

Memorial: Genevieve Donna Loyd (1945–2003)

¶1 Donna, as she was known to family, friends, and colleagues, or G. Donna as she signed her correspondence, died suddenly on April 3, 2003. We miss our friend very much. Donna spent her professional life in southeastern Michigan and was active in both the Law Librarians of Metropolitan Detroit (LLMD) and the Michigan Association of Law Libraries.

¶2 A 1977 graduate of the University of Michigan's library school, Donna began her career in indexing and abstracting as an editor with Information Coordinators (later Information Marketing International). Information Coordinators was located in downtown Detroit's Harmonie Park, and Donna often reminisced about the people with whom she worked as well as the shops and restaurants she once frequented.

¶3 Donna joined the law library profession in 1987 as an acquisitions librarian with Dykema Gossett, then Michigan's largest law firm, located in Detroit's Renaissance Center, several blocks south of Harmonie Park. Donna witnessed the highs and lows of private law library life during her tenure there: staff changes, budget cuts, the move toward the Internet and the World Wide Web, the ruling days of proprietary software, and interacting with legal publishers before the advent of Thomson and Reed Elsevier. She established and maintained lifelong friendships with many Dykema colleagues and firm members. Donna remained with Dykema Gossett for more than ten years until her move to Howard & Howard Attorneys in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

¶4 The move to the suburbs did not keep Donna from active participation in LLMD. She continued attending the downtown luncheon meetings where her cool head and down-to-earth comments often kept discussions on track and to the point. Donna was frequently able to pose a question that clarified an issue or led the group back to examining solutions when the theoretical threatened to overtake practicality. In recent years Donna acted as an informal mentor to many of the newer members of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries and also participated as a member of law librarian discussion panels for the Library and Information Science Program's legal information course at Wayne State University. Her advice to students was delivered with humor and an eye to what would be most helpful to those considering a career in law librarianship.

¶5 In addition to professional meetings with colleagues, Donna kept up with an informal group of librarians, attorneys, and friends both in person and in writing. Her distinctive cursive scrawled personalized messages on greeting cards, postcards, or plain paper regularly arrived to acknowledge holidays or just convey that she was thinking of you. She met with friends and colleagues who would gather occasionally at the Sweetwater Tavern in downtown Detroit. Over beer and dinner, the discussions of library topics—vendors, research, collection develop-

ment—gave way to nonlibrary subjects, including Arts and Crafts furniture, family, books recently read, and newly forged friendships that all came to cherish.

¶6 Donna's personal life was full with family and friends as well as her diverse interests. She delighted in her two daughters and their spouses and absolutely adored her granddaughter. She often spent time with her sisters, adult nieces and nephews, and their families. Her social calendar was filled with dinner, luncheon, and movie dates with former colleagues, neighbors, and friends—all people with whom she kept in contact. A Michigan native, she often remarked upon the consequences of our area's urban sprawl—she had a deep appreciation of the state's agricultural heritage. This appreciation did not negate her enjoyment of urban culture—she loved library book sales, bookstores, movies, foreign films at the Detroit Institute of Arts, British humor and mysteries, Detroit's Pewabic Pottery, and techno music. In recent years, she returned to the classroom to study the Spanish language, reflecting an earlier time in her life as an exchange student with a family in Mexico.

¶7 Donna contributed to her colleagues professionally with her knowledge, skill, and experience, and personally as a lively, intelligent, and caring friend. Her genuine interest in people and her commitment to librarianship as a service profession were apparent to all. Her incandescent smile, words of welcome, sly wit, and sharp humor as well as her spirited enjoyment of life are sorely missed. We are lucky to have known her.—*Jan Bissett*¹ and *Margi Heinen*²

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