Mazi Elizabeth Johnson, 78, died July 7, 2012 at her home in St. Paul.

Born in Chicago, Johnson spent her entire adult life in St. Paul's Rondo (Summit-University) neighborhood. A community leader, activist, writer/poet, actress, co-founder of Mutima Radio Theater, founding member of Penumbra Theatre Company, mentor and friend to many, Johnson was a warrior, fiercely confronting the enemies of truth.

Johnson was proud of her years spent at the University of Minnesota. She respected book scholars and street scholars. She was a talented wordsmith who relished the most mind-bending crossword puzzles. She loved to learn and loved to share knowledge with others, especially youth. She spent many years at the helm of Summit-University Free Press. She listed her musical favorites as Jackie Wilson, Booker T, Ray Charles, The Spinners, Bob Marley and Smokey Robinson, along with recent hit-makers the Black Eyed Peas and LMFAO.

Johnson was generous and patient, always putting others before herself. "We were the best travel companions, be it road tripping, cruising or horseback riding in Mexico," said daughter Sheila Johnson. "If you knew my mom, drop a line on her Facebook page and let people know how she influenced your life."

Johnson is preceded in death by parents, Henrietta Bryant and Ruben Floyd, and eldest son, Charles Seiter. She is survived by daughter; Sheila Johnson (St. Paul); son Daniel Seiter (WI); granddaughters Roberta Brown & Tondra Seiter (TX); and Celeste Seiter (IL) and by great-grandchildren Tamara, Billy, Donn, Aaron, Sierra, Seandell, Zhate', Ariann and Charlisse; and great-great grandchildren La'Naisa and Sedrick.

Memorials may be sent to Penumbra Theatre Company, or St. Paul Intervention Project.