



## Sarah Bottecelli Koller

July 16, 1984 - August 25, 2024

Sarah Bottecelli Koller, 40, died of breast cancer Sunday, August 25, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born July 16, 1984, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The oldest of five children, Sarah was a natural leader with a passion for connecting people. She loved to cultivate community, exemplified in her most recent project of opening a coffee shop in Columbus, Texas. Her boundless enthusiasm for life and support for anyone who crossed her path inspired her family and friends. She always sought ways to help others, whether by advocating at the state capitol for breast cancer patients, biking cross-country to raise awareness and funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, or finding homes for foster dogs.

Sarah is survived by her partner, Steven Konarik; her mother, Paula Bottecelli; her four siblings, Paul, David, Rachel, and Leah, and their partners, Emma, Chase, Jake, and Sonnei; her nephew, Charles; and her niece, Sadie. Sarah was predeceased by her father, Charles A. Koller.

The funeral service will be held Wednesday, August 28, at 1:00 PM, at Congregation Brith Shalom, 4610 Bellaire Blvd. Burial will follow at Congregation Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery, 7445 Awty School Lane. Donations may be made to Healthcare-NOW ([healthcare-now.org](http://healthcare-now.org)).

# Cemetery Details

## Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.  
Houston, TX 77055

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

AUG 28. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Congregation Brith Shalom  
4610 Bellaire Blvd.  
Bellaire, TX 77401

## Graveside Service

AUG 28. 2:15 PM (CT)

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery  
7445 Awty School Ln.  
Houston, TX 77055

# Tribute Wall

AC

“ Allie C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sarah Bottecelli Koller.

Allie C. - August 25, 2025 at 04:46 PM

ER

“ Paul, I'm sorry to hear of Sarah's passing even though I didn't know her. Please except my condolences!

Elaine Roberts - October 06, 2024 at 09:38 PM



“ Goodbye my dear friend. While I am so very sad that you are gone from this life, I am so very grateful that I had 4 years of your friendship. You taught me so much about being present and forgiving. I will miss you forever. Fly high Sarah!

Sarita Herrera - August 28, 2024 at 08:13 PM

MS

“ Keeping Sarah, and all her family and friends, in my thoughts and prayers. I will never forget her grace, her smile or her indomitable spirit. May her beautiful soul be at peace.

Madhuri Singal - August 28, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ Sarah I am so sorry you are gone - I had hopes to get to know you better over the years as you always made me feel so loved and accepted. You had a goal to build community in Columbus. I wish you could see all the posts on this page and all-over social media talking about the impact you had on people's lives - you succeed in your goal! Congratulations and Bravo For me personally you were the gateway to me meeting people after moving to the area from Illinois. I'll be forever grateful. You will be very much missed. Hugs to you and your loved ones.

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**Jen Edmondson** - August 28, 2024 at 12:26 PM

MM

“ My thoughts are with with all of Sarah's family and friends today. She had a magical way of making friends feel they were family as well. She will be sorely missed in Columbus. I will see her great smile and listening eyes when I think of her.  
Peace to all, Mary Mattingly

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**Mary Mattingly** - August 28, 2024 at 10:10 AM

TN

“ I'm sending you love and prayers, Paula. I can't be there today but my spirit will be and I'll be here for you long after today has passed.  
Love you!

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**Thurman Nassoij** - August 28, 2024 at 09:50 AM

JN

“ Sarah was such an amazing person-kind, intelligent, loving, and so brave. I was her oncologist and she touched my heart. She came from a very loving family who helped her every step of the way. She was the first person in the US to use scalp cooling to keep her hair after it was cleared by the FDA and this allowed her the ability to lead as normal a life as a college student getting chemo could live. She became a friend through the advocacy work she did with me to get this as a covered benefit with health insurance (and it is now!). She opened up a coffee shop and met Steve who has been a supportive boyfriend. Unfortunately her cancer came back and she was taken from us all too soon at the young age of 40. She will always be remembered and missed.

