



Letter to Fellows

Fellows Only Login

April 2024

Dear Rowland Fellows,

I hope this message finds you doing well and that you have [safe eclipse viewing](#) plans for April 8th. Please remind your kids, friends, and neighbors that [direct viewing](#) can cause serious permanent damage to your eyes!

Thanks to Lori Lisai's ongoing work with our website, we now have a [Fellows Login section!](#) This new "Fellows Only" area of our website is ready for you to check out and will continue to develop over the next few years. As this newsletter lands in your inbox, you should expect to receive a notification from Wordpress with login information to the newest part of the Rowland website. WordPress will auto generate a password for you and you can set your own upon login.

Our new [Fellows Login](#) allows us to have some Fellows-only content, including grant opportunities and access to small perks (e.g., Super Early Bird, RF merchandise, etc.). We're also planning to create a space just for Rowland Fellows that allows us to go a little deeper with the work because it's not outward facing.

For example, once you log in, you'll find:

- Our new [Super Early Bird Pre-Registration for the Annual Conference](#) is only open to Rowland Fellows for the month of April. Save a spot for your school team before everyone else!
- Rowland Encore Grant Application Form & Guidelines
- Rowland Leadership Grant Application Form & Guidelines
- Rowland Women's Leadership Retreat Application Form & Guidelines
- News & upcoming dates that are pertinent to Rowland Fellows
- A complete archive of all of the monthly Letters to Fellows (with photos & links)
- Resources, photos, and works-in-progress that aren't ready for the general public yet

It's our hope that the Fellows Login section can eventually become a "sandbox", in other words, a bit messier than the rest of the site, with space to share resources in a more informal way. We don't yet have the capacity to host and manage a discussion forum or bulletin board, but will continue to study our options with an eye to developing a platform in the future.

Wishing you & your loved ones all the very best,

Mike

P.S. Thank you for sending me your news, celebrations, photos, and courtesy postings for this letter each month!

P.P.S. Do you have any ideas about school or learning that you would like to share? Please feel free to send us a **Rowland Blog post!** No length or genre requirements—it doesn't have to be an op-ed or position paper. Personal essays, poetry, photos and other media and genres are most welcome. Feel free to contact Abby abby@therowlandfoundation.org or me with any questions or ideas.

Rowland Foundation Updates

For Fellows Only! The New Super Early Bird

To celebrate our brand new Fellows Login section of the website, we are making available a small perk: [Super Early Bird Conference Pre-Registration!](#) During the month of April, only Rowland Fellows will be able to pre-register conference teams, so they'll have first dibs until pre-registration opens for all comers on May 3rd. We expect to have space limitations again this year, so please take advantage and grab a spot for your teams, Dear Rowland Fellows!

The Annual Rowland Conference



New Date! The 13th Annual Rowland Conference will take place on Thursday, October 17, 2024 on the theme of *Democracy & School* with keynote speaker Jill Lepore. Dr. Lepore writes for *The New Yorker* and teaches at Harvard. She is the author of [These Truths](#), a one-volume history of the United States that was a New York Times bestseller. You can also catch her on the Pushkin Industries podcasts [The Last Archive](#) or [Elon Musk: The Evening](#)

[Rocket](#). Here are some of [Mike's favorite Jill Lepore quotes](#). Dr. Lepore also recently submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court, [discussed here](#).

Rowland Fellows can grab a spot for their teams even before pre-registration opens on May 3rd, by clicking on this link for the [Super Early Bird Conference Pre-Registration!](#)

Call for Workshop Proposals

Do you have an idea for a workshop about democracy in school? Perhaps on restorative practices, civics literacy, service learning, antiracism, student leadership, or constructive dialogue across difference (e.g., Harkness/Socratic Seminar)? The Rowland Foundation is looking for high-quality and engaging workshop proposals on the theme of democracy in school for the **13th Annual Rowland Conference**, to take place on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Please consider sharing your ideas and talents at our next conference — and feel free to share this invitation with your Vermont colleagues. To submit a workshop proposal, simply [copy and complete this Google Doc](#) and submit it to info@therowlandfoundation.org by **May 15, 2024**.

New Fellowship Info Sessions: Third Thursdays of the Month

Starting with proposals for the 2025 Rowland Fellows Cohort, we're changing our application process: instead of a December 31st deadline, prospective Rowland Fellows will have an application window of November 1st to December 31st. Last year, it seemed that some candidates may have run out of time to apply after attending a mid-November Fellowship Info Night, so we're encouraging educators to start early this year...like right away!

