

2015 ANNUAL
REPORT

Passion & Purpose



Thu Pham
President

A Message from the President and Board Chair

It's been a transformative year for Rachel's Network. We spent a large part of 2015 charting the future of the organization through our Vision 2020 strategic plan. We're delighted that this plan confirms the values we cherish, and takes them to the next level with passion and purpose.

After 15 years, our members continue to work at the forefront of environmental philanthropy, not only through traditional grantmaking, but through impact investing, shareholder activism—and crucially—collaborative funding. The stories on the following pages exemplify our work to build a healthy, thriving world.

This report is organized much like Vision 2020, into our three pillars of Philanthropy, Leadership, and Capacity:

In order to make systemic changes, we embrace a style of **philanthropy** that leverages all of our assets – expertise, networks, and financial resources. We work with fellow members, and with diverse partners to support smart policies and organizations that protect our communities and our environment, as well as disrupt the industries that do the most harm.

Advancing women's **leadership** is in our DNA. We inspire and motivate one another and promote women leaders in all sectors of society. Our extended community is comprised of friends, advisors, and learners who applaud each other's successes, grow from failures, and celebrate differences.

And finally, we know systemic change is rarely quick and easy. Our work requires long-term **capacity**-building, perseverance, and optimism.

Our vision is ultimately an optimistic one, predicated on the power of possibility. Despite the many daunting challenges facing us, we're committed to putting our resources to work finding solutions. Read on to discover how. •

Vision Statement

Catalyzing our collective power, Rachel's Network influences social, political, and economic systems to advance a healthy, thriving world.

Rachel's Network Members Making an Impact

\$59M+

Combined total granted by members through personal giving, family foundations, donor advised funds, stock, and LLCs in 2015.

75%+

Percentage most members allocate to environmental causes, demonstrating a strong commitment to advancing a healthy, thriving world.



Members' support is widespread and wide-ranging:

protecting land from Maine to Peru and many places in between; blocking destructive dams, oil/gas pipelines and fracking; bringing solar street lights to Indian villages; enacting new environmental reforms in Europe, and much more.

Members take a *systemic approach* to change.

46%

invested in products or companies that advance a more sustainable future

29%

participated in shareholder advocacy

83%

are politically active

2015 Member Accomplishments, Projects, and Milestones



Brooke Borgen penned a widely-read Associated Press article on the trend of professionals leaving the traditional workforce and launching careers as independent consultants. •



Caroline Gabel, a donor and board member of Land Empowerment Animals People, is working to make Sabah, Malaysia the world's first fully green economy. •



Diane Brinkmann's LLC, ACME Grasslands, closed on a land deal with Southern Plains Land Trust to enable 17,000 acres of prairie conservation in the Great Plains. •



Anne Butterfield joined Advisor **L. Hunter Lovins** in developing her "Encyclical to Action" gathering where Colorado leaders from all sectors pledged to reduce carbon emissions. Anne's group Clean Energy Action is also spurring Colorado's largest utility to retire a number of coal plants. •



Jocelyn Sladen helped fund the Flora of Virginia Project's mobile app for field identification of over 3,000 Virginia wild plants. •



Winsome McIntosh celebrated the reinstatement of roadless rule protections in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, an effort the McIntosh Foundation supported for over ten years. •



Arise, a film on women environmentalists produced by **Molly Ross**, was screened at the COP 21 UN Climate Meeting in Paris. •



