

T H E N E T W O R K

The National Network of Grantmakers

Spring, 1984

Vol. II, No. 1

Izatys Lodge Conference Keynote by Ruth Messinger Starting Now for the Long Haul

by Tricia Rubacky

Ruth Messinger, New York City Councilwoman and Board Member of The Youth Project, gave the keynote address to the Fourth Annual Meeting, and advised Network members to begin to work on concrete ways of addressing the country's serious economic problems.

In her speech Ms. Messinger reminded the group that Ronald Reagan is not the exclusive cause of the economic problems of the 1980's. In the past 20 years there has been a progressive collapse in the American economy, resulting in a greater concentration of corporate wealth and power. She believes that it is important to expose to the broader public the extent to which a visible hand is guiding the economy to take care of some people at the expense of others. Solutions to problems of distribution of wealth are not simple, and will require "long haul" efforts. She spoke to the need

for commitment to support those long haul efforts for as long as it takes for them to have an impact.

Using a project she founded in New York, The City Project, as an example, Ms. Messinger described ways citizens have increased their literacy on economic issues and have put that knowledge to work in identifying new ways New York City can generate revenue through corporate taxes and offer alternatives to the budget of the City. This project has enabled many citizen groups which had previously fought each other for limited city resources to work together and pose a serious alternative economic policy for New York.

Several specific suggestions were made to conference participants as to ways they could assist citizen activism around economic issues:

- continue to support grassroots efforts, especially leadership development.

- provide technical assistance to local organizations particularly in research, media, computers, and management.

- build on the best of what is already organized by supporting long-range planning for established groups.

- support public education through the media, a crucial tool which many organizations do not use effectively.

- support voter registration efforts.

Recognizing that the task ahead is an arduous one, Ms. Messinger closed her address with the parable of the lord of the manor who ordered that 1000 seeds for oak trees be planted to line the road leading to his castle. His caretaker protested, saying that it would take a hundred years to grow the trees the lord wanted. The lord of the manor replied, "well, in that case start this afternoon."

Five Plenaries Provide Backbone of Conference Plenary:

Militarizing the Economy

By Richard Magat

Hardly any corner of American life is not touched by military spending. As a result, public concern stretches far beyond men and women actively working to roll back defense spending and promote peace.

This theme emerged from a plenary session on "The Militarization of the Economy," moderated by Carolyn Guyer of the James C. Penney Foundation. The military buildup weakens the economy by exacerbating the national deficit, for example, said panelist Dr. Gordon Adams, director of the Defense Budget Project of the Center for the Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington. "It makes all other

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The Network Works!!!

The annual conference this year was a new high for the Network as an organization. We are reaching a maturity in probing issues, an intelligence in developing strategies, and a camaraderie in our mutual relationships.

Those attending felt a renewal of spirit and purpose: a regenerated realization of the injustice, inequality, and unfairness in our society; a new warmth and compassion for the fervor of The Movement as only a Holly Near concert could make us feel; a new feeling of forward movement together with an increased sense of confidence in our capabilities and of the rightness of our mission.

It was a magical meeting from which those who were able to attend will find strength and sustenance in the coming year. For those who were unable to attend, our feeling is that the Network shall repeat itself next year. The meeting was no fluke — it was the result of hard work by the dedicated members of the Network combined with an intelligent understanding of change. This year's meeting was painful in its depiction of where we are today, but it was hopeful in the realization that we know the job before us and that we are working to deal with the issues.

George Penick for
The Management Committee

NNG Business Meeting Focuses on the Future

by Jill Shellow

During the fourth annual meeting of the Network membership at Izatys Lodge, on the windy shores of Lake Mille Lacs in Minnesota, new co-convenors and committee chairs were elected and a new Management Committee constituted. The Management Committee of the Network is responsible for the operation and policy of the Network between meetings of the membership. It consists of the two co-convenors and each of the committee co-chairs who meet several times a year. All members were urged to volunteer to serve on Committees.

Following reports by each of the committees on their activities over the past year, a number of issues were discussed. One of the most vigorous discussions centered around the Network's position on membership of public foundations in the Council on Foundations. An Ad-hoc committee of the Network met following the business

meeting to discuss a strategy for presenting the Network's position that public foundations should be admitted to the Council as full voting members. The membership also discussed who among its members should be nominated by the Network to serve on the Council Board. George Penick and Susan Butler are coordinating the Network's nominations.

Members were urged to "brainstorm" about what they would like to see the Network accomplish in the next year and over the next five years both for Network members and for the grant-

making/grantseeking community at-large. Highlights of the short-term goals, and activities the management committee is pursuing, include: more outreach to potential members, efforts to make the Network revenues less dependent on the Fall meeting and more advance notice to the members of upcoming events. Long-term goals suggested included: development of a special projects fund, organized trips for funders, improving donor/donee relationships, and more coordinated (computerized?) information on the funding interests of Network members.

