MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Happy New Year and thanks for being a valuable part of SAFSF. I look back on last year and give thanks for what we have accomplished, yet there are still many challenges facing all of us working for a sustainable food system. As I reflect on events like super storm Sandy and the great drought, as well as the continued rise in obesity, diabetes and other diet related disease, our collective work feels more urgent and important than ever.

SAFSF is growing as more philanthropic attention is paid to our food system. We continue to serve our membership; build bridges with new philanthropists; develop deeper connections between health and food system funders; and create new networks with international food system funders and more.

The 2012 Forum in Santa Barbara saw record attendance, amazing enthusiasm and as always, was inspiring and a lot of fun. We are also looking forward to the 2013 June Forum in Providence, Rhode Island to explore the interplay of risk and resilience in our food system. On our Steering Committee (SC), we’ve said “good-bye” but not “farewell,” to our two long-time SC members Greg Horner (Cedar Tree Foundation) and Geraldine (Gerry) Wang (formerly with the William Penn Foundation). It has been a pleasure to work with Greg and Gerry; we look forward to many more fun and fruitful times in the future. Two new Steering Committee members joined in 2012. We are excited by the energy, commitment, and knowledge of Andrew Kang-Bartlett (Presbyterian Hunger Program) and Mailee Walker (Claneil Foundation).

SAFSF is only as strong as its members and supporters; we invite you to participate in all we have to offer – support of regional networks, an exciting line up of funders’ calls, study groups, and a fabulous Forum in Providence.

Wishing you a year of warmth, happiness and sustenance,
Scott Cullen
GRACE Communications Foundation
NEW MEMBERS IN 2012
New SAFSF members in 2012 include 3 corporate foundations; 7 private family foundations; 1 donor advised fund; 1 community foundation; 1 health conversion foundation; and 2 private foundations (total 15). We are now a network of 81 members and growing.

Please help us welcome:

Astan Foundation, Inc., CT
Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation, CT
Blackie Fund, CA
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, NC
Broad Reach Fund, ME
Eos Foundation, MA
Gates Family Foundation, CO
Henry P. Kendall Foundation, MA
Merck Family Fund, MA
Prince Charitable Trusts, DC
Swift Foundation, CA
The California Endowment, CA
The Fund for Santa Barbara, CA
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Quebec, Canada
United Natural Foods Foundation, RI

Interested in becoming a member? Call Virginia Clarke at 805.687.0551 or email her at vclarke@safsf.org.

SAFSF STEERING COMMITTEE
SAFSF is fortunate to have a strong, very capable and engaged leadership team, which includes:

Tim Crosby, Thread Fund
Scott Cullen, GRACE Communications Foundation, Co-Chair
Becca Golden, Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Co-Chair
Gail Imig, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Andrew Kang Bartlett, Presbyterian Hunger Program
Cecily Kihn, Ague Fund, Inc.
Ron Kroese, McKnight Foundation
Mailee Walker, Clanайл Foundation

DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
Dedicated to Herbert H. Clarke, Jr. (1918 – 2012) and Russell Wayne Libby (1956 – 2012)

These two men could not have been more different. My father, originally from the Pacific Northwest, was deeply conservative, reactionary in some ways, and had deep and life-long ties to the chemical industry. Our family home was often ground zero for some of his experiments and most ‘breakthrough products’—for better or worse for our family’s health. In fact, Herb marveled in what man could create. However, in his final weeks, thinking about ‘big life questions’ that often visit those close to death, he allowed as how the chemical world he’d helped to create had pushed us a bit too close to the edge. A huge and sobering admission.

Russell, born and raised in Maine, was an ardent and passionate defender of the natural and organic world. As the director of Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), Russ worked to create a clean and healthy living environment for plants and birds and animals and people. Chemicals, as one might imagine, were not high on his list of ‘must haves’.

Yet, while drastically different, these two men shared some very significant traits. They both valued family and community. They sought out deep and interesting conversations. They were excellent storytellers, curious, valued discovery, and didn’t suffer fools. They relished unearthing the ‘other’ and were willing to listen, to challenge their assumptions, to assess, and to learn. Often quiet, each had a keen wit and a robust sense of humor.

Both Herb and Russell provided me with hours of wise counsel over these last ten years as SAFSF has morphed and changed and grown. Their insights and business acumen, their encouragement to take risks, to engage new voices, and to just keep moving forward have been part of SAFSF’s history, though few of you knew them. My life is richer, our network is stronger as a result of their lives.

Peace and Blessing to each of you,

Virginia Clarke

CREATING COMMON GROUND (CCG)

SAFSF continues to serve as lead for this project in cooperation with our partners Good Food Funders Network and the Convergence Partnership. The goal of this project is to foster closer working relationships among funders working at the food-ag health nexus. 2012 was a busy year for the CCG project with several convenings and learning call/webinars. In May we gathered with funders in North Carolina resulting in a new member (Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina) and work with additional health funders. In June we hosted a ‘Culinary Boot Camp’ in Santa Barbara allowing for hands-on experience and in-depth conversations while attendees cooked, and mixed their way through the kitchen and classroom. And in October in San Francisco, we held a day-long meeting for some forty funders to highlight a broad spectrum of issues including food packaging and related health impacts; animal welfare, food animal production and human health; food justice and equity issues as demonstrated by work underway in California’s Central Valley; and updates regarding food/farm policy work across the country. Our calls topics included promoting health and equity for agricultural workers; addressing obesity; hunger in America for older adults; and visualizing the Farm Bill.

