

Famous and Recognized Great Neckers:

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Lists and names found on the internet, books, notes from classmates, and other papers. One can “google search” most names for further information. Please send me any additions or corrections to Edgar at

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Thanks for all your input and changes.

* = ADDED ON - SINCE LAST LIST -----

Joey Adams	Comedian, from Vaudeville to the Catskills, and TV
Bette (Orovan) Adelman	Judge / An early major contributor to the Feminist Movement
Stephen Albert	Composer and Pulitzer Prize Winner
Madeleine Albright	First Woman Secretary of State 1996 .Daughter of a UN Diplomat
Frances Alda	International Opera Star at the turn of the Century
Moses Annenberg	Publisher of the Philadelphia Inquirer –Annenberg Foundation
Alfred Appel, Jr.	Educator, Professor, and Author including “Art of Celebration”
* Nancy Astor-White	Is Owner of the World Renowned Arabian Horse Farm, Glen Brook Arabians
Sol Atlas	Real Estate Developer – Manhasset’s “Miracle Mile”
Jon Avnet	Film Producer/Director 1960-2000’s
David Baltimore	Biologist and Nobel Prize winner (Science) 1975, Pres. Of Caltech
William S. Barstow	Inventor of Electrical Devices and an associate of Thomas Edison
Richard Barthelmess	Silent film star 1920-30’s
Jim Barton	Voice over commercials 1990-2006
Sandy Becker	TV personality ..Kid shows 1950-60’s
Henri Bendel	Foremost clothing designer of his time
Bob Benjamin	Head of United Artists 1950-60’s
* Richard Benjamin	(Kensington) Movie Actor, was married to Paula Prentiss
The Blackburn Twins	Dancers in 1950 musicals- Had a dance studio in Great Neck also
Nikki Blonsky	A new Actress appearing in the movie “Hairspray” in 2007
Amy Bloom	Psychotherapist and Author “Love Invents Us” set in Great Neck
Hiram Bloomingdale	Department store family
Oscar Brand	Folk Song writer had long running PBS radio show 50’s
* Dave Breger	Caroonist, “G.I. Joe” series. (Great Neck Estates) 1940’s
* Donald Brian	Broadway Actor, Singer and Dancer, 1907 “King of Broadway”, 20 Musicals
Fanny Brice	“Baby Snooks” of the 1940-50’s on the radio
William Gould Brokaw	Mens clothing manufacturer early 1900’s (Brokaw Avenue)
Heywood Broun	Newspaper columnist and politician NYC papers 1920-30’s
Margaret Wise Brown	Author of over 100 children’s books in the 1930’s and 1940’s
Nadine Ullman Brozan	Journalist for the New York Times
Gene Buck	President of ASCAP in the 30’s to 50’s
Ralph Bunche	UN Diplomat but could not buy a house in Great Neck in the 1950’s
Sid Caesar	TV Comedian in the 1940-1950’s, “Your Show of Shows”
Peter Camejo	Ran for Governor of California as the Green Party Candidate 2003
Eddie Cantor	Comedian of the 1930-60’s
Jay Cantor	Educator and Author including the book “Great Neck” in 2004
Charlie Chaplin	Silent Film Comedian
Ray Charles	TV and Movie entertainer .Lived in the Village of Thomaston .
Maurice Chevalier	Song and dance star in the movies of 1930-1960’s, Broadway in the 20’s
Shirley Chisholm	Politician of the 60’s. Tried to become the Democrat Presidential Nominee
Walter Percy Chrysler	Chrysler Automobile Corporation founder – had owned USMM Academy land
* Richard Church	Founded Dwight and Church – cosmetic/home products (Kings Point)
* Buddy Clark	Ballard singer of the 40-50’s, lived on Nassau Drive. Died in airplane crash

