

The Association of Retired Faculty and Professional Staff

Emeritus News

Spring 2024

► My Corner

"Life will become more pleasant and comfortable if we get rid of some of the abundance."
Margareta Magnusson

By Barbara Mallette



Last year, I had to confess my reluctance to take down holiday decorations. You might be surprised that this year, I succumbed to internal pressure to get decorations put away after the Feast of the Epiphany as I had other task priorities. Even Frosty was pulled out of the yard and stored for another year. My friend Arden talks about "Swedish Death Cleaning" and promises to pass on to me a book on the topic. Although I am not Swedish, the notion of decluttering and deciding what items are significant to me/us/the household seems to have taken on enormous importance. Printing out an abbreviated Swedish Death Cleaning Checklist, we started with discrete decluttering tasks – kitchen cupboards. I must add that I am somewhat of a kitchen device collector (maybe "junkie"), as I spend a great deal of time in the kitchen. Having just the right tool seems critical to the joy of cooking. With music blasting to provide more enjoyment to cupboard cleaning, we tackled each cupboard, identifying items to keep, items to compost, items to recycle, and items to pass on. I surprised myself when I removed the pressure cooker, pizza stone, and mandoline slicer from service. Embarrassed by their long-term disuse, I just had to acknowledge that the likelihood of use in the future was dubious. And the list of devalued items rose as we worked our way through the kitchen. Handling each item in the cupboards forced us to reevaluate what we need to maintain the lifestyle to which we are accustomed.

I had to accept that I don't can vegetables and fruits anymore so the remaining canning jars are boxed for donation to the Amish farm where we buy winter squash and pumpkins. Delivery may have to wait until spring but the thought that they will be used again lifts my spirits. I also had to recognize that some items I acquired as a young woman and young cook just don't seem to be important anymore. Two apple corers? Really? Was I expecting to host a party serving apple slices? Wooden plates? Sure, they were useful back in the 1980s but sat in the cupboard for 30+ years. I don't even recall where we acquired a single cordial glass and one coupe cocktail glass. Have we ever used them? Never!

We still have 4 kitchen drawers to clean before moving onto other rooms and the attic. I find that I am less afraid of getting rid of an item I have carried through two states, three degrees, and many households. And the need to collect things has waned. So maybe the Swedish have good sense about life in the "Golden Years."

I found I can't part with the two wine goblets with Mallette crests on them from my mother's house. I still wonder why she purchased them when she didn't even drink wine and Mallette was her married name. And I can't help but think about the persons who will clean out my possessions after my death. Will they wonder what possessed me to acquire each item? Will they believe I just had to have 2 wine goblets etched with my last name? Let them wonder!

*"A loved one wishes to inherit **nice** things from you.
Not **all** things from you."*
Margareta Magnusson

Please email Dawn Hunt at dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456 if you are interested in receiving the Emeritus newsletter by email.

**Emeritus Group March Luncheon
Shorewood Country Club, 4958 West Lake Road,
Dunkirk, Wednesday, March 27**

Please reserve Tuesday March 27 for our next Emeriti Luncheon at the Shorewood Country Club.

We will meet and mingle over fruit juice punch at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

Lunch choice includes beverage, dessert, tax & gratuity.

- House cured Corned Beef and Cabbage with carrots & potatoes \$22.00
- Fresh Fish Sandwich with fries and Cole slaw \$19.00
- Irish Pub Salad with greens, vegetables, fingerling potatoes, avocado, deviled eggs, green goddess dressing \$18.00
- Vanilla ice cream w/Creme de Menthe or Mint Chocolate Chip ice cream

Please send your reservations and checks payable to Emeritus Group for the cost of your menu choice(s) by March 18th to:

Cathe Kilpatrick
491 Chestnut St.
Fredonia, NY 14063

I look forward to seeing you all.
—Cathe

**Detach here and mail to Cathe by
March 18.**



Name(s) _____

Number attending _____

Enclosed is a check (payable to Emeritus Group) for \$ _____
(by March 18th please)



► Save the Date!

