

# Remembering

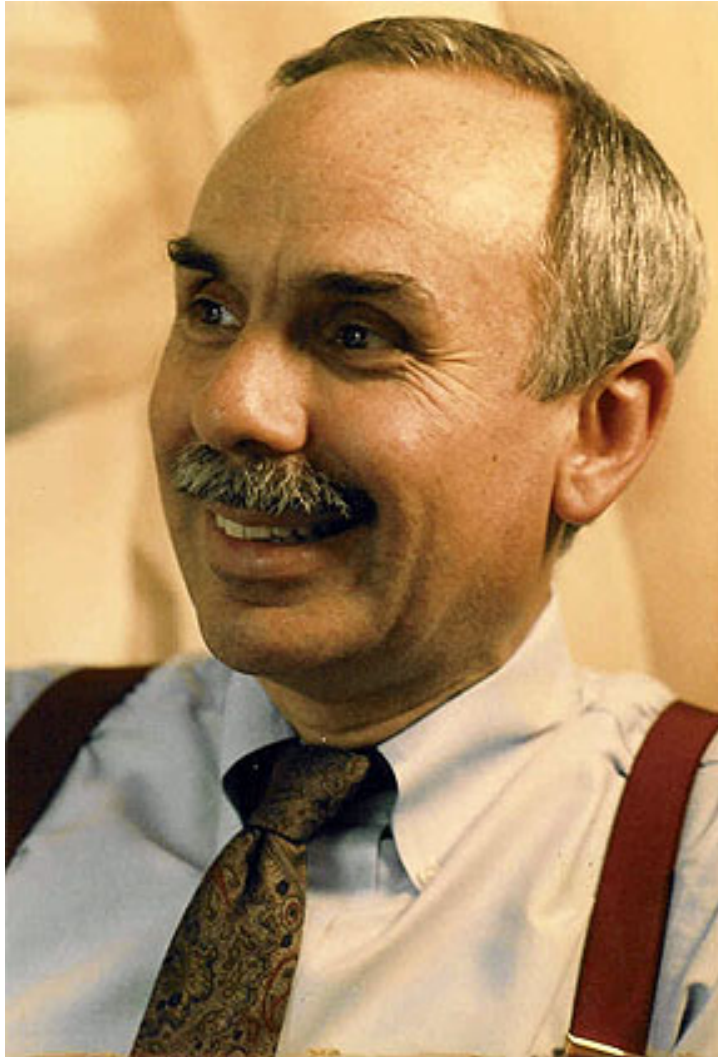


Photo: Lou Spitalnick

# Paul Rapoport

## Preface

Towards the end of June 2007 I had lunch with Jim Rosenberg, former Founding Board Member and the first Treasurer of the Paul Rapoport Foundation, whom I hadn't seen for the previous six months. As we talked, he mentioned that this July 9th would mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Paul Rapoport's passing. It was actually a shock to me that so much time had passed, and when I thought about it, I wondered if we at the Foundation shouldn't do something to mark this event.

On several occasions in the past the Founding Board Members of the Foundation had talked about creating an oral history project around the formation of the Foundation but nothing ever came of it. Now, however, when I reached out to the surviving members of that original board, everyone kindly agreed to provide us with a written recollection of Paul (of Dan Rapoport I specifically asked a biography of Paul), and how Paul and they came to be involved with building the gay community (in those days it was simply called the "gay" community) and in envisioning this Foundation.

Thus in the fall of 2007, the six surviving Founding Board Members, together with the surviving past Board President, the current Board President and I put together this collection of reminiscences, for ourselves and our current board members and staff but also for future board and staff who may not even have heard of the man Paul Rapoport, in the hopes that future board and staff members might gain some feeling for who Paul was, what motivated him and how much we all cared for him.

In the 20 years since its founding, The Paul Rapoport Foundation has awarded over \$10.1 million in the form of 915 grants to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the New York Metropolitan area.

That may be our most tangible testimony to Paul's legacy but we hope the following will shine a more personal light on our benefactor, Paul Rapoport.

