



## Karen Silverman

August 1, 1946 - June 23, 2023

Karen Anne Leopold Silverman, 76, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away peacefully with her husband and children by her side following a courageous battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Ivan Silverman; two daughters, Elisa (Brett) Arnow and Debbie (Chris) Zehetmaier, both of Cincinnati; son Douglas (Lisa) Silverman of Raleigh, N.C., and five grandchildren: Jacob and David Arnow, Hannah and Ethan Silverman and Sophia Zehetmaier.

Karen will be remembered for the kindness she demonstrated to family, friends, and the thousands of children she worked with throughout her career.

While serving more than two decades as a speech and language therapist in the Lakota Local Schools in West Chester, Ohio, Karen focused on the strengths of every child. She crusaded for children with special needs to be included with other students long before this concept became popular in education.

Her compassion for students with disabilities blended into her personal life, teaching her own children the importance of recognizing that every individual is a gem to be cherished.

In addition, Karen was an advocate for children through her charitable work as

a president of the local Kindervelt chapter, which raises money for Children's Hospital Medical Center. She derived great joy from purchasing furnishings and other household items for apartments that Lighthouse Youth & Family Services offers to homeless young adults.

Karen was proud to be a life member of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, which supports medical care and research in Israel. Her family's ties to that group date back to 1913, when her grandmother, Elsa Rogat became the first president of the Hadassah Chapter in Cleveland, Ohio. Karen taught religious school at Rockdale Temple from 1968-86. She was a member of the Adath Israel Congregation Sisterhood.

Karen enjoyed the arts, especially visiting the Cincinnati Art Museum and attending shows at Playhouse in the Park for more than 50 years.

Born Aug. 1, 1946, in Cleveland, Ohio, Karen was the only child of Sonia Hadassah Rogat Leopold and Harold Leopold. After moving to the Cincinnati area in the 1960s, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of Cincinnati.

During her college years, she met her future husband, Ivan Silverman; they married on June 8, 1969, in the Cleveland area before making their home in Cincinnati.

In 1976, the couple moved to Montgomery, where Ivan served as a city councilman and mayor during the 1980s and '90s. During that time, Karen became known as a gracious hostess for local politicians, often holding gatherings in their home. She also served as a precinct executive in Hamilton County for 25 years.

Funeral Service Tuesday, June 27, 1:00 PM at Weil Kahn Funeral Home,

8350 Cornell Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45249. Visitation at the funeral home will begin at 12:00 PM. Minyan services will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM at Adath Israel Congregation, 3201 E. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45236. The family will receive visitors at Adath Israel both evenings beginning at 6:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Hospice of Cincinnati <https://hospiceofcincinnati.org/>, Ronald McDonald House <https://www.rmhcincinnati.org/>, The Spina Bifida Coalition <https://www.sb-coalition.org/>, Adath Israel Congregation <https://www.adath-israel.org/>, or a charity of one's choice would be appreciated.

# Cemetery Details

## United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane  
Montgomery, OH 45242

# Previous Events

## Visitation Before Service

JUN 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home  
8350 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

*Visitation begins at 12:00 PM. Service begins at 1:00 PM.*

## Funeral Service

JUN 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home  
8350 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

*Visitation begins at 12:00 PM. Service begins at 1:00 PM.*

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ I just learned of Karen's death. We worked together for many years at Freedom Elementary and would often chat about work, our families and our plans for the Jewish holidays. Her compassion for her students was always something I greatly admired. May her memory be a blessing

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**Jay Friedman** - August 12, 2023 at 04:52 PM

DH

“ I am so terribly sorry to learn of Karen's death. Cincinnati has lost a fine woman. I send my condolences to the entire family.

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**Daniel J Hoffheimer** - July 14, 2023 at 03:56 PM

GB

“ I knew Karen through Hadassah. I was always impressed by her kindness and gentleness. My deepest condolences to her family.

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**Gayna Bassin** - June 27, 2023 at 08:53 PM

LY

“ I Was sad to lose my good friend and the best neighbor. for 40 years I miss you. when I was sick You Had sent me food and soup etc. all my tears can't bring you back to me. but to express how I will miss you forever. Rest in peace. Love Lily Yang

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**lily yang** - June 27, 2023 at 12:05 PM

RM

“ I was blessed to meet Karen when I worked at Freedom Elementary. She was such a caring person and never uttered an unkind word. Her spirit inspired me then and still does everyday. A favorite memory was each December Karen would make latkes with her speech students, teaching them many skills, in addition to helping them to learn about holiday traditions. Plus, there was always a delicious treat to savor at the end. Karen had a beautiful soul, and I will so miss her goodness in our crazy world. Rest in peace my friend.

