

= Ann Dunham =

Stanley Ann Dunham (November 29 , 1942 ? November 7 , 1995) was the mother of Barack Obama , the 44th President of the United States , and an American anthropologist who specialized in economic anthropology and rural development . Dunham was known as Stanley Dunham through high school , then as Ann Dunham , Ann Obama , Ann Soetoro , Ann Sutoro (after her second divorce) , and finally as Ann Dunham . Born in Wichita , Kansas , Dunham spent her childhood in California , Oklahoma , Texas and Kansas , her teenage years in Mercer Island , Washington , and most of her adult life in Hawaii and Indonesia .

Dunham studied at the East ? West Center and at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu , where she attained a bachelor 's of anthropology and master 's and PhD in anthropology . She also attended University of Washington at Seattle in 1961 ? 1962 . Interested in craftsmanship , weaving and the role of women in cottage industries , Dunham 's research focused on women 's work on the island of Java and blacksmithing in Indonesia . To address the problem of poverty in rural villages , she created microcredit programs while working as a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development . Dunham was also employed by the Ford Foundation in Jakarta and she consulted with the Asian Development Bank in Gujranwala , Pakistan . Towards the latter part of her life , she worked with Bank Rakyat Indonesia , where she helped apply her research to the largest microfinance program in the world .

After her son was elected President , interest renewed in Dunham 's work : The University of Hawaii held a symposium about her research ; an exhibition of Dunham 's Indonesian batik textile collection toured the United States ; and in December 2009 , Duke University Press published *Surviving against the Odds : Village Industry in Indonesia* , a book based on Dunham 's original 1992 dissertation . Janny Scott , an author and former New York Times reporter , published a biography about Ann Dunham 's life titled *A Singular Woman* in 2011 . Posthumous interest has also led to the creation of The Ann Dunham Soetoro Endowment in the Anthropology Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa , as well as the Ann Dunham Soetoro Graduate Fellowships , intended to fund students associated with the East ? West Center (EWC) in Honolulu , Hawaii .

In an interview , Barack Obama referred to his mother as " the dominant figure in my formative years ... The values she taught me continue to be my touchstone when it comes to how I go about the world of politics . "

= = Early life = =

Dunham was born on November 29 , 1942 at Saint Francis Hospital in Wichita , Kansas , the only child of Madelyn Lee Payne and Stanley Armour Dunham . She was of predominantly English ancestry , with some German , Swiss , Scottish , Irish , and Welsh ancestry . Wild Bill Hickok is her sixth cousin , five times removed .

Ancestry.com announced on July 30 , 2012 , after using a combination of old documents and yDNA analysis , that Dunham 's mother may have been descended from African John Punch , who was an indentured servant / slave in seventeenth @-@ century colonial Virginia .

Her parents were born in Kansas and met in Wichita , where they married on May 5 , 1940 . After the attack on Pearl Harbor , her father joined the United States Army and her mother worked at a Boeing plant in Wichita . According to Dunham , she was named after her father because he wanted a son , though her relatives doubt this story and her maternal uncle recalled that her mother named Dunham after her favorite actress Bette Davis ' character in the film *In This Our Life* because she thought Stanley , as a girl 's name , sounded sophisticated . As a child and teenager she was known as Stanley . Other children teased her about her name but she used it through high school , " apologizing for it each time she introduced herself in a new town " . By the time Dunham began attending college , she was known by her middle name , Ann , instead . After World War II , Dunham 's family moved from Wichita to California while her father attended the University of California , Berkeley . In 1948 , they moved to Ponca City , Oklahoma , and from there to Vernon , Texas , and then to El Dorado , Kansas . In 1955 , the family moved to Seattle , Washington , where her father

was employed as a furniture salesman and her mother worked as vice president of a bank . They lived in an apartment complex in the Wedgwood neighborhood where she attended Nathan Eckstein Junior High School .

