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<b>Who:</b>	<b>Blue Ocean Institute</b> — <i>Fresh Inspiration for Ocean Conservation</i>
<b>What:</b>	2008 Annual Gala, hosted by author <b>Trevor Corson</b>
<b>When:</b>	Wednesday, October 1, 2008 6 pm – 10 pm
<b>Why:</b>	To raise support for <b>ocean conservation and outreach programs</b> and to honor Monterey Bay Aquarium Founder <b>Julie Packard</b> , National Geographic Fellow <b>Dr. Enric Sala</b> , and Grammy Award-winning musician <b>Paul Winter</b> .

**BLUE OCEAN INSTITUTE HONORS THREE “OCEAN GIANTS”  
FOR CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS**

***Non-profit Marine Organization Celebrates Fifth Anniversary and Introduces New Sustainable Sushi Guide, Provides Sneak Peek of Television Series in Development, and Announces Continuation of Ocean Scholarship Program***

**September 23, 2008 – Long Island, New York** – Blue Ocean Institute, an international marine conservation organization co-founded by scientist and author **Dr. Carl Safina**, will honor Monterey Bay Aquarium Founder Julie Packard, National Geographic Explorer Dr. Enric Sala and Grammy Award-winning musician Paul Winter at its third annual gala on Wednesday, October 1 from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Hosted by author **Trevor Corson** (*The Story of Sushi* and *The Secret Life of Lobsters*) at Tribeca Rooftop in New York City, the gala also will introduce Blue Ocean’s new **Guide to Ocean Friendly Sushi**, a consumer product to help sushi-lovers make informed choices on behalf of the ocean. In addition, guests will be treated to a video preview of Carl Safina’s television-series-in-the making, *Save the Ocean! With Carl Safina*. And Blue Ocean will announce the continuation of its **Kalpana Chawla Ocean Journey Scholarship** for students dedicated to a future in ocean conservation, presenting a video of the first scholarship winners’ recent voyage to Iceland and Greenland.

Safina said Blue Ocean’s work continues to inspire new audiences to connect with the sea and realize their responsibility to protect it for future generations. “Gala honorees Packard, Sala, and Winter have each shown their deep commitment to the ocean, reaching millions of people with their actions and messages of conservation,” he said.

Safina and Mercédès Lee, author of the *Seafood Lover's Almanac*, founded Blue Ocean in 2003 with a mission to inspire a closer relationship with the sea through science, art, and literature. Safina, currently at work on his fourth book, will present a sneak peek preview of a segment of *Save the Ocean! With Carl Safina*, a television series in development about ocean heroes who are successfully tackling challenges facing the sea. The preview depicts an ocean conservation effort in Zanzibar, inspired by Islamic teachings that stress reverence for our natural world.

As with previous galas, Blue Ocean is honoring major figures who have helped advance ocean conservation. 2008 Gala honoree Julie Packard helped found the Monterey Bay Aquarium, one of the nation's foremost public interpretive aquariums. She has served as the Aquarium's Executive Director since its inception and is Vice Chairperson of its Board of Trustees. Blue Ocean's new sushi guide was created in collaboration with Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Environmental Defense Fund.

Dr. Enric Sala holds the first position on marine conservation ecology at the Spanish National Council for Scientific Research, and in 2008 he became a National Geographic Fellow. Combining work at both institutions, Enric is actively engaged in research, exploration, communication and application of scientific knowledge related to the conservation of marine ecosystems.

Multiple Grammy Award-winner and soprano saxophonist Paul Winter is among the pioneers of world music. One of the first to incorporate nature and wildlife into his compositions, Winter has combined the voices of whales, wolves, and birds with his own acoustic creations, embracing the living world and its natural sounds in his visionary music.

The evening's sponsors include: Jocelyn Wallace, Hewlett Packard, Robert Campbell, Jack Macrae and Paula Cooper, Lindblad Expeditions, National Geographic, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, Vicki & Roger Sant, Atlantis Marine World Aquarium, Sylvie Chantecaille, The Moore Charitable Foundation, Swiss Re America Holding Corporation, Leo Hindery, Jimirock.com, Dr. J. Patrick Luke, Catherine Rasenberger & Dimitri Sevastopoulo, Jeffrey Rizzo and Community Service Society of New York, Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Wild Edibles.

For more information on the gala or to purchase tables or individual tickets, please visit the Blue Ocean Institute website at [www.blueocean.org](http://www.blueocean.org) or contact Myra Sarli at 516-922-9500 x 200 or [msarli@blueocean.org](mailto:msarli@blueocean.org).

### **About Blue Ocean Institute**

Blue Ocean Institute ([www.blueocean.org](http://www.blueocean.org)) works to inspire a closer relationship with the sea through science, art, and literature. Programs include: ***Sea Ethic***, which promotes the importance of life beneath the oceans through writings and lectures by Safina and staff; ***From Sea to Table***, which promotes seafood choices that are healthy and good for the ocean; Climate Change, research and publications that address critical issues affecting the ocean; ***Sea Stories*** ([www.seastories.org](http://www.seastories.org)), an online literary journal; ***Schooling Chefs***, an on-line sustainable seafood curriculum for culinary educators and chefs; and ***The Friendship Project***, which helps connect scientists and evangelical Christians in a dialogue

of enhanced mutual understanding in matters of scientific knowledge (especially implications of climate change) and faith.

### **About Dr. Carl Safina**

Dr. Carl Safina ([www.carlsafina.org](http://www.carlsafina.org) and [www.carlsafina.wordpress.org](http://www.carlsafina.wordpress.org)) is author of more than a hundred publications, including the books *Song for the Blue Ocean*, *Eye of the Albatross* and *Voyage of the Turtle*, and his writing has been featured in *National Geographic*. His conservation work has been profiled in the *New York Times*, on *Nightline*, and in the Bill Moyers television special "Earth on Edge." Safina is a recipient of the Pew Scholar's Award in Conservation and Environment, a World Wildlife Fund Senior Fellowship, the Lannan Literary Award for nonfiction, the John Burroughs Medal for literature, and a MacArthur Prize, among others.

### **About the Kalpana Chawla Ocean Journey Scholarship**

The oceanography/marine science scholarship, offered in association with Lindblad Expeditions, is named for one of the astronauts who died aboard the Columbia space shuttle in 2003. Kalpana Chawla took Safina's first book, *Song for the Blue Ocean*, on the flight and told a friend that she someday hoped to meet him and dedicate herself to conservation. Following the shuttle explosion, Chawla's family and friends set up a fund in her name. In 2008, the first scholarships were awarded to a high school senior and college senior interested in pursuing a career in science.