Professional Archaeologists of New York City Newsletter

Issue 194 | Memorial Edition

In Memoriam

Anne-Marie Cantwell
1935 – 2025



In This Edition

This special edition of the PANYC newsletter is a tribute to our colleague, friend, and fellow PANYC member, Anne-Marie Cantwell, who passed away in October 2025. We asked our membership to share remembrances and photos of Anne-Marie, her life, and her career, which we hope you enjoy reading through below. Anne-Marie left an indelible mark on urban archaeology in New York City and beyond. A selected bibliography of her work can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Reflections

Anne Marie was one of the smartest people I have ever met. I remember when she and I were in a class at NYU taught by John Middleton, which is where I met her, being blown away by an insight she offered into the nature of chieftainships!

And she was an equally wonderful friend, calling often during a period of crisis in my life. Not obtrusive but just letting me know she was there.

I think those two qualities underlined her entire life, intelligence and commitment and warmth (I know that's three!). It showed in her teaching, her research, her friendships and her connections to the archaeological community and to her own work. Those who knew her will know what I mean. I miss her.

Nan Rothschild



Anne-Marie and Nan Rothschild at the start of their accomplished careers in archaeology! (Courtesy of Nan Rothschild).

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For Anne- Marie:
Brilliant colleague;
Loyal friend,
With a WICKED sense of humor.
We miss you so!

Diana Wall

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Anne-Marie and Diana Wall at the Sheridan Square (Manhattan) excavations in 1982. (Courtesy of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation).

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Ironically, the earliest Anne-Marie memory is set during the very first meeting of the many archaeology classes I was to attend at NYU (probably circa mid-1970s). This was Bert Salwen's introduction to archaeology class. For whatever reason, however, Bert was not there. Substituting for him and standing before us was a very attractive young woman with long red hair—Anne-Marie. This must have been during an early point in her teaching career at Rutgers. What's amazing, however, is that five decades later, Arnold Pickman (who was also there) and I both clearly remember the talk she gave that day. It dealt with

Wendigo psychosis, an extreme form of "cabin fever" often suffered by Algonquian speaking peoples, manifesting itself in cannibalism. So far, it was the most interesting lecture I'd heard since enrolling at NYU. I've never forgotten it.

Over the many years I knew Anne-Marie I was very lucky to have repeated access to her and her extraordinary story-telling abilities. This was due to the countless Thursday night dinners I got to share with Anne-Marie, her brother Michael Cantwell, Diana Wall, and Anne-Marie's friend Sharon Slowik. These weekly dinners began when Anne-Marie and Diana initiated what came to be called "Lab Night." On such evenings we would meet in Bert Salwen's NYU archaeology lab to wash artifacts. Afterwards (without fail) we would have dinner across the street at Panne et Chocolate, a very reasonably priced Italian restaurant. Our meals were highly ritualized, always consisting of a carafe of white wine and an order of pasta with pesto sauce for each one of us (no salads and no desserts). The food may not have been great but the conversations were excellent and there was much laughter. After a couple of years, we stopped washing artifacts and focused entirely on our dinners together. At this point, we decided to change the name of "Lab Dinner" to "Lableess Dinner."

One specific Anne-Marie "Lableess Dinner" memory is set on Greene Street, walking from the subway to Panne et Chocolate, as I did on countless Thursday evenings. In this memory, it is nighttime and I am on the sidewalk, halfway down the block. In the distance I can see into the interior of the brightly lit restaurant. Sitting alone at a table next to the window is Anne-Marie, waiting for the rest of us to arrive. Recognizable as usual due to her long red hair, she is looking down and appears to be reading something, probably the day's New York Times. What is most vivid in this memory is my own anticipation, knowing that in a matter of minutes I will be treated to an account of her day as well as her interpretation of world events. Anne-Marie's narratives were always unique, delivered with an undercurrent of sly humor.

Wendy Harris

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To me, Anne-Marie was always very special: dear, smart, and kind in addition to being a thoughtful, informed, and caring archaeologist and a wonderful writer. Her gentleness and competence was an unbeatable combination. It is a privilege to have known her and, once, long ago, we rushed to Ellis Island when, as at the time PANYC president, I received a phone call asking for help to save an archaeologically exposed early fort wall about to be reburied or worse, perhaps demolished. Anne-Marie, then PANYC's Vice-President, and I rushed to Ellis Island, where the wall, which helps define the island's original configuration as well as its early development, became and miraculously still is, an outdoor exhibit. A PANYC success story and a lovely personal memory.

