

"I believe the movement we need is already in the streets; in the courts; in the classrooms; even in the halls of power – we just need to find each other. One way or another, everything is going to change. And for a brief time, the nature of that change, is still up to us."—Naomi Klein

INVITATION TO EXPLORE THE VALUE OF RFS CONVENING A **CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**
Several factors are motivating us to encourage RFS to convene a Climate Change conference.

- Raising Ecological Awareness is one of RFS' four goals
- Frequency of extreme weather
- Naomi Klein's [This Changes Everything](#)
- Congress' inability to support the view of 'human activity' as a factor of CC
- RFS's involvement in WindowDressers which aims to reduce CO2 emissions
- RFS's extraordinary in-house and nearby talent to conduct such a conference

The conference we are beginning to dream would not stress the usual erudite scientific documenting of planetary degradation. Although that reality must be faced, it is readily available for all who would seek it. Rather, the conference could emphasize those positive events on the horizon which exist, in potential, for changing course. Ms. Klein, in her well reasoned and documented book (60 pages of annotated footnotes), states that, "If that happens, well, it changes everything. (p.450b)" She also argues that what is needed to break the destructive spiral we find ourselves in is a radical change of both 'worldview' and 'self-image.' In the latter instance, the move is away from self as a greedy, impotent consumer, (which serves well the powers-that-be), into a friend of our biosphere and a participant in a mutually enhancing relationship with Earth. Science alone is not sufficient to change our trajectory. It is a necessary but not sufficient condition for righting our relationship with Earth.

The most important aspect of the Climate Change conference is to balance science with spirituality. This will help to address the concern of 'worldview.' We believe that unless we can go beyond self as a skin-encapsulated ego to a more unitive (and intuitive) experience of being part of a greater living presence which some call Cosmos or God or Ground of Being, the environmental 'bad news' will encourage denial, despair, and paralysis. The bridge for us is the beauty of nature which evokes love and helps to guide our actions and transformation. The worldview, portrayed by persons of the "Land Ethic" (e.g. Wendell Berry) and Native-Americans (e.g. Robin Wall Kimmerer in [Braiding Sweetgrass](#)), reflects this change in perspective which includes reciprocity (giving back) and sensitivity to our living Earth.

Let us see if science and spirituality together can, with the help of our artists, give us a new way of seeing that is more fruitful for Earth than either science or spirituality alone.

