



SAMANTHA WOLL

June 15, 1983 - October 21, 2023

CHAPEL SERVICE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023, AT 3:00 P.M. AT HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL. INTERMENT AT MACHPELAH CEMETERY.

***THE CHAPEL SERVICE WILL BE WEBCAST AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THIS WEB PAGE BY CLICKING ON THE "PHOTOS AND VIDEOS" TAB

Samantha "Sam" Woll (1983-2023) tragically died on October 21, 2023 in Detroit, MI. She was the cherished daughter of Drs. Margo and Douglas Woll, dearest sister to Drs. Monica Woll Rosen and brother-in-law Ben, and beloved aunt to Solomon, Gabriel (Gavi), and Mira.

She was born and raised in Metro Detroit and graduated from the University of Michigan. While Sam was a traveler and loved to explore the world, she spent her life in and around the Detroit area. There was no one who loved the city of Detroit more. She was fiercely passionate about the cultural vibrancy of Detroit, including the visual arts. At heart, Samantha was an artist and a lover of all forms of art. She appreciated music, theater, opera, museums and frequently sought to bring artists of all kinds together in unique ways. She loved being outside and nature was her happy place, whether she was exploring a new park or being out in the mountains on a hiking trail.

She was heavily involved in local, state, and national politics, serving on the campaigns of Elissa Slotkin (U.S. Representative), Dana Nessel (Michigan Attorney General), and Stephanie Chang (State Senator). Samantha had a deep passion for the City of Detroit. Most recently, she served as president of The Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, a revitalized congregation in the heart of Detroit and helped lead its fundraising campaign and “grand re-opening” that occurred just two months ago. She was involved with many interfaith organizations in the Detroit area and was the embodiment of “tikkun olum” – making the world a better place and pursuing justice for all.

Most importantly, Samantha was a ray of sunshine to all who knew her. She was the light in any room because of her beautiful smile and her warmth. To her family, she was “Aunt Sam”: always present in all the right ways, being a source of comfort, love and joy for her niece and nephews. To her friends, she was “Sam”: the greatest friend anyone could ever hope to have in life because she was unfailing in her commitment to living in the moment and always saw the good in everyone she met. She had unbridled joy and an infectious laugh. She had the most incredible compassion. Most importantly, she lived to love and loved to live.

Samantha will always be remembered for her tireless activism and for her passion to make the world a better place. She was an angel and there was truly no one kinder.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Steven Rubenstein

Rabbi Asher Lopatin

Rabbi Ariana Silverman

INTERMENT:

Machpelah Cemetery

SHIVA:

The family will be observing Shiva through Friday (October 27) at
3311 Woodview Lake Rd.

West Bloomfield MI 48323

The family welcomes condolence visits between:

1:00 pm through 3:00 pmMonday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and
Friday

6:00 pm through 8:30 pm ... Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday

Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:30 pm..... Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of
SAMANTHA WOLL

you may do so by making a contribution to:

ISAAC AGREE SYNAGOGUE

or

LOUIS & FAY WOLL MEMORIAL BIBLE GARDEN AT CONGREGATION
BETH AHM

or

J.C.R.C./A.J.C. (Jewish Community Relations Council)

Previous Events

FUNERAL

OCT **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Hebrew Memorial Chapel
26640 Greenfield Rd
Oak Park, MI 48237
(248) 543-1622
info@hebrewmemorial.org
<https://www.hebrewmemorial.org/>

Shiva

OCT **22** to **27** (ET)

Family
3311 Woodview Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

The family will be observing Shiva through Friday (October 27) at 3311 Woodview Lake Rd. West Bloomfield MI 48323 The family welcomes condolence visits between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:30 pm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of SAMANTHA WOLL



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - October 22, 2023 at 09:11 AM

MS

Fran & I are very saddened to learn of Samantha's passing. Our hearts ache and our tears flow for you and your family. May Samantha's memory forever be a blessing. Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet.

Marv Sonne

Marvin Sonne - October 22, 2023 at 01:29 PM

RA

My deepest condolences to all Samantha's family, friends and colleagues. May shw rest in peace

Rochelle Allen - October 22, 2023 at 02:13 PM

MF

My deepest condolences.

Marshalle Favors - October 22, 2023 at 03:08 PM

DL

I became friends with Sam Woll over 20 years ago at the University of Michigan. It was impossible not to notice Sam, and once you knew her to be friends with her. She was smart, fierce, energized and she never backed down from an argument.

She had a voice (figuratively and literally), and she used it with passion and heart. She would plan, organize and speak with anyone and with everyone. Often loudly. Always with a smile. With a hope of getting to a better place. She cared for everyone and always had a hug at the ready.

She was one of the nicest people I have ever met. A spark-plug of energy with a million-watt smile. Always unfailingly kind, optimistic, thoughtful and hopeful.

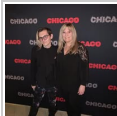
She was extraordinary. We will miss her. We already do. May her memory be a blessing.

David Livshiz - October 22, 2023 at 03:25 PM

JD

I did not know Sam but from what I have heard and read, I wish I had the opportunity to meet her. She was a leader in Tikkun Olam and making the world a better place for all of us. Let's all continue her work in her memory and heal the world and its people.

Jan and Gary (Weiss) Dembs - October 22, 2023 at 03:36 PM



I met Sam working on the Dana campaign last year. She was truly one of the nicest people I've ever worked with and ever met. She was always kind even when people may not have shown her the same kindness and understanding. She was truly an amazing person with the brightest personality. She will be missed greatly. May her memory live on forever and ever.

Jacob Fields - October 22, 2023 at 03:36 PM

EG

*Sincere condolences to the entire Woll family
Elwin Greenwald*

Elwin Greenwald - October 22, 2023 at 04:11 PM

SH

I worked with Samantha's father, Doug, several years ago and felt compelled to express my deepest condolences to the entire Woll family. However, I met and saw Samantha at a few fundraising dinners, and remember her vibrant smile and kind spirit . Upon leaving the services today, a reporter asked me to say a few words about Samantha. The words shared were "kind and bridge-builder". May the love and light she shared be a blessing to all!!

