

The Peace Garden of Theresa Wolfwood in Victoria BC, Canada

on the unceded territory of the Lekgonkwen people.

I was inspired to create a Peace Garden by Duncan MacIntosh and friends in Paisley, Scotland. They have created a Peace Garden in a public park there. My hope in creating this garden at my home is that might inspire the creation of a public Peace Garden in Victoria. There are plants and art objects in the garden that have special significance to me and my life in the peace movement.

Peace Flags made by Luis Ituarte for Victoria's many peace walks in the 1980s and 1990s. He made hundreds of flags to be carried fluttering high in the Walk. (Large flag on the left)

Peace flags made by my daughter, Oona Padgham



My friend Raymond Watson created a flag project in Belfast, Northern Ireland of 10,000 flags. They were made by people from both sides of the conflict working together, including kindergarten students and seniors; many for the first time meeting their counterparts on the other side.



“In April 2010 the Belfast Flags of Hope, as a record-setting project, was conceived and commenced. The goal was to create at least 10,000 individual and beautiful art works to form a mass colourful portrayal of hopeful aspirations for a brighter future. In August 2011 more than 10,000 artistic flags were exhibited together on a line. The site of the imposing concrete wall that is the ‘peaceline’ symbolises the divisions that the project hopes to help to heal.”



White Peace Dove made by my friend Carolyn Pogue,
founder of Women in Black in Calgary

The white dove is the symbol of peace in many cultures and is often portrayed with an olive branch carrying the message of reconciliation and peace-making.

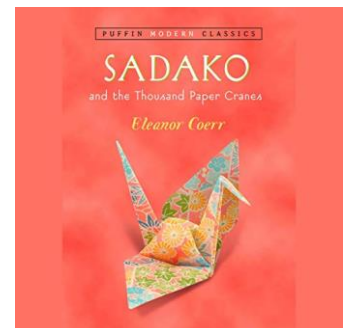


The image was given to the peace people of the world by Picasso and is used as an enduring sign of the hope of peace everywhere.

Origami Peace Cranes from Hiroshima Japan given to my friend Val McDermott when she visited there.

A "peace crane" is an origami crane used as peace symbol, by reference to the story of Sadako Sasaki(1943– 1955), a Japanese victim of the long-term effects of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. Sasaki was one of the most widely known *hibakusha*(Japanese for "bomb-affected person"), said to have folded one thousand origami cranes before her death.”

Food Security and access to clean water are vital to peace. They are symbolized in the garden by a fountain and bowl of fruit.



War and the preparation of war destroy agriculture, displaces people from food sources and use up water as well as polluting it to toxic levels.

This is why Israel has destroyed two million trees, mainly olives in Palestine, and why I am involved in a project to replant olive trees with Arab Group for the Protection of Nature which has replanted two million trees in Palestine. The Palestinian woman is trying to save her tree from total destruction. I am with an olive tree planted with Gerd' ashes. The sign in his honor was stolen by Israeli settlers



Ginkgo Tree This tree was the first tree to regenerate after the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The Japanese call it “the tree of hope.” Ginkgo biloba, is the only living species in the division Ginkgophyta, all others being extinct. It is found in fossils dating back 270 million years. Native to China, the tree is widely cultivated including in Canada. Some people consume an extract of it to improve brain function.

Olive Tree The olive tree is a traditional symbol of peace in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. It is the tree of life for Palestinians, representing their hope and determination for peace with justice in their homeland and providing them with an economic base for survival. Offering the olive branch is an expression that means offering a peaceful resolution to hostility.

White Carnations are the symbol of conscientious objectors; in the words on the memorial in Tavistock Square. London: *To all those who have established and are maintaining the right to refuse to kill.* Every May 15, white carnations are placed on the memorial naming some of the people who to this day reuse conscription and are jailed, tortured and even killed for their belief.



White Poppies for Peace



My Romneya plants came from the Peace Garden of Hilary Brown on Hornby Island. When she died her property became The Heron Rocks Friendship Centre where anyone can visit her garden. It was she who called them the Peace Poppies because the White Poppy in the symbol of commitment to end all wars, initiated in 1933 by UK widows and orphans of soldiers killed in WW 1. This tradition is carried on by many organizations, including

Victoria Women in Black. We made hundreds of white poppies to give away every year. White poppies are placed every November on the memorial to Conscientious Objectors in London, including poppies made in Victoria.



