



Jacquelyn Lee Borgeson-Zimmer

October 9, 1968 - January 5, 2026

Jacquelyn Lee Borgeson-Zimmer, born October 09, 1968, in New Jersey, passed away just before dawn on Monday January 5th, 2026. Raised in Port Clinton, OH by her mother, Sue Boreman, Jackie, as she was affectionately known, was an industrious worker from a young age, graduating from high school with scholarships waiting. She attended Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky, followed by a master's degree in Museum Studies from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. From there, she ventured forth seeking the museum of her dreams... Little did she know that it would be a safari museum in Kansas of all places: the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum (Chanute, Kansas). That first visit to the museum was all it took--- she was smitten by the museum and the couple it memorialized. The icing on the cake, of course, was finding out that she shared a birthday with Martin Johnson. Jackie quickly found herself as the curator of education at the Safari Museum: a job she thoroughly reveled in.

Although her accomplishments were numerous, she was most proud of furthering the museum's goal of making the incredible story of Martin and Osa Johnson accessible and known to all ages far and wide. The Safari Museum is very family-oriented and education-focused, and she created many hands-on exhibits and events designed for visitors both big and small. Her museum tea party fundraisers were always a highlight of the year.

Jackie was also instrumental in building relationships with museums and Johnson fans around the globe (as well as fans of Elizabeth Main Le Blond, et al.). Her work opened the door for her to travel around the world on speaking and consultation visits, as well as helping to set up museums in Borneo, Burkino Faso, and, most recently, at Lake Marsabit in Kenya.

When not circumnavigating the globe, Jackie would reach out to area schools seeking volunteer docents to help at the museum. These kids hadn't always "fit in" until they came to the museum. They became Jackie's "museum kids"-- all of whom she loved as if they were her own children maintaining relationships with them long after they left Chanute. This is just another example of how she connected with people throughout the country and multiple continents.

Jackie was loved well and deeply by her found family, Tracey (Hiday) and Kevin Harshbarger, Paul, Sandi, Mike, & Steve Hiday; her beloved niece Ashleigh "Monkey" Harshbarger; and by her adoring husband, Lloyd Zimmer (formerly of Topeka, Kansas).

Lloyd and Jackie married on December 16, 2014, and Jackie found in Lloyd the fellow explorer she longed for but never expected. Lloyd joined her adventures, and the two of them continued much of her work traveling to Lake Paradise and other parts of Kenya; Vanuatu and the island of Malekula, where they met descendants of the late great cannibal and warrior King Nagapate; Graystones/Dublin, Ireland sharing the work of Victorian photographer and mountain climber, Elizabeth Main Le Blond; and Prague, where Jackie was "the movie star from Kansas" being featured in the award-winning documentary of Jan and Romi Svatos, "The Ark of Lights and Shadows;" and so many other adventures together throughout the U.S. Even prior to marriage, Jackie was lovingly welcomed by Lloyd's parents, Helen and Joe, as well as his sister Sharon and her family.

In lieu of a funeral, a celebration of Jackie's life will be scheduled for early spring when it is hoped those touched by Jackie in life can come together and personally share her meaning to them. Should you be so inclined, rather than flowers, Jackie would have liked memorial contributions be made to the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum of Chanute, Kansas. Arrangements have been entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

LA

“ *leonard ashton lit a candle in memory of
Jacquelyn Borgeson-Zimmer*



leonard ashton - February 06 at 01:18 PM

TT

“ Her passing is such a big loss, my world is now much smaller. She gave me so many incredible experiences . . .

She was supportive and instrumental in my trip to Vanuatu. That trip led me to contacts and multiple trips to Spain.

She gave me contact info that led to my trip to Tanzania. Which led me to contacts to a trip to the southwest US.

Jackie and I later traveled to Borneo and Transylvania. Though I have photos of our trips there, it was the active recollections between Jackie and I that kept those adventures alive.

She supported my presentation at the Safari museum which led me to do other presentations of my travels.

We shared so many seemingly unrelated passions, we often joked how in the entire world, only we had the names kuih rose sago, 'strigoi' and 'Nagapate' in our brains.

I will miss her witty and exasperated emails about the country's future, latest Ebay score of Osa and Martin memorabilia, and halloween/vampire/movie enthusiasms.

Jackie, I wish you didn't have to go so soon.

terry todoroff - January 08 at 12:23 PM

YR

“ I am saddened to hear of Jacque's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with Lloyd and family. I first got in touch with Jacque in 2022 when we did a documentary on Saudin the Orangutan Whisperer. We wanted information on the Johnson and Jacque and Conrad were kind enough to assist us. Jacque even set up a corner for Saudin at Safari museum. Needless to say, the family of Saudin in Sabah were all delighted and proud.

Jacque send me an article she wrote on the Johnson reunion in Sabah and I truly enjoyed reading her article. I can tell Jacque enjoyed her stay in Sabah. When she was very ill, Jacque even asked Lloyd to send me an email detailing some infos of the Johnson that I might missed Even towards the end, she wanted to make sure that I have the right info for our next documentary. Her dedication and passion towards her career amazed me. We wanted to interview Jacque for our next upcoming documentary Jungle Adventures - Borneo's Lost Film but sadly Jacque is no longer with us.

Rest in peace Jacque. And thank you for all you have done for us.

Yati Rahman
RYE Production

Yati Rahman - January 07 at 10:59 AM

SM

“ I was privileged to know the incredible Jacquie Borgeson through museum connections. We were fortunate to be on the State Dept Museum Exchange Program back in 2004 where she visited us in Sabah and I visited Chamute. I hosted her 3-month stay at my house in Kota Kinabalu. I have many memories of our times together. One incident really stood out. At the Danum Valley Conservation Centre in Lahad Datu. She had a nasty accident where she fell from a tree while climbing up to a viewing platform. I was not far behind her when I heard her cry n heard her fall. Her hat & camera whizzed past me, I remember thinking in those seconds it was the end of me as we were in an enclosed fencing round the tree trunk going up. However, in an inexplicable moment, Jacquie lunged her leg out to the fencing and managed to stop her fall. Two lives were not lost that day but Jacquie had to undergo months of therapy back in Chanute to heal her leg. Jacquie, your Borneo adventures could rival Osa's! I would like to convey my deepest condolences to Lloyd Zimmer. May Jacquie's soul rest in peace.

Stella Moo-Tan - January 06 at 07:48 PM

TT

Hi Stella, Nice to hear from you again, I was there at the accident at the viewing platform. It was my honor to serve as Jackie's monkey butler for the rest of the trip while she recuperated.

Terry T

terry todoroff - January 08 at 12:23 PM

SM

Hi Terry, yes you were!!

Stella Moo-Tan - January 09 at 01:27 AM

DH

“*Jacque was one of the MOST talented and MOST dynamic people I’ve ever met in my life. She was an indispensable part of the Safari Museum. I’m too emotional right now to say more.*”

*Dick Houston
President & Co-Founder
Elefence International*

Dick Houston - January 06 at 02:59 PM