

NETWORK NEWS

NNG South Africa Tour Journal

NNG and the Funding Exchange co-sponsored a funders tour of South Africa March 14-28. Funding Exchange donors and NNG members visited community-based projects, met with representatives of the post-apartheid government, and got a strong sense of the culture of the new South Africa during their two weeks in the country. Please see photos of the tour on page 3.

Monday March 16

Yesterday, we arrived in Johannesburg! It was exciting getting off the plane and being greeted by a team of Blacks welcoming us to Jo'burg. Of course being at the airport was like being at any other international airport. Although I thought our process went smoothly. The most touching experience for me was arriving at the hotel and being greeted by the doorman. He looked at me and said, "Welcome to your roots!" For me part of this trip is about coming to the "Motherland" of my slave ancestors. My reality is that I don't know where my ancestors came from; however, being here is enough for me. I've come with an open heart and mind and to honor my emotions and experiences.

Joan Garner

Monday March 16

We have just met with staff at the Southern Metropolitan Local Council in J'burg - and are now en route to Soweto. The head of the SMLG Legal Services told me that he had worked for the old J'burg City government under apartheid, as had most of the attorneys presently on staff. When I asked if the attorneys were committed to the transitional government, he smiled and said, "They serve the administration regardless of politics." I bet, I said.

Angela Wessels



NNG/Funding Exchange members in South Africa

Tuesday March 17

Our second full day in Johannesburg dealt with serious business: women's health, technical assistance (alternative meeting), the judiciary, South African philanthropy, and the arts.

Many of us took advantage of proximity and a clear, blue sky to walk (!) from the Constitutional Courts to the Park Roman Hotel for lunch.

Gloria M.

Tuesday March 17

What an incredible day yesterday - a personal highlight had to be having Hugh Masakela refer to us as "mishpochah" (Yiddish for family)...even though he said about our schedule: "oi veh - your schedule is so square!"

Shelley Mains

PS Just another lasting impression about the changing role of NGOs vis-a-vis the government in the new South Africa. Barbara Klugman at the Women's Health Project talked about the evolution of their logo from a banner surrounded by many different women to, more recently, a small, modest banner - because they were told the older logo was "too activist," so it's "shrinking & shrinking."

Wednesday March 18

We've just visited Orange Farm + the microenterprises - The size (over 2 million people) is hard to fathom. The people are extremely friendly and helpful as when our bus got stuck in the muddy open sewer + the community helped us push, or rather did the larger part of the pushing. Our next stop is Sharpeville and the scene of the massacre which is commemorated on its anniversary as Human Rights Day + is a national holiday - happening this Saturday. In the community, the needs are overwhelming but we did see some new housing, power lines, electric poles which people can hook up for a fee.

Nancy Myers

Wednesday March 18

Just left the start-up training center where local craftspeople displayed their crafts. Lovely handmade quilts, boxes + woodworking. I felt badly that we didn't have time to have tea with them - they set a lovely table. I was constantly struck by the warmth + helpfulness of the people. The optimism + hope is infectious.

Nancy Cunningham

Mark the dates on your calendar, and come to the 1998 National Conference of the National Network of Grantmakers (NNG). "Putting the Pieces Together: Social Change Philanthropy for Today and Tomorrow," will take place September 24-26, 1998 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Plymouth, Minn., just outside the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul. See back page for more information.

Continued on page 7

Letter from the Acting Executive Director

By Joan P. Garner

Greetings! It's been over a year since I joined the staff of the National Network of Grantmakers as Associate Director, and a lot has happened in such a short period. It gives me pleasure to share this newsletter with you, which highlights our recent tour to South Africa, March 14-28. The tour was co-sponsored with the Funding Exchange, and proved to be educational, exhilarating, adventurous, resourceful, and fun. I'm grateful to those who journeyed with us and made contributions to this issue. Also featured is an article by Cora Weiss, President of the Samuel Rubin Foundation, who also made a recent journey to South Africa.

As a brief sidebar, many of you know that Terry Odendahl, NNG's Executive Director, began a well-deserved sabbatical April 6, and will return to work July 6, 1998. We wish her well. As Acting Executive Director until July, I will continue to work from my office in Atlanta. Gerard Holmes and Abby Polin are holding down the San Diego office during this time. I encourage you to attend several upcoming NNG conferences: the Donor Organizers Network (DON) conference will be held July 22-24 in San Diego, and the National Conference September 24-26 in Plymouth, Minnesota (outside Minneapolis/St. Paul).

