



Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen

August 23, 1929 - August 20, 2015

Every life is a message and every life has a story. This is part of my mother's.

Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen, 85 of Charlotte, died Thursday, August 20, 2015 after a lengthy, fierce and unjust battle with Alzheimer's disease, against which she never really had a chance to win, given the nature of the disease. To describe the disease as savage is an understatement; it is ruthless, it is malicious and it ends lives in hundreds of ways before death.

Tosca was born August 23, 1929 in Chicago. It has been told that Tosca's name came to her from her mother's love of Giacomo Puccini's opera, "Tosca." She was the daughter of Italian immigrants Domenico Alceste and Ermenegilda (Flosi) Barsi, both of whom became naturalized American Citizens and both having predeceased her as well as an older brother Leo P. Barsi. Her most loving husband, Owen G. Hagen, died in 2009, and her last-born child, her beloved only son, Kirk L. Sathoff, died in 2002.

Tosca is survived by one younger brother, Marino Barsi (wife Michael) of Texas. She is survived by her first-born babe and only daughter Sheila T. (James) Accivatti of Charlotte, MI; two granddaughters, Cara E. (Jason) LaLumia Barnes, and Julia T. LaLumia; and four great-grandchildren, Zachary M. LaLumia, Jackson N. Kimble, Theodore Robert Angelo Barnes, and Ava Grace Kimble, all of Michigan. Tosca was always in awe and so grateful that in

her life she was essential in creating all these other lives that came after her. These lives, these blessings were a comfort to her when at times life was hard and long. She was the Matriarch, it was from her that we came to be, she sculpted our faces with a million tender kisses.

From her marriage to Owen G. Hagen, she is survived by three step-children, Jodi LeFevre, Nancy (Ron) Jensen, and Michael Hagen; and grandchildren Quin LeFevre, Erin Hagen, Lindsey Hagen, Sawyer Hagen, and Tanner Jensen.

Tosca will be remembered in so many ways by the life that she created and by the so many other lives she was the planter of. She was so energetic, vibrant and was an avid reader, cook, baker and she so loved her garden, needlepoint and embroidery. She loved music and truly loved to dance. She was creative and talented in the ways of making a loving home: she made draperies, clothing, re-upholstered furniture and made things for her grandchildren. Every year her Society held a Christmas auction and the decorations and lovely wreathes she made always fetched the most when the bidding was through. I never knew anyone who at Christmas could decorate a house and tree that were so breath-takingly beautiful and showed the love and care she put into it.

Those friends and those whose lives she touched and passed on her journey will remember Tosca as funny, caring, a loyal supportive friend as well as being quite out-spoken, yet sensitive and a tender soul. Without doubt her greatest gift of love was her family. Even if stern or angry, she was driven by only one gear: Love.

Those of us who were with her as Alzheimer's descended insidiously upon her and then unleashed it's disgusting and horrendous power, saw much damage and continuing "incapacitating" deaths. It was as though we lost her many

times before our final goodbye. Alzheimer's robbed her of so much: her independence, her mobility, her ability to do simple things and to communicate and it gnawed at the roots of her peace of mind. The image of my mom, my Alzheimer's ravaged mom, is seared into my mind's eye, in my broken heart and in my weeping and battered soul that still asks, "Why her?"

My mother was a woman of great strength. I was always amazed and astounded at the way she faced and handled some really formidable things that were part of her life. When necessary, she was a tiger who was unapologetic when she needed to show her stripes. She may have been as frightened as a child inside, but it didn't show. What a woman she was.

In the ending days, she would speak to me with her eyes and I could see that she did not- simply could not - understand how Alzheimer's, a disease with a strange name, that seemed to emerge silently to settle upon her life could do what it did to her. It became our way to spend much time "communicating" with our eyes, both of us searching for the other one's soul and love. There were times I was convinced and just "knew" that a part of my mom, before all the devastation, still lived on somewhere deep inside of herself. Her eyes would soften into the look I knew so well, the look that said she loved me. Those times became less common and I felt revulsion toward this monstrous disease such as I had never felt before. I thanked God for each and every one of those rare and brief moments our eyes would find each other. An unknown author put into words what my mother's grieving and trusting eyes said, "Take my love with you now and into the times I will never know. It is as much a part of you as breath." We love you mom.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 25, 2 PM at Pray Funeral Home with Rev. Rich Mitterling officiating. Visitation is prior to the service, 12-2 PM at Pray Funeral Home. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions

to The Alzheimer's Association. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Tosca on her tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Maple Ridge Cemetery

2074 Aurelius Road Twp office
Holt, MI 48842

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 24, 2015 at 02:23 PM

MR

“ Sheila very sorry to here of your mothers passing. I feel so blessed to have known her her last days take care Mary Reed

mary reed - August 27, 2015 at 08:41 PM

KG

“ The Garza family would like to send our condolences to the family of Tosca Hagen. We bought our house from Tosca and Owen in September of 2005. Tosca very graciously showed us her home and shared with us the love she had for this house. That was evident in every room, and mostly in the backyard and gardens of this beautiful home. I'm sure many of her family members and extended family have great memories of her and her home. We are very sorry for your loss, and we hope to spend many more years here enjoying this house as much as she did.

