

**1994 NNG ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
PERFORMER/SPEAKER BIOS**

**Opening Ceremony**

**Andrea Alexander** is a tribal member and the General Manager of the Makah Tribe. She graduated from the University of Colorado in Business Administration. Her duties include being a liaison to the Makah Tribal Council, the entire Tribal staff, and the Makah Community.

**Yvonne Brickette** is the grand-niece of Helma Ward and is currently working with the Makah Culture and Research Center (The Museum) teaching children the Makah language.

**Arnold Hunter** is the son of Helma Ward. He has been doing traditional dances his entire life. He recently retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road Maintenance. He is currently Manager of the Cape Flattery Resort Bowling Alley.

**Tony Markishtum** and brother **Jose** are the great-grandsons of Helma Ward.

**Marci Parker** is a niece to Helma Ward and is a formal Councilmember. She is currently the Employment Rights Officer to the Makah Nation.

**Maureen Sones** is the daughter of Donna Wilke and Manager of the Cafe-Deli at Washburns Store, which has been the "Hub" of the Neah Bay community since 1972.

**Helma Ward** is a Makah Elder who has been teaching and writing the Makah language for the past ten years, since the Ozette discovery and excavation. She works with the children in the schools, teaching them the Makah language and Storytelling.

**Donna Wilke** is a former Councilmember of the Makah Tribe. She is currently the Business Development Planner. She also has a tour guide business called "Native American Adventures," which does interpretive tours for people who want to visit the reservation and museum.

**"Re-Thinking Our Organizing"**

**Suzanne Pharr** is founder of the Women's Project in Arkansas and co-founder of the Center for Cultural and Community Development. Since 1982, she has presented workshops on homophobia, internalized homophobia, and bias violence to social change organizations, schools, and churches throughout the country. She was an elected leader in the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence for six years. She is also the author of *Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism*.

**Jane Sapp** is co-founder of the Center for Cultural and Community Development, as well as a performing artist.

## Philanthropic Reform Session: "Accessibility and a Common Application Process"

1 \*  
**Bryan Keopraseurt** works for the Lao Highland Association of King County which serves the Hmong, Kmhmu, and Mien people in the Seattle area, who have been displaced from their lands. The recently incorporated organization works toward building community strength and capacity to address problems and issues of the refugees which include: lack of culturally appropriate and affordable child care, emotional problems such as post traumatic stress syndrome and severe mental depression, and the gap between life in Southeast Asia and the United States.

4. \*  
**Larry Kleinman** is a founding member of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), was elected Secretary-Treasurer of PCUN in October 1988, and has been re-elected five times since. He presently serves as PCUN's first Development Coordinator and writes *PCUN Update*, the organization's quarterly newsletter. From 1988 until January 1993, he directed PCUN's Farmworker Labor Rights Project, handled the organization's legislative work, and coordinated organization litigation through pro bono attorneys. From September 1992 until October 1993, Larry directed PCUN's nationwide consumer boycott of Steinfeld's and NORPAC products.

**Robin Kroft** is Director of Medical Intelligence and Journal Editor for the Alcohol Medical Research Foundation in Baltimore, MD. Her professional experience has centered on the non-profit world, spanning development work for the Johns Hopkins University to administration of a regional alternative arts center. Robin is active in volunteer fundraising and board development with community organizations.

Monitor 2  
**Christopher Mogil** co-directs the Impact Project, a non-profit organization in Arlington, MA, focusing on philanthropic leadership development. Through workshops, literature, and financial counseling to individual and families with wealth, the Impact Project assists people to take charge of their resources and put them to use towards a more just and sustainable world. Christopher has worked with the Funding Exchange, the Threshold Foundation, and a small foundation he called the Chutzpah Fund. He co-edits the quarterly publication, *More Than Money*. His book *We Gave Away A Fortune, stories of people who have devoted themselves and their wealth to peace, justice, and the environment* won the American Book Award in 1993.

