

The NETWORK

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THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF GRANTMAKERS

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NNG Responds to Gulf War

National Network of Grantmakers members responded to the Gulf War with new grantmaking, technical assistance, fundraising and other activities. A quick survey of NNG members identified several initiatives which will continue even though the actual shooting war has ended:

■ *Assessing the movement's needs.* The Peace Development Fund, West and East Coast offices, has been in touch with many peace organizations in order to determine their immediate and longterm needs. Needs identified range from additional staff to comprehensive organizational development. Call PDF (Meg Gage/413-256-8306 or Dan Petegorsky/206-525-0025) for more information. The Veatch Program in New York made mini-grants to peace organizations for communications and public relations.

■ *Raising new money for peace organizing.* Both PDF and the Funding Exchange have undertaken special campaigns to establish pooled funds for anti-war organizing. PDF has made grants totalling \$90,000. The Funding Exchange is emphasizing grassroots work in communities not traditionally involved in anti-war work, plus media strategies and civil rights/anti-discrimination activities. Of particular importance is student organizing that has emerged in the wake of the January 26 mobilizations. Copies of funding dockets are available from Funding Exchange (212-529-5300) and PDF.

■ *Providing organizational support.* The Tides Foundation, through its fiscal agent program, is supporting several peace projects, including the Political Ecology Group which just published a major report on the environmental impacts of the Persian Gulf War.

■ *Educating donors and sharing information.* The Vanguard Foundation, the Abelard Foundation and the Tides Foundation co-sponsored several events in the Bay Area on behalf of the Military Family Support Network. In addition, Abelard and several other members of Northern California Grantmakers are organizing a series of funder briefings on a range of topics including the moral

implications of the Gulf War and the impacts of the war on the economy and the environment. Call Leah Brumer at Abelard (415-644-1904) for copies of agendas or speakers lists. The Media and Democracy Project has produced a "docket" of 10 groups dealing with censorship, media accountability or providing alternatives to mainstream media information about the gulf war and related long term issues; contact Don Hazen at 212-249-0330 for a copy. ■

1991 Conference Takes Shape

The 1991 NNG Conference Committee, under the guidance of co-chairs Ellen Friedman of the Tides Foundation, Lisa Goldberg of the Revson Foundation and Wendy Oldham of the National Black United Fund, has developed the theme for this year's gathering: *Attracting New Resources to Social Change Philanthropy*. The conference will be held at the Tarrytown Inn in Westchester County outside New York City October 3-5.

The conference will examine the effects of funder involvement in social change movements; specific strategies and opportunities to expand social change funding; and the "bridging" role of progressive funds in leveraging money and initial funding of controversial projects. It will also incorporate discussion of the impacts of the gulf war and our responses to it, along with the usual working group and caucus meetings. Opportunities for New York City site visits and recreational activities will be available during the two days following the conference and will be arranged by NNG/NYC.

If you are interested in participating in conference planning, please contact Ellen (415-771-4308). ■

NNG APPROVES A LONG RANGE PLAN

At the 1988 NNG conference, many members expressed the need for a long range planning process that could help the network grow and become a more effective advocate for progressing social change. The 1989 conference began this process in earnest by involving all participants in the identification of key goals for NNG. In addition, the membership authorized the Management Committee to come up with a long range plan for discussion at the 1990 annual meeting.

In spring 1990, NNG consultants Midge Taylor and Tricia Rubacky conducted interviews with 19 new and veteran Network members. Then, in late June, the Management Committee held a two-day retreat to evaluate the organization's strengths and shortcomings in light of the interview results and their own sampling of NNG "public opinion." At that retreat, a Planning Committee of five dedicated individuals was created to further revamp, expand, eliminate and create NNG programs, activities and policies. Over the next four months, a comprehensive three-year plan of action emerged from this diligent work.

On October 16, 1990, at our eleventh annual conference, NNG members cast a resounding vote of approval for the plan, with implementation set to begin on January 1, 1991. The plan contains 16 recommendations: leading them is a revised mission statement and a statement of principles that proudly announces that NNG members "share a vision of a society free of racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, anti-semitism, able-ism, ageism and imperialism and that is committed to restoring the health of the planet for future generations." The plan (including a budget) outlines steps to improve organizational structure and establish a national office with a full time Executive Director. To fulfill the mission, five major program areas are defined: Philanthropic Reform, communications and Publications, Membership, Events and the Annual Conference. Potential revenue sources are also identified.

