

# NETWORK NEWS

## NNG Conference in Minnesota

**September 24-26, 1998**

**Joy Palmer Headwaters Fund  
Co-Chair, NNG Conference**

"Putting the Pieces Together: Social Change Philanthropy, Today and Tomorrow" is the theme of the 1998 NNG National Conference. It will provide a distinctive opportunity to experience the balm of fall in the North Country, while addressing challenges and possibilities for progressive funders. Minnesota, the Land of 10,000 Lakes, over 750 foundations, and a history of progressive politics, sets an ideal backdrop for discussion of issues critical to funders and our constituents, while providing space to network and find renewal with our peers.

The Conference Committee began work in August of last year, to ensure a different kind of NNG gathering than ever before. The bulk of the conference will be hands-on: skills building sessions, learning clusters, and a day of discussion on progressive grant-making. Our keynote speaker – Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) – will give his perspective on funding and the grassroots.

The planners have designed a conference filled with challenges yet cognizant of the need for revitalization, so that participants will bring something substantial – a new idea, a new strategy, a new alliance – back with them to their work. To keep us going, the Committee has planned fun social events, including a host reception, an open city night, a closing party, and growth and challenge through caucus and working group meetings.

Skills Building sessions are being designed to be of value to both novice and seasoned grantmakers. Participants may choose



*Natural preserve area behind the Conference Center.*

tracks (see the "Conference at a Glance" on page 2). Whatever your experience level or interest, we are confident that you will find a session that will provide you with new information.

Learning Clusters are small-scale, in-depth discussions on topics proposed by NNG members and their grantees. The clusters will address emerging issues and offer space for new linkages between NNG members and our constituencies. Sessions were carefully selected to address the diversity of progressive funders and issues critical to "Putting the Pieces Together." Grantmakers have teamed with practitioners in designing constructive sessions that will provide concrete lessons and advise participants on next steps.

A diverse group of thinkers, including progressive funders and informed critics, will introduce a provocative final day of exchanging information and viewpoints that is sure to get your synapses firing. What does social change philanthropy mean to you? How does it take shape in your work? We will hear cutting edge thinking, ask questions, respond, and engage the panel and one another. Discussion groups will follow, continuing to build links between issues, and enabling the development of strategies we can take back to our shops as we improve on this craft of social change philanthropy.

The Minnesota Host Committee will provide a sense of place and culture, connecting the national level of social change philanthropy with the local experiences, including the wide diversity of people native to Minnesota and the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. A host reception event will be held at CreArte, an exciting cultural space in the heart of Minneapolis that exemplifies the Latino/a culture, as well as the diversity of the lively urban neighborhood where CreArte is nestled. You can tour the gallery, which features local artists; see and hear local performers; and relax and enjoy a variety of Mexican, Chinese, and Greek foods. You will experience the incredible and complex diversity of the Phillips neighborhood, of the Twin Cities, of Minnesota, all in one evening!

You are invited to participate in one of three one-day, pre-conference site visits on Wednesday, September 23:

- **The Land and The People:** a tour of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe Reservation and an opportunity to see and hear about urban, rural, environmental, and tribal issues from American Indian perspectives;
- **Culture, Community and Change:** a cultural immersion experience through visiting with organizations in the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered community, health and cultural wellness, and arts organizations working for community change;
- **Tour de Sprawl:** a tour and political analysis of industrial

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# Conference at a glance

## WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 23

### Pre-Conference Activities

**8:30 am - 6:30 pm**

Site Visits:

The Land and the People  
Culture, Community and Change  
Tour de Sprawl

**1:00 - 8:00 pm**

Registration begins

**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Individual and Family Donors Caucus  
Dinner Meeting\*

**7:00 - 9:30 pm**

Facilitator's training  
Omwale Satterwhite

**7:30 - 8:30 pm**

New Member Reception/Orientation

**8:00 - 10:00 pm**

Donor Organizers' Networking Event

## THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 24

**7:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Registration continues

**7:30 - 8:30 am**

Breakfast

**8:30 - 9:45 am**

Opening: Pablo Eisenberg

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

### Skills Building Sessions:

- Developing Innovative Grantmaking Models
- Evaluation Tools
- Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Internet
- Funding Advocacy
- Reading and Understanding Grantee Financial Statements
- Using Media to your Advantage

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**

Lunch

**1:15 - 3:15 pm**

Skills Building Sessions, continued:

- Beyond Grantmaking, Socially responsible investing, PRIs and shareholder resolution
- Donor Organizing Round Table
- The Elements of an effective Site Visit

- How High Tech Tools Can Help Win Progressive Battles
- Moving Agendas Through Boards
- Rules to Give By

