# 40/6

April, 1989

Vol. 1, No. 3

A Free Publication for Black Lesbians



Lesbians, we grow up in a world where there are few images outside of ourselves to relate to. Part of our struggle is having to assemble bits and pieces; borrowing here, there and everywhere to create us, you, me.

However, as Black Lesbians we are offered a unique freedom in that at some point we have no other choice but to look inward to create an image of ourself in the world. Precisely because we fit into no specific mold, we must turn to ourselves and each other to create our own self-definition. All we need do is look around us, at each other and at our community, to see the incredible strength and power we manifest as each one of us redefines what it means to be Black and a Lesbian.

"5 Women Watching" by Barbara Sandidge. For info see pg. 14

# WHILE YOU WERE OUT ...

International Women's month has come and gone, however not without leaving a lasting impression in

the minds of many.

KPFA had an incredible line-up of programming which truly represented the diversity among the women's community. Lillian Allen & The Revolutionary Tea Party was a hot program. Lillian very eloquently expressed the purpose and future of her work.

"Dreamweavers", a celebration of women and the oral tradition gave us the impression that women all over the world are weaving fragments to a common herstory.

How many of you sisters found yourselves glued to the tv watching the conclusion of "The Women of Brewtser Place?" For the most part I wasn't impressed, however it was the first time a Black lesbian couple was shown (even loving) on the television. Homophobia in the Black community was even touched upon ever so lightly. I don't know about you, but I know my mama was watching and I'm quite sure her jaw was sitting on the floor!

Through her production of "Brewster Place" Oprah Winfrey has shown us the beginnings of the role Black women can have in affecting change through mass media. However, as lesbians, it will be left up to us to have our true stories told.

For those of you who are still (for some reason or other) not on our mailing list, Aché may be found at:

> Old Wives Tales 1009 Valencia St., SF

The Women's Building 3543 - 18th St., SF

S.F. State's Women's Center 1600 Holloway Ave., Student Union

The Pacific Center 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berk.

A Woman's Place Bookstore 4105 Broadway, Oakland

If you would like to receive Aché every month delivered through the mail, get us your mailing address today.

Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. (415) 532-1719.

Any donation to help with mailing costs is greatly appreciated.

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

We are looking for women to help with Aché. We need:

Anybody with experience or knowledge of establishing a non-profit status and writing grants

Anybody with knowledge and access to Macintosh to help with graphics and layout

Column ideas; books, films, political analysis, entertainment, etc. (If you have any ideas or particular skills you'd like to share with us let us know)

Students from (U.C. Berkeley, Laney, Mills College, SF State, City College) to help us gather event information and distribute the newsletter on campus once a month

Submissions of stories, articles, poems, and artwork of interest to Black Lesbians

Several energetic, (and not too shy) women to be our interviewers for topic questions

If you can help please contact Aché at 532-1719 or write to Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, 94706

# Angelina Weld Grimké by Vivienne Louise

Angelina Weld Grimké (\*1) (Feb. 27, 1880 to June 11, 1958)

Angelina Weld Grimké was an African-American lesbian writer of interracial background. Her mother was a white woman, named Sarah E. Stanley, a writer herself and a member of a wealthy white Boston family. Her father, Archibald Grimké, was the son of a slave woman, Nancy Weston, and a white slave owner, Henry Grimké. Henry Grimké owned a plantation near Charleston, South Carolina and was the brother of the abolitionists sisters Angelina Emily Grimké Weld and Sarah Moore Grimké. These two sisters were the only white southern women in the abolition movement.

When Archibald and his brother Francis were attending Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, they were discovered by the Grimké sisters. The sisters recognized them as progeny of their brother Henry and essentially adopted them into their families. The Grimké sisters helped Archibald attend Harvard law school, from which he graduated in 1874. They also helped Francis attend Princeton's Theological Seminary. Angelina Weld was 63 and her sister Sarah was 76 when they became aware of Archibald and Francis.

Sarah Stanley and Archibald Grimké were married in 1879. In that same year Aunt Angelina died and when their first child was born a year later they named her after Aunt Angelina. Thus we have the African-American lesbian poet Angelina Weld Grimké and the white abolitionists Angelina Weld Grimké confused on many occasions. However, Angelina seems to have been pleased to have been named after her illustrious aunt.

Angelina's parents separated after her birth and Angelina was essentially raised by her father. Her mother, however, did keep up an ongoing correspondence with Angelina, assuring her that she loved her. She died in 1898 when Angelina was 18 years of age. Gloria T. Hull, who can be credited with resurrecting Angelina Weld Grimké, notes that much of Angelina's work includes very loving mother characters.

From early childhood, Angelina was reared by her father in the liberal, aristocratic society of old Boston. She lived in an atmosphere of religious, feminist, political and racial liberalism. Her father practiced law in Boston, edited the Hub newspaper for two years, wrote books and served as consul to Santo Domingo. She was also cared and provided for in the home of Theodore Weld, her Aunt Angelina's husband, who left a trust fund for her education. She not only had her father but her uncle Francis and his wife, diarist and poet Charlotte Forten Grimké, whom she affectionately called Aunt Lottie.

Angelina was educated at the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics (later to become the Department of Hygiene of Wellesley Collect) and eventually went to Harvard University for courses in English. She started teaching at what is now Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C. in 1902 and retired from teaching in 1926 due to health problems.

Angelina Weld Grimké wrote plays, short stories, essays and She enjoyed success poetry. through publishing and was hailed as a noted writer of the times. Her play Rachel (1916) was the first stage performance that presented serious political issues affecting African-Americans at the time. Its

main characters were a family from the black middle class. The family must cope with the lynching of the father and brother and the story of this reality was told through the eyes of Rachel, the young daughter. Rachel was generally well received by white and black critics alike. It was later (1920) published as a book and enjoyed more fame.

