



## Karl C. Ruch

May 31, 2016

Karl C. Ruch was born June 2, 1930 and raised in the Frankford neighborhood of Philadelphia, PA. He resided in Northeast Philadelphia until he was 80 years old, at which time he and his wife, Faith, moved to Schwenksville, PA. in Montgomery County, to live next door to their daughter, Karen and her husband, Glynn.

Karl loved his entire family and adored his grandchildren. He and Faith never missed an opportunity be with and influence their grandchildren in a positive way. The Bible principles he taught his children and grandchildren still have an impact on them today.

Karl, at the age of 8 years old, as well as his family, started to learn Bible truths from their neighbors, the Confehr family, on Penn St. He was baptized on April 25, 1948 as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. After graduating high school, throughout his college years, and for the 16 years following college, he continued to donate pioneer hours each month with helping others better their lives with Bible truths, sharing the wonderful Kingdom hope Jesus taught and the promise fro a Paradise Earth where there will be "no more death, sickness, pain or suffering of any kind" (Rev. 21: 3 & 4). He served in a congregational capacity for over 60 years and as an Elder within the congregation for over 40 years, up until his death. During that time, he helped many people to learn the Bible truths and in so doing, developed many very close friendships. Over the years of his life, he served at many congregations,

some of which are: Frankford, Fair Hill, Kensington, North Unit, Burholme, all located in Philadelphia, PA., as well as West Green Lane Congregation in Perkiomenville, PA. He cherished all of his dear friends, but was especially happy, that throughout the years, he did not lose contact with his childhood friends, Donald Confehr and Christian Weining.

Karl, at age 12, discovered he loved chemistry. This love of chemistry led him to pursue the field of Pharmacology. He graduated from Temple University in 1952. While a student at Temple, he worked at Entwistle Pharmacy at Frankford Ave. and Harrison St. in Philadelphia. After his graduation from college, he worked at Ossares Pharmacy for several years. In June of 1967, he started working as the Pharmacist 'on call' and general manager for the Penn Herb Company at 2nd and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia. He helped bring great success to the company because of what he was able to bring to the table with his pharmaceutical knowledge, talents, and experience in the field of medicine and herbs. He worked with the owner and dear friend, Bill Betz, Sr. and the Penn Herb family, for 45 years. He also studied the Bible with Bill and his wife Jane, helping them to learn the Bible truths. They remained close friends and faithful witnesses of Jehovah throughout their lives together. The years working with Bill and his Penn Herb family were very special to him and he developed very dear and long lasting friendships with many at his company. Throughout the years, there were many friends and families that Karl helped and loved dearly. To name just a few--the Holtzman Family, the Springer Family, the Lattimore Family, the Oetzel Family, and so many more that were very dear to him.

Karl met the love of his life, Faith Paull, who at the time, lived on Weikel St. in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. Faith too loved the Bible and learned Bible truths from Eleanor Clayton. She was also helped by the Weining Family with her Bible studies and Baptism, continuing to be close friends with Faith Weining for many years. Karl and Faith became close

friends and later married on September 7, 1957. They lived for 10 years together in an apartment on Filmore St., near Jeannes Hospital. They later moved to their home on Tabor Ave. where they stayed for over 40 years. Karl and Faith had a beautiful marriage. Each day of their 59 years of marriage they expressed their love for one another. Together, they continued to help others in their ministry, as well as their dear friends and family. They loved having children and raised a loving son and daughter. They were also very involved in the lives of their grandchildren. There was never a week that went by that they did not spend time with their grandchildren. Their love for God Jehovah, as well as their love for their family, dear friends and those in their community, was an intrinsic part of their lives. Their greatest happiness was "giving of themselves to help others" (Acts 20:35).

Karl had other interests and hobbies as well. As a child, up until his later years, he loved radio-controlled model airplanes, which he flew often on the empty lots near his childhood home on Penn Street. When he moved to the Northeast, he flew his planes on lots in the Greater Northeast section of Philadelphia with his friend John Roberts. He loved driving his Karmann Ghia as well as working on and driving his Plymouth Duster and other cars he owned. He also enjoyed driving his Honda motorcycle too, especially down Pine Road in Northeast Philadelphia.

Karl was also know for his great talent in music. He played the piano so effortlessly and beautifully. He played songs at the Kingdom Hall, Assembly Halls and classical music for all to enjoy. His professional piano player, when he was a child, cried when Karl did not pursue a career as a pianist. He did, for decades, share his beautiful talent at many occasions and the memories of Karl playing the piano, especially his classical pieces, will warm hearts forever.

