



WOODY GUTHRIE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

125-131 E. Main Street, Suite #200, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
(914) 241-3844 | [www.WoodyGuthrie.org](http://www.WoodyGuthrie.org)

## N O R A G U T H R I E

PRESIDENT, Woody Guthrie Publications, Inc.

PRESIDENT | Woody Guthrie Foundation

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR | Woody Guthrie Archives (1992-2013)

Nora Guthrie graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 1971. Following a successful career in modern dance Nora began working with her father's materials in 1992.

Based on her intimate connection to her father's ideas and ideals, Nora brings a refreshing interpretation of his work and a new understanding of his legacy.

Her first project, in 1992, was the publication of a lost songbook of Woody's original lyrics and illustrations, Woody's 20 Grow Big Songs. Nora co-produced the accompanying album with her brother Arlo Guthrie, which received a Grammy nomination in the Best Children's Album category.

In 1994, Nora co-founded the Woody Guthrie Archives with Harold Leventhal and archivist Jorge Arevalo. In addition to managing the Archives and preserving her father's personal materials and original creative works, Ms. Guthrie develops and produces new projects which continue to expand Woody Guthrie's cultural legacy. In 1996, the Woody Guthrie Archives was open for free research to scholars and students, making Woody Guthrie's personal & professional collection available for the first time to the public.

In 1996, Ms. Guthrie co-produced the first ever Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum Tribute series honoring Woody Guthrie. Main events consisted of a scholarly symposium held at Case Western Reserve University and a tribute concert in Cleveland's famed Severance Hall. Among the many artists that participated in the tribute weekend were; Bruce Springsteen, Jorma Kaukonen, Indigo Girls, Billy Bragg, Joe Ely, David Pirner, Tim Robbins, Alejandro Escovedo, Ani DiFranco and Arlo Guthrie and many others. Ani DiFranco produced and released the live concert CD titled Til We Outnumber 'Em, on her independent label Righteous Babe Records.

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In 1998, Ms. Guthrie was executive producer of the ground breaking Billy Bragg/Wilco collaboration *Mermaid Avenue* and *Mermaid Avenue Volume II*. These landmark albums, creating new music to previously unknown Guthrie lyrics, received critical acclaim and Grammy nominations in 1999 and 2001 respectively.

In 1998 Nora worked with folk artist Kathy Jakobsen to create the children's book *This Land is Your Land* which illustrates and highlights Guthrie's classic lyric. Now in its 10th anniversary printing, *This Land Is Your Land* has won numerous awards and literary praise.

Additionally, in 1998 Ms. Guthrie curated the first major exhibit *This Land Is Your Land: The Life and Legacy of Woody Guthrie* in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The exhibit opened in May 2000 at the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage in Los Angeles and toured for three years at major museums throughout the country, including the Museum of the City of New York. This extensive exhibit presented previously unseen original Guthrie materials including notebooks and diaries, artworks, lyrics, photographs, instruments and memorabilia giving a rare and intimate look into the life and legacy of Woody Guthrie.

Marking Woody's 90th anniversary year, in 2003, Nora co-produced a month-long celebration of Woody's life and legacy in Nashville, TN. Programs included public school events, lectures, gallery exhibits, film screenings, concerts, and an exhibit at Nashville's Songwriters Hall of Fame. The month-long tribute culminated with *Nashville Sings Woody!* a concert held at the Ryman Auditorium featuring local and international musicians. Among the many performers paying tribute were Marty Stewart, Guy Clark, Nanci Griffith, Janis Ian, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Tim O'Brien, Alison Brown, Beth Nielsen Chapman, Corey Harris, Old Crow Medicine Show, and Arlo Guthrie.

In 2003, Nora collaborated with Berlin composer and performer, Hans-Eckardt Wenzel on the innovative *Ticky Tock*. Released in both English and German languages, this CD continued to explore new avenues for Woody's lyrics and ideas. *Ticky Tock* received The German Record Critics' Award in 2003.

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Taking yet another unusual turn, Ms. Guthrie worked with the world renowned klezmer band The Klezmatics, exploring Woody Guthrie's Jewish themed lyrics. Members of the Klezmatics composed music for Woody's Hanuka lyrics for Happy Joyous Hanukkah, their 2004 holiday CD release. Wonder Wheel, a 2006 release focused on Woody's NYC experiences, won a 2007 Grammy for Best World Music Album. In continuing the exploration of this unique collaboration, Holy Ground: Woody Guthrie's Yiddish Connection, is a multimedia lecture program which Nora currently presents.

Woody Guthrie ArtWorks, co-edited and designed by Steven Brower, was Nora's 2007 book release, one that holds a special place in her heart as well as being a significant aspect of her father's legacy. For decades Guthrie's vast trove of artwork has remained virtually unknown and unexplored. With art, his long-time muse, this new publication highlights Woody Guthrie as a visual artist.

In 2008, Nora released another new album with folk rock singer/songwriter, Jonatha Brooke. The Works delved into Woody's love songs and was the first full album collaboration with a female singer/songwriter.

In 2011, Note of Hope, a CD almost a decade in the making, was released. This special project was spearheaded by Nora Guthrie and renowned bassist, Rob Wasserman, exploring Woody Guthrie's poetry and prose. Together the two recruited a stellar group of artists uniquely suited to bringing Guthrie's words alive. Special guests on the project included: Jackson Browne, Ani DiFranco, Kurt Elling, Michael Franti, Nellie McKay, Tom Morello, Van Dyke Parks, Madeleine Peyroux, Lou Reed, Pete Seeger, Studs Terkel, Tony Trischka, and Chris Whitley.

