



Adele (Gladys) Azar-Rucquoi

May 20, 1933 - November 13, 2023

AZAR-RUCQUOI, ADELE (né Gladys), 90, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 13, 2023 at her home in Sanford, FL. A great lover of life, Adele was known for her endless generosity of both spirit and resources, for her wonderment at all the gifts of the universe, and for her fearless determination to manifest peace, love and justice in the world. With genuinely disarming honesty she engendered trust and love in everyone whom she attracted into her chosen family and her great circle of friends who will miss her dearly.

Born 1933 in Paterson, NJ, Adele was the eldest child of Charles Azar and Adele Kashey Azar. After moving to Orlando at an early age, the family ran a small Middle Eastern grocery store for many fondly remembered years. Adele obtained her BA in music from Manhattanville College in New York and her MA in religious education from Barry University in Miami. For 16 years she was a teaching nun in the community of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and taught at Bishop Moore High School in Orlando, Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville, and St. Juliana in West Palm Beach. In the 1970's and 1980's she served as the director of music at several Florida Catholic parishes, including St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens and St. Maurice in Hollywood. She was a founding member of the Foundation for Mid-East Communication and also led community workshops on prejudice reduction for the National Coalition Building Institute. Later in life, Adele was involved with

the Central Florida Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society, where she met her husband, James Rucquoi. She was also an active member of Pax Christi Florida, a regional chapter of the National Catholic Peace Movement. Adele authored two books: *Money as Sacrament*, an exploration of the complex issues for women and money, and *The Nun and the Bum*, a fictional memoir based on her and her husband's life experiences. She wrote a regular column for the Orlando Sentinel, and her articles appeared in several magazines. Adele and her husband were members of the Mount Dora Writers Guild and taught courses together on creativity at Rollins College in Winter Park. Adele is survived by husband James Rucquoi, daughter Kate Copeland, step sons Marc and David Rucquoi, and nieces Kari, Laura, Krista, Kyndra, Katrina, and their families. She is now peacefully at rest with her brothers Leroy and Roland Azar and sister Ginger Azar Jones.

A celebration of Adele's life was held on Friday December 15th at 1:00 PM in the Heritage Room at Vitality Living Lake Forest in Sanford. Friends who were not able to attend in person may view the celebration at the following YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/dLJO7NkWzfo>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one of the following:

Pax Christi USA at <https://paxchristiusa.org/donate/>

Middle East Children's Alliance at <https://www.mecaforpeace.org/>

Rescue Outreach Mission of Central Florida at <https://romcfl.org/>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life and Reception

DEC **15**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Vitality Living Lake Forest
5433 West State Road 46
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Tribute Wall

ED

“ Adele was my teacher in 6th grade and then again, in 8th grade at St. Juliana’s. I credit her with my choice of a career in Education. Time and again I recognized that some of my instructional practices mirrored those we had benefited from in her classroom. We loved Sister Adele because we knew that she loved us. So many treasured memories. Forever grateful. Elizabeth Morris Decker

Elizabeth Morris Decker - December 14, 2023 at 03:54 PM

FO

“ Fr. James Elliott O’Neal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Adele (Gladys) Azar-Rucquoi.

Fr. James Elliott O’Neal - December 13, 2023 at 08:39 PM

FO

“ Fr. James Elliott O’Neal purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Adele (Gladys) Azar-Rucquoi.

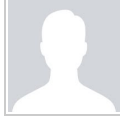


Fr. James Elliott O’Neal - December 13, 2023 at 08:39 PM

PP

“ I’m Jim’s sister Peg and I loved this woman. Every tiny ounce of her was filled with boundless energy, optimism, love, and music, music, music. And flowers and bird song surrounded her smiling. Now at peace and love.

Peg Picard - December 13, 2023 at 01:18 PM



Adele was always fun to be around. Many things reminded her of a song. She would sing happily about much. I have Fond memories of spunky Adele. Jo Rucquoi(Dave's wife)

Josephine Rucquoi - December 14, 2023 at 05:36 PM

CA

“ *I have fond memories of Adele when we were both active in the National Speakers Association - she was authentic, genuine, kind and fun loving. She had such a wonderful personality and when I think of her, I see her smiling and telling stories of her life. I was always touched by her gentleness and kind heart.*

While we weren't in close contact in recent years, I am saddened to hear of her passing and know that her loss will be felt greatly by everyone who ever had the good fortune to meet her. I know that her legacy lives on in the lives of her family and friends. My life is forever enriched by knowing her. Sending my deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Respectfully, Carol Dekkers

Carol - December 13, 2023 at 01:15 PM

JG

“ *1 file added to the album Adele Azar 1933-2033*



Jamet Gischler - December 10, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ I knew Adele for the 30 years she was married to my father. We had countless conversations that would end with her singing the opinion she was trying to drive home. She always made a point of telling me how much she loved me — and how much she loved Jim. From watching her zip around in her Volkswagen convertible, to zipping through BJ’s on an electric scooter, she has always been a woman in motion. I will forever marvel at her energy, her love, and her capacity, to turn any moment in life into a musical.

Marc Rucquoi - November 30, 2023 at 03:26 PM

EC

“ Dear Jim and Adele’s family,

The photo here brings back many memories from first meeting Adele to our last visit in July with her and you, Jim, when we were in town in July and the goodbye call she left on moving from the house into assisted living.

Rich and purposeful times shared. Song, sacrament, and mutual concern.

May her spirit be at rest and in peace.

With love to all who hold her memory dear, Elizabeth and Rick



Elizabeth Cohen - November 16, 2023 at 09:40 AM

SB

“ How saddened I am to hear of Adele's passing. To me, her smile, voice and spirit were larger than life. When my children were little, her face would light up when she saw them. She always had a kind and sweet thing to say to each of them. As much as her smile, there was always a song on her lips, often a song for a sentence or two or three that she wanted to share, and did so with her lovely voice. She touched many many hearts, mine included.

Susan A Bach - November 16, 2023 at 09:31 AM

GS

“ Lynn and I have wonderful memories of Adele at the piano singing Jingle Bells at Merton meetings, speaking about her first book, leading discussion groups, arranging breakfasts and so much more. She had a life as colorful as her lively personality and made a great contribution to our community through her work with Arab-Jewish relations. Adele was a natural leader, and we were fortunate to be part of her circle. Our prayeful sympathy on her passing to Jim and other family members. Jerry Schiffhorst

Gerald Schiffhorst - November 15, 2023 at 08:26 PM

BP

Love you Jim & Adele. BP

Brendan Price - December 04, 2023 at 10:25 PM

FO

Our 8th Grade class at St. Juliana's Catholic School, West Palm Beach, Fla. was blessed to have had Adele as our teacher! She cast me in the role of the Master Toymaker in the production of "Babes In Toyland". She brought out the best in her students! She leaves a legacy to service to God and her community and as a loving wife to Jim! God bless her and God bless you, Jim, and your family! Requiescat in pace!

Fr. James E. O'Neal - December 13, 2023 at 08:47 PM