



## Babbette Samuels

March 14, 1928 - August 30, 2022

Babbette Samuels, 94, of Corsicana, Texas passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2022.

Babbette Blankfield was born to Meyer and Irma Blankfield on March 14, 1928, in Port Arthur, Texas. Babbette attended Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur, graduating in 1946. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Business at the University of Texas in 1950, where she was a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority, Orchesis dance club and Hillel. During her time at UT, Babbette met her dear friend, the late Jeanette Levy Brennan of Corsicana, who arranged a blind date with a young WWII veteran named Irvin Samuels. Soon, a whirlwind romance ensued with many train rides between Austin and Corsicana, and they married in Port Arthur, Texas on March 4, 1951. Thus began their love affair of over 52 years.

They soon moved to Temple, Texas to manage a branch of the Samuels family business, P. Samuels. The first two Samuels siblings, Philip and Ermalyn, were born in Temple. Following Ermalyn's untimely death as a toddler in 1956, Babbette, Irvin and Philip moved to Corsicana and their home on Bowie Drive. It is at this time that Babbette's love affair with Corsicana began. Before no time at all, Robin and Douglas were born, rounding out the Samuels family. As she acclimated to her life in Corsicana, Babbette could be seen delivering a pan of homemade brownies to new Corsicana neighbors, often with three children toddling along at her side. The home was always

filled with neighborhood friends and laughter and chaos could probably be heard a few blocks away. She quickly became friends with her children's friends and their parents.

During her 67 years as a citizen of Corsicana, she was extremely active in school and civic affairs. She served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Temple Beth El, Cub Scout Den Mother, Blue Birds and Campfire Girls Leader, Room Mother of every class her children attended at Bowie Elementary School, Bowie and Collins Junior High PTA Presidents, Co-president (with Irvin) of the CHS Band Parents Association (and was instrumental in raising funds for outfitting the CHS band with their first new uniforms in decades), President of City Council PTA, and was recognized by the Texas PTA for her outstanding leadership with a lifetime membership. During the Samuels sibling's college years, Babbette and Irvin enjoyed traveling to visit the kids in Houston, Lubbock, Austin and College Station. As the nest emptied, Babbette became very civically involved as a member of several volunteer city committees including the Corsicana Library, Parks Department, the Burnet Park MLK Day Celebration and President of Corsicana Hebrew Cemetery Association. In 2004, Babbette was asked to assist the Warehouse Living Arts Center on Jewish detail/history for their production of Fiddler on the Roof. Before she knew what happened, she was soon a member of the chorus. She had so much fun, that she performed in the chorus for many other productions. It was one highlight of many in her life, and she cherished the new friendships she made there.

She LOVED being a grandparent. Irvin became Sam, and Babbette became Grammie Sammie.

Babbette loved working in her yard, her cocker spaniels, and sharing her "Mish Mosh".

Babbette is preceded in death by her husband, Irvin Samuels, her toddler daughter, Ermalyn Samuels, her brother Myron Blankfield, and her dear brothers-in-law, Melville and Aaron Samuels. She is survived by her children: Dr. Philip Samuels and wife Betsy of Columbus, Ohio; Robin Samuels Schriefer and husband Kurt Schriefer of Plano, TX and Douglas Samuels and his wife Michele of Edmond, OK; Grandchildren Ashley Flaumenhaft and her husband, Dave of Indianapolis, IN, Cullen Schriefer of Dallas, Alex Samuels of Columbus Ohio, and Sarah Samuels, DVM of Champaign, IL. For the last 12 years, she has reveled in being a great Grammie to Samuel, Aden and Liam Flaumenhaft, of Indianapolis, IN.

Rest well, Mom, knowing that your legacy and memory will be carried on by all of us, as well as your friends.

The family would like to thank the late Dr. Kent Rogers and Dr. Dale Campbell for their care and guidance. Caregivers Precious Cephus, Janice Porter, Frances Kitchen and Rose Givens are now and forever a part of the extended Samuels family for the care and love they provided to Mom.

Visitation for Babbette will be Thursday, September 1st, 2022, from 1:00-2:00 pm, followed by services at 2:00 pm, both at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Interment will be at Hebrew Cemetery in her beloved home of Corsicana. Officiating will be Rabbi Frank Joseph. Pallbearers will be grandsons Alex Samuels and Cullen Schriefer; dear friends, Rick Herron, Wallace Watson, Joe Hajewski, and Dan Star. Honorary Pallbearer will be great-grandson, Samuel Flaumenhaft.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Corsicana Hebrew Cemetery Association c/o Community National Bank & Trust or to the preservation of Temple Beth El, under the supervision of the City of

Corsicana.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana  
1530 N. 45th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
(903) 874-4774  
info@griffin-roughton.com

## Funeral Service

SEP 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana  
1530 N. 45th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
(903) 874-4774  
info@griffin-roughton.com

## Burial

SEP 1 (CT)

Hebrew Cemetery  
W. 2nd Ave  
Corsicana, TX 75110

# Tribute Wall



“ *Babbette Samuels*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *My deepest condolences as I am just learning of Babbette's passing. She was a UT friend and sorority sister of my mother and aunt. Once I lost both of them, she was great about keeping in touch during the holidays. She definitely was a special person.*

**Erline Gordon** - December 07, 2022 at 06:24 PM



“ *Cordelia Albritton lit a candle in memory of Babbette Samuels*



**Cordelia Albritton** - September 04, 2022 at 01:31 AM



“ *Daddy was very fond of Babbette and loved conversing with her through emails. We are so sorry for the loss of such a special lady.*

