



## Matthew Jonathan London

May 28, 1967 - October 21, 2024

Matthew Jonathan London was born in Austin on May 28th, 1967. Two days later, he was adopted to become the son of Charlotte and Michael London, and the brother of Janelle. On the eighth day of his life, he was brought into the Covenant of Abraham with the Hebrew name of Matisyahu Yahnahsahn – A Gift from God. Three years later, Matt’s “younger brudder” Mitchell joined the family.

At age two, Matt began having seizures – every day for the next 55 years. We were told by his neuro-doctors that he probably would never learn or gain capability. We parents refused to accept that future for our son. By age 6, Matt was in special ed at Casis School when he brought home a paper with primitive-looking scratches– the letters were M-A-T-T. With the help of wonderful teachers such as Martha Rasco, Matt learned to read, to spell, to print, to type, to draw, to do simple math, and to speak long sentences without stopping. He learned to swim without taking a breath, and he rode horses in Cloudcroft each summer. Matt always remembered that time when Bob-the Horse stepped on his foot, Matt said, “Ouch!” He learned how to take a shower by himself, to wash his hands, and to brush his teeth. He also loved creating art and listening to music and dancing with the girls – especially at his high school for special-needs students. Matt graduated from Clifton Center High School in Austin. We were so very proud of his accomplishments.

Charlotte's four sisters, and Mike's three sisters generated lots of family for Matt – with the oldest being his 105-year-old Grandma, Martha Sembera, also known as “Nannie Bera.”

After many years of caring for Matt at home, Charlotte and Mike chose to find security for him that could extend beyond their lifetimes. That was about 30 years ago, and Matt began living at Jones House led by Vance Clewis. Matt defined his place there by labelling himself as “Room Boss,” and he called Vance “Kitchen Boss.” We have great appreciation for the way that Vance has made Jones House a safe haven for Matt, and we think of him as part of our family. And we give special thanks to caregivers, Terry Glen, Ruth, and Omar.

Matt's sister, Janelle, married Gerald Wluka in 2001, and Matt had a new “Brudder-and-Law.” That's how he said it. And soon, Matt had two gorgeous nieces – Georgia and Vivienne. Oh, did he like to talk about those nieces.

Matt's mother, Charlotte, died in 2007, and the whole family was devastated. Luckily for us, Matt was well-established in his life at Jones House. Four years later, Mike and Kate met, and in 2014 they were married. So, Matt had a new stepmother, who he called “Kate.” Kate doted on Matt, and Matt tolerated her for a while until he decided that she was “okay.”

In the past year, Matt had health issues that resulted in a major surgery and residence at South Park Meadows Nursing Center. One of the male caregivers, Leo, would joke with Matt, and Matt laughed a lot. Leo would come to take Matt to the showers, and Matt delighted in saying, “No, YOU take a shower, Leo!” And then Matt would laugh and say the same thing over and over.

Matt is survived by his father, Michael London; his sister, Janelle London; and his brother, Mitchell London. Also, Matt's brother-in-law and Janelle's

husband, Gerald Wluka, and their daughters, Georgia Wluka and Vivienne Wluka. Also Matt's stepmother, Kate Graham; his grandmother, Martha Sembera; his aunts and uncles on Charlotte's side, Martha Carole and Donald Day, Patsy Dyson, Susie and Kenneth Armbrister, and Sally and Andy Silvester. Also, his aunts and uncles on Mike's side: Kathy and Donnie Gross, Judy and Fred Helms, and Patti and Brent Howell; and Kate's daughter and son-in-law, Sara and Tom Rabstenek, and Kate's son, Sam Bremen. Matt is also survived by many cousins up and down the various family lines.

Matt London laughed and played and joked and teased. He read and learned and commented. He would get angry and he would be loving and kind. He would disparage and he would praise. Sometimes, he would cry, and we would cry with him. Now, we can cry. He cannot.

A livestream of the service will be available on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page, <http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals/>. 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.

