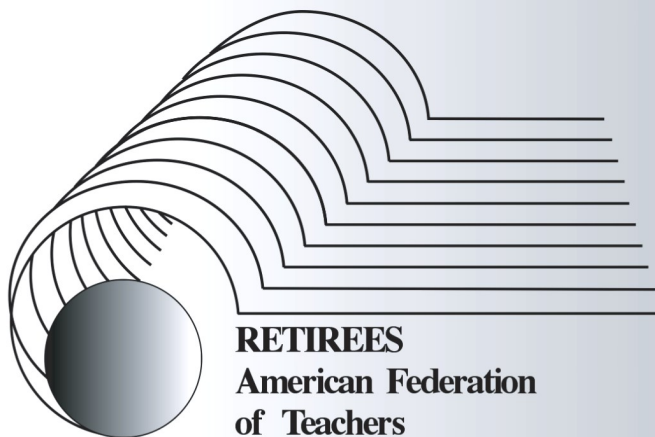




RETIREES
American Federation
of Teachers

Spring/Summer 2026

AFTerwords

NEWSLETTER • LOCAL 2373

ROWAN UNIVERSITY
201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, N.J., 08028

April Mixer Brings Retirees and Pre-Retirees Together

By Faye Robinson and Jon Foglein

Recognizing that retirement can involve a maze of paperwork and policy as well as personal change, the Retirees Chapter has long offered support to pre-retirement colleagues. AFT Retirees joined with Rowan pre-retirees on Friday, April 17, for a social mixer and information session. The event this year was organized by Bill Carrigan of the History Department, with aid from Julie Mallory and Jon Foglein. Also attending were representatives from Rowan's Office of Human Resources and from the Wellness Village planned for West Campus. Information from HR served to demystify the logistical side of retirement, including how to navigate the state pension system, the university's separation process, and changes in health coverage.

The 25 attendees shared in a meal graciously provided by AFT



Social time at the mixer, foreground from left: Bill Carrigan, Carl Hausman, Allan Jiao, Michael DiSanto, Natalie Reaves, Larry De Pasquale.

Local 2373. After breaking bread, three retirees shared perspectives on life after full-time employment. Fred Adelson, who retired from the Art Department, shared about his financial planning and personal experiences. Esther Mummert, formerly an academic advisor, offered tips for personal and financial planning. Retired Sociology Professor Jay Chaskes told how his health struggles led to an unexpected mission to improve local deficiencies for people with physical challenges. The audience enjoyed informative and lively presentations, as well as asking questions from the floor. Afterward came time for social mingling among the attendees.

The event serves as a reminder that the AFT Retirees Chapter remains a vibrant resource for the Rowan community, helping to insure that the "Class of 2026" (and beyond) can move into their new lives with the full support of their union brothers and sisters.

Rowan Celebrates Distinguished Alumna Toni Libro

The chapter proudly congratulates Toni Libro for being honored with Rowan University's Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 2026 Commencement ceremony on May 9.



Alumni President Lisa Westfield and Rowan President Ali Houshmand congratulate Dr. Toni Libro, framed by colors of Toni's beloved brown-eyed Susans.



AFT friends and family Joy Wiltenburg, Carmine Deo, Aimee Lee Deo, Toni Libro, Larry De Pasquale, Cindy Vitto, George Romeo. Not pictured: Emily Blanck, Bill Carrigan, Ken Kaleta.

A Plethora of Programs

In this year of transition our chapter has continued its lively schedule of monthly programs via Zoom. Ron Czocho, who took over as coordinator of programs for this spring, has been delighted at how members have stepped forward to organize varied and stimulating programs.

December featured an informative talk about internet scams from Jerry Patterson, Director of Information Security at Rowan. While security online is important for everyone, seniors are a favored target for scammers. Bad actors are attracted by seniors' retirement savings and their possible lesser tech savvy, so retirees

are well advised to be on guard. Jerry took us through scammers' favorite tactics from password theft to phishing, gift card scams, and more. His recommended practical steps for online safety include: using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, avoiding unknown links, and keeping devices updated. Thanks to program organizer Harold Sahm.