Dr. Mary L. Cleave	Astronaut with 2 shuttle flights and 262 hours in space
George M. Cohan	Broadway musical writer, composer, lyricist, producer of Broadway Hits
* Steven A. Cohen	Multi-Billionaire Hedge Fund Manager (founded SAC Capital), art collector too.
Wilfred P. Cohen	Very Successful clothing line (Arthur Allen Clothes) Manufacturer
Kenneth Cole	Founded Kenneth Cole footwear, accessories and clothing
Francis Ford Coppola	Movie Director of the "Godfather" trilogy and "Apocalypse Now"
Talia (Coppola) Shire	Actress (wife of Rocky in movies) and in the "Godfather" Movies
* Andrew W. Cordier	United Nations Official and President of Columbia University
Irwin Corey	TV comedian of the 1970-80's "Professor Corey"
* Jerome Cowan	Character Actor / Movies and TV (attorney in "Miracle on 34 th St")
Jane Cowl	Silent film star 1910-20's and then in "talkies" till 1940's
Frank Craven	Actor/Playwright in the 1930-1940's
Thomas Craven	Author and Editor of Art Books and Magazines (1930 – 1955)
Joan Crawford	Movie star of the 30's, 40's and 50's
* Frederic Dannay	Co-Author of the "Ellery Queen" stories and Mystery Magazines
* Andrea (Oppenheimer) Dean	Editor of Architecture Magazine and author of "Rural Studio"
Connie Desmond	Worked with Red Barber play calling Brooklyn Dodgers 1940-50's
Wendy Doniger	Teacher, Author, and World renowned "Sanskrit" scholar
* Janette Davis	Featured Singer on the "Arthur Godfrey Show"
Ervin Drake	Song Writer, Composer, and Lyricist, "I Believe", "It was a Very Good Year"
Will Durant	Philosopher and Author in the 1910's – 1970's
Quinn Early	Football Player 12 yrs – New Orleans Saints, Buffalo Bills and NY Jets
Florence Eldridge	Actress and married to Frederick March 1930's – 40's
Roswell Eldridge	Owner of Saddle Rock and Operated the Major Ferry Services in NYC
Percy Faith	Orchestra conductor and leader in the 40's – 70's
Else Ferguson	Stage Actress and Silent Film Star of the 1910's -1930's
* Andy Ferretti	Tommy Dorsey band, played trumpet on Radio and TV
Lew Fields	Comedian, Vaudeville Stage Actor of the 1920's and 1930's
W.C. Fields	Early movie comedian 1920-1930's (Kings Point)
Tully Filmus	Artist of the 1920-1950's in many museums
* "Finch"	Of "Clayburn & Finch" radio fame (Lake Success)
F. Scott Fitzgerald	Writer 1930's "The Great Gatsby" about Great Neck (GN Estates)
Folger family	Folger Coffee..still a well known coffee maker (Kings Point)
Whitey Ford	Yankee Pitcher of the famous 1950's Yankees
Robert Friedman	Fortune Magazine – International Editor
Vitas Gerulaitas	Tennis Player of world fame
* John Gibson	Radio and TV Actor "Casey Crime Photographer" bartender
* Alan L. Gleitsman	Owned/Distributed movies. Gave many Scholarships to GNHS Students
Paulette Goddard	Movie actress of the 1940's, and married Charlie Chaplin (3 rd wife)
Rube Goldberg	Cartoonist of the 50's, 60's, and 70's
Judith S. Goldstein	Author; "Inventing Great Neck" 2006
Jamie S. Gorelick	Lawyer under Janet Reno and one of the ten on the 9/11 Commission
Morton Gould	Music conductor 1940-1950's
W.R. Grace	Shipping Mogul and Mayor of New York City
Ben Grauer	NBC announcer (Times Square New Years Eve Celebrations)
Mark J. Green	Lawyer and Politician. ran for NY Senate but lost to Charles Schumer
* Bobby Haggard	Song Writer, Bass Player including "How Long Has This Been Going On"
Robert D. Hales	One of 12 Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Leonid Hambro	Classical Pianist 1960's
Marvin Hamlisch	Composer, "The Way We Were" and soundtrack for "The Sting"
Oscar Hammerstein II	Writer of the best musicals in the 1950's
* Leigh (Judith Schonberger) Harris	Theater Director and Teacher in Off-Broadway, Theater-in-the-Round, NYC
Sam Harris	Theatrical Producer of the 20's friend of F. Scott Fitzgerald
Paul and Grace Hartman	Dancers and actors on Broadway and films 1940's
Jack Hausman	Philanthropist, successful Textile Manufacturer
Michael Hausman	Movie Producer of many award winning films including "Armedeus"

