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Form 990-PF

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Private Foundation

or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Information about Form 990-PF and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990pf.

OMB No 1545-0052

2017

Open to Public Inspection

For calendar year 2017, or tax year beginning 12-01-2017, and ending 11-30-2018

Name of foundation THE MERLIN FOUNDATION		A Employer identification number 84-1232001	
Number and street (or P O box number if mail is not delivered to street address) 545 PEARL STREET		B Telephone number (see instructions) (303) 440-8075	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code BOULDER, CO 80302		C If exemption application is pending, check here	
G Check all that apply ☐ Initial return☐ Initial return of a former public charity ☐ Final return☐ Amended return ☐ Address change☐ Name change		D 1. Foreign organizations, check here 2 Foreign organizations meeting the 85% test, check here and attach computation	
H Check type of organization ☒ Section 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation ☐ Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust ☐ Other taxable private foundation		E If private foundation status was terminated under section 507(b)(1)(A), check here	
I Fair market value of all assets at end of year (from Part II, col (c), line 16)\$ 1,249,767	J Accounting method ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual ☐ Other (specify) (Part I, column (d) must be on cash basis)	F If the foundation is in a 60-month termination under section 507(b)(1)(B), check here	

Part I

Analysis of Revenue and Expenses (The total of amounts in columns (b), (c), and (d) may not necessarily equal the amounts in column (a) (see instructions))

	(a) Revenue and expenses per books	(b) Net investment income	(c) Adjusted net income	(d) Disbursements for charitable purposes (cash basis only)
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, etc , received (attach schedule)	3,033,560		
	2 Check If the foundation is not required to attach Sch B			
	3 Interest on savings and temporary cash investments	1	1	
	4 Dividends and interest from securities	15,040	15,040	
	5a Gross rents			
	b Net rental income or (loss)			
	6a Net gain or (loss) from sale of assets not on line 10	-361		
	b Gross sales price for all assets on line 6a	1,285,226		
	7 Capital gain net income (from Part IV, line 2)		359,161	
	8 Net short-term capital gain			
	9 Income modifications			
	10a Gross sales less returns and allowances			
b Less Cost of goods sold				
c Gross profit or (loss) (attach schedule)				
11 Other income (attach schedule)				
12 Total. Add lines 1 through 11	3,048,240	374,202		
Operating and Administrative Expenses	13 Compensation of officers, directors, trustees, etc	0	0	0
	14 Other employee salaries and wages			
	15 Pension plans, employee benefits			
	16a Legal fees (attach schedule)			
	b Accounting fees (attach schedule)	1,700	1,700	0
	c Other professional fees (attach schedule)			
	17 Interest			
	18 Taxes (attach schedule) (see instructions)	14,701	0	0
	19 Depreciation (attach schedule) and depletion			
	20 Occupancy			
	21 Travel, conferences, and meetings			
	22 Printing and publications			
	23 Other expenses (attach schedule)			
	24 Total operating and administrative expenses. Add lines 13 through 23	16,401	1,700	0
	25 Contributions, gifts, grants paid	1,840,956		1,840,956
	26 Total expenses and disbursements. Add lines 24 and 25	1,857,357	1,700	1,840,956
27 Subtract line 26 from line 12				
a Excess of revenue over expenses and disbursements	1,190,883			
b Net investment income (if negative, enter -0-)		372,502		
c Adjusted net income(if negative, enter -0-)				

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see instructions.

Cat No 11289XForm 990-PF (2017)

Part II Balance Sheets		Attached schedules and amounts in the description column should be for end-of-year amounts only (See instructions)			
		Beginning of year (a) Book Value	End of year (b) Book Value (c) Fair Market Value		
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing	1,544	144	144
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments	4,401	41,767	41,767
	3	Accounts receivable ▶ _____ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶ _____			
	4	Pledges receivable ▶ _____ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶ _____			
	5	Grants receivable			
	6	Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons (attach schedule) (see instructions)			
	7	Other notes and loans receivable (attach schedule) ▶ _____ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶ _____			
	8	Inventories for sale or use			
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges			
	10a	Investments—U S and state government obligations (attach schedule)			
	b	Investments—corporate stock (attach schedule)			
	c	Investments—corporate bonds (attach schedule)			
	11	Investments—land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ _____ Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶ _____			
	12	Investments—mortgage loans			
	13	Investments—other (attach schedule)	2,996	1,202,723	1,207,856
	14	Land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ _____ Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶ _____			
15	Other assets (describe ▶ _____)				
16	Total assets (to be completed by all filers—see the instructions Also, see page 1, item I)	8,941	1,244,634	1,249,767	
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses			
	18	Grants payable			
	19	Deferred revenue			
	20	Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons			
	21	Mortgages and other notes payable (attach schedule)			
	22	Other liabilities (describe ▶ _____)			
	23	Total liabilities (add lines 17 through 22)	0	0	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Foundations that follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☐ and complete lines 24 through 26 and lines 30 and 31.				
	24	Unrestricted			
	25	Temporarily restricted			
	26	Permanently restricted			
	Foundations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☒ and complete lines 27 through 31.				
	27	Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds	0	0	
	28	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, bldg , and equipment fund	0	0	
	29	Retained earnings, accumulated income, endowment, or other funds	8,941	1,244,634	
	30	Total net assets or fund balances (see instructions)	8,941	1,244,634	
31	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances (see instructions) .	8,941	1,244,634		