In 1956 , Dunham 's family moved to Mercer Island , an Eastside suburb of Seattle . Dunham 's parents wanted their 13 @-@ year @-@ old daughter to attend the newly opened Mercer Island High School . At the school , teachers Val Foubert and Jim Wichterman taught the importance of challenging social norms and questioning authority to the young Dunham , and she took the lessons to heart : " She felt she didn 't need to date or marry or have children . " One classmate remembered her as " intellectually way more mature than we were and a little bit ahead of her time , in an off @-@ center way " , and a high school friend described her as knowledgeable and progressive : " If you were concerned about something going wrong in the world , Stanley would know about it first . We were liberals before we knew what liberals were . " Another called her " the original feminist " .

= = Family life and marriages = =

On August 21 , 1959 , Hawaii became the 50th state to be admitted into the Union . Dunham 's parents sought business opportunities in the new state , and after graduating from high school in 1960 , Dunham and her family moved to Honolulu . Dunham soon enrolled at the University of Hawaii at M?noa .

= = = First marriage = = =

While attending a Russian language class , Dunham met Barack Obama , Sr. , the school 's first African student . At the age of 23 , Obama Sr. had come to Hawaii to pursue his education , leaving behind a pregnant wife and infant son in his home town of Nyang 'oma Kogelo in Kenya . Dunham and Obama Sr. were married on the Hawaiian island of Maui on February 2 , 1961 , despite parental opposition from both families . Dunham was three months pregnant . Obama Sr. eventually informed Dunham about his first marriage in Kenya but claimed he was divorced . Years later , she would discover this was false . Obama Sr. ' s first wife , Kezia , later said she had granted her consent for him to marry a second wife , in keeping with Luo customs .

On August 4 , 1961 , at the age of 18 , Dunham gave birth to her first child , Barack Obama II . Friends in the state of Washington recall her visiting with her month @-@ old baby in 1961 . She took classes at the University of Washington from September 1961 to June 1962 , and lived as a single mother in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle with her son while her husband continued his studies in Hawaii . When Obama Sr. graduated from the University of Hawaii in June 1962 , he was offered a scholarship to study in New York City , but declined it , preferring to attend the more prestigious Harvard University . He left for Cambridge , Massachusetts , where he would begin graduate study at Harvard in the fall of 1962 . Dunham returned to Honolulu and resumed her undergraduate education at the University of Hawaii with the spring semester in January 1963 . During this time , her parents helped her raise the young Obama . Dunham filed for divorce in January 1964 , which Obama Sr. did not contest . In December 1964 , Obama Sr. married Ruth Baker , a Jewish American of Lithuanian heritage ; they were separated in 1971 and divorced in 1973 after having two sons . In 1965 , Obama Sr. received a MA in economics from Harvard . In 1971 , he came to Hawaii for a month and visited his son Barack , then 10 years old ; it was the last time he would see his son , and their only major personal interaction . In 1982 , Obama Sr. was killed in a car accident .

= = = Second marriage = = =

It was at the East ? West Center that Dunham met Lolo Soetoro , a Javanese surveyor who had come to Honolulu in September 1962 on an East ? West Center grant to study geography at the University of Hawaii . Soetoro graduated from the University of Hawaii with an M.A. in geography in June 1964 . In 1965 , Soetoro and Dunham were married in Hawaii , and in 1966 , Soetoro returned

to Indonesia . Dunham graduated from the University of Hawaii with a B.A. in anthropology on August 6 , 1967 , and moved in October the same year with her six @-@ year @-@ old son to Jakarta , Indonesia , to rejoin her husband .

