

Jonathan Paul Kowash

August 19, 1963 - July 3, 2013

Jon was born August 19, 1963 in Salem Oregon and lived the first 12 years of his life in Woodburn and Hubbard. In 1975, the family moved to Albany Oregon where he attended Riverside Grade School and Memorial Junior High. The family moved again in 1978 to Eugene and Jon graduated from South Eugene High School in 1981. In 1982 he moved to Corvallis to attend Oregon State University. Jon's initial college plan was derailed in part by his struggle with epilepsy. However, he had found his home in Corvallis and would remain there for nearly all of the remainder of his life. Jon worked at several jobs after leaving OSU, but continued to take classes to further his ambition to be a software engineer. Jon's perseverance was rewarded when he completed a BS in Computer Science in 1999. He was hired by Hewlett Packard and especially enjoyed the fact that his role was challenging and supported operations around the world. His position was transferred to Austin, Texas where he worked for one year, but his continuing struggles with epilepsy led to his return to Corvallis to be near family and his long term medical providers.

Jon was the oldest of 10 siblings and uncle to 16 nieces and nephews. Jon's family was important to him and he always made the effort to attend celebrations, holidays and family camping trips. Jon was always willing to engage in lively conversations about technology, computers and many other areas of interest. He enjoyed traveling for work and pleasure, visiting sites in

Europe, Asia and Mexico. He also enjoyed playing golf, bicycling, hiking, sailing, watching old movies, reading, and spending time with friends. A particular point of pride for Jon was his years volunteering with the Corvallis Community Theater and the Albany Civic Theater as a lighting designer and operator.

Jon is survived by his parents Paul and Kathleen Kowash of Portland, OR; his grandparents Ray and Mary Noyes of Ontario, OR; and family members Phil, Eleni (Bograkos), Elizabeth, Christopher, & Michael Kowash of Saco, ME; Nate, Leslie (Hudson), Sam & Griffin Kowash of Portland, OR; Camille (Kowash), Brian, Brendan & Caitlin Tierney of Hillsboro, OR; Cindy (Kowash), Troy & Alex Wendt of Springfield, OR; Amy (Kowash), Eric, JP & Kenji Tanikawa of Florence, OR; Polly (Kowash), James, Kaleb and Hailey Fox, Ben, Desi (Denson), Eric, Aurelia, & Maria Kowash of Dayton, OH; Sarah Kowash of Wilsonville, OR; Ted, Sarah (VanCurler) & Eli Kowash of Gig Harbor, WA. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Albert & Caroline Kowash of Woodburn, OR and an infant brother.

In lieu of flowers please make Memorial contributions in Jon's name to " We Care," an organization that gives financial support to people in emergency situations or the Albany Civic Theater in care of McHenry Funeral Home 206 NW 5th Street Corvallis, OR. 97330

A funeral mass is set for 11:00 am, Thursday July 11th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis. Burial will take place at 11:00 am on Friday, July 12th at St. Louis Cemetery 14013 Manning Road Gervais, OR.

Cemetery Details

St. Louis Cemetery

14013 Manning Road
Gervais, OR

Tribute Wall



“ McHenry Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash



McHenry Funeral Home - July 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked with Jon around 1990-92 at Hewlett Packard he and I were working for a Janitorial company there. He was a great worker and I enjoyed working with him. I remember talking about computers with him and I remember how much knowledge he had about them and how excited he got talking about them. I'm grieved to having found out that he has passed. RIP my friend, love and hugs to his loved ones. ~ Bruce



Bruce Kaufman - September 29, 2016 at 04:44 PM



“ Sadly, I only met Jonathan twice, but once was a great evening shared with him, one of his sisters and my wife strolling the cobblestones of Paris and having a lovely meal of cassoulet together in a quaint little restaurant. I was very sorry to hear of his passing.

Eamon Essex - August 31, 2013 at 02:01 PM

AD

“ Dear Kowash Family,

I rode the bus with Jonathan this past year, and after not riding for the last month, was saddened to find out today that he had passed. He was friendly, fun to talk with, and will be missed by all of us regulars who rode with him. I am sorry for your loss and pray for comfort for you from God.