Joan Geismar

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Anne-Marie, far left, excavating at an emergency response dig, *circa* 1974, at the Abbott Farm complex in Mercer County, NJ. Next to her are Janet Fittipaldi, Joel Klein and a volunteer/student. Lorraine Williams, Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology at the NJ State Museum, had asked for help with the emergency excavation. Recollection and photo courtesy of Joel Klein.

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I knew Anne Marie for 50 years. She was an NYU mentor for me in undergrad and graduate school. She came and spent summers with me and Howard Winters for NYU field schools in Illinois during the 1980's and 90's. Always a good person and good friend. I could have reached out more to her over the years but time escapes and we have regrets. She will be missed.

There are many memories I recall for Anne Marie. They bring smiles, warm remembrance, and with her passing, sadness. She was a large part of my NYU life for decades. Anne Marie is/was one of three people that taught me archaeology, how to be an archaeologist, and to teach.

Anne Marie was one of my first Anthropology instructors at NYU and soon became a mentor during my undergraduate and graduate days helping through the chaotic period of my dissertation. For 20 years working with Howard Winters, we shared thoughts of the Middle Woodland in the Illinois Valley. Eating catfish, frog's legs, and a glass or two of gin and tonics at the Kampsville Inn, the time was unique for me, a New York City guy. During that period, Anne Marie was (almost always) referred to by Prof. Winters as Ms. Cantwell. That still makes me smile.

Anne Marie recommended my wife, Amy, for admittance to the New York Botanical Garden's School of Horticultural and was instrumental in securing her a scholarship resulting in a life time career. We also are indebted to Anne Marie.
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I recall fondly being the Field Director for Anne Marie's investigation of the Definis Site in 1979 in East Hanover, NJ. It was my first experience in such a role and is recalled fondly both professionally and personally. It was there that Ann Marie introduced me to John Vetter of Adelphi University and USEPA. Anne Marie was responsible for the start of my lifetime friendship with John. Numerous connections and experiences for me came through Anne Marie that forever remains.

As an undergraduate, I recall talking with Anne Marie about novels. What we were reading and enjoying or not so much. One of the first novels talked about was the 1970 Arthurian Saga "The Crystal Cave" by Mary Stewart. It surprised me and showed me a lesser known personal side of Anne Marie.

With the passing of Howard Winters in 1994 I sadly recall events Anne Marie, Nan, and I did to arrange his burial, clean his apartment, deal with inheritance issues, and send materials to the Urban, Ohio Historical Society. It was a mournful time for us and others after relationships lasting decades.

Eugene Boesch

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I will always remember Anne-Marie's caring and sweet nature. She and my daughter Ruby share the same birthday, and she always remembered to wish Ruby a happy one. I will always remember her birthday now and her loving nature, which I think her smile always captured best.

Kelly Britt

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Anne-Marie had a thing for squirrels. I'll always remember her accounts of the battles fought in Stuyvestant Town's courtyard between tenants who sided with the squirrels vs. tenants who sided with the raptors who preyed upon the squirrels. Anne-Marie (needless to say) sided with the squirrels.

I still own two squirrel-themed postcards Anne-Marie sent to me during the summer of 1988. At the time, she was overseeing the excavation of the Baehr-Gust Site, located in western Illinois. On the front of both postcards is a photograph of a white squirrel. The postcard's caption says the following: *The white squirrel makes its home in Versailles. At one time the population was as high as 35. Today the number of white squirrels has dwindled to approximately 15.*

With her usual irony, Anne-Marie has written the following message on the back of one postcard: *"Somewhat more than the human population and considerably less than that of the sweat bees."*

Her writing on the back of the other postcard is mostly illegible. One line, however, reads like poetry: *"...vast fields & skies, hollyhocks & ripening blackberries along the road & archaeology in the sun & poison ivy"*

Later that summer, Diana Wall and I would visit Anne-Marie in Illinois. It was a memorable

trip…. not just for the archaeology but also seeing this part of the country for the first time. Anne-Marie was the perfect tour guide. There was also the added significance of my grandfather having been born in a little place not so far from Versailles named Beardstown, which I also visited.

Although I left New York City years ago, I often feel that Anne-Marie is still with me (or at least the memory of her preserved in these two postcards). One white squirrel postcard is taped to the refrigerator and the other sits on my desktop. I see them both every day.

Further recollections from Wendy Harris

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Anne-Marie teaching the field school to Rutgers-Newark students at the Meyersville Farm in Morris County, New Jersey in the spring of 1984 (Courtesy of Lynn Rakos).

