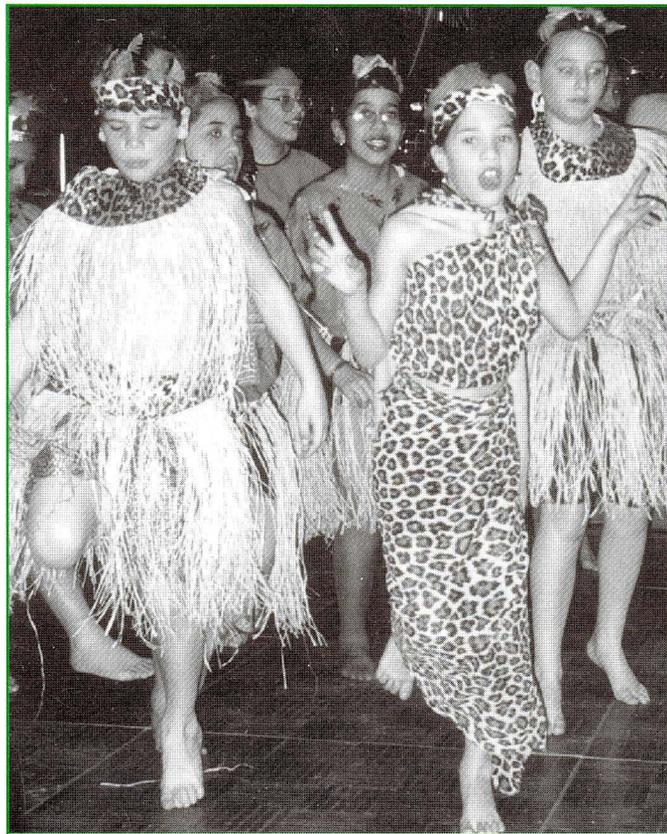


## Fostering Change Since 1980

**W**ith two decades of history, the National Network of Grantmakers has become a force with which to reckon. This past year NNG has made a significant impact within the foundation world. It was created to open the iron gates of the sector to make philanthropy more accessible to the communities it is intended to transform. In 1996, NNG's five year strategic plan called for it to more actively move money to social justice causes. Our work to fulfill this goal has spurred debates from a diversity of grantmaking voices demonstrating the field to have a clear body of thinkers and doers with a social change agenda. The value and quality of NNG's efforts have always been evident. Most recently, these characteristics were captured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *Christian Science Monitor* and *Business Week*. NNG continues to challenge philanthropy to be more responsive and accountable, undergirded by our message of social and economic justice.



La Piñata at the 2000 NNG conference

At the core of our triumphs are 400 individuals — you — our members. The Network has grown strong because our members saw in 1980, and see today, the real need for a progressive voice in philanthropy. NNG is built on people. *Personal* connection is a key reason many have joined the Network. The famous *personal is political* has thrived here. In a large manner our conferences have encouraged effective work and lasting friendships. At our caucuses, individuals have been able to explore and realize the thread through our multiple races, genders, sexual orientations, class backgrounds and so much more. At the most recent Women & Philanthropy conference, cultural critic and feminist theorist bell hooks said philanthropy is about love. Maybe it's our love for the work, for justice and for each other that drives us. Seems like a sound theory.

This issue of **Network**News attempts to reveal how the personal moves us to act, how differences can truly make us stronger, how important the "network" part of our name is in making the field more accessible and emphasizes the need for us to continue to fight for and fund social change.

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## National Network of Grantmakers

Fostering Change Since 1980

### 1980

First planning meeting of NNG in New York City at the John Hay Whitney Foundation, chaired by Judy Austermilller.

60 grantmakers attend NNG's founding conference at the Highlander Center in Tennessee. Management Committee elected to run a voluntary association of individuals in grantmaking "who share a concern for issues of social and economic justice and an interest in community-based initiatives."

### 1981

NNG publishes its *Grantseekers Guide*, first fundraising resource for community-based initiatives and grassroots projects, subsequently the *Grantmakers Directory*.

### 1982

Led by Michael Seltzer, Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues forms at the NNG annual conference in Maryland.

Jim Joseph becomes President of Council on Foundations, NNG begins electing members to the Council's conference program committee.

### 1983

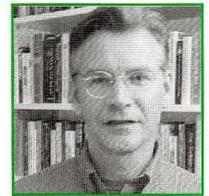
NNG representatives advocate for public foundations becoming full members of the Council on Foundations.

### 1984

Third World Caucus, co-chaired by Dana Alston and Mfundi Vundla, forms to heighten awareness of domestic and international Third World concerns within NNG.

# Reaffirming Our Differences

Larry Kressley Public Welfare Foundation



AS WE OBSERVE THE TWENTIETH anniversary of the National Network of Grantmakers, it is important to note the role that caucuses, based on personal identity, have played in the history of the organization, the lives of its members and in improving the responsiveness of foundations to the concerns of marginalized people. Simone de Beauvoir once wrote: "It is in the knowledge of the genuine conditions of our lives that we must draw our strength to live and our reasons for acting." NNG caucuses have historically been the place where people of color, women and lesbians and gay men have found safe space to discuss and overcome the barriers to their own full participation, both within NNG and in grantmaking. Caucuses have also been key to developing strategies and action to make sure that the concerns of people so often ignored by foundations are addressed and to making the connections between forms of oppression.

