

Eulogy for Carol Newberg

BY CHRIS LE CLERC

One and a half years ago, who would have thought we would all be here. While the horror of this is appalling, it certainly was more so for Carol. But she met this challenge with a dignity and a strength as she did with everything in her life. During the last year, Carol realized how truly blessed she was, because she got the chance, that rare chance, to know just how much she meant to people and how very loved she was. But what a loss for her family. What a loss for her friends. What a loss for Gail. We can all count our own blessings for knowing this one. Have you ever met such a woman? Didn't you love the way she would light up a room when she entered? Such a smile on that face. She could make you feel like a million bucks. No matter who you were, no matter what your mood, no matter the time of day or weather, Carol dropped everything to focus on you. Carol once told a friend,

"The most valuable assets I have are my relationships with family and friends." If meaningful relationships could be measured monetarily, Carol would have been a millionaire several times over. On Thanksgiving of 1991, Carol made a list of the things she was thankful for. While Martha Hook cannot share all 50 of them without Carol creating some serious thunder from above, we think she would be ok with sharing her top 15. She listed what she was most thankful for in this order.

1. My Mom and Dad 2. My sisters and brothers 3. My grandparents and that I knew them 4. My health 5. My relationships with friends 6. Believing there is a higher power that looks out for my family, friends, and me 7. The unknowingness about death; therefore, allowing me to wonder about its destiny 8. My confidence 9. Conversely, the way God comes through for me when there doesn't seem anywhere else to turn 10. The profound lessons Boomers teaches me 11. The loyal

Pizzutis and Boomers customers 12. The freedom and human rights America acknowledges (Carol was very patriotic) 13. Living with a wonderful and caring sister 14. The opportunity to pursue financial success and abundance 15. Collectively, the strong women in my life. The things that she was most thankful for epitomize who Carol was. She taught us that it is always easier and better to be happy with what you have than to dwell on what you don't.

On a different note, her true talent was her sense of humor. Her prank letters throughout the years are legend. How many of us here have been her victims. She did send some unbelievably strange letters. The post office is going to miss her. In addition to being incredibly funny and smart, Carol was a true romantic. The past appealed to her. Actually, she probably would have been real comfortable living in the 40's. She loved Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Doris Day and could sing a resounding rendition of The Sound of Music. Her John Travolta imitation was a little embarrassing, but we loved her just the same. She was our June Cleaver.

Cancer robbed this polite and gentle soul of many things, but she faced her illness with the same sense of serenity she lived by. She never complained, she never dwelled on the negative, but rather, she held on to the positive; to hope and to life. Perhaps on that positive note we should list some of the things that cancer cannot do. Cancer is so limited. It cannot cripple love, It cannot corrode faith, It cannot destroy peace It cannot kill friendship, It cannot suppress memories, It cannot silence courage, It cannot invade the soul, It cannot steal eternal life, It cannot conquer the spirit.

We will never hear those words, "Oh Mylanta" again in quite the same fashion. And we will never see that wonderful, radiant smile again. But this precious soul, this gentlest of hearts, this elegant, classy and cherished friend, daughter, sister and aunt will live in our hearts forever. We can all take comfort in the fact that through all of us, Carol Jane Newberg will live on forever.



Carol Newberg on right, with her mother Cynthia, and her sister Amy.