



Alexander Cohen

July 12, 1930 - August 8, 2022

ALEXANDER L. COHEN

Alexander L. Cohen, 92, passed away on August 8, 2022, devoted husband of Sally Cohen and devoted father to Jesse Cohen (Marcia), Randy Gillett (Karen), Ira Cohen (deceased), Gary Gillett, Julie Fehler (Peter), Josh Cohen (Debbie) and Dan Gillett (Andrea). Alex also leaves behind thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Service will be held at 12:30pm on Friday August 12, visitation starting at noon, at the Weil Kahn Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road, Cincinnati OH, 45249. Burial to follow at the Hirsch Hoffert Cemetery at 1405 Sunset Avenue, Price Hill, Hamilton County, Ohio 45238. In lieu of flowers, please donate memorial contributions to Etz Chaim and Wise Temple of Cincinnati.

Born in Brooklyn, NY to Isaac and Frances (Latner) Cohen, Alex lived in Cincinnati with his family for 57 years, relocating with his wife Sally to California in 2018. He was predeceased by his older brother Don of Albany, NY.

Alex earned his PhD in Industrial Psychology and Engineering from Penn State University, his master's from the University of Delaware, and bachelor's from City College of New York. Moving to Cincinnati with first wife Lynn (Brandschain) Cohen in 1961, he raised a family of four Cohens (Jesse, Ira, Julie, and Josh) in Roselawn and later North Avondale. Following a 1978 divorce, he married Sally (Manheimer) Gillett in 1979 and settled in Amberley Village. With this step, the enlarged family now included Sally's three sons

(Randy, Gary, and Dan). The Cohen-Gillett family has stayed very close over the past 43 years, but unfortunately lost son Ira Cohen in 1982.

Alex excelled professionally in his career in Cincinnati as an industrial psychologist with the US Public Health Service and later the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). He earned recognition as a top national expert on noise impacts on people. He went on to broaden his professional contributions into other factors affecting human performance at work, winning several US government awards for Outstanding Service.

In 1964 Alex became one of several founding members of conservative Roselawn-based congregation B'nai Tzedek where he served in various congregational board and leadership roles over the years, leading many services and delivering sermons. Later he helped spearhead that congregation's merger with Congregation Ohav Shalom in 2015 which formed Congregation Etz Chaim.

Alex's many favorite activities included gardening, jogging, ballroom dancing, handball, tennis, home repair work, bottle cap art, travel and going to Graeters. As a former high school and college southpaw pitcher, he enjoyed throwing baseballs (he had a nasty curveball!), footballs and basketballs around with his children and grandchildren. With brother Don on the accordion, he loved singing Jewish melodies, Broadway tunes and Sinatra songs. He perennially entertained his grandchildren and great-grandchildren with children's melodies he learned as a young child. He also loved visiting with all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren around the country, taking great pride in regular visits and attending their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, graduations from college, and weddings.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG **12**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH 45249
bill@weilkahnfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ Weil Kahn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Alexander Cohen



Weil Kahn Funeral Home - August 12, 2022 at 10:05 AM

JH

When I started my career at NIOSH in 1972, Alex was my Branch Chief. At that time, he was one of only a handful of psychologists working in the fledgling arena of occupational health and safety. He helped "pave the way" for all of us who would try to follow in his footsteps. My condolences to the Cohen family.
Joe Hurrell

Joe Hurrell - August 12, 2022 at 04:15 PM



“ Dearest Sally,
I am so saddened and sorry to read about Alex's passing. My heart breaks for you, but I have no doubt he's playing ball with Don & the famous parrot! May he Rest In Peace. Thank you Alex, for all the happy memories! ❤️

Maria Saturnino - August 24, 2022 at 12:33 AM

KA

“ Alex was my boss at NIOSH and an excellent one. He was always there to provide counsel and support. He was extremely smart and well educated, and that knowledge supported all his interactions with people. He was also honest and kind. I have only fond memories. My condolences to the family.

