



## Dorothy Rinaldi

November 21, 1935 - September 20, 2024

Dorothy Rinaldi, 88, of Old Bridge, NJ passed away on Friday September 20, 2024 after a long and fulfilling life. Dorothy was born in New York City on November 21, 1935, to Thomas and Lucille Donnelly. Dorothy grew up in Manhattan before moving to Hudson County in 1957 and to Old Bridge in 1967.

She was known as a kind, caring and compassionate person who went out of her way to help others. Dorothy worked for many years in the Rutgers University Department of Graduate Economics and was so beloved that a scholarship was created in her name upon her retirement. In addition, Dorothy earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Rutgers University while working full-time and raising a family. Dorothy took delight in swimming, reading, sports and desserts covered with Cool Whip, but most of all she treasured her husband, three children and six grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Jerry Donnelly. She is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 67 years, Thomas Rinaldi; her daughter, Mary Murphy and son-in-law Dennis Murphy; her daughter, Dorothy Laudino and her son-in-law, Thomas Laudino; her son, Steven Rinaldi and her daughter-in-law Stacie Rinaldi; her grandchildren Ryan Murphy and his wife Emily, Jocelyn Murphy, Jill Murphy, Michelle Rinaldi, Nicole Rinaldi and Danielle Rinaldi; her brother Thomas Donnelly; and many

beloved nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Dorothy will be deeply missed, but her memory will live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Friends and relatives are invited to a memorial service at St. Ambrose Church, 83 Throckmorton Lane, Old Bridge, NJ 08857 on September 30, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Interment of Ashes will take place at 10:30am, Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at Brigadier General William C Doyle Veteran Cemetery, 350 Province Line Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be sent to the Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco at <https://salesiansisters.org/>.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com](http://www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP **30**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Saint Ambrose  
83 Throckmorton Ln  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

## Interment

OCT **1**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Brigadiere General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery  
350 Province Line Road  
Wrightstown, NJ 08562

# Tribute Wall



“ Dorothy wasn’t just our graduate secretary; she was the heart and soul of New Jersey Hall. She cared deeply for every grad student, was fiercely protective of us, and always looked out for us, academically and personally. Dorothy’s smile brightened even the most stressful days. I will miss her deeply.

*My condolences to the family, and may her memory be a blessing.*

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**Mike Shor** - September 30, 2024 at 05:04 PM

HS

“ Dear Tom Rinaldi and family, so sorry to hear of the passing of your wonderful wife and mom. My heartfelt condolences to you and your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers, Helen M. Schena

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**Helen M. Schena** - September 30, 2024 at 03:11 PM

VM

“ What a loss! For us, as former graduate students, Dorothy was an integral part of our daily life and experience at Rutgers. Always kind and always smiling, she made even the toughest days a little more bearable. My sincere condolences to her family. She will be remembered as a beacon of good will.

*Vlad Mares*

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**Vlad Mares** - September 30, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ I am sorry to hear about the loss of your mother Dorothy Rinaldi. Even though I never met her but my mom her home health aid who has been with her for a long time kept telling me how good she was. She really misses her. I pray for God to give you all fortitude to bear this irreparable loss. On behalf of our entire family please accept our deepest sympathies.

*Chioma Mgbokwere- Your home health aid provider's daughter*

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**Chioma Ugobueze Mgbokwere** - September 29, 2024 at 09:32 AM



“ On Friday 20, September I lost a genuine good person whom I addressed as Mama because of her goodness and the way she cared and related with me. I have lived with Dorothy Rinaldi for over two years as her home health aid. My stay with her was happy, peaceful, and cherished. Her loss is really very painful but my only consolation is that she is in the bosom of God. Few days before her demise seeing how weak and frail she was I knelt down by her bedside we held hands together and I led her to fresh confession of her belief in God and her unalloyed surrender to God. It was an interesting prayer session after which she felt very happy and blessed me. Mama I always admired the love you shared with your husband and your love for the progress of others. Your loss is a loss for all of us but I deem it necessary to express my heart felt sympathy to your husband (Papa) your children and brother. May God give all of us the fortitude to bear this great loss. Adieu Mama till we meet to part no more.

