



James David Gawn

March 21, 2019

James David Gawn, 63, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania passed away on Thursday morning at Hospice & Community Care in Mount Joy with his family by his side.

James, also known as Jim, is survived by his loving wife, Rachel Hazeltine Gawn, and his children, Sarah Hazeltine Gawn & Alexander Hazeltine Gawn. Jim was born to Agnes Adeline Gawn (née Moore) and David Richard Gawn on July 8, 1955 at the Massereene Hospital in Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Jim descended from his maternal grandmother Thomasina Sarah Frazer, maternal grandfather James Moore, paternal grandmother Evelyn Gawn (née Reid), and paternal grandfather David Gawn. Jim grew up as the eldest of four along side his sister Glynis, and two brothers Michael & Frazer in Ballyclare, Northern Ireland where he attended Dunamuggy Primary School and graduated from Ballyclare High School in 1973.

Jim continued his education at Lancaster University, England where he met his soon-to-be wife of 40 years, Rachel. Upon receiving his BA in Mathematics & Philosophy in 1976, Jim and Rachel moved to Hemel Hempstead, England where Jim worked at Rank Xerox while pursuing a diploma of management studies at the University of Westminster.

Jim and Rachel were wed on August 5, 1978 in Rachel's hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1982, the couple made a permanent move to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to raise their future family. In 1985, Jim joined the Millersville University Information Technology department as Administrative Applications Manager & Project Leader and where he developed the school's first online class registration system and cross-platform degree audit applications by pioneering MU's first endeavor with IBM technology. While spearheading this initiative, Jim also received his Master Degree in Computer Science from Villanova University in 1989.

Jim became a US citizen in 1990, after the birth of his first child, with the intention of joining the US democratic system to vote for policy he believed would be best for his children as they grew. Jim, a self-proclaimed "extreme moderate," would go on to join the American Civil Liberties Union, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, and the Association for Computer Machinery. After leaving Millersville in 1998, Jim continued his career as an independent contractor specializing in cyber security engineering.

Jim raised his children through their college years and worked with Tapestry Technologies until September 2018. His humble attitude and love of all things academic radiated throughout his daily life. Jim raised a beautiful family who will miss him dearly.

Tribute Wall



“ *James David Gawn*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Thursday -August 20, 2020*

Dear Rachel:

I just now thought about Jim randomly and wondered how is doing. So I decided to see if I can locate him somehow online, so I can email him to say 'hello'. And lo and behold I saw this obituary.

My condolences Rachel. I worked with him for a while at Millersville University. Towards the end of my tenure at Millersville -1988 or so, he was my direct supervisor. Jim was a very gentle and kind man. I recall you both visited me and my family once in Harrisburg. The Last time I saw Jim was some time in 1999/2000. We had lunch together. A very nice and kind man.

Take care Rachel and stay safe

Agharese Ness - Harrisburg, PA

Agharese Ness - August 20, 2020 at 02:39 PM



Thank you, Agharese. Jim thought the world of you.

Rachel Gawn - January 22, 2021 at 11:57 PM

TD

“ *I worked with Jim at Tapestry Technologies. He was truly a gentle spirit with a great sense of humor. My prayers are with the family.*
Thea Davis

Thea Davis - March 25, 2019 at 10:33 PM

ZG

Thank you, Thea. I just found your post! Jim loved his team at Tapestry. Thank you for your condolences...

Zander Gawn, Jim's son

Zander Gawn - June 18, 2019 at 01:47 PM

“ Verse IV from T.S. Eliot's “Ash Wednesday”

*Who walked between the violet and the violet
Who walked between
The various ranks of varied green
Going in white and blue, in Mary's colour,
Talking of trivial things
In ignorance and knowledge of eternal dolour
Who moved among the others as they walked,
Who then made strong the fountains and made fresh the springs*

*Made cool the dry rock and made firm the sand
In blue of larkspur, blue of Mary's colour,
Sovegna vos*

*Here are the years that walk between, bearing
Away the fiddles and the flutes, restoring
One who moves in the time between sleep and waking, wearing*

*White light folded, sheathing about her, folded.
The new years walk, restoring
Through a bright cloud of tears, the years, restoring
With a new verse the ancient rhyme. Redeem
The time. Redeem
The unread vision in the higher dream
While jewelled unicorns draw by the gilded hearse.*

*The silent sister veiled in white and blue
Between the yews, behind the garden god,
Whose flute is breathless, bent her head and signed but spoke
no word*

*But the fountain sprang up and the bird sang down
Redeem the time, redeem the dream
The token of the word unheard, unspoken*

Till the wind shake a thousand whispers from the yew

And after this our exile

Kathleen MacQueen - March 25, 2019 at 07:51 AM

KM

“*Dear Rachel, Sarah, and Zander,
Peter and I send you our most heartfelt condolences from too many miles away; we wish we could be at your side at this most sad but also memorable moment. Jim always shared an amazingly powerful life force and this memory does him and his family great honor.
Much love and compassion,
Kathleen MacQueen and Peter Stader*

Kathleen MacQueen - March 24, 2019 at 10:13 AM

ZG

Thank you so much, Kathleen <3 we so appreciate your kind words!

Zander Gawn - June 18, 2019 at 01:47 PM