



**20 YEARS OF
ADVANCING
THE CASE FOR
LIFE ON EARTH**
2022 Annual Report

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

"It is overwhelming. It makes me feel like I'm walking on thin ice that can break at any time. We know that climate change and modernization threatens both the people living in small Arctic communities and Arctic wildlife. It's as clear as a reflection in the calmest sea. Their survival depends completely on the ice. Every year there is less ice, shortening the hunting season for people and bears. There is less ice for seals to rest and for narwals to hide."

-Belén García Ovide, Safina Center Junior Fellow

From *Walking on Thin Ice*, posted on The Safina Center Blog

Cover Photo: Junior Fellow Belén García Ovide on the bowsprit of the schooner *Opal* while on an expedition in Iceland through her organization Ocean Missions. ©Norris Niman



We're celebrating twenty years of dedication to the living world. Twenty years of changing policy and regulations, but most importantly hearts and minds. The Safina Center has much to celebrate from two decades of hard work, passion, and community building. But as we sail into the next twenty years, the future is uncertain. The Safina Center addresses this uncertainty and works to imagine a future where people respect the natural world, not blindly exploit it. The work of fostering a network of creative leaders to address the world's most pressing issues is needed now more than ever.

A polar bear stares down the camera in East Greenland. Photo ©Belén García Ovide

Our 2022 Annual Report



MISSION

At the Safina Center we advance the case for life on Earth by fusing scientific understanding, emotional connection, and a moral call to action. We create an original blend of science, art, and literature in the form of award-winning books and articles, scientific research, photography, films, sound, art, and spoken words. We bear firsthand witness and then we speak up, we speak out, and we teach. Our work is designed to inspire and engage others to devote their time and energies to conservation of wild things and wild places. Our creative works have proven their power to change people's lives and their view of the world.

The Safina Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit based on Long Island, N.Y

CONTENTS

Founder's Message	4
Our Approach	5
Looking Back to Look Ahead	6
Where Are They Now?	8
Remembering	11
Who We Are	12
Year in Review	16
Highlight:	18
The Meaning in Life	
Making Waves	20
Highlight: Fellow Testimonial by Jacqueline L. Scott	22
Praise for Carl Safina & The Safina Center	23
Financials	24
Help Us Do What We Do	25
Our Supporters	26
Highlight: Donor Spotlight	28
Roberta Gordon and Richard Greenberg	
Chairman's Message & Credits	29

Founder's Message

Reflecting on 20 years

Perhaps all environmental and conservation groups work from the perspective that human caused problems can have human implemented solutions to help heal the maladies afflicting Life on Earth. And of course, many groups do crucial work. But at The Safina Center the way we work is unique.

The Rainforest Trust recently committed half a billion dollars to help stop the loss of living diversity. But Rainforest Trust CEO James Deutsch acknowledged that, "Conservation will only scale when non-conservationists see its value."

That's where we come in. At a recent retreat for heads of some of the world's biggest environmental groups, Brett Jenks, CEO of RARE, the leading behavioral change organization in conservation across 60 countries, said to me, "None of what we're doing can work unless we also change values. Of course— that's what you do."

The Safina Center delivers the intellectual content to change minds with the emotional impact to change hearts. We don't seek just to inform; we seek to transform.

Our focus is on an overlooked piece of the conservation puzzle that we do uniquely well: We work to expand a culture that values life on Earth. We provide the kind of thinking that charts paths to justice for wild things, wild places, human dignity, and human environmental health.

Changing the world requires changing policies. But policies won't change for the better unless values change. We will never tackle climate change, conserve living things, ensure nontoxic and healthy human communities—or create any necessary change—unless people value the changes that are needed to accomplish survival for Life on Earth.

People engage when they feel their values pulling. We know of no other group focused on delivering scientific information with heart-changing emotional impact. Our work makes deep, lasting impressions that influence what people care about.

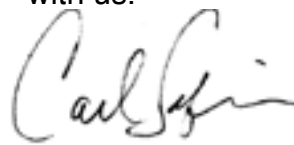
And our work is world-class. We get published and distributed by top news and broadcast organizations such as The New York Times, Washington Post, and CNN; magazines such as Time and The New Yorker; and book publishers including Random House, Penguin, and others. We win the highest recognition, ranging from a MacArthur "genius fellowship" to New York Times bestselling "books of the year." Our fellows have produced award-winning films and Grammy-nominated sound.

Scott McVay—who in the 1960s co-discovered that humpback whales sing, and for many years led the Dodge Foundation—recently wrote to us, "Considering the modest size of your operation, the out-sized impact you are having is astonishing." We also know that our work is transformative because we get emails such as this: "I've just read your new book twice. It has had a profound impact on my view of the world."

Work that can do that, matters. That's the work we do. The Safina Center is running a long, deep, ideas-driven game whose effects reverberate globally.

Twenty years, and we are at it more productively and energetically than ever. All living things proceed not just with a kind of faith that the world will continue, but with a determination to beat the odds and make certain that it does. And that describes us.

The following pages convey more about what we are uniquely doing—over the last 20 years, this year, and the next 20—to "Advance the case for Life on Earth." And when I say we, I mean you. We could not do any of this without you. Thanks so much for deciding to be with us.



Carl Safina
Founding President



Carl Safina in Uganda. ©Carl Safina

Our Approach

"Facts alone can't save the world. Hearts can. Hearts must. We're working to make sure that hearts do."

— Carl Safina



An illustration of mushrooms created on an expedition. Rasolo's art depicts the incredible biodiversity of Madagascar. Watercolor is his favorite medium. ©Alain Rasolo



Amy Gulick, photographer/author of The Salmon Way, opens her new exhibit at the Seattle Aquarium. Amy's photos tell the stories of Alaska's wildlife and people. ©Amy Gulick

The Safina Center is unique amongst environmental non-profits for its creativity. The Safina Center aims to inspire hearts and stir minds. This is not easy, and there is no one way to do it. Our creations are as wide ranging as our globe-spanning fellows, and include best-selling and award-winning books, films, visual art, educational content, sound art, spoken word, scientific research, and more. Our purpose is nothing less than making a case for Life on Earth.



