WE CAN BE HEROES, JUST FOR ONE DAY

By Tim Little

A hero is someone who is afraid to run away.

- Anonymous English proverb

Who’s your hero?

When I was growing up, my heroes were Spiderman, Carl Yastrzemski, and my dad. (Yes, dad came in third – sorry, Dad.) As I grew up and learned politics, Martin Luther King became tougher than John Wayne. Ron Dellums replaced JFK.

But I realized that my concept of who could be a hero had changed too. A student of the classics fueled by five years of Latin, my heroes had always met the Webster’s Dictionary definition, “a man of great strength and courage, favored by the gods and in part descended from them.” That works fine in mythology, and it’s okay in the movies too. But what about in real life?

I’ve had the honor to meet, work with, and learn from many great environmentalists. Thirty years ago, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley shook my hand and then asked for a shovel so we could plant trees together. He stopped being larger than life and became a guy who cared enough about his city to get dirty on a Saturday. Mary Nichols held my hand when I was learning air policy at the Coalition for Clean Air and Felicia Marcus taught me about water when I was with Heal the Bay. David Brower taught me that no matter how hard my day had been, I needed to make time to relax in the evening. Carl Anthony, Dorothy Green, Sylvia McLaughlin, Andrea Lawrence… It’s a long list, and I’m grateful to each one.

From afar, David Brower was the greatest environmentalist of our time. But up close, he was a guy who knew how to mix a martini and cook pancakes. Heroes are not “descended from the gods.” They walk and save the earth alongside all of us every day.

So what makes a hero? Bob Dylan says it’s understanding the degree of responsibility that comes with our freedom. Arthur Ashe told us that it’s not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others, at whatever cost. And Ralph Waldo Emerson, in a line that was later stolen by Ronald Reagan, said that a hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer.

When I stir all that together, I see the mosaic of grantees that Rose Foundation is honored to know and support. I see people whose sense of responsibility drives them to serve their communities and the environment – often at significant personal cost. And I see ordinary people who are brave enough to stand up and do what is right.

Please join me in saluting these heroes for showing us a sustainable pathway for our fragile and shrinking planet. And find more heroic stories at rosefdn.org/grants.
MEET ROSE FOUNDATION

By Jasmine Amons

Over the past 22 years, Rose Foundation has enabled more than $40 million in community grants and worked with countless environmental activists. Below are only a handful of our environmental heroes, activists that are working tirelessly to protect communities and our environment. We hope these stories inspire you, just as they have inspired us!

Marily Woodhouse, Battle Creek Alliance
thebattlecreekalliance.org

“Our mission is to protect the public trust resources of forests, watersheds, and wildlife in Shasta and Tehama Counties. We’ve been collecting water quality data since 2009 and this year we are expanding to include bird of prey rehabilitation. Our water quality data is the only consistent data collection in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges. It provides real evidence of some of the impacts of clear-cutting and salvage logging.

I think our challenges don’t really change a lot from year to year. They’re the same ones all small groups face – there aren’t a lot of people working on our issues, there isn’t a lot of money, and we’re up against a really powerful, well-funded industry.”

Maricela Morales, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy causenow.org

“CAUSE is about grassroots power - grassroots power for social, economic, and environmental justice. That is at the core of who we are. Our heart, mind, and hands are to build that power and to bring about social change.

This year is a David and Goliath year for us. With Rose Foundation funding, we will be surveying and hosting community forums on access to the Santa Clara River. We’re also working to stop the fourth power plant on Oxnard’s beachfront, in a city that is predominantly low-income communities of color. We’re up against major corporations and powerful interests. We’re building people power – grassroots power – on very critical issues that are confronting established corporate interests.”

FAREWELL

For 17 years, we were honored to work with Karla James as our Managing Director. Karla served as the Program Director for several grants funds, enabling her to travel throughout California and meet activists dedicated to making our communities and the environment better, cleaner, and healthier. “I have learned so much, had amazing experiences, and made some wonderful life-long friends,” Karla said.

“And I’m proud that at every step of the way, everyone here at Rose Foundation has shared my commitment to re-envisioning philanthropy from the perspective of grantees and applicants to try to make it work better for everyone.” We look forward to following Karla’s career as she begins her work as the Director of Finance and Operations at the National Center for Youth Law.