*Jane D. Schwartz  
Executive Director  
August 28, 2007*



# Founding Board Members of The Paul Rapoport Foundation, Inc.

Michael S. Fischer (1987-1998)

Joel Ifcher<sup>1</sup> (1987-1992)

Diana Leo (1987-2002)

Joseph Edward (Jed) Mattes<sup>2</sup> (1987-2003)

Daniel Rapoport (1987-2006)

James M. Rosenberg (1987-2005)

Jerry Romain (1987-2003)

Rosalie J. Wolf (1987-1993)

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<sup>1</sup> Joel Ifcher served as Vice President/Secretary from February 1988 until his death in 1992 of an AIDS-related illness. Joel, a lawyer, provided the board with the expertise it needed as it formulated the Foundation's initial by-laws.

<sup>2</sup> Jed Mattes served as President from February 1988 until his death in July 2003, after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer. Jed led the Foundation from its fledgling beginnings with insight and warmth and set the tone of openness and fairness that we continue to embrace today.

## Dan Rapoport on Paul Rapoport

First the salient facts about my brother: He was born on March 6, 1940 in Flushing, New York. Parents Ida and David, brother, Daniel. Paul attended P.S. 107 through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, after which he attended and graduated from Horace Mann. He went to Cornell, (where he received a BA), to Columbia Law School (where he received a law degree) and finally, to NYU (where he received a graduate degree in tax law). Professional experience included stints with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, and the private practice of law in New York. In the mid 1970's he assumed direction of the family's business and investment interests, which was his professional occupation at the time of his death in July of 1987.

Summarizing the essence of Paul's life is not easy, as it isn't for most people. But I'll give it a try.

Paul's childhood was relatively happy, as was his adolescence and college years. He was a good student, equipped with an inquiring mind that ranged far and wide. He took full advantage of school, engaging in challenging and socially vibrant extra-curricular activities. Dealing with his sexuality was something else. Like many others coming of age in the '60s, he found few people with whom he could talk about it. Candidates pretty much came down to a psychotherapist or a particularly close friend. Nobody in his immediate family, including me, made that small, exclusive circle. Again, in those days that wasn't all that unusual.

Paul came out to our parents in 1972. My mother was a warm hearted soul who tended to believe the problems of most human beings could be solved by the compassionate and wise ministrations of family or friends. More difficult cases might require professional counseling. Paul's announcement rocked her; her initial reaction was to offer Paul unqualified support, along with a suggestion that he seek help from a psychotherapist. Paul and I were able to convince her that her traditional approach wasn't applicable -- or necessary -- in this case. She came around fairly quickly by drawing on her love of Paul. Paul, meanwhile, drew on her deep seated sense of social justice to turn her into a genuine and generous supporter of the gay community. My father took a bit longer. He had very specific dreams for Paul -- based on his admiration for his son's intellect, accomplishments and personality. Leading a life as a gay man didn't fit into the scenario he envisioned for Paul. Although my father never became the progressive that my mother was, he remained close to Paul for the remainder of his life. (Because of circumstances, Paul was the only member of the family with my father when he died

in 1978. I feel certain that my father was grateful for his presence, as were my mother and I.)

From 1972 on, Paul lived the best years of his life. Coming out to family removed the last obstacle on his path to happiness, a journey he began when he joined the gay community a few years earlier. Yes, he did much for the community, but the community did much for him, a truth I'm confident he would acknowledge to anyone in earshot. His newfound enjoyment in daily life was palpable for an observer such as myself. He now had an abundance of friends and acquaintances with whom he could be himself; almost as important, he embraced causes that he could enthusiastically pour his energies into as well as his money. It became his life's work, and though his life was cut short well before its time, his work continues on through the Paul Rapoport Foundation. Not a bad legacy.

*Dan Rapoport*



## Paul Rapoport – a Gay man, an attorney, and a Jew

Paul Rapoport was a Mensch. He felt a strong sense of obligation to take care of and help others: his immediate family, his extended family, and his wide circle of friends, for all of whom he was consistently available for nearly whatever they required, be it concrete things or merely wise counsel. But Paul's interests and concerns were far broader than those encompassed solely within these horizons.

What were Paul's interests? They ranged widely, including world affairs (he was one of the most avid newspaper readers I've ever known); investments and financial management; psychology (he served as quasi-therapist for any number of friends); the law (after all, his chosen field of study); issues affecting the Jewish People; civil liberties for all, in the United States, Israel and the entire world; and most certainly, all aspects relating to the LGBT Community, which during his lifetime was known by far simpler nomenclature and was deemed (incorrectly, for sure) to be considerably less widespread and far-reaching than we now realize. This last-mentioned interest, of course, was the genesis for his founding The Paul Rapoport Foundation, which has grown in stature, respect and importance during the 20 years since Paul's death.