*Mrs. Dorathy Ugobueze -Home Health Aid Provider*

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**Chioma Ugobueze Mgbokwere** - September 29, 2024 at 09:28 AM

CS

“ Dear Rinaldi family.

*I was a graduate student at Rutgers Economics from 1989 to 1995.*

*This has hit me like a gut punch.*

*As you know, Dorothy was even more than the kind, caring, warm, nurturing person to which so many are testifying, So much more. To me, she was a mother and a spiritual guide, in all the senses of those words. She cared for me over the years just like a mother duck would lovingly and amusedly take special tender care looking out for her favorite, spirited wild and sometimes wayward, little duckling.*

*Our discussions were foundational to the awakening of my spiritual journey - from entering the Catholic church to work in awareness, meditation, Zen, Tao, Sufism, non duality.*

*Years and years after I left NJ Hall, when she learned of the birth of my daughter, she made with her own hands and sent me quilted bibs. To remind me of her belief that I represented the Tao of Pooh and she represented the Te of Piglet, she sent me one Christmas a Winne the Pooh ornament.*

*While we grieve her passing as we recall the light and warmth she channeled into our lives, we also recognize that it's not so much the loss of the caterpillar as it is being in the presence of grace at the opening of the chrysalis, unfolding into a butterfly, lifted up as if on eagle's wings to be absolutely and forever at One with God, in infinite and unending love and peace.*

*My favorite prayer is the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, which also describes perfectly what Dorothy embodied in her daily approach to life:*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*May you all be comforted in your grief with the warm and abiding  
love that Dorothy imparted into our lives and with the knowledge  
that she is at One with God.*

*(I will mail a longer eulogy to Dorothy and Tom's home address.)*



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**Chetan Sanghvi** - September 28, 2024 at 12:20 PM

AS

*Dear friends and relatives of Dorothy,  
My wife, Sumitra and I join hands to pray for Dorothy, one of the most beautiful persons that we had the privilege of knowing. Chetan and I were classmates and I am one with him in saying that the pangs of graduate studies were thrown off as soon as we walked into Dorothy's office. If there is a great Grad school then there must be a Dorothy nearby. Even today when I go to the poor farmer, and we are working with more than a million today, I am inspired by Dorothy's words and a feel of her presence somewhere.  
May your soul rest in peace Dorothy. You did great. Om Shanti.  
Amiya sharma, Assam, India.*

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**Amiya Kumar Sharma** - September 29, 2024 at 11:31 PM

HY

*“ My wife and I feel very grateful and indebted to Dorothy for her kind help while we were at Rutgers. She gave us numerous thoughtful support, guidance, compassion, and encouragement. Whenever we remember those days, we keep saying how lucky we were to meet her and wish we could be a person like her. We miss her. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family.*

*B. Hark Yoo*

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**Hark Yoo** - September 27, 2024 at 05:29 PM

KA

*“ Dorothy was a genuinely good person. She cared a lot about other people. Throughout her long and dedicated career, Dorothy was a pillar of kindness and support to the countless graduate students she helped. Knowing her was a privilege for me. She was loved and will be loved by so many.*

*\_\_Kaveh Akram*

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**Kaveh Akram** - September 26, 2024 at 03:50 PM

GR

“ So sorry to hear of Dorothy's passing. Sympathy and condolences from the Richins family.

Gordon Richins - September 26, 2024 at 02:31 PM

RK

“ Dorothy was always incredibly helpful to graduate students and faculty. Her kindness and concern for graduate students is legendary. I will always be grateful for her help and compassion. Most of all, I will always value her example that helping others is so important. She will be missed by the countless students and faculty whose lives she touched. Few people can positively impact so many others as Dorothy did. I will always treasure knowing and being friends with such a wonderful person.

