



## Corky Philip H. Steiner

February 9, 1943 - March 7, 2026

STEINER, Corky Philip H., age 83, passed away March 7, 2026, beloved husband of the late Ellen (nee Kuby) Steiner, loving father of Meredith (Eric) Burns, Ricky (Frannie) Steiner, and Joseph “Joey” (Jessica) Steiner, dear step-father to Will and Aaron Arnzen, caring grandfather of Graham, Bailey, and Evelina Burns, Lily and JJ Steiner, and a young Jedi due in May, brother of the late Rick Steiner, uncle of Ace and the late Duke Steiner, cousin of John (Margo King) Steiner, and brother-in-law to Mark (Pam) Kuby and Mimi (the late Jerry) Lerner.

Corky was born into a remarkable legacy. His father, Phil Steiner, helped build Kenner Toys into one of the most creative and influential toy companies in America. Corky treated his family’s legacy as something to protect and to carry forward. Corky began his distinguished career at Kenner in 1967, and he rose the ranks at Kenner and Hasbro Toys, holding multiple executive roles, including most recently, VP of Hasbro Toys - Latin America. Kenner was built on imagination—the belief that play matters, that creativity matters, that childhood matters. If you knew Corky, you know that Corky embodied these core values in his professional life, and also in the way he loved his family. Corky was a 1961 graduate of his beloved Walnut Hills High School. He then went on to Tulane University for his Bachelors of Arts, which he received in 1965, and he was elected the president of his class. Following Tulane, he went on to University of Chicago for his Masters in Business Administration, which he earned in 1967. He was an active leader in many communities. He

served as President of the Walnut Hills Alumni Association. He was the former president of Losantiville Country Club, he was a member of Tulane University's Omicron Delta Kappa honorary society, served on the board of directors for Jewish Vocational Service, the Jewish Federation, and The Boy Scouts of America, former chair of Cub-O-Rama, and former president of Camp Livingston.

Above all, Corky was most proud of his family. He loved and adored his wife, Ellen, who passed in 2024. He was proud of his children—Ricky, Joey, and Meredith—not simply for what they did, but for who they became. The same goes for Will, Aaron, and Ace. His legacy continues on with his lovely grandchildren, Lily, JJ, Graham, Bailey, Evelina, and another boy on the way. Kenner made toys for childhood, but family is what makes childhood meaningful. Corky believed legacy wasn't just about buildings or corporations, but about people, the values we pass down, the stories we tell, and the love we show. Kenner created toys that children treasured, but Corky created a family that treasures him.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 10:00AM at Weil Kahn Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45249 with visitation beginning at 9:00AM. Services will be LIVESTREAMED [https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/embed\\_viewer/120711](https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/embed_viewer/120711). Burial will follow at United Jewish Cemetery of Walnut Hills, 3400 Montgomery Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45207. Following funeral services, the family will receive friends at Losantiville Country Club, 3097 Losantiville Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45213. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Corky and Rick Steiner Family Foundation, c/o Joey Steiner, 4044 Rose Hill Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45229. The family will disperse any donations in Corky's name to select dementia initiatives. Donations may also be made in Corky's name to Caringkind NYC, UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute, or the UCSF Clelland Lab.

Corky would say to each and every one of you: May the Force be with you.



# Cemetery Details

## United Jewish Cemetery Walnut Hills

3400 Montgomery Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45207

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home  
8350 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249  
513-469-WEIL (9345)  
[info@weilkahnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@weilkahnfuneralhome.com)  
<http://www.weilkahnfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral

MAR 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home  
8350 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249  
513-469-WEIL (9345)  
[info@weilkahnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@weilkahnfuneralhome.com)  
<http://www.weilkahnfuneralhome.com>

## Gathering

MAR 10. 11:30 AM (ET)

Losantiville Country Club  
3097 Losantiville Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45213

*GATHERING FOLLOWING FUNERAL SERVICE*

# Tribute Wall



“ Weil Kahn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Corky Philip H. Steiner



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**Weil Kahn Funeral Home** - March 09 at 10:07 AM



*I am saddened to receive notice that Cork, my quirky and sometimes sarcastic friend and Kenner/Hasbro alumni, colleague has passed on. I had the pleasure of meeting Al and Phillip Steiner when I first started at Kenner in 1975 at 912 Sycamore St. in Cincinnati although they no longer worked there, they were still supporters, advisors and keepers of the company's history. They supported me and encouraged me to stick it out in an exciting, ever changing and tough industry. I have been in the industry ever since. I want to Thank the Steiner family for supporting me as a young African American from the Cincinnati Millvale projects in becoming the first black engineer at Kenner. My prayers are with the family, and I will always consider the Steiner family part of my extended family.*