This trip to South Africa was reflective of the values of NNG in the commitment to move more money into social and economic justice issues and as a collaboration with FEX. Mary Tiseo of South Africa Partners worked with Marcia Gallo of FEX and me to help plan and coordinate our tour. Sharon Gelman of Artists for a New South Africa assisted Mary with on site visits and logistics. Because of their experience in South Africa, our tour was enriched with a familiarity that is often lost when traveling to a distant place.

In planning the tour, both Marcia and I wanted it to reflect NNG and FEX values. We didn't want just another tour, so Funding Exchange asked its members to each donate \$5,000 to a grantmaking pool that would be awarded immediately to groups we visited. A total of \$65,000 was contributed. NNG asked its members to provide assistance to groups seeking additional funding, and to act as contacts back in the States, to make referrals after the trip.

There were 27 people in our delegation. We were a diverse group, comprised of individual donors, representatives of funding institutions and affiliated groups, and anti-apartheid activists and supporters.

It would be difficult to capture here the true essence and complexity of South Africa and what I learned and felt throughout my visit. In many ways, it was a bittersweet experience. There are millions of Blacks living on barren land in shantytowns with little or no running water or electricity. Unemployment is high, as is crime and domestic violence, and the budget for education has been slashed, eliminating some 400 teachers. These are just a few of the lingering effects of apartheid. Yet, we met with so many people, from community organizers to public officials, who seem hopeful for a new society. Most realize that 400 years of apartheid will not be eradicated overnight. Our delegation was welcomed and treated as dignitaries everywhere we traveled.

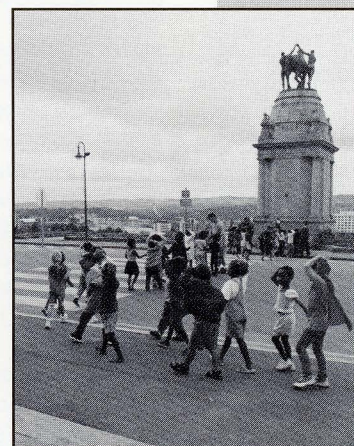
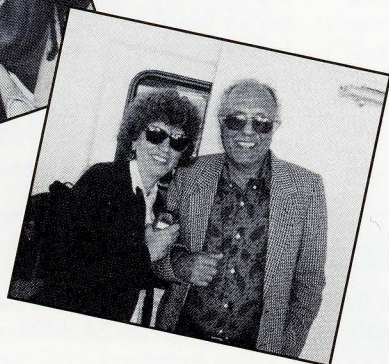
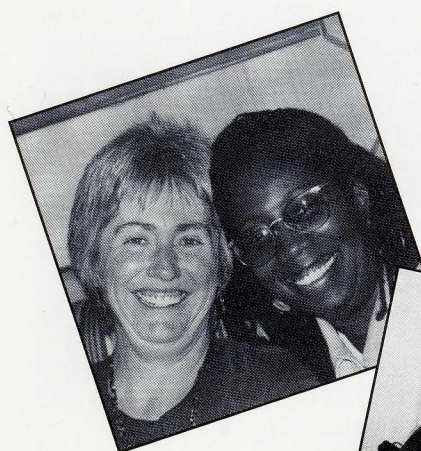
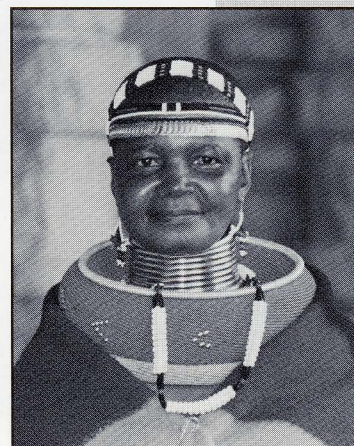
Our schedule was packed. We visited more than forty-five community projects, non-governmental (nonprofit) organizations and cultural groups. The itinerary included visits to Johannesburg, East London, Port Elizabeth, and Cape Town.