In Indonesia , Soetoro worked first as a low @-@ paid topographical surveyor for the Indonesian government , and later in the government relations office of Union Oil Company . The family first lived at 16 Kyai Haji Ramli Tengah Street in a newly built neighborhood in the Menteng Dalam administrative village of the Tebet subdistrict in South Jakarta for two and a half years , with her son attending the nearby Indonesian @-@ language Santo Fransiskus Asisi (St. Francis of Assisi) Catholic School for 1st , 2nd , and part of 3rd grade , then in 1970 moved two miles north to 22 Taman Amir Hamzah Street in the Matraman Dalam neighborhood in the Pegangsaan administrative village of the Menteng subdistrict in Central Jakarta , with her son attending the Indonesian @-@ language government @-@ run Besuki School one and half miles east in the exclusive Menteng administrative village of the Menteng subdistrict for part of 3rd grade and for 4th grade . On August 15 , 1970 , Soetoro and Dunham had a daughter , Maya Cassandra Soetoro .

In Indonesia , Dunham enriched her son 's education with correspondence courses in English , recordings of Mahalia Jackson , and speeches by Martin Luther King Jr . In 1971 , she sent the young Obama back to Hawaii to attend Punahou School starting in 5th grade rather than having him stay in Indonesia with her . Madelyn Dunham 's job at the Bank of Hawaii , where she had worked her way up over a decade from clerk to becoming one of its first two female vice presidents in 1970 , helped pay the steep tuition , with some assistance from a scholarship .

A year later , in August 1972 , Dunham and her daughter moved back to Hawaii to rejoin her son and begin graduate study in anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa . Dunham 's graduate work was supported by an Asia Foundation grant from August 1972 to July 1973 and by an East ? West Center Technology and Development Institute grant from August 1973 to December 1978 .

Dunham completed her coursework at the University of Hawaii for an M.A. in anthropology in December 1974 , and after having spent three years in Hawaii , Dunham , accompanied by her daughter Maya , returned to Indonesia in 1975 to do anthropological field work . Her son chose not to go with them back to Indonesia , preferring to finish high school at Punahou School in Honolulu while living with his grandparents . Lolo Soetoro and Dunham divorced on November 5 , 1980 ; Lolo Soetoro married Erna Kustina in 1980 and had two children , a son , Yusuf Aji Soetoro (born 1981) , and daughter , Rahayu Nurmaida Soetoro (born 1987) . Lolo Soetoro died , age 52 , on March 2 , 1987 , due to liver failure .

Dunham was not estranged from either ex @-@ husband and encouraged her children to feel connected to their fathers .

= = Professional life = =

From January 1968 to December 1969 , Dunham taught English and was an assistant director of the Lembaga Persahabatan Indonesia Amerika (LIA) ? the Indonesia @-@ America Friendship Institute at 9 Teuku Umar Street in the Gondangdia administrative village of the Menteng subdistrict in Central Jakarta ? which was subsidized by the U.S. government . From January 1970 to August 1972 , Dunham taught English and was a department head and a director of the Lembaga Pendidikan dan Pengembangan Manajemen (LPPM) ? the Institute of Management Education and Development at 9 Menteng Raya Street in the Kebon Sirih administrative village of the Menteng subdistrict in Central Jakarta .

From 1968 to 1972 , Dunham was a co @-@ founder and active member of the Ganesha Volunteers (Indonesian Heritage Society) at the National Museum in Jakarta . From 1972 to 1975 , Dunham was crafts instructor (in weaving , batik , and dye) at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu .

Dunham then had a career in rural development , championing women 's work and microcredit for the world 's poor and worked with leaders from organizations supporting Indonesian human rights , women 's rights , and grass @-@ roots development .

In March 1977 , Dunham , under the supervision of agricultural economics professor Leon A. Mears

, developed and taught a short lecture course at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Indonesia (FEUI) in Jakarta for staff members of BAPPENAS (Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional) ? the Indonesian National Development Planning Agency .

From June 1977 through September 1978 , Dunham carried out research on village industries in the Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta (DIY) ? the Yogyakarta Special Region within Central Java in Indonesia under a student grant from the East ? West Center . As a weaver herself , Dunham was interested in village industries , and moved to Yogyakarta City , the center of Javanese handicrafts .