**3:15 - 4:30 pm**

Free Time

**4:30 - 6:00 pm**

People of Color Caucus\*  
Working Groups and  
Ad hoc Sessions

**6:30 - 9:30 pm**

Host Event

## FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 25

**7:30 - 8:45 am**

Women's Caucus  
Working Groups and Ad Hoc  
Sessions

**8:45 - 9:00 am**

Overview

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

### Learning Clusters:

- Community Responses to Income Inequality Issues
- Funding People of Color Communities
- Funding Women and Girls
- Globalized Economics and Trade
- Innovative Multi-media Strategies for Social Change
- Low Wage Worker Organizing in America
- Organizing for Power in the South
- Rights and Responsibilities of Philanthropy

**12:00 - 1:30 pm**

Lunch

Keynote speaker:

Senator Paul Wellstone, (D-MN)

**1:30-4:30 pm**

Learning Clusters (continued)

- Activist Grantmaking
- Countering Wedge Politics
- Environmental Justice: The state of the movement
- Marginalized Workers and Unsafe Workplaces
- Metropolitan Stewardship in Minnesota
- Movement Building on the Left
- Using Culture to "Build a Building that will Stand the Test of Time"
- Walking our Talk in Progressive Philanthropy

**4:30 - 5:00 pm**

Break

**5:00 - 6:30**

Queer Caucus\*  
Working Groups and  
Ad hoc sessions

**6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Dinner

Open Night

## SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26

**7:30 - 8:45 am**

NNG Business Breakfast Meeting

**9:00 - 11:00 am**

### Progressive Grantmaking: Panel

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Progressive Grantmaking:  
Small group reactions

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**

Lunch

**1:15- 3:00 pm**

Progressive Grantmaking:  
Small group exercises in "Putting The  
Pieces Together"

**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

Synthesis: Terry Odendahl

**4:30 - 5:00 pm**

Break

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**

Youth Caucus  
Working Group and Ad hoc sessions

**6:30 - ?**

Dinner/celebration — PARTY!

\*Note: Caucuses are open only to people who self identify as belonging to a certain group. A working group has no restrictions on participation.



## Member News

■ The California Endowment has moved. Their new address is 21650 Oxnard St., Suite 1200, Woodland Hills, CA 91367, phone 818-703-3311.

■ Deborah Holder is the new Program Officer at the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. Jane McAlevey has left and is now a coordinator of the Stamford Organizing Project, a multi-union effort catalyzed by the AFL-CIO.

■ Ingrid Washinawatok is now Executive Director of the Fund of the Four Directions. Alexa Aviles, formerly Program Assistant/Grants Manager, is now a Program Officer. Gary Schwartz, with the Fund since 1990, is now Executive Director of Coalition for Freedom of Expression in Washington, DC. Gary continues to consult with the Fund. Congratulations to you all!

■ Genevieve Vaughan has announced that the Foundation for a Compassionate Society has closed. A few of the projects of the foundation will continue. For more information, contact The Center for the Study of the Gift Economy, 109 W. Johanna St., Austin, TX 78704, phone 512-444-1672, fax 512-444-3293.

■ Judy Austermillier is on a one year leave from the Boehm Foundation. June Makela is now the Acting Executive Director.

■ Finally, we say goodbye to NNG's own Gerard Holmes. Gerard joined the staff in April 1996. Gerard is moving to New York, where he joins the staff of Sustainable America. He can be reached at 212-239-4221.

## New Members

September 1997 - June 1998

■ Dorothy Abbott  
Schuyler/Anderson Foundation, Inc.

■ Patricia A. Antonisse  
Administrator, Gaea Foundation

■ Michael Balaoing  
Program Officer, California Wellness Foundation

■ Christie Balka  
Executive Director, Bread & Roses Community Fund

■ Susan Beaudry  
Program Officer, La Fetra Operating Foundation

■ Mary Frey Bennett  
Administrator, Albert A. List Foundation, Inc.

■ Judie Blair  
Director, South Africa Development Fund

■ Nancy Boxill  
Board Member, Atlanta Women's Foundation

■ Jeremy Burton  
Associate Executive Director, Jewish Funders Network

■ Peg Capo  
Executive Director, Development Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County

■ Heleny Cook  
President, Wendling Foundation

■ Robert J. Crane  
President, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation

■ Stefano Dezerey  
Executive Director, La Fetra Operating Foundation

■ Julie A. Early  
Executive Director, Island Foundation

■ Julie Enszer  
Outgiving Project Associate, Gill Foundation

■ Ann Gael  
Program Associate, Norman Foundation

■ Sharon Gelman  
Executive Director, Artists for a New South Africa

■ Mary Jo Gruca  
Director of Development, ACCESS Center

■ Maritza Guzman  
The F.B. Heron Foundation

■ Susan Riegel Harding  
Consultant

■ John N. Heathcliff  
Executive Vice President, Fulfillment Fund

■ Susan Hutchinson  
Program Officer, Common Counsel Foundation/Abelard West

■ Betty Kapetanakis  
Executive Director, North Star Fund

■ Marion S. Kaplan  
Trustee, White Birch Foundation

■ Suzanne LaFetra  
President, La Fetra Operating Foundation

■ Ruth Lampi  
Grant Program Director, Drug Policy Foundation

■ Lana D. Landaverde  
Associate Director, SHARE Foundation: Building a New El Salvador