Karl will be missed greatly by his dear family and friends. He lived a very spiritually rich life and had a positive influence on so many people that will forever be appreciated. We share Karl's hope of the resurrection when we will be able to live again in Paradise. (John 5:28 & 29). So Karl, this is not goodbye, but until we see you again!

One of Karl's favorite scriptures: Psalm 23 - Jehovah God is my Shepherd

Karl is survived by his loving wife, Faith (nee Paull), a loving son Karl, Jr. (Kira) and loving daughter Karen Stewart (Glynn), as well as his adoring grandchildren August and Karl Gabriel Ruch, and Shannon, Sean, Liam Karl and Ethan Stewart. He is also survived by his loving brother Chester Ruch (Rosie). He will be sadly missed by his loving nieces Valerie D'Allessandro, Tracy Maurer, and nephew Wayne Ruch along with their spouses and children.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 11. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Green Lane Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnessess  
26 Hendricks Rd.  
Perkiomenville, PA 18074

# Tribute Wall



“Karl was very funny, I worked at Penn Herb with him. Around the time of conventions and assembled he would remind us single sisters to get our Lasso's ready. Lol. He had funny names for people i.e.. Eileen Wagner was wig wag, Bill Betz senior was \$ Bill Betz. At the same time he was very firm, a good father figure for me to look to at work. His mother Lois was one of my first spiritual teachers, she was a beautiful woman inside and out. Looking forward to seeing Karl, Lois and Chet in the new world.

*With Love and Admiration, Sister Cheryl Hampton*

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**Cheryl Hampton** - June 11, 2016 at 06:16 AM

A square icon with a light green background and the letters 'DP' in white, representing Deborah Piccone.

“mom jenny and i are very sorry to here about dear Karl,, we are saying prayers for everyone.....our family send love and hugs and prayers always,,,and we will see our loved ones shortly,,,,,,

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**Deborah Piccone** - June 10, 2016 at 10:43 PM

*Some reflections on shared times with my brother.*

*I remember going up to a district convention in Toronto. Karl was driving “the chief” (as he used to like calling his 1950 Pontiac). On the way home we stopped to visit Niagara Falls. We did the usual tourist spots to view the Falls, one of which was a somewhat protruding formation of rock with a guardrail to keep people from falling over the Falls. We found out on arriving home that the spot where we had been standing broke off the cliff the day after we were there. We always considered that a close call.*

*Another fond memory is the many trips to Bethel we always took to visit the two Ramu brothers (Don and Julio) when they were there. In the lobby of the 124 Columbia Heights building they had a grand piano. Karl was an expert pianist. In fact, his music teacher told our mother, Lois, that “once in a lifetime a teacher gets a student like Karl,” and she wanted him to pursue a career as a concert pianist. He was that good! Both Karl and our mother turned down the encouragement. Instead, Karl went on to serve as a regular pioneer for about 16-17 years. During our trips to Bethel, he would always sit down at the grand piano in the 124 lobby and start to play—from memory. Not pop music, but grand concertos like Rachmaninoff, Grieg, Chopin’s military Polonaise, etc., from music that in written form would fill a book about an eighth to a quarter of an inch thick. It was always a pleasure to hear him play as the crowds would gather around to listen. (It frequently happened that way as he would play on other occasions.) Of course, I had nothing to do with his skills, but that did not stop me from proudly beaming—that’s my brother!*

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**Chester Ruch** - June 10, 2016 at 10:38 AM

*Karl also was a registered pharmacist. He had graduated from Temple University School of Pharmacy in Philadelphia. He worked for awhile as such. Then he met Bill and Jane Betz in service. They were Lutherans, I believe, and wanted to know more about the Bible. They agreed to study, but not out of a book. Just the bible. Karl agreed to that and so began another chapter of his life. Of course, we all know where he got the information to study with them. Bill and Jane became staunch Witnesses, as well as their kids, Bill, Jr. and Ronnie. Bill wound up buying an herb store (Penn Herb Company) and he asked Karl (because of his pharmaceutical knowledge and background and its proximity to herbs) to come work with him at the herb store. Karl wound up managing the herb store for many decades. Interestingly, while working at the herb store, he also worked part time at a drug store on Rising Sun Avenue. Mr. Ossar, the owner, was retiring and wanted Karl to buy the store. For most people it would have been a good opportunity. He turned down the offer in part due to the problems that would be inherent in its operation. Though Mr. Ossar was Jewish, his store was in an extremely Catholic neighborhood. The nuns would regularly come into the store and solicit money donations, and Mr. Ossar would comply due to the obvious ramifications of not donating. Karl knew that he could not continue that practice with its obvious repercussions to the business. Besides, he already was busily involved in numerous theocratic activities that were priorities. So, he spent the rest of his working life at Penn Herb Company.*

