



Dr. Jerald "Jerry" Kay

March 26, 1945 - October 27, 2024

Jerald Kay, aged 79 died on October 27, 2024 in Sleepy Hollow, NY. He was preceded in death by his parents Max and Miriam Kay of Washington, DC. and his wife of 50 years, Dr. Rena Kay. He is survived by his three children Sarah Kay (Josh Lewis), Rachel Kay (Jim Brennan), and Jonathan Kay (Mary Spadoni) and his five grandchildren Mira and Talia Lewis, Miles and Naomi Brennan, and Julia Kay. He leaves his brother Dr. Douglass Kay and a sister, Bette Kurstin, both of Boca Raton, Florida.

Dr. Kay graduated from Washington University in St. Louis where he majored in religious studies and the University of Maryland School of Medicine where he met his future wife. His residency and fellowship training in general and child and adolescent psychiatry was completed at the Cincinnati General Hospital-University of Cincinnati. He rose from the rank of Instructor to Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine before he assumed the Chair of Psychiatry at the Wright State University School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, a position he held for a quarter of a century. At Wright State University he was named Faculty Member of the Year for the University, the Fredrick A. White Distinguished Professor, and the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Medical School. Dr. Kay also held the position of Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Dr. Kay published more than 200 books and scientific papers, including his two volume four edition textbook, Psychiatry.

He was the Founding Editor of the Journal of Psychotherapy Practice and Research, an American Psychiatric Association publication, and an Associate editor of the American Journal of Psychotherapy. He served on the Editorial Boards of numerous scientific journals and received the American Psychiatric Association-National Institute of Mental Health Seymour Vestermark Award for outstanding contributions to psychiatric education and the Educator of the Year from the Association of Academic Psychiatry. He was a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists. He chaired many professional organizational councils and committees of the American Psychiatric Association and was Chair of the Residency Review Committee in Psychiatry of the Accrediting Council on Graduate Medical Education. Dr Kay's academic interests were in psychotherapy research and education, ethics, child psychiatry, college mental health, psychiatric and medical education, and psychosomatic medicine to name but a few. Dr. Kay presented to psychiatric organizations and academic departments of psychiatry throughout the world. He maintained a private practice of physicians and academic faculty for many years and was widely recognized as an outstanding clinician. Dr. Kay was a loving and adored father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He was a passionate educator with a deep commitment to his own lifelong learning and was known as a talented photographer, acrylic painter and musician. He participated in many musical groups in Cincinnati, including drums for the New Horizons Dixieland Band, the New Horizons Swing Band, and the Domes Dixieland Band, trombone in the Gentlemen of Swing and Ron Purdon Swing Band, euphonium in the New Horizons Concert Band, and tuba in the St. Therese Brass Sextet, Cincinnati Community Orchestra and Sycamore Community Band. A highlight in his last year of life was playing drums weekly in a jazz trio with Hiroshi Yamazaki and Miles Gilbert at the Club at Briarcliff Manor and percussion with the Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 10:30AM with

visitation beginning at 10:00AM at Weil Kahn Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45249. Services will be LIVESTREAMED <https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/106031>. Burial will follow at United Jewish Cemetery Montgomery, 7885 Ivygate Lane Montgomery, Ohio 45242. Donations in Dr. Kay's memory may be made to either Doctors Without Borders or the American Diabetes Association.

Cemetery Details

United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane
Montgomery, OH 45242

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Funeral Service

NOV 3. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Tribute Wall



“ Weil Kahn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Jerald "Jerry" Kay



Weil Kahn Funeral Home - October 30, 2024 at 10:49 AM

AR

“ I will never forget what Dr. Kay taught me (and my fellow residents) about working with difficult patients (and difficult people in general)-- loosely quoted, "If I can find one thing I like about that person, I can help them." What an awesome perspective that has proven useful in so many contexts, and really speaks to his underlying motivation to help others. He will be missed!!

Andrew Rees - April 12 at 04:37 PM

HW

“ Dr Kay mentored me personally and this influence continues to bless the lives of many. I regularly use the lessons and education he provided me in my keynote speaking, in training many other medical provider and therapists and with my patients. His service to me has directly helped tens of thousands of patients.

A large thanks to his family for allowing him the time to impact and help so many people. Your sacrifice is appreciated and his life is celebrated.

