



Rachel's  
Network

# *Collective Action*

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



### ABOUT US

Rachel's Network is a vibrant community of women at the intersection of environmental advocacy, philanthropy, and women's leadership. With a mission to promote women as agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth, we meet with cutting-edge thinkers, build productive alliances, and connect with savvy, like-minded women to strengthen our leadership and effectiveness.

### VISION

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

### BOARD

Kathy Borgen • Irene Crowe • Sally Davidson •  
Martha Davis • Caroline Gabel • Marianne Gabel •  
Charlotte Hanes • Ann Hunter-Welborn •  
Kef Kasdin (*Chair*) • Laurie Kracum • Fa Liddell •  
Annarie Lyles • Winsome McIntosh • Janet Miller •  
Abigail Rome • Molly Ross • Susan Wallace

## *A Message from the President and Board Chair*

“

*Let us pause and listen and gather our strength with grace  
and move forward like water in all its manifestation:  
flat water, white water, rapids and eddies, and flood this  
country with an integrity of purpose and patience  
and persistence capable of cracking stone.*

RACHEL'S NETWORK ADVISOR TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

”

**There's no denying 2016 was a thorny year** for women and the environment. But in the days following the 2016 election, we've seen a renewed interest in collective action across our network and in the larger society. We are, as they say, the ones we've been waiting for.

In hard times, you will always find women rising to the occasion. Rachel's Network is uniquely positioned to lend our vision and resources to the larger movements for environmental protection and social justice. We have the will, heart, and clout to build new alliances, coordinate bold strategies with existing partners, and lean in hard on our most pressing systemic problems.

In the pages that follow, you'll learn about how we're doing that. From supporting women environmental leaders through our fellowship with Ashoka, to bringing experts and funders

together to talk solutions, Rachel's Network fills a vital role in the movement for a better world.

The challenges ahead are real, but we are made for these times. We wake up each day feeling honored to work with our corps of passionate women to do all we can to protect the only home we have.

With warmth and resolve,



*Fern*

**FERN SHEPARD**  
President



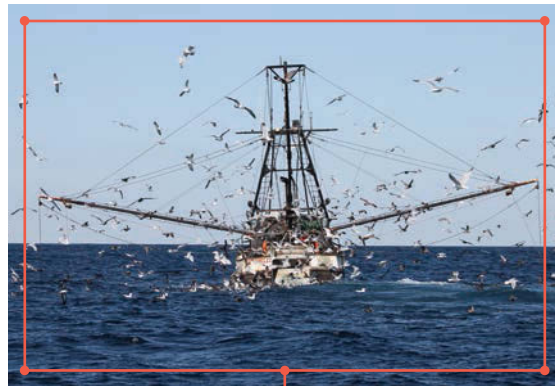
*Kef*

**KEF KASDIN**  
Board Chair



# Rachel's Network Members Making Impact

In 2016, members granted a combined \$59+ million through personal giving, foundations, donor advised funds, stock, and more. The majority of members allocated 75% or more to environmental causes. Here are just a few of their accomplishments, projects and accolades.



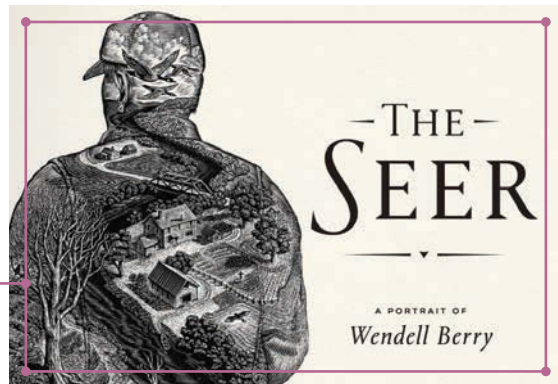
**ANGEL BRAESTRUP** co-authored a paper for the Ocean Foundation on efforts to stop human rights abuses in the shrimping industry.

**WINSOME MCINTOSH** and her late husband Michael McIntosh received the Outsized Impact Award at Exponent Philanthropy's 20th anniversary meeting in Chicago.



