



Karl A. Frey

August 2, 1938 - June 3, 2025

Karl A. Frey, loving husband, father and grandfather passed away on June 3, 2025, at his home in Ardmore, PA at the age of 86. He was born in Kingston, Nova Scotia, Canada to German immigrants William K. Frey and Hedwig Dutton on August 2, 1938. He grew up on a farm with his younger brother William (“Billy”) E. Frey. He lost his mother at age 8 to scarlet fever. His father eventually remarried Kunigunde (“Kuni”) Gaiser and the family, along with stepbrother Ernest (“Ernie”) Gaiser, moved to Roslindale, MA in 1948. When he was 14 he won a “major award” from school in the amount of 5 dollars for “kind and good manners.” This kindness was a quality that shone through in every aspect of Karl’s life and shaped who he was as a person.

Karl began his education in a two-room schoolhouse in rural Canada, attended Boston Technical High School and graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University. He received 4 patents in his professional work as an electrical engineer and retired from Digital Equipment Corp. in 1999. His career, which began at the dawn of the computer age, proved to have a major influence on the development of magnetic storage and the information technology industry.

When he was 30 years old, he joined a ski club in Vermont. It was on a ski trip where he met Rita Finkelman, his wife of 55 years. Returning to Boston from their initial meeting, Karl and Rita got stuck in a snowstorm and had to spend

the night on the floor of a Howard Johnsons Restaurant. They married on April 5, 1970, and started their life together in Melrose, MA. They welcomed daughter Sheryl in 1973.

Karl enjoyed all manner of home improvement projects. He was a master carpenter, building furniture for their home and eventually for daughter Sheryl and son-in-law Eric Rothman. He enjoyed the challenge of fixing something that was broken and could handle any plumbing or electrical problem. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to friends and neighbors.

Cars were another love of Karl's. He enjoyed working on his 1963 Jaguar XKE and he dreamed of being a race car driver. He loved to watch Formula One. He enjoyed listening to classical music and was always quick with a joke, pun, or story.

Travelling to Sanibel Island, Florida was an annual tradition which began with Karl, Rita and Sheryl and then later expanded to include granddaughters Sophia and Elizabeth. During these memorable vacations they enjoyed swimming, searching for shells on the beach, looking for wildlife in the local nature preserve, and watching the sun dip into the ocean. Karl's favorite part might have been naps in the shade on the beach.

Karl and Rita moved to Ardmore, PA in October 2016 to be closer to family where they met a whole new group of friends and neighbors. Karl and Rita loved their new surroundings.

A memorial service will be held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church at 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr PA, on Monday June 16th at 11:30 AM to celebrate the life of this remarkable man.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Karl's memory to Main Line

Health HomeCare & Hospice (giving.mainlinehealth.org).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **16**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall



“ *Karl, we will miss you.* ”

The Frey Family in Gimmeldingen/Germany

Iudex Aquo - February 23 at 01:46 PM



“ *William F. purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Karl A. Frey.* ”



William F. - June 12, 2025 at 08:21 PM

JK

“ I’m sure glad Rita and Karl got stuck in that snowstorm at the Howard Johnsons !!!

Cause that means it led to Sheryl !

I like to think of myself as an “honorary” member of the Frey family.

I jumped in during their second act when they moved to Pennsylvania.

Karl and Rita welcomed me as their “bonus daughter,” and we have shared so many happy memories over the past 20 years.

Whenever I think of Karl, I immediately think of Rita, as I never saw them apart!! They were so naturally “at ease” with one another! I remember looking over and seeing Rita nonchalantly sitting on Karl’s lap at Sheryl’s house. Of course I took a photo ! All the “happy couple” shots I grabbed over the years expressed their genuine love for each other. Never staged, always true !

During Karl’s illness it was amazing to see that the relationship continued to flourish. Rita was incredible in caring for every anticipated need along the journey toward his graceful exit.

What an honor to have been part of Karl’s life. In all the years I had known him, I never ever heard him express an unkind word about anything or anyone!!!

I will miss you Karl !!! However please know that you are always a part of every moment I continue to share with your family !! Your presence is that indelible !!

With Love, Joan (Kirsch)





Joan Kirsch - June 10, 2025 at 04:07 PM

KE

“ Rita and Karl have been my next door neighbors for nearly a decade. Two of the nicest people you will ever meet. I enjoyed Karl's countless stories, laughter, smile, conversations about his Jaguar, and he seemed to really enjoy our Sunday dinners and the food I would make. The one thing that struck me was how authentically stoic Karl was handling his disease. He found a way to remain positive and engaging throughout the time I knew him. My 12 year old daughter also grew fond of Karl over the years and knowing him will be something she remembers for the rest of her life - as will I.

Kevin - June 10, 2025 at 09:14 AM

TF

“ The Sloan Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Karl A. Frey.



The Sloan Family - June 09, 2025 at 05:14 PM

CF

“ *Chris Holahan and Tim Fischer purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Karl A. Frey.*



Chris Holahan and Tim Fischer - June 09, 2025 at 04:31 PM

PK

“ *Rita
And I were in an art class together in Melrose MA, and it was through her that I met Karl. That friendship went on to include lunches
And dinners together, concerts and holiday Celebrations. Karl always had a funny story to tell or would be ready to fix something in my
Antique home that I was t even aware needed fixing. That was Karl in a nutshell. I shall miss his kindness and good humor.
Phyllis Kaplan.*

phyllis kaplan - June 09, 2025 at 04:00 PM