



Dr. Louis George Vagianos

July 24, 2014

We celebrate the life of Louis George Vagianos (May 8, 1933-July 24, 2014), whose journey began in Weirton, West Virginia in 1933 and ended in Toronto on July 24, 2014. His parents left Chios, Greece for the United States during the Depression in search of a better life. He always credited the extraordinary library and education programs in Cleveland in the 1940s and 50s with opening up his mind to what the world has to offer, and fostering a life-long love of music, theatre, books and art. In addition to his many professional accomplishments, he was a patron of the arts his whole life and made frequent trips to New York to enjoy its music and theatre scenes, Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera.

Louis was a man of many gifts and professions. His journey took him from Cleveland, where he grew up and went to college; to Providence, RI, where he was Assistant Librarian at Brown University; to Halifax, NS, where he was University Librarian at Dalhousie University, oversaw the building of the Killam Library, was instrumental in the founding of the School of Library Service, served as Vice-President, and then moved into the role of Executive Director of the Institute for Research on Public Policy; and to Montreal, QC where, as Consultant to the Rector, Vice-Rectors and a number of departmental directors at Concordia University, he advised on or managed a variety of university-wide projects. While in each of these positions, he taught, and accepted freelance projects that captured his interest, such as the design of

several university libraries, public policy research and extensive political speech-writing. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Prince Edward Island.

Louis was an original who marched to the beat of his own drum. A gifted leader, administrator, but most important to him, mentor, he touched the lives of countless students and professionals over the course of his life and career. He was dedicated to the world of ideas, and the notion of living according to a set of shared values that he was always keen to discuss, define and redefine. An idealist, he led by example, and charged us all to leave the world a little better than we found it. He certainly did his part.

Louis' inquisitive and generous spirit will continue to support and guide the people he touched, especially his wife Joey, daughter Andrea (Zis), granddaughter Antonia, brother Van (Karen), nephews and niece Tom (Patty), Michael (Laura) and Christina, and his many valued friends across Canada and the United States. We are grateful for the meaning he brought to our lives and will remember fondly the hours we spent enjoying his "philosophunculizing".

Louis requested to be cremated and there will be a private family memorial service. The family thanks Dr. Wells and everyone at the Odette Cancer Centre and Transfusion Clinic, Sunnybrook Hospital, for their extraordinary support, and invites donations in lieu of flowers to the Centre in Louis' memory: www.sunnybrook.ca/foundation.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ I knew Louis for many years and I am deeply saddened by his passing. Sincere condolences to Joey and Andrea. I will always think of Louis as a generous, erudite and gracious man.
Bruce MacKay Oakville, ON

Bruce MacKay - August 06, 2014 at 10:17 PM

JL

“ Dear Joey, Sorry to hear of the passing of Louis. He was a lovely man with such a big heart. I always enjoyed our "Wednesdays" when he was in clinic. It was such a pleasure to have met the two of you. My deepest sympathies.
Jill

Jill Lambert - July 30, 2014 at 08:24 AM

TC

“*Louie was such an amazing man, who shaped the lives of so many of us. I first met him in 1963 when he hired me to work in the Brown Physical Sciences Library. He has been my mentor and friend for more than 50 years. I have so many wonderful memories of him, starting with how he taught me to think when I worked in the library; to when, as a very proud father, he brought his newborn Andrea into the library for all of us to meet her; to many meetings and discussions over the years; and to his happiness with his wonderful family. He was always so gracious, taking the time to listen and provide advice, and never hesitant to tell me what I should be doing, such as applying for a job I didn't think I'd want, but ended up loving for many years.*

We will all miss him tremendously, although I know that I will still hear his voice, asking questions, such as "Why are you asking that question; what are you really trying to find out?" His energy and wisdom will always be with us. I am so very lucky to have known him and to have learned so much from him.

My heart and thoughts are with his family during this very difficult time.

