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NNG Conferees Convene On Building A Vision For The Future

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
ISSUE**

by Conference Co-Chairs Dagmar Thorpe,
Seventh Generation Fund,
and Dave Bockman,
A Territory Resource

"Building A Vision For The Future" was the theme for the National Network of Grantmakers 1987 Annual Conference last November. The Conference was designed to address challenges inspired by David Hunter during last year's conference to support the development of better social designs for the future. Our objective as conference planners was to create an environment which focused on creating a vision for a better society; solution-building rather than reiteration of the problem; diversity of thought, strategy, and constituency; and a focus on resources and issues in the Rural West.

We achieved those objectives and many more during our week at Rippling River in Oregon. The diversity of the resource people provided richness and depth to the conference. Fifty percent of the resource people were Third World; some of those who included Pacific Islander, Black, Native American, Chicano, and Asian, had not been or were minimally represented in previous NNG conferences. Many of the resource people were from the Rural West which added another dimension not previously addressed. There was a blend of nationally prominent strategists and community-based activists. A feeling of good will, hope for the future, and camaraderie pervaded the conference.

As we reflect upon what we were able to achieve, the principle question that comes to our mind is the future, long-term impact upon grantmakers and the social change movement. Will we see significant Third World representation, not only to speak about the issues of their people, but also because of the value of their perspective on what will lead to a better society? Will we see a diversity of participation which cuts across all humanity, geography, and special interest? Will we see a proliferation of proposals from communities and institutions focused on building visions for the future or creating new social designs? Will we see proposals focused on the empowerment of human beings and how to activate communities to act in their best interest? Will we see a feeling of collabor-



Rippling River Lodge in Welches, Oregon hosted NNG Conference goers, November 10-13, 1987.

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—Conference Co-Chairs

ation between the grantor and grantee beginning to emerge? Will we see the beginnings of true social transformation towards a better society? But the ultimate question we must ask ourselves as grantmakers and activists is: Are we empowered within ourselves to believe that a better society is achievable and that we can contribute to creating it?

As we work toward finding the answers, our thoughts, actions and deeds should be guided by the eloquent words of Bob Antone of the Oneida Nation and his vision for the future: "Survival of our humanity must come first. A humanity that supports the values, virtues, philosophies, and beliefs of all people who seek peace. In our in-

digenous societies, we know that inner peace leads to a greater peace in the outside world. To understand ourselves and the spirit that moves us is the highest form of consciousness and awareness. In the 21st century, I believe we will know once again what a real community is. A community where our thinking and feelings are shared and respected. A community where individuals will support and empower other individuals to make decisions from an awareness of their capacity to love and be loved. A community that supports and nurtures the development and balance of the human spirit. A community that is empowered by the joy of living and the freedom from fear."

Klein Cites Several Trends That Will Impact Future Vision

In the opening plenary session, Ethel Klein, a demographer/political scientist and author of *Gender Politics*, led participants through a resource guide, *Facts and Trends/1987*, especially for the conference. The guide highlights changes in the age and income structure of the general population that have far reaching implications for organizing, coalition building and creating a progressive future. Some of the trends noted were:

- the gap between upper and lower income families is now wider than at any time since the Census Bureau began collecting these data in 1947;
- the young have replaced the elderly as those most likely to be poor; 14 million children constitute 40% of all Americans living in poverty;
- the American family is undergoing profound change: in 1955, 65% of all families were composed of a male breadwinner and a wife not in the labor force; in 1985, two income families have become the most common family formation;
- aging people are a growing percentage of the population; increasing numbers of seniors make family care an inter-generational issue.

"Such changes", Ms. Klein noted "provoke consideration of the frames used to orient social change work, analyze issues, and develop goals."

NOTICE:

Membership Change

The Management Committee recently voted to clarify the starting point of the NNG membership year. Beginning in 1988 the membership year will start at the annual fall conference. Consequently, membership dues paid now or until June 1, 1988, will be credited toward the current membership year and will expire in November, 1988 (the date of this year's conference).

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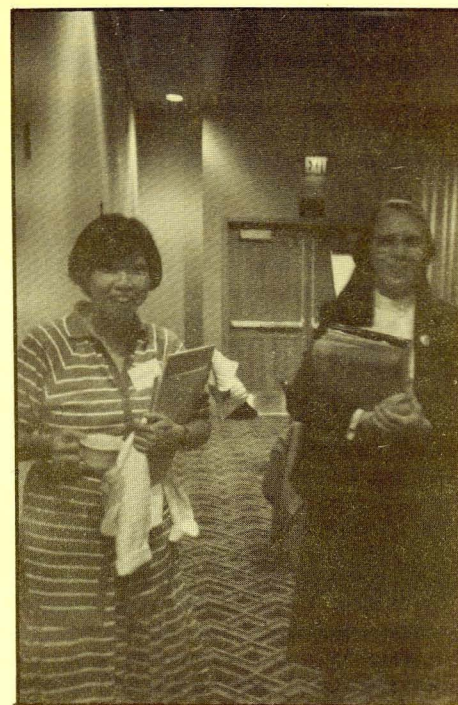
Plenary On The Pacific Rim Analyzes Impact Of Global Economy In The West

by Cathy Lerza
 The Shalan Foundation

The second session of the conference, "On the Pacific Rim: The Impact of the Global Economy in the West," attempted to give an overview of the global and U.S. economies and then bring "macro" trends down to real life — their impacts on the people of the West. Economist Sister Amata Miller, financial vice president of the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and long time advocate for the rights of low income people, described global and domestic economic trends and the implications of those trends for the struggle for economic justice.