We are pleased to have Rebecca Klein, director of the Public Health and Agriculture Policy Project at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, working with us in a consulting capacity to oversee the coordination and programming for the CCG project at least through Spring 2013.
INTERNATIONAL FUNDERS' NETWORK

In June 2012, SAFSF together with UK-based Sustainable Food Trust served as co-convener of Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture: an International Meeting of Foundations and Philanthropists. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales graciously hosted the meeting at Highgrove. Over forty major philanthropic partners from Europe and North America, as well as a number of organizations actively working on agriculture and food issues in Africa, Asia, and Latin America participated in this unique gathering. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together a small group of leaders in the field to explore the question of how to advance shared visions for sustainable global agriculture and food system in the face of climate change, resource destruction, and food insecurity. The question was posed: is there a way in which this group could work together in a more strategic and integrated way to deliver larger, more powerful, and enduring impacts? In response, the group identified nine thematic issues of mutual interest and agreed to continue exploring pathways for deeper partnership and collaboration.

At the close of the June meeting, an interim steering committee was formed and has been working to lay the groundwork for the next phase of the work. Next steps, including the hiring of a network coordinator to oversee the project, are currently under review. Initial support for this work was offered by some of the Highgrove attendees. SAFSF’s Executive Director and Co-Chair both currently serve on the interim steering committee.

EVALUATION

We have been increasing our ability and capacity to evaluate our work with the goal of continuously improving and being accountable to our members and network partners. We started by working with a consultant to design an evaluation plan that would help us assess both our processes and outcomes. You have perhaps taken part in one of our recent surveys. If so, we appreciate the time and thoughtfulness you put into your answers. Our network is built around being responsive to our members’ and partners’ needs. We strive to put a smile on your face, make the connection you were waiting for, or expose a creative and innovative way of approaching food system change, but no matter what programming we are working on we do it based on input we’ve received from you.

For many years we’ve conducted post-Forum surveys. In January 2013, we will send out a 6-month follow-up survey to assess the deeper and hopefully longer-term impact the Forum is having on your work. Each other year, we will survey the broader network of partners to assess our work. What could we be doing? What programming works best? What issues should we be talking about? And finally, this fall we hired Rachael Stuart Consulting to conduct in-depth anonymous interviews with a small number of SAFSF participants to gather ideas best shared in conversation. Let us know if you are interested in participating in the next round of in-depth interviews.

And as always, we welcome your ideas and feedback anytime the moment strikes you to share.
**NEW FISCAL HOME AT NEW VENTURE FUND**

Effective March 2012, SAFSF is pleased to be “at home” with:

**New Venture Fund**
1201 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
www.newventurefund.org
202-595-1961

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**NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – HUYEN NGUYEN**

We were thrilled to bring on Huyen in April of 2012 as our third staff member. She is a wonderful addition to the staff. Look out for new and interesting pictures to show up on our website and in our publications, as Huyen is an excellent photographer.

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**NEW WEBSITE**

Check out the new SAFSF website launched January 1st ([www.safsf.org](http://www.safsf.org)). The new format makes it much easier for staff to update, which means easier to find, better information for all of you. Please let us know if you see anything we should add or change – we are always open to your input.

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“Modern society has become a risk society in the sense that it is increasingly occupied with debating, preventing and managing risks that it itself has produced. The moment at which risks become real, they cease to be risks and become catastrophes.”

— Ulrich Beck, sociologist, *Living in the World Risk Society*

“What resilience does as a new framework is it says that we will make mistakes, we will be surprised, we will go ‘over the cliff.’ Resilience is improvisational, creative, collaborative working together in periods of great uncertainty.” — Andrew Zolli, author, *Resilience*

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**SAFSF’s 11th Annual Forum**

**RETHINKING RISK AND RESILIENCE**

June 25-27, 2013 in Providence, Rhode Island

Food production in the 21st century is risky business—antibiotic resistance; E. coli outbreaks; pesticide drift; water shortages, poisoned aquifers and dead zones; food worker exploitation; topsoil erosion and GMO contamination; fisheries collapse and aquaculture pollution—all made more precarious by increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

The ones who suffer the consequences when these risks become catastrophes are too often the least responsible and the most vulnerable.

How can philanthropy support individual and community resilience and ensure all people can flourish in the “world risk society” of contemporary agriculture and food production? What risks to reputations (and endowments) are foundations ready to assume to co-create more resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems?

SAFSF invites you to Providence, Rhode Island, next June to grapple with these hard questions and to experience first-hand exciting examples of resilience in action in New England agriculture and fisheries.

Registration and preliminary program available in March 2013