

A tribute to

Robert Rubinstein

for a 20-year dedication to make this world a better place.

“Never give up” is Robert lifetime slogan. And he never gave up. Not with Brooklyn Bridge and not with TBLI.

His work, his sons and his wife are his passions and he managed to care for them each in their right way.

Robert has the talent to keep going and even to reinvent himself again when needed.

He has a free spirit, not bonded by material gain and always ready to share what he has.

I am lucky to be his wife, I made the journey with him. It was not an easy road to travel, sometimes in a comfortable Town car and sometimes on foot with only flip-flops at our feet. The path was always paved with hope, love and compassion.

It was never boring.

Robert deserves all the tributes and awards there are in the world! We give him these humble tributes as a token of appreciation for how he has touched each one of us with his spirit. He will continue to make big footprints for each one of us to fill.

We thank Robert for his own special brand of impact on the rest of the world.

Rieki Rubinstein Crins

Robert is the change I would like to see in the world. He inspires me to follow my passion with a higher purpose than just personal gains. He is my hero and the person I look up to the most in my life. How he has boundless energy for his passion and dream of actually changing the world for the better - despite many obstacles he had and has to overcome in this undertaking - inspires and motivates me profoundly to the core of my being.

Sam Rubinstein

Robert is a person that's trying to make the world a better place, not just by saying it, but by actually doing it. He does this with true passion. What I really admire about Robert is his ability to never give up and always see new opportunities. He really is an inspiration to me, fighting for what is right and always helping others along the way. On a personal note, I'm extremely grateful to have a dad that showed me the world, accepting me for who I am and always guiding me through life. Dad, thank you for being you, I wish you the world and all the beautiful things in it.

Big love your son,

Silas

And talking about Robert, reminiscing his childhood and creating the (important) impressive man he became today to US, his family and to society!

Even as a child he always was concerned about helping others, before even thinking of himself!

I remember him as a child of 14 already, he was out after school to help the busy butcher on Fridays to deliver the meat! He didn't do it for the money, he just did it to help out!

He was always looking around how to help the others! We never had to ask him to make his homework we never had to scold him! He knew his duties and he always was there to help!

He had the talent to charm everybody with his great personality and therefore of course always made friends and were surrounded by them!

I was never a person to show my feelings! Life was very different in those far days when we were growing up, and wartime shaped us! we learned to hide our feelings!

Throughout the years with every accomplishment, I felt that here, again, you worked hard and DID IT!

And now, hearing what you accomplished again, I feel I have to put it in words!

Im so proud of you my son!

Mrs. Rachelle Rubinstein

ROBERT RUBINSTEIN is an inspiring character and a true partner.

He is a man of integrity and strong moral and family values which often, is not congruent with social norms of the day. Yet, he soldiers on with the hope and belief in his fellow man (and woman).

Robert, in his 20-year history of TBLI Group Holdings B.V., has amassed a tremendous personal and professional network of individuals who are dedicated and passionate about the necessity for a larger vision and mission for the planet and its people. And for this, he should be very proud.

Often, I am in contact with an individual with whom Robert has touched with his passion and compassion. Whether its 15 or 20 years ago, or last week, Robert is often credited with inspiring persons to a higher calling into the world of impact, and for that he is a true leader among us.

We who know him, offer thanks for this prescient focus so many years ago.

He was and is a true pioneer in the IMPACT field. He carried many on his back.

Robert has worked tirelessly to support himself from an early age in life.

Like many, throughout his career, he has been in a place of penultimate exuberance or at the brink of disaster. Through these extremes, he has kept TBLI going and thriving and evolving.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of Comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Robert never waivers in his commitment to his own values.

He is the ultimate measure of a man.

Robert, Congratulations on 20 years and for the next 20 before us. With gratitude, Your partner,

Julie Muraco

The Robert Rubinstein-story is a Western, a quest of a lone American Wolf in a vast desert full of sheep, and it needs more admiration.

The sheep are the Dutch And Beyond, those who sit on piles of gold, pretending to invest it in the good green cause, but yet keep it all in their pockets. He told them that, as a consequence, this gold will vanish anyway, so why this theatrical bypass, the full drama of talks, meetings, encounters, conferences, analyses and, in the end, no decisions?

TBLI is a genius concept, and at the same time an uphill battle. It started after deceptions with the magazines SOURCE and FIETS. SOURCE was a beauty in content and looks, but also an early bird, flying over a polder without green grass, where the target group had not arrived the green economy of today still in its infancy.