While caucuses have been a part of NNG from the start, they have not always been understood or welcomed. I still remember the annual complaint of one white man, at conference after conference, about his not being allowed to attend the People of Color Caucus, given his interest in issues of concern to people of color. His complaint received nods of approval from others. (Not surprisingly, few straight people have expressed interest in participating in the recently organized Queer Caucus, despite its rather open ended definition of queerness.) The People of Color Caucus also faced resistance to its proposal to sponsor a regional conference on progressive grantmaking in New York City in October of 1997, because of a perception by some that the conference would have too narrow a focus. That conference was, I think, among the best meetings ever convened by NNG and featured a brilliant discussion of environmental justice by our late colleagues, Dana Alston and Ingrid Washinawatok.

We need to understand the connections between the forces that oppress us and those that oppress others, because they are often the same

NNG caucuses, in general, have also been criticized by some who see them as focusing too much on our differences and, as a result, foster suspicion and separation, rather than build community. Those critics forget that real community cannot be achieved by unequal partners, nor can it be achieved by pretending that differences do not exist. It is only through acknowledging and honoring our differences that we can begin to work together on our commitments to equality and justice.

The role of caucuses in providing a safe space for marginalized people within grantmaking to share their concerns and develop strategies to overcome the barriers to their own participation cannot be underestimated. One need only to look around the room at a national NNG conference to realize how many new faces of people of color there are and how many people who attended the last conference are not present again. NNG caucuses have gone beyond

the traditional notions of diversity that focus on counting heads at any given moment, to taking on the tougher issues of challenging the institutional culture that keeps so many people, who are

different from that culture, from succeeding. Caucuses have helped so many of us re-affirm our differences and have nurtured our ability to not check those differences at the door when we arrive for work in the morning. Being able to bring those differences to our work has been critical for so many of us in developing programs for authentic change.

Over the past 20 years, NNG caucuses have lead the way on many emerging issues and have worked together to underscore the connections between issues of racism, sexism, homophobia and heterosexism and economic inequality. The People of Color Caucus pressed for philanthropic action against apartheid in South Africa. It also organized sessions on the relationship between

continued page 4

# A Magic Ripple Effect

**Wilma Montañez** Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation



**F**OR ME, ONE OF MY FIRST observations about being a funder was how isolated one is from the issues we actually support. Much of the work is done long distance, by phone, email and correspondence. It was significantly different from community-based activism. My experience, over nearly a quarter of a century, was that a burning issue would arise, several calls were made, a meeting was set up and then the action began. These meetings were powerful and activating. People expressed themselves openly with an unspoken understanding that we agreed to disagree. We also knew that consensus was necessary to move an issue forward, and that the strategies to be used must be fluid to ensure that efforts would be maximized. Anyone who has done community organizing knows that rush one gets from these kinds of meetings. That collective incentive is many times the impetus behind the dedication to put in the long hours and hard work required in social change activism. Then, I became a funder - this supposedly nebulous profession, that people debate whether it is a career path, or not. Fortunately, at Noyes there is a very strong sense of community. My challenge as a new funder was to duplicate that community outside of my immediate work environment, and fortunate for me, NNG provided that link.

My first NNG meeting was in Jackson, Mississippi in March 1997. I then had a whole nine months under my belt as a funder and I was desperately seeking out various ways to develop a community of funders with whom I could work collaboratively. NNG was a refreshing and reassuring experience, as well as overwhelming. I had already begun to experience the challenges of trying to understand how funders think and work and the importance to be ever mindful that philanthropy is very different than any other experience I had had. Funders ranged widely from individual donors to large multi-million dollar foundations. The differences between small community funds to large international funders were striking and fascinating. NNG's structure, leadership and many caucuses were

clearly different from other funders meetings I had attended. The many discussions concerning issues of power dynamics between the funders and the grantees, although redundant at times, were enlightening and crucial. But what struck me most was the different lens used to analyze current issues being addressed by grantmakers, and grantmaking itself. The fact that NNG recognized the need to have "safe spaces" to ensure that members could discuss a wide variety of issues more openly was impressive. Also, that there was some disagreement in how things should, or should not, be done was good. For me, controversy indicated that members were constantly questioning and challenging each other. Personally, I welcome opportunities that force me to reconsider my position and those of others. I see those kinds of challenges as more of a window of opportunity to expand my vision on any particular issue or strategy. NNG presented such richness in viewpoints and possibilities to develop a wide range of working relationships between funders.

