



## Alex Ethan Graze

September 29, 1982 - March 15, 2022

Alex Ethan Graze died in the early morning hours of March 15, 2022 at his home in Buda, TX. He was 39. His death was sudden and unexpected. His partner, Kate Hoffman, was with him when he died.

Alex had health issues for several years. These issues took a serious toll on his body and quality of life. Nevertheless, he continued to work full time until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

Alex grew up in Dallas, TX. After receiving his high school diploma from Fairhill School in Dallas, he subsequently enrolled at the Texas Culinary Academy in Austin. There he earned a certificate in Le Cordon Bleu Patisserie and Baking and went on to work full-time in the commercial culinary field for more than 15 years.

In addition to honing his skills at local institution Texas French Bread Company, he became especially skilled at preparing high-quality, high-volume meals and desserts --- first, for banquets and events at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin, and more recently for the hundreds of employees at Intel Corporation's Austin office facility.

Cooking was a favorite pastime for him outside of work, as well. He loved to brighten the days of his many friends and of family members by frequently sharing photos of his daily culinary creations.

Alex, like many other folks, struggled through the pandemic, but he remained close with his family. Although he had no children, he doted on everyone else's. He especially loved being with his two nephews and niece and watching them grow. He spoke proudly of them to all who would listen and took his role as the "fun uncle" very seriously.

In mid-2021, he reconnected via social media with Kate Hoffman, a high school classmate and friend. Soon after, Kate relocated to the Austin area to be with Alex, and they became inseparable. It was a remarkable development, and everyone around Alex noticed the new

joy and happiness he felt with Kate. Although their time together was cut short, it clearly was some of the best of his life.

Alex, was, above all else, a good soul. He was kind, generous, and empathetic with a big heart. His sense of fun and his mischievous smile always drew people to him. He was a people person and made new friends wherever he lived and worked. Alex will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him as a friend or family member.

In addition to his partner, Kate, Alex is survived by his parents, Sue Graze, of Austin, and Gregory Graze, of Dallas. He also is survived by his sister, Johanna Graze Levi and her husband, Sharon Levi, also of Buda. Alex also will be missed very much by his nephews Eli Levi, and Michael Levi, and niece Eileen Levi, as well as his extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

In accordance with Jewish tradition, in approximately 30 days a memorial service/celebration will be held for Alex in Austin. Details will be shared once plans are finalized.

Friends and family who wish to honor Alex's memory are encouraged to donate to Austin Pets Alive!, or to the charity of their choice.

We invite friends and family from near and far to join us in person to remember and celebrate the loving spirit of Alex Graze. Please RSVP using this link: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/alexgraze>. Also, we welcome photographs of Alex you might want to share with other friends and family. Please email photos to his sister Johanna Graze Levi at [Tulip19@aol.com](mailto:Tulip19@aol.com).

May the memory of Alex Ethan Graze be a blessing for all who knew and loved him.

# Previous Events

## Memorial and Celebration

APR **24**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Texas Hillel Foundation  
2105 San Antonio St.  
Austin, TX 78705

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ *I miss my love more than words can say.* ”



Kate Hoffman - March 15, 2023 at 04:20 PM

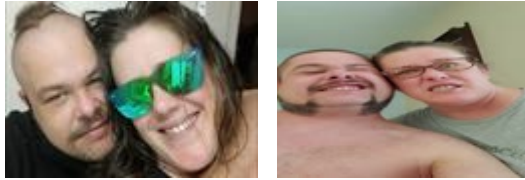


“ *Alex Ethan Graze* ”

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

KA

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Kate - July 03, 2022 at 03:04 PM

EL

“ *Eli Levi lit a candle in memory of Alex Ethan Graze* ”



Eli Levi - April 26, 2022 at 10:35 AM

EL

“ *One of my favorite memories with my uncle was when it was about 1 in the morning and he took me outside to shoot his BB gun and go swimming afterwards and when we were trying to get inside my dad caught us* ”

Eli Levi - April 26, 2022 at 10:35 AM

JD

*Lol, that sounds exactly like him. He cared for you so much. When I first got with him in 2012 he told me the password to his phone was your birthdate and that he'd do anything for you.*

*Not many people are like that. Just keep him inside you as the loving person he was. Remember the good times so his memory can carry on*

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**Jeni Darden** - May 10, 2022 at 12:17 AM

JD

“*Alex was truly a kind person I'm honored to have met. He treated everybody as a friend and had such a spirit that was so endearing, everyone wanted to be his friend too. There was never a dull moment with him because he was so funny all the time. We had many good times together and he always stepped up when needed. When I had knee surgery he scooped my cat's litterbox and was gagging (he didn't care for bodily fluids) and the memory is still hilarious to me to this day.*