Adam - July 31, 2013 at 12:04 AM

DI

“ David Ingalls lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash



David Ingalls - July 15, 2013 at 06:50 PM

CH

“ *I miss Jonathan here at work. I find myself expecting to see him pop-by my desk to work out the latest issues and fixes with the data system project he was working on for our proto group. He was so very knowledgeable and helpful in setting up a data system last year for another project, and I was looking forward to working with him again on this system setup. I have only worked with Jonathan for a little over a year here at HP, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with such a kind and happy soul. My condolences to Jonathan's family; he is missed here at HP.*

Christine H - July 15, 2013 at 01:33 PM

DL

“ Jonathan and I played golf at Marysville and he always let me tee off first saying "Show me how it's done". Since I'm right handed and have a bad slice, I would send the ball down the right edge of the fairway. Then left handed Jonathan would tee off and his wicked slice would go down the left edge of the fairway. We would have to interrupt our conversation, play our golf balls down the edges of the fairway and reunite at the green, and continue our conversation. We would play the whole round that way.

Dave Leigh - July 15, 2013 at 11:59 AM

RO

“ I worked closely with Jonathan on a team several years ago - he was always a pleasure to work with and had a passion for doing the right thing. Since then, our paths have crossed occasionally in the hallways and he always had a friendly smile and time for a bit of conversation. We will miss him at HP.

Rob - July 14, 2013 at 12:35 PM

KH

“ Dear Kowash Family,
I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to you. I have also lost loved ones in death. This must truly be the hardest thing any of us will ever have to cope with. May you find comfort, as I have found, in the loving promise of our Heavenly Father to reunite us with our dead loved ones by means of a resurrection on a paradise earth filled with peace, happiness, and perfect health for everyone in the very near future. (Acts 24:15; Psalms 37:11,29,34; Isaiah 33:24)
May these precious promises from God's Word the Bible bring you a measure of comfort during this difficult time. My deepest sympathy to you.

Khrystalle Harris - July 13, 2013 at 06:25 AM

CW

“ *Christine Woltag lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Christine Woltag - July 12, 2013 at 08:10 PM

MF

“ *Jonathan was a mentor to me. He was always eager to discuss with me technology advancements and how to exploit them inside HP. He was a jolly person. I was very happy when Jonathan was able to come back to Corvallis into the proto job I left. It was fun to show him the ropes for once after all the things he taught me. I feel I have lost a mentor that is hard to find.*

mike frieze - July 12, 2013 at 04:45 PM

CS

“ *Christi Sears lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Christi Sears - July 11, 2013 at 07:25 PM

KE

“ *Kevin lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Kevin - July 11, 2013 at 01:38 PM

KE

I worked with Jonathan for several years and I will always remember his cheery personality and his hard work.

Kevin - July 11, 2013 at 01:43 PM

DH

“ *Declan Hynes lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Declan Hynes - July 11, 2013 at 04:13 AM

DH

I am sincerely sorry for your loss. I've only spoken with Jonathan a few times over the past couple of years - but was saddened to hear of his passing. His e-mails to me (on a topic of shared work interest) usually ended with a smiley face - and I think that we knew we were sharing an inside joke about the uniqueness of the systems that we collaborated on. He will be missed on this side of the Atlantic. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Declan Hynes - July 11, 2013 at 07:52 AM

CM

“ *I only recently had the pleasure of meeting Jonathan through work recently. He was energetic and enthusiastic and his early passing is a real loss. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends*

Colin Murphy - July 10, 2013 at 09:04 PM

MM

“ *Dear Kathy and Paul, Our deepest sympathies on the passing of your son, Jon. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Meg and Mark Mertens*

Meg Mertens - July 10, 2013 at 05:44 PM

HU

“ Will miss your laughters and your genuine smiles Jon...

huian - July 10, 2013 at 03:11 PM

TK

“ THOMAS KOWASH purchased the Tropical Tribute Spray for the family of Jonathan Paul Kowash.