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**Jacob R Miles III** - March 10 at 10:49 AM

RG

*Corky and I were in Kindergarten together and we're classmates all through elementary and high-school. What a gift to have a friendship that long and then continue through class reunions. The Class of '61 will never be the same. Thank you Corky. You are missed.*

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**Roslyn Gantt-Simmons** - March 10 at 11:10 AM

JM

“ *RIP, Dear Cork. We had some great adventures.*



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**Janice Melhorn** - April 30 at 01:36 PM

BS

“ *My heartfelt condolence to the Steiner family. While I don't know you I can feel for your loss as Corky was an invaluable part of my Kenner experience. His energy and support were boundless and he seemed to have an innate sense when the company needed encouragement. I loved his persistence and his commitment to the Kenner family. Corky can't be here with us now but he will be with us in spirit forever.*



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**Bruce Stein** - April 19 at 12:47 PM

GO

“ *Have had Corky on my mind for several days and by chance looked him up through Google to learn of his recent passing.. He was indeed a friend to me throughout some troublesome years and my first college date when I went to Newcomb in NO back in 1963.. Sympathy to each of you in his family and how blessed you are to have had him as father, grandfather, and friend. Gail Kempner Oshea, Little Rock, Srkansas*

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**Gail Kempner Oshea** - April 01 at 10:30 AM

JW

“ I just learned about Corky's passing from a friend at the JCC this morning. I got to know him, "Quirky Corky," when I worked at the Walnut Hills Alumni Foundation. Whenever I would call him at his office, he would answer and immediately start speaking in Spanish, which was hilarious as I took French. I reconnected with Corky last Spring, as I wanted his insight on finding potential kids sponsors or networks for my children's streaming series that is based upon my books. I sent him two signed copies of my books for the grandkids, and he got the biggest kick out of it and called to tell me how much he enjoyed them. He was so kind, always took my call, and, of course, Corky was truly one of a kind and will be truly missed by very many. I am praying for your family, and hope that the fond memories will be a blessing to all.

*Sursum ad summum.*

*With Deepest Sympathies, Julie Whitney WHHS '78*

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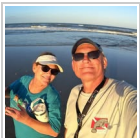
**Julie Whitney** - March 20 at 12:38 PM

CT

“ Joey, Jess, and family,  
I am sure the empty silence of a lost life is wearing hard on you these days. Was so sorry to hear of the loss of father, fil, and grandpa. The pain fades but the missing never does. Be strong love your kids and hug each other daily. Never forget the love that you share and know that mom and dad are together watching, loving, and guiding you all the days of your lives.

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**chris taylor** - March 12 at 09:15 PM



“ I'm sure I speak for my generation and beyond when I say thank you for all the star wars toys, it fulfilled our imaginations and inspired us all. You're one with the Force now. Thank you Corky!

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**Walter Crowley Jr.** - March 12 at 12:53 PM

RP

“ Thank you for being a part of my wonderful childhood through my Star Wars action figures. May you watch over us and inspire the next toy makers through the Force.

Robert Pitts - March 12 at 12:09 PM

LG

“ 3 files added to the album Corky in Boy Scouts



Linda Grayman - March 12 at 11:32 AM

AC

“ I can't believe that our beloved Corky is gone. He was a prince of a man. How lucky we all are to have shared the time on this planet with him.  
May he rest in peace, after an extraordinary life.  
Alice Marks Corning

Alice Marks Corning - March 11 at 03:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Kenner Family



Jacob R Miles III - March 10 at 12:15 PM

JM

“Corky did a LOT for me over the years. Career counseling as I tried to establish myself as an international trade lawyer. Introductions when there were things I needed to learn about the toy industry. Traveling to Philadelphia, in 1996, to watch me get married. For sure I should have counted the Licking River water-ski outings, spread over several earlier years. But I was too dense to appreciate how special those times were, and how much Cork was extending himself.

