



## Sonia Valenzuela

June 2, 1938 - May 11, 2025

Miriam Sonia Valenzuela, 86, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 11, 2025. She was born on June 2, 1938, in Santiago, Chile, and lived a life rich in love, resilience, and dedication to her Jewish heritage.

As a first-generation immigrant with roots in Spain, Sonia spent most of her life in Santiago, where she built a wonderful life with her husband, Jose Litvak Yampolsky, until his passing in 2011. Through her involvement in the close-knit Jewish community, she developed a deep sense of family and tradition. Known for her warmth, sharp wit, and unwavering commitment to her loved ones, Sonia was also a business owner and a passionate lover of the arts. She was talented in painting, sculpture, knitting, sewing, botany, and cooking, and she was invited to teach art at DUOC University, Catolica de Chile. Additionally, she was an active member of El Circulo Israelita in Santiago and dedicated many years to volunteering for the Sisterhood.

Sonia is survived by her children, Angela Smith-Litvak and Jay Smith, as well as her granddaughter, Nava Smith-Litvak. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Jose. Her legacy lives on through the love and memories she shared with family and friends.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at Beth Yeshurun Post

Oak Cemetery, 7445 Awty School Ln., Houston, Texas, 77055.

Sonia will be remembered for her ability to bring joy to others. May her memory be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your favorite charity.

# Cemetery Details

## Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.  
Houston, TX 77055

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

DV

“ *Mama Sonia, I will cherish the memories of our time together and I am forever grateful for the gift of your friendship. Know that your spirit will reside in my heart eternally. Thank you for being a shining example of kindness and compassion, and I will deeply miss you. Till we meet again. I love you.*

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**Diana Vaquera** - May 16, 2025 at 10:40 PM

AL

“ A wonderful mother who was always there when we needed her most, offering support, wisdom, and abundant love. A friend to many, she leaves us a legacy of kindness, strength, and generosity.

*She brought friends and family together; she always reminded me that forgiveness is divine. Let your loved ones know how much you love them so you won't regret it when they're gone.*

*She made plants grow like no one else and cooked gefilte fish like no one else. Technology allowed me to record her recipes because I didn't know what measurements to take; she always said, "Just a pinch."*

*She taught me that silence is wisdom and that we should treat everyone as if it were the last time we saw them. She always helped people succeed instead of belittling them. She reminded me that the most beautiful thing is in simplicity.*

*She also told me that no one leaves before or after God's will. May her memory be a blessing. I love you, Mom.*

*Spanish:*

*Una madre maravillosa que siempre estuvo ahí cuando más la necesitábamos, ofreciéndonos apoyo, sabiduría y abundante amor. Amiga de muchos, nos deja un legado de bondad, fortaleza y generosidad.*

*Reunía a amigos y familiares; siempre me recordaba que el perdón es divino. Hazles saber a tus seres queridos cuánto los amas para que no te arrepientas cuando ya no estén.*

*Hacía que las plantas crecieran como nadie y cocinaba pescado gefilte como nadie. La tecnología me permitió grabar sus recetas porque no sabía qué medidas tomar; ella siempre decía: "Solo una pizca".*

*Me enseñó que el silencio es sabiduría y que debemos tratar a todos como si fuera la última vez que los vimos. Siempre ayudó a las personas a tener éxito en lugar de menospreciarlas. Me recordó que lo más hermoso está en la sencillez.*

*También me dijo que nadie se va antes ni después de la voluntad de Dios.*

*Que su recuerdo sea una bendición. Te quiero, mamá.*

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**Angela Smith Litvak** - May 16, 2025 at 02:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sonia Valenzuela.

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May 16, 2025 at 02:51 PM



“ La conocí a Sonia hace 6 años por intermedio de mi hija Joy que era amiga de Angela. Desde el primer momento fue muy fácil disfrutar nuestra compañía. Compartimos viajes a San Antonio, Galveston y Houston. Era mi copiloto y siempre nos divertía cuando el GPS nos mandaba a otro rumbo. Cuando les presenté a mis amigas argentinas fue para ella el mejor de los regalos. Disfrutamos reuniones y juegos de mesa y siempre su deliciosa comida!!!! Todos mis rezos hoy van para ti mi querida Sonia!!!!



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**rachel pinto** - May 15, 2025 at 07:23 PM



“ Tus Amigas planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sonia Valenzuela.

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**Tus Amigas** - May 15, 2025 at 05:46 PM

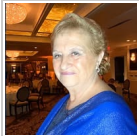


“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Alicia de Leichen - May 14, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ Es triste este momento recordándote, querida Sonia!! lo que me da consuelo es saber que pude compartir el crucero contigo, Fuiste una amiga muy leal y me llevo dentro de mi corazón todos los recuerdos compartidos!  
Besos al cielo!!!



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Alicia de Leichen - May 14, 2025 at 06:59 PM

MS

“ Una Gran Amiga siempre apoyándome y aconsejándome cómo seguir adelante 😞 Gracias por todo los momentos compartidos y tus palabras de ánimo en mis días de turbulencias 😞 te extrañaré Amiga Sonita 💖



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Margarita Simmons - May 14, 2025 at 06:58 PM

MS

“ Margarita S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sonia Valenzuela.

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Margarita S. - May 14, 2025 at 06:47 PM

MG

“ *Sonia siempre nos hizo reir a mi Mamá y a mi. Su chispa es inigualable y deja un vacío. Sonia siempre nos mostró cariño, y éste cariño se veía sobretodo en la cocina! Una vez me comí la fuente entera de berenjenas y ella simplemente se gozó y me compartió la receta♥ Su ausencia física se hace notar, pero su espíritu permanece en cada uno de nosotros que tuvimos el privilegio de compartir pan con ella* ✨



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**Michelle Gafford** - May 14, 2025 at 05:45 PM

DM

“ *Dina Acuna Jorquera y Mario. purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Sonia Valenzuela.*



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**Dina Acuna Jorquera y Mario.** - May 14, 2025 at 04:04 PM

DM

“ *Dina Acuna Jorquera y Mario. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sonia Valenzuela.*

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**Dina Acuna Jorquera y Mario.** - May 14, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sonia Valenzuela.*



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May 14, 2025 at 03:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sonia Valenzuela.

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May 14, 2025 at 03:42 PM



“ *En este día de pena, solo puedo memorar los más lindos recuerdos vividos.  
Jamás olvidaremos tu sonrisa y alegría.  
Descansa en paz y vuela alto Sonita*



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**Maximiliano** - May 14, 2025 at 03:35 PM