



Rosanna Yolanda Alcala

January 15, 1953 - March 2, 2024

Rosanna Y. Alcala passed away in Asheville on March 2, 2024, at the age of 71 after a battle with Parkinson's disease. Her life was better measured in impact than in years lived. The world was a better place for having Rosanna in it, and the void left by her absence can now be felt by those who were lucky enough to have known and loved her. She was a selfless, generous, kind-hearted, free-spirited, intelligent woman who loved life, and excelled at wringing every drop of joy from it that she could. Her spirit and energy were infectious, and those who loved her will forever be grateful for all the light she brought into their lives.

Rosanna was born on January 15, 1953, in Berkeley, California, to Ramiro Alcala, an immigrant from Mexico, and Mary Lou Arellano, a Bay Area native. Named after her mother's favorite flower, she was the eldest of five girls and loved her four (4) sisters dearly. She spent her formative years in Oakland attending Catholic schools: St. Jarlath's and Bishop O'Dowd High School. She excelled academically and won awards in writing and speaking, which allowed her to be the first in her family to pursue higher education.

For her undergraduate degree, she attended St Mary's College, breaking the glass ceiling by being in the first class of women allowed to enroll. Later, she received an MBA from the University of San Francisco.

Her professional mission was the same as her personal mission, to help

people and to leave the world a better place than she found it. Through the years she worked at schools helping students to pursue their dream education and at companies helping adults find fulfilling careers. She found true enjoyment in assisting others and offering them a leg-up in their own future.

In 1979, she married Stephen R. Lee over Memorial Day Weekend after five (5) years of dating, and they shared fifty (50) happy years together. In 1987, Rosanna and Steve started a family giving birth to a lovely girl and another in 1990. She was an incredible mother who always made sure her daughters, Stephanie, and Jessica, knew her love, support, and guidance were unconditional. Having Rosanna as the family matriarch was an honor and created a family dynamic built on her own tenets of life, warmth, empathy, and above all love.

Rosanna had several interests, including gardening, a love that was inherited from her parents and reflected her desire to nurture and create beauty in this world. She had a passion for cooking and hosting dinners, pouring that same care into her meals and conversations. She also loved to travel and learn about other cultures, she was fortunate enough to see a lot of the world including The Great Pyramids of Giza, The Great Wall of China, Cuba, Aztec Ruins, Africa's Big 5, and the list goes on. Last, but certainly not least, two of Rosanna's greatest loves were Elvis and chocolate.

Her passing is a devastation to the many people who knew and loved her. By them, she will be remembered for her compassionate spirit and fun-loving nature. Her true legacy was her bravery, her resilience, her selflessness, her humor, and the many people whose lives she touched.

She is survived by her husband Stephen, her daughter Jessica [husband Joseph], her granddaughter Anastasia [parents Tommy and Candi] , her sisters Eva, Lorena [husband Richard], Debra, and Cassandra, half-sisters Judith, Rebecca, and Marisol, nieces Valerie, and Genevieve, and nephews

Adam, Grant, and Gregor.

A celebration of life will be held in early Summer and all friends and family will be notified.

Tribute Wall

GB

“I'm so sad to hear of Rosanna's passing. She was an instrumental friend in my life and I always think of her with so much Love and Gratitude! Brilliant, Beautiful and so very much Fun to be with! I can only imagine how many lives she has made forever better!”
Lovingly, Gabriella Barr

Gabriella Barr - September 28, 2024 at 09:37 PM

CW

“I am very sorry to hear of Rosanna's passing. We worked together on the Second Avenue Subway Project in Manhattan. She became a good friend and ally. Eventually we got the husbands together and we enjoyed each others company. Steve and Jessica we are so sorry for your loss. Take care of each other. Claudia and Bob Wilson

Claudia Wilson - May 22, 2024 at 07:13 PM

JS

“Rosanna was like a “big sister” to me as her sister, my cousin Eva and I spent many a vacation on Alcala Ave. Her intellect, her humor, and her infectious laughter will ring in my heart and soul for the rest of my life. I love you, cousin. (Julia Arellano Sullivan)

Julia Arellano Sullivan - May 22, 2024 at 12:41 AM

LC

“ I first met Rosanna on a camping trip when our daughters were Brownies. We immediately hit it off and I think we had more fun than our girls did. Our kids were in after school day care and soccer together during elementary school and we saw each other at many school events. I was sad when the Lees moved to NY, but knew it was a good move for the family. Although we did not see each other often, when we did spend time together on either the east or west coast, we immediately picked up where we left off. Rosanna was smart, funny, and full of life. She was kind and tolerant and open to all points of view. She was a great listener and generously shared her wisdom with her friends. It was a blessing to have her in my life and I will miss her dearly. Linda Couto

Linda Couto - March 16, 2024 at 04:30 PM

VH

“ I remember my Cousin Rosanna so well and all the times we spent playing in the yard on Atwell Street. Rest in peace, Rosanna.--
Cousin Ginny

Virginia Rondero Hernandez - March 10, 2024 at 04:43 PM

AK

“ Areum K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosanna Yolanda Alcala.

Areum K. - March 09, 2024 at 05:54 AM

DE

“ My sister Rosanna was a beacon of kindness and strength, always there to offer support and guidance. Her presence illuminated my life with love and laughter, leaving an indelible mark on my heart. I am eternally blessed by God to have had her in my life and to call her my sister.



Debra - March 08, 2024 at 05:05 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Precious Moments



Highlands Cremation and Funeral Care - March 08, 2024 at 10:43 AM



“ 45 files added to the album Memories



Highlands Cremation and Funeral Care - March 08, 2024 at 10:43 AM

VH

What beautiful photos of my Cousin Rosanna. I remember here so well and all the times we spent playing in the yard on Atwell Street. Rest in peace, Rosanna.--Cousin Ginny

Virginia Rondero Hernandez - March 10, 2024 at 04:42 PM