**Kathy Partridge** is a Program Officer at the Needmor Fund. She has worked for environmental and social service non-profits as Program Director of Volunteers and Public Relations, and as Business Manager/Controller. She is an active member of an all-volunteer progressive bookstore and is an occasional talk show host and public affairs producer for KGNU. She is also a member of the newly-formed Sami Alliance of North America, which unites Americans of Sami/Laplander descent in support of Sami indigenous rights in northern Scandinavia.

3 \*  
**Dagmar Thorpe** is the Director of the Sauk and Fox National Library of Stroud, OK, which provides tribal citizens and the general public with a wide range of programs intended to support Sauk and Fox culture, tradition, and language. Dagmar is also authoring *"People of the Seventh Fire"* which documents projects by Native American nations, community organizations, and individuals which are based upon traditional Native principles and thought (Akwe:kon Press, coming in 1995). Dagmar was the founding Executive Director of the Seventh Generation Fund. She continues her role as a philanthropic advisor. She is a founding board member of Native Americans in Philanthropy and is a former convener of an annual conference of the National Network of Grantmakers.

2 \*  
**Jodi Williams** is Grants Manager for the Public Welfare Foundation, where she has worked since 1989. Prior to that she spent seven years employed by non-profit arts organizations in the Minneapolis - St. Paul area. Over the past few years, the Public Welfare Foundation has made several changes in its approach to grantmaking, as part of an effort to become more accessible

**(Philanthropic Reform, Jodi Williams continued)**

and establish more open relationships with grantseekers. In her role as Grants Manager, Jodi has found it necessary to continually seek a balance between nonprofit realities, rules and procedures, and a general skepticism about the ends of bureaucracy itself.

**Ronald White** has worked for the Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic Church's anti-poverty program, for five years. He served as Program Officer until his recent promotion to Education Coordinator for the Campaign. He is a member of the Board of NNG and Co-Chairs the Philanthropic Reform Committee. His son Jamaal is accompanying him to the conference.

**"Progressive Values in Grantmaking"**

**Dr. Jose Carrasco** is professor and Chair of the Mexican American Graduate Studies Department (MAGS) at San Jose State University. He is nationally and internationally recognized for his work in the field of Community Organization. He currently serves as Consultant and Trainer for the Pacific Institute for Community Organization (PICO).

**"Grantmaking, Community Organizing and Spirituality: What are the Connections?"**

**Gary Delgado** is Scholar in Residence at the Institute for the Study of Social Change at UC Berkeley and is the director of the Applied Research Center in Oakland, CA. He was founder and director of the Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO), a national network of organizers of color. Prior to his work with CTWO, Delgado worked as the lead organizer for New York Welfare Rights, as one of the original organizers of ACORN, and as a training consultant to the AFL-CIO's organizer training institute.

**Dr. N. Jean Sindab** is the Director of Environmental and Economic Justice/Hunger Concerns Desk of the National Council of Churches. Her major task is to educate and mobilize the 32 major Protestant denominations around linking environmental and economic justice issues. She staffs the NCCC input to the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, a dynamic coalition of Jews, Catholics, Evangelicals and Protestants focused on mobilizing 53,000 congregations for environmental justice. Jean has recently been appointed to the Sustainable Communities Task Force of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. She is also serving on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and is on the Executive Committee of the Citizens Network for Sustainable Development.

**John Trudell** is a 48 year old poet, fighter for Native American rights, agitator, and lots of other things. He was the national spokesman of the Indians of All Tribes Occupation of Alcatraz Island. He also served as National Chairman of the American Indian Movement from 1973 to 1979. His new album is *AKA GRAFFITI MAN*, which reflects much of his life's experiences.

