

Irene Block, born on 04.07.1930 in Stuttgart, died on 24.12.2012 in Philadelphia/USA

Irene was the first child of Hildegard, née Rothschild and David Block, she had a brother named Rudolf Anton, who was three years younger. Irene's father David Block was co-owner of the company 'Schürzen und Wäsche - Fabrik Brüder Block' in Göppingen, which was located on the upper Schillerstraße, where the family also lived. Irene probably attended the Göppingen Jewish School from the beginning of its existence in July 1936 until the family fled to Philadelphia/USA on 10.07.1938.

Her niece Hildie Block (daughter of Rudolf Anton Block) wrote the following obituary on the occasion of Irene Block's death:

"Irene Block, 81, Holocaust survivor, skier, PR specialist and politically engaged, succumbed to her suffering after a brief battle with cancer at Vitas Hospice in Philadelphia. As an 8-year-old, Irene fled the Nazis in Germany, hidden in the back of a truck, and emigrated with her family to the United States, where she grew up and spent most of her life in Philadelphia.

She graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls at the top of her class in 1948 and was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania when it became 'officially' co-educational. She was accepted into the long-established Philomatean (Philo) Society – the same association that had translated the Rosetta Stone – in the first year that it opened up to women; in 1951, she became its first female chairwoman, the 'moderator'. The following year, in 1952, she graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in political science.

Irene went on to pursue a varied career as a public relations and journalism writer, writing for the Philadelphia Inquirer for a time and working in public relations and advertising throughout her professional life, especially in support of the ski community. She was a founding member of several local ski clubs, most notably the Wissahickon Ski Club, where she remained active until her death.

Irene was very politically engaged and always active. Until recently, she worked as an election observer. Because she was constantly chatting on the phone and keeping family and friends connected, Irene will be remembered primarily for her energy, her wit, her love of Philadelphia's sports teams, and her laughter.

Mrs. Block is survived by her 28-year-old partner, Robert Woods, his daughter Heather with her husband and two children, as well as a niece, Hildie Block (Joel), two great-nieces, several cousins across the country, and many, many neighbors and friends.'

Irene as an adult (Source: Initiative Stolpersteine Göppingen)