Paul Greenberg at the Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center for East Crete in Greece researching the story of changing Mediterranean fisheries. ©Paul Greenberg.



Children in Amazonia with their new copy of Kike Calvo's "Adventure of Pili" book. This series was inspired by Kike's daughter Pilar. ©Kike Calvo

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK AHEAD

Twenty Years: From a Sea Ethic to an Earth Ethic

By the year 2001, Dr. Carl Safina's policy work and writings had already garnered international recognition and won him a MacArthur "genius" prize. Carl had been working in one of the big environmental groups along with Mercédès Lee, Mayra Mariño, and Carrie Brownstein for several years when the institutional ground under them shifted. They realized they'd work more effectively elsewhere. After considering possibilities at Yale and the Wildlife Conservation Society, they decided on something both exciting and frightening: going independent, and changing their working focus from policy reform to values change. When they discussed their plans with their funders, all their donors decided to continue to support them in their new venture. What they founded as Blue Ocean Institute twenty years ago is now The Safina Center. Things change; so do we.

In our first decade Carl wrote several more ocean-focused books, and we continued researching and producing the then-popular color-coded guides to seafood sustainability (now used by the Monterey Bay Aquarium). In 2007 we launched FishPhone, a sustainable-seafood text-messaging service. Mercédès Lee established Sea Stories in partnership with Dr. Steven Pavlos Holmes of Harvard University. Sea Stories solicited essays and artwork from people from all writing levels—scientists and beachcombers, students and vacationers, fishermen and seafood-eaters, coastal residents, and inland ocean-lovers—all to harness the power of personal experience in the service of building a "sea ethic."



The late Mercédès Lee in 2007. Mercédès was one of the founding members of The Safina Center and a champion for ocean conservation and sustainable seafood. ©Carl Safina

Our decade-long partnership with the Long Island Aquarium, brought thousands of people out to share the beauty of Peconic Bay, an estuary the Nature Conservancy considered one of their "Last great places." And because visual artists hold a mirror reflecting our relationship with the world, we established an Artist-in Residence program.

But we had bigger fish to fry. We were passionate about inspiring a closer relationship with the whole natural world, about expanding the human circle of compassion to include all living beings. We believed we could combine science, art and literature to convey not just what is happening but why it matters.

The stock market crash of 2008 forced painful layoffs and prompted major streamlining and refocusing. We ended previous programs, changed our name, and morphed our Artist-in-Residence program into a Safina Center Fellows program to bring in people who produce creative work that forges emotional connections with the living world. And in 2017 we added a Junior Fellowship Program for people under 30.

As The Safina Center we are expanding an Earth Ethic whereby, with reverence, people work for the protection and betterment of all human and non-human beings.



Mayra Mariño at The Safina Center Annual Celebration. Mayra has been with The Safina Center since its inception. ©Safina Center Archive

Continued from p. 6

We named this our "Launchpad Fellowship" to honor astronaut Kalpana Chawla, who had carried Carl Safina's Song for the Blue Ocean into orbit, perished in the Columbia space shuttle crash of February 1, 2003, and who had willed an endowment to help continue our work. Over several years we became the creative end of the nature-focused non-profit spectrum, a crucial niche that we can uniquely occupy.

Since then, our Fellows have included writers, filmmakers, photographers, poets, painters, sound artists, and scientists applying creative approaches to connect people with nature. We tap extraordinary people who are either creators or connectors, people whose work stirs the human heart toward the natural world and those who connect more people directly with nature and conservation. As Carl has said, "Information alone cannot save the world. Hearts can. Hearts must. We're working to ensure that hearts do."

Our donors have noticed our impact with approval, with some supporting us since our beginning, and others with us now for more than a decade.

In the 1940s Aldo Leopold promoted a Land Ethic. As Blue Ocean Institute we worked to create a Sea Ethic. As The Safina Center we are expanding an Earth Ethic whereby, with reverence, people work for the protection and betterment of all human and non-human beings.

Looking to the next 20 years, we see the frontiers in continuing to expand humanity's circle of compassion, in seeing that individuality is not confined to human beings, in launching the next generation of insightful and impassioned communicators, in environmental justice and in diversifying the colors of a truly inclusive environmental movement. Everyone with us is dedicated to this mission: "Advancing the case for Life on Earth."

—Patricia Paladines



Patricia Paladines. ©Carl Safina

About Us

At the Safina Center, we shed light on solutions to the world's most pressing problems. We are guides and thought leaders. We spread hope and resilience in the face of human-induced climate change, biodiversity loss, and the loss of wild places by answering the nagging question "What can I do?"

Our Fellows program supports and propels world-recognized writers, artists, photographers, filmmakers, and podcasters. Perhaps more importantly, our Launchpad (early-career) Fellows are—with your help—launching professional careers that will carry their important work into coming decades.

We are pleased to have a wide circle of Creative Affiliates, highly accomplished and exceptionally creative people who share and amplify one another's messages and work, and the work of The Safina Center.

Our Founding

The Safina Center was founded by author and ecologist Dr. Carl Safina in 2003 alongside Mercédès Lee, Mayra Mariño, and Carrie Brownstein. Carl Safina is affiliated with Stony Brook University, where he holds the inaugural Endowed Research Chair for Nature and Humanity.