◆ **Monday, April 8, 2024—9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

Eclipse viewing

Campus gears up for rare total eclipse of the sun in April

—by Roger Coda

<https://www.fredonia.edu/news/articles/campus-gears-rare-total-eclipse-sun-april>

Fredonia bookstore has your Total Eclipse gear!

◆ **Thursday, April 25, 2024—11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

Years of Service and Retiree Recognition Luncheon

Williams Center, MPR

President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. cordially invites faculty, staff

and emeriti members to the Years of Service and Retirement

Recognition luncheon. Please RSVP by April 11, 2024 by

emailing president.office@fredonia.edu or call the office at

716-673-3456. Hope to see you there!

◆ **Friday, May 17, 2024—7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

Commencement Eve POPS: A Big Band Musical Tour of

America, Rockefeller, King Concert Hall, [Ticket Required.](#)

◆ **Saturday, May 18, 2024—10:00 AM and 3:00 PM**

Commencement, Steele Hall Field House

Volunteers

The 2024 Commencement Committee is looking for

volunteers for either or both ceremonies. If you are interested

in volunteering to assist in the celebration of our graduates,

please complete the [form](#). Any questions regarding volunteer

opportunities should be directed to Registrar Scott Saunders

via email, scott.saunders@fredonia.edu.



► Additional Information

- ◆ A previous announcement was made about Alberto Rey's exhibit at the Castellani Art Museum on the Niagara University campus. We braved cold weather to view Alberto's work on the Niagara River and Gorge and can attest to the depth with which Alberto covered this regional waterway. Hurry to see this wonderful exhibit as the exhibit runs through February 25th. The Castellani Art Museum is open every Wednesday through Sunday. Check out the description of Alberto's work:
<https://castellaniartmuseum.org/exhibitions/biological-regionalism-niagara-river-western-new-york-by-alberto-rey>
- ◆ The University continues to host a variety of events that may be of interest to local folks. Please continue to check out this link for more information: <https://events.fredonia.edu>.
- ◆ The Employee Assistance Program Yoga resumed the first week of the semester. This program is free to faculty, staff, emeriti and their families. No experience necessary! Classes meet on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. in Rockefeller 276. Mats and blocks will be provided but do bring water. Come for strength, stretching and stress relief! Classes will be led by Diane Everett, a 200 hour Kripalu certified yoga instructor. For more information, or to be placed on the email list for schedule changes, please contact her directly at everettd@fredonia.edu.
- ◆ Contact has been made with Patty Feraldi and Alumni Affairs regarding Fredonia's bicentennial celebration. A committee will be formed through the President's Office. I am sure we will have representation in the group. If you are interested in being part of the Emeritus Planning Group, just email Barbara, Barbara.Malette@fredonia.edu

► Volunteer Opportunity

If you'd like to be more involved in the local community, please consider joining the Dunkirk/Fredonia Chamber of Commerce Committee. Meetings are held monthly at local participating Chamber businesses.

The Chamber's mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion local businesses in Chautauqua County. Our local committee strives to build relationships that help make our community even a better place to live and work.

Please contact Denise Szalkowski at dszalkowski@chqchamber.org if you're interested in becoming a member, or if you would like to get more information about the committee.

► Update Your Contact Information

- ◆ Have you moved, changed your email address or phone number? If so, please let us know so we can update the Emeritus database which is used for the quarterly newsletter and informational mailings. If you could help to reduce mailing costs by receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. You may email dawn.hunt@fredonia.edu or call 716-673-3456.

► Emeritus Spotlight—Susan Royal

"A flute without holes, is not a flute. A donut without a hole, is a Danish."
Chevy Chase

By Barbara Mallette



Susan Royal hails from the suburbs of Philadelphia. Her father was a lawyer but also a flute player who performed often in the Philly area. Her mom was a homemaker and dedicated volunteer at a teen center, church library, the Girl Scouts and a non-profit in Philadelphia.