We spent several days in Johannesburg and visited several surrounding townships, including Sharpeville, where a massacre occurred in the 1960s killing sixty-nine Africans and wounding more than four hundred people. Most impressive was our meeting with the young dynamic Black woman Mayor of Soweto. She described the progress that has been made since 1994, ranging from job and skill training to counter the 30 percent unemployment, to the 18 percent growth of women in the City Council. People are taking hold of their communities and making positive changes.

Visiting the Eastern Cape was one of my favorite parts of the trip. Surrounded by vast mountainsides and valleys, hundreds of townships sprinkled the countryside. We visited the renowned Fort Hare University in Alice, where Nelson Mandela and other African leaders were educated. There we toured the African National Congress (ANC) archives and met with a women's micro-enterprise project. Later we visited the grave of Steven Biko. Here in the Eastern Cape, we also met with the Eastern Cape NGO Coalition, which was formed in 1995 to represent the Northeast, Central, and Middle regions of the province. Its primary aims are to foster involvement in policy and development plans, build the capacity of its membership, and share information among members.

Cape Town was stunning, nestled in the shadows of Table Mountain. Most memorable was the morning we spent touring Robben Island with Ahmed Kathrada, an ex-political prisoner who spent eighteen years in prison with Nelson Mandela. It was an honor to spend time with Mr. Kathrada, an extraordinary person. While visiting several neighboring townships, we met with Ilitha Labantu, a domestic violence program in Guguletu Township and a grantee of Public Welfare Foundation. The group offers counseling support groups and emergency shelter for abused women and their children. Also while in Cape Town, our delegation had an opportunity to meet with U.S. Ambassador James Joseph.

The issues facing South Africa are in many ways similar to the issues facing us in the United States and other countries around the world. And yes, our local issues have an impact on the global economy. South Africa is at the forefront of creating change. I know that many of you already support the work going on in South Africa, and I urge you to continue. "Freedom has always been an expensive thing," said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We cannot afford to ignore South Africa at this time in history. Their struggles mirror our struggles and we can learn from their progress.



Interview with Donor/NNG Board Member Alan Rabinowitz

by Isabel Olivera-Morales

Born in New York City, NNG board member Alan Rabinowitz says he came to consciousness during the New Deal. His attitudes were initially shaped by his parents and institutions like the "progressive" Lincoln School of Columbia University's Teachers College, which he attended as a child. His mother came from a family of Illinois Republicans, but she was a Democrat. Her family was well-to-do in the 1890s but had lost all their money by World War I. His father, a Republican, immigrated to New York's Lower East Side from the Ukraine in 1884 and was mentored by Lillian D. Wald, a social reformer and founder of the Henry Street Settlement House and the Visiting Nurse Service.

Alan's education included a B.A. from Yale, an M.B.A. from Harvard, and, many years later, a Ph.D. in city and regional planning from MIT. His career includes being a navy officer in the early 1950s, working in finance, real estate, and economic development consulting during the 1950s and 1960s. Eventually, in 1971, he joined the faculty of the University of Washington, where he stayed for 15 years, teaching housing and state-local finance. In 1986, he gave up his professorship and has spent his time in community economic development consulting, in writing, and in exploring the world of "social change philanthropy."

Alan and his wife Andrea, a child therapist and expert in the education of young children, have been married since 1951, despite her reluctance to marry someone in high finance. "You have to live and do what you really believe in," she said. Andrea's Quaker heritage and belief in social justice have been important to their mutual interest in working with (and helping fund) community organizations working to empower low-income and minority groups. Their philanthropic activism dates back to the 1950s, but he was never able to convince the board of his father's not-very-big foundation to fund such organizations.

The world of philanthropy changed dramatically in the late 1960s, partly as a result of the activism that swirled around the civil rights

and Great Society programs, on the one hand, and anti-Vietnam protests, on the other. The Tax Act of 1969 was the first to define the difference between private and public foundations and to prohibit the locking-up of productive assets in foundations. The Tax Act of 1969 distinguished between what was tax-exempt and what wasn't, and foundations were required to give at least 5% of their assets to philanthropic causes.

