



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of the American Indian*

Teriananda papers, 1972-1999

Janice Gould (Konkow)

2007

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of the American Indian
<b>Title:</b>	Teriananda papers
<b>Date:</b>	1972 - 1999
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAI.AC.009
<b>Creator:</b>	Teriananda, 1947- (Author)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.83 Linear feet (2 archival boxes )
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Teriananda Papers contain writings authored by Teriananda, as well as various position papers, news articles, flyers, correspondence, and group newsletters that represent the political activities she participated in on behalf of Native American and other indigenous peoples.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the National Museum of the American Indian Archives by Teriananda in March 2003

### Processing Information

Processed by Janice Gould (Konkow) in 2007.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Teriananda papers, Box and Folder Number; National Museum of the American Indian Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Access to NMAI Archive Center collections is by appointment only, Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Please contact the archives to make an appointment (phone: 301-238-1400, email: [nmaiarchives@si.edu](mailto:nmaiarchives@si.edu)).

### Conditions Governing Use

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from the NMAI Archivist. The Archives has no information on the status of literary rights for the work of others found in these papers; researchers are responsible for determining any question of copyright.

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## Biographical / Historical

Teriananda was born in Manhattan in 1947, where she grew up and has continued to live throughout her adult life. Teriananda's father, born in Brooklyn, became a financial officer and independent scholar, her mother, born in British Guiana (now Guyana), was a classical pianist who immigrated to the United States and

later became an editorial assistant, working part-time during Teriananda's childhood. Her parents instilled in Teriananda a belief that she was "a citizen of the world." She studied ballet as a youngster, and, as a teenager, immersed herself in the artistic and intellectual milieu of the Lower East Side and Greenwich Village. An improperly diagnosed back injury while she was a senior in high school resulted in severe back problems in the 1970s that have persisted throughout her life.

Teriananda became interested in indigenous struggles in the 1970s following a "back crisis" that almost took her life yet proved to be psychically transformative. In seeking to know who she was, she realized she needed to know where she was, and this led her to ask who the original inhabitants of the continent were. She soon became involved in activist struggles for indigenous rights, and worked with a number of Native American groups during the 1970s and 1980s, including, among other things, the International Treaty Council's attempts to found the U.N.'s permanent Working Group on Indigenous People, support for Yvonne Wanrow and Leonard Peltier, the issue of uranium contamination from mining on Native American land, and the problem of the Joint Land Use Area near Big Mountain on the Hopi and Navajo reservations.

Teriananda also worked on issues surrounding the AIDS crisis after the death of several friends from this disease. She had become familiar with the possibilities of natural medicines, partly through contact with traditional Native teachers, and she became active promoting the benefits of nutritional, herbal and other natural therapies to sufferers of AIDS. As Teriananda's own health issues persisted and worsened, she turned to Tibetan Buddhism, and has devoted herself to artistic pursuits influenced by this spiritual path, although she has worked artistically since the early 1970s, when she stopped dancing. Although she has cut back on her activism, due to health problems and family demands, Teriananda remains a committed political activist who stays informed of current issues and is determined to pass on the heritage of struggles for peace and justice to the next generation.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection, from the 1970s to the 1990s, is comprised of published and unpublished writings by Teriananda, as well as letters, reports, newspaper and magazine articles, group newsletters, flyers and announcements of political events, and news releases. The issues represented here, including support work for "The Longest Walk," the campaign for justice for Leonard Peltier, and the Big Mountain relocation are indicative of the concerns in parts of Indian country in the United States and elsewhere during these decades.

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## Arrangement

The Teriananda papers are arranged into two series:

Series I: Writings (1978-1991)

Series II: Political Activities (undated; 1972-1996)

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- AIDS (Disease)
- Diné (Navajo)
- Hopi Pueblo
- Indians of Central America
- Indians of Mexico
- Indians of North America

Indians of North America -- Civil rights  
Indians of North America -- Land tenure  
Indians of North America -- Relocation  
Indians of South America  
Traditional medicine

Cultures:

Diné (Navajo)  
Hopi Pueblo  
Indians of North America

Types of Materials:

Articles  
Clippings  
Letters  
Reports  
Writings

Names:

Peltier, Leonard

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Writings, 1978-1991

#### *1 Folder*

Scope and Contents: This series contains original writings by Teriananda, including an interview with Native American activist, Bill Wahpepah. Also included is a report on the state of the natural world, an appendix of written materials Teriananda used to supplement the report and a newsletter for the New York City Big Mountain Support group.

Box 1, Folder 1          Writings, 1978-1991

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## Series 2: Political Activities, undated

### 0.83 Linear feet

Scope and Content: This series contains a variety of writings relating to the political activities with which Teriananada involved herself in the support of indigenous peoples. Spanning more than two decades, this material includes newsletters, reports, flyers, newspaper and magazine articles, and news releases. Several topics mentioned include; support for Latin American indigenous struggles, Rain Forest initiatives, the Black Hills, Leonard Peltier, the Longest Walk, which was a campaign to protest eleven bills before Congress, as well as issues surrounding the Navajo relocation from the Hopi-Navajo Joint Use Area around Big Mountain.

Box 1, Folder 2	Guatemala and Mexican Indigenous Struggles, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Latin American Support Work, 1977 - 1988
Box 1, Folder 4	Rainforest People's Support Work, undated, 1981-1997
Box 1, Folder 5	Nebraska Native Peoples, 1980-1998
Box 1, Folder 6	North American Native People Support Work, undated, 1987-1996
Box 1, Folder 7	Rights for American Indians Now (RAIN), undated, 1978-1981
Box 1, Folder 8	"The Longest Walk" and Other Campaigns for Justice, undated, 1976-1988
Box 1, Folder 9	Leonard Peltier, undated, 1986-1993
Box 1, Folder 10	Black Hills Report & Western Shoshone Newspaper, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Hopi Land Claim, undated, 1972-1994
Box 2, Folder 2	Report to Hopi Kikmongwis, 1979
Box 2, Folder 3	Big Mountain Legal and Historical Documents, 1974, 1985
Box 2, Folder 4	Big Mountain News Articles, 1982-1987
Box 2, Folder 5	Big Mountain Support Materials, undated, 1980-1987
Box 2, Folder 6	Big Mountain Support Groups, 1984-1989
Box 2, Folder 7	Big Mountain Support Groups: Flagstaff, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 8	Big Mountain Support Groups: Flagstaff, 1987-1989
Box 2, Folder 9	Big Mountain Support Work, 1996

Box 2, Folder 10

Miscellaneous, undated

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