Sharon Heath - October 22, 2023 at 04:35 PM

LA

May her memory be a blessing. 💔

Lannie - October 22, 2023 at 04:36 PM

ML

Heartfelt condolences from Poughkeepsie, New York. May her memory be for a blessing forever.

Marion Lipshutz - October 22, 2023 at 05:04 PM

RW

My husband and I met Sam the first time she attended Cong. Kehillat Israel in Lansing. She came to a Friday night service only to discover that only other congregants that evening were the Rabbi, me and my husband Arthur. We said a few prayers and then decided to go out to dinner together. We had quite a few wonderful conversations subsequent to that evening. It was fascinating to learn of all of her involvements and accomplishments. Sam was a beautiful and inspirational woman. I know she will be sorely missed and that her memory will be a blessing to the many who knew her.

Robin Willner - October 22, 2023 at 05:33 PM

NO

I'm so saddened by the loss of Samantha who embodied the spirit of Tikkun Olam . I didn't personally know her but feel the tragic loss of a kindred spirit. So Sorry 😭 for her family and friends

norma - October 22, 2023 at 05:55 PM

AA

A very beautiful and uplifting service.

Ann Marie Adkins-Jackson - October 22, 2023 at 08:12 PM

BK

Thank you. Very nice for those who couldn't attend personally.
Barbara Kopasz

Barbara Kopasz - October 22, 2023 at 08:17 PM



My condolences to Samantha's Family and Friends. May her memory bring light and peace to all.

Jos Rosenthal - October 22, 2023 at 08:32 PM

RD

My deepest sympathy for Samantha's loved ones.
I did not know her yet my heart cries for the loss of a beautiful soul.

Rahana Daniels - October 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SP

Mein Beileid zum Tod von Samantha Woll.

Stefanie Peters - October 23, 2023 at 02:33 AM

CA

a beautiful memorial to a wonderful person

Colin Alfred - October 23, 2023 at 05:47 AM

JE

The world lost a beautiful and amazing person. She was kind and capable and open to everyone. Our son Andy is so sad. Her mission was to make the world a better place and she did. Her optimism was infectious and I can only imagine everyone falling in love with her. I hope you can find solace in this. Jo & Ken Einhorn

Jo & Ken Einhorn - October 23, 2023 at 08:58 AM

BV

Prayers of Comfort and healing. What an amazing gift she was to all of us.

Bishop Corletta Vaughn - October 23, 2023 at 12:41 PM

LW

A Heart Touching Service Shalom to the Family of Samantha Woll

LaStella Wartenbe - October 23, 2023 at 03:00 PM

NT

What a beautiful young lady - inside and outside; I did not know her but her work speaks for her - I worked with her father and he was very proud of her ... My sympathies go out to her family :(

Norma Taylor - October 24, 2023 at 10:58 AM

HS

We grieve our loss of Sam Woll she was a hero and a great inspiration to all Jews.

Han Samuleson - October 24, 2023 at 04:05 PM

JB

My prayers are still with you.

Jim Bridges - October 31, 2023 at 05:04 AM

DP

I never met you, Samantha. But as a Jew and as a woman, I grieve deeply for you and for what you suffered. I grieve for your family and your friends. As a Jew and as a woman, I am encouraged and inspired by you. I will remember you for your rare courage to act and to speak the truth. I pray for true justice on your behalf.

Dina Soltzberg Pringle - November 13, 2023 at 09:26 AM

MK

“ GOD BLESS SAMANTHA FAMILY.

MILENA KOLÁŘOVÁ - August 10, 2024 at 09:14 AM

DH

“ I never met Samantha but I've always admired people that devote themselves to improving the lives of others and their community. I've followed the news of her tragic death and it saddens me thinking about her life cut so short. Deepest sympathies to her family and friends. Rest in Peace.

Daniel Hyman - February 25, 2024 at 10:38 AM

JK

“ I'm so terribly sorry for the loss of such a kind and beautiful soul. May she rest in light and peace.

Jennifer K. - January 25, 2024 at 05:36 AM



“ I still think about Sam. She was the sweetest person. I love you! Your memory is a blessing!

Jenn Kesler - November 01, 2023 at 09:14 PM

JD

“ Doug, it has been many years since the BCN Board, but I just wanted to express my sincere condolences to you and your family. I am so very sorry. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jim Dietz - October 31, 2023 at 07:45 PM

JB

“ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Jonathan Brateman, Modi'in Israel

Jonathan Brateman - October 29, 2023 at 05:49 AM

CM

“ *Just as she worked with such diligence in the pursuit of justice, may justice prevail for Sam.*

Carol Moore

Carol Moore - October 28, 2023 at 11:49 AM

EK

“ *Sam was a close friend and roommate back in my college days. We lived down the hall from one another our first two years and shared a house in the years that followed.*

We fell out of touch after college, but I always knew she was doing inspirational and necessary work to make the world a better, more just, and equitable place.

She always made us laugh and brought so much joy into our community.

I remember dread-locking her hair in my dorm room my second year of college. I remember being awakened by her multiple alarm clocks most mornings. Most of all, I remember her laugh, and her smile.

This heinous crime will be politicized. It already has been. If I know one thing about Sam, it's that she wouldn't want her death to inspire hate. In anyone.

Rest in power, Sam.

May her memory be a blessing.

Erin Kaplan - October 27, 2023 at 03:05 PM

RM

“ My wife Ronni and I met Samantha in New York a couple of years ago to participate in Sam Rosen's ordination as a Cantor. Sam sang so beautifully at the funeral service as he always does. Sam is my son's partner and Sam's brother is married to Monica, Samatha's sister.

We will always remember Samantha from our New York visit as a warm, loving, vibrant, and beautiful human both inside and out, with a megawatt smile.

She sat behind us at the ceremony and was instantly friendly and wanted to know all about us and how we knew Sam and was so engaging. I am also from Michigan and that was also a topic of discussion.