**BETSY FINK** was recognized by Food Tank as one of 25 women inspiring change for sustainable agriculture. Her study, The Roadmap to Reduce US Food Waste (ReFED), has been featured in the *Washington Post*, NPR, GreenBiz, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Guardian*, and many others.

**RUTH ANN HARNISCH** was recognized in *Inside Philanthropy* as one of the "50 Most Powerful Women in US Philanthropy."

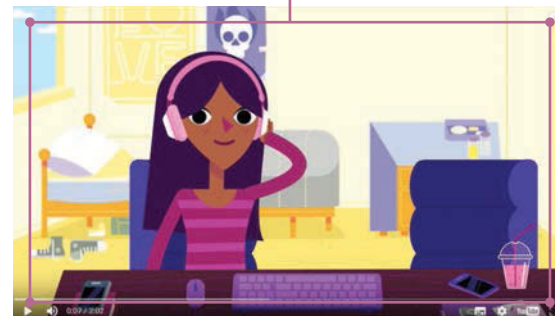


**ELAINE MUSSELMAN** co-produced a film about Wendell Berry, farming, and rural life called *The Seer*. It premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival.

**ASHLEY STONE** hosted the inaugural Bonobo Communications Workshop in San Diego where 40 bonobo stakeholders from around the world came together to raise awareness about bonobo conservation efforts.



**JANET MILLER's** WestWind Foundation, along with partners, launched a lauded online sex education resource for young adolescents called AMAZE.



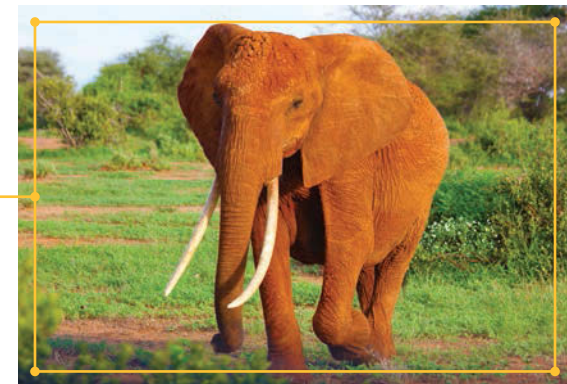
**RAISA SCRIBINE's** television series Earth Focus, won an award from the Society for New Communications Research of The Conference Board for its campaign that raised awareness about the illegal ivory trade. *Illicit Ivory* was written, directed, and produced by Raisa, and supported by **CAROLINE GABEL** and **VICTORIA STACK**.

**HARRIETT CROSBY** testified in support of a Maryland bill to limit "neonic" pesticides. The Pollinator Protection Act was successfully passed into law.



The Ohio chapters of Citizens' Climate Lobby were recognized by the Ohio Environmental Council with the "One to Watch" award. **MARIANNE GABEL** leads the Delaware, OH chapter of the organization.

**SARAH DUPONT's** film *River of Gold*, inspired the creation of a new center through Wake Forest University that will combat environmental destruction and improve human health in the Peruvian Amazon (Centro de Innovación Científica Amazónico - CINCIA).





# Q&A with Rachel's Network

## Member Elena Marszalek

Women join Rachel's Network for all kinds of reasons: for ideas, for support, for access to leading environmental thinkers. Member Elena Marszalek joined the Network in 2015 seeking peers and mentors to help her along her journey as Director of Del Mar Global Trust. We asked Elena about her experience with the Network.

### What issues does your foundation fund?

Our family foundation focuses on women's reproductive health and climate change. I really feel strongly about supporting contraception. It's so much more than reducing fertility; contraception is vital to empowering women. In addition to the environmental reasons, contraception provides many economic and social benefits.

### What inspired you to join Rachel's Network?

Although my foundation was established in 2009, I had a lot to learn about grantmaking and administration. And since I'm the foundation's only employee, I didn't have staff to discuss ideas with. I thought Rachel's Network could help with both these issues. Also, while there are other funders groups out there, I love that Rachel's Network focuses on and empowers women.

