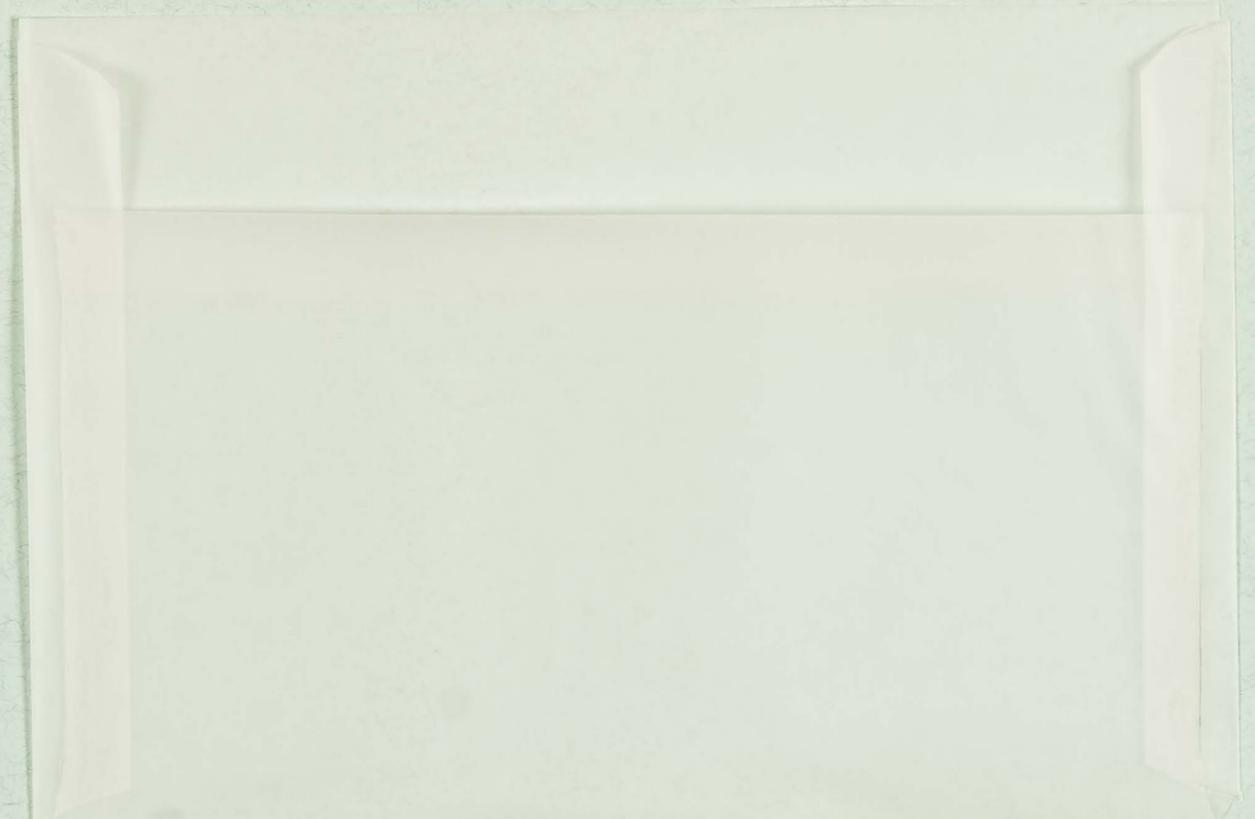
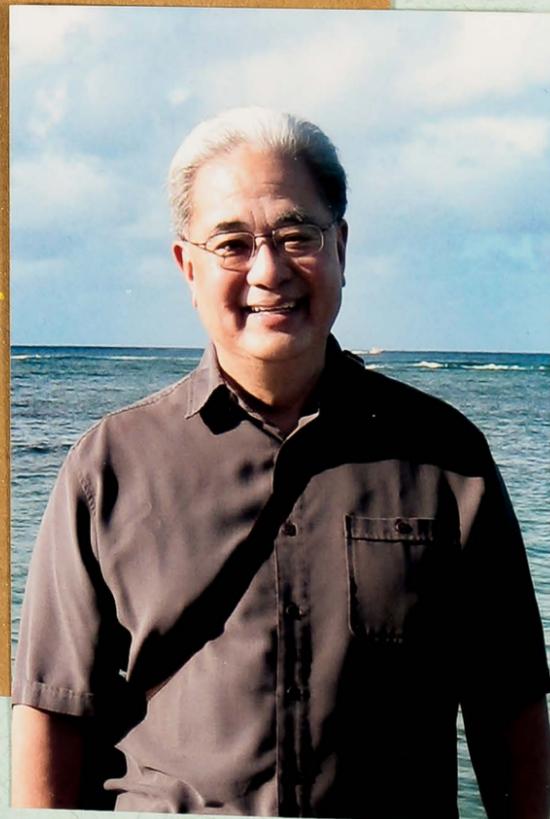