Sincerely, Frank and Karen Garza and family at 1716 Ave F in Sterling.

Karen Garza - August 26, 2015 at 08:20 AM

CL

Karen and family -- thank you. Our family made so many priceless memories in that house, and I'm so glad it now belongs to a family that loves it as much as we all did. - Cara (Tosca's granddaughter)

Cara LaLumia-Barnes - August 26, 2015 at 09:34 AM

DA

Tosca and my mother often shared a dinner table for the last few months and I often had the pleasure of her company. Her smile always warmed my heart. I only knew her for a few short months, but I will not forget her. I am sorry for your loss. Her loss is felt by many.

Dawn - September 10, 2015 at 08:01 AM

LF

“ *Love, Sandra and family purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .*



Love, Sandra and family - August 25, 2015 at 10:17 PM

JO

“ *Sheila,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember your mom as very friendly and gracious, always smiling.*

Alzheimer's is the very worst and you truly captured the heartbreak it brings to all. My dad also died of it.

Your obituary is lovely and captures the wonderful happy times of her life.

My prayers are with you and your family.

Janet Winans O'Halloran

Janet O'Halloran - August 25, 2015 at 04:10 PM



“ *Dear Sheila and Jim,
It has been my pleasure to know each of you. Your mother was a remarkable woman and your love and devotion to her is unprecedented. I only wish I could have known her under better circumstances. I do know she loved you so and hope you can find strength and solace knowing she is in a better place now.*

*-Jacquie Kemp
Tri County Office on Aging
Project Choices*

Jacqueline Crane-Kemp - August 25, 2015 at 01:10 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .*



August 25, 2015 at 08:54 AM

AS

“ Dear Sheila....I am so so sorry for your heartache and for everything your dear mother and your family went through with this horrible disease.

My memories of your beautiful mother are from high school and the house on the west end of Sterling. I spent many a day and night there. In order for me to spend the night your mom had to rearrange the sleeping arrangements for everyone in the house or sometimes she would just let us sleep downstairs on the floor (I loved that!) and she was just so fun about it all. She was cute as a button, dressed awesome and was just so warm and loving with an easy smile.

The obituary was absolutely moving. You always had a way with expressing yourself perfectly with your writings. Take comfort in knowing that you were a good daughter, that she knew you loved her and that you have done everything you could for her.

*Mad love your way.
Ann Segneri Schmidt
fellow Italian :)*

Ann Schmidt - August 25, 2015 at 06:58 AM



“ Oh my sweet Tosca how this news saddens me. Although you are no longer fighting this horrible disease I will always wish for one last day with you. I got the honor to be your caregiver but to you I was more than that I was your friend, daughter, granddaughter most nights and I never minded being any of those to you. Your disease never stood in the way of us creating an unforgettable friendship that I will hold dear to my heart always. Tosca we had so many long talks, laughs, giggles, and even sometimes disagreements, but we always started our night and ended our night with love you and see you later. So Tosca I love you and will See you later my dear friend. Always in my heart. Hugs and love sent to your family during this tough time. Wonderful tribute in honor of Tosca.

Tia Johnson - August 25, 2015 at 01:10 AM

Tia -- thank you for taking such loving care of Tosca. We appreciate it more than words can say. - Cara (Sheila's daughter)

Cara LaLumia-Barnes - August 26, 2015 at 09:30 AM

SA

“ I WANT TO SEND MY SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY THAT TOSCA LOVED SO DEARLY.

I MET TOSCA WHEN SHE PLEDGED OUR BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY. SHE WAS ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN TO BE WITH. I ALSO ENJOYED BEING IN HER HOME WHEN SHE WOULD HOST A MEETING. SHE HAD SUCH A NATURAL TECHNIQUE FOR BEAUTIFUL DECOR IN HER FURNISHINGS. I LOVED LOOKING AT HER HOBBIES SHE DISPLAYED. I MISSED HER WHEN SHE LEFT US.