### What was your most memorable Rachel's Network event in 2016?

I have two! The first was a Speaker's Series on US Leadership on Women's Rights and Sustainability in the fall with the UN Foundation's Universal Access Project. It was on climate change and reproductive health – the exact issues that interest me. I also got to catch up with my old boss, population specialist Robert Engelman of Worldwatch Institute, and eat at Restaurant Nora in Washington, DC.

The other event I enjoyed was our excursion to The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Virginia. I loved the animals and hearing from all of their women researchers. It's something that I never would have done without Rachel's Network. I'm still talking to people about it.

### You've been involved with co-funding to fight antibiotic overuse through our agriculture circle. What has that experience been like?

Being part of the agriculture circle has allowed me to invest with considerable confidence in an area that I know little about. Our two group leaders who research, monitor, and update us on the grants provide due-diligence and saved much time and effort. It was my first experience in a funding circle and I believe a group experience involving the knowledge and resources of all the members leads to synergy and greater impact.

### What kinds of connections have you made through the Network?

I was introduced to one member with over 30 years' experience funding in the same areas I do. I'm really grateful for this connection, which continues to be an asset to me. And after the 2016 election, it has been really helpful to have Rachel's Network as a support system. It makes me hopeful for the future because I know we have the ability to respond. •





# Co-Funding Solutions

In cities like Atlanta, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, African-American youth face unemployment rates well above the national average, and limited opportunities for career development. Meanwhile, the leadership responsible for stewarding our public lands doesn't reflect our country's diverse population.

Through her organization, the Greening Youth Foundation (GYF), Angelou Ezeilo is working to change the face of conservation in the United States and help young people of color find meaningful careers in conservation.

GYF's signature program is its Youth Conservation Corps which has worked with hundreds of young people ages 17-25 and placed more than 750 in conservation internships and permanent jobs across the country.

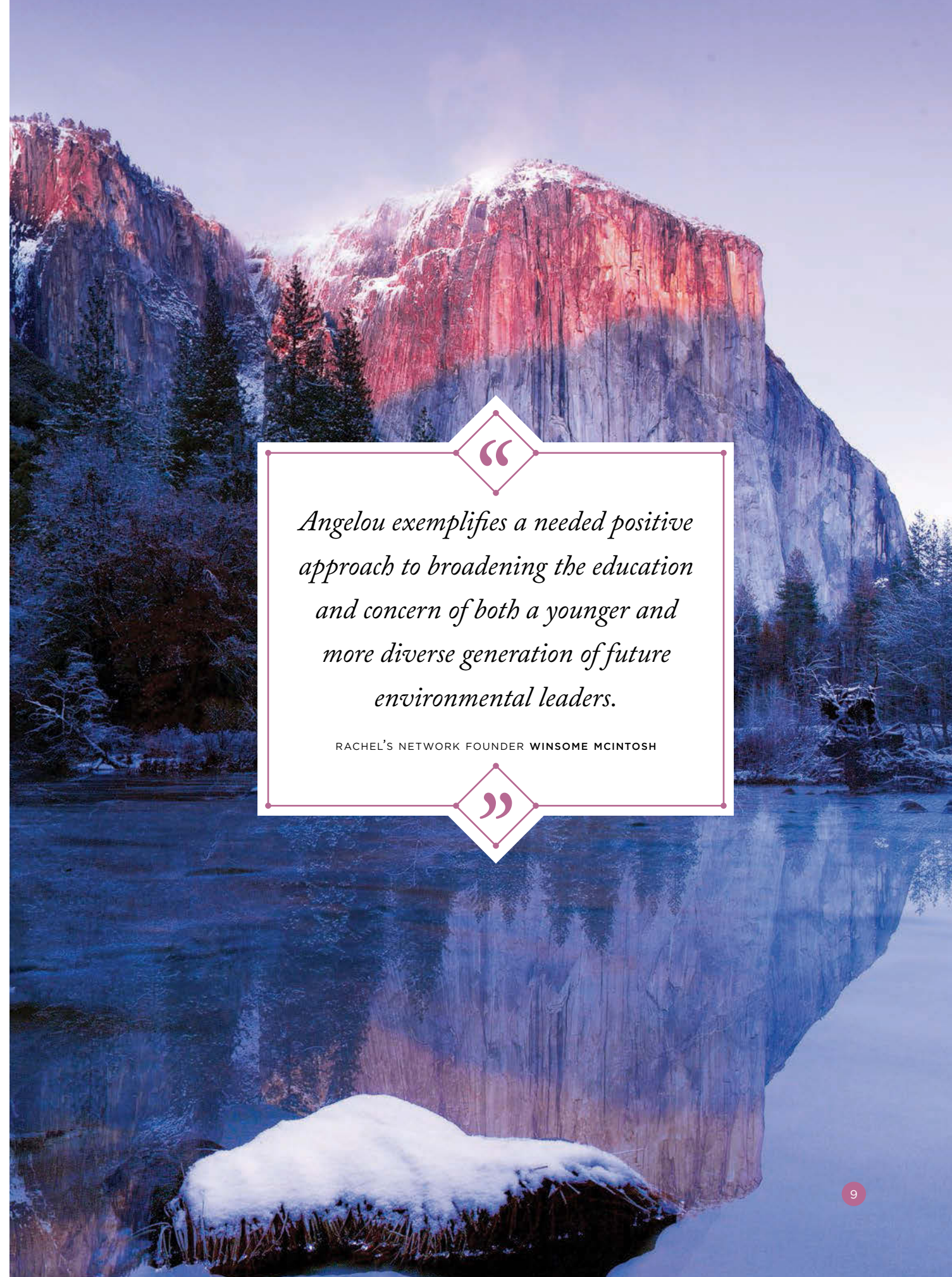
In 2016, Rachel's Network sponsored Angelou as an Ashoka Fellow, to support her work. Like