# Previous Events

## Computer Accessible Graveside Service

OCT **23**. 12:30 PM (CT)

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

*A live stream will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page a few minutes before 12:30PM. 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.*

## Graveside Service

OCT **23**. 12:30 PM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park  
2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Service Recording*



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**Austin Natural Funerals** - October 25, 2024 at 12:44 PM

ML

“ I am the younger brother of Matt London. Matt would be the first to tell you this. He loved so many things and I would be hard pressed to say which of Snoopy or Curious George would be in front, but they would fall just short of his family. Janelle the big sister, Mike London, the father, Charlotte, the mother and myself. All his cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents. He loved Gerald, Georgia and Vivienne. He also loved the newest family of Kate. Sam and Sara, and of course Vance.

Matt loved to laugh, and joke. He would tell you something and for emphasis might repeat the last few words of what he just said over and over until the end of eternity, often with a loud cackle of laughter after each iteration. You could go back and forth with him, ‘no, you’re a silly goose!’ and you would have to just laugh right along with him.

He loved his coloring books and his toys; he was always working on a coloring book with an impressive array of crayons or playing with his Speak and Spell. If we needed him to do something else however, we might have to say, “finish coloring the page and then come downstairs for dinner, or finish coloring the one thing then take a shower, or bring one book with you and get in the car.” Inevitably it would be a small library that came along for the ride. Striking a bargain with him using coloring books almost always worked. Do not underestimate the power of books! Sometimes though, you just had to wait for Matt to finish arranging all the stuffed animals on his bed because they had to be in their proper place before anything else could take place. I sometimes think he liked to drag it out as long as possible, as he would pick up and replace Curious George in the exact spot he was just a moment ago.

Matt, I think, was the first of us kids to have a TV in his bedroom. A ginormous 12 inch TV screen where he loved to watch Sesame Street, the Electric Company, Mister Roger’s Neighborhood and of course any one of a multitude of animated movies and cartoons. Even at his South Park rehab center, he would be in front of the TV singing along with the beginning of the Spongebob Squarepants opening theme.

*Matt loved to eat. Matt was the king of the 'clean plate award', he never complained about the food he was eating, though I think he really liked pizza and hamburgers and hot dogs, oh and don't set that remaining sandwich, hot dog, or pretty much anything, anywhere within his reach because it might just disappear! Matt loved cheesecake. I loved Matt for loving cheesecake because mom would make up the most amazing cheesecakes for his birthdays. I can hook you up with the recipe.*

*Matt also loved to read. The same books...over and over. Many of his books would have to be sought out and replaced due to wear and tear. He could practically recite some of them from memory. You could always buy him a different book, but the books of Curious George were always a favorite of his that he would love to read in bed with his Curious George stuffed animal. He also had a record player and a cassette player at home that he would listen to while working on a coloring book. When it ended, he would flip it and play it again. I could almost recite some of the songs I could hear from down the hall.*

*Matt did things on his own schedule, which did not always coincide with anyone else's. He may wake up at 4 am and figure, let's start the day. Which might have led to Matt being a big fan of the afternoon nap, or second sleep in some cases. He could also read his book well into the wee hours of the morning. Dad would wake up at 5 am, and Matt may be just getting ready to hit the sack.*

*Matt loved a whole lot of things. He loved people, places, objects, sounds, foods and so much more. He may not have always been able to express himself clearly. But when that smile came over his face, or that laugh of his roared out so loud you knew everyone in the restaurant was now looking your direction...it still made you smile. Thank you for all the smiles*

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**Mitch London** - October 23, 2024 at 07:51 PM

NW

*Matt... I loved reading about how excited you got about reading, making your own time schedules and your love of people. Thank you ... 😊❤️*

**Nancy Wluka** - October 23, 2024 at 09:01 PM

JE

*Thank you, Mitch for helping us get a better picture of your brother, Matt, and for sharing your love of him with all!*

**Jerry** - December 29, 2024 at 04:49 PM

GE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Gerald** - October 23, 2024 at 07:36 PM