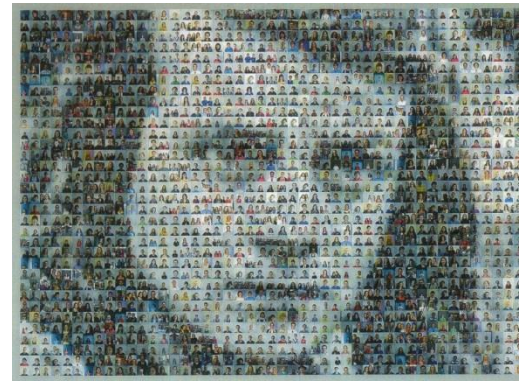
Spider plant in woman's head

This woman represents all the women who have taught me the lessons of peace: including Kay Macpherson, Hilary Brown, Rosalie Bertell, Margaret Rowe, Dorothy Livesay, Irene Fernandez, Meta Paktar, Carol MacDonald, Harriet Johansson. Stacy Chappel, Setsuko Thurlow, Kealey Pringle, Roberta Bacic, Ann Kemp, Carole Chambers, Louise Welen, Alma Bealle, Betty Kitiyi and so many more. The spider plants that form the woman's hair have an amazing capacity to create and give oxygen- the most basic necessity of life. Life is what all my women friends and mentors have neutered and created. Your Aare my peace tree of life

Rita's Rose. This rose grew from a cutting taken from my mother Rita's garden in 1998 just before she died. Like Rita it is strong, tough, resilient and lovely in bloom in June and July. She is a branch from her mother, Edith Barnard, one of the major influences in my life, strong and serene to the end. I am their cutting and I see in my daughter Oona Padgham and her daughter Bea Rita, their strength, beauty and resilience. They give me the courage and will to work for peace.



White Rose planted in honour of the White Rose Movement in Germany, founded by Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans from Ulm They were opposed to the Nazi regime and all it stood for. They were caught distributing leaflets at the University pf Munich, calling on Germans to rise up against the oppression and cruelty of the Nazis. They were beheaded in 1943. Her last words were: ***“Such a fine, sunny day, and I have to go, but what does my death matter, if through us, thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?”*** This image based on a photo of Sophie was made recently by students in Ulm of their own photos. The story of Sophie Scholl is told in the film, *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*, made in 2007.





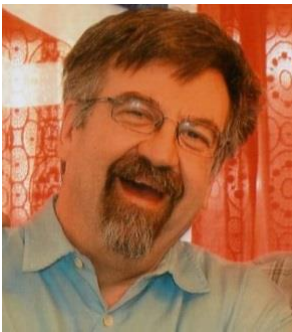
The Peace Pole

The Peace Pole was initiated by Masahisa Goi in 1955 in Japan. Many groups and places have since created and installed Peace Poles made of many materials there are believed to be 200,000 poles in 200 countries in the world. They all carry peace messages in different languages, based on the original Japanese words: *May peace prevail on earth.*

We are grateful to the Songhees-Esquimalt people for their generosity in sharing this beautiful land on which the pole stands with us.

The languages on this pole are ones that have special meaning to me.

English is my language and that of my children, Massey and Oona, my grandchildren: Matthew, Neil, Geza and Bea. My mother was born in England.

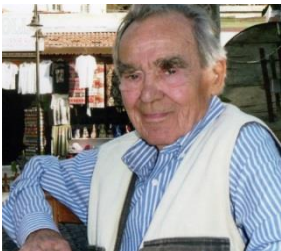


Beke is the word for peace in Hungarian, the language of Oona's partner Peter and his family; their children are 1/2 Hungarian. Photo: {eter, his parents and sister Christina)

Hindi is the native language of my dear friend Sumeet; my father was born in India.

Japanese, the original language of the pole and the language of Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima survivor, who has lived in Canada for 60 year, working constantly for peace; in 2017 she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize.

French is one official language of Canada where French and people of many seller cultures, including English, live together in peace.



German is for Gerd Weih, my partner in love and life for 37 years. He survived WW2 and believed war was the greatest evil of immunity. Together we founded the Barnard- Boecker Centre Foundation named for our two grandmothers whose families had fought each other in two wars; we dedicated the organization to peace and social justice.

Arabic with thoughts of all the people who are suffering conflict and violence in their world; I think particularly of Palestinian children, so many killed, tortured and imprisoned by the Israeli government.



Sev Coten is the language now spoken fluently by less the 100 people in the Brentwood Bay area. I have a special attachment to that place where my friends Marie and Fan, now Fran is on her own; she introduced me to Jim and Jan Elliot who kindly provided the words. They are teaching the children in their school this language in hopes of restoring to their people.

My parents lived in China and I was born there; so I added Chinese.

Spanish, in memory of those killed in the Spanish Civil war, I have seen its history in the Guernica Peace Museum. Central America and Mexico where Spanish was imposed as the main language is where Gerd and I went to several countries as peace witnesses, election observers and human rights activists .

At the base of the Peace Pole are stones and rocks from many friends from many places, encircling our hope for peace.

The video of September 8, 2019 when we celebrated the installation of the Peace Pole and the creation of the Peace Garden may be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEDV_gtJwo&feature=youtu.be

