



Mrs. Irene Kroeger

July 26, 1928 - June 11, 2023

On Sunday, June 11, 2023, Irene Kroeger of High River, Alberta passed away peacefully in the Foothills Country Hospice at the age of 94 years.

Irene (Sascha) was born on July 26, 1928 in Einlage, Ukraine, and survived much hardship – the arrest and death of her father as a youngster, leaving her home with her mom and sister as a young teenager to make their way to Germany for safety, being separated from her family, waiting for a country to accept her as an immigrant, eventual immigration to Paraguay where a ‘Mennonite colony’ was established, and the stories go on. However, with her strong faith in God, she was able to live a good long life with joy and gratitude.

Irene is survived by her loving family; three children, Rita (Harvey) Driedger of Calgary, John (Elsie) Kroeger of Bearspaw, David (Rebecca) Kroeger of Calgary; six grandchildren, Kimberley (Ryan), Derek (Darcie), Brett (Stephanie), Stephanie, Jeffrey, Nicole (Ryan); and six great grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Irene is predeceased by Jake, her husband of 66 years; son-in-law, Doug Janzen, two great grandsons, Michael and Gabriel; parents, Kornelius and Maria Peters; sister, Melita Reimer.

Irene lived a life of giving – her time, her smiles, her love, her gifts in the

kitchen. A friend to all and 'Oma' or 'Mom' to more than just her family. She exemplified the grace of forgiveness, perseverance, and joy. She often said she didn't deserve to be so blessed by all the love that was shown to her. How she will be missed!

Interment Services will be held on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Mennonite Church Cemetery, located at Aldersyde.

Funeral Services will follow on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at First Mennonite Church in Calgary; 2600 Richmond Road S.W.

If friends so desire, donations in Irene's memory may be made to the ALS Society of Alberta www.alsab.ca or Foothills Country Hospice www.countryhospice.org.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (403-652-4242).

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 16. 11:00 AM (MT)

Trinity Mennonite Church Cemetery
Township Rd 200
Aldersyde, AB T0L 0A0 (CA)

Funeral Service

JUN 16. 1:00 PM (MT)

First Mennonite Church
2600 Richmond Rd SW
Calgary, AB T3E 4M3 (CA)

Tribute Wall

AN

“ Everything that Miriam said and more!

When I was younger, (great) Aunt Irene was one of my many relatives that I remembered in a soft, fuzzy kind of way, often connected to Christmas. Aunt Irene and Uncle Jake's house always seemed to be full of music, laughter and delicious food when we visited them.

And then, in the past couple of years, spending time with Aunt Irene has made my life even richer-with what knowledge about our traditionally loved Christmas cookies I was able to retain, but even more, just laughing and giggling, listening to stories of our family and watching what felt like a professional baker at work.

(This is a story I posted on Sunday on facebook: A few years ago, Mimi, Stef, Nicki and I wanted to get a special cake made for our dad, that our Oma used to make. We didn't want to bother our aunt because she was over 90 at that point so we called bakeries. No luck. So we started calling Mennonite churches. And then finally one church got back to me about this woman in their church who made amazing Napoleons (the cake) for their church bake sales. As I was talking to this lady, something clicked and I said, "You're not talking about Irene Kroeger by any chance are you?" Yup. She was. So Mimi got together with her to learn how to make the cake.)

I feel blessed to have been able to spend time with this amazing, faith filled woman. I can close my eyes and see her in front of me, with a twinkle in her eye, saying something funny. The last time we went to visit her was when she was in the hospital at High River and before we went in, Miriam said, "I bet she's going to make us take our masks off!" and sure enough, as soon as we saw her, she said, "Take those masks off and give me a hug!" We did.

My thoughts and heart are with family and with all who hold Aunt Irene dear to their hearts.

Andrea Neufeld - June 14, 2023 at 08:37 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rebecca Kroeger - June 14, 2023 at 12:38 PM

MN

“ Aunt Irene will be forever remembered and missed so very much. For the whole family, I am deeply sorry for your loss of your Mom and Oma. I will forever treasure being taught by Great Aunt Irene about making a Napoleon cake for my Dad's 80th birthday. What a master! We smiled and laughed the whole time. I was also blessed to have lessons from such a master of creating what we always called Oma cookies. I will never be able to replicate her recipes, but I'll try. I am imagining Uncle Jake playing his accordion with a gigantic smile spread across his face and he's welcoming in Aunt Irene. I can just hear him saying, "Finally you're here. I've been waiting for you". Peace and blessings and so much love to you, Great Aunt Irene. Miriam Neufeld

Miriam Neufeld - June 13, 2023 at 10:00 PM

ME

Dear Rita and family,
Our deepest sympathies as you mourn the loss of an amazing woman, your Mom and Oma. May you feel God's presence as you celebrate her wonderful life.
Marlene and Karl Epp

Marlene and Karl Epp - June 13, 2023 at 10:13 PM

RJ

Dear Aunt Irene....we will mourn with your family Rita as you celebrate your mom's life and send her on her next journey. Know she had a special place in my heart❤️

Ruth

Ruth Jansen - June 13, 2023 at 11:45 PM

TB

Dear Rita and family.... there are absolutely no words, to express how saddened Neal and I were, to hear of your much loved mom/Oma Irene, had passed. Such a wonderful, loving, caring INCREDIBLE woman. We will always hold in our hearts Irene's beautiful smile and laughter, and her most wonderful hugs. A life well lived, a life well loved. Till we meet again, Irene. Forever in our hearts and memories. With much love and respect, Neal and Tammy Ballhorn (High River)

Tammy Ballhorn - June 15, 2023 at 03:13 PM

IN

Death is a heartache no one can heal, Love is a memory no one can steal. Thanks, Aunt Irene for being a significant force in my life. I'm sure that Uncle Jake and others are waiting for you with open arms and may you live on in spirit, joyfully and forever!

irma Neufeld - June 17, 2023 at 12:59 PM

LN

Dear Rita, John, David and families,

Uncle Jake and Aunt Irene were very dear to John, he said as a little boy in hospital far from home and family, they came every single day to visit him and he never forget them.

When we moved to Saskatoon, with a week old baby and me getting sick, Mom, Aunt Irene, quickly organized with her sister Aunt Melita and Pete to take us in. Their kindness and support were never forgotten.

When Aunt Irene and Uncle Jake came to Saskatoon or passed through, they always made it a point to visit us. There was always so much love and laughter.

Yes Mom always spoke on how helpful and generous she was, Aunt Irene was always full of humor and kindness, they welcomed me with open arms.

I always got a chuckle about who made the best Christmas cookies, those special ones, I was happy to enjoy from both.

*Rest In Peace Aunt Irene! ❤️🌹
Love to you all.*

Linda Neufeld

Linda Neufeld - June 26, 2023 at 09:41 AM