



*Fostering the Power of Community, Service and the Arts*

## 2003 Annual Report – A Year of Engagement

Over the last year, Rex has reached out to its wider community and collaborated with other groups in new and productive ways. Two successful

benefit concerts and a doubling of contributions have increased our grant giving capacity. This report describes the 2003 Rex Awards and Grants, and the fund raising activi-

ties and community support which have made them possible. A list of awards and grants since 1984 and updates on current activities are available on our web site.

### **RALPH J. GLEASON AWARD**

*In memory of music journalist Ralph J. Gleason, a major figure in the advancement of music in America in the 1960s, whose openness to new music and ideas transcended differences between generations and styles.*

### **Chris Strachwitz, The Arhoolie Foundation**

Chris Strachwitz established the Arhoolie Foundation for the purpose of helping to document, present, and disseminate authentic traditional and regional vernacular music. The goal is to educate the public about the history and present state of such music by making research publications available to the communities of origin as well as to the public at large.

Chris Strachwitz, Arhoolie Foundation, 10341 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-525-7471 [www.arhoolie.com](http://www.arhoolie.com)

### **BILL GRAHAM AWARD**

*In memory of pioneering producer and founding Rex board member Bill Graham, himself a refugee, this award is for those working to assist children who are victims of political oppression and human rights violations.*

### **Parents' Circle: Families Forum of Israeli and Palestinian Bereaved Families**

The Families Forum members have all lost a close relative due to the ongoing violence in the Middle East. Since its founding in 1955, the Families Forum has promoted reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and



Precita Center after schoolers

revenge which have been the prevailing responses of Palestinians and Israelis to the ongoing violence in the region. The Award is supporting the Parents' Circle programs that specifically involve young people:

*The Hello Shalom, Hello Salaam* project has succeeded in establishing routes of personal, direct contact between Israelis and Palestinians through telephone calls. By increasing the communication between Israeli and Palestinians both sides will become aware of the rival sides suffering, enhancing empathy and reducing the level of hatred.

*The High School Lecture Series* has proven to be a highly effective tool in introducing youth to notions of tolerance and compromise as a means to solving the conflict, of choosing reconciliation over revenge.

Parents' Circle, Gon Kafri, Dir. of Development, 30 Wall St., New York, NY 10005, 212-509-2407 [www.theparentscircle.com](http://www.theparentscircle.com)

### **JERRY GARCIA AWARD**

*In memory of Grateful Dead guitarist and founding Rex board member Jerry Garcia, this award is designed to honor and support individuals and groups that work to encourage creativity in young people.*

### **Mission Neighborhood Centers**

The Mission Neighborhood Centers strive to improve the quality of life in the greater Mission community of San Francisco by providing culturally sensitive human services that support and empower individuals and families.

The Precita Center after school enrichment program offers comprehensive, quality programming for youth ages 5 to 18, which addresses individual needs of each youth, encouraging them to engage in their own education and to make healthy choices in the process.

Precita Center, Mission Neighborhood Center, Tracy Brown-Gallardo, Director of Youth Services, 534 Precita Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110



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Bill Graham (1984 – d.1991)  
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The Rex Foundation is named after Rex Jackson, a Grateful Dead roadie and later road manager until his untimely death in 1976

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#### HOW REX WORKS

The Rex Foundation has no paid board members. Virtually all of our grant recipients are selected through the personal knowledge and outreach of our decision makers – as a result, grant requests are not solicited. We have no application forms and no published guidelines. Grants are made once or twice a year, and our report is published annually.

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[www.rexfoundation.org](http://www.rexfoundation.org)  
Federal ID # 68-0033257

## From the Executive Director

The Rex Foundation launched its renewal efforts in December 2001 in the wake of the horror and tragedy of the September 11th attacks. Since that time there has been continuing global unrest, economic uncertainty and frightening levels of national politicking that seem to polarize rather than unite. In both 2002 and 2003 we have sought to counteract these negative forces by funding as many programs as we can, demonstrating the power of community engagement in all our activities, and maintaining a commitment to radical optimism.

Since our first renewal benefit, *The Healing Power of Music*, we've granted \$390,000 to some 60 programs in a number of different areas, including advancing the arts, preserving endangered music, protecting the environment, providing important enrichment and social services and promoting community leadership among youth. This spectrum of grassroots programs reflects our core mission areas. We are also supporting what is common across this spectrum: the vision, creativity, resourcefulness and tenacity of individuals and small groups to produce outstanding programs and enhance the well-being of tens of thousands of people across the world.