Certainly, I gravitated to the Women's and the People of Color Caucuses. Knowing that a mere six percent of philanthropic dollars goes to women and girls' issues, I was compelled to meet funders who use a gender lens. My entire career in public health was always committed to looking at health issues through a race, class and gender lens, and now as a funder I could continue to do the same. Meeting others who are committed to funding a movement was reaffirming to the values we so profoundly believe in at Noyes. In the People of Color Caucus it was both interesting and disappointing to meet and hear the all too similar issues of disparity and frustration. Now, three years later, I see how the issues of retention of people of color in philanthropy are all too real. Progressive philanthropy still has a long way to go in understanding how internalized racism and classism create barriers to moving a progressive agenda. These are complex issues that require a deep personal and professional commitment in order to bring about the

continued page 4

**1985**

NNG members arrested protesting apartheid outside South African Embassy at Council on Foundations annual meeting in Washington, DC.

**1986**

NNG publishes *Women of Color Building Bridges Between Resources and Needs*, from a 1985 conference session, bringing together funders to focus on support for women of color organizing at the local level.

**1987**

Training workshop on social change grantmaking at Temple University identifies principles for grantmaking based on changing grantor-grantee power relationships.

**1988**

NNG established as one of the largest affinity groups in organized philanthropy.

**1989**

Annual conference in San Diego calls for NNG to be a staffed organization with long-term program development.

**1990**

Strategic Directions Plan creates infrastructure for NNG. New mission statement embraces commitment to political values and pledges to challenge philanthropic policies and procedures.

**1991**

Philanthropic Reform Committee forms to increase accountability, accessibility and relations with grantees, co-chaired by Ellen Furnari and Carol Mollner.

NNG's working group, *Funders Who Fund in the South*, launches Southern Rural Development Initiative to expand philanthropic capital to southern social change organizations.

## 1992

NNG opens first office in New York City with Dale Wiehoff as Executive Director.

NNG boycotts Council on Foundations annual meeting in Miami in support of African Americans' response to city's treatment of Nelson Mandela.

## 1993

Terry Odendahl becomes Executive Director. NNG moves to San Diego, hires first membership staff.

NNG expands programs to include funders tours, beginning with the South.

Philanthropic Reform Committee releases *Evaluation Guide What Is Good Grantmaking for Social Justice?*

## 1994

NNG co-sponsors international delegation of election observers to El Salvador.

## 1995

Common Grant Application launched to simplify grants process and increase access to funders.

First programmatic collaboration of NNG and the identity-based Joint Affinity Groups (JAGs) takes place at Council on Foundations meeting in San Francisco.

In collaboration with the National Organizers' Alliance, NNG launches Funders and Organizers Partnership, "Strengthening Community Organizing."

"Unfinished Civil Rights Agenda of the South" tours seven states.

## 1997

NNG's Donor Organizers Network releases resource guide, *Welcome to Philanthropy*.

## Reaffirming Our Differences continued

U.S. foreign policy and domestic issues and on indigenous and national liberation struggles. In the early 1980s, conference sessions sponsored by the Women's Caucus included one on Third World women and another on "Women of Color: Building Bridges Between Resources and Need." At our last national conference, the Women's Caucus' program focused on the effect of globalization on women around the world and especially in poor countries. For our next conference, the Women's Caucus is proposing a focus on "cultural models of change," in an attempt to help us broaden our definitions of what it takes to bring about social and economic justice.

As NNG looks to its future, the challenge for all of us, as people committed to social and economic justice, is to forge our differences into strengths that will allow us to create a world in

which all people can fully participate. We will need to think outside of our own identities and better understand the connections between those forces that oppress us and those that oppress others, because they are so often the same. As a queer person, I need to understand my connection with the young women of color who work under terrible conditions in sweatshops around the world and to see the importance of making common cause with them. Our goal must not be to secure a life of privilege for ourselves, despite our difference. Within NNG, we need to challenge our tendency to ask why there aren't more sessions on identity specific issues at our conferences and ask, instead, how we can link identity specific concerns to broader issues of social and economic justice. Both the People of Color and Women's Caucuses have a long history of making those connections and their example should continue to guide us. ■

## A Magic Ripple Effect continued

needed changes. NNG pushes the envelope on these issues. It is one of the few places in philanthropy that has the courage and commitment to do so.

An interesting example of NNG's collaborative activities was a meeting titled: "What is Progressive Philanthropy? A Perspective from People of Color." Although it was not an issue-focused conference, it ultimately highlighted several salient issues that reflected specific concerns of various caucuses. Grantees such as the National Black Women's Health Project, the National Minority AIDS Council, Community Loan Fund of New Jersey and the Center for Cultural and Community Development were presenters, amongst others. This well attended regional meeting succeeded in highlighting issues that are not usual priorities among mainstream funders. It also provided an opportunity for grantees to discuss their work directly with an audience of funders. Other presentors were funders like the late Ingrid Washinawatok, of the Fund of the Four Directions and the late Dana Alston, of the Public Welfare Foundation. These two articulate funders, who sadly are no longer with us, carefully described their passion for their work and the issues that drove them. Not only did they help others understand the impor-

tance and urgency for environmental justice and the role the Native American community plays in these issues, they also became role models. This integration of leadership development and information sharing is not always accomplished in philanthropic circles, but is extremely necessary. For some, feathers were ruffled; change does not come without some discomfort, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. NNG facilitates that kind of change.

