

NETWORK

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Plans For 1994 Conference

Alan Rabinowitz and Ingrid Washinawatok,
Conference Co-Chairs

NNG will convene its 15th Annual Conference at the Edgewater Inn in Seattle, Washington, from October 27 to 30, 1994. "Grantmaking, Community Organizing, and Spirituality: What are the Connections?" will explore our values of social justice as progressive grant-

makers, as well as the interrelationship between spirituality and constructive community change. Spiritually inspired and directed activism is not a new concept. From the Black civil rights movement, to Chicano migrant labor organizing, to the Ghandi non-violent spiritual movement, to Native American resistance and renewal, and dynamic congregation-based organizing,

spirituality has provided a framework through which rights have been secured, countries liberated, people freed from oppression, the natural world protected, and self-empowerment regained in the lives of millions of people.

The goal of the conference is not to define spirituality, but to examine the factors that support community empowerment, development, organizing, and our funding of those issues. At last year's NNG Conference, "Beyond a Hierarchy of Oppressions," we saw how the religious Right uses spirituality as an important organizing tool. But it is through the corruption of religion that various sectors of society are organized to mobilize against each other. Which aspects of spirituality within or without religion can we use to unite the progressive philanthropic community in the way that the radical Right divides us?

NNG's Conference Planning Committee could not have chosen a more appropriate part of the United States than the Northwest to think about connections among grantmaking, community organizing and spirituality. The Northwest represents a microcosm of the scope of issues confronting the country. Grantmaking entities in the Northwest have responded to the urgent needs of groups organizing around those critical concerns. The range of community organizing efforts is broad — focused on low-income populations; people of color, especially American Indian and Alaska Native Nations; fired workers, especially Latinos and often involving toxic chemicals; women's rights; and west of the Cascades, urban Blacks. Leaders in the philanthropic community and grassroots organizations will come

together to share ideas, risks, recommendations, and strategies.

One of the leading forms of environmental activism in the Northwest is organizing around the use and abuse of nuclear power plants, blatant disregard of Congressional mandates concerning safety, conversion or dismantling of facilities, and stonewalling concerning waste disposal.

A far more subtle and complex set of concerns revolve around the destruction of ecosystems as a result of excessive logging — and the consequent high rates of unemployment among logging and wood using communities, as well as among salmon fisheries (as clear cutting clogs streams and destroys salmon runs). Such economic insecurity feeds the pro-logging groups who, under the banner of "property rights" (or the "wise use" movement), resist any attempts to limit the amount of logging to protect Indian sacred areas, to limit sports peoples access to declining fish stocks, and to set aside wilderness or wildlife preserves on federal, state and private lands.

Unfortunately the property rights themes mesh nicely with those far Right groups promulgating rigid doctrines concerning personal behavior. These include the anti-abortion, anti-Gay and Lesbian, anti-First Amendment, anti-persons of color, and anti-semitic groups.

NNG's willingness to delve into the inter-connectedness of spirituality, community organizing, and grantmaking is a statement that the United States is everywhere impacted by these tensions. Experiences in the Northwest are both reflections and precursors of such national fears and feelings.

NNG members and local grassroots activists will come to the conference with your own national, regional,

Pre-Conference Tour Option October 22-26

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**Grantmaking,
Community
Organizing, and
Spirituality:
What Are The
Connections?**

El Salvador: NNG Delegation Joins U.S. Citizens Elections Observer Mission

Excerpted from "Findings of the Field Teams"

The U.S. Citizens Elections Observer Mission (USCEOM) to El Salvador was sponsored by more than two dozen U.S. organizations, including the National Network of Grantmakers. The total mission deployed over 500 observers to monitor the March 20th, 1994 elections in El Salvador. The Mission followed the voter registration process, human rights issues, and the electoral campaign.

On March 15th and 16th, 1994, more than 500 field observers were trained in San Salvador, and sent in teams to voting sites in 49 municipalities. NNG had ten observers. Along with other mission members, we interviewed local political party officials, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and voters, as well as observed election day activities. The NNG delegation divided into three groups: one "roving team" concentrated on Ilobosco, Cabanas; a second team was stationed in San Salvador, and the third visited two western Departments (or counties). On March 22nd, the observer teams gathered again in San Salvador to report their findings.