SOURCE had it all, the best stories about sustainable development, but its shareholders pulled the trigger, leaving the lone American behind in the empty saloon. Little respect he had for the icon of new economics in these years, the great Wintzen, who pretended to lead the green expedition, received praise and admiration, but refused to rescue SOURCE. Why? In my view, being a close witness, because Wintzen wanted his own parade, and no others on the catwalk.

RR, in all his innocence, could not handle the combination of Big Money and rude behavior, and hence, possibly, he therefore started TBLI, where the rich would one day meet green relatives, and be grateful to conductor RR.

It worked and it did not. It is successful, but a struggle. It is a key roundabout, but moving capital in that cycle is slow, unwilling and stupid, yes, also that. With RR in a mood of unremitting efforts, always expecting more than they give him, and yet, they do come.

It is the thrilling movie of the Rich Man. Wealth as an atoll of gold in the sea, the proprietor sitting in it, gazing at the horizon, where pirates might encroach, and rob him, not observing that global warming makes his gold melt, and sea level rise will drown his atoll.

Invest NOW, he yells at them, and save your wealth and the planet at the same time. With seawater rising to the belly, the Rich Man still gazes at his screen, calculating risks, with investment bankers in wetsuits swimming around.

At the same time, miracles do happen. In just a decade, green investments are skyrocketing, billions now in renewables and innovations. And it is certain that the sustaining courage of Robert R. has played a key role in this miracle. He may not observe it, but the sheep follow him, the Rich Man is seeing the light, and TBLI is getting not the money, but the credits. Justice at last.

Wouter van Dieren
Director Springtide Forum
Member, The Club of Rome

I most remember a conversation I had with Robert in the early days of Brooklyn Bridge and we were sharing our visions of how to best reform capital markets and help investors appreciate their longer term social goals and values beyond money and economics. We were in the top floor of the old house in Amsterdam that Robert was renovating.

I was frankly aghast at the amount of work this was going to involve. But somehow, it was all believable because Robert's vision for a better collective future for our human family was so clear and vivid. Needless to say, Robert's vision has now materialized in many powerful ways and he is still a visionary I admire and we are proud that Robert serves on our illustrious global Advisory Board for Ethical Markets Media Certified B. Corporation, which I founded in 2004.

Hazel Henderson
President, Ethical Markets Media

I was fortunate to have been introduced to Robert by a fellow New Yorker who also happened to be living in Europe. I initially said that I was interested in connecting with people who are working on sustainability in Amsterdam. Of course it was only a matter of time before I crossed paths with Robert Rubinstein because after all are you really in the field if you don't know him?

I think the best way to describe him is the way he describes himself on LinkedIn: “authentic eccentric”, but I'd also add extraordinaire. He has a unique way of connecting with people, and he is sincere in all of his encounters. I think in a world where people often bite their tongues, Robert is as honest as it gets.

He has worked tirelessly not only to establish himself, but even harder to help further the mission of value(s) based investing. For 20 years he's been connecting people and creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and newbies to the impact investing world.

TBLI is also about giving back and one of the ways in which Robert does this is by creating a safe space at his events for students who have an interest in sustainability and are looking for direction. Many have been able to meet their future mentors, employers and colleagues, and I've been fortunate enough to witness this first hand.

TBLI is not a big organization, but its reach is endless, and that's through the power of the people who have participated over the years. What all these people have in common is that they have a shared vision for a better world, and they've been fortunate enough to meet a guy who is trailblazing towards this goal.

When I think of Robert, I think about this George Carlin quote: “Somewhere along the way, someone is going to tell you, ‘There is no “I” in team.’ But what you should remind them is: ‘Maybe not, but there is an “I” in independence, individuality and integrity.”

Jonelle Maltay

Robert Rubenstein is one of the earliest visionaries to see the coming impact investing movement and has worked tirelessly to wake up heart's, minds and walkers to its necessity as a tool for positive change. He has my deep respect and admiration.

Ibrahim Al Huseini
Ibrahim AlHusseini Managing
Member The Hussein Group

Once I had the pleasure sitting next to Robert in the Nieuwe Kerk sharing our impressions when the Dalai Lama was there and various Dutch speakers.

My first impression of Robert was an accessible and independent person with strong views.

Many years later we met again and cooperated on various cases. I appreciate very much Robert's integrity and his sober view on the business world and can also imagine his disappointments.

I am Robert's fan, feel very happy to know Robert and to assist him, where I can.

Werner Uljee

If you share a common interest with Robert, it is easy to establish it. If you show spirit in the common cause, you receive it back in spades.

He profoundly encouraged my impact investing activity.

Alexander Hoare
Hoare Bank London

Greetings from sunny Arlington, Virginia!