But even prior to the Foundation's founding, (perhaps as forerunners of his ultimate legacy), Paul was instrumental in the founding of two important New York City organizations: The LGBT Community Services Center in New York City and GMHC, the Gay Men's Health Crisis, as well as being a strong supporter of SAGE, the group serving elderly LGBTs. At the Center, Paul was a central figure in the negotiations with the City of New York for the purchase of the Community Center building on West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as the Honorary Chair of the Founders Society, a group of people who financially support the Center on a monthly basis. At GMHC, he developed the first support group program for care-partners of people with AIDS.

Paul's concern for health and well-being was not limited to the body alone: it extended to the mind as well and was reflected in the funding he provided to the New York Center for Visual History for a film production on the meaning of mental health.

The attorney inside Paul was evident in his support of various legal organizations. He contributed to both the Columbia and NYU Law Schools, from which he held degrees. He was also a member of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Bar Association of Human Rights for Greater New York, two organizations that are in the forefront in fighting discrimination against our

Community. Yet his concern for people who do not get a fair shake from society went much further. Indeed, he was a meaningful financial contributor to the Centurion Ministries, a New Jersey-based organization that assists wrongfully imprisoned people by obtaining better counsel and new trials. How did Paul come to help this group, one far-removed from his everyday life? He merely read about their work in the New York Times and wrote them a letter asking to learn more about their work.

In thinking about Paul's interest in the Centurion Ministries some 20 years ago, isn't it evident that he would have been so very, very proud of the ways in which his creation, The Paul Rapoport Foundation has evolved into an organization that now seeks out and supports community-based organizations serving such a wide spectrum or rainbow of the LGBT community. I think the answer is a resounding 'yes'!

*Jim Rosenberg*



## Paul Rapoport by Michael Fischer

I had the pleasure of knowing Paul Rapoport from about 1980 until his death. Our relationship started in our work together as volunteers, first at GMHC in its birthing period and later at the Center; it soon expanded to almost weekly get-togethers for movies, theater, concerts and dinner. I admired the energy with which Paul threw himself into his public activities. I grew to love the man who would reveal himself to me in both his strengths and shortcomings.

Paul made important contributions in several spheres, using his skills, assets and considerable connections to support worthy causes, fight discrimination and build an organization. Yet he was discreet and self-effacing about these activities; they were fundamental to his personal ethos. At the same time, he could be wickedly funny or dismissive of people who dined out on their achievements and contributions, for example, certain “stars” in the early struggle against AIDS or, in the one instance when I saw him really annoyed, the pompous keynote speaker at an annual fundraiser for the Jewish Theological Seminary to which he had accompanied his mother. He came away from that event put out by the man, a world-renowned clothing designer, who, Paul said, had disdained his origins during his speech.

On a personal level, I appreciated Paul’s skill in making those he was with feel important. He was keenly interested in other people’s lives, work, loves, and with friends he was supportive in good times and bad: a health scare, a love affair gone bad, a new boyfriend.

The Paul for whom I developed a deep and abiding affection had a good sense of who he was: a smart, well-educated, affluent man of affairs, but also one with foibles about which he could be quite amusing. He loved to gossip, and because he knew I would not betray his confidence, he would regale me with news about who was seeing whom, whom he had his eye on, how so-and-so’s doctor’s appointment had gone and blow-by-blow accounts of Center board meetings.

Paul’s good work goes on in the foundation he had the foresight to set up. The man lives on in the memories of those of us who had the great good fortune to have met up with him.

*Michael Fischer*

## A Remembrance of Paul by Jerry Romain

I met Paul in May 1974 at the first fundraiser for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund at Le Jules Verne Restaurant on West 10th Street. Paul played Bridge with Lambda's founder Bill Thom, and my partner Nick Russo was on Lambda's first Board. At that time Lambda's budget was minimal, and Paul was sought after by Bill as a donor. When Paul and I spoke about our similar experiences in the Jewish and Gay communities, we also discovered many other mutual interests. Over the next 13 years we developed a close and special friendship.

