



Eli Theodore Stuart

November 18, 2003 - December 5, 2023

Eli Stuart, age 20. Eli, a sophomore at Brandeis University, suddenly and unexpectedly took their life this past Tuesday night.

Eli (they/them pronouns) was an active and cherished member of the Congregation Beth Israel community. They were on the Board of Austin Temple teens, and in that way instrumental in sustaining the high school youth group through the depths of the COVID-19 lockdown. Eli was also active in the 11th and 12 grade Post Confirmation class, and will be forever remembered for playing, with sweetness and good humor, the role of "Haman" in the annual Purim spiel.

Eli was studying Neuroscience at Brandeis University, where they aspired to do research into the neurological connections between physical and emotional pain. Activism was precious to Eli, whether the cause was disability rights or LGBTQ advocacy. They had also found a cherished second home in Hillel at Brandeis.

Eli's funeral will take place Monday morning at 10 AM at the Beth Israel Cemetery, located within Capital Memorial Park in Pflugerville. A live stream of the service will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals>, a few minutes before the service begins. A Facebook account is not required to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select. The service will be recorded and available to watch after the service both on Facebook and here in the media section of Eli's tribute page.

Eli loved colorful clothing and the LGBTQ rainbow symbol was important to them. Therefore, funeral attendees should feel free to wear colorful clothing in Eli's honor.

Those who wish to honor Eli's life and memory through an act of tzedakah might consider making a donation to a charitable organization supporting causes dear to them:

Hillel - <https://give.hillel.org/give/537247/#!/donation/checkout>

The Trevor Project - <https://give.thetrevorproject.org/give/63307/#!/donation/checkout>

Cemetery Details

Capital Parks Cemetery

14501 N Interstate Hwy 35
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Previous Events

Computer Accessible Graveside Service

DEC 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals>

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Tribute Wall

MG

“ Our family has made a donation to the Trevor Project. Our eldest child was a classmate of Eli's at LASA and we are all very saddened by this news. Maya Gamble

Maya Gamble - January 07, 2024 at 10:07 PM

PL

“ I worked closely with Eli during my junior and senior years at LASA on an organization I had started at LASA. Eli was one of the key founders/supporters and someone whom I could rely on for any important project. Working with Eli was an experience I cherish--Eli was always passionate about any tasks they worked on, enthusiastic about any ideas we brainstormed, and genuine in all the times we interacted. I am grateful to have met with Eli, and learned and collaborated with them to bring ideas to life. I'm deeply saddened by the loss and offer all my condolences and help in this tough time.

Pari Latawa - January 05, 2024 at 11:27 PM

LS

“ Words from Linda Stuart, Alice Stuart's Mother and Eli's Grandmother:

"I was present when Elizabeth was born - we called her Elizabeth then. She was a welcome baby and everybody was happy to see her. Bright, beautiful and with a good disposition, she was logical in her thinking and not mean. Whenever we told her, "We don't do that," then she did not do it either...I was pleased to be part of her life in the early years. I made up little games for us to do together that she enjoyed and could be good at. When she was one year old, she enjoyed throwing a ball out of her playpen for me to fetch, which excited the dog and made her laugh. She also enjoyed a game of crawling up a few stairs and tossing a ball down to me, which also made her laugh. She brought so much joy into life! Her laugh was pure delight and like music! Her face was so beautiful that passersby turned to look and smile at her in the grocery store or wherever she went...I got to be there when she went to her Montessori school, got to see her explore all the learning things alongside the other children, her face showing her input of information, and she was maximizing the learning intentions of that school... I took her on little walks, let her climb trees and the climbing structures at parks, and she did everything well and with success...When her other grandmother went to France and brought back a little child's book for her mother to read to her, she input that information so well that she was putting it into sentences calling out, "Mom! Dad! Ecoute!" when she wanted them to come get her up from her crib in the morning. Years later, after I went away and then returned, she climbed a tree in the front yard, calling out to me, "Grandma! Look!" Who knew a little child could remember me letting her climb a tree, years later?... This was Elizabeth. She was beautiful, smart, strong, healthy, capable, and a joy to have around... So much was taken from her, but her struggles were not from anything wrong about her; they were things that were done to her, not things of herself. Our hearts were with her as she was reaching for adult life and freedom. We thought she had achieved that adult future of freedom when she moved to Brandeis University. This young girl who endured and survived deep, serious damage - we wanted the best for her."

Linda Stuart - December 14, 2023 at 01:58 PM

RI

I work at Brandeis and I am so touched by your words, Grandma Stuart. God bless you, and the rest of Eli's family. Such a heartbreaking loss. .