It's truly hard to believe that she was taken from us like this. I hope the person(s) who did this is brought to justice so that we can all have closure.

May she rest in peace and her memory always be a blessing to us all.

Randy and Ronni Morrison

Randall L Morrison - October 27, 2023 at 02:28 PM

CW

“ Our heartfelt condolences to Sam's family, friends and colleagues. She was a splendid star, putting her energy into Tikkun Olam. As Sam's neighbors and IADS fellow members, we so wish that we could have somehow protected her from harm under our wings. We have in mind the words of the poet Charlotte Mew: “ Here is death's sting, that it is not strong enough, our strongest wing.”

Carol and Glenn Weisfeld - October 26, 2023 at 09:27 AM

NP

“ I first met Sam 22 years ago, after an evening all-staff meeting of The Michigan Daily at UM. She made an immediate and powerful impression on me and we quickly became close friends. She was a truly remarkable woman, and I'm extremely grateful for the time and care that she shared with me through the years.

My deepest condolences to Sam's sister, parents and extended family. I am thinking of you all and praying that you draw comfort from the amazing legacy that she leaves behind.

RIP Samantha. You touched countless lives and were loved by all who knew you well.

Neal Pais - October 25, 2023 at 08:40 PM

CB

“ Margo, Doug, and Monica-
I was stunned and saddened to learn of Samantha's untimely death. I watched her funeral service and appreciated what a shining light she was. Few people have had the impact in a short life that she had. I'm so sorry for your loss. May her memory be a blessing. I wish you peace and healing. Carol Bershad

Carol Bershad - October 25, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ Like so many of us , I am so saddened to learn about the passing of Sam . Words cannot express my feelings and want the entire Woll family to know that as a client and friend , Sam was(is) an inspiration and vibrant individual who wanted to make a difference .

Howard Aston - October 25, 2023 at 11:28 AM

TT

“ Sam was truly one of a kind. My heart grieves daily since her departure. She was a breath of fresh air with every encounter. How intelligent and alive she was is a memory I will continue to cherish.
Tonjua Totten

Tonjua Totten - October 25, 2023 at 10:59 AM

SA

“ With great sadness and shock we mourn the passing of Samantha (Sam) Woll. In 2007, while living in Haifa, Sam volunteered at the Isha l'Isha- Haifa Feminist Center. She lives on in our hearts as a smart, committed, and energetic young woman. While volunteering, she was part of a group of feminist activists that designed and created the first civil-society project in Israel related to issues of IVF, egg donation and reproductive rights. Her invaluable work on this project, working with international groups and organizations, contributed to the publication of a seminal report on the “Egg donation Bill, 2008”. During her time in Haifa Sam lived in the Hadar neighbourhood and was part of our multicultural community. She shared our dreams for a better world.
We, the members of Isha l'Isha-Haifa Feminist Center share our deep sorrow and condolences with Sam’s family and with the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue in Detroit. May her memory be a blessing.

Sarai Aharoni - October 25, 2023 at 08:31 AM

EM

“ 1 file added to the album Friends



Elizabeth Morley - October 24, 2023 at 10:22 AM

EM

David Yellin Morley with Sam, Jerusalem, May 2010

Elizabeth Morley - October 24, 2023 at 10:35 AM

RM

Wonderful memories I have of both of these student leaders

Rabbi Jason Miller - October 24, 2023 at 02:58 PM

RF

“ *I am deeply saddened to hear about Sam’s passing. Sam was more than a friend. She was more than a mentor. More than an inspiration. Sam was someone I knew I could always count on. There are very few people that I can say that about. I will miss her dearly.*

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Woll family. I vividly remember the warmth of your family’s Passover dinner that Sam graciously invited me to a couple of years ago. The time spent with you all was a treasure I hold dear.

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. May her memory be a blessing and a reminder to us all of the importance of spreading the same love and kindness she so effortlessly shared. With deepest sympathy and love, Robbie Frankel.

Robbie Frankel - October 23, 2023 at 07:02 PM

LK

“ *Sam and I volunteered together in college together at U Mich w the Prison Creative Arts Project, would see each other at Hillel, and we had some classes together. She was always passionate, vivacious, and had ideas about improving the world. Rest in peace.*

Lauren Kronisch - October 23, 2023 at 04:14 PM

LR

“ *My deepest condolences to Samantha's family; may she rest in peace always.*

Lois Raitt - October 23, 2023 at 03:15 PM

BM

“ *I wept as I heard of your passing. As a fellow Jew, here in Michigan (Congregation Shaarey Zedek--East Lansing) may all your love be for a blessing.*

Brenda McCloud - October 23, 2023 at 01:59 PM

HB

“ *Dear family and friends,
as soon as the news of her tragic death reached the world, not knowing her but touched by her smile, I looked her up and found this Life Tribute page. Having heard all the obituary words, I wonder if there was ever someone on earth who's appearance was more in harmony with her personality. It seems that there was no other way than to love her.
No doubt the world misses an angel and heaven gains one far too soon.
Even though I never knew her, she shall not be forgotten.
Hester
(from Belgium)*

Hester Blok - October 23, 2023 at 01:32 PM



I did not know her, but she will be missed.

William Ashton - October 23, 2023 at 07:37 PM

MW

“ I only met Sam a handful of times through ACCESS and the American Jewish Committee, but I was always impressed with her energy, commitment, and passion for Judaism, Muslim-Jewish Relations, and social justice causes. I also admire the work she did in state and local Democratic politics in Michigan. It's clear that she left the world a better place and she will be greatly missed. I'm only sorry that I did not have an opportunity to get to know her better.

