



## Shirley Ann Koeller

January 18, 1935 - August 31, 2021

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Shirley Koeller last night.

Shirley was born in Cincinnati Ohio in 1935, to Sara and Morris. Her early years were spent in the warm and loving home of her old world, Orthodox Jewish grandparents. They themselves had only recently escaped the pogroms and hardships of Lithuania, but Shirley had many fond memories of speaking Yiddish, being surrounded by various uncles and aunts, and a warm Jewish community in Ohio.

When she was five, Shirley's parents moved her and her beloved brother Jack to San Francisco. She described her new neighborhood as diverse, eclectic, electric and dazzling! Shirley loved her grade schools in the Richmond District of San Francisco and excelled, eventually gaining admission into Berkeley where she studied Sociology. Shirley married Ralph Koeller who was a post doctoral fellow at Berkeley and moved to Boulder, Colorado where she had her son Kevin. She herself went on to earn a doctoral degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and had a long and varied career teaching elementary all the way to College. She was a distinguished Professor at Texas Tech until her retirement over 25 years ago. Shirley moved to Austin as quickly as she could and went on to have an extremely active retirement. After a short stint in real estate, she taught part time at St. Edwards University, and attended as many classes as she could, always being a passionate advocate

for education and self improvement. She was passionate about health and well being, often exercising at the Y, the J, line dancing at the local rec. center, or walking around Town Lake. A huge part of her life was being the best grandma possible, participating in each and every milestone in her grandchildren's lives. She was surrounded by her loving family, including her grandchildren, David, Sara and Natalie.

Shirley's funeral will be held at 9:30 am September 1, at Austin Memorial Park, 2800 Hancock Lane Austin 78731

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to Congregation Beth El, or your favorite charity. Shiva minyanim will be held at Congregation Beth El on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Congregation Beth El

A live stream of the funeral service will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals>, shortly before 9:30 am on Wednesday. A Facebook account is not required in order to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

# Cemetery Details

## **Austin Memorial Park**

2800 Hancock Dr  
Austin, TX 78731

# Previous Events

## **Graveside Service**

SEP 1. 9:30 AM.

at Austin Memorial Park

# Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Ann Koeller*

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October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *I had the privilege of being in Mrs. Shirley's presence multiple times over the last year as she received her treatments. She was always kind and thoughtful, taking time to engage with anyone who came in contact with her. She was optimistic and could find the silver lining even on the hardest days. Shirley was caring and complimentary, soft spoken and lived with immense gratitude. Although my time with Shirley was brief it was incredibly impactful. I will miss her dearly and think about her often. I hope I am able to live and love as deeply as she did.*

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**Whitney Womack** - October 01, 2021 at 12:50 AM



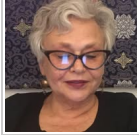
“ *I will always remember Shirley, she was full of joy and enthusiasm, and a true pleasure to spend time with! Always encouraging and speaking about her grandkids, lots of love to share!*

*I'm just sad to hear of her passing.*

*Debbie Adams*

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**Debbie Adams** - September 14, 2021 at 09:02 PM



“ We were Shirley’s friends and neighbors. She was an ardent gardener and part of the galloping gardeners who would once a month help one of the members. It was fitting that I met Shirley at Zilker Botanical Garden where she was volunteering. At the time, my husband and I came to Austin for the winter. We found that our winter rental for 2011 was across the street from Shirley’s home. Her response: It’s beshert!! Shirley’s enthusiasm for so many things was contagious. She had a zest for life and we will miss her

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**Michele Missner** - September 01, 2021 at 09:04 AM

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I just learned of Shirley’s passing. I was one of her “teacher/students” at Texas Tech when Shirley founded the Caprock Area Writing Project. This was a class that “selected” area English teachers elementary through high school, and we studied the best practices to teach writing to students. Each teacher brought one lesson that worked well with students. The lesson was honed throughout the six week Institute. Each teacher then had a writing lesson that could apply to all levels. Area ISDs could get a variety of 10 CAWP speakers from the class to teach their faculty the various lessons. This was a branch of the National Writing Project out of Berkeley where Shirley got her doctorate. She fought for the project at Texas Tech, and it produced many excellent English teachers. Shirley was an active, engaged woman. She was a classy woman with interests in the arts, gardening, and education. She loved learning, and she left a legacy of knowledge through her students. She will be missed by those who knew her and learned from her.

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**Connie Goodwin** - January 26, 2022 at 08:13 PM