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About Swanee Hunt

Ambassador Swanee Hunt is the founder and chair of Women Waging Peace, a global policy-oriented initiative working to integrate women into peace processes.

During her tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Austria (1993–97), Ambassador Hunt extended her energies to the conflict in the neighboring Balkan states, hosting negotiations during the war, and several international symposia to focus efforts on securing the peace. She organized humanitarian projects, yielding books to restock the shelves of the destroyed National Library in Sarajevo, trees for the parks denuded during the siege, and over six tons of musical instruments for ravaged Bosnian schools. In addition, she has worked extensively with Bosnian women and religious leaders, as they unite across former war lines. For her efforts, she was named “Woman of Peace” by the Together for Peace Foundation in Rome.

Raised in Dallas, for two decades Swanee Hunt was a civic leader and philanthropist in her adopted city of Denver, where she focused her resources on social justice. She led community efforts dealing with public education, affordable housing, mental health services, and many other issues. She was a founder of the Women’s Foundation of Colorado, helping raise a \$10 million endowment to promote women’s economic self-sufficiency. Her own private foundation, the Hunt Alternatives Fund, served as funder, convener, and friend to over 400 neighborhood-based organizations over a 16-year span, addressing issues of poverty and discrimination. For these efforts, Swanee Hunt has received multiple honors, from groups as divergent as the Anti-Defamation League, the Institute for International Education, The American Mental Health Association, to the National Women’s Forum.

Hunt is a member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and the Director of the Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School at Harvard University. She has written hundreds of articles for American and international newspapers and professional journals, including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Denver Post*, and *Rocky Mountain News*.

A photographer, she has had more than a dozen one-woman shows in five countries; her “Sarajevo Soccer Field” is in the permanent collection of the Brooklyn Museum. Her musical composition, “The Witness Cantata,” has been performed in Vienna, Salzburg, and Washington D.C., among other cities.

Ambassador Hunt holds a B.A. in philosophy, two masters degrees (in psychology and religion), and a doctorate in theology. She is married to symphony conductor Charles Ansbacher; they have three children.

This Was Not Our War
Bosnian Women Reclaiming the Peace
Swanee Hunt