

SHARON RIEDMANN

It is a tremendous privilege to have been asked by Sharon and Lou to say a few words today about my dear friend and the twenty one years that we shared working together at Borsheims. As the head of Sharon's other family – the Borsheims' family – I am honored to be here representing our 260 associates and to celebrate the glorious life of Sharon May Riedmann.

Sharon's life, although way too short, was one of few regrets and many blessings. She was a joy to be with - her quick wit, unique, infectious laugh, and her up-beat personality made her such a wonderful "people person". Sharon made you feel very special and she connected with everyone from the youngest to the oldest both in her family and at work.

In her two careers in life she chose to be in the service business – first doing hair and owning her own salons in Bellevue for more than twenty years – beautifying and styling people to give them confidence and make them look great, and then at Borsheims - as one of our top sales associates - assisting clients as they celebrated the milestones in their lives with a treasure that commemorated such an auspicious occasion. Her love of her work and passion for helping people was always evident and she was a role model and mentor to many of our associates and a valued member of our family for more than two decades.

A quote by **R. Tagore**:

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher in a storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.

Sharon loved color and her life was a beautiful rainbow of gems, flowers and colorful people! She adored the positive effect on people of bright and vibrant colors – purple and orange being her favorites. This is evident by her purple front door at home and the giant purple boot out front, as well as her request that people wore orange to her services because it was such a happy and joyous color!

Sharon was ALWAYS color coordinated – when wearing her lime green outfit she was adorned in peridot jewels – earrings, bracelet, necklace and rings. When it was a purple day – she was regal in an amethyst suite and if it were a bright, sunny, orange day – she

was bejeweled in fire opal and citrine! Sharon loved to display the tools of her trade and often her customers would find something they loved, inspired by Sharon's own jewelry wardrobe!

Only two weeks ago Sharon was in with Lou, sorting through her jewelry box – reworking some things, cleaning and polishing others, and telling stories about each piece as she decided which lucky family member would receive which heirloom. At that time she finally said to me – “I don't think I will be coming back to work after all” but I refused to accept her notice, as still being a part of the Borsheims family has helped Sharon through these past couple of challenging years. So on that recent visit to the store, she decided to take her diamond studded Borsheims logo pin – which she wore proudly every day and had worked hard over the years to fill with diamonds, as each diamond represented the significance of her sales each year – and she chose to reset the diamonds from the pin and have them made into a beautiful diamond necklace which she wore each day since! This beautiful piece was her Gold Medal in her professional life – a testament to her accomplishments and success at Borsheims.

We are eternally grateful to you, Sharon, for the gift of your presence, your hard work and commitment and most especially, your inspiration to us all. We admired the way you faced the past couple of years with courage, a positive attitude and determination and always looking beautiful.

It was shortly after a long and exhausting Berkshire Hathaway weekend two years ago that Sharon told me that she had lung cancer and did not know when she would be able to return to work. Our Borsheims family rallied behind her and was a great support team to Lou and Sharon during this difficult time. She and I kept in touch – I had to drastically improve my texting skills thanks to Sharon and her high tech talent – this did impress my teenage sons who preferred this method of communicating to actual words on the phone! She also found it to be the best way to keep in touch with her children, grandchildren and friends as well as having hundreds of “friends” on Facebook – she loved to be connected with the people in her life!

Sharon was determined to put up the fight of her life, but also accepted that this was a tough battle and so she wanted to live each and every day to the fullest. She wanted to mark off as many of the wishes on her bucket list as she could – and she did, celebrating each day with the centre of her universe for forty years, Lou, and with her loving and supportive family; her sister Kathy, son Chip and daughters Beth, Gayle, Joyce and Lisa and the highlights of her life – her many grandchildren! She was able to pursue her

dreams which included her incredible trip to England and France, despite being wheeled around; her trip to Napa Valley wine tasting and having a laugh a minute with the girls; the couples fishing trip to Canada; the glorious beach vacation to the Bahamas with Joyce and family; her Oscar movie marathon with her dear girlfriends; and visits to see family around the States, and all of them coming home to see Sharon and Lou at the Lake – her serene and beautiful home on the water with her glorious garden.

Sharon was determined to invest her time and energy into research for lung cancer given that the disease had taken both her Mom, Phyllis, and her sister, Sandy, and she created a team for Free to Breathe and for two years raised the most money and it appeared, had the most fun - being chauffeured in her exquisitely decorated golf cart this year covered in balloons and personalized Borsheims ribbons! Everyone at the store wrote a note of encouragement and love to Sharon on our signature burgundy ribbon and these were tied to the cart!

We have such fond memories of the fun times that Sharon and Lou had with the members of the Borsheims family. The annual golf outing with the barbeque party at the Lake afterwards; the girlfriends' sleepover parties; the many charity dinners and fundraisers that Sharon and Lou would attend and be great conversationalists; and especially the Borsheims Christmas parties, where they always had so much fun dancing the night away, often in a very memorable costume! Many years ago they won the best costume award – Sharon looked like Marie Antoinette, with her hair three feet high and Lou was Mr. Borsheims in a top hat and tails! Sharon brought the framed photo of them that night back to her Borsheims 20th anniversary celebration last year in February and some folks thought it was their wedding photo! Certainly very unusual wedding attire and a unique look for sure!

We all knew when Lou was calling for Sharon at work as the code from Patrick was “Sharon MAY Riedmann - you have a call” and everyone would shout to her – “Lou’s on the line”! Her eyes lit up every time!

She also loved monkeys and I would often refer to her jokingly as a “Cheeky Monkey”, a term of endearment from my upbringing in Africa but very appropriate for her sassy attitude! Anytime we received an item of jewelry or an item in the gift department with a monkey, the first person to know about it was Sharon!

We all learned from Sharon that life is a fun and exciting journey to be savored and enjoyed each and every day, surrounded by those you love and who love you. So give it

your all and, like Sharon, we can reap the rewards of a life well lived and celebrated here today by all in attendance.

The saying at the end of some of her e-mail messages says it all:

Life may not be the party we hoped for,
But while we are here we might as well dance!

In closing I would like to share a poem that I think Sharon is reciting to us all today:

Don't Grieve For Me For Now I'm Free

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.
Ah yes, these things, I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts with love and peace,

God wanted me now..... He set me free.

Very special people are called home to Heaven during Holy Week and especially those who depart on Good Friday.

We will always love and miss you Sharon. Thanks for the memories that we will carry with us always which will bring a smile to our faces and joy to our hearts. Goodbye dear friend.

Susan Jacques