



Ida Dunson

April 20, 2024

Ida Dunson, a woman of extraordinary conviction, was born in Sacramento, California, on the M Street campground on July 20, 1924. Her mother, Mabel Soo Johnson, a Chinese woman, was born in San Francisco, California, and was orphaned by the earthquake of 1906. Her father, William Johnson, a Black man, was born in San Felipe, Texas, and later migrated to Oakland, California, after the First World War. Ida's upbringing in West Oakland, amidst a rich tapestry of cultures, and her education at Prescott Elementary and Junior High School in a diverse neighborhood, shaped her unique worldview. She was the fourth of 5 siblings, survived by an older sister, Dorothy Delahoussaye of Oakland, CA., a younger brother, William Eason of San Francisco, CA., and a sister-in-law, Mabele Elliott of Citrus Heights CA. Ida is preceded in death by two older siblings, Gladys Banks of Oakland CA., and Robert Johnson of Oakland, CA. Her love for learning and curiosity were unparalleled, often spending hours exploring different books and topics. Ida married Alvin Dunson of Detroit, Michigan, in 1946, and they are survived by two children, Linda Dunson of Albany, CA., and Bruce Dunson (Nancy) of San Antonio, TX. There are three grandchildren, Naomi Dunson of Cambridge, MA, Tai Dunson-Strane of Portland, Oregon, and Travis Dunson of San Antonio, TX., and many nieces and nephews. One granddaughter, Ayanna Dunson, has also passed away. Ida's journey was a testament to her resilience and determination. She became a community organizer in what is now Richmond's Parchester Village,

breaking societal barriers. Her dedication to equality was evident when she played a pivotal role in desegregating the Richmond school district in 1951 through a federal lawsuit. Despite facing numerous challenges, Ida remained steadfast in her pursuit of justice, a true champion for equality. This period also marked her commitment to education, as she enrolled at California State University Hayward, graduating with a BS in Education in 1962. Her thirst for knowledge led her to earn a Master's Degree in Education in 1977 from San Francisco State University, and a Master's Degree in Women's Spirituality in 2002 from New College of California. Her impact on the community was profound, with many persons crediting her for the positive changes they experienced.

Ida's impact on the community and education was profound. She dedicated her life to these causes as an educator and community organizer. Her contributions were recognized when she retired from Richmond Public Schools in 1982. She continued her career at UC Berkeley, a testament to her passion and commitment, as a program coordinator in the Women's Center on the Berkeley Campus. In this role, she was instrumental in organizing various educational and community outreach programs, leaving a lasting impact on the campus and the community. She retired in 1991, but her legacy and the positive changes she brought about continue to resonate.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 6. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center
1331 San Pablo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 525-1331
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomelegacycenter.com>

Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM (PT)

Downs Memorial United Methodist Church
6026 Idaho Street
Oakland, CA 94608

Interment

MAY 13 (PT)

Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, CA 94803