August Heckscher	Mining Industrialist and Real Estate Magnate 20's - 40's
William Helmreich	Author, "Against All Odds"
Joseph Hirshhorn	Financier, Mining and Oil business, and Art Collector
Harriet (Weil) Hodgson	Author of several books including "Smiling Through Your Tears"
* Francis X. Hope	Broadway Producer/Manager in the 1920's and 1930's
Leslie Howard	Movie actor 1950's
Willie Howard	Stage performer, comedian in 1930-40's
* Emily Hughes	US Olympic Figure Skating Team (2006) (younger sister of Sarah Hughes)
Sarah Hughes	Olympic Gold Medal in Skating 2002
Parks Johnson	VOX POP radio personality 1950's
Nathan S. Jonas	NYC Banker (1930's) and Philanthropist
Max Kalish	Sculpture 1930's
Andy Kaufman	TV Comedian 1960-80's Saturday Night Live
* Rhoda (Levy) Kafer	Author of Recipes and the book, "Rhoda's Kitchen" (1995)
* Lynzee Klingman	Renowned Film Editor, "The Lake House" her latest
Alan King	TV Comedian 1960-1990's
Charles King	Movie actor 1940 -50's
Dennis King	Stage and TV Actor 1950-60's (married model Louise Cordier GNHS)
Gene Klavin	Radio DJ 1980-90's
Rudy Kopf	Founder of Kobrand Corp. The major Quality Wines and Spirits Firm
Arthur B. Krim	Past Chairman of Orion Pictures and United Artists, 1,000 movies
Matilda Krim	Famous AIDS researcher
Charles G. Kurland	World renowned Molecular Biologist who teaches and lectures
* Christopher Lambert	Actor
Hal Lanigan	Original Editor and chief writer of the "Great Neck News"
Ring Lardner	Writer of Short Stories 1910-30's
Rex Lardner	Humorist wrote about golf and tennis
Ira Levin	Author, "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Boys From Brazil"
David Levitt	President "Doughnut Corp. of America" 1940's- fought to get hospital
William J. and Alfred Levitt	Home Builders (17,000 prefabricated homes in Levittown, L.I.)
Daniel Lipsky	Financier and Eddie Cantor's financial advisor
Jessie Livermore	1930's Wealthy Financial Wizard (Kings Point)
* Russ Lyon	Became the largest Residential and Commercial Realtor in Phoenix AZ
Elaine Malbin	Soprano 1950's sang in Mario Lanza Films
Frederick March	Stage and Movie Actor of the 1930's -1970's
Groucho Marx	Movie, TV, and Stage Comedian 1930's - 1970's
Charles McCausland	Lieutenant General in the United States Air Force
Nancy Meckler	Play Director including The Royal Shakespeare Company
Tom Meighan	Successful Silent Film star
Herman Melville	Author of "Moby Dick"
Barbara Stoler Miller	World renowned "Sanskrit" scholar
Dr. John L. Miller	School Superintendent 1942 - 1970 during the difficult beginning years
Marilyn Miller	Movie actress of the 1920's and 1930's
Jeanette McDonald	Stage and Movie actress/ singer 1940's - 1950's
* Grace Moore	Operatic Soprano of the 1920- 1940's. Many Broadway musicals -68 Arleigh Rd
David J. Nash	TV Producer of the 60's and 70's including National Conventions
Peter Nero	Pianist and POP's Conductor in the 50's - present
Louise Nevelson	Artist 1960-70's, Abstract Sculptorist
Paul Newman	Screen Actor, 1950's - present . Lived on Station Road for awhile
Bobby North	Stage Performer/Producer 1910's
* Olsen and Johnson	Radio "Hellzapoppin" show of the 1930's, both lived on Allenwood Road
Eugene O'Neill	Playwright - 50 plays 1920 - 1940's
Lottie Parker	Author of "Way Down East"
* Floyd Paterson	Heavyweight Boxer. Beat Archie Moore for World Championship 1956
Olga Petrova	Silent Screen Actress, Screenwriter and Playwright
Julia Phillips	Producer, won an Academy Award for co-production of "The Sting"