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Colin Bailey, The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

ejcw.org

“EJCW’s mission is to educate, empower, and nurture a community-based coalition that serves as a public voice and advocate for environmental justice issues in water quality.

2016 is shaping up to be one of the most momentous years in the history of California water. Proposition 1, the last Water Bond that passed in 2014, represents a generational opportunity to identify the need of water-disadvantaged communities and to develop the capacity of those communities. We think this is a moment to create important precedent and move California away from a rigid, arcane, unsustainable, and unjust water rights regime.”

Sejal Choksi-Chugh, San Francisco Baykeeper

baykeeper.org

“Baykeeper was formed in 1989 and our mission is to protect San Francisco Bay using advocacy, litigation, and science. We are a very effective organization and we are able to be really flexible. Baykeeper is working with regional agencies and other nonprofits to come up with adaptation measures to protect the Bay, its shorelines, Bay wetlands, and shoreline communities.

This year, we are working on reducing pollution in San Francisco Bay from trash, sewage, and toxic heavy metal runoff from industrial facilities. We are also working on preserving sand and sediment in the Bay, to protect the Bay’s wetlands, prevent erosion of coastal beaches, and prevent harm to the Bay’s wildlife.”

Sandy Jerabek, Tolowa Dunes Stewards & Friends of Del Norte Conservation Council
tolowacoasttrails.org

“I work with two grassroots groups up here in the northwestern most corner of California, which we call Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands.

Tolowa Dunes Stewards was founded to restore our public coastal lands where the Tolowa Indians have their place of origin and aboriginal lands, which were taken from them after systematic massacres. We’re focused on education, restoration, and reaching out to tribal members and local youth to protect and restore dunes and wetlands.

The Smith River is California’s last wild, undammed river, and a stronghold for endangered salmon. This year, Friends of Del Norte is focused on stopping STAA trucks from coming through the Smith River canyon, where trucks will endanger Coho salmon and motorists.

You have some of California’s most spectacular ecosystems here in this little county: the last wild river, the largest coastal lagoon, huge forests of old growth Redwoods. I personally feel incredibly privileged and fortunate to be able to live and work in a place that’s like a little piece of Alaska dropped into California. I enjoy getting my hands dirty and I love learning all of the native plants and animals that we get to live with up here.”

2015 INCOME $5,614,410

- Restitution Funds 59%
- Grants Received 30%
- Donations 8%
- Return on Investment 1%
- Other 1%

2015 EXPENSES $5,123,041

- Environmental Grants 56%
- Donor Advised Grants 10%
- Fiscal Sponsorship Grants 10%
- Admin & Fundraising 8%
- Program Expenses 7%
- Grassroots Fund 6%
- New Voices Are Rising 3%
AN EVENT HOSTED BY AND TO BENEFIT ROSE FOUNDATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

Historic Sweet’s Ballroom
1933 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94112

FILMS • ART • FOOD & DRINKS
SILENT AUCTION • CELEBRATION

5:00 PM  VIP Happy Hour
Sponsored by Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
Featuring delicious authentic Vietnamese sandwiches and rice bowls from Bicycle Banh Mi, sweet treats from VAINILLA Bakery, and a bottomless Klean Kanteen pint cup to enjoy your beverage of choice.

6:00 PM  Environmental Fair
Sponsored by Altshuler Berzon LLP
Environmental Fair includes interactive exhibits from local green businesses and Rose Foundation grantees. We’ll also feature an enticing silent auction selection along with opportunity drawings for valuable prizes from Patagonia, Klean Kanteen and more! Featured silent auction items include 2-day whitewater rafting trip from ARTA River Trips, entry for four to Disneyland theme park, Oakland A’s Tickets and more!

7:00 PM  Films Start

$15 General | $40 Dinner & A Movie | $75 VIP Package
BUY TICKETS ONLINE at rosefdn.org/filmfest
The Fable of the Wolf
Sponsored by Earthjustice
A long time ago wolves and men hunted together, but over time this relationship changed. This animated short explores the relationship between wolf and man and how that relationship has affected wild ecosystems.

Mother of All Rivers
Goldman Environmental Prize Winner
Berta Cáceres rallied her indigenous Lenca people to wage a grassroots protest that successfully pressured the government of Honduras and the world’s largest Chinese dam builder, SinoHydro, to withdraw from building the Agua Zarca Dam.