According to Sister Amata, "over the next decade, the struggles of working and poor people for economic and social justice will take place in an economy on a post-boom era down slope and in a political climate of retrenchment." She described a world characterized by the following trends:

- a globalized economy in which all the rules of the game have changed and key economic actors (governmental and corporate) jockey for positions of dominance;
- a U.S. economy burdened by twin deficits — the federal debt and burgeoning consumer debt. As a day of reckoning approaches, the current climate of belt tightening does not nurture or welcome the struggle for economic justice for those left out of the economic boom of the 1980's;
- changes in the U.S. economy, coupled with the globalization of markets, which have altered the marketplace in which workers and their organizations must operate. They are, by and large, poorly prepared to deal with the changes in available jobs, skill requirements, pay scales, and the location of demand. For the growing numbers outside the organized labor force, the situation is even worse;
- unstable financial structures in banking and on Wall Street that threaten to undermine the U.S. economy;
- regional shifts of population and economic growth in the U.S. magnified by the skewed distribution of defense contracts, which adversely affect our economy in the long-term and hurt working people;
- economic uncertainty, cynicism, and po-



Peggy Saika and Sister Amata gave compelling presentations on global issues and their impact domestically.

litical leadership, which encourages the middle class to identify with the wealthy, rather than the struggles of the poor, create in the U.S. a political climate adverse to the changes in public policy needed to address the educational, training, and human needs of working people and the poor.

The hope for the future, Sister Amata believes, is the creation of local community alliances among business, community, labor, banking, and religious groups that will "reverse harmful outflows of people and resources and link jobs and spending in self-reinforcing ways." But, noted Sister Amata, "changing these relationships is difficult and long-term, and the adverse economic context will complicate the process."

Despite the generally dismal economic and political context Sister Amata presented, her message was ultimately one of hope — provided that we, as funders and activists, make a new commitment to support struggles for justice in the U.S. and around the world and work to replace values of individualism with those of cooperation and common good.

Amplifying Amata's overview were three community leaders from the West, each from a different region and representing very different communities. Jim Murry, executive secretary of the Montana Federation of Labor, discussed the need to build broad coalitions in order to achieve economic change — coalitions that include labor, low

income organizations, environmentalists, churches, people of color, non-unionized workers, welfare recipients, etc. He discussed his experiences with this kind of coalition building through the Montana Alliance for Progressive Policy which has created a shared progressive analysis of the state economy and agenda for change. He argued that labor must 1) expand its concerns past wages and hours to include "family" issues like day care, parental leave, older dependent care, health care, and affordable housing, and 2) take the lead in progressive coalition building.

Peggy Saika, executive director of the Oakland, California based Asian Law Caucus, the nation's oldest Asian civil rights and advocacy group, outlined the struggles of the growing (a 300% population increase since 1970) and misunderstood Asian population of the West. Stereotypes notwithstanding, Asians are not all wealthy or studying for advanced degrees. Thirteen percent live in poverty; many work in sweat shops in the garment and microchip industries. About 65% are recent immigrants, often undocumented, with special and generally unmet needs for English-as-a-second-language, adequate housing and information about their rights. She described increasing anti-Asian sentiment — with its antecedents in the Chinese Exclusion Act or the imprisonment

of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II — based on the misperception that Asians are "stealing" jobs and economic prosperity from Americans. She talked about the need for multi-racial social justice work and the need to identify cross-cutting issues that move economic debate away from blaming groups of workers for what's wrong with the American economy.

Finally, Maria Varela, coordinator of Ganados del Valle, an economic development project in Northern New Mexico, outlined her work with Hispanic weavers, mainly women, in the tiny community of Los Ojos. Through the creation of Tierra Wools, a sheep raising/weaving co-op, Ganados has prevented the destruction of an indigenous economy and brought new prosperity and political empowerment to a community that previously offered no alternatives for economic growth except resort development. Such development would have destroyed local communities and denied residents the ability to shape their own futures. Varela argued that the nurturing of model economic development projects is a crucial element in the struggle for economic justice. Their implications for change extend far beyond the communities in which they are located.

After the plenary, workshops explored specific questions that we as funders of

economic and social justice projects confront:

- How can we support efforts to address the issues of importance to the new workforce — women, immigrants, people of color? How do we support multi-racial, multi-class organizing and coalition building around work, family, and industrial policy issues?
- How do we move beyond a "stop plant closures" strategy to a more positive vision of how the economy should be structured and operated?
- How can we support the creation and implementation of a progressive economic development strategy at the local, state, regional, and national levels?
- How can we ensure that local economic development projects are linked to a larger movement for economic and political justice?
- How do we ensure that social and economic justice issues and the elements of a progressive economic agenda are communicated to the public via mass media? What can funders do to help turn economic justice work into "news"? How can media strategies serve the more important goal of progressive political and social change?

