



The FOR Centerfold: Ms. March

Family Office Review Staff

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Diana Ayton-Shenker is founding CEO of social impact firm, Global Momenta

Where do you live? Where were you raised? Where would you live if you could live anywhere?

I was raised in Portland, Oregon, and now live in New York, splitting my time between the Mid-Hudson Valley (Rhinebeck) and NYC. In between growing up in the Northwest and settling in the Northeast, I've loved every place I've lived: Philadelphia, Tel Aviv, Madrid, Colchester (just outside of London, England), Paris, and Brooklyn. If I could live anywhere, I'd live right where I am.

What do you look forward to doing every day?

Watching the sun rise, being with my family, connecting with people through meaningful work, doing my part to make our beautiful world a better place, helping others find their path to make a difference.

What do you avoid doing wherever possible?

Wherever possible, I avoid the destructive energy of toxic

environments, people, substances, experience, attitudes and behavior.

What period of history would you choose to live in if you could use a time machine?

If I could use a time machine, I'd like to visit the future and seek counsel from my elderly self.

What do you like most about human beings?

I'm endlessly inspired and fascinated by the human spirit and our capacity for love, resiliency, resourcefulness, compassion, empathy, humor, humility and grace.

What human problem would you eliminate if you could?

Fearfulness. I believe if we feared less, if we dared to be fearless, we could call on our best selves to direct our financial, intellectual, moral, social, professional, and political resources to solve the prime challenges of our time: climate change, eradication of extreme poverty, public health, human rights and peace.

What animal would you be if you could change shape?

A dolphin.

What do you think wealth is for?

Wealth provides options, opportunity, and capacity to direct change, make an impact, enjoy the pleasures & possibilities of life, navigate uncertain waters, find shelter from life's storms.



What is love?

Love is divine energy, our highest and deepest power, that irrefutable and irreducible truth we share when we connect with our beloved ones, give with compassion and generosity, and live with empathy and abundance.

What is your philosophy of life (got a favorite quote)?

My philosophy is to be grateful for the past, hopeful for the future, and fully awake, alert, and alive for the present moment right now. Favorite quote: "What I thought was an end, turned out to be a middle. What I thought was a wall, turned out to be a tunnel. And what I thought was injustice, was just another color of the sky." --Tony Hoagland

What's the most fun you ever had?

Beating drums with the one-armed drummer from Def Leppard in a post-Katrina New Orleans, 9th Ward community healing drum circle; swing dancing at the 1st nightclub to open in 1991 post-Glasnost Krakow; scuba diving in the Red Sea.

What are you most proud of?

Making a difference in people's lives and empowering others to be the change they want to see in the world; keeping an open heart and open mind regardless of achievement or adversity.

Diana Ayton-Shenker, named one of "25 Leading Women Changing the World" by Good Business New York, is founding CEO of social impact firm, Global Momenta, Innovator in Residence at the NYC Center for Social Innovation, and Sr. Fellow in Venture Philanthropy at Bard College. As founder of the fast forward fund, she was honored by President Clinton and selected as a Social Venture Network Social Innovation Award Finalist. Diana hosts fast forward+, a curated, Google+ HangoutOnAir broadcast series (to be launched 2013) featuring high-impact social ventures & visionaries. Diana has

taught at The New School, The American University of Paris, Bard College, and Hunter College where she directed the 1st undergraduate Human Rights Program in the U.S. She has served as Mentor with the Clinton Global Initiative University, Presentense, Global Engagement Summit, and the Unreasonable Institute. Author of three books, including: A Global Agenda: Current Issues before the U.N., and Tumbalalaika: a Collection of Poems, she has held senior positions with: Mercy Corps, PEN, Human Rights Watch, and holds an LLM (International Public Law, Univ. of Essex Law School), and Honors BA (International Relations, University of Pennsylvania).