*We had a good start in life, thanks to a mother who was way ahead of her time when it came to applying Paul's counsel to Timothy at 2 Tim. 3:14,15 (. . . that from infancy you have known the holy writings . . .). She studied the Bible with us right from the Bible. You have to understand that there was nothing published by "The Society" for teaching children the Bible at that time. In fact, some of the brothers in the congregation gave her grief for doing that. "You ought to be studying one of the books" they would chidingly tell her.*

*Nonetheless, our mother was not easily intimidated, so we started in Genesis and continued right through. We still have those lessons that she wrote out each week in a book. They started back in February, 1942. She would read the Bible with us and then make up her own questions, and we had to know the answers . . . or else. Questions like Who is Jehovah?; What are His four outstanding attributes?; Who is Jesus?; What are some of his titles?; What is the Holy spirit?; What does the Bible contain? We went through creation, the Mosaic Law, doctrines, etc., etc. There were only scripture citations we could look up for the answers and our answers needed to be scripture quotations. She studied with four of us: Karl, Chet, Jr., (Chet, Sr. was not a Witness at this time), Don Confehr, and Earl Landis. Up until recently, all four of us were unitedly active in the Truth.*

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**Chester Ruch** - June 10, 2016 at 10:37 AM

*We have shared many good times together. I had the privilege and pleasure of marrying Karl and Faith a long time ago. Since that time, our paths have taken different directions, but always when getting together we shared a variety of lighter moments. Remembering lighter moments from the past was always on our agenda. Karl seemed adept at creating different names for people (with help from others). It seems that no one was ever referred to by their right name. I won't go into them, as it might prove embarrassing to some, but they all had some point of origin from an experience or event or habit that different ones exhibited. We also would play tricks on people. Like the time Karl and I were traveling up to Woxall, Pa. to visit some friends, we stopped at Bill Gehring's house and left a set of old, worn out tires on his front steps. He had lamented to us that his car needed some tires. If you knew Billy G. you would probably agree that this prank was his "just desserts." We heard about that for quite a while thereafter. Or the times we played some tricks on Bill Confehr (like putting limburger cheese on his car's manifold so when it heated up it would really make its presence known. Or a pebble in his car's hubcap that would be annoying.)*

*Karl served (as mentioned earlier) as a regular pioneer for many years. He also served as the "congregation servant" a number of times. His friends and fellow servants were spread out over a wide area since he served in a number of congregations at different times. Congregations like North Unit, Fairhill Unit, Frankford Unit, Burholme Unit, and Green Lane Congregation, to name some of them. (We used to refer to congregations as "units" of the Philadelphia Congregation.) He also served as assembly overseer and gave numerous talks at circuit assemblies and district conventions. He was my older brother and I have many memories of the good times we shared growing up. He will be missed for awhile, but soon we hope to be reunited in God's New World.*

*Chester Ruch*

**Chester Ruch** - June 10, 2016 at 10:37 AM



“ 454 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Foley Funeral Home** - June 09, 2016 at 04:35 PM

RG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Karl's death. He was a great friend to me and he and Faith were very helpful to me when I moved to Philadelphia and came to Burholme Cong. Karl gave me a job at Penn Herb and was a mentor/father figure to me. He had an amazing sense of humor, and we shared many great times and laughs together. My love and hugs to you Faith, and family, I know you will miss him dearly. Love Roxanne Gilmer (Jones).*

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**Roxanne Gilmer** - June 09, 2016 at 08:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jean Wright** - June 08, 2016 at 01:20 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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jean - June 08, 2016 at 11:55 AM

JE

“ *karl was always a part of my life as was his wonderful family, as I grew up he was the perfect person to perform my wedding ceremony and we long to see him again in the new order young and healthy.love jean and john*

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jean - June 08, 2016 at 11:53 AM