



Tara Renee Sanders

November 19, 1973 - February 15, 2023

We are deeply saddened to announce that Tara Renee Sanders passed away on February 15, 2023 at the age of 49. She is preceded in death by her cherished father Ray Sanders, her beloved grandfather Jim Cruz, and her dear grandmother Zelma Potenski.

Tara is survived by her husband Justin Sanders, her two gorgeous children Gavin and Maeve, her mother Marla Sanders, brother Ryan Sanders and partner Lara Colton, grandmother Colleen Cruz, stepmother Becky Sanders, in-laws Jeanne and Jim Sanders, sister-in law Julie Gagner and husband Darin, her nephews AJ and Dennis Gagner, and additional cherished family including Elaine Kinney, dozens of aunts and uncles and cousins, and so very many dear friends who have been a beacon of comfort for the family during these difficult days.

Tara Renee Sanders was born in Eureka, California on November 19, 1973 to her beloved parents Marla Sanders (Cruz) and the late Ray Sanders.

After graduating from Rogers High School in Puyallup, Washington in 1992, she went on to study at South Seattle's Culinary Arts program, where she graduated in 1996. Tara later received her undergraduate degree in Food Science and Nutrition from Central Washington University and completed her dietetic training through the University of Northern Colorado.

At culinary school Tara met the love of her life Justin Sanders. The two were wed in 1998, and ultimately created a home for themselves in Corvallis, Oregon, with their two beautiful children Gavin (17) and Maeve (15).

Tara was an incredibly powerful woman and an inspiring leader. Throughout her long and successful career, she worked both in the public and private industries as a chef, community nutrition director and clinical dietitian. Tara focused on using her culinary talent and knowledge of nutrition to provide healthy nourishment for people in the community. She worked with seniors as the Director of the Humboldt Senior Resource Center before moving to Corvallis and taking a position at Oregon State University where she worked for 14 years, serving as an Assistant Director for OSU Housing and Dining Services. In 2022, she left OSU to focus on serving younger students as the Nutrition Director for the Corvallis School District.

Among the many lives that Tara touched, are the dozens of students that she trained as a dietetic preceptor. She was an inspiring mentor and took great joy in celebrating their accomplishments and watching them grow and develop as leaders in nutrition and dietetics.

A memorial Mass for Tara will be held at St. Mary's Church, 501 NW 25th Street, Corvallis on Wednesday, March 1st at 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to the Linn-Benton Food Share or Jackson Street Youth Service.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at: www.mchenryfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th St.
Corvallis, OR

Here's the link for Tara Sanders <https://youtube.com/live/HuFssKvbFys?feature=share>

Tribute Wall

JA

“ I’m still missing you and can’t sleep. I think about how much you taught me about life and love. This Grief is my love persevering through your loss and I love you so dearly. I’m excited to take another hike soon. I remember you saying being out in nature is gods most effective church. So go out and take a walk in nature. Tara will be walking and laughing with you. Guiding you with the things that trouble you.



Jarae - July 15, 2023 at 03:19 AM

SG

“ I met Tara and Justin in Ellensburg back when we were 25 year old kids in college. What am amazingly fun couple! I have such fond memories of them both! And no one rocked karaoke to Madonna like Tara! I pray and celebrate Tara's life. And I send thoughts and prayers to her family and friends. 🙏

Shyla Geck - March 11, 2023 at 03:09 AM



“ *I love this so much. It didn't matter if we hadn't seen each other in a year, when I ran into you - literally - it was always the same - jubilant, contagious smile, effortless reconnect. This was a moment in Eburg - neither of us lived there at this moment but yet we still ran into each other on our runs. So many beautiful memories of you over the years. Sending love to your whole family during this painful time.*



Leslie Webb - March 01, 2023 at 06:56 PM

CA

“ *Dear Ms. Nutra you truly made a difference in my life. The first time I came to your house we shared Christmas dinner. Halloween was fun, as well. Working with you was enlightening, a learning experience; that's how you got your nickname, Ms. Nutra, nutrition was you always striving to cover all people's needs when eating. Peace be with you.*

Carol - March 01, 2023 at 11:20 AM

Mary Moore

“ *Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of Tara Sanders*



Mary Moore - March 01, 2023 at 10:32 AM

Mary Moore

“ *Sending love, prayers and hugs today and always. Praying for comfort and peace for each of you as only God can give. I love you all.* 🤍🙏🌿

Mary Moore - March 01, 2023 at 10:32 AM

JO

“ *Jana O'Brien lit a candle in memory of Tara Sanders*



Jana O'Brien - February 28, 2023 at 04:40 PM

AM

“ *Thank you Tara, for taking the time to meet in Lisbon. You shared special memories of grandma Mary and we had a wonderful dinner with lots of laughs. An amazing moment to connect with family. I could see your big heart so filled with love and life. And meeting your beautiful, sweet family. My deepest condolences to all of the family and friends during this most painful time.*

*Love,
Alison (O'Brien) Molina*



Alison Molina - February 28, 2023 at 04:36 PM

TA

“ *Tracie Anderson lit a candle in memory of Tara Sanders*



Tracie Anderson - February 28, 2023 at 11:15 AM

SP

“ *Although I only had the pleasure of knowing Tara a short while, what I learned very quickly was that she was one of the kindest most compassionate people I've ever had the pleasure to work with. I will miss her dearly...*

My thoughts and prayers go to her family.

Sally Pellett

Philomath High School Kitchen Manager

sally pellett - February 27, 2023 at 07:42 PM

EK

“ *Words cannot describe how much I loved Tara and I still do even though I will not see her radiant face. She was such a good daughter to her Mom. I will miss her deeply. The ONLY consolation is she won't be suffering the pain that I saw in her face the last few months. It took away her radiant smile. I only wish that we could have helped her through it but God had another plan for her. She is probably shaping up the kitchen in heaven. Rest in peace our Tara. You will be missed by all who knew you.*

EK - February 27, 2023 at 06:28 PM

EK

“ EK lit a candle in memory of Tara Sanders



EK - February 27, 2023 at 06:28 PM

EH

“ Tara was a special individual with a servant’s heart. She positively impacted so many staff and students during her time at OSU and she will be missed. Tara time with us was way too short, but left the world a better place than she found it through her dedication, care, and talent. Her impact on all of us who had the good fortune to know her will be a lasting legacy. Our hearts and prayers go out to her family and friends.



Eric Hansen - February 25, 2023 at 02:33 PM

KP

“ Kimberly Patten lit a candle in memory of Tara Sanders



Kimberly Patten - February 25, 2023 at 11:22 AM

SJ

“ Tara was an inspirational leader and friend. She was a positive force to all who knew and worked with her.
Susan Jackson
Corvallis School District Lunch Lady

Susan T Jackson - February 25, 2023 at 11:20 AM