On the 20th anniversary of TBLI, congratulations, thank you and please continue to carry on your excellent work!

Congratulations on your impressive accomplishment of holding the TBLI conference for 20 years! Sustainability is focused on the long-term, and you have demonstrated a long-term commitment to bringing ideas and people together. Congratulations!

Thank you for all of the enlightening concepts, thought-provoking conversations and inspiring moment at TBLI conferences. Thank you for welcoming with open arms participants and speakers from Central and Eastern Europe, who broadened their understanding of sustainable finance and joined the global network convened at TBLI conferences. Thank you for the many colleagues met and friendships nurtured at TBLI. Thank you for inviting me to contribute to your advisory council. Your dedication has had a tremendous impact on so many people. Thank you!

Please continue to carry forward! Much has transpired during the past 20 years, some good, some bad. You have not wavered. We need your leadership!

May we meet again soon!

Best Regards,

Geoffrey Mazullo

“When the history of sustainable finance is written, mention must surely be made of TBLI and Robert Rubinstein, whose personal vision and drive played a large role in putting the issue of sustainability on the radar of many banks, investment houses and insurance companies. As a forum, TBLI played an early and much needed role in bringing together many of the key actors in the sustainable finance space to better understand the issues, network and explore the many ways in which the finance sector must play its crucial role in advancing society towards a more just and sustainable planet, while reducing material risks and increasing returns for investors at the same time.”

Paul Hohnen
Sustainability Strategies

Many years ago I met with Robert for the first time as we served on the scientific board of a big investment bank. An Oxford professor of economics made the introduction and told me Robert was clearly number 1 on the international financial sustainability arena. Robert has proven to be that and more. An emphatic, knowledgeable, blunt, outspoken human of the kind the world needs more than anything else.

Karl-Henrik Robèrt
Founder of The Natural Step

I first met Robert nearly twenty years ago and was astonished! First of all he was the first person I met who made finance funny! He can reduce an audience to tears of laughter faster than anyone else I know. And he is one of the wisest people I know. Through the laughter he makes you confront the ridiculous nature of most of what we do in the name of finance, investment or whatever other name we try to give to what he often points out is actually greed! Without him ARC could never have had the confidence to go into this strange world. With him it has been an adventure and a delight. All strength to your arm Robert for the next twenty years!

Martin Palmer
Secretary General of the Alliance of
Religions and Conservation (ARC).

In a sector where often there are Wolves dressed as Lambs and Lambs often pretending to be Wolves, Robert stands out as a Lion for his integrity, lasting impact and vision at TBLI . The Rocky Horror Picture show that is development financing in the Time Warp of the last twenty years - Robert is the Dr Frankfurter (I will let you guess who are the bankers and the social sector...)

ArthurWood

Founding Partner Total Impact Advisors

Robert Rubenstein.

I first met Robert about 15 years ago through my work in the public transport sector. As Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), I was looking for an insightful and clear voice that could talk about investment in public transport. At the UITP's Second International Meeting on Sustainable Transport in Milan in 2005, Robert delivered a most impressive and comprehensive speech in support of public transport. He held an audience of more than 200 people transfixed throughout his keynote.

I have been fortunate to hear Robert speak at a number of occasions since and have always found him straightforward, focused and passionate. He has an amazing impact on professional and non-professional audiences. We are privileged to have him showing us the way.

I feel most blessed to consider Robert a friend, and wish him and his family good health for the next many years. 'What a long strange trip it's been'.

Dr. Glenn Frommer
Mass Transit Railway Corporation, Hong Kong

Tribute to Robert Rubenstein.

Robert Rubenstein should truly be counted among the “founders” of the modern ESG/Sustainable and Responsible Investment movement. His pioneering work in establishing the TBLI Group, and particularly the Triple Bottom Line Conference for investment professionals, stand out as core initiatives in growing the field of ESG investing. When I joined Calvert Investments as CEO in 1997, I was convinced that ESG factors were material to the financial performance of companies. I found in Robert, and TBLI, kindred spirits in working to advance this theory. Robert’s conferences were “go to” events for responsible investing analysts and professionals, when no other similar venues existed. Congratulations Robert on an exceptional and impactful career, for the benefit of our planet, and the people of our planet.

Barbara Krumsiek
Former CEO & Chair, Calvert Investments

Dear Robert,

I can hardly believe what these past 20 years have meant for Triple Bottom Line Investing, and I know that you were a lynchpin in making it so. Integrating what is good for people and the planet with what is profitable was a frontier concept with a few core advocates and you stepped in to bring these basic concepts into the mainstream. We could never have imagined the level of acceptance globally of our theory, yet, today nations, stock exchanges, the United Nations itself, are our allies. Thank you for your good work and all you have done to bring about a planet where universal human dignity and ecological sustainability are possible.