Founders Carl Safina and Carrie Brownstein at The Safina Center annual celebration in 2018. ©Safina Center Archive

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Art and science are two of the most important ways that we connect with the natural world around us. The Safina Center's Fellowship Program provides vital financial support to a community of diverse writers, artists, photographers, musicians, and researchers. We support both early career and established fellows, who together represent a number of scientific fields, creative abilities, and international causes. Our program ignites their advocacy journeys and connects them to a passionate community of like-minded environmentalists. We don't just fund conservation—we empower the people whose hard work inspires curiosity and compassion across the globe.

-Dr. Katharine Thompson, Fellows Program Manager



“ This fellowship was a once-in-a-lifetime gift, providing not only valuable funds which enabled me to sustain my work, but the recognition, vote of confidence and the platform are of unparalleled value to me...Most importantly, Carl taught me the significance of my work, how by leveraging it I could achieve more for the primates I am so deeply committed to. ”

**-Robin Huffman,
Wildlife Portrait Painter**

Portraits of orphaned primates Sherlock, Florence, Ellen, and Logan. Robin's time spent volunteering at wildlife sanctuaries in Africa allowed her to get to know her subjects intimately over the course of weeks and months. The orphan's stories of abuse and neglect inspired Robin to begin painting them. Her portraits spread those stories farther by inspiring others.

©Robin Huffman, former Safina Center Fellow.

Reflections of Past Fellows

"Given my respect and admiration for Carl's work, the support I then received as a Safina Center Fellow was exceptionally meaningful, helpful, and provided inspiration to continue such efforts."

-Ellen Prager, PhD, Author

“ The Safina Center, and Carl in particular, gave me a sense of community at a time when it was most helpful to have allies. ”

-Ian Urbina, Journalist

“ In an important sense, [the fellowship] has never ended. Because in every case, whether I'm writing a book, making a film, or crafting a proposal, I ask myself the crucially unnerving question, 'What would Carl say?' ”

-John Weller, Photographer

"The financial support from this program permitted me to pay birding guides, expanding the network of local queer and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) birders in NYC."

-Molly Adams, Founder of Feminist Bird Club

"My time as a Launchpad Fellow was invaluable, and it gave me the independence that has shaped me into the scientist and communicator I am today."

-Jessie Perelman, PhD candidate

“ The diversity of environmental and social justice fellows supported by the Safina program continues to inspire me well past my three year fellowship. ”

**-Katarzyna Nowak, PhD,
Wildlife Conservation
Practitioner**

Reflections of Past Staff

"For the past sixteen years, I've worked to develop and implement world-leading sustainability standards for fisheries and aquaculture at Whole Foods Market. My foundation in this work stems directly from the Safina Center, where I not only was inspired to do this work, but also gained my career experience. Congrats to the Safina Center for facilitating the impressive conservation work of its fellows."

-Carrie Brownstein, Principal Quality Standards Advisor for Seafood, Whole Foods Market

"[At The Safina Center] I was given both really good leadership from my bosses, but also given a lot of autonomy and independence. As someone just coming out of college, I appreciated both the mentorship and the ability to work independently."

-Amanda Netburn, PhD, Assistant Director for Ocean Science and Technology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

"Carl and I wrote a paper together on bluefin tuna conservation, in particular, the western stock. Carl taught me how to take an academic paper and turn it into something that could not only contribute to the academic world, but to communicate it to a broader audience to make a larger impact."

Dane Klinger, PhD, Director of Aquaculture at Conservation International



A whale shark swims away from a group of ecotourists. The global population of whale sharks is endangered, threatened by hunting, pollution, zoonosis and other unintended harm by promoting close human interaction. Safina Center Fellow Dani Khan Da Silva explores the relationship between tourism and wildlife. ©Dani Khan Da Silva

REMEMBERING

In tribute to those who helped build The Safina Center and are no longer with us.



Eric Gilchrist

An avid philanthropist for a broad range of organizations, Eric's primary devotion was to The Blue Ocean Institute, now The Safina Center, where he was formerly a Board Member. His passion for birds, the environment, the arts and human rights not only enriched the lives of those around him but protected and enhanced the life of this planet and the lives that depend on it.



Mercédès Lee

Mercédès was a close friend and comrade with whom Carl Safina worked for over two decades. She was an initial staffer of Carl's Living Oceans Program in the early '90s and, along with Carl, Mayra Mariño, and Carrie Brownstein, was a co-founder of our Blue Ocean Institute, now called The Safina Center. Her enthusiasm, care, and devotion to the natural world is deeply missed.



Kalpana Chawla

When astronaut Kalpana Chawla perished aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003, the world lost a dedicated conservationist with a poetic soul. Family and friends generously established a fund at Blue Ocean in Kalpana's name, noting her admiration of Safina's *Song for the Blue Ocean*, one of the few personal possessions she took aboard the fateful mission.



Jeff Rizzo

Jeff was the Safina Center's long-serving treasurer, having served on the organization's board from 2006 to 2021. He was always so enthusiastic, and, as treasurer, always so impressed with our efficiency compared to larger organizations he was part of, and equally impressed with our fiscally conservative approach to budgeting and income flow. He truly seemed to love our organization, and the feeling was mutual.

WHO WE ARE

Staff



DR. CARL SAFINA
Founding President



MAYRA MARIÑO
Business Manager



DR. KATHERINE THOMPSON
Fellows Program Manager



ABIGAIL COSTIGAN
Media Manager

Creative Affiliates

We are pleased to have a wide circle of **Creative Affiliates**, highly accomplished and exceptionally gifted creators who share and amplify one another's messages and work, and the work of the Safina Center and our Fellows. Meet our 2022 Creative Affiliates.