I entered Rutgers-Newark as an English major but after just a few classes with Anne-Marie I switched my major to Anthropology. It was her field class in the spring of 1984 that really clinched it for me. On the 7th floor of Hill Hall she taught us about field techniques and then took it on the road to the Meyers Farm, just outside the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County, NJ to apply our knowledge over the course of a few springtime weekends. I was hooked – what could be more fun or interesting than being in the field! Or so I thought at the time, and kind of still do. Around that time, several of us students formed an Archaeology Club at Rutgers, with Anne-Marie as our advisor. We talked about archaeology, but our chat was always accompanied by the great food we would all bring.

Anne-Marie encouraged her students to experience all aspects of the discipline and she was generous in sharing opportunities. The summer after our field class there were a lot of jobs in
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Manhattan and Anne-Marie gave us names and numbers to call. I spent that summer digging at 60 Wall Street followed by a few weeks on the Sullivan Street excavation. Anne-Marie facilitated two internships for me; one semester in the CRM world working for Ebasco Services and one semester at the New Jersey State Museum in the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography.

A friend of mine, Beth Elstein, who I met in Anne-Marie's field class, shared a few memories of Anne-Marie's support of her as both and undergraduate and graduate student. Beth said that "Anne-Marie's connections were always valuable and she readily shared them. I will never forget her."

Anne-Marie, through her engaging and fun teaching and her generous spirit set me on my journey in the field. I got to know so many great archaeologists who became mentors and dear friends. I truly appreciate Anne-Marie for starting me off on a very good path.

Lynn Rakos

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Anne-Marie and two members of the Rutgers-Newark Archaeology Club in c.1985. (Courtesy of Lynn Rakos).

One thing that I will always remember about Anne-Marie is how she was extremely kind and generous to everyone but that she could also be tough, even intimidating, when she needed to be. There was a particular "don't mess with me" facial expression that she could make that was very effective, when needed, that I wish I could replicate and use myself! I also love that she loved cold weather so much and felt a kinship towards wolves. I don't know if she specifically said that her spirit animal was a wolf, but that is the impression that I have.

Meredith Linn

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I remember Anne-Marie Cantwell as a colleague who was approachable and kind. She always had a smile for those who wanted to engage in conversation. Anne-Marie was involved in PANYC since its inception and contributed much time in various roles in the organization over the years. She was a very private person. Those of us who knew her will miss her for sure.

Sydne Marshall

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Anne-Marie with PANYC awardees (l-r): Deputy Comptroller Michael Lambert (representing Scott Stringer), Marie Warsh, Anne-Marie Cantwell (PANYC Awards Chair) and Christopher Nolan at the PANYC Public Program in May 2018 (PANYC Newsletter, No. 178, May 2018). Anne-Marie chaired the PANYC Awards Committee for many years.

I served on several PANYC committees with Anne-Marie over the years. I found her to be one of the warmest, dedicated, and unique advocates for NYC archaeology in my experience. Her dedication and commitment to the field was matched by her scholarship and edgy approach to the field. I found her personally disarming as well as humorous. Her presence and activism in the NYC archaeology will be greatly missed.

Joe Schuldenrein

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Anne Marie and a friend visited my wife and me in the early 2000s. We went to the Chuang Yen Buddhist Monastery in Carmel, NY that Amy and I occasionally visit. It is home to the largest indoor Buddhist statue in the Western Hemisphere. We all received a monk's blessing, had a

vegetarian meal, and viewed pearl-like sharira recovered from cremation ash representing spiritually a practitioner's lifelong cultivation of virtue and wisdom (actually likely calcified gallstones) to achieve nibbana. Another aspect of AMC that was interesting and wonderful.

During a visit to an NYU field school in Illinois, AMC and I flew on a small aircraft piloted by a local resident. We viewed from the air at low altitude the Baehr-Gust Mound site we were excavating. It was an exhilarating experience providing an aerial view of archaeology well before today's drones. Although I recall we both were a bit airsick at the end.

Just prior to leaving for a summer project in the early 1980s to Israel to serve as a site field director for the University of Buffalo, arranged by AMC, I had some qualms as to what to expect. AMC and Dr. Tom Beidelman came up to the NYU lab and talked with me for a long time, while absorbing a couple bottles of wine, as to my upcoming adventure. It was really so kind of them to do so and something that has always stuck with me.

Further recollections from Eugene Boesch

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Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and memories of Anne-Marie.
She is truly missed.

