

ACHÉ

March, 1989

Vol. 1, No. 2

A Free Publication for Black Lesbians



Aché (pronounced ah-chay) is a word whose roots hail from the Yoruban people of Nigeria. The word Aché has several meanings and aspects: to say Aché to someone is to give them your blessing; Aché is also the force, the power that gives us life.

We experience the power of Black lesbianism on a daily basis. We wanted to acknowledge this force within our community in a way that was both visible and self-affirming. As this publication took shape, we searched for a name which would best describe our intentions and our purpose; we feel that Aché does both perfectly.

For a statement by
artist Tobe Melora
Correal, see page 2.

WHILE YOU WERE OUT...

We now have a phone number!!! If you'd like to talk to us in person, or phone something in last minute, you can reach us at 532-1719.

Now that Aché finds itself among the living, we're concerned about our distribution. How can we make it more accessible to Black Lesbians? For starters, we now have a mailing list. If you'd like to get Aché every month, without fail, phone or send us your name and mailing address. (\$5 or any donations to help cover mailing costs would be greatly appreciated.)...If you have any ideas about distribution or can lend a hand, please get in touch with us.

Black History month was extremely active. The Berkeley library symposium with Debra Floyd and Dominique DiPrima brought a lot of women out of their houses. (No wonder.) One woman in the audience, Vivienne Louise, was an original member of the collective who produced a previous Black Lesbian publication, ONYX. She was telling us how the Black Lesbian community had gotten used to ONYX being around, and forgot that without support and feedback the publication could not survive. Needless to say, ONYX died. So come on women, this is your 2nd chance!!!

Is there anybody out there who doesn't know about "Colors"?

"Colors" is a club managed by and for Lesbians of color. Every Thursday night they feature either a live band or a DJ. The live bands play primarily salsa/latin music, the DJ spins funk, reggae, hip-hop, etc. "Colors" is one of the few clubs around that we can call our own, however, it has the potential of going under due to lack of support. Now, packing the place didn't seem to be a problem a couple weeks ago when Angela Davis had her birthday party there, so we know the numbers can work. How often have sisters complained about not having a place to hang out and listen to some good music? It's time our community put its money where its mouth is (harsh but true.) "Colors" happens Thursday nights 9pm-2am. \$6/live band, at 22-4th St. in San Francisco (between Market & Mission St.).

We have some sad news to report. Joseph Fairchild Beam, the editor of "In the Life" and the 1st editor of "BlackOut" died of heart failure due to AIDS, on December 27, 1988. Such a positive force in the Black Gay and Lesbian movement will be deeply missed.

Aché is a free monthly publication by Black Lesbians for the benefit of all Black women. Aché is available the 1st of each month and the deadline for all submissions is the 15th of each month. Handwritten & typed material will be accepted. Include name, address, & phone no. on all submissions. Please specify if you would not like your name reproduced in Aché. The editors will not print words & images we deem to be racist, sexist, ageist, etc. There is no fee to list resources, personals, services, etc. To subscribe, phone or mail us your name and mailing address.

Mail all correspondence to:
Aché: P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706
phone: (415) 532-1719

EDITORS

Lisbet
Pippa Fleming

FROM THE ARTIST

MY NAME IS
TOBE MELORA CORREAL
AND CREATION
THAT'S BOUND TO
THE SPIRIT
IS MY LIFE.
THAT'S ALL.

Letters to Aché

Dear Pippa & Lisbet,

It was exciting to see your publication arrive so soon after hearing that you were even doing it. It is a much needed link in our community and I would like to thank you both for taking time & effort in order to bring this to fruition.

I'm sure that you've probably been swamped by now with artwork & writing, but I'm sending a few pieces to you anyway. Whether you use them or not, the copies need not be returned.

I'm already anxious to see your next issue. May Aché have a long & prosperous life. Thank you again!

Best wishes, T.L. Malone

* * * * *

As a recent arrival to this town, I wonder why there's no predominantly Black (or Woman of Color, even) Lesbian nightspot. Diana is trying to introduce Colors as a club for us on Thursdays, sometimes live music and sometimes DJ's. Why don't we support such an endeavor? Our community seems large enough for a huge club with wall to wall brown women dancing to wonderful music, like the Other Side in D.C. Does anyone else out there dream of this?

With the coming of this newsletter and the Black dyke gathering this fall, I'm feeling a resurgence of energy toward developing our particular community. For me that has meant a desire to check our NIA, but I heard that the collective is closed for the entire year of 1989. Is this so? It would be wonderful if NIA could explain what it's doing this year, and why such a long closure seems necessary.

P.S. Thanks for Aché

Unsigned

WHAT ABOUT IT??

(more than music)

Well, February has come and gone, and with it the media's recognition of Black history and among other things, the American music and Grammy awards. Despite the excitement of watching Tracy Chapman, one of "the children", clean up in nominations and winnings, the award shows continue to be disappointing to those of us who seek out and enjoy musics that do not receive commercial exposure and success.

Instead of using up this space theorizing why some musics don't get as much exposure as others, I'd rather expose you to several of my favorite 1988 releases from here and abroad.

