

ARCHIVED LETTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Winter 2013

Once again, the Cinnabar Foundation is reminded of the power and constancy of change. On August 16, 2012, we lost a dear and long-time board member, when Rick Hubbard Sargent succumbed to leukemia. As an artist/designer, Rick brought fresh perspective, creativity and can-do energy to every board discussion. We miss his wise counsel and wry sense of humor.

We are grateful that Rick's wife and life partner, Judi Stauffer, shared his tireless devotion to the Foundation. Also an artists/designer as well as a community activist, Judi was elected to the board of directors in September to fill Rick's seat on the board his position as secretary. As board members, Rick and now Judi, sustain the Sargent family legacy of environmental and social activism.

Rick was elected to serve on the board in 1997 upon the death of his father, Foundation founder and president Len Sargent. Joining the board, Rick remarked at the time, fulfilled his dream to serve the Foundation and "to carry on the ideals of Len and Sandy" Sargent. Further, Rick said, "I believe that the time has come to create policies and procedures that will guide, with the highest level of integrity, the Foundation now and forever." With that statement, Rick committed his board service to developing essential policies and procedures that prepared the Cinnabar Foundation to meet the challenges of a new century.

With Rick on board, we also benefitted from Judi's presence, which, like Sandy's, meant she was an active and equal participant in board discussions. During Rick's 15-year board tenure, as an "unofficial" board member, Judi often spoke up, offering her keen insight and clear vision whenever the discussion warranted. Rick and Judi shared a wealth of ideas and perspective with the rest of the Foundation board. Their thoughtful service was informed by the knowledge and experience they had gleaned from their work with other private and community foundations.

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Together Rick and Judi modernized Cinnabar's operations and communications — designing and executing a website that has become invaluable for communicating with conservation groups and providing them with an electronic means to apply for annual grants. In the years before launching the website, Judi designed and edited the Cinnabar Foundation's annual report.

To celebrate Len Sargent's 80th birthday, Rick and Judi established the Leonard and Sandy Sargent Graduate Fellowship in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Montana. And, after his parents' deaths, Rick spearheaded a special Cinnabar Foundation program that honors the founders by celebrating the effectiveness of outstanding grantees: The Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award.

To celebrate Rick's life and encourage transformational responses to today's challenges, Judi Stauffer proposed, and the Foundation board adopted, the Richard Hubbard Sargent Innovation Award. This award will “recognize innovative applications of new knowledge, new approaches or new ideas to achieve break-through solutions to environmental challenges.”

We are honored that both Rick and Judi chose to give their time and talent to the Cinnabar Foundation. While Rick and Len and Sandy are never far from our mind's eye, we look forward to working with Judi for years to come.

— Robin Tawney Nichols

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