Human Rights Workshop Suggests Continued Vigilance

by Terre Rybovich
National Community Funds

The workshop "Human Rights in the Age of Meese and Bork" opened with an examination of the new right by Lenny Zeskind of the Center for Democratic Renewal. By declaring that the right-wing is also committed to social change, he forced those of us who identify as social change funders to recognize that we are not unique, but instead are in competition with the right for grassroots support. Moreover, the new right is not a phenomena of the Reagan era, destined to recede into obscurity after the 1988 elections. Rather, it is a product of the crisis in public confidence that followed the Watergate scandal, according to Zeskind. He went on to indicate the right's potential for continued growth based on the youthfulness of constituencies such as right-

(continued on page 4)



Seated from left to right are Human Rights Workshop presenters Ramon Ramirez, Melanie Tervalon, Catlin Fulwood, Leonard Zeskind and Daley Sambo.

(continued from page 3)

wing evangelical churches and the Ku Klux Klan, as well as the surprising amount of support obtained by LaRouche's Proposition 64 in California.

The impact the new right has already had on social policy — as well as the response of progressive funders — was addressed by focusing on the issues of AIDS, reproductive rights, and immigration. Following Zeskind, Catlin Fullwood, Community Relations Program Director for AFSC, described the hysteria surrounding AIDS as a coalescing of the hatred and phobias of this society. She urged funders to respond by supporting efforts to educate and to build community — to reach out to youth, women, and people of color, in addition to gay men. Melanie Tervalon, of the National Campaign to Restore Abortion Funding, examined the issue of reproductive rights,

A context of poverty and racism sharply limits a woman's options.

—Melanie Tervalon

not only attempts by the right-wing to limit women's options, but also the reluctance of many reproductive rights advocates to defend explicitly the rights of poor women and women of color. She detailed how a context of poverty and racism

sharply limits a woman's options. Tervalon also stressed the need for a broader reproductive rights movement that incorporates the distinct issues of poor and Third World women.

In other presentations, Ramon Ramirez, of Northwest Tree Planters and Farmworkers United, talked about the new immigration regulations. They can never solve immigrants' problems since they don't address the real issues faced by immigrants. Instead, Ramirez noted, that the new regulations reflect fears rooted in a shrinking economy and a growing proportion of people of color. The real issues faced by immigrants — racism, exploitation of workers, denial of health care, — impact both documented and undocumented workers. Ramirez stressed that these issues would only be solved by organizing, and urged funders to support such efforts among immigrants.

The final speaker, Daley Sambo of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, described the Inuit movement to reclaim its land rights. It is a movement that has united Native American communities from the Aleutian Islands across North America to Greenland. Their success at organizing has also brought them together with other indigenous movements through work at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Taken together, the speakers acknowledged the significant contribution progressive funders have made toward the defense of human rights in the 1980's. Yet, they also pointed out the tremendous task of maintaining that support in an era of possibly increased right-wing activism.

Session On Health And The Environment Raises Questions About A Healthy Future

by Yusef Mgeni
Northwest Area Foundation

Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation for the Economic Trends, kicked off the Friday morning session on Health and the Environment. In his keynote remarks, Rifkin suggested that the last 500 years have represented the age of "extractive energy," wherein we have established an industrial system based on non-renewable resources. "Society cannot consume faster than nature can produce — without mortgaging the environmental future of successive generations," Rifkin pointed out.

"At the present time, we are moving

from a technology based on petrochemicals and nuclear power, to one with no environmental counterpart — genetic engineering. Whereas in the past we have generally been restricted by technology to burning, soldering, forging and melting, we are now capable of intervening in nature for the purposes of stitching, editing, sequencing and programming — genetically."

According to Rifkin, few people are giving serious consideration to the ethical implications of the new "eugenics" movement, which he views as purely commercial rather than social. With the genes of cows and salmon being spliced along with humans and rats, Rifkin identified some of the environ-

mental consequences possible from "designer genes," like their unpredictable lives, migration, reproduction and mutation — and all without the possibility of a consumer recall. "Genetic microbes may very well be the foot soldiers of the 21st century," Rifkin said, "because they don't die in the field — they reproduce."

Focusing on other aspects of our technology, Rifkin pointed out that the Sears Tower in Chicago uses more energy than

Society cannot consume faster than nature can produce — without mortgaging the environmental future of successive generations.

—Jeremy Rifkin

Rockford, Illinois. "Our science and architecture are primitive in relation to our potential," Rifkin pointed out. "The tools and technology of a culture project the values of those who impose them on society." "In that respect," he said, citing a quote from Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute, "nuclear power is like using a chain saw to cut butter."

