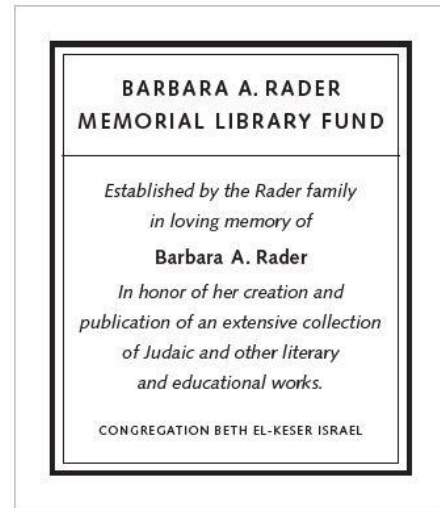


## BARBARA A. RADER



The day after she graduated from Hofstra University (New York) in 1962, Barbara set out to find employment relating to her love of books. She quickly found her first professional position in the publishing industry with Doubleday as a copy editor where she began to develop and hone her editorial and related skills. Barbara remained with Doubleday until her marriage in 1967 to Dennis Rader. They were both offered positions at Yale University, Barbara as an editor at the Yale University Press and Dennis as a member of the Yale Engineering and Applied Science faculty. The couple then moved to Hamden, Connecticut. At the Press, Barbara further sharpened her editorial skills and gained valuable experience in dealing with academic authors, which proved to be an important foundation for her later work. Barbara remained at the Press until her first child, Sharon, was born three years later.

When a second child, Michael, was born in 1973, and Dennis changed his career path by moving from the academic to the commercial world, the family moved to Danbury, Connecticut. They subsequently relocated to Houston, Texas where Barbara enrolled in graduate courses at Rice University. Shortly thereafter she accepted a graduate fellowship at Rice to pursue studies on a Masters and Ph.D. track in the English Department. While Barbara was nearing completion of a Master of Arts degree at Rice, the family once again relocated, this time to Woodbridge, Connecticut in 1981, which became their permanent home. Rice awarded Barbara a Master of Arts degree in 1982, but she was determined to complete a Ph.D. degree remotely, under the supervision of her faculty advisor at Rice. While overcoming logistical obstacles and raising two small children, she completed her dissertation entitled "Rite Of Passage: The Quest of the Hero in Saul Bellow's Novels" and received a Ph.D. at Rice in 1985.

Eager to resume her involvement with books, Barbara soon joined the Southern Connecticut Library Council (SCLC) where she served as an in-house scholar,

consultant, grant writer and editor. Working with her colleagues at SCLC, she helped obtain grants from the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC) and the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) in support of many of SCLC's missions. She organized and managed numerous scholar-led book discussions funded by the CHC and NEH in public libraries across the state of Connecticut.

In 1992 Barbara joined Greenwood Publishing Group in Westport, Connecticut as Executive Editor for their School and Public Library Reference program. Expanding the program, she created innovative topical series categories such as "Literature in Context Series" and "Critical Companions to Popular Contemporary Writers Series" and recruited academic and other scholars to author an extensive list of corresponding individual and series books, which were published by Greenwood. The period of more than a decade at Greenwood was among the most productive of Barbara's professional career. Her collection of individual and series educational books were highly sought after by librarians at schools and public libraries with whom she often collaborated to identify topical areas of interest to the librarians and their patrons.

In the remaining five years before retiring in 2007, Barbara was the executive editor for the Gale Group, a division of Thomson Corporation, which produced microfilm archives of historically important documents. She travelled extensively to academic institutions across the country to bring historically important correspondence and other documents back to life and made part of the microfilm archives available for scholars and others working in various fields.

Throughout her professional career, Barbara remained a voracious reader and, while living in Woodbridge, was a devoted patron of the Woodbridge Town Library, frequently reading more than 150 books per year. At the same time she was an active working member of the Friends of the Woodbridge Library, a volunteer support group.

Barbara's enduring professional goal was to elevate the role of books and reading to prominence in people's lives. In what may someday prove to be one of her most important contributions, she lovingly encouraged her four grandchildren to become avid readers. The broad objective of this Memorial Library Fund is to perpetuate her goal and to encourage others to do so in the same way.