

Alina was my first channel to Shona. I can still remember meeting them in Australia about 12 years ago and although our friendship had a rocky start, it soon turned into a strong, honest and lovely bond.

Mama Shona was tough and tender, laughed a lot and had the charm, the intelligence and the attitude that made me think that in fact women can have it all.

We did a lot of fun stuff together, cooked, laughed, joked, danced, drank, shopped, traveled, and had long talks.

That's what I'm going to miss the most, her phenomenal ability to discuss with the same intensity politics or baby food, women's rights or where to score Mexican or Italian ingredients in Kansas City. Our chat would start with current world politics trail to Obamacare, the war on terror, leap into her always intricate plans for the next vacation to Australia or Italy and suddenly jump to the tales of giving birth, her garden, organic Thanksgiving turkey from the Tivoli farm and end on how she had stopped those crazy men obsessed in cutting down the trees in her yard.

I will deeply miss her company during conference dinners, seminars and other academic events were we usually made our rounds with her children and recently, with my baby in tow.

Shona treated everybody with respect and in several occasions I witnessed how she was able to get a smile out of mean shopkeepers or restaurant staff. But she would also stand up to dishonest people or someone making insulting remarks.

She was always there for me and for my family going out of her way to drive us, house us, cook dinner and putting up with our requests even when she was tired or had tons of work. Shona was a great friend.

She fully supported and encouraged me to become a better woman and mother. I viewed her as my guru, my link to mother earth and my guide. The person with the precise advice.

I didn't tell her how much I admire her, I didn't thank her for sharing her time with me and being part of the most significant moments in my life....she left too soon.