This report describes each of our 2003 beneficiaries, as well as the fund-raising and community activities we undertook during the year. As you read through, we hope you'll feel inspired by and hopeful about the positive results of people connecting with each other and engaging in activities that serve the common good.

– Sandy Sohcot

## Mission Statement

The Rex Foundation continues to embody the spirit of generosity and concern that evolved in the culture of the Dead Heads and the Grateful Dead, aiming to help secure a healthy environment, promote individuality in the arts, provide support to critical and necessary social services, assist others less fortunate than ourselves, protect the rights of indigenous people and ensure their cultural survival, build a stronger community, and educate children and adults everywhere.

## Guiding Principles and Values

- We respect traditional wisdom cultures.
- We respect individual rights and differences.
- We are willing to take risks and trust people.
- We help people who are helping others and are trying to make a difference.
- We help people develop bold new solutions to problems.
- We benefit the broader community and the broader good.
- We practice inclusiveness and open-mindedness.
- We support organizations committed to grassroots action.
- We seek to identify entities doing good work that might otherwise be overlooked.
- Our support helps beyond direct funding by boosting the visibility of the recipient's work.
- We want to be a catalytic agent of change, where our involvement helps leverage greater impact.
- We are non-partisan.
- We promote an active, informed citizenry.
- The Foundation is an efficient conduit for supporting the community.
- Being part of the Rex Foundation is enjoyable.
- We carry on the best of the spirit of the 60's to create a more harmonious world.

## Community of Supporters

The success of this second year of renewal efforts arises from the participation of many people from across the United States and abroad: charitable and in-kind contributors, benefit performers, program attendees and sponsors, musicians and volunteers – all of whom comprise our community of supporters.

We wish to thank the hundreds of individuals who have generously contributed to the Rex Foundation in 2003, along with the musicians, performers, artists, businesses, food and beverage purveyors and volunteers who have given their resources, time and energy to help the Rex Foundation present its benefit concerts and programs and carry out its mission. Please visit our web site to view the lists of all the people we have acknowledged for their support of each of our programs.

## On Being Part of the Rex Community

Supporting Rex has been a way for me to give back in some way having received so much from the music of the Grateful Dead. Particularly meaningful to me was playing a role in bringing attention to programs in my community. Rex is now a supporter of the Chicago Women's Health Center and the Albany Park Theater Project, two programs I have supported locally. Rex has become a vehicle for connecting what was important in my community and broadcasting to a much larger universe. When I pass the Albany Park Theater Project I feel great to see my wish to be involved come full circle. – *Aaron Gadiel*

In November 2002, Aaron produced a fundraiser for Rex Foundation in Chicago featuring the Steve Kimock Band. In 2004, Aaron was part of the Chicago Host Committee for the Rex Foundation's *Black Tie-Dye Ball Benefit*.

## REX EVENTS

In 2003 the Rex Foundation continued its renewal efforts with benefit concerts and collaborative events which engaged the wider community.

### BENEFIT CONCERT

#### Life, Music, and the Pursuit of Happiness

Friday, March 28, 2003, Marin Civic Auditorium

The very first Rex benefit concert took place at the Marin Civic Auditorium in the spring of 1984. How great it was to return March 28, 2003 and fill the hall with music by Mickey Hart and Friends, Bruce Hornsby, and Bob Weir with DJ Logic and Rob Wasserman to support the Rex Foundation's continuing renewal.



Photo: Susana Willman

Revelers at *Life, Music and the Pursuit of Happiness*

### Statement of Revenue and Disbursements and changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Contributions	\$ 110,262
Special Events:	
Revenue	313,746
Less Event costs	<u>(130,095)</u>
Net Revenue from Special Events	183,651
Merchandise Income	4,204
Dividends/Interest	<u>2,281</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 300,398</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	
Grants	\$ 151,500
Supporting services:	
Management and General	118,911
Fundraising	<u>4,296</u>
Total Supporting Services	<u>123,207</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 274,707</b>
<b>Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 25,692</b>
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets Start of Year</b>	<b>\$ 246,835</b>
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 272,527</b>

**Audited Financial Statements available**

The following excerpt from the event program describes the context in which the benefit took place. *Our second annual benefit takes place in the midst of unsettling times, as we all grapple with economic and global instability. Grassroots programs are struggling to survive, and many people face personal challenges. Yet, it is in difficult times when grassroots activity is most important. We come together, particularly now, to brighten our spirits and share good will.*

Thanks to everyone participating in this event – musicians, production staff, in-kind contributors, ticket purchasers, supporters and volunteers – we raised \$150,000.