Susan has been involved in making music since her early years. She took piano lessons as a child. One day she noticed a new flute sitting on the piano, she assumed the instrument was for her. But to her dismay, it was for one of her dad's flute students. However, her father was moved by Susan's enthusiasm and taught her flute until she was 16 years old, when she began her studies with a flutist in the Philadelphia Orchestra. It was then that she started performing with the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and Main Line Symphony. She also enjoyed summer music festivals and classes with renowned flutist, Marcel Moyse.

She chose to attend Ithaca College with a degree in both music and acting, since she had also enjoyed acting in high school. However, it was soon after that she chose a degree in music performance. She studied in England for a semester of her junior year and was able to work with a world class flutist there.

After graduating from Ithaca College, she moved to New York City, worked at a music publishing company, dabbled in jazz and studied with the principal flutist of the New York Philharmonic, and subsequently with the flute professor at Yale, Tom Nyfenger. It was his intelligence, expertise and excellent teaching that led her to audition for the Yale University School of Music. The orchestral program was for graduate students only and was limited to four flute students at a time, so the orchestra was exceptional. This was an exciting and challenging time for her, but the degree opened many doors.

Once she graduated with her Master of Music in Flute Performance, she headed south to a position at Tennessee Technical University, where she taught flute students and music theory while performing in the regional orchestra and continuing professional music pursuits by playing in the Knoxville Symphony. After two years in Tennessee, Susan was ready to return to the North, but there were always very few tenure track positions for a flutist. After auditioning for the only two positions open that year, she was lucky to be able to choose between Western Michigan State University and the SUNY Fredonia position, and was grateful to be able to return to the progressive state of New York.

So, in 1983, Susan moved to Fredonia and began her 35 years stint at the college, starting as an Instructor of Flute and ending as a Professor of Flute; she enjoyed teaching her talented flute students very much.

A couple years after starting at Fredonia, she became a member of the Erie Philharmonic and began performing regularly with the Buffalo Philharmonic. In subsequent years, Susan performed with the BPO twice in Carnegie Hall, on several recordings and on their concert tour of Florida. Working with world class conductors and performing with her new friends and colleagues there was a joy and was well worth the hour commute to rehearsals and concerts.

Performing with her outstanding colleagues at the college also was incredibly satisfying and a great pleasure. She especially enjoyed performing with her dear friends in the Fredonia Woodwind Quintet, and with the Fredonia Chamber Players with Grant Cooper, which later became the Western New York Chamber Orchestra. Making music with respected colleagues and treasured friends is sheer joy.

Although she was performing often with the Buffalo Philharmonic at the time, it was necessary for her to complete a doctorate to be awarded tenure. So, she enrolled in the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program offered at SUNY Stony Brook, completing some coursework while at Fredonia. A year leave of absence provided Susan with the time needed to complete many of the degree requirements. She managed to return to Stony Brook for the required recitals and performances. With her D.M.A. in hand, Susan could settle into her faculty position at Fredonia and was awarded tenure.

At the urging of Fredonia's Professor of Guitar, Jim Piorkowski, with whom she also performed on campus and on recital tours in Puerto Rico and in Europe, she decided to pursue her own flute CD. Always a proponent of composers of flute music, she chose compositions published since 2010, took a sabbatical, and went to work. She included two compositions by Jim Piorkowski, as well as works by other local and prominent composers. The critically acclaimed CD, called *The New Lyric Flute*, has varied repertoire with works for flute/piano, flute/guitar, flute/piano/cello, and flute/oboe/cello/harp.

While Susan was dealing with a doctoral program and her position at Fredonia, she was engaged in a long-distance relationship with Wayne Jones, an anesthetist she had met when she was at Yale, who had moved to Hawaii. For three years, the couple managed to maintain a loving relationship before they married in 1988, with their reception at the historic White Inn. Susan and Wayne raised two children in Fredonia. Their daughter now works at Disney Studios in Los Angeles and is a manager of International Creative Marketing. The younger child, a son, recently got married. After living in New York City, he and his wife moved to Chicago; he just got promoted to Director of Product Management at American Express.