ISABELLA ROSSELLINI
Model, Actress, Filmmaker,
& Farmer
New York | USA



JANE ALEXANDER
Actress, Writer,
& Conservationist
Nova Scotia | Canada



DR. LORI MARINO
Neuroscientist
& Animal Behavior Expert
Utah | USA



PAUL WINTER
Musician & Musical Adventurer
New York | USA



LUANNE RICE
Novelist
Connecticut | USA



LINDA LEAR
Biographer & Environmental Historian
Maryland & South Carolina | USA



JON BOWERMASTER
Writer, Filmmaker, & Adventurer
New York | USA



DR. KATHLEEN DEAN MOORE
Philosopher, Environmental
Advocate, & Writer
Oregon & Alaska | USA

Senior Fellows

To accelerate the creation of exceptional and transformative work, our **Senior Fellowship** helps support a small group of hand-picked distinctive thought leaders for three years, and our **In Residence Fellows** for longer. Our Fellows are connectors and creators at the height of their careers.

PAUL GREENBERG

Writer In Residence
Award winning author
of six books on the
environment and technology

HOB OSTERLUND

Conservationist In Residence
Founder of the Kaua'i
Albatross Network, author,
and documentary producer

DR. ERIC GILMAN

Scientist In Residence
Ocean scientist researching
fisheries, fishing gear, and
marine protected areas

DANI KHAN DA SILVA

Award-winning documentary
photographer, director, and
leader. Founder and Executive
Director of Photographers
Without Borders.

DR. J. DREW LANHAM

Author and poet passionate
about wild places and the
personal and societal conflicts
that often put conservation and
culture at odds.

JACQUELINE L. SCOTT

Writer and PhD candidate at
the University of Toronto re-
searching the perception of the
wilderness in the Black imagi-
nation.

AMY GULICK

Award-winning photographer
and writer, and a founding Fel-
low of the International League
of Conservation
Photographers.

KIKE CALVO

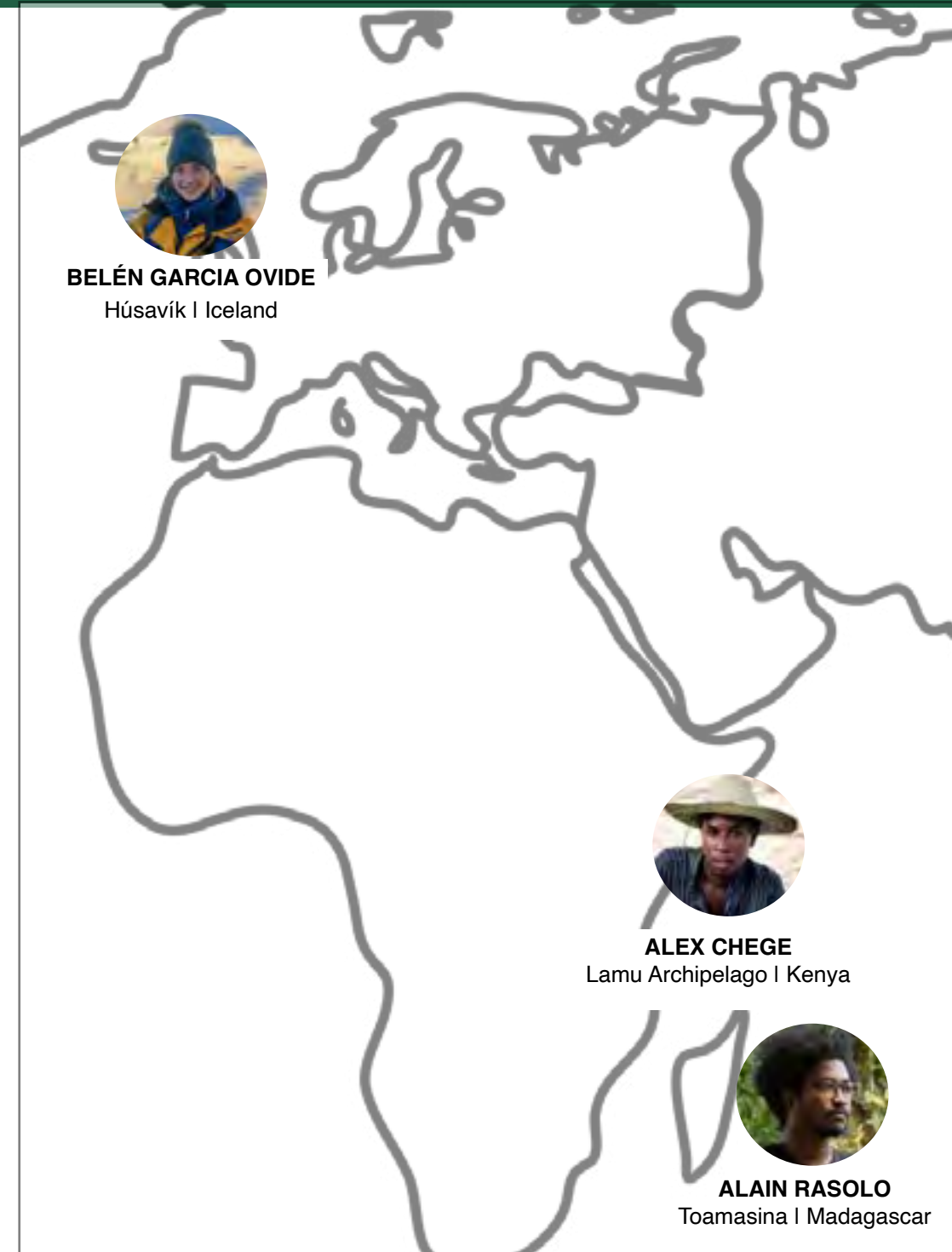
Award-winning photographer
focused on culture and the en-
vironment. Inspires
children through his
bilingual book series.



Launchpad Fellows



Our **Launchpad Fellowship** is designed to kickstart projects undertaken by promising young venture-level talent, helping launch early careers and create an affiliation of like-minded kindred spirits. The Fellowship honors Kalpana Chawla, a dynamic, nature-loving astronaut who perished aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003. After her passing, her family established an endowment to The Safina Center to be used for this purpose. The Launchpad Fellows carry on the conservation ethic of Kalpana through their work.