Matthew Weiss - October 23, 2023 at 12:48 AM

WH

“ The whole Detroit Jewish Community and beyond is reeling from the senseless death of this beautiful, amazing, exceptional Sam. Our deepest, heartfelt sympathies to her family and friends for this painful loss. RIP Sam.
Wendy and Norm Hubert

Wendy Hubert - October 22, 2023 at 10:45 PM

AC

“ Our deepest condolences to you and your family. Annie and Rob Cohen

annie cohen - October 22, 2023 at 10:31 PM

JS

I am so sorry for your loss. Sam will be missed by many!
janice steinhardt

janice steinhardt - October 23, 2023 at 03:31 PM

EI

“ I remember Sam from our belonging to the former Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Council. I also interviewed her for my article in the Detroit Jewish News about the revitalized Downtown Synagogue. Sam was always so nice and friendly! I have a daughter her age, so I really feel for her parents. Sam's sister and brother-in-law delivered the first of several touching eulogies at Sam's funeral service today. Rest in peace, dear girl.

Esther Allweiss Ingber - October 22, 2023 at 10:16 PM

LD

“ I am so very sorry for you loss, a loss that I cannot imagine. To her family and friends, you have been in my thoughts since I learned of her passing. I hope your memories with Sam somehow bring you comfort during this very sad time. God bless you.

Linda Denomme - October 22, 2023 at 09:18 PM

MN

“ Dear Family of Samantha Woll,
I send you my deepest sympathy. I hope it helps to hear the Lord has received Samantha into His loving Home. Samantha and the Lord love you, and they wait for you in Heaven until your time.

Michelle Nuss - October 22, 2023 at 09:06 PM

WE

“ I'm from NY, so I didn't know who Samantha was until I read about her earlier. It sounds like she was a wonderful person, and I wanted to offer her family condolences.

Wendy - October 22, 2023 at 09:04 PM

KB

“ I’m so grateful for the opportunity to have known and worked with Sam. There was no such thing as a bad day or a hill too high to climb. Her wide eyes and smile is burned into my core memories. She will forever be an inspiration to me on how to love and how to live

Kimberly Bush - October 22, 2023 at 08:44 PM

KM

“ Through work and friendship with her father, I was blessed to meet Sam, Monica and Margo many years ago. Although I didn’t see Sam very often, when we DID meet, Sam always acted like we were long lost friends. She (and Monica) greeted me with warm and joy! Her memory will be a blessing forever.

Karen McGrath - October 22, 2023 at 08:01 PM

SI

“ For all in mourning=*nichum aveilim*=
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
“May God comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.”
We are so sorry! This really shocks our family. *Zekher tzadik livrakha*=May the memory of the righteous be a blessing
Tanchumin=condolences. (*Ha'makom yenahem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei Tziyonvi'Yerushalayim*).” Our
condolence=*Yisrael Sarah kids and family in USA and Israel!*

simcha - October 22, 2023 at 07:39 PM

RY

“ My deepest condolences to the Woll family. I had the opportunity to know and work with Samantha on campaigns for Padma Kuppa and Elissa Slotkin. I interacted with her on numerous occasions when she worked as Deputy Director for Elissa in first term. She was always very helpful and worked hard to help people. I am really saddened with what has happened to her.

Ravi Yalamanchi - October 22, 2023 at 07:37 PM

LI

“ Sam and I overlapped working for Isha L'Isha: Haifa Feminist Center in 2007. She was a wonderful person: kind, empathetic, and endlessly passionate about women's rights and Palestinian-Israeli peacebuilding. I will always remember her smile, her enthusiasm, her warmth, and her deep belief in justice. My deepest condolences to Sam's family and friends. May her memory always be a blessing to you.

Liliane - October 22, 2023 at 06:39 PM

JM

“ I had the privilege of working with Sam from 2001-2003 on activism at Michigan and beyond. She was joy incarnate. Her bright eyes and eager smile were magnetic, and were only overshadowed by the power of her courageous voice. Sam's fierce commitment to the Jewish community was matched by her equally fierce commitment to laboring for justice for all. That's such a rare and sorely needed combination in this world.

My deepest condolences to the Woll family. Thank you for sharing Sam with the world. I am so sorry that it didn't treat her better.

May you be comforted by knowing that Sam is remembered fondly all over the globe, and that she will not be forgotten.

Jeremy Menchik - October 22, 2023 at 05:34 PM

JS

“ We got to meet Sam when she was working on Elissa Slotkin's campaign and she joined for Shabbat Services at Kehillat Israel. She came 4 or 5 times and it is a testament to who she was that her memory is as clear and sharp as it is two years later. I don't want to repeat any of the tributes paid to her at the funeral except to say that the person she was will remain a memory for as long as I live.

Joel Sharkey - October 22, 2023 at 05:31 PM

BE

“ Hello, For those in Portland Oregon

*I am going to be hosting Kaddish Prayers
tonight and Tuesday
5209 SE 60th Ave unit A Portland, OR 97206
Gather at 6:30, and prayers at 7*

Benjamin Ayer

Benjamin - October 22, 2023 at 05:21 PM

JM

“ I had the privilege of working with Sam from 2001-2004 on activism at Michigan and beyond. She was joy incarnate. Her enthusiasm, positivity, and authenticity were infectious. She was as fiercely committed to her community as to fighting for justice for all. That's such a rare combination and so sorely needed in this world.

My deepest condolences to the Woll family. Thank you for sharing Sam with this world. I just wish it had treated her better.

J Menchik - October 22, 2023 at 04:56 PM

MS

“ Sam was my roommate and dear friend during our college years. We traveled Europe together and while living in a small dorm room together, squandered many an evening staying up talking and laughing and making silly art together. Sam pushed me to be more of the free-spirit champion for all that she was - in travel, in activism, in fighting for what one knows is just and right, in seeing beauty in everyone you encounter. When I met her (& yes, those were the purple contacts days, exclusively!) she struck me as the smartest person I had ever met, and I was endlessly fascinated and inspired by her. I am thinking of her family and all who loved her.... What a singular light she was; what a terrible loss.

Megan Shuchman - October 22, 2023 at 04:47 PM

HC

“ It was a beautiful service for an extraordinary woman. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Heather and Jane Cook - October 22, 2023 at 04:29 PM

AN

“ I hadn't seen Sam in a while and I was lucky enough to see her a few weeks ago. I had been struggling with my physical and mental health and was doing my best to be present, but felt like I wasn't doing enough. When she saw me she had the biggest smile and gave me a tight hug. I wasn't sure she'd remember who I was, but she immediately did. We didn't talk for long or about anything too serious, but I left our conversation feeling understood, loved, and with a sense of hope I didn't even know I was missing. I hope to take her example and share that love and hope she gave to me with all in my life, every day. Thank you Sam.