Following on the heels of Note of Hope, another original collaborative project was released. New Multitudes featuring artists: Jay Farrar (Sun Volt), Jim James (My Morning Jacket), Anders Parker, and Will Johnson. Under the invitation of Nora Guthrie, to tour the Guthrie archives, each of the four songwriters were offered the chance to plumb and mine the plethora of notebooks, scratch pads, napkins, etc. for anything that might inspire them to lend their voices and give the words new life. "These guys worked on an amazing group of

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lyrics” says Nora. “Much of it was culled from Woody’s times in L.A. Lyric wise, it’s a part of the story that is still mostly unknown. From Woody’s experiences on LA’s skid row to his later years in Topanga Canyon, they are uniquely intimate, and relate two distinctly emotional periods in his life.”

2012 marked Woody’s 100th birthday! The year-long celebrations, co-produced by Nora Guthrie and Bob Santelli (Executive Director of the GRAMMY Museum Foundation) included; educational conferences, exhibits, adult and elementary school outreach programs & presentations, and concerts that followed Woody’s road from Oklahoma through California and on to New York City. The year culminated with an all-star tribute concert that took place at the Kennedy Center on Oct. 14, 2012. This star-studded concert featured performances by John Mellencamp, Jackson Browne, Rosanne Cash, Judy Collins, Ani DiFranco, Tom Morello, the Del McCoury Band, Sweet Honey In The Rock, and Ramblin’ Jack Elliott and among others. Woody Guthrie at 100! Live at the Kennedy Center was released to CD & DVD on Sony Legacy Records and premiered on PBS.

In 2013, Nora collaborated with Douglas Brinkley and Johnny Depp to release House of Earth, a previously unpublished completed manuscript Woody Guthrie wrote in 1947. House of Earth, a New York Times Best Seller released on Depp’s Harper Collins imprint Infinitem Nihil, tells the story of an expectant couple who are desperately surviving the Dust Bowl and the depression in the Texas Panhandle and dreaming of a better future where they will own their own home, an adobe home, a house made of earth.

On April 28, 2013, The Woody Guthrie Center opened in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Nora Guthrie along with Robert Santelli and the George Kaiser Family Foundation created the permanent home for the Woody Guthrie Archive, complete with a permanent exhibit on the life and legacy of Woody Guthrie, a temporary gallery space, and a 60-seat theater. The Woody Guthrie Center, located in the heart of the Brady Arts District, is dedicated to educating people on the powerful and intangible legacy Woody Guthrie has left.

On November 11, 2013, Nora self-published Woody Guthrie's Wardy Forty: Greystone Park State Hospital Revisited. This new book by photographer Phillip Buehler, revealed a largely

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unknown slice of Woody Guthrie's life. Through never-before-published letters, historic and family photographs, rare personal interviews, and new photographs by Buehler, Woody Guthrie's Wardy Forty brought into view the five years Woody spent as a patient at Greystone Park State Hospital in Morris Plains, New Jersey. Afflicted with Huntington's disease, Guthrie lived the last 15 years of his life in hospitals, suffering from this degenerative neurological disorder. One of these hospitals was Greystone Park, where he was a patient from 1956 through 1961. He lived in Ward 40 and called it "Wardy Forty." It was here that 19-year-old Bob Dylan met his idol and the torch was symbolically passed to a new generation of folk singer.

September 23, 2014 marked the release of Nora's most recent work, *My Name Is New York: Ramblin' Around Woody Guthrie's Townbook* & deluxe audio book highlights 19 locations where Woody lived and wrote some of his most iconic works. Woody lived in New York City from 1940-1967, a total of 27 years. Although he continued to ramble, New York was the city he called home, and always returned to. With friends Pete Seeger, Lead Belly, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, and others, he was at the hub of a new movement – introducing and popularizing rural, roots, topical, and protest music to modern urban audiences. For the first time, you're able to hear stories told by those who knew him best, in many different ways and through various encounters and circumstances; music partners Pete Seeger, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Sonny Terry, and Bess Lomax Hawes, Woody's first wife Mary Guthrie, Woody's merchant marine buddy Jimmy Longhi, Bob Dylan, Woody's second wife Marjorie Guthrie, Arlo Guthrie, Nora Guthrie and many others share their memories with you first-hand. As Woody said, "All you can write is what you see."

Nora is currently collaborating with bluegrass icon Del McCoury on a new album focused on Woody's country western styled lyrics. The world premiere of this work took place on June 29, 2013 at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, located in Katonah, NY and Del hopes to release the complete album in 2015.

Over the years, Nora has created many surprising collaborations and inspired many new recordings of both known and unknown Woody Guthrie lyrics. The long list of richly diverse artists also includes; Alison Krauss + Union Station, Janis Ian, Jimmy LaFave, Ellis

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Paul, John McCutcheon, Slaid Cleaves, Eliza Gilkyson, James Talley, Red Dirt Rangers,  
Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion, Taj Mahal, Cissy Houston, Kim Wilson, Corey Harris,  
Joel Rafael, Lila Downs, John McCutcheon, Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Dropkick  
Murphys, Anti-Flag, Blackfire, Tim O'Brien, Jackson Browne, and John Mellencamp!

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