Looking toward the future, Rifkin challenged his audience to keep the full responsibility of history in mind, and to identify a world view which is common to both capitalist and socialist societies. "We must assist in developing a 'new politics,'" Rifkin urged, "which asks: What is life? How do we relate to it? Is it an engineering principle, or is it an ethical partnership requiring mutual respect and benefit?" In closing, Rifkin encouraged those present to have the courage and conviction to challenge outworn ideals, and channel their ideals through political action and a philosophy which would demand that the tools and values of our culture be based on sustainability and mutual respect.

Following Rifkin's remarks, a panel of presenters shared information on other health and environmental issues. Bruce Fried of the National Health Care Campaign, described the one-in-six Americans who do not have health care and the challenges facing them. Mary O'Brien of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, talked about the negative impact of pesticides on human, plant and animal life, as well as alternatives to those practices. Larry Shook of the Hanford Education Action League, discussed the dangers of nuclear weapons facilities and the absence of honest and open information being distributed prior to establishment of public policy on the issues. The panel concluded with remarks by Winona LaDuke, a member of the Mississippi Band of the Anishinabe Nation, who commented on land rights issues and resettlement from a Native American perspective.

U.S. Policy Toward Central America: What Is Our Future?

by Susan Kinoy
Villers Foundation

In remarks before conferees, Sara Miles, Journalist and Director of the Low Intensity Clearinghouse, New York City, New York, talked at length about LIC. According to Miles, "The type of warfare in which the United States is engaged today in the Caribbean Basin is called Low Intensity Conflict (LIC)." LIC costs less money and uses less fire power than conventional warfare. Instead of a major military offensive, it is total war at the grass roots level. The United States is now waging LIC against governments that are fighting for new social systems and are trying to change oppressive economic and social systems. LIC attempts to mirror the new people's liberal or revolutionary systems and attacks them at the grass roots level. LIC is not a positive strategy. It does not espouse positive changes. Instead, it spreads confusion and distrust. It is a United States strategy of weakness. There have been major changes in the United States since 1950 when we were the major international power. The Japanese and European markets have taken economic leadership. The stock market has plummeted and there are more foreign investments in the United States. We no longer have nuclear supremacy. There is a weakening of NATO, SEATO, the United Nations, and the World Court. The Third World powers are growing. There are waves of upheavals in many Third World countries.

The key event in shaping LIC was the United States' defeat in Vietnam. We learned that: (a) superior military forces will not work against local militancy; (b) there is a limit to the role of outside military forces; (c) a war of political ideas is an integral part of the conflict; (d) the United States will need domestic support, and (e) U.S. military involvement must be short-term and not long-term.

On the basis of this analysis, the United States developed a counter-insurgency doctrine in relation to Central America:

1. Instead of looking only at the internal struggles of a country for economic and social independence, the United States inserted the East-West conflict and always emphasized Democracy versus Communism. The United States termed these local skirmishes part of a global struggle.

2. The tactic of the United States is to undercut and isolate the insurgency; not to crush it, but to delegitimize it. The plan for Nicaragua is to isolate the activities

of the new local government and to destroy its hopes for continued struggle to obtain economic and social reform.

3. A major aspect of this counter-insurgency doctrine is that a new Caribbean Basin government should appear to collapse from within. This should be seen in relation to the organization of the local government, police and military, as well as the country's relationship to other Caribbean Basin countries and to the international scene.

4. The local grass roots military skirmishes against new governments must be supported.

5. It is necessary, on the grass roots level, to confuse people, sow divisions, cast doubts about the new government, and then try to win over people.

6. Massive repression is not productive, but selective repression is very effective.

7. Intelligence becomes the key to the pattern of counter-insurgency. It ranges from high tech planes to grass roots informers. A conscious blurring of military and civilian intelligence functions take place which become difficult to separate.

8. Support to a rear-guard, on-going, low-level war of attrition is basic to the plan in order to sap popular support for a new people's movement.

A question about this LIC strategy is that it does not have the same time limits as conventional warfare. If the United States cannot win, it might be able to make sure that a new Central American country can't win either. If the U.S. does or does not win, it does not mean that the war is over.

Finally, the strategic rear-guard is the United States. Many aspects of our economy, our press, and our government are a part

of this LIC. Every day, efforts are made to the U.S. strategy. One U.S. general recently reported that the U.S. was winning over opinions in Congress, but losing credibility badly among churches and grass roots organizations. The U.S. rear-guard activity is to spread confusion at home. Local governments and individuals can oppose this confusion by understanding facts and obtaining information that reports all sides of the Caribbean Basin conflicts and all sides of the ideological, economic and political ideas that underlie this new type of warfare.

During the session on U.S. policy toward Central America, NNG conferees heard a moving presentation by Elizabeth Linder, mother of Ben Linder, the young American who in April, 1987, with two Nicaraguans, was murdered by the Contras. This happened in a northern Nicaragua town while Ben was helping local farmers take water flow measurements for a new small hydro-electric plant. Ben Linder spent several years in Nicaragua. He was an engineer and a professional clown and was loved by people he worked with. Early in 1979, he built a small hydro-electric plant tapping water power from streams in the mountainous region of El Cua, where his work resulted in electricity for the first time in the community's history. Electricity meant that the

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—Sara Miles

small medical clinic had light and refrigeration, and students, for the first time, could go to class at night.