Amy Domini

Guten Morgen, rise and shine!

In my native German I'd say "Robert ist ein Original" and it would quite well capture the many layers in which I have come to know Robert as one of the most authentic people - in private and profession - I know. Authenticity in character, conduct and commitment. Commitment also to friendship which I have enjoyed since Hazel Henderson introduced us twenty years ago.

Rare are individuals who speak up before anybody else, calmly continue to speak when the noise rises, and continue to speak out, when the crowds have left again. These are the leaders of human progress, people of stamina, of a deeper mission, of spirit. Robert is such a rare individual and I consider it a privilege to know him, learn from him, and celebrate with

I wish you a day full of beans.

Philipp Kauffmann

I met Robert in October 2003 when we hosted the first Andromeda Fund Partners and Investors Forum. Robert was asked at the time to facilitate the forum and he did this in his usual professional and very relaxed style. The theme of the forum was Empowering a New World of Entrepreneurs and to my mind this was the mission was, and is, still on.

Through his many years of engagement in the field of social/impact investment he encouraged me and many others to follow his lead in developing the industry which we now call Impact Investment. Robert taught me that without a strong network, involvement in the field of impact investing would be nearly impossible.

To my mind, Robert has shown to be the world-class leader in networking, bringing people together, inspiring people to action and motivating organizations to engage in this industry. Next to all his hard work Robert remains positive and with a good sense of humor which makes people feel very comfortable. I congratulate Robert on his achievements as a pioneer who, through his work, made the world a better place.

Stephen Brenninckmeijer

I met Robert in the very beginning of the SR/Sustainability chapter of my life. It all started because of a shared family name (my maiden name was Rubinstein). And it developed into a deeper professional and personal relationship, which I cherish every day.

Robert was sensitive enough and wise enough to validate my feelings about the state of Sustainability in general - and in Israel in particular. His deep knowledge and wide perspective provided me with an important reinforcement and source of information, and for that I am very grateful!

Unlike others, Robert does not chase fame and compliments. He relies on his knowledge and analytical abilities, and is always willing to share them with an open and generous heart! It is so unique in today's society and I know that I appreciate it very much.

Hope for many more years of great work with TBLI and for a better future to all of us and the next generations.

Yours,

Tami (Rubinstein) Zilberg

I am often congratulated for my pioneering work in impact investing. Even though I humbly accept these compliments, I never describe myself as such because the truth of the matter is that I am just an actor in the sustainable investing world that only a few key people have made possible. And one of these is Robert Rubinstein. And as all real pioneers, he is not given the right amount of credit for the industry he is largely responsible for incubating. I need not say more on a professional basis.

But I would like to add one more thing on a personal basis. As an entrepreneur, so many personal and emotional factors contribute to one's professional success and Robert is one of the very few people in the finance world that really understands this. And it is through his very personal messages that he has given me the most inspiration and given me the energy to succeed. I will never forget the day a few years ago when I was feeling down, demoralized and devalued by the criticism of not achieving certain targets; out of the blue comes a message from Robert containing Theodore Roosevelt's "The Man in the Arena". Robert's message has been on my desk ever since and few days goes by when I don't think of the perfect timing of his outreach.

Guilliaume Taylor

Robert Rubinstein.

He appeared as a blast out of nowhere in the early noughties, with a level of energy and determination rarely seen, intent on making triple-bottom-line investing the norm.

Nothing was too much trouble and no frontier insurmountable - Europe, Asia, the US - wherever there needed to be a conversation he was there making it happen. And not just any conversation. Robert does not suffer fools and yet he embraces everyone. With his Brooklyn bluntness he brings the punks, the romantics, the doers and the dreamers together and it's never been a dull moment.

I've always loved Robert's galvanizing ability and frank engagement, so the conversation stays honest, and pushes thinking forward. And most of all I've loved the one-on-one phone calls when we've chewed a topic, or brainstormed on intractables. "What's the problem? No-one's going to die" is a Robert line I love.

He introduced me to inspirational writing, Spalding's Masters of the East and Daniel Quinn's Ishmael. He always had a good idea about rallying support, someone to involve in a project, funding ideas. He was the embodiment of social networking before there was technology doing this, and even now he is better on some things than any of the technology which exists.

Thank you Robert for everything you do and for making life lighter as you do, alongside you're beloved Rieki and your 'similar to my own' brilliant wayward family.