THOMAS KOWASH - July 10, 2013 at 03:06 PM

HE

“ I worked with Jonathan several years ago at HP in Corvallis and remember his smiling personality. I was sorry to hear of his passing so early.

Herky - July 10, 2013 at 02:37 PM

VF

“ Van Fister lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash



Van Fister - July 10, 2013 at 02:34 PM

LB

“Kowash was a legend as a lighting designer at both Albany Civic Theater and Corvallis Community Theater. He was not only an incredible technician, but also a highly creative soul with an intuitive sense of how light and shadow tells a story. Some of my favorite memories of him are those moments when I would throw my hands up and wail, “I don’t think this can be done...”, and Kowash would get that little twinkle in his eye and say, “Hmmm... I wouldn’t be so sure about that”. Somehow, someway (usually involving a great deal of extension cord and gaffer’s tape), he would jury-rig a small miracle. It was an honor working by his side as part of the “Geek Brigade” that served as the design and technical team on so many community theater productions, and pondered many a deep thought during late nights of hanging lights, monitoring sound, building sets, and running shows. He was much loved and will be sorely missed.

Leah Burgy - July 10, 2013 at 02:16 PM

LM

Dear Kowash Family, I don't know if you will remember me, I was Cindy's friend when you lived in Glens Ferry. I have great memories of hanging out in your home and the love that you that surrounded all your children. I'm so sorry to here about John. You will be i my thoughts tomorrow.

Lori Trail Martin - July 11, 2013 at 01:58 AM

JS

I was another member of Leah Burgy's community theater Geek Brigade along with Jonathan and Dave Leigh. Then my theater journey evolved into directing and I "borrowed" Jonathan and Dave, with Leah's blessing. Jonathan was so creative because he was constantly dreaming of products and instruments that we did not have and asking "Why not?" and "How can we replicate that?". He was never complacent nor satisfied and, as a result, I got credit for his vision. Someone else will light my productions, but I will never be able to replace Jonathan.

John Sams - July 14, 2013 at 09:36 PM

EC

“ *Ellen Clemmer-Rhodes lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Ellen Clemmer-Rhodes - July 10, 2013 at 02:09 PM

LK

“ *Laura King lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Laura King - July 10, 2013 at 11:01 AM

LK

He will be remembered for his peaceful and positive presence in the work place. May that be something we all carry forward with us in honor and remembrance of him. Peace to his family and friends.

Laura King - July 10, 2013 at 11:05 AM

KV

“ *Ken Vandehey lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash*



Ken Vandehey - July 10, 2013 at 10:13 AM

SC

“ I met Jonathan when we worked at HP. I will always remember him as a very happy, upbeat and involved person. Heaven is richer for his presence, and we are poorer for his absence.

Steve Carpenter - July 10, 2013 at 09:36 AM

MO

“ Jonathan was always great to work with and always wanted to make things as smooth as possible for us. His efforts were a strong impact to my work center, allowing our data to flow as desired. We sometimes worked long and continually together and he always had more patience than I. Even long after he was removed from our issues, we would still consult him and he willingly would offer sound advice. He also was genuinely interested in both our work issues and me as a person. I will miss his smiling face and upbeat approach.

Monika NS

Monika - July 10, 2013 at 09:32 AM

JM

“ Jon.we were best friends at H.P.You were like a son to me.We had fun working together.You look up to me when you needed help and I was there to help you.I asked people where you were and none knew where you were.At lunch time you always ask me"ARE YOU GONA EAT THAT?" and I share my lunch with you.Someday we will meet again,my friend.My condolences to the Kowash family.R.I.P. Jon.God will be happy to have you with him.Till we meet again,someday. Jennie Moran

Jennie Moran - July 10, 2013 at 06:34 AM

HB

“ I was so saddened to hear the news of Jonathan’s passing. Jonathan and I shared a work space after we both moved back from Austin. In our ‘cube’, I really enjoyed his outlook on life and work. He was a very positive soul who was always willing to pitch in to solve a problem. He had a curious and enthusiastic nature – a trademark of a good engineer. I’m very sorry for your loss.