While the completion of a thorough long range planning process is an enormous accomplishment for any organization, the plan represents much more to this eleven-year-old network:

- For the first time we have obtained organization-wide agreement about mission and goals.

- We recognize the importance of performing routine organization tasks, like maintaining membership records and orienting new people, as essential elements of a viable organization. Acknowledging these tasks helps NNG members appreciate the scope of work already being done and generates greater respect for what is required to build a permanent institution.

- The governing body is transformed from a team of managers to a Board of Directors with the authority and responsibility to direct the organization.

- NNG caucuses and affinity groups such as Funders Who Fund in the South, Third World Caucus and the Working Group on Gay and Lesbian Issues are applauded for their efforts to unify NNG members with similar political interests. The plan commits the Network to providing resources and assistance to these groups, as well as to regional NNG groupings.

- The plan also reflects a commitment to sustain and nurture NNG's volunteer spirit by encouraging more networking, more local activities and better internal communication. NNG's reliance on volunteers will not just continue, it will increase—despite the precedent-setting decision to hire full time staff. One individual staff person cannot coordinate every local and national activity or speak on NNG's behalf at every occasion. NNG needs its members' remarkable range of skills and expertise to build a stronger organization.

All NNG members will play a role in putting these recommendations into effect. Members must hold themselves and the organization accountable for imple-

Continued next page

Environmental Quality and Economic Justice

Can We Have One Without the Other?

Join your NNG colleagues at our annual program at the Council on Foundations meeting. This year, the Environmental Grantmakers Association and Neighborhood Funders are co-sponsoring the event. Confirmed speakers include:

Chris Mathes, lead organizer,
Environmental Watchdog Project,
Labor Community Strategy Center,
Los Angeles.

Winona LaDuke, director, White
Earth Land Preservation Project,
White Earth, Minnesota

We'll see you at the Chicago Hilton (conference headquarters), Boulevard Room A, Tuesday April 23, 6—8 pm.

Be there!

Long Range Plan (continued)

menting recommendations and bringing the mission statement to life.

Everyone must pitch in to help carry out the work outlined in the plan. If you haven't been recruited to work on a committee, contact a Management Committee member (see page 8) to offer your assistance. You can also organize local membership activities with your colleagues.

Finally, provide some financial support for the implementation of the plan; the first year is budgeted at about \$165,000. To reach this goal NNG must generate revenue from many sources. Make sure that your membership status is current and your dues paid in full. Then make a contribution above and beyond those dues. Promote *The Grantseekers Guide* in your area, particularly among grantees. Publicize NNG, recruit new members, and most important, solicit contributions from individuals who share NNG's political ideals.

We have succeeded in creating a plan for NNG's future. Now a greater challenge lies before us. We must apply ourselves to the work contained in our plan. Meeting this challenge requires patience, persistence, creativity and flexibility. We will succeed only with the commitment and enthusiasm of all NNG's members. ■

Midge Taylor

NNG Long Range Planning Committee Members

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Catherine Lerza | Shalan Foundation |
| Marjorie Fine | North Star Fund |
| Fernando Menendez | Haymarket People's Fund |
| Douglas Lawson | Campaign for Human Development |
| Rod Johnson | New World Foundation |

To obtain a copy of the plan, write NNG consultant Midge Taylor at NNG's headquarters at the Partnership for Democracy, 2335 -18th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 (212 483-0030).

1990 NNG Conference Report

Conference Explores Democracy at Home

Meeting on beautiful St. Simon's Island, Georgia, the 1990 National Network of Grantmakers meeting tackled a particularly important and timely topic: *Making Democracy Work at Home: Building an Infrastructure for America's Progressive Movement*.

Co-chairs Alan McGregor (Sapelo Island Research Foundation), Frank Williams (Bert and Mary Meyer Foundation), and Valeria Lee (Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation) organized a thought-provoking, exciting, productive and enjoyable meeting that brought together 170 grantmakers and resource people, about 25 percent of whom were newcomers to NNG. For the first time, individual donors organized their own working group session, strengthening this important element of the Network.

