

About Theresa Wolfwood

After attending the UN NGO Women's Forum in Beijing in 1995, Theresa Wolfwood was inspired to form a new organization dedicated to those issues that most deeply concerned her and a group of friends. In 1996 they founded the Barnard–Boecker Centre Foundation (BBCF) which organizes, works for and supports action, education and creativity for peace, social justice, human rights, and women's rights. She has been the director of BBCF since its formation.

Educated in geology and geography at the University of British Columbia, Theresa has worked as a geologist in Canada, USA, Ethiopia and Eritrea for governments, learning institutions and private employers. She has been a private researcher, writer and editor of scientific and social issues and has also been employed as a naturalist and adult educator. She is now dedicated to social action and writing on issues of global concern. *Photo: Women's March 2018, Victoria ,BC*



In 2018 and 2018, Theresa has been active in the campaign to protect the Peace River from the building of the Site-C dam, in spite of government approval at the provincial and federal level that betrays the 1st Nations people of Treaty 8. She travelled to the dam site in 2016 as part of the 'Rolling Justice Bus' organization. In 2018 Theresa is organizing a commemoration of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of el Salvador for Café Simpatico in Victoria and continues to organize Victoria women in Black and be active in a number of organizations. Through BBCF she works in solidarity with the people of Palestine. She is frequently interviewed by media, including Gorilla Radio, CFUV radio station.

In 2017 Theresa gave presentations on her solidarity trip to Jordan and Palestine in Vancouver, Calgary, Nanaimo and Victoria. Her power point, PALESTINE IN MY HEART, is available on request. She remains active in the Canadian BDS coalition representing BBCF and works with groups in Jordan and Palestine to support Palestinian independence. One the highlights of 2017 was watching and hearing the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in which her friend long0time peace activist, SetsukoThurlow accepted the prize on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

In 2016, Theresa was invited to Iceland, UK, Sweden and Ireland to give presentations on The Art of Resistance and Resistance in Palestine. In the fall of 2016 she went on her third solidarity trip to Palestine and Jordan, meeting with activists there and learning about their

work. She visited olive trees planted near Ramallah in memory of Gerd Weih, BBCF co-founder and life partner of Theresa, who died in 2015.

In 2015, she joined the Board of Directors of Licadho Canada, an organization working with grass-roots activists in Cambodia to protect the human rights of the poor and frequently dispossessed in that country. She continues to write for independent media in print and on the internet. Through her involvement in local groups, Theresa has been active in organizing meetings, often with international guests on issues of solidarity in Latin America and the actions of Canadian mining companies globally. She remains active in support work for Palestine. Recently Theresa has prepared and presented in several venues, a power point on Art & Activism, updating it regularly, now preparing to present it in Toronto.

She regularly writes and publishes book reviews. See: www.bookreviews.bbcf.ca

Theresa travelled to Saharawi refugee camps in 2014, meeting with organizations and families, learning about their situation as refugees from their homeland now occupied by Morocco. She made many presentations on her experiences at various locations in Canada and has organized meetings and film showings on Western Sahara, as well as helping form a local group, Friends of Western Sahara She continued to participate in Palestine solidarity actions, including rallies during the invasion of Gaza and boycott strategies as well as working with groups in Palestine and Jordan.

In November, 2014, 'Love and Resistance' Theresa's poetry collection was published by Smallberry Press in UK. Theresa launched the book at a public reading in Toronto and has participated in public readings in in BC and Alberta.

In 2013, Theresa was elected to the executive of the Canadian Peace research Association; she delivered a presentation on "Art, Creativity and Peace" at its annual meeting in June, 2013. She is a founding member and coordinator of Victoria Women in Black. Locally she is active in solidarity and social justice movements. Internationally she has been a director of Transcend: Art for Peace (T:AP), and involved in NO Bases Network. Through the BBCF she has worked in partnership with Women in Struggle in Pakistan, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, Maji Mazuri Centre in Nairobi, Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative in Narok, Kenya and the Buchanyu Farmers Association in Uganda. Theresa has served on the national boards of the Canadian Council for International Development and the National Action Committee for the Status of Women and has held various executive positions with the Voice of Women and many peace, solidarity, and justice groups. She was active in the successful anti-MAI campaign in Canada and Europe. For eight years she served on the board of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group, a progressive university-based organization. She has been a volunteer community worker in Nicaragua, Dominica and Eritrea. She was part of a

human rights delegation that went to Chiapas and Guatemala, and attended a workshop on Guatemala, in Mexico City with Rigoberta Menchu and other Guatemalans. She continues to support social movements in Guatemala. In the fall of 2007, she was an international election observer in Guatemala. Theresa Wolfwood at her book launch in Victoria, 2014 In 2004, she visited a number of grassroots organizations in India and Pakistan in order to learn from these activist groups, to build stronger links between them and Canadian groups and to report on their work in Canada. In 2012, she was invited to a Peace conference in Guernica, Spain where she made a presentation on “Creativity and Passionate Existence”. She also organized on behalf of BBCF and other groups local events in Victoria in 2012 and 2013 on the liberation of Western Sahara; see her articles on bbcf.ca In the past two decades, Theresa has spoken at conferences, workshops, rallies, and meetings across Canada, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