Rutgers-Newark published a tribute to Anne-Marie. She taught there for 36 years.
You can read it here:
https://sasn.rutgers.edu/news/sasn-mourns-passing-beloved-professor-emerita-anne-marie-cantwell



Anne-Marie (third from right) and colleagues in the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Rutgers-Newark (Encore 1987; Rutgers-Newark Yearbook).
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Selected Publications by Anne-Marie Cantwell

Books

2004 Aboriginal Ritual and Economy in the Eastern Woodlands: Essays in Honor of Howard Dalton Winters. Edited with Lawrence A. Conrad. Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers, Volume XXX, Springfield and Kampsville Studies in Archaeology and History, Volume 5, Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville.

2004 Touring Gotham's Archaeological Past: 8 Self-Guided Walking Tours in New York City. With Diana Wall. Yale University Press, New Haven.

2001 Unearthing Gotham: The Archaeology of New York City. With Diana Wall. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

2000 Ethics and Anthropology: Facing Future Issues in Human Biology, Human Rights, Globalism, and Cultural Property. Edited with Eva Friedlander and Madeleine Tramm. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York.. Paperback edition distributed by Johns Hopkins University Press.

1993 The Archaeology of New York City. Edited with Diana Wall. Special Publications No. 1, Professional Archaeologists of New York City, New York, New York.

l984 Copper in Late Prehistoric Eastern North America. by C..Goodman. Editor. Northwestern University Archeological Program and the Center for American Archeology, Kampsville, Illinois.

l98l The Research Potential of Anthropological Museum Collections. Edited with James B. Griffin, and Nan. Rothschild. New York Academy of Sciences. New York, New York.

l980 Dickson Camp and Pond: Two Sites of the Havana Tradition in the Central Illinois Valley. Illinois State Museum. Reports of Investigation No. 36, Dickson Mounds Museum Anthropological Studies. Springfield, Illinois

Selected Chapters, Articles, Reviews

2021 Woman the Trader: Native Women in New Netherland (with Diana Wall). In The Archaeology of New Netherland: A World Built on Trade, edited by Craig Lukezic and John P. McCarthy. University Press of Florida.

2015 Looking for Africans in Seventeenth-Century New Amsterdam (with Diana Wall). In Race in the Northeast edited by Christopher Matthews and Allison M. McGovern pp. 29-55.. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

2014 Roundtable: The Past, Present and Future of New Netherland Studies (with Diana Wall). New York History 95(3):442-490.

2013 Imagining the Stadt Huys (with Diana Wall). In Opening Statements: Law and Jurisprudence in Dutch New York edited by Albert Rosenblatt and Julie Rosenblatt, pp. 105-16.. State University of New York Press, Albany.

2013 Penhawitz and Wampage and the Seventeenth-Century World They Dominated. In Tales of Gotham, Historical Archaeology, Ethohistory and Microhistory of New York City edited by Meta F. Janowitz and Diana Dallal., pp. 7-30. Springer, New York.

2011 Engendering New Netherland: Implications for Archaeological and Historical Interpretations of Early Colonial Societies (with Diana Wall) Archaeologies.7 (1) 211-45.

2010 New Amsterdam: The Subordination of a Native Space.(with Diana Wall) In Soldiers, Cities, and Landscapes: Papers in Honor of Charles L. Fisher edited by John Hart and Penelope Drooker, pp. 199-212. New York State Museum. Albany.

2008a Landscapes and Other Objects: Creating Dutch New Netherland. (with Diana Wall) New York History 90(4):315-46).

2008b The Middle Ground that Once Lay "Under the Blue Canopy of Heaven." In From de Halve Maen to KLM: 400 Years of Dutch -American Exchange, edited by Margriet Lacy, Charles Gehring, and Jenneke Oosterhoff, pp. 199-133, Nodus, Muenster.

2004 Howard Dalton Winters: 1923-1994. In Aboriginal Ritual and Economy in the Eastern Woodlands. Ed. With Lawrence A. Conrad and Jonathan Reyman. Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers, Volume XXX, Springfield and Kampsville Studies in Archaeology and History, Volume 5, Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville.

2004 Introduction. In Aboriginal Ritual and Economy in the Eastern Woodlands. Edited with Lawrence A. Conrad and Jonathan Reyman. Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers, Volume XXX, Springfield and Kampsville Studies in Archaeology and History, Volume 5, Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville.

