



Theresa Rossiter

August 6, 1943 - January 10, 2011

Theresa was born August 6, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio to the late John Swanson and the late Lillie Litzell Swanson of Hudson, Ohio.

Theresa earned a BA from Kent State University. She sang and played guitar with The Lowlanders (her future husband's folk group) where they had a weekly radio show on the Kent State University AM station. She and Richard Rossiter were married on June 18, 1966.

Theresa, Richard and their daughter, Lisa, traveled west from Ohio and settled here in Corvallis in 1977. That was only the start of their adventures! They lived in Egypt four years and Larnica, Cyprus for a year where they met their good friend Todor Grigorov who they unofficially "adopted" as their son. They also lived in Reston, Virginia, San Francisco and moved back to Corvallis in 2004.

When 16, Theresa soloed in a piper cub and received her pilots license. Music was always an important part of her life; she started playing the piano before she was five and has played many instruments including, clarinet, saxophone, flute, oboe, French horn, organ and guitar. She was a painter; her first show was when she lived in Cairo in the 1990s. But, this was not her only contribution to the art world. She was a skilled and talented knitter and created intricate designs into sweaters, shawls, blankets, hats, pillow covers for her friends and family; some of her most creative works were knitted toys for her granddaughter, Halcyon.

Throughout her life, Theresa had many interests ranging from managing

political campaigns to her most resent job as a software designer of websites for non-profits. While taking chemotherapy, she developed surviving-cancer.com. She was on the board of directors for Ten Rivers Food Web and the Corvallis Multi-Cultural Literacy Center. Closer to home, wherever she lived, she created peaceful sanctuaries, not only for wildlife but for her family as well. She designed backyards to entice birds and other wildlife. She practiced organic gardening techniques and converted the small city lot and parkway strip into vegetable gardens and orchards. She inspired others how to do this and soon her neighborhood was full of street-side gardens.

Theresa is survived by her loving husband, Richard Rossiter of Corvallis; a daughter, Lisa Rossiter and partner, Robert Rhodes, a granddaughter, Halcyon Rhodes all of LA; her "adopted son" Todor Gigorov and his partner Brian Welch of San Francisco; her sister, Maureen Swanson of Corvallis, her sister-in-law Barbara Goodwyn of Chester, VA and her brother-in-law Dave Rossiter of Olmstead, OH.

Friends may join the family for a memorial Service to be held Monday 1/17/2011 3PM at McHenry Funeral Home in Corvallis. Theresa's wishes for her final resting place is to be buried according to the "be a tree" philosophy. A tree will be planted by her grave as a living token of the wonderful life she shared with family and friends.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made by check to the Ten Rivers Food Web, PO Box 2189, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Tribute Wall

MP

“ To Theresa's Family, My deepest sympathy to you all for the loss of Theresa. I remember her well as we were in the band together while in high school. I was able to correspond with Theresa via e-mail and wish I had taken the time to do that more often. It sounds like she had a great life and now is at peace and on another journey. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Marcia Farkas Parsells - February 02, 2011 at 04:48 PM

TD

“ Theresa Rossiter

tom doty - January 28, 2011 at 06:27 PM

DH

“ I was so saddened to hear of Terry's passing. I was fortunate to be the other girl singer in "The Lowlanders" at Kent State. We had such a blast singing together! I was so excited to find Terry on Facebook last year, and we had a chance to catch up a bit, even though our geographical distance was great. I am praying that Dick and the rest of the family will find peace in this difficult time, knowing that Terry was a wonderful woman who loved life to the fullest.

Diana (Carle) Harris - January 20, 2011 at 12:06 AM

PR

“ Dear Richard, Lisa, and Maureen, I was saddened to hear of Theresa's passing. It had been a long time since I had contact with Terry. After we all were married, I neglected to keep in touch. Please know that we will all miss our cousin. Pat Sue Reed

Patricia S Reed - January 18, 2011 at 10:12 PM

LS

“ I met Terry working at a software start-up company in the height of the dot-com boom in California. In the midst of all that excess, she was a wonderful person to be with, because she was so grounded her core values of making the world better for everyone. She was inspiring in her dedication to her values and her flexibility to deal with an ever-changing world.

Lisa Schiff - January 16, 2011 at 02:39 PM

MW

“ As close as we were in high school and as cousins, I really regret that we lost contact since you had gotten married. It sounds like you had a grand life. You found me on Facebook and we corresponded the past two years. I am sorry that we were not able to get together last summer when I was in Oregon. I am glad that you were at peace at the end.

My condolences to Maureen and to Theresa's family, Dick and Lisa.

Myra Ragle West - January 15, 2011 at 01:26 PM