Part III Analysis of Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

1	Total net assets or fund balances at beginning of year—Part II, column (a), line 30 (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	1	8,941
2	Enter amount from Part I, line 27a	2	1,190,883
3	Other increases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶ _____	3	44,810
4	Add lines 1, 2, and 3	4	1,244,634
5	Decreases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶ _____	5	0
6	Total net assets or fund balances at end of year (line 4 minus line 5)—Part II, column (b), line 30 .	6	1,244,634

Part IV Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income

(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (e g , real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs MLC Co)	(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo , day, yr)	(d) Date sold (mo , day, yr)
1 a PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES			
b CAPITAL GAINS DIVIDENDS	P		
c			
d			
e			

(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) (e) plus (f) minus (g)
a 1,285,127		926,065	359,062
b 99			99
c			
d			
e			

Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69			(l) Gains (Col (h) gain minus col (k), but not less than -0-) or Losses (from col (h))
(i) F M V as of 12/31/69	(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col (i) over col (j), if any	
a			359,062
b			99
c			
d			
e			

2 Capital gain net income or (net capital loss)	2	359,161
3 Net short-term capital gain or (loss) as defined in sections 1222(5) and (6) If gain, also enter in Part I, line 8, column (c) (see instructions) If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 8	3	

Part V Qualification Under Section 4940(e) for Reduced Tax on Net Investment Income

(For optional use by domestic private foundations subject to the section 4940(a) tax on net investment income)

If section 4940(d)(2) applies, leave this part blank

Was the foundation liable for the section 4942 tax on the distributable amount of any year in the base period?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," the foundation does not qualify under section 4940(e) Do not complete this part

1 Enter the appropriate amount in each column for each year, see instructions before making any entries

(a) Base period years Calendar year (or tax year beginning in)	(b) Adjusted qualifying distributions	(c) Net value of noncharitable-use assets	(d) Distribution ratio (col (b) divided by col (c))
2016	2,686,000	204,222	13 152354
2015	462,000	99,703	4 633762
2014	690,428	22,596	30 555320
2013	0	0	0 000000
2012	544,000	9,233	58 919095
2 Total of line 1, column (d)			107 260531
3 Average distribution ratio for the 5-year base period—divide the total on line 2 by 5, or by the number of years the foundation has been in existence if less than 5 years			21 452106
4 Enter the net value of noncharitable-use assets for 2017 from Part X, line 5			505,566
5 Multiply line 4 by line 3			10,845,455
6 Enter 1% of net investment income (1% of Part I, line 27b)			3,725
7 Add lines 5 and 6			10,849,180
8 Enter qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4			1,840,956

If line 8 is equal to or greater than line 7, check the box in Part VI, line 1b, and complete that part using a 1% tax rate See the Part VI instructions

Part VI Excise Tax Based on Investment Income (Section 4940(a), 4940(b), 4940(e), or 4948—see instructions)