Fellow Janelle Orsi before her, Angelou's solutions are not only pragmatic and impactful; they're scalable. When you support a woman, you support all the people she is helping in turn. This fellowship is just one way that members build strategic partnerships and practice co-funding.

Rachel's Network also provided a big boost to the coalition pressuring companies to take action on antibiotic overuse in 2016. The Agriculture Circle pooled their resources to enable As You Sow to file a shareholder resolution with Yum! Brands, parent company of KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut, and engage with Restaurant Brands International, parent company of Burger King and Tim Hortons.

Our strategic partnership with As You Sow and the Antibiotic Resistance Action Center (ARAC) is also enabling Hormel to reduce their use of antibiotics and improve animal welfare. ●



*Angelou exemplifies a needed positive approach to broadening the education and concern of both a younger and more diverse generation of future environmental leaders.*

RACHEL'S NETWORK FOUNDER WINSOME MCINTOSH



# Members Lead with Distinction

As a whitewater kayaker and conservationist, Member Kimberley Milligan knows a thing or two about rivers. When she joined the board of American Rivers, her passion and knowledge became an asset to an organization fighting for clean water.

Not only did Kim introduce another member, Abigail Rome, to the board in 2016, she helped organize a regional Rachel's Network event in Lake Tahoe which highlighted American Rivers' work to restore habitat in the northern Sierra. "It was wonderful to share a bit about American Rivers' work with Rachel's Network members," said Kim. "Mountain meadows are majestic landscapes and their health is crucial to protecting the headwaters of our nation's rivers."



We help members like Kim reach their potential as funders, board members, and advocates. Through a board placement program, events, connections to experts, and discussion forums, we equip members with the tools they need to become effective in their other roles.

Rachel's Network members serve on the boards of organizations including Defenders of Wildlife, National Parks Conservation Association, NatureServe, Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Boys and Girls Club, Environmental Film Fest in the Nation's Capital, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and many more. •