In the summers of 1976 and 1977 Paul, Nick, Jed Mattes (the first PRF president), and I shared a Fire Island Pines rental with eight other men. Paul met Donald Krintzman on Fire Island, and the drama of their on-again, off-again, sometime lover relationship began. Paul went on first to rent and then to buy a FIP house and he hosted many fun filled summer weekends for several years afterward at the beach.

Among the many things Paul and I had in common was a strong family tradition of philanthropy and community involvement. On August 11, 1981, Paul invited me to a meeting at Larry Kramer's Greenwich Village apartment for what was to eventually become the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Paul was an original founder, and I became one of the first service volunteers. I was yet to discover how profoundly Paul's invitation would influence my future professional and personal life.

Paul continued his philanthropic work with several diverse organizations—Gay/Straight, Jewish/Non Jewish, New/Established, Public/Private, Struggling/Well Funded, etc. He was always interested in the service aspects of these organizations, and he would often seek out my professional experiences as a Social Worker when making decisions regarding his involvements.

When Paul became ill, he discussed the concept of the Foundation with me, and I was greatly honored and pleased to become a founding Board member. It was with great pride that I helped carry forth Paul's vision and commitment.

*Jerry Romain*



## Memories of Paul Rapoport

I met Paul in 1984 when I joined the Board of Directors of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. In those years, the eight-member Board ran the place and I mean that literally. We had one full-time employee (Bob) and one part-time janitor (Lou) and that was it! Irving Cooperberg, the President of the Board and the rest of us raised money (or we tried), oversaw daily operations, created programs, and even removed the ash from our coal furnace when the Board of Health threatened to close us down. Often we'd go out for Chinese food after a meeting and Paul was always the one to repeat the order correctly and divide up the check to the penny.

The Board met once a week, often in a former shower room because it had a light bulb (naked) and we could see each other. Paul and I served together on the fundraising committee and it often involved breakfast, lunch and/or dinner with potential and actual donors. As we talked and worked together, we got to know each other better and better.

Paul had a great capacity for enjoyment. He loved classical music and he loved WQXR – the New York classical radio station owned by the New York Times. I happened to work there and invited him up to the studio one day see the station and meet the announcers he had been listening to for years. His enthusiasm and excitement were unbelievable and he talked about it for years.

He visited my house in Southampton and I spent some weekends with him in East Hampton. Again, I remember that side of him that was childlike in the best sense of the word. One weekend in late August we were having corn. He took one bite, put the cob down and exclaimed, "This is the best corn I've ever had. The best. The absolute best."

Paul was quite meticulous in his dress and in his dwelling. When I first knew him he lived on the Upper East Side and his apartment looked like a magazine spread. But he decided to move to the Village to be in a more gay-friendly environment and he also decided to move to the Pines from the Hamptons. The last time I went to his beautiful, newly renovated apartment on East 9<sup>th</sup> Street was for his housewarming party. It was the last party he ever gave. And he never used the house in the Pines.

At the memorial service held for him at the Center, I spoke about Paul's compassion and gave as an example the exchange between us when my dog died. He was already in the hospital with AIDS-related pneumonia, and I didn't feel like discussing my much-beloved German shepherd who had died the day before. However, Paul knew I was distracted and when he asked me, I finally told him about my dog. "That's terrible," he said sympathetically, and then added, "why doesn't anyone think I care about animals?" That line got the biggest laugh at the memorial.

There were many sides to Paul. He was a lawyer who didn't practice law. He was an activist who was very private. He loved family (his and others) and showed it by building community. He was smart, funny, rich and caring and he had rotten luck – he contracted AIDS when it was a death sentence. And then he died.

*Diana Leo  
August 13, 2007*



## Remembering Paul Rapoport---in 2007 and in 1987

Thinking about Paul in this year, an unthinkable twenty years after he died in July, 1987, and trying to find the words to capture what a special person he was, sent me back to find the notes I made to speak at his Memorial Service in September, 1987. I am appending them also, since they describe with the immediacy of the time how much Paul had meant to me in the 25 years which ended in 1987.

Paul became closer to me than anyone in my own family (except for my daughter, and until I remarried in 1979, my husband). He saw me through the most harrowing time of my life, but more than that, he and I could be open with each other in ways that I, at least, could not – then or since - be with anyone else. We also became each other's Executor under our wills, and while we discussed what that would mean, until he became ill in early 1987, I never thought seriously about being in a position of having to act in that capacity for him. I was primarily counting on him to take care of MY affairs!