Angelina - October 22, 2023 at 04:26 PM

AA

“ Our condolences to the Woll family and friends of Samantha. May her interfaith journey for love and peace live on in all of us.

Ann Marie Adkins-Jackson and Jay Aubrey Jackson.

Ann Marie Adkins-Jackson - October 22, 2023 at 04:22 PM

DK

“ I did not know Samantha Woll, but I used to live in Lafayette Park and, like Samantha, loved Detroit and its people. Her terrible, tragic loss has shocked and saddened me deeply. I grieve with you for the loss of this beautiful person. She truly walked in beauty. My condolences to her family and many friends. May her memory be for a blessing.

Dolly Katz

Dolly Katz - October 22, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Woll family. I knew Sam briefly when I was a Board member of JCRC. She absolutely dazzled me with her demeanor and her smile and her commitment to justice. I felt comforted that Sam and her generation would carry on the activism of my youth. May Samantha's memory forever be a blessing. Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet.

Ellen Yashinsky Chute

Ellen Chute - October 22, 2023 at 04:02 PM

LL

“ I am so very sorry for your loss and my deepest condolences. I got to know Sam when she started attending Kehillat Israel here in Lansing. She was always so positive that she was a joy to be around. She truly personified the requirement to heal the world. May her memory be as a blessing to all that knew her.

Linda Losik - October 22, 2023 at 03:39 PM

TR

I did not know Samantha but I'm heartbroken for her family. RIP YOU BEAUTIFUL SOUL!!

teresa A russo - October 22, 2023 at 06:39 PM

DM

I am so sad to hear about Sam! I know her from hello she was always such a kind, sweet girl!! I want to offer. My deepest condolences to Sam's family!! May her memory always be a blessing!

Debbie Marcuson - October 22, 2023 at 09:33 PM

DC

“ I met Sam when she was doing GOTV work to ensure that the previously voiceless would have a voice in MI's democratic process. She made an immediate impression on me, radiating with enthusiasm, a genuine and deep social justice conviction, and smiling kindness. She later went on to help some amazing leaders get elected and bridge divides between the many wonderful communities in Detroit. May her life be remembered for generations as a blessing for all of us.

Don C - October 22, 2023 at 03:37 PM

MJ

“ Sam was a wonderful person and a committed activist. She cared about making her community and our region, a better place. It's shocking to think I will no longer see her at Democratic party meetings or events. She was always willing to lend a hand, to do the work, and to fight to make our world better.

~Michael V Radtke Jr

Michael V. Radtke Jr. - October 22, 2023 at 03:22 PM

SS

“ I will always recall the smiling face of my 8th grade student, Samantha. She was always a wonderful giving person as a child and I watched from afar as she grew into a force for creating good things in Detroit and the world. May her memory be a blessing.
With love, Sharon Schwartz

Sharon Schwartz - October 22, 2023 at 03:22 PM

SM

“ Sam was so quick to smile and so very kind and patient. She will be horribly missed. My deepest condolences to all who love her--there are so many.

Rep Sharon MacDonell

Sharon M MacDonell - October 22, 2023 at 03:11 PM

ME

“ Sam welcomed me over ten years ago to Isaac Agree. I remember thinking, looking at these wonderful young men and women, we are so fortunate for this generation. And in deed and thought, Sam made us fortunate. My condolences to her family and to ours, may she be remembered among the mourners of the world she worked to create. BDE.

Marcy Epstein - October 22, 2023 at 03:08 PM

RA

“ Sam always had a sweet smile to offer and the warmest eyes to greet you. She was part of our Detroit organizing community and we adored her. She could easily bring folks together under the shared goal of seeing our similarities and embracing our differences. We have lost an angel.

Rashida - October 22, 2023 at 03:07 PM

AK

“ Sending condolences to the Woll family, loved ones and friends. I will always remember her vibrant spirit from the days at UM Hillel in Ann Arbor. May her memory be a blessing.

Aaron Kaczander - October 22, 2023 at 03:00 PM

RM

Praying for family without ceasing in this horrible loss! This world, whose god is Satan (Adversary), is suffering from the global warming of sin! There is only One answer to violence (hamas) and evil in this world: the Lord of spirits, God of Israel Creator of this world revealed in Genesis, the Torah, Law and Prophets, Immanuel (Yahweh with us), Yeshua Messiah of Nazareth (His only begotten), our Triune Living God who has taken upon Himself the sin of this world! I have repented and called upon JESUS Whom has covered my sins (evil) Jesus will cover your sins, if you ask, with His precious atoning shed blood on a tree! I AM A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST JESUS, who is the first of the resurrection. My baptism of His HOLY SPIRIT continues in sanctification through prayerful petition by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit: convincing me of sin, righteousness, and judgment, till the day of redemption. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!!!

Richard Morgan - October 22, 2023 at 08:03 PM

JD

“ I did not know Sam but from what I have heard and read, I wish I did. May all who knew and loved her be comforted by all the good she did in the world and the blessing of the life she lived.

Jan and Gary (Weiss) Dembs - October 22, 2023 at 03:00 PM

CC

“ Sam was such a kind, caring, hardworking young woman. I met her a few years ago at a local Democratic club meeting and again as I ran for office. She was so sweet and encouraging. Recently I'd seen her again at a fundraiser. I can't believe she's been taken from us and will miss her spirit. --Carole Chi

Carole J Chi - October 22, 2023 at 02:56 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of extreme sorrow. Sam was the best - what a loss for us, for our community, for the world. Eva & Ray

e - October 22, 2023 at 02:55 PM

TW

“ Sharing a March of the Living mission and JHSM Mt. Clemens tour recently were 2 times I was honored to experience Sam's warm smile and enthusiasm for life! She accomplished so much in her brief but exceptional life. May she rest in piece. My sincerest condolences to her beautiful family. Trudy Weiss

Trudy Weiss - October 22, 2023 at 02:54 PM

TK

“ Sam is the first person that I met when I moved to Detroit. She was one of the kindest and most thoughtful person I know. Her work in the community was impactful and she will be missed. My love and prayers go to her family.

