

PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

ANNE BRADEN

journalist, activist, educator

“Either you find a way to oppose the evil, or the evil becomes part of you and you are a part of it”

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Background Information

Born July 28, 1924; Died March 6, 2006

Anne Braden, formally Anne Gambrell McCarty, was born in Kentucky. Braden went to Randolph Macon Women’s College (now Randolph Macon College) and began her activist career there. Braden was a writer for the *Louisville Times*, protested with unions and was politically active for decades.

Braden’s Resistance

Braden wrote for the *Louisville Times* focusing on the Civil Rights Movement pre-1950s. Braden helped union workers push for better working conditions. Braden also helped desegregate workplaces like hospitals.¹ Braden and her husband gained national attention after they purchased a home for a Black family in a White-only suburb in 1954. The home was eventually blown up to stop the Wade family from living in a White community. The Braden’s were blamed for the violence and charged with sedition (which is conduct inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state).

After being exiled from the community, the Bradens developed a newspaper called *The Southern Patriot*, which focused on civil rights. Braden then wrote a memoir called *The Wall Between*. Braden focused on the Wade case and created an understanding of southern White racist psychology.² The memoir was nationally recognized and extremely popular within the Civil Rights Movement.³ Braden continued to be active for civil rights, justice and equity in almost every space. Braden focused on topics like the environment, real estate, education, policing, and for the LGBTQ+ community.

Achievements

Braden received the first Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty in 1990 and formed the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (SOC). After her death, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research was created at Louisville University in memory of her. Braden always fought for social justice and remained socially active for six decades.

¹ Anne Braden. (n.d.). Retrieved October 29, 2019, from <https://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/anne-braden>.

² Anne Braden. *The Wall Between*, (original edition 1958), Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.

³ Fosl, C. (1999). "There Was No Middle Ground": Anne Braden and the Southern Social Justice Movement. *NWSA Journal*, 11(3), 24-48. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4316680>