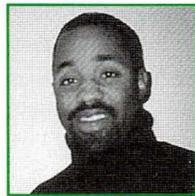
NNG's role in philanthropy is so urgently needed. NNG provides many venues for funders to use that can enhance their grantmaking. The extensive networking that occurs during NNG regional and national meetings are integral in leveraging funds to groups that may not have the necessary access to foundations. Being a member of Women & Philanthropy and the Affinity Group on Population, Reproductive Rights and Health has also given me the chance to develop partnerships with NNG members who may not belong to these other affinity groups. Although NNG members do not represent the entire span of funders, its meetings do have a kind of magical ripple effect. It does help in making funders somewhat more accountable to each other and to grantees. This in itself is a crucial role that can only strengthen and support socially progressive grantmaking. ■

## New Board Members

**Cynthia Renfro** recently joined the Beldon Fund as Program Officer, and comes with a background in environmental justice, human rights and corporate accountability. Before arriving at Beldon, Cynthia was Program Director at the Turner Foundation, where she served as a Program Officer from 1997 to 1999. Prior to Turner, she served as the Business Manager for Ralph Nader's Essential Information and Editor for Newsprints, a bi-monthly alternative press newspaper. From her undergraduate research work to her local involvement, Cynthia has been committed to issues in the South.



**George B. Walker, Jr.** is the Associate Director of the Peace Development Fund. George has served as a consultant with The National Conference for Community and Justice, as a Committee Chair for the Human Rights Campaign and a key presenter with Black Out Productions. George is a gradu-



ate of Morehouse College (BA History) and The Divinity School, Duke University (M-Div). Following graduate work, he volunteered with the United States Peace Corps for two years in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Recently, he was awarded the first National Frank H. Williams award of Service, given to African American Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have continued to make valuable commitments in community service.

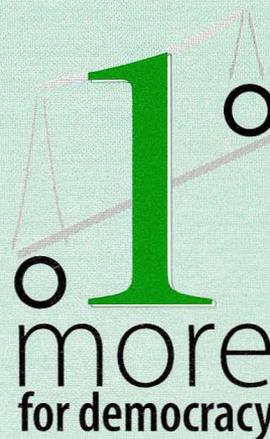
**Michael Warsh** has been a political activist in the United States and in Canada for over 35 years, beginning with his involvement in the anti-war/anti-draft and Civil Rights movements of the 1960s. His current interest is in anti-racism activism. Ten years ago Michael was appointed a trustee of the C.S. Fund of Freestone, California where he is currently Vice-President. He also serves on the Vancouver Foundation as a member of their Educational Committee. By day Michael is a special education teacher in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he works with severely learning disabled adolescents.

## Leading By Example

As we encourage NNG members to increase 1% More for Democracy, we would like to recognize those making a significant contribution to help empower and support communities and organizations whose voices have been traditionally unheard in the democratic process. In the philanthropic community we have remarkable institutions that can and do payout to the maximum capacity of their organization, whether their objective is to exist in perpetuity or to spend out within a donor's lifetime.

The Beldon Fund paid out an average of 8.6% between 1993 and 1997. In 1997 Beldon's overall payout was 8.9% and 7.4% in grants only. In the last few years, the foundation's assets have grown ten-fold from \$10 million to \$100 million after the public sale of part of the family's business. The Beldon Fund is committed to spending out within ten years.

Beldon's President John Hunting writes in his 1997 annual report, "...barring a total collapse of the stock market, trillions of dollars will be moving from the older generation to the younger one. Much of that money will probably be put to work in charitable ways through private foundations. So the future philanthropic well is hardly going to run dry."



*Preserving the Public Trust and Exemplary Grantmaking Practices Manual* establish principles for developing and implementing social change funding.

Five Year Strategic Plan pledges to move money to social and economic justice.

First regional conference, "What is Progressive Philanthropy? A Perspective from People of Color" held in New York City.

### 1998

*Social Change Grantmaking in the U.S. The Mid 1990s* indicates that 2.4% of funding is directed to progressive causes.

NNG collaborates with JAGs on joint research initiative *Meaning and Impact of Board and Staff Diversity in the Philanthropic Field*.

Funders Tour of South Africa visits 45 community projects, NGOs and cultural groups, contributing \$65,000 to grantees.

NNG launches its web site.

### 1999

NNG launches Payout Initiative, "1% More for Democracy" and releases *Spending Policies for Foundations: The Case for Increased Grants Payout*.

### 2000

NNG hosts largest conference to date, "Globalization: Why Should We Care?" attended by 375 funders and practitioners in Boston.

Payout Initiative reaches goals with majority of membership endorsing efforts to increase payout and a national debate covered throughout print media, including the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* and *Business Week*.

## Our Newest Members

NNG is a membership organization. Our direction and work come from the ground up – our members. Welcome to our newest members!