I've been dying to tell more people about a group of young Black Brooklyn-based jazz musicians. Last year saw the release of a sampler (on the JMT/Polydor label) with previous works by these artists. The album: **"For Real Moments - Songs and Dances"** features: Greg Osby (alto sax) & Sound Theatre; Craig Harris (trombone) & the Tailgaters; Steve Coleman (sax) & 5 Elements; Jean-Paul Bourelli (guitar) Group and the Cassandra Wilson Group. The wonderful thing about this collective is that they are a part of each other's ensembles which also include pianist Geri Allen, and drummer Terri Lynne Carrington (whose debut album has just been released.) Other 1988 releases by this collective include:

Steve Coleman & 5 Elements **"Sine Die"**; Robin Eubanks (trombonist) **"Different Perspectives"** (debut featuring Coleman, Geri Allen, Terri Lynne Carrington, Jerry Gonzalez, etc.) Cassandra Wilson's **"Blue Skies"** (Wilson is my vote for best new jazz vocalist and this sultry vocalist is featured throughout the forementioned groups works.)

From the Caribbean came many nice releases. Among them: SALSA - Raul Marrero's **"Nariz Millonario"** and Jesus Cepeda y su grupo ABC's **"La Historia se Repite"**

CUBA - 30-year anniversary of Orquesta Ritmo Oriental saw the re-release of works on the Globestyle label. Add this to your "roots of salsa" collections.

From the island of Martinique/Guadelupe - flautist/percussionist/vocalist Dede Saint Prix **"Mi Se Sa."**, my all around favorite release of '88. This tough island groove can be both "drift away relaxing" and "hip swivel nasty" for partying/dancing. Go here on your next vacation!

If you're not familiar with the calypso/soca music of T & T (Trinidad & Tobago) try **"Rebel Soca"**; a compilation featuring such artists as Black Stalin, Nelson & Ras Iley. Not exactly standard soca-style but reaches back to calypso's political origins.

From the Motherland - the first release of traditional South African folk songs from "Mama Africa" - Miriam Makeba's **"Sangoma"** beautiful, beautiful harmonies and rhythms. The cover photo is alone worth the money.

Another African release **"Sahel"** by guitarist/vocalist/balaphonist Sona Diabate & vocalist M'Mah Sylla. Here, featured as vocalists, beautiful music by 2 members of Guinea's legendary all-women band, Les Amazones de Guinée.

For some choice West African rhythm guitar forget Mory Kante's Yeke Yeke and grab Zani Diabate and Super Djata from Mali.

I'd like to remind those interested that March 8-19 brings the San Francisco International Film Festival to the bay area (Kabuki 8 in SF, Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley.) There are, of course, never enough films by or featuring Black peoples of the world but this is one of the few places you can see them. Festival schedules can be found at bookstores and cafes everywhere, and try and get your tickets in advance as everything sells out really early.

CAROL FIELDS

Sweet, Sweet Honey...

On Friday, March 10, Sweet Honey in the Rock will come to the Zellerbach Theater on the U.C. Berkeley campus.

Sweet Honey in the Rock was born in 1973 from a vocal workshop of the D.C. Black Repertory Theater Company, led by vocal director/founder, **Bernice Reagon**. Reagon is a long-time activist, beginning her work in 1961 during the Albany, Georgia civil rights movement struggles. (Some footage of Reagon was included in the 6-hour civil rights documentary **"Eyes on the Prize"**.) The struggles of women and oppressed people everywhere are the roots from which Sweet Honey's music grows. Though firmly rooted in the Black American gospel tradition, Sweet Honey explodes, creating new vehicles of expression for Black women everywhere to cherish.

During the past 15 years, over 19 Black women have been involved in Sweet Honey in the Rock. Current members are **Bernice Reagon**, since 1973; **Evelyn Maria Harris**, 1974; **Yasmeen Bheti Williams - Johnson**, 1976; **Ysaye Maria Barnwell**, 1979, and **Aisha Kahlil**, 1981, and **Nitanju Bolade**, 1985. They are accompanied by sign language interpreter **Shirley Childress Johnson**.

To hear, (and even just to see) these fierce women, is food for the soul. For those of you who have never checked these women out, now is the time to do so. Come on women, let's turn this into a community event. I hope to see you all there...(for show info. see pg. 5.)

some albums by Sweet Honey

Feel Something Drawing Me On (1985)

The Other Side (1985)

We All...Everyone of Us (1983)

Good News (1981)

B'lieve I'll Run On...See What

The End's Gonna Be (1978?)

Sweet Honey in the Rock (1976)

THIS MONTH IN...

CLASSES

Mar. 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 Every Tuesday and Thursday, study African percussion with C.K. Ladzepko. His class will challenge both the beginner and the most advanced students in percussion. This class is open to all; if you're interested learning the rhythms of Africa, check this class out. From 5-7pm in Morrison Hall, U.C. Berkeley.

EVENTS

Mar. 2 An evening of poetry and music as Avotcja, Willyce Kim, and Pat Parker perform at Stanford University's Tessider Union, Oak lounge (upstairs.) Show starts at 8pm, open to the public (donations accepted.) For directions/info call 723-2300.

