



REMARKABLE WOMEN

2014: YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

Honouring women who build understanding & empathy between people



SHEHNAZ HOZAIMA CAVEY

Born to parents from Israel-Palestine, Shehnaz Hozaima Cavey learned the kind of brokenness that conflict between ethnic, political, and religious groups can generate - a realization that set her feet early on a path of peace and reconciliation.

Shehnaz often tells how, even in the face of hardship, her parents advocated for the needs of others. Though her father died when she was only six, she remembered his work for community understanding and committed to carrying on his life's passion. As soon as she was able, she volunteered her time, and by the age of twenty, she was helping to coordinate conferences, lead seminars, and speak on behalf of the oppressed and marginalized - paying particular attention to the lives of women, children, and the elderly.

For the last ten years, Shehnaz has worked as a high school English teacher, regularly challenging her students to think and live in ways that honour a spirit of justice and compassion for all. When her teaching week is done, she volunteers in her West End community, helping out at neighborhood festivals, outreach programs, and seniors' care homes. For the past five years, she's served as first Vice-President of Vancouver's West End Community Centre Association, as board member of the Christian Teachers' Association of BC, as well as Chair of the local West End Children & Youth Programming Committee. In the summer of 2013, Shehnaz began pursuing studies in Mediation and Third Party Intervention through the Justice Institute of BC, and, soon afterward, committed to donating her new skills to help mediate and reconcile differences for those otherwise unable to afford the cost.

Though still young, this Remarkable Woman has already devoted much of what she does to nurturing wholeness and understanding amongst others, and continues to do what she can to help strengthen the bonds of healthy community life.



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Photo by Josephine A. Chow

WINNIE CHEUNG

Winnie Cheung is dedicated to creating a truly inclusive and multicultural society. Born in Hong Kong, she was surrounded by both Chinese and Western cultures and learned several versions of Chinese, as well as English. She decided to become an intercultural bridge builder and came to Canada in this capacity.

She worked as Head of Financial Aid at the King Edward Campus of Vancouver Community College, removing linguistic and cultural barriers by having materials translated, training staff, and modifying policies. From there, she went on to become the first visible minority to be appointed as a Director within the Student Portfolio at the University of British Columbia. Here, Winnie created opportunities for international students, local students, government officials and hosting families to meet and get to know each other better.

Winnie volunteers on numerous committees to promote diversity. The boards she's served on include the Laurier Institution, the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society, Women Transforming Cities International, Canadian Bureau for International Education, but there are many more. She has co-sponsored conferences and workshops to promote anti-racism, human rights, and global citizenship. As someone who consistently brings First Nations history and perspectives into her work, she helped launch and shape the Vancouver Dialogues Project and was a volunteer for Reconciliation Canada. Winnie is also co-founder of the newly incorporated Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration Society, which will capture the stories of those who came to Canada through the Western Portal.

Winnie's work as a cultural educator and builder of platforms and spaces for intercultural dialogues has made her a truly Remarkable Woman of Vancouver.



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Photo by Luiselipa Barrera

ANNTUANETH FIGUEROA

Anntuaneth Figueroa is the Latin American Youth Worker at Britannia Community Services Centre.

She left her homeland, El Salvador, when she was only four years old and in terrifying circumstances. Her father, Luis, took her across the United States border to escape the civil war and reunite with her mother, who was living there. They were caught and taken into separate custody. Anntuaneth will never forget the two endless weeks before her mother was able to post bail.

The reunited family settled in Dallas, where they found an organization that helps illegal families find permanent residence. They applied for refugee status in Canada, and in 1987, Vancouver became their new home and their dream of a better life in North America was finally realized.

Years later, Anntuaneth's father began volunteering at the Latin American Youth Program (LAYP) at Britannia. Anntuaneth spent many hours hanging out there while her father coached soccer, and thus her own volunteerism began. She volunteered at Killarney Community Centre and showed such outstanding aptitude and enthusiasm for the work that her colleagues encouraged her to train as a Youth Worker. She set her heart on becoming the Latin American Youth Worker at Britannia, and through hard work and schooling, she achieved her goal.

