

REMEMBERING MICHAEL IN MEMORIAM 1929–2018

Susan Mokolke, J.D.

Michael Harner, originator of Core Shamanism and Founder of the FSS, transitioned early in the morning of February 3, 2018. While we miss him terribly here at the Foundation, we are comforted by the fact that he passed at peace, knowing that his life's work in shamanism would continue through the FSS and the international faculty, and through his many thousands of students.

Sandra Harner joins us in appreciation of the many people who sent their kind wishes, sympathy, expressions of gratitude for Michael and the work, and their touching and inspiring personal stories. (See pages 4-5.)

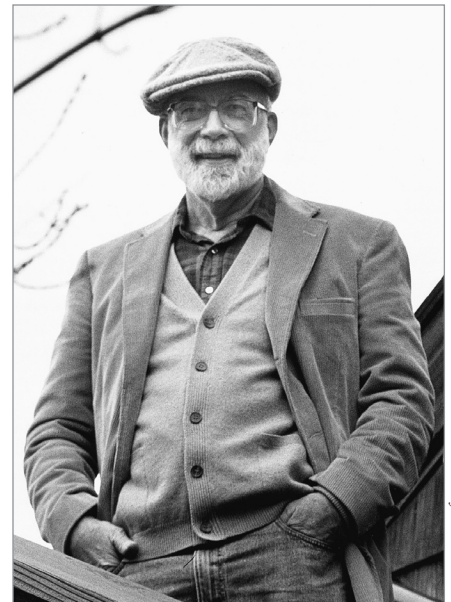
Michael Harner was a part of our lives—as a family member, friend, professional colleague, teacher, and mentor. In bringing forth and offering to the world practical shamanic healing methods, he changed the lives of thousands of his students, and through his students, the work continues to ripple outward, impacting tens of thousands more.

In his very long life, Michael received many honors: for his brilliant work in anthropology; as the author of a trailblazing book *The Way of the Shaman*

and its classic sequel *Cave and Cosmos*; and as a pioneer of integrative medicine. I think he appreciated these honors primarily because they acknowledged our immense debt to the wisdom and knowledge of our ancient ancestors.

He steadfastly refused the role of *guru*—often laughing and making a joke at his own expense. He insisted always that his students use the shamanic methodology he taught to find their own independent answers. “Journey on it” was one of his favorite instructions—one his students frequently knew was coming when they asked for advice—which expressed his commitment to the spiritual democracy of shamanism.

Michael and Sandra Harner's focus has always been on the work itself, as stated in the Foundation's mission: “Dedicated to the preservation, study, and teaching of shamanic knowledge for the welfare of the Planet and its inhabitants.” They, along with the Board of Trustees, had the wisdom more than a decade ago to imagine this time of change and to carefully and meticulously prepare and train the faculty, staff, and a new president to carry the mission forward seamlessly.



Now, though we personally feel the loss, the Foundation is in good heart and is thriving and growing, fostering the current and next generation of shamanic healers and practitioners.

We look forward to walking “the way of the shaman” together with you and—as Michael wished—continuing to bring the wisdom and compassion of the spirits to our world.

—Susan Mokolke, President

“If I were to die tomorrow, I'd feel that I'd done more than I had ever hoped. I feel very lucky that way. I never envisioned this path, and I never envisioned so many students wanting to seek it. Now there are so many people who are well-trained and prepared to work with and learn from the spirits. My legacy is my students as much as anything, because they will carry on, and some will go farther than I have ever gone.”

—Michael Harner

From “My Path in Shamanism,” published in *Higher Wisdom* by Roger Walsh and Charles S. Grob