After the January break, we heard in February from some of our scholarship students about how financial aid from our chapter has contributed to their education. Amanda Valentino, who offered a program for our Chapter last year, is now a senior, studying nutrition and taking masters-level courses while completing her undergraduate degree. Amber Miller joined the meeting remotely from Chicago, where she was auditioning for graduate vocal study at Northwestern University. She had a prestigious lineup of auditions to come, at the Peabody Conservatory, Juilliard, Curtis, and the New School. Organizer Esther Mummert interviewed the students, and all congratulated them for their impressive achievements.

In March, Jerry Hough shared his research on the effects of aging in pigeons, connecting that research with ongoing trends in diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. He discussed effects of the disease on the brain, along with recent advances in diagnosis and treatment. The hope of researchers is eventually to be able to prevent the onset of dementia. Thanks to organizer Seth Bergmann.

April brought the return of two-time scholarship winner Amanda Valentino to talk about nutrition. Her presentation focused on the importance of balancing blood sugar, not just for people with diabetes or pre-diabetes, but for everyone. She explained that healthy blood sugar levels promote better heart health, metabolism, cognition--the whole body, in fact. Rather than avoiding certain foods, current advice focuses on balance.



Esther Mummert, Amanda Valentino, and Julie Mallory at the fall scholarship reception.

A Passion for Public Education:

GLASSBORO SUPERINTENDENT AL LEWIS

AL Lewis, a proud graduate of Rowan's programs in education and history, is just completing his first year as Superintendent of the Glassboro Public Schools. His presentation at our program on May 13, introduced by organizer Patti Coughlan, showed how his roots at Rowan have informed his goals and achievements, especially as superintendent back home in the 'Boro. The connections are deep: Al's wife, fellow Prof Ellen Lewis, teaches writing arts at Rowan. Just last year, Al was honored by the College of Education with its alumni Outstanding Achievement Award.

After graduating from Rowan in 2006, Al began as a classroom teacher in Voorhees, where he taught kindergarten, 3d, 4th, and 5th grades. Moving to the Gloucester Township public schools, he became science and tech ed supervisor. There he worked with a team charged with overhauling the curriculum to meet Common Core standards. He is especially proud of launching a free summer STEAM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) to give minority girls access to advancement in those fields. From there he moved to his first post as superintendent in Weymouth Township, where he soon earned recognition with the National Association of School Superintendents Award for Small School District Leadership.

Al sees the university as a huge resource for the entire Glassboro community and has worked tirelessly toward strengthening ties between town and gown. He has been able to forge an innovative partnership with the university, Pathways of Promise, to create dual credit offerings and a seamless transition for Glassboro High School students to study at Rowan. At the same time, he has been networking and building connections with a wide range of community leaders. He has ambitious plans to strengthen instruction, drawing on the university's resources of expertise. Besides the benefits to curriculum and college access, ties with the university have led to a new arrangement to open the former childcare center on campus to Glassboro children as the Mitcho Early Childhood Center.

According to Al, his appointment as superintendent in Glassboro was a dream come true. His dedication and hard work promise to make dreams come true for Glassboro as well.



Al Lewis, Superintendent, Glassboro Public Schools.

Remembering Rowan:

A Brave Glassboro Hosts the Hollybush Summit

By Mary Lee Donahue

Remembering Rowan, the brainchild of Jay Chaskes, is a new AFTerwords series of personal reminiscences, offering a way to preserve and share memories as we did in our centennial collection of memoirs. Look for Jay's essay in the next issue on how one encounter with a student changed his life. Members are invited to contact the editor, Joy Wiltenburg, with ideas for future contributions (wiltenburg@rowan.edu).

In the summer of 1967, my husband and I were teaching at a small state college in western Maryland while awaiting the birth of our first child. Overseas, the Vietnam War was raging, and another Middle East conflict had culminated in the Six Day War. Here at home, anti-war protests and civil rights demonstrations filled the streets. Soon, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin was expected to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York about the crisis in the Middle East. According to news reports, Kosygin had declined an invitation by President Lyndon Johnson to meet in Washington, whereupon Johnson had refused Kosygin's invitation to travel to New York. An international standoff threatened to disrupt a period of calm, peaceful relations between the two world powers.