THE OBITUARY IN THE STERLING GAZETTE WAS VERY WELL WRITTEN, EXPRESSING SO MUCH LOVE. MAY SHE BE AT PEACE NOW.

SHIRLEY ANDERSON

SHIRLEY ANDERSON - August 24, 2015 at 02:44 PM

TM

Thoughts and prayers to you and your family during this difficult time. The article in our local paper was a great reflection of your mothers life. Connie McCormick

teri mccormick - August 24, 2015 at 06:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 24, 2015 at 02:11 PM

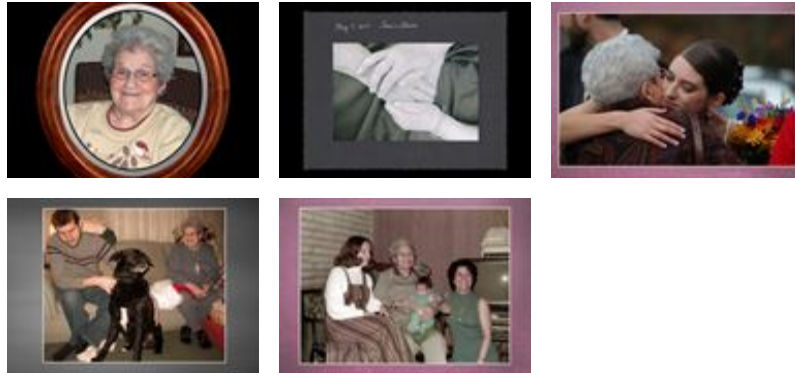
BW

“ *What a wonderfully written tribute to your mother ! You have my deepest condolences.*

Bill Welch - August 24, 2015 at 11:42 AM



“ *45 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 24, 2015 at 01:13 AM



“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .*



August 24, 2015 at 12:31 AM

JB

“ *Jason, Cara, and Theodore Barnes purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .*



Jason, Cara, and Theodore Barnes - August 24, 2015 at 12:22 AM

PP

“ So sorry for your loss. Tosca was a great lady and was a delight to know. Oh, the fun memories of her! ALL of her family gave her great joy, don't ever forget that! She's been through so much during her long life, but now, she's in Paradise with all her loves who went before her.

Much love to you all.

Patricia Pendgraft - August 23, 2015 at 08:24 PM

AD

“ Though the time I spent with Tosca was very brief, she will forever hold a special place in my heart. I wish I had known her before Alzheimers had set in. I am so sorry for your loss Sheila and family.

Amanda Dargatz - August 23, 2015 at 07:14 PM

GF

“ Sheila,
Please accept my sincere sympathy for the suffering and loss of your Mother.

I remember her with great fondness. She was truly one of the strongest people it has been my distinct honor to have known. Tosca will remain in my heart and in my prayers - always.

Gerry Fitzgerald

Gerry Fitzgerald - August 23, 2015 at 05:59 PM

NJ

“ Tosca will forever remain in our hearts!

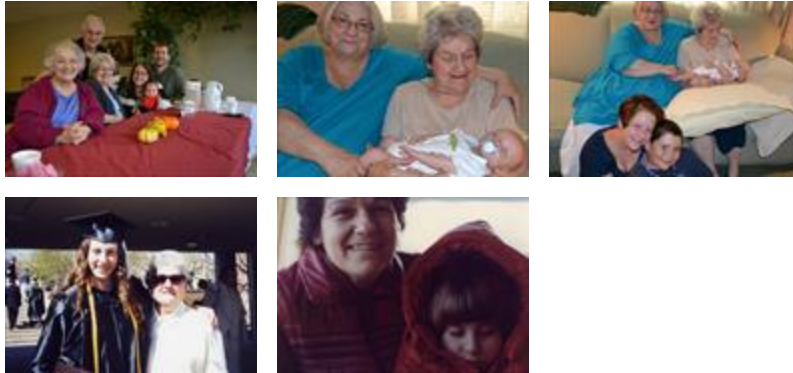
Nancy, Ron, Sawyer and Tanner



Nancy Jensen - August 23, 2015 at 02:50 PM

CL

“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Cara LaLumia-Barnes - August 23, 2015 at 01:05 PM

JW

“ *Dear Sheila,*

I am so sorry to hear of your Mother's death--and her long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. I know you and your family are deeply saddened by Tosca's struggles with this disease. I remember meeting Tosca once--delightful woman--in our travels to and fro St. Anthony Hospital SON many, many, years ago...

