

<https://www.tulocaycemetery.org/obituary/Irene-Clark-1>

Irene Clark



June 21, 1921 ~ April 28, 2010 (age 88) 88 Years Old

IRENE CLARK.

1921-2010

Irene Melisa Clark passed away April 28 in her home at The Meadows in Napa, Calif. Irene was a kind and generous woman whose life was a testament to one of her treasured Bible verses: "And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Irene was born June 21, 1921, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the second daughter of John William and Sara Rafaela Adderley. Irene's father moved from London to Buenos Aires in 1912. Irene's

mother was born in Saltillo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, the daughter of General Jose Maria Mier, governor of the state of Jalisco.

Irene attended Belgrano Girls School, a preparatory school associated with Cambridge University. As a young girl, Irene studied art, piano and tailoring, enjoyed reading and tennis, and taught in the Methodist church school. In the spring of 1941, Irene met Al, a young American FBI agent who was in South America on war assignment with the Special Intelligence Service. Their love grew and in March of 1944, Irene made the seven-day flight to San Francisco, Calif., where they were married in the chapel at Grace Cathedral. She first worked as a secretary for the Red Cross and then as Spanish translation stenographer at the conference to establish the United Nations.

In July 1953, while living in Corte Madera, Irene became a United States citizen. Over the years she shared her joy of citizenship by helping others who were making the same decision.

For more than 61 years, Irene and Al were inseparable. Together they raised three daughters, hiked and traveled extensively, and were active members of every community in which they lived. Irene was director of Christian Education at Redwoods Presbyterian Church when they lived in Larkspur, and helped found the Southern Tuolumne County Historical Society and Groveland Yosemite Gateway Museum when they "retired" to Groveland.

Irene was an accomplished, award-winning artist and long-standing member of the Marin Society of Artists. In the late 1970s, Irene began a new career as the original illustrator of Zoo-phonics, a unique language arts program that teaches children to read. She was author of the Spanish version of Zoo-phonics and author and co-illustrator of "Feathery Tales," a children's book about penguins, pelicans and quail.

Irene and Al moved to The Meadows in Napa in 2003, where she assumed responsibility for Vespers, established a Bible Study for assisted living residents and continued to paint, even after Al died in January 2006.

Irene was a friend to everyone she met, regardless of age or background, and found a special joy in teaching and learning from children, teens and young adults. Her abundant faith guided her life. Her daughters will remember her as the gentle spirit who taught them to appreciate music and art, to see good in all people, to be adventurous and independent, and to enjoy the wonder of God's beauty that surrounds us every day.

Irene is survived by her three daughters, Trish Daly of San Francisco, Susan Allen of Portland, Ore., and Cindy Clark of Napa, as well as four grandchildren and two great grandsons. To celebrate her life, Irene's daughters are establishing the Irene Clark Early-Childhood Learning Fund to support program development, research and scholarships for Zoo-phonics and the Safari Learning Academy in Sonora, Calif. Friends are invited to share their memories and sympathies with the family at www.tulocaycemetery.org.

Info notes from Karen Davis about Irene Clark - 5/9/2025:

- She sketched the Longfellow mine image in the STCHS logo
- She and her hubby were STCHS members in 1986
- Many of her sketches were used in the STCHS calendars we produced for a few years.
- I don't recall ever meeting her but I do recall hearing a bit about Zoo-phonics.
- Carrie Carter wrote an article "Museum Happenings" for the May 2013 edition of the PML News.

"Irene Clark is another extremely talented local artist whose works we [STCHS/Museum] feature. Irene sketched all of Groveland's historic buildings while working tirelessly with husband Al interviewing pioneer families. Her life story is a fascinating one and reads like a bestselling novel. She was born in Buenos Aires in 1921 and twenty years later met Albert Clark, and FBI agent on assignment in South America with the Special Intelligence Service. Three years later they were married in San Francisco. Irene and Al raised three daughters, traveled extensively, and were guided by their abundant faith in every community in which they lived. Irene passed away in May, 2010 and generously donated her sketches to the Museum Store. Thankfully her legacy, artistic vision and appreciation of our area continue to make a lasting impact on her beloved community. We offer 8 x 10's of Irene's black and white sketches of historic buildings, suitable for framing as well as notecards. We also sell framed and matted, watercolor washes of Irene's sketches that would make lovely Mother's Day gifts."

- My guess is that Jane Dees knew her pretty well and can provide a more personal view of Irene.

Hope this info is helpful.

Karen