Toria Boldware King - October 22, 2023 at 02:51 PM

ES

“ I knew Sam in middle school and high school. She was always a kind, energetic, friendly and smart woman. She has accomplished a lot in her short life. She will be greatly missed. Condolences to her family.

Erica Friedman Smit - October 22, 2023 at 02:50 PM

BA

“ Even though I did not know Samantha, I am saddened by her tragic and untimely death. She gave to the world and I am sure her memory will live on in the hearts of those she touched. Condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.
Brenda Goss Andrews, Detroit resident

Brenda Andrews - October 22, 2023 at 02:49 PM

PS

“ Our deepest condolences to the Woll Family on the loss of your beautiful daughter. May your memories bring you comfort.

Patricia A Stone - October 22, 2023 at 02:49 PM

TL

“ My deepest condolences to Sam’s family. I was privileged to volunteer on a local campaign that Sam managed a few years ago. She always made you feel welcome, included, and heard. She was extremely bright and brought energy to a room. She will be fiercely missed by the many communities she supported.

Tara L. - October 22, 2023 at 02:10 PM



I did not know Sam personally, though I feel like I did reading about her. She embraced so many values of social justice and connections with sooo many. During Covid the JCRC- AJC called for volunteers to help give out food to those in need in Detroit. I went and remember Sam being there. I remember overhearing a conversation she was having with someone. She had passion in her voice and many ideas they were sharing. May her memory be a blessing. Let’s continue to speak and act for all that is right and just in her memory. Debbie L.

Debra Levin - October 22, 2023 at 08:39 PM

RR

“ Goodbye, friend.
(in the Times of Israel today)

Sam Woll had purple eyes and wild black curls. She was very beautiful.

She was the very definition of life. If you met her once, you remember.

Her laugh was a bit too loud always, and she wore her heart on her sleeve. It was a huge heart. Room enough in it for all the friends she collected in her travels, for all the injustices to be righted in the world.

Sam brought a powerful energy, an electricity, vitality to any space. She argued with everyone; she hugged everyone. She held her opinions strongly, articulated them, stood by them. She was an outspoken advocate for the Jewish people and their right to live in their indigenous homeland, while soliciting, deeply listening, and validating the experiences of others. She knew clearly who she was, and wanted to know who others were. It was a talent she had.

She wore brightly colored tie-dye t-shirts with the many causes she supported bannered across the front: flowers for battered women's shelters, PRIDE shirts, friendship circles, danceathons, improving education in urban settings, for Israel, for Muslim-Jewish dialogue, for peace. She was an unwavering ally. She also wore suits at city hall and in her political advocacy. She wore dresses to the weddings of her friends, and to my wedding where we danced together until we glistened.

She composted. Oh that day that the worms escaped into her apartment and we hunted for them behind her rainbow 'PACE,' peace flag.

She prayed. Loudly and great fervently, over the Torah which she

loved, or over interfaith gatherings, or sometimes when it was needed, privately with a friend, or alone in her own space.

She struggled. Like we all do. She was not fearless, but she seemed that way because she knew fear and acknowledged it and moved past it. She was courageous.

She connected. With her authenticity, her compassion, her vibrancy, and enthusiasm for life. Travelling across the world with a backpack, meeting people across continents and languages. Standing tall in her community welcoming all to engage, to come as they are, to work for a better tomorrow. She spoke the universal language of love. Love of life and of each other.

Maybe you have someone in your life who you haven't spoken to for while, but know deep down that you could call any time of day for anything, and they would show up for you? She was that person. For many of us. Those people are unique; if you have one, treasure them.

Sam was the brightest star.

There are no lessons to be drawn from grief. Losing her drives home the sense for Jews everywhere that it does not matter how ardently you fight for social justice, for peace, that we are not safe: as I assume the message was intended.

But she would not approve of us accepting that. No, she would argue loudly that this was not the message she was to bring, not her legacy.

So I want to write to her and promise her: we will not drown in the seemingly impossible task of righting the many wrongs of this world. We will each take a little spark from your flame which burned so brightly and carry it in our breast, call on it anytime day or night when we feel it is all too overwhelming. We will speak our truths, fearlessly, as you did. We will advocate fiercely for our people, our

countries, our friends, but we will never let that obscure our humanity or concern for others. That is what you would say.

We miss you already but will carry on with us your strong voice and passion for making this world better.

Rachel Roth - October 22, 2023 at 02:06 PM

SG

“ *Many years have passed since Samantha and her sister were in my classes at Hillel. Both were kind, positive thinkers and enthusiastic learners.*

Over the years I have read about Samantha's contributions towards making this world a better place for all of us. We have lost a youthful leader who has built bridges within the communities and opened the minds and hearts to acceptance of others. She will be missed by all.
Shelley Goldberg

shelley k goldberg - October 22, 2023 at 02:01 PM

BH

“ *We cannot believe this unnecessary tragedy. We send love and our tears to Margo Doug and Monica and family*

barbara haber - October 22, 2023 at 01:52 PM

SP

“*Namaste. On behalf of the Hindu Community Relations Council, I want offer our condolences. Sam was incredible person, who for a long time, has been attending Hindu events here. She was our sister perhaps even before she was known for political work. Her smile, her energy, her compassion, and inspirational way in which she carried herself, has left a mark on so many people, especially our younger community members who look up to here. One could never say enough about this beautiful soul. Our heartfelt condolences. Om Shanti.*

Suril Patel - October 22, 2023 at 01:45 PM

MS

“*My deepest condolences and sorrow to Sam's parents, sister, brother-in-law, nephews and niece, extended family, and friends. My family was lucky to know Sam from her teenage years since she and my daughter were such close friends. She had many, many friends who loved her so much. She truly cared about people and was such a joyful woman. My heart is breaking for all the lives she touched.*