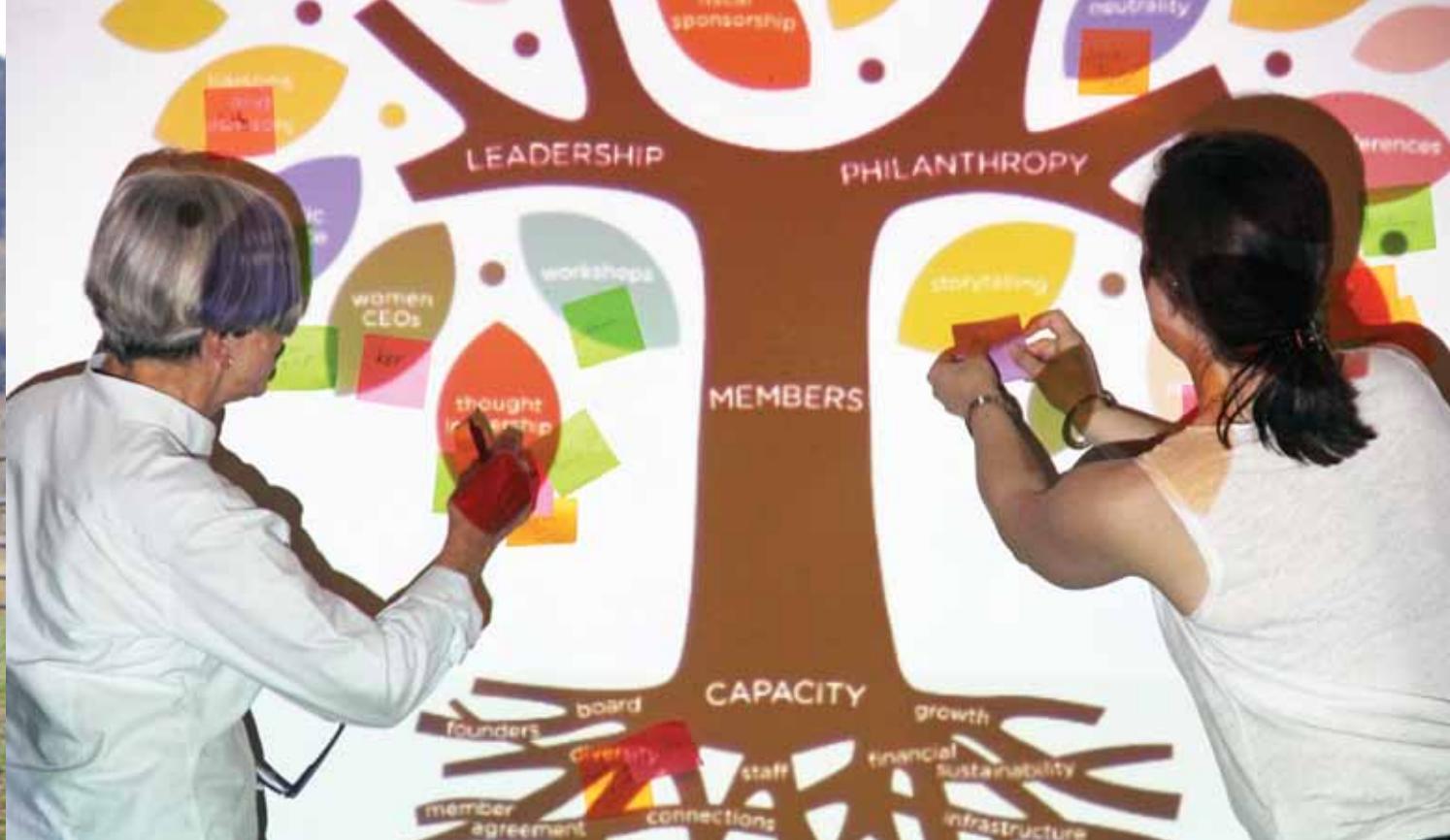
Charlotte Hanes spoke at the Building the New World conference on water and food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate change. •



Linda Campbell, **Diane Brinkmann**, and **Cathy Carlson** helped start an Environmental Affinity Group at the Denver Foundation to help its members become better advocates and donors through education, group giving, and a culture of inclusivity and diversity. •



Cari Rudd's shareholder advocacy supported As You Sow's successful work to get Abbott Laboratories to offer GMO-free baby formula. •



PHILANTHROPY

Collaborative Funding for Greater Impact

A network's power is greater than the sum of its parts. We flex this power through collaborative funding; one of the most impactful ways to create change and grow expertise as funders.

Our own co-founding projects are incubated in the Rachel's Network Learning Circles. Organized around themes like sustainable agriculture, impact investing, and money in politics, Circles facilitate learning and action on members' shared interests.

In 2015, members of the Sustainable Agriculture Learning Circle combined their resources to support As You Sow in shareholder advocacy to pressure large food companies to reduce antibiotic use on factory farms. This grant has allowed As You Sow to tackle a challenge that has so far received little attention from shareholder advocates.