To that end, Executive Director Mike Martin (RF09) will be hosting **Fellowship Info Nights on Third Thursdays of the Month 4:00 - 5:00pm**. Starting this spring, and leading all the way up to our Rowland Fellowship Application Window (Nov. 1 - Dec. 31), Mike will meet with Vermont educators interested in applying at [this Google Meet link](#). Please tell your colleagues who would make great Rowland Fellows to come learn more on any of the following dates: **April 18, May 16, June 20, August 15, September 19, and October 17**. Mike is looking forward to telling interested teachers more about this amazing opportunity in a conversational format online.

Rowland Foundation Website: Fellows Only Login

Our new [Rowland Foundation Website](#) is up, and we've just opened our new [Fellows Only Login!](#) This section will have perks and resources that are just for Rowland Fellows, including our new [Super Early Bird Conference Pre-Registration!](#) Deepest thanks and sincere congratulations to Senior Rowland Associate Lori Lisai (RF14) on the successful completion of this latest success in her website work. As you explore the new Rowland Foundation website, feel free to send Lori your comments, questions, and compliments — and let her know if you have any trouble logging into the Fellows Only section: lori@therowlandfoundation.org

Call for Content

Please send any photos, video, or important artifacts from your Rowland Fellowship experience to Senior Associate Lori Lisai (RF15). Now that every Rowland Fellowship has its own page on our website, we would love to include artifacts from your Fellowship work, including, but not limited to, presentations, communications, student testimonials, event flyers, program descriptions, etc. With your permission, we also hope to incorporate some of your photos, video, and docs into Rowland Short Films to help tell the story of the Rowland Foundation's work around the state.

Check out these examples from [Anja Pfeffer \(RF21\)](#), [Janis Boulbol & Kat Robbins \(RF21\)](#), [Marsha Cassel & Erica Wallstrom \(RF14\)](#), and [Tom Sabo \(RF11\)](#).

New Fellows Orientation



The 2024 Rowland Fellows Cohort met in Burlington for New Fellows Orientation this month. Seen here (*left to right*) Brad Miller of Champlain Valley Union HS, Beverly McCarthy of Barnet School, Bill Prue of North Country Union HS, Melissa Bushey of Barnet School, Sandra Celauro of Proctor Junior/Senior HS, Melissa Wyman of Hartford High School, and Sarah Marcus of Proctor Junior/Senior HS.

Annual Staff Dinner



Each spring the Rowland Foundation staff have dinner with Chuck Scranton to celebrate the work of the Foundation and share ideas. Seen here (*clockwise from left*) Senior Associate Jeanie Phillips (RF14), Executive Director Mike Martin (RF09), Senior Associate for Technology & Social Media Lori Lisai (RF15), Senior Associate Jean Berthiaume (RF09), Founder & Past Executive Director Chuck Scranton, and Executive Assistant Abby Paige.

2023 Rowland Cohort Meeting

The 2023 Rowland Fellows Cohort met at Edmunds Elementary school and enjoyed a day of beautiful lake views, great food, and serious work together. Special thanks to Lindsay McQueen for hosting and to Senior Associate Jeanie Phillips for facilitating—including her brain-based polyvagal co-regulation activity!