1a	Exempt operating foundations described in section 4940(d)(2), check here ☐ and enter "N/A" on line 1 Date of ruling or determination letter _____ (attach copy of letter if necessary—see instructions)		
b	Domestic foundations that meet the section 4940(e) requirements in Part V, check here ☐ and enter 1% of Part I, line 27b	1	7,450
c	All other domestic foundations enter 2% of line 27b. Exempt foreign organizations enter 4% of Part I, line 12, col (b)		
2	Tax under section 511 (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only. Others enter -0-)	2	0
3	Add lines 1 and 2.	3	7,450
4	Subtitle A (income) tax (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only. Others enter -0-)	4	0
5	Tax based on investment income. Subtract line 4 from line 3. If zero or less, enter -0-	5	7,450
6	Credits/Payments		
a	2017 estimated tax payments and 2016 overpayment credited to 2017	6a	8,400
b	Exempt foreign organizations—tax withheld at source	6b	
c	Tax paid with application for extension of time to file (Form 8868)	6c	
d	Backup withholding erroneously withheld	6d	0
7	Total credits and payments. Add lines 6a through 6d.	7	8,400
8	Enter any penalty for underpayment of estimated tax. Check here ☐ if Form 2220 is attached	8	0
9	Tax due. If the total of lines 5 and 8 is more than line 7, enter amount owed	9	
10	Overpayment. If line 7 is more than the total of lines 5 and 8, enter the amount overpaid	10	950
11	Enter the amount of line 10 to be Credited to 2018 estimated tax ☐ 950 Refunded ☐	11	0

Part VII-A Statements Regarding Activities

1a	During the tax year, did the foundation attempt to influence any national, state, or local legislation or did it participate or intervene in any political campaign?	1a	Yes	No
b	Did it spend more than \$100 during the year (either directly or indirectly) for political purposes (see Instructions for definition)? If the answer is "Yes" to 1a or 1b , attach a detailed description of the activities and copies of any materials published or distributed by the foundation in connection with the activities	1b		No
c	Did the foundation file Form 1120-POL for this year?	1c		No
d	Enter the amount (if any) of tax on political expenditures (section 4955) imposed during the year (1) On the foundation ☐ \$ 0 (2) On foundation managers ☐ \$ 0			
e	Enter the reimbursement (if any) paid by the foundation during the year for political expenditure tax imposed on foundation managers ☐ \$ 0			
2	Has the foundation engaged in any activities that have not previously been reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities	2		No
3	Has the foundation made any changes, not previously reported to the IRS, in its governing instrument, articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or other similar instruments? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes	3		No
4a	Did the foundation have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	4a		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?	4b		
5	Was there a liquidation, termination, dissolution, or substantial contraction during the year? If "Yes," attach the statement required by General Instruction T	5		No
6	Are the requirements of section 508(e) (relating to sections 4941 through 4945) satisfied either • By language in the governing instrument, or • By state legislation that effectively amends the governing instrument so that no mandatory directions that conflict with the state law remain in the governing instrument?	6	Yes	
7	Did the foundation have at least \$5,000 in assets at any time during the year? If "Yes," complete Part II, col (c), and Part XV	7	Yes	
8a	Enter the states to which the foundation reports or with which it is registered (see instructions) ☐ _____			
b	If the answer is "Yes" to line 7, has the foundation furnished a copy of Form 990-PF to the Attorney General (or designate) of each state as required by General Instruction G? If "No," attach explanation .	8b	Yes	
9	Is the foundation claiming status as a private operating foundation within the meaning of section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5) for calendar year 2017 or the taxable year beginning in 2017 (see instructions for Part XIV)? If "Yes," complete Part XIV	9		No
10	Did any persons become substantial contributors during the tax year? If "Yes," attach a schedule listing their names and addresses	10		No

Part VII-A Statements Regarding Activities (continued)

11	At any time during the year, did the foundation, directly or indirectly, own a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," attach schedule (see instructions).	11		No
12	Did the foundation make a distribution to a donor advised fund over which the foundation or a disqualified person had advisory privileges? If "Yes," attach statement (see instructions)	12		No
13	Did the foundation comply with the public inspection requirements for its annual returns and exemption application? Website address ► N/A	13	Yes	
14	The books are in care of ► TAXPAYER Telephone no ► (303) 440-8075			

Located at **►** 545 PEARL STREET BOULDER CO ZIP+4 **►** 80302

15	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-PF in lieu of Form 1041 —Check here ☐ and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year ► 15			
16	At any time during calendar year 2017, did the foundation have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country? See instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR). If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ►	16	Yes	No

Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required

File Form 4720 if any item is checked in the "Yes" column, unless an exception applies.

