



ROSE FOUNDATION

FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Upcoming Event



Wine Party and Scavenger Hunt

Nov. 15, 2013
7 to 9 PM
Berkeley, CA

\$40 per person
includes 5 wine
tastings and
hor d'oeuvres

Buy Tickets: rosefdn.org/wineparty
An enjoyable Friday night out and fundraiser to support our grassroots activists and youth leaders!

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WANTED: CHAMPIONS FOR GRASSROOTS ACTION

By Tim Little
and Jill Ratner

On New Year's Eve 2012, grocery clerks in Alameda County asked their customers, "Paper or plastic?" for the last time. At 12:01AM, a new ordinance banned throwaway plastic grocery bags. Five years earlier, when Green Sangha started work on the ban, it seemed like an impossible dream. We can thank them, Save the Bay, and so many others, for making that dream a reality, and we can thank you for making our grant to Green Sangha possible.

Most of us don't worry much about our kitchen tap water. But 25% of the Central Valley's small drinking water systems don't meet federal health standards. For the past eight years, with your help, Rose Foundation has supported clean water organizations in the Central Valley: Community Water Center, AGUA, and Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. Last year these groups helped successfully pass the Human Right to Water law in California.

Your support has allowed the Grassroots Fund to award over \$2 million in small grants to groups too new, small or risky to gain attention from most large foundations. For activists organizing creek clean ups, stopping pesticides from drifting into schoolyards, organizing communities to demand toxic cleanups, or teaching children about nature, small grants make a huge difference for people, communities and the environment.

Over 20 years, you've put us in the middle of some of our nation's greatest environmental struggles – and victories, and so we have many people to

thank. Headwaters Forest Reserve stands today because of Environmental Protection Information Center, EarthFirst!, and many others. Your support let us partner with those visionary environmental advocates. Kern County residents breathe easier because you helped us connect with the Kern-Kaweah Sierra Club Chapter, whose settlements forced housing developers to fund community clean air grants.

Nearly 20 years ago, San Francisco Baykeeper sued a scofflaw auto wrecker to enforce the Clean Water Act, asking the court to send mitigation money to Rose Foundation. Since then, Delta-based California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Communities for a Better Environment, and Waterkeepers from Puget Sound to Los Angeles have also directed mitigation money to us, funding \$15 million in grants for community-based watershed protection. You feel their impact when you raft the American River, surf the Ventura Coast, eat fresh salmon, or take in the view of San Francisco Bay from the Berkeley Pier.

Where do we go from here? A big part of the answer will come from you and from the next generation of inspired community environmental leaders you are helping us train and support through *New Voices Are Rising*. We've always loved a good fight. And, from stopping the Delta tunnels to stopping unconstitutional surveillance, there are vital fights left. **With your help, and, in partnership with all the dedicated activists who are our grantees, supporters, students, and colleagues, we can win.** ☺

WHAT DOES ROSE FOUN

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US We would love to hear your story of what Rose Foundation

CINDY TSAI SCHULTZ

Rose Foundation Board Member

NICOLA TSAI

Rose Foundation Development Intern

Cindy

Cindy came to the Rose Foundation with more than 20 years of public health and social justice experience, including working as the Project Coordinator at Organic Exchange, where she implemented strategies to expand rural economic opportunities and protect the environment in India, and co-founding the Chicago Women's AIDS Project in the early 1990s. Her own parents were instrumental in shaping her commitment to social justice; she recalls her own father (a retired physician) saying that people shouldn't have their wallets x-rayed before getting health care. According to Cindy, "Dad was right."

"I love the idea of connections and Rose Foundation is all about connecting people to their communities and to their own power so they can make a profound difference."
- Cindy



"It's all Jill's fault," says Cindy. "She got me excited about Rose Foundation, which is so much more than a foundation, and I wanted to get involved. I love the idea of connections and Rose Foundation is all about connecting people to their communities and to their own power so they can make a profound difference."

Cindy has passed on her passion for social justice to her own daughter, Nicola. Last June, Nicola started with Rose Foundation as the development intern, taking a break from majoring in Political Science at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. As an intern, Nicola has been so helpful in expanding the Rose Foundation's social media presence and assisting in corporate and individual donor fundraising. "The Rose Foundation is my first real work experience. It means a lot to me that I can make a positive impact on the environment and local communities."

