

I am Lisa Riedmann Lackovic the youngest of the 5 Riedmann children. Sharon Whitson Riedmann entered our lives in 1972 and 4 years later married Dad. Overnight, at 28 years old, Sharon became a parent of 5 children between the ages of 15 and 22. What was she thinking? Talk about baggage... We are all here today to remember her and celebrate her life. Chip, Beth, Gayle, Joyce and I have all been touched by Sharon's love. She was a special lady and role model to all of us. Today we honor her along with Dad, her sister Kathy, her nieces and nephews Tracy, Blake, Bob, Bill and Jimmy. She was especially close to her 9 grandchildren and 3 grand nieces and nephews.

Who knew she would become our fashion consultant, hair stylist, personal shopper, master gardener and interior designer? Sharon was so creative and brought such fun and laughter to our family. She was young at heart and always planning the next adventure. She played tennis and learned to golf, she then took up gardening then turned to travel. She was fortunate to travel the last two years as she chose to live with cancer...she went to Paris, Wine Country, DC, Dallas, the Bahamas, Canada, South Beach and then to the Capitol One Bowl for one more Nebraska Football game. She was a dedicated employee at Borsheim's for 20 years and considered everyone there her second family. You have all been wonderful to her. You may all notice some familiar bling among the family members. She shared all her jewelry that she "won" with all of us.

Sharon loved fireworks - 4th of July was her favorite holiday. She was always the one taking up the collection to make sure we had a fabulous firework show. She also liked gambling. We still don't know if she came out ahead at the slot machines but she had a great time playing them. She would drag anyone willing and able to the casinos or The Lodge when she was feeling lucky. She was always feeling lucky! She loved books and was a dedicated book club goer. Dad told me he had actually renamed it the Vino Club and they just drank wine discussed their own life stories instead of books. Sharon also loved animals. She left behind Lucy and Sasha to watch over Dad. I'm sure she has already hooked up with Nicki and all our other pets she loved. She loved to collect monkeys. Not the real ones...She had them everywhere in the house. Those of you that emailed her knew because her email was maymonkey.

In 1998, Sharon talked dad into moving to Hansen Lake and it was one of the best things they did. They built a beautiful home that has been the entertainment center for so many. Sharon was always big in making memories...so many were made at the lake. Birthday parties, reunions, showers, weddings, graduations, holidays gatherings, cookie bake offs, bachelorette parties...if those walls could talk...Everyone is always welcome at the lake...they have made some great friends while living there. Thank you all for watching over them. Lake people are special people.

Sharon always stood up for what she believed in and made Free To Breathe her cause as she battled her lung cancer. She was determined to create an awareness of lung cancer. She has raised the bar and left her legacy on that organization...she was always the top fundraiser. Many of you participated in the Free to Breathe walks or contributed to it. Thank you. It meant so much to her and we will continue that tradition and represent her mom Phyllis and her sister Sandy...who also battled lung cancer.

Sharon considered herself very techno savvy. She was always the first with the new computer, cell phone and iPod and iPad. All this technology helped her keep up with her grand kids. She was one of the first adults I knew that had a Facebook page. She was always the first one to get computer virus as well...she would just go buy a new computer if she got too bad. Sharon loved playing games with many of you. Words with Friends, Bejeweled, Angry Birds and Gardens of Time. She kept in touch with many of you towards the end through Facebook. It was her lifeline. She recently posted a farewell to all her game players...all over the world. She had 70 replies. Heartfelt comments with words of support and love. Here are some "Words from Friends" used to describe her in those replies.

Strong, powerful, brave, beautiful, amazing, courageous and inspirational. I would add to that: generous, compassionate and positive. Recently when Dad referred to her as being stubborn, she corrected him and said "I am not stubborn...I am unique!" How right she was.

My girlfriends and I invited her to our yearly trip this past November. The theme was Bucket List and we all had to share these with each other. Sharon chose to put hers in the form of Lessons in Life. Just like her to do it her way. I will read you what she shared with us.

READ SHARONS EMAIL (See below)

Sharon has left a lasting impression on all of us. She gave so much and will be missed so much. She left us on Good Friday...in the wake of a full moon. She did it her way...with style and class. She left sooner than any of us wanted. She did not give up...she did give in. She battled as long as she could. Thank you for sharing her with us Dad. It has been quite a journey. If she could be here she would tell us all in her own unique way...to pour a Bacardi Diet, smile ...and don't forget your lipstick.

Lisa Lackovic

From: Sharon Riedmann [<mailto:maymonkey@cox.net>]

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 07:18 PM

To: Lisa-home <lislack@cox.net>

Cc: Lisa Lackovic

Subject: Fw: Lesson in life



I have never really thought of anyone looking up to me for wisdom.. This how I have tried to live my life.

I think the number one thing for me is to have fun in everything you do. I have tried to do this. With work, family and friends.

A person should find something they love to do. Especially work, since we are there 8-12 hours a day. I was very fortunate I found mine doing hair and listening to all the problems of my customers and making them all beautiful. Remember, it's in the eyes of the beholder. Plus their friendships. I did this for 23 years. I still have good friend's from that.

Also I love jewelry so why not work somewhere where they have the most beautiful jewelry in the world. So Borsheims, here I come 20 years later. I have lots of jewelry, Friends and lots of fun. .I also am making them feel beautiful.

I can remember looking in the mirror saying to myself "SHOW TIME" in the mirror. This would start my day.

Lessons I have learned:

I never leave the house without putting make up on. Lipstick a must!!!!

I try to be positive. Sometimes it's hard. But I keep trying.

Accept people for who they are, who ever they are, and what they are.

Live everyday to the fullest. Now, this has really meant more to me.

Keep a smile on your face. Smile at every one. They will smile back and it makes everyone's day,

Laugh till you wet your pants. It is so good for our souls.

Dream, and let your imagination go wild!!

Write down your goals,. They do come to be.. 1yr., 5yr., etc.

Have fun like you won't be here tomorrow. Sometimes you have to pay for it the next day!! (ASK LOU) ha ha

Always pay yourself first for retirement. This may be hard to do. But take it out of your paycheck automatic. You will never miss it.

Have retirement, plan, 401k or IRA. You will be surprised how it adds up. Boy will you need it when you retire. Social Security is not much., Who wants to live on that. I really know that now. It's not enough!!!!!!

It's ok to cry. I have done this a lot. It does help.

I have learned to breath through my nose. Not my mouth. This is how we are suppose to do it. HA ha many of us don't!

MY Bucket list:.

Travel:

Paris , I did it

Italy, Tuscany., Rome, and Venice,

Florida Keys.

Back to Hawaii with Lou because he loves it there.

Train ride out to California, Scenic Route.

London, I should go back and see it properly. One day was not enough.

I would love to see Boston and the upper Eastern states. I never been there.

Paint; I always wanted to take lesson.. I thought I would do this when I retired. and old. I have not gotten there yet!!!

The most important thing I love to do is spend time with my family.

I want to have fun and enjoy my life.

I am so fortunate that my step grand children love me and accept me as a gramma. I love them sooo much. I would love to spend more time with all of them. I know they are very busy with their lives. We need to have a "once a month" get together.

Thank you Lisa for including me on your spring fling. For sharing your friends time with me.

All my love,

Sharon

XOXOXOXOXOX