ALAIN RASOLO

Wildlife artist focused on show-
casing Madagascar's rich biodi-
versity through painting, travel
sketchbooks, and comics.

ALEX CHEGE

Photographer and PhD
candidate studying the
evolutionary history and
ecology of coastal primates
through Stony Brook
University.

BELÉN GARCIA OVIDE

Marine scientist, guide, sailor
and ocean conservationist.
Researches whales and ocean
plastics while inspiring others
through ecotourism sailing trips.

KATLYN TAYLOR

Whale watching guide and
marine biologist. Podcast host
sharing stories about whales
and the ocean.

JASMIN GRAHAM

Shark scientist focused on
ecology and evolution.
President and CEO of
Minorities in Shark Sciences
and environmental educator.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Books



J. Drew Lanham's book engages readers in ideas and discussions of pressing environmental and social justice issues. Booklist calls it "An astute, awakening, witty, and resonant work of dissent and a profound embrace of life."

Published by Hub City Press on April 20, 2021.



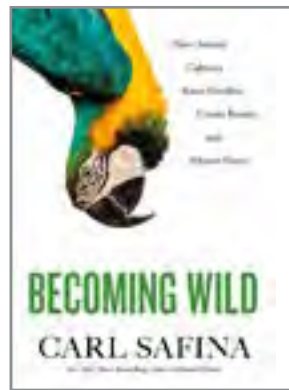
Paul Greenberg's latest book provides action steps to slash personal contributions to the climate crisis. The New York Times Book Review called it, "Useful and relevant."

Published by Penguin books, April 13, 2021.



Kike Calvo's newest book in his dual-language children's series is about Madagascar's wildlife. It has two versions, one in French and Malagasy, to be used locally, and another in English and French, to be used internationally.

Self published, October 10, 2022.



Carl Safina's most recent book on animal culture and social structure was named a New York Times "Book of the Year."

Published in paperback by Henry Holt & Company in 2021.

Education



Katlyn Taylor hosts The Whalenerd's Podcast, a weekly show about whales, ocean life, and conservation. This photo shows two humpback whales, Inverse waving and Fran in the background exhaling, who are featured on the podcast. ©Katlyn Taylor



Jasmin Graham leads a Science at the Sea workshop on water quality testing through her non-profit Minorities in Shark Sciences. Jasmin has a passion for science education and making science more accessible for everyone. ©Jasmin Graham.



Children in Brooklyn with copies of *The Adventures of Pili* by Kike Calvo. This dual language series aims to inspire children to explore the natural world and follow their dreams. ©Lydia Babbitt

Outreach



Paul Greenberg on PBS News Hour for a special on the state of the oceans. ©Paul Greenberg.



Hob Osterlund goes on the radio to talk about Hawaiian birds. ©Friends of Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuges



Abigail Costigan, author Deborah Cramer, Sylvia Earle, and Liz Taylor discuss horseshoe crab conservation on an episode of Dive In with Liz and Sylvia. ©Abigail Costigan



Jacqueline L. Scott featured on an episode of BBC Countryfile for hiking Hadrian's Wall in England. ©Jacqueline L. Scott



Carl Safina, Paul Winter, Laurie Anderson, and J. Drew Lanham at The Church in Sag Harbor for a Conversation with the Living World in Words and Birds and Music. ©Patricia Paladines



Patricia Paladines, Jane Gill, Meep the great horned owl, Carl Safina, and Sylvia Earle at the South Fork Natural History Museum Summer Gala. ©Patricia Paladines

Highlight

The Meaning in Life

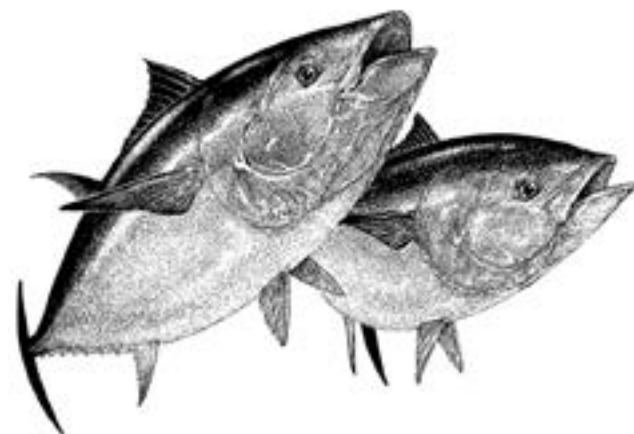
Adapted from *The View From Lazy Point: A Natural Year in an Unnatural World*
Winner of the 2012 Orion Book Award

Our dog Kenzie, a 50-pound black wolf—more-or-less—goes loping along the shore as is her custom, energetically invested in the obvious truth that all adventure lies at the tip of one’s nose. And soon, as always, she’s way ahead.

Today we woke to glass-calm water. The Sound is stretched taut to the far points of land. Out across the open water, the sea melds with haze and blends skyward without horizon. On a morning this placid and beautiful, dying and going to heaven wouldn’t be worth it.

So, a question arises. ‘What ought we do?’

It’s an old question. Twenty-five hundred years ago, Socrates realized that “We are dealing with no small thing, but with how we ought to live.” Aristotle helped get the ball rolling 2,300 years ago: “Plants exist for the sake of animals... animals exist for the sake of man... it must be that nature has made all things specifically for the sake of man.”



©Trudy Nicholson

“The world is made for man, not man for the world,” said Francis Bacon (around 1600). René Descartes (1600s) believed animals lack consciousness and could be treated without concern for their well-being. To Sigmund Freud, “the principal task of civilization, its actual *raison d’être*, is to defend us against nature” (1927).