In 2011 she spoke at the Mesopotamia Social Forum in Diyarbakir, Turkey. She organized and spoke at workshops at the World Social Forum in Nairobi in 2007. In 2007, Theresa and Gerd Weih attended the World Social Forum in Nairobi. She participated in No Bases Network events and Women in Black workshop. Later they visited many grass roots NGOs in Kenya and Uganda – see the report on this website. Returning to Canada Theresa gave public presentations on this journey and wrote about it in periodicals. She also participated in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, 2002; Mumbai, India, 2004; in Cologne, Germany at an international conference on Women, Privatization and the GATS, and in Innsbruck, Austria at an international conference on Water and Privatization, both in 2003. Her paper, Globalization & Militarization, was presented at the IPRA conference in Finland in 2000. She participated in and spoke at several events at the 1995 UN NGO Women’s Forum in Beijing. She produced a video on

the forum and the WILPF peace train from Helsinki to Beijing: Weaving the World Together. In 2012, Theresa authored a major research study on the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and followed it with a submission to that body, media interviews and articles for Canadian periodicals. In March she was an international election observer for the 3rd time in El Salvador and also researched the actions of Canadian mining companies in El Salvador and Mexico; she is active in the newly formed Mining Justice Action Committee in Victoria as well as the Central American Solidarity Committee. She spoke about the war, embargo and use of depleted uranium in Iraq at many gatherings in Europe and Canada from 2001 – 2004, after returning from a humanitarian delegation to Iraq in 2001 with USA lawyer, Ramsey Clark. In 1997 she was an international human rights observer in forest village in Chiapas, Mexico.

Theresa has, with BBCF support, organized many events including the Small World Social Forum in Victoria, 2002 and workshops and public meetings on Iraq, the World Social Forum,

and many other concerns including globalization, women's issues, peace and international solidarity, art and activism. In 2005 she was an invited speaker at colleges, community groups and global education centres in England & Wales, including presenting, "Reclaiming the Commons" at the Reading RISC International Festival. In June, 2006, at the World Peace Forum in Vancouver, she spoke about the Nanoose Bay military base on a panel on Foreign Bases; she also organized and participated in workshops on Women in Black and Boycotts for Peace & Justice at the same forum.

In 2008 following a severe illness, Theresa Wolfwood with Gerd Weih went to Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon at the invitation of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN). In Jordan, where she attended and spoke at public and private meetings after visiting many social movements, schools, clinics in rural areas and in urban refugee camps. Theresa spoke at an APN Public meeting on "Building international solidarity for Palestine." In Reading, England she spoke to an activist meeting on Palestine and continues to speak, show power points, write and organize on behalf of Palestine in many locations in Canada. Her report on this journey was printed in The Whole Circle and is posted on bbcf.ca

In 2011, she spoke again on Palestinian solidarity in Reading, UK and also in Brussels. Her articles on the BDS campaign of Palestinian activists have been widely published in English and translation. Throughout 2009 Theresa organized events on Palestine and other issues, including a meeting with Malalai Joya of Afghanistan. She wrote articles for various publications, edited and produced an issue of The Whole Circle" and organized a Human Rights Forum in December in Victoria. She raised funds for the work of Women in Struggle in Pakistan. In 2010 Theresa worked to support the Pan-Canada Bil'in network, speaking on radio and at meetings about the 5th anniversary of resistance to the wall in that community and raising support for the Bil'in court case against Canadian companies. She hosted Palestinian – American, Dr. Nada Elia, to speak on the BDS campaign; in November, Razan Zuayter of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature visited BC and with Theresa participated in several events. In 2010 Theresa returned to Jordan and Palestine to continue the solidarity work of BBCF. She participated in the Bil'in conference on non-violent resistance, as well as actions in Beit Jala and Wolega; she visited many organizations, schools and projects in Palestine and Jordan. She later spoke about the experience in Berlin and Victoria.

Theresa has been active for four years in local anti-poverty actions, including in Food not Bombs. She also worked for Haitian Earthquake Relief and published articles on Canada's involvement in the overthrow of democracy in that country; she continues to work locally in Latin American solidarity. She fund raised for the victims of massive mudslides in Uganda. In 2010 Theresa was invited to participate in an international conference on Palestinian Political

Prisoners in Algeria. She has written and spoken on this event, including at a forum on Political Prisoners in Victoria in 2011. She was a guest speaker at the Beit Zatoun Palestinian Cultural Centre in Toronto in May, 2011.

