



Dr. Herbert P. Kagen

May 6, 1929 - August 27, 2022

The day has come to celebrate the life of and say good-bye to an angelic man who touched so many lives. Dr. Herbert Paul Kagen, 93, of Cincinnati, OH passed away on August 27, 2022. Herb was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, the son of Samuel and Sophie Kagen. Known for his intelligent and sharp mind, he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master of Science in Chemistry at the University of Rhode Island, and a PhD in Organic Chemistry at Wayne State University.

Early in his career, Herb taught at Wayne State University and The Detroit Institute of Technology. He then became an Associate Professor of Chemistry at West Virginia State College (University). There, he ultimately achieved full Professorship and became Chairman of the Chemistry Department. Later in life, he taught Environmental Science at the University of Cincinnati. He is a lifelong member of the American Chemical Society. While his educational and professional accomplishments were many, his greatest career legacy are his many students who fondly remember him and the impact he had on their lives.

Herb also served as a warrant officer in the Ohio National Guard and was awarded the honorable title of Kentucky Colonel.

His greatest passions outside of family and education were his love of

Judaism, philately, postal history, and delicious food. He was also a Master Mason in the Grand Mason Lodge. Herb had a deep love for animals, including his favorite dog Leon that passed two years ago.

Herb left his family with beautiful memories, cherished wisdom and the love he freely gave. Undoubtedly, his utmost love and accomplishment in life was, and is, his blended family. He is preceded in death by his parents Samuel and Sophie Kagen, his sister Anita Portnoy and her husband Al, brother Jerry Kagen and his wife Ruth, and his former wife Pearl Kagen. He is survived by his loving wife Jeanne Kagen, his children Brad Kagen (his wife Anaka), Beth Zeth (her husband Fred), Michael Kagen (his wife Laura), Ruth Cohen (her partner Joshua Tappe), Lisa Kagen and Laura Gorham (her partner Thomas Dow). He is also survived by seven grandchildren, one great grandchild and many nieces and nephews. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Jeff Steelman whose devotion to Herb made him very much a part of our family. We would also like to thank special friends Kim Taylor, Linda Niehaus, many Adath ISRAEL synagogue Minion friends, JCC exercise friend Lewis Holt and Hometown (Worcester) friend Alan Weiner. Special thanks to Dr. Robert Rubin for the care and respect he provided Herb and to Rabbis Smolkin and Chaidell for their many visits and for sharing prayers and songs with Herb.

The graveside funeral service will be held Monday, August 29 at 3:00 PM at United Jewish Cemetery – Montgomery, 7885 Ivygate Ln., Montgomery, Ohio 45242. Rabbi Moshe Smolkin of Adath Israel will be officiating. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Weil Kahn Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Second Hand Paws Animal Rescue at <https://www.secondhandpaws.org/donate>.

Cemetery Details

United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane
Montgomery, OH 45242

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 29. 3:00 PM (ET)

United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery
7885 Ivygate Lane
Montgomery, OH 45242

Tribute Wall

GB

“ I was very sorry to read of Herb's passing. I first met him when I was attending Adath Israel's morning minyan after my mother died, and I continued to encounter him at various places, especially at the JCC. It was always a pleasure to see him, and I am sorry that he is gone now. Zikhrone liv'rakha.

George Barnard - September 02, 2022 at 01:47 PM

HJ

“ To the family of Dr. Kagen my deepest condolences in the passing of your loved one. I had Dr. Kagen for organic chemistry at West Virginia State University in the eighties. He was a great teacher and also a very friendly person. I really enjoyed his classes and learned a lot.

*with deepest sympathy,
Heartley and Sharon Anderson Jr.*

Heartley Anderson Jr - August 30, 2022 at 11:09 AM

RF

“ Rest in peace, Herb. You were a kind man and you always had a smile on your face.

Rob Festenstein - August 29, 2022 at 11:15 AM

JK

“*Herb was a regular Minyanaire at Adath Israel back in 1996 when I was saying Kaddish for my Dad - - at 27/28 years old. He welcomed me in - - as did Herman, Sam, Jack, and others. Carving out time for minyan while working full time early in my career was challenging, so, I was typically darting off immediately after services. Herb always asked if I was staying to eat -- so he could set a place for me and my bialy after Minyan. He made me feel welcome with a bunch of guys that were a generation or two older from me - - but was there to help me through a tough time. I may not have the full story, but I believe the tallit he wore daily was his Bar Mitzvah tallit....fond memories of Herb...and I'm sure he's breaking bread with the rest of the crew up in heaven now.*

Joel Kling - August 28, 2022 at 08:03 PM