Wake The Dead

Photo: Susana Millman

**BENEFIT CONCERT**

**Worlds Together – An evening to celebrate community connections**

Saturday, November 8, 2003, Fillmore Auditorium, San Francisco

Dinner music provided by Potaje Flamenco Concert featured Bobi Cespedes, Mickey Hart with Marley’s Ghost, and Wake the Dead

The Bill Graham Foundation and Rex Foundation share long-standing support of art and music programs. Appreciating our common scope and mission in these areas and desire to bring our wonderful communities together, we created *Worlds Together*. Multiple worlds connected – music across a range of cultural genres, food with international influence, and friends who came as fans of the music and of our organizations.

The evening was a great celebration, demonstrating the positive effects of collaboration in generating good will and contributing to the greater community. Proceeds from the event will support art and music programs for youth.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Open Conspiracy to Right the Boat**

Saturday, October 4, 2003, Avalon Ballroom, San Francisco

The September 2003 Rex Foundation Newsletter – *Perspectives on Community Engagement* was all about the profound power of small groups of people to forge their ideas and energy into actions and help solve challenging problems. A compelling metaphor emerged from an interview with Peter Coyote about the power of people, individually and collectively, to make a difference, even under the most challenging of circumstances:

*A sailboat has a counterbalancing keel that serves to right the boat if it heels over. America is sailing amid heavy winds*

*of extremism, fear-mongering and government intrusion. The keel, hidden from direct observation below the waterline, is comprised of we the people – humanity with its fundamental decency and generosity. It is this basic, free-spiritedness, inventiveness, concern for fairness, and respect for difference that will right the sailboat.*

This metaphor was honored on October 4th with our *Open Conspiracy to Right the Boat*. The evening began with storytelling about community engagement by Carolyn Garcia of the Rex Foundation, Jodie Evans, co-founder of Code Pink: Women for Peace and Chet Helms, raconteur extraordinaire and founder of the Family Dog. The San Francisco Mime Troupe performed their 2003 season’s *Veronique of the Mounties*, providing clever, satirical observations about the war on terrorism. The evening ended with music led by David Gans.

The evening was a special celebration of people of all ages and varied community interests coming together to connect and comprise the keel.



The Mime Troupe conspires to inspire

Photo: Susana Millman

## REX 2003 GRANTS

### Beyond Borders

A five-week summer program and on-going connecting activities, serving an ethnically and economically diverse group of fifty 9-11 year olds from 18 different schools throughout Marin and San Francisco. Beyond Borders' mission is to develop future leaders by 1) Inspiring children to reach beyond borders of race, economic circumstances, culture and language; 2) Nurturing a deeper understanding of backgrounds, identities and values; 3) Challenging children to explore and celebrate differences and discover and appreciate commonalities; and 4) Fostering these perspectives within their schools and communities.

Beyond Borders, Lisa Pavlovsky, 5221 Paradise Dr., Corte Madera, CA 94925-2107, 415-927-5973, [www.mcads.org](http://www.mcads.org)

### Trees Foundation

Seed money disbursement to directly support and encourage others to be part of the overall fundraising effort to purchase seven acres of old growth trees along the Freshwater Creek in Humboldt County, or to protect those trees in perpetuity. The grove of trees in this acreage includes the tree named "Jerry." (Note: as of this writing, the fundraising effort has been discontinued, though efforts to protect the trees continue.) □

Trees Foundation, Barbara Ristow, P.O. Box 2202, Redway, CA 95560. 707-923-4377

### JustAct

JustAct coordinates a national U.S. network of about 30 progressive grassroots organizations, led primarily by youth of color. The organizations work on a variety of local issues including the prison industrial complex, education, and environmental justice. The purpose for the network is to develop common goals and strategies for the member organizations to collectively organize around and be more effective in terms of movement building and social justice organizing.

JustAct, Colin Rajah, 333 Valencia Street, Suite 325, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-431-4204 x206, [www.justact.org](http://www.justact.org)



Drums Not Guns: Fiesta De Tambores

### Drums Not Guns

The goal of Drums Not Guns is to reduce the number of guns available to youth in the community by offering participation in an inspirational performing arts program in exchange for a weapon. They seek to create an atmosphere of trust between youth and select staff mentors. Artist instructors mentor the youth individually and as a group in community locations designated safe havens from gang activities.