In May and June 1978 , Dunham was a short @-@ term consultant in the office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Jakarta , writing recommendations on village industries and other non @-@ agricultural enterprises for the Indonesian government 's third five @-@ year development plan (REPELITA III) .

From October 1978 to December 1980 , Dunham was a rural industries consultant in Central Java on the Indonesian Ministry of Industry 's Provincial Development Program (PDP I) , funded by USAID in Jakarta and implemented through Development Alternatives , Inc . (DAI) .

From January 1981 to November 1984 , Dunham was the program officer for women and employment in the Ford Foundation 's Southeast Asia regional office in Jakarta . While at the Ford Foundation , she developed a model of microfinance which is now the standard in Indonesia , a country that is a world leader in micro @-@ credit systems . Peter Geithner , father of Tim Geithner (who later became U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in her son 's administration) , was head of the foundation 's Asia grant @-@ making at that time .

From May to November 1986 and from August to November 1987 , Dunham was a cottage industries development consultant for the Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan (ADBP) under the Gujranwala Integrated Rural Development Project (GADP) . The credit component of the project was implemented in the Gujranwala district of the Punjab province of Pakistan with funding from the Asian Development Bank and IFAD , with the credit component implemented through Louis Berger International , Inc . Dunham worked closely with the Lahore office of the Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) .

From January 1988 to 1995 , Dunham was a consultant and research coordinator for Indonesia 's oldest bank , Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI) in Jakarta , with her work funded by USAID and the World Bank . In March 1993 , Dunham was a research and policy coordinator for Women 's World Banking (WWB) in New York . She helped WWB manage the Expert Group Meeting on Women and Finance in New York in January 1994 , and helped the WWB take prominent roles in the UN 's Fourth World Conference on Women held September 4 ? 15 , 1995 in Beijing , and in the UN regional conferences and NGO forums that preceded it .

On August 9 , 1992 , she was awarded PhD in anthropology from the University of Hawaii , under the supervision of Prof. Alice G. Dewey , with a 1 @,@ 043 @-@ page dissertation titled Peasant blacksmithing in Indonesia : surviving and thriving against all odds . Anthropologist Michael Dove described the dissertation as " a classic , in @-@ depth , on @-@ the @-@ ground anthropological study of a 1 @,@ 200 @-@ year @-@ old industry " . According to Dove , Dunham 's dissertation challenged popular perceptions regarding economically and politically marginalized groups , and countered the notions that the roots of poverty lie with the poor themselves and that cultural differences are responsible for the gap between less @-@ developed countries and the industrialized West . According to Dove , Dunham :

found that the villagers she studied in Central Java had many of the same economic needs , beliefs and aspirations as the most capitalist of Westerners . Village craftsmen were " keenly interested in profits " , she wrote , and entrepreneurship was " in plentiful supply in rural Indonesia " , having been " part of the traditional culture " there for a millennium .

Based on these observations , Dr. Soetoro concluded that underdevelopment in these communities resulted from a scarcity of capital , the allocation of which was a matter of politics , not culture . Antipoverty programs that ignored this reality had the potential , perversely , of exacerbating inequality because they would only reinforce the power of elites . As she wrote in her dissertation , " many government programs inadvertently foster stratification by channeling resources through village officials " , who then used the money to strengthen their own status further .

= = Illness and death = =

In late 1994 , Dunham was living and working in Indonesia . One night , during dinner at a friend 's house in Jakarta , she experienced stomach pain . A visit to a local physician led to an initial diagnosis of indigestion . Dunham returned to the United States in early 1995 and was examined at the Memorial Sloan ? Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and diagnosed with uterine cancer . By this time , the cancer had spread to her ovaries . She moved back to Hawaii to live near her widowed mother and died on November 7 , 1995 , 22 days short of her 53rd birthday . Following a memorial service at the University of Hawaii , Obama and his sister spread their mother 's ashes in the Pacific Ocean at Lanai Lookout on the south side of Oahu . Obama scattered the ashes of his grandmother (Madelyn Dunham) in the same spot on December 23 , 2008 , weeks after his election to the presidency .