1a	During the year did the foundation (either directly or indirectly)		Yes	No
	(1) Engage in the sale or exchange, or leasing of property with a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
	(2) Borrow money from, lend money to, or otherwise extend credit to (or accept it from) a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
	(3) Furnish goods, services, or facilities to (or accept them from) a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
	(4) Pay compensation to, or pay or reimburse the expenses of, a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
	(5) Transfer any income or assets to a disqualified person (or make any of either available for the benefit or use of a disqualified person)? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
	(6) Agree to pay money or property to a government official? (Exception. Check "No" if the foundation agreed to make a grant to or to employ the official for a period after termination of government service, if terminating within 90 days). ☐ Yes ☒ No			
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 1a(1)–(6), did any of the acts fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4941(d)-3 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see instructions)? ☐ Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here. ► ☐	1b		
c	Did the foundation engage in a prior year in any of the acts described in 1a, other than excepted acts, that were not corrected before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2017? ☐	1c		No
2	Taxes on failure to distribute income (section 4942) (does not apply for years the foundation was a private operating foundation defined in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5))			
a	At the end of tax year 2017, did the foundation have any undistributed income (lines 6d and 6e, Part XIII) for tax year(s) beginning before 2017? ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes," list the years ► 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____			
b	Are there any years listed in 2a for which the foundation is not applying the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) (relating to incorrect valuation of assets) to the year's undistributed income? (If applying section 4942(a)(2) to all years listed, answer "No" and attach statement—see instructions). ☐	2b		
c	If the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) are being applied to any of the years listed in 2a, list the years here ► 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____			
3a	Did the foundation hold more than a 2% direct or indirect interest in any business enterprise at any time during the year? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
b	If "Yes," did it have excess business holdings in 2017 as a result of (1) any purchase by the foundation or disqualified persons after May 26, 1969, (2) the lapse of the 5-year period (or longer period approved by the Commissioner under section 4943(c)(7)) to dispose of holdings acquired by gift or bequest, or (3) the lapse of the 10-, 15-, or 20-year first phase holding period? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine if the foundation had excess business holdings in 2017). ☐	3b		
4a	Did the foundation invest during the year any amount in a manner that would jeopardize its charitable purposes?	4a		No
b	Did the foundation make any investment in a prior year (but after December 31, 1969) that could jeopardize its charitable purpose that had not been removed from jeopardy before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2017?	4b		No

Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required (Continued)

5a	During the year did the foundation pay or incur any amount to			
	(1) Carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (section 4945(e))?	☐ Yes ☒ No		
	(2) Influence the outcome of any specific public election (see section 4955), or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive?	☐ Yes ☒ No		
	(3) Provide a grant to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes?	☐ Yes ☒ No		
	(4) Provide a grant to an organization other than a charitable, etc., organization described in section 4945(d)(4)(A)? (see instructions).	☐ Yes ☒ No		
	(5) Provide for any purpose other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals?	☐ Yes ☒ No		
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 5a(1)–(5), did any of the transactions fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4945 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see instructions)?		5b	
	Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here.	☐		
c	If the answer is "Yes" to question 5a(4), does the foundation claim exemption from the tax because it maintained expenditure responsibility for the grant?	☐ Yes ☐ No		
	<i>If "Yes," attach the statement required by Regulations section 53.4945–5(d)</i>			
6a	Did the foundation, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	☐ Yes ☒ No	6b	No
b	Did the foundation, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?			
	<i>If "Yes" to 6b, file Form 8870</i>			
7a	At any time during the tax year, was the foundation a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	☐ Yes ☒ No	7b	
b	If yes, did the foundation receive any proceeds or have any net income attributable to the transaction?			

Part VIII Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors**1 List all officers, directors, trustees, foundation managers and their compensation (see instructions).**

(a) Name and address	Title, and average hours per week (b) devoted to position	(c) Compensation (If not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	Expense account, (e) other allowances
THOMAS A BARRON 545 PEARL STREET BOULDER, CO 80302	PRESIDENT 10 00	0	0	0
CURRIE C BARRON 545 PEARL STREET BOULDER, CO 80302	DIRECTOR 10 00	0	0	0
JANA LYNN 6249 SONGBIRD CIRCLE BOULDER, CO 80303	DIRECTOR 3 00	0	0	0

2 Compensation of five highest-paid employees (other than those included on line 1—see instructions). If none, enter "NONE."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$50,000	Title, and average hours per week (b) devoted to position	(c) Compensation	Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation (d)	Expense account, (e) other allowances
NONE				

Total number of other employees paid over \$50,000. **0****3 Five highest-paid independent contractors for professional services (see instructions). If none, enter "NONE".**

(a) Name and address of each person paid more than \$50,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		

Total number of others receiving over \$50,000 for professional services. **0****Part IX-A Summary of Direct Charitable Activities**

List the foundation's four largest direct charitable activities during the tax year. Include relevant statistical information such as the number of organizations and other beneficiaries served, conferences convened, research papers produced, etc.	Expenses
1	
2	
3	
4	

Part IX-B Summary of Program-Related Investments (see instructions)

Describe the two largest program-related investments made by the foundation during the tax year on lines 1 and 2	Amount
1	
2	
All other program-related investments. See instructions.	
3	
Total. Add lines 1 through 3	0

Part X Minimum Investment Return (All domestic foundations must complete this part. Foreign foundations, see instructions.)