The 1970s saw the growth of public foundations like the Youth Project, the foundations that created the Funding Exchange, and the Northwest's A Territory Resource, which Alan and Andrea joined in 1979, a year after it was founded. When they joined, there were about 10 donors; today there are 200. Alan was the founding chairperson of the Western States Center. Alan and Andrea are also members of the Threshold Foundation. In addition, he sits on the board of Cascadia Revolving Fund, a leading community economic development fund for women and people of color going into business for themselves, and is a major fundraiser for the Washington State Chapter of the ACLU. Since the late 1980s, Alan has served as chief advisor for the Pequot Fund of the Tides Foundation, and as a trustee of a small family foundation (operated in the company of his wife, four children, their spouses and offspring) with a focus on children, health, and environmental justice.

Alan joined NNG in 1986 and served as its treasurer from 1989-1996. He co-chaired the Strategic Planning Committee of NNG with Miyoko Oshima in 1996, which has set the course for the next five years of NNG, with the thrust of moving money to social change. He is currently on the Board and chair of the NNG's new Action Research Committee. In 1990, encouraged by David Hunter, Executive Director of the Stern Fund, Alan wrote *Social Change Philanthropy in America*, the first systematic look at the organizations and people who had been inspired by the likes of David Hunter and by *Robin Hood Was Right*. Alan continues to encourage people's interest in progressive philanthropy, saying and writing such things as, "There should be more social change giving... there is lots of work to be done... grantees and funders should be able to work and communicate together... foundations should be able to communicate with each other more freely... people should work together to create a community of progressive funders," and lastly, "NNG should be the place where people enjoy being in this field and can learn to be effective voices for social change philanthropy." ■

Attention! Come to a Great Conference!

The Donor Organizers' Network's **Reaching Out to New Donors for a Just, Caring, and Sustainable Future: High Tech, Donors of Color, Lesbian and Gay, and Youth**, will be held July 22 - July 24, 1998 at the Island Palms Hotel & Marina, San Diego, CA.

The purpose of this conference is to learn how to help empower donors to become allies in the larger goal of creating a just, caring, and sustainable future. We will focus particularly on four constituencies (all with tremendous variations among them) including donors from the world of high technology, donors of color, young donors, and gay and lesbian donors. The aim is for donor activists, donor organizers, development and executive directors to learn from one another about how to raise consciousness and increase activism among people with wealth.

Workshops include:

1. Developing Strategic Giving Plans
2. Donor Advised Funds and Donor Circles
3. Exploring the Emotional Dimensions of Doing Donor Organizing

Registration is \$350. For more information please call DON Coordinator, Jennifer Ladd, at 413-585-9709 or e-mail her at jladd@igc.org. To register, send a check for \$350 to NNG with the memo: DON conference. Space is limited to 50. DON aims to serve and increase the number of people and organizations helping individuals with wealth become partners in progressive social change through increased giving, volunteerism, and activism.

Giving Globally Is Helping Locally

by Cora Weiss, President
Samuel Rubin Foundation

The scene was a church basement on Small Street Mall, or "muggers capital." It was, by President Mandela's own reckoning, the most violent street in Johannesburg. The children, from ages 2-6, were in nursery school and the subject was guns. Joseph Dube had been working with the staff to develop a program on gun consciousness. The children drew pictures of guns and one by one they stood up and told the story of their drawing. They have all heard gunshots, some have seen family or friends gunned down, others have known their father's car was hijacked. Violence and guns were part of their short histories and they were now engaged in declaring their nursery school a gun-free zone. They wore little stickers with "Gun Free" painted on them, taking the issue home with them. What if Jonesboro, Ark., schools had gun-free lessons?

Dube also holds workshops with teenagers and has developed a "buy-back" program where kids "sell" their guns, but the money is given to their community development program and the teen is invited to sit on the decision-making committee. Might that technique work in our inner cities?

Gun Free South Africa is one of the grantees of the Samuel Rubin Foundation that we visited during a two-week trip which also brought us together at a roundtable discussion sponsored by the New England Circle on child soldiers with Graca Machel and her partner, Madiba Mandela.

International grantmaking levels are up, according to a study of US foundation trends from 1990-94. But the study is so old, by today's high-tech standards, that it really doesn't tell the whole current story. With the extraordinary rise in the stock market, with so many new funders on the scene, with greater travel to countries in transition, and with less anxiety about giving directly, I would imagine, without doing a scientific study, that the 1998 picture is even better.

The Foundation Center study, in cooperation with the Council on Foundations, highlights giving by the largest foundations, which have traditionally put money into supporting emerging civil society abroad, educational and cultural institutions.

