

November 2013

## Zelma Palestrant-A Remembrance

Katina Strauch  
*Against the Grain*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Strauch, Katina (1994) "Zelma Palestrant-A Remembrance," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 6: Iss. 2, Article 39.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1491>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.

# Zelma Palestrant — A Remembrance

by **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston)



I met Zelma Palestrant eight years ago when she came to her first Charleston Conference. She was the Acquisitions Librarian at the OCLC Library and boy was I impressed that someone so high-powered was coming to Charleston. The next year, my husband and I had supper at the Olde Towne Restaurant on King Street with Zelma and her husband, Gary. They had decided to move to Charleston and to build a house on Kiawah Island. Gary had gotten a job as an accountant and computer consultant in Charleston. Zelma was looking for a job. There was an opening for a Coordinator of Support Services at the Citadel. She got the job and was ecstatic about it. Now their dream could really come true!

When Zelma came to Charleston she had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. You would have never known it except when you asked her directly about it. She was always up and smiling, never gloomy or sad. She went through all kinds of tests and therapies and finally they thought that they had gotten all of the cancer. They were right at least for a little while.

Zelma & Gary built a beautiful new house on Kiawah overlooking the water and they took frequent walks on the beach and reveled in their surroundings. They even gave several parties and had a tradition of a Valentine's Weekend Party every year. Zelma thrived in Charleston and, when Rich Wood left the Director's job at the Citadel's Daniel Library, she got his job. Zelma's daughter got married and Zelma arranged the whole thing back in Ohio while keeping up her incredible pace at the Citadel. She never seemed to stop, just

went forward, always working, always smiling.

In the spring Zelma turned 50. She had been free of cancer for almost five years. She went back to the doctor for her last check up before she would be declared really cured. But the script changed here. There was a recurrence of the cancer. There was the need for more tests and more therapies, for bone marrow transplants and some of the innovative cancer cures. Through it all Zelma smiled and kept going. She continued to do her job as Director of the Citadel Library from her home on Kiawah and she was even Chair of Local Arrangements for the South Carolina Library Association annual meeting which was held in Charleston in December of 1993.

I learned on Friday, March 4, that Zelma Palestrant had died. Everyone was stunned. She had been getting better. She was looking forward to coming back to her job at the Citadel full time. Everyone was waiting for her. But it was not to be. Zelma suddenly died of apparent heart failure on Friday morning. She had gotten up and was getting ready for the day when she just quit breathing.

I will miss Zelma terribly. As I have said before, she was always smiling and the most incredibly cheerful person I have ever known. She always had time to talk to you and to do whatever she could to help you. She was truly a wonderful person, librarian and colleague. Her friends here in Charleston are trying to get up a scholarship fund so that her name will be remembered always.

Zelma Palestrant, our colleague. May she rest in peace. Maybe heaven needed a librarian. ☹

## puvill LIBROS

BOOKSELLERS & SUBSCRIPTION AGENTS  
FOR TITLES FROM SPAIN AND MEXICO

- firm orders
- periodical subscriptions
- serial standing orders

- approval plan - form or books
- out of print
- bibliographic service in US MARC

PUVILL USA  
264 Derrom Avenue  
Patterson, NJ 07504  
USA  
Telf: (201) 279-9054  
Fax: (201) 278-1448

PUVILL LIBROS S.A.  
Boters 10 - Paja 29  
08002 Barcelona  
Spain  
Telf: (34-3) 318 18 48-318 29 86  
Fax: (34-3) 412 31 40

PUVILL MEXICO DIVISION  
Empresa 109  
Col. Mixcoac  
Mexico D.F. 03910 Mexico  
Telf: (52-2) 611 15 13  
Fax: (52-5) 598 43 78