



Christopher Zilis

December 30, 1965 - May 27, 2024

Christopher Stanley Zilis, 57, of Evanston, passed away unexpectedly, due to natural causes, May 27, 2024.

Raised in Chicago's Mt. Greenwood neighborhood, Chris graduated from St. Christina Elementary and Marist High School before attending the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He spent some time in Berlin, which opened his eyes to beautiful and amazing art, culture, and hedonism. Chris was a talented visual artist with an incredibly quick wit and an astute ability to identify any cologne or essential oil. He was also an expert thrifter and giver of gifts, baker of sourdough and sweets, and lover of libraries and community gardens. Chris inspired others to live as artists and to enjoy life's luxuries.

Chris leaves behind many baffled and loving friends around the world who cannot quite believe that he is gone.

Brother of David (Debra Ann), Greg (Debra Joan), and Andrew (Kara) Zilis; uncle of Jennifer Dahlman and Kyle (Jessi), Ben III, and Matt (Tiffany) Zilis. Great-uncle of ten.

Preceded in death by brother Benedict J. (Theresa) Zilis, Jr. and parents Aldona B. "Donna" Zilis (nee Rastenis) and Benedict J. Zilis, Sr.

Although he would hate it, a Celebration of Life is being held Sunday, September 15.

For information, please contact Inclusive Funeral Care: 773-370-2959 or Brooke@InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

You may also join in the zoom here: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/3926646644?pwd=NU1LaEEwVmtVZUNwekQ2b3BLbjArZz09&omn=87482020524#success>

Contributions may be made in his name to the Chicago Public Library Foundation: <https://cplfoundation.org/ways-to-give/> or The McGaw Evanston YMCA Men's Residence Renovation Project: <https://www.mcgawymca.org/give/campaign/>

Chris, we miss you so much.

Tribute Wall



“ *Inclusive Funeral Care created a Webcast in memory of Christopher Zilis*



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - September 14, 2024 at 05:13 PM

DS

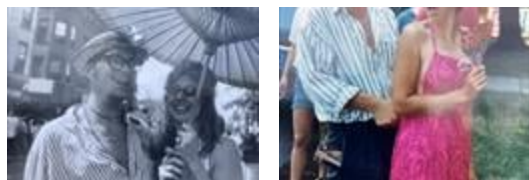
“ *This is rather late but close to his birthday. I met Chris working at an aromatherapy store. His creativity and zeal for life was palpable. I was shocked to hear about his passing. I feel like we were just up to some silly antics just yesterday. I will always cherish knowing you!*



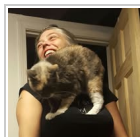
Debra Sawyer - December 26, 2024 at 06:38 PM

CE

“ We looked forward to sharing and laughing with Chris...



cindy enzler - September 18, 2024 at 05:32 PM



“ I met Chris in the late 90's he came to help our theatre company do some painting, he continued to support and inspire my creative work for decades. He always brought me flowers, he made me a special perfume, there was no one like Chris and I'm so sad it's been so long since I have seen him. This is from the opening of a play at the court theatre where he was again, my biggest fan and the life of the opening night party. 📍 love you Chris. Sending love to all who loved him.



Carolyn Hoerdemann - September 16, 2024 at 01:44 PM

CC

“ One thing that happened with Chris that I'll never forget: we were at a Leonard Cohen concert at the Park West. This was in the early 90s. In Cohen's song *First We Take Manhattan* there's the line: "It's Fathers Day and everybody's wounded..." He sang that song to close the first set. It was, in fact, *Fathers Day* that very show, and Chris was so excited about it all that he ran out to the lobby or whatever pay phone he could to call his dad and wish him a happy *Father's Day*.

Chris Carollo - September 13, 2024 at 10:59 PM

DG

“ I met Chris many years ago through mutual friends. He had such an amazing presence. Chris was warm, witty, friendly, funny and oh so creative. I did not know Chris well, but what I knew, I adored. He organized my wedding with true gusto and flare! His talents had no limits. I am blessed to have known him.

Pictured with my son, who is now 11 years old.



Denise Gorden - September 13, 2024 at 11:05 AM

LU

“ Dear Chris, I met you in the early 1990's. Thank you for sharing your delightful witty artful spirit with so many of us. Usually the one to bring a room to laughter with your quick creative wit, your smile, chuckle and Chris"isms" will live on. You were also one to entertain, either through work or social get togethers - you threw a dinner party in my honor once, thank you. Even if i'd drop by unexpectedly, you were always quick to serve tasty refreshments "let me go pick a few shiso leaves to go with this fresh fruit". I know you had deep hardships and i think this world we live in is not easy for many to navigate - hopefully art, gardening, loves and friendship gave you some respite. I am thankful, dear Chris, for our friendship and i will cherish the good times we shared. Much love to you forever and ever, Love, Lucky

Lucky - September 06, 2024 at 08:36 PM

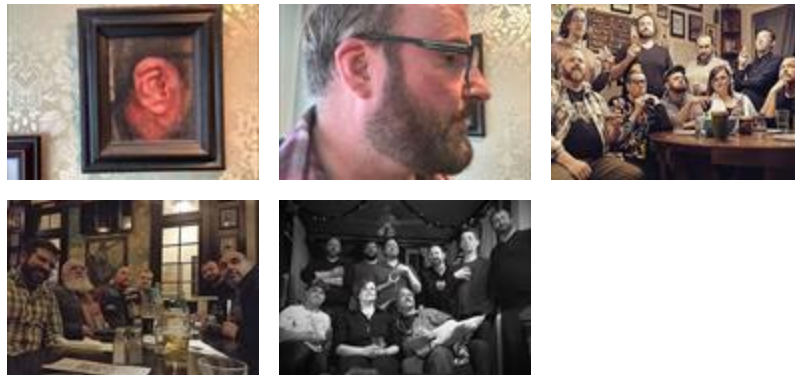
IZ

“ *Chis was one of the first people I met after moving to Chicago. We worked many shifts together, always laughing, having profound conversations about culture, stealing wine from the wealthy. His memory is a blessing!*

Izabela - August 24, 2024 at 04:22 PM

KN

“ *8 files added to the album Memories Album*



Knut - August 24, 2024 at 04:20 PM

BA

“ *I worked with Chris. He always made the shifts fly by with his humor. Chris you are missed very much. Give them hell up there.. Til we meet again.*

Barbara - August 23, 2024 at 08:12 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Juan Tauber - August 23, 2024 at 07:22 PM

KN

“ I have a painting on my wall of my ear. Done my Monsieur Zilis.
Anybody who had him in their lives were richer for it. I miss you

Knut - August 23, 2024 at 12:27 AM

KA

“ Chris was my friend for a few years when I really needed a friend.
Chris made so much fun and laughter for me.

Chris, I hope you felt loved and appreciated. You were.

Kate - August 22, 2024 at 07:23 PM



“ Diane Green lit a candle in memory of
Christopher Zilis



Diane Green - August 22, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - August 21, 2024 at 11:50 PM