**Barbara G. Walker 1930- Wikipedia Dec 1 2015**

   

**Barbara G. Walker** (born July 2, 1930, in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia%2C_Pennsylvania)) is a [U.S.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [author](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Author) and [feminist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist). She is an influential [knitting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knitting) expert and the author of several classic encyclopedic knitting references, despite "not taking to it at all" when she first learned in college.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-1) [[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-skep-2) Other topics she has written about are [religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion), [cultural anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_anthropology), [spirituality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirituality), and [mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythology) from the viewpoint of [Pre-Indo-European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic_Europe) [neolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic) [matriarchies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matriarchy).

**Contents**

* [1 Books](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#Books)
	+ [1.1 Knitting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#Knitting)
	+ [1.2 Feminism and skepticism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#Feminism_and_skepticism)
* [2 Personal life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#Personal_life)
* [3 Bibliography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#Bibliography)
* [4 Other works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#Other_works)
* [5 See also](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#See_also)
* [6 References](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#References)
* [7 External links](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#External_links)

**Books**

**Knitting**

In the 1960s and 1970s, she authored several volumes of knitting references which have become landmarks for their comprehensiveness and clarity.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-3) Her Knitting Treasury series documents over a thousand different [knitting stitches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knitting_stitches). Other books considered [mosaic knitting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosaic_knitting), for producing multicolored designs while knitting only one color per row, and constructing knitted garments from the top down rather than the usual bottom-up method used in [Western knitting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_knitting) tradition. Her legacy continues with the reprinting of most of her knitting books, starting in the mid-1990s, as well as the publication of new contributions to knitting literature.

**Feminism and skepticism**

She writes about both the problems with mainstream religion and how these have contributed to patriarchal societies and sexism.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-NJNOW-4)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-skep-2) In *The Skeptical Feminist: Discovering the Virgin, Mother, and Crone*, she writes about her belief that there is no god. However, she believes that people, and women in particular, can use the image of the [goddess](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goddess) in their day-to-day lives. She often uses the imagery of the [Mother Goddess](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother_Goddess) to discuss [neolithic matriarchies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_religion). Her book *Woman's Rituals: A Sourcebook* is an attempt to show how she puts her "[meditation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meditation) techniques" into practice, and is meant as a guide for other women to do the same thing.

**Personal life**

She studied journalism at the [University of Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Pennsylvania) and then worked for the [*Washington Star*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Star) in Washington, D.C. While serving on a local hotline helping battered women and pregnant teens in the mid-1970s, her earlier interest in feminism became heightened. She continued a personal study of comparative religions and feminist issues after she graduated [[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-skep-2) which led to her writing *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* (1983). [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-NJNOW-4)

Walker describes herself as an [atheist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheist). The American Humanist Association named her "Humanist Heroine" in 1993, and in 1995 she received the "Women Making Herstory" award from the New Jersey [NOW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Organization_for_Women).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_G._Walker#cite_note-NJNOW-4)

**Bibliography**

* *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (1968) [ISBN 0-942018-16-8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0942018168) (reprint edition 1998)
* *A Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (1970)
* *The Craft of Lace Knitting* (1971) [ISBN 0-684-12503-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/068412503X)
* *The Craft of Cable-Stitch Knitting* (1971) [ISBN 0-684-12500-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0684125005)
* *Knitting from the Top* (1972) [ISBN 0-942018-09-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0942018095) (reprint edition)
* *The Craft of Multicolor Knitting* (1973) [ISBN 0-684-13405-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0684134055)
* *Sampler Knitting* (1973) [ISBN 0-684-13263-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/068413263X) (reprinted in *A Fourth Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (2000))
* *Barbara Walker's Learn-to-Knit Afghan Book* (1974) [ISBN 0-942018-13-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0942018133) (reprint edition 1997)
* *Mosaic Knitting* (1976) [ISBN 0-684-14243-0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0684142430) (revised in 1997)
* *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* (1983) [ISBN 0-06-250925-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/006250925X)
* *A Second Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (1985) [ISBN 0-942018-17-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0942018176) (reprint edition 1998)
* *The Secrets of the Tarot: Origins, History, and Symbolism* (1984) [ISBN 0-06-250927-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509276)
* *Charted Knitting Designs: A Third Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (1986) [ISBN 0-942018-18-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0942018184) (reprint edition 1998)
* *The I Ching of the Goddess* (1986) [ISBN 0-06-250924-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509241)
* *The Skeptical Feminist: Discovering the Virgin, Mother, and Crone* (1987) [ISBN 0-06-250932-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509322)
* *The Woman's Dictionary of Symbols and Sacred Objects* (1988), Castle Books, [ISBN 0-06-250923-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509233)
* *The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power* (1988) [ISBN 0-06-250934-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509349)
* *The Book of Sacred Stones: Fact and Fallacy in the Crystal World* (1989, with [Werner P. Brodde](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Werner_P._Brodde&action=edit&redlink=1)) [ISBN 0-06-250921-7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509217)
* *Women's Rituals: A Sourcebook* (1990) [ISBN 0-06-250939-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/006250939X)
* *Amazon: A Novel* (1992) [ISBN 0-06-250975-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062509756)
* *Feminist Fairy Tales* (1996) [ISBN 0-06-251320-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0062513206)
* *Restoring the Goddess: Equal Rites for Modern Women* (2000) [ISBN 1-57392-786-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/1573927864)
* *A Fourth Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (2000) [ISBN 0-942018-20-6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0942018206) (includes Sampler Knitting (1973))
* *The Essential Handbook of Women's Spirituality and Ritual* (2001) [ISBN 1-931412-64-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/1931412642)
* *Mosaic Knitting, Revised* (2006) [ISBN 0-942018-15-X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/094201815X)
* *Man Made God: A Collection of Essays* (2010) [ISBN 0-9799631-4-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0979963141)
* *Belief and Unbelief* (2014) [ISBN 9780931779565](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/9780931779565)

**Other works**

* Barbara Walker Tarot Deck (Misc. Supplies) (1986) [ISBN 1-931412-72-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/1931412723)
* I Ching of the Goddess: Divination Kit (Boxed Set with Cards) (2001) [ISBN 1-931412-72-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/1931412723)
* [Women And Religion: Sexism In The Christian Tradition (1997)](http://web.archive.org/web/20041220054323/http%3A/ffrf.org/fttoday/1998/jan_feb98/walker.html) - speech

**See also**

* [Feminism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism)
* [Knitting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knitting)
* [Prehistoric religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_religion)
* [Skepticism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skepticism)

**References**

 "Knitting's Old Guard Speaks Out" Vogue Knitting 2007 Fall

  *Druchunas, Donna (January 11, 2009).* [*"Barbara G. Walker, The Skeptical Feminist"*](http://skepchick.org/2009/01/barbara-g-walker-the-skeptical-feminist/)*. skepchic.org. Retrieved 29 April 2015.*

  *Gardner, Kay; Shayne, Ann (2006). Mason-Dixon Knitting: The Curious Knitter's Guide.* [*Potter Craft*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potter_Craft)*. p. 115.* [*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number)[*0-307-23605-6*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special%3ABookSources/0-307-23605-6)*.*

 [*"Humanist Profile: Barbara G. Walker"*](http://www.nownj.org/njNews/2005/0116%20humanist_profile-%20Barbara%20G.%20Walker.htm)*. NOW NJ. National Organization for Women of New Jersey (NOW-NJ). January 16, 2005. Retrieved 29 April 2015.*

*================================================================*