

A great mind and generous heart has passed from this world. Michael Slater died peacefully at his home in Sebastopol in the early hours of Father's Day, June 19, 2016. He was 60 years old. Michael had an engineer's mind, always figuring out how things worked, and conceiving how to make them work better. But at his core Michael was a visionary. It was his vision to create a publication and conference, Microprocessor Report and Forum, that would cover in depth the exciting and rapidly changing microprocessor industry in the 80's and 90's. He was also an avid amateur photographer. When he became frustrated with what was available to manage his photographs, he envisioned a tablet which would store, organize, and display one's entire collection. He hired the talent to accomplish this by co-founding his second business, Fotiva, in 2000. The tablet became software that was eventually bought by Adobe and became part of Photoshop Elements. Later, as a long-time entrepreneur, Michael saw the need for businesses to better utilize the web to reach and serve their customers. This was the impetus to co-found his last business, Webvanta.

Michael's ability to absorb and understand information was unparalleled. He had a gift for distilling and organizing information that made him a talented writer and an excellent teacher. But it was his generous spirit in sharing his talents that made him memorable to so many. One of his customers has said, "Michael made me believe again - that there can be integrity and kindness and genius in the web development world". In his personal life, he was equally generous, always ready to help family and friends with his incisive thoughts and problem solving abilities, no matter the topic.

Michael's creative vision didn't stop with business. Wherever he lived he was a creator of beautiful gardens. It was his joy and his therapy to putter in the garden and go plant shopping with his wife, Irene. At one point, his kids playfully recommended an "intervention" when his plant buying was particularly keen. Boating was another lifetime love of Michael's, as was travel. He and his family enjoyed many adventurous trips together, including boating on San Francisco Bay.

Michael is survived by his wife of 35 years, Irene, his children, Greg and Mandy, his brother Larry and wife Ann, his sister, Patsy and husband, Richard, and life-long friend Lorelee, as well as his many nieces and nephews and the Stratton clan: Patti, Joyce, Steven and Barry.

Memorial information will be shared on his website, PartingThoughts.net. If desired, donations in his name can be made to New Horizon School in Santa Rosa, <http://www.newhorizonschool.info/giving/>. Michael will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.