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Denise Allen Thompson memorial

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Denise Allen Thompson



Denise Allen Thompson (shown with her husband, John) presided over the Publications Committee and edited the first issue of *OLA Quarterly*. In addition, she spearheaded production of many publications for the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

*“Life is short and we
have not too much time to
gladden the hearts of those
who travel the way with us.
Oh, be swift to love. Make
haste to be kind.”*

—Henri Frederic Amiel

Denise Allen Thompson was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay area. A lifelong reader and lover of learning, she spent her childhood playing “librarian.”

Denise received her degree in American Studies at Willamette University in Salem. She realized her childhood dream when she secured a position at the university library.

While at Willamette, Denise met her future husband, John Thompson. After moving to Corvallis with John in 1975, she began a long and rich career at the Corvallis-Benton County Public library. Denise grew into every new challenge that came her way. She infused library services with her spirit and love of community. In addition to starting the library volunteer program, she assisted with the library building project from initial design through campaign, construction, dedication, and day-to-day service. Her official title was circulation services manager, but Denise filled many roles at the library.

Denise’s interests and energies extended beyond the library to include her sorority, Alpha Phi; gardening; cats; and needlework. She was dedicated to community causes. She was active in the Corvallis Sister City Association and served her alma mater as an alumni recruiter. Denise’s professional involvement included serving on the Oregon Library Association’s Executive Board and Publications Committee. She edited the first issue of *OLA Quarterly*.

Denise was preceded in death by her parents, Bernard and Dorothy Allen. She is survived by her loving husband John; her sister, Jan Goodenough; her in-laws, Dr. Warren and Marge Thompson; sister-in-law, Linda Foster; nieces Laura and Jennifer; and many dear friends and co-workers.

Contributions in Denise’s memory may be given to the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Foundation or the Heartland Humane Society.

This issue of *OLA Quarterly* is dedicated to the memory of Denise Allen Thompson.

March 25, 1952 to July 22, 1996