Follow-up:

Public Foundation Case Made to COF

by Patricia Hewitt

In an unprecedented presentation by an outside group, three representatives of the Network appeared on October 26, 1983, before the Full Board of Directors of the Council on Foundations to argue the NNG's position on Council membership for public foundations. Jenrose Felmley of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation, Patricia Hewitt of Joint Foundation Support and John Ruthrauff of the Philadelphia Foundation met with the Council Board as the first order of business at its meeting.

In addition to presenting a positive picture about the work of public foundations as grantmakers and their growing significance within organized philanthropy generally, Ms. Hewitt, speaking for the delegation presented several specific recommendations which were in contrast to the Council staff proposal put before the Board. The three major NNG positions were:

- 1) Public foundations be admitted as full voting members, rather than as associate members;
- 2) Any restriction on solicitation by members at Council functions be applied to all members, since public foundations are not the only founda-

tions which seek outside support for their programs; and

- 3) The suggested \$100,000 minimum in grants recommended for public foundations be lowered, since this minimum is not applied to other Council members.

These positions were outlined in a letter sent by NNG Co-Convenors Margaret Standish and George Penick to Council President Jim Joseph on May 16, 1983.

Council Board members questioned particularly the statement that other foundations solicit grants. This point was clarified by the delegation when several examples were given of community foundations raising money for projects under their sponsorship.

The Board's decision, made later in the day, was to grant associate membership to public foundations and to require that they make grants totaling at least \$100,000 annually. The Board agreed to drop the proposed pledge regarding solicitation, and in a subsequent letter to Pat Hewitt, Board member Charles Daly indicated that the Board's action was a direct result of the NNG presentation. Several other Board members reported that this was an excellent opportunity for the work and concerns of NNG members to become better known to the Council Board.

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The National Network of Grantmakers

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Plenary:

Disinvestment: Farms, Factories, Homes and Communities

By Billie Bramhall

Ann Kanten, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture in Minnesota and Dr. Howard Stanback, Assistant Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research and Coordinator of the Minorities Institute of the Center for Democratic Alternatives were the panelists for this plenary. The theme of their presentations centered on workers — whether they are farmers or plant employees — finding ways to take control of their jobs and their livelihoods, and regain their communities.

Helping farmers retain their farms is Ann Kanten's mission. She has been a farmer herself since the early 1950's and was part of the battle for the parity concept which was lost in 1952. She described how in one generation half the family farms in this country were

lost, victims of national policies that have reflected a belief that there are too many farmers. In recent years, those policies have resulted in farmers' costs far exceeding their income. To compound the problem, farmers, who have been able to borrow because of appreciation of their land, are losing their borrowing power as land value is deflating.

Kanten maintains that agriculture policy is conceived to be divisive, to pit farmer against farmer, labor against farmer, rural people against urban dwellers. What is needed instead is a program that 1) prices agriculture commodities to permit family farmers to survive; 2) requires producers of food to be responsible by not permitting them to overproduce, and 3) establishes a moratorium on debt, foreclosures,

and bankruptcies for farmers.

Dr. Stanback gave a description of the patterns of disinvestment and what could be done about them. Plant closings, which result from U.S. corporations' inability to prevent competition from other nations, are most often caused by one of the following: runaway shops, corporate buyouts or mergers, or bankruptcies (which account for the vast majority of plant closings). The impact of the fifteen year old crisis of plant closings is seen in a gross total of 320 million jobs lost, with the most severe loss of employment hitting areas where Black workers dominated the work force. Plant closings have caused a decline in firms that serve local markets, a decline in the tax base and a reduction in public services in the local areas.

A Prayer-song for the Common Ground

By Louis Alemayehu

Sunlight
came through my
window
this morning
throwing colors
on the wall
and I knew
a new
day
was dawning
bring peace
to
us all.
Each
in their own time
evolving
devine mind
something precious
to be found
many feet
on the common
ground.

© Sweet Thunder Productions, Minneapolis
Presented at Izatys Lodge, Oct. 1983

Plenary:

Central America: The Battle for Public Opinion

by Nancy Coster

"Central America: The Battle for Public Opinion" was moderated by John Ruthrauff. Patricia Hynds, a Maryknoll Lay Worker from the *Instituto Historico de Centro America*, Managua, Nicaragua was the first speaker. Pat related that since the Sandanista victory in 1979, the U.S. has exerted diplomatic and political pressure against the new government. Under the Reagan administration economic as well as military hostility has increased. The effects of this aggression in the whole region is the destruction of any germs of democracy, but it is Nicaragua in which the economic effects has been most striking. Coffee production has been interrupted. Schools and hospitals are not being built; projects are being halted due to the needs of defense; massacres are occurring and the U.S. has been supporting the Contras.

The second speaker, Guillermo de Paz, Founder and Director of *Comite El Salvador Libre*, Minneapolis, Minnesota since 1980, divides his work into two main areas. His task is directed toward politicizing Salvadorians and towards promoting a political solution

and a regional dialogue. Other concerns are to stop U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, to stop the military buildup in Honduras, and to work with other solidarity networks, churches and progressive groups.

