

Memorial: Jacqueline R. Paul (1937–2002)

¶1 Jacqueline Paul died at the age of sixty-five on February 22, 2002, in Berkeley, California, after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

¶2 This is a tribute to a wonderful person who was an accomplished individual, generous with both her time and talents. Jacqui lived her life to the fullest and generously shared it with family, friends, colleagues, and community. She was a high-energy individual who contributed so much to so many. Those who had the privilege of working with her were the beneficiaries of her talents, intelligence, enthusiasm, and giving nature. Her interests were broad and diverse and she was truly a student of lifelong learning.

¶3 Jacqui was born and raised around Buffalo, New York. She received a B.A. in Fine Arts from Boston University, and an M.S. from Columbia University School of Library Service in 1959. After marrying Richard Allen Paul in 1960, she relocated to Wilmington, Delaware, and began her thirty-five year career as a librarian. Her first position was as a medical librarian at the A.I. DuPont Institute of the Nemours Foundation. During her early child-rearing years, she continued working, including positions as a reference librarian at Delaware Technical and Community College and at Riverside Hospital.

¶4 When an opportunity became available at the then-fledgling Delaware Law School (now Widener University School of Law) in 1977, she became head of the Cataloging Department. During her twenty-year tenure at Widener, she made a tremendous contribution to the development of the library as it grew from a small legal collection into the large legal information center it is today. Under her guiding hand, the card catalog was created and ultimately transformed into a fully automated system. During the course of this journey, she helped establish the Delaware Library Consortium during the late 1970s, which provided a cohort of small Delaware libraries with access to OCLC, an innovative approach in its time. She also helped to set up the COM Catalog, a combined catalog of thirty-three Delaware libraries.

¶5 As a Type A personality—in the most positive sense of the word—she served the library profession well. She held a veritable laundry list of leadership positions and participated in national and regional meetings of the American Association of Law Libraries, Special Library Association, Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association, Delaware Library Association, and American Library Association. Her contributions to AALL included serving as editor of the “Committee and Special Interest Section News” column of the *AALL Newsletter* from 1979 to 1981 and as chair of both the Technical Services (1984–85) and On-Line Bibliographic Services (1997–98) special interest sections. Indicative of her sense of commitment was her willingness to continue as chair of the OBS/SIS following her retirement from the law school. Her hard work in support of the

Delaware Library Association led to her election as president, a position she held in 1985 and 1986. She served as a member of the planning committee to implement LINCS (Libraries in New Castle County System), which provides interlibrary loan services statewide.

¶6 Although her profession was an important part of her life, Jacqui had broad and diverse interests. She was an accomplished pianist and loved art and travel. She was a member and active supporter of the Delaware Art Museum and Symphony. You could see her eclectic tastes and style in her home, clothing, and jewelry. Jacqui loved to entertain and was a gracious hostess. Family, friends, and coworkers were the beneficiaries of her gourmet cooking. Vacations shared with Dick, filled with cultural events and sometimes even kayaking, were among Jacqui's greatest pleasures. We fondly remember Jacqui's knitting bag accompanying her to meetings and on her travels as she made finely crafted sweaters and handmade gifts for those she was close to.

¶7 She immersed herself in the community just as she did everything else. Although not a native, Jacqui knew more about Wilmington than most Wilmingtonians. Fully engaged in the library community, she still found time to devote to volunteer work, utilizing her expertise, for instance, to catalog the Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Collection of books. She was active in the Wilmington Chapter of Hadassah, the American Association of University Women, the Greater Wilmington Development Council, and the League of Women Voters. After retiring, she moved with her husband to El Cerrito, California, and became a docent at the Oakland and Judah L. Magnes museums.

¶8 Her faith was important to Jacqui. She was a member of the Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth and Beth Emeth synagogues and became a bat mitzvah in 1994.

¶9 Jacqui had a generous spirit, full of giving for her family, friends, and community. She was always concerned about others and their general well-being. When an associate was in the middle of a personal crisis and found herself without furniture, Jacqui generously provided the necessities to help get her through her difficulties. She constantly doted over her children and grandchildren. Although her three boys were scattered across the country, she made every effort to maintain the closeness of her family. Spending time with Jacqui meant you saw the most recent pictures of her grandchildren. Her retirement in 1996 not only allowed her more time to pursue her many interests, but also enabled her to expand them. She took up bicycling and quilting during her retirement years, becoming such an accomplished quilter that her works were exhibited at the East Bay Heritage Quilt Show in Oakland, California.

¶10 Jacqui is survived by her loving husband of forty-one years, Richard Allen Paul; three sons, Rodney of Kensington, California, Randy of Boulder, Colorado, and Reid of Wayne, New Jersey; two daughters-in-law, Sara and Jenny; a brother, Macy Cohen of Boynton Beach, Florida; three grandsons, Aaron, Max, and Eli; and many friends.

¶11 Jacqui Paul made a difference in the lives of many—her family, her friends, and her colleagues. She enriched us and we will miss her.—*Eileen B. Cooper*¹

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