The Salvadoran elections of March 20, 1994, while carried out in a generally peaceful atmosphere, were marred by pervasive problems in the voting process. Delays, disorganization and other structural problems prevented large numbers of Salvadorans from voting and created disarray in the vote count process. As many as 150,000 people who attempted to register did not receive electoral cards, and an even larger number of registered voters were unable to vote due to incomplete electoral roles, disorganization on election day, and lack of transportation to voting sites. Although the number of excluded voters was not large enough to affect the outcome of the Presidential race, the problems were substantive enough to have significantly affected the outcome of many municipal and legislative races, skewing the results in favor of candidates of the ruling ARENA party.

Most of these problems were signalled repeatedly to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) prior to the election, yet little action was taken. The overall Mission concluded that these systematic problems in the electoral process were a result of a combination of

incompetence and often willful negligence on the part of the TSE. In some cases the actions of the TSE and of local electoral authorities may have constituted outright fraud. USCEOM had serious concerns about the will of the TSE to carry out an inclusive electoral process; in fact, it is difficult not to conclude that the exclusion of such large numbers of voters from the electoral process were in large part the result of a conscious attempt by the members of the TSE to manipulate the electoral process for partisan political gain.

USCEOM immediately recommended that significant steps be taken to improve the elections before any further voting took place, and that re-votes be carried out in those municipalities where the problems could reasonably be considered to have impacted the result of the local election. Among the most important changes that the Mission urged take place prior to the second round Presidential run-off was the enfranchisement of those whose applications for electoral cards were rejected or whose electoral cards were not delivered by the TSE before the first round of voting; the inclusion of those who had electoral cards but whose names were left off the electoral list; the provision of adequate training and resources to local electoral authorities; and the strengthening of electoral oversight mechanisms.

The Co-Chairs of the USCEOM included four U.S. Congressional Representatives: Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Dan Hamburg (D-CA), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), and Nydia Velazques (D-NY). They have asked Congress to continue to withhold 1993 Economic Support Funds from the Salvadoran government until significant improvements are made to the electoral process.

In spite of internal and external pressure, the Salvadoran TSE has not moved to resolve a host of problems in the electoral system. The TSE dismissed all 37 challenges to the vote counts by opposition parties as "without grounds."



NNG delegation post-election meeting with members of communal bank sponsored by PROCOTES (Community Projects of El Salvador)

Photo by Amanda Kapner

NNG Delegate Experiences

Case Study: Ilobasco, Cabanas, March 17 and 20, by Helen Chauncey

A roving team from the NNG delegation, comprised of Helen Chauncey, a consultant with the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, Conrad Martin at the Stewart Mott Charitable Trust, Tenley Ruth of the Share Foundation staff in El Salvador, and Donald Warner, Public Welfare Foundation, interviewed the municipal electoral junta in Ilobasco, Cabanas department on March 17. The interview revealed significant differences within the junta, which began when the president, an ARENA party member, expressed reluctance to grant the interview, for which Christian Democrat and FMLN members argued.

In addition to their lack of necessary equipment from and training by the TSE, non-ARENA municipal junta members noted problems with the registration procedure, which they felt was politicized. They reported that the Mayor's office could not find documentation or was slow in releasing electoral cards of non-ARENA supporters. The Opposition was particularly concerned about the processing of the ACTAs, the final tally sheets for the vote. In addition to checking the figures, junta members were worried about the distribution of the final ACTAs, which had to be walked across town to the local phone company.

Non-ARENA members were adamant that there be foreign observers during the tallying and transmission of the ACTAs: "So you can guarantee against any members of the junta who might have bad intentions." When the president then argued that we did not have the right to be in the room for the final reconciliation of the ACTAs, other members requested a vote. Of the six members of the Ilobasco junta, five voted in favor of our presence in the room during the processing of the ACTAs. One person, the president from ARENA, voted against.