The Linder family has spoken throughout the United States and in several European countries about Ben's work and his death. They have established a memorial fund to assist other committed persons to work in Nicaragua. The NNG audience was impressed by Mrs. Linder's message, by her bravery in talking about the recent murder of her son, and by her optimism concerning the possibility that peace will bring needed social and economic reforms to Nicaragua.

Caribbean Basin Working Group Holds Pre-Conference Session

by Daniel Solomon

For two days before NNG flooded Rippling River Lodge, the Caribbean Basin Working Group (CBWG) met to take "A New Look At The Caribbean Basin". Like the larger NNG conference, this meeting included representatives of grass roots, research and lobbying groups who gave presentations in their respective areas of expertise. The more intimate nature of CBWG also permitted ample time for questions and answers which helped broaden and deepen the issues raised by the presenters. The emerging picture of the region included many new challenges for funders.

One of the predominant themes of the two-day CBWG conference was the question of supporting single-issue campaigns, like the Contra funding vote in Congress, versus longer term grass roots organizing and empowerment. The funders' strategy session, led by James Garrett of the Capp Street Foundation and Jean Hardisty, picked up on this issue.

This small group discussion highlighted the importance of addressing the underlying forces which drive U.S. foreign policy. If our goal is to support progressive social change around the world, it is not simply to keep American soldiers out of war zones or to limit the number of U.S. dollars which support repressive regimes. Economic aid; facilitating the removal of only the most offensive dictatorships (and, in those cases, replacing them with military and elite dominated governments — as in Haiti, Guatemala, and the Philippines); propaganda which denounces all popular movements: these are all new forms of the on-going

U.S. attempt to maintain control over Third World countries through low-intensity conflict (LIC).

In his presentation, David Reed of the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy said that direct intervention and subversion are giving way to more sophisticated forms of destabilizing popular governments and broad based political opposition parties. Beth Brunton of the Central American Peace Campaign, a Seattle based grass roots organizing group, and Sara Miles of the Low Intensity Clearinghouse both stressed the need for

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funders and organizers to move beyond the non-interventionist goal of keeping the U.S. military out of Third World social/political struggles. All the discussions emphasized that we as funders can help organizations that seek to expand grass roots work on Central America beyond its current white middle-class constituency; we must educate Congress and commit "hard money" to candidates who believe in our vision for America; and, we can support work directly in the Third World by helping peasants who are trying to organize and by funding

concrete development projects that come from local initiatives.

The presentation by John McCalla of the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees, explained that the United States is simply continuing its history of intervention in Haiti which began with the Marine's invasion in 1915. The LIC-style response to the popular revolt of 1986, however, was not troops. The U.S. State Department aided in Duvalier's exit and it insured that the new leader would be amenable to U.S. interests. Military and economic aid flowed to the island to bolster the new, unrepresentative Namphy government and the threat of a significant social change was snuffed out. Unfortunately, McCalla accurately forecast, two weeks before the fact, that General Namphy and the Ton Ton Macoutes would not permit free and fair elections in Haiti.

McCalla suggested two areas in which funders could answer these undemocratic actions. One priority is raising public support to eliminate the military component of A.I.D. funding and to make economic A.I.D. money conditional on the ending of human rights abuses by the Haitian military. Another priority is pushing organizations like OXFAM to fund progressive unions, agricultural organizations, and peasant groups which are challenging the non-democratic structure in Haiti.

A few progressive American foundations took positive action last year by helping sponsor a National Popular Congress in Haiti. It was held in January, 1987 and brought together over one thousand people, representing more than three hundred separate organizations, who had been working in isolation since Duvalier was forced to flee Haiti in February of 1986.

As the conclusion of the CBWG coincided with the opening of the NNG meeting, Martin Vega, Political Counsel of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington and Eli-

Right To Know Caucus Reports On Meeting

by Carolyn Sachs
Benton Foundation

The Right to Know Caucus session focused on INFORMATION and protecting access to information. Whatever the particular issues of focus are (environment, peace, civil rights, etc.), everybody shares a fundamental need for access to information, much of which is collected and disseminated by government and industry.

Ironically, despite the growth of technol-

ogies that should make it easier and cheaper for us to get access to the information we need, there has been a dramatic trend toward cutbacks in both information collection and distribution by both government and, as a result of general deregulation, industry. In the name of national security and budget reduction, the current Administration has increased the secret military budget from \$5 billion to \$22 billion, forced millions of federal workers to sign away their rights to speak or write about their work,

classified nearly 2 million documents per year, and ceased publishing over 6000 government publications.