Cindy Buhl, Human Rights Coordinator, Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, Washington D.C. gave a cogent analysis of the Reagan administration's policy in Central America. The military buildup is seen as moving toward a permanent presence, an attempt to provoke Nicaragua, and possibly partition Central America. Within the last year the Congress has become more knowledgeable and sophisticated about Central America with a hard core in the House of 100 and 30 to 35 in the Senate who are willing to challenge the Reagan administration. Ms. Buhl perceives more coordination and cooperation around Central America with a grassroots base than any other movement within the last 14 years. The major actors come from the following 5 sectors: religious, solidarity networks, established peace networks, trade unions and legal organizations.

Plenary:

The Politics of Health, Racism, Reproductive Rights, Agent Orange, and AIDS

By Michael S. Seltzer

Health issues have surfaced that are not yet able to attract adequate funding for education, service delivery, and advocacy programs. Unsurprisingly, these health problems affect minorities and other vulnerable constituencies in our society the greatest.

Four of these areas were highlighted in the Politics of Health Plenary. While we, of course, anticipated that linkages would be made by the different speakers, we were amazed that morning when speakers from Atlanta, Minneapolis, New York City and Washington, D.C. found their own hard-learned lessons mirrored in each other's stories.

On the other side of the speaker's table, the audience became increasingly attentive as each speaker told movingly and eloquently about the health issues seriously affecting their friends, neighbors and colleagues back home in day-to-day life.

John Terzano, Director of the Washington office of Vietnam Veterans of America, described the unwillingness of the Veterans Administration to recognize the damages that the chemical defoliant, Agent Orange, had inflicted on large numbers of Vietnam-era soldiers. The Vietnam Veterans of America have pursued a two-pronged strategy — litigation and research — to secure sufficient health care resources for Agent Orange victims.

Billye Avery, Project Director of the Black Women's Health Project of the National Women's Health Network, outlined the wide array of health problems of black women and their families. The statistics were startling. For example, high blood pressure is the number one killer in the Black community; one in four Blacks are hypertensive, leading to other ailments such as kidney disease and diabetes; and 27 out of every 1,000 Black babies die each year during the first year of life. Billye challenged the audience to grapple with the implications for our society of the state of health of her community. "A woman's womb is the microcosm of a society. The womb of

a low-income black woman represents the values of a society."

Dr. Patsy Parker, representing Reproductive Rights National Network, reminded us of the historic efforts conducted by women to secure the basic right to control their bodies. She spoke to the rights of children to child care, adequate nutrition, and freedom from sexual abuse, and the needs of teenagers for access to sex information, birth control, abortions, and their right to parenthood.

Tim Sweeney, Executive Director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, closed the program with a presentation on the AIDS epidemic and the resulting medical and civil rights crisis. Already 2300 cases from 43 states have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control, of which 968 are fatalities. While the medical aspects of this mysterious disease have received media attention, the discrimination that individuals with AIDS have encountered has barely been reported. Individuals have lost their jobs and even their housing, including some gay men not even suffering with this dreaded ailment.

As one of the speakers summarized at the end of the session, "we represent constituencies that have been pushed aside by our government, that have been victimized by our government, and we need to join together."

Plenary: New Constituencies to the Ballot Box

by Patricia Hewitt,

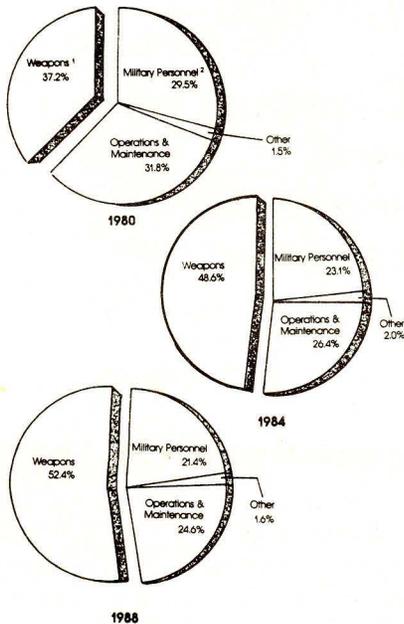
The concluding plenary, "New Constituencies to the Ballot Box," featured three speakers working with specific constituencies to ensure greater voter registration and participation in 1984.

The first speaker was Geraldine Thompson, Executive Director of the Voter Education Project, which covers 11 southern states. Ms. Thompson described VEP's work, which includes the development of local registration coalitions, research, conferences and workshops, and legal assistance. While recognizing that there has been significant progress in the number of Blacks elected to office in the South, Ms. Thompson cautioned that there are still



Holly Near and sign language artist, Susan Freundlich perform at intimate Thursday night concert.

WEAPONS V. READINESS
Where is the Defense Dollar Really Going?