The genesis for the project came out of our 2013 Fall Retreat in Austin, Texas where members learned about antibiotic resistance and became committed to addressing the problem. As many of the funders within Rachel's Network already practice shareholder advocacy, partnering with As You Sow was a natural choice.

Recognizing that the corrupting influence of money on our political system impacts every issue we care about, members also launched a new Learning Circle on the topic in 2015.

The Money in Politics Learning Circle convened conversations on public financing, media, transparency, and movement building with the goal of identifying a co-funding opportunity. Organizations participating in these dialogues included the Democracy Initiative, the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, Demos, and the Piper Fund.

Giving circles are a powerful new force in philanthropy, and we're employing this tool, and the considerable expertise of our members, to initiate positive change. •

1 in 3

Rachel's Network members joined collaborative funding efforts in 2015.

Finding Hope in the Field

“
It was fascinating to learn more about the environmental challenges this gorgeous part of the US faces and what dedicated people are doing here to improve conditions for the flora and fauna.

”

Janet Montgomery
Rachel's Network member,
on her visit to Patagonia,
Arizona

Approaches to conservation have changed considerably over the last several decades. In a world where environmental impacts have gone global and climate change threatens to undue our hard work, what does it mean to be good stewards in the 21st century?

To answer this question, Rachel's Network traveled afield in 2015, visiting two places renowned for their focus on conservation—Costa Rica and Yellowstone National Park—to learn about the latest challenges and solutions.

Costa Rica is pioneering unique approaches to sustainable agriculture, conservation, and economic development and our Annual Meeting there gave us direct access to the people leading this charge.

We learned about the country's payment for ecosystem services program, and their ambitious plan to go carbon neutral by 2021. Along the way, we visited small businesses, farms, and forests to see the impacts of Costa Rica's policies and practices up close.

Our Fall Retreat in Yellowstone also revealed new ways of relating to the land. In addition to visiting some of Yellowstone's most dynamic landscapes, we heard from top experts in wildlife conservation, park management, climate change, and sustainable ranching.

While there, Rachel's Network members and guests could see the future of conservation: a place where humans thrive having repaired their relationship with the landscape and wildlife.

In addition to our two large annual events, members had the opportunity to attend smaller, regional events throughout the US. They included a visit to Patagonia, AZ on land conservation, water management, and border issues hosted by Member Diana Hadley. •





Supporting Solutions to Climate Change

PHILANTHROPY

The expectation (and eventual confirmation) that 2015 was to be the hottest year on record added extra urgency to the United Nations climate negotiations in Paris (COP21) in December.

A number of the Rachel's Network extended community attended the conference to share solutions and push for an aggressive final agreement. They included Members Loren Blackford, Sarah duPont, and Lisa Renstrom; Liaisons Margie Alt (Environment America), Keya Chatterjee (US Climate Action Network), and Rhea Suh (Natural Resources Defense Council); and Advisors Paula DiPerna (who joined members live by phone from Paris), Jane Goodall, Sylvia Earle, and L. Hunter Lovins.

From divesting from fossil fuels and funding diverse organizations to lobbying Congress and investing in clean energy, members are working at every level and corner of the climate movement. And they're sharing what works with their fellow members to amplify their efforts.

"When they see no solution, people just don't want to think about it. But when an effective solution is possible, opinions change quickly," says Board Member Marianne Gabel who, in addition to funding several organizations that work on climate change, also runs a volunteer chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby in her home state of Ohio.

"Grassroots organizing—neighbors talking to neighbors—is a powerful force," says Member Janet Miller who funds efforts to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure in Maine. "Towns and cities across the US and Canada are now fighting back. Together, they're bringing a clean future within reach."

Year after year, Rachel's Network is giving our members the platform, tools, knowledge, and peer support essential to making headway on our planet's most serious challenge. •



Women's leadership in environmental, social, political, and economic decision-making has direct and vital impacts on efforts to address climate change.



Osprey Orielle Lake
Founder and executive director of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network International, writing for the Rachel's Network blog



PHILANTHROPY

Scaling Up Smart Ideas for Sustainable Communities

Running law clinics; advising worker co-ops; developing legislation: despite its small size, the Sustainable Economies Law Center (SELC) is shaking up the way we build prosperity in our communities.