Toni Carbo

Toni Carbo - July 28, 2014 at 07:02 PM

ML

“*Louie was a brilliant teacher from whom I learned so much, but above all a mentor who influenced and helped guide my entire professional life. If I had a million years to thank him, it would never be enough. My deepest sympathy to Andrea, who was the light of his life, and to all the family. He will be missed by so many, and always remembered.*

Mary Dykstra Lynch

Mary Dykstra Lynch - July 28, 2014 at 05:54 PM

SH

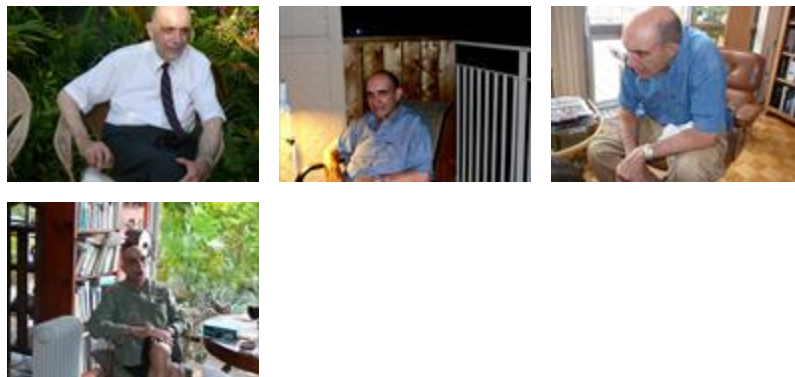
“ *My deepest sympathies. Our family spent many happy days at "Uncle Louie's" old schoolhouse in Blandford. We will cherish our memories of those times.*

Sarah Horrocks

Sarah Horrocks - July 28, 2014 at 12:41 PM

JO

“ *4 files added to the album Louie*



Joey - July 28, 2014 at 12:36 PM

LY

“ *Louis certainly enriched this world, and we are all poorer for his loss. He will be terribly missed by everyone he touched.*

Lynn-Marie

Lynn-Marie - July 28, 2014 at 08:33 AM

J(

“ Louis did, indeed, "march to the beat of his own drum" and how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to be affected by his music – both literally and figuratively.

My biggest regret is not having adequately thanked him for the huge influence he had on me, personally and professionally.

I have precious memories of working with Louis – me a young, uncertain entrepreneur; Louis, a confident professional with a heart of gold.

A cherished memory is that of Louis at Blandford, showing off his enviable collection of recordings (especially musicals), the volume up high, while friends lounged in and outside the house; ultimately gathering in the kitchen with the biggest pot of chowder I'd ever seen.

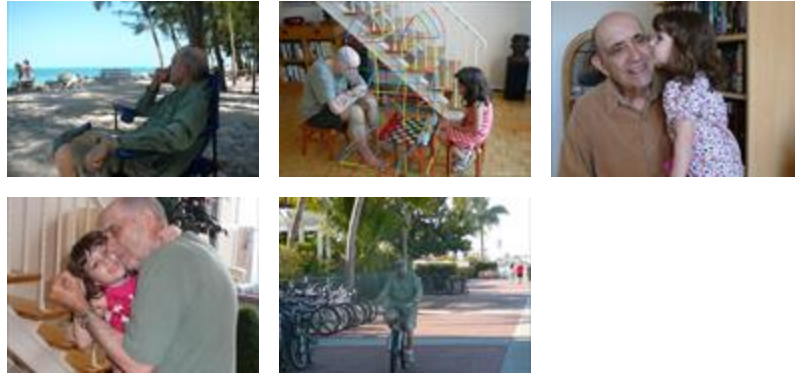
Louis – I'll never forget your kindness, your mentorship, and your friendship and I'm forever thankful for the opportunity to work with you (and I'm still amazed at how willing you were to go to Iqaluit on behalf of IGW!). RIP.

Judy Love-Eastham (formerly Carrie)

Judy Love-Eastham (Carrie) - July 26, 2014 at 09:49 PM

JR

“ 6 files added to the album Louie



Joey Rawlins - July 26, 2014 at 03:00 PM

DL

“ *Dear Joey,
We were so sorry when we heard of the passing of your dear Louis.
We extend our sincerest sympathies to you at this sad time.
Best Always,
Donna and Alan Stamper*

Donna LeBlanc - July 26, 2014 at 12:06 PM