1 Weapons includes research and development, procurement, military construction and nuclear warhead programs in the Department of Energy.
2 Military Personnel and retirement pay.
Based on February OMB data for budget authority for the national defense function. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Defense Budget Project, 236 Mass. Ave. NE, Suite 505, Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-9737

Media Presentations Support and Enlighten Conference Themes

by Terry Lawler and Kathy Kline

Central America, peace, reproductive rights, the environment and the economy were the subjects of the films and videotapes presented by The Film Fund.

"Nicaragua: Report from the Front," (32 min., 16mm. First Run Features), is a first-hand account of the U.S. trained and supported counter-revolutionaries and their attempt to overthrow the Sandinistas. Journalists Pamela Yates and Tom Sigel, the first journalists to film this secret war, traveled for weeks with both the Contras and the Sandinista Army. The film includes extensive interviews with Contras and those supporting the Sandinista, as well as Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, President Reagan and U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Completed only two weeks before the NNG Conference, this film was produced by Deborah Shaffer, Pamela Yates, and Glen Silber, and was funded by the Boehm Foundation, the de Minil Fund, the Samuel Rubin Foundation, the Harry Watchel Foundation, the Funding Exchange and individuals.

"La Operacion," (40 min., 16mm. Ana Maria Garcia), documents sterilization abuse in Puerto Rico, the country with the highest incidence of female sterilization in the world. The operation is so common in Puerto Rico that it is simply known as *la operacion*. The film reveals that often women are not told of the irreversible nature of *la operacion*, or of any alternative methods of birth control. The film also documents the role of U.S. colonial domination in generating and sustaining the oppression of Puerto Rican women. "La Operacion", completed in March 1983, was recently featured in the International Women's Film Festival in New York. It was produced and directed by Ana Maria Garcia, and funded by The Film Fund, the Funding Exchange, the Bread and Roses Fund, Vanguard, Northstar, The Playboy Foundation, the Fund for Tomorrow, the Eastman Fund, Joint Foundation Support — Women's Fund, the Gutfreund Foundation, and individuals.

"Secret Agent," (56 min., 16 mm.

First Run Features), is the first film to provide a comprehensive look at the history, effects and implications of the defoliant code-named Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. Using rare archival war footage in support of interviews with veterans, scientists, attorneys and representatives of the U.S. Air Force, the Veteran's Administration, and Dow Chemical, "Secret Agent" documents the history of chemical warfare and agricultural herbicides, the damage to the environment, and the plight of Vietnam veterans. "Secret Agent," produced by Jackie Ochs and Daniel Keller, premiered at the New York Film Festival and was funded by Ampex Corporation, Acra Foundation, the Film Fund, United Presbyterians and individuals.

"Strategic Trust: The Making of Nuclear Free Pelau," (60 min., 16mm.) was recipient of the first annual Marjorie Benton Peace Film Award. It chronicles the struggle of a tiny island nation to maintain the world's first nuclear free constitution despite economic and political pressures from the United States. The film details 30 years of Pelau's Trust territory status, examining the development of political, cultural and economic dependence on the United States. Because of Defense Department plans, the U.S. government forced four separate votes on the nuclear issue in the constitution, and on February 10, 1983, Pelauans for the fourth time, refused to give up the world's first nuclear-free constitution. The film links the courageous stand of Pelau with the growing worldwide movement for nuclear free zones. It is being produced and directed by Jim Heddle, and has been funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the School of the Pacific Islands, the Benton Foundation, HKH Foundation, Columbia Foundation, McDonald Foundation, The Playboy Foundation and individuals.

Also concerning peace issues, "Hostage at Hell's Bottom," (20 min. slide show, Packard Manse Media), examines the impact of the Pentagon and military spending on the economy. It

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ongoing attempts to dilute Black voters' strength through reapportionment and redistricting. She warned that as many as one million Black voters could be disenfranchised in the South in 1984.

The second speaker was Juan Andrade, Executive Director of the Midwest Voter Registration Education Project, which works in ten states to register Hispanic voters. Mr. Andrade pointed out that of the 150,000 elected public officials in the region, less than 50 are Hispanic. In order to improve this record, MVP has so far conducted 32 registration campaigns, and is engaged in ongoing research to target key areas of Hispanic voter strength.

The final speaker was Rosalie Whelan, Executive Director of the National Women's Education Fund and one of the founders of the new Women's Vote Project. Ms. Whelan described the plans of the Project, which is a coalition of 50 national organizations concerned with registering the 30 million unregistered women in this country. The other two speakers concurred with Ms. Whelan's conclusion that women would make strong allies with Blacks and Hispanics in 1984.

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documents the Pentagon's role in creating and sustaining inflation and the relationship of the defense industry to jobs and unemployment. It also deals with the local impact of defense spending in the Boston area. "Hostage at Hell's Bottom" was funded by individuals.