SELC is one of the leading organizations on the sharing economy, a growing movement that applies collaboration to utilize a community's resources for the common good.

SELC Founder Janelle Orsi is a visionary leader, whom Rachel's Network members have been supporting as an Ashoka Fellow since 2014. The Fellowship is designed to help social entrepreneurs scale up their work and includes a three-year stipend, promotion through events and media, and membership in

Ashoka's distinguished network of entrepreneurs, who advise and support one another.

Sponsoring Janelle is just one element of Rachel's Network's broader effort to increase the number of women environmentalists in Ashoka's pool of fellowship candidates.

For the past two years, we've watched Janelle and the SELC grow practical frameworks for a better world. Some of their projects include laws to protect seed sharing, community composting, commons-based farmland, community water management, and pragmatic disruptions of the legal education system.

"More and more people are seeing that happiness comes not through owning things, but through having access to the things that foster rich experiences with their friends, family, and community," says Rachel's Network Liaison Annie Leonard. "[Janelle]'s got... an inspiring vision of sharing as a vehicle for social change."

Our three-year commitment to Janelle's work has allowed her to expand her work into new regions and issues, take risks, and scale up the solutions that are so vital for systemic change. •

Percentage of
Ashoka Fellowship
candidates working on
environmental solutions



Women environmental
candidates



● Before the network teamed-up with
Ashoka

● After partnership
began



Transforming Markets Through Sustainable Investing

While there are now hundreds of advisors who specialize in socially responsible investing (SRI), the industry is still finding its footing. Rachel's Network is helping to mainstream this burgeoning field.

Impact investing and philanthropy go hand-in-hand. "The very same values and ideals that guide our disbursement of funds to the programs that we support should also guide the management of our foundation's capital assets," says Member Adelaide Park Gomer.

As investors like Adelaide align their personal and foundation assets with their values, members are also collectively sharing lessons-learned and pushing for bigger changes in the investment community.

Through the Impact Investing Learning Circle, Members Lisa Renstrom and Abigail Rome gathered information about their fellow members' financial advisors to share with the Network. The document allowed their peers to quickly identify the advisors that could best meet their sustainability and financial goals.

Rachel's Network paired this effort with a teleconference call on strategies for investing in fossil free funds. The call highlighted the success of former Rachel's Network Fiscal Sponsorship recipient Divest-Invest, which has spurred over 500 organizations worth more than \$3.4 trillion in assets to divest from fossil fuels.

Members are also working with investors they're affiliated with to encourage them to offer more fossil-free funds. Anne Butterfield, Martha Davis, Annarie Lyles, Lisa Renstrom, and Molly Ross have undertaken these efforts with large banks like UBS and PNC.

Simply displacing harm won't bring about the sustainable world we envision. We must transform all aspects of our economy to make a difference. Rachel's Network members recognize that sustainable and impact investing play a vital role in this transformation. •



Percentage of members who engage in socially responsible investing

Rachel's Network members and their foundations have signed the **Divest-Invest Pledge** to shift investments from the top 200 fossil fuel companies to climate solutions.

Individuals

Charlotte Hanes, Ann Hunter-Welborn, Annarie Lyles, Abigail Rome, Cari Rudd, and Lisa Renstrom

Foundations

Bullitt Foundation, Fink Family Foundation, Forsythia Foundation, Kristina and Will Catto Foundation, Park Foundation, Shared Earth Foundation, Wallace Global Fund



LEADERSHIP

Advancing Women's Leadership

Multiple studies show that when women ascend to leadership positions, organizations and society benefit.

Companies with better gender diversity are more resilient and profitable; women members of Congress get more bills passed; programs aimed at protecting natural resources are more successful with women's participation. The list goes on.

Elevating more women leaders in government, businesses, and civil society is absolutely essential if we're to live sustainably on this planet.

Rachel's Network contributes to this effort by helping members reach their potential as funders, board members, and advocates, and by funding and amplifying the voices of women environmentalists who are pioneering solutions.

