



## George D. Zgourides

May 21, 1961 - May 18, 2022

George D. Zgourides, 60, passed away surrounded by family after complications from a very brief and unexpected illness on May 18, 2022.

A man of diverse talents and interests with a passion for life, George was born in Houston, Texas on May 21, 1961 to Theodore (“Ted”) Zgourides, a stockbroker, and Katherine (Palios) Zgourides, a homemaker. George grew up in Houston and graduated from St. Thomas’ Episcopal School in Houston where he played Scottish bagpipes in the pipe and drum band as well as participated in highland dance and choir.

George attended Rice University, earning a double-major Bachelor’s degree in both psychology and music. He continued at Rice in the Shepherd School of Music, earning a Master’s Degree in composing and conducting.

He continued his psychology training at Pacific University, earning a Master’s Degree (1986) and Doctor of Psychology (1989), specializing in anxiety disorders and human sexuality. He worked in a clinical treatment setting before accepting a full-time faculty position at the University of Portland in 1990. While there, he also took a position as a pastoral resident in Christie Hall, the men’s dorm, where his former students describe him as “the most beloved professor,” a mentor who was always willing to listen, and someone whose influence remained with them decades later.

During his time as pastoral resident, George was ordained, then in later years earned a Master's of Arts in Applied Orthodox Theology.

While at University of Portland, George met “the love of his life,” Christie Slaton, who was an adjunct faculty member in the English Department. They married on June 6, 1998. The couple moved to Roswell, New Mexico, where George continued teaching psychology and worked as the campus chaplain for New Mexico Military Institute.

During his clinical and university career, George published extensively, including a book for clinicians on using Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to treat anxiety, and a university textbook on human sexuality. In addition, he wrote and co-authored many professional journal articles that continue to be quoted in other publications. More recently, he contributed a well-received book chapter on a global human sexuality topic that is being widely quoted, and that led to invitations for him to speak at global conferences, which were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic.

After more than 20 years as a clinical psychologist, George attended the American University of the Caribbean Medical School, including clinical training in Waterford, Ireland. He earned a Master's of Science (2004) and a Doctor of Medicine (2006). He completed his residency in Family Medicine at John Peter Smith Hospital, Ft. Worth, Texas in 2009. He continued to work in JPS health clinics for several years, then worked in local urgent care centers.

In 2013, George and Christie moved to San Antonio where he worked in various rural and small town clinics including in Fredericksburg, Boerne, Muenster, and various locations in Atascosa County. At the time of his death, he was a medical and lab director for SynergenX.

With his skills and training in music, theology, psychology, and medicine, George's influence in his too-short life was a magnitude beyond measure. In the outpouring of social media tributes, George is described as someone who was always kind, gentle, compassionate, positive, and calm. Physicians, nurses, and staff call him an all-time favorite resident and doctor to work with, as well as "phenomenal" and "amazing" with patients.

His warmth, attentiveness, and sense of humor made people feel seen and understood. His impressive professional achievements are overshadowed only by the connections he made with the people around him. He contributed much to the world.

Beyond his professional interests, George loved the desert southwest, art, travel, gardens, movies, especially science fiction, and food. He had great compassion for animals.

George was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his mother, his wife, his siblings Kimberly Zgourides Fergerson and her husband Jeff, Stephen Zgourides, and his nieces and nephews, Casey Sarabia, Nicholas Zgourides, Piper Fergerson, Jacob Fergerson, Katrianna Zgourides, as well as by his beloved Chihuahua, Andre.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, June 5, at 1:30 pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge, and all are welcome.

Remembrances can be sent to George's favorite charities, Children International, San Antonio Pets Alive!, Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation of Kendalia, Texas, or Primarily Primates of San Antonio.

Children International: <https://www.children.org/make-a-difference/donate>

San Antonio Pets Alive!: <https://www.sanantoniopetsalive.org/ways-to-give/donate-now>

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation: <https://wildlife-rescue.org/support/>

Primarily Primates of San Antonio: <https://primarilyprimates.org>

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 5. 1:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North  
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of George D. Zgourides*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - June 05, 2022 at 01:55 PM

SS

*I just learned of the passing of Dr. Zgourides. I only had the pleasure of knowing him for a short time, but can honestly say he had such a peace about him. His presence was always calming. When I left the company he was nothing but supportive and attentive to helping move forward in my career.*

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**Sarah Sargent** - September 24, 2022 at 02:30 PM