Keynote speaker Roger Wilkens connected movements for democracy in South Africa and elsewhere around the world with struggles for civil rights and economic justice in America. Isaiah Madison of the Institute for Southern Studies focused his opening night

remarks on what the struggle for democracy means in the South. A series of plenaries and workshops explored topics as varied as the role of progressive philanthropy in strengthening multi-race, multi-class, multi-issue organizing to the nuts and bolts of IRS regulation to America's health care crisis. NNG's many working groups and caucuses conducted exciting programs (see page 5 for a sampling). In addition, members elected a 1991 Management Committee (see page 8) and endorsed environmental justice as the topic of our program at the next Council on Foundations meeting (see page 2). Perhaps most important, NNG members unanimously endorsed a long range plan for the organization (see page 2).

The conference also included five pre-conferences, held in different sites around the South, which gave about 40 NNG-ers the opportunity to learn more about the region, its history, its politics, and its culture and people. The pre-conferences examined a range of topics as varied as the South itself: civil rights and minority political participation; environment and development: issues of race and class; making democracy work for women, gays, lesbians and the disabled; the role of people's institutions in nurturing community; and organizing in multi-cultural Southern communities.

The following pages are a brief portraits of some of the pre-conferences and the conference itself. ■

The Role of People's Institutions in Nurturing Community

Hungry for grits and democracy, I headed south from San Francisco to St. Helena Island, South Carolina, for the pre-conference, "The Role of People's Institutions in Nurturing Community," organized by Franklin Williams of the Bert and Mary Meyer Foundation. The workshop provided a 24-hour immersion in how to nurture participatory pluralistic democracy through direct services and fostering culture—song, dance, language, oral history, traditional foods and a spirit of community.

The conference site, the Penn Center, represents the many intangible strengths that a people's institution provides a community. Established in the 1860s to educate freed slaves, the Center lives on as a meeting and gathering place, and fosters local self-help programs; it has become a focal point for the survival of the Gullah culture of the Sea Islands.

We examined the roles of community institutions in the "process of renewal," which Chris Peters of the Seventh Generation Fund calls the experience of people-of-color communities reclaiming traditional ways of life. Peters, Emory Campbell of the Penn Center, Guy and Candee Carawan of the Highlander Folk School and others discussed the unique roles of people's institutions.

Although the socio-economic changes of the last quarter century have threatened the existence of these vital organizations, they remain an enduring experiment in democracy, deeply rooted in the history of communities and vital to the challenges they face today. Six such institutions in the South have formed a consortium to address the need to foster democratic rural development through cultural-based rural learning centers.

An important part of our discussion focused on the role of the consortium, and how it can best foster a process of renewal in the South. ■

Diane Ives is a Program Officer at the Tides Foundation in San Francisco, CA.

Environment and Development: Issues of Race and Class

The pre-conference held at Musgrove Plantation on St. Simon's Island, Georgia attempted to redefine the term "environmentalism" to include the principle that environmental quality cannot be achieved without environmental justice. Participants identified several elements essential to achieving environmental justice:

- Encouraging money and technological resources to support multi-cultural grassroots organizations

- Supporting networking efforts (regionally and nationally) which address such issues

- Examining issues of accountability: Are the mainstream environmental groups in conflict with the communities they say they serve? Should these groups be held accountable for their allocation of resources?

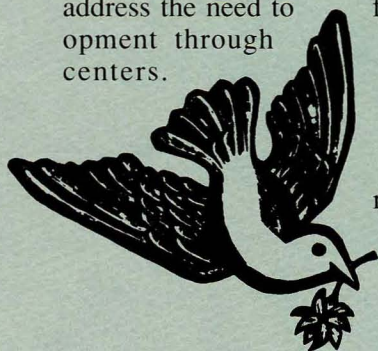
- Including people issues and urban issues in our broader definition of environmental work and linking local environmental justice efforts to national and international efforts