LF

*Wonderful Matt London!*

**Linda Fitzwater** - October 24, 2024 at 12:41 AM

JL

*Love this video tribute, Mitch. So clearly made with lots of love.*

**Janelle London** - October 25, 2024 at 01:14 PM

ML

*Tears, smiles, tears. Thank you, Mitch.*

**Michael J London** - August 03, 2025 at 09:48 AM

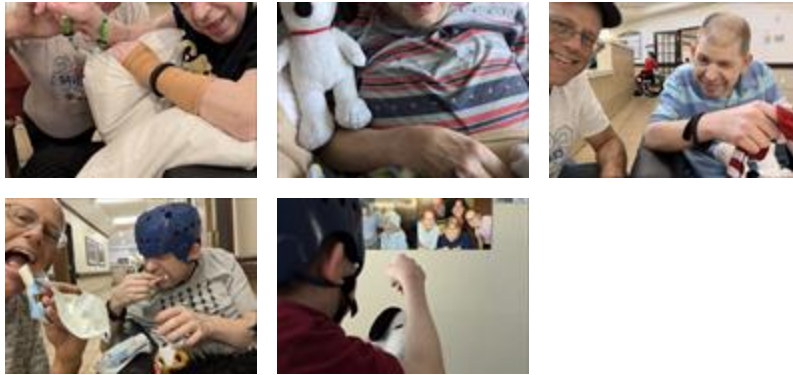
JL

“ Here's the tribute to Matt I gave at his funeral today: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gvjSq9GwCbyJYZz4q-fQKGVVhPDYzqVmFoIECKK240g/edit?usp=sharing>

Janelle London - October 23, 2024 at 07:32 PM

ML

“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Mitch London - October 23, 2024 at 08:22 AM

SA

*Mitch, Janelle and Gerald, Mike, and Kate, my heart is full of love for and wonderful memories of your family. Thank you for posting all of these fabulous photos. Sending love and hugs.*

sally - October 23, 2024 at 10:11 AM

BC

“ My favorite memories of Matt were his recitation in Hebrew of part of the passover story. He touched my heart.

Bryan Coltrane - October 22, 2024 at 04:45 PM

NW

*Only Our best wishes of condolences to our Texas and California and Australia family. ❤️❤️❤️*

nancy wluka - October 23, 2024 at 01:25 PM

JL

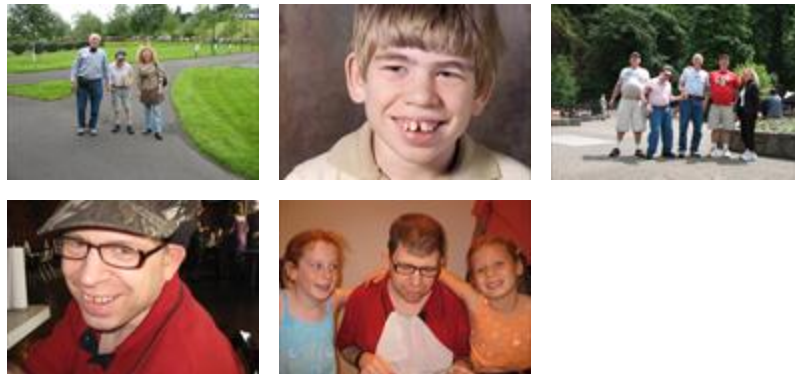
“ 34 files added to the album Memories Album



Janelle London - October 22, 2024 at 03:15 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Memories Album



Austin Natural Funerals - October 22, 2024 at 01:29 PM

RF

“ To Matthew from Ruth "Bees in a trap". I am so blessed to have been a part of your life. You have no idea how much you will be missed. We had so many laughs and we danced and sang crazy songs. Yes we would dance in his wheelchair. We cried also. You became the brother I didn't know I needed. You will be greatly missed. Thank you Matthew ! Ruth and extended family.

Ruth fernandez - October 22, 2024 at 12:17 AM

VC

“ To Matt from Vance "the kitchen boss". Having known you for 20+ years, i will miss you more than you will ever know. I asked you why you called me the kitchen boss and you said because you cook good food. Matt thank you for the laughs and on occasions a tussle or two. Thank you for not punching me in the nose, and i will always remember you saying that and laugh. I have loved you like you were my own family and i will miss you. Vance "the kitchen boss".

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**Vance Clewis** - October 21, 2024 at 06:06 PM

ML

*That is very sweet, Vance. You have been part of Matt's family for many years. We thank you, and we love you.*

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**Michael J London** - October 22, 2024 at 03:48 PM

JL

*Oh Vance, my heart breaks for you as well as for me. Matt loved you so much and you were such a big part of his life. I know you were one of the main reasons he thrived for so long. You will always be part of our family. We love you.*

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**Janelle London** - October 22, 2024 at 03:56 PM