Richard - May 07, 2024 at 10:46 PM

JJ

“ I was lucky enough to know Eli in elementary school. Fast forward many years later, and there they were with Alice at a Shakespeare show I was doing. Little did I know that would foreshadow working with Eli three different times in the Summer Youth Program at The Vortex. In all iterations, Eli was a kind, curious, dedicated, sweet, loving soul. They were so intelligent and empathetic well beyond their years. How lucky I was to have known Eli for the short time they blessed us here. I am holding Alice and the entire family in my broken heart and wish them peace as they navigate this terrible time.

Jennifer Coy Jennings - December 12, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Service Recording



Austin Natural Funerals - December 11, 2023 at 03:41 PM



“ Oh, sweet Eli. I was fortunate to get to be in a play at The Vortex with them, and then got to help direct them in another. The kindest soul, most intelligent, wise, giving person and performer. Eli was a consistent source of support for anyone I saw them interact with. A true one of a kind, with unique style, and more heart than I think one body was capable of holding. My condolences to Eli's family and close friends. Thank you for blessing us with such a beautiful person.

Hayley Armstrong - December 11, 2023 at 03:31 PM

NC

“ In 70 years of living, I have met and come to know many young people. Eli was a brave and brilliant young person whom I am honored to have met and whom I will never forget. I am deeply saddened by your loss; please receive my condolences.

nick carrasco

Nicolas Carrasco - December 11, 2023 at 02:50 PM

“ From Katherine Stuart, Alice Stuart’s sister and Eli’s Aunt:

“I remember fondly about a time when I was fortunate enough to have spent a few wonderful months with Eli and Alice in Texas when Eli was very young, almost 2 years old. Eli was such a beautiful, kind, loving, smart, energetic, adventurous, funny and wonderful person to be around even at such a young age. Eli brightened up every room no matter where we were or who we were around. It was definitely better being in their presence than not. Eli was always thinking and cleverly coming up with solutions to everything they could, even how to skillfully and silently escape their crib. So wonderfully bright in every way.

As Eli got older I was so happy and proud to hear how they carried all those wonderful qualities with them through school and then to college where I was so happy to hear they were thriving. On the deans list, part of many social groups, lots of friends and was so happy to have gotten into the housing they wanted. I was also fortunate to see their housing and campus myself which was so lovely and homey, I knew Eli could be happy there.

Eli was definitely that bright star that couldn’t help but touch the lives of everyone they encountered making those lives they touched much better and brighter just having Eli in their life. I loved Eli very deeply, wish I had more time with Eli and will forever miss that piece of magic Eli brought to all our lives. Eli will forever be missed and not a day will go by that I won’t miss Eli and the piece of my heart that will forever stay with Eli.”

Katherine Stuart - December 11, 2023 at 02:38 PM

MM

“ I first met Eli last spring in a small class called Cultivating Connections. In this class, they introduced me to the saying of tikkun olam. I had never heard that phrase before, coming from a town that was predominately Christian. I remember being taken aback because there was so much meaning in it. Eli explained it represents the idea that the world is broken so we as humans must repair it. This message resonated very deeply with me, and it is something I have thought about a lot and will continue to take with me throughout life.

This semester, I was lucky enough to have the pleasure of sitting next to Eli in a Neuro Psychology course. On the first day of class, I was thrilled to spot someone I knew, and we quickly became close classmates. Throughout the semester, while others including myself zoned out or multitasked on our laptops, Eli remained attentive. One moment that stood out to me was while I was giving a presentation. Amidst a sea of tired college students at a bright and early 8:00 am, Eli was one of the few who showed genuine interest in what I had to say. Their curiosity, compassion, and thoughtfulness made a lasting impression on me and many others within the course.

I was so sad when I heard the news. Some part of me was hoping it was a different Eli far removed from the memories we shared. I can't fathom the weight of this loss for Eli's family. In their memory, I will make sure to keep the idea of tikkun olam close, in hopes of helping others in any way I can. May they rest in peace, and I wish the best for Eli's family and friends.

Mila Manic - December 11, 2023 at 12:40 PM

MA

“ My sister, Judi Chapman, loved Eli so much. I have heard her share so many memories of the two of them through the years. Judi will miss Eli forever but will cherish those memories. Thank you for sharing Eli with her. They had a special bond.

Mitzi Amato - December 11, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ I remember being in theatre class with Eli at LASA the one year I attended, and every time we were able to spend time together, it struck me just how compassionate and welcoming they were to me and anyone else that needed a friend. Even just by saying hello and waving to me, Eli brightened up days that were cloudy and grim with their kind smile and warm presence. Eli, you are missed and will be missed every day -- I am filled with sorrow to know that you are gone, but we will try to keep your legacy of kindness and warmth alive here. My condolences and much love to Eli's family, and thank you for streaming their service.

Jessie Lucas - December 11, 2023 at 11:10 AM

HR

“ We got to spend some time together over the summer. Eli and I went outside to pet the cats and ended up watching the sunset and chatting while we did so. So many of my best memories include them. Eli was a great friend and a lovely person. There are so many things that make me think of Eli, and I'm going to miss sharing life with them.

