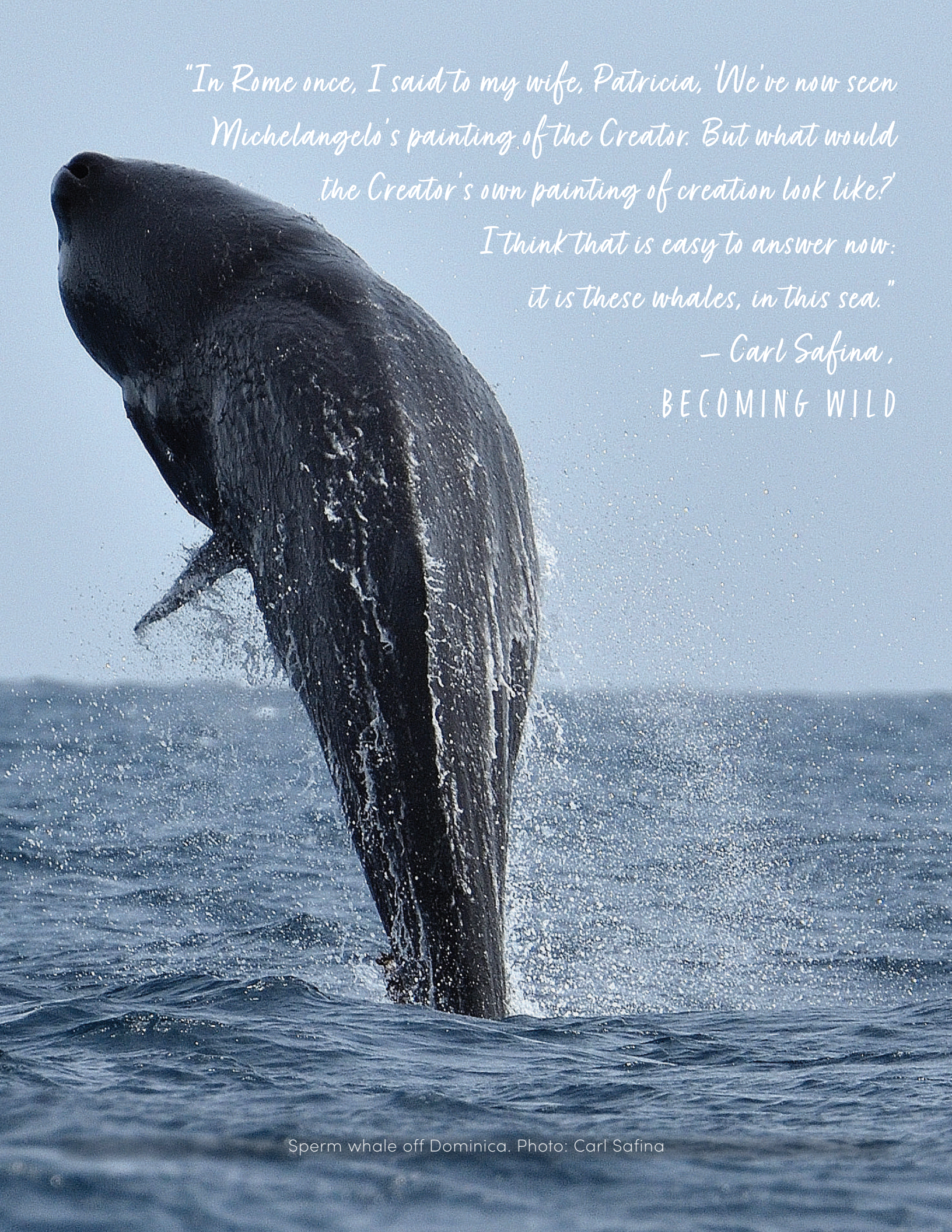


The Safina Center

CARRYING ON AMID CHALLENGES

our 2020 annual report





"In Rome once, I said to my wife, Patricia, 'We've now seen Michelangelo's painting of the Creator. But what would the Creator's own painting of creation look like?'"

*I think that is easy to answer now:
it is these whales, in this sea."*

*— Carl Safina,
BECOMING WILD*

Sperm whale off Dominica. Photo: Carl Safina



Third-graders set off to clean the shores of Long Island, New York. Photo: Erica Cirino

The Safina Center

CARRYING ON AMID CHALLENGES

our 2020 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 first-hand 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 nonprofit based on Long Island, N.Y.

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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

A YEAR NO ONE SAW COMING

Queen Elizabeth II once referred to 1992 as an *Annus horribilis* because of Royal Family issues. But 2020 easily earns the title of “horrible year” for more important and consequential upheavals. Even for those of us lucky enough to experience a silver lining in the extra time at home, there’s guilt and anxiety in knowing that so many are struggling in this year of shattered economy and sharpened social divisions.

Yet amidst this turbulence the Safina Center has managed a productive, relevant year. We are the creative end of environment- and conservation-oriented groups. This year surely called for creativity, and we responded.

COVID disrupted research and education, cancelled our book tours, public speaking, and travels. But we pivoted. Our writings have explored the COVID pandemic’s origins in our abusive relationship with nature and other animals; we’ve published several books; many cancelled talks became online events. We’ve been interviewed for dozens of podcasts. We’ve been very busy—as you’ll see in these pages.

We have spoken up for human and non-human rights. On the human side, The Safina Center’s Erica Cirino has exposed racial injustice in *Cancer Alley*, Molly Adams has advanced her Feminist Bird Club in cities around the world, and Katarzyna Nowak has worked to elevate the visibility and respect afforded to women scientists. In a *New York Times Book Review* article titled “Melville’s Whale Was a Warning We Failed to Heed,” I showed how, in the pages of *Moby-Dick*, Herman Melville addressed many issues that still plague us, from the mindless arbitrariness of racial prejudice to maniacal narcissistic authority that attracts but then endangers those around it, and even the extinction crisis. Wrote Melville, “There is no folly of the beasts of the earth which is not infinitely outdone by the madness of men.”

By “advancing the case for Life on Earth,” we speak strongly for liberty and justice for truly all, for people’s rights to dignity and for what Safina Center Creative Affiliate Jane Alexander eloquently calls “wild things in wild places.” In his shocking film *Ghost Fleet*, Safina Center Creative Affiliate Jon Bowermaster had helped expose slavery in high seas fisheries. This year, Fellow Ian Urbina’s work to expose human rights abuses, including hidden murder in high-seas fisheries, is casting light into this very dark issue. The general contempt that some fisheries show for the living resources that support them includes not only the fish they pursue but also the people they sometimes literally work to death.

Finally, we received two distress calls from communities in Mexico and in Peru that had helped me with research for two of my books but are now struggling with the COVID crisis. We helped, and we shared their plea, and many of you also helped. And in that is the restoration of faith, which keeps us going and for which I deeply thank you.

The following pages detail our work, which I hope—in this difficult year—will restore some of your faith. We will indeed keep going. Things will get better. Together, we will help make it happen.



Carl Safina, PhD
President, The Safina Center



OUR APPROACH

“Facts alone can’t save the world.

Hearts can. Hearts must.

“We’re working to make sure that hearts do.”

— Carl Safina

Of all the great conservation and environmental not-for-profits, the Safina Center is—uniquely—the creative end of the spectrum. We make the emotional connection, and we make it personal.

Our creations are best-selling and award-winning books, films, visual art, sound art, and spoken word.

Our purpose is nothing less than making a case for life on Earth.

Carl Safina with giant fig tree in the Peruvian Amazon. Photo: Don Brightsmith

WHAT WE DO

People cannot engage unless they see solutions. We generate some light here; we are guides and thought-leaders. Our Fellows program supports and propels world-recognized writers, artists, and filmmakers. And 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. The Safina Center is affiliated with Stony Brook University, where Carl holds the inaugural Endowed Research Chair for Nature and Humanity. You can read more about Carl's work and the rest of our crew throughout this report.