Having seen my share of anti-war protests and civil rights marches, I was napping on a daybed on the afternoon of June 22 when my husband burst into the room with a portable television set on a rolling stand. "You have to see this," he exclaimed. "A little college in New Jersey is hosting an international summit!"

He rolled the TV to my bedside and we watched as the now familiar façade of Hollybush mansion filled the screen, flanked by Gov. Richard Hughes and Mrs. Hughes along with Glassboro State College President Thomas Robinson and Mrs. Robinson. Cameras whirled while an announcer explained that Robinson had broken the standoff himself by phoning the White House and inviting the two world leaders to meet at Hollybush, his home on campus, strategically located midway between Washington and New York.

With only 16 hours to prepare for the meeting, Glassboro State College had suddenly become the center of international attention. As we watched, TV cameras panned to show crowds of people lining the streets across from Hollybush and throughout the campus – school children, college students, men in work clothes, mothers with baby carriages — some carrying hand-lettered signs of welcome, others waving flags, all happily smiling at the prospect of an historic meeting between the United States and the Soviet Union happening right here, right now.

Televised news reports introduced Glassboro State to the public at large. The world learned how seizing opportunities was part of the Zeitgeist of the little town, how the inspired purchase of a failing glass factory 200 years earlier had led Whitney Brothers to become the world's largest producer of commercial glassware, and how the destruction of that business by fire in the early 20th century prompted townspeople to pool their resources, purchase 25 acres of Whitney property including Hollybush, and petition the state to locate a new college on the site. Although the Hollybush



Summit did not lead to a permanent treaty or lasting world peace, the warm hospitality of the little college town and of what came to be called the Spirit of Hollybush laid the foundation for the next half century of peaceful international relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Watching the event on television more than 250 miles away, I was awestruck by the courage, the chutzpah, the can-do attitude of ordinary people to attempt what seasoned statesmen could not accomplish: To pull off an international summit meeting with less than one day's notice -- the security, the communications, the parking, the catering for goodness' sake! Television cameras filmed the tall oaks and stately buildings of the leafy green campus while reporters interviewed ebullient town officials and excited citizens.

We were state college people, my husband and I, veterans of large state colleges and universities where traditions were hidebound and decisions took weeks. But his appointment in Maryland would be expiring soon while my contract had already been cancelled when I became pregnant, a discriminatory offense that was still legal in 1967. Watching the Hollybush Summit on TV more than 250 miles away, I knew where I wanted to live, where I wanted to raise my children -- In Glassboro, in this brave little former factory town that made way for a new state college and, eventually, with only 16 hours' notice, for an international summit.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON
September 17th - Shpeen Hall

ROSE GLASSBERG MEMORIAL
October 18th - 3p.m. - Pfleeger Concert Hall

SPRING MEETINGS VIA ZOOM
2nd Wednesday of the Month

OCT. 14TH, NOV. 11TH, DEC. 9TH
Watch for Program Announcements!

A Tribute to Harold Sahm

At December's membership meeting, the last where Harold presided, Jay Chaskes and Toni Libro offered this resolution in his honor on behalf of the Chapter.



Harold at a Zoom meeting on his virtual cruise deck.

We the People of the AFT Retirees Chapter, in order to form a more perfect Union Chapter and promote our general welfare, do ordain and establish this Resolution in recognition of President Harold Sahm, Ed.D., who is stepping down as of January 1, 2026, leaving in his wake, as an inveterate cruiser, a sea of well wishes from colleagues who regret his departure but appreciate his exemplary performance as their steadfast leader over the last five formative years. As there is much to admire, and much to be thankful for, we would like to present a testimonial on behalf of the Chapter for J. Harold Sahm. For the record, let it be said:

- That Harold Sahm provided exemplary leadership and organizational skills throughout his tenure as President of the AFT Retirees Chapter 2373 for five years, 2020-2025, thereby honoring and carrying forth the leadership legacy established by Rose Glassberg;
- That he valiantly represented the retirees, protecting their rights and privileges, often at the highest levels, securing parking rights and library privileges among others;
- That he consulted and valued the input of others in the decision-making process, both with the Executive Committee and membership at large, which continued to flourish;
- That he acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of others to the goals and good of the Chapter, particularly initiatives to support our Scholarships and grow the Chapter;
- That he valued the dignity of our membership, treating others with respect and fairness; being tolerant, patient, and open to other viewpoints and preferences;
- That he supported the historic publication of *A Centennial Collection of Memoirs by Members of the AFT Retirees Chapter* in 2023; a trifold *Retirees Chapter Brochure*; *A Directory of Members*; and two ample issues a year of *AFTERwords*, the Chapter's newsletter, thus championing all efforts of outreach, including Concerts and Forums;
- That he wrote *AFTerthoughts*, the President's Column for *AFTERwords*, regularly, sharing valuable perspectives and experiences with members in an engaging, provocative style;
- That he demonstrated an admirable work ethic, inculcated by familial values, and imparted the importance of doing one's part, and stepping up whenever possible;
- That he demonstrated grace under pressure time and again, always with a professional demeanor, despite provocations; ever disciplined as an athlete, wrestler, and swimmer;
- That he was generous of his time and energy, giving freely while seeking to balance his commitments to home and work fairly, despite ongoing health issues and challenges.

In support of this Resolution, we of the AFT Retirees Chapter 2373 acknowledge the benefits and protections bestowed upon us by the Chapter, and mutually pledge to each other our Unity, and our enduring Appreciation for the exceptional leadership of Harold Sahm, whom we so Honor today.

WE SHALL OVERCOME SOMEDAY

By Julie Mallory, VP for Political Affairs

Growing up in 1950s Omaha, NE, I vividly recall the horror and disbelief I felt in watching black children of my age being attacked by vicious dogs, hosed and beaten by police for protesting against segregation. As my family rode through town checking out homes for sale, white children ran up to our car yelling the “n” word while homeowners, seeing us, removed their “For Sale” signs saying “Sorry, this house is sold.” Clearly, blacks were as unwanted in Omaha as they were in states with signs that I saw on tv reading “Whites Only” above faucets and restrooms. I knew early that *white privilege, not liberty and justice for all*, was the prevailing sentiment regardless of what the law said.

Back then, watching television was a treat at my house. Hearing marchers sing “We Shall Overcome,” a familiar hymn sung in black churches, was common. Holding hands to sing the familiar words, I always felt connected with hope to overcoming the indignity and injustice of a racially segregated America.

A necessary American history

In 1870, the 15th Amendment signed into law voting rights for black men, yet it had to be amended five times to defend voting rights for all. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 came nearly 100 years later. In April 2026, the Supreme Court upheld gerrymandering in which states used partisan politics to legally draw maps excluding black voters from voting. Once again, I felt that gut punch of *separate and not equal* as painfully as a “Whites Only” sign.

Justice Kavanaugh stated: *This court’s cases, in a variety of contexts, have said that race-based remedies are permissible for a period of time...but that they should not be indefinite and should have an end point....Is there anything you can point us to that would not allow it to extend forever, the intentional use of race...?*

Kavanaugh’s openly Jim Crow position upheld America’s caste system, reversing Reconstruction’s gains and essentially negating the 1965 Voting Rights Act!

On July 4, 1992, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, in receiving the Liberty Award, made this powerful observation:

In the chilly climate in which we live, we must go against the prevailing wind. We must dissent from the indifference ... from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust.... We must dissent because America can do better.... America has no choice but to do better.

Project 2025 laid out plans to institutionalize white supremacy as the unofficial law of the land, enshrining America’s *original sin of racism* into law. Behaviors imbedded in our culture -- representation of the Obamas and people of color as monkeys or criminals, use of the “n” word, police brutality towards blacks, and race-based immigration policies -- are plainly visible examples of *racism*. In recognizing that legalized white supremacy is at the heart of the SCOTUS gerrymandering decision, Americans must repudiate this racist definition of America to do better. Racism can’t be hidden by deleting slavery from curriculums, firing highly educated black officials, or



proclaiming reverse discrimination towards whites. White supremacy by any other name is still white supremacy.