In 2013 Theresa attended a conference on “One Democratic State” in Stuttgart, Germany; her report on this conference is posted on bbcf.ca For 20 years Theresa has coordinated Victoria Women in Black, preparing a different leaflet for each silent vigil in Victoria. Women in Black gathers in silence to witness for peace & non-violence, locally and globally.

Publications:

Many of Theresa’s essays and articles have been published in Canadian Dimension, Briarpatch, Lower Island News, Press for Conversion, Watershed Sentinel, Peace Magazine and Our Paper, among others in Canada; the UK in Peace News and Third World Resurgence in Malaysia. She is the editor of The Whole Circle, produced by BBCF. A selection of her writing may be read on BBCF’s website also: www.bbcf.ca Passion for Print, a collection of book reviews by Theresa Wolfwood was published in 2009. Her essays have been included in the following books: Challenging Empires: World Social Forum, Eds. Jai Sen et al. 2004. Viveka Foundation, New Delhi, India (also published in German and Spanish); Feminist Perspectives: September 11, 2001. Eds. Susan Hawthorne & Bronwyn Winter. 2002. Spinifex Press, Australia. Reprinted as AFTER SHOCK: September 11, 2001/ Global Feminist Perspectives. 2003. Raincoast Books, Vancouver, BC; There is an Alternative: Subsistence and Worldwide Resistance to Corporate Globalization. Eds. Veronika Bennholdt– Thomson, Nicholas Faraclas and Claudia Von Werlhof. Zed Books Ltd. London, UK. 2001 which includes SEATTLE: A Convergence of Globalization & Militarization, based on her experience at the WTO resistance in Seattle, 1999.

Poetry LOVE AND RESISTANCE 2014. Smallberry Press, London. UK ISBN: 978-0993031502 collection of poetry For reviews see: <http://bookreviews.bbcf.ca/2015/01/wolfwood-theresa-j-love-and-resistance-2014-smallberry-press-london-uk-isbn-978-0993031502/> In May, 2011, Humanist Perspectives, published in Ottawa, featured Theresa’s poetry. Poems by Theresa have been published in Canada and Europe and in the anthologies, Gadrian II and Living Rights. In 2000 her collection: PORPHYRY was published in Victoria.

Some of her poems with social justice themes are on BBCF’s website. In 2007 one of her Iraq poems was included in an anthology: From the Web – A Global Anthology of Women’s Political Poetry. She recorded poetry on an “Artists for Peace” CD, produced in Denmark for which she also contributed to the cover illustration, a collage of her banners. Her poem, Saturday Afternoon in March was translated into Danish and published in Denmark in

Arbejderen, March, 2008. Believe in an Ongoing Universe, poetry collection was published in 2009.

In 1996, BBCF invited Thalia Campbell of Wales, an artist and founder of the Greenham Common Women’s Camp, whom Theresa met on the Peace Train to Beijing in 1995, to give a workshop on banner making in Victoria. Since then Theresa has made over 20 banners and given workshops for other groups so they can learn this skill. Theresa’s banners have been exhibited in Canada, Finland, Germany, Austria, Brazil and India. Some may be seen in her gallery on T:AP network’s website: www.tapnet.info and others appear on BBCF website.

Many of Theresa’s photographs accompany her printed articles, are used on magazine covers and form the basis of slide and video productions. Many are posted on www.bbcf.ca and illustrate social concerns. Her photos also have been on exhibit in several countries.

Theresa was also involved in two musical comedies produced in Victoria; one on the MAI, MAI in OZ, and the other on GMO, Splice of Life. Both were original productions by Stacy Chappel, BBCF board member, and were well- attended and popular vehicles for the distribution of serious information and analysis through art.

Her interests in social issues are broad and varied; throughout all her works she emphasizes action, positive resistance, empowerment and the building of a new and better world for all life on earth. Theresa says, “The life of an activist in a community of supportive friends and colleagues gives one a rich, interesting and meaningful life. A commitment to social change brings knowledge and inspiration from many people and sources which constantly stimulate us to work more creatively.

Some of her favourite quotes are on her banners, “Knowing is not Enough, Act for Peace and

Justice,” and “Resistance is the Secret of Joy” and “We Must be the Change we Want to see in the World.” Although Theresa Wolfwood organizes, speaks and writes with clarity, insight, passion and commitment, one of her most appreciated contributions to social change is her personal support and inspiration for a worldwide network of friends and activists. She is particularly respectful and encouraging towards young people and those new to social activism. Her sense of optimism comes from her



deep commitment to the power of people working together for peace and justice. She says that two other quotes inform her activism; 'There is no life, except that in community' from T.S. Eliot & 'Action Creates Ideas' from Hilary Wainwright.

Photo in Palestine, 2016 with mayor of Qasra at site of trees planted in memory of Gerd Weih.