1	Fair market value of assets not used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc., purposes		
a	Average monthly fair market value of securities.	1a	509,695
b	Average of monthly cash balances.	1b	3,570
c	Fair market value of all other assets (see instructions).	1c	0
d	Total (add lines 1a, b, and c).	1d	513,265
e	Reduction claimed for blockage or other factors reported on lines 1a and 1c (attach detailed explanation).	1e	0
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to line 1 assets.	2	0
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	513,265
4	Cash deemed held for charitable activities. Enter 1 1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4	7,699
5	Net value of noncharitable-use assets. Subtract line 4 from line 3. Enter here and on Part V, line 4.	5	505,566
6	Minimum investment return. Enter 5% of line 5.	6	25,278

Part XI Distributable Amount (see instructions) (Section 4942(j)(3) and (j)(5) private operating foundations and certain foreign organizations check here ☐ and do not complete this part.)

1	Minimum investment return from Part X, line 6.	1	25,278
2a	Tax on investment income for 2017 from Part VI, line 5.	2a	7,450
b	Income tax for 2017 (This does not include the tax from Part VI).	2b	
c	Add lines 2a and 2b.	2c	7,450
3	Distributable amount before adjustments. Subtract line 2c from line 1.	3	17,828
4	Recoveries of amounts treated as qualifying distributions.	4	0
5	Add lines 3 and 4.	5	17,828
6	Deduction from distributable amount (see instructions).	6	0
7	Distributable amount as adjusted. Subtract line 6 from line 5. Enter here and on Part XIII, line 1.	7	17,828

Part XII Qualifying Distributions (see instructions)

1	Amounts paid (including administrative expenses) to accomplish charitable, etc., purposes		
a	Expenses, contributions, gifts, etc.—total from Part I, column (d), line 26.	1a	1,840,956
b	Program-related investments—total from Part IX-B.	1b	0
2	Amounts paid to acquire assets used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc., purposes.	2	
3	Amounts set aside for specific charitable projects that satisfy the		
a	Suitability test (prior IRS approval required).	3a	
b	Cash distribution test (attach the required schedule).	3b	
4	Qualifying distributions. Add lines 1a through 3b. Enter here and on Part V, line 8, and Part XIII, line 4.	4	1,840,956
5	Foundations that qualify under section 4940(e) for the reduced rate of tax on net investment income. Enter 1% of Part I, line 27b (see instructions).	5	0
6	Adjusted qualifying distributions. Subtract line 5 from line 4.	6	1,840,956

Note: The amount on line 6 will be used in Part V, column (b), in subsequent years when calculating whether the foundation qualifies for the section 4940(e) reduction of tax in those years.

Part XIII Undistributed Income (see instructions)

	(a) Corpus	(b) Years prior to 2016	(c) 2016	(d) 2017
1 Distributable amount for 2017 from Part XI, line 7				17,828
2 Undistributed income, if any, as of the end of 2017				
a Enter amount for 2016 only.			0	
b Total for prior years 20____, 20____, 20____		0		
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2017				
a From 2012.				
b From 2013.				
c From 2014.				697,500
d From 2015.				458,969
e From 2016.				2,684,090
f Total of lines 3a through e.	3,840,559			
4 Qualifying distributions for 2017 from Part XII, line 4 ▶ \$ 1,840,956				
a Applied to 2016, but not more than line 2a			0	
b Applied to undistributed income of prior years (Election required—see instructions).		0		
c Treated as distributions out of corpus (Election required—see instructions).	0			
d Applied to 2017 distributable amount.				17,828
e Remaining amount distributed out of corpus	1,823,128			
5 Excess distributions carryover applied to 2017 (If an amount appears in column (d), the same amount must be shown in column (a))	0			0
6 Enter the net total of each column as indicated below:				
a Corpus Add lines 3f, 4c, and 4e Subtract line 5	5,663,687			
b Prior years' undistributed income Subtract line 4b from line 2b		0		
c Enter the amount of prior years' undistributed income for which a notice of deficiency has been issued, or on which the section 4942(a) tax has been previously assessed.		0		
d Subtract line 6c from line 6b Taxable amount—see instructions		0		
e Undistributed income for 2016 Subtract line 4a from line 2a Taxable amount—see instructions			0	
f Undistributed income for 2017 Subtract lines 4d and 5 from line 1 This amount must be distributed in 2018				0
7 Amounts treated as distributions out of corpus to satisfy requirements imposed by section 170(b)(1)(F) or 4942(g)(3) (Election may be required - see instructions).	0			
8 Excess distributions carryover from 2012 not applied on line 5 or line 7 (see instructions).	0			
9 Excess distributions carryover to 2018. Subtract lines 7 and 8 from line 6a	5,663,687			
10 Analysis of line 9				
a Excess from 2013.				
b Excess from 2014.				697,500
c Excess from 2015.				458,969
d Excess from 2016.				2,684,090
e Excess from 2017.				1,823,128