"The Business of America," (45 min., 16mm. California Newsreel), focuses on the steel industry located in Pittsburgh's Monongahela Valley, where employment in the mills has been slashed by 30 percent during the last decade. Interviews with local residents, laid-off steelworkers, union officials, and a local parish priest, reveal the human consequences of the decline of the steel industry. Produced by Larry Adelman and Larry Daressa, "The Business of America" is scheduled for completion in the next few months. Thus far, funding has been provided by the Youth Project, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and individuals.

"Dairy Queens," (30 min. videotape, Ellen Anthony and John de Graaf) was produced by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as part of the national series, "Matters of Life and Death". It tells the story of three women activist farmers. Ann Kanten, Alice Tripp and Patty Kakac are part of a growing group of farmers who are learning to organize and fight to preserve their way of life.

Ann joined the American Farm Movement and found herself leading meetings and protests. They went to the state capitol and to Washington, D.C. to express their frustration and anger.

Alice and others unsuccessfully fought the introduction of a high-power utility line which cut across her farm. In the process, she and others grew stronger, became more outspoken and pushed for legislative reform. Alice ran for governor of Minnesota and won a surprising 20% of the vote. She represented the family farmer at the Democratic National Convention.

Patty returned to the family farm. She found herself involved in the protest movement when she realized that her way of life was in danger. Working together each gained a sense of continuity and support with other activist women farmers.

Conference Energized By Packed Caucus Schedule

Caucus: Lesbian/Gay Issues

by Elizabeth Schneider

Growing out of the meeting of twenty people at the NNG Conference another meeting of fifteen people from New York City, Albany, D.C., Chicago, and San Francisco was held to continue to define the group's vision, set goals, review the history of funding to gay and lesbian groups, and to set strategies.

The group vision fell into four main areas; (1) increased technical assistance to lesbian/gay groups; (2) an increase in the financial resources and in the number of grants to the groups; (3) education of and advocacy to funders; and (4) personal support for members of the working group.

The group then discussed its goals for the next five years. These too broke down into four main categories: (1) strengthen 1/g groups; (2) impact the philanthropic community — increase funding of 1/g groups by foundations, corporations, individuals and government; (3) increase the visibility of the issue; and (4) gain equity in the personnel policies of foundations.

The experience of the Chicago Resource Center, the largest foundation funder of lesbian and gay projects, was presented. Working from their experience and that of the Technical Assistance Project to Lesbian and Gay Organizations (through the Fund for Human Dignity), as well as the experience of the North Star Fund, the group took the general goals decided upon earlier, decided what methods would be used to address the goals, determined a strategy to implement the method, set time-lines and assigned tasks.

The next meeting of the Working Group is tentatively set for Tuesday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to noon in Denver.

For further information, call Kathy Acey at the North Star Fund, (212) 460-5511.

Caucus: Voter Registration/ Education

By Don Hazen

The Ad Hoc Foundation Committee on Voter Registration/Education was formed in New York in Spring 1983 so that members could work together to generate more resources for national and regional voter registration efforts.

The first task of the Committee was to demystify some of the fears that foundations have about legal guidelines for supporting non-partisan voter registration. Both technical and non-technical legal memoranda were prepared by an attorney. The memos explain that it is perfectly appropriate for private foundations to support voter registration, and there are virtually no restrictions on community foundations' or public charities' support of voter registration.

The Committee conducted a survey of 200 foundations to assess their level of involvement and their attitudes about funding voter registration. Of the 90 questionnaires returned thus far, about one-third reported supporting voter registration/education activities in the past two years. According to preliminary research, the bulk of larger foundation grants were made to the major voter registration efforts, including: Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, Voter Education Project, Project Vote and Midwest Voter Registration/Education Project. More recently, the Human SERVE Fund, Women's Vote Project, and Citizen Leadership Foundation have also begun to receive some foundation support. The traditional civil rights groups who have long made voter registration a major focus, primarily the NAACP, also attract foundation support.

Caucus: Women's Issues

by Lori Cooper

The women's issues caucus, coordinated by Maya Miller, Lael Stegall and Tracy Gary, began with a "roll call" of participants to observe the relative proportion of funding for women and girls represented in the room. Out of \$76 million granted in the past year, \$5.7 million (7%) was directed to projects for women and girls, an increase over last year's caucus statistics.

Amidst exchange of strategies for issue identification, board presentations and stronger networks, a number of problems surfaced for discussion:

- We need to pay attention to the media image of women in contrast with the reality of the feminization of poverty. As funders, we must continually monitor the yardsticks we have been using to measure women's gains.
- We need to identify women's issues in the larger context of "social issues affecting women and their families" (e.g. housing, jobs, nuclear power issues).
- We need to strengthen funding projects specifically for third world women as well as funding participation of third world women within established women's organizations.
- We must continue to fund defensively as well as offensively — in spite of the great frustration of working on the preservation of rights women should already have that detract resources from what is needed *now*.

Several suggestions were made to engender greater response of board members to women's issues, including increasing representation of women and minorities on the board, and incorporating a sensitivity to women's needs within the focus area of the board. Also, board members must be educated to recognize the institutional reasons women lack economic security, and therefore the power to create change.