Mar. 4 "Our Comedy, Ourselves" Marga Gomez, Diane Amos (reigning Miss Haight-Ashbury) and Black comedian Renee Hicks spoof and celebrate International Women's month at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez in San Francisco. \$7 adv./\$9 door. Show starts at 8:15pm.

Mar. 4 "An Afternoon with Maya Angelou" with Reverend Cecil Williams at the Glide Memorial Church, 330 Ellis St., SF. 4pm. \$10 donation, (children under 14 free w/parents.) Tix available at Marcus Books, The Black Earth, U.C.B. Dept. Afro-American studies, & As You Like It Books.

Mar. 5 "Women of Color in Art & Literature" A free day-long symposium will take place featuring keynote speakers Angela Davis and Judy Baca (Chicana artist/muralist.) The panels will feature Black, Native American, Chicana, and Asian-American artists and writers. Registration will take place between 8:45 - 9:30. For more information call 430-2130.

Mar. 10 Artist Reception "Innocent Magic" Original artworks by Barbara J. Sandidge will be shown at the Brick Hut, 3222 Adeline St., Berkeley. A reception for the artist will be held from 6-8pm.

Mar. 10 Avotcja and Pat Parker will perform their poetry at Modern Times bookstore, 968 Valencia St., SF. \$5-7 sliding scale. Starts 8pm sharp!! For more information call 282-9246

Mar. 11 Celebrate International Women's Day celebration with Alice Walker, Carolyn Brandy, and Lucille Clifton at the Women's Building, 3543 - 18th St., SF. 7:30pm \$8-12 donation requested. Free childcare, wheelchair accessible. Tix avail. @ Old Wives Tales. For info call 431-1180.

Mar. 12 A Lesbian of Color sketch workshop will

take place from 12-4pm. Live model. For details call 654-6592.

Mar. 13-Apr. 5 A drum and dance workshop with Cuba's Conjunto Folklórico Nacional will be held in Tijuana, Mexico. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study with masters in Cuban folklore. Instructors include Mario Jauregui and Carlos Aldama, principal directors of percussion; Margarita Ugarte, prima ballerina; and Lazaro Ross, Cuba's premiere singer of songs to the Orichas. This entire workshop is dependent on the group's getting visa's, so definitely check last minute for any changes. Costs are \$55 for weekend, \$125 for a week, \$220 for 2 weeks of classes. Food and lodging are not included. For more information call 841-5112.

Mar. 29 Celebrate the release of "Women, Culture & Politics" at a booksigning by author Angela Davis from 8 to 10pm at the Women's Building, 3543 - 18th St., SF. \$2 donation. For info call 626-2924.

FILM

"Voices of Sarafina"

This documentary profiles the troupe of Black activist high school students from Johannesburg who created "Sarafina", a smash Broadway musical dramatizing the 1976 uprising of schoolchildren protesting mandatory teaching of Afrikaans. Showing at the Kabuki Theater on Post at Fillmore in San Francisco's Japantown. 346-3243 or 931-9800 for info.

** (This event is not listed in the calendar, check the theater for dates)

Mar. 17 Video of Bob Marley & The Wailers Pt. 2 This show, featuring a private collector's rare and unreleased collection of video footage, is a visual history of Bob Marley & The Wailers. w/live narration... Kennel Club, 628 Divisadero in San Francisco. For info call 931-1914.

* * * * *

The following films are just several appearing from Mar. 8-19 in the SF International Film Festival. Showings will take place at the Kabuki Theater, Post at Fillmore in SF, and the Pacific Film Archive, 2625 Durant St., in Berkeley. All shows \$6.50 general. Advance tickets are available at BASS or at the theater box offices: Kabuki Mar. 5-19 from 12-8pm. and the PFA in Berkeley, Mar. 6-8 from 12:30-5pm, Mar. 9-19 from 12:30-9:30pm. Past experience tells me buy tickets as far in advance as possible as the selling out of shows is the norm. For up to date program information call 931-FILM. Definitely pick up a schedule as there are over 100 films and shorts from around the world being shown!

Mar. 10, 12, 18 "The Trace" This film marks the debut of North African director Néjia Ben Mabrouk. Her film explores the roles of women in Tunisia through the eyes of a young girl. 10th at 3:30pm (KAB), 12th at 4:30pm (KAB), and 18th at 9:30pm (PFA in Berkeley.)

Mar. 12, 13, 15 "Mapantsula" This South African film, endorsed by the ANC, examines the Black experience under apartheid from a Black man's perspective. 12th at 7:30pm (KAB), 13th at 7pm (PFA), 15th at 3:30pm (KAB)

Mar. 15-17 "Zan Boko"
This 1988 Burkina Faso film is being shown on the 15th at 9:30pm (KAB), 16th at 3:45 pm (KAB), 17th at 7pm (PFA).