Macaws in the Peruvian Amazon. Photo: Carl Safina

SAFINA CENTER 2020

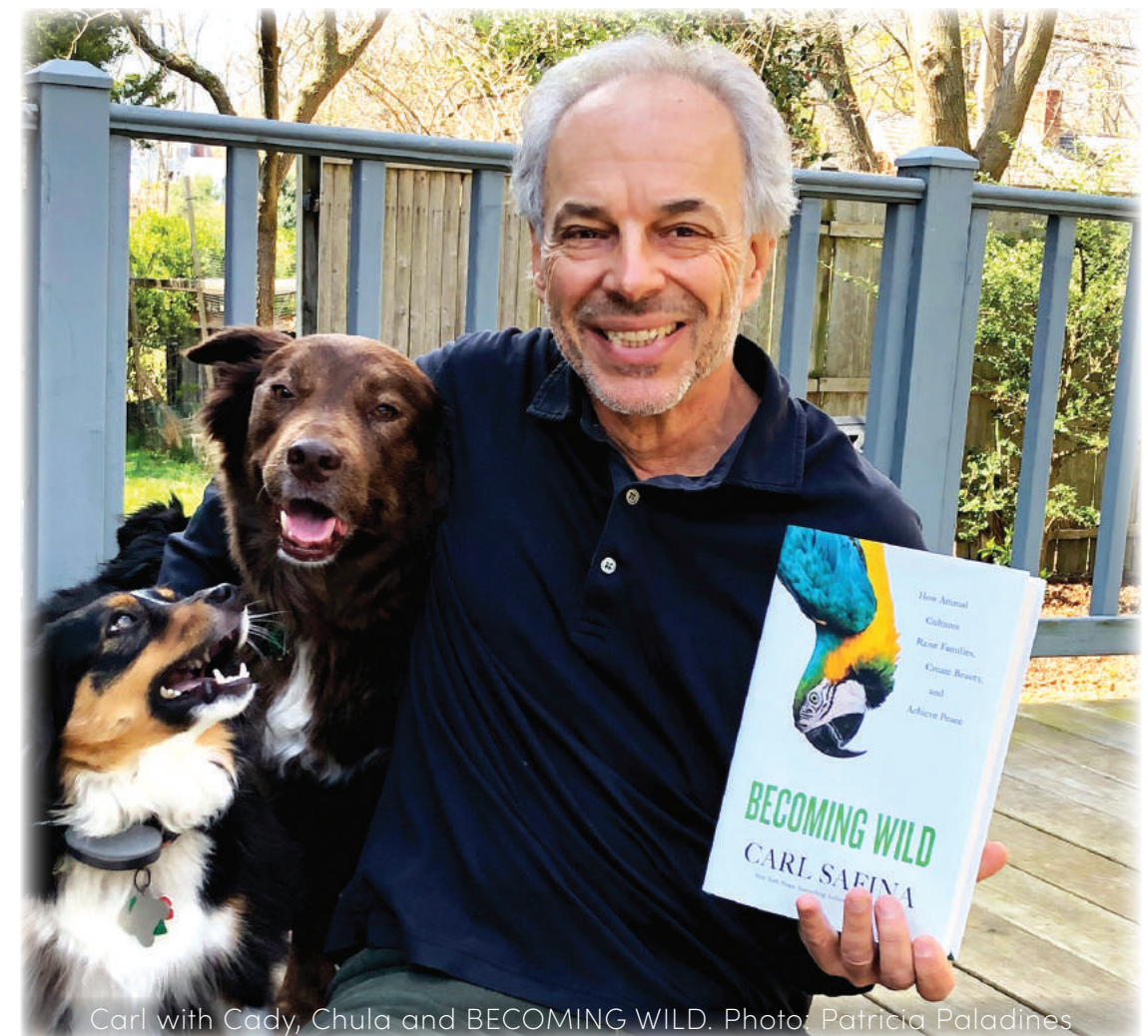
A YEAR IN REVIEW

CARL SAFINA

In 2020, CARL SAFINA published his latest book, *Becoming Wild*, to strong reviews. He's given dozens of virtual interviews and lectures about his new book, in addition to writing several adaptations and related pieces for the likes of *The New York Times*, *Orion Magazine*, *The Guardian* and other high-profile publications.

"BECOMING WILD is a luminous meditation on the complexity of contemporary animal culture... In this superbly articulate cri de coeur, Safina gives us a new way of looking at the natural world that is radically different."

— The Washington Post



Carl with Cady, Chula and BECOMING WILD. Photo: Patricia Paladines

SAFINA CENTER 2020



Wolf 755, Yellowstone NP. Photo: Alan Oliver



Dog Chula, Long Island, N.Y. Photo: Carl Safina

This year Carl also published a new book for young readers ages 10 to 14. It's the second installment in the two-part adaptation of his 2015 *New York Times* Bestseller *Beyond Words* about the minds and feelings of wolves and dogs.

"A fascinating and foreboding call to action." –Kirkus Reviews



Carl, Chula, Cady, Jude and the second YA installment of *Beyond Words*. Photo: Patricia Paladines

2020 HIGHLIGHT

HOW MOBY-DICK DIAGNOSED OUR ISSUES OF 2020

Melville's Whale Was a Warning We Failed to Heed

By Carl Safina



The killing in the 1830s of Mocha Dick, a giant sperm whale said to attack whaling ships with premeditated ferocity. Mocha Dick was an inspiration for Melville's "Moby-Dick." Image: Alamy

(Appeared in The New York Times Book Review on May 2, 2020)

In 1841, while aboard the whaler *Acushnet*, Herman Melville met William Chase among another ship's complement. William lent Melville a book by his father, Owen Chase: *Narrative of the Most Extraordinary and Distressing Shipwreck of the Whale-Ship Essex*. Melville had read Jeremiah Reynolds's violent account of a sperm whale "white as wool," named—for his haunt near Mocha Island, off the coast of Chile—Mocha Dick. It's unknown what led Melville to tweak Mocha to "Moby." Good thing he did, and that Starbuck was the name he gave his first mate rather than his captain. Otherwise the novel would follow Starbuck's obsession with a Mocha.

Owen Chase gave Melville his climax: As *Essex's* boats were harpooning female sperm whales, a huge male, around 85 feet, rushed and holed the 88-foot ship, twice. No whale had ever sunk a ship. "The reading of this wondrous story upon the landless sea, and so close to the very latitude of the shipwreck had a surprising effect upon me," Melville later recalled.

He initially planned a book about whales and whaling. Reynolds helped supply Melville with a more Stygian idea, by exhorting his men to attack Mocha Dick as "though he were Beelzebub himself!"—a demon rather than a whale.

Yet *Moby Dick* is neither whale nor demon, but a white prop contrasting with the demonic Captain Ahab, the tormented tormentor, the malignant, abused abuser of authority and of men.

Ahab's bias is personal and color-based. A white whale becomes a blank pincushion for Ahab's thrusting mania as Melville shades pages with his madness. Yet—and this was absolutely astonishing for its time—Moby Dick becomes the ultimate asserter of reason. In self-defense the whale delivers justice. And never dies.

Ahab vows to chase Moby Dick “over all sides of earth,” but he can't do it alone, so he flatters his men into allegiance to his maniacal quest: “What say ye, men...? I think ye do look brave.” The harpooners shout, “Aye!” Ahab is impeccably skillful at manipulating people into abetting him, at making his self-destructive obsessions their own. Ahab isn't merely symptomatic; through his ability to steer men into complicity—and their inability to see it—he becomes contagious, truly dangerous.

Moby-Dick is called a great American novel. Perhaps it's the first great global novel. Melville broke through American myopia, vanishing over many horizons, rubbing shoulders with apostates, seeing civility in savages, savagery in the civilized and ruinous obedience to mad tyrants. Melville's years on ships sowed what his biographer Newton Arvin called “a settled hatred of external authority.”