- Providing leadership within NNG to address all of these issues

Charles Lee of the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice and sociologist Bob Bullard of the University of California of Riverside provided a national historical overview of issues of race and class, environmental versus jobs, the not in my backyard phenomenon, and community strategies. Richard Moore of New Mexico-based South West Organizing Project followed by speaking to issues of regional leadership and multi-cultural coalition building in the Southwest. Cordelia Bailey and Ron King of the McSap Development Corp. provided a more localized look at organizing within the Georgia Sea Islands. Richard Regan of Robeson County, North Carolina, and Dagmar Thorpe provided insight on the survival issues of Native Americans working and organizing for environmental justice. Conference facilitator Dana Alston of the Washington, D.C., office of the Panos Institute closed the session by sharing experiences of barriers and opportunities for supporting environmental justice work within the philanthropic community.

The dialogue which took place at this pre-conference fit well into the framework of the overall NNG conference theme "democracy at home," reminding all of us in the funding world that justice in the environmental movement cannot take place unless resources are shared and disenfranchised communities define their own needs and set their own agendas. ■

Gary Schwartz directs the Office of Ann R. Roberts in New York City.



Manning Marable Addresses Third World Caucus

This year's Third World Caucus meeting featured Manning Marable, professor of political science at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who addressed the question, "What is racism in the 1990s?"

African Americans now face, according to Marable, the "paradox of success." The end of legalized segregation paved the way for the 7000 African American officials holding elected office today, and a five-fold increase in the number of middle-income Blacks since 1964. Yet structural racism is still powerful, now operating in much more sophisticated ways in concert with sexism, ageism, heterosexism, able-ism and other forms of domination.

Progressive funders face the challenge of moving money to help mobilize people of color to address these new threats. Marable put forth three requirements of any such efforts:

Empowerment: the ability to define a program capable of changing people's reality. Empowerment is not a thing, but a process of collective education and experience that increases a community's capacity to achieve its own interests.

Leadership: the conscious nurturing of people who can articulate the desires of a group empowering itself. Leadership is learned, so it is especially important to place young people in positions of responsibility.

Vision: the asking of deliberate, abstract questions that help people to shape not just a set of goals, but a shared framework of understanding of their community and their world. This vision must be linked to people's lives and the practical struggles they face.

Professor Marable suggested several approaches to grantmaking. Funders should support "popular institutions of creative resistance" that bring together younger and older people, teach culture and history, train in basic organizing skills and make connections to national and international issues.

Grantmakers can also fight the fragmentation of issues and of funding by supporting networks, conferences and publications that bring together activists and intellectuals. Marable stressed the importance of an internationalist perspective, because global issues increasingly affect people of color in this country. The North-South axis has

emerged as the primary line of economic and military demarcation. We need to deepen our understanding of how this changed alignment affects organizers and their strategies.

Finally, as the "new leviathan" of market-oriented economies grows unchallenged, we can learn from successful models of international leadership. How can twentieth century liberation movements, such as the anti-apartheid movement, build strong grassroots organizations and international solidarity for their efforts?

Professor Marable's presentation to the TWC was both sobering and stimulating. It sparked several follow-up discussions about how NNG can disseminate the ideas raised and undertake further discussion and analysis of the enormous challenges we face. ■

Minona Yin is a program associate of the North Star Fund in New York City and newly elected co-chair of the Third World Caucus.

NNG's Oldest Affinity Group Meets in Georgia

The Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues returned to its historic "home" on October 16, 1990, when 25 individual donors and foundation staff gathered at NNG's annual meeting in Georgia, seven years after the Working Group was born.

We arose out of the desire to stimulate interest among funders in the issues facing this country's gay community. In 1973, only 12 foundations and corporations in the United States had ever made any grants to lesbian or gay-identified projects. National organizations, such as the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, were still quite small. On the local level, few staffed organizations addressed lesbian and gay concerns. The paucity of foundation dollars to support such efforts certainly did not make it easier for these groups to grow and develop.