Mar. 18-19 "Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser"
This film is built around 14 hrs. of rare footage of Monk taken behind the scenes, on the road, in the studio, an in performance. 18th at 9pm, 19th at 3:30m. (both at KAB)

Mar. 18-19 "Plaff!" This 1988 Cuban film won 3rd prize in the Havana International Film Festival. 18th at 10pm (KAB), 19th at 1pm and 6:30pm (KAB).

(FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS ON THESE FILMS, PICK UP A FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE.)

* * * * *

MUSIC

Mar. 2-5 Luther Vandross' "Any Love" tour hits the bay area with 2 shows at the Circle Star (Whipple exit off Hwy 101 in San Carlos). 7:30pm. Tix are \$24.50, available at BASS. Call 366-7100 for info. (Saturday sold out already).

Mar. 4 Reggaefest '89 brings the exclusive bay area appearance of Sugar Minott and Abashanti, and Pato Banton. This show will sell out early, so buy yr tix now!! Tickets are \$18/\$19 (avail. at BASS). 9pm. at the Fillmore, 1805 Geary at Fillmore, SF. For info. call 922-FILL.

Mar. 4 Salsa Caliente one of the bay area's hottest salsa bands performs at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Show starts at 9:30pm. \$6 For info call 849-2568.

Mar. 10 Sweet Honey in the Rock
(for additional information on the group, see pg. 3)
8pm. Tix \$9.50 - \$16. Available at BASS and STBS/Union Square. Zellerbach Hall, U.C. Berkeley. For info, 642-9988

Mar. 11 Charanga Tumbao y Cuerdas plays Afro-

Cuban dance music tonight at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Show starts at 9:30p. \$7 For info: 849-2568.

Mar. 18 Orquesta Sinigual with Maria Medina Serafin performs tonight at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berk. 9:30 pm. \$6 For info call 849-2568.

Mar. 22-25 Marlana Shaw will be performing at Yoshi's, 6300 Claremont Blvd. in Oakland. Wed. & Thur. 8 & 10pm/Fri. & Sat. 9 & 11pm. \$12 for both shows. For info call 652-9200.

Mar. 25 Conjunto Céspedes performs Afro-Cuban dance music tonight at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 9:30pm \$6. For info call 849-2568.

Mar 25 Jonathan Butler, Najee, and Angela Bofill perform at the Circle Star Theater (Whipple exit off Hwy 101 in San Carlos.) Show starts at 8pm. Tix are \$17.50 available at BASS. For show info: 366-7100.

Mar. 29-Apr. 1 Latin jazz percussionist Poncho Sanchez will be performing at Yoshi's, 6300 Claremont Blvd. in Oakland. Wed. & Thur. 8 & 10pm/Fri. & Sat. 9 & 11pm. \$12 For info call 652-9200.

RADIO

Mar. 3 "La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth"
Today, Avotcja's show is "Afro-Boricua" (Black Puerto Rico) and will feature the music of Cortijo and Ismael Rivera. 12-3pm. KPOO 89.5 FM

Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 "The Gospel Experience"
Host Emmit Powell spins the entire range of gospel music, from traditional to contemporary. 6-9 am on KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 4 "A Closer Look" features author Alice Walker. 1:30-2pm on KQED FM 88.5 FM

Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 "The Secret's Out"
Bari Scott plays her own mix of jazz, reggae, r & b, and other music from around the world. 8-9 pm. KPOO 94.1 FM

Mar. 5, 12, 19 "The Spirit of Carnival"
Host David McBurnie features music of Africa and the Caribbean. Also has ticket give aways. 10-11pm. KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 "The Soundstage"
Host Donald E. Lacy Jr.'s weekly show features anything and everything relating to the Black experience. He gets great interviews, has the latest entertainment information, ticket givea-

The calendar listings may change without notice; so double-check with the source for any last minute changes. To list in next month's calendar, mail notice by Mar. 20 to: Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706 or phone 532-1719.

