

Obituary from Madison.com, May 10, 2016, and on Channel 3000.com on May 11, 2010

Ris, Theron Caldwell



Theron Caldwell Ris

- May 10, 2016

MADISON - Theron Caldwell Ris, age 84, died peacefully at home on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

She is survived, loved, and will be greatly missed by her six children, Ben Caldwell (Catherine Whalen), Sam Caldwell (Concha Arroyo Perez), Alan Caldwell (Deb Caldwell), Megan Sloan Caldwell (Bob Phillips), Erica Caldwell Colmenares (Phil Colmenares), and Bret Caldwell (Patty Caldwell); 11 grandchildren, Thomas Caldwell, Amanda Caldwell, Max Colmenares, William Brown, Ian Brown, Alba Caldwell Arroyo, Jaqueline Caldwell Arroyo, Allie Caldwell, Peter Caldwell, Lauren Caldwell, and Edward Caldwell; one great-grandchild, Dante Arevalo Caldwell; two stepchildren, Chris Ris and Anet Ris; and three dogs,

Annie, Mojo, and Sanko. She was preceded in death by the father of her children, William L. Caldwell, and her second husband, Hans Ris.

Theron was born on Oct. 30, 1931, in Reno, Nev., to Ted Brown and Jeannette (Sloan) Brown. She received a B.S. from Stanford University, and a second B.S. in Fine Arts and an M.F.A., both from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was a painter, in oils and watercolors, and her work was exhibited widely. A passionate advocate for the better treatment of animals, she frequently featured them in her paintings. She also volunteered at the Dane County Humane Society. Though Wisconsin was Theron's longtime home, she never did fully embrace the cold. A part of her was always in Tennessee where the family lived before moving to Madison. Through her efforts, a large tract of land in Tennessee has been preserved from future development, a legacy she was very proud of. Theron felt hers was a lucky life, and found all of her work tremendously fulfilling.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 19, 2016, 2 p.m. at the FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Heartland Farm Sanctuary.