Much excitement was generated over a proposed funder tour of projects funded by members of the caucus. In

Caucus: The Jewish Fund for Justice

by Si Kahn

The Jewish Fund for Justice is a new philanthropic resource for Jewish social activism and community involvement, whose aim is to give modern application and meaning to the Jewish tradition of seeking a just society. The idea of the Fund came from Jewish leaders of organizations engaged in citizen action, community development, Jewish communal service and progressive philanthropy. The Fund will act as a catalyst to increase individual involvement and institutional support for those organizations addressing poverty, seeking to empower low-income constituencies, and working to assure that disenfranchised Americans enjoy full participation and reap the benefits of American life.

The Jewish Fund for Justice has as its goals: (1) to provide grants to organizations engaged in democratic approaches to addressing the root causes of poverty and disenfranchisement in the U.S., focusing on those Jewish and non-Jewish organizations which need start-up funds or additional help in community organizing efforts; (2) to strengthen the relationship between religious, historical, and ethical traditions of social justice by identifying and nurturing projects which embody Jewish social justice principles and meet the needs of the larger society; and (3) to build understanding and collaboration, both among Jewish communal organizations and between Jewish and non-Jewish organizations engaged in social justice work.

As a result of two meetings with interested people, a formal Steering

addition, members were strongly urged to "check our own checkbooks" and personally solicit hard money for support of these projects.

Phyllis Jones, Lynora Williams and Adisa Douglas-Reese volunteered to write a position paper on third world women for further funder reference. We can look forward to this in 1984.

Committee has been established to function as an interim Board of Directors and provide formalized guidance, leadership and decisionmaking.

The Steering Committee has begun to plan fundraising strategies, identify and contact Jewish leadership to forge organizational relationships, plan Fund governance, structure, and management, and research program models. Fund priorities and interim funding guidelines are also being developed. These activities will constitute the Fund's major activities through 1984. A first round of grantmaking is being planned for early 1985.

For additional information contact David Tobin, Program Director, 1334 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 638-0550.

Caucus: Individual Donors

by Jean Entine

Of the eight individual donors present, seven were women. The caucus discussed the isolation and lack of accountability felt by individuals who were sole decision-makers in funding. A common felt problem was making decisions on second-hand information since donors can rarely visit projects. Other problems discussed were the use of staff, funding priorities, and the never-ending throng of smaller requests.

Caucus: Third World Issues

by Themba Vilakazi

The seventeen people attending the caucus agreed that putting issues related to South Africa on the next NNG conference agenda was of primary concern. It was decided to focus these efforts on two issues:

1. Black women in South Africa: We would try to identify programs in this area that could send a representative to the conference. The thinking here is that women in the NNG would be a

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domestic issues more difficult to resolve," he said. The rate of growth is formidable — from \$3200 per household presently, to an estimated \$20,000 per household over the next five years.

He also pointed to a "hidden military budget" — some \$90 billion spent not by the Defense Department, but by the Department of Energy (nuclear warheads), NASA, the Department of Education, and other agencies. Such spending goes more into hardware than into jobs.

Gordon said there is a "tremendous swell of concern" behind the greatest

debate on national security in the last 35 years.

Examples of the penetration of military products and services into the economy were also cited by Tom Schlesinger of the Highlander Center. They range from costs of a sheriff's department in inspecting a military dam to environmental damage; since military activity is immune from health and safety regulations, hazards to the well-being of workers, and burdens on fiscally poor communities exist because of the presence of defense facilities.

Schlesinger called for more awareness among people within the military system. He pointed to "embryonic and

fragile" efforts under way, e.g., union organizing of a conversion project at Oak Ridge following the closing of uranium enrichment plants. He proposed organizing around the dissatisfaction from broken Department of Defense promises.

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source of support for this agenda item. 2. South Africa and militarism: the suggestion for this issue was the military connections, perhaps emphasizing nuclear connection, between South Africa and the U.S. Since peace and anti-militarism are presumably popular with the NNG constituencies.

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 |
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Send to:

The National Network of Grantmakers

2000 "P" St. NW, Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20036

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T H E N E T W O R K

The National Network of Grantmakers

Dear Network Member:

Because of the enthusiastic response to Richard Boone's closing speech to our conference, we have decided to reprint his remarks in full. We urge you to make copies of his remarks for your own use.

The Editors

Conference Summarized by Renewed Commitment, Cooperative Efforts

**by Richard Boone
The Field Foundation**

Over the three conference days, we heard anguish, anger and concern about a wide range of issues and policies: from the insane militarization of our economy to renewed imperialism in our hemisphere; from the insensitive actions of health bureaucracies directed to minority needs to the gradual erosion of our communities due to decisions of corporate elites; from problems faced by women in their struggles for equity to the feminization of poverty. But we also heard of the growing power of organizing and the positive impact and potential which newly registered voters have for our political life.