CALENDAR - MARCH 1989-INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>Calendar abbreviations are as follows: C-class, D-dance, E-events, F-film, M- music, N-nightlife, R-radio, T-theater, TV-television</p> <p>For details on calendar listings, see pages 4, 5 and 8. Calendar listings may change without notice, so please double-check with the source for any last minute changes.</p> <p>To list something on next month's calendar, by March 15th, send notice to Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706 or phone (415) 532-1719.</p>			1		2	3	4
					C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm M - Luther Vandross 7:30pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm E - Avotcja, Pat Parker, W. Kim 8pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 8:30pm	R - Avotcja / Afro-Boricua 12-3pm M - Luther Vandross 7:30pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 8:30pm	R - Alice Walker 1:30-2pm E - Maya Angelou 4pm E - "Our Comedy. Ourselves" 8:15pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 8:30pm M - S. Minott/Pato Banton 9pm TV - "Wild Women/Blues..." 9pm M - Salsa Caliente 9:30pm TV - Josephine Baker 10pm TV - Dancing/West Africa 11:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
E - Women of Color in Art/Lit. M - Luther Vandross 7:30pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 3/8:30pm R - "Spirit of Carnaval" 10-11pm	R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm	R - "Bring in the Noise" 2:30pm C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm	R - Lillian Allen 2:30pm R - Women/Southern Africa 2:30pm	R - "Women in Jazz" 9-11am C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 8:30pm	F - "The Trace" 3:30pm E - Artist reception/B. Sandidge 6pm E - Avotcja, Pat Parker 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 8:30pm M - Sweet Honey in the Rock 8pm	T - "The Outsider" 2:30 & 8pm TV - Black Filmmakers awards 7pm E-Women's Bldg.w/Alice Walker 7:30 R - "The Secret's Out" 8-9pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 8:30pm M - Charanga Tumbao y Cuerdas 9:30	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
E - L.O.C. Sketch Workshop 12pm F - "The Trace" 4:30pm F - "Mapantsula" 7:30pm T - "Giving Up the Ghost" 3/8:30pm R - "Spirit of Carnaval" 10-11pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm F - "Mapantsula" 7pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "Bring in the Noise" 2:30pm C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) F - "Mapantsula" 3:30pm F - "Zan Boko" 9:30pm	F - "Zan Boko" 3:45pm C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "La Verdad Musical" 12pm F - "Zan Boko" 7pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm F - Bob Marley video history 8pm	T - "The Outsider" 2:30 & 8pm R - "The Secret's Out" 8-9pm T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm F - "Thelonious Monk..." 9pm M - Reggaefest '89 9pm F - Orq. Sinigual 9:30pm F - "Plaff!!" 10pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
F - "Plaff!!" 1pm T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 2 & 8pm F - "Thelonious Monk..." 3:30pm R - Haitian poet Boadiba 5:30pm F - "Plaff!!" 6:30pm R - Geri Allen 8pm R - "Spirit of Carnaval" 10-11pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "Bring in the Noise" 2:30pm C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) M - Marlena Shaw 8 & 10pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm M - Marlena Shaw 8 & 10pm T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm M - Marlena Shaw 9 & 11pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "La Verdad Musical" 12pm T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm M - Marlena Shaw 9 & 11pm	T - "The Outsider" 2:30 & 8pm R - "The Secret's Out" 8-9pm T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm M-Jonathon Butler, Najee, Bofill 8pm M - Marlena Shaw 9 & 11pm M - Conjunto Céspedes 9:30pm	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 2 & 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 3 & 8pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) R - "Bring in the Noise" 2:30pm C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) E - Angela Davis booksigning 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm M - Poncho Sanchez 8 & 10pm	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) C - C.K. Ladzepko class 5:30pm M - Poncho Sanchez 8 & 10pm T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm T - "I Think it's Gonna Work Out...."	E-Cuban Folklore Workshop (til 4/5) T - "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm T - "Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm M - Poncho Sanchez 9 & 11pm		

THIS MONTH IN...

(continued from page 5)

ways, and plays music ranging from the Funkadelics to Gil Scott-Heron. 2:30pm on KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28 "Bring in the Noise"

Davey D mixes house, hip-hop, rap, and the whole spectrum of urban dance music into 2 hours of some party. 2:30-4:30 pm. KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 8 "Dreamweavers" This program is a celebration of women and the oral tradition of storytelling. This program includes 4 stories by Afro-American, Native-American, Asian and Mexican women storytellers. 10-11am. KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 8 Lillian Allen & the Revolutionary Tea Party Band is a program on Canada's top reggae dub poet. This show includes recordings from Allen's recent performance at the Kennel Club and an interview hosted by KPFA's Asata Iman. 2:30pm KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 8 "Women in Southern Africa" is a live panel discussion featuring women from Southern Africa who talk about the role of women in the anti-apartheid movement. 3:30pm. KPFA 94.1FM

Mar. 9 "Women in Jazz" This morning concert program is a special tribute to pianist/composers Geri Allen, Michelle Rosewoman, Amina Claudine Myers and vocalists Cassandra Wilson and Asha Puthli. 9am 94.1 FM

Mar. 17 "La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth" In celebration of International Women's month, on this day Avotcja's show will feature music by all women artist's encompassing salsa, jazz, African music and beyond. 12-3pm on KPOO - 89.5FM

Mar. 19 This poetry program features Haitian poet **Boadiba**. Her poetry combines first hand knowledge of present day Vodun with an insider's view of the political turmoil in Haiti. Following her reading is a taped discussion with the poet. 5:30pm on KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 19 A special program on Black pianist/composer Geri Allen, including a variety of her music and a recently taped interview. 8pm KPFA 94.1 FM

Mar. 24 "La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth" In this special show, Avotcja will play music by pianist/arranger/composer, Mary Lou Williams. Have your tape recorders ready!! 12-3pm KPOO 89.5FM

TELEVISION

Mar. 4 "Wild Women Don't Have The Blues" This

documentary uses archival film footage, rare recordings, photographs and interviews to trace the spread of the blues, from the early 1900's in the rural south, to the 1980's in the mainstream of popular American culture. A few of the performers profiled include Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Ethel Waters, and Alberta Hunter. 9pm. KQEC, channel 32.

Mar. 4 "Chasing A Rainbow: Josephine Baker" Through interviews and priceless footage, this 90-minute documentary traces the life of Josephine Baker, from impoverished chorus girl to the toast of Paris. 10pm. KQEC channel 32.

