

Barbara Thorngren, M.Ed

Barbara came to New Hampshire in 1991 from New York by way of Maine after a 7 year sojourn in England. She wanted to learn about teaching and chose Antioch New England for the learning and that ever so useful advanced degree. It might be more accurate to say that she wanted to learn more since she had already taken her nursing experience into work as a community health educator, a job where she could bring greater focus to prevention and patient advocacy. In Maine, Barbara established a school to train nannies. It was only a coincidence that she needed a nanny for her son. Once in New Hampshire, Barbara quickly fell in love with the area and settled in to stay in Temple – strategically located in the hills between the Monadnock region and the southern Merrimack River Valley.

Barbara identifies community and education as the themes that connect her professional pursuits. Her involvement in peace work is another ongoing theme. Barbara trained in mediation at Mediation Works. In 2001, she began volunteering for the Alternatives to Violence Project and is a volunteer coordinator for that program at the NH State Prison for Men in Concord. As a member of the faculty at Nashua Community College, Barbara is Chair of the Education Department and heads the new Peace and Justice Studies Program which opened this fall as a concentration within the Liberal Arts Associates Degree program. She is advisor for the Peace and Justice Club and last spring accompanied a group of students to Washington, DC to advocate for the establishment of a US Department of Peace. In January, NCC will offer a 3-credit evening course, Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies. For the summer semester Barbara is developing a course that will include a trip to Costa Rica's University of Peace.

Barbara and her husband have two grown sons. They live with their dog, a Belgian Malinois, amidst gardens, chickens, and bees – the kind of space and work that builds another kind of peace. When all else fails, there is always the garden.

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