In the all too few months remaining after his illness erupted, we talked about his evolving thoughts for his Foundation, and about his hope that I would help “start it off” by serving on the Board for a time. My career had been in the financial end of business organizations, and Paul wanted me to provide some financial and investment discipline for the endeavor he envisioned taking shape after he was gone. At the same time, he knew that the Foundation's beneficiaries in the gay community would want to guide its future and foresaw that after some time, my own role could be taken up as well or better by others, as indeed did happen. It is jarring to realize that many people who are today benefited by the Paul Rapoport Foundation have no knowledge of Paul himself, but that is inevitable given the passage of time.

So how and why did the Paul Rapoport Foundation really come to be? As some – but only some—who knew him would have known, Paul grew up in a comfortable middle class existence, but not in the kinds of circumstances that would have allowed for the creation of the Foundation. That came later, when Paul was already a young adult and when his father had established a successful career in real estate. In any event, Paul certainly grew up expecting to carve out his own career and support himself.

Paul was educated as a tax lawyer, and he did practice law for awhile; initially he worked for the government in Washington DC and then returned to NYC to work in a law firm. But clearly, he wasn't captivated by the practice of law. Gradually, as he became aware of his father's holdings, and with his father aging and needing help, he was drawn into overseeing the family's real estate, but also into being more

involved with his many cultural and other interests. He gradually became more comfortable in the openly gay world, although he retained friends who didn't even know he was gay. When his father died, he was the logical family member---given his legal background and basic business knowledge---to take over handling his family's real estate and other affairs, on behalf of his mother and of his older brother Dan and Dan's family.

Paul enjoyed living well, though even for the times and certainly in retrospect, he never lived extravagantly. He was always a great host – in New York or at The Pines, but mostly because he was genuinely interested in people (and comfortable with a very wide variety of people, gay and straight, young and old, and in settings which varied from the classic large family dinner table to New York's more colorful night spots). He was a real “culture vulture” –always a great source of personal theatre and movie reviews, an ardent supporter of classical music, and he had grown up with all the same musical comedy scores I had and knew every one by heart. He was also a “political junkie”, incredibly informed about politics and the judiciary, and an American history buff to boot. He read widely and if he hadn't read a book, he'd have read and remembered several book reviews. He was really a fount of knowledge on all kinds of culture and contemporary politics. And, like us, Paul was an enthusiastic New Yorker (a “native”, in his case) and he “inhaled” so much of the endless variety which New York City can provide.

Paul was clear that he planned to leave his assets to a foundation, since his family was provided for, although he began to be increasingly involved as a philanthropist when he “digested” what his financial circumstances had become. After his friend and sometime lover Donald Krintzman died quite suddenly---Donald was such an early victim that his illness hadn't even been called AIDS yet--Paul was involved in the founding of the GMHC. He also saw the need for community support of a broader nature, not only around illness and care, and hence his direct personal support for the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. His growing concerns and involvement helped us later when, as original board members, we began to make judgments about early uses of his foundation's resources.

Paul's capacity to enjoy so many kinds of people, his abiding intellect and intellectual curiosity, his conviction that the arts were essential to a love of life, would have made him a wonderful philanthropist, even had this dreadful illness of our time not claimed his attention and, too soon, his life. No matter how much his money has helped the hundreds or, by now, thousands who have benefited from The Paul Rapoport Foundation, I feel certain that they would have benefited even more, if they could actually have known Paul.

*Rosalie J. Wolf*  
10-17-2007

## Remembering Paul Rapoport – Fall, 1987

I first met Paul Rapoport twenty-five years ago---perhaps to this very day---when by then husband brought him home to dinner. They were both new first-year law students at Columbia Law School. Dormitory food being what it was, Paul came to dinner a lot and we became good friends ---and a bit like an extended family. We remained friends over the next 10 years, as schools, jobs and locations changed.

I recall very clearly the day Paul told us he was gay, which was about 10 years after we met. It had not occurred to me, and I felt profoundly sorry that we had served him badly as friends, since we had not been aware and he had evidently not been able to tell us earlier. Paul being Paul, of course, he promptly reassured us and made us feel we were special because he had chosen to tell us. For many reasons, Paul and I became closer friends after that and when, not long after, my marriage ended and I moved to New York with my daughter Dina, Paul and I became very close.