Roger Klein

Roger w Klein - September 26, 2024 at 12:52 PM

HK

“ Dorothy was the first person I met when I got in Rutgers. She helped me to find a job when I did not have a scholarship at first and helped again to find a new house to rent and got lots of help of her when I had been in Rutgers. It was so sad that I could not give my gratitude more sincerely before. She was one of greatest person I ever met and will be remembered in my heart forever.



Hyunhak Kim - September 26, 2024 at 02:17 AM

KS

“ From many of us who came to Rutgers from a foreign land, we cannot forget Dorothy’s welcoming smile and kindness. She was someone we could turn to for advice and empathy. She was an incredible human being and will be deeply missed.

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**Kunal Sen** - September 26, 2024 at 02:01 AM

YP

“ Whenever I struggled in the graduate school and thought of giving up a chance, she turned me into a person who can get the job done. "Everyone needs a starting point." I still keep her caring minds and words in mind so vividly.

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**Youngseok Park** - September 25, 2024 at 09:04 PM

PO

“ Dorothy was such a special person. She was one of the kindest people I have ever known. She was always helpful and supportive to me and my wife during my time as a graduate student in the early 90s. She made us all feel welcome with her wonderful smile and her kind words of encouragement. I am sad that she is gone, but I know she lives on in the hearts of the hundreds of us who were fortunate enough to know her and to have been cared for by her.

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**Paul O'Leary** - September 25, 2024 at 07:15 PM

CB

“ I am very saddened by this news. Dorothy was a marvelous person, extremely caring towards all of us. She kept our spirits high during the first year of the PhD. “Remember to breathe”, she used to say before the qualifying exams and she even gave movie advice for such tough times (Shrek: yes; Gangs of New York: no)! She helped us immensely throughout the program. I don't think there is a single student who does not remember her fondly. And for this reason, Dorothy is really missed around the globe today. My deepest sympathy goes out to her family.

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**Costanza Biavaschi** - September 25, 2024 at 05:06 PM

JH

“ It is over 40 years since my graduation, and one of the most vivid memories of my time at the department is the remarkable presence and light that Dorothy brought to the administrative offices. Ward McCarthy nailed it when he called her our "Den Mother". Always there for me - within the realm of Economics business and beyond. When my car broke down on the NJ Turnpike on my way to defending my M.A thesis, and I arrived outside the graduate offices in a NJ State Trooper vehicle - Dorothy put her hands on her hips, looked at me and said "What have you done now, John-Claude!" Like for so many others, she is a treasured part of that epoch in my life. Thank you to the family for sharing her with all of us.

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**John-Claude Hallak** - September 25, 2024 at 02:24 PM

YZ

“ Many years after graduation, I still vividly remember Dorothy and the care she extended to all graduate students. She was my go-to person in the department. Her smile always brought warmth and sunshine to everyone. When I was unsure whether my educational background qualified me for the graduate program in economics, she encouraged me and guided me to the right professor to speak with. As an international student, whenever I was confused by paperwork, anxious about tuition with only partial financial aid, or frustrated by the slow progress of my thesis, Dorothy was always there—providing comfort, support, and directing me to the right resources. Dorothy’s warmth, dedication and tireless support made an immeasurable difference in the lives of students like me. May her memory be a source of comfort and strength for all who knew and loved her.

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**Ying Zhang** - September 25, 2024 at 01:34 PM

EG

“ My sincere condolences to Dorothy’s family. For all these years she cared for every graduate student and professor at Rutgers. I am very grateful to Dorothy for her warm welcome and encouragement from the first moment when I entered New Jersey Hall as a new international PhD student. She is forever in my heart.

