



## Sara Beth Leffelman

January 20, 1977 - January 21, 2026

Sara Beth Leffelman, 49, of Long Beach, California, passed away at home on January 21, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sara was born on January 20, 1977, in Seoul, South Korea, and was adopted at five months old by Eugene and Wanda Sue Leffelman of Sublette, Illinois, a moment of great joy for those who knew and loved them. She was welcomed home by her three siblings, Shawn, Scott, and Stacey.

Sara was a true free spirit who lived life on her own terms, deeply artistic and endlessly creative, expressing herself in ways that were uniquely her own. In California, she was loved by many friends who knew her lovingly as Mia. She especially enjoyed crafting projects, pouring her imagination and care into every creation.

Sara is survived by her daughter, Abby O'Malley of Chicago; her siblings, Shawn Leffelman (Nancy Heller) of Sublette and Scott Leffelman (Jamie Rodriguez) of Amboy; her niece, Whitney (Brandon) Miller of Sublette; her nephews, Tyler (Morgan) Leffelman of Albany, Wisconsin, Ryan (Sydnie Garriott) Leffelman of Sublette, and Max and Andy Wertz of LaSalle; and her great-nieces and great-nephew, Eme and Sloan Miller, and Porter Leffelman. She was preceded in death by her long-time partner, Tim Bjornlie; her parents, Eugene and Wanda Sue Leffelman; her stepmother, Faye Leffelman; her sister and brother-in-law, Stacey and Rich Wertz; her paternal grandparents, Charles and Mildred Leffelman; and her maternal grandparents, Melvin and Marie Fischer.

Sara's warmth, creativity, and free-spirited nature touched the lives of everyone who knew her. Now, at last, she is home, at peace. Though she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on in the memories she created, the love she shared, and the joy she brought to all who knew her. Sara will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

"In keeping with Sara's wishes, a private family service will be held February 28th at 11:00 am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette."

# Cemetery Details

## **St Mary Cemetery**

Sublette, IL 61367

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bestie, I miss you so much!! 💔 I wasn't ready for you to leave me yet! There was so much more that I wanted to know about your life that I missed out on and tell you about me and my life that you missed out on! Even after 20 years, it was just like no time had passed. Thank you for being my “ride or die”, my “tell each other the funniest, stupidest, craziest, or most serious thing and the other would be like, Same!” person! You always knew the right thing to say to make me feel better! I love you so much and I am grateful for the time we had to reconnect! ❤️ I know you wish a lot of things in your life had turned out differently and you had a lot of shame and regrets but I am SO proud of you for the things that you DID get right. I always hoped that you were somewhere, safe and happy, and had found someone that loved you the way you deserve to be loved. And you did! 😊 Now you and Tim can be together again... no more pain or tears, no shame or regrets. Give my dad a hug for me, ok? I'll see you later. 🥹*

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**Joanie Dinges** - February 23 at 09:09 PM

MS

“ *My sincere condolences to Sara's family. She was a good friend to many people.*

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**Matt Shaw** - February 23 at 11:17 AM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Joanie Dinges** - February 23 at 10:16 AM

LS

“ So sorry to hear the passing of Sara. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this sad and difficult time.



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**Lanieta Stiles** - February 07 at 10:48 AM