Hans Watson - November 08, 2024 at 01:26 PM



“ I played flute or piano in a number of ensembles with Jerry, but my favorites were the Dixieland and Klezmer groups. He had such a great personality that came through in his drum set playing. Somewhere I have a video of him singing Tom Lehrer's "Hanukkah in Santa Monica" which was a delight. When he moved away it left a huge hole in our ensembles, and he will always be remembered with love.

Claire Lee - November 07, 2024 at 03:31 PM

WR

“ The Wright State University extends our condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Jerald Kay. We also wish to acknowledge his many years of service to our university.

Wright State Retirees - November 04, 2024 at 04:56 PM

NT

“ Nicola Tarantino lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jerald "Jerry" Kay



Nicola Tarantino - November 04, 2024 at 10:25 AM

JA

“ Jerry Kay was truly a giant in our field whose scholarship, mentorship, vision and humanity have influenced generations of psychiatrists and other professionals. His positive impact will surely continue to ripple into the years ahead. Throughout my career I have known Jerry Kay from an admiring distance as an iconic leader and scholar in psychiatry and medical education. I only met him individually this past year when I was moved by the vivid and generative spirit so many others have known even more personally over time.

Having lived a most meaningful life, Jerry Kay has left an abundance of gifts that will continue to benefit others far into the future.

Jon

Jonathan E. Alpert MD PhD, Chair, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York

Jonathan E. Alpert - November 02, 2024 at 04:04 PM

MK

“ Jerry Kay was SO reassuring when I went to meet him after landing in Cincinnati where I had never wanted to be, because my husband took a job here. I had to leave my psychoanalyst/analysis in Dallas in order to move and whined to Jerry about how miserable I felt. He smiled and said he got it, that there was an excellent psychoanalyst across the street (John MacLeod, of blessed memory). I finished my year of residency, got my training, and embarked on a successful career as a psychoanalyst in Cincinnati. Jerry was the necessary link!

Marcia Kaplan - October 30, 2024 at 10:17 AM

TJ

“ I recall being so nervous during my residency interview with Dr. Kay. He asked me questions no one had asked me before and I shared one of my deepest shameful memories with him. I thought after the interview there was no way I would get into the program. To my surprise, I got in and developed a closeness with him because he accepted and understood me. I will always be appreciative of the opportunity he gave me and for God placing him in my path. He was the “real deal”. Praying for his family.

Trenton James - October 29, 2024 at 12:41 PM



Jerry was one of the most influential people in my professional life. I considered Jerry and Rena to be my “professional parents.” Their model of a healthy family and marriage inspired me at a time when I was scared that this was not possible. Jerry was one of my best teachers and Rena my best supervisor. Jerry mentored me through residency and my early career as a psychiatrist. Being the first MD in my family and the first working mother, I needed role models and guidance. I will always hold both of them in my being and attribute much of who I am to them. His death is a huge loss.

Gail Barker - November 01, 2024 at 11:40 PM

BM

Jerry was a crucial mentor of mine. I loved him and respected him. I will miss him deeply. What an inspiring, highly energetic and always funny and very present person. He played a crucial role in putting psychotherapy on the map of credible, evidence-based treatment for mental disorders.

Barbara Milrod - November 03, 2024 at 11:11 AM

JM

What a loss. Jerry was a dynamic (in both senses), vigorous, positive force both in organized psychiatry and as a man. I can speak for many others in psychiatry in saying that he was one of the leaders I looked up to early in and throughout my career. He fought as a staunch defender for psychotherapy and for a balanced, not-just-biological view of patients in the American Psychiatric Association and as a Chairman of Psychiatry at Wright State. He founded and was Editor of the Journal of Psychotherapy Practice and Research, the first APA journal dedicated to psychotherapy. He made an active connection between the psychoanalysts at the American Psychoanalytic and the non-analysts at APA.

Jerry epitomized a happier, more deeply educational era in psychiatry. He was a true, career educator who mentored many psychiatrists and helped them build careers in the field. Jerry used his analytic training in progressive, thoughtful fashion. He was active, forthright, forceful, productive. He had a lightness and humor.

Jerry the man — the mensch, as he would say — was full of joie de vivre: funny, enthusiastic, bubbling with enthusiasm and energy. There was an oomph and oompah to him — no surprise that he played the tuba! Always a pleasure to encounter, he was a wonderful teacher, colleague, and friend. I miss him deeply.

Again, my condolences.

John

John Markowitz, M.D. - November 03, 2024 at 11:31 AM