



James Samuel "Sam" Kellogg

December 16, 1960 - October 6, 2025

J. Samuel Kellogg, Interior Designer, Beloved Brother and Devoted Friend,
Dies at 64

James Samuel "Sam" Kellogg, a gifted interior designer whose impeccable taste and radiant personality left a mark from Chicago to Naples, Florida, died unexpectedly on Monday, October 6, 2025, in Chicago, Illinois.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Michigan, Sam spent most of his adult life in Chicago, where his creativity and spirit made him a cherished member of the city's design and social circles. His career spanned decades and regions, from elegant homes in Chicago's northern suburbs to sun-washed retreats on Florida's Gulf Coast. In every space he touched, he brought a discerning eye and a sense of possibility. He had a vision that could transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Sam was a fashion plate in every sense, favoring fine fabrics, tailored cuts and the subtle details that spoke to his innate sophistication. Whether designing a room or choosing an outfit or putting together a memorable dinner party, he had an intuitive grasp of harmony, balance and grace.

Beyond his style and talent, what defined Sam was his spirit. He was a friend of exceptional quality: loyal, generous and good-humored. His teasing was affectionate and his sense of fun delightfully boyish. He approached the world

with curiosity and joy, and his ability to find connection in nearly every situation and with every person made him beloved by all who knew him.

Sam had a gift for creating family wherever he went. To his chosen nieces and nephews, he was the favorite uncle: generous, engaged and always ready with a joke or a surprise. To his friends and clients, he was both confidante and cheerleader, a source of encouragement and light. He had an uncanny ability to make people feel seen, appreciated and loved.

Though life was not without struggle for Sam, he faced hardship with resilience and an amused grace. In recent years, he searched for peace and fulfillment. He will be profoundly missed, as will his affinity for silly nicknames, deadpan critiques, skin care regimens, expensive shoes, finely tuned candor and forgiveness.

Sam is survived by his sister Sarah Kellogg (Washington, D.C.), his stepsister Brittany Nay (Portland, Oregon), his stepfather Roger Nelson (Grand Ledge, Michigan), his aunt Ruth Makin (Anaconda, Montana), and his cousin Jesse Makin (Lewistown, Montana). He is also survived by his chosen family that includes many great friends who shepherded him through the tough times and celebrated his joys, as well as their children who thought of him as "Uncle Sam." He was preceded in death by his mother Jane Nelson, father James Kellogg and stepmother Sharon Kellogg.

Donations in memory of Sam may be made to two organizations that support youth overcoming challenges in our society. Contributions can be directed to GLSEN at <https://www.glsen.org>, which works to ensure safe and inclusive schools for LGBTQ+ youth, or to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago at <https://bgcc.org>, supporting programs that help young people reach their full potential.

The loss of Sam comes as a deep shock to those who knew and loved him. His laughter, his impeccable taste and his generous heart leave a void that will

not be filled. Details about a celebration of Sam's life will be shared at a later date.

Tribute Wall

RP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall

producer of many holiday shows! I will miss you forever on this earth!



Robin Porter - October 31, 2025 at 03:17 PM

JB

“ Back in 2012 someone suggested I grab a bite with Sam, since he was someone willing to help and I was broke and trying to get it together. Sam and I became friends, and he later ended up recommending me for a construction job and even helping me at one desperate point with rent. When I refused the check he literally pushed the check into my chest and said “I’m betting on you. You can get back on track”. Couple of years after that I paid him back without trouble as I was working 2 jobs. He got to hear how I was doing in a Masters program. Then in 2023 he stopped by my home and got to play with my one year old son. Sam is one person I knew who helped me build all the love and support I have today. I will miss him dearly.

John Borthwick - October 28, 2025 at 01:58 PM

CM

“ To Brittany and Sarah—So sorry for the loss of your brother. Seems not so long ago that Jim and Sharon—and the 3 of you, brought the Kellogg magic to downtown Lansing of all places.

Colleen McNamara - October 19, 2025 at 07:43 AM

LB

“ Sarah,
We are so sorry. We will miss him.
Dan and Lisa Bippen



Lisa Bippen - October 16, 2025 at 08:56 PM

JM

“ What a beautiful remembrance! As a friend of Sarah's, I got to know Sam over many years through short visits. Always enjoyed his perspective and humor. His presence will be missed. May he rest in peace.



John Miller - October 16, 2025 at 06:09 PM

JS

“ Sarah, So very sorry for the loss of your brother.

Jeff Smith - October 15, 2025 at 03:44 PM

RP

“ May the memories of Sam's radiant personality and impeccable taste bring comfort. He was my BFF as a child. I remember many fun times - from hanging out at the lake to singing on the stairs for our parents on New Year's to playing dress up and hide and seek in their huge house in Charlotte. Sam, I love you forever and Sarah, my thoughts are with you. The remembrance you wrote was spot on! He had a great sense of humor and saw the world in a unique way. You captured the essence of Sam beautifully! Love you! Robin

Robin Porter - October 15, 2025 at 10:24 AM