## **Funders Who Fund Native Americans**

**Gary Schwartz** - What the critics say: First Grade - "Gary will not sleep during nap time and often talks out of turn" - Sister Prudence; Third Grade - "Gary seems very distracted and talks too much" - Sister Teresa; Sixth Grade - "Gary would be an excellent student if he proofread his papers and spent less time daydreaming" - Sister Judith. Gary lives in New York City and was raised along with the soybeans in Northeastern Nebraska.  
(Funders Who Fund Native Americans, continued)

**Martha Vlasoff** is Project Coordinator for an Administration for Native Americans grant which records fluent speakers of the Alutiiq Language on computers and develops a Chugach regional curriculum for the language history and art of Native people of the Prince William Sound area. She is also a grant writer for Copper Mountain Foundation.

## **"Progressive Values and Organizing"**

**Rev. John Boonstra** is minister in the United Church of Christ (Washington-North Idaho Conference), and Executive Minister of the Washington Association of Churches. He also serves on the Boards of Washington Citizens Action, Washington Citizens for Fairness, Washington Refugee Resettlement, Washington Civil Rights Coalition, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the Coalition for a Livable Washington. John served as Executive Director of the Frontier Internship in Mission program in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Joe Chrastil** is the Lead Organizer/Staff Director at the Washington Rural Organizing Project. He has previously served as a chapter organizer and statewide campaign coordinator for a multi-issue organization in Minnesota (COACT) and as Director of a national training and technical assistance organization (the Family Farm Organizing Resource Center). WROP is a multi-cultural values based organization of churches, union locals, tenant groups, and individual members. It currently has chapters in the Yakima and Okanogan valleys focusing on farmworker housing and youth issues, as well as a Parent Organizing Project in Spokane. WROP is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation.

**Sharon Gary-Smith** is the Manager of Human Development - social/youth, childcare, early childhood development, and senior programs for the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. In addition, she manages two committees of community volunteers, and the Community Investment Fund, providing grant awards to seed innovative and creative community-based ventures which have the capacity to provide new methods for responding to and improving problems plaguing our communities.

**Margaret MacDonald** is Executive Director of the Montana Association of Churches, a statewide ecumenical council. Prior to that she was Staff Director of the Northern Plains Resource Council, a statewide community organization of farmers, ranchers, and townspeople seeking sustainable economic policies, environmental quality, and a local voice in natural resource policies affecting rural communities. She is an active lay-person in the United Church of Christ. In 1993, she led a community coalition effort in Billings, MT, to confront the organizing efforts of the Ku Klux Klan and Skinheads in the community. The Billings model received national acclaim when thousands of families put menorahs in their windows after a Jewish home with the menorah in its window was vandalized during the Chanukah season in December, 1993.

### **(Progressive Values and Organizing continued)**

**Rudy Ryser** is a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the Chairman of the Center for World Indigenous Studies in the US. For more than twenty years she worked in the field of Indian Affairs as a writer/researcher and Indian rights advocate. Mr. Ryser has conducted systematic research in tribal law enforcement and Indian education, tribal economic development, tribal/states relations, tribal development, and appropriate technology, north/south economic relations and tribal development, tribal health systems, and tribal self-government throughout the world.

### **"Evolving Values"**

**Peter Cervantes-Gautschi** has been a community and labor organizer for over 20 years. He began organizing as a farmworker in 1965. Peter is co-founder of several organizations including the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, the Hotel Workers Organizing Committee (HWOC) and the Environmental and Economic Justice Project. He is currently the Executive Director of HWOC and serves on the board of the Environmental and Economic Justice Project.

**Jan Mihara** is a staff person with the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Co-Chair of the Portland Rainbow Coalition and on the steering committee of the Asian Pacific American Alliance. She has been a community activist for over twenty years.

**Bob Shimabukuro** is currently Executive Director of Asian Pacific AIDS Council in Seattle, WA, organizing in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Shimabukuro has written extensively about his personal experience of caring for his brother Sam, who died of AIDS in December 1989. He has been active in Japanese American and Asian American affairs since 1974, and in the civil rights and anti-war movement since 1964. Bob is a member of the Japanese American Citizens League.