*He had no particular reason to look after me as he did, and to invest so much in a friendship with someone 20 years his junior. What a damn guy.*

*Corky was of course a stalwart at the Summer Wednesday Evening softball games that used to take place on the LCC golf course. The group was, in part because he insisted it should be, a multi-generational one. Corky would both pitch and holler out the play-by-play. At least once or twice each game, during an offensive rally, you would hear his voice rise above the din, shouting: “ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING WITH TWO OUTS!” It was a normal enough factual observation, but I have come to understand it was something more as well. Like he understood, and really wanted all of us to understand, that runs scored are sweeter when they come with two down. Extra gratitude and appreciation are called for.*

*He didn't just bring us together; he gave us little lessons.*

*I have no proof, just evidence from scattered letters and (since 2015) emails, but I believe that the last ~20 years were something of a two-out rally for Corky. And that he took his own admonition to heart, appreciating things all the more because he was batting with two down. I wish I had told him how much I admired that.*

*He would have scoffed at the idea that anyone would hold him up as a role model. Well, Sir, go ahead and scoff. Because you have been a role model to me. One of the indispensables.*

*Condolences to Cork's family and to everyone feeling this gigantic loss.*

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**John Magnus** - March 10 at 08:36 AM

IM

“ *The 3 brothers Steiner occupied a business in the West End in the late 40s-it had become a ghetto neighborhood due largely to a large influx of blacks seeking a better life, The busness was industrial soaps. One day someone became enchanted with the bubbles, and xt thing you know there is this magnificent company Kenner Toys, In july 1949 our family arrived in US, practically next to the Steiner concern, We had just come from a refugee camp,post WW2 Augsburg,Germany and Catholic Charities put us up withe Sisters at St Marys,also in the ghetto. I later came across Corky at Walnut Hills High. As has been remarked, Corky swowed brilliabt business demeanor in his projects, fully carrying on the Steiner Legacy. Corky ran our Walnut Hills reunions,and would freely converse in Spanish with his clients in Central ans South America. For the last 10-15 years on my trips back to Cincy ,often enjoyed the fun,and civility of seeing Ellen and Corky.*

*Spring is coming,and the tide has gone out*

*Rest in peace Corky*

*You will always prevail,and remain steadfast among us*

*Yours a life truly justified*

*Sympathies are offered for the loss of our kind and most gifted friend*

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**Ilo Soovere, M.D.** - March 09 at 05:02 PM



“Corky was more than a mentor to me—he was a true friend, a generous guide, and one of the most genuinely kind people I’ve ever known.

*I first met Corky in high school when my AP Biology teacher, Gwyn Bush (his Walnut Hills Class of '61 classmate), invited me to photograph one of the extraordinary class reunions he helped organize. That single event opened the door to years of collaboration and friendship. Corky saw potential in a shy teenager with a camera and asked if I'd help with a video project he had been contemplating. What followed was an incredible partnership documenting the rich history of the Kenner toy family—leading to public symposiums at the Main Cincinnati Library, a special exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, the inductions of a couple Kenner alumni into the Toy Industry Hall of Fame, the beautiful Cincinnati Toy Heritage Mural, and even helping spotlight Kenner in Season 1, Episode 1 of the Netflix series *The Toys That Made Us*.*

*Corky didn't just want to preserve history, though; he used it to inspire and connect people. For me, he offered wisdom, encouragement, and an unearned trust that helped a quiet kid from a rural town find confidence and seize opportunities I could never have dreamt of. He joked that interviewing Kenner and Hasbro legends was giving me an informal MBA—and in many ways, it truly was. The Kenner exhibit we helped bring to life was undoubtedly the forerunner of the new, permanent "Made in Cincinnati" installation at the museum center.*

*Corky and I frequently bonded over our shared love of Cincinnati—its sports teams, architecture, history, and institutions—and he made sure I experienced the best of Minnesota's natural beauty (another place he cherished from childhood camps in Bemidji with his brother Rick) when I moved to Minneapolis. Time at the Steiner lakehouse was always special and Corky would ogle over the wildlife always present there.*

*As an executive who valued creativity and "home grown ideas", he celebrated every one of the patents I filed at work like they were his own. In grad school, I wrote him a letter of gratitude for a class assignment, and I'm so glad it started a habit of telling him—and others—how much they meant to me.*