*He loved his family very much. His cheerfulness will always live on in my heart as who he truly was. That was him. To Sue, Greg, Johanna, Sharon and Eli, Michael, and Eileen, all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*



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**Jeni Darden** - April 12, 2022 at 07:26 PM

“ For me learning about the loss of Alex is truly an event that hurts my heart. I have known Alex since elementary school through high school and beyond. The memories I have shared with him helped me define the person I am today. I will admit I was always jealous of how he managed to be so much to so many. Even today I cannot come close to the ease with which he could form such strong relationships. Tough but kind. Hold no grudges about the past but always talk about the future. We experienced many things growing up. Some good, some bad. Sorry for the stress we caused you over the years Greg. Thankfully we did most of this before the consequences were permanent.

What no one but Alex knew is that I grew up with a rather volatile home life. He knew what happened when things didn't go well at home for me. I was terrified and had no one. He made it a priority though my father even threatened him at times. It was scary, but he made me a priority. Being welcomed into a new peer group with nothing but his word felt weird. However was such a nice escape from the day to day hell that was my life. I didn't have connections to many of the people in his life. I was or at least I thought I was and would always be an outsider. Oddly enough I never felt that way. Welcomed by many simply based on the word of another is quite a disarming experience. To this day I have yet to see such kindness. Not a day goes by that I am not grateful for his actions.

Greg I'm sorry for the random days you woke up and I was at your house without your knowledge. I know it was awkward but we cooked you a great meal from time to time. Sorry for using so many of your groceries from Central Market. It seems that that sparked a passion for cooking that Alex would follow into a career. To this day I am proud and jealous of him pursuing that path where I did not.

Alex would always find a way when I needed help. Home for me in high school was so volatile and abusive I have tried to forget about it for the last 15 or so years. I can say that Alex saved me from a great deal of horrific things simply based on his actions. I won't forget that, however I am broken at never having told him that it meant so much to me then and years later.

Kindness without expectations in return. With Alex there was no this for that you just do for others as you would yourself. I don't know who instilled such character in your son, but you should be truly proud. I am proud. I am proud to have known him. I am proud to have been the beneficiary of such kindness.

Greg and Alex were present for the hardest day of my life. It had been quite some time since I had seen Alex, but he was the only person that I knew at my brother's funeral. It meant a great deal to me then and still today. I'm not sure I can ever express how much I needed someone at that time no matter how brief the wave or nod was that day. While I have experienced my own share of loss in my life I have no words to understand how your family feels. Just know that I mourn with you and celebrate the times we shared.

*Thank you so much for allowing me to be part of his journey.*

*Joe Wolfe*

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**Joe Wolfe** - March 30, 2022 at 11:21 PM

GG

*Joe, thank you for the beautiful post. It reinforces what I observed about his character and why he was able to make friends so easily. I feel lucky and proud to have been his father.*

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**Greg Graze** - April 01, 2022 at 12:48 AM

MR

*“ We loved to laugh. I remember he loved the movies: the blue collar comedy tour, and original kings of comedy. Both movies are stage performances by famous comedians who put on a 2 hour set together. We must have watched both movies 50 times, and had the whole thing memorized. If you knew those jokes you could quote with him in any social setting and get a laugh. I’ll miss sharing those jokes.*

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**Michael Preston Reeves** - March 30, 2022 at 07:07 PM

HH

*“ I’m a cousin of Neal and Roseann Spevack, on Roseann’s side. Am very, very sorry to hear about this tragedy. May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may Alex’s memory be for a blessing.*

*Howard Hoffman*

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**Howard J. Hoffman** - March 26, 2022 at 01:20 PM

GG

*“ Thank you for all your heart-warming comments. It is a great tribute to the good person Alex was. One thing about Alex that I always marveled at, was that he never held a grudge or carried a chip on his shoulder. If someone at work or elsewhere pushed him, he would push right back without hesitation. And then he’d let it go and not stew about it. Not many people I know can handle life that way.*

*The photo with this obituary shows Alex at Johanna’s house, and they are holding a beautiful, professional-grade birthday cake he made for me. His loss is a void that will never be filled for me and for many of his close friends and family members. His memory will indeed be a blessing for us.*

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**Greg Graze** - March 25, 2022 at 12:41 PM

DG


“ When Alex and the family visited me in Rome (Christmastime ca. 1991), Alex showed an early interest in making sweets. On a trip to Florence, when Johanna went with Greg and Sue to a Caravaggio exhibit, Alex and I went for a hot chocolate. He seemed to enjoy watching the espresso machine and the elaborate gestures of the bar master. Decades later, I asked if he remembered the trip and immediately he said "cioccolato caldo" and smiled at the memory. When we went out to dinner, he headed to the desserts first. This was a trait he shared with his grandmother, Greg's mom. When our mom was 102, Alex and Johanna came to visit and there was so much light and love from Alex. Later when our mom was going into hospice, Alex called out of the blue. Our mom's face lit up with joy at hearing from him, and she enjoyed talking about the lemon cookies Alex had made for her (and then VP Biden) years prior. I saw such love in Alex, toward his sister, his nephews and niece, his family. And when I texted with him on his birthday, I wished him a great day, to which he responded that "Every day with Kate I'm great."