**Gal Adam**, Independent Consultant • **Maryann Boord**, Investment Manager, Fonkoze USA • **Louise Bowditch**, Executive Director, Haiti Community Development Loan Fund • **Geraldine Brookins**, Vice-President for Programs, W.K. Kellogg Foundation • **Karie Brown**, Director of Programs, Tides Foundation • **CJ Callen**, Program Officer, Tides Foundation • **Steve Chase** of Arlington, MA • **Patrice Cochran**, Donor Services Director, Tides Foundation • **Theron Cook**, Senior Program Director, Village Foundation • **Joni Craig**, Executive Director, San Diego Foundation for Change • **Carol Dwyer** of Concord, MA • **Donna Edwards**, Executive Director, Arca Foundation • **Jonathan Frieman**, JoMiJo Foundation • **Evelyn Garlington**, Executive Director, Fund for Southern Communities • **Ruth Goldman**, Project Officer, Merck Family Fund • **Tonya Gonella Frichner**, Board Vice-Chair, Seventh Generation Fund • **Atanacio Gonzalez**, Equal Rights Clearinghouse • **Linda Harlan**, Program Director, Chicago Foundation for Women • **Nancy Hartsock**, Center for Women and Democracy – University of Washington • **Carmen Hudson**, Office Manager, Edward W. Hazen Foundation • **Laura Inouye**, Program Officer, Oxfam America • **Javier Kinney**, Program Associate, Seventh Generation Fund • **John Lapham**, DBL Foundation • **Cynthia Laramore**, Board Member, Southern Partners Fund • **Honor Lassalle**, President, Norman Foundation • **Christine Lipat**, Program Officer, Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation • **Alison McWilliams**, Associate Director, Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation • **Pamela Moore**, U.S. Program Director, Oxfam America • **Karla Morales**, Communications and Research Associate, Archstone Foundation • **Louise V. Nielsen**, Children's Haven • **Katherine Perls**, Trustee, Perls Foundation • **Joan Porter**, Board Member, Appalachian Community Fund • **Pattie Ravenheart**, Grants Administrator, Pond Foundation • **Elaine Reily**, Haymarket People's Fund • **Peter Snoch**, Philanthropic Advisor • **Jean Stokan**, Director, Washington Office, SHARE Foundation: Building a New El Salvador Today • **Silvana Straw**, Community Foundation for the National Capital Region • **Marcia Thomas**, Executive Director, Changemakers • **Marc Valens**, Threshold Foundation • **Mila Vissert Hoof**, Fundraising and Finance Manager, Changemakers • **Eugenia Wang**, Boston Women's Fund • **Ray Williams**, Board Member, Seventh Generation Fund • **Amy Willis**, Administrative Director, FACT Services Co., Inc. for the French American Charitable Trust • **Lee Winkelman**, Program Director, Jewish Fund for Justice • **Teri Yeager**, Program Officer, W.R. Hearst Foundation • **Karen Zeitlin**, Executive Director, Girl's Best Friend Foundation • **Kolu Zigbi**, Program Officer, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation • And the **Brett Family Foundation**.

## Changes in the Network

**Gal Adam** has left the **Tides Foundation** (San Francisco, CA) where she served as Program & Outreach Officer to pursue work as an independent consultant.

The **Foundation for Deep Ecology** (Sausalito, CA) has announced that **Melanie Adcock** has joined their program staff as Ecological Agriculture Program Officer.

**Susan Beaudry** will be serving as a Special Advisor for the next six months to **Grassroots International**, as they become the new base of operations for the **South-North Exchange Program**, which has been housed at the **LaFetra Operating Foundation**.

The **Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock** (Manhasset, NY) has announced that Program Officer **Seth Borgos** is leaving after seven years. He has accepted a position on the national staff of the **National Campaign for Jobs of the Center for Community Change**.

The **San Diego Foundation for Change** (San Diego, CA) has hired its new Executive Director **Joni Craig**.

**Stefano DeZerega** is leaving his position as the Executive Director of the **LaFetra Operating Foundation** (Oakland, CA) to pursue a Masters of Education and a Single Subject Teaching Credential in social studies at Stanford University.

The **Women's Funding Network** has announced that **Christine Grumm** from the **Chicago Foundation for Women** (Chicago, IL) will be WFN's new Executive Director.

**Evelyn Garlington** is the new Executive Director of the **Fund for Southern Communities** (Atlanta, GA).

After ten years as President, **Charles Halpern** will leave the **Nathan Cummings Foundation** (New York, NY) this fall, moving to California to spend

more time with his family.

Program Officer **David Miller** has left the **Nathan Cummings Foundation** (New York, NY) to become an independent consultant.

After almost nine years at the **Sister Fund** (New York, NY), **Kim Otis** has announced that she is moving on to become the Executive Director of the **Rauch Foundation** (Long Island, NY).

**Sharon Ramirez** has left the **Women's Funding Network** where she served as Membership Director. In addition to consulting, she continues to be active on the boards of both **NNG** and the **Headwaters Fund** (Minneapolis, MN).