The Working Group set out to raise the profile of lesbian and gay issues. Beginning in 1983, presentations and meeting were scheduled at every annual NNG conference. Tim Sweeney, former executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, made the first presentation to a foundation audience on the subject of AIDS at NNG's 1984 meeting in Minneapolis. Working Group members labored tirelessly to make sure that speakers like Tim were included regularly on NNG programs, and they ultimately won affiliation as an affinity group of the Council on Foundations. This al-

Continued next page

The Challenge to Progressive Philanthropy

Dedicating the 1990 NNG conference to the life and spirit of Mississippi civil rights activist Fanny Lou Hamer, NNG veteran Michael Seltzer closed the 1990 conference by challenging each participant to play a role in nurturing and expanding social change philanthropy. He noted that the last decade has witnessed the closing of several major endowed foundations (Whitney, Stern and Field notable among them) dedicated to social change. The phenomenal growth of public charities during that time has helped to reduce the gap created by the loss of these funds but, he told us, "[Progressive philanthropy] must grow or we will cease to be of relevance to social change movements in the United States."

"We must accept the challenge to expand social progressive philanthropy in this century. We cannot afford not to undertake this," Seltzer said. He then outlined six additional charges to NNG:

- Help to sustain and nourish the movement for democracy in the United States. Citing the presentation of conference resource people—many of them people of color, many from economically impoverished communities—Seltzer urged NNG members to become active allies of the many struggles and communities represented at the conference.

- Continue to diversify (in terms of race, sex, sexual orientation, age, class and degree of physical challenge) our own membership and to promote that diversity within philanthropy as a whole.

- Make NNG an inviting and hospitable environment for out colleagues in philanthropy. "Our grantees need support from as many of the 30,000 foundations in American as possible," Seltzer explained.

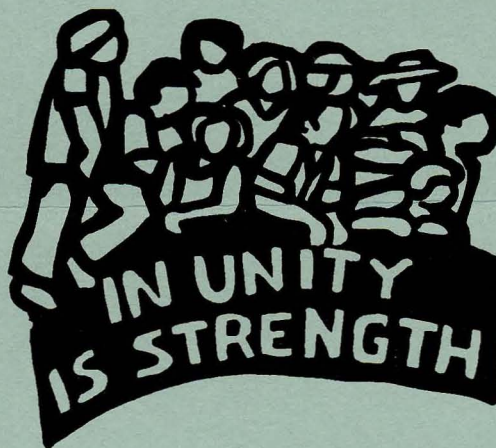
- Examine our grantmaking practices to insure that we are truly supporting our grantees. Seltzer made reference here to the need for open and useful technical assistance.

- Continue to make NNG a place where peer respect is a cornerstone and where trust and support are readily given and received. He urged us to continue the open dialogue that predominated at this conference.

- Accept the mantle of leadership thrust upon us. "We are a national leadership organization, not just a network of like-minded colleagues," he observed. It is critical for NNG to develop and demonstrate leadership and vision.

"We have heard many eloquent voices throughout this conference calling on us for understanding, for resources—human and financial—but most importantly for leadership within our organizations and within our field."

In closing, Seltzer called upon all of us in NNG to "carry the banner of progressive philanthropy into the future." ■



Working Group (Continued from page 5)

lowed us to schedule educational sessions at the Council's annual meetings in order to reach a larger philanthropic audience.

We have made some headway. Many funders were introduced to the gay community through grantmaking around AIDS. NNG members, including the Chicago Resource Center, the Playboy Foundation, the Norman Foundation, the Windom Fund, the Astraea Fund and the member funds of the Funding Exchange, were among the first to support projects from the lesbian and gay community. In the late 1980s, several community foundations began to make their first gay-identified grants.

The most recent *Foundation Grants Index* (1990-91) included the first-ever compilation of grants in support of gay and lesbian projects. Those grants totaled \$838,000. However, in the face of the dramatic upsurge in anti-gay violence and continuing reports of discrimination, funding still falls short.

Sadly, the founding purpose of the Working Group on Lesbian and Gay Issues is as vital today as it was seven years ago. Each year at the NNG meeting, we recommit to redoubling our efforts to make organized philanthropy more hospitable to the gay and lesbian community in its midst. ■

Michael Seltzer is a founder of the Working Group on Gay and Lesbian Issues and a grantmaking consultant in New York City.

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NNG CONFERENCE
October 3-5, 1991
SAVE THESE DATES!

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