**Marcy Westerling** is on the Board of the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation and the Advisory Board of the Oregon Speak Out Project. She is a consultant on rural organizing strategies for countering the rise of the Radical Right. In 1992 she developed the Rural Organizing Project (ROP) which has organized anti-bigotry groups in over 52 rural and small town communities in OR. From 1988 to 1993, Marcy served as Executive Director of the Columbia County Women's Resource Center, a feminist, grassroots, rural crisis intervention program.

### **International Working Group**

**Terry Chin** is the Director of the El Salvador Field Office of the SHARE Foundation: Building A New El Salvador Today. Prior to moving to El Salvador in 1992, Terry served as Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation in Washington D.C.. She was an invited guest to the signing of the Salvadoran Peace Accords in January 1992, and served on the field coordinating committee of the U.S. El Salvador Elections Observation Mission which brought 500 observers to the Salvadoran elections in March 1994.

**Imani Countess** joined the Washington Office on Africa in January 1990 and is now Executive Director. She is an experienced community activist and organizer for peace and community solidarity. She has worked as Project Coordinator with the Namibia Information Service and Project Coordinator with the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy.

**(International Working Group continued)**

**Susanna Hale** is the Project Coordinator of Earthstewards Network Peace Trees, South Africa program. Her South African partner organization is Abalimi Bezekhaya, Cape Flats Township, Capetown. They plant trees together, and in the process, learn and experience conflict resolution. This is a model for cooperative community action which brings together youth from every ethnic background and even from foreign countries. They will also have a peace park to show for their efforts, a contribution to restoring indigenous trees to South Africa.

**Chavannes Jean-Baptiste** is a founder and current head of the Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP), Haiti's oldest and largest peasant organization. He has spent more than a year outside the country as his leadership has made him a prime target for Haiti's pro-military murderers. Immediately following the coup which ousted President Aristide in 1991, the military ransacked and destroyed the offices of MPP. Now, in the wake of President Aristide's long-awaited return to Haiti, Chavannes expresses the need to increase support to the truly democratic organizations in Haiti.

**Debra Latham** has dedicated the last seven years to the creation, growth, and support of Radio for Peace International. As General Manager, she was one of the initial three staff persons who established this international shortwave radio station broadcasting for social change. She has helped this global community radio station grow to a staff of over ten, broadcasting 24 hours daily around the world from Costa Rica.

**Rana Nashashibi** is a Palestinian feminist and political activist. She is the Director of the Palestinian Counseling Center and member of the executive committee of the Union of Palestinian Working Women Committees. She is also a member of several boards of directors of women's, labor, and educational groups, as well as the Women's Center for Legal Aid and the Counseling Center in the Occupied Territories.

**Mark Rosenblum** is the Founder and Political Director of Americans for Peace Now, and its former Director. A historian at Queens College of the City University of New York, Mark is also Middle East Project Director at the Harrington Center for Social Change, as well as the Editor of the Middle East Policy Papers. Last spring, Mr. Rosenblum organized and moderated a televised series on the Middle East, "From the Battlefield to the Negotiating Table." He attended the Madrid Peace Conference in October and November 1991 and has directly monitored all of the subsequent rounds of peace talks in Washington D.C. Mark currently writes Negotiations Watch, an insider's update on the Arab-Israeli-Palastianian peace talks, published by Americans for Peace Now.

**Maria Suarez** is a Puerto Rican and Costa Rican feminist, teacher, human rights activist and communicator. She has lived in Puerto Rico, the U.S.A. and throughout Central America. She has a Masters degree in Education, but resigned from formal education after five years of teaching at the University of Costa Rica and the SUNY, Albany to join popular literacy campaigns in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras in the eighties. Throughout the same decade she was a human rights and women's human rights activist.

**"Coalition Building"**

**Kim Fellner** is coordinator of the National Organizers Alliance, a newish organization to advance progressive organizing and sustain, support and nurture the people of all ages who do it. Kim spent 17 years working for unions, most recently as the first executive director of the National Writers Union (now part of the UAW) and, prior to that, as PR director for the Screen Actors Guild during the presidency of Edward Asner.