*We will miss him forever*

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**Deborah Graze** - March 24, 2022 at 12:55 PM

KA

“ Tuesday, March 15th 2022  
Our last day together. Productive, positive, full of love and laughter. Perfect. We did laundry, had lunch, talked about what we wanted to make for dinner. Grocery shopping was successful as we found one single bag of Leeloos food. A good find during a covid fueled dog food shortage. After getting home and getting situated we prepped dinner. We made ceveche. Better than Curra's! Beef fajita enchiladas & elote rounded off our meal. Alex made me feel special all day, as he frequently does. Flowers he picked to make me smile. We cuddled & watched movies in bed for a few hours. My perspective on life will be forever changed. Live now. Nobody is promised tomorrow. Together Alex and I were spectacular. I love my Alex. Always have and always will. He made me feel special every day.  


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**Kate** - March 22, 2022 at 03:45 PM

NC

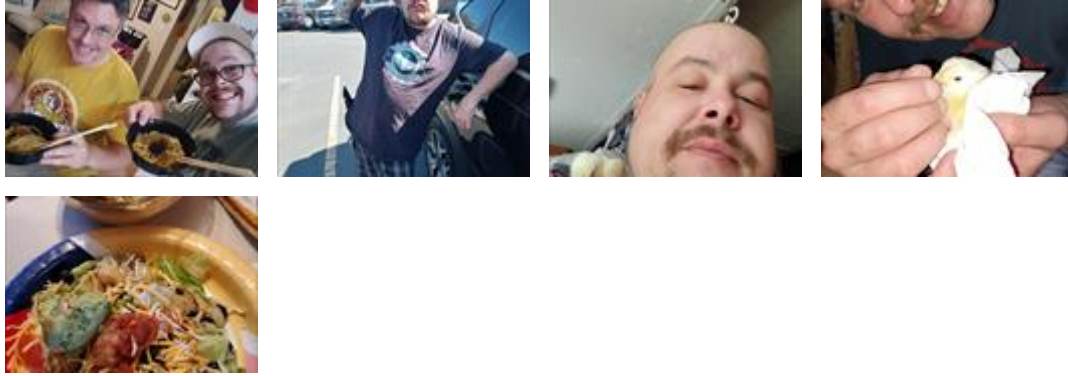
“ Sending love and heartfelt thoughts to Sue, Greg, Johanna, and all members of your family. We remember, lovingly, many wonderful shared times and are deeply saddened by the loss of your beloved son and brother, and a most treasured friend and uncle.

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**Nina Cortell** - March 20, 2022 at 10:39 PM

EF

“ While you may be gone from our sight you will never be gone from our hearts. You are, and will always be, deeply missed.



Efrain - March 20, 2022 at 08:32 PM

PK

“ Sending condolences and sympathy to the Graze and Levi families. Kate, I never met you but I know you were a light in Alex's life.

With love,  
Pam Kramer

Pam Kramer - March 20, 2022 at 05:43 PM

KA

As he was in mine. 🧡

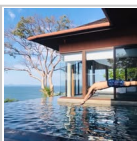
Kate - March 22, 2022 at 03:50 PM

HS

“ I never had the opportunity to meet Alex personally but I have known Kate since 2005. She spoke so compassionately about him and was so happy to be reunited with him. My prayers and condolences to Kate and the family. God's strength and love be with you all as you all celebrate the life and legacy of Alex.



Henry Scott - March 20, 2022 at 09:01 AM



“ Cliff Caruth lit a candle in memory of Alex Ethan Graze



Cliff Caruth - March 20, 2022 at 05:39 AM

DG

“ Alex was a loving soul. I will always miss him.

Deborah Graze - March 19, 2022 at 09:38 PM

AF

“ Alex, I miss you.

:(



Amber Flynn - March 19, 2022 at 07:07 PM

DB

“ Please accept our sympathy for your loss. David and Diana Bilheimer.

David Bilheimer - March 19, 2022 at 03:10 PM

MR

“ We had so much fun and lived life. Alex Graze. He never liked goodbyes anyway. We were brothers, just different mothers. I have over half my lifetime of memory's with you. I know you're making popcorn necklaces with Moses. Love you homie



Michael Preston Reeves - March 18, 2022 at 08:40 PM