The study serves to demystify grantmaking abroad, showing the various ways it can be done. 821 foundations giving \$10,000 or more to overseas recipients (which may mean grantees in the US doing work abroad) were studied. International grants represent about 11.5% of all giving by foundations, up 18% since 1990, a total of nearly \$680 million, with a majority of funding going to Latin America, but that was 1994. Why it took so long to be reported, we don't know. Those queried were the largest foundations. The increase matched the growth rate for all funding.

Prediction of future trends indicates that funding for international programs will either remain the same or increase, with mid-sized and smaller funders expressing increased interest because of "increasing interdependence and declining differentiation between 'domestic' and 'international' issues." Areas of interest include support for civil society, for reproductive health,

education, security, ethnic conflict resolution, and philanthropic organizing. To order *International Grantmaking: A Report on US Foundation Trends*, contact The Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003-3075, or 1-800-424-9836. \$50, plus \$4.50 for shipping. Find it on the Web at <http://fdncenter.org/book>.

Why should progressive funders consider grantmaking abroad? Look around you. What are you wearing, where was it made? Where was your TV, VCR, watch, laptop, or microwave made? What happened to your stock portfolio when the Asian market crashed? What happened to the whole world when the Berlin wall was pushed down and the cold war ended? Our shrinking planet is spinning with all of us on board, and the rivers that dry up in one country, or the strife that breaks out in another, or the unemployment and poverty in a third, all impact on neighboring countries. We don't live alone, and increasingly we depend on and appreciate international agencies and organizations, including the United Nations, to help keep order and prevent conflict.

Gun buy-back programs haven't worked in this country, but perhaps the ideas brought back from South Africa might be applied here. Perhaps we can learn from our neighbors.

From May 11-16, 1999, there will be an end of the century conference to consider the abolition of war and the launch of a culture of peace for the next century. The Hague Appeal for Peace will attract 10,000 people from around the world to consider the root causes of war, disarmament, humanitarian laws and institutions, and conflict prevention and resolution, so that we might live in the 21st Century with a new way of thinking and doing. After all, how did slavery, colonialism, and apartheid become delegitimized and ultimately largely erased from society? The conference in The Hague requires funding both in the US to organize and mobilize people here, especially youth, and funding abroad to enable people from developing countries to come to The Hague, so that on returning home, policies will be impacted on the local, national, and regional levels simultaneously around the world. Who would say no to the end of war? For further information: Hague Appeal for Peace, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, fax 212-599-1332, e-mail hap99@igc.apc.org. ■

Mapping a Path for Evaluation

Evaluation - funders want it, staff need it, and programs deserve it. Yet, for many nonprofits, especially newer and smaller agencies, knowing where to begin can be difficult. Newly available from Girl's Best Friend Foundation in Chicago, is *Mapping a Path for Evaluation*, a practical, easy-to-use planning guide which demystifies evaluation and offers simple, step-by-step guidance.

Produced by Girl's Best Friend Foundation in collaboration with the University of Illinois' Center for Research on Women and Gender, this 32-page, down-to-earth booklet uses the evaluation of programs for girls to lay out the basic principles, practices, and benefits of evaluation to any nonprofit organization.

To order at \$12/copy (discounts for multiple copies), call Girl's Best Friend Foundation at 312-266-2842, or e-mail gbf@ix.netcom.com



Donor Thank You's

Membership dues make up only 7% of NNG's budget. The financial support of individual members and grantmaking organizations make it possible for NNG (and the Donor Organizers Network, or DON) to meet its strategic goals. At its January meeting, for example, NNG's board of directors pledged more than \$12,000 in contributions.

Foundations assist NNG through grants and as Supporting Institutions. NNG's 41 Supporting Institutions provide at least \$1000 per year in financial support and publicly endorse the vision and mission of NNG. We would like to thank all of those who support NNG.

NNG supporters include:

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Wednesday March 18

How reassuring to see that the gay + lesbian community in the township is so well organized - a highlight was being "whisked" from the backyard patio into the house as food + drink were relocated hastily due to the Zulu wind which is rumored to blow from the dead warning everyone not to be outside!