Mitzi Saul - October 22, 2023 at 12:59 PM

EM

“*I am heartbroken by this shocking loss. Sam was such a wonderful, vibrant, caring, and giving human being. She always was smiling and always pitching in to help wherever and whenever needed. What a terribly sad time for Samantha's family, the Downtown Synagogue, the Jewish community of Southeast Michigan, and Detroit. May her memory be for a blessing.*

Elliot H. Gertel (Ann Arbor IADS member) - October 22, 2023 at 12:54 PM

DE

“ Dear Douglas and Margo,
Sending you our sincere condolences. Your devastating loss is felt
by all.
Debra and Max Ernst

Debra Ernst - October 22, 2023 at 12:48 PM

LS

“ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which
no one will see the Lord. HEBREWS 12:14. I did not know Sam
personally but have heard and learned she was a peace maker.
Prayers for her soul to find paradise and that her loved ones find
healing in their grief journey.

Lori Scanlan-Hanson - October 22, 2023 at 12:48 PM

SG

“ Many years have passed since Samantha and her sister were in my
classes at Hillel. Both were kind, positive thinkers and enthusiastic
learners.
Over the years I have read about Samantha's contributions towards
making this world a better place for all of us. We have lost a youthful
leader who has built bridges within the communities and opened the
minds and hearts to acceptance of others. She will be missed by all.
Shelley Goldberg

shelley k goldberg - October 22, 2023 at 12:38 PM

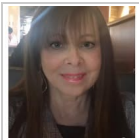
ST

“ I mostly ran into Sam and her beautiful smile on the campaign trail where she was a trusted, effective campaign staffer and I a volunteer for various candidates. But her warmth and enthusiasm and charm were infectious and memorable. And she was a treasured campaign staffer.

Thankfully I had more opportunities and social events to run into her. She was that kind and personable that she made that impression.

Our hearts are broken from this tragedy. All we have is each other. And Sam would want us to embrace and seek joy, humor and love in each other. And that includes all people regardless of race, religion or creed. I intend to do my best to honor her memory and follow the lessons she taught me over those many interactions.

Steve Tobocman - October 22, 2023 at 12:03 PM



“ Our hearts ache for your loss and our lasting impression was that Samantha was a force to be admired, respected and loved. Stan and Barbara Bershad and family.

Barbara Bershad - October 22, 2023 at 11:58 AM

RD

“ Shira Malka HY”D will be missed terribly. The colored contacts she used to wear personified her spirit— she was going to see the world through a brightly lit prism, no matter what! May Hashem comfort the Woll family among the mourners of Zion and may Sam’s memory be a blessing. -Rick Dorfman

Rick Dorfman - October 22, 2023 at 11:46 AM

CH

“ I was fortunate enough to know Sam through her work with America Votes. I knew her as a dedicated, empathetic leader who made sure that every voice was heard and every person felt their impact. Her memory will forever be a blessing.

Chashah - October 22, 2023 at 11:18 AM

CM

“ The last time I saw Sam was a couple months ago at a fundraiser. My daughter had been dragged along to the event (as she usually is when I can't find childcare), and Sam spent hours learning to play a game that my daughter had invented to pass the time. My daughter was completely charmed with the sincere attention and interest of grownup diligently learning to play a game by HER rules. That's who Sam was. Sam was so kind and generous with everything, but what stands out about her is the generosity of her respect. It speaks volumes that she took the time and effort to make sure that kids in the room felt like their rules, their game, their world is just as important as the adult world. I am so heartbroken by this. Much love to Sam's family, and to everyone that knew her as a close friend. We were so lucky to have her for the time that we did. - Much love.
Christy McGillivray

Christy McGillivray - October 22, 2023 at 10:03 AM

RE

“ I want to let you, dear family and friends know of the tremendous sorrow that is felt all over our community and our world at the terrible death of dear Sam. Many people have sent me as their conduit to you expressions of sympathy and grief, including Imam Steve Elturk of IONA and Imam Arif Huskic of CWA and MASCH. I worked with Samantha on interfaith relations, especially bringing Muslims and Jews together, and knew her from when I was at the Downtown Synagogue some 13 years ago. She was a social justice activist before the term was even created! She loved to bring people of all backgrounds together and really did what she could to bring justice into our world for so many. Her name WILL always be a blessing!! - Rabbi Dorit Edut, Detroit Interfaith Outreach Network

Rabbi Dorit Edut - October 22, 2023 at 10:01 AM

JM

“ I met Sam when she came on behalf of the Synagogue to shiva for my foster mother Maxine Gutfreund. She was very caring and easy to talk to. I was impressed and grateful to the Synagogue for supporting us and helping us. I then sat and spoke to her for a short time at the potluck after attending services a few months later. I didn't even know she was the President, or that she was an important member of our political community just that I remembered her from shiva and felt that she was so kind and easy to talk to. I know our community has lost a treasure but I also am sad we will never get to chat again.

Jeffrey Magid - October 22, 2023 at 09:57 AM

JP

“ Sam was such a kind soul. She spread light and love everywhere she went. She will be terribly missed. We pray her for family and all those you were lucky enough to know her.

Jessica Pappas - October 22, 2023 at 09:55 AM

KH

“ I am heartbroken over this killing of sam. She was a sweet, progressive, unassuming, accomplished, dear soul. I got to know her somewhat through her work for slotkin, she being the representative for slotkin in our area. She came to ki for services occasionally, which felt like a positive affirmation. I can't think of anyone less deserving of being a victim of violence. Those of us who knew her will carry her smiling face in our memories.
Ken harrow

ken harrow - October 22, 2023 at 09:50 AM

DB

I grew up with Doug on Lauder in Detroit. I am horrified that this has happened to you. I am so sorry for your loss, dear childhood friend.