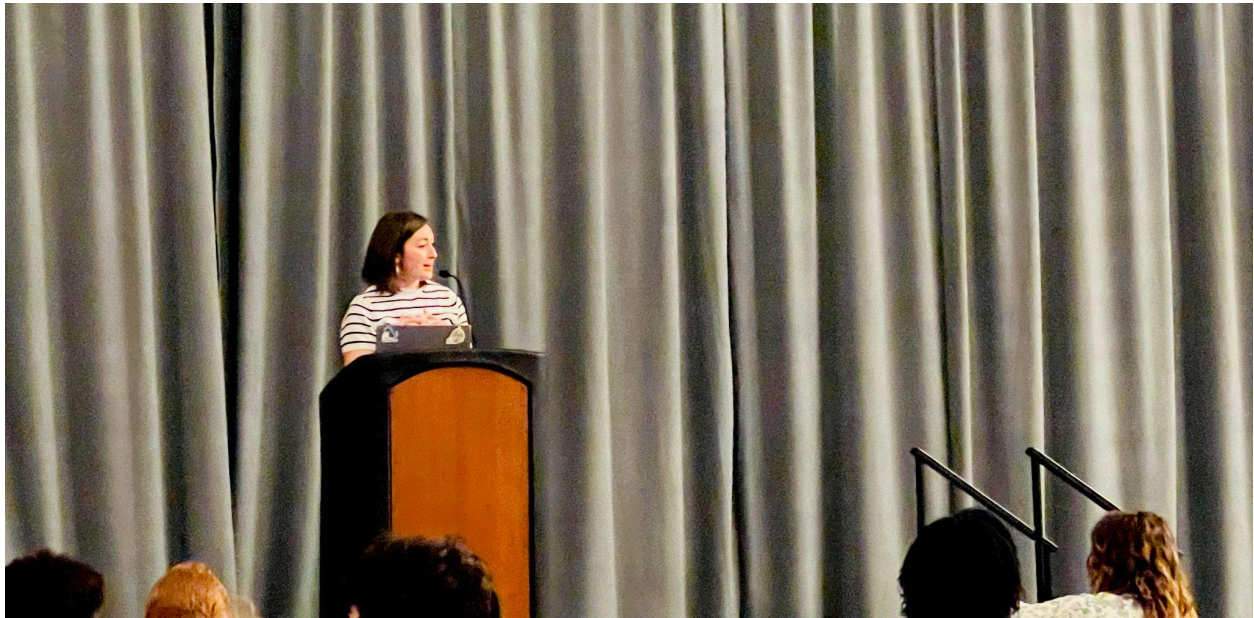


Rowland at SRIA 2024

Several Rowland Fellows helped design, host, present, and participate in this year's [School Redesign In Action \(SRIA\)](#) conference in Providence, Rhode Island. The theme of *Bold Vision, Bold Action* was one that surely resonated with Rowland Fellows!



Rowland Fellows connecting at SRIA in Providence, seen here *(from left to right)* Jeanie Phillips (RF14), Peter Stratman (RF14), Mike Martin (RF09), Becky Ebel (RF22), Carrie Gilman (RF23), Erica Wallstrom (RF14), Lisa Floyd (RF15) & Emily Gilmore (RF17)



Emily Gilmore (RF17) delivering the land acknowledgement to open the SRIA24 conference.



Emily Gilmore (RF17) connecting with New England colleagues before a workshop.



Erica Wallstrom (RF14) welcoming participants and kicking off a workshop.



Jeanie Phillips (RF14) about to begin a workshop with co-presenter Mike Martin (RF09).



[Great Schools Partnership](#) Executive Director David Ruff seen here with author, educator, and presenter Elijah Hawkes of the [Upper Valley Educators Institute \(UVEI\)](#).

Celebrations



Congratulations, Bianca & Jean! In a “sweep” of sorts, both the 2024 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year are Rowland Fellows, Jean Berthiaume (RF09) and Bianca McKeen (RF16) respectively. These school leaders are loved and respected by their peers, and our state owes them a debt of gratitude for their many contributions as school leaders. Bianca & Jean are seen here at Shelburne Farms where they participated in the Dark Side of the Moon Retreat organized by Mike McRaith (RF13) as a Rowland Leadership Grant initiative.



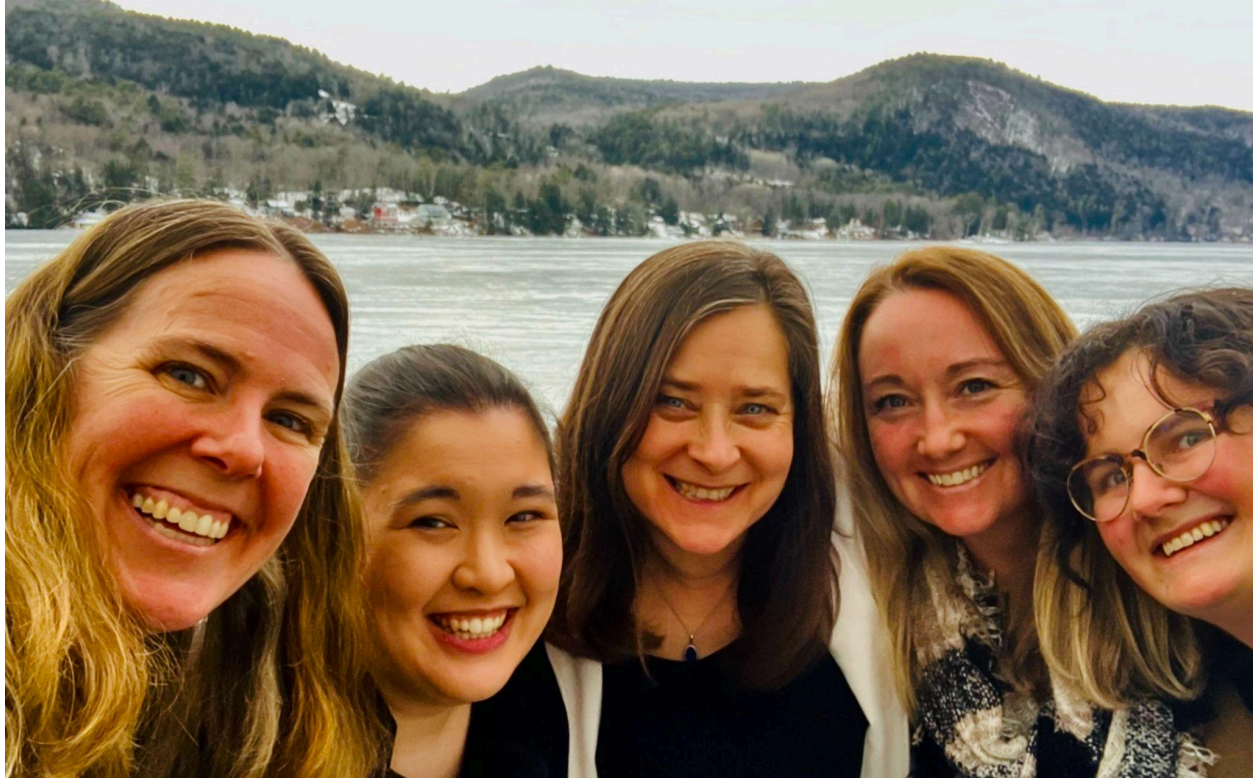
The National Association of Secondary Schools Vermont High School Principal of the year is Jean Berthiaume. Jean is the Co-Principal at Winooski Middle High School and a Senior Associate at the Rowland Foundation. Jean has been a longtime advocate of student voice and democratic schools. In recent years he has been a strong leader for racial equity in Vermont schools.