These thinkers drew a chalk circle around humanity and erected a firewall between us and the rest of creation. They may sound arrogant now, but their time was not our time.

The world—so far as they knew it—didn’t need our sympathy. That humans might ever acquire power to harm the world could scarcely have crossed their minds.

Charles Darwin’s great insight blasted a crater in the philosophers’ firewall between humans and nature, with his realization that all the world is kin.

“There is grandeur in this view of life,” he wrote famously, “with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on..., from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.” Darwin’s insight blurred borders, placing us on a continuum in an organic tree of life. Again, Like Copernicus, like Galileo, here was a genius realizing we’re not the center of the circle, and pushing the borders outward.



We are self-assembled stardust aware of the universe and the future.

The most appropriate response to the world is to realize, with awe and love, the ferocious mystery of being alive in it. And act accordingly.

-Carl Safina



Aldo Leopold marked this wider perimeter with his softly stated revolution, “The Land Ethic.” He wrote, “The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals.... A land ethic changes the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it.”

In all the history of philosophy and ethical thought, no one had ever quite come out and said we are part of the world. Imagine.

In a universe apparently devoid of life, discovering any life at all would be immensely meaningful. We are that meaning. “And what we see,” says the poet Mary Oliver, “is the world that cannot cherish us, but which we cherish.” Perhaps life itself is the great, universal, unrequited love of all time.

Down along the shoreline where Kenzie has paused, a redwing blackbird calls, then listens, then calls again. One note is not music. It is what lies between notes that makes the music. And what is between them is: their relationship. Relationships are the music life makes. Context creates meaning. Asking, ‘What is the meaning of life?’ is the wrong question; it makes you look in the wrong places. The question is, ‘Where is the meaning in life?’ The place to look is: between.

We are self-assembled stardust aware of the universe and the future. The most appropriate response to the world is to realize, with awe and love, the ferocious mystery of being alive in it.

And act accordingly.

-Carl Safina



©Trudy Nicholson

Making Waves

Complicated problems require creative solutions. The people of The Safina Center respond with just that. We show what's at stake in ways that deliver emotional impact. We don't just inform people; we transform people. This page highlights the most consequential actions The Safina Center has engaged in this year.



A shortfin mako caught and released off the coast of Montauk, New York by Safina Center staffer Abigail Costigan. A slow maturity rate makes the mako population vulnerable to lethal extraction. ©Carl Safina

In January of 2022, Carl Safina and Sydney Randall, then an employee at The Safina Center, co-wrote an opinion piece "North Atlantic Mako Sharks Are Endangered — Now What?" in *The Revelator*. Shortfin makos are the fastest shark in the sea, but slow to mature, making them vulnerable to exploitation. Overfishing put the North Atlantic shortfin mako on the endangered species list, but fishing regulations did not immediately change. This article pointed in the direction that policy followed, and after it came out recreational fishing was closed.

Experts agree that two years is not nearly enough for this population to fully recover. As of now, the current ruling states that after 2023 shortfin mako sharks will once again be up for grabs. Boats in the North Atlantic will be able to land mako sharks if the total bycatch from the previous year is under 250 metric tons. For context, according to ICCAT scientists, the EU alone landed 1,261 metric tons in 2020, so while this quota is a definite improvement, it still creates some upsetting possibilities. By allowing any landings you open the door to a whole array of possible half-truths and lies, fudging bycatch numbers, claiming the mako was dead on arrival — anything to justify landing these sharks.

To avoid this, member countries need to align their conservation goals to be a unified front against powerful parties like the EU — insisting on a full international retention ban and nothing less.

-Sydney Randall & Carl Safina



Belén Garcia Ovide conducting the first assessment of plastic pollution in East Greenland. Greenland authorities require people to carry a rifle when in polar bear territory. Scoresby Sound, where this photo was taken, is one of the most remote places on Earth. Yet still, plastic is found there. ©Heimir Hardarson



Amy Gulick's photography and writing highlights the importance of wild salmon in natural habitats. Bears and other animals drag and drop salmon the forest floor. Ocean nutrients in the bodies of salmon nourish the forest's trees. ©Amy Gulick



Kike Calvo is on a mission to provide children in remote communities with free books to promote literacy, increase environmental education, and encourage young people to follow their dreams. So far, Kike's books have been translated into ten languages, most recently Arabic and Ukrainian. Here a Tikuna Indigenous girl holds *The Adventures of Pili in Colombia*. In the book, Pili follows her dreams from New York City all the way to the Colombian rainforest. ©Fernando Trujillo-Omachaca

Highlight

Fellow Spotlight

We all need nature, but we don't all have access to it in the same way. The Safina Fellowship allowed me to explore the connections between race and nature, with a focus on the Black experience. It is funding part of my PhD research on this topic. I am grateful for the Safina Center's financial support as well as for its mentoring.

Meeting other Safina Fellows increased my understanding of the links between the local and the global, and the personal and the political, in environmental work. Our conversations underlined that conservation does not occur in a vacuum. The uses, abuses, or protection of nature reflects who has power and privilege in a society. Access to nature is therefore a social justice issue.

The Safina Fellows also fill me with hope. We are a diverse group of people, with rich and multiple identities. We work in various areas, from shark research, plastic pollution, to outdoor recreation. All of these are nature-based. We use many methods including music, photography, and writing, to show how humans shape nature and how nature shapes humans.

The Fellows and the Fellowship encouraged me to look up, as there is no planet B. Humans are part of nature, and we save ourselves by saving nature. It is an honor to be among such an astute and creative group of colleagues. I am indebted to the Safina Center for offering me this opportunity. The gratefulness is all mine.