Henry Phipps	Partner of Andrew Carnegie – estate was G.N. School Admin. Building
Bernard Pomerance	Playwright, “The Elephant Man” and Pulitzer Prize Winner
* Ester Ralston	Movie Star of the 1920’s -1930’s married to Ted Llyod ,TV producer
Dan Raviv	Reporter/Author – CBS News, anchored 9/11 coverage
Martha Raye	TV comedian 1948-50’s
Basil Rathbone	Played Sherlock Holmes in the movies
* Les Read	“Mister HBO” Helped sell, on TV, over 5,000,000 subscriptions /HBO/Cinemax
* Meshulam Ricklis	CEO of Rapid America / McCrory Corporation
Larry Rivers	Artist 1940 – 1950’s
* Emil Ronzoni	“Ronzoni Pasta” a favorite in all grocery stores in the USA
* Leonard Rose	Cello player, NBC Orchestra, taught at Julliard School of Music
Dale Rosengarten	Educator and Author on religious subjects
Rabbi Jack Rudin	Author, and Rabbi of Temple Beth-El from 1930 to 1971 (Reform)
* Lillian Russell	Movie actress of the 1950’s and 1960’s
Gene Sarazen	Championship Golfer 1920 – 30’s
Nicholas Schenck	Ran Lowe’s and MGM in the 1920,30,40’s
Deborah Shindler	Movie Producer, “Made in Manhattan” with Jennifer Lopez
* Arthur Shorin	CEO of Topps Bubble Gum (Kings Point)
George Segal	Movie Actor 1950-90’s
Edgar Selwyn	Actor, Director and Playwright in the 1920’s and 1930’s
Ingram Shavitz	Founder of “Burt’s Bees” Products
Oscar Shaw	Stage and Film Actor of the 1920’s and 1930’s
Roberta Sherwood	Singer of the 1940-60’s on TV and Copa Cabanna
* Oscar Schisgall	Writer and Corporate Historian wrote 4,000 short stories and articles
Fred Silver	Pianist, Author, Educator and Playwright
Bob Simon	“60 Minutes” the Television Journalist
Harry F. Sinclair	Sinclair Oil founder, Thoroughbred race horses, Teapot Dome scandal
Alfred P. Sloan	Chairman of the Board of GM autos - 1950’s /Philanthropist
Art Smith	Pitcher for the Chicago White Sox (1932) and GNHS Athletic Director
St. Nick	Birth place (according to “Miracle on 34 th Street”)
Ellen J. Stekert	Performer and Historian of Folklore Music also an Educator at U Minn.
Dawn Steel	Producer “Flashdance” and head of Paramount in 1985 and Columbia
Alan N. Stillman	Founder of the nation wide “T.G.I.F. Restaurants”
Herbert Bayard Swope, Jr.	Newspaper editor NY World and a Television producer 50’s-60’s
Norma Talmadge	Silent film star 1910 – 20’s
John Thompson	Inventor of the Thompson Machine Gun (WW II)
Ernest Truex	Movie, stage and TV actor 1920 – 50’s
Richard Tucker	1950’s great Operatic tenor
* Peter Udell	Musician, Tony Award winner in the 60’s
Louis Uchitelle	Economic writer for the New York Times
Jean-Claude Van Itallie	Playwright, performer, play director and teacher
William K. Vanderbilt, Jr.	Railroad Magnate, home was Lake Success C. Club
Harry von Zell	Radio announcer for Eddie Cantor Show 1930-40’s
* Ewing Walker	Author and Book Publisher
* Mimi (Wellner) Walsh	Artist – in the fine art of “Enameling” (fusing special glass to metal using heat)
* Barbara Walters	TV Journalist and lived in Great Neck for a time around 1963 as Mrs Lee Guber
Sam Warner	Co-founder and President of Warner Bros. Films with his brothers
Rabbi Mordecai Waxman	Rabbi of Temple Israel (Conservative) 1947 -1995
* Clifton Webb	Stage and award winning Motion Picture actor of the 50 and 60’s
Max Weber	Artist 1920-50’s
Ted Weems	Orchestra leader 1920-1950’s. Helped Perry Como get started
* Mort Weisinger	Editor of the SUPERMAN, and BATMAN family of Comic Books
Edmund Wilson	Writer and Editor of Vanity Fair and friend of F. Scott Fitzgerald
* Paul Wittgenstein	One-Armed Pianist of the 30’s and 40’s from Austria – lost arm in WW I
P.G. Wodehouse	Author and song writer 1920-1950’s, English Comic writer
John Allen Wolfe	Radio Newscaster 1940’s - 1960’s (Locust St.- Kensington)

Herman Wouk	Author “The Cain Mutiny” and “Winds of War”
Ed Wynn	Movie actor 1920-50’s (Comedian)
Keenan Wynn	Movie star in the 1960 -90’s (son of Ed Wynn)
Chic Young	Creator of “Blonde” comic strip
Neil Zaslow	Musicologist and Cornell Professor
Richard Zeckhauser	Financial Writer, and Educator at Kennedy School of Business
Florenz (Flo) Ziegfeld	Broadway Impresario – The Ziegfeld Follies of the early 1900’s
Marvin Zim	Writer and Reporter for TIME Magazine
William H. Zinsser	Business man and Founder of the Great Neck Association in the 20’s

Many of the names on the above list were mentioned in the two books listed below:

“Inventing Great Neck” by Judith S. Goldstein - 2006
 “Ultimate Book of Great Neck” by Marcelle S. Fischler - 2003