Obama talked about Dunham 's death in a 30 @-@ second campaign advertisement (" Mother ") arguing for health care reform . The ad featured a photograph of Dunham holding a young Obama in her arms as Obama talks about her last days worrying about expensive medical bills . The topic also came up in a 2007 speech in Santa Barbara :

I remember my mother . She was 52 years old when she died of ovarian cancer , and you know what she was thinking about in the last months of her life ? She wasn 't thinking about getting well . She wasn 't thinking about coming to terms with her own mortality . She had been diagnosed just as she was transitioning between jobs . And she wasn 't sure whether insurance was going to cover the medical expenses because they might consider this a preexisting condition . I remember just being heartbroken , seeing her struggle through the paperwork and the medical bills and the insurance forms . So , I have seen what it 's like when somebody you love is suffering because of a broken health care system . And it 's wrong . It 's not who we are as a people .

Dunham 's employer @-@ provided health insurance covered most of the costs of her medical treatment , leaving her to pay the deductible and uncovered expenses , which came to several hundred dollars per month . Her employer @-@ provided disability insurance denied her claims for uncovered expenses because the insurance company said her cancer was a preexisting condition .

= = Posthumous interest = =

In September 2008 , the University of Hawaii at M?noa held a symposium about Dunham . In December 2009 , Duke University Press published a version of Dunham 's dissertation titled *Surviving against the Odds : Village Industry in Indonesia* . The book was revised and edited by Dunham 's graduate advisor , Alice G. Dewey , and Nancy I. Cooper . Dunham 's daughter , Maya Soetoro @-@ Ng , wrote the foreword for the book . In his afterword , Boston University anthropologist Robert W. Hefner describes Dunham 's research as " prescient " and her legacy as " relevant today for anthropology , Indonesian studies , and engaged scholarship " . The book was launched at the 2009 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia with a special Presidential Panel on Dunham 's work ; The 2009 meeting was taped by C @-@ SPAN .

In 2009 , an exhibition of Dunham 's Javanese batik textile collection (*A Lady Found a Culture in its Cloth : Barack Obama 's Mother and Indonesian Batiks*) toured six museums in the United States , finishing the tour at the Textile Museum of Washington , D.C. in August . Early in her life , Dunham explored her interest in the textile arts as a weaver , creating wall hangings for her own enjoyment . After moving to Indonesia , she was attracted to the striking textile art of the batik and began to collect a variety of different fabrics .

In December 2010 Dunham was awarded the Bintang Jasa Utama , the highest civilian award in Indonesia .

A lengthy major biography of Dunham by former New York Times reporter Janny Scott , titled *A Singular Woman* , was published in 2011 .

The University of Hawaii Foundation has established the Ann Dunham Soetoro Endowment , which

supports a faculty position housed in the Anthropology Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa , and the Ann Dunham Soetoro Graduate Fellowships , providing funding for students associated with the East - West Center (EWC) in Honolulu , Hawaii .

In 2010 the Stanley Ann Dunham Scholarship was established for young women graduating from Mercer Island High School , Ann 's alma mater . In its first six years the scholarship fund has awarded eleven college scholarships .

On January 1 , 2012 , President Obama and family visited an exhibition of his mother 's anthropological work on display at the University of Hawaii .

Filmmaker Vivian Norris 's feature length biographical film of Ann Dunham entitled *Obama Mama* (*La mère d 'Obama* @-@ French title) premiered on May 31 , 2014 as part of the 40th annual Seattle International Film Festival , not far from where Dunham grew up on Mercer Island .