Today, Anntuaneth's program offers a safe, welcoming environment, especially for young newcomers struggling with living in a new country. Her weekly cooking program, Cocina Latina, provides great Latin American food, it's true, but conversation, music, and dancing are just as important! Anntuaneth also leads Spanish Clubs in four Vancouver high schools.

Anntuaneth's passion and work for her community is truly Remarkable!



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JUDY GRAVES

Judy Graves has spent over half her life working with Vancouver's homeless.

Overnight, she visited doorways, alleys, and parks in Vancouver, talking with people sleeping there. Daylight saw her at City Hall, advocating for their rights and telling their stories to anyone with the power to make a difference: politicians, bureaucrats, churches, community leaders, and service providers. Karen O'Shannacery, Executive Director of The Lookout Society, put it this way: "Judy was able to get buy-in, persuade the powers that be to do something. She made it personal, putting a face on people who were homeless."

As well as advocating for funding and shifts in policy, Judy worked with one homeless person at a time, guiding them toward services and income assistance and into secure housing. In 2005, she designed and piloted the Homeless Outreach Project. In the first two years, the project guided over 700 people from street homelessness to housing, and it continues today in over 50 BC communities. Since 2002, Judy has trained thousands of volunteers across the region to meet and interview their homeless neighbours for the MetroVancouver Homeless Count.

Judy's work to support thousands of homeless people in Vancouver and beyond is respected by school children, citizens, and experts across Canada. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UBC in 2009 and a Doctor of Divinity from the Vancouver School of Theology in 2013. She retired as the City's Advocate for the Homeless in the spring of 2013.

This Remarkable Woman has been "the conscience of our city," says Maxine Davis, executive director of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation, who defies anyone "to hear her speak and not be stirred to help make a difference."



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Photo by Ailt Grewal

SUKI GREWAL

For the last three decades (since Expo '86), Suki Grewal has worked in the pursuit of cultural harmony. Much of this work has been that of the classic grassroots activist – hours of unpaid community organizing that have slowly but surely changed the 'way things are.'

Suki obtained her master's degree in Nursing from the University of British Columbia, where she focused on the relationship among health and ethnicity, culture, immigration, gender, class, transnational identity and kinship ties. Her research resulted in several publications on the relationship between ethnicity and wellness. As a health care practitioner, Suki is a strong advocate for Canada's 'ethnic' communities at the local and provincial levels and has raised awareness of important health issues in the South Asian culture.

Within a broad framework of cultural harmony, Suki has helped to generate greater respect for distinct cultures in Vancouver. To this end, she has been pivotally involved in organizing a variety of festivals and events, including the *Sawan Mela*, the South Asian Festival, and the *Desi Dhamakaa Festival*, a cross-cultural extravaganza of music and dance. She is a founding member and long-standing president of the South Asian Family Association (SAFA) whose mandate includes the promotion of cross-cultural harmony and tolerance, the engagement of youth through programs of arts and culture, and the provision of annual scholarships to grade 12 graduates in the areas of Academic Excellence, Community Involvement and Excellence in the Fine Arts.

This Remarkable Woman has worked tirelessly to build strong bridges between East and West.



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Photo by Tiff Flowers

GWEN HAWORTH

Gwen Haworth has contributed to radical changes in public awareness about trans and gender-variant people.

During her Master of Fine Arts in film production at the University of British Columbia, Gwen created her multi-award winning documentary, *She's a Boy I Knew*. The film, which explores Gwen's gender transition through the voices of her friends and family, has played in over 100 film festivals across the world and is part of post-secondary curriculum in schools across North America. Recently, Gwen created four video installations for the Museum of Vancouver's exhibit *Sex Talk in the City*, capturing the stories of 30 diverse Vancouverites. She also directed *Real Stories, Real Lives* with RainCity Housing and Support Society, which explores the Housing First/Assertive Community Treatment model of providing housing and care to individuals struggling with chronic homelessness. She is currently the videographer for RainCity's mental health advocacy project entitled, *NEWS: New Evolution of Wise Storytelling*.

Gwen works at Vancouver Coastal Health as the LGBTQ2S educator for PRISM Services, facilitating workshops in colleges, shelters, hospitals, and non-profit housing. Since 2005, she's also worked part time within RainCity's low barrier housing, emergency and cold weather shelters. She volunteers on advisory committees for the City of Vancouver, Safe Choices, and on the Board of Directors for Out On Screen. In 2013, Gwen was invited by NDP Member of Parliament Niki Ashton to speak at the Women's Forum in Ottawa.