By the 1840s, having ventured half the world away from America, Melville cast a frigatebird-like perspective on the American character's deepest congenital malignancy, then called Negrophobia. In the early 19th century, sperm whale hunting was never far from slave trading. Thomas Beale's 1839 *The Natural History of the Sperm Whale* included this telling dedication to the British shipowner Thomas Sturge: “Your character may be estimated by the incessant efforts you have made to liberate the Negro from the condition of the slave.”

On docks and decks humans of varied skin shades and breathing one another's sweat in close company tended whale-boiling caldrons and looked one another in the eye. Light-skinned men could feel trapped and dark men could taste freedom, surviving, sometimes drowning, together. Melville's ever-philosophical narrator, Ishmael, asks: “Who ain't a slave? Tell me that.” From a world he experienced as spherical from atop ships' masts, Melville perceived a sea-level humanity, embracing and celebrating the latitudes and longitudes of human variation, now termed diversity.

When Ishmael finds himself compelled to share a blanket at the sold-out Spouter Inn, he declares, “No man prefers to sleep two in a bed.” But he settles in, waiting for his mysterious South Seas roommate who, he's informed, is peddling a shrunken head on the streets of New Bedford. Queequeg's appearance terrifies Ishmael mute. But after things equilibrate, Ishmael reconsiders: “For all his tattooings he was on the whole a clean, comely looking cannibal ... a human being just as I am. ... Better sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian.”

In the morning Ishmael wakes to find Queequeg's arm “thrown over me in the most loving and affectionate manner. You had almost thought I had been his wife.” Now there's no panic. Eventually Queequeg rouses and, by signs and sounds, makes Ishmael understand that he'll dress and leave. “The truth is, these savages have an innate sense of delicacy,” Ishmael editorializes. “It is marvelous how essentially polite they are. ... So much civility and consideration, while I was guilty of great rudeness.” Reflecting on Queequeg's tatted visage, he concludes: “Savage though he was, and hideously marred about the face—at least to my taste—his countenance yet had a something in it which was by no means disagreeable. You cannot hide the soul. ... Queequeg was George Washington cannibalistically developed.”

Mates now for life, they find a ship, but Queequeg is barred; he's not Christian. Ishmael fast-talks: Queequeg, like “all of us, and every mother's son and soul of us,” belongs to “the great and everlasting First Congregation of this whole worshiping world. ... In that we all join hands.” Impressed by Ishmael's impromptu sermon, the recruiter allows their marks; they'll board the Pequod, a ship Melville has named, he reminds us, for a famed tribe of Massachusetts natives, already extinct.

Nearly two centuries ago, Melville showed us how easy it is to welcome as our own the touches of others, their equivalent colors, customs and beliefs; their journeys, their transitions. And to remember those who, unwelcomed, suffered. How much could have been avoided, and embraced, had we heeded.

Melville feverishly scribbled a diagnosis, prognosis and prescription for the human condition. We are all Ishmael the ingénue and Starbuck the pragmatist and Ahab the maniac, stuck on a ship driven by winds we cannot predict, helmed by a mind not fully comprehensible, whose compulsions we don't control. The world is an elusive whale; we might choose coexistence or destruction. And though we do not decide the outcome, the hands on those oars are ours; each stroke invites consequences. And lest we overlook the obvious: The men went equipped to do harm in their quest for—oil. If we are all Ishmael and Starbuck and Ahab, caught in our collective addiction, the whales exemplify a counterculture, a way of living weightlessly, of not draining the world that floats them.

It's no coincidence that Leviathan, the sperm whale, is Melville's chosen vehicle. No other candidate qualifies. Ahab could have chased a fire-breathing dragon. But to face real quotidian madness we must have at stake real blood and real will on both sides. Only this creature—the largest with teeth on the planet—comes to us as quickened flesh and immortal metaphor, tangling us with our own pursuits, profane, bleeding, sacred, free. Only Leviathan could do it. Could win.

So one wonders about those who've turned the book aside—as, in college, I did. How does one fare, having failed to be forewarned about our inner Ahabs or the risks of being led into complicity with madness, uncounseled on the wisdom of rejecting the obsessive quests that the world's pulpits condone and its ports reward. *Moby-Dick* is only partly about madness; it's equally about banality.

Herman Melville's haunting inquiry—“whether Leviathan can long endure so wide a chase, and so remorseless a havoc”—returns to me again while every whale in every ocean returns to share our air in seas we're warming and thickening with plastic. “If ever the world is to be again flooded, like the Netherlands, to kill off its rats,” Melville mused, “then the eternal whale will still survive, and...spout his frothed defiance to the skies.” But the warming that will erode the contours of Florida and New York, Houston, Hong Kong and Bangladesh will make life difficult for whales, too. They, and all beings, as the naturalist Henry Beston wrote, are “caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.” Mesh by knotted mesh, it's a net we have woven, perversely, by unweaving the web of life. Melville tried to warn us.



WHO WE ARE
SAFINA CENTER STAFF



CARL SAFINA
Founding President

MAYRA N. MARIÑO
Business Manager



ERICA CIRINO
Outreach & Media Coordinator



WHO WE ARE

2020 SAFINA CENTER FELLOWS

HELPING GUIDE US TOWARD WORLD-CHANGING SOLUTIONS
TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

To accelerate the creation of exceptional transformative work, our FELLOWS PROGRAM helps support a group of hand-picked distinctive thought leaders.



AUTHOR, ESSAYIST
PAUL GREENBERG



INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER
IAN URBINA



PAINTER, PRIMATE ADVOCATE
ROBIN HUFFMAN



WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER, CONSERVATIONIST
HOB OSTERLUND



CLARINETIST AND PHILOSOPHER
DAVID ROTHENBERG



PHOTOGRAPHER, AUTHOR
KIKE CALVO



CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST
DR. KATARZYNA NOWAK



FISHERIES SCIENTIST
DR. ERIC GILMAN

WHO WE ARE

2020 SAFINA CENTER LAUNCHPAD FELLOWS

LAUNCHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHANGE-MAKERS

Our **JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP** is designed to kick-start projects undertaken by promising young venture-level talent, helping launch their early careers and create an affiliation of like-minded kindred spirits. The fellowship honors astronaut Kalpana Chawla, who took Carl Safina's book *Song for the Blue Ocean* into space aboard *Columbia* and helped endow this program.



BIRDER, ARTIST,
CONSERVATIONIST
MOLLY ADAMS



MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGIST,
CONSERVATIONIST
KATE THOMPSON



SOUND ARTIST,
EXPLORER
BEN MIRIN



DEEP-SEA BIOLOGIST,
SCIENCE WRITER
JESSIE PERELMAN



WRITER, ARTIST,
WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR
ERICA CIRINO

WHO WE ARE

2020 SAFINA CENTER CREATIVE AFFILIATES

Our circle of highly accomplished and exceptionally inventive **CREATIVE AFFILIATES**, share and amplify the Safina Center's quest for humanity, social justice, and stabilization of the living world.



ACTRESS, WRITER,
CONSERVATIONIST
JANE ALEXANDER



AUTHOR,
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIAN
LINDA LEAR



NEUROSCIENTIST, ANIMAL
BEHAVIOR EXPERT
DR. LORI MARINO



WRITER, FILMMAKER, ADVENTURER
JON BOWERMASTER



PHILOSOPHER, ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVOCATE, WRITER
KATHLEEN DEAN MOORE



MUSICAL ADVENTURER
PAUL WINTER



NOVELIST
LUANNE RICE



ACTRESS, FARMER,
PLAYWRIGHT
ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

WHO WE ARE

FRESH FACES

Get to know this year's newest crew members:
Safina Center Fellow **KIKE CALVO** and Creative Affiliate **JON BOWERMASTER**.



Kike and his daughter, Pilar, reunite during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: Vivienne Caballero

KIKE CALVO is an award-winning photographer, journalist, and author focused on culture and environment whose pioneering use of drones for aerial photography and research was called “genius” in the 2019 National Geographic Almanac. Currently, Kike is creating a series of multilingual children’s books and media meant to foster care and concern for nature and global human cultures and languages.