Regular events, teleconference calls, an online community, and trainings keep our members up-to-date on best practices on everything from board governance and communications to issues like sustainable tourism and national parks conservation. •

Members Lead with Distinction

New Board Appointments in 2015



Caroline Gabel (Chair)

Queen Anne's Conservation Association, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the rural character, small towns and natural resources of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.



Diana Hadley

Wildlands Network, a nonprofit that works with private landowners, governments, and businesses to create four Continental Wildways, large protected corridors of land throughout Canada, the US, and Mexico.



Annarie Lyles

Sustainable Princeton in New Jersey works to reduce the community's energy use and waste by bringing together local stakeholders.



Lisa Renstrom

Confluence Philanthropy, an international organization that catalyzes the work of private, public and community foundations, individual donors, and investment advisors who are committed to moving philanthropy towards mission-aligned investment.



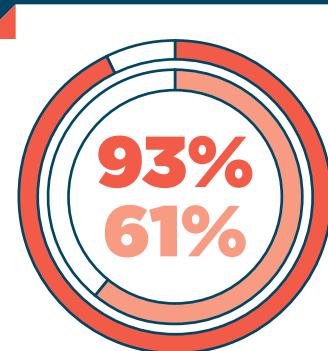
Lynde Uihlein

Center for Plant Conservation, a nonprofit network of 40 botanical institutions whose mission is to conserve and restore the rare native plants of the US. This position was facilitated through an invitation by Member Jocelyn Sladen.



Susan Wallace

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) through a connection with Member Victoria Stack. IFAW works to stop all commercial exploitation and trade of animals by changing policies and practices.



Rachel's Network members are key decision-makers, occupying over 100 board positions.

- Percentage who serve as board directors
- Percentage who hold officer positions



LEADERSHIP

Connecting with Women Leaders

At Rachel's Network, we connect members with the top thinkers on issues we care about and shine a light on women leading the environmental movement.

This year, we welcomed four exceptional women as liaisons to our Network: Annie Leonard, executive director of Greenpeace USA, Rhea Suh, president and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Keya Chatterjee, executive director of the US Climate Action Network, and Theresa Pierno, president and CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association.

These liaisons enrich our Network by sharing their unique insights on everything from diversity in the movement to building coalitions for climate action.

We also bolster their role in the environmental community by amplifying their work and promoting their accomplishments and expertise, as we did when we nominated Advisor Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics, for the Women's eNews Award; an honor she received for her work to push for more women in every level of government.

Within the nonprofit community too, men still make up the majority of directors of large NGOs. By bringing women CEOs together with our engaged membership, we build support for new kinds of leaders and leadership styles in the environmental community and beyond. •

“

Over the long term we need to raise a generation of girls who see they can be public leaders, and a generation of boys who grow up believing that elected leaders can look like their mothers as well as their fathers.

”

Debbie Walsh
Rachel's Network advisor and director of the Center for American Women and Politics



LEADERSHIP

Incubating Nonprofits through Fiscal Sponsorship

Queen conch has been a central part of Bahamian cuisine, economy, and culture for centuries, but growing demand from the US has jeopardized local populations of the species. When Member Martha Davis learned that the Bahamas' queen conch population was declining, she established a nonprofit in 2009 – Community Conch – to conduct surveys, raise awareness, and help reverse the decline.

The Rachel's Network Fiscal Sponsorship Fund was instrumental in this process – it provided Martha with a public charitable umbrella so she could grow Community Conch.

In 2015, she worked with local fishermen and other members of the community to map, survey, and patrol juvenile conch areas. She also launched a public awareness campaign around conch harvesting.

On the other side of the Atlantic, in Benin, West Africa, Member Sarah duPont used the Fiscal Sponsorship Fund to launch a music and arts education program that serves as many as 400 students every week.

The International Center for Art and Music in Ouidah (CIAMO) is tapping into its musical savvy to launch production on an exciting new project, Africa Calling.

Working in conjunction with the US Embassy in Benin, UNICEF, and USAID, Africa Calling will raise awareness about malaria treatment and prevention through music video public service announcements. Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Angelique Kidjo, along with a team of international musicians, and CIAMO students will be featured in the PSAs.

Martha and Sarah are just two members that have taken advantage of the Fiscal Sponsorship Fund. Over the years, the program has also sponsored the Divest-Invest Philanthropy initiative, curated by Lisa Renstrom, and ClientEarth, co-founded by Winsome McIntosh. Both organizations have gone on to become powerhouse nonprofits in the fight against polluters.