Resource person Gary Bass, who is Executive Director of OMB Watch in Washington, D.C., cited numerous instances of reductions in our ability to get information we need to improve health and safety, the environment, and the prospects for peace. He reported that environmental groups suc-

Right To Know (continued)

ceeded last year in getting Congress to enact a new Community Right to Know Law that, among other things, gives people a right to find out about the hazardous chemicals in their communities and requires industry to report on the health effects of such chemicals. The public needs to understand its rights under this new law, and organize to enforce it.

On a more discouraging note, Bass pointed out many instances where the Office of

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—Gary Bass

Management and Budget, which supervises all agency information collection and publication activities, has acted to delay or deny the collection of information. In preparation for the 1990 census, for example, OMB has "raised questions" about almost one-third of the questions that the Census Bureau had proposed to ask. These data provide information used to allocate federal funds, to identify gaps in services, and to provide ammunition for civil rights lawsuits. Some questions, dealing with housing quality,

heating equipment, etc., have already been dropped.

Another example of governmental attempts to restrict information available to the public involved a report on lead poisoning in children commissioned by the Public Health Service. The scientists hired by PHS to do the study resigned last June when they learned that their 330 page report had been cut to 46 pages. The senior author called the report released by PHS "boiled down" and "misleading."

Bass concluded that we are dealing with a policy vacuum in regard to information collection and dissemination by the government, and that policy development is needed as much as defensive activity by those interested in protecting access. He cited the two main principles that should form the basis of policy in this area: 1) the public has a right to information it needs to make informed personal, social, and political decisions, and 2) the government has an active responsibility to make information available and accessible to the public. He stressed that this is a long-term problem — one that cannot be blamed totally on the Reagan Administration. Solutions must also be long-term.

A second resource person was David Cohen, Co-Director of the Advocacy Institute (AI) in Washington, D.C., an organization that trains non-profits in lobbying and strategic planning. With support from the Field Foundation, AI has been involved in building a coalition of groups interested in protecting The Right to Know.

Cohen reported that a broad-based "Committee of Correspondence" has been created, consisting of civil liberties, environmental, and peace groups, among others, to share information about information access problems and to develop shared strategies for addressing them. Over 50 national and local organizations are already involved.

The goals of the Committee are to increase public understanding of the widespread problem of information access, and to develop policy recommendations for the

future. One immediate goal is to prepare a briefing book for federal, state, and local candidates on the issue so that the topic of information access can be injected into the current 1988 campaign. He pointed out that this is a good issue for the campaigns since it cuts across class, ideological, party lines. Cohen stated that there are unusual opportunities here for developing unexpected ad hoc alliances. He stressed the need to work on this issue locally and regionally so that policies protecting information can be adopted at all levels of government.

However, Cohen agreed with Bass's earlier statement that the elections are just the first step toward reducing government's deeply ingrained habits of secrecy. What has to be changed is a natural tendency of government to restrict access to public information. The public will need to be educated about their rights and responsibilities in regard to information access. This will involve education of the media about the issues, which are actually very close to their own interests.

During the discussion that followed, several people made the point that this is a huge, somewhat abstract issue that is hard for groups that focus on single issues (peace, toxics, the aging, etc.) to understand and mobilize around. Groups are already working on getting the candidates to address these other issues, and won't be able to divert resources to making the case for protecting access to information.

Both speakers acknowledged the problem, but stated that it is far from insurmountable. One purpose of the Committee of Correspondence is to alert groups to problems that will affect their ability to get the information they need, thus enabling them to act. Without access to needed information, the groups won't be able to make headway on the other issues they care about.

Caribbean Basin (continued)

zabeth Linder, Ben Linder's mother, addressed the joint audience. Mr. Vega spoke with optimism about the emerging peace process in Central America. He also noted that the tens of thousands of U.S. citizens who have visited Nicaragua have helped counter the false images spread by the U.S. government. And even more important, he said, are the more than two thousand Americans who have given many years and their time and lent their skills to support the Nicaraguan revolution. One, Ben Lin-

der, even gave his life.

CBWG participants were left with the impression that although the Central Amer-

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ican movement in the United States may have won a few battles, the terms of the war are changing. American soldiers were not sent to fight the Sandinista government, but the war against progressive forces in the region has been and will continue to be waged in the Op-Ed pages of American newspapers, by U.S. foreign assistance, through IMF and World Bank structural adjustment, and through low-intensity conflict. It is up to us as funders to maintain our support and broaden our horizons.

NATIONAL NETWORK OF GRANTMAKERS

Members of the Management Committee

CO-CONVENORS:	Sasha Hohri MS Foundation, New York Paulette Walther Rockefeller Family & Associates, New York	FINANCE:	Bob Nicklaus Youth Project, Washington, D.C.
COMMUNICATIONS:	Erica Hunt New World Foundation, New York Mindy M. Lewis Cummins Engine Foundation, Indiana Barbara Portec Bert and Mary Meyer Foundation Florida	LIASON/NOMINATION:	Jean Entine Boston Foundation, Massachusetts Dana Alston Pennsylvania Black United Fund, Washington, D.C.
CONFERENCE:	Michael Marcus Villers Foundation, Massachusetts Cynthia White Self Development of People, New York	MEMBERSHIP:	Cynthia Schuman Rockefeller Family Fund, New York Yusef Mgeni Northwest Area Foundation, Minnesota
		PROGRAM:	June Makela Funding Exchange, New York James Garret Capp Street Foundation, California

