



Michael Howard Hinton

January 1, 2026

Michael Howard Hinton, 65, of Lancaster, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, January 1, 2026, at home with his family.

Born September 14, 1960, in Inverness, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, Mike grew up in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania. He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Josephine (Raiford) Hinton.

One of four siblings, he carried that role with quiet strength, protectiveness, and a steady perspective that would define his life.

A graduate of Fleetwood High School, Mike spent a formative year in Beijing, China, before beginning college. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Massachusetts Boston, after which he worked in a Harvard Medical School laboratory and later served as an EMT in Atlanta, Georgia. Drawn back to China, he became the first American-born graduate of the five-year program at the Beijing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, completing his studies entirely in Chinese and earning his OMD degree in 1996. During this time, he interned at Hu Guo Si Hospital and the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital in Beijing.

While studying in Beijing, Mike met his future wife, Xiong Min—whom he affectionately called Rima—during a chance meeting in a bar. Returning to the United States, he founded Han Shi Acupuncture in 1998 and treated patients in the Reading office. He was especially dedicated to helping fertility patients and veterans through the Veterans Administration Community Care program. Often described as a gentle giant, Mike was known for his integrity, compassion, and thoughtful care of every patient who came to him.

Exceptionally intelligent and deeply reflective, Mike was a careful listener who chose his words with intention. He was widely regarded as a calm, rational presence, valued for his honesty, insight, and emotional steadiness. Though reserved by nature, he was quietly adventurous, capable, and brave, someone who observed carefully, acted decisively when

needed, and showed up without fanfare. Those who knew him appreciated his dry humor, calm confidence, and steady presence.

Mike had played guitar since the age of sixteen and loved classic rock, blues, and jazz. He found joy in sharing music with friends and in introducing Rima to the musicians and musical styles that meant so much to him. A lifelong learner and voracious reader, he loved diving deeply into current events and researching family history.

He lived an active and deeply engaged life. An avid jogger and fitness enthusiast, he enjoyed sailing, hiking, and spending time outdoors with his family and Coco, his beloved red Siberian Husky. He wrestled in high school and continued throughout his life to study and practice MMA, jiu jitsu, and judo. Gifted with his hands, he was highly skilled in carpentry and bricklaying. His respect for the natural world was reflected in his generous support of local and national conservation organizations.

Above all, Mike was a devoted family man and father, never missing one of his daughter Danielle's basketball games or other activities. He shared close and enduring bonds with extended family and made others feel immediately comfortable and at ease.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Xiong Min (Rima); his daughter, Danielle (Dani) Hinton; his sisters, Carmelita (Carma) Hinton (Richard Gordon), Alyssa Hinton, and Catherine (Cathy) Hinton (James Sultan); his nieces and nephews; and a large extended family.

Mike's passing leaves an absence that cannot be filled, but his influence endures in the many lives he touched. He will be remembered for his integrity, loyalty, quiet courage, and the way he made people feel—seen, steadied, and understood.

A celebration of life will be held at Lancaster Friends Meeting, 110 Tulane Terrace, Lancaster, PA 17603, on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 10 AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Music for Everyone, 42 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, or musicforeveryone.org.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 14 (ET)

Lancaster Friends (Quaker) Meeting House
110 Tulane Terrace
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

NM

“ *Our sympathy and prayers are with Michael's family. He will be missed and remembered by his classmates.*
Fleetwood High School Class of 1978

Noreen Mayer - February 08 at 09:59 AM

LW

“ *Sincere sympathy to the entire Hinton family. We farmed for Bill in Fleetwood back in the '80's!! Wayne and Linda Wanner*

Linda Wanner - January 27 at 04:21 PM

VP

“ *Michael brought an amazing & unique facet to my Infertility/IVF clinic in Reading, PA. for many years. I trusted him greatly with my patients who found his calming care & extreme patience extremely valuable in helping them get through such a difficult time in their lives. Michael's services was offered to every IVF patient & many took advantage of his acupuncture techniques during critical & stressful moments of the process. Michael was the "read deal", as I told my patients. He helped add to the success that many patients experienced in their quest of having a family. I spoke of Michael & his road from Fleetwood to China & back to Reading so many times to my patients & to my colleagues at national meetings. Michael presented his infertility involvement at least one of his scientific meetings & received much deserved praise. I am very saddened to learn of his passing. My deepest thoughts to Michael's family.*
Vince Pellegrini, MD

Vince Pellegrini,MD - January 25 at 01:02 PM

RS

I was a patient of Michael's years ago when I was going through many sleepless nights due to excruciating pain. He helped me so much and I was so impressed by the kind of person that he was- a great respect for him and told many people about him who needed relief from pain. My heart felt prayers go out to his family, extended family and friends- I know that this is a loss that will be shared by many!

Rose Serrano - February 25 at 11:59 AM

ZA

“ *So sorry for your loss. He was a very nice man who, as recently as a month ago, helped heal some of my chronic pain. May he rest in peace and his family find peace through this difficult time.*

Zach - January 22 at 04:19 PM

FE

“ *Min, I'm so sorry for your loss. I still remember the day Lao Mai spoke with my dad in Chinese about history. He had such a gift.*

Fei - January 22 at 01:19 PM

DS

“ *Dear Rima, Dani and Family. Some years ago, you treated my wife Heather and myself for neck pain at your Lancaster clinic. You often spoke of your husband, Michael, who had his practice in Reading, and how you met in Beijing, where he completed his medical studies and residency completely in Chinese. I could never understand how such an accomplishment was possible...Michael was an amazing man. You also spoke of visits to Nova Scotia, where I now see Michael was born, as was I. My condolences and blessings to you all, David Sperry*

David Sperry - January 18 at 09:56 PM

PL

“ *I have a delightful memory of Min, her mother, baby Danny and Michael with his guitar coming to my home and having a jam session with my husband and another neighbor in our backyard. Three men ,three different guitar styles creating one of the best jam experiences I have had. On a more personal note, Michael gave my husband his voice back after he had a stroke and had dysphasia. Michael's talents as a healer and TCM practitioner allowed the opportunity for my husband and I to have personal conversations has husband and wife. It is a gift that I will never forget. God bless you*

phyllis long - January 18 at 03:05 PM