affairs Coordinator at Columbia Law School in NYC.

The Scholarship Committee plans an active fall and winter of ramping up fundraising efforts and continuing ongoing marketing and promotion, plus outreach in assembling and maintaining our database of past scholars.

NEW MEMBERS

Margery “Boo” Grace, Katherine Johnson, James Leach, Carolyn Zezima, Laurie Jeffrey, Keith Knotek, Wallace Turner
1872 First Ladies’ Reception
(Thursday, February 7 — Downtown Association)

Spring Member-Guest Reception
(Thursday, April 4 — Soldiers’, Sailors’, Marines’, Coast Guard and Airmens’ Club)
New England Society in the City of New York
355 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017
212-297-2194
www.nesnyc.org

REMEMBER TO BE SOCIAL WITH NES
Check for updates about NES events and Society information!

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

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE
If you have new contact information or other updates, don’t forget to update your NES profile. Go to www.nesnyc.org and click on MY PROFILE on the top right. Our system will let you renew your membership, update contact or other profile information, review your account, register for any event or make donations online. Thank you!

GET INVOLVED!
Join a New England Society committee and have fun while helping make these great events and programs come to life.
We want to hear from you!
Contact us at (212) 297-2194 or send an email to nes@nesnyc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, September 18
St. Jean Baptiste Church Community Room
184 East 76th St @ Lexington Ave.

Fall Member/Guest Reception
Thursday, October 10
Arader Galleries, 1016 Madison Avenue @ 78th St

Annual Dinner Dance
Friday, November 8
Metropolitan Club, 1 East 60th St @ Fifth Ave

2017 prices in effect until September 21
Juniors and Supporters can save $50 per ticket by registering before the Autumnal Equinox for our gala annual event. Don’t miss it!

Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 11
Cosmopolitan Club, 122 East 66th St
bet. Park and Lexington Aves.

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

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