Towards Overcoming Someday

Memories of family car rides for better housing serve as my reminder that *separate and unequal* is again the law of the land, the legal right of a minority. The Court’s recent decision isn’t about race as a hidden factor in voting. It is a deliberate choice to ignore laws that threaten America’s longstanding caste system. Yet, I have hope that once again the march towards true democracy will continue challenging unjust laws and unfair voting practices, supporting women, racial minorities, LGBTQIA+ and immigrants.

In his 1978 Commencement address at the University of Virginia, Thurgood Marshall urged this:

Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.

There is still strength in speaking truth to power. Speak up through your vote! Pass it on.

Steering Committee Update

It has been an interesting and eventful spring! As you know, when Harold Sahn stepped down as chapter president at the end of 2025, the Executive Committee stepped up, led by a steering committee of Seth Bergmann, Julie Mallory, and Joy Wiltenburg. We are most grateful to each other and to all who have lent their contributions to keep our chapter thriving. We especially appreciate the priceless ex officio members of the executive committee, Jay Chaskes, Toni Libro, and Harold Sahn. Ron Czocho, in his relatively new role as program coordinator, has appreciated how members have volunteered to help organize our ongoing series of programs. He even has a program already lined up for next October.

At our latest Executive Committee meeting, we appointed Patti Coughlan as Recording Secretary, stepping in for Esther Mummert, who is happy to be able to focus on her role as co-chair with Patti of the membership committee. Many thanks to both of them! The current steering committee has plans to continue through the coming year, and our regularly scheduled biannual election will take place in Spring 2027. The positions of vice president and president are vacant at the moment. Our bylaws specify that the president be elected by a vote of the membership, while other officeholders may be appointed as needed. We hope more members will be inspired to join our energetic executive team.

Remember to renew your membership for the coming year!

Rose Glassberg, Beloved Retirees Chapter President

Dr. Rose Glassberg, 96, of Voorhees, NJ, passed away December 28, 2025, after a brief hospital stay in Philadelphia, PA. Rose was born on November 19, 1929, in Philadelphia and grew up during the Great Depression. She became the first in her family to attend college, earning her bachelor's degree from West Chester University, her Master of Arts from Middlebury College, and her Ph.D. from Temple University.

Rose taught English at Germantown High School for 11 years before joining the English Department at then Glassboro State College in 1964. In 1975, at her request, she transferred to the department of Secondary Education to reorganize the program in English education. She continued to teach one course a year in the English department while teaching in and updating the English education program and supervising student teachers.

In March of 1973, she was elected president of AFT Local 2373, which had won the right to be bargaining agent for the eight New Jersey state colleges, and led the Local for 18 years until her retirement from Rowan University as Professor in 1991. She then continued her activist agenda by being elected president in 1993 of the AFT Retirees Chapter. Rose served for 25 years as president, and when she stepped down in 2018 she was feted with a gala celebration organized by our grateful Retirees Chapter.

Over her long and productive reign as Chapter president, Rose endeared herself to the membership in numerous ways. Some may remember the handwritten letters that she composed when renewal time rolled around for the Chapter; or the annual summer parties that she gave at her then residence in Cherry Hill; or the hamantaschen pastries and her marmalade and lemon curd, both holiday favorites and scholarship fundraisers at the annual all-university party.

The scholarships that Rose initiated extended our reach throughout the University, and we award several substantial scholarships every year. The Chapter also supports a variety of initiatives to help assure social justice and the betterment of the community at large.

Chapter members and the greater campus looked forward to her regular column, "AFTerthoughts," in each issue of *AFTerwords*,



Rose cuts the cake celebrating the Retirees Chapter's 30th anniversary in 2017.

the award-winning Chapter newsletter. Rose strongly felt we needed it back in 2002, and *AFTerwords* proved to be an effective public relations tool to inform, promote, and unite our membership. A Welcome Back Luncheon on campus marks the start of each new school year, bringing the membership together and welcoming the newest retirees.