b Check box to indicate whether the organization is a private operating foundation described in section ☐ 4942(j)(3) or ☐ 4942(j)(5)

1 Information Regarding Foundation Managers:

a List any managers of the foundation who have contributed more than 2% of the total contributions received by the foundation before the close of any tax year (but only if they have contributed more than \$5,000) (See section 507(d)(2))

b List any managers of the foundation who own 10% or more of the stock of a corporation (or an equally large portion of the ownership of a partnership or other entity) of which the foundation has a 10% or greater interest

Check here ☒ if the foundation only makes contributions to preselected charitable organizations and does not accept unsolicited requests for funds. If the foundation makes gifts, grants, etc. (see instructions) to individuals or organizations under other conditions, complete items 2a, b, c, and d.

- a. The name, address, and telephone number or email address of the person to whom applications should be addressed

- b. The form in which applications should be submitted and information and materials they should include**

- c Any submission deadlines

- Form
- 990-PF**
- (2017)

Part XV **Supplementary Information** (continued)**3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment**

Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a <i>Paid during the year</i> See Additional Data Table				
Total			3a	1,840,956
b <i>Approved for future payment</i>				
Total			3b	0

Enter gross amounts unless otherwise indicated

Part XVI-B Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt PurposesForm **990-PF** (2017)

Part XVII Information Regarding Transfers To and Transactions and Relationships With Noncharitable Exempt Organizations

1 Did the organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following with any other organization described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3) organizations) or in section 527, relating to political organizations?		Yes	No
a Transfers from the reporting foundation to a noncharitable exempt organization of			
(1) Cash.	1a(1)		No
(2) Other assets.	1a(2)		No
b Other transactions			
(1) Sales of assets to a noncharitable exempt organization.	1b(1)		No
(2) Purchases of assets from a noncharitable exempt organization.	1b(2)		No
(3) Rental of facilities, equipment, or other assets.	1b(3)		No
(4) Reimbursement arrangements.	1b(4)		No
(5) Loans or loan guarantees.	1b(5)		No
(6) Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations.	1b(6)		No
c Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, other assets, or paid employees.	1c		No
d If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," complete the following schedule. Column (b) should always show the fair market value of the goods, other assets, or services given by the reporting foundation. If the foundation received less than fair market value in any transaction or sharing arrangement, show in column (d) the value of the goods, other assets, or services received.			

(a) Line No	(b) Amount involved	(c) Name of noncharitable exempt organization	(d) Description of transfers, transactions, and sharing arrangements

2a Is the foundation directly or indirectly affiliated with, or related to, one or more tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3)) or in section 527? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If "Yes," complete the following schedule

(a) Name of organization	(b) Type of organization	(c) Description of relationship

Sign Here	Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.		
	***** Signature of officer or trustee	2019-02-20 Date	***** Title

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown below
 (see instr.)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's Signature	Date	Check if self-employed ☐	PTIN
	GARY D LACHER		2019-02-19		P00192831
	Firm's name ► SACKS PRESS & LACHER PC				Firm's EIN ► 13-3050313
Firm's address ► 600 THIRD AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 100161901					Phone no. (212) 682-6640

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a Paid during the year				
AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST 1150 CONNECTICUT AVE WASHINGTON, DC 20036		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
AFRICAN PARKS21 WEST 46TH ST NEW YORK, NY 10036		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	100,206
CONSERVATION COLORADO 1536 WYNKOOP ST DENVER, CO 80202		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
Total ▶ 3a				1,840,956

