

Kenneth Schonberg

1923 – 2017

Kenneth Carlos Schonberg, 94, died Friday, December 29 in Cincinnati. This much loved and gifted man, of British and Norwegian heritage, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A graduate of the prestigious Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires, he went on to the University of Buenos Aires and later Columbia University.

After training in the Argentine Army at university, in 1944 he left for England as a Latin American Volunteer, to become a fighter pilot, but wound up in the Army. At Sandhurst, the Royal Military College, Ken received officer training and achieved the rank of Captain as he served with the 15th/19th regiment of The King's Royal Hussars in Palestine, Egypt and what would become Israel.

After the War, he returned briefly to Buenos Aires, and used his English and Spanish fluency to land a position with a Shell Oil subsidiary in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and later with the Lummis Company, an oil refinery builder.

Invited by fellow workers to visit New York City, he fell in love with the city, stayed and eventually sold the first computer to Madison Avenue's Young and Rubicam. In 1951 he married Joan Weisman (deceased 1988), started his family (daughter and two sons) and later moved to Cincinnati to work for Billboard Publishing. Subsequently he was employed in HR at Federated Department Stores.

In 1981 Ken established Schonberg Associates, an outplacement firm, that grew to seven offices and expanded its scope to include employee retention and transfer support services. His organization was universally recognized by client companies and individuals alike for its professionalism and effectiveness.

Ken loved Cincinnati and was an outstanding volunteer serving on the Board of the Cincinnati Opera. He and wife Deborah Schultz are members of the Society of Angels. Ken served on the Board of the Cincinnati Ballet, Radio Reading Services for the Blind as host of



a news and comedy show, worked with the Dan Beard Boy Scout Council, WCET Action Auction and Middfest International in Middletown among other organizations.

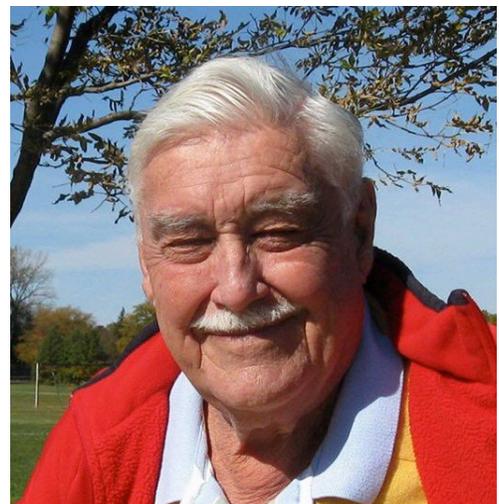
He was one of the first instructors at the founding of what is now the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), served on its board, taught Spanish courses for well over two decades and received OLLI's highest recognition. Ken continued private Spanish tutoring in his home until his death.



Ken was a proud immigrant turned U.S. citizen, an optimist, who lived life to the fullest often citing the motto, "La vida es corta, pero ancha – life is short but broad." He was a role model for others on how to age with verve and grace. He sang in choirs, performed in community dramas and musicals, wrote an autobiography, *Mi Vida*.

A gifted linguist and life-long Democrat, Ken shared a love of opera, the visual and performing arts, world travel, literature and humanitarian causes with his wife of 25 years, Deborah Schultz.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah E. Schultz; sons Thomas V. Schultz (Bloomington, IN); Dr. Jeffrey Schonberg / Heather (Wilmette, IL); David H. Schonberg / Robin Greiner (Wilmette, IL); and daughter Erica Schonberg McDonnell / Kevin (Cincinnati OH); six grandchildren, Laine and Brian McDonnell, Emily Cooper and Jessica Schonberg, Ben and Theo Schonberg and one great granddaughter, Avery Bae McDonnell.



Private memorial services will be held by the family. An online memorial book can be signed at Elden Good / [Spring Grove Funeral Home](#). Donations can be made in Ken's name to the [Cincinnati Opera](#) and to OLLI, the [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](#)