Joel Suzuki

Joel Suzuki was an educator. In fact, he was the first male kindergarten teacher in the state of Minnesota. He had a passion for teaching and understanding how children learn. As a consultant, he shared those insights with teachers all over the country.

*Founded in 1996 by Joel Suzuki and Todd Adams, Star Thrower Distribution began as an idea: to develop and produce training programs that engage **both** the heart and mind and with the belief: what is true for a child is also true for adults.*

Every Star Thrower program is filled with memorable stories, reinforcement of ideas, and calls to action. To learn a concept, you must become engaged, you must remember it, and you must understand what it means to you. How we learn is sequential; you must go through the process above before you can apply it.





Knowing that there was another freshman from Hawaii was a great comfort to me when I first stepped on campus. Joel with his friendly smile and warmth became my instant friend and brother. His positive, upbeat personality warded off any hint of homesickness. I am forever grateful to Joel for picking me up at the dorm every morning to escort me to class after the first freeze after seeing my bloody knees from slipping on the ice! Thank goodness I eventually got the hang of walking on ice. We used to laugh about that. It's the small thoughtful things that I remember about this kind and gentle person. Joel brought the aloha spirit to Minnesota!

Susan Kometani LaFontaine

Tribute to Joel Suzuki

When I look back at our time at Mac, I realize the most abiding and tangible assets we accumulated were our friendships. Two have endured despite the years and geography.

Joel Suzuki and I met as freshman roommates. The day is still vivid.....as vivid as the 4:00 am wake up call from this fresh off the island Hawaiian boy waiting for his first experience with snowflakes. Or his infectious laughter and myriad of girlfriends, whose general greeting to him yelled across campus was, "How're they hanging, Joel." He changed majors regularly during his time at school, but ended up precisely where he belonged....in elementary education. His wedding to Nancy in Hillsboro, North Dakota (pop 1200) was unforgettable, not only for our loss to 12 year old bowlers, but for the Hawaiian leis flown in for the ceremony by his mother that amazed and befuddled his new Norwegian father-in-law. He developed quite the handyman skills as a young married, and it was amazing to see what he could do with duct tape, bailing wire, and bubble gum.

He moved from elementary education when he discovered his talent for infusing other teachers with the excitement and joy that comes from success in the classroom. He developed his own consulting business to improve classroom education in elementary school. Later he demonstrated his creative talent and entrepreneurial spirit by starting a film production/distribution company for educational, motivational and inspirational films. He traveled the world to find the right venues and get his messages out to the folks that would be helped most.

It was as a father that he was happiest and most blessed. That he and Nancy raised Kari, and Jae and Tim with all the love and direction necessary has been demonstrated by their success and the close family ties that bind them together. They are warm and beautiful human beings. Macalester relationships proved vital to that family unit when Joel called upon Hubert Humphrey to assist with an adoption that had been held up by a State Department directive. Humphrey came through and Jae was in their arms within 72 hours. One of our last shared moments came when we stocked his back yard Koi pond with little crappies so that he might share fishing with his three year old grandson Evan.

Joel succumbed to cancer within three months of diagnosis. We all miss him.

It is hard to write a tribute to your best friend. The love and laughs and tears and time can't be caught we all love you, Joel.....very much.

Bill Chamberlin

Defenseless automobile falls prey to released aggressions as Joel Suzuki gets in his licks.