■ Leland E.G. Larson  
President, The Larson Legacy

■ Alan W. Larson, MD  
Vice President, The Larson Legacy

■ Martin C. Lehfelt  
President, Southeastern Council of Foundations

■ Catherine Lerza  
Acting Executive Director, Beldon Foundation

■ Deborah B. Lewis  
Executive Director, Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation

■ Lynn Lohr  
Philanthropic Policy Analyst, Consumers Union

■ Katy Lowery  
Executive Director, Cooperating Fund Drive

■ Felicia B. Lynch  
President, Women and Philanthropy

■ Olga List Mack  
Board Member, Albert A. List Foundation, Inc.

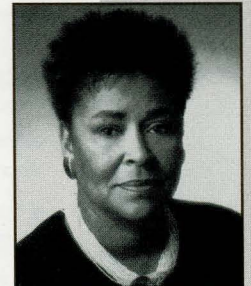
■ June Makela  
Acting Executive Director, Boehm Foundation

■ Shirley Mark  
Project Manager, Caroline & Sigmund Schott Foundation

■ Renetia Martin  
Project Director, Women's Health Collaborative



## NNG's New Board Members



Felicia B. Lynch



Idelisse Malavé



Barbara C. Meyer



Joy Palmer

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The Board of Directors of Interfaith Funders (IF), a network of faith-based grantmakers that promotes social change and economic justice, recently awarded its first round of grants totaling \$320,000 to eight innovative faith-based projects. Made through IF's collaborative Initiative to Support Faith-based Community Organizing, the grants support innovative approaches to strengthen faith-based organizing.

In announcing the grants, IF co-chair Randy Keesler of the Campaign for Human Development, stated, "As philanthropies rooted in diverse faith traditions, IF recognizes the critical role that religious institutions play in eradicating poverty, rebuilding civil society, and restoring participation in democratic institutions." All of the grants reflect IF's interest in supporting new directions in the field and innovative alliances.

For more information, contact Jeannie Appleman, Executive Director, 516-364-8922.

#### *New Members . . . Continued from page 3*

- Meghan McCleary  
Appropriate Technology International (ATI)
- Kasi McMurray  
Membership Coordinator, Lannan Foundation
- John Moyers  
Executive Director, Florence and John Schumann Foundation
- Carolyn Mugar  
Executive Director, Farm Aid, Inc.
- Kristi Nelson  
Executive Director, Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts
- Abigail Norman  
Norman Foundation
- Torie Osborn  
Executive Director, Liberty Hill Foundation
- Paula Parker-Sawyers  
Executive Director, Association of Black Foundation Executives
- Sally B. Purvis
- Cristina M. Regalado  
Director of Administration & Programs,  
Los Angeles Women's Foundation
- Julie Shaw  
Director, Urgent Action Fund
- Paul Spivey  
Vice President, Edwin Gould Foundation for Children
- Neil A. Stanley  
Program Officer, Public Welfare Foundation
- David Tobis  
Executive Director, Child Welfare Fund
- Nondas Hurst Voll  
Executive Director, The Fund for Community Progress
- Amy Wagner  
Executive Director, The Rose and Sherle Wagner Foundation
- Nancy Weiss  
Executive Director, Fund for Santa Barbara
- Tena Willemsma  
Executive Coordinator, Commission on Religion in Appalachia
- Joanne K. Wong  
Program Officer, East Bay Community Foundation

#### *NNG Conference . . . Continued from page 1*

redevelopment areas to wetland restoration to affordable housing initiatives, linking socially just land use policies and environmentally just urban growth policies.

The site visits will conclude with a dinner and discussion with Rebecca Adamson of First Nations Development Institute, providing an opportunity to "put the pieces together" in a holistic approach to culturally appropriate, values-driven philanthropy.

The Radisson Hotel and Conference Center is located on 25 acres of naturally preserved marshland, and as you can see, the NNG Conference Planning Committee and the Minnesota Host Committee have been very busy planning an innovative, stimulating, and refreshing conference for you there! It is our hope that you will take this exceptional opportunity to meet with progressive funders on a national level, and to develop links that support and build a more powerful, progressive movement for social change.

I invite you to join me in Minnesota. You will be challenged. You will know renewal. You will feel welcomed. ■

**Wild Earth is a quarterly journal melding conservation biology and wildlands activism. The Summer 1998 issue of Wild Earth explores two complementary currents in American conservation history: traditional wilderness activism and private philanthropic initiatives to protect natural areas. Contact Monique Miller, Executive Director, PO Box 455, Richmond, VT 05477, 802-434-4077.**



National Network of Grantmakers

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