— **Jacqueline L. Scott**
Safina Center Senior Fellow



“ The Safina Fellows also fill me with hope. We are a diverse group of people, with rich and multiple identities. ”

Praise for Carl Safina & The Safina Center

Numerous people over the years have written to us that, "your work has changed my life." That's our goal, seeking not just to inform but to transform. The comments below on our work are a few of the most noteworthy testimonials we've received in recent years—some now quite poignant, from giants who have since passed—about the reach and influence of The Safina Center:

“In a series of books that are testament to your continued thinking about humans and nature, you have continued to push the boundaries of how people should think about and behave toward other living things.”

—**The late Tom Lovejoy, June 15, 2020**

“What you've done, individually and through the Center, has been extraordinary. Monumental. I'm glad, and honored, to be working alongside you. I hope your health is good and that you are thriving.”

—**The late Barry Lopez, April 4, 2020**

"Your article on why we should save species is the most powerful writing on species conservation since *Silent Spring* and *Sand County Almanac*."

—**Dan Ashe, former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2020**

"I was recently reading about chimps' grooming habits in Carl Safina's 'Becoming Wild.' The social interactions between high- and low-status chimps are every bit as complicated as those you'd expect to see at a college mixer."

—**Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction*, 2021**

"Carl is doing more to realign human thinking on the organisms we share the earth with than a generation of animal rights activists."

—**Miles R. Silman, Director, Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability, Wake Forest University, 2020**

"Among the living writers in our arena there is no one who comes close to you, neither in the truth of what you have to say nor the importance of it.

It astounds me."

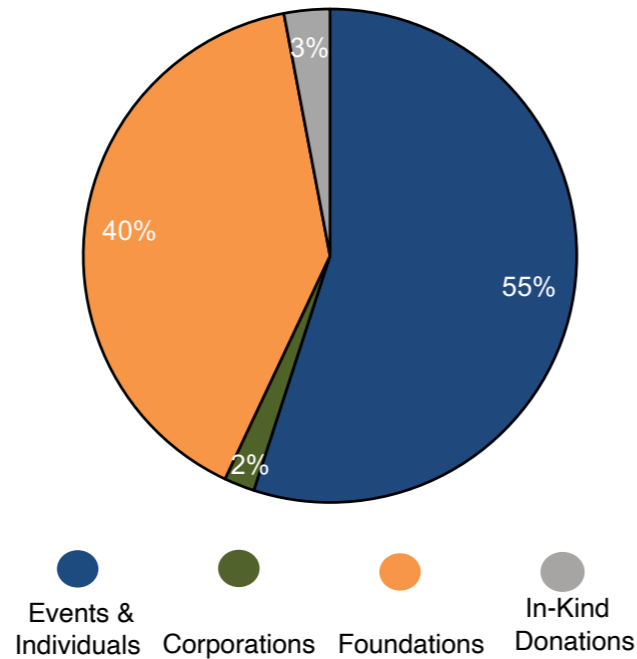
—**Mark Seth Lender, Producer, NPR's *Living on Earth*, 2020**

Financials

Statement of Financial Position

Assets		As of May 31, 2022	
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents		\$451,802	
Investments		1,058,023	
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		4,905	
Property and equipment, net		419,693	
Total assets		\$1,934,423	
Liabilities and net assets			
Liabilities:			
Accrued expenses		\$18,401	
Fiscal sponsorships		31,262	
Total liabilities		49,663	
Net assets:			
Without donor restrictions		1,778,760	
With donor restrictions		106,000	
Total net assets		1,884,760	
Total liabilities & net assets		\$1,934,423	

Operating Revenue



Help Us Do What We Do

Four Ways to Contribute

In 2011, we established an endowment fund to honor the memory of our dear friend & board member, Dr. Eric Gilchrist. His steady support for The Safina Center has continued beyond his passing through a bequest that now serves as the seed for our endowment. His generosity continues to inspire us.

1. Online

Visit: <http://safnacenter.org/donate>

3. Mail

Please send your tax-deductible donation to: The Safina Center
80 North Country Road
Setauket, NY 11733

Please make your check payable to: "The Safina Center"

2. Telephone

Call: +1-631-675-1984

4. To The Safina Center endowment fund

Please contact Mayra Mariño, Business Manager:
by phone: +1-631-675-1984
or via email: mmarino@safinacenter.org

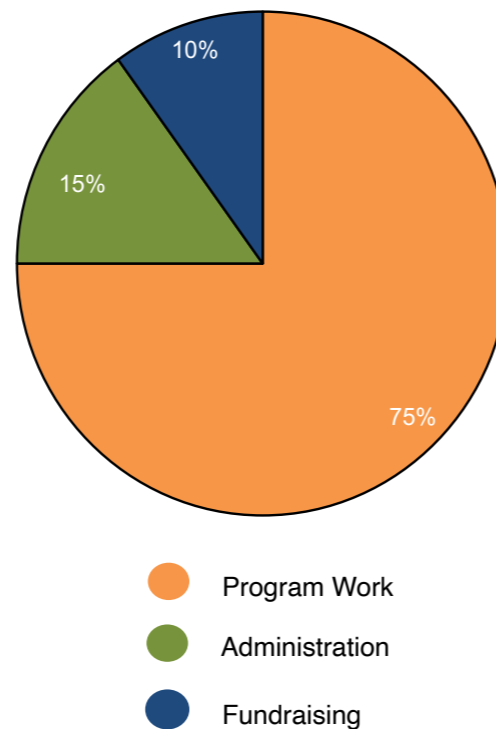
"Direct compassion and heart-filled work toward the living creatures of this planet."