Hallie Jane Richeson - December 11, 2023 at 11:05 AM

DF

“ It is a tragedy when someone is so tortured. And that tragedy remains for a long time for those who loved them when they remember the one they've lost and struggle with the why. I am deeply saddened that I couldn't do more for Eli and I am devastated by this event, but the close family survivors who truly loved them need the strengths of their family and friends during this time. I wish them well and can offer platitudes aplenty at a later time.

Dave Freeman - December 11, 2023 at 11:02 AM

JE

“ I first met Eli while doing theater at LASA, but I got to know them much better during our time acting together during Alice in Wonderland at the Vortex. Eli was a kind and passionate friend who made things easier for others when times became hard. I am deeply saddened to hear of their loss, the world will sincerely miss them and all the joy they gave.

Jackson Evans - December 11, 2023 at 10:50 AM

AR

“ Eli is a student that I will never forget. Eli was smart, kind, and very caring. Such a beautiful human and I was highly impressed by their strong advocacy for themselves and others. I LOVED, LOVED, LOVED how proactive and independent Eli was when ensuring that his needs were met at school. I am deeply saddened by the news of their passing. I send Eli's family my deepest condolences! <3

Ashley Rios - December 11, 2023 at 07:49 AM

KR

“ Eli was an incredible advocate, not just for themselves but for others. Because of Eli (and Alice) the attention of many was brought to the failures of the local school district. I am so thankful to have known Eli, and am honored to have heard them speak on the intersectionality of disability and LGBTQIA issues. Eli touched the lives of so many, and their memory will live on.

Kym Rogers - December 10, 2023 at 10:55 PM

MR

“ We went to Queer Prom together in 2019. They were a beautiful person and I'm so proud to have been friends with them when they were figuring out who they were.



Morgan Renfield - December 10, 2023 at 09:32 PM

AS

I have a picture from that night in magnet form on my fridge! Eli was so happy that day. I'm glad you got to share that moment with them.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 10:13 PM

GM

“ I am very saddened to hear of the tragic loss of a very beautiful person who was just coming into their own. I was fortunate to direct them in Alice's Wonderland. I could feel excitement, fear and shyness, but it was the anticipation of breaking the door down and finally being themselves. I also felt joy when they finally did what I asked for and walked like a Lizard 🦎 😊. I also know how much they were looking forward to college and growing even more. The world will be missing what a beautiful person they were going to be and all the special contributions to this life they were ment to offer. A prayer and blessing to all her family and friends 🙏 You will be missed Eli and I will always be thankful to have had a chance to see you grow into the beautiful young one you were ment to be. Blessings and peace to you 😔



Gabriel Maldonado - December 10, 2023 at 08:10 PM

AS

Eli was such an excellent lizard!

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 08:12 PM

MR

I was with them in she kills monsters! A wonderful person to work with and a wonderful friendship that came from it

Morgan Renfield - December 10, 2023 at 09:30 PM



“ Elizabeth was a wonderful Granddaughter. She was always so happy and loved to talk and share whatever was on her mind. When we went to her house she would be so excited. I loved her writings too. When she gave me one of her stories, I thought, a child this young could not write well. I was wrong. What Elizabeth wrote was very well thought out and smart. I was totally impressed with it, as with herself. Grandma and I will miss you sweetheart.

David Svoboda - December 10, 2023 at 03:35 PM

AS

Thank you for this memory. Eli talking is such a core memory! Always! And their writing was always so important to them. It's clear you really knew and loved Eli. Thank you so much for loving Eli. I know it meant a lot to them when you reached out to them recently. You were important to Eli.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 06:59 PM



we messaged but I wish we had done more. She was cool

David Svoboda - December 10, 2023 at 07:19 PM

JS

“ I got to know Eli peripherally through my daughter's friendship with Eli when they met through an acting project. What struck me most about Eli was how incredibly caring and kind they were. I also loved conversing with Eli. Their thoughtfulness, intelligence and charm, their advocacy for others and themselves, touched our lives positively. Their memory will be a blessing.