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**Julie Nangia** - August 28, 2024 at 12:55 AM

LR

“ Thinking of you Paula and family. So heartbreaking. Love you all, the Murphy girls.

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**Liv Murphy Richter** - August 27, 2024 at 10:21 PM

AM

“ Sarah arrived in Columbus about the same time we did. Her smile and laughter was contagious! Porch time will never be the same. Mark and i will miss her very much. Prayers for Steve and her family.

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**Arlene & Mark** - August 27, 2024 at 05:34 PM

RC

“ I am shocked and saddened. I haven't seen Sarah in years, but she and her father, Chuck, were “vanmates” of mine on two of my annual rides across North America with the HPD relay Team that supported the Leukemia and Lymphoma society. She was always a smile, she was the one that called the various police departments when we cycled through their towns. They loved talking to her. I loved having her as a an accomplice when we pranked her dad. Years later, after Chuck passed, I biked to San Francisco with the team, wearing a jersey that honored her dad. I know he said he found solace in reading the Torah, in touching his faith. I think now, Sarah has him to guide her. Rest in Peace, Sweet Sarah.

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**Ricky Carroll** - August 27, 2024 at 01:33 PM

RB

“ Sincere condolences to the family. I am so very sorry for your loss. May God provide the necessary peace and comfort to your family and friends during this difficult time. Please remember these words of encouragement from the Bible: “Jesus plainly told her: I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life.” —John 11:20-25.

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**R Bell** - August 27, 2024 at 12:07 PM

JR

“ The picture of Sarah and obituary are beautiful. She was a special person and I admired her. She was always so kind and helpful. Gone from us way too soon.

🙏❤️ Joann

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**Joann Roach** - August 27, 2024 at 10:32 AM

MH

“ I feel that I owe a special debt of gratitude to Sarah. Because she threw herself into the breach and fought so fiercely, I was given a fighting chance in my own battle against cancer. Her surgeon became my surgeon and her oncologist my oncologist. At a time when many would have been focused solely on their own healing, she very generously shared information that might be beneficial to others, even going so far as to testify with her medical team in the state legislature. She touched so many people with her courage and strength. It is her legacy to all of us.

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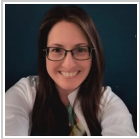
**Mary K. Hoffman** - August 27, 2024 at 09:19 AM

AW

“ Sarah was a jewel to know professionally and personally. We are all better because of her. I am heartbroken to hear of her passing. May her loved ones be covered in love, peace and comfort.

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**Alesia Woolridge** - August 27, 2024 at 12:45 AM



“ Sarah was one of my first friends at CYJ. Our friendship was so special to me at such a formative time in my life. I remember visiting her in West U as a kid. I have such fond memories of our friendship. Baruch Dayan Emet.

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**Michelle Kaman** - August 26, 2024 at 10:31 PM

LS

“ Dear Paula and Family, I'm heartbroken over the news of Sarah's passing. I will be praying for you all during this difficult time. Her smile, her smile.

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**Linda Stone** - August 26, 2024 at 08:56 PM

DA

“ *My dearest Sarah, I will miss you forever. I met you when you first came to Columbus and we were friends from then on. You were a joy and inspiration to all. My prayers are with your family and your sweet smile will be in my heart always. Rest in Peace friend 🙏❤️*

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**Doreen Alexander** - August 26, 2024 at 08:21 PM



“ *Such sad news for all those who knew and loved Sarah. She had a smile that would light up any room - and a heart to match. We will miss her, but she will forever be remembered at Little Milam in Columbus.*

*My condolences to her loved ones.*

*- Lollie & Tom Raetzsch*

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**Lollie Raetzsch** - August 26, 2024 at 04:33 PM

SH

*Sara was unique in so many ways. I wish I knew her longer, she was as Interesting as she was kind. To know you was to instantly know you were a friend. Rest easy sweet one.*

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**Shelley** - August 27, 2024 at 10:28 AM