Two overriding messages came through this conference: the real grievances of various constituencies and minorities; and at least tentative commitments to join hands and organize beyond narrow constituencies and issues. The latter is of vital importance. For too long we have worked on our own agendas with little communication with others who might share common goals for our society.

Until recently, environmental groups did not speak to labor groups who did not speak to peace groups, who did not speak to racial minorities, and so on. However, in the last several years bridges are starting to be built as we become aware of the herculean tasks ahead.

The conference also reminded us that we are part of a movement from *protest* to *program* and finally to *electoral politics*. From the national protests of

the 1950's and 1960's we built programs responsive to poverty and injustice. But as the election of 1980 showed, we have not come far enough. We were unable to articulate our vision for America and have paid the consequences, as many recent national efforts to promote a measure of economic and political equality have been emasculated or destroyed.

Some of this was our fault. In the aftermath of Vietnam and Watergate, a marked alienation enveloped our political process. Political participation, even the minimum act of voting, was avoided and some even applauded the increasing disengagement from the "system".

Fortunately, this period is being followed by renewed organizing on the local level and a still tentative but important commitment to electoral politics. This trend is both welcome and overdue. Belatedly, we realized that in the last Congressional election if a switch of less than 50,000 votes occurred in several key states, control of the Senate would not have changed hands. Let us learn from the past. There are currently 167,000 unregistered Blacks, in the State of Texas. Imagine what full civic involvement by this group would mean to state politics.

As we organize cooperative efforts and move toward a commitment to electoral politics, there remain formidable barriers to our work:

1. Our nation is increasingly ruled by technical and professional elites who

serve to protect the status quo and limit access to power.

2. Bureaucracy is now a worldwide entrenched fixture of modern life. Public bureaucracies established to serve the public need now act principally to serve and reinforce themselves.

3. Rootlessness is both encouraged by and is the handmaiden of the modern corporate state. It thrives on people never gaining control of their lives. The public is discouraged from organizing to limit the power of the corporate state.

4. Finally, we are faced with an absence of a national tradition of direct participatory democracy. There is no governance structure to promote direct citizen participation.

How do we address such destructive forces? First, we must make a commitment to build organizations of citizens with space for them to act. These must be organizations which have local roots but are capable of acting in unison at the state and the national level. These organizations must be able to sustain a measure of self-sufficiency and to raise "hard money" through membership dues and fees for political purposes. Long-term dependence on outside sources, including foundations, is a dangerous crutch.

Second, we must make a commitment to build coalitions. It is not enough to *share* concerns. We must bargain, negotiate and finally act together. This is not easy, we represent

continued

a range of views, but we must make a commitment to work together. Holly Near sang about "Unity". Unity is a dynamic and compelling need. We still have a long way to go.

Third, we must make a commitment to political action on more than a seasonal basis. We must build local structures with the ability to demand accountability from elected officials. This will require continuity and presence. It is not sufficient to register large numbers of the disenfranchised if there is no systematic means to force accountability.

Fourth, we must make a commitment to political vision. Without a vision to guide the way, organization and action are potentially dangerous. It is our responsibility to develop a politics of the future and proclaim it in a simple and holistic manner.

Finally, we must make a commitment to young people in their teens and twenties. We have a commitment to build bridges from generation to generation.

Unfortunately, today there are no giant movements serving to attract, to educate, to test and to radicalize young people. Neither the environmental movement, nor the peace movement, nor even the women's movement serves sufficiently. The Civil Rights and the Vietnam anti-war movements attracted countless thousands of young people who both learned from and contributed to them. No similar process exists today.

We must include young people in our own work and struggle for ways to have more effect on the education of our young generally. What we are doing is too grand and too precious to

deny our own experiences to those younger than ourselves. We must also fight for roles for young people which make them more than simply consumers of goods and services. We must help to "open up space," to find ways for young people to create, to produce, to build.

First, one of our speakers said, "Land is the placenta." I take that as the need for roots, the need to be a part of the land, a need to build and be a part of a shared tradition. Second, Holly Near sang to us, "No More Genocide in My Name," a call for us to organize and to speak out in our own names and not allow ourselves to be used or misused by others.

Together, let us put down and nourish our roots. Together, let us fight for our own integrity.

12:00-1:30 p.m. LUNCHEON PLENARY

"New Constituencies to the Ballot Box"

MODERATOR

Adisa Douglas-Reese, Joint Foundation Support

PANELISTS

Geraldine Thompson, Executive Director, Voter Education Project, Atlanta, Georgia
Juan Andrade, Executive Director, Midwest Voter Registration Education Project, Columbus, Ohio

Rosalie Whelan, Women's Vote Project; Executive Director, National Women's Education Fund, Washington, DC

1:45 p.m. CONFERENCE
SUMMATION

Richard Boone, Field Foundation

CONFERENCE
EVALUATION

2:00 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
INFORMATION**

Conference fee, includes room and board and ground transportation to/from airport \$225

Late registration fee after 9/9/83 \$15

Membership fee \$25

Deadline for registration is September 30, 1983.