Drums Not Guns, Roberto Hernandez, Mission Neighborhood Centers, 1333 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415-206-0577

### Camp Winnarainbow

Camp Winnarainbow is a non-profit circus and performing arts summer camp that provides a small, protected environment where each summer, 700 children try new activities and ways of interrelating to one another. The Camp values the uniqueness of each individual within the diverse racial, cultural, economic and religious backgrounds that comprise the community. Camp Winnarainbow provides a training ground to nurture leaders for a peaceful, harmonious and sustainable culture. The Rex Foundation grant funds the Camp's scholarship program.

Camp Winnarainbow, Wavy Gravy, 510-525-4304, [www.campwinnarainbow.org](http://www.campwinnarainbow.org)

### Endangered Music Project

The Endangered Music Project was originally established to fund the artists featured on the series of five Endangered Music Project CDs. The Rex Foundation grant will help expand this effort to fund an even broader group of indigenous communities and artists throughout the world to support the preservation of their endangered music.

Endangered Music Project, Kelsand Aukatsang, Tides Foundation, P.O. Box 29903, San Francisco, CA, 415-561-6384

### LandPaths

LandPaths works with local, public and private organizations to: 1) Secure, develop and manage access to preserved lands that otherwise would be restricted from community use; 2) Conduct ongoing land management through development and implementation of stewardship plans including native habitat restoration and enhancement when necessary; 3) Encourage responsible land stewardship by working with both users and owners of preserved lands to identify and maintain practices that conserve lands for the long-term enjoyment of all potential users, and 4) Provide education programs teaching youth to be responsible stewards of the land.

LandPaths, Craig Anderson, P.O. Box 4648, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, 707-544-7284, [www.landpaths.org](http://www.landpaths.org)

### Mwangaza Tanzania

Mwangaza Tanzania is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals, especially children, in underserved, rural northern Tanzania by providing medical, rehabilitative and educational services for the physically disabled. The focus is on grassroots, community-based projects that foster long-term self-sufficiency. Mwangaza Tanzania has created a model of working with local communities to overcome barriers to obtaining needed health care and to carrying out educational programs for preventative action.

Mwangaza Tanzania, David Greenwald, P.O. Box 1004, Chicago, IL 60610-0074, 312-923-2774, [www.mwangaza.org](http://www.mwangaza.org)

## Art in Action Camp

Art in Action Camp is dedicated to bringing tools for personal and social empowerment to young people through art and music. The camps support youth leadership in communities most impacted by poverty, pollution, violence and exploitation, providing supportive space for sharing stories, cultural rituals and dreams. Participants, ages 16-25 are lower-income youth of color, working class youth and other burgeoning artists and activists who are working for justice in their communities.

Art in Action Camp, Alli Star, 1002 1/2 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415-285-9734, [www.yesworld.org/www.cultural-links.org](http://www.yesworld.org/www.cultural-links.org)

## Heart, Mind, Body and Soul

Heart, Mind, Body and Soul is a plug in music program that provides quality music instruction in grades K-3. Each class receives one half hour of instruction per week for 32 weeks in vocal, rhythm, dance and music appreciation. The program serves 10 schools throughout Sonoma County, helping to keep music programs for elementary school children despite severe school budget cuts.

Heart, Mind, Body and Soul, Jim Corbett, 7869 Washington Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472, 707-823-5849, [Mrmusic@sonic.net](mailto:Mrmusic@sonic.net)

## Adopt a Family of Marin

Adopt a Family of Marin provides emergency financial assistance and emotional support to families in Marin County that, due to illness, abandonment, loss of employment, work hours reduction or other catastrophes are in need of temporary help. The organization's primary goal is preventing homelessness. It provides temporary rent subsidies or security deposits and food money to keep families from falling apart and becoming homeless.

Adopt a Family of Marin, Anya Grange, 1930 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA 94901, 415-456-7805, [www.adoptafamily.org](http://www.adoptafamily.org)

## Black Rock Arts Foundation

The mission of the Black Rock Arts Foundation is to support and promote community-based interactive art that includes social participation.



Art in Action, dance workshop

The process whereby this art is created, the means by which it is displayed and the character of the work itself should inspire immediate actions that connect people to one another in a larger communal context. The programs and goals are fivefold and include: furnishing artists with direct financial aid for production and display; assisting artists in developing communal networks; identifying sites for public presentation; educating a larger public concerning interactive art and assisting artists in career development

Black Rock Arts Foundation, Jess Bobier, 1900 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94158, 415-626-1248, [www.blackrockarts.org](http://www.blackrockarts.org)

## The Center for Cognitive Liberty and Ethics

The Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics (CCLE) works solely to advance sustainable social policies that protect freedom of thought. CCLE was founded to promote public awareness and legal recognition of cognitive liberty – the right of each individual to think independently, to have decision-making authority over matters affecting his or her mind, and to engage in the full spectrum of possible thought. CCLE bases its policies on the guiding values of privacy, autonomy and choice.

Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics, Wrye Sententia, 231 G Street, Suite 7, Davis, CA 95616, [www.cognitiveliberty.org](http://www.cognitiveliberty.org)

## Sierra Madre Alliance

The mission of Sierra Madre Alliance is to advise and support their Mexican partners to advance community based conservation, appropriate development, and environmental and agrarian justice in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico. One of the principal goals is to empower indigenous people. Bilingual education and leadership training, community planning and mapping of resources are focus areas. Inclusion of traditional knowledge into the education strengthens the culture.

Sierra Madre Alliance, Randy Gingrich, Box 41416, Tucson, AZ 85717, [www.sierramadrealliance.org](http://www.sierramadrealliance.org)

## Mattole Salmon Group

The Mattole Salmon Group is dedicated to restoring Salmon populations along the Mattole River. The group has developed a protocol from the best available scientific sources to measure eight parameters of salmonid habitat and water quality. Through Rescue Rearing and Hatchbox programs they have been able to both maintain Salmon trapped by silting and to propagate genetically wild Chinook Salmon and later release them as the mouth of the River opens. The group works closely with the Mattole Restoration Council

Mattole Salmon Group, Ray Lingel, PO Box 188, Petrolia, CA 95558, 707-629-3433, [www.mattole.org](http://www.mattole.org)



Children's Book Project

### **Bonita House**

Bonita House has developed innovative approaches to the delivery of community-based care for adults with dual diagnoses of both a psychiatric and substance use disorders. Its mission is to build community, dignity and hope in people recovering from disabilities by providing a full range of integrated services including programs for residential treatment and supported independent living, and a creative living center.

Bonita House, Rick Crispino, 6333 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 102, Oakland, CA 94609-1328, 510-923-1099, [www.bonitahouse.org](http://www.bonitahouse.org)

### **Shared Adventures**

Shared Adventures is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of people living with disabilities. For over a decade Shared Adventures has offered hundreds of life enriching recreational and social opportunities, such as kayaking, surfing, outrigger canoeing, river rafting, dance parties, and yoga, to people in and around Santa Cruz County with special needs.

Shared Adventures, Foster Anderson, 90 Grandview Street #B101, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 831-459-7210, [www.sharedadventures.com](http://www.sharedadventures.com)

### **U'wa Defense Project**

UDP provides legal, community development, advocacy and research support to the Indigenous U'wa people in Colombia as they work to defend their life, land and cultural

autonomy, particularly in defense of the lethal effects of petroleum extraction. UDP is currently focused on building the leadership and technical capacity of U'wa youth and a Legal Defense program enabling the U'wa to further a number of precedent setting legal cases in Columbian and international courts to stop drilling on U'wa land. All of UDP's projects are created under the guidance of the U'wa Traditional Authorities, the legal and community-elected representatives of the U'wa.

U'wa Defense Project (UDP), Ana Maria Murillo, Presidio P.O. Box 29457, San Francisco, CA 94129, 415-561-4518, 456-7805

### **Amicus Foundation**

Amicus Foundation is the parent organization of a family of philanthropic endeavors. Amicus is currently concentrating its efforts in both the kingdom of Bhutan and in Thailand, providing women and children with improved living conditions and education opportunities. One of the programs the Rex grant will help support is the matching of orphaned children with older people who would otherwise be alone. The organization is committed to preserve and maintain the spiritual and cultural integrity of ancient and traditional cultures as they transition into a global community.

Amicus Foundation, James Winkler, 4217 Waipua St., Kilauea, HI 96754, 808-826-4434, [amicusfoundation.org](http://amicusfoundation.org)

### **Children's Book Project**

The purpose of the Children's Book Project is to help economically disadvantaged children learn to read by providing the children and their shelters, schools and daycare facilities with books and other resources. Since its beginning in January 1992, the Children's Book Project has given over 500,000 free books to hundreds of facilities serving thousands of children.