On March 19, the same NNG team along with Bruce McGarry of Ben & Jerry's, returned to Ilobasco. Interviews were again conducted. The degree of concern expressed about how the TSE had operated and how the vote would go grew progressively as we moved through interviews, first with ARENA, then the Christian Democrats, and then FMLN mayoral candidates.

On election day, we observed a number of irregularities. We also observed a remarkable spirit of democratic cooperation among local party activists, when often-intimidating party supervisors were not around. When left to themselves, free from party intimidation, ordinary people in Ilobasco could and did work together in a spirit of mutual respect.

Despite pervasive, low-grade perversion of the electoral process, the vote in Ilobasco demonstrated at one and the same time, a sincere commitment to democratic procedures by ordinary citizens and an arrogance of power on the part of ARENA. Although any party could have been responsible for harassment and/or intimidation, most of the complaints in Ilobasco concerned ARENA.

San Salvador Diary, March 20, 1994, by Ananda Kayman

NNG's San Salvador observers, Yola Carlough from Ben & Jerry's, Terry Chin of the Share Foundation El Salvador staff, Ananda Kaymen with the New World Foundation, and Terry Odendahl from NNG, were stationed at the largest voting site in El Salvador, the Feria Internacional (Fairgrounds). We gathered before sunrise with other members of the Mission also stationed at this site to decide on our placement within the grounds. At 5:30 a.m. a crowd had already congregated outside the Feria, waiting for the polls to open at 7:00 a.m.

Our building had 173 tables, making it impossible to visit each one for any length of time. We chose a few tables to monitor in detail, while taking in the atmosphere around us. We immediately noted an overwhelming presence of the ARENA party. They were clearly marked with ARENA shirts as vigilantes (voting table watchdogs), supervisors, and logísticos (logistical workers who brought lunch to party members). In clear violation of the Electoral Code there were many instances in which more than one ARENA vigilante was present at the voting table, and in some cases the



Ananda Kaymen observes "Vote Receiving Board"

Ilobasco Mayoral Candidate "Disappeared"

NNG observers interviewed Luis Alberto Landaverde Portal, the mayoral candidate for the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). Sr. Landaverde Portal told the observers that he was concerned about death threats he had been receiving.

On April 14, 1994, Portal travelled to San Salvador in response to a phone call. His car was later found in San Ramon without signs of struggle. He has not been seen or heard from since. His family considers him to be "disappeared." He was 43 years old.

The Mission, NNG, and individual members of the delegation are asking their Congresspeople to request a full State Department investigation.

"Vote Receiving Board" consisted of more than the one ARENA member allowed, either by registering under a different party name or by vigilantes and supervisors sitting in to perform others' duties.

In contrast to the well-represented and organized ARENA party, the process on a whole was disorganized, inconsistent, lengthy, and clearly frustrating to many voters. The physical setting and atmosphere was far from private. The building had a second floor from which people could look over the railing and see into the voting booths below. The booths (a three sided box on a stand) were often in the path of foot traffic and in clear view of anyone walking by. The lines were hours long and often ended in not finding oneself on the registry. The mere size of our site made it nearly impossible to track anyone who did have trouble locating their name.

The day ended for us around 10:30 p.m. The UN Observers were gone and the press had long since vanished. The count was complete and the tallies had been collected from each table. After packing their boxes with the used and unused ballots the Vote Receiving Boards and vigilantes left the site. One by one the tables were abandoned, leaving an eerily empty hall dotted with debris and 173 unsecured boxes containing the ballots that had been so carefully monitored and counted only hours before.

***Roving Team,
Robert McKay, Jr. reporting***

It was only 6:00 a.m. on election day and already hundreds of party workers had filled the primary polling facility in the San Salvador suburb of Santa Tecla. Ken Jacobs with the Share Foundation, Larry Kressley of the Public Welfare Foundation, and Rob McKay from the McKay Foundation, all a bit bleary-eyed, had been assigned to the western Departments of La Libertad and Ahuachapan as one of the NNG "roving" delegations. As a first stop, this suburban polling site was well represented by all nine of the parties participating in the elections. In ninety minutes time, over 300 Vote Receiving Boards had been assigned tables, gone through ballot materials, and opened their booths for the electorate. Unlike our later visits, this site was filled with international observers,

reporters, and party leaders who all insured that the day got off to a legitimate start.