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a <i>Paid during the year</i>				
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL 2011 CRYSTAL DRIVE ARLINGTON, VA 22202		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
CONSERVATION PATAGONIA BUILDING 1062 FORT CRONKHITE SAUSALITO, CA 94965		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
ENVIRONMENT CO RESEARCH AND POLICY 1543 WAZEE ST STE 400 DENVER, CO 80202		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
Total ► 3a				1,840,956

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a Paid during the year				
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND 275 PARK AVENUE SOUTN NEW HAVEN, NY 10010		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	50,000
HEROES PROJECT2001 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	172,000
JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE 1595 SPRING HILL ROAD VIENNA, VA 22182		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	100,206
Total ▶ 3a				1,840,956

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a <i>Paid during the year</i>				
KINHAVER ANNUAL FUND 6 ELBERTA ROAD MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	1,000
MILTON ACADEMY170 CENTRE STREET MILTON, MA 02186		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	1,000
LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS 30 BROAD STREET NEW YORK, NY 10004		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	100,206
Total ▶ 3a				1,840,956

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a <i>Paid during the year</i>				
NATURE CONSERVANCY OF COLORADO 2424 SPRUCE ST BOULDER, CO 80302		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
OCEANA1350 CONNECTICUT AVE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	10,000
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY 1615 M STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	1,000,464
Total ▶ 3a				1,840,956

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a <i>Paid during the year</i>				
THORNE NATURE EXPERIENCE 1466 63RD ST BOULDER, CO 80303		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	20,000
THE UC SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION OFFICE OF DVELOPMENT SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	200,874
YALE SCHOOL FORESTRY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 195 PROSPECT ST NEW HAVEN, CT 06511		PC	GENERAL PURPOSE	25,000
Total ▶ 3a				1,840,956

TY 2017 Accounting Fees Schedule**Name:** THE MERLIN FOUNDATION**EIN:** 84-1232001**Accounting Fees Schedule**

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
SACKS PRESS & LACHER	1,700	1,700		0

TY 2017 General Explanation Attachment**Name:** THE MERLIN FOUNDATION**EIN:** 84-1232001**General Explanation Attachment**

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation	
1		PART 1 LINE 25- CONTRIBUTIONS PAID	3/16/18 GRANT TO "AFRICA PARKS" CONSISTED OF 1,800 SHARES-MERCK & CO INC BOOK VALUE (FMV ON DATE CONTRIBUTED OR DATE PURCHASED)-\$107,190FAIR MARKET VALUE (QUOTED PRICE ON DAY OF GRANT) - \$100,2063/16/18 GRANT TO "JANEGOODALL INSTITUTE" CONSISTED OF 1,800 SHARES-MERCK & CO INC BOOK VALUE (FMV ON DATE CONTRIBUTED OR DATE PURCHASED)-\$107,190FAIR MARKET VALUE (QUOTED PRICE ON DAY OF GRANT) - \$100,2063/16/18 GRANT TO "LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS" CONSISTED OF 1,800 SHARES-MERCK & CO INC BOOK VALUE (FMV ON DATE CONTRIBUTED OR DATE PURCHASED)-\$107,190FAIR MARKET VALUE (QUOTED PRICE ON DAY OF GRANT) - \$100,2064/23/18 GRANT TO "UCSB FOUNDATION" CONSISTED OF 3,334 SHARES-MERCK & CO INC BOOK VALUE (FMV ON DATE CONTRIBUTED OR DATE PURCHASED)-\$198,540FAIR MARKET VALUE (QUOTED PRICE ON DAY OF GRANT) - \$200,8744/26/18 GRANT TO "WILDERNESS SOCIETY" CONSISTED OF 16,840 SHARES-MERCK & CO INC BOOK VALUE (FMV ON DATE CONTRIBUTED OR DATE PURCHASED)-\$1,002,822FAIR MARKET VALUE (QUOTED PRICE ON DAY OF GRANT) - \$1,000,464

TY 2017 Investments - Other Schedule

Name: THE MERLIN FOUNDATION

EIN: 84-1232001

Investments Other Schedule 2

Category/ Item	Listed at Cost or FMV	Book Value	End of Year Fair Market Value
FIDELITY ASSET MANAGER - 186 SHS	AT COST	3,149	3,456
VANGUARD SCOTTSDALE FDS SHORT-20127 SHS	AT COST	1,199,574	1,204,400

TY 2017 Other Increases Schedule

Name: THE MERLIN FOUNDATION
EIN: 84-1232001

Description	Amount
FMV OVER BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS GRANTED	44,810