## NEW BOARD & PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 1. BETSY DAVIDSON** • Deputy Director, **Aspen Institute's** New York office. The Aspen Institute is a nonpartisan forum for values-based leadership and the exchange of ideas.
- 2. KEF KASDIN** • President, **Princeton AlumniCorps**, a nonprofit whose mission is to inspire and build civic leadership among Princeton alumni across generations.
- 3. ANNARIE LYLES** • President, **Investors' Circle Philadelphia**, promoting the transition to a sustainable economy by increasing the flow of capital to enterprises that are addressing social and environmental challenges.
- 4. KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN** • Board Vice Chair, **American Rivers**, protecting wild rivers, restoring damaged rivers, and conserving clean water for people and nature.
- 5. KAIA MORITZ** • Board Director, **Vail Valley Foundation**, enhancing and sustaining the spirit of the Vail Valley by providing leadership in educational, athletic and cultural endeavors.
- 6. THU PHAM** • Board Director, **Defenders of Wildlife**, dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities.
- 7. ABIGAIL ROME** • Board Director, **American Rivers**.
- 8. SUSAN WALLACE** • Board Director, **International Fund for Animal Welfare**, saving animals and habitats all over the world.



# Collaborating for Solutions

**For years**, environmental campaigners have brought attention to the dangerous effects of thousands of toxic chemicals in everyday products like food, cosmetics, cleaning supplies and furniture. But we have yet to see responsible replacements to these chemicals on the market.

“A good example is BPA in baby bottles,” says Rachel’s Network Member Alison Carlson. “Companies now tout products that are BPA-free, but in many cases, they have replaced BPA with untested alternatives like BPS which are no less toxic.”

So Alison launched Safer Made, a venture capital fund that invests in companies developing safer alternatives to harmful materials. The initiative is led by an experienced investor and a leading expert in green chemistry.

After Alison presented on Safer Made at our Annual Meeting, several members stepped forward to help fund the project, which is supporting companies in the very early investment stage.



This kind of synergy happens frequently in Rachel’s Network, particularly through our events. When a member shares her project, she often finds other members ready to contribute with ideas, resources, or connections.

As Board President of Clean Energy Action (CEA), Member Anne Butterfield is working to get electric utilities in Colorado off coal power. Along with her colleagues, she’s demonstrated that the nation is running out of profitable coal, but companies aren’t heeding the warning signs.

Through her connections with a fellow Rachel’s Network member, Anne was able to work with As You Sow to file a shareholder resolution with Xcel requesting the company disclose the risk of stranded assets to investors. “We at CEA could not be more delighted,” said Anne.

Because of Rachel’s Network, Anne and Alison have been able to accelerate progress on environmental solutions. It’s the kind of synergy that happens whenever our members get together. ●



*A scientist from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute was at a Rachel’s Network event. He had a project and I told him that I’d match-fund if he could find another donor. Another member of Rachel’s Network came up and said ‘I’ll match-fund too.’ So we became partners.*

CAROLINE GABEL



# Convening to Inspire Action

The world of philanthropy is changing fast. From impact investing to social entrepreneurship, funders must stay informed about new tools to make a difference on the issues they care about.

Semi-annually, our members gather to learn from thought-leaders and network with peers. Our Annual Meeting provides access to influential advocacy and policy leaders, while our Fall Retreat facilitates site-specific learning about a timely environmental theme. These signature events are bolstered by smaller regional events and teleconference calls held throughout the year.

At our 2016 Annual Meeting, “Catalyzing Our Collective Power,” we discussed issues like diversity and equity in the environmental movement, collaborative funding and new forms of leadership, money in politics, and grassroots funding.

The Meeting also included an environmental lobby day on Capitol Hill and an excursion to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute



(SCBI) in Front Royal, Virginia, an affiliate of the National Zoo that’s supported by several Rachel’s Network members.

“At SCBI I found people doing what I had only dreamed of doing: saving endangered species through the study of behavior, genetics, and reproductive physiology,” said Suzanne Engel. “I am thrilled to support this work.”

Our focus turned to the sustainable innovation happening in cities at our Fall Retreat in Portland, Oregon. Led by local leaders like Portland’s Green Building Manager Alisa Kane, Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Leah Treat, and First Lady Nancy Hales, we traversed the city to learn what makes it a green leader.

Members also visited Sikta Sedge Natural Area, home of one of the last intact estuary systems in Oregon, and heard from the women who led the successful passage of the Clean Energy and Coal Transition Act, a bill that makes Oregon the first state in the nation to ban coal-fired electricity. ●



*Philanthropy can’t do it alone.  
We need systemic change.*

KEESHA GASKINS, ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND



# Leading Change

The environmental movement has faced a host of uphill battles for decades. Being a leader in this field requires a special kind of person, one with the right mix of both unflappable persistence and adaptability.