Following an hour's time of observing the peaceful and orderly voting in Santa Tecla, the delegation headed for the coffee growing region of Ahuachapan. As home to the major agricultural export in El Salvador, this district had been spared the destruction that the war had brought to the eastern departments of Chaletenango and Morazan. Throughout the 1980's, the area had been heavily fortified by the military and their presence was evident on the roads leading to the small mountain town of Apaneca.

Upon arrival at the town's only polling site it became clear to us that we were unexpected and not entirely welcome by the municipal junta. Whereas in Santa Tecla the Vote Receiving Boards had been constituted in accordance with the rules established by the TSE, here we found a number of arbitrary violations of the process coming from the ARENA-dominated municipal junta. The most egregious involved the exclusion of FMLN representatives from each of the 18 voting tables.

Local officials claimed that the failure of the FMLN to field a mayoral candidate warranted their exclusion. This decision meant that any disputed vote or ballot irregularity during the day would be determined by the assembled centrist and right-wing party representatives. (Later interviews with department election officials disputed the legitimacy of the junta's decision.)

While generally without incident, the voting environment in Apaneca struck

each of us as carefully orchestrated by local party bosses who had no doubt as to the outcome of the balloting. In fact, the ARENA mayoral candidate and national Assembly candidates proved to be easy winners.

Next stop, Ahuachapan. In contrast to the stultified atmosphere of Apaneca, Ahuachapan represented the chaos and confusion that have led many to denounce

Reflection on El Salvador Election

*What can one say of El Salvador,
Nestled far south on Pacific shore?
Sure enough it is very hot and dusty—
In rain time, they say very musty.*

*Election of the century poco purity.
This place has yet to reach maturity.
But the voters arrived with cheer and grit,
In boiling sun, long waits to do their bit,
Voting patiently, cast ballots, one by one.*

*Who won—
Certainly not that smooth and smiling smarty
Under name of Junior Napoleon Duarte.
Nor was it arrogant Mario Valienti,
He with wad of cash for more than plenty.*

*Nor was it Dr. Reuben Zamora's FMLN
And his vice-president, married once again!
Nor Calderon Sol and his ARENAs,
Not even if murmured, mas o menos.
Now under the aegis of Foundation SHARE,
We came to see, to learn,
And best, to care.*

*Under the guidance of leader Poobah Ken
With Pubesses Tenley and Terry
With footnote
Ice Cream Ben and Jerry*

*Technical Fraud is the word.
It happened before —
Brought forth the war —
But now they must be heard.
Who won?—it was this country in the long run.*

*Donald Warner
March 1994*

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Committee Report

Carol Mollner and Ron White

NNG's Philanthropic Reform Committee seeks to increase the funding of progressive causes through work with grantmakers and facilitation of dialogue among grantseekers and grantmakers.

If you have not yet used the Evaluation Guide, we encourage you to do so. We are also interested in hearing from those who have used the Guide. What issues did this raise? What changes have you made or are you considering? Do you have examples for the "How-To" Manual about how funders have created more accessible grantmaking processes? Your experiences will be helpful to others, so please share them with the Committee.

We have also begun to explore and plan regional dialogues among grantmakers and grantseekers to be held in Boston, Denver, the San Francisco Bay area, and Atlanta. These meetings provide a great opportunity to explore creative ideas for making the funding process more accessible to grassroots social change groups and to increase the funding that goes to social change work. At our first regional meeting, one speaker said: "What grantmakers most want is accountability, and what grantseekers most want is access."

Grantseekers say that the personal meeting is the most important thing in getting a grant. One speaker

commented: "I have never received a grant without personal contact." At the same time, grantmakers feel overwhelmed with the number of requests and say personal meetings with everyone are impossible.

So how do we resolve this dilemma? How can we evaluate and improve access? How many grants are made to groups you have never met, and how many to those you know? How do you hear about new groups? How do you decide who to call, meet, visit? Do these practices really promote access? Ask your colleagues what their experience has been. We are interested in hearing what you think, and particularly about any ways funders have found to make their processes more accessible. Write to the Committee via the NNG office, or call Ron or Carol directly (*see Board list*).

