



Lasia Roga

October 18, 1951 - December 29, 2016

Lasia was born Elizabeth Alexandria Pidwirnyj (pid-weer-nee) on October 18, 1951 to Alexander and Julia Pidwirnyj in Red Lake, Ontario, Canada. Due to a set of untimely circumstances, when she was 11 months old, she and her older brother went to live with Peter and Helen Roga in Pleasant Home Municipality in a country home outside Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. After a few years the Rogas become their legal parents under Canada's common law adoption statute and her name was subsequently changed to Lasia Alexandria Roga. Both sets of parents have predeceased her.

In 1970, at the age of 18, Lasia's path led her to the United States, more specifically to Oakland California, where she met a woman whose love and guidance would change her life forever. Sister Alma Hopkins, affectionately known to Lasia as her "gospel mother", schooled her in the graces of femininity and etiquette but it didn't stop there. As the owner of two commercial businesses herself, she taught her the principles of organization, business and finance but more importantly, Mother Hopkins taught her to know Jesus Christ whom Lasia grew to love which brought her to a decision to be baptized into membership at the Oakland Market Street Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1971.

Soon after this marvelous demonstration of her love for God, her "gospel mother" put her on a plane on September 7, 1971 to Huntsville, AL where she

would enroll as a freshman Religion major at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University). Whenever there was an opportunity, she spent her summer breaks in ministry to hungry souls serving as literature evangelist and Bible instructor in major cities throughout the U.S. including assisting the late E. E. Cleveland and J. Malcolm Phipps in evangelistic campaigns before successfully completing her course of study and earning a Bachelors degree in 1976. She was also privileged to serve as Bible instructor for a brief period of time in Paris, France. Lasia went on to earn a second Bachelors degree from the College of Arts and Sciences at Loma Linda University in December of 1985.

Overcome with the notion that God had still more for her to do, Lasia entered graduate school earning a Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at Loma Linda University, in June of 1989. She was able to use her gifts as a therapist on a case-by-case basis including serving the Drug Alternative Program where she treated residents who were enrolled to overcome substance abuse and addictive behavior. And you should know, it was her way to offer her perspective, as a therapist, while sitting around the table over Sabbath lunch. It was wonderful!

Lasia was a perpetual learner. Once a talent was identified, she immediately began honing her skills to refine her gifts to the glory of God. She was drawn to what was couture, elegant and fashionable. In the footsteps of her father, Alexander, who was a commercial tailor, she was extraordinary in repositioning and creating articles of clothing which she could redesign in a manner that would cause one to gasp! It gave her great joy to transform a room with draperies, pillows, bedding and other accessories which she did beautifully, many times for many people - some of whom are likely here celebrating her life with us today. She not only designed these exquisite creations, but she installed them with her own hands. Absolutely amazing!

She was a cook "par excellence" and learned to prepare vegan dishes and healthy, sugarless desserts to everyone's delight! If you've ever dined at her home, you may have noticed numerous editions of the latest magazines with recipes of the finest gourmet food you have ever seen! In addition, through her business "Lasias Food Art and Design", she was quite the caterer, taking orders for holiday treats and delivering healthy meals prepared according to the needs of the customer. She was well versed on what was well-prepared, palatable, healthy and attractively presented.

Lasias was one we could certainly say was multi-talented. When it was discovered that she had hair-cutting skills, she became known as the "resident barber" while she was a student at Oakwood College. And who knew she played a game of ping pong that was without competition?!

If it was beautiful, unusual, colorful, tasteful or spiritual, it caught Lasias's attention. She was opinionated, articulate - a woman of beauty, dignity and class. Those who knew her benefited from the numerous gifts God bestowed upon her, which she freely shared with all of us.

Against great odds Lasias remained optimistic concerning her diagnosis. After battling a lengthy illness, she went to sleep peacefully, on December 29, 2016 at 7:10 p.m. in Riverside, CA. She leaves to cherish her memory, a loving brother, Walter Roga, her church family and a host of classmates, special friends and loved ones who look forward to seeing her when Jesus returns to take us home.

"Let us sing a song that will cheer us by the way. In a little while we're going home".

Sleep well, Lasias. We'll see you in the morning!

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 15. 1:45 PM - 2:45 PM (PT)

Kansas Avenue SDA Church
4491 Kansas Ave
Riverside, CA 92504

Celebration of Life

JAN 15. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Kansas Avenue SDA Church
4491 Kansas Ave
Riverside, CA 92504

Repass

JAN 15. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

Kansas Avenue SDA Church
4491 Kansas Ave
Riverside, CA 92504

Tribute Wall



“ Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Lasia Roga



Reflecting on Memories - January 12, 2017 at 01:59 AM

SM

She was a good friend of mine in the 60's ..sad she's gone.

Sandy Melnick - May 28, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ 120 files added to the album Memories Album



Reflecting on Memories - January 12, 2017 at 01:59 AM