



Ida Nelson

NOV 12, 1921 - DEC 21, 2023



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Ida Nelson, 102, of Clay, NY, passed away from natural causes on the morning of December 21, 2023, at The Cottages at Garden Grove in Cicero, NY.

Born in 1921 in Paris, France to Joseph and Simone (Sima) Glaserman, Ida lived a remarkable life spanning an extraordinary century. She was raised in Paris in the 1920's and 1930's, during a time of unrest and increasing turmoil that culminated in her having to flee her home in 1942, with her sister Rose Huguette, to the south of France to escape the Nazi occupation. She spent the next three years moving from place to place, not knowing the fate of her family or what lay in store for her and her sister. She was able to return to Paris in 1945 after the Allied victory only to discover that most of her family had perished in concentration camps and the home she had known growing up was gone. Returning to school was not an option (Ida had been studying to get a law degree) so she eventually obtained a job with UNRRA (the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association), where she would meet Newton Nelson, marrying him in Germany in 1946. They would remain married for 53 years, till his death in 1999.

Newton and Ida would come to America in 1947, settling on Long Island, and raising their three children, Shelley, Dean, and Wendy. As the children grew older, Ida returned to school, receiving a master's degree from Hofstra University, and soon thereafter landing a teaching position in the Uniondale School District. She stayed with Uniondale for 35 years, eventually rising to become District Chairperson of Foreign Languages. During this time, she continued her studies at New York University, earning her Ph.D. in French Literature. (Her thesis, "La Sottie Sans Souci", was later published in France.) After her retirement from Uniondale, she continued to teach for another 10 years as an adjunct professor at Suny/Old Westbury, reflecting her commitment to education and her lifelong love of learning.

In time, Ida moved to Elmira, NY, to spend more time with her grandchildren, and subsequently to Clay, NY, to be closer to her great-grandchildren. During this time, she continued to embrace the pleasures that had always filled her life with joy: a love of opera, of travel, of reading, and of spending time with family and friends. She had a character forged through enduring difficult



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times, but eschewed bitterness and filled her life with a love of family and a delight in the humanities. She was a woman of both indomitable will, and enormous generosity, of strong opinions and loving kindness. But towering over everything else was her devotion to her children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren; she was the heart of the family and deeply beloved by every one of us.

Ida was pre-deceased by her husband, Newton Nelson (1999) and sister Rose Huguette Glaserman (1982). She is survived by her children, Shelley (Peter), Dean, and Wendy, her grandchildren Matthew, Melissa (Greg), Sarah, Julie (Valerio), and Rebecca, and her great-grandchildren Gianna, Adrian, Roman, and Marcello.

In accordance with Ida's wishes, there will be no services; a celebration of her life will be held by the immediate family later this spring.



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DS

David Spakrs posted:

Belated condolences to the family of Ida Nelson. I never met her, but my late husband Randy P. Conner was a fan and used her book in his research on the French Sots. He spoke to her on the phone once as he had translated the whole of her manuscript into English and wanted to send it her, but that never worked out. David Hatfield Sparks

January 9 at 1:14 PM

PW

Paula Wangerin posted:

I knew that she would have a major impact in my life during my serendipitous interview in 1973 for a Spanish position. Ida Nelson were an icon, a pioneer and an inspiration to all who knew her. Her knowledge, wisdom and style were unique; nonetheless, she remained anchored to life and those who had the privilege of knowing this grand dame. Above all, Ida loved her family deeply and was fiercely committed to them. Ida remained a force with an indomitable spirit. While I shall miss her intensely, I shall hold dear her teachings and spirit, remembering her joie de vivre. Rest in Peace, my dear friend and mentor...till we meet again.

January 13 at 10:51 AM

FL

Florence Lenda posted:

Sincere condolences to the family of Madame Nelson. As a student in her French class at Turtle Hook, I learned more than just French. She willingly answered our questions about life and took interest in each of us. It was always clear that she enjoyed teaching and seeing us learn, and that she had sincere concern for her students. She had an elegant style and I feel blessed to have known her.

December 26 at 4:50 PM

DR

Diane Romm posted:

Smart. Brave. Resilient. Elegant. Ida was a remarkable woman who knew the meaning of reinventing yourself. She was a lovely lady who it was privilege to know and work with. She was a wonderful mentor to me when I became library chairperson. I will always cherish her memory. Diane Romm UHS

December 24 at 11:52 PM



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Laura Crowe Sanchez posted:

Madame Nelson was one of my favorite teachers at Turtle Hook Junior High School and taught one of my favorite classes! We learned so much about France and its language, culture, songs and even cooking! I remember making salade niçoise in the home economics classroom and learning to sing "Il est né, le divin Enfant." We read Le Comte de Monte-Cristo by Dumas in French (still one of my greater accomplishments, lol). But beyond that, Madame was a wonderful person to know and I felt she truly cared about us, her students. To her family, please know that she is remembered with great fondness as a special person. My sincere condolences to you all on her passing.

December 24 at 2:38 PM



Patricia McGlynn posted:

Dr Nelson was the grande dame of Uniondale HS. She was a wonderful teacher and when I returned as an employee she was a great colleague. She led a wonderfully long life. My condolences to the family and friends

December 24 at 12:14 PM



Joseph Coppola lit a candle in honor of Ida.

RIP Ida. Thank you for being a wonderful mentor and friend. Joe Coppola

December 24 at 11:23 AM



Judy Burfeindt posted:

So sorry to hear about ida...She was l dynamic lady.And, as a young teacher at UHSI was honored to be asked to join her on her yearly Easter trips to Europe!It was a wonderful experience....Please accept my sincerest sympathy for your loss!SincerelyJudy burfeindt... Physical education. 66-99

December 24 at 10:49 AM



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Pat Sealey Curzio posted:

Rest in peace, dear Ida. I have so many wonderful memories of a woman with indomitable spirit and determination, who also enjoyed a good laugh and loved a wild party too. Ida was a force to be reckoned with when she was advocating for her staff, students and programs. She didn't like to hear the word "no" and usually won the battle! A woman who contributed so much to so many and a true trailblazer, she will be fondly remembered. Pat Sealey Curzio

December 24 at 7:57 AM



Carol Szykowski posted:

What a life this woman had! I am in total awe of her grit and determination. She is a role model. My thoughts and prayers to her beautiful family. God bless Carol Szykowski

December 21 at 1:37 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ida by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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