



Fred Harman Abel

October 3, 1941 - August 20, 2025

Fred Harman Abel, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at his Wyoming residence. He was 83.

Born on October 3, 1941 to Gladys and Armand Abel, Fred was raised in Bexley, OH which he affectionately called “God’s country.” He completed freshman year at Cornell University, but transferred to The Ohio State University to help his mother after his father unexpectedly passed away that summer. While he had attended OSU football games since childhood, becoming a Buckeye himself solidified his lifetime love of the team! He also met Karen at OSU, and after one date, knew she would be his wife. Upon graduation, Fred served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army from 1963-1965. During that time, he married Karen and they resided near the army base in Ft. Benning, GA. After army service and a brief time in Knoxville, Fred and Karen moved to Cincinnati where Fred worked for Karen’s father, Kartan Mailender, at Mailender-Barnett, Inc., a paper and janitorial supply company. Fred became President and worked there for 40 years until retirement.

Fred was a dedicated community volunteer and philanthropist. He was a past President of Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), and for many years served as Chairman of JVS’ Hilb Scholarship Fund which provides need-based

academic scholarships for residents of Greater Cincinnati. He also served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and was a longtime fundraiser for them. Fred and Karen were among the first people to “create a Jewish legacy” for the Jewish Federation.

From a young age, Fred’s passion was tennis. He was an avid tennis player for decades and could be found on tennis courts throughout Cincinnati. He hung up his tennis racket for golf clubs at age 70 because it was more “user friendly” (on his body). He also had a flair for fashion, perhaps sparked by a high school job at a men’s clothing store in Columbus. He was always well-dressed and one of the few men who loved to shop!

Fred is survived by his loving wife of 61 years Karen Mailender Abel, his children Andrew (Dara) Abel and Allison (Eric) Kahn, and his sister Sally (Charles) Neustadt, along with his seven grandchildren: Alexandra (Andrew) Zoss, Samantha, Caroline and Jonathan Abel; and Madison, Lillian and Jacqueline Kahn. He is also survived by other cherished family members and dear friends.

The funeral will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 1 pm with visitation beginning at 12 pm at Weil Kahn Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road Cincinnati, OH 45249. Burial will follow at Montgomery Cemetery, 7885 Ivygate Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, 8499 Ridge Road Cincinnati, OH 45236 or the charity of one’s choice.

Cemetery Details

United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane
Montgomery, OH 45242

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Funeral

AUG **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Tribute Wall



“ Weil Kahn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Fred Harman Abel



Weil Kahn Funeral Home - August 21, 2025 at 10:56 AM

LS

*Dear Karen, Andy and Dara,
I was so sorry to hear of Fred's passing. My heart goes out to you during this difficult time. I hope you find comfort in the love you shared and that his memory will always be a blessing. Lauren Scharf*

Lauren Scharf - September 11, 2025 at 02:30 PM

LP

“ *My Thoughts, Love, and Prayers are with You All During This Difficult Time. I hope all your beautiful memories help you navigate through your journey of grief. Freddie was My Idol growing Up at Winding Hollow CC when I was a little girl & He was like a grown up "Hunk"!!! And I never let him forget it!! Karen... I Love You & Your Entire Family!!! Xoxo Laura Paul*

Laura Paul - August 28, 2025 at 01:09 PM

SM

“ Freddie you were the shining star in our close knit family of Abels! You easily slipped into that role as the only boy in a sea of girls! Wow how my father loved you as did we all. You were the cutest! And you went on to have an enchanted life with your wonderful wife and children! You will be sorely missed by all but we are all so lucky to have known you and loved you!
Susan Maxman

Susan Maxman - August 24, 2025 at 02:07 PM

HW

“ Freddie - I loved you and I will miss our many, many weekly lunches over the years and dinners we had together with Karen & Patti. I will miss you dearly. I pray that all the wonderful memories I have had with you will live on forever in my mind and as a blessing. You were one wonderful friend. Yhi Zichronon L'Vracha. Hirsch

Hirsch Michael Wise - August 22, 2025 at 08:52 PM

FG

“ I remember how Freddy pursued Karen at Ohio State. He succeeded and it was a long and beautiful marriage. I was in the wedding and I still remember it. .My thoughts are with your whole family.

Faith Goldstein - August 22, 2025 at 01:28 PM

EK

“ Fred was a true Mentsch. May his life, deeds and memory become an eternal source of Brachot and Mitzvot for his family and friends; and may his family find comfort and solace from the loving embrace of family and friends.

Elliot Karp - August 21, 2025 at 09:46 PM

DM

“ *My sincere condolences to Karen Abel and Family. May Fred's memory be a blessing. Debra Miller*

Debra Miller - August 21, 2025 at 03:56 PM

HW

“ *We send our sincere condolences. Herb Weiss and Elaine Lazarus*

Herb Weiss - August 21, 2025 at 03:11 PM

NK

“ *Karen and family:
So very saddened to learn today that my dear friend, Fred, passed away. We were fortunate enough to grow up in Bexley, graduate in the Class of '59 and stay in touch when you would visit Cols.....Karen, you were the very best thing that happened to Freddie! His sometime HOT TEMPER was always cooled down by you.
Fred cherished his wife, Karen, children, friends, extended family, grandchildren and community: A LIFE WELL-LIVED!
May his memory be for a blessing.
Always,
Murray & Norma Kahn Katcher*

Norma & Murray Katcher - August 21, 2025 at 01:04 PM

SR

“ *I remember Fred from kindergarten thru life. Always had a smile and a kind word. Biggest surprise was when he came to our daughter's wedding in 1996 and realized that one of his and Karen's best friends, Herb and Sue DuCovna's son, Brian was marrying the daughter of a fellow Bexley HS class of 59 graduate.*

Hopefully everyone will find peace. Stanley Rosenfeld

Stan Rosenfeld - August 21, 2025 at 10:43 AM

SM

Freddy was our wonderful first cousin! He was the only boy in our immediate family and thus was treated as a prince! We all just loved him so much and particularly my Father who longed for a boy only to have 3 girls and I being the youngest was quite a disappointment ! But we all had Freddy to love and cherish . What a wonderful guy and part of a wonderful family. Karen my love to you and your children and so wish I could have been with you in person! All my love Susan

Susan Maxman - August 24, 2025 at 12:50 PM

BM

I am so sorry to hear this news. Fred was a true leader, volunteer, and wise business man. Who loved his community and did so much for the perpetuation of Judaism here and in Israel with his generosity and kindness shown to all. May his memory be a blessing to the family. And his dedication and commitment to all who knew him be remembered to those he served.

G-d's blessings to you Karen and your family. Barb Mandell

Barbara Mandell - August 25, 2025 at 08:36 PM