Rachel's Network Environmental Leadership Liaisons — women CEOs of influential national or international environmental nonprofits — fit the bill. These women know when to dig in, and when to rethink their strategies. And having a capable board chair at the helm is vital to running an impactful organization.

Liaisons span the breadth of the environmental movement, from conservation groups like the National Parks Conservation Association to groups that advocate for historic preservation, reproductive rights, public interest law, and climate action.



## TOP TAKEAWAYS FROM “LEADING CHANGE”

1. Format board meetings to look forward, rather than backward; create/present fewer reports.
2. Ensure board has opportunities to learn, engage meaningfully, and have fun.
3. Formalize diversity and inclusivity goals, including gender parity.
4. Be responsive in communications with staff/board members.
5. Be focused with time, energy, and funds.
6. Expand personal/professional networks; listen more.

During the Rachel's Network Annual Meeting, a group of our liaisons, along with their board chairs, led a powerful discussion on how they've learned to collaborate at the board level to tackle some of the biggest challenges our country faces.

Panelists included Defenders of Wildlife President and CEO Jamie Rappaport Clark and Board Chair Winsome McIntosh, Greenpeace USA Executive Director Annie Leonard and Board Chair Karen Topakian, US Climate Action Network Executive Director Keya Chatterjee and Board Chair Heather Coleman, NatureServe President and CEO Mary Klein and Board Chair Nicole Firlotte, and Institute for Conservation Leadership CEO Dianne Russell. •

*[Board directors must] engage, not  
just show up. Push the system.  
Challenge the status quo.*

JAMIE RAPPAPORT CLARK, PRESIDENT, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE



# Board & Financials



REVENUES	
Membership Grants	\$349,290
General Support	209,857
Restricted Program Funds	62,523
Meeting Registration Fees	88,791
Rachel's Action	
Network Reimbursement	16,192
Fiscal Scholarship Fund Fees	1,581
Investment Income	76,643
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$804,877</b>

EXPENSES	
Member Programs	\$286,199
Outreach Programs & Strategic Partnerships	153,922
Management & General	79,679
Fundraising	79,246
Membership Development	59,781
Public Relations	51,685
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$710,512</b>

## MAJOR DONORS (\$6,000 or more in annual giving)

Marcia Angle  
Loren Blackford  
Eleanor Bookwalter  
Borgen Family Foundation  
Kathy Borgen\*  
Doe Browning, WinMax Foundation  
Diane Brinkmann  
Linda Campbell  
Irene Crowe\*, Pettus-Crowe Foundation  
Martha Davis\*

Betsy Davidson, JM Kaplan Fund  
Sally Davidson\*  
Carolyn Gabel\*, Shared Earth Foundation  
Josie Gabel  
Marianne Gabel\*  
Gellert Family Foundation  
Adelaide Park Gomer, Park Foundation  
Charlotte Hanes\*  
Ann Hunter-Welborn\*  
Kef Kasdin\*

Alice Liddell  
Fa Liddell\*  
Annarie Lyles\*, Dobson Family Fund  
Winsome McIntosh\*, The McIntosh Foundation  
Abigail Rome  
Molly Ross\*  
Marty Talbot  
Lynde Uihlein  
Susan Wallace\*, Woodtiger Fund

\* Denotes 2016 Board of Directors

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP LIAISONS

Margie Alt, Executive Director, Environment America  
Nan Aron, Founder and President, Alliance for Justice  
May Boeve, Executive Director, 350.org and 350 Action Fund  
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, Wild Earth Allies  
Seema Jalan, Executive Director, Universal Access Project  
Janis Searles Jones, CEO, Ocean Conservancy  
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, Washington, DC  
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, Berkeley, California  
Terry Tempest Williams, Author, Naturalist, and Conservationist

## STAFF

Anna Card, Program Manager  
Ariana Carella, Network Engagement Director

Erica Flock, Communications Manager  
Fern Shepard, President





# Rachel's Network

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