**Yes,
I want to
be a
member.**

Yes, I want to be a member of the National Network of Grantmakers.
Enclosed is my check, payable to the National Network of Grantmakers, for:
☐ \$25 (Regular membership) ☐ \$100 (Sustaining membership).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Grantmaking Organization/Affiliation _____

The following items are most descriptive of the grantmaking organization with which I am associated and my role within that organization:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Philanthropist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Giving Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Giving Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Grantmakers Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Grantmaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) | Program | Program |

Send to: **The National Network of Grantmakers**
2000 "P" Street N.W., Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20036

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... to Council on Foundations Meeting in Los Angeles

Tuesday, April 26, 1988, at the Council On Foundations Los Angeles meeting, NNG will host an exciting evening of entertainment with the group, SABIA. This folk ensemble of four, offers an unprecedented blend of music from Latin America, Africa, the U.S. and the Caribbean as they electrify the audience with folk, reggae, zydeco, salsa and African music.

Plan now to join NNG at 9:00 P.M. on April 26 in Los Angeles. Admission is free and a cash bar will be set up.

... to Annual Meeting in Montreal

The next annual conference of the National Network of Grantmakers will be held November 16-19, 1988 at Le Nouvel Hotel in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The conference theme, "A Vision of the Future: Who will be Living in that Vision" was chosen at a Management Committee meeting on December 14, 1987 in New York. The conference will focus on youth.

Montreal is very accessible from any U.S. city. In fact, it is probably easier to get to Montreal from N.Y., Boston or D.C. than many places in the U.S. Montreal offers an opportunity for NNG to expand both its horizons and its access to an array of international guests. Efforts are now underway to include Cuban youth and South African resistance leaders. In either case, entrance into Canada, and travel to Montreal is far simpler than anywhere in the U.S.

In addition, we're now in the process of tracking down Canadian funders who may be interested in participating in NNG.

Plans are now underway to offer one and two-day trips to the Laurentian Mountains and Quebec City following the conference.

The 1988 NNG Conference promises to be a unique and exciting event, our first international and urban gathering. Watch for further conference details in future newsletters.



(From left to right) — Dagmar Thorpe, Sasha Hohri, and Dave Bockman of NNG's 1987 Management Committee; Sasha Hohri will continue in '88 as one of NNG's co-convenors.

Major Tax Law Changes Affect Non-Profit Advocates

According to the **Advocacy Institute**, the Budget Reconciliation Bill passed in the closing days of the last session of Congress contained significant restrictions regarding non-profits' lobbying and political activities. Known as the Pickle bill, after its sponsor Rep. Jake Pickle (D-TX), the legislation states the following:

- * After February 1, 1988, fundraising solicitations by non-501(c)(3) organizations must contain clear language indicating that contributions are not tax deductible. The only exceptions are in-person solicitations that are not accompanied by written material, and mail or phone solicitations to fewer than ten people.
- * Officers and directors of 501(c)(3)s could face personal liability if they knowingly approve expenditures that violate lobbying or political activity restrictions.

- * 501(c)(3) organizations that are affiliated

with 501(c)(4) social welfare lobbying organizations must provide information to the IRS on the organizations' relationship to one another and any financial transfers.

- * Expenditures for 501(c)(3) organizations that are formed primarily to promote the candidacy or prospective candidacy of an individual are now considered political expenditures.
- * All exempt organizations are required to let the public inspect their 990 forms.

For more information on how this law might affect your organization or grantees, contact Independent Sector for a layperson's guide to the new law (send \$2.50, or \$1.75 if you are an IS member to Independent Sector, 1828 L St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036), or call Tom Asher, Esq. (202-452-1520).

Personal Notes: A Time Of Sharing

by Kip Tiernan and Fran Froehlich
Poor People's United Fund

As a couple of new kids on the block, we were grateful for the opportunity to attend the latest conference — to meet with other funders and to hear what others are doing to help alleviate the suffering in their areas. It was also an important aspect of the conference for us to hear “the critical voice” — the voices of people like Mrs. Linder, Sloan Coffin, Jeremy Rifkin, and our old friend Amata Miller, and others..

The critical voice is seldom heard we feel, in the midst of increasing cries of the poor and other disenfranchised, and there is a need, we think, for the philanthropic community to hear and act on these voices.

There are many domestic catastrophies and the reasons are many, but surely the current administration has done much to create homelessness, hunger, and diminished citizen access to goods and services. This role of philanthropy, it seems to us, is to enhance the quality of life but for the past decade or so the philanthropic community has had to provide grants to maintain basic services and to fill in the functions government has abdicated. Consequently we feel it is hard for the philanthropic community to avoid being instruments of the technocratic containment of vulnerable populations.

