

CAAP Mourns Leader, Frank Schiavo

CAAP president, Frank Schiavo, died suddenly on January 26, 2010, of a heart attack.

We are saddened by the loss of our president. His kindness, humor, passion for life, and his unique personality will be missed. He was truly a gentleman and a scholar. We all enjoyed working with him.

A beloved retired professor dubbed the "messiah of the environment" for being green before it was cool died this week at his solar-paneled San Jose home, stunning the many students and friends he had made over the years

CAAP Vice-chair, Ed Hodges, a teacher at Hoover Junior High School, said his friend since the 1960s died hours earlier that day, of a heart attack, the same thing that killed Hodges' mother 30 years ago and older brother, five years ago.

Funeral arrangements are pending, but relatives are planning a vigil in February at San Jose State University, where Schiavo taught environmental studies from 1974 to 2003. Schiavo had told family and friends, including Hodges, that he wanted to be cremated and then buried in his 1964 Chevy Nova, which he had converted from a clunker into a propane-powered car.

The list of Schiavo's achievements and memberships is long. He was president of Citizens Against Airport Pollution and had been leading the call for air quality monitoring at San Jose International Airport. He was also vice president of the Michael Lee Environmental Foundation.

In 2003, he was honored by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a nonprofit that seeks to improve the environmental health and safety practices of the global electronics industry. In 1996, he was inducted into the Santa Clara County Environmental Hall of Fame as a founding member. In 1971, he was named "Teacher of the World."

He composted in his front yard, washed dishes by hand, took short showers (his average PG&E bill was \$11 a month) and prided himself on not creating any garbage.

Frank Schiavo was profiled by the Mercury News, Mother Jones and CNN for his "zero tolerance" for garbage. He made headlines in 1994 when he sparred with the San Jose City Council after the city ruled he had to pay a monthly garbage bill even though his house didn't generate any trash.

Frank practiced what he preached and he will be missed by his colleagues at CAAP.

Frank Schiavo

Born: Sept. 16, 1939, in Detroit

Died: Tuesday in San Jose

Survived by: Survived by sister, Janice Schiavo-Schuhe, and stepmother, Joyce Schiavo, both of San Jose

Services: Pending