Mar. 4 Chuck Davis: Dancing Through West Africa 11:30pm. KQEC, channel 32.

Mar. 11 Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame awards ceremony taped Feb. 26 at Oakland's Paramount theater. 7pm. on KTVU channel 2.

THEATER

Thru Mar. 12 "Giving Up the Ghost" Premiere of a drama about Chicana lesbians by Cherrie Moraga, directed by Anita Mattos and Jose Guadalupe Saucedo. Thurs. thru Sun. at 8:30. Sun. matinee at 3pm. Studio Rhinoceros, 2926 - 16th St., SF. \$9 For more information call 861-5079

Mar. 18-Apr. 23 Duke Ellington's "Sophisticated Ladies" opens at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in SF. Previews are Mar. 10-12, 16-17. (Mar. 25th is sold out.) Showtimes are Thur.-Sun. at 8pm, Sun. matinee at 2pm. Tix are \$18 Thur. and Sun., \$22 Fri. and Sat. 620 Sutter St., SF. info: 474-8800

Mar. 22-Apr. 2 "Don't Let This Dream Go" This Gospel tribute to Mahalia Jackson was postponed from last month due to the illness of its star, Queen Esther Marrow. Veteran singer Marrow shared the title role with Jennifer Holliday in "Sin, Mahalia, Sing" which played at the Paramount Theater. The Easter Sunday (Mar. 26) performance begins at 3 pm. Regular showtimes are: Wed. - Sun. 8 pm / Sat./Sun. Mat. 2:30 1428 Alice St., Oak. 839-5510

Thru Mar. 25 "The Outsider" A play by Cecil Brown adapted from the Richard Wright novel. Directed by Idris Ackamoor of Cultural Odyssey. Thurs.-Sat. @ 8pm / Sat. matinee 2:30 Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline, Berk. 652-2120 general admission is \$9. Box office opens 45 min. before show.

Mar. 30 "I Think It's Gonna Work Out Fine" a play by Ed Bullins, presented by Cultural Odyssey will open Thursday, March 30, at the Buriel Clay Theatre, 762 Fulton St. in San Francisco. Call 921-7976 for more information.

ON THE TABLE...

Do class differences keep Black Lesbians from getting together?

Renaye Brown, mother/musician, Berkeley

When I saw the question last month, I said well okay, I'm going to write a letter. Several times I'd start and write these supposedly profound, self-righteous comments on classism. Then I asked myself a question, "Who are my friends, associates, acquaintances; and who are the Black lesbians I'd have nothing to do with?" I figured that was going to get me closer to the truth than some generalizations. So I made myself a list. Now, I don't want to say it, but [class] is definitely a factor. I crossed class lines all the time, but when I saw the breakdown of who I socialized with, the groups were very telling.

Spring Haughton, Oakland

I think that many apparent class differences in the Black community are the result of monied Black people emulating their white counterparts. There is a tendency or pressure to be tighter, less loud, to "speak better." Particularly colored ways of expression are viewed as lower class, unsomber, embarrassing. Colored becomes, by definition, lower class; which becomes a negative trait. Unfortunately, my experience in the Black lesbian community often mirrors these assumptions. Certainly, there are other class issues but this one is of paramount importance because it is founded in a lack of self-love and acceptance of our people.

Toya Wright, student, Oakland

As a young lesbian I did not deal with issues of class. However, when I was older and living on my own, my economic situation changed. My money bracket did not indicate I was middle-class, even though this is where I came from. Also, like when Baybrick and "Us Girls" were around. It seemed like there was no room for the down-to-earth, cotton-wearing

dreadlocked Black lesbians. These clubs were supposed to be multi-cultural scenes yet it seems that [these Black women] were looked down upon. I feel the ways in which class keeps us apart, is that people are afraid of being identified with "grass roots." Black women who buy into "the game" may appear to be successful when, in fact, they are suffering. As Black lesbians, we must be willing to call ourselves on our own shit. Without this, we are of no use to one another.

"On the Table" is a monthly forum where you respond to various topics. In order for this column to work, we need your feedback. Please, send us your thoughts and comments.

Next month's topic:

How would you define the term "Woman of Color"? In what ways does it unite or divide us? To what extent does your skin color affect your definition?

Deadline for response is Mar. 20th. Please specify if you would not like your name included.