*Above all, Corky's greatest gift to us was how widely he cast his net of family. He cherished Ellen, his children Meredith, Ricky, Joey, Will and Aaron, his grandchildren, brother Rick and cousins. He was fiercely loyal and proud of each of you—and of his Walnut Hills alumni family: his classmates from the Class of '61, Ellen's from the Class of '67, and Rick's from the Class of '64. At those reunions, he championed the idea of classmate "talk-arounds," creating space for everyone to share their own perspectives, struggles, and joys from their teenage years during the civil rights era. Whether brightening the day of a custodian in an elevator or chatting with a Fortune 500 president at Skyline, I observed how he assumed the best in people and treated them with dignity and his unique sense of humor. His connection to children's imaginations through toys felt so natural because he never lost that playful, joyful spirit himself.*

*Corky, thank you for the memories, the laughter, the opportunities, and the love. You made the world brighter—and you made me believe I could too.*

*May the Force be with you, Corky.*



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**Justin Burwinkel** - March 09 at 11:42 AM

HW

“Corky was a great guy. We send our sincere heartfelt condolences. He was also a real friend to us and our family. He will be missed.  
Herb Weiss and Elaine Lazarus

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**Herb Weiss** - March 09 at 10:21 AM

MK

“To the Steiner family,

*My condolences to all of Corky's children and grandchildren. Working with each of you to plan funeral services for Ellen in 2024 is a memory I think of often. Corky went out of his way to send me a letter of thanks after everything was taken care of that I will always treasure. He was a gentleman and I thought of him often because of his candor and care. He was a very special man, and I am thankful I got to meet with him and work with him. His love for each of you was obvious as was his love for Ellen. May Corky's name and legacy be for a blessing. Wishing your entire family comfort and peace during this time of loss.*

*Sincerely,  
Mika Ziv Kill*

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**Mika Ziv Kill** - March 09 at 09:42 AM

SH

*To the Steiner Family,  
I met Corky at Mrs. Reed's Nursery School on Burton Ave. in Avondale. The mid 1940's. I believe I could fill many pages with memories. Suffice to say, "when God created Corky the mold was retired." A TRUE MENCH." There will never be another like Corky. I am unable to attend the Memorial for Corky but my thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends that will pay tribute and respect for Corky. Rest in peace my friend and MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.*

*Stuart Hodesh*

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**Stuart Hodesh** - March 10 at 08:36 AM

KW

“Corky Steiner was a force of nature!! He was a brilliant businessman, a noted philanthropist, a consummate toastmaster, a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, an all encompassing friend, and above all a true mensch. We first met in 4th grade at South Avondale Elementary and spent 6 years together at Walnut Hills. Our friendship grew over the years, especially during our 5 year high school reunions that began in 1966 and have continued through 2021. Corky spearheaded these gatherings. But my most enduring memory of Corky was his greeting me at my brother’s funeral on October of 2016. I never called him but he saw the notice and showed up to my great surprise. Little did we know he would join me in the loss of a brother when Rick died about a month later. Our conversations at that time were so meaningful to me. I will miss his voice and his jokes and most of all his humanity. Rest in peace dear friend- your memory will be a blessing to all who knew you.

*With love to the family.*

*Ken Wolf*

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**Ken Wolf** - March 08 at 09:19 PM

RB

“in my time as a Newsman I met many interesting people. Corky Steiner was among the most interesting. He was a combination of creativity, energy and Brains. Corky had knack for understanding what people wanted and how they wanted to be entertained. He always treated me with grace and respect and I always walked away from our interactions having learned something.

*He made our community ,and the world for that matter, a better place through his work with Kenner. Rest in Peace my friend and may god bring peace to his family.*

*Sincerely Rob Braun*

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**Rob Braun** - March 08 at 08:33 PM

BL

*As we all at this time in our lives come to the reality of our mortality, we have a unique opportunity to to see what life is all about if we choose to do so. Corky represented the best that to which we aspire. Not only did he accomplish all described so eloquently, but , so many more never exposed. I witnessed some of those as he assisted many of his WHS classmates in some of their direst of situations with no desire for recognition. For me, personally, there was one memorable occasion of far the less consequence but interesting as I reminisce. I came to WHS in the middle of my junior year after my family lost all they had in Florida. One of the first days there in an advanced Spanish class, I saw the only student seemingly dressed as poorly as I. Corky Steiner. I felt somewhat at home. He never knew this till much later after he unknowingly encouraged me to simulate some of his magnanimous actions and developed a close relationship. He made a better person of me without ever recognizing his ability to influence people to their betterment for humanity. God speed Cork and thank you so much for who you were.,*

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**Bradley Lemberg** - March 09 at 08:29 PM