Mary Powers

Thursday March 19

Afterglow from the incredible conviviality of last evening spent with gay, lesbian, bi, trans, and friends in KwaThema. About 25 of them cooking sausages, chicken, fish, beef on a grill, greeting us, sharing in their activism. What a feast of friendship!

We washed our hands and all ate with our fingers as we got to know our world family. With a "mailing list" of 200 members, the LGBT township members have coalesced into a diverse, supportive, activist group. They shared their histories of activism, their goals for the attainment of their civil rights, and amazed us with the real power of a dedicated few. We learned a lot. Addresses were exchanged and bridges built amidst our shared dreams of equal civil rights for all.

Kate O'Hanlon

Friday March 20

We had a brief but moving tour of the University at Ft. Hare, where Mandela and many other African leaders were educated. We had an excellent presentation from staff at the library and a tour of the ANC Archives. The library, and the Archives in particular, are in desperate need of funding for all phases of this project. We were clearly and directly asked to consider supporting this enormous endeavor and received a proposal to do same. Our second stop at Ft. Hare was a women's micro-enterprise: a training program for women from surrounding communities to develop and produce sewing projects. Women travel to/from Ft. Hare each day by Kombi to practice sewing skills and produce beautiful quilting, beading, garments and pillow cases. Best of all we were sung to and danced onto the bus after much buying, hugging, photographing, and laughing. We sang, "This Little Light of Mine." We are blessed. As we meet women, children, youth and men in communities and townships - eating, dancing, singing, talking, laughing, inquiring together - we are getting to know SA in a deeper way.

Leonie

Friday March 20

Last night was incredible. All I knew was that we were scheduled to have dinner with some government officials (not my idea of a good time!) I braced myself for an evening of bureaucratic small talk, but I couldn't have been more mistaken: from the time we were sung off the bus to the time we were sung back to the bus, we were treated to an amazing extravaganza of the warmest hospitality imaginable. This was a private farm in Berlin, outside East London. We were ushered into what

appeared to be a very large garage - cement floor and barren walls. But it had been transformed by our hosts and their friends into a room filled with music and dancing by young people (who entertained us all evening) and buffet tables full of traditional African food. There was an even longer table full of Xhosa crafts available for purchase. We were welcomed by the local politicians and their families and treated like long-lost friends. It was difficult to leave such good company. I heard myself, time after time, inviting our new friends to come to the US and allow us to return their hospitality. But, in fact, I'm not sure that we could ever match the warmth and the welcome extended to us by our new friends.

Alice Senturia

Tuesday March 24

Beginnings of 3 separate poems written in the night

I am missing my children
Searching within myself
We are here in South Africa
But could be home
The ocean is pounding
We are strangers

Disconnected
Tired of being told
How to be right
Wrong again
We are here
Disconnected
Disaffected
Politically Correct
Strangers

Politics brings us together
Assumptions keep us apart
Trust eludes us
Unless we speak
And hear
So as to change
Together

Terry Odendahl

Thursday March 26

On our way from meeting with Biehls and visiting (again, too too short) with some of the most adorable - beautiful children. Haven't even gotten to write in my own journal this week. I don't have the language to describe what this journey has meant to me - but I will eventually. Signing off.

?

This newsletter was prepared by NNG's Communications/Publications Committee: Diane Feeney, Co-Chair, Isabel Olivera-Morales, Co-Chair. Karen Byrne, Joan P. Garner, Peggy Law, Lisa Miller and Janna Steig. It was edited by Gerard Holmes. Jill Pittsford is our designer.

1998 NNG Conference

"Putting the Pieces Together" is innovative.

You'll find:

- A provocative panel with leading thinkers from inside and outside philanthropy
- "Learning clusters," where funders come together to work in-depth on issues, questions, and problems proposed by both funders and organizers.
- Skill-building sessions for new or experienced grantmakers
- Funder site visits to local and regional grassroots organizations
- Plenty of time to visit, network, catch up, chat, and, yes, gossip

Put the pieces together, you've got a terrific conference!

Keep an eye out for the conference brochure, to be mailed in July. ■

Want the scoop on what's going on at NNG?

Do your grantees need an easy way to get the Common Grant Application? Care for a comprehensive listing of progressive foundations on the web? NNG's web site - www.nng.org - has all this and more. Visit the site all this summer for updates on NNG's National Conference in the Twin Cities in September.

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