"It means a lot to me that I can make a positive impact on the environment and local communities." - Nicola

We can't thank Cindy and Nicola enough for the many hours of work they have put into Rose Foundation and our grantees! Be on the lookout for information about our upcoming Wild & Scenic Film Festival next April - this dynamic duo is helping us shape a fun event, so be sure to join us next year! 🌱

ROBERT MCCORVEY

New Voices Are Rising Alumn 2013

Robert's

Robert's interest in climate protection was shaped by his experiences with Hurricane Katrina. At age ten, he and his family were forced to leave New Orleans after the hurricane left their house uninhabitable. Oakland became their next home, a place Robert approved since hurricanes never happen here.



"Through the *New Voices Are Rising* program, I had to learn to go outside of my comfort zone to help people." - Robert

He heard about *New Voices* when Jill Ratner and Myesha Williams spoke to his junior class at Oakland Street Academy, recruiting students for the 2013 Summer Institute. He came up directly after the presentation, shaking Jill's hand and asking for an application. Robert was one of the first to turn in his application. The Summer Institute was an opportunity for him to do something proactive to help his community face climate change. "I plan on having kids and I would like them to live a better life."

When Robert first started the Summer Institute, he was engaging and a bit of a jokester. As he spent time researching local climate issues and externing with Bikes4Life, a grassroots neighborhood bike shop and social justice enterprise, he became more serious and focused on his work. Robert learned how to rebuild and fix bikes and help others learn these skills as well. "I had to take my time, because if you don't the bike would not be safe for others to ride. The owner or I could get in trouble if someone gets hurt. I wanted to do my best."

Best of all, Robert gained new self-confidence and people skills through the *New Voices* program and externship. "I had to learn to go outside of my comfort zone to help people, to ask questions and to greet and speak to new people who would come in the shop. I also had to learn to step up, and step back, which basically means being aware of when I'm talking too much so I can give other people time to talk, or when I haven't talked enough so that I can make sure I contribute to the discussions effectively." The fact that *New Voices* staffer Myesha bought one of the bikes Robert reconstructed is a testament to the skills he honed through the *New Voices* program. 🌱

FOUNDATION MEAN TO YOU?

means to you on our Facebook page, by Tweet @rosefoundation or by email rose@rosefdn.org !

ANUJA MENDIRATTA

Co-Founder + Senior Strategist, California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative Principal, Philanthropic + Nonprofit Consulting Board Member, Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund

Anuja Mendiratta first started working with the Rose Foundation ten years ago while at the San Francisco Foundation's Environment Program. She has since worked as an independent consultant with foundations, donors, and non-profits on a range of environmental, human rights and social justice issues. In 2005, Anuja co-founded the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, which seeks to improve the health, safety, and rights of the nail and beauty salon workforce across the state and nationally.

The impetus for the Collaborative came when Asian Health Services, a public health clinic in Oakland, began seeing an increasing number of salon workers exhibiting acute symptoms, such as rashes, skin irritation, and respiratory difficulties, as well as more chronic issues, reproductive concerns and cancer. At the time, little attention was being paid to the occupational exposures facing this low-waged workforce largely comprised of women of color and immigrant women of reproductive age. The Collaborative formed in response to these workers' concerns for their health, livelihood and the toxic chemicals in the products they use to provide services to clients. Now, with a membership of diverse organizations, researchers, agency allies, and salon workers from across the state, the Collaborative builds the leadership of salon workers to build the movement for a safer and just salon sector.

Rose Foundation was an early funder of the Collaborative, first through our Grassroots Fund and then with larger grants through our Community Leadership Project in 2010 and 2013.

"Tim and Karla at the Rose Foundation have not only provided us with funding at critical stages of the Collaborative's development, but they have also offered valuable advice and connections to useful resources and other funding sources," says Anuja. "With Rose's support we were able to provide leadership and advocacy training to Vietnamese women workers affected by toxic chemicals in nail salons."



"The Rose Foundation deeply respects and supports the expertise and know-how of California's grassroots groups and coalitions to get things done for the communities we serve." - Anuja

Their powerful testimonies at a County Board of Supervisors' meeting in 2012 ensured the passage of a landmark ordinance in San Francisco, establishing a first of its kind nail salon recognition program for salons that utilize toxic trio-free (DBP, formaldehyde and toluene) products." Anuja and the Collaborative are currently working to advance this Healthy Nail Salon Program model in other cities and counties across the state, including Marin and Alameda counties, Santa Monica, and San Jose. ☺

BRENT PLATER

Executive Director, Wild Equity

Over the past 20 years, the Rose Foundation has developed a unique "ecological niche" in the nonprofit world as a trustee selected by the courts to receive pollution mitigation payments, which then support grants to the communities that suffered harm from the pollution. Recently,



"[Rose Foundation] was a perfect fit for our work defending community health and helping endangered species recover." - Brent

a coalition of conservation and community advocates led by the Wild Equity Institute, Communities for a Better Environment and Center for Biological Diversity created a new \$2 million grants fund at Rose Foundation dedicated to mitigating pollution in low-income communities in Antioch and Oakley, as well as to mitigating harm to endangered species at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, the last home of the critically imperiled Lange's Metalmark butterfly.