TY 2017 Taxes Schedule**Name:** THE MERLIN FOUNDATION**EIN:** 84-1232001

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
EXCISE	14,701	0		0

efile GRAPHIC print - DO NOT PROCESS		As Filed Data -		DLN: 93491086007149		
Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		Schedule of Contributors ▶ Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF ▶ Information about Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990			OMB No 1545-0047 2017	
Name of the organization THE MERLIN FOUNDATION				Employer identification number 84-1232001		
Organization type (check one)						
Filers of: Form 990 or 990-EZ Form 990-PF						Section: ☐ 501(c)() (enter number) organization ☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust not treated as a private foundation ☐ 527 political organization ☒ 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation ☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation ☐ 501(c)(3) taxable private foundation
Check if your organization is covered by the General Rule or a Special Rule. Note. Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions						
General Rule ☒ For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or other property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.						
Special Rules ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33¹ 3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000 or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h, or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II. ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 <i>exclusively</i> for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I, II, and III. ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions <i>exclusively</i> for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an <i>exclusively</i> religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the General Rule applies to this organization because it received <i>nonexclusively</i> religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year. ▶ \$						
Caution. An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), but it must answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990, or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).						
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF		Cat No 30613X		Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) (2017)		

Name of organization THE MERLIN FOUNDATION	Employer identification number 84-1232001
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Part I	Contributors (See instructions) Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed		
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1	THOMAS BARRON	\$ 294,000	Person ☒
	545 PEARL STREET		Payroll ☐
	BOULDER, CO80302		Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
2	BROOKS CABOT BARRON 2012-1988 TRUST	\$ 547,912	Person ☐
	545 PEARL STREET		Payroll ☐
	BOULDER, CO80302		Noncash ☒ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
3	DENALI LINN BARRON 2012-1987 TRUST	\$ 547,912	Person ☐
	545 PEARL STREET		Payroll ☐
	BOULDER, CO80302		Noncash ☒ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
4	CURRIE LARKIN BARRON 2014-1996 TRUS	\$ 547,912	Person ☐
	545 PEARL STREET		Payroll ☐
	BOULDER, CO80302		Noncash ☒ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
5	BENJAMIN NEVIS BARRON 2012-1990 TRU	\$ 547,912	Person ☐
	545 PEARL STREET		Payroll ☐
	BOULDER, CO80302		Noncash ☒ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
6	ROSS ARCHIBALD BARRON 2012-1994 TRU	\$ 547,912	Person ☐
	545 PEARL STREET		Payroll ☐
	BOULDER, CO80302		Noncash ☒ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions)

Name of organization THE MERLIN FOUNDATION	Employer identification number 84-1232001
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Part II **Noncash Property** (See instructions) Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—	See Additional Data Table	\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
—		\$ _____	_____

Name of organization THE MERLIN FOUNDATION	Employer identification number 84-1232001
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Part III	Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of \$1,000 or less for the year. (Enter this information once. See instructions.) ► \$ _____ Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed
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(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee

Additional Data

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 84-1232001
Name: THE MERLIN FOUNDATION

Form 990 Schedule B, Part II - Noncash Property (see Instructions) Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
<u>2</u>	MERCK & CO INC-5263 SHS	<u>\$ 300,254</u>	<u>2018-01-04</u>
<u>2</u>	DODGE & COX GLOBAL-18064 SHS	<u>\$ 247,658</u>	<u>2018-10-05</u>
<u>3</u>	MERCK & CO INC-5263 SHS	<u>\$ 300,254</u>	<u>2018-01-04</u>
<u>3</u>	DODGE & COX GLOBAL-18064 SHS	<u>\$ 247,658</u>	<u>2018-10-05</u>
<u>4</u>	MERCK & CO INC-5263 SHS	<u>\$ 300,254</u>	<u>2018-01-04</u>
<u>4</u>	DODGE & COX GLOBAL-18064 SHS	<u>\$ 247,658</u>	<u>2018-10-05</u>
<u>5</u>	MERCK & CO INC-5263 SHS	<u>\$ 300,254</u>	<u>2018-01-04</u>
<u>5</u>	DODGE & COX GLOBAL-18064 SHS	<u>\$ 247,658</u>	<u>2018-10-05</u>
<u>6</u>	MERCK & CO INC-5263 SHS	<u>\$ 300,254</u>	<u>2018-01-04</u>
<u>6</u>	DODGE & COX GLOBAL-18064 SHS	<u>\$ 247,658</u>	<u>2018-10-05</u>