This tireless Remarkable Woman helps to make the world safer for trans people, not only in Vancouver, but across the world.



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Photo by Noriko Nasu-Tibball

KEIKO HONDA

Keiko Honda was living a busy life in Manhattan when sudden illness confined her to a wheelchair. No longer able to pursue her busy career as a cancer research scientist at Columbia University, she relocated to the relaxed Dunbar-Southlands-Kerrisdale neighbourhood with her family...and learned to slow down.

She says that many of her caretakers and neighbours during this difficult transition were people she wouldn't have met in academia, or perhaps even noticed as she flew by them in her "go-go-go" life. She was so struck by the open-hearted compassion of these strangers that she decided to open her life to "spontaneous encounters." Since she and her daughter had enjoyed programs at the Kerrisdale Community Centre, Keiko joined the KCC board. Very quickly, the energy, intelligence, and determination that made her a great scientist were applied to the new work of building community.

True to her vision, Keiko now brings neighbours and friends together to share passions and discuss things that matter, such as art, intuition, the environment and social issues. She believes that community is as important as the joys of life-long learning. Her cultural salons have become so successful that the Vancouver Foundation recently awarded Keiko a small neighbourhood grant. Keiko is also editor-in-chief of *Kerrisdale Playbook* magazine, a community engagement initiative of the KCC, and a member of the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Advisory Board Committee of the City of Vancouver.

Keiko has not only found strength in adversity, she counts herself lucky to be where she is. Living a simple and balanced life that is constantly open to new surprises and wonders is "almost like opening a treasure box," she says. Truly, a Remarkable Woman.



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LILA JOHNSTON

Lila Johnston is a bright light in the Squamish Nation community.

As 'Mum' to nine children she was a busy, active parent, and later, as her kids became busy with school, she worked for ten years at the Molly George Day Care. She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, a loving aunt and a caring friend to our community elders.

Based upon her experience at the Kakawis Family Development Center, Lila supports the work of healing programs for women, family, and community. She has been an Elder Counselor to Langara Community College, Vancouver City College, and the Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society Healing Center. She has a 19 year history with the St. Anne Pilgrimage in Saskatchewan.

Since 1990, Lila has been an integral part of the Ta na wa Xwniwn ta a Ímats /"Teachings for Your Grandchildren" - the Squamish Language Elders Group who dedicate time to bring Skwxwú7mesh sníchm, the Squamish language, to the younger generations. Most recently, she sits in as Elder Advisor for the First Nations Court. As a lifelong parishioner at St Paul's Indian Catholic Church, she has worked in recent years to promote a positive relationship between the church and community throughout the Indian Residential School issues. Lila spends time visiting Squamish Nation members in hospital and bringing people who need help with transportation to and from medical appointments and hospital care. She has done this on a voluntary basis for 30 years.

Her kind good humour is a joy to all who share time with this Remarkable Woman.



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ANGELA MARIE MACDOUGALL

Angela Marie MacDougall works to end violence against girls and women. For the last 23 years, her work as an advocate, front-line worker, activist, and trainer has brought an authentic voice of change to service and program delivery and community development.

Collaboration is central to Angela's work, and she believes that community development is key to changing social attitudes to violence against women. To this end, she has worked closely with diverse communities in Vancouver and across Canada, including indigenous and recent immigrant communities. At the same time, she has initiated support services to respond to women's unique needs through their life cycles, considerably strengthening the matrix of services and community response. Angela has particular expertise in the supervision of multi-racial, multi-ethnic environments within high crisis/trauma work settings.

There is a long list of alliances that Angela has supported: Women's Leadership and Training Initiative in north coast/north west British Columbia; Urban Women's Anti-Violence Strategy (an alliance of women's organizations in Metro Vancouver); Alliance of February 14th Women's Memorial Marches (a grass roots efforts raising awareness and seeking justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada); the Violence Stops Here (a campaign urging men to own their role in ending violence against girls and women); Engaging Non-Status, Refugee and Immigrant Women in the Legal System; SisterWatch (a collaboration between community and the Vancouver Police to end violence against women); Violence Against Women and Family Law (an initiative supporting the development of BC new Family Law Act through White Paper on Family Relations Act).