Tessa Tennant

Dear Robert,

I got to know you and TBLI via the TBLI Club meetings you organized in Amsterdam. I liked them very much and it was a nice way to become more familiar with TBLI and to learn what it stands for. From my point of view it stands for relentlessly try to educate and motivate people to look under the surface of the (melting) iceberg from different angles by bringing together a broad and diverse group of people, which hopefully leads to positive results. Robert, you are truly the driving force behind this all by constantly sharing your knowledge, ideas and network by connecting these people to drive TBLI and all it stands for forward. At the same time it is also a struggle to operate TBLI as business and reaping some of the more tangible fruits yourself, especially as you take care of all others first. It is for this struggle that I have gained tremendous respect for you and would like to salute you with TBLI's 20st anniversary and congratulate you with all the great efforts to make our world a better place!

Kind regards,

Thomas Dewith

Dear Robert – Receive all my gratitude for having taken on the role of guide and protector on this exciting but challenging path of sustainable finance.

For 20 years you have been promoting the principle of “triple bottom line”. You defended and supported the logic of a “smart and inclusive finance” through responsible and impact investing.

What determination, what courage! As a pioneer you pursued this adventure with strong conviction, with great generosity and often without immediate reward.

I admire your person and your vision: you are bighearted, inspired and open - centered on the connection between people rather than on your personal interest.

Many see you as a Don Quixote who fights against windmills - who pursues the illusion of a better world.

I see you as a guide, as an inspiring model ... I chose the same path as yours and despite some difficult moments I consider this was the best choice of my Life.

Thank you for being who you are and please keep on!

Sincerely,

Angela de Wolf

Seldom in life does one come across persons who you know will be friends for life. For me, Robert is such a person.

Even before I knew of his background in Kibbutz work, tailoring, writing, teaching and so much more, I knew this was someone I will cherish all my life.

Robert has a passion, sometimes with frustration, that those who have are not doing enough for those who need help. His vision of a better world matches mine and that was the first point of confluence for me. And we went from there, agreeing on so much and actively trying to change what we can.

For Robert this is an everyday all day passion. One that gets nothing but admiration from me. He demands little and offers the world much opportunity through engagement and even berating. Those in charge of great power come to him to listen.

I am living proof that at least some of those who listened to Robert are engaged in making a difference.

How many in the world can claim such impact?

Robert, I am a fan.

Arvind Narulla

Robert, how I see him.

The bohemian New Yorker turned into the bonhomme of Amsterdam. In this case, a real bonhomme, a good man. How can you say no to him? Refusing is not an option. It is the combination of doggy eyes, a total absence of competitiveness, a thorough knowledge, a true belief and a zero interest in machismo (except when he talks about babes, but then, only meant for his friends, never for himself...). And last but not least, there is his voice, recognizable among hundreds. No good guru without a good voice.

I have never seen him in a melancholic mood, although he seems to have the necessary ingredients in his DNA. Always in good spirits, optimism is his middle name. Lucky the ones who enjoy his daily sunshine. But: his softness is well balanced with an iron will. Don't be fooled.

The clothes. The look. That is an issue. Ha, here comes the bushman. Who's that behind the eyebrows? He doesn't care how he looks, but does that mean he must dress like a journalist? The question is: will sponsors give out of compassion, for him to buy new shoes, or will they give out of conviction, for him to do good works? The latter, of course.

I don't know anyone who is so ambiguous about money: he doesn't care about it but cannot do without. So, there is always this complaining about the totally unfair division between the haves and have nots. How come the smart turn out to be poorer than the Dumbo's?

OK, he wants to change the world, if necessary, on his bloody own. Most boards fear his phone calls: not him again? In the end, most bosses tend to agree with him, eventually even cooperate. But after a while they return to their old habits and become spoiling and spoiled once more. And TBLI will start all over: explaining, convincing, teaching, proving. He deserves a medal for stamina.

Oh, yes, and there is not a more loyal person in the whole of our small country. Would be very nice if he stayed around.

Mark Blaisse

Dear Robert,

Congratulations to you for the 20 year mark of running TBLI all over the world. It is the work of true selflessness, at great personal sacrifice as all your friends have witnessed over the years.

Through extreme financial hardship, lack of support, and great logistical challenges, you managed to bring together year after year the visionaries who were trying to shape the financial industry towards more ethical and responsible investing, and often, not many people could be bothered to show up. Sometimes those who did, were as penniless as you were. So maybe, not that much capital was moved.