2000 'Who Knows the Power of His Bones?': Repatriation Redux. In Ethics and Anthropology: Facing Future Issues in Human Biology, Human Rights, Globalism, and Cultural Property. Ed. by Anne-Marie Cantwell, Eva Friedlander, and Madeleine Tramm. pp. 79-119. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York.

2000 Introduction. In Ethics and Anthropology: Facing Future Issues in Human Biology, Human Rights, Globalism, and Cultural Property. Ed. by Anne-Marie Cantwell, Eva Friedlander, and Madeleine Tramm. pp. vii-xx. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York.

1993 Something rare and strange: Reburial in New York City. Northeast Historical Archaeology 21-22:198-217.

l990 The Choir Invisible: reflections on the living and the dead. Death Studies l4:601-616.

l987 Havana Tradition patterns of chert procurement: economic and political implications for the Central Illinois Valley and beyond. Wisconsin Archeologist 68(l) 22-43.

l986 The relationship between universities and museums. In The Challenge of Folk Materials for New Jersey's Museums. The Museums Council of New Jersey. Trenton.

l986 Status report of the Society for American Archeology's Northeast Regional Conference. With Bert Salwen. In Regional Conferences Summary Report. Ed. by C. Irwin-Williams and D. Fowler. pp. 78-97. Society for American Archaeology Special Publication. Washington, D. C.

l98l The research potential of anthropological museum collections. With N. A. Rothschild. In The Research Potential of Anthropological Research Collections. Ed. By A-M. Cantwell, J. B. Griffin and N. A. Rothschild. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, New York.

l98l The future of the past. With N. A. Rothschild. In The Research Potential of Anthropological Museum Collections. Ed. by A-M. Cantwell, J. B. Griffin and N. A. Rothschild. New York Academy of Sciences. New York, New York.

l98l Middle Woodland dog ceremonialism in Illinois. Wisconsin Archeologist 6l:480-497.
l980 Bone skewers and/or single tine forks from the Pahaquarra site. Bulletin of the Archeological Society of New Jersey 36:25.

l980 New theories for old hypotheses: a re-examination of the theories of Fowke, Holmes and Cushing. Lithic Technology IX (3) l7-21.

l979 The functional analysis of scrapers: problems, new techniques and cautions. Lithic Technology VIII(l) 5-ll.

l979 Adduction, polythetic sets, form and analogy. Lithic Technology VIII (3) l7-20).
n.d. Cultural revival among Native Americans in the Twentieth Century. In A Broad Path to Walk In: Indians, Europeans and Cultural Evolution in New Jersey History. Richard Waldron, Editor. Special Publication of the New Jersey Historical Commission, in press

Monographs and Reports submitted to Professional and Government Agencies

l986 The Northeast Regional Conference. Ed. with Bert Salwen. Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D. C.

l984 Queens in the l9th century. With Diana Rockman and Arnold Pickman. In Nineteenth Century New York City: A Pilot Study for the New York State Plan. Ed. by S. Baugher and A-M. Cantwell. New York State Office of Historic Preservation. Albany.

l984 Nineteenth Century New York: A Pilot Study for the New York State Plan. Ed. with Sherene Baugher. New York State Office of Historic Preservation. Albany.

l983 The Sheridan Square Triangle site: Preliminary Report of Archeological Investigations. With Diana Rockman and Arnold Pickman. Report sumbitted to New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. New York City.

l98l The Definis Site: Final Report of Archeological Investigations. The United States Environmental Protection Agency. New York Regional Office.

l979 Research Problems in Early/Middle Woodland Archeology in New Jersey: Guidelines for the New Jersey State Plan. New Jersey State Preservation Office, Trenton.

Reviews

1990 Review. Bones, Bodies and Behavior. Ed. by G. W. Stocking, Jr. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. Contemporary Sociology 312-313.

l988 Review. Objects and Others: Essays on Museums and Material Culture. Ed. by G. W. Stocking, Jr. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. American Indian Quarterly 52: 673-676.

l985 Review. An Early Woodland Community at the Schultz site 20SA2 in the Saginaw Valley and the Nature of the Early Woodland Adaptation in the Great Lakes Region. By Doreen Ozker. North American Archeologist 6:360-363.

l982 Review. Archaeological Investigation in Northwestern Xuzestan. Ed. by Henry Wright.

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology Technical Reports No. l9. Middle Eastern Studies Association Bulletin XVI: 77-79.

l98l Review. Archaeological Ethnography in Western Iran. by Patty Jo Watson. University of Arizona Press (Viking Fund Publications in Anthropology No. 57). Middle Eastern Studies Association Bulletin XV: 36-37.