

## Therese Forton-Barnes Bio

Therese went to Nardin Academy elementary in Buffalo, and then continued on to the high school and graduated in 1981. She continued her education at Ithaca College and graduated in 1985, with a BS in Business. She studied abroad in London, England in 1983.

Once out of college, and a stint with a brokerage firm, she found her true love of work when hired at an events planning company here in Buffalo. A few years later, she formed her own business, Events to a Tee. [www.events2atee.com](http://www.events2atee.com) She has planned over 450 events in the Buffalo area. Some of the larger more notable clients/events are 19 years of events for Jim Kelly, including his wedding, retirement roast, Super Bowl parties, and his annual golf tournaments; the wedding of Ellen Rigas(daughter of the former owner of the Buffalo Sabres); ten years of planning Thursday at the Square(once known as Thursday in the Park); Friendship Festival, and Curtain Up. She also planned events for various corporations, such as Ingram Micro, Rich Products, HBO Sports, Hodgson Russ, AAA, The Buffalo Sabres, The Buffalo Bills, and Ryan Millers' charity, The Steadfast Foundation(Catwalk for a Charity) to name a few and coordinated many other weddings.

Therese is writing children's books and the first one was published in April, 2007. [www.ZakiandVenus.com](http://www.ZakiandVenus.com) . She is married to Tom Barnes, a native of Buffalo, and share a home with their two labradors, Zaki and Venus. Tom and Therese spend time in Southern California due to Tom's line of work, real estate and brownfield development. Tom has two sons, Connor, a graduate Syracuse University and Ryan, attends University of Wisconsin.

A new project that she started is "Carvings for a Cause". After the October '07 rare storm she coordinated with local municipalities to save and collect some of the large tree trunks from the Olmsted Parks and surrounding communities, that will be carved into historical or important figures from our region. ie: Frederick Law Olmsted, Frank Lloyd Wright, Grover Cleveland, Joyce Carol Oates etc. Other sculptures will be locally significant symbols....such Buffalo, a snowman, or even sports figures. The Sculptures will be displayed throughout the storm damaged region, and a guide is going to be created that will direct people around the region to each sculpture.

Therese is a firm believer in giving back to the community. She volunteers for many different not for profits and various events in the area. She is on the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Board and has donated much time to Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and raised funds and renovated Soldiers Circle. She is also very interested in Preservation and their 100 year home was featured on Home and Garden Television(HGTV), Restore America, for the preservation and restoration of their historic home. She is very active in her alma mater, Nardin Academy and helps coordinate some of their events. When in Buffalo and not working, Therese is usually spending time with her family and friends. She devotes a lot of time to them, which is a big reason why she has decided to live in Buffalo. Otherwise, she can be found walking her dogs or cruising Elmwood Ave in her turquoise 1971 Cutlass Oldsmobile Supreme Convertible. She is very fond of Buffalo and after living in California part time for over ten years, she enjoys her time in Buffalo more than ever and hopes to never move.