In those difficult years for me, Paul was a special friend in many ways. We were looking for apartments at the same time and he sent me to the building where I live to this day. In return, I helped him sort out his own apartment choice. He took me to his family's for that first difficult Thanksgiving as a newly single person and, with his cousin, to the Berkshires for a weekend. He came with me to business events when I needed a "respectable date". And he took me dancing at the millstone in Bridgehampton, that wonderful gay bar with the huge dance floor in the distant cornfields and meadows. But most of all, we found that each of us could bring empathy and perspective to our struggles about life, careers, and especially what I should euphemistically call our social life. I could talk openly to Paul in a way I never could with any other friend---male or female---or any lover. We understood one another and accepted each other's complex needs and feelings about love and sex. Our friendship and ability to confide in one another outlived relationships we each had with various shrinks.

When Milton Stern and I were married in 1979, it was symbolic and also beautiful that the wedding took place at Paul's 74<sup>th</sup> Street apartment, for he had played friend, confidante, dutch uncle and mediator (as well as bridge partner, co-chef, beach house host, dance floor partner and many other roles) through a long and stormy courtship. There is a wonderful picture of Paul and Milt at our wedding, in which Paul looks practically beatific---probably because "the Event" had finally occurred.

Paul was especially supportive to me in my role —and conflicts— as a parent, and took an unflagging interest in how I was handling my daughter and my stepchildren. I suppose in another era, my daughter Dina would have called him Uncle Paul. In fact she has no uncles and from the time she was small, she and Paul had a real appreciation of one another. I remember one Thanksgiving dinner at Paul's with 7 or 8 of his friends and Dina, who was then about 6 or 7. Following Paul's example, everyone treated Dina like a small adult and she behaved accordingly. Later, when someone praised me for raising such a lovely child and I disclaimed any credit, Paul chided me. He said, "Later, when she's older and there are problems, everyone will blame you so you might as well take the credit now". He was right!

My last conversation with Paul was at the hospital, two days before he died. He was weak, exhausted and medicated, but he asked about where Dina was thinking of going to college, chided me for worrying about her going to Europe alone for the summer---"you know she's very responsible" he said; talked about whether or not Bork would be confirmed; commented about the hospital staff (he called the new interns Keystone Cops); and reminded me about something involving his planned foundation. So much in so little time.

It was said last night at a memorial service for Michael Bennett, that "he enjoyed being a friend". Paul too enjoyed being a friend, and he was so remarkably good at it. Regardless of how often we saw one another—which varied—I always had a sense of absolute certainty that Paul was "there" for me in a unique way. No one can replace him.

*Rosalie J. Wolf*  
*September, 1987*



## Paul Rapoport, Philanthropist

Paul Rapoport hired me to be his personal assistant in the fall of 1986 and by that time he had already helped to found Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York, so I will leave discussion of his role in these major developments in New York City's LGBT community for others to limn and focus instead on what I perceived to be his more generalized views of philanthropy.

Paul was one of the very first individuals in this country to found an openly gay private foundation. Certainly there were already gay funds at various community foundations by 1987, when the Paul Rapoport Foundation was established, but in terms of committing one's private wealth to establish a foundation whose sole purpose was to serve the LGBT community, I believe only the Colin Higgins Foundation<sup>1</sup> preceded Paul's and then by a mere matter of months at that.

When I came on the scene in the autumn of 1986, Paul already had two charitable vehicles: the Paul Rapoport Charitable Trust and a donor-directed fund at the New York Community Trust's Community Funds and had already begun to envision his Foundation. I believe his concepts of charitable giving must have been influenced by his parents who had a long established fund at the Jewish Communal Fund, but what struck me about Paul's giving was its breadth: to the gay community of course,<sup>2</sup> in every aspect from the youth at the Hetrick Martin Institute to the seniors at SAGE, but also to the arts – a particular passion of his – to psychotherapy, and to human rights in general. I distinctly recall him arriving one Monday morning with an article in hand that he had cut from a weekend edition of The New York Times, describing a minister's efforts to find legal counsel for wrongly imprisoned death row inmates. Paul immediately had me write a letter to the clergyman offering not just funds for this cause (he was enclosing a generous check), but to contact his own legal compatriots to try to find additional attorneys willing to take on these pro bono cases. I believe Paul felt deeply what he saw as his responsibility to assist a wide range of underserved communities, not just the underserved gay one and when his conscience dictated, he acted immediately.