*Elena Goldman  
2001 PhD in Economics*

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**ELENA GOLDMAN** - September 25, 2024 at 11:45 AM

CS

“ Dorothy was truly an extraordinary person, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have gotten to know her during my time as a graduate student. As the graduate program administrator, she was an unwavering source of support, especially for me as an international student arriving in the U.S. for the first time. Navigating a new country and a demanding academic program could have been overwhelming, but Dorothy made everything so much easier.

*She helped me in every possible way—whether it was with paperwork, offering guidance, or simply being a comforting presence. Her kindness and willingness to assist were unmatched, and she made the graduate journey so much smoother for me and countless others. She was always there with a smile, bringing warmth and sunshine to everyone she encountered.*

*Dorothy’s impact went far beyond administrative duties—she created a welcoming environment and genuinely cared for the well-being of every student. Many of us benefitted hugely from her wisdom, generosity, and boundless compassion. Her legacy of kindness will remain with us always.*

*Chan Shen*

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**Chan Shen** - September 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM

ML

“ Very fond memories of Dorothy and all the help she provided to me as a student.

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**Mark Lewis** - September 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM

LG

“ Aunt Dorothy was my biggest fan! She always loved to see the latest nail designs I do on my clients! Then, she'd always say, "your clients do such crazy things on their nails!, I just like mine one solid color!" But, she always was amazed by the designs and the makeup I was doing! I'll truly miss you Aunt Dorothy

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**Lisa Goodwin** - September 24, 2024 at 07:58 PM

BS

“ I worked with Dorothy when I was the Graduate Program Director from 1995-2001. I always appreciated, even when we disagreed, how she would argue with me to do things in a way that was best for students, by her lights. She was such an advocate for them, no wondered they loved her!

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**Barry Sopher** - September 24, 2024 at 05:29 PM

WM

“ Dorothy was wonderful in every way and a constant dose of sunshine to all who knew her. She was the unofficial "Den Mother" for all of the graduate students, helping us navigate the political shoals of the academic world and, in general, making life significantly easier for all of us. It was a blessing to know her because Dorothy spread happiness wherever she might be. God blessed all of us who knew her and will undoubtedly bless her now.

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**Ward McCarthy** - September 24, 2024 at 03:20 PM

HR

“ I served in the economics department in all the years that Dorothy was there. She was, as everyone reading this knows, an extraordinarily kind, generous, intelligent human being, and extraordinarily efficient doing her job. It was an honor to know her. My deepest condolences. Hugh Rockoff

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**Hugh Rockoff** - September 24, 2024 at 03:17 PM

JW

*We are lucky to meet some people in our lives who are kind, giving and generous in every way. Dorothy loved our students, faculty and departmental colleagues and it showed. My wife and I send deepest condolences to her family. Jack Worrall and Janet Moran*

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**John D Worrall** - September 25, 2024 at 11:35 AM

HT

*Dorothy was such an excellent graduate program secretary: warm, caring, and competent. She took care of everybody: graduate students, faculty members.*

*Personally I am indebted to her since she took care of the graduate program so efficiently.*

*Hiroki Tsurumi*

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**Hiroki Tsurumi** - September 25, 2024 at 05:59 PM

NT

*Dorothy was always a warm and loving person. She gave my late husband Michael Taussig support and affection during his years in the Economics Dept. After he went on disability, Dorothy rounded up her colleagues from the office and brought them to our home to share lunch with Michael*

*Nikki Taussig*

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**Nikki Taussig** - September 25, 2024 at 06:05 PM

RM

*As someone who spent quite a bit more time in the grad program than others, it was a pleasure to see Dorothy's smiling face every day for nearly a decade. Everyone has written about her warmth and kindness, but for those of you who did not attend her retirement party, you missed out on a side of Dorothy that you may not have known. She gave an incredibly funny and entertaining speech. I'm only sorry I didn't tape it. A link for the pictures I took at the party is below. I feel lucky to have known her and to have had her as a friend.*

*<https://link.shutterfly.com/Up12wouUbNb>*

*Ronald Moy*

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**Ronald Moy** - September 25, 2024 at 07:23 PM