► Emeritus Spotlight *continued*—Susan Royal

*"Often when you think you're at the end of something,
you're at the beginning of something else."
Fred Rogers*

After thirty-five years of service, Susan retired from Fredonia in 2018. She continued to play the piccolo in the Erie Philharmonic for a year after retiring from the college. But after many years of playing classical music, which is very exacting, demanding, and requires hours of daily practice, Susan decided to enjoy the freedom of being able to choose new activities, instead of continuing to play the flute. Music is still present in her life, as she has learned to play the harp and is enjoying playing piano often.



Susan became active in politics working for Tracy Mitrano's quest for a congressional seat in our district. In addition, she is avidly learning Spanish on the app Duolingo and during her weekly lessons on Zoom with a Spanish teacher in Mexico. She also tutors for Literacy Volunteers, teaching English to a woman from Puerto Rico and a woman from Russia. Somehow, she finds time to take Zumba classes, as well as ballroom dance lessons. Susan finally has the time to pursue acting, both locally and on Zoom with LA Play Reading (with actors and playwrights from Europe, Australia and the U.S.). She also loves participating in improv groups on Zoom which meet two to three times weekly. She was also active on the board of a non-profit in Buffalo for a few years, which was run by a former flute student.



You might see Susan working in her flower garden or packing her bags for the next trip. Traveling has become another priority in retirement, with travel to Norway, Patagonia, Egypt, Ecuador and the Galapagos. Last month, she and her husband visited Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. "It's fun to be in places that are so different from home."

Susan still treasures her relationships with her former students and enjoyed talking recently with the awardee of her scholarship at Fredonia at the Scholars Breakfast. She continues to enjoy being around college students, celebrating their energy, vitality and excitement about life. Being a mentor was the highlight of her career at Fredonia. "Working with the same flute student for four years was such a gift. It's a period of considerable growth and it's an honor to be a part of their lives during that formative time." Susan enjoys staying in touch with her students, even those who graduated long ago. She feels blessed and fortunate to have enjoyed such a wonderful career at Fredonia and is happy to be still living in this vibrant community.

*"Live your life by a compass not a clock."
Stephen R. Covey*

Informational Website

Retired Public Employees Association –
<https://rpea.org/> - Sign up for informational emails and RPEA newsletters.

► In Memoriam of Campus Employees

Dr. Shannon Jonas passed away on December 23, 2023.

Dr. Jonas taught creative writing courses for the Department of English since the Fall of 2018. While Dr. Jonas's life was much bigger than his teaching here, in five years at Fredonia, he introduced students to poets they hadn't met before, helped them find their poetic voices and encouraged them to send their words out into the world. His wife reports that he loved teaching poetry here. Memories about Dr. Jonas may be shared [online here](#).

Mr. Joseph (Joe) Clayton Johnson passed away on January 5, 2024.

Mr. Johnson was first appointed to the College Council in 1995 and was appointed again in 2013. He served on the SUNY Fredonia College Council until his resignation in December 2023.

SUNY Fredonia is grateful for his long-standing service and attendance at the College Council meetings and Commencement ceremonies, which meant a great deal to the university. He was a strong supporter of SUNY Fredonia and its efforts to strengthen student success and retention, and his generous contributions to the Bicentennial Fund will not be forgotten.

Mr. Johnson was an avid reader, and in place of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the James Prendergast Library or another library of your choice.

Mr. Anthony (Tony) Siraguso passed away on January 12, 2024.

Mr. Siraguso was employed as the Director of Facilities and retired from his position in 2012. Online condolences may be posted through the announcement from [Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home](#).

Mr. Timothy R. Allan passed away on January 16, 2024.

Mr. Allan joined the State University of New York at Fredonia in 1990 as an adjunct instructor in the History Department and later served as Visiting Assistant Professor until his retirement in 2013.

The History Department shared these remarks about Mr. Allan and his time with the History Department and SUNY Fredonia,

He was a dedicated instructor, valued member of the History Department and campus community, and forceful advocate for labor and human rights. He served as the Chapter UUP President and was the only part-time faculty to hold this position.

Following a private interment, a memorial celebration of Mr. Allan's life will be planned for a future date. Funeral arrangements entrusted by [Loomis, Offers & Loomis Inc. Funeral Home \(Hamburg Chapel, Hamburg, NY\)](#).