But what you did move were the hearts and souls of those for whom you provided a space to come together, to build a community, to cheer each other on that a better and more inspiring way forward was not only possible, but made financial sense as well. I will forever be grateful for the inspiring fellow souls that were trying to do the right thing even if it was an uphill battle.

You kept focused on the higher purpose, clinging to your conviction that this was your dharma, your higher purpose. They say everything is connected, and the wing of a butterfly flapping can affect the weather on the other side of the planet. You have connected so many ethical warriors over the last 20 years of TBLI that God only knows how many large scale impacts you have had that you do not even know of, and that are still to manifest.

Thank you for being an inspiration to others, of leading a life of virtue, self-sacrifice, and selflessness, during a time in history when these qualities have almost disappeared: maybe that is your greatest achievement of all.

Diana Weis

“Robert Rubinstein is a rare individual who combines his natural trait of inquisitive enquiry with his personal determination to make something of his ideas. The triple bottom line i.e. people, profits and environment with vigor through conferences and seminars around the world and by creating financial instruments to show its practical applications. The best testimony of the success of his concepts and their implementation is that

Prof. Prakash Seti

Dear Robert,

Thank you so much for being an inspiration on not giving up on the good fight! You have always impressed me with your kindness and sincere interest in how I am doing. You periodically check up on me, and although I may not have expressed this before. I've always appreciated it very much. It seems authentic, honest people who want to help change the world for the better is still a much too rare thing these days. I want you to know I think you are an amazing person and I want to thank you so much for helping me keep moving forward on my path and also helping me whenever you can. I hope you know I will return the favour whenever I can. Love always,

Bernice Thijm

I have known Robert for many years. He has been one of the driving forces to make the financial world more sustainable and hold investors accountable. I have never met a person so skilled in networking, tirelessly connecting people and generously sharing his knowledge. He never lost sight of the big picture and his presence has changed the lives of many people for the better.

Joost Douma

I met Robert Rubinstein in December of 2012 and that man changed my life.

We were introduced in a way that I came to learn was typical of Robert. I had a friend, P.K. Holmes, in Vancouver, whom I had never met, and whom Robert hadn't met either. PK was working with a friend of Robert's in Brussels, whom I didn't know. So Robert and I met, in the bar at the Bowery Hotel in New York, via the most tenuous of connections, and trusting the sound judgement of near-strangers.

Robert is a clear-eyed cynical optimist, a patient crusader. He is a true believer in the capacity of humanity to change and grow. He introduced me to a new way of thinking, a new language; my experience with sustainability till then had been in communicating it, greenwashing notwithstanding. Working with Robert showed me skills I didn't know I had. I learned so much, I met so many interesting people, made so many good friends.

The most important thing I learned from Robert, though, is about building relationships—that is Robert's currency and his specialty. In every meeting, he asks, "How can I help you?" rather than "What can I do for you?" This shifts the footing from a transactional engagement to a personal one. It establishes the relationship as one of equals, of mutual respect, and away from a seller pushing a product on a wary buyer or a supplicant asking a favor.

Robert is successful because of his deep understanding of people, his genuine caring and kindness. He styles himself an authentic eccentric—it's the authenticity that shines through. He's intuitive, empathic, warm and generous—the nicest "curmudgeon" I know.

Libby Parella

Robert, we met in 1997, you are a mentor for me. You coached me to set up my first business: Fair ventures. Matching investors with entrepreneurs online when websites had only been around for 2 years. I have learnt 2 invaluable things from you. Firstly, when you believe in something to keep going at it when everyone thinks you're nuts. Secondly, to never compromise on your values. Keep it up Bro ! You are a beacon for what the world needs.

Thierry Sanders

Count myself as a fellow eccentric to Robert - both trying to push the impact agenda before anyone had ever heard of it and still trying! I do remember many years ago at a large TBLI conference when Robert asked what should CEOs do to ensure they know what is happening in their organisation and I said “bring back the tea lady” - I think he liked this off the wall suggestion. I will also always remember talking to Robert after my daughter passed away and the meaningful conversation we had.

Robert - we can only get crazier as we get older! Keep at it!

Rob Wylie

Human kind thought of using the planet as if they did not know about giving back and kept doing it over the years. Human kind discovered that's a viable model closing their eyes upon their action undertaken that there handling will create a no future for next generations to come. Robert one of the pioneers was and is over 20 years trying to integrate the thought of give back to the planet and/or the thought implementation of integrative attitude while doing business respecting communities and nature. He was several times confronted with the Human kind who treated him like the planet was treated over the years. You take and you go. It's time to give back by looking back and being thankful to all pioneers that prepared the road of consciousness doing business for the future for future generations to come. Thank you Robert.

