



# Alexander Kushnir

AUG 10, 1954 - JUN 23, 2018



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## Alexander Kushnir

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**A**lexander Kushnir Obituary Outline Alexander (Alex) Kushnir of San Carlos, California, loving son, father and husband was 63 years old when he passed on Saturday, 23 June 2018. He died in flight of heart failure, returning from visiting family and friends in the Ann Arbor / Detroit metropolitan area. He'd had a history of heart disease and was treated for congestive heart failure in 2010. Alex was born August 10, 1954 in Detroit, Michigan to Bohdan and Valentina (Malec) Kushnir. He was a 1st generation American as they were Ukrainian emigres from WWII. Alex had travelled to Michigan to celebrate Father's Day with his beloved father of 97 years. Alex attended Cass Tech High School where he made deep and lasting friendships sustained through lively debates on current events. Through social networking, he had also reconnected with elementary school friends. Alex attended the University of Michigan, graduating with a combined degree in Computer Engineering / Computer Science. In 1976, Alex joined Manufacturing Data Systems (MDSI), founded in Ann Arbor by Charles Hutchins a life-long mentor and family friend. While in Michigan to visit his father, Alex attended MDSI's 50th reunion. Alex met his wife, Megan Fitzgerald, in fall 1978 when she was a freshman attending the University of Michigan. They were married June 25, 1983, nearly reaching their 35th wedding anniversary. Megan frequently studied at MDSI while Alex coded into the night. After two years of separation, while Megan completed her graduate degree at UC Berkeley and Alex worked at the University of Michigan, they were married and moved to California. They resided first in San Mateo and then moved to San Carlos to enjoy the beautiful hills and sunshine. In California, Alex worked as an independent computer consultant until he retired in 2001. He anchored the household while Megan travelled frequently for business. Alex was an excellent cook and loved to explore new recipes. He typically adjusted ingredients though, never quite duplicating any meal. Alex had a deep love of music learned from his father,



## Obituary

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who was a music professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Alex encouraged both his son and daughter to pursue conservatory piano training, which has instilled in them the same love for music. Alex was active in the community serving as the homeowners' association president for several years until his passing. Alex is survived by: His wife Megan, son Gregory and daughter Christina of San Carlos. Megan is employed by SSL, a Maxar Technologies company located in Palo Alto. Greg is currently a student at California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, studying for his MBA after completing his Cal Poly undergraduate degree in Chemistry. Tina is a student at Menlo School entering her senior year. His Father, Bohdan and Dorothy Kushnir of New Boston, Michigan. His brother-in-law, Mark Fitzgerald and Anne Lyke of South Lyon, Michigan and their extended family. His sister-in-law, Eileen Fitzgerald of Wooster, Ohio. His cousin Halyna Bye, her husband Ken Bye and brother Taras Borowsky of Minnesota (Valentina's niece and nephew). His aunt, Nina Afendykiw and her children Ryan and Natalie of Southern California (Valentina's sister). Alex is also survived by the extended family of Bohdan Kushnir in Lviv, Ukraine, who Alex kept in touch with regularly with through frequent online exchanges despite the time zone differences. The Lviv extended family revived his cultural foundation and shared his unique sense of humor. Alex is also survived by two enduring friends: Jim Burns of Clarkston, MI, a very dear high school, college and life-long friend, and Alan Kortesoja of Ann Arbor, Michigan a close friend and MDSI colleague. Alex was able to visit both during his Michigan trip. Alex is predeceased by: His beloved mother, Valentina (Malec) Kushnir, December 1978, unfortunately prior to meeting Megan, his future wife. His cousin, Andrew Afendykiw, March 2014.



## Tribute Wall

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MD

**Mike Donohue** posted:

Hi Megan, Sorry to hear of the passing of Alex. Sending you thoughts of comfort and prayers to you and your family at this difficult time. Mike

June 28 at 10:10 AM

TR

**Trevor Robinson** posted:

Megan, Gregory and Christina, I am deeply sorry for your loss. Alex was a kind and generous man who loved his family deeply and cared passionately for their well-being. I was amazed that he missed no more than one or two of the over one thousand piano lessons his talented children took with me over the years. He recently studied with me himself in a collaborative way which showed his dedication to learning and provided much enjoyment for both of us. My conversations with him were informative and entertaining, and they will be much missed. My life has been blessed with his presence and his memory will not fade. Very best wishes for the future, Trevor Robinson

June 28 at 8:16 AM

WL

**Will And Sandy Lawrence** posted:

Megan, Gregory and Christina, Please accept our heartfelt condolences. As I (Will) think back to my first encounter with Alex it brings a smile to my face. I was over in the community park playing with Cody, our golden retriever. You were just moving in and your front gate and front door were open. We had not met. Cody was off his leash. He saw the open gate and before I could react he was through it and in your house. He ran upstairs to Gregory's room and stole his new baseball. A moment later he emerged with the baseball and ran with it to the park. Gregory was right behind Cody calling out "Dad, he has my baseball." I managed to get the baseball away from Cody and return it to Gregory. By that time Alex had shown up so I apologized to both of them for the home invasion and theft, brief though the theft was. Alex was very cool about it saying "I have always liked that breed." That was it. I had the pleasure of working with Alex on a number of homeowner association projects over the years. He was generous with his time and steadfast in his efforts. All who live here are in his debt. Alex and I had a long chat a few weeks ago, primarily about family. He was very proud of Gregory's and Christina's educational accomplishments. It was clear he loved both of them as only a devoted parent can. I feel good about the fact that at the conclusion of our conversation I thanked him for his good works on behalf of the association. All the best to the three of you. Will and Sandy Lawrence

June 27 at 12:31 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Alexander by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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