This Remarkable Woman is currently Executive Director of Battered Women's Support Services.



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Photo by Ali Lohan

RAVEN-WING

(LORELEI HAWKINS)

Cross-culturally adopted when she was young, Raven-Wing (Lorelei Hawkins) is committed to helping people come back to their culture and feel that they belong. She believes in the possibility of change and reconciliation and has volunteered her time to make the world a kinder place.

Educated with traditional teachings, Raven-Wing feels a responsibility to share her knowledge, especially with the young, including her own grandchildren and great grandchildren. She teaches simple truths – how to respect elders and how to respect oneself. She's helped many Vancouver street youth move on from destructive patterns, get clean, and live fulfilled lives. Often, the youth she has mentored have helped others in turn, creating a positive cycle of change.

Raven-Wing believes that people should know about aboriginal history, including the harms that were done – the sterilization of aboriginal women, suggested and forced abortions and forced adoptions of aboriginal children. She works to change the power imbalance between male and female and get back to aboriginal norms of mutual respect. It doesn't matter who you are, Raven-Wing will reach out to you. She believes that it takes everyone to make a difference, and that everyone is equal.

In 1986, Raven-Wing began teaching the Medicine Wheel Perspectives workshop at Carnegie Centre through the Cultural Sharing program. The workshops continue to this day, now at Raycam Community Centre through the Stepping Stone Vision. In 1981, Raven-Wing became founding Elder there.

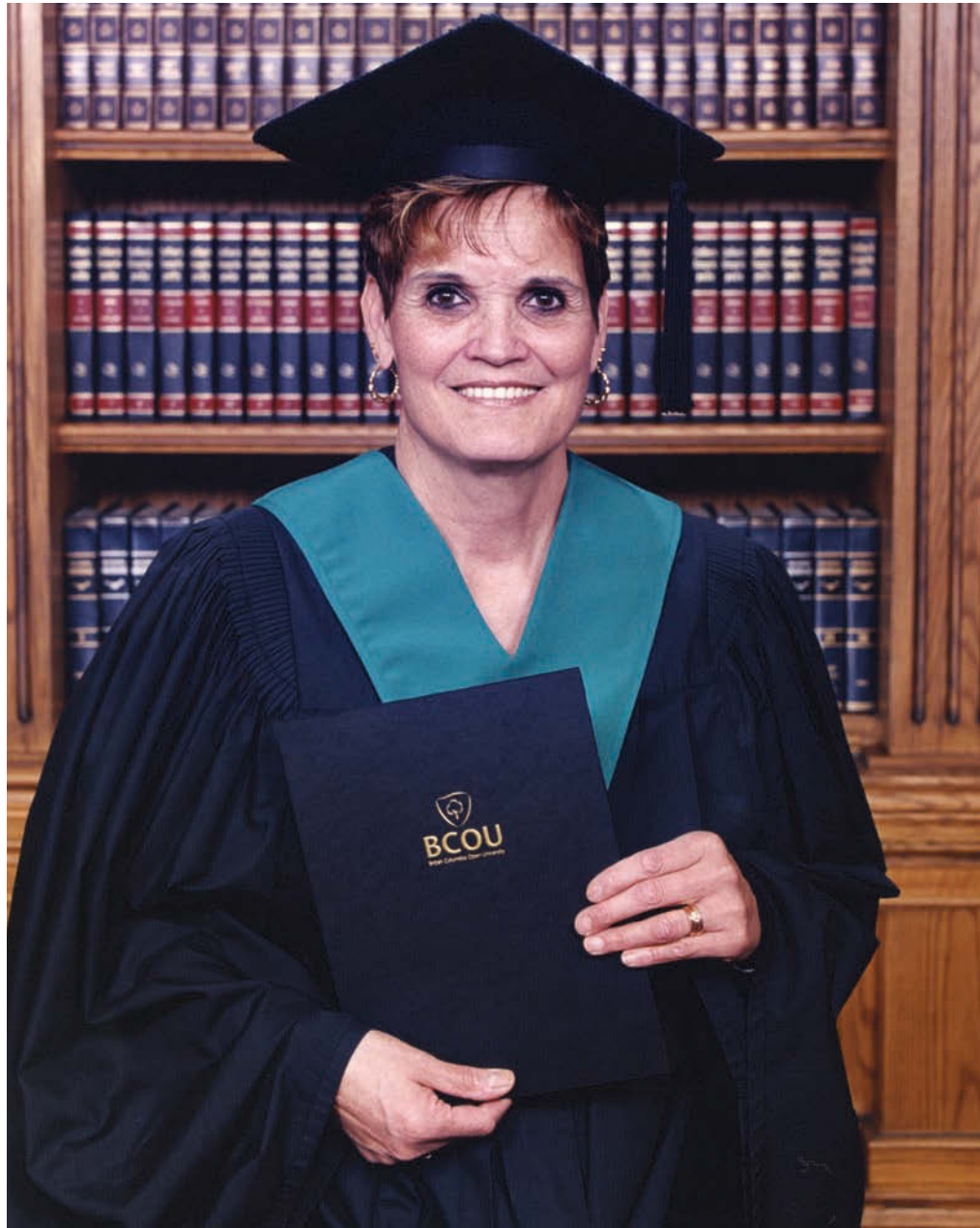
Raven-Wing's work is all carried out on a volunteer basis. This Remarkable Woman regards it as a way to practice nonjudgmental compassion, and good, kind, gentle ways.