Debbie Bockoff - October 22, 2023 at 04:13 PM

PH

“ This is a sad day that such a young bright light has been taken from us. REST IN PEACE, Samantha.
I pray God's peace and comforting presence on Woll family in their time of mourning.

Ponsella Hardaway - October 22, 2023 at 09:10 AM

DS

“ I cry for Sam's life to have been taken away from her because she loved life & her work & all people & had so much more great work to do & love to share on this earth. I am sorry for all the pain that her family & friends must endure & yet, know, there is no making sense of a precious life taken away by violence : (

deb sumner - October 22, 2023 at 08:47 AM

SS

“ The staff of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, a racial and social justice organization, formed in 1941 as the Greater Detroit Interfaith Roundtable of the National Conference for Christians and Jews (NCCJ) are deeply devastated by the brutal murder of our colleague Samantha “Sam” Woll. This past Friday evening Roundtable staff, alumni and friends celebrated the wedding of our former youth intern and staff member, which Sam also attended. While they celebrated the love of Miriam and Jake, they were united in their passion to “repair the world,” a command emanating from the long history of Jewish teaching and echoed by the broad range of religious and philosophical traditions making our Detroit area a sacred place spawning a myriad of social justice activity. Sam’s life of advocacy and organizing across political and religious differences will remain a blessing and bright light as we move from shock and existential pain to action for social justice. Our condolences to Sam’s family and all who knew and loved her...

Steve Spreitzer - October 22, 2023 at 08:43 AM

HS

“ Sam was a beautiful young woman, and even more importantly, she had a beautiful soul. She was one of the "36 just people" in Jewish and world history that keep our world going. Somewhere in the world another child has been born to keep our world going in her honor and memory, although Sam cannot be replaced to those who knew her, loved her, respected her in our neighborhood, our community and our world. I shall always remember her as I "see her" in the trees and plants around our Park where we often walked and talked, and as I look at the windows of the Downtown Synagogue where she helped expand and support the congregation and helped create the newly renovated building which serves our community. We are all devastated by her loss. Harriet Saperstein

Harriet Saperstein - October 22, 2023 at 08:42 AM

DR

“ There are no words to describe this tragedy. Sam was a very special person who cared about everyone. I had the pleasure of working with her at the UAW Retiree Benefits Trust many years back. She was dedicated and conscientious. She was devoted to Detroit and truly believed in helping to revitalize it. May you find comfort in all the kind things she did for so many.

Devorah Rich

Devorah E Rich - October 22, 2023 at 04:46 AM

LF

“ Our entire community is deeply saddened by this horrific loss. We pray for the family and send our sincere condolences.

Linda Finkelberg - October 22, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ Sam was my friend. I love you and miss you, dear Sam.

Malkah Sarah - October 21, 2023 at 11:45 PM

AM

“ *Baruch Dayan Emet*
Rest in peace beautiful Samantha
One of the beautiful souls in my life 💔
She was a Jew I am Muslim just humans believing in the beauty of diversity.



Abdelilah Belbikkey a friend Morocco - October 21, 2023 at 11:10 PM



*I would see Samantha walking around Lafayette Park. We talked about politics at times or just said "Hello" in passing. She was so humble and sweet, I will think of her fondly and miss seeing her on my walks around the park.
My condolences.*

Wendy Ford - October 22, 2023 at 01:50 PM



*Dear Doug and Margo,
I am heartbroken by this sudden and tragic loss of your beautiful daughter. I only met Sam once but I remember her sweetness and her smile. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, and may her memory always be a blessing.*

Mary Martin

Mary Martin - October 22, 2023 at 05:07 PM



Sending love from Madison to the Woll family. May Sam's memory be a blessing.

James Stein - October 22, 2023 at 05:23 PM



I did not know Samantha, Z"L. That is surely my great loss. My sincere condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. Her memory will always be for a blessing.

Joanne Yaffe - October 22, 2023 at 05:35 PM



Her light burned so bright and we all recognized that. She was the smartest, the coolest, the kind of person you wished you could be and just loved being around and having a conversation or a healthy argument with. I was friends with Sam in college and though we didn't keep in touch that much since, I still heard about her through all the other lives she touched. She will be missed by all who knew her. May her memory be a blessing. Sending love and condolences.

Todd Weiser - October 22, 2023 at 08:54 PM

SI

*For all in mourning=nichum aveilim=
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
"May God comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."
We are so sorry! This really shocks our family. Zekher tzadik
livrakha=May the memory of the righteous be
blessing Tanchumin=condolences. (Ha'makom yenahem etkhem
betokh she'ar avelei Tziyonvi'Yerushalayim)." Our
condolence=Orthodox Shul of Yisrael Sarah and children and family.*

SimchahiyahandSarahfamily - October 22, 2023 at 09:07 PM

JO

Dear Margo, Doug, and Monica. I just saw Margo last week in the market and spoke of our girls going to Hillel together and now here we are. I am almost too angry to write. Samantha was a beautiful, smart and good person. Always with a smile on her face. She has done so many wonderful things for the community and would have continued to improve the lives of people around her. This is is a major tragedy. And we are so very sorry. Please accept our deepest condolences. The Ossipove Family

Judy Ossipove - October 23, 2023 at 01:23 AM

CK

Dear Doug,

I am so sorry to hear of the tragic death of your daughter. Please know my prayers are with you and your family.

*Sincerely,
Cheryl Kasperek (BCN)*

Cheryl Kasperek - October 23, 2023 at 03:14 PM

AB

Dear Doug, my prayers are with you and your family after the terrible loss of your daughter. I was so sorry to hear about this senseless tragedy.

Aaron Berman

aaron berman - October 24, 2023 at 12:33 PM

AK

What a beautiful soul. Sam was emblematic of all that was righteous in, particularly Detroit, community organizing. I was always awed by her presence and poise. Rest in power.

Austin Kronig - October 24, 2023 at 12:54 PM

BK

My heart aches for the tragic death of your beautiful daughter who lived a selfless and giving life. She was amazing. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Barbara Kopasz

Barbara Kopasz - October 25, 2023 at 09:07 AM