Rose has won many awards for her years of involvement in labor causes, including the George Norcross Humanitarian Award. A newly laid brick with Rose's name now pays tribute to her at the American Labor Museum in Paterson. Rowan AFT members Julie Mallory, Faye Robinson, and Karen Sieftring attended the bricklaying ceremony in her honor on June 7.

According to Jay Chaskes, "She created the most effective, vibrant, and impactful AFT local in the entire state-wide system. She was loved and admired by the vast majority of the local rank and file while commanding the respect of the university's administration. People like Rose come only once in a generation."

When in Chicago, Julie Mallory was inspired to say, "Here at the Obama Presidential Center opening, it's clear to me that like Obama, Rose understood that the unified 'We' in 'We the People' is what makes America and unions strong." As one who emphasized the empowerment of unity, Rose made sure to sign her minutes, notes, and letters with the postscript, "In Unity."

In unity,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rose".

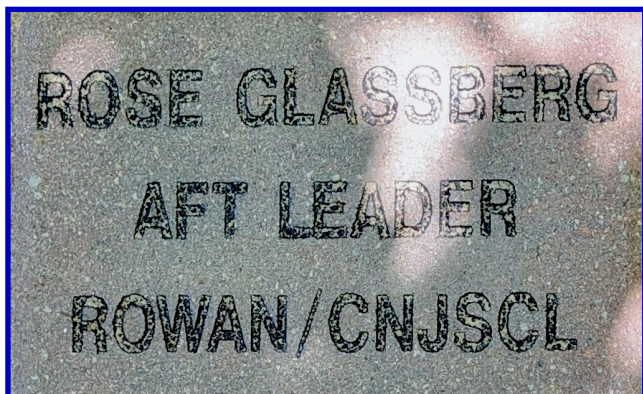
Harold Sahm, who succeeded Rose as President of the Chapter, said, "No one realized how much Rose did to make our Chapter successful. As she shared with me, not having children and grandchildren to dote on gave her the opportunity to extend all her energy and love to our members. She was truly unique as a leader, and as a person."

As an opera buff, Rose attended live performances and The Met's simultaneous productions in local movie theatres whenever possible. According to Larry De Pasquale, "Rose resonated like the inside of a stringed instrument when it came to opera; she embraced all aspects of the performance." She loved classical music, bridge, reading, and politics. Rose also enjoyed leading sessions devoted to the short story at Lion's Gate, her last residence in Voorhees since 2020.

Rose is survived by her three nieces, nephew, and their children and grandchildren. Services were held in December of 2025 at Platt Memorial Chapels in Cherry Hill, NJ, followed by interment at Montefiore Cemetery in Jenkintown, PA. The family requested donations in her name may be made to the AFT Retirees Scholarship Fund, the Rowan University Foundation, or the Jewish Federation of South Jersey.

A memorial service will be held on campus Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 3 p.m. in the Pfleeger Concert Hall, to celebrate her extraordinary life and legacy. All are invited to attend the service, which will honor her memory with tributes and musical renditions.

By Antoinette Libro



A rosy light falls on Rose's brick at the American Labor Museum.

**Michael Miller,
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Former Treasurer**



Rose Glassberg, Mike Miller, and Harold Sahn.

Michael David Miller, 77, of Glassboro, former treasurer of the AFT Retirees Chapter, died suddenly at his home on January 22, 2026. Mike taught chemistry at Glassboro State from 1974-1979, then worked in the groundwater remediation division at Mobil Oil, later Exxon Mobil. After retiring from industry he returned to teach chemistry at Rowan from 2003 to 2017. He earned degrees at the University of Kentucky, B.S. in 1970 and Ph.D. in 1974. On his retirement from Rowan, Mike joined the Retirees Chapter, serving as treasurer from 2021 to 2025.

Mike made much-appreciated contributions to his department at Rowan, as well as to the Retirees Chapter. He especially enjoyed teaching freshman chemistry, and he developed extensive curricular materials that are still in use. He also established a medallion award presented yearly to an outstanding senior, the Michael Miller Award for Excellence in Chemistry.