For more information, or to register contact:

Janet Corrigan
National Network of Grantmakers
2000 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 822-9236

This conference has been planned and coordinated through the volunteer efforts of NNG's Program Committee. Special assistance was provided by:

- Adisa Douglas-Reese, Co-Chair
Joint Foundation Support
- Karen Paget, Co-chair
The Youth Project
- Nancy Alexander
Fund for Santa Barbara
- Christina Bellamy
Fund for the Self-Development of People
- Jim Browne
The Field Foundation
- Lori Cooper
Business and Professional Women's Foundation
- Carol Guyer
James C. Penney Foundation
- Terry Lawler
The Film Fund
- Geri Larkin
The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Terry Savard
Council on Foundations
- Judy Sutphen
Ms. Foundation for Women
- Michael Seltzer

Conference Coordinator: Dawn Stockmo

About the Network...

The National Network of Grantmakers is an association of individuals involved in organized grantmaking. Members, in joining, signify their particular interest and commitment to social and economic justice through grantmaking. For more information on the Network, check the appropriate box on the enclosed registration form.



The National Network of Grantmakers

**FOURTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**"Broadening the
Constituencies
for Social Change"**

October 5-7, 1983

Izatys Lodge
Onamia, Minnesota

Wednesday, October 5

9:00-Noon REGISTRATION

12:00-1:00 p.m. LUNCH

2:00-3:00 p.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Honorable Ruth Messinger, Council Member, New York City; Founder, The City Project

3:30-5:30 p.m. PLENARY I

"The Militarization of the Economy"

MODERATOR

Carol Guyer, James C. Penney Foundation

PANELISTS

Dr. Gordon Adams, Director, Defense Budget Project, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC

Tom Schlesinger, Researcher and Writer, The Highlander Center, New Market, TN

6:00-8:00 p.m. WELCOMING RECEPTION

Hosted by the Management Committee

CO-CONVENERS

Margaret Standish, Playboy Foundation
George Penick, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation

DINNER

8:00-9:30 p.m. PLENARY II

"Disinvestment: Farms, Factories, Homes, and Communities"

MODERATOR

Jim Browne, Field Foundation

PANELISTS

Mark Ritchie, Center for Rural Studies, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Howard Stanback, Assistant Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research; Coordinator, Minorities Institute, The Center for Democratic Alternatives, New York, New York

FILM CLIP

Work in progress, "The Business of America"

Thursday, October 6

8:00-9:30 a.m. BREAKFAST

CAUCUS
(Gay and Lesbian Issues)

FREE TIME

8:45-9:30 a.m. FILM

Work in progress, "The Business of America" about U.S. economic conditions and alternative strategies

9:30-11:30 a.m. PLENARY III

"The Politics of Health: Racism, Reproductive Rights, Agent Orange, and AIDS"

MODERATOR

Judy Sutphen, Ms. Foundation for Women

PANELISTS

Byllye Avery, Project Director, Black Women's Health Project of the National Women's Health Network, Atlanta, Georgia

Tim Sweeney, Executive Director, Lambda Legal Defense Fund, New York, New York

John Terzano, Director, Vietnam Veterans of America, Washington, DC

Patsy Parker, M.D., Women's Health Care Association, Reproductive Rights National Network, Minneapolis, Minnesota

12:00-1:00 p.m. LUNCH

1:00-2:00 p.m. FILM

"Secret Agent" about the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans

1:30-3:00 p.m. CAUCUS (Women's Issues)

FREE TIME

2:00-3:00 p.m. FILM

"Strategic Trust" about the non-nuclear constitution of the Island of Pelau

3:00-5:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING

5:00-6:00 p.m. CAUCUS
(Third World Issues)

6:00-7:00 p.m. DINNER

7:30-8:00 p.m. VIDEO

"Dairy Queens" about the political awakening of 3 Minnesota dairy farm women

8:00 p.m. ENTERTAINMENT

Holly Near Concert

Friday, October 7

8:00-9:30 p.m. BREAKFAST

CAUCUS (Central America)

FREE TIME

8:30-9:20 a.m. FILM

"La Operación" about sterilization abuse among Puerto Rican women

9:30-11:00 a.m. PLENARY IV

"Central America: The Battle for Public Opinion"

MODERATOR

John Ruthrauff, Philadelphia Foundation

PANELISTS

Cindy Buhl, Human Rights Coordinator, Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, Washington, DC

Patricia Hynds, Maryknoll Lay Worker, Instituto Historico de Centro America, Managua, Nicaragua

Guillermo de Paz, Founder and Director, Comite El Salvador Libre, Minneapolis, Minnesota

11:00-11:30 a.m. FILM

Work in progress, Nicaragua Project

11:30-12:00 SLIDE SHOW

"Hostage at Hell's Bottom" about the militarization of the economy