That is not the extent of the Philanthropic Reform Committee's activity. Under the leadership of Christopher Mogil (Impact Project), much planning and energy has gone into work on a Common Application Process. If universally adopted, such a process would save nonprofits thousands of hours of staff time and consulting fees, freeing up time and money for the groups we care about to do the work of social change. What a gift to the movement. Christopher's work group has gathered standard grant applications, and surveyed NNG (your surveys are still welcome — winners to be announced!) and a sampling of nonprofits. A team is being formed from those returning their surveys to produce a preliminary design for presentation and refinement at our meeting this fall in Seattle. ■

From the Co-Chairs

The landmark elections in El Salvador and South Africa have underscored the importance of a free and fair electoral process in the creation of democratic societies. But they also point out that technically free and fair elections are not enough to secure democracy in the face of continued resistance by those who currently govern both countries to allowing a more level and inclusive playing field in their nation's political, social and economic life.

In both countries, serious obstacles in the voter registration process left many marginalized people once again disenfranchised on election day. Violence and its offspring fear and intimidation are constant facts of life for many people in El Salvador, where death squads continued to leave their bloody message before the election and the military made its presence obvious on election day despite the 1992 Peace Accords that ordered it to stay in its barracks. In South Africa, too, violence continues to be an effective strategy to destabilize the country and derail the transition to majority rule.

But even if both countries had a technically perfect process on election day, the conditions for the establishment of a lasting democracy remain in doubt. Not until the disenfranchised and marginalized people in both countries, and indeed in countries around the world — including our own — can freely and fully participate in their nation's economic, political and social life can that real democracy be established. Not until the enormous numbers of unemployed and illiterate people in South Africa and in El Salvador have jobs and are educated can the dream of full participation in their society be realized. Not until the end of the fear and intimidation that can come out of both a barrel of a gun and the mouth of an employer who threatens workers with the loss of their jobs can freedom and human dignity be assured.

Essential to the securing of true and lasting democracy in the world is the continued growth of a strong and independent popular movement. The work of grassroots groups that are creating sustainable jobs, educating their neighbors in what they need to know to be productive citizens, securing access to credit, protecting human rights and guaranteeing that all governments meet the basic human needs of all citizens is essential to laying the foundation for democracy. As progressive grantmakers, we must play an active role in supporting this popular movement.

Larry Kressley

Miyoko Oshima

Changes in the Network

People



■ Seunghee Cha became the new NNG Membership Coordinator in March. She recently graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with a bachelor's

degree in women's studies. While in school, Seunghee worked at the UCSD Writing Center and Language Program for four years. She was also an active member in various organizations including Sisterhood Across the Waves; Feminist Asian American Women's Political Collective; Alternative Visions: UCSD Women's Journal; Women of Color Collective; and Committee for World Democracy: Political Film Series. Prior to assuming the position, she volunteered at NNG. We are fortunate to have Seunghee on staff and welcome her warmly.

■ Ruth L. Goins has left the C.S. Mott Foundation to become a Senior Program Officer at the Northwest Area Foundation.

■ Diane Ives has become Executive Director of the Beldon Fund. Congratulations!

■ Michele Lord is the new Program Director at the Norman Foundation. She is replacing Mallika Dutt. We are delighted to have her on board. Mallika continues as an alumna member.

■ Corrine Rafferty is leaving the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock on June 1st. The Program will be hiring a new Program Officer to replace Corrine. We will miss her.

■ Mary Tiseo has left Funders for a Free South Africa. Her replacement has not been announced. She is still considering her future career plans. Good luck.

We Welcome Our New Members

■ Betsy Brill, Director of the Sophia Fund, Chicago Foundation for Women.

■ Robert Brown, from Atlanta, on the Grants Committee at Threshold Foundation.

■ Pat Close, member of A Territory Resource (ATR), in Seattle.

■ Nicole Cuadra, Program Director of the Women's Foundation of Oregon in Portland.

■ Ken Deere, Associate General Secretary of the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund, Washington, DC.