In addition to his dedication as a teacher, Mike was active in the community, volunteering with Boy and Girl Scouts and coaching sports. Both family and colleagues fondly remember his warmth and good humor. He is survived by family including his children Scott (wife Clarissa), Dana, Lara (husband Jonathan White), Kimberly (husband Braeden Prescott), and eight grandchildren. His wife, Eileen VanderWerf Miller, also survived him but sadly died unexpectedly on June 6. A celebration of both their lives was held on June 20, 2026, in the Science Hall Atrium on the Rowan Campus.

**Patrick Westcott,
Department of Teacher Education**

Patrick Morris Westcott, 77, passed away in July 2025 after a short illness. He was an associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, teaching classes in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and Subject Matter Education. Dr. Westcott joined the Rowan faculty in 2003 and became a member of the AFT Retirees Chapter when he retired in 2013. In 2010 he was honored with the Lindback Award for his outstanding teaching.

After graduating with a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota, he went on to earn masters degrees from the University of Connecticut and Fairleigh Dickinson University before completing his Ed.D. at Teachers College, Columbia University. A native of Minnesota, Patrick lived for some time in Florida after his retirement, before returning to Minnesota where he resided at the time of his death. He was predeceased by his partner, John Alexander, who died in 2021.

A celebration of life service was held on July 27, 2025, at the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, where he had sung with the choir and served on the Board of Trustees. He is survived by family including three brothers, nephews, and nieces.

**Hal Vogel,
Public Relations/Advertising**

Hal Vogel, 82, of Willingboro, New Jersey, died November 13, 2025. He taught at Rowan in the department of Public Relations and Advertising from 1984 until 2005, when he retired as professor emeritus and joined the Retirees Chapter. Dr. Vogel held a B.A. from Temple University, M.A. from William Paterson College, and Ph.D. from Antioch University. He was a prominent researcher on philately, published numerous articles and several books in the field, and in 2022 was honored by the Americal Philatelic Society with its Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research. His career at Rowan included service on the faculty senate and as department chair, recognition on the Wall of Fame for excellence in teaching, and inspirer of the Hal Vogel Award for Excellence in Advertising. A veteran of the U.S. Army Special Forces, Dr. Vogel served during the Vietnam War and continued in the Army Reserve until retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Nobu Uezu Vogel, his daughter, Lydia Leporte, niece, Maren Gilbert, and several grandchildren. Services were held on November 21 at the Tilghman Funeral Home in Maple Shade and on November 25 at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, VA.

An Uninvited Guest

By Julie Mallory

When she knocks, welcome her with open arms!
Take her coat and offer her the best seat in your house.
No matter the time,
your esteemed guest traveled far to pay you this visit,
her anticipated coming announced years in advance.
Serve her late afternoon tea using your finest Noritake china.
(Those wedding dishes that you hated, yet kept for special occasions. The ones your
mother, God rest her soul, would probably use!)

As you were taught, invite her to put her feet up and "rest a spell,"
as Grandma used to say. No rush.
Put on your best teapot, the one that whistles, and offer her your favorite teas,
teas that help keep illness at bay
like ginger peach, lemon balm, and echinacea.

Perhaps she'll prefer a comforting brew of relaxing chamomile, vanilla red rooibos,
or your favorite matcha tea. If she asks for something stronger,
don't hesitate to offer her a traditional black, green or peppermint tea.

For heaven's sake, don't insult her with the sweetness of chai masala tea!
Try an oolong, ginseng or maybe hibiscus instead,
lest you be perceived as overly eager, pretentious,
or hoping to influence her memory!

Iced tea may likewise come off as too familiar,
reflecting poor taste. Just avoid it.
High tea at evening is different, you see,
though no less hospitable. Undoubtedly, finger sandwiches or a charcuterie board
will be greatly appreciated.

For your guest, tea rituals will reflect a life rooted in tradition if not well-lived.
Propose a toast to her health but try not to overthink the occasion.
After all, *Death* always shows up when one least expects her company.

NEW MEMBER BRIEFS

We invited this year's new members to share some of their background.
We're happy to offer these introductions. Welcome again to those joining us!