After serving as Program Director at the **Turner Foundation** (Atlanta, GA), **Cynthia Renfro** has joined the **Beldon Fund** (New York, NY) as a Program Officer.

At the **Boston Globe Foundation** (Boston, MA), **Klare Shaw** was promoted to succeed **Suzanne Maas** as Executive Director.

**Jan Strout** is the new Executive Director of **A Territory Resource** (Seattle, WA). Jan joins ATR after six years at the **Funding Exchange** (New York, NY).

**Marcia Thomas** has joined **Changemakers** (San Francisco, CA) as their first Executive Director. Previously, Marcia was the Executive Director of **USA for Africa**.

The **Girl's Best Friend Foundation** (Chicago, IL) has announced the appointment of **Karen Zeitlin** as Executive Director. She comes to GBF from the **Moriah Fund** (Washington, DC).

After eleven years with the **Public Welfare Foundation** (Washington, DC), **Jodi Williams** has announced that she is leaving to move to Minnesota to be closer to her parents and siblings and hopes to stay in touch.

# Change gonna come

Ellen Gurzinsky Co-chair of the NNG Board of Directors

*It's been a long, long time comin'  
but I know  
change gonna come...*

— Sam Cooke

**T**WENTY YEARS AGO the National Network of Grantmakers was founded by activists and philanthropists who were dedicated to social, economic and political justice. Some of the founders are still involved in progressive philanthropy. They have become my friends and mentors and I value their history in this sometimes crazy world of philanthropy.

But if you had asked ME twenty years ago if I could foresee myself as one of those progressive grantmakers, I would have answered with a resounding NO! And now here I am.

Where were you twenty years ago? I was a full time faculty member of a union-based college program for workers at the now defunct District 65/UAW. I taught social welfare policy; theory and practice of human service delivery; community organizing and urban problems among other courses. It was an amazing program that was shaped by Barbara Joseph, a brilliant visionary, a social worker, an activist, a feminist and scholar. The pedagogy was based on The Highlander's and the curriculum was geared for rank and file union activists and leaders. The program offered a Bachelors of Science from Hofstra University in Applied Social Science. We taught with a goal of developing critical thinking and skill acquisition. We taught and we learned. We experimented with peer evaluation and self-grading. We encouraged debate and self-expression. We hired teachers who valued creativity and who were willing to go that extra mile for a group of students who

were returning to school sometimes twenty to thirty years after their last educational experience. We had successes and many, many challenges. And most of all we made a commitment and an investment in those students for the long haul — as we tried to pay attention to private troubles within a context of public issues.

I often think back to that work experience and how it helped shape me in many ways — some which are very relevant to my work at the Funding Exchange as well as in NNG. From that experience I understood how important it is to be a facilitator; a catalyst. Whether as a facilitator for learning for rank and file activists or as a facilitator for funding for grassroots activists; our politics and vision and process are crucial to the delivery of good service. We demand critical thinking from our grantees as well as ourselves and we need to be prepared to invest time and energy in an atmosphere of creativity. For the long haul.

And I also take away the understanding that being a facilitator is not enough. My students expected that when they stood up against the boss — we would stand with them. And when they stood against the union leadership for good reason, that we would again stand with them. So again as grantmakers — sometimes we just have to stand up.

Twenty years ago a bunch of progressive grantmakers stood up to found NNG and made a statement to the field of philanthropy. They stood up at the Council of Foundations. They stood up for peace, for racial justice and for equality based on gender and sexual orientation. They stood up for a more equitable distribution of funds to social justice efforts.

And we are still standing up. A toast to the next twenty years.... "here's lookin' at you NNG." ■



## NNG Board of Directors

**Diane Feeny**  
FACT Services Co. for the  
French American Charitable  
Trust

**Marjorie Fine**  
Unitarian Universalist Veatch  
Program at Shelter Rock

**Ellen Gurzinsky**  
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**Alice Ito**  
Densho Project

**Melissa Kohner**  
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**Felicia B. Lynch**  
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**Idelisse Malavé**  
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**Joy Palmer**  
Headwaters Fund

**Sharon Ramirez**  
Headwaters Fund

**Cynthia Renfro**  
Beldon Fund

**George Walker**  
Peace Development Fund

**Michael Warsh**  
C.S. Fund

**Ronald White**  
C.S. Mott Foundation

## NNG Listservs

NNG lists serve to keep us connected and for the sharing of ideas, concerns and joy.

Donor Organizer's Network  
NNGDON@egroups.com

International Working Group  
NNGIWG@egroups.com

People of Color Caucus\*  
NNGPOC@egroups.com

Queer Caucus\*  
NNGQUEER@egroups.com

Women's Caucus\*  
NNGWOMEN@egroups.com

Youth Caucus\*  
NNGYC@egroups.com

\*Note: NNG's caucuses are for individuals who self-identify as belonging to that group.



## Staff Report

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### Network News

fostering change since 1980

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[www.nng.org](http://www.nng.org)

**F**OLLOWING ON THE GLOBALIZATION conference and Payout Initiative successes, our biggest staff project is a transformed – but familiar – publication.