= = Personal beliefs = =

In his 1995 memoir *Dreams from My Father* , Barack Obama wrote , " My mother 's confidence in needlepoint virtues depended on a faith I didn 't possess ... In a land [Indonesia] where fatalism remained a necessary tool for enduring hardship ... she was a lonely witness for secular humanism , a soldier for New Deal , Peace Corps , position @-@ paper liberalism . " In his 2006 book *The Audacity of Hope* Obama wrote , " I was not raised in a religious household ... My mother 's own experiences ... only reinforced this inherited skepticism . Her memories of the Christians who populated her youth were not fond ones ... And yet for all her professed secularism , my mother was in many ways the most spiritually awakened person that I 've ever known . " " Religion for her was " just one of the many ways ? and not necessarily the best way ? that man attempted to control the unknowable and understand the deeper truths about our lives , " Obama wrote .

Dunham 's daughter , Maya Soetoro @-@ Ng , when asked later if her mother was an atheist , said , " I wouldn 't have called her an atheist . She was an agnostic . She basically gave us all the good books ? the Bible , the Hindu Upanishads and the Buddhist scripture , the Tao Te Ching ? and wanted us to recognize that everyone has something beautiful to contribute . " " Jesus , she felt , was a wonderful example . But she felt that a lot of Christians behaved in un @-@ Christian ways . " On the other hand , Maxine Box , Dunham 's best friend in high school , said that Dunham " touted herself [then] as an atheist , and it was something she 'd read about and could argue . She was always challenging and arguing and comparing . She was already thinking about things that the rest of us hadn 't . "

In a 2007 speech , Obama contrasted the beliefs of his mother to those of her parents , and commented on her spirituality and skepticism : " My mother , whose parents were nonpracticing Baptists and Methodists , was one of the most spiritual souls I ever knew . But she had a healthy skepticism of religion as an institution . "

Obama also described his own beliefs in relation to the religious upbringing of his mother and father :

My father was from Kenya and a lot of people in his village were Muslim . He didn 't practice Islam . Truth is he wasn 't very religious . He met my mother . My mother was a Christian from Kansas , and they married and then divorced . I was raised by my mother . So , I 've always been a Christian . The only connection I 've had to Islam is that my grandfather on my father 's side came from that country . But I 've never practiced Islam .

= = Publications = =

Dunham , S Ann (1982) . Civil rights of working Indonesian women . OCLC 428080409 .

Dunham , S Ann (1982) . The effects of industrialization on women workers in Indonesia . OCLC 428078083 .

Dunham , S Ann (1982) . Women 's work in village industries on Java . OCLC 663711102 .

Dunham , S Ann (1983) . Women 's economic activities in North Coast fishing communities : background for a proposal from PPA . OCLC 428080414 .

Dunham , S Ann ; Haryanto , Roes (1990) . BRI Briefing Booklet : KUPEDDES Development Impact Survey . Jakarta : Bank Rakyat Indonesia .

Dunham , S Ann (1992) . Peasant blacksmithing in Indonesia : surviving against all odds (Thesis) . Honolulu : University of Hawai'i at Mānoa . OCLC 608906279 , 607863728 , 221709485 .

Dunham , S Ann ; Liputo , Yuliani ; Prabantoro , Andityas (2008) . Pendekar @-@ pendekar besi Nusantara : kajian antropologi tentang pandai besi tradisional di Indonesia [Nusantara iron warrior @-@ warrior : anthropological studies of traditional blacksmiths in Indonesia] (in Indonesian) . Bandung , Indonesia : Mizan . ISBN 9789794335345 . OCLC 778260082 .

Dunham , S Ann (2010) [2009] . Dewey , Alice G ; Cooper , Nancy I , eds . Surviving against the odds : village industry in Indonesia . Foreword by Maya Soetoro @-@ Ng ; afterword by Robert W. Hefner . Durham , NC : Duke University Press . ISBN 9780822346876 . OCLC 492379459 , 652066335 .

Dunham , S Ann ; Ghildyal , Anita (2012) . Ann Dunham 's legacy : a collection of Indonesian batik . Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia : Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia . ISBN 9789834469672 . OCLC 809731662 .

= = Ancestry = =