The Safina Center: When did you first connect to Carl Safina and the Safina Center?

Kike Calvo: I have long admired Carl Safina for his capacity to communicate. He has the ability to research important topics, and then present them in a way that makes us all reflect, and eventually act upon our feelings.

I’ve traveled around the world as a National Geographic photographer for National Geographic Expeditions and Lindblad Expeditions for the past seven years. Destiny brought Carl and me together in person during a two-week Patagonia expedition, which he joined as a speaker with his wife Patricia Paladines.

When I returned home from that trip, I began to think about what I wanted to communicate: how and why we need to conserve our planet and the life that calls it home.

How does your work align with our mission?

My goal is to inspire children to aspire. I bring to their attention the value of others’ cultures and environments, show them how to respect nature, and above all, encourage them to never stop dreaming.

What work released or project started in 2020 are you most proud of, and why?

The most fulfilling project this year has been distributing free bilingual books to kids all over the world, particularly in remote communities. To date, we have distributed more than 5,000 free books to children living in the jungles of the Colombian and Peruvian Amazon; in Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, New York; and far beyond.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I became trapped on a ship off Patagonia, where I had been working on a photography expedition. From my quarantine quarters, I decided one night to post a free PDF copy of *The Adventures of Pili* online. I hoped kids around the world, stuck at home, could learn from Pili and be inspired to persevere and keep dreaming, despite it being a difficult time.

Who is the biggest inspiration for your work?

My curious and bright daughter Pilar, “Pili,” is the soul behind *The Adventures of Pili*. At the young age of five, she is an experienced world traveler. She is also selfless: On one trip our family took to Tibet, she chose to give away her toys to the children she met there!

I hope Pili will one day understand that her existence has inspired me to engage with thousands of children and parents around the world in the hopes that I might inspire them to care and respect humanity and nature.



On the Hudson River. Photo: Jon Bowermaster

JON BOWERMASTER is a documentary filmmaker, journalist, author, adventurer, radio host, six-time grantee of the National Geographic Expeditions Council, and executive producer at Oceans 8 Films. Jon recently produced the film *Ghost Fleet* (directed by Shannon Service and Jeffrey Waldron), about human rights abuses in the South Asian fishing industry, which was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Cinematography.

The Safina Center: Why do you do what you do?

Jon Bowermaster: All I’ve ever wanted to be was a storyteller (I initially thought I’d be a sports reporter, a passion that died early on after trying it and discovering that it was very BORING). I am educated as a journalist and began my career as a print reporter, writing hundreds of magazine and newspaper stories and eleven books, all with environmental backdrops.

Thanks to a long relationship with *National Geographic*, these written stories morphed into telling similar stories in films. I’ve now produced more than 30 documentaries. And for the past three years I’ve been sharing conversations via a weekly radio show and podcast.

The one thing that unites all my storytelling is that every one of these stories focuses on the natural world and the people who try to protect it. Sharing good stories no matter the medium—and introducing those all-important Earth-protectors—is key to my life satisfaction.

Which 2020 project are you most proud of?

About five years ago I started a series of short films based on environmental risks to and hopes for my backyard here in New York’s Hudson Valley. The series has focused on telling optimistic, hopeful stories, about good works rather than environmental bummers. The big film for 2020 is tentatively called *Eyes on the Rise*, about impacts on river cities from Albany to Manhattan by rising sea levels and how communities are responding to the inevitable climate-related elevation of waters.

How does this project help make a case for life on Earth?

In a handful of communities up and down the Hudson, town governments have coordinated with state environmental officials to form “resiliency task forces” to help plan for rising sea levels. The Hudson is expected to rise by 3–6 feet by 2100. It has been incredibly inspiring to see the efforts of these small-town communities taking the issue very seriously.

Who is your biggest inspiration in your work?

On Earth Day 1990, I published (with my friend, polar explorer Will Steger) *Saving the Earth*, examining causes, effects and solutions to fifteen environmental issues.

Then we went on a book tour. I grew up in Chicago and was a HUGE fan of local journalist Studs Terkel, especially his oral histories. We got booked to promote *Saving the Earth* on his daily radio show.

Meeting Terkel was a highlight of my journalistic career. His copy of our book was filled with post-it notes and scribbles and he hurried around his control room preparing for the show, flipping through the stacks of LPs, looking—he said—for exactly the song he wanted to open our interview with. The song? Tom Paxton’s “Whose Garden Was This,” written on the first Earth Day in 1970. Studs got it and he will always be a hero and inspiration of mine!

MAKING WAVES

OUR IMPACT

WE NOW FIND OURSELVES LIVING IN AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME.

On the following pages, you'll find more information on what we've done this year to address the challenges and bring about positive change around the world.

FIGHTING THE ANTI-ENVIRONMENT AGENDA

PAUL GREENBERG and CARL SAFINA wrote about and rallied support in opposition to the proposed Pebble Mine complex in Alaska, which would ruin the world's greatest remaining populations of sockeye salmon and the habitats of eagles, bears, and many others, while greatly hurting fishing communities and Natives. With the work of many others—including key Republicans—the tide on this fight has turned against the mine plan.

KATARZYNA NOWAK wrote about how we can better cope with and deter wildlife crime for outlets such as *The Revelator* and *Yukon News*. By speaking out against ecological injustices and promoting biodiversity, Katarzyna moves us toward a healthier future on Earth.

KIKE CALVO began a crowd-sourced tree-planting campaign tied to his children's book series, *The Adventures of Pili*, repopulating the deforested Colombian Amazon with native vegetation.

IAN URBINA covered stories on illegal fishing in waters off North Korea, China, Gambia, Libya and beyond for major news outlets, testifying his findings before a U.S. Congressional committee.

SECURING HUMAN & NONHUMAN RIGHTS

IAN URBINA shared his experiences onboard fishing boats filled with trafficked enslaved peoples who are routinely mistreated, and commonly killed, without anyone knowing their names. He tells their stories in music, writing and spoken word as part of his collaborative "The Outlaw Ocean Project," which kicked off last year with publication of his book *The Outlaw Ocean*.

JON BOWERMASTER recorded the ordeals of those enslaved by the South Asian fishing industry in his recent Emmy-nominated film *Ghost Fleet*, which he has discussed with diverse audiences.

ERICA CIRINO wrote about U.K. scientists' efforts to incorporate standards of welfare into fishing regulations and seafood labels to minimize suffering of marine mammals for *Nautilus Magazine*. Many "sustainable" fisheries every year kill hundreds of thousands of marine mammals.

LORI MARINO worked with her organization The Whale Sanctuary Project to establish a seaside sanctuary for now-captive whales and dolphins, and actively calling to end the exploitation of marine mammals for "entertainment."

ROBIN HUFFMAN shared the faces of primates subject to abuse and orphaned as a direct result of poaching and other harmful human activities in her stunning realistic paintings. She engaged in education efforts to teach people about the plight of primates, whom she has cared for in sanctuaries in the U.S. and Africa, and how we can best protect them from suffering.

ADDRESSING GENDER & RACIAL INJUSTICE

MOLLY ADAMS worked with her Feminist Bird Club, organizing birdwatching and fundraisers to secure the rights of often-marginalized groups including LGBTQIA+ folks and people of color. Molly spearheaded the "Bird Names for Birds" campaign to address the colonial nature of naming animals after people, particularly those with morally reprehensible and racist legacies.

ERICA CIRINO traveled to Louisiana's petrochemical corridor, known as "Cancer Alley," to report on grassroots efforts by residents of St. James Parish—many of which are the descendants of enslaved peoples—to halt construction of a plastic factory there. Her work appeared in B.C.-based *Hakai Magazine*, and will be included in her coming book about plastic pollution. She used her photos and notes to contribute to an educational pamphlet about environmental racism for People for Mutual Education, a Portland-based organization working to further advance the efforts of local and national activists working for racial justice.