Angelina was a politically sensitive writer of her times. All of her work encompassed some political message pertaining to race discrimination, lynching, the emancipation of women, etc. In an essay entitled, "The Social Emancipation of Women" which was never published, Angelina points out that seeing woman as man's equal and pressing for societal reforms that would allow women to vote, participate actively in worldly affairs, escape the drudgery and subservience of traditional marriages, and not be penalized and more severely than men for 'social sins' such as gambling, drinking and personal indiscretions," (\*2) is a necessity for any progressive society.

She also exhibited a consciousness about the prejudices that were active within the black community. In a diary entry for July 31, 1903 she states: "For as fair as I am I find I am very sensitive. How much harder it must be to be black.

God pity them! They not only have the white people's prejudice to contend with [but] the light colored people's too. Light people are very small. What difference does color make anyway it is only skindeep." (\*3)

Hull considers Angelina's poetry her major genre. Angelina was in her mid-40's when the Harlem Renaissance was in full swing during the 1920's. Her poems were published in almost every antholo-

(Continued on page 4...)

# Angelina Weld Grimké cont...

gy or special magazine issue of black poetry during that period. She never did succeed in publishing a collection of her work, although she attempted to put together a collection of poems around 1925. The mood of Angelina's poetry is primarily sad and hushed. Colors are not the primary ones. Sounds are muted. Effects are delicate. Emotion, even when intense, is quiet and refined.

Although Angelina was published quiet widely some of her most lesbian poems remain unpublished, only to be published for the first time in this decade. Some of these

are as follows:

Thou are to me a lone white star, That I may gaze on from afar; But I may never never press My lips on thine in mute caress, E'en touch the hem of they pure dress,

Thou are so far, so far ...

My sweetheart walks down laughing ways
Mild dancing glancing sunkissed
ways
And she is all in white ...
If I might taste but once, just once
The dew
Upon her lips. (\*4)

There is one documented lesbian affair that Angelina had with a school mate, Mamie Burrill. In February 1896 Mamie wrote to Angelina, "Could I just come to meet thee once more, in the old sweet way, just coming, at your calling, and like an angel bend o'er you breathe into your ear, 'I love you." (\*5)

Angelina wrote back, "Oh Mamie if you only knew how my heart beats when I think of you and it yearns and pants to gaze, if only for one second upon your lovely face." She then asks Mamie to be

her wife and concludes the letter, "Now may the Almighty father bless thee little one and keep thee safe from all harm, your passionate lover." (\*6)

Exactly what happened between Mamie and Angelina is never made clear. However, in the early 1900's Angelina makes a diary entry in which she vows never to marry but instead to dedicate her life to teaching, writing and the care of her father. She keeps this resolve throughout her life, until her death in 1958.

Angeline Weld Grimké was a light skinned, very small woman, weighing 92 pounds when she was 19 years old and 100 pounds when she was 32. She dressed well, judging from her school day letters asking her father for clothes and her department store bills. Hull notes that as a child her demeanor was solemn, and in succeeding years her face attained a haughtly sadness.

Her health was not robust. She suffered from enlarged glands, nerves, headaches, bone and bilious conditions. Her health was the cause of her retirement from teaching on July 3, 1926 at the age of 46 years.

Angelina disliked crowds saying once "the fewer [people] the better as far as I am concerned." (\*7) She, however, did admit to some personality flaws of her own. "I am too critical, too impatient about trifles in my friends." Angelina considered carefully -- almost to the point of inhibition -- everything she did and said that was not prompted by anger. (\*8)

Angelina Weld Grimké published her first poem a few days before her 11th birthday. She continued to write steadily until the death of her father in 1950 (50 years old). He suffered a prolonged illness from 1928 to 1930 and Angelina

cared for him. This seemed to consume all of her time and energy. After his death she moved from Washington, D.C. back to New York, ostensibly to write. But she never really produced a whole piece of work after the death of her father. Hull states that the relationship Angelina had with her father was an "extremely close relationship, which was, it seems, almost incestuous." I think the operative word here might be "incestuous." Anyway, Angelina died in June 1958, 25 years after the end of her writing career, at the age of 78 years.

Unpublished Poem entitled "ROSABEL" or "ROSALIE"

Leaves that whisper whiper ever
Listen, listen, pray!
Birds that twitter twitter softly
Do not say me nay.
Winds that breathe about, upon her
(Lines I do not dare)
Whisper, turtle, breathe upon her
That I find her fair.

Rose whose soul unfolds white petaled
Touch her soul, use white Rose whose thoughts unfold gold petaled
Blossom in her sight
Rose whose heart unfolds, red petaled
Prick her slow heart's stir
Tell her white, gold, red my love is --And for her -- for her. (\*9)

#### **FOOTNOTES**

1. Gloria T. Hull can be credited with resurrecting Angelina Weld Grimké and discovering her lesbianism. Hull has a much more detailed account of Angelina Weld

(continued on pg. 14)

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### WHAT ABOUT IT?!

by Carol fields

When I was growing up, my friends and I use to love to make lists of our favorite or best this or that. While doing some spring cleaning, I came across a couple of these lists I've carried around for year (for laughs.) No, I'm not going to share them with you but it gave me this idea ... Aché's Reader Music Survey!

What are we listening to? I've made a list of categories to help us along but feel free to improvise (of course the simpler the better but I realize we all sometimes need to go outside the guidelines!)

Please submit entries ASAP to Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706 (specify somewhere on envelope "Music Survey") and remember - you are the next "What About It" article. Have fun with it!!

Interested in film and video? Third World Newsreel, the oldest Third World media center in