My mother also struggled with Alzheimer's for many years and lived with me for seven years before her death at age 96! I'm glad you had the opportunity to spend time with Tosca --and connect with her through "the look" her eyes--before she died. You'll never regret being there for her and I wish you much peace and the comfort of family and friends moving forward. You are in my thoughts and heart. Take care, Jeanne Walter

Jeanne Walter - August 23, 2015 at 08:18 AM



“ *Bountiful Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .*



August 22, 2015 at 07:34 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .*



August 22, 2015 at 07:27 PM



“ *Sheila,*

So many years have passed since our high school days but I remember visiting your home in Sterling and meeting your mom. She was lovely and always so gracious and made us feel welcome. To have your mom in your life for so long was a blessing but I'm so very sorry she suffered from Alzheimer's disease. It is devastating to its victims as well as their families. My heart goes out to you. Please accept my deepest sympathy. You and your family will be in my prayers.

Your old friend and classmate, Mary Nix Brown

Mary Nix Brown - August 22, 2015 at 03:14 PM

OP

“ *Dona,
You knew me all my life, thru good and bad times , sadness and joy,
I will always remember the time we shared.*

My deepest sympathy to the family.

Oleria Jean Portner

Oleria Jean Portner - August 22, 2015 at 12:32 PM

GR

“ *I am deeply saddened by the news. I loved her tremendously. .
Shiela I am truly sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you and
your family. I enjoyed every moment I spent with her and the game
we played about fighting over my husband. She will be missed by
so many people and definitely by me. Reat in Peace sweet lady.*

Giovana "Gio" Reed - August 22, 2015 at 10:40 AM

MK

“ *Sheila
I am so sorry to hear about the death of your mom. I remember her
very well. I always thought she was so beautiful. She was a very
gracious and wonderful person, full of life and love, and her
chocolate cakes were to die for. I have many wonderful memories of
my life in Sterling, and some of those include times at your house.
My prayers and condolences to you and your family.*
Marie Reilly Keenan

marie reilly keenan - August 22, 2015 at 07:18 AM

MT

“ Don't know if I ever met Tosca, but I was in high school with Sheila and remember her as a beautiful and kind young girl. Likely took after her Mom! Condolences to you, Sheila and your brother and entire family!!

MARYJO TRESENITER - August 21, 2015 at 10:46 PM

ML

“ Mike, Karen, Erin and Lindsay purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Tosca Lidia Marie Hagen .



Mike, Karen, Erin and Lindsay - August 21, 2015 at 02:56 PM

RB

“ Auntie Tosca.. We now have another Angel watching over us! You were always such a fun loving, vibrant Aunt. A loving Sister, Wife, Mother, Grandmother! I'm sure you're at your old antics in heaven and laughing with Uncle Leo... You are at peace, now. Memories of you will fill my mind, like thousands of bright stars in the sky! ❤️🌸

Until we meet again... Rena Barsi Bice and Family

Rena Barsi Bice - August 21, 2015 at 09:50 AM

TV

“ Tosca was a wonderful women and got the pleaseure of knowing her as one of her caregivers for a time period. I loved her like a grandma and in the beginning of her disease I loved the stories she was still able to tell. Love u much toasca rip my lady xo Tara

tara vanluven - August 21, 2015 at 09:13 AM

CL

Tara -- thank you so much for the care you provided to Tosca. It's been a comfort to know she was in such good hands. -Cara (Sheila's daughter)

Cara LaLumia-Barnes - August 26, 2015 at 09:40 AM

CL

“*Tosca (Nana to me) was such a vivacious woman who I respected so much.*

Some of the memories of Nana I hold close to my heart are visiting her and Papa in Sterling: feeling like a princess in her wonderfully pink bathroom, swimming with her in her pool, sitting in her kitchen while she talked to me as she cooked, venturing down into her basement where she had freezers filled with cookies and other goodies.

And we always knew we were in for some fun -- and that some part of the house was about to get a good cleaning -- when Nana came to visit us in Michigan.

We love her so much and will miss her dearly.



Cara LaLumia-Barnes - August 20, 2015 at 11:05 PM

CL

*Typo: should have read "...sitting in her kitchen while she talked to me *while* she cooked."*

Cara LaLumia-Barnes - August 21, 2015 at 05:19 PM

SB

“ Auntie Tosca you are loved by many. May your soul rest peacefully with happy memories. I will always remember our times we visted and stayed with you as a young girl. You laughed and shared many fun stories at your home. God bless your sweet soul. Love Shelly Barsi Bennit and family. Rest in peace.



Shelly Barsi Bennitt - August 20, 2015 at 08:47 PM