Heather B - July 09, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ Polly Fox lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash



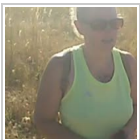
Polly Fox - July 09, 2013 at 10:00 PM

DM

“ Donna Mann lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash



Donna Mann - July 09, 2013 at 07:56 PM



“ Cindy Wendt lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Paul Kowash



Cindy Wendt - July 09, 2013 at 07:20 PM

TB

“ *My deepest sympathy to Johnathon’s friends and family, I just recently joined the organization and while I didn’t know him well it clear he was surrounded by peers who respected him deeply.*

Tonya Behr - July 09, 2013 at 06:41 PM

LG

“ *My prayers are with Jonathan's family at this difficult time. I also worked with him at HP and his enthusiasm and can-do attitude was a wonderful light in a challenging environment. He was always willing to talk, and to help with a problem or propose a solution. It is so sad when someone is taken from our lives so early, but he definitely brightened it while he was with us. God bless.*

Lorrie Gagnon - July 09, 2013 at 05:08 PM

TH

“ *My deep condolences to Jonathan's close family and friends during this loss. I first met Jonathan when he first landed at HP. I've seen him work in a number of roles and groups. He was always positive, upbeat and friendly. I would always enjoy our short chats about family, and work, and things to do. He was a kind and gentle fellow who will be greatly missed.*

Todd Herder - July 09, 2013 at 04:11 PM



“ I met Jonathan back in 2001 when I first started at HP as the manager of the Equipment Engineering team. Jonathan was a key contributor to the success of that team. After he and I had both moved on to other positions, we remained friends.

Jonathan loved technology, he loved people, and he smiled most days even when the day was tough. He loved his family and his friends and made sure, without saying so, that we knew we were important to him.

While he lived in Austin, Jonathan was a part of my extended family. He was always up for going golfing or to the local theater. I remember one time we went to the Roaring Fork for dinner and he decided to order the Filet (\$32). He was frugal, so this was an extravagance for him. I can still see the look on his face when they delivered that steak, all by itself. No potato, no veggie, just the steak. He didn't get angry or complain, he just shrugged and said something about how hard could it be to include a small potato or something. From then on, whenever he ordered steak anywhere else, he asked if it came with anything else and we would all smile and laugh together, remembering that lone steak sitting all by its lonesome.

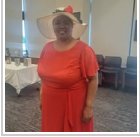
A few weeks ago I got an interoffice mail from Jonathan holding 4 months worth of unused Cap Metro passes. He wanted me to pass them along to someone here in Austin that could use them. That's how Jonathan was. He didn't believe in wasting anything, and he was generous and giving.

I was already missing Jonathan because he left Austin to move back home. Now I know that golf visit he was planning will go undone. Makes me sad.

For the family, please accept my condolences and sympathy. We will all miss him.

Clara

Clara Swearingin - July 09, 2013 at 04:08 PM



“ *Memory eternal.*

Sabrina Messenger - July 09, 2013 at 02:11 PM



“ *I knew Jonathan for 13 years but we've only had a close working relationship for the past 1.5-2 years when he moved back from Austin. He would always go above and beyond helping people with technical problems because he was extremely intelligent and genuinely interested in helping. Over the last couple years we had multiple deep conversations about a multitude of different subjects but mostly about technology. I really enjoyed those conversations and I really enjoyed working with him. He was a very open and sincere person and he added lots of warmth and laughter to our group. My condolences go out to his family and friends because he'll truly be missed.*

Todd Thompson

todd thompson - July 09, 2013 at 01:54 PM

AS

“ I have had the privilege of receiving Jonathan's support on and off over the past few years. For a while there were a lot of network issues in the Building 8 Test Labs. When Jonathan showed up at the affected Test Lab for support, he always had a big smile and when getting ready to troubleshoot, the expression on his face said "This is going to be fun". Jonathan was a great support (IT) and a great person. Jonathan will be missed greatly.

