



Judith R. Montgomery

December 10, 1952 - May 26, 2021

Paul Alan D'Alessandro and Judith Reid Montgomery, both 68, died on May 26, 2021, as a result of a tragic car accident in Lewiston, ME.

The daughter of Robert W. and Doris ("Pinkie") Montgomery (nee Waller), Judy was born in Bryn Mawr, PA, on December 10, 1952. She spent her childhood in Caldwell, NJ, enjoyed summers in Highland Lakes, NJ, and graduated from James Caldwell High School. Paul was born in Cleveland, OH, on September 30, 1952, the son of Edward A. D'Alessandro and Grace M. D'Alessandro (nee Musché). He was a proud graduate of John Marshall High School in Cleveland.

In 1970, Judy and Paul both enrolled at Valparaiso University, where they met during the first week of college; they were inseparable from that time forward. Following graduation, they earned Master of Library Science degrees from Kent State University. After an extended cross-country trip, they eventually found a place to call home in Brunswick, ME, where they later married. Judy had a remarkable 38-year career as a librarian at Bowdoin College and rose to the position of Associate Librarian before her retirement. Paul's career included positions at the Gardiner Public Library, the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, and the Portland Public Library, where he served as a reference and government documents librarian. He later worked as an independent indexer and book reviewer, and served as census taker for the 2010 Census.

At Bowdoin, Judy helped usher the library into the digital age by coordinating the introductions of the first online catalog and of electronic databases to the campus, played instrumental roles in planning library construction and renovation projects, and was a key player in collaborative Maine library initiatives, including the Colby-Bates-Bowdoin (CBB) partnership and the Maine Shared Collections Cooperative. She was an active participant in a variety of state and regional library associations and organizations. Perhaps the project that gave her the greatest personal joy was her establishment of the annual Children's Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr, which she stewarded for 17 years. Judy's dedication to Bowdoin students, faculty, staff, and alumni earned her deep respect, awards, and recognition, including the McKeen Center Staff Award for Commitment to Community, the Polar Award for Leadership, and the title of Associate Librarian Emerita. Together as a couple, Paul and Judy's service to the broader Brunswick community was

both extensive and exemplary; they touched many lives and developed lasting friendships through volunteer work at a variety of organizations, including Tedford Housing, where Judy was a member of the Board of Directors, Merrymeeting Gleaners, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, and Growing to Give. Paul and Judy were determined to bring about positive change in the world and they embodied a life of community service.

They loved the outdoors and found happiness with an afternoon swim at Simpson's Point Landing, hikes on carriage trails in Acadia National Park, snowshoeing, kayaking, Tai Chi and Qigong, visiting gardens, shopping at farmers markets, and maintaining an extensive garden at their home where their annual garlic crop was renowned. Intrepid travelers, they frequently visited England for theater, concerts, and exhibitions, and Italy where they developed a deep love of Italian culture, Italian wines, and the language. They found joy in and loved to discuss a well-written book or poem, the best gelato flavors, movies, art exhibitions, dance performances, concerts, travel, and a good game at Fenway Park. Paul's skills in the kitchen had a devoted following, particularly for his homemade pasta and pizzas, and also the annual cookie tins that he and Judy prepared for eager recipients. Judy's ruthless Scrabble and croquet playing, and Paul's extensive love of poetry and Shakespeare were legendary. Pet lovers, over the years they shared their home with a series of perfectly behaved dogs, including Lady, Willie, Corrie, and in the last year, Sparrow, who also died in the accident.

Judy and Paul were extremely close and devoted to their families and to their family of friends; it was impossible not to feel their love. They listened and laughed; shared recipes and poetry; knit sweaters and scarves; discussed books, music, poetry, and politics; considered the benefits of good wine and good gin; and always let you know how important you were to them.

They are survived by Paul's brother Edward R. D'Alessandro and his wife Loretta, Judy's brother Robert and his spouse Ronnie, and her brother James and his former spouse Wendy Pauloo. They also leave behind their nieces Katie and Mollie Montgomery, their nephews Stephen and Michael D'Alessandro, and Jacob and Scott Montgomery, as well as 13 grandnieces and grandnephews. Their numerous cousins include Jack Montgomery and his wife Deede of South Freeport.

A virtual celebration of their lives will take place on Sunday, June 13, at 1:00 p.m.

Additional information about the event is available at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/communications/montgomer-memorial/index.html>.

Memorial contributions may be made in their honor to the organizations that were important to them: Growing To Give (www.growingtogive.farm), Merrymeeting Gleaners (merrymeetinggleaners.org), and the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (midcoasthunger.org).

[tp://www.merrymeetingfoodcouncil.org/merrymeeting-gleaners](http://www.merrymeetingfoodcouncil.org/merrymeeting-gleaners)), Mid Coast Hunger Prevention (www.mchpp.org), and Tedford Housing (www.tedfordshelter.org). Volunteering at one of these organizations would also be in the spirit of their commitment to helping others.

Tribute Wall

DO

“ *Judy and Paul.....I first met them when they decided to move Judy's mom, Pinkie, from her Willow Grove home and welcome her into their own home. We became instant friends. Later, as a director and then board chair for Tedford Housing I was delighted to be able to interest her in the work of that organization. As in everything else in which she involved herself, Judy threw her heart and soul into advocacy for people struggling with homelessness. Their charitable contributions, across Brunswick and the whole region, are legendary. They lived admirable lives of generous, centered, adventurous, passion and I am proud to have known them. Today's celebration of their lives captured both Judy's and Paul's spirits brilliantly. Thank you so much!!*

*Dot Ollier
Brunswick*

Dot Ollier - June 13, 2021 at 02:26 PM

JH

“ *I shared professional life with Judy for 38 years at Bowdoin College. We were allies in the quest to make the place in general better than how we first found it. We were allies in the library too, as I struggled to build a collection focused on the religions of South Asia, while she, of course, engineered much of the transformation of Hawthorne-Longfellow. I was a but part time bit player, she was a captain. Judy was more than an associate librarian. In some ways, she became the soul of the library over the years, and the glue that bound her co-librarians together. She was rare, and we were lucky to have known her.*

John Holt - June 13, 2021 at 02:06 PM

SC

“ *I was one of hundreds of student workers whom Judy took under her wing. And one of a smaller number whom Judy inspired to become a librarian. During my time at Bowdoin, she showed her remarkable capacity to be present each person she encountered, offering me daily kindness. In the years following, when I became a reference librarian myself, I would often think to myself "what would Judy do?". She was a mentor and friend and I will miss her. -- Suzanne Cole, Bowdoin '89*

Suzanne Cole - June 13, 2021 at 01:54 PM

CJ

“ *I waited too long. I always intended to contact Judy and talk about our working years together. I learned a lot from her example. Catherine J.*

Catherine Jacobs - June 13, 2021 at 01:54 PM

AL

“ I had the great fortune of meeting Judy and Paul during my undergraduate years at Bowdoin College. As a mere student employee at the Office of the Librarians, Judy treated me like family. During the summer of 2009, when Judy and Paul needed someone to dog sit Corrie, it was a no-brainer. After graduating from the college, Judy continued to make every effort to see me when I returned to the college. I will miss Judy and Paul.

Alison Lin

Alison Lin - June 12, 2021 at 11:41 PM

DB

“ Such a tragic ending to two beautiful lives. You will be missed. Glad I had the opportunity to get to know and work with Judy during my 20 years at Bowdoin.

Dave Barbour

David Barbour - June 12, 2021 at 09:23 PM