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<sup>1</sup> Founded in 1986.

<sup>2</sup> In 1986 it was called the "gay" community, a term which was supposed to embrace lesbians, transgender individuals and bisexuals as well.

I think it must have troubled Paul to rethink the mission of the Foundation he was envisioning and to have to state that until the AIDS epidemic was over, the Foundation should not fund the arts (and of course he had no idea just how AIDS would decimated the art world in the next decade), but he felt he needed to target his legacy in the most effective way possible and this meant focusing on AIDS and not on one of his more personal passions.

Finally, I would also like to speak about Paul's generosity as an individual and this I know first- hand because during his very last days he instructed his Executors that, after his death, they were to find a job for me, his personal assistant (and, remember, I had held that position for barely nine months). Twenty years later the thought of this kind and generous man worrying about my future, in what were his final days, still makes me weep – for the loss of a fine and brave man in a world that sorely needs his ilk.

*Jane D. Schwartz*



## Paul's Panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt

The iconography of Paul's panel is (counter clockwise from the center): a reconstruction of his usual business attire including his trademark red suspenders and the legend, "I am Paul Rapoport," a gloss on the then current play by Herb Gardner, I'm Not Rappaport; a white dove, symbol of peace; Justice holding her scales, symbolizing his background as a lawyer; the Fire Island Pines logo; and a space for messages from those who knew him.

The panel was commissioned by the Foundation at the recommendation of Jerry Ruman.





# Afterward

## I

When I joined the PRF Board in 1993, it was the first time new board members had been appointed since the Foundation's establishment. I was also the first person to serve on the Board who had never met Paul, let alone been a friend. When I took over as President of the Board in 2003, the Board had only had one President in 15 years, Jed Mattes.

All these "firsts" suggest an air of groundbreaking, and the opportunity to be a promoter of change. But, quite to the contrary, the culture and spirit of the Foundation were such that this never had to be the case. Paul had established an organization with ideals and individuals which reflected his view of philanthropy. And Jed had led us through years of making these thoughts a reality. Most importantly though, these were timeless ideals and objectives that many of us in the LGBT/HIV community still shared. It was a privilege to be asked to preside over the Board of an organization dedicated to funding groups at the forefront of the Community's efforts to improve, promote and take care of itself.

This did not however mean that everything remained as is. While several original Board members still sat on the Board in 2003, with Jed's foresight in promoting term limits, many others had moved on (with the remaining ones slotted to leave shortly); many new people had joined us, and we all were well aware of the changing world around us. We were also aware of the Foundation's changing position in the world. It was established; it was no longer unique; it had gained a huge amount of respect for its work and its way of doing its work.

We had a lot to work with and off of. But we also had new issues in both the LGBT/HIV and philanthropic communities to address. The beauty and legacy of both Paul's and Jed's imprint on the organization was that I, the board who worked with me, and the Foundation's staff could adjust an organization for today's needs without, I believe, turning our backs on its original purpose. The way the Foundation did things when I left the Board at the end of 2006 is very different from the way I found them. But it was the spirit of Paul's gift and the organization that Jed led in building that are at the core. I hope they always are.

*Laurie Goldberger  
Board President, 2003-2006  
September 5, 2007*

## II

When I first met my partner he was a community organizer in the public policy department at Gay Men's Health Crisis. Shortly after we got together I set out to read everything I could about GMHC, convinced that doing so would ensure the success of our relationship. That's how I first heard of Paul Rapoport. The now-legendary story of six men coming together to do something extraordinary in the face of such fear and hate and apathy was then, and is now, profoundly galvanizing to me as a gay man. It is my history, and it is an unparalleled expression of the courage and strength of the queer community.

I joined the board of the Rapoport Foundation in 2003 and found a group of people fiercely protective of Paul's memory and legacy and deeply committed to the Foundation's traditions. As several contributors to this document have noted, the mission of the Foundation has changed over time to ensure that it remains at the vanguard of supporting programs that serve the least empowered and the hardest-to-reach among us. I am especially grateful to Jim and Dan (the only original members of the board when I joined) for making sure that the changes we implemented didn't cause us to stray too far from Paul's original vision; and to Laurie and Jane, for the clarity of their own vision in leading the board through the process of strategic planning.