The sixth edition of the *Grantmakers Directory* will be released this summer. In many ways it stands as one of the solid projects NNG is known for – the “network” can be found between its two covers. Over the past years, it has been transformed from a membership directory to a targeted funding guide for grantseekers, serving as a map of who funds social justice work. In this sense, it serves NNG’s larger mission of moving money to social change by enabling greater access between practitioners and progressive funders.

In 2000, as NNG celebrates 20 years and has shifted much of its energy toward advocacy work, the *Directory* will be larger with added sections. The foundations represented in this edition will be over 200, up from 160 in the previous version. These profiles will be accompanied by a new “tool kit” offering grantseekers advice and insight into the world of fundraising.

Additionally, the book will be introduced with a commentary section by NNG members focused on *building progressive philanthropy*. In the last 20 years, NNG has witnessed and been part of the growth of an infrastructure of progressive philanthropy, and networks and connections to other funders and practitioners have been integral in this process. There are now more and more affinity groups, conferences, web sites and other resources — including NNG’s *Directory* — facilitating information sharing and bringing grantmakers together to share and develop strategies. In this commentary section of the *Directory*, several NNG members remark on some of the ways these networks and connections to others in the field serve to strengthen progressive philanthropy: How does grantee participation in funding continue

to challenge traditional models of philanthropy? How do funder collaboratives help move more money? How do we continue to strengthen the capacity of progressive philanthropy? How can social change grantmakers fund strategically as philanthropy as well as much of the world moves on-line?

While building a progressive philanthropic base, NNG has kept grantee accessibility at the center of our work. Today, while foundation information is more readily available, including the proliferation of fundraising web sites, the process of sifting through and prospecting remains burdensome, and harder still when traditional funding sources may not consider a grantee’s project. It is critical that funders help their grantees network with other grantmakers. As in any field, access equals power. Too often, the burden is on grantseekers to begin this contact. To alleviate this uneven relationship more foundations need to initiate this networking and this *Directory* is a solid stepping stone in the process.

Use the *Directory* to connect to other progressive grantmakers in your region. Find peers with similar programs and innovative approaches. Collaborate and build new initiatives together. AND more importantly, help get this valuable tool out there to the people on the ground working for social change. Grantmakers can play a critical role in building the capacity of organizations in more ways than just direct grants. Funders have access to other resources such as technical assistance,

entree to other funders and influence in the grantmaking community to share with grantees. What services can we provide that help strengthen grantees ability to find and secure financial support from other organizations?

Play a role in helping us distribute this important resource by purchasing the *Grantmakers Directory* for all your grantees and especially the organizations you could not fund. ■

Pre-order Today!

## NNG’s Grantmakers Directory 2000

*A Resource Guide for Progressive Grantmakers and Grantseekers*

Please call 619.231.1348 for more information

Conference Report

# Globalization Why Should We Care?



**O**VER 325 FUNDERS AND 50 PRACTITIONERS gathered in Boston, March 15-18 for NNG's conference, *Globalization: Why Should We Care?* The three-day event engaged participants in a dialogue on how the global trade system is negatively affecting communities throughout the U.S. and internationally. Sessions focused on how the effects of globalization—decline in workers' wages, weakening of democratic institutions and elimination of jobs—disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged and marginalized communities, communities of color, the poor and the disabled. Speakers underscored the importance of fighting for economic justice, the preservation of democracy, the rights of indigenous peoples over their resources and identity, the protection of the environment and the elimination of destructive and unsustainable commercialization.

This year's topic proved especially pertinent and provided an ideal venue for following up on the protests in Seattle in November 1999.

Many of the Seattle activists were present in Boston and joined funders in interactive workshops and skills building sessions. The conference raised awareness about the role funders might play in the debate over globalization and trade and contributed to a broader understanding among grantmakers of the link between issues they fund, labor, the environment and human rights for instance and international trade policies. The event included a wide variety of culture and entertainment featuring local talent. And the Saturday evening party, if you were there, you know what we are talking about! What a perfect way to end the conference.

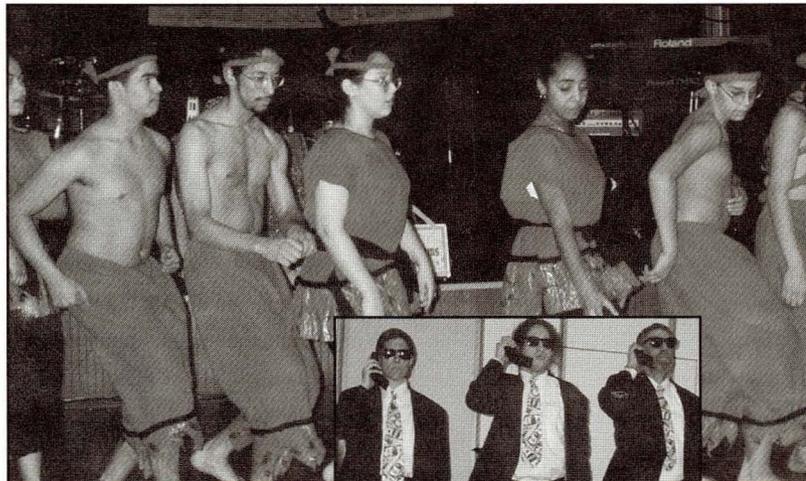
*Globalization: Why Should We Care?* proved to be NNG's largest and most ambitious conference to date. Among the attendees' comments:

"Good mix of realism and idealism."