■ Sukey Garcetti, Executive Director of the Roth Family Foundation, Los Angeles.

■ Dan Geiger, Director of Development at Vanguard Public Foundation in San Francisco.

■ David Harris, new Program Officer of C.S.Mott Foundation in Flint, MI.

■ Arnell Hinkle, Program Director of the California Adolescent Nutrition & Fitness Program in San Francisco.

■ Melissa Kohner with Youth Outreach at Resourceful Women.

■ Robin Kroft, Director of Medical Intelligence at the Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation in Baltimore.

■ Michele Lord, Program Director of the Norman Foundation, New York.

■ Ted Lord, Executive Director of the Pride Foundation in Seattle.

■ Sunanda Markus, from Quebec, Canada, Treasurer of the Seva Foundation.

■ Ed Miller, Associate Program Officer of C.S. Mott Foundation in Flint.

■ Kym Mulher of Nokomis Foundation in Grand Rapids, MI.

■ Tarso Ramos, Board and Grantmaking Chair of the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation in Portland.

■ Phillip Rush of Nashville, TN and the VIA (Values in Action) Fund.

■ Anne Slepian of the Impact Project in Arlington, MA.

■ Chet Tchozewski, Executive Director of the Caribou Fund in Boulder, CO.

■ Kris Torkelson, Development Director at the Chicago Foundation for Women

■ Donald T. Warner, from Sharon, CT, and Board Chair at the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, DC.

**Remember:
NNG has moved . . .**

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Organizing Tour Of The "Upper South" Held

On February 27 through March 1, 1994, under the auspices of the Southern Empowerment Project, NNG director Terry Odendahl participated in a tour of ten organizing projects in the "upper South," and facilitated a fundraising training with many of the same groups on March 2. David Harris, a new Program Officer at the C.S. Mott Foundation, also joined the tour. Organizers had hoped it would be better attended. Several potential participants dropped out a week before. Nonetheless, both Harris and Odendahl rated the tour highly and recommend it to others for the future.

The Southern Empowerment Project (SEP) is a multi-racial association of member-run, member based organizations in three states. SEP's mission is to recruit and train a pool of community leaders to become organizers with citizens groups in the South that solve community problems by challenging racism and social injustice, as well as standing with the oppressed.

The organizing groups visited included the: Charlotte Organizing Project in North Carolina; Citizens Organized to End Poverty in the

Commonwealth (CO-EPIC) in Kentucky; the Community Farm Alliance in Kentucky; Grassroots Leadership; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; the North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Institute; Save our Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee; Solutions to Issues of Concern to Knoxvilleans (SICK); the Tennessee Industrial Renewal Network; and the Western North Carolina Alliance.

Special thanks are due to June Roston and Walter Davis of the Southern Empowerment Project, who conducted the tour. ■



David Harris (left) with members of Save Our Cumberland Mountains: Janice Morrissey, Castle Bunch, Christine Widener, and Buck Gornell

Review: Beyond The Politics of Place

New Directions in Community Organizing in the 1990s
by Gary Delgado, Applied Research Center

By Mike Roque

In the Applied Research Center's new publication *Beyond the Politics of Place*, Gary Delgado gives us a contextual history of modern-day community organizing. Delgado brings to the task his rich background as one of the first organizers for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), the former Executive Director of the Center for Third World Organizing, author of *Organizing the Movement: The Roots and Growth of ACORN* (1989, Temple University Press), and currently the Director of the Applied Research Center.

Delgado describes the roots of community organizing within the United States and its varying shifts within different social contexts. After laying out both its accomplishments and limitations, he looks to new directions and issues a challenge to the philanthropic community in support of community organizing.

Delgado pays particular attention to organizing within communities of color. He states, "Organizers have built bold, interesting, and effective organizations, which reflect an understanding of their cultural base as well as an assessment of how the world works and how they can change it to benefit their constituents."

Of community organizing's major accomplishments, Delgado writes that it has been effective in helping residents understand the reasons for specific policy and program initiatives in a larger political context, developing leaders, winning local issues, holding local politicians accountable, and redressing the balance of power.