Mail to: Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706

unity by Storme Webber

division serves the very few those few with the most that is produced by the many that is the we who stand here today. and all the multitudes we represent and all the ancestors who listen for us to speak for them.

when we as afrikan-amerikan people give in to division - be it homophobia, sexism, or classism; we surrender without a struggle our greatest strength. that is: we constitute the majority of the world - peoples of color. we are also the

first people and as such have a longer and deeper relationship to the earth. the few in power have lost their relationship to their mother earth / relating only to money and control. as the afrikaners seem to demonstrate - they wd rather take everyone out with them / before conceding. but history shows us that there will be no side step - the first shall be last / the last shall be first, and we must make ourselves ready. as black lesbians we stand in a special place at this time. to paraphrase toni morrison, we have nothing to fall back on, not maleness, not ladyhood, not whiteness, (or heterosexuality) but out of this desolation we may well invest ourselves. my point is, living outside of societal definitions offers freedom. a chance for a renaming of ourselves and the world we wish to create.

we have seen the consequences of oppressed people acceptance of classist, elitist, attitudes. the most tragic, recent example is the way a black middle class community in philadelphia was used against the MOVE organization; for the destruction of both. MOVE, a radical back-to-nature group, was bombed, shot, and burned out of existence - five children aged 9 to 15, and six adults were murdered during an eviction by government officials. the middle-class black residents, those who opposed their dread-locked neighbors, were dealt with a bit easier. only 61 of their homes were allowed to burn to the ground.

their acceptance of the amerikan dream did not save them. neither did the black mayor, wilson goode, protect the lives and homes of black people.

classism does divide afrikan-americans, and hurt us immeasurably. remember, when open season is declared on us; our bmw's, our mba's, jheri-curls, designer clothes, and gold chains will not protect us.

let us pick up our weapons; self-knowledge, culture, history, self-love / and defend ourselves. as bob marley sd "so don't you forget - who you are and where you stand in the struggle." honor your ancestors, make our children proud. For Storme Webber's "thoughts on winnie mandela" see page 11)

POETRY BY AVOTCJA JILTONILRO

SING A SONG OF GRANMA

My Grandmother died
And I wanted to say
Granma I'm sorry
Again
For the five millionth time
Sorry I forgot to remember
All those birthdays & feast days
The summer trips to Coney Island
The Planetarium, the Bronx Zoo
The museums & swimming pools
And always we went everywhere
Happily melting from the heat
Never noticing the pissy smelling subways
You & me & the laughter
That I always took for granted
GRANMA!!!
My Grandmother was a work junkie
Always worked for Whitey
Smiled secret smiles when she worked against Whitey
Worked to forget long gone lovers
Long overdue bills
And long over-sung songs
And she worked
 & worked
 & worked
 & worked
And then retired & worked some more
Worked so she could always afford to remember us
Who always forgot to remember
How long & hard she worked
Hoping that one day
We wouldn't have to work so hard & long
GRANMA!!!
My Grandmother was strong, you know
High-yellow Queen of Harlem
Wild honey dipped Harlem Lady
Who had a music-jones that wouldn't quit
Loved to dance & party
Until high-yellow & Harlem went out of fashion
And we
Brilliant, young, self-appointed saviors of Nigga-nuss
Became Blacker than black
More revolutionary than revolution
More African than Africa
More intelligent than intelligence
You know we got so smart
We out-smarted ourselves

And forgot to remember
That our Grandmothers'
Our precious Grandmothers'
Black like midnight
Yellow like sunlight
Never forgot to remember us
Even when she disagreed with us
She was always
..... GRANMA!!!
My Grandmother was the lighter shade of Black
Slaverys everlasting brand
The living proof of
Historical/biological contradictions
But, she understood her contradictions well enuff
To put up with all of mine
Mellow-yellow ageless child of Saggitarius
Who always wore the color of sunshine
(even when it rained)
Who could be warmer than summertime
(even when it snowed)
Or be as vicious as a nest of angry hornets
(at any time at all)
But she was dependable as day-break
And even tho she complained all the way
She never let a single day break her
GRANMA!!!
My Grandmother died
Of an overdose of the american dream
Victim of a war
Begun long before she was born
And probably won't end til long after I'm gone
But she never gave up
Didn't know how to give up
She was a born fighter
Fought hard all her life And
Then fought harder than hard when it was time to die
Gave death a fight that would make Muhammed Ali jealous
Gave unbeatable death a battle that He'll never forget
And neither will I
I will never forget to remember that
My Grandmother was a tough Lady
She was a hell-raiser
A hopeful star gazer
And she was always & forever
GRANMA!!!!

by Avotcja

(continued on next page)

LA VOZ DE MARIA (Maria's Voice)

Maria sang
Time stood still
That voice of hers grabbed me
 & made me listen
She was scared & she stumbled
But I heard the "real" her & cheered her on
And I knew I had to know her better
Sonera briosa/negróna de mis sueños
Angelita negra de la canción Boricua

Maria sang
(Aiiiii las caricias de la voz de Maria)
Her voice so warm
I'm sure it melted icebergs
 all over the North Pole
As easily as she melted my ice cube cool heart
And turned on the long dead fires
 south of my equator
Y me encanto
 Me embrujo
 Me colmo
You know, she scared me to death!!!