"NNG conferences always focus my thoughts and help me think more strategically."

"What a dynamic organization NNG has become over the past several years. Congratulations!"

"The topic and the good planning seemed to bring everyone out of the woodwork."



Above: La Piñata; Right: UFE's Men in Black

"I now have a broader vision and would like to try to move more money to this issue."

"I was very impressed with the diversity of participants and presenters."

"Conference Program was dynamic and powerful, particularly the presence of activists from the Global South."

"Randall Robinson's keynote address was one of the most clear, cogent and compelling I've heard in some time."

The conference fostered opportunities for partnership and innovation. A meeting of the International Working Group resulted in the emergence of a collaborative forum for donors and international funders. The participants in the interactive workshop "A Call to Action" attended by one third of attendees, resulted in the *Principles for Funding Globalization* listed on reverse page.

# International Working Group Conference Update

**A**T THE NNG CONFERENCE in Boston, the International Working Group convened a very exciting meeting. Well over 50 NNGers met and made a list of priorities and goals for IWG, including a new collaborative with the International Donor's Dialogue (visit our joint web site [www.internationaldonors.org](http://www.internationaldonors.org) to learn more about international grantmaking). IWG in partnership with IDD is committed to increasing the amount of money going to cross-border, progressive, social change projects and to contribute to a strategic and compassionate model of international grantmaking.

IWG members collectively decided that the group needed a more formal structure to implement some of the incredible ideas generated at the conference. We formed a steering committee of 22 IWG members, with several sub-committees to help implement the work plan and chose two new co-chairs to oversee the activities of IWG. And, we all agreed staff is needed for this work beginning with a consultant. In support of our goals, we raised \$20,000 in pledges at the business meeting alone!

This October we will be holding a retreat in Texas to build upon all the ideas and further the work of this initiative.

We presented the following "wish list" at the NNG Business Meeting:

- NNG continues to invite at least ten participants from the Global South to attend and speak at its conferences
- NNG includes a global perspective at all its conferences
- NNG schedules a regional conference on the U.S.-Mexico border in 9-12 months to deepen our understanding of globalization and address cross-border giving
- NNG members consider making donations to IWG to further its work of promoting international grantmaking

If you would like to become involved in promoting international grantmaking join IWG and the IWG Committee. Call or write to Christine Sartor, Children's Haven at [haven@cannon.net](mailto:haven@cannon.net) (507) 645-4134 or Michael Magnaye, International Development Exchange at [michael@idex.org](mailto:michael@idex.org) (415) 824-8384. ■

## Principles for Funding Globalization. Why Should We Care?

- Because economic globalization presents the most radical reconfiguration of the world's economic and political systems since the industrial revolution.
- Because these new political and economic arrangements are fundamentally undermining human rights, workers' rights and the environment — the core issues that our foundations seek to address.
- Because economic globalization has resulted in an unprecedented concentration of wealth and power, creating the widest gap ever between rich and poor, within and among nations.
- Because, ironically, progressive foundations and philanthropists have also reaped enormous financial gains as a result of these economic structures and policies.
- Because as organizations that seek to promote social, economic and environmental justice, we recognize the urgent need to put forward a vision of globalization that is people-centered, that is democratic and that values and sustains nature.

THEREFORE, we the assembled participants at the National Network of Grantmakers Conference on Globalization commit ourselves to challenge our own institutions and others within the wider philanthropic community to:

- Educate ourselves and others on the negative impacts that economic globalization has on communities and the environment.
- Increase the amount of resources made available to organiza-

tions in the U.S. and around the world working to confront and transform the political and economic structures that place profits over people — not merely to redistribute wealth accumulated by the few, but to fundamentally transform those structures that produce such an inequitable accumulation of wealth.

- Direct our financial capital to socially responsible investments, and to use our investments to proactively participate in shareholder-led corporate campaigns.
- To re-examine our grantmaking guidelines and practices, and to understand the insidious and all-encompassing nature of the structures we seek to transform.

Why should we care and why do we commit ourselves to these actions?

- Because as progressive philanthropists, we must promote grantmaking that is risk-taking, innovative and visionary.
- As progressive philanthropists we must support efforts to promote unity and collaboration between grantmakers and activists, and efforts to bridge the existing social and economic divides that have historically weakened the progressive movement.
- As progressive philanthropists, we must — because no one else will — transfer wealth created by economic globalization to organizations and communities working to create a more just equitable and sustainable world.

From - A Call to Action - Workshop at NNG's National Conference