



## Paul A. D'Alessandro

September 30, 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](http://www.growingtogive.farm)), Merrymeeting Gleaners (<http://www.merrymeetingfoodcouncil.org/merrymeeting-gleaners>), Mid Coast Hunger

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

# Comments

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“ I was sorry to read today of the deaths of Paul and Judy in the Valparaiso University magazine. Paul was my roommate in 1970, our freshman year of college. He was quiet, friendly and a walking thesaurus from Cleveland. I would be writing a paper and run out of words that were not repetitive. I would ask Paul for a substitute word to use in the paper and he would give me 6-7 different words to use depending on the context of the sentence. He amazed me.

As stated in an article I read regarding their work in the area, he and Judy were inseparable in college. They were kindred spirits. A barefoot, blue jeaned, flannel shirt couple of the 70's with a lot of love in their hearts for each other, AND others. I will always have fond memories of both of them and I am truly sad to hear of the passing in such a tragic way.

Jack Deardorff  
123 DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Jack D Deardorff - December 24, 2021 at 10:48 PM

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“ Because of his qualities of heart and soul, Paul seemed to be the heart and soul of the Portland Public Library when I worked there. He was a wonderfully willing and versatile trouble-shooter to whom the staff could turn with any sort of question. He quickly caught on to newly-introduced computers and patiently conveyed his knowledge to a host of neophytes. He plied his many skills and his wide range of knowledge humorously and with great good nature.

Paul could communicate caring and openness to anyone he spoke with, and by making each person his equal, made it seem as natural as air or water. But this ability was also rare and phenomenal. He once mentioned his favorite song on a Dylan CD. One of its lyrics could describe the wholehearted commitment and loving-kindness he extended to those he encountered on his too-short path.

My deepest condolences go out to Paul and Judy's loved ones during this difficult time.

~Margot McCain

"The storms are raging on the rolling sea  
And on the highway of regret  
Though winds of change are blowing wild and free  
You ain't seen nothing like me yet  
I could make you happy, make your dreams come true  
Nothing that I wouldn't do  
Go to the ends of the Earth for you  
To make you feel my love..."

Margot McCain - June 13, 2021 at 05:28 PM

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“ 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. We didn't cross paths frequently once I was no longer a director on the board of Tedford Housing but I'd spy them out walking and stop to catch up, or see one of them at the farmer's market or grocery store. I watched Paul recover from his major heart surgery, striding determinedly around town trying to beat back the pain and regain his stamina and I'd pause to text Judy to say, "He's standing up straighter! He looks great!" A kind, gentle, smart, compassionate human being, he was the just the best. He and Judy were quite the team. I so enjoyed today's celebration of their lives! It's true that they inspire us to let our better natures guide us in all we do!

Thank you so much!

Dot Ollier  
Brunswick

Dot Ollier - June 13, 2021 at 02:39 PM



“ Paul was my friend.

He listened with every part of himself. He shared his wisdom and his confusion and his joyous silliness. We laughed a lot, we commiserated when that was all there was, and then we laughed some more.

I know that grief and gratitude are traveling companions, that this immense sadness I feel is tied to all that he shared: kindness, compassion, commitment. Writing and writers, verse and prose. Music and food-love and flowers. Doubt, faith, wondering. Support, understanding. Walking with careful attention. Talking with happy abandon.

Tip of the iceberg, this. All of it: that is what I will miss.

I am so very grateful for his friendship and for all that he was in this place and time, and for his profound resonance in my life.

My prayer, such as my lapsed and doubting faith allow, is this:

May Paul's gentle soul and fierce spirit move me to make the world kinder, quieter, more joy-filled. May his memory inspire us to plant what we wish to harvest in the world. May his energy, now free, encourage everyone to listen harder, look more closely, love more deeply.

To Paul's family, I wish you peace in a difficult time. Take good care of each other.

Eileen MacAdam

Eileen - June 13, 2021 at 10:02 AM

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“ My deepest condolences to both Paul's and Judith's families on this tragic, tragic loss. I was fortunate enough to work with Paul at Portland Public Library for many years and although our paths did not cross on a daily basis, I always enjoyed our interactions—such an incredibly smart man with a gentle and kind soul. My heart goes out to you all on this incredible loss to our communities. With love, Sandy

Sandy Comstock - June 11, 2021 at 02:14 PM