



## Cecelia Marie Skott

March 31, 1963 - December 25, 2022

Cecelia Marie Skott of Guilderland, New York passed away Christmas day December 25, 2022, at the Hospice Inn at St. Peters Hospital in Albany. She was surrounded by her loving family and friends after a very brief, but courageous battle with cancer.

Born March 31, 1963, Cecelia was raised in Hoosick Falls, New York, on her family's dairy farm. A gifted scholar athlete in high school, she went on to play basketball at Alfred University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. After a brief stint as a park ranger near Corning, New York, Cecelia joined the Peace Corps and work for two years in Paraguay. After her service in the Peace Corps, Cecelia began her 33-year career as a Senior Associate with the SUNY Center for International Development. During that time, Cecelia earned a master's degree in Geography at SUNY Albany. In 2020, Cecelia was hired by Health Research Incorporated in the Grants Administration Unit at the NYS Department of Health. In 2022, Cecelia became a Senior Fellow with the NYS Public Health Corps at the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Community Chronic Disease Prevention.

Through numerous assignments for work and a fondness for travel, Cecelia managed to visit over 20 countries throughout Africa, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. Some of her favorite places included Brazil, Haiti, Mozambique, Kenya, and Paraguay. Her lifelong love of sports led Cecelia to

play basketball, rugby, ultimate frisbee, and her latest obsession, pickleball. Cecelia had a way of connecting with people and those people often became lifelong friends.

Cecelia was pre-deceased by her parents Cathy and George Skott. She is survived by her son Jacob Cornetti Skott of Austin Texas; her sister Sharon Sigot and husband Sergio; and her brother Don Skott and wife Betsy of Hoosick Falls. Also surviving are her amazing nieces and nephew: Stephanie and Sarah Sigot; Samantha Skott and Kellan Skott; great niece Tristin DeLuca, and several cousins.

Cecelia's family would like to thank the nurses of Samaritan Hospital, St. Peters Hospital 5th Floor, and especially the compassionate nurses of the Hospice Inn at St. Peters Hospital. The family would also like to thank Cecelia's friend Susie Millstein for her tireless support and love.

A celebration of Cecelia's life will be held Monday, January 9, 2022, at 11am at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendall Ave, Schenectady, NY 12308. A zoom link will be available on the Church Website.

If you would like to honor Cecelia's memory, in Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society at <https://donate3.cancer.org>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady  
1221 Wendell Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12308  
<https://uuschenectady.org/>

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ I was deeply shocked to learn of Cecelia's passing today. During my time at the Kenya SUNY office, I had the privilege of working with Cecelia while she was based in our Albany office. I am truly sorry for this loss. My heartfelt condolences to her family, and I wish them continued grace and peace during this difficult time.

*Damaris*

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**Damaris Ndegwa** - July 10, 2024 at 04:42 PM

BF

“ I am so sorry to read this. My memory of Ceil is that she always had a smile. I hope your many memories will give you strength and comfort.

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**Beth Ferrann8ni** - January 08, 2023 at 08:29 AM

“ January 4, 2023

*To the Family of Cecelia Skott:*

*I was shocked and greatly saddened by the news of Cecilia's passing away. I had not been in contact with Cecilia for many years and was unaware of her illness. So, the news of her passing came out of nowhere.*

*Cecelia had a special place in my memory and in my heart. I first met her in the late 1980s when I had recently been hired by the State University of New York as the Director of the System's international programs office. The Chancellor at the time, Cliff Wharton, had had a long association with the Mid-Western Consortium for International Affairs, MUCIA, and wanted the SUNY system to emulate the example of MUCIA in international development assistance contracting. I was in charged with making that happen (without any financial or budgetary support, of course). Cecilia was my first hire in this new initiative.*

*Cecelia was, as was I, a former Peace Corps Volunteer and, at the time*

*I met her, (about 1986 or 1987) she was doing graduate work at SUNY Albany. I have no recollection of where or how we met, but the Good Lord, as S/He often does, somehow brought us together. I talked the Peace Corps in Washington into giving us a small grant to recruit volunteers form the many SUNY campuses – principally from the six Agricultural and Technology colleges. So, Cecelia, with her Peace Corps experience, and her independence, strong interpersonal and organizational skills, was the perfect person to direct this initiative. As I recall, she started part-time, and as the overall initiative in development assistance grew, I brought her on full-time and engaged her in other projects. She became a rock-solid member of the team that one could always count on to get the job done – and in an inoffensive and effective way.*