CARL SAFINA wrote a *New York Times* book review of Herman Melville's classic *MOBY-DICK*. In his review, CARL reveals how Melville showed us how to avoid virulent megalomania, racial bias, homophobia, and maybe even sea level rise. Read Carl's piece "Melville's whale was a warning we failed to heed" on page 9 of this report.

KATARZYNA NOWAK further developed, and analyzed, the 500 Women Scientists' "Request a Woman in STEM" online database, a platform where scientists, journalists and the public can directly contact thousands of female-identifying researchers across a broad range of sciences working around the world. Katarzyna has also worked closely with First Nations Yukon communities, writing scientific letters and op-eds to promote use of Indigenous knowledge and a multidisciplinary "One Health" approach to establishing human and environmental wellbeing.

GETTING FACTS TO THE FORE

KATARZYNA NOWAK published a research letter arguing that the present system of funding conservation in Africa through trophy hunting is neither sustainable nor equitable, and offered alternatives. She wrote a paper, now awaiting peer review, on her research using community photography to track how mountain goats' coat molting is affected by a warming climate. Katarzyna contributed to a paper assessing costs of monitoring and preventing disease spillover driven by deforestation and the wildlife trade, with a focus on COVID-19.

KATE THOMPSON worked on her PhD dissertation on the motivations behind, and consequences of, illegal wildlife hunting in Madagascar.

ERIC GILMAN published several research papers, evaluating how various fishing baits contribute to unintentional catch of non-target marine species, estimating fishing industry waste, and investigating ecological change in open-water Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), among others.

JESSIE PERELMAN and international collaborators published a paper describing why those evaluating risks of deep-sea mining must assess not only the seafloor, but midwaters as well.

ERICA CIRINO conducted research evaluating a novel method of collecting tiny pieces of plastic in Icelandic waters in the Greenland Sea, which she helped test in 2019.

Ian Urbina on an Indonesian patrol ship in the South China Sea. Photo: Fabio Nascimento

MAKING WAVES

OUR IMPACT

MAKING WAVES

OUR IMPACT

COPING WITH COVID-19 & SHUTTING DOWN

CARL SAFINA worked with a group of scientists whom he met while writing his book *Becoming Wild* to raise money to buy protective gear and supplies for the remote indigenous communities in Peru and Mexico, which were hard hit by COVID-19. Carl also made more than two dozen virtual appearances since the pandemic hit global status in March, reaching thousands of people all over the world, discussing his book *Becoming Wild*. Carl wrote an analysis of COVID-19 and how to avoid the next pandemic, in *Medium*.

BEN MIRIN released a new album of his natural recordings from Madagascar called *MADA*. He donated proceeds from sales to assist his collaborators in the Malagasy band “Ahay An’ Ala (We, the Forest People),” who stopped performing and have no income due to COVID-19.

KATE THOMPSON wrote about poaching and the rise of pandemics for the Safina Center Blog.

KATARZYNA NOWAK wrote commentary in *Yukon News* about how the continuation of mining during the COVID-19 pandemic puts remote Yukon communities at risk of serious illness.

ERICA CIRINO reported that labeling mining and the petrochemical industries as “essential work” during the pandemic put Indigenous communities at major risk of disease, for *The Tye*. She also gave virtual talks to hundreds of people about her experiences reporting on plastic pollution, wolf conservation and her work as a wildlife rehabilitator. Lastly, Erica produced a feature for *The Guardian* about avian influenza, exposing the animal cruelty and deadly disease risks inherent in factory farming.

KIKE CALVO made the Spanish-English version of his dual-language children’s book *The Adventures of Pili in New York* free online for kids to download and read during lockdown.

HOB OSTERLUND wrote about the pandemic, hope and albatrosses for the Safina Center Blog.

DAVID ROTHENBERG collaborated with Berlin’s nightingales (and his German friends) from his home in Cold Spring, New York, to create an international live online concert.

JESSIE PERELMAN wrote about what it’s like to do deep-sea research—at home—amid COVID-19 lockdowns.

LORI MARINO hosted several virtual discussions about marine mammals and why they should not be kept in captivity.

THE SAFINA CENTER shared heartwarming images from Fellows, Staff and Creative Affiliates on social media to spread positivity during a difficult time, with the hashtag #HopefulAtHome.

SIGNED POLICY INITIATIVES

WE SUPPORTED

- Congressional leadership to fund programs and projects that benefit wildlife and restore public lands in any future COVID-19 related stimulus bill
- Push for UN Member States to open the upcoming 2020 virtual United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to public participation
- Initiative to include cephalopods among the “animals” entitled to humane treatment by those involved in NIH-funded research
- Effort to get major global banks, including the World Bank, to divest of factory farming funds
- Increased Congressional funding for wildlife/public lands protection
- PAW and FIN Conservation Act to resist Trump’s efforts to gut the Endangered Species Act
- Proposed National Marine Fisheries Service expansion of protected habitat for endangered Southern Resident killer whales
- “Break Free From Plastics Act” 2020, a bill that would make plastic manufacturers fiscally responsible for their products’ “end of life” after consumer use
- Restoration of the lower Snake River—helping salmon and cooling waters—by removing its four federal dams
- FY21 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill reducing Federal Agencies’ power under Trump

WE OPPOSED

- National Marine Fisheries Service’s reopening of the Gulf of Mexico’s Gear Restricted Areas to pelagic longline fishing
- Ceding of ~850,000 acres of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge to the U.S. Air Force under the National Defense Authorization Act

Jessie Perelman moves her deep-sea research home during the Covid-19 lockdown.
Photo: Jessie Perelman

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TAKE ACTION

"QUESTION: 'WHAT CAN I DO?'

ANSWERS:

1) SOMETHING. CAN'T DO EVERYTHING; JUST DO SOMETHING.

2) THINK ABOUT:

- WHAT I'LL EAT
- WHOM I'LL VOTE FOR
- WHAT I'LL BUY/INVEST IN
- WHAT I'LL DRIVE
- GROUPS I'LL JOIN
- WHAT I'LL THROW AWAY
- WHAT I'LL DO FOR A LIVING
- HOW MANY KIDS I'LL HAVE
- WHO I'LL DECIDE TO BE"

— Carl Safina

Visit: <https://www.safinacenter.org/take-action>
to learn how you can take action to bring forth positive
change for communities, on climate, for land,
wildlife, and the oceans.

Activists in Setauket, New York, in June 2020. Photo: Carl Safina

PRAISE FOR THE SAFINA CENTER

A small sample of many affirmations received:

"Your values are sublime. Peace and Justice have complete congruity with the core values of the Safina Center. It is gratifying to be among your supporters."

— Chuck

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

— Dan Ashe, former director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"You educate with a wonderfully light touch that makes one want to do better if one can."

— Maria

"Dear Carl, you really opened up for me an understanding of the animal world I did not have before which is profoundly important for my own thinking. I will be reflecting on our conversation for a long time."

— Michael Lerner, co-founder, *The New School at Commonweal*

"Your words are a beautiful weapon of planetary sanity, of defense, of poetry."

— Erik

"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, professor of conservation biology,
Wake Forest University

"By page five, I'd met sentences so true and beautiful they made me gasp."

— Melissa

Masariki the chimpanzee in Uganda's Budongo National Forest. Photo: Carl Safina

FORMER EMPLOYEE TELLS ALL

SHELLEY DEARHART

SHELLEY DEARHART, the Safina Center's former Sustainable Seafood Program Director, is now a fisheries scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In a Women's Equality Day interview about what inspired her, Shelley wrote:

"Professionally, I have been most inspired by working with Dr. Carl Safina. Indeed, I'm acknowledging a man on Women's Equality Day because it's the personal experiences I have had through the people I actually know that have been most inspiring in my life...."

I had the privilege of working with Carl for almost two years, the majority of this time managing the seafood program under the umbrella of The Safina Center. Throughout this time, what stands out, is how much he continuously challenged me to think in ways I hadn't before. He genuinely wanted me to grow professionally, and he wanted to know my opinion, always. He trusted me. I know this not because it was something he specifically told me in conversation, it simply showed in how he treated me as a member of his team.

