

Blanca Rohr

February 17, 1955 – June 26, 2023

Minister: Guy

May 24, 2025

[Minister's Introduction]

Welcome friends.

We have come together to honor the life of our dear friend, Blanca Rohr.

We are here to bear witness to the mortal woman who moved through this lifetime, playing the role of her name, and to the immortal soul which has transcended that role.

Let us stand and remember Blanca in silent presence.

(Silence)

Thank you.

The physical body is designed to produce presence and being, and then to be laid aside. Walt Whitman said, "The best of me then, when no longer visible, for toward that I have been incessantly preparing."

Blanca takes with her the presence and being that she has gained in this lifetime, and her connection with Influence C. Our teacher has said, "That is all we can take with us, but it is more than enough."

[Reading: Selection from “Song of Myself” by Walt Whitman]
(Reader: Kathryn P.)

From “Song of Myself” by Walt Whitman

The smallest sprout shows there is really no death,
And if ever there was it led forward life, and does not wait at the end to
arrest it,
And ceas'd the moment life appear'd.
All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses,
And to die is different from what any one supposed, and luckier.

[Eulogy: Dianne C.]

Those who knew Blanca Rohr saw her as a very special person – they were impressed by her beauty, intelligence, liveliness, sense of humor, sophistication, and good business sense. Most of all, they noted her unwavering commitment to both Robert and the School. They also enjoyed her great hospitality, beaming smile, and love of Latin music, which was an important part of her essence.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1955 to Hispanic parents from Monterrey, Mexico, Blanca’s birth name was Blanca Estela Aguilar. When she was a young child the family settled in San Antonio, Texas, where she grew up acquiring a love of music and dancing. Blanca played the flute in high school and later enjoyed listening to harp music when she was low on energy.

Friends say that: “if there was Latin music playing, Blanca would dance or sing along.” They also recall a time when they were giving Blanca a ride to the airport and they were talking about the chorus and singing when Blanca unexpectedly started singing as they drove. She had a beautiful soprano voice and could reach very high notes.

Blanca married several times and kept the married name Rohr for business purposes. In the late 1990's it was music and dancing that brought her together with her husband, Alan Kuglar, who was a dance teacher; they married in May 1997 and for many years enjoyed going to dance clubs together. A nature lover, Blanca's favorite place was the woods near their Atlanta home – the picture on her memorial card shows her in those woods.

With a well-developed intellectual and practical side, Blanca was an avid reader and a good student. She was the valedictorian for her high school graduating class and earned a master's degree in business administration from Emory University in Atlanta. After college she pursued a successful career as an executive recruiter and sales representative.

She loved to shop and had high standards. She was always looking her best, and Robert apparently became aware of Blanca's shopping skills and asked her to do some personal shopping for him.

Blanca struck a fine balance between her business interests and her personal life, even when visiting Apollo. At first she flew here alone, but after marrying Alan, who had a fear of flying, they would rent a large car and spend a week driving across the country to California. After a week at Apollo, they would spend a third week driving back to Atlanta. During their weeks on the road Blanca continued pursuing her current business by phone and other means. She changed jobs every few years and eventually left other employment to work for her husband's sign-making business.

She first met the School in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend recalls giving Blanca her prospective student meetings, saying that she was curious about three things: first, what was Gurdjieff's system; second, who was Robert, the teacher; and third, she wanted to know as much as she could about the School. The friend answered her questions as best he could and she joined the School in March of 1990. Thereafter, they enjoyed going to Atlanta's High Museum of Art, where he shared with her his understanding of the impressions octave.

In the late 1990's Blanca and Mark Mitchell became the co-directors of the Atlanta Center for the first of several turns in that role; they bookmarked and several people joined. Very perceptive and a great communicator, Blanca often led the initial meetings for new students.

Members of the Atlanta Center appreciated their many visitors, some of whom came regularly on business – Blanca always greeted them with a big smile and frequently hosted students in her own home. On one occasion a visitor and local students were dining at a restaurant when someone at the table mentioned C influence. Just then a huge bucket of ice was spilled behind their table. Raising a finger upwards, Blanca pointed out the shock.

As the teaching evolved, Blanca became very proficient at spotting the keys in images. In recent years the center dwindled to just three students. Nevertheless, they continued watching Robert's videos, pausing to examine the images on the screen and discussing the video afterwards.

Several friends have mentioned that Blanca had a special relationship with Robert. A friend recalls seeing her for the first time at one of Robert's dinners at Apollo and says that he could not help but notice that she and Robert seemed endearingly familiar with one another – like two people who knew each other well.

Another story shows that she and Robert shared some traits in common: one friend relates that Blanca and several other students once travelled from Apollo to Berkeley expecting to see a ballet that Robert was encouraging them to attend. When this group of students (who all needed tickets) approached the box office, there were over a hundred people in front of them hoping to buy anything available. Blanca simply cut through the crowd and, unbelievably, got the first set of tickets, which happened to be two seats in the center of the second row. Our friend says: "as it turned out, Robert was seated two rows behind us."

Another close friend, Edward Lohmann, worked for a company headquartered in Atlanta; thus he saw Blanca often; she also stayed with the Lohmanns when visiting Apollo. While Edward was going through his final illness, Blanca gave him a CD of harp music – his wife Bonnie says it was his favorite music in his last days.

Towards the end of her life, Blanca struggled with her own illness, which prevented her from physically participating in events with students the way she had previously. However, she continued to co-direct the Atlanta center from her home and to meet with the East Coast centers on Zoom. One student commented on these meetings, saying:

Although I never met Blanca in person . . . I still remember her beautiful energy, presence, and participation in the East Coast Zoom meetings at the beginning of Covid. When she raised her hand to speak, I perked up because I knew that I would receive something emotional from her. She intensified my presence and awareness, and her thoughts fit into my heart like a missing puzzle piece. I would have liked to have spent time with her in person, but I am grateful to have known her depth from afar.

From all accounts Blanca was a devoted student and supporter of the School and Robert – clearly, he also valued her. Fellow students also appreciate her contributions and her consistency, seeing her as “always the same person, whether with close friends or with Robert.”

Blanca enjoyed life and truly exemplified the motto on her plaque:

“Make the present time a gift to Yourself.” – *Marcus Aurelius*

[**Music:** “Gymnopédie” by Erik Satie]
(**Musician:** Chris, guitar)

[Minister's Conclusion:]

The shock of a friend's death reminds us that our bodies are fragile, our period on this earth temporary. Only the realm of uncreated light – which unites us and is us – is boundless and eternal.

May Blanca's warm hospitality, consistent service to the school, and wholehearted devotion to her teacher inspire us to keep our own hearts open to one another.

Dear Blanca, we thank thee.

In Rabia's words, "Love comes from eternity and goes into eternity." A divine spark has returned to its divine source. The circle of life is complete.

Friends, please stand now, and follow me to view the plaque that has been placed for Blanca.

[Minister leads participants to the memorial column.]

[Minister:]

With this plaque, we make a home at Apollo for our memories of Blanca.

[Minister and participants scatter rose petals.]

Let us joyfully now celebrate Blanca's life with a toast, and then depart, with gratitude for having known her, and a more vivid appreciation for the life we have been given.

[Toast: Mark M.]

The time will come when every change shall cease,
This quick revolving wheel shall rest in peace;
No summer then shall glow, nor winter freeze;
Nothing shall be to come and nothing past,
But an eternal now shall ever last.

Petrarch

Let us toast to uncreated light.