Patti Coughlan

Patricia "Patti" Coughlan, recently retired Associate Teaching Professor of Communication Studies, combines her decades as an educator with a long family connection to Rowan. She graduated from Glassboro State in 1983, following in the footsteps of her grandmother and along with her brother, Joe Bierman, now a professor and chair in Rowan's Radio/TV/Film Department. Patti spent 25 years teaching as a Gifted and Talented Specialist before returning to teach at Rowan in 2002. She has been a notable leader, earning honors including presidency of the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children, a NJCMS Middle School Teacher of the Year, and a Gilder Lehrman Fellowship. Patti remains active in retirement as a teacher, consultant, and learner, pursuing wide-ranging interests in culture, travel, and family.



Carol Eigenbrot

Carol retired October 1, 2025, after 31 years, with 28 of those being full-time in Academic Advising or advising management. She started at Rowan in 1994 as a graduate assistant while earning her Master's degree in Student Personnel Services. In those early years, she tutored and taught Basic and Intermediate Algebra, oversaw the Tutoring Center in Hawthorn Hall, and assisted the College of Engineering with their outreach program before recruiting their second class. Carol has found it a privilege and a pleasure working with so many dedicated people and being a part of Rowan University. She is enjoying retirement with her husband, Ed Eigenbrot, past Registrar and Assistant Provost at Rowan.



Janet Moore Lindman

Until her retirement in July 2025, Dr. Janet Moore Lindman was professor and chair of the History Department at Rowan. Her primary research interests include women in early America, gender history and religious history. At Rowan she taught in these fields and was a leader in interdisciplinary teaching, Women's and Gender Studies, and college-level curriculum and assessment, besides serving a term as president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. Her publications include *A Vivifying Spirit: Quaker Practice and Reform in Antebellum America* (2022) and *Bodies of Belief: Baptist Community in Early America* (2008), as well as a co-edited scholarly collection and numerous articles. Janet enjoys hiking, biking, and reading fiction, and lives in Royersford, PA, with her husband, Ed Kelly.



Rowan Arboretum Shines in Tour for Retirees

Many of the trees on Rowan's campus are old, even historic, but many of us are unaware that the campus is now an accredited arboretum. Labeling of the trees began a few years ago with students' classwork in plant diversity, led by Dr. Sara Wright of the Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences. The effort has grown remarkably since then into its current official status as the Rowan University Arboretum & Gardens. The campus is home to over 2000 trees of over a hundred varieties, increasingly mapped and labeled.



Happy tree tourists and guide, front: Cindy Mullens, Sue Bergmann, Sara Wright, Gail Chaskes, Joy Wiltenburg, Jay Chaskes, Aimee Burgin, Laurie Hohwald; rear: Jon Foglein, Rick Womer, Ron Czocho, Seth Bergmann.

On May 20 Sara led a special tour for our chapter, attended by about a dozen retirees and guests. As Sara shared fascinating information about trees on the south side of the campus, their shade provided a welcome respite from the summery heat.

The tour started with the majestic ginkgo opposite Bunce Hall on the College Green. This tree dates back to the earliest days of the college and has been a favorite for generations of students. Close to the earliest campus dorms, Laurel Hall and Oak Hall, stands a white oak that was already venerable when they were built. Attendees learned the distinctive scents of trees like sassafras and sweet bay magnolia. They learned how to tell a red oak from a white oak, what makes a "bald cypress" bald, how native New Jersey magnolias differ from southern magnolias and Asian magnolias--and a wealth of other knowledge about trees, their ecosystems, and their place in Rowan's history and future.

Golf cart transportation was included for those who wished, and the event concluded with a shared lunch at the Owl's Nest, with Sara as our guest. Some members have taken multiple tours with Sara, who offers them frequently and is generously willing to do more for the retirees. Each tour is different, since the campus harbors so much botanical wealth. Sara's goal, and that of the Arboretum, is to spread knowledge about our trees and plants as widely and freely as possible. More information about the Rowan University Arboretum & Gardens, future tours, and a link for donations can be found online at <https://arboretum.rowan.edu>.

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