Even after moving on from working directly with Carl, his support and mentoring has continued as a colleague. Carl taught me many things, but how to help others succeed by encouraging them to think in new ways, challenging them professionally, staying open minded and offering

constructive, thoughtful feedback—these lessons and experiences will stay with me and hopefully help me to offer that same encouragement to others. I also think its worth mentioning that Carl has cultivated a team of strong, talented, and intelligent women and it makes all the sense in the world to me why they choose to work with him daily."

— Shelley Dearhart,
Fisheries Scientist
Monterey Bay Aquarium



Shelley and her pup, Henry. Photo: Jason Chricton Photography

RIPPLE EFFECTS

CONNECTION AND SPIRITUALITY

Loving Earth with the Blue Ocean Faith Church

By Erica Cirino

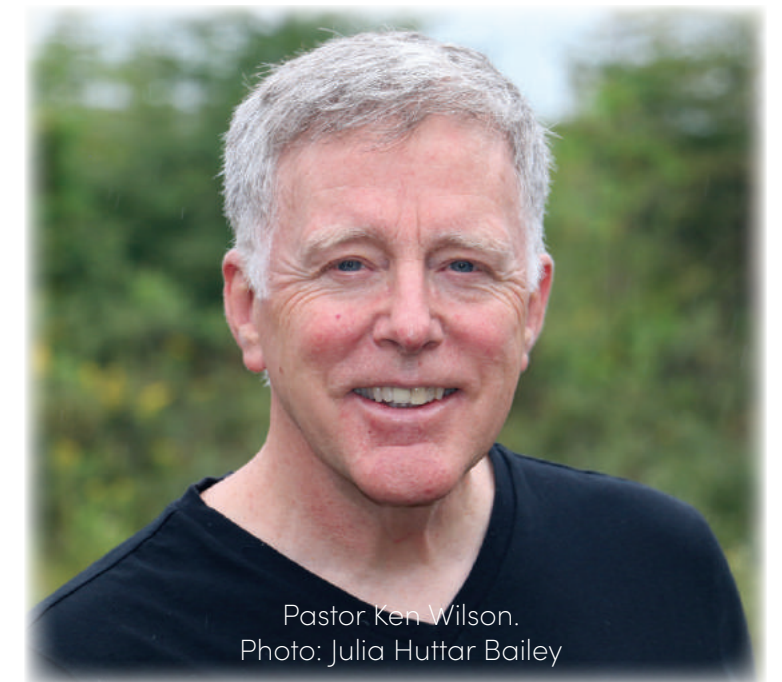
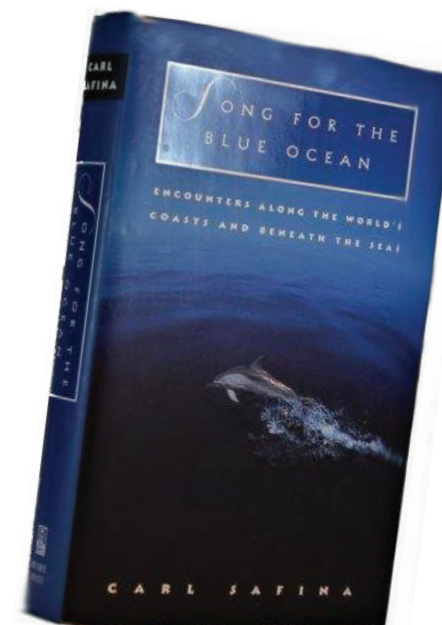
When trying to comprehend deep workings of nature and the universe, many people follow just one of two paths: science or religion.

Yet, Pastors Emily Swan and Ken Wilson founded a church grounded in science and religion, which they view as complementary.

"Many churches do fear science, and in so doing, they are on guard against reality," Ken reflects. "But reality is the only realm in which a real God might be found."

Emily and Ken founded the nondenominational Blue Ocean Faith Church Ann Arbor five years ago, when their former church, also located in Ann Arbor, adopted policies forbidding full welcome and inclusion of same-sex couples in church life. The pastors describe their house of worship as "Jesus, Spirit, Scripture, science, all-people friendly." In name and spirit, Ken says, their church takes inspiration from Carl Safina's classic book *Song for the Blue Ocean*, which he read after meeting Carl at a retreat for scientists and religious leaders in 2006.

"Spirituality is about connection—to self, others, the wider world, and God," Ken says. "As Carl writes, the ocean is a connective medium of the Earth, all its people and creatures. Blue Ocean Faith is about an expansive approach to spirituality, so the name seemed like a good match. *Song for the Blue Ocean* helped me understand nature as a mystical wonderland."



Pastor Ken Wilson.
Photo: Julia Huttar Bailey



Parishioners and staff during a service at Blue Ocean Faith Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Photo: Blue Ocean Faith Church Ann Arbor

While many houses of worship focus on giving parishioners answers, Blue Ocean Faith Church instead works to forge connections between people, and between people and nature. Ken says his individual spiritual practice is inspired most by his soft observances of light, sound, and movement relayed by water and trees. In this way he connects to nature, a realm that “includes me, but is not about me,” he says, adding, “I think Carl realizes life is not about advancing an argument so much as forging a path: follow the connections where they lead.”

Ken has incorporated Carl’s writings into sermons at Blue Ocean Faith Church. Specifically, Ken has focused on Carl’s books *Beyond Words*, which he says helped him appreciate evolution as a unifying force requiring deep empathy with all living creatures and their habitats; and *Becoming Wild*, a book that, he says, reveals the greatest story is that all life is one. “I feel this now when I pray,” Ken says.

The scientific method is focused on what can be observed, demonstrated and repeated, Ken notes. Scientists are at ease with not knowing. However, he adds, “The realm that is carefully observed by the scientific method also beckons us to experience what lies beyond the reach of the scientific method. What’s around the corner? What’s beyond the veil? What’s winking at me through all this? That’s a realm accessed by experience, intuition, desire, love, poetry, music, story, and spiritual practice as well as by science.”

People found connection through spiritual practices rooted in nature for thousands of years. But disciples of such a multidisciplinary faith are increasingly rare today, as people tend to choose either science or religion, instead of opening themselves to the possibility of both. In a sea of rigid binaries, connecting is what makes Blue Ocean Faith Church Ann Arbor, its pastors and parishioners, stand out.

HELP US DO WHAT WE DO

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

“Direct compassion and heart-filled work toward the living creatures of this planet.” –Dr. Eric Gilchrist

4 WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAFINA CENTER:



Carl Safina with black-footed albatross chick on Midway Atoll. Photo courtesy: Carl Safina

1. ONLINE

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

2. TELEPHONE

Call: +1-631-675-1984

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”

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

In 2011, we established an endowment fund to honor the memory of our dear friend and 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

Up to \$1,000

Richard Abbott
Judith Abrams
Jane Alexander
Eric Allen
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
American College of Vet Science
(In memory of Beatrice Meyer's father)
Angley Famiy
Eric & Nancy Badkin Antlitz
PJ Armstrong
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Marjorie Sale Arundel Fund for the Earth
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Angus Gilchrist
Alex Gilchrist
Marshall Gilchrist
Corinna Giles
Georgia Gillespie
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Stephanie Gilman
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Alison Pearson
Selies and Thomas Pembleton
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Stuart Rademacher
Patricia and Daniel Rathmann
Fran Recht
Andrew Reich
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THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