*One project I remember – a large contract with the Brazilian*

*government to place and support logistically advanced Brazilian graduate students in the United States studying science and technology. I initially made the mistake (not my first nor last but maybe my worst) of putting a Brazilian guy – a long time resident of the United States – in charge of that project. He turned out to be a disaster and I had to remove him, and Cecilia and the other young members of the project team (all women and, as I recall, all recruited from the SUNY-Albany Portuguese language program – Karen, --- and Andrea and Beth) quickly took charge of the project and jointly developed an amazing cooperative project management scheme that made the project a complete success. Cecelia spoke Spanish owing to her earlier Peace Corps experience, but quickly learned Portuguese, testament to her fine mind and dedication.*

*In ending, Cecelia was a wonderful person and a kind and talented colleague. Regretfully, after I retired from SUNY in the mid-1990s, I failed to stay in touch and lost track of things as they evolved and developed after my departure. But I know that Cecelia continued to be a key member of the development assistance team and rose to a high level in the organization.*

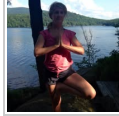
*I always think of that group of young, mostly women, who worked for me as still being young and vibrant and excited about life. Of course, the years have passed, but I could not be prouder of how they all turned out – and especially Cecelia. All of them will always be young in my mind. We are, of course, sad – sad for ourselves for having lost this wonderful friend and colleague. But do not despair, she has gone to a better place, and she has left us with many fond memories and will always be an example to emulate.*

*Dr. Reynold Bloom, Former Associate-Vice Chancellor, Office of International Programs, SUNY System Administration, Albany, New York*

AW

*thank you Ron for sharing these memories*

**andrea wolfe** - January 04, 2023 at 08:07 PM



*Thank you, Ron, Cecelia will always be young, vibrant and self-reliant in my mind as well - and one of the warmest, most loving human beings one could ever meet ❤️*

**Sally Crimmins Villela** - January 08, 2023 at 11:03 AM

BL

*Thank you, Ron. This was such a touching and genuine tribute. I, too, was shocked and saddened by Cecelia's passing as we had fallen out of touch since a bit before the start of the Pandemic and reading your wonderful words and memories expressed so well who Cecelia was to me. Sally's comment beautifully captured Cecelia's essence as well. Cecelia was competent, vibrant, resourceful, self-reliant, warm, fun, unpretentious, and young-at-heart among so much more. I feel her loss deeply.*

**Beth Long-Velasquez** - January 09, 2023 at 09:44 AM

HD

*“ I only knew Cecelia for the past 9 months as she came to work at Riverview Center in Menands. What a delight indeed! I was so impressed by her enthusiasm and spirit. She's someone who makes a lasting impression in a short time frame. My heart goes out to her family and friends! Heather Dacus*

**Heather Dacus** - January 04, 2023 at 11:27 AM

SH

*“ Dear Don, Betsy and family, I am so very sorry to hear of Ceil's passing. She was an absolute delight. I remember when we played basketball together she always made me laugh. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. All my love Sue Herring*

**Susan Herring** - December 29, 2022 at 06:00 AM

AT

“ My condolences are with all of you! She was a great women with a wonderful since of humor . I will always remember her at Stephanies parties and how well she interacted with Tristin . She had the greatest love for her family and friends. One year for Stephanies Halloween party she was ceiling fan. She was always friendly and easy to talk to interested in every conversation. Love,  
Amber , Telf , Adelee and Levi



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**amber telford** - December 28, 2022 at 05:14 PM

LS

“ Dear Sharon, Don and family, When Ceil was about 8 our family moved next door to your farm. From then on the path was worn down between houses as the 6 of you spent many hours hours playing basketball, whiffle ball, ice skating and working together helping your dad bring in hay. They were happy years for all of us as we watched you grow into fine adults. Ceil loved adventure and travel and her family. Our family was blessed to see the kind and loving woman she became. We feel your grief over her loss and we send you our love. RIP dear Ceil. Ray, Louann, Mark, Michael and Rob Sheffer

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**Louann Sheffer** - December 28, 2022 at 04:44 PM

ER

What a wonderful person and classmate and overall great person. The world will miss you my friend. From the first day we met in elementary school you always had a smile and exuded sunshine.

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**Ed Reinfurt** - September 11, 2024 at 10:30 AM