### **(Coalition Building continued)**

**Donald Hopps** is the Director of the Coalition for a Livable Washington. He was Director of the Justice and Peace Office for the Archdiocese of Seattle for ten years. He lobbied in the state legislature for the Washington Environmental Council in 1972 and 1976. He has been active on the board of numerous organizations.

**Jean Parker**, at the age of ten, began her career as an advocate and activist for disability rights by demanding an education in a public school. At the time, no laws existed which would safeguard her right to an education. Due to the commitment of her parents and other advocates Parker was successful in forcing the state of New Hampshire to educate her in its public school system. After moving to Colorado in 1982, Parker became a ski racer and competed on the 1984 United States Disabled Ski Team in Austria. Returning to activism, she worked in a number of independent living centers and community organizations on issues of disability, women's rights and domestic violence concerns. In 1990, she and other people with disabilities in Colorado founded the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition and Parker serves as its Executive Director.

**Jean Sindab**-Please see earlier description, Grantmaking, Community Organizing and Spirituality

**Abdi Soltani** has been a student organizer for seven years beginning with his involvement as a high school student and now continuing in college. As a member of the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), he works with youth groups based in high schools, colleges and communities across the country. For SEAC, Abdi represents students from the West on the all-student board, coordinates the research and production of SEAC's Environmental Justice Organizing Guide, and helps organize an internship program for young people of color focusing on environmental justice and sustainable communities issues in CA.

### **Funders Who Fund in the South**

**Charles Taylor** is an organizer who has worked with the Carolina Alliance for Fair Employment (formerly Workers' Rights Project) since 1981. CAFE is a grassroots group that was formed to empower workers in South Carolina who have little access to unions. Using community organizing techniques to expose and correct unfair employment policies, CAFE has grown from a small local group to a statewide organization with 1,500 individual members working out of 11 chapters. Current CAFE organizing issues include military base closure and conversion, contingent employment, job injuries and workers' compensation, and toxic waste site clean up.

**Karen Watson** is a Native South Carolinian. She co-founded the Positive Action Committee in 1987, after bringing together several citizens to respond to a racial crisis at the local high school. Positive Action Committee has focused on local and congressional redistricting, police brutality, school reform, employment discrimination, and parent, student and citizen education. Karen serves as Coordinator for the Positive Reform Committee.

### **Roundtable Discussions Facilitators**

#### **Alternative Politics**

**Daniel Cantor** is the Director of the New Party, noted as the most successful progressive third-party initiative since the 1930's. The efforts and accomplishments of the Party are significant especially in the face of growing cynicism and alienation from "civic life" felt by many.

**(Roundtable Discussions Facilitators continued)**

**Workplace Funding**

**Deb Furry** is Executive Director of the National Alliance for Choice in Giving and has nine years experience in workplace fundraising. Prior to becoming staff of NACG in April of 1993, Deb was the Executive Director of Community Works, a federation of progressive social change organizations in Boston, MA. She had served three years as the president of the Alliance.

**Economic Renewal**

**Elaine Gross** is a Program Officer at the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. She has developed two new issue areas for funding at Veatch: Economic Renewal and a regional funding initiative focused on the southeastern US. Before becoming a funder, she was Deputy Director of the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Vice President for Programs at the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts and Human Service Director at the Boston Housing Authority.

**Women and Spirituality**

**Helen Hunt** is founder of The Sister Fund, the New York office of The Hunt's Alternative Fund, which funds programs that foster the economic, social, political, and spiritual empowerment of women and girls. She is past Co-Chair of the National Network of Women's Funds and Chair of the New York Women's Foundation. She is currently on the board of the New York Women's Foundation and Ms. Foundation for Women.

**Community Economic Development**

**Alan Rabinowitz** is on the board of Cascadia Revolving Fund, a 501(c)(3) lending to low-income, minority, women entrepreneurs. He has worked on economic development and housing programs since the late 1940s. He is Treasurer of the National Network of Grantmakers.

