



Nontzisi Dolores Cayou

MAY 19, 1937 - OCT 3, 2019



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CHAPEL
OF THE
CHIMES
OAKLAND

Funeral, Cemetery
& Cremation Services

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



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Nontzisi Dolores I. Ca was born in New Orleans on May 19, 1937. She was the oldest child born to Walter and Annice Kirton. Her family moved from New Orleans in the forties. Nontzisi graduated from Alameda High School, – Alameda, California. She was the president of her class. She received her degree from San Francisco state.

Nontzisi was a pioneer in the teaching of jazz dance. As a faculty member of the San Francisco State College since 1963, she was among the first teachers to offer a course in jazz dance at the college level. At all levels of her teacher... Including workshops for high school students and master classes for other teachers-she gave consideration to the heritage and distinctive character of jazz dance as an art.

Her abilities as a teacher were based on her intensive studies of Afro-Haitian dance and jazz dance. She has performed in revues and concert companies, and she has choreographed many high school, college and festival productions.

Nontzisi was briefly married to Billy Cayou, a pianist & bass, jazz musician.

She had a passion for the dance group which she founded the Wajumbe Dancer at the African American Cultural center in San Francisco, CA.

Nontzisi was preceded in death by her parents; Walter and Annice Kirton, Sisters; Juanita Sterling, Brothers; Alvin & Marcel Kirton. She is survived by Brothers; Harvey, Andre & Renel Kirton.

Funeral Services will be held at 7th Ave. Baptist Church, 1790 7th Ave. Oakland, CA – 11:00 am on October 18th, 2019. Quiet hour will be October 17th at 4499 Piedmont Ave – Chapel of the Chimes, Oakland 4:00pm – 8:00 pm.



Tribute Wall

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Frankie Gillette posted:

The San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee joins in mourning the passing of one of our original members, Nontsizi Cayou. She served on the Program Committee in 1993 and was appointed to the Cultural Affairs & Tourism Committee in 1996; providing leadership in international diplomacy and hospitality. Thank you again, Nontsizi, for your active leadership in promoting peace through friendship. Frankie Jacobs Gillette, Chairperson, San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee

October 17 at 6:15 AM



Osunkemi Aka: Khemya Mitrahina At Www.Khamitic.Yolasite.Com & Www.Traditionalancientartscenter.Synth posted:

asite.com All my love for Nontsizi Cayou who was my advisor and chair at San Francisco State University, where Kamau Seitu introduced me to her presence upon entering the Dance Ethnology, Performance and Choreography Program which she pioneered. I was so gracious to meet Mama Cayou, and be under her guidance as my life continued. Nontsizi became a pivotal force in my graduation at S.F. State, as they tried to hold my diploma from me. Nontsizi was the first to go to bat for me, as she shook all the apple trees. That's when I knew Nontsizi was a very powerful SOUL. I was eventually invited to Wajumbe' Cultural Center where her community activism and leadership shined for many, as well as partaking in her National Kwanzaa's, which were always celebrated on Nia, the day of purpose. Nontsizi inspired my first trip to Nigeria, as I traveled abroad to learn in-depth about the Yoruba spiritual traditions from the origin. Nontsizi would always tell me, "One must learn of the origin, and that is the Motherland." As our conversations would deepen, Nontsizi expressed pioneering Orisha conferences and actual tours in which Orisha shrines would be the pivotal foundation for the tours, advancing educational and spiritual learning. She wanted me to take a trip to Nigeria with her, but we were never able to make it happen. Our last meeting was at Maliki's Rest. where Nontsizi came out and we celebrated life. I never knew she went to Alameda High School, the school I went to as well. Nontsizi graced us all with her presence, her love for Africa and her homeland New Orleans. I had just spoken with my colleagues, about the inspiration to honor Nontsizi, but I guess we were a minute too late. I just want to offer my condolences to the family, and thank the ancestors for allowing Nontsizi to bless us with the richness she possessed. All who passed through her surely will be inspired by the fruition of her work. I will never forget the huge Mother Hen sculpture in the hallway at Wajumbe'. Now I realize that Nontsizi was the Mother Hen to us all. Many Blessings forever, and may the seeds of her life be spread into the souls of many. I am so sorry I cannot make her service as I am abroad, but my spirit is there. Ase' ooooo! Modupe' Modupe' Modupe'.

October 15 at 5:11 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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