Daniela Herrmann

Robert is THE unquestioned leader and a pioneering force in the impact investing movement. He has inspired renewed commitment while building a truly impressive ecosystem of like-minded investors, policy makers and attitude shifters and done so with a tenacity and ethic that reminds us all why aligning our values, our responsibility to the planet and those without a voice to the decisions we make is so important. We all owe Robert a debt of gratitude for his tireless work and the subsequent

Noelle Claire LeCann

“TBLI turning 20 just goes to show you how tenacious & resilient Robert is! After all he was 15 years too early! Still like us project Sustainability Project Developers our time has come, the Capital Markets are now with us and I don't doubt that is due in no small part to the tireless work that Robert and his team have put in to promoting Sustainability through the Triple Bottom Line - People + Planet + Profit.

On behalf of myself and our fellow travellers on Spaceship Earth I say a BIG Thank YOU!”

Nigel Grier

Dear Robert, Congratulations for your 20 years service to our world! Our Planet Earth is a much brighter, more beautiful place because of all of your work. I am honored to know a human being of your profound character. Respectfully, Sincerely & Salaam, Mujahid M. Abdullah”

Robert is one of the most committed and authentic pioneers in the ESG sector to date. His tireless efforts to get asset owners to incorporate ESG into their decision making process and his education of multiple stakeholder groups globally over the past 2 decades has allowed ESG to go mainstream. Congratulations Robert on the tremendous achievements you have made that have sometimes gone unnoticed. Your contribution is far-reaching and so is your dedication to have mentored so many people in the sector. We owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Thank you for the years of mentorship and friendship. Warmest
Regards,

Grace M. Kataoka

“It was love at first sight. How could I resist him? Was it his Kevin Kostner looks? His Brooklyn accent, the Bear hugs, the naughty jokes? No, it was his courage. Leading always with his enormous heart and a Pollyanna optimism that the financial world would drink his “people, planet, profit” Kool-Aid.

TBLI is Robert’s “Field of Dreams”. He built it and believed they would come. And they did.come .. and ate and drank and laughed at the jokes. Learnt about how business can change the world for the better. Felt good about themselves. Returned to their institutional jobs and did nothing.

Then one bold person thought maybe I could feel that good again. Maybe I could try something new.(it was the dotcom era and anything was possible!) He met one of TBLI’s visionary entrepreneurs and invested in a project that would he profitable in three years. (or so the entrepreneur told him). He pitched it to the investment committee and they didn’t laugh or sack him. It felt good, the others felt good and he came to TBLI the next year and presented

His friends thought: “Wow he looks great, and he still has a job. “I want what he’s got” maybe I should try. Some went home and forgot. Others followed in his footsteps and invested in projects that would save the planet and make money in 5 years. - longer timelines to profitability now considered acceptable if you are doing good. And they presented their successes at TBLI the following year looking very enlightened and fully employed. And so it grew till twenty years later TBLI has survived and thrived. A Gold standard for doing good. And the entrepreneurs whose companies are now profitable, thriving and best practice models for social innovation and conscious business are now inspiring the millennial generation who won’t do anything if it’s not cool and doing good. And now every bank, wealth manager and fund is offering an impact investment option. The next gen is all jumping in to invest. And everyone claims they were there first. We all know however that Robert was there first. A pioneer. Impact investment”s Neil Armstrong. Many will follow but we all know that Imitation is the best form of flattery.

With love to a dear friend.

Joanne Sawicki

Dear Robert,

In the last couple of years, you have been not only a mentor but also an inspiring role model and of course - a friend.

Your honesty, good will and guidance have led me through my first steps in this field and helped find my place in our eco-system.

Thank you so much. I wish you years of impact, influence and fulfillment.

With a lot of love and respect,

Ronny Faivelovitz

“It’s not often that Brooklyn brought something good to the world let alone something extremely helpful on a global level. It takes a lot to keep smiling after swimming with sharks for 20years”

Tobias Prestel

Founder Prestel & Partner family office conferences.

Dear Robert,

Congratulations for your 20 years service to our world!
Our Planet Earth is a much brighter, more beautiful place
because of all of your work. I am honored to know a human
being of your profound character.

Respectfully, Sincerely & Salaam,

Mujahid M. Abdullah

Robert is an example of authenticity and long-term dedication to promoting sustainable development values. His worldwide TBLI network is a great platform for knowledge sharing and thought leadership, and as an investment professional focusing on impact, I have greatly benefited from Robert's generosity in offering me encouragement and practical guidance in implementing these values in my business.

