



## Judith Diana Samuels

May 12, 1941 - December 15, 2022

It is with sadness that we mourn the passing yesterday of CAA Family Member Diana Samuels (a"n); beloved mother of CAA Family Members Adam and Ellie Samuels, treasured grandmother of Ari.

Diana (a"n) was the daughter of the first rabbi and rebbetzin of Congregation Agudas Achim, Rabbi Harry and Elka Shapiro (z"l). In February, 2020 in our sanctuary, she lovingly spoke about her family and growing up at CAA. Throughout her life, she was highly sought as an educator, leveraging her creativity and her love of learning for the many students that she taught -- teaching in the San Antonio public school system for many years and also B'nei Mitzvah students with Rabbi Sam Stahl at Temple Beth-El. Diana (a"n) promoted cultural awareness and enjoyed her diverse classrooms. She had a deep love of Judaism and rabbinic thought. She made her own jewelry and became a puppeteer who performed for holidays and birthdays. She loved her family, promoting learning, art, nature, and deepening friendships. She enjoyed keeping up with current events and writing calligraphy. Diana (a"n) was devoted to her dog, Lil' Girl. She was 81.

Funeral and burial services will be held Monday afternoon 19 December @ 12:30 pm at Austin Memorial Park -- 2800 Hancock Drive.

To stream the funeral, please go to the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals>. A Facebook account is not required in order to view. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to view. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

Immediately after the burial services, the family will have a meal of consolation (seudat havra'ah) at Congregation Agudas Achim. Your presence is welcome to comfort the family. The family is intending to attend our minyanim in the coming days. Your presence in our minyanim is always praiseworthy.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Diana's (a"h) loving memory to:  
SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone): <https://www.safeaustin.org> (Travis County)  
The HOPE Alliance: <https://www.hopealliancetxt.org> (Williamson County)

T'hi Nishmata Tz'rurah Bitzror haHayim.

May Diana's (a"h) memory be bound up in the bond of life.

# Previous Events

## Computer Accessible Graveside Service

DEC 19. 12:30 PM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page  
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals>

*A Facebook account is not required in order to view. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to view. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.*

## Graveside Funeral Service

DEC 19. 12:30 PM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park  
2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731

## Meal of Consolation

DEC 19. 1:45 PM (CT)

Congregation Agudas Achim  
7300 Hart Lane  
Austin, TX 78731  
<http://caa-austin.org>

*Gathering will begin immediately after the Graveside Service*

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ I had the privilege of teaching with Diane in San Antonio at the Eleanor Kolitz Academy for a few years. She was so passionate about teaching and always did fun, crazy things in the classroom to help her kiddos learn. My favorite was when she dressed up like Miss Frizzle from The Magic School Bus to teach science lessons.

One summer we also attended a conference in Austin together and went to see “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” at the theater. We laughed until we cried!

I’m grateful to have had her in my life for those years and will always have fond memories of her and her love for children. 💜

---

**Tracy Smith** - December 21, 2022 at 09:36 PM

CA

“ Blessed to call Diana my neighbor 10 years and friend for 18. She was hilarious, smart as a whip, and just a beautiful person inside and out. She faced these last couple of years with grace and strength. I know how incredibly proud she was of Adam and his family. Going to truly miss our conversations and visits. Prayers for you Adam and praying your memories bring you comfort in the days and weeks ahead.

---

**Casey** - December 20, 2022 at 03:03 PM

AM

“ Diana was so joyful when she would come say Hello at McCoy Elementary bring Ari up to school or picking him up. I still have the lovely umbrella she gave me that has my name on it.

---

**Amy** - December 19, 2022 at 06:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service Recording



---

**Austin Natural Funerals** - December 19, 2022 at 04:39 PM

WD

“ *The pitom story --when I let little Yehuda carry the etrog and he bit and wallowed the pitom--Diana said--now you'll have to hold Yehuda and the Lulav together--typical of her humour. She made tactile puppet-shirts to wear teaching our blind babies, and Adam, know in her memory we read Latke the Lucky Dog for the first night of Hanukkah. Wendy*

Wendy Drezek - December 19, 2022 at 03:26 PM

MB

“ *Our son, Gilbert Bernstein, was worried about entering Middle School. Diana chatted with him and walked around the school with him before the beginning of the school year. And she gave one very practical bit of advice -- write down the numbers of his combination lock in Hebrew letters -- so other children couldn't read it!*  
*Our son, David Bernstein, is an artist. He fondly remembers her boxes and jewelry covered with collages and calligraphy.*  
*Marion Bernstein*

Marion Bernstein - December 19, 2022 at 02:38 PM

EB

“ *Dearest Adam and family - my deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved Mother. Love, Eden*



Eden S. Braun - December 19, 2022 at 09:21 AM

SF

“ *G-d willing the blessing of her memory will forever remain with each of us that she has touched. Diana had the ability to bring history to life. She gave the most wonderful reenactment of the Crossing of the Delaware dressed as Washington. Thankfully two of my children were fortunate to be at the EKA for the crossing. Those that missed the crossing, missed the best at her best.*  
*- the Shiver family.*

Shiver family - December 19, 2022 at 03:47 AM

JE

“ Diana was a wonderful and friendly neighbor who never failed to stop and share conversation.  
She would always have something positive and funny to say about whatever the current news was.  
Her wit was a pleasure and would generate. Smile if not laughter.  
When she started medical care, Diane faced her course with determination and energy, never giving in or up.  
Her energy will be missed!  
Peace my friend 🌹  
Jeanette

---

jeanette - December 18, 2022 at 10:02 PM

DS

“ Truly, sorry for the loss of your beloved Diana. Diana was always a very loving generous and warm person. We always enjoyed her passion and love for the cinema. The coffee beans shared by Diana were always a hit as well. Diana will be missed by all. Warmest regards, Deborah (Film Club)

---

Deborah Seddon - December 18, 2022 at 08:25 PM

MZ

“ Diana was interested in DOING plays, working with children.

---

Milton Zaft - December 18, 2022 at 07:59 PM

FS

“ I am so glad I got to know her, even though for a short while. She was an incredibly interesting, funny, accomplished woman. I will never forget her.

---

farrar sanchez - December 16, 2022 at 08:17 PM