Ruth Miltiades - June 27, 2023 at 10:29 AM

EY

“ Such a loving caring soul. Always thinking of others. Over these short 8 months I gained a “Grandma”. I will truly miss our morning talks, learning new recipes and our book club. Rest peacefully Mrs. Karen. My condolences to Mr. Ivan and family.

Ebony Young - June 27, 2023 at 10:07 AM

LA

“ LOIS MICHELLE ASKIN lit a candle in memory of Karen Silverman



LOIS & MICHELLE ASKIN - June 26, 2023 at 08:49 PM

TB

“ Karen was the speech teacher at Freedom Elementary School when my son Matthew was a first grader there. He qualified for her services and I can always remember how much he enjoyed working with her! She always brightened his day and made him feel special. She had a knack for making everyone around her feel special. She was a gentle soul.

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**Terri Baroch** - June 26, 2023 at 05:08 PM

MK

“ I met Karen over 20 years ago when I started at Freedom Elementary. She was our team leader and I learned so much from her, both professionally and personally.

*I remember once she told me, “When you get to be my age, your social life becomes going out to a nice dinner with friends.” I’m at that point now and she was exactly correct. Lol*

*Sending sympathy to all her family and friends.*

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**Mike Kolbinsky** - June 26, 2023 at 03:36 PM

RJ

“ I worked with Karen for 20 years and have known her for at least 30. She was such a kind, caring, friend ... always thinking of others. I was able to visit with her about a month ago and what did she have? Gifts for all of my granddaughters. In the midst of all she was going through, she was still thinking of others. I shall miss you dear friend.

*Robin Jacobson*

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**Robin Jacobson** - June 26, 2023 at 03:26 PM

KS

“ Karen was a teacher who cared for ALL of her students. Her kindness touched everyone who knew her.

Kim Snider - June 26, 2023 at 02:36 PM

KM

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Karen's illness and passing. She was a kind and sweet soul. She radiated goodness. Deepest sympathy to her family and all who loved her.

Kathy Morley - June 26, 2023 at 12:57 PM

AS

“ Karen was special. She was a dear friend and I cherished our friendship. She was not only a positive individual, but radiated a good soul and did good works. Bob and I will miss her very much.

Alberta & Bob Schneider - June 25, 2023 at 10:56 PM

KW

“ Ivan and family, I am so sad to learn of Karen's death. We were friends at the University of Minnesota when we were both new students. We clicked the first day we met many years ago and have remained in touch since then. I will miss our phone calls. Rest in peace, dear friend. Kathy Warn, Minneapolis

Kathy Warn - June 25, 2023 at 10:26 PM

GP

“ Heartfelt condolences... Karen was an authentic lady who made us feel welcome in the community. She made sure Debbie and Cristina saw each other regularly and they became friends. May she rest in eternal peace. God bless... Gloria and Manny Pacis

Glo & Manny Pacis - June 25, 2023 at 07:22 PM

JW

“ We shared so many happy times together as couples. We will always remember Karen's kindness and the ability to make everyone feel welcomed. Death can not take that which is locked in our hearts.

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**Jack and Lynn Wagner** - June 25, 2023 at 12:15 PM

SG

“ So very, very sorry for your loss! Karen was such a sweet person. May her memory be a blessing.

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**Sue Ginsburg** - June 25, 2023 at 11:05 AM

SG

“ We were such good friends.....loved our lunches together.....such a kind and compassionate woman....I will always remember her kind smile....Blessing on her Journey.....Sally

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**Sally Gehlert** - June 25, 2023 at 07:57 AM

BS

“ Karen's gentle manner helped our son Aaron navigate through high school. She was truly a kind, gentle soul who will be greatly missed.

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**Barb Solomon** - June 25, 2023 at 12:03 AM

JS

“ Wonderful childhood memories. I used to walk from one grandparents' house to the others in Cleveland to spend time on a Sunday afternoon with my cousin Karen. So sad she is taken from us far too soon.

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**Judy Spaulding** - June 24, 2023 at 06:10 PM

JV

“ Karen was a wonderful lady and a special friend, Wishing you comfort and peace during this difficult time.

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**JoAnn Vella** - June 24, 2023 at 06:09 PM

JH

“ Karen’s legacy of kindness will endure.  
Sending love, condolences & comfort to all  
who knew her and loved her.



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**Janice Hisle** - June 24, 2023 at 06:05 PM

BG

“ We are so sorry to hear of Karen’s passing.  
She was always such a positive person and fun to be with. Our  
sympathies to her family. She will be missed.

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**Barb and Tom Goila** - June 24, 2023 at 05:55 PM