Vitaly Lazorin,
CEO and Founder of Future matters Venture Capital

If my calculations are correct, Robert and I met almost 30 years ago. Robert had organised a 'triple bottom line' conference in San Francisco that I attended, along with an investment banker friend.

I found Robert's message to be very much on target and timely.

The investment banker viewed Robert as being somewhat "ahead of his time" (and couldn't figure out how to 'monetise' what he had heard).

This was early confirmation that Robert was indeed a 'thought leader' (who by definition must be 'ahead of their time'!).

In the subsequent years, Robert has always sought out authentic individuals who share his concern for the planet and the human condition (not just making money).

It hasn't been an easy road, but Robert has stayed the course and is indeed a pioneer in impact investment.

I am honoured to know you and Robert and wish you both continuing success and fulfillment in the coming years.

In these turbulent times, we need you more than ever!

All best,

David Hodgekinson

I have mostly been on the road since mid-July, so I have been unable to turn my attention to this. I think Robert's contributions can be best grouped under two topics: sustainability and vision. As someone who teaches sustainability and whose accomplishments in the area go back nearly 40 years, I often testify to the way the concept has been trivialized, reduced to a check list of good things to do for the environment, conserve energy, don't waste resources, save habitats, etc. . All this is good, but it misses what makes sustainability the fundamental challenge of the 21st century. Since 1765, and the invention of James Watt's reciprocating steam engine, we have industrialized the world, creating unimaginable wealth and prosperity but we did so by ignoring the environmental costs of industrializing, costs that have wasted an incredible amount of wealth. Now, those costs have risen to the point where they are threatening to overwhelm and undermine the prosperity that is the foundation of much global life and the aspiration of the rest. If we are to avoid the crash that the crossing of benefit and costs curves our current economy is now going through, we have to change the rules of the game. That is what sustainability is all about, creating a new basis for global prosperity by recapturing the environmental wealth our current economy wastes. Robert is one of the few people I have worked with who understands this, who recognizes that what sustainability is about is recapturing the wealth we have been content to waste in the past and putting back to work in the service of humanity. Whatever he chooses to call it, ESG, or some variant of the same, what matters is he has had the wisdom to see the problem correctly and translate that understanding into a vision that has shaped the values of many other global economic players. The environment is indebted to him for that.

This of course is what is normally meant by vision. But I have a different point to make here. In setting out to engage with these concepts, we enter on a playing field that is shaped by hundreds of years of human understanding of how humanity relates to the earth. Changing ideas much less entrenched would be an enormous undertaking. One of the flaws I have often found in environmental advocates is they are not very good messengers for their visions. They fail to recognize that the first, the second or even the third time they challenge such deeply entrenched concepts they are going to run into resistance. To change such ideas requires patient consistency in presentation, an ear for the language of the opposition and a willingness to recognize that, even if right, others must be given the opportunity to also come to that conclusion. I have always been impressed by Robert's understanding of the size of the task he has undertaken and the constancy of purpose it requires of its advocates. Changing historical patterns is, as they say about growing old, not a task for sissies, not a task for those expecting easy victories, not a task for those so in love with their own sincerity and wisdom that they are unwilling to stay with their concepts or presentation until they sink in. Robert's multi-dimensional approach, both thought and action, to the message he has chosen to deliver is, in my experience, a model of how to pursue transformational change. It makes him an architect of the new economy of the future that we must create.

With best wishes and congratulations.

Al Appletons

Rieki-Rubinstein Crins
Sam Rubinstein
Silas Mars
Mrs. Rachelle Rubinstein
Julie Muraco
Wouter van Dieren
Hazel Henderson
Jonelle Maltay
Ibrahim Al Huseini
Werner Uljee
Alexander Hoare
Geoffrey Mazullo
Paul Hohnen
Karl-Henrik Robèrt
Martin Palmer
Arthur Wood
Dr. Glenn Frommer
Barbara Krumsiek
Amy Domini
Philipp Kauffmann
Stephen Brenninckmeijer T
ami (Rubinstein) Zilberg
Guillaume Taylor
Tessa Tennant
Thomas Dewith
Angela de Wolf
Arvind Narulla
Mark Blaisse
Diana Weis
Prof. Prakash Seti
Bernice Thijm
Joost Douma
Libby Parella
Thierry Sanders
Rob Wylie
Danielle Hermann
Noelle Claire LeCann
Nigel Grier
Grace M. Kataoka
Joanne Sawicki
Ronny Faivelovitz
Tobias Prestel
Mujahid M. Abdullah
Vitaly Lazorin
David Hodgkinson
Albert Appleton