**Sonya Osborne Burnett** - September 03, 2022 at 08:37 PM



“ *What a sweet lady she was and a great life she had! Our neighbors on Bowie Drive and friends throughout school, we enjoyed seeing Babbette at our reunions through the years. Love to Phil, Robin, Douglas and the entire family. Mark Meredith*

**Mark Meredith** - September 02, 2022 at 10:44 PM

HS

“ *Hope Sheehan lit a candle in memory of Babbette Samuels*



Hope Sheehan - September 02, 2022 at 08:53 PM

HS

“ *I remember meeting Babbette about 10 years ago once at a Christmas party and she was amazing! I will forever cherish my conversation with her, her words of wisdom and advice on life she was truly incredible and I'm lucky to have met her!*

Hope Sheehan - September 02, 2022 at 08:52 PM

JH

“ *Many years ago Babbette was in charge of the historical designation of the Jewish cemetery. Many people attended that hot summer day. Afterwards Babbette had us tour the old Jewish synagogue. She was a force to be reckoned with and we adored her. Jan and Charles Hart*

Jan and Charles Hart - September 02, 2022 at 08:33 PM

RH

“ *Rhonda Rice Hickman lit a candle in memory of Babbette Samuels*



Rhonda Rice Hickman - September 01, 2022 at 02:35 PM

NK

“ Dear Samuels Family, My mom - Audrey Daniels Kariel, formerly of Corsicana - wanted me to express our condolences on behalf of our entire family. Babbette was a part of my mom's life for many, many years and she will miss her. Babbette was one of my mom's last connections to her hometown of Corsicana. What a wonderful contribution Babbette made to Corsicana and to the world. Nancy Kariel (on behalf of Audrey Kariel)

Nancy Kariel - September 01, 2022 at 10:36 AM

BI

“ Babbette was my mother's 1st cousin (so she was my 1st cousin 1x removed) I was thrilled to become more connected to her about 30 years ago. We shared lots of family stories over the years and chatted once or twice a year on the phone to keep caught up. Always loved her emails!!! She always made me smile with her energy and love of life and I really admired her for all she did. I send my deepest condolences for all the family. Wish you peace, comfort, and love at this difficult time. I know she will live on in our hearts and our memory. Best regards, Barbara Fisher Israel

Barbara Fisher Israel - August 31, 2022 at 11:45 PM

SW

“ Rest peacefully Ms Samuels, it was a pleasure working for you and getting to know such a sweet lady as yourself.. Enjoyed all the talks, and things you taught me.. You will always be remembered by the lives you've touched.. I remember we would look on Griffin website to see if there was someone you knew in the obituary, now to look and see your sweet face in the obituary saddens my heart. I will always remember you.. Rest in Heaven..



Sonji Washington - August 31, 2022 at 10:24 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Babbette Samuels.*



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August 31, 2022 at 10:10 PM



“ *Much love to Robin, Douglass, Phillip, and all of family. I grew up two doors down from the Samuels on Dobbins. My heart is full of wonderful and sweet memories. Blessed.*

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**Alan Barnes** - August 31, 2022 at 10:04 PM



“ *Dear Samuels family, What a special person Babbette was to so many people here in Corsicana. I remember her always bringing the staff at the library (when I worked there) a cake every fall. We sure looked forward to it and to seeing her. She loved the library and was a great supporter of it. Her positive attitude toward life helped any of us that were around her. She gave so much of herself to all of us. We are certainly blessed by her. I pray that all the memories you have of times shared will be a comfort to you during this journey. Sincerely, Barbara Honea*

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**Barbara Sue Honea** - August 31, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *Barbara Sue Honea lit a candle in memory of Babbette Samuels*



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**Barbara Sue Honea** - August 31, 2022 at 03:21 PM

NH

“ *Babbette was a true gem. I worked with her during my days at the Corsicana Daily Sun and truly loved her spirit for both her Hebrew Community and for Corsicana. She always remembered your name, and she was a wealth of knowledge about the history of Corsicana. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and the entire town of Corsicana. Prayers for her family on such a great loss.*

*God Bless Your Family,  
Niece Ainsworth Hansen*

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**Niece Hansen** - August 31, 2022 at 01:20 PM

MH

“ *With the passing of Babbette, her family, friends, and community have suffered a great loss, but her life of love and service is a sweet savor lovingly accepted by God. Such an example of how to live well! My prayers and love to the family.*

*Margaret Spikes Herman*

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**Margaret Herman** - August 31, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Babbette Samuels.*



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August 31, 2022 at 10:30 AM

SR

“ *Sherri R lit a candle in memory of Babbette Samuels*



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**Sherri R** - August 31, 2022 at 08:44 AM

RS

“ *Unforgettable firebrand with an amazing mind. An eternal inspiration for many. Linda & Ricardo Schack*

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**Ricardo Schack** - August 30, 2022 at 10:44 PM

SG

“ *Mrs Samuels was a wonderful lady who loved everyone. She was a tireless worker in her community, her Temple, her Temple's cemetery and so many other organizations in Corsicana. She wanted Corsicana to succeed in everything. I'll never forget seeing her sitting on the curb in front of her home, working in her yard. Her beautiful azaleas that she shared with anyone who wanted to have photos made in her yard. A beautiful person, Ms Babbette, you will be missed. Sherry Gullatt*

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**Sherry Gullatt** - August 30, 2022 at 07:39 PM

PC

“ *Babbette always seemed so pleased to see you, happy in your presence. I so admired her enthusiasm and full participation in life. Love to her family. Priscilla Clore*

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**Priscilla Clore** - August 30, 2022 at 07:39 PM