The National Association of Secondary Schools Principals Vermont Assistant Principal of the year is Bianca McKeen. Ms. McKeen is the Associate Principal at Rutland High School. Bianca has been a longtime proponent of student-centered learning and community engagement. Her initial 2016 Rowland Fellowship work with partners Jen Wigmore & Sarah Hagge has grown into PLACE, which supports important extended learning opportunities for students in Rutland.



With support from PH International, a non-governmental organization co-founded by Kathy Cadwell (RF16), a delegation of educators from the Republic of Georgia visited Vermont to exchange ideas about education and democracy. Mike Martin (RF09) and Andrew Jones (RF15) were among the Vermont educators who shared their work with the delegation.



Great Schools Partnership colleagues recently helped lead Performance Assessment Design at Lake Morey for the Vermont Agency of Education. Seen here (left to right) Erica Wallstrom (RF14), Amanda Nguyen, Jeanie Phillips (RF14), Katie Thompson, and Kayla Girardin.

Gratitude



Mike Martin (RF09) is very grateful for his recent family trip to India with his family to celebrate Palash Agrawal (*first on the left here*) & Priyanshi Garg's wedding. It was an honor to be part of their big event, which lasted over three days as many Indian weddings do. It was wonderful to meet their families and discover the beauty of Indian cultures, cuisines, and customs for the first time. As part of the wedding party, Joshua & Theo are seen wearing *kurtas*

here and Magali a *sari* (on right). Our guests also invited us to wear the *sehra* headdress, which the groom and male relatives traditionally wear to ward off the evil eye.

Courtesy Postings



THE **ROWLAND** foundation



The Great Schools Partnership, The Rowland Foundation, and Shelburne Farms are pleased to sponsor two new course offerings starting this summer, both designed and instructed by Senior Associate Jeanie Phillips (RF14):

Collaborative Practices for Equity

August 21-23, September 30, and November 8, 2024 from 9am-4pm

This is a highly participatory course designed for teachers and administrators interested in developing the skills necessary for leading equity work. Participants will actively build a culture that supports collaboration and will reflect on the process of sustaining a collaborative culture in their own settings. [Please share the flyer with colleagues!](#)

[Register here!](#)

Responsive Facilitation for Systems Change

August 19-20, October 1, November 7, and December 9, 2024 from 9am-4pm

This course is designed to build on the Collaborative Practices for Equity course with school leaders in mind. Participants will practice intentional agenda design and responsive facilitation. They will build an understanding of adult learning theory, systems change models, and liberatory pedagogies. They are strongly encouraged to leverage this course for systems change in their own settings. [Please share the flyer with colleagues!](#)

[Register here!](#)



Schools and school leaders need a new approach! Compassionate systems is a powerful framework for educators interested in rehumanizing educational spaces. In partnership with Peter Senge & the Center for Systems Awareness, the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative and Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union are pleased to announce a 3-day introduction to **Compassionate Systems Leadership** to take place Vermont State University's Lyndon Campus May 6-8, 2024 (9:00am - 5:00pm). [Register here.](#) [Learn more here.](#)



The VPA recently released their spring professional learning offerings. The options include a book group for *Bumbling Humans: Reflections on Liberatory Change*. This book was written by local author, Lucinda Garthwaite, and the book group will be led by Mike McRaith (RF '13). Learn more about the VPA [spring offerings](#) available to all educators.



PH International is organizing a host exchange with students from Burma! The delegation's purpose is to learn more about environmental sustainability and youth leadership. They will be staying with host families in Vermont May 7-26. Are you interested in hosting a student or chaperone? [Click here for details and contact information](#)