Among community organizing's limitations, Delgado lists fragmentation within the movement, the lack of attention to race and gender politics, the inability to articulate a comprehensive vision, and the lack of adequate resources.

Of particular importance to the philanthropic community is the section "Opportunities for Support." Delgado praises the efforts of the Campaign for Human Development, as well as other foundations that have "come to value the work of (community organizing groups) for a wide variety of reasons." But, he puts forth the widely-accepted opinion that community organizing is "vastly undercapitalized." With this, he challenges the philanthropic community to "make a significant difference in helping community organizing make a real contribution to the field of community development."

Delgado's funding suggestions include the support of collaborative projects among community organizing groups themselves and between community organizing groups and universities, training entities and intermediaries. He encourages increased funding of new

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El Salvador continued from page 4

these elections. The confusion on the faces of many voters was matched by our own befuddlement at the configuration of the voting tables at the three polling sites. Apparently uninterested in making the process "voter friendly," the election junta had not asked the Vote Receiving Boards to place their tables in alphabetical order.

In the United States, Monday, May 16, 1994 was designated as a National Action Day for the people in El Salvador. For more information, call The National Agenda for Peace in El Salvador (202) 319-4465.

As we began to make sense of the chaos we found ourselves assisting individuals, all of whom were legitimately on voter rolls, with the onerous process of finding their appropriate table. The resulting atmosphere led us to the conclusion that despite their best efforts, hundreds of voters became discouraged and never were able to cast their ballots. Other voters relayed incidents in which dead relatives had "voted," while their registration cards were arbitrarily rejected.

For the three of us the day served to illustrate the tremendous inconsistencies in the Salvadoran electoral experience. In urban communities such as Santa Tecla where resources are more abundant and observers plentiful, one can make a claim that the election was conducted in a atmosphere of relative free-

dom and fairness. However, as we traveled into the less populated western region, we saw that rules were bent and the old ways of operating were very much alive. ■

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training networks and intermediaries that provide organizational development assistance and leadership development. He also recommends multiple-year core support for key national networks and major community organizing training intermediaries.

I believe *Beyond the Politics of Place* provides a good historical base of community organizing, particularly within communities of color, for those who do not have this background. It also puts forth a direction and a challenge for those who have funded or are thinking of funding community organizing within communities of color.

For copies of *Beyond the Politics of Place* send \$10 to Applied Research Center, 440 Grand Avenue, Suite 401, Oakland, CA 94610.

Mike Roque is a former community organizer and is currently Executive Director of the Colorado-based Chinook Fund. ■

New Reports

Native American Women in Their Communities: Building Partnerships for Survival is a report on the proceedings of a conference co-sponsored by Native Americans in Philanthropy and Women and Foundations/Corporate Philanthropy on July 7-10, 1993 at the Salish Kootenaie Reservation, Polson, Montana. It includes detailed information on presenters and their topics: the Environment, Education, Health, and Strategies for Cooperation, as well as a resource list. For a copy contact Shona Chakravarty at WAF/CP, 212-463-9934. ■

Worlds Apart: Missed Opportunities to Help Women and Girls, A 1993 Greater Boston Study of Corporate and Foundation Giving to Women's and Girl's Programs, sponsored by Women in Philanthropy and the Boston Women's Fund, written by Molly Mead. The research concludes that funders and nonprofits for women and girls live in separate worlds, operating out of conflicting basic assumptions about how to create and support programs that work effectively for women and girls. This report highlights these differences, replacing some of these assumptions with factual information.

Nonprofit programs for women and girls exist to provide an effective means of helping women and girls. They find that a gender focus often is necessary to counter the social problems and inequities that disadvantage females in our society. They have encountered too many universal programs where women and girls fall through the cracks when gender issues are ignored.

Most funders feel that there is a better way to help women and girls — universal programs. Only 12 percent of those surveyed feel that universal programs might tend to favor men and boys. They argue that a gender focus is relatively unimportant. By implication, this argument extends to nonprofit women's groups themselves. Even when they value population-specific funding, funders often reject gender as a relevant population dimension.