When Paul died in 1987 I was a scared and lonely 12 year old living in small town America. He couldn't possibly have imagined the impact his generosity would come to have on people like me. I live in a better, safer and healthier world because of Paul Rapoport. He was and is a beacon of hope for us all.

*Andrew Lane  
Board President, 2006 – present  
November 19, 2007*



# **Mission of**

## **The Paul Rapoport Foundation, Inc.**

Excerpt from draft Trust Agreement establishing The Paul Rapoport Foundation (1987), adopted by the Board as the Foundation's first mission statement (1988):

While there is a public health crisis caused by the disease generally known as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) the Foundation shall be used for the following two purposes: (i) to benefit organizations which provide care, support and services to individuals suffering from AIDS and (ii) to aid the gay community by promoting and supporting its formation, development, growth, social and legal rights, identity and general well-being. After the point in combating AIDS has been reached at which, in the opinion of the Directors, there is no longer a significant number of people who need care, support and services as a result of the disease, the Foundation should be used primarily for the purposes specified under clause (ii) above, but also for cultural, artistic and other charitable endeavors.

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### **Vision and mission adopted as part of the Foundation's strategic plan (2005):**

The Paul Rapoport Foundation envisions a world free of discrimination toward any group or individual.

In this context, the Foundation's mission is the achievement of full equality for the LGBT community, in all of its diversity, including men who have sex with men and women who have sex with women and people questioning their sexual identity.

To this end, the Foundation supports programs and organizations working in the areas of social services, healthcare, legal rights and issues, and community empowerment. The Foundation is also interested in developing and strengthening institutions within the LGBT community. Further, it seeks to combat homophobia by supporting public education programs and other endeavors that promote, in a positive way, the identity and well being of the LGBT community. Finally, the Foundation supports a broad range of HIV/AIDS-related activities that focus on the needs of the LGBT community.

## **Members of the Board of The Paul Rapoport Foundation, Inc.**

Ryan Chavez (2005-  
Julio Dicient-Taillepierre (2000-2003)  
Soraya Elcock (2004-  
Veronica Flores (1998-1999)  
Laurie Goldberger (1993-2006)  
Bea Hanson (2000-2006)  
Richard T. Harris (1998-2004)  
Paul D.C. Huang (2003-  
Andrew D. Lane (2003-  
Tyra Liebmann (2005-2007)  
Jessica Mates (2002-2005)  
Joann Prinzivalli (2007-  
Kimberleigh Smith (2005-  
B. Kevin Sterns (2005-  
Judith E. Turkel (1993-1996)

The Foundation was incorporated on September 22, 1987 and had an initial corpus of \$8 million. The first board meeting of the Foundation was held on February 3, 1988 at the Foundation's first office located at 220 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 14K, in what was formerly Paul Rapoport's business office and which was located in a building originally owned by Paul and Daniel's father, David Rapoport.

In 1998, the board established term limits of three two-year terms. Terms for all board members serving as of 1998 were scheduled to expire no later than 2006.

# Officers of the Board of The Paul Rapoport Foundation, Inc.

## President

Jed Mattes (1988-2003)  
Laurie Goldberger (2003-2006)  
Andrew D. Lane (2006-

## Vice President

Joel Ifcher (1988-1992)  
Judith E. Turkel (1993-1996)  
Diana Leo (1998-2002)  
Richard T. Harris (2003-2004)  
Bea Hanson, (2005-2006)  
Soraya Elcock (2006-

## Secretary

Joel Ifcher (1988-1992)  
Jerry Romain (1992-2003)  
Dan Rapoport (2003-2006)  
Paul D.C. Huang (2006-

## Treasurer

James M. Rosenberg (1988-2004)  
Andrew D. Lane (2004-2006)  
B. Kevin Sterns (2006-

## Assistant Treasurer

Laurie Goldberger (1999-2003)  
Andrew D. Lane (2003-2004)





**Paul Rapoport**  
**March 6, 1940 – July 9, 1987**

Thanks to Daniel Rapoport for back cover photo  
and for those of the AIDS Quilt.

The Paul Rapoport Foundation, 220 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3H, NY, NY 10022  
212-888-6578 [www.paulrapoportfoundation.org](http://www.paulrapoportfoundation.org)