Children's Book Project, Vicky Pollack, 45 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, Ca 94110, 415-647-2042, [www.childrensbookproject.org](http://www.childrensbookproject.org)

### **Seeds of Learning**

The mission of Seeds of Learning is to promote conditions for quality learning in developing countries and communities of the Americas. They seek to educate North Americans about the rich cultural diversity and social needs of the poorer rural communities of Central America. The Rex grant helps with the construction of a two classroom school and latrine in El Continental, Usulután, El Salvador.

Seeds of Learning, Tania Carlone, Executive Director, 585 Fifth Street, West Sonoma, CA 95476, [www.seedsoflearning.org](http://www.seedsoflearning.org)

### **Water Information Network**

The Water Information Network focuses on issues of the environment and of environmental justice for Native Americans and Mexican-Americans and other low-income residents of New Mexico, the Four Corners area, West Texas and the US-Mexican border regions. The Rex grant will support the Zuni Salt Lake Campaign, the goal of which is to permanently stop the development of a new 18,000 acre coal strip mine near Zuni Pueblo, New Mexico.

Water Information Network, Jaime Chavez, Regional Coordinator, Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM 87106, 505-255-4072

### **Watsonville por la Paz**

The goal of Watsonville por la Paz is to empower the Latino community at the local level in a manner that reflects and respects the culture of the community. Their aim is threefold: 1) To educate the community on issues relating to war and peace that



Mattole restoration project: treeplanting

### The Living Wage Coalition of Sonoma County

The LWCS believes that the dignity of all work demands just wages to meet today's living costs. A living wage includes income and benefits sufficient for basic housing, healthcare, child care, nutrition, transportation, education and retirement. The LWSA is focused on education in the community about legislating living wages to foster a better society.

Living Wage Coalition of Sonoma County, Marty Bennett, PO Box 427, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, [www.livingwagesonoma.org](http://www.livingwagesonoma.org)

are not generally covered in the mainstream media; 2) To encourage Latinos to become more politically active – to use their political voice; 3) To educate youth and their parents on post-secondary education opportunities and alternatives to military service, as a counterweight to the heavy military recruitment in local schools and in the media.

Watsonville por la Paz, Consuela Alba, 1215 5th Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076, 831-761-2830

### Mattole Restoration Council

The Mattole Restoration Council is committed to restoring health to the Mattole River watershed. Through the Mattole Good Roads and Clear Creeks programs the council aims to reduce sediment inputs into the wild Mattole River and its tributaries. The Council works closely with the Mattole Salmon Group.

Mattole Restoration Council, Chris Larson, PO Box 160, Petrolia, CA 95558, 707-629-3514, [www.mattole.org](http://www.mattole.org)

## Perspectives on Community Engagement

In 2003, the Rex Foundation published the second newsletter, *Perspectives on Community Engagement*, in its series exploring ideas and directions in support of its core mission (see page 2). We interviewed actor Peter Coyote and Rex board member Carolyn Garcia. The following are excerpts:

### Radical Optimism

When asked how he overcomes the forces that deter engagement, Peter describes several effective remedies:

Acknowledging that the news provides no rational basis to be cheerful, Peter notes that equally rational is the notion that we never know how things will turn out, so it's more powerful to be optimistic. On the other hand, if we surrender to depression and disengagement, nothing is going to happen – this will lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy of doom.

However, if we maintain a “we don't know what will happen” attitude, this is enough of a rational ledge on which to get a toe-hold for feeling optimistic. “Doing nothing is surrender.”

Engage with intent rather than ideology. Intention identifies a problem we must address and clarifies the manner in which to address the problem. With identification of the intent, we can be flexible and adopt whatever strategies are useful to solving the problem. Ideology hampers solution because it limits action to what the ideology proscribes....

### Chosen Communities

Asked to describe her first experiences with community engagement, Carolyn Garcia centers on what she calls her “chosen communities,” among which are the extended family of the Grateful Dead, Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters, the Or-

egon Country Fair family, and the Hog Farm, “the tribes” as these and others were called in the sixties....

Carolyn continues to be engaged in a number of communities, such as the Rainforest Action Network, the Rex Foundation and tribes, such as the Hog Farm and Oregon Country Fair, that continue to flourish. What attracts Carolyn's engagement is the commitment people have to make something happen and to maintain the effort over the long term. “It is heartwarming to revisit groups and see that many of the same people are still there, and that their efforts have persisted.” Carolyn believes these communities reflect the human need for long-term relationships, and that people who have that need strongly in their personal make-up will last in these groups.

The Newsletters can be downloaded from our website at [www.rexfoundation.org](http://www.rexfoundation.org).