Providing a public charitable umbrella has allowed members to grow their work and is central to our goal of broadening our collective impact and building women's power. •



CAPACITY

Financials



Revenues

Membership Grants	\$354,048	45%
General Support	196,873	25%
Restricted Program Funds	121,836	16%
Meeting Registration Fees	92,532	12%
Rachel's Action Network Reimbursement	10,104	1%
Fiscal Scholarship Fund Fees	7,663	1%
Investment Income	(2,435)	0%
Total Revenues	\$780,621	

Expenses

Member Programs	\$353,405	46%
Outreach Programs & Strategic Partnerships	105,271	14%
Management & General	101,601	13%
Fundraising	88,158	12%
Membership Development	72,129	9%
Public Relations	48,209	6%
Total Expenses	\$768,772	

Assets

Change in Net Assets	\$11,849
Net Assets Prior Year	821,966
2015 Net Assets	\$833,814

Major Donors (\$6,000 or more in annual giving)

Marcia Angle
Elena Bekmyrza, Del Mar Global Trust
Kim Bendheim
Mary Bookwalter
Kathy Borgen*, Borgen Family Foundation
Doe Browning, WinMax Foundation
Linda Campbell
Cathy Carlson
Kristina Catto
Irene Crowe*, Pettus Crowe Foundation
Sally Davidson*
Betsy Davidson, JM Kaplan Fund
Martha Davis*
Betsy Fink
Caroline Gabel*, Shared Earth Foundation
Marianne Gabel*
Adelaide Gomer, Park Foundation
Diana Hadley
Charlotte Hanes*
Ann Hunter-Welborn*
Kef Kasdin*
Anna Lawson

Florence Liddell*
Annarie Lyles*
Winsome McIntosh*, McIntosh Foundation
Renée Ring
Abigail Rome
Molly Ross*
Cari Rudd
Raisa Scriabine
Loretta Stadler, Stadler Family Charitable Foundation
Marty Talbot
Susan Wallace*, Woodtiger Fund

* Denotes 2015 Board of Directors

Environmental Leadership Liaisons

Margie Alt, Executive Director, Environment America
Nan Aron, Founder and President, Alliance for Justice
Keya Chatterjee, Executive Director, US Climate Action Network
Jamie Rappaport Clark, President and CEO, Defenders of Wildlife

Suzanne Ehlers, President and CEO, Population Action International
Katie Frohardt, Executive Director, Fauna & Flora International – US
Mary L. Klein, President and CEO, NatureServe
Annie Leonard, Executive Director, Greenpeace USA

Stephanie K. Meeks, President and CEO, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Theresa Pierno, President and CEO, National Parks Conservation Association
Rhea Suh, President, Natural Resources Defense Council

Circle of Advisors

Rev. Sally Bingham, President and Founder, Interfaith Power & Light; President; The Regeneration Project
Dr. Helen Caldicott, Founder, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Founding President, Beyond Nuclear
Paula DiPerna, Special Advisor, Carbon Disclosure Project – North America
Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, Oceanographer and Explorer-in-Residence; National Geographic Society

Kathryn S. Fuller, Chair, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder, Jane Goodall Institute and Gombe Stream Research Center
Hazel Henderson, Founder, Ethical Markets Media, LLC
Hunter Lovins, Founder and President, Natural Capitalism Solutions
Carolyn Merchant, Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy, Ethics, UC – Berkeley

Nora Pouillon, Author; Chef, and Owner, Restaurant Nora
Carolyn Raffensperger, Executive Director, Science and Environmental Health Network
Vikki Spruill, President and CEO, Council on Foundations
Debbie Walsh, Director, Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University
Alice Waters, Author; Chef and Owner, Chez Panisse Restaurant,
Terry Tempest Williams, Author, Naturalist, and Conservationist

Staff

Ariana Carella, Membership Manager
Erica Flock, Communications Manager

Laura Munley Capponi, Program Manager
Thu Pham, President
Jody Spraker Pozen, Deputy Director



Rachel's Network

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20036
www.rachelsnetwork.org
@RachelsNetwork