Foundations, out of generosity and tradition have had their buttons pushed by an administration that contributed to the institutionalization of serious urban problems. Government funding for death squads in other parts of the world has forced the private sector into providing safety nets, and has, we think, limited the role of philanthropy which should be to fuel social change.

The role of philanthropy it seems to us is to scrutinize the times carefully and to analyze the data, but the times do not allow that and philanthropy must settle for “site visits” to determine the value of a prospective recipient. While this is surely part of the job, it should not become the bottom line for funding.

When, for instance, you hear Dolores Huerta of the Farmworkers, and Mrs. Linder, it is almost in the same voice, seeking the same solutions. We (the Poor People's United Fund) have historically tried to help alleviate the suffering as we tried to help eliminate some of the causes for the suffering. But by continuing to offer the critical voice — the voice that demands solutions, we certainly are not winning many popularity contests! However, we see this as an important function. We also believe that the role of philanthropy must be played out in a much larger theatre.

The lives of people have been placed in the hands of a traditionally compassionate community and this community must begin to make distinctions between charity and

justice. We saw some of that happening in Portland, Oregon, and we look to even more hopeful signs in the future. It is the only future any of us has and we must work together toward that end.

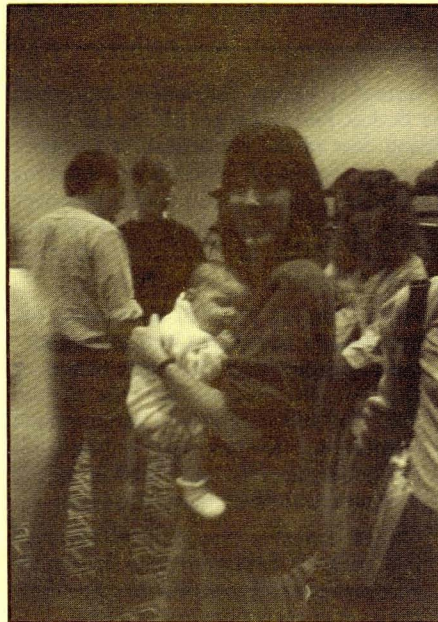
by Susan Kinoy
Villers Foundation

Leaving the NNG Management Committee after four years, I look back with pride and amazement. How astonishing that a small, voluntary organization of very busy people has had so great an impact on our professional lives and on the foundation world.

Each of us feels alone as we make recommendations about funding or rejecting funding for a group, knowing full well what our decisions mean for a struggling organization. NNG has provided me with a network of trusted colleagues who give me consultation as I crisscross the country making these painful funding decisions.

And think back to the remarkable meeting we held at the time of the Washington, D.C. Council on Foundations Conference, where about 150 grantmakers were addressed by leaders of civil disobedience groups — the South African anti-apartheid movement; the struggle to prevent the loss of family farms; the pledge of resistance against increased military involvement in Central America; and the provision of sanctuary to undocumented persons. And, at the same time, a huge picket line to protest apartheid at the South African Embassy ended with the arrest of 13 of our members.

How wonderful that last year, at the Council on Foundations Conference, instead of competing for time with the Association



“A Time of Sharing” — Cynthia Guyer and NNG's youngest member, Cynthia's daughter, Sarah Alexandra Malachowski.

of Black Foundation Executives, we co-sponsored a meeting with them on the black family, the resurgence of racism in the United States, and a report on South Africa.

Our own conferences get better and better. The quality and dynamism of the Oregon meeting (reported in this issue of our newsletter) was breathtaking.

The members of each year's Management Committee and subcommittees are the unsung heroes who corral membership, keep the books, write the newsletters, edit the Grantseeker's Guide, and plan the events that make NNG such a vibrant organization. My respect and thanks to all past, present, and future Management Committee members.

Finally, on a personal level, thank you, NNG, for making me, a person who always thought of herself as an organizer, feel part of the foundation world — a world filled with men and women of courage and deep convictions, with whom I have developed wonderful new friendships.

And two post-scripts: First, all of us — NNG Management Committee retirees or graduates — don't want to be put out to pasture. We are anxious to give a hand, offer advice, or to be included whenever we're needed. Second, because of you, my NNG colleagues across the country, are so extraordinary, I urge you to call the new Management Committee and volunteer to help out. The rewards will be great.

by Kathy Acey, Astrea Foundation
and Jean Entine, Boston Foundation

In 1987 the Management Committee developed an affirmative action policy to serve as a goal in the future recruitment of members to the committee. This policy states that “to the extent possible the Committee should have equal representation by race and gender and should include members with different sexual preferences and from different ethnic backgrounds. At no time should over half of the Board be white. Type and size of foundation as well as geographic distribution should be factors in Board selection.”

The newly elected committee is comprised of an array of talented, committed, activist funders from six states and the District of Columbia. While this Committee meets the goal of being comprised of at least half people of color it falls short of the affirmative action policy in several significant aspects. There are no Latino or Native American members and no representation from the gay and lesbian working group. With four men and ten women, six of whom are from New York City, the Committee is neither evenly balanced by gender, nor geography. These omissions are regrettable and indicate that indeed our work has just begun.