Allen Schmotzer

Allen Schmotzer - July 09, 2013 at 01:53 PM

TT

“ I knew Jonathan for 13 years but we've only had a close working relationship for the past 1.5-2 years when he moved back from Austin. He would always go above and beyond helping people with technical problems because he was extremely intelligent and genuinely interested in helping. Over the last couple years we had multiple deep conversations about a multitude of different subjects but mostly about technology. I really enjoyed those conversations and I really enjoyed working with him. He was a very open and sincere person and he added lots of warmth and laughter to our group. My condolences go out to his family and friends because he'll truly be missed.

Todd Thompson

todd thompson - July 09, 2013 at 01:45 PM

DL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Dave Leigh - July 09, 2013 at 12:55 PM

JL

“ *I'm not sure how I got to know or worked with Jonathan many years ago, but I always enjoyed chatting with him when we passed in the halls. I particularly remember running into him in downtown Corvallis a few months ago and chatting for a bit about families. He was such a kind and happy person. I was very sad to hear the new of his passing and send my condolences to his family.*

Jennifer L. - July 09, 2013 at 12:48 PM

AD

“ *Jonathan was very humble and there was no "I" in Jonathan, but Team. He was always looking at what was best for the business and the success of the team. He will be greatly missed.*

Amanda D - July 09, 2013 at 12:13 PM

CC

“ *Jonathan was passionate about what he did and was always looking for ways to help others. I enjoyed working with him. He will be greatly missed.*

Chris Camomile

Chris Camomile - July 09, 2013 at 11:56 AM

LM

“ Sincere condolences to Jonathans family and friends at this time. His influence and expertise were felt and valued across the world and he will most certainly be missed here in HP Ireland. Jonathan had a vast depth of expertise and was also incredibly adaptable. I'll certainly miss the comfort of knowing I could turn to Jonathan with any issue safe in the knowledge that I would get a prompt and in my experience always correct response.

Luke McCormack - July 09, 2013 at 10:57 AM

ME

“ Jonathan played a key role in supporting our Operations areas within HP and worked very closely with my team over the years. He was a brilliant Engineer and more than that a true friend. I will miss him dearly.

Michelle Evans

michelle evans - July 09, 2013 at 10:50 AM

KA

“ I worked with Jonathan in the past 18 months on a new product introduction done in Corvallis. He was very resourceful and got the work done even though he was the only IT person on the project, and had to work with multiple stakeholders on site. During our regular conference calls, he was always polite and helpful, never losing his calm even when he had to deal with stressful operational issues in addition to the project work. It was a nice experience working with him. Sadly, our association was cut short by his untimely passing. Rest in Peace, Jonathan! My prayers for his family to find the strength to cope with the loss.

Kannan - July 09, 2013 at 09:13 AM

PC

“ I will remember my cross-site's conferences with Jonathan, he always sounded friendly, patience and constructive. Jonathan and I had crossed path in the last few years, we corresponded over emails, he would be gentle with his request and willingly pass on his knowledge when i asked. I am glad and thankful to have worked with Jonathan.

Paul Chen - July 09, 2013 at 12:53 AM

DE

“ I had known Jonathan for the last 3.5 years. He was always fun to be around always thinking of new thing, and had new ideas to discuss, always willing to volunteer to help anyone and everyone. He was an excellent coworker and heck of a friend. He will be missed a lot...

Deshraj - July 08, 2013 at 11:38 PM

RR

“ I knew Jonathan for about 4-5 Years. He was a great person to work with, he was a kind person, had positive attitude .we will miss him lot....

Rajkumar R - July 08, 2013 at 11:03 PM

SW

“ Jeff & I will miss that great smile & quick laugh. Jeff recognized Jonathan's programming abilities right away when Jonathan applied for a software engineer position at HP and was very pleased when Jonathan got the job. The years that they worked together were some of Jeff's most enjoyable at HP. I got to know Jonathan when he started designing & operating lights for shows I was directing at the Majestic Theater. He was an extremely talented designer and a delightful person to work with. Jeff & I feel fortunate to have known Jonathan and will deeply miss him.

Shell Whittington & Jeff Winders

Shell Whittington - July 08, 2013 at 10:51 PM

FR

“ I worked with Jonathan for quite a few years but I never met him in person. It has always been a pleasure working with him because he is always so positive about everything. I will always missed him as a wonderful person and a great colleague.