**Update on the Right in the Northwest**

**Tarso Ramos** is Board Chair and grantmaking Co-Chair for the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation. He is also Director of research and education for the Western States Center's Wise Use Public Exposure Project, created to expose and oppose the corporate and right-wing ideological interests behind the anti-environmental "Wise Use" Movement.

**Environmental Justice**

**Peggy Saika** is the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network in Oakland, CA, Chairperson of the New World Foundation Board of Directors, and a board member of the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Charles Bannerman Fellowship Program, and Pacific Islanders for Reproductive Health.

**Youth Activists and Donors**

**Elaine Sigalove** is the Co-Coordinator of The Next Generation. She most recently served as the Development Director for the Peace Development Fund doing outreach, education and fundraising for PDF's grantmaking tours and training of social change groups.

**Investing for Social Change**

**Sarah Stranahan** is a Board member of the Needmor Fund. She is also on the National Network of Grantmakers' Philanthropic Reform Committee.

**Sacred Sites Organizing**

**Emma Sweet** is Co-Chair of the Snoqualmie Falls Preservation Project. She is a member of the Snoqualmie Tribal Council. She is also an Elder and a spiritual leader.



## **Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues**

**Ted Lord** is Executive Director of the Pride Foundation, a community foundation which has made grants of over \$600,000 since 1987 to 100 Pacific Northwest organizations dedicated to strengthening our lesbian and gay community. He is former Director of Public Relations for Community Services for the Blind, and his volunteer services include work with United Way, Northwest Development Officers Association, Leadership Tomorrow, the Peace Corps, and teaching creative writing to senior groups.

**Andrew Mellen** is the Artistic Director of the Alice B. Theatre, the nation's largest and second oldest lesbian and gay theatre. He has presented on panels for Leadership Washington and Savannah, the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, among others, on cultural work, lesbian and gay visibility and interdisciplinary coalition building. He was the founder of Shuttle Theatre Company in New York City. He was Artistic/Executive Director of the District of Columbia Arts Center from 1990 to 1994. As an actor, Andrew has toured his acclaimed one man show, *My Life as Kim Novak*, throughout the Midwest and East Coast.

**Valerie Reuther** is the Executive Director of Seattle's Lesbian Resource Center. Before joining the LRC staff, Valerie led a dual life as a fundraising consultant for social change non-profits, and as a queer activist and local dyke-about-town. Valerie has also served as the Executive Director of A Territory Resource and as the Development Director for INFACOT on the GE Boycott.

**Sheryl Sackman** is the Executive Director of the Oregon Speak Out Project (OSOP). OSOP's goal is to diminish homophobia by educating the public about lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Sheryl has worked for grassroots organizations and political campaigns. Before coming to OSOP, she was the Associate Director for Oregon NARAL.

**Michael Spencer** is the President of Simple Justice, a network of Christians in Washington State who support the civil rights of all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. He was as a volunteer on Rep. Cal Anderson's 1988 campaign. After seeing the recurring struggle in Olympia to pass an Anti-Discrimination Bill and the threat of the discriminatory initiatives from the Religious Right, it became apparent that there was a need to mobilize church support from all denominations more effectively for the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

### **"Walking Our Talk"**

**Joan Garner** is Executive Director of the Fund for Southern Communities where she previously served as Development Associate. Her commitment to community service includes: Advisor to Mayor Maynard Jackson on Gay and Lesbian issues; Member and founding Board of Trustees of the Atlanta Lambda Center; Georgia Task Force on AIDS; and Board member of the Funding Exchange. This outstanding service earned her the Human Rights Campaign Fund Community Leadership Award in 1992.

**Marla Painter** has been the Director of the Rural Alliance for Military Accountability (RAMA) since 1989. Previously, she was a field organizer for the Rural Coalition working on rural military issues. She was co-founder of Western Solidarity and has been affiliated with Citizen Alert in Nevada since its founding in 1975. Marla currently serves on the boards of the Peace Development Fund, the Rural Coalition and the steering committee of the Common Agenda Coalition.

**Gary Schwartz**-Please see earlier description, Funders Who Fund Native Americans.

