

For Cecile: 8/11/21

On behalf of the whole family, I would like to wish the Leibowitz's and extended families our sincere condolences and long life.

Just for those of you who did not know Sharon's sister Cecile a little background about her: Cecile was 14 years younger than her "big" sister Sharon and 10 years younger than her brother Charles. Being exactly the same age as first cousins Cecile and I were inseparable and I grew up in their house in a small town, Upington in South Africa. Their mom Winnie was my Dad's sister. Cecile worshipped her older sister Sharon and really looked up to her for advice. As children Cecile and I used to do each other's hair and make-up and then we called Sharon in to judge who looked better. Sharon always said Cecile – which was bittersweet for me: whilst Cecile looked prettier, I took comfort that my talents had made her the winner! We were both Sharon and Joe's flower girls – where the one went, so did the other. We came as a package and as a result got the nickname the "terrible twins".

Even from an early age Cecile was very popular: she ran around barefoot playing with all the kids in the neighbourhood. She made friends easily – and I admired for her athletic ability (it obviously does not run in the family): she played netball for the first team and was the fastest in the school's athletics 200m race and was a prefect in both middle and high school. As a child, her doting Father Eric

spoilt her with boxes of lollies and lucky packets – another reason why I wanted to move in with the Levy's.

Cecile was unassuming and honestly THE MOST WONDERFUL wife and mother: She has 3 of the most remarkable children; all of whom are absolute menshes who married well and made her so proud and brought her so much nachas. As did her grandchildren who she loved dearly. A more dedicated daughter you could not find; every year she went to look after her mom in Cape Town for 6 weeks at a time leaving her own family, husband and dogs behind. Cecile nursed her mom until she died.

Cecile unfortunately experienced some tough times but she accepted her lot in life - never ever complained about anything and enjoyed the riches that her relationships brought her. Even when she was really ill, she was always checking in to see how everyone else was doing. Like her mother, she was the MOST POSITIVE person I have ever met. She did not have a bad bone in her body. She never judged; she never spoke ill of anyone – she was unbelievably **naturally pure.**

She treasured her siblings and all the extended family. She had no envy, she accepted even her horrible illness with dignity and explained it as “what Hashem wants”. Growing up in an Afrikaans country town, then living on a farm and eventually moving to Johannesburg where she became religious or “vroom vroom” as I liked to tease her (Frum) she gathered a huge diversity of friends with whom she remained in contact with regularly, even until last week. She managed

to share in people's joy and empathise with their pain. It is unbelievable how many friends she made along the way who are all devastated by her passing. Who else could make new friends in the Chemo Ward? Or with the doctors? Her weekly updates of her illness which she shared with all and sundry were filled with humour and positivity. She left an impression on all who knew her as she was so open, humble, naïve and authentic.

So to all the family – I wish you all long life: it was a privilege to call Cecile my other sister, and Sharon and Cecile's mom, my other mother. There is a saying that only the good die young and, in this instance, it could not be truer. And for me her "terrible twin" – I just cannot believe she is gone, and I will no longer have her filling me in on her stories, the families' news, and her tribulations. She was so brave and so strong. I am thankful that she is no longer in pain and I'm sure she's making new friends wherever she is now. Gone but NEVER FORGOTTEN. LOVED FOREVER. I know that all her family share these sentiments with me.

Sung to Josef and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat:
"There's one more angel in heaven, there's one more star in the sky, Cielie we'll never forget you, it's tough but we're gonna get by."