

Transcript of Award Acceptance Speech by  
**Richard Goldman, President, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund**  
at Full Circle Fund's annual event

***Forum 2007: You've Got the Power!***

November 14, 2007  
San Francisco, CA

Watch the video online at <http://www.fullcirclefund.org/event.php?id=106#RichardGoldman>  
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Photo | Daniel Lunghi

While I was sitting in the audience, I reflected on an experience that probably none of you would remember. Around 60 years ago, an organization of young people was formed in San Francisco called the Guardsmen. The purpose of the Guardsmen was to sell Christmas trees during the season and it's still going strong.

Between then and now I have never again experienced a group of young people like all of you and I have only the greatest of compliments. Thank you for what you do. *[applause]*

And I'd like to do one other thing, taking personal privilege; I have a couple of twin grandsons who go to the University of California. They are here today. They love Al Gore but more importantly they love me too. *[laughter]* And, they really have dedicated themselves to support philanthropy in their life. So would you Jason and Matthew stand up and take a bow please? *[applause]*

Well, I can't thank you enough for the warm introduction. I am truly honored to be the recipient of Full Circle Fund's community leadership award and I'm especially pleased to be present with Al Gore.

Many people still want Al to enter the presidential race *[applause]*, but if I can take a moment of personal privilege again, I think the work he is doing to save humanity is much more important than assuming the Presidency.

I share a common interest in protecting the environment with Al. While there are countless worthy causes to support in the world, when my wife and I started our foundation in 1951 we wanted to focus on a few areas we cared deeply about and where we thought we could make a difference.

In 1990 we had an idea: To add to our philanthropy in a unique way by establishing an international prize to recognize grassroots environmental heroes. At that time, we had no idea how successful this particular prize might be. In fact, we were so concerned that we had arranged for people in senior living areas to be bused into the auditorium just to be sure we had somebody there! *[laughter]*

To date there have been 119 prizewinners from 70 countries, and the prize, as has been mentioned in the program, has been referred to as "The Green Nobel," which we don't mind a bit. *[applause]*

And just this last Monday our jury met and we selected the winners from six continents to be honored in April 2008.



## Full Circle Fund

As someone who's been in the business of giving away money for many years now, my advice to the members of Full Circle Fund is to find what you feel passionate about and stick with it. Seek creative solutions and do not be afraid to pursue them, as we did with The Goldman Prize eighteen years ago.

I admire Full Circle Fund's goal of encouraging the next generation of philanthropic leaders - and you are they. I feel comforted in knowing that there is a committed group of young philanthropists preparing to take over the reins from my generation. Your dedication and enthusiasm is evidence that future generations will rise to the challenge, and I'm confident you will succeed.

Once again, I thank you all for this wonderful recognition.