—Dr. Eric Gilchrist

Statement of Activities

Public support and revenue	Year ended May 31, 2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions	\$314,561	\$-	\$314,561
Event Income	215,530	-	215,530
In-kind contributions	18,400	-	18,400
Investment return, net	(59,783)	-	(59,783)
Total public support and revenue	488,708	-	488,708
Net assets released from restrictions	25,000	(25,000)	-
Total public support and revenue including net assets released from restrictions	513,708	(25,000)	488,708
Expenses			
Program work	394,467	-	394,467
Supporting services:			
Administration	79,826	-	79,826
Fundraising	50,914	-	50,914
Total supporting services	130,740	-	130,740
Total expenses	525,207	-	525,207
Change in net assets	(11,499)	(25,000)	(36,499)
Net assets - beginning of year	1,790,259	131,000	1,921,259
Net assets - end of year	\$1,778,760	\$106,000	\$1,884,760

Fiscal Year 2022 Total Expenses



Jasmin Graham and colleagues working up a shark with The Field School. Jasmin's research focuses on elasmobranch ecology and evolution, and she is a member of the IUCN Shark Specialist group. ©Jackson Coles

The Safina Center's complete audited financial statement may be obtained by writing to:
Mayra Mariño, Business Manager The Safina Center 80 North Country Road Setauket, NY 11733 USA

We Appreciate Your Support!

Thank You To Our Generous Donors!

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-Jenny Parker for Pili Project
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and Dr. Julia A. Grimes
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Shary Skoloff
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Rena Sokolow
(in memory of Ted Kennedy,
a great dog)
Jeff and Diana Spendelow
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Laura Stanfill
Leonard and Marsha Stevens
Amanda Stronza
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Michael Testa
Bonnie Thompson
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Valerie Van Cleave for Pili Project
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with deepest appreciation
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Wild Birds of the East End, Inc.
Wild Bird Crossing
Shannon Wild for Pili Project
John and Mary Jean Winkler Charitable Fund
Keetu Winter
Marianne Wudarsky
Rosalind Young
Lauretta Young
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\$1,001 to \$5,000

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Schultze Family Giving Fund for Pili Project

Wanderlust Fund
- Kristin Hettermann and Sven Olof Lindblad

\$20,001 to \$50,000

Anonymous Fdn
In honor of Isaac Bloch
Alfred and Jane Ross Foundation
Edward Taft for Pili Project

\$50,001 to \$300,000

Anonymous Fdns
Avalon Park and Preserve
NFWF
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Taylor Foundation
Paul Simons Foundation
Pew Charitable Trust
Ann Hunter Welborn and David Welborn
(The San Diego Fdn)

In-Kind Contributions

Lindblad Expeditions

Portrait of a pink ghost crab taken on Kiwayu Island, Kenya. ©Alex Chege

Highlight

Roberta Gordon and Richard M. Greenberg

Questions and Answers with supporters of The Safina Center:

Tell us about The Ida and Robert Gordon Family Foundation; what do you hope to achieve through philanthropy?

The Foundation was formed in 2015 focused primarily on the scientific intersection of climate and sustainable agriculture. Since then, our focus has expanded to include food systems generally, including food policy, justice related to agriculture, food waste, food education and various environmental protection projects and research activities. In addition, the Foundation supports women's reproductive health (and the Gordon family was recently honored by Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic for its support), arts and identity projects, and pressing social issues. We hope our philanthropy will help mitigate the effects of climate change; promote sustainable innovations involving food production and consumption; support environmental stewardship; and further social justice issues as we view them.



Richard Greenberg and Roberta Gordon from the recent Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic fundraiser. ©Richard Greenberg and Roberta Gordon

What moved you to support us?

While we have previously supported certain projects local to our home base, The Safina Center presented an ideal opportunity for us to support an organization whose fellows were doing cutting-edge work internationally in our areas of interest while having local impact due to the Center's proximity to our home in the Stony Brook area.

How did you hear about The Safina Center?

We came across a reference to the Center while researching not-for-profits involved in international environmental conservation. Upon looking into the Center, we found that it was headquartered just a few miles from Roberta Gordon's childhood home.

Do you have anything else to share?

Elaborating on the above response, our collaboration and partnership with The Safina Center is an exciting development for our Foundation as it helps reinforce our relationship with the place that our President, Roberta Gordon, has considered a home for over sixty years. We hope and expect that our relationship with The Safina Center will strengthen our ties with the local community while giving us opportunities to connect with thought leaders associated with the Center throughout the world.



Chairman's Message

20 Years Of Quality and Impact

We are celebrating 20 years of prize-winning, far-reaching work, and the outlook as we head into our next 20 is very exciting.

Our creative works have proven their power to change people's lives and how they view and value the world.

The Safina Center "Advances the case for life on Earth" by finding amazing creators and connectors whose work consistently inspires. "Life" is an incredible phenomenon that (as far as we know) has only ever happened on this unique planet. Humanity has existed for a fraction of time since life first emerged 3.7 billion years ago.

The Safina Center is aware of the immense power human life has on our planet. Humanity has found energy sources buried miles below our surface and burned this source of energy on a scale that is tipping the atmosphere to dangerous levels of carbon dioxide. Each extinction is a negative health measure for our planet. We have produced so much plastic that our own internal chemistries now include microplastics.

The Safina Center's output and reach has an outstanding level of influence for our size. Our fellows motivate and inspire many to take action toward changing the course of human impacts.

Although we are not a growth-minded organization, our influence is growing every year as our fiscal metrics remain strong. Today, after 20 years, we are in the best financial position we have ever been. We ended 2021 with a \$174,060 surplus of capital that has allowed us to continue to build our reserves. Our focus is not growth in size, but rather growth in impact. With your support we can continue to inspire people to deepen their emotional connection for our many brother and sister species in this amazing phenomenon of Life. Our unique work transforms people. I thank all of you for your support.

-B. Eric Graham
Chairman of the Board



©B. Eric Graham

BEHIND THE SCENES

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Mayra N. Mariño — Business Manager
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Dr. Katherine Thompson — Fellows Program Manager

Back Cover Photo: An iceberg in East Greenland, the origin point of the world's largest icebergs. ©Belén García Ovide

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The Safina Center 