Luanne Rice
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Dirk Rosen
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Dr. Marco Seandel & Dr. Julia A. Grimes
Monica Sellberg
Keith and Janet Sewell
Martha Shaw
Rebecca Shuford
Ann Smith
Cora A. Smith
Rena Sokolow
(In memory of Ted Kennedy, great dog)
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Stephanie Spak
Jeff and Diana Spendelow
Spennrath Family for Peru Covid campaign
Autumn Spritzer
(In honor of Michelle Nimmo)
Stop N Shop Supermarkets
Stuart Strahl
Brad and Kristina Strand
(In honor of Liam Strand)
Nicholas Sullivan
Taipei American School
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Cynthia Tuthill and James Orr
Yura Uhlantov
United Way of San Diego County
Dierdre Verne
Jaclyn Vino
Valerie Van Cleave for Pili Project
Valerie Van Cleave for Safina Center
Edwina Von Gal
Jim, Jenny, Abby Van Kirk
(In Memory of Lizzie)
Marie-Claude Vuille
Connie Walsh
Esme Wallace
Bryan Wallace
Connie Walsh
Julie Walters
Norma and Walter Watson
Jennifer Weltz
Debra West
Brad Westone
Amy Wheeler Macleod

John and Mary Jean Winkler Charitable Fund
Wolpert Family
Whitney Wolf
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Patricia Wright
Marianne Wudarsky
Bonnie Wyper Thinking Animals
Jean Zadiraka, Indianapolis Zoo

\$1,001 to \$5,000

Leland Ackerley
(In honor of Luanne Rice)
Luis Alvarez Gaume
Scott and Karen Amero
Stefan Ashkenazy
Avalon Park and Preserve for Peru Covid campaign
The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation
Rema Boscov
Sue Lonoff de Cuevas
(In memory of John de Cuevas)
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Michael Light
Peter Looram
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Bill Miller & Associates, Inc.
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Randy Podolsky, The Podolsky Family Foundation
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Kirby Stark
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Benjamin Schellpfeffer
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Edward Taft
Trevor Family for Pili
Herman Wenz
Jeffrey Zitsman and Elaine Abrams

\$5,001 to \$20,000

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Anonymous Foundation
Bobolink Foundation
Robert Campbell
The Applewood Fund at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz
Susan Cummings-Findel, Sunshine Comes First
The Charles Engelhard Foundation
The Goldie Anna Charitable Trust
Nicholas Naylor-Leyland

Lindblad Expeditions
The Matthew W. and Luann Jacobs Charitable Fund
Roslyn and Jerome Meyer
(In honor of Carl Safina)
Patagonia-Baltoro Trust, Yvon Chouinard
Repass-Rodgers Family Foundation
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Edward Taft for Pili
Wanderlust Fund, Kristin Hettermann and Sven Olof Lindblad
John Yablonski

\$20,001 to \$50,000

Isaac Bloch
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Alfred and Jane Ross Foundation
Gillian and Peter Neumeier
Ann Hunter Welborn and David Welborn,
The San Diego Foundation

\$51,001 to \$300,000

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Paul Simons Foundation
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In-Kind Contributions

Lindblad Expeditions
Pauline and Rob Rosen

Sunset on the South Pacific Ocean. Photo: Erica Cirino

OUR SUPPORTERS

MEET SCOTT AND HELLA MCVAY

A Sea Change Begins With a Single Song

By Erica Cirino

The discovery of a sonorous song reverberating through the blue ocean has helped spare the lives of its singers for nearly five decades. Those of us living above water may never have heard the voices of humpback whales, and therefore may never have cared about protecting them and their kin from the scourge of whale hunting, without the help of Dr. Scott McVay.

In his 2015 book *Surprise Encounters with Artists, Scientists, Whales and Other Living Things*, Scott, an accomplished naturalist, poet and philanthropist, details the “long-unfolding trajectory” he followed to unearth of humpback whales’ singing abilities and other wonders of our planet.

In the early 1960s, Scott left a job at Princeton University to spend two years working with Dr. John C. Lilly in Florida to teach dolphins English and study the sounds they make. A few years later, back at Princeton University, another scientist named Roger Payne brought to his home audiotapes of whales vocalizing in waters off Bermuda. Roger hoped Scott, an expert in sound technology, could decode what the whales were saying. He spent countless hours poring over the tapes—which he transcribed into visual sonograms—with his wife Hella McVay, a mathematician, an artist and conservationist.

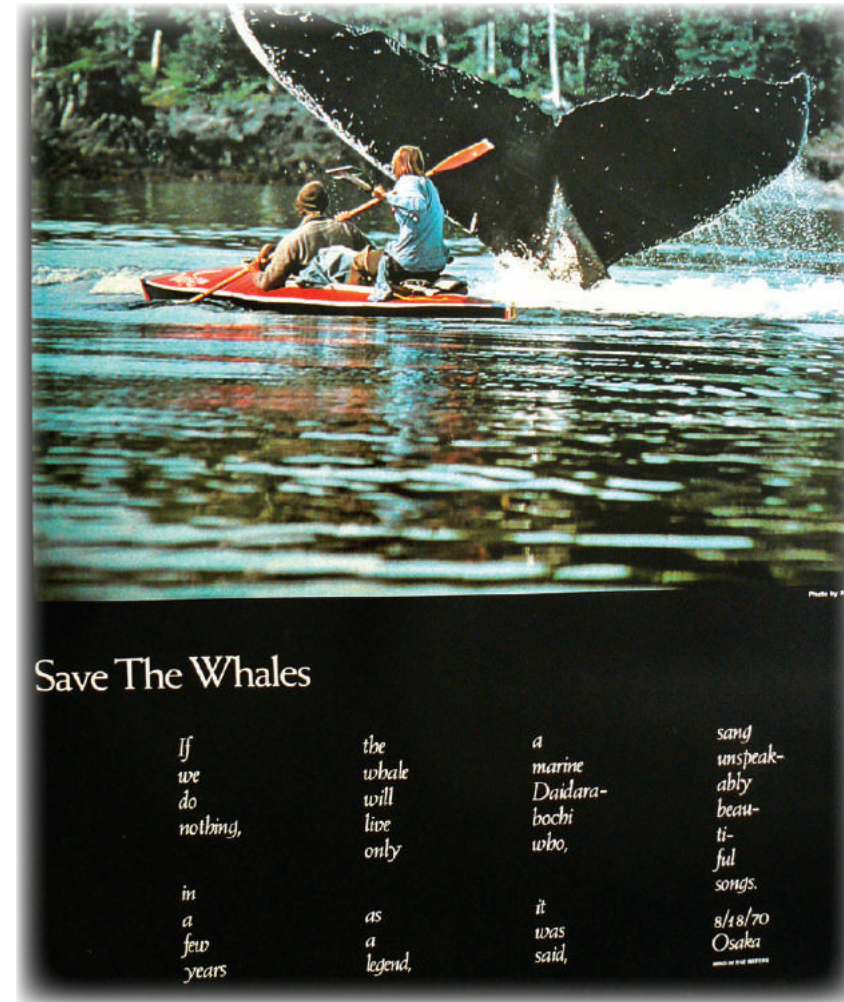
“After some weeks, it became clear that out of the seeming cacophony of sound, clear patterns emerged...analogous to birds who sing brief repetitive songs,” Scott recalls in his book.

The whales were singing: a six-octave song in six distinct themes. “It was also, to our ears, utterly beautiful,” writes Dr. McVay. In 1971, McVay and Payne co-authored a paper in the journal *Science* that introduced the wonder of whalesong. The paper plus the wide distribution of the strange and beautiful recorded voices of singing whales, rallied people around the world to see whales in a wholly new light, and to protect the deep-sea singers.

Payne’s vinyl audio album of the humpbacks’ songs (accompanied by a booklet urging for the protection of whales, in Japanese, Russian and English), McVay reflects, “topped the recording charts and set the stage for public demand that the slaughter of whales be reduced if not stopped altogether. The album was helpful when Hella and I went to Japan in 1970 and met with six top scientists, thanks to Ambassador Edwin Reischauer, and two major writers, went on NHK television for an hour, and met with leaders of the whaling industry.”

Though they deeply admired their music, Roger and the McVays couldn’t understand why the humpbacks were singing. In time, they did learn that only male whales do it, and collaborator Katy Payne showed that humpback songs evolve across generations.

Scott McVay’s fascination with whales has been swimming in his heart for many decades.