-Francis Ong

Francis - July 08, 2013 at 09:02 PM

SS

“ Jonathan loved to play golf. On many occasions (in Austin, Texas) we would spend the day golfing and we always had a great time. Jonathan carried a large supply of 'spare' balls (dozens) in his bag and we use to tease him about keeping the golf ball manufactures in business, he had one heck of 'slice'. After golfing, we often went to lunch/dininer and talked about all matter of things. Besides golfing, Jonathon would come to our house, sometimes to just hang out, watch a football game, dinner, etc. He was a kind and gentle person and we miss him dearly....

Scott and Clara Swearingin

Scott and clara Swearingin - July 08, 2013 at 05:20 PM



“ Jonathan was always a great person to work with - he dove into things with a positive attitude and took on a lot of challenges. He cared about doing the best possible job for his customers, and he also cared about his work colleagues. He always asked how I was doing and listened to issues that I was facing - even if he couldn't help, he listened. He will be greatly missed by everyone that worked with him.

Angie Chu - July 08, 2013 at 04:35 PM

JW

“ Jonathan and I often walked places or rode the bus together. We had many talks.

Many mornings he would come into the office and ask me, in German, how I was. I'd answer in German and then we'd trade hellos in 3 or 4 different languages, none of which either of us could speak well (or at all).

He was toying with the idea of learning to play the harmonica and joining my blues band, and he was considering becoming a programming mentor on my childrens' high school Robotics team. Sometimes he exasperated me.

He was my friend, and he will be missed.

Jeff Winnett - July 08, 2013 at 04:33 PM

CL

“ I worked with Jonathan for probably 10 years while we were both in Corvallis and Austin. While he worked in Austin, we were “cubical neighbors”. Jonathan was always sharing and considerate of his project team and others. I loved the way Jonathan was always learning and passing on information. I first learned about TED videos from him. I have subscribed to online technical publications because of the articles he shared. Jonathan was also a completely kind and giving soul. I started riding the commuter train and walking to work because of Jonathans example. That improved my health and helped save on gas costs too. Jonathan posted a train map and schedule outside the cubical wall and repeatedly explained to me how the ticketing worked! I don’t know why it took me so long to understand but finally he got it through my head. I cannot ride the train without thinking of him. On more than one occasion he even gave me extra train passes he couldn’t use. I remember listening to Jonathan tell hart warming and funny stories about him and his family while he was growing up. I am comforted to know that he was able to have more time back in Oregon closer to more family before his passing. I miss his “sometimes booming” voice, hard work, great humor and excellent friendship! – Chuck Lewis; Austin, Texas

Chuck Lewis - July 08, 2013 at 03:46 PM

TL

Jonathan was willing to ask bigger questions than just the ones in front of him. I particularly appreciated a day when he let me vent for some time about the difficulties of getting things done in a large and segmented organization. After listening, he suggested a way to change the groundrules. I will miss him.

Tom Linder - July 09, 2013 at 10:11 AM

KK

Thank you Chuck. Jon's work world was separate from his family life, as it should be. It is so good to know of the friendships he has made in his life.

Kathleen Kowash - July 09, 2013 at 12:57 PM

ST

Jonathan was great to work with and great as a friend. We worked together at HP the last few years I was there. Jon was smart, patient and I never saw him get angry.

I remember he had to go on a trip to Singapore as a political gesture to show support for a "cold fusion" type project. The politics were so thick that the sponsors said the biggest risk to the project was whether cleanroom garments for Jon and another visitor would be there in time. He worked with everybody in a professional and friendly manner. He was fair and tried hard to give it the best help and evaluation was possible. He knew when something fishy was going on, but didn't get cynical and you could only tell if something looked funny by a little expression on his face or by using very carefully chosen words. He always took the high road.

Jonathan will be missed here, but I hope he is up stringing the lights or automating their control for our next sunset. He has blessed us all.

Steve Trapp - July 11, 2013 at 09:26 AM