



**LESLEY MARGARET
SODEN, Ph.D.**
1953-2009

Surrounded by family and friends, our beloved Lesley slipped gently from this world on January 11, 2009, with great dignity, after a courageous battle with breast cancer. It will be difficult for all of us, her legions of friends, colleagues, students and family, to imagine life without this dynamic lady, who lived life with exceptional integrity, passion and spirituality. Les lifted and inspired everyone who entered her life, from her closest soulmates to the man on the street.

Les will be deeply mourned by her young son, Jack Moody, and her life partner, Michael Moody. Her enduring spirit will comfort her father, James ("Jim") Soden, her siblings, Ann (Serge Bouharevich), Bob (Corinne Vaughan) and Margaret (Michael Strus), her eight nieces and nephews with whom she enjoyed 'super-aunt' status: Jenny (Jake Thomas), Christopher ("Kit"), Nicholas and Emily Soden, Alexandra ("Ali") and Yuri Bouharevich and Catherine ("Catie") and Ryan Strus, her great-nieces and nephew, Lauren, Ethan and Grace Thomas, her aunt, Roberta Soden (Stanley Machnik) and uncle, Henry McConkey (Margo), many cousins and very special friends, Maxine Sidran and cousin, David Archer. She is predeceased by her mother, Edna Amy McConkey Soden.

Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Lesley attended Marymount High School where she was the first student council president of the co-ed school. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from McGill University and her Masters in Art History and Doctorate in Education from the University of Toronto. Over the past twenty-five years Lesley has connected people to themselves and each other in authentic and creative ways, as a communications and marketing coach and facilitator. Lesley was involved in the start-up of 401 Richmond, a unique concept in commercial real estate in downtown Toronto, promoting culture, communications and commerce. Serving businesses through Fahrig-Soden Consultants and as founder of Art Aerobics, she helped unleash the creative potential of businesses, government and the non-profit sector and assisted them to find their unique voice.

Lesley was a sessional lecturer at Seneca College's School of Business Management (Applied Communication, Business Ethics) and has been active with Toastmasters International where she was an Advanced Toastmaster (ATM-B) and Competent Leader (CL). She was a pioneering volunteer at Toronto's Casey House. Lesley was a rare talent and a magical person. Her strong and shining presence was taken from us too soon.

Visitation will take place at Humphrey Funeral Home - A.W. Miles Chapel at 1403 Bayview Ave., Toronto (south of Eglinton Ave. East) on Saturday, January 17, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. followed by Lesley's burial at 3:00 p.m. in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 375 Mount Pleasant Rd., Toronto. Attendees of the burial should meet at the cemetery entrance. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at Vaughan Estate, The Estates of Sunnybrook, 2075 Bayview Ave. from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Speeches by family and friends at 1:00 p.m. Those wishing to attend Lesley's memorial are asked to contact Marg Strus at 705-446-9862 or Ann Soden at 514-289-9198.