A “Save the Whales” poster featuring Scott McVay’s iconic poem “The Alternative,” which he wrote in Osaka, Japan.

Photo: Paul Chesley

climate dilemma, and the unfeeling white supremacist fomenting this roiling pot who abhors science and folks who know something.”

Dr. McVay believes that insightful, truth-telling, heart-touching creative works like Carl’s contemporary take on *Moby-Dick* are capable of making change, and thus, are worth supporting.

“What struck me about the Safina Center was its modest balanced budget of less than \$600,000. This is impressive when one considers the Center’s outsized impact on the critical question of whether life on this dear blue-green orb will survive our brutal assault and exploitation and poisoning of its biodiversity, life systems which gave us rise and provide endless nourishment,” says McVay. His opinion is informed from having served on 28 boards, including the Smithsonian and the World Wildlife Fund, and has led or has been deeply involved with a half dozen philanthropic foundations in his lifetime.

Hella McVay puts her perspective of the Safina Center this way: “Having lived a long time, seeing this beautiful planet plundered and all of its inhabitants, especially the animals, suffer, one gathering perception seems to go in a positive direction. When studying animals, scientists used to keep talking about ‘instinct’ and ‘imprinting.’ Now they talk about ‘cultural lives’ and ‘communication’ in various modes. The Safina Center nurtures younger, more daring, biologists to be heard, which will lead to greater protection of animals and their habitat.”

“As a student at Princeton University, I read *Moby-Dick* under the lead scholar of the day, Lawrence Thompson. He cautioned us, ‘Don’t skip the whale stuff.’ I didn’t,” Scott says.

Perhaps it’s no surprise then, that Scott found resonance in Carl Safina’s 2020 article about Melville’s classic whale tale in the New York Times Book Review: “Melville’s whale was a warning we failed to heed” (which appears on page 10 of this report).

“Carl’s essay is a show-stopper,” Scott reflects. “It is a metaphor of the dark times where we live right now. The ‘leader of the free world’ is the ‘demonic Captain Ahab, the tormented tormenter, the malignant abused abuser of authority and men.’ The clout, grace and authority of the piece show a profound understanding of whales and the complexity of the crazed captain of the Pequod. The truth of the parable reveals the quadruple whammy of this moment, the growing, spreading coronavirus, the volatile, trembling economy with millions out of work, the urgent

Scott and Hella have advocated for the protection of a great many species, from whales to orangutans whose forests are being destroyed for palm-oil plantations. Their work reveals that each species has a story to tell.

A growing body of contemporary whale research still hasn't revealed why humpbacks sing, yet there is clearly meaning embedded their voices, Carl Safina writes in his latest book *Becoming Wild: How Animal Cultures Raise Families, Create Beauty, and Achieve Peace*:

"...The whales' message is simple, and we ourselves should be able to understand it: 'We, the living, celebrate being alive.' The song culture of humpback whales changed our interspecies culture. And why? Simply this: we briefly directed our attention to something beautiful on Earth. For a moment—we listened. The whales continue calling us, asking, in effect, 'Can you hear me now?'"

Scott and Hella could hear the humpbacks call to life, and through research, advocacy and the arts have helped largely eliminate whale hunting—to the point where many cetacean populations are now thriving.

Their efforts show us how a sea change can begin with a single song—if we are willing to listen, and to amplify its message.



Scott and Hella McVay among emperor penguins in Antarctica.
Photo courtesy: Scott and Hella McVay

THE NUMBERS FINANCIALS

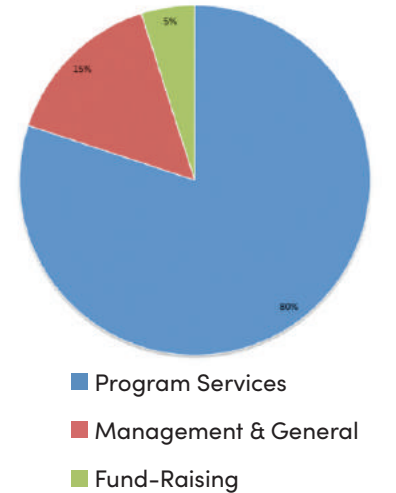
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	As of May 31	
	2020	2019
Current assets:		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 242,611	\$ 373,316
Investments	730,224	557,857
Contributions & pledges receivable	54,029	105,687
Prepaid expenses & other current assets	4,596	10,260
Total current assets	1,031,460	1,047,120
Property & equipment, net	451,839	467,912
Total assets	\$1,483,299	\$ 1,515,032
Liabilities and net assets		
Liabilities:		
Accrued expenses	\$ 40,508	\$ 26,473
Total liabilities	40,508	26,473
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	1,227,449	1,173,740
With donor restrictions	215,342	314,819
Total net assets	1,442,791	1,488,559
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,483,299	\$1,515,032

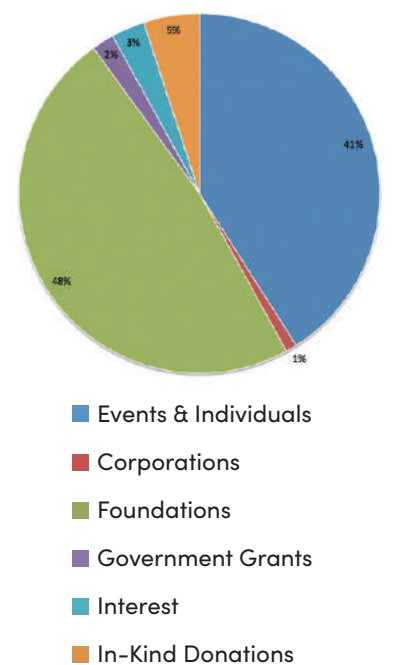
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Year ended May 31, 2020		
	Without donor Restrictions	With donor Restrictions	Total
Public support and revenue			
Public support:			
Contributions	\$ 314,817	\$ 139,221	\$ 454,038
Government grant	10,000	-	10,000
Event income, including in-kind donations of \$34,760 net of expenses of \$68,904	82,283	-	82,283
Total public support	407,100	139,221	546,321
Revenue:			
Net investment income	18,437	-	18,437
Total public support and revenue	425,537	139,221	564,758
Net assets released from restrictions	238,698	(238,698)	-
Total public support and revenue including net assets released from restrictions	664,235	(99,477)	564,758
Expenses			
Programs:			
Seafood research	138,791	-	138,791
Wildlife conservation advocacy	256,681	-	256,681
Outlaw Ocean Project	115,960	-	115,960
Total program services	511,432	-	511,432
Supporting services:			
Management and general	96,846	-	96,846
Fund-raising	31,281	-	31,281
Total supporting services	128,127	-	128,127
Total expenses	639,559	-	639,559
Increase (decrease) in net assets before other increases	24,676	(99,477)	(74,801)
Other increases:			
Net unrealized gain on investments	29,033	-	29,033
Increase (decrease) in net assets	53,709	(99,477)	(45,768)
Net assets - beginning of year	1,173,740	314,819	1,488,559
Net assets - end of year	\$1,227,449	\$ 215,342	\$1,442,791

2020 Total Expenses



2020 Total Donations



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

YEAR IN REVIEW

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"The disruptive social, political, economic and environmental events of 2020 should serve as stark reminders to all of us that we must do better to take care of each other and the shared planet we all call home. I am proud of the Safina Center's Staff and Fellows, who carried on this year amid the many challenges. Our international team of thought-leaders and change-makers addressed critical global issues such as racism, climate change, extinction, deforestation, pollution, human overpopulation, and a general lack of empathy toward anyone considered 'other.' The Safina Center continues moving forward together to illuminate these crises and imagine solutions, communicated through unique works capable of changing minds, hearts and values—for the better. The Safina Center inspires humanity to care and take meaningful action like no other organization does today."

— *B. Eric Graham*
Chairman of the Board
The Safina Center



Photo courtesy: B. Eric Graham

BEHIND THE SCENES

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