Kent Anger - August 15, 2022 at 02:18 PM

DP

“ To the Cohen family. We regret that Donald & Bernice Pollack could not attend the service but we watched the service on the internet as we were in Maine with family. Alex was one of my 1st patients and stayed a friend until his move to California. Please accept my sincere condolences to the entire family. Donald Pollack & Bernice Pollack

Don Pollack - August 12, 2022 at 01:31 PM

MC

“ I worked for Alex for over 20 years and have thought of him often over the 20 years since my retirement; always with a smile. He was one of the most remarkable men I've ever met. He was a conscientious, hard working, dedicated professional who set high standards for himself and elevated the performance of his staff through his example. I remember many occasions sitting by his side while we reviewed a manuscript before sending it up the chain for final clearance. His leg would pump like he was operating the treadle on a sewing machine (he was never still) and he would twirl his finger through his hair until he found the best possible word to convey a thought. By the time he was finished he had little ringlets all over his head. His was fiercely loyal to his staff and went to the mat for us many times, often absorbing the blame for something we had screwed up. In fact, behind his back, we gave him the name, "the backstop" because he was always there to catch our mistakes and anticipate problems. While this made our lives much easier, it added to his burdens. He was a well-renowned researcher for his work on the psychological effects of noise but you'd never find out about it from him. It was all part of the job. But I can't end this narrative without citing two very personal experiences that characterize Alex the man. We played tennis from time to time and as you'd expect he was a fierce competitor, while being a terrific sportsman. On night after a match he borrowed 50 cents from me to buy a coke (yes there was a time when you could buy a coke for 50 cents). When I arrived at my office the next morning, there was Alex at my door. He was waiting to repay me my 50 cents. He probably worried about it all night. But, on a more personal level, I had a brother who committed suicide. When I returned to work, Alex came to my office to express his condolences. He was so distraught that I had to actually console him. The fact that he shared my grief to such an extent gave me comfort and a sense of kinship. Although I haven't seen Alex in over 20 years, I am saddened by his passing and know that the world is a lesser place in the absence of men of his caliber.

Michael James Colligan - August 12, 2022 at 12:33 PM

LH

That was beautiful Michael

Lisa Heinichen - August 13, 2022 at 01:44 AM

DC

Thank you for sharing these tender and personal thoughts with us.

Debbie Cohen - August 24, 2022 at 06:50 PM

VM

“ *Carpooled with Alex back in the 60's - a gentleman, a hard worker, and kind! Vivian Morgan*

Vivian K Morgan - August 11, 2022 at 10:42 AM

RH

“ *Dr. Cohen could always make me laugh and see the better things. I worked with him until he retired from NIOSH. You make them laugh on the other-side. Rosmarie H.*



Rosmarie Hagedorn - August 11, 2022 at 09:00 AM

JC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jesse Cohen - August 10, 2022 at 08:35 PM

LH

“ Love you Uncle Alex. Until we meet again.



Lisa Heinichen - August 10, 2022 at 08:24 PM

JC

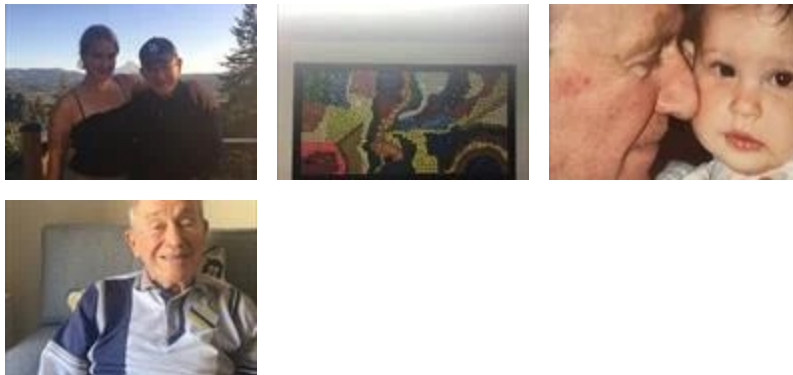
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jesse Cohen - August 10, 2022 at 08:24 PM

RG

“ The best of the best. I'll remember you in laughter; I'll remember you in song. Rest in paradise Grandpa.



Rachel Gillett - August 10, 2022 at 04:03 PM

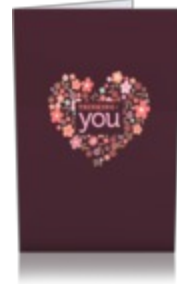
RD

I worked for Alex at NIOSH for several years. He was always a fair supervisor and I owe him a lot for selecting me to be transferred from the National Institute of Mental Health to CDC/NIOSH. It provided me a research career that was not available in a previous assignment.
Robert B. Dick

Robert B. Dick - August 11, 2022 at 09:23 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Alexander Cohen.



August 10, 2022 at 01:23 PM

CK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Candace Kwiatek - August 09, 2022 at 09:28 PM

HC

“ Sally, our most sincere condolences
We have many fond memories of our days at B'nai Tzedek
May his memory be a blessing
Fondly,
Aliza and Hirsh Cohen
Chicago

Hirsh Cohen - August 09, 2022 at 06:49 PM