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DARLENE FRANCES POINT

Darlene Point is a residential school survivor. She attended the Convent in North Vancouver at the age of 5 and left at 18, in 1962. That same year, her brothers Eddie and Ernie just *knew* that if Darlene ran in the Pageant, she'd become the Buckskin Totem Princess of all First Nations. She ran, and indeed, she won!

Thus, Darlene plunged into the rich traditions of Musqueam, a culture rooted in commercial fishing. From canoe pulling to family sports, Darlene provides an unbreakable link in the ancestral chain, passing on knowledge from her mother and grandpa to her four children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren. She holds the Musqueam ties through her mother, Mary Jane (Molly) Campbell; her brother Ernest served as Chief of Musqueam for 14 years; and her husband of 43 years, Gerald Point, was also of Musqueam ties.

Darlene spent over 7 years serving her people as a home care attendant with knowledge in diabetes and foot care; then in 2005, she became the first in her community to attend Langara Community College. During her practicum at Vancouver Native Health Society she learned about substance abuse, mental health, chronic disease, homelessness and poverty. When she received her Certificate in Hospice and Palliative Care, she was the only Band Member to have achieved this level of certification.

Darlene has responded to life's challenges (including breast cancer) by becoming stronger and wiser. A healer, a mentor to youth and a support to her Elders, four words define her spirit – *understanding, healing, empathy and strength*. She is indeed a Remarkable Woman.



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CARLEEN THOMAS

To *reconcile* is to weave a stronger brighter fabric from the unique and diverse strengths of the people. Over a lifetime of activism, Carleen Thomas has woven such a web, made from strands of compassion, understanding, and unity.

In a world where the *haves* and *have nots* are pitted against one another not knowing where the true battle lies, and the tattered remains of indigenous peoples' history have left a troubled path to walk, Carleen has persevered with patience, kindness, and love. For over 16 years (eight terms), she's served on Chief and Council for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, where she was the holder of the Community Development Portfolio. She's also been Tsleil-Waututh Nation Manager of Education and sat on NVSD 44 – Aboriginal Education Advisory Council, Integrated First Nations Police Unit – Joint Management Team, and the Community Engagement Hub on FN Health. She has been Tsleil-Waututh Nation representative on Nautsamawt Tribal Council and Tsleil-Waututh Nation Housing Committee Chair. She continues to represent TWN on the aboriginal advisory boards of North Vancouver School District #44, Capilano University, and Simon Fraser University. In all this work, she's embodied the heart of reconciliation as if it were living and breathing, treating everyone with respect, grace, and diplomacy.

For over a year, Carleen has worked as a member of Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Sacred Trust Initiative – their official opposition to Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. Constantly on the road talking to any who will listen, Carleen honours the responsibility of aboriginal people to protect sacred mother earth for future generations.

She is a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, auntie, niece, and sister, who hopes that her good work will affect change beyond her time here.

Carleen is a Remarkable Woman.