The outcome of these differing assumptions is less funding for nonprofit programs for women and girls, and thus a missed opportunity to help them. This research found that many of the funding organizations in Greater Boston could do a better job of maximizing opportunities to support nonprofit programs for women and girls and thus to benefit them. For a copy of the study contact Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, 617-627-3453. ■

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sectoral, and secular perspectives, and leave with new, refurbished, and some discarded ideas to nurture your daily work. It promises to be a spirited weekend.

If there is sufficient interest, we will schedule a pre-conference tour of organizing issues outside the Seattle area. Fill out the attached coupon immediately or call the office by May 24 if you think you could attend and would like us to make the following arrangements.

Arrival: Seattle on October 22, and travel to Lake Quinalt Lodge (two and a half hours travel time)

First Day: Tour briefing at the lodge covering itinerary and Northwest issues. Spend the morning at Quinalt Indian Reservation, an area containing marked contrast between virgin old growth and land devastated by clear cutting. This will be an outstanding opportunity to cover environmental issues and Native American involvement with them. We will have lunch at Hoquiam (45 minutes from Quinalt), a mill

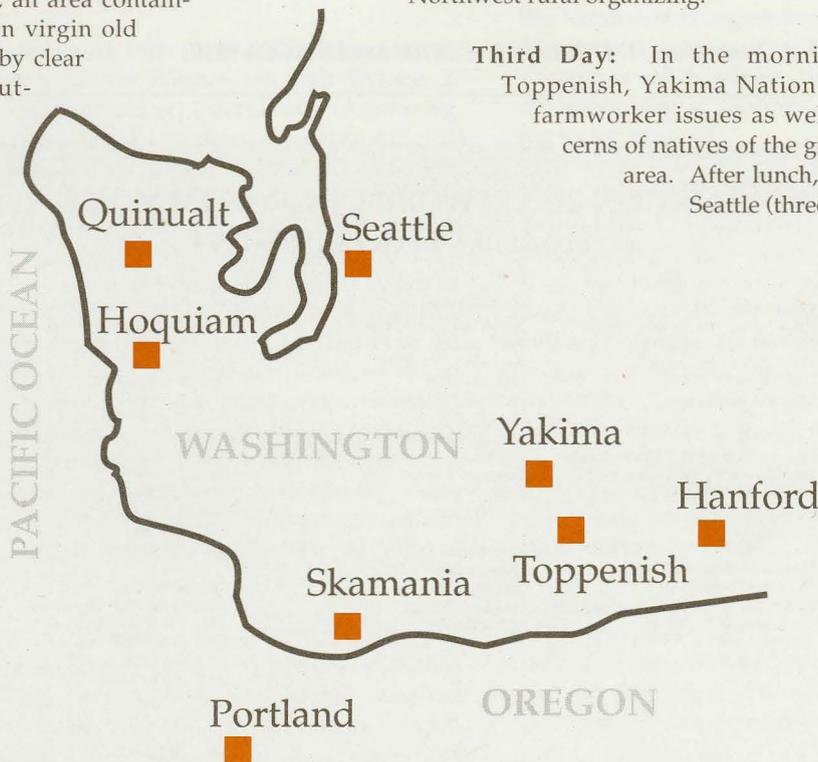
town and center for Latino workers in the forest products industry, presently the Northwest's most significant immigrants' rights problem. We will discuss depressed industry and human rights problems.

In the afternoon we will go from Hoquiam to Skamania Lodge (three hours travel), to explore economic development and environmental issues (salmon). Also, there are significant Indian fishing rights issues in the area.

Second Day: In the morning leave Skamania Lodge for Hanford (three hours). Eat lunch and discuss nuclear and toxic issues.

In the afternoon go to Yakima (one hour) and explore Northwest rural organizing.

Third Day: In the morning visit Toppenish, Yakima Nation. Discuss farmworker issues as well as concerns of natives of the great basin area. After lunch, return to Seattle (three hours).



Pre-Conference Tour, Expression of Interest Form

Name: _____

Title: _____

Employer (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Return by mail by May 27th to the NNG Office,
1717 Kettner Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego, CA, 92101

Yes! I want to be a member!

Enclosed is a check for \$75 made payable to the National Network of Grantmakers

In addition, I am enclosing a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

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