The settlement resolved a community-based challenge to a proposed new power plant in northeast Contra Costa County. In the past several years, the California Energy Commission authorized three new power plants within one mile of two existing power plants in Antioch. While the energy will be distributed to San Francisco and other urban areas, the concentrated emissions threaten public health in nearby communities and push the Lange's Metalmark butterfly, whose last wild habitats will be partially surrounded by power plants, closer to extinction. As Brent Plater, Executive Director of Wild Equity Institute, a non-profit dedicated to building a healthy and sustainable global community for people, plants and animals, explains, "endangered species recovery efforts will take a giant leap forward and public health efforts in Antioch and Oakley will be recharged. By bringing grassroots conservation and environmental justice concerns together, we've improved the well-being of us all."

While the settlement was hard, Brent says the choice to send the funds to the Rose Foundation was easy! "The Rose Foundation has worked with East Bay communities for decades, and has a fantastic reputation among funders and grantees alike. It has little bureaucracy, low costs, and a keen eye for distributing limited resources as equitably as possible to support both grassroots conservation and environmental justice efforts. It was a perfect fit for our work defending community health and helping endangered species recover."

Thank you Brent and the rest of the coalition! We're honored to be entrusted with these funds and look forward to sending out the first Request for Proposals next year. ☺

"What I liked best was designing and building the terraces for our garden. I got to use some of the skills my dad taught me when we were doing construction together; but I got to put those skills to work in a different setting doing something for the environment."

Andy Lozano,
New Voices Summer
Institute Alum 2013



NEW VOICES STUDENTS REALIZE THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

Legs akimbo, eyes focused, eleven high school students sprawl across the floor examining maps of their Oakland neighborhoods. It's early July and, rather than working at a local store or baby-sitting their siblings, these student interns at the *New Voices Are Rising* Summer Leadership Institute are being paid to make their communities healthier, happier and more climate resilient. They mark their homes, their schools, and favorite hangouts, noting their proximity to truck routes, freight facilities and industrial sites, overlaying asthma rates, sea level rise maps and other potential climate impacts. The students are on a five-week shared journey to understand the local sources of global warming pollution, explore efforts to avoid risks from climate-related disasters, and finally, unlock their untapped leadership potential to protect their friends, family, and neighbors from the environmental hazards surrounding them.

Removed from the traditional classroom setting, they visited a hidden creek-side park near Oakland's Downtown Auto Row to feel the contrast between natural settings and urban heat islands; they toured Richmond's oil refinery and saw its effect on nearby homes first-hand; they built their own solar oven and cooked in it; they interviewed a Hurricane Sandy survivor and became certified disaster preparedness trainers with Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters.

Each student also worked two days a week as externs with another non-profit. From designing and building a drought-tolerant garden with West Oakland-based American Steel Studios, to training and supporting volunteers in tree-planting in East Oakland's Fruitvale District with Growing Together, the students produced tangible benefits for the communities in which they live.

What's next for this newest generation of environmental justice leaders? They will be designing their own projects and training their fellow students to help make their schools and communities more climate-resilient through *New Voices'* After-School Program. Stay tuned for the amazing projects they come up with! 🌱



A WONDERFUL 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and friends who supported and came out to our 20th Anniversary Party and Film Festival on May 4 at the New Parkway Theater. We had a fantastic time meeting new people and catching up with old friends. We are proud to announce that next year's party will again include an evening of food, fun and films. But this time we will also be hosting SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival, where activism gets inspired. We look forward to having a "reel" good time with you next April! 🌱



THANK YOU TO KATIE KNIGHT

After 17 years of outstanding service, Katie Knight is stepping back from the Rose Foundation Board of Directors. All of us will miss Katie's wisdom and humor, and we thank her for her dedication to building and shaping the Foundation. In addition to serving as the Secretary of the Board, for many years Katie led our development committee. Under her watch Rose grew from an almost entirely volunteer organization to one of the most influential community funders in California.

We wish Katie the best of luck with her future endeavors and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for the amazing work she has done at the Rose Foundation! 🌱



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