WR

“ *Such a stunning loss. I will always love George most for how much, and how well, he loved my friend Christie. My prayers for good memories, deep peace, and great hope will continue for you Christie. George was a complex and delightful man. He will be missed and his influence will continue to resonate through the lives of of those he touched.*

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**Wronda** - June 05, 2022 at 03:53 PM

MM

“ George and I were great friends and colleagues at the University of Portland, and collaborated on half a dozen published articles. Publishing was enjoyable with George, as he was incredibly productive and a fast writer. We also co-ran the Social Science Club, for a time the most popular club on campus, with packed events and field trips. Together, we learned about the seedy underbelly of Portland as he was writing his first sexuality textbook and I was studying prostitution. George was good at many things and had tremendously diverse and varied interests. George raved about his then girlfriend Christie and how excited he was about her and how lovely she was. He was extremely happy to have found her, and I was privileged to be a part of their wedding. He would have been absolutely disappointed to leave her so soon. As a contemporary of George's, we had lots in common, and his death is a stunning surprise to me. What I remember most about George is how fun and spirited he was, generously giving of himself and supporting and welcoming students, both those in need and those he inspired and befriended.

--Martin Monto, Portland (Posted 6-5-22)

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**Martin Monto** - June 05, 2022 at 02:26 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of George D. Zgourides.



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June 05, 2022 at 01:25 AM

JG

“ I directed the Social Work program at the University of Portland while George was there. My students loved him....and from Dr.Z...they began calling me Dr.G...and that moniker stuck ever since. George was one of the good guys always a delight to bump into in the hallway with some bit of humor to make the day better. We are all diminished by his passing.

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**Joseph Gallegos** - June 04, 2022 at 07:33 PM

SP

“ Stephanie Prado lit a candle in memory of George D. Zgourides



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**Stephanie Prado** - June 04, 2022 at 03:43 PM

SP

“ A kind smile and playful laugh are my first images when I think of George.  
Though our encounters were few, the fabric of compassion, creativity, and concern shone from him. I had the pleasure of introducing him to the Hyperbaric and Wound Care community in Jourdanton, Texas. While there, the patients and staff were blessed with all he shared.  
George, thank you for all you did in your time here on Earth. I pray you are relishing the celestial music where you are until those you love meet you there one day.  
Prayers and blessings to you and all you love.  
With gratitude, Stephanie Prado

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**Stephanie Prado** - June 04, 2022 at 03:40 PM

LF

“ Love, Bergheim Pet Hospital Family purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.missionparks.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of George D. Zgourides.

Love, Bergheim Pet Hospital Family - June 04, 2022 at 09:33 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George D. Zgourides.



June 03, 2022 at 06:24 PM

DS

“ I got to know George when he lived in Oregon. He was the best. We shared many of the same interests in music, movies, science fiction and humor. I will always remember him.

Dimitri Stephanopoulos - June 02, 2022 at 05:19 PM

TS

“ Tim and Deb Storlie purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of George D. Zgourides.



Tim and Deb Storlie - June 02, 2022 at 05:07 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of George D. Zgourides.



May 31, 2022 at 09:54 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of George D. Zgourides.



May 30, 2022 at 12:47 PM



“ I worked with George at JPS and will remember his kindness and courtesy to everyone he interacted with. He will be missed! I'm so sorry for your loss and will pray for your family during this difficult time.

**Sarah Ross** - May 29, 2022 at 08:13 PM



“ George was a special soul and left an impression in so many of us at JPS who were fortunate to know him. How could one person touch so many lives in 60 short years? He'd shined a light for all to see.



**Yun Tran** - May 28, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George D. Zgourides.



May 28, 2022 at 10:03 AM



“ So hard to believe he is gone. My memory of George is that he made my days at University of Portland a delight....He always was good for a laugh....Dr Z got students to start calling me Dr G..a name that stuck. A very complex man ...of which the world is diminished by his passing.

Joseph Gallegos - May 27, 2022 at 09:27 PM



“ Christie, words can not express my sincerest condolences. May your memories of George sustain you during this difficult time and God bless you all. He was an amazing man. Prayers for all of you my friend.



Mary Stehling - May 27, 2022 at 09:26 PM



“ Mission Park North lit a candle in memory of George D. Zgourides



Mission Park North - May 27, 2022 at 03:02 PM

FN

*Such an amazing man. George accomplished and contributed more in his short life than anyone I have known. We were classmates in Saint Thomas Episcopal, and he was always happy and supportive of everyone around him. He was also a total genius! Christie, may God comfort you and all who knew and loved George.*

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**Frances Newsom** - May 28, 2022 at 07:35 AM