



Claire Peck Orenzow

October 6, 1927 - October 11, 2020

Claire Peck Orenzow, aged 93, passed away at Harmony at Reynolds Mountain in Asheville, N.C. on Sunday, October 11, 2020. Claire was born on October 6, 1927 in the Bronx, New York. A first-generation American, she was the daughter of Jewish immigrants from Poland and Russia, and she attended the New York public schools and the Pratt Institute, where she studied fine art. She married her high school sweetheart, Jack Orenzow, in 1944 during World War II, and they enjoyed 67 wonderful years together in both the New York area and Asheville before he passed away in 2011.

Claire had a magnetic personality, boundless energy and enthusiasm for life and the people in it, and a warm and generous heart. She was an optimist who faced every challenge by believing that something even better was surely around the corner, and she loved nothing more than seeing others succeed and find happiness. She loved classic movies, the color blue, dancing, playing mahjong with her friends and daughters, playing cards, doing the crossword puzzle and cryptoquote, reading, French-tip nails, traveling, beautiful things, driving a hard bargain, getting together with her “crowd” and having everybody over for dinner. Most of all she loved her family—as a devoted daughter, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, she treasured times when the whole family got together, and she was an endless source of encouragement and support.

Professionally, Claire worked in an array of retail, sales, creative, and administrative jobs, beginning as a teen, including working as a portrait artist and dealing in antiques. She discovered an aptitude for the job placement business, but with slim opportunities for women to advance in established firms in that field in the 1960s, she eventually founded and ran her own successful agency, Peck Personnel. She later sold that business, based in the New York City area, to move closer to her family in Asheville, and to assist her daughters, Trudy Gould and Helaine Greene, as they started their business, The Candle Station. She had a “second act” in her career as The Candle Station’s office manager for the next 13 years. Even after retiring from The Candle Station, she continued to work part time as a teller for the Blue Ridge Savings Bank.

She also believed in making the world a better place for others. She served as a foster parent in New York for a time. In Asheville she was a dedicated volunteer to both Temple

Beth HaTephila, where she served on multiple committees over the years, and Hadassah, where she was once honored as volunteer of the year. She also would frequently give to people she encountered in the community who needed help and was a volunteer into her 80s with the Asheville Visitor Center to help others enjoy her adopted city.

She is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Trudy and Carl Gould and Helaine and Leonard "Lenny" Greene of Asheville, NC. She is also survived by her three grandchildren and their partners, Rebecca Morphis (T.C.), Jenny Rawlings (Matt), and Scott Vautrin (Christine); two step-grandchildren, Lydia Gould and Jacob Gould, as well as nine great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson, several nieces and nephews and many other relatives and friends.

The family would like to acknowledge the warm care and support Claire received by the staff as a resident of Harmony for the last several years, as well as the care provided in the last month by Four Seasons Hospice.

Services will be privately held for Mrs. Orenzow. Condolences may be sent to the family through our website at www.morrisfamilycare.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be sent to Hadassah at, <http://www.hadassah.org/> and click on the donate button.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Morris Funeral Home - October 14, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ We are so sad to hear of Claire's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and hope you will find comfort in the coming days. She (and her sweet smile) will be missed in our office. Please accept our most heartfelt condolences.

Dr. Thomas Morton, DDS and Staff - October 20, 2020 at 06:26 AM



“ 74 files added to the album LifeTributes



Morris Funeral Home - October 14, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ We moved to Under The Blue Ridge 33 years ago and Claire and Jack were some of the first neighbors we met. Claire was so welcoming and a bright ray of sunshine. We have missed them very much during the last few years. I'm sad to hear she is not with us any longer.

Pat & Joe Chandler - October 13, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Thank you so much Pat & Joe. She loved having you as neighbors.

Helaine Greene - October 19, 2020 at 04:04 PM



“ When I first came to Asheville and joined the Riverview Station community I remember Claire coming to my studio during the Studio Strolls. She was always so full of enthusiasm and encouragement. I had missed seeing her at them over the past few years. Thank you for sharing some of the history behind what is now Riverview Station and how she was such a big part of it. I send out my deepest condolences to all of her family. -Jessica

Jessica Hall Blissett - October 13, 2020 at 10:37 AM



“ What a lovely lady and a wonderful family. Our thoughts are with you Hellaine and Trudy, you are the heart and soul of the river arts community.
John & Ruthanne

John Mac Kah - October 13, 2020 at 11:04 AM



“ Helaine, Trudy and family. Very sorry for your loss. Mark and Sona Merlin

Mark Merlin - October 14, 2020 at 07:32 AM



“ To Helaine, Trudy and your entire family: We were sorry to learn of your mother's passing. And, we'll continue to keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers. Keep her memory close to your hearts, and take comfort in the amazing life she led and the wonderful family she nurtured. — Lynn & Doug Huffines

Doug Huffines - October 22, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ 19 files added to the album Family Photos



Helaine Greene - October 12, 2020 at 08:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Family Photos



Morris Funeral Home - October 12, 2020 at 02:05 PM