



VERNA GENE CLARK

February 6, 1926 - April 12, 2025

Verna Gene Clark, 99, went to be with God on Saturday April 12th, passing peacefully in her sleep in the company of family. Gene was born February 6, 1926, in Moravia NY to Alton and Pauline (Ryan) Clark. She attended Cortland State where she graduated with a degree in education then completed her master's in education at Syracuse University. Gene taught elementary school in Cayuga County before becoming a teacher and eventually retiring as a principal in the Syracuse City School District. After retirement she tried her hand at many different occupations, most notably becoming a storyteller at Mama Bear's retail shop where her love of teddy bears became a lifelong passion. There she assisted Norma Ganderson, who became her very dear friend, in her shop until it closed in 2003. Gene traveled widely during her lifetime and was involved with many clubs and charities including helping to found and run the Crystal Closet (a resale shop in the now closed Rockefeller Methodist church), the Professional Women's League, the Onondaga Country Retired Teachers Association and the Syracuse Antiques Club. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. Gene was predeceased by her parents, and her sister Andrea (Clark) Girvin (Charlie).

Gene is survived by her sister, Joyce Gardner, of Pompton Plains, NJ (formerly of White Plains, NY), and her former brother-in-law, Harry Garner, of Homer, NY, her nephews, Harry Gardner, of Rockville Center, NY, Mark (Banchai) Gardner, of White Plains, NY, David (Michelle) Girvin, of Berlin

Heights, OH, Steve (Joyce) Girvin, of Live Oak, FL, and her nieces, Alison (Chris) Thornhill, of Pompton Lakes, NJ, Elaine (Stephen) Sears, of Cortland, NY, Ann (Greg) Gooch, of Cary, NC and Carol (Aaron) King, of Alden, NY. She is also survived by her “foster” daughter, Marie Hotaling, and Marie’s children, Elizabeth Bury, Joanne Cox, and was predeceased by Eileen (Frank) Reid and Daniel Hotaling.

In addition, she is survived by a great number of grand and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and innumerable very dear and special friends, students, and loved ones who have made her last months all the more special through their calls, visits, and cards sent while she was convalescing from a recent medical event.

Gene’s exuberance and her zest for life was a joy to be around, and she will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Family and friends may call from 4:00 – 7:00 PM Thursday, April 17, 2025 at BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, 2601 Milton Ave, Solvay, NY 13209.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 AM Friday April 18, 2025 at BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME. Private burial will be in New Hope Cemetery, New Hope, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or Humane CNY.

Please share online memories and tributes at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Cemetery Details

NEW HOPE CEMETERY

ROUTE 41A
NEW HOPE, NY

Previous Events

Calling Hours

APR 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME
2601 Milton Avenue
Solvay, NY 13209
info@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<http://www.bagozzitwins.com>

Funeral Service

APR 18. 10:30 AM (ET)

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME
2601 Milton Avenue
Solvay, NY 13209
info@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<http://www.bagozzitwins.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bagozzi Twins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of VERNA GENE CLARK*



BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, INC. - April 16, 2025 at 12:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of VERNA GENE CLARK.*



April 17, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ *Cecelia and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of VERNA GENE CLARK.*



Cecelia and family - April 17, 2025 at 07:41 AM

TF

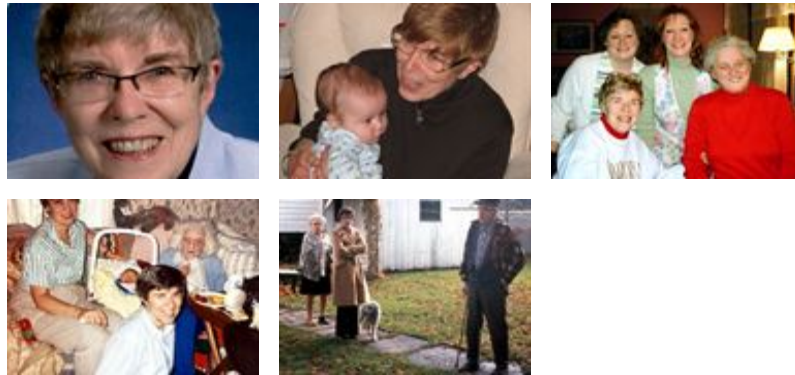
“ *The Haddad family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of VERNA GENE CLARK.*



The Haddad family - April 17, 2025 at 06:47 AM



“ *33 files added to the album Life Tributes*



BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, INC. - April 16, 2025 at 12:32 PM

EL

“ *Emily, Kathleen, Meg, & Liz purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of VERNA GENE CLARK.*



Emily, Kathleen, Meg, & Liz - April 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM

EL

“ Emily, Kathleen, Meg, & Liz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of VERNA GENE CLARK.

Emily, Kathleen, Meg, & Liz - April 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM

MS

“ I met Gene thru Syracuse Antiques Club .She was a fantastic lady who welcome me into the club as if she always knew me. She spoke on many things thru out the years at the club. I really truly miss her. Till we meet again Gene. ❤️

mary Speers - April 15, 2025 at 10:52 AM

AB

“ Oh gosh. Miss Clark was my 6th grade teacher at Edward Smith school. She was completely captivating. We had a Queen for a Day birthday party for- Queen Verna Jean. She encouraged our love of books (coincidentally our classroom was squeezed into the old library) and read classics to us for quiet time at the end of the day. Tom Sawyer came alive as she read the chapters with theatrical verve! I'll never forget you Miss Clark.

Anne Robischon Burlingham - April 15, 2025 at 07:46 AM

AT

Thank you - such a beautiful tribute!

Alison Gardner Thornhill - April 16, 2025 at 06:28 AM

AB

She was one of the teachers you never forget. Always signed her name VG Clark with impeccable handwriting!

Anne Burlingham - April 16, 2025 at 07:37 AM

WF

“ *With love, Chris & Emily Yontz and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of VERNA GENE CLARK.*



With love, Chris & Emily Yontz and family - April 14, 2025 at
09:42 PM