KH

*Over forty years ago, I worked for Tom Rinaldi and have known Dorothy as a wife, mother and grandmother since then. Her concern for you as a person always was a beacon and that smile and laugh is so memorable. Most of all, through life's many challenges, Dorothy taught me that a smile and caring can lead the way to a solution. She will always be a living memory and example. My wishes for a lifetime of fond and warm memories to Tom, her children and the extended family.*

*Ken Howitt*

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**Ken Howitt** - September 25, 2024 at 07:25 PM

NS

*Dorothy was a warm and wonderful guiding light in the economics department at Rutgers University. I was lucky enough to serve as graduate director with her help for many years, and benefitted every day from her efforts on behalf of all graduate students. Thank you Dorothy for being such a wonderful colleague and sweet person. We miss you.*

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**Norman Swanson** - September 27, 2024 at 09:57 AM

NS

*I was with the economics department for the entire reign of Dorothy, from the trials of Winants hall – bats, mice, all 4 seasons, indoors, at once, to the (relative) delights of NJ Hall, through many chairs, and graduate directors and scores and scores of graduate students. And never once did Dorothy not have a smile on her face, kind words, sympathetic conversation, and great advice about academics and life, for students staff and faculty alike. She was an extraordinary person who affected the lives of many, many students now living throughout the world. And she and Tom, designed wonderful Xmas cards which we still treasure. She is and will always be missed.*

*Neil Sheflin*

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**Neil Sheflin** - September 29, 2024 at 04:34 PM

NS

*some additional comments sent in response to the emailed notification to former graduate students at Rutgers, of her passing: Ah, that's such sad news. When I was studying at Rutgers a long time ago, she was always kind and treated me with a smile.*

*she was such an important part of our time at the department. It was very sad to learn about her death.*

*This is very sad news indeed. When many many years ago, I joined the Dept. as a graduate student coming from abroad, Dorothy helped me a lot to settle in the new environment. Quickly, I felt at home in the Dept. and New Brunswick even with an ocean in between my home. No doubt, she played a great role on that.*

*I'm so very sorry to hear of Dorothy's passing. She was there for all of us at an important time in our lives.*

*We students loved Dorothy so much. She was smart and effective, but most importantly, she was our friend and ally and she never wavered in that regard.*

*Dorothy was a wonderful person. Its more than 40 years and I still have such fond thoughts and memories of her. So kind, so helpful and so available to help us figure things out. May her memory be a blessing.*

*Dorothy was a treasure. Condolences to all in her wide circle of love.*

*This is very sad news. Thank you for letting us know, Neil. Dorothy was the first to greet me in the department and talked to me for at least half an hour after I failed the micro prelim the second time. I'll be thinking of her often these next few weeks.*

*My sincere condolences to Dorothy's family. For all these years she cared for every graduate student and professor at Rutgers. I am very grateful to Dorothy for her warm welcome and encouragement from the first moment when I entered New Jersey Hall as a new international PhD student. She is forever in my heart.*

*Always cheerful, supportive, and caring.*

*So very sad to hear, may sweet Dorothy rest in peace!*

*Dorothy was such a wonderful person and made grad school challenges always a little lighter through her smile and laugh!*

*We all miss and love Dorothy.*

*I remember Dorothy with great fondness, and I am glad I was able to come to her retirement gathering in 2011 to thank her for all her kindness and help she had given to us graduate students. Time really flies!*

*I am deeply saddened with Dorothy's demise but very glad to have had her in my life. I am sure lots of others share this sentiment but for many of us graduate students, Dorothy was like a second mother. She kept in touch with us long after we had flown the coop. When my first daughter was born Dorothy sent us bibs embroidered with my daughter's name. I tried to meet up with her whenever I was in New Brunswick but the last time I managed to do so was quite a while back (when I had lunch with her and her husband at Old Man Rafferty's).*

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**Neil Sheflin** - September 29, 2024 at 04:36 PM