The Fisherman’s Son
Sponsored by New Resource Bank
Born and raised in a small fishing community in Chile, Ramón Navarro found his passion riding some of the biggest waves on the planet. This film focuses on Ramón’s rise to fame and how he’s using his legend status in surfing to speak out for the protection of his lifelong home.
The trucks, trains, ships, and planes that carry our food, cell phones, and other products have very different impacts on different neighborhoods. Alameda County residents who live near ports, railyards, freeways, and rail lines breathe air with more than twice the diesel pollution than the air breathed by residents in the County’s least freight-impacted areas. The pollution takes a serious toll: East Oakland neighborhoods with truck routes, rail lines, warehouses, and air cargo operations have twice as many asthma-related visits to the emergency room than the overall county rate.

Since October 2014, New Voices Are Rising and other members of the Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative have explored how plans to move more freight through the region are likely to affect health in vulnerable communities. New Voices students helped organize community workshops to get stakeholder input and feedback and develop recommendations for County actions to protect and improve neighborhood health as freight volumes increase.

In February, Oakland’s at-large City Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan used these recommendations to craft a resolution, outlining health protective policies to guide implementation of the new goods movement plan. New Voices Fellow Nate Henderson spoke before the Commission voted on the plan, saying, “I have a deep concern about the pollution that my community is facing and the environmental injustice… I walk past trucks spewing out waves of exhaust and hear the 880 freeway just a few hundred yards away from my backyard. Dusting the soot from my windowsill each week is a reminder of what I’m breathing into my lungs.”

The accompanying resolution passed unanimously, setting a framework for a more health protective and equitable county freight system.

Pa Dwe
“I was born in Burma. I lived in Mae La, a refugee village, and there I developed a love for the environment. I came to the United States when I was nine-years-old and now I live in Oakland. As a New Voices Fellow, I help Oakland’s low-income communities combat high childhood asthma rates. I’m a junior at Oakland Emiliano Zapata Street Academy, where I’m currently helping to lead a tree-planting project.”

Jennifer Escobedo
“I became a New Voices Fellow to tackle environmental issues that have been on my mind for years. My senior project at Coliseum College Preparatory Academy is to raise community awareness about the pollution that is degrading our environment and making people sick in East Oakland. I truly believe that age does not matter as long as there is support from those that believe the same things that you do.”
Nate Henderson
“I was born and raised in southeast Michigan and moved to Oakland in 2014, where I enrolled in Oakland High School’s Environmental Science Academy. Last year I participated in New Voices’ Climate Justice Leadership Academy and it strengthened my love for the environment. I’m completing my senior project on environmental problems caused by fracking in California oil fields. When I go to university next year, I want to focus on work that will keep our environment precious and pristine.”

Matthew Shivers
“I’m a senior at Coliseum College Preparatory Academy, and next year when I attend college I plan on studying health. I’ve been interested in ecosystems and health since I first visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium as a kid. My senior project is on carbon dioxide levels, because CO2 is both a crucial element in human life and it contributes to global warming.”

Kyree Survine
“I’m a sophomore at Oakland Emiliano Zapata Street Academy. My principal first suggested that I look into New Voices. Before I went through the Summer Climate Justice Leadership Academy, I had no knowledge of environmental justice or what the term even meant. Now I am learning what it means to be an environmental justice leader, and what it feels like to work for a cleaner, healthier Oakland.”
IN THIS ISSUE:

Big Win for *New Voices* and Our Colleagues at the Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative  
by Jill Ratner

We Can Be Heroes, Just For One Day  
by Tim Little

### Become a Friend of Rose Foundation

Take action for your community's environment, health and vitality:

- Like us
- Follow us @RoseFoundation
- Join our Email Newsletter! Email rose@rosefdn.org with Subject: Join E-News

### ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY!

**YOU’RE INVITED TO A BENEFIT FOR ROSE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Saturday April 30, 2016**

5:00 PM VIP Happy Hour  •  6:00 PM Environmental Fair  •  7:00 PM Films Start

Historic Sweet’s Ballroom • Oakland, CA

Tickets start at only $15! Buy yours today at rosefdn.org/filmfest

### DONATE AT ROSEFDN.ORG/DONATE

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment supports grassroots initiatives that inspire community action to protect the environment, public health and consumers