Julieta von Schimonsky - December 10, 2023 at 02:19 PM

AS

Thank you for this memory. Eli truly was a thoughtful and caring person.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 02:27 PM



“ *Eli has always been a very special person. From the time they were born, Eli impressed everyone with their brilliance and sparkling personality. Eli faced much adversity in their life but instead of turning away from people they chose to continue to stand up for themselves and others. Instead of meeting intolerance with defensiveness, Eli chose education, firmly believing that they could transform the way others thought. Eli was kind and generous, giving of their time and their love to anyone and everyone. Eli brightened my life every single day. It was not unusual for Eli to give a random compliment or tell you were fantastic in some way, just to make you smile. They made me an affirmations jar when I was going through a hard time, and I still have it on my desk years later. It is just such a perfect example of the person Eli was - concerned for everyone else and interested in making everyone else happy. Even people who barely knew them were happy to bathe in Eli’s light. The world is a darker place without Eli. Certainly my world is.*

I have been replaying some of my favorite Eli memories over and over this week. When they were about 3, they asked me for a pair of sparkly shoes saying “I NEED THEM.” Who could resist that little face? As they grew, Eli became interested in everything and loved to share that interest with anyone willing to listen. We spent hours talking about Harry Potter and Percy Jackson - stories in now reading with my own daughter. Eli studied the bats in Austin, trying to bring awareness to creatures they felt were misunderstood. Eli was a strong disability advocate and as a teenager presented to the Texas senate on issues of disability awareness and rights. They never backed down from a challenge. It is so hard to think Eli didn’t feel like they belonged in this world, given all the people they touched, but now they are at peace at last.

Rebecca Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 01:22 PM

AS

Thank you so much, Bekki.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 02:27 PM

RS

“ I met Eli when we were both involved in a summer theater production at the VORTEX, and we befriended each other within the first week of the project when we realized that we shared a common interest (neuroscience/psychology.) Hanging out with Eli both during and after the project was always a blast, and we would often spend our time sharing psychology/neuroscience facts to our hearts' content. Eli was intelligent, dynamic, sincere, personable, considerate, and incredibly hard-working. They were also the best self-advocate and advocate for disability rights that I have ever come across, unapologetically asking for the accommodations they needed and speaking up for the change they wished to see in the world while still remaining respectful towards other people. It was an honor to have known and befriended them.

May Eli's memory be a blessing!



Robyn Schimonsky - December 09, 2023 at 10:46 PM

AS

I remember you! Eli loved you so much! Thank you for giving us both this memory and this picture

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 10:34 AM

“ I met Eli in one of our shared classes because they complimented a sticker on my computer. Excited, I mentioned that I made the sticker, and we began to talk about our etsy shops. We seemed to share a lot in common, identity and interest wise. Eli then tabled with me at the craft market, it was so fun despite the wind and cold. I will remember their enthusiasm for queer art, their dedication to advocacy, and their kindness to others.

I once had an issue with packaging a sale at the market, and they did it for me without a second thought. Similarly, we once had dinner at sherm and hearing about their interest in Bats was really nice, I was struggling at the time and just sitting with someone like them was helpful. Eli also brought such intelligent conversations to the class we were in and seemed to give everything such effort. Their etsy shop was no different, I remember watching them work on custom orders next to me all throughout the market while I just sat there chatting and drinking boba.

However, while typing this, I'm filled with regret. Regret that I didn't reach out to them this year, that I failed to maintain a friendship with such a wonderful person, and regret that I let us become distant. My feelings are unable to be properly typed, but I believe Eli has changed my mindset on friendships. Though we remained friendly, I never took it upon myself to reach out to them, despite my desire to. I'd always feel like I needed more me-time, or I was too busy, or that hanging out with people made me too anxious. Oftentimes those were true, but Eli was someone I could've and should've pushed myself to reach out to more. Looking back at my memories of them, I know that, if I had pushed myself to do so, I would have been grateful.

There are many parts of Eli I hope to carry with me, and hope others to take note of as well. Namely, their compassion, resilience, and individuality. But, most of all, I will let their memory push me to reach out to those I care for as much as possible in the future.

Eli, though someone I didn't grow as close to as I had hoped, will forever hold a motivating presence in my mind. I regret not knowing this lesson sooner and am ashamed to learn in this way, but I will forever thank them for teaching me. Eli's memory blesses us all.

christina - December 09, 2023 at 06:54 PM

AS

Please do not blame yourself or carry any guilt; Eli had a very definite and clear plan for what they did and we all wish we could have made a difference in that choice. I remember when Eli figured out how to make stickers without needing special supplies; they were so proud and made so many.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 11:24 AM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album *Directions to Grave Site*



alicecstuart - December 09, 2023 at 12:01 PM

LW

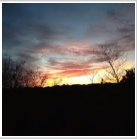
“ *I will always think about making flowers out of cooked carrots and telling you that this will make your eyes be blue. I showed you after you ate them, looking in a mirror, your eyes we blue.*

linda williams - December 08, 2023 at 09:33 PM

AS

Thank you for this memory, Linda. I can just see Eli as a child doing this. It means so much to me. Thank you.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ *I met Eli and Alice at Congregation Beth Israel and I was impressed by the love shared between them.*

Amy Clift - December 08, 2023 at 06:49 PM

AS

Thank you, Amy. I always felt Eli and I had a special bond. Eli is so deeply loved and so truly missed.

Alice Stuart - December 10, 2023 at 12:04 PM