Maria sang
Her voice so sweet
Borinquen spirits danced
& laughed & cried
& so did I
Her voice Que brujería!
Always gently demanding my attention
Even when I wanted to run away
Eso fue imposible con su voz abrazándome
Aiiiii la voz inolvidable de Maria

Maria sang
& climbed all inside me
Shattering the nice steel walls I'd built around me
Her voice dulce como la guayaba
Her powerful medicine cured the fears/the sickness
That comes from too many years of playing too many games
With just one "La lo le ... la lo le lo lai"
She sang away the aluminum city madness
And planted la bandera & a palm tree in my soul
Made me jump up & dance myself well
(Aiiiii Maria ... la voz que tu tienes)

La voz que tiene Maria
Me vuelve media loca
Me da la felicidad sin fin
It haunts me & heals me
And makes me very, very proud
De ser Boricua

por Avotcja

For those of you not familiar with Avotcja and her work, I would like to introduce you to one of the bay area's finest talents. An accomplished writer, musician, photographer, composer and more, Avotcja has been giving of herself to the community for over a decade.

Avotcja hosts 2 radio shows: "La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth" on KPOO (89.5FM) on Fridays from 12 to 3 pm and "Rhythm Drive" on KPFA (94.1FM), Thursdays from 4:30 to 6pm. She also has a monthly column in Reggae Calendar International.

This month, you can catch Avotcja performing on March 2nd with Pat Parker and Willyce Kim at Stanford University, and on March 10th, Avotcja & Pat Parker will be at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., SF. (For more information see the Events on page 4.)

thoughts on winnie mandela by Storme Webber

no our minds wish to cry out
not she/not a fall from grace
for she who is grace & beauty under pressure
we don't want/we can't stand
to see it she stood against murder
of afrikans/not she
our minds can only analyze
the pressure she's felt for a lifetime
we can only empathize
not feel as she feels
not know how the mind becomes weary
thoughts distort reason rearranges
a woman alone/who placed her body
around the wrecking ball and said
"smash this evil structure to the ground"
swallowing tears & blood/only chanting "strength"
steadfast in the midst of such bitterness
no/but where her sweetness? rare -
not she/but we are not there/and she
is no stranger/her record cannot be erased
she has stood and walked tall while others crawled
she has made of herself the small axe/well sharp
steady undercutting roots of ignorance and oppression
if she is unwell may she be healed/she is still our mother
she is not one we can bear to lose

Each month Aché would like to feature an artist and her work. We strongly encourage women to explore this avenue of exposure, while making an artistic statement to the Black Lesbian community.

If you're interested, submit your artwork or writing. If you want more information, call us at (415) 532-1719 or write to:
Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706

THE BACK PAGE

Make Aché work for you!! List your service (send us a business card), find a roommate, organize a group, send a personal message to someone special, whatever!! **FREE...**

The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of each month.

GROUPS

Lesbians of Color sketch workshop

[Next meeting: Sunday, March 12, from noon to 4pm. 662 Apgar St., Oakland. Please call 654-6592 for details.]

This group was developed by Lesbians of Color artists in the bay area. The focus is now on sketching live models in medium preferred: pencil, charcoal, pastels, watercolors, etc. All artists welcome to exchange various mediums. call 848-7433 or 826-8856 for more information.

Large Black Lesbians

Talk about our lives, not necessarily our weight. Also, stretching and movement. Call Jan or Sharon @ 531-9267.

NIA Collective

The NIA Collective was created by and for Black lesbians during the Black caucus at the 1987 Lesbian of Color conference in San Francisco. The word "nia" means "purpose" in

Swahili. NIA's goals are to help initiate a supportive network for Black lesbians. P.O. Box 40134, Berkeley, 94704. Call 532-2758 for info.

HOUSING

Roommate Wanted!!
for great flat in great location.
\$300+ (no drugs please). Call (415) 658-5373.

NOTICES

Want to be on Aché's mailing list? Get your copy every month without fail, get us your mailing address (any donations towards mailing costs would be greatly appreciated) to Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706 or phone (415) 532-1719 with the information.

BALOC (Bay Area Lesbians of Color) is currently seeking submissions for an up-and-coming newsletter. Send submissions to: Newsletter, 3543 - 18th St., SF. 94120 Attention: Regina Gabrielle

Lesbian Agenda for Action is planning a conference on racism set for the fall of 1989. Any Lesbians of Color wishing to participate in the organizing, endorsing, or publicizing of the conference, please contact: **Lesbian Agenda for Action Conference Planning Committee**, 3543 - 18th St. #32, SF, CA. 94110 552-5677

Happy Birthday Tobe
Happy Birthday Spring

SERVICES

Medication or Meditation
Stress or Rest
Call 658-5373 for more info.

Watercolor Portraiture
Reasonable rates. For more information, call 654-6592.

The Ginseng Connection
Natural herbs can break chronic addictions -- if you're ready???? Call (415) 658-5373 for more information.

Botanica Oshun
347 - 15th St.
Oakland, CA. 94612
(415) 835-8804

Books
Reference materials
Candles
Orisha tools
Over 200 herbs & spices
Essential oils
Incense
Bubble bath
Massage oils

The Guardian Workshop
804 - 40th St.
Oakland, CA. 94608
Visual Arts Studio
and
Gallery
Original paintings, prints
sculpture
-- framing --
by appointment only
(415) 658-5373

"Ach  ." Ach  , vol. 1, no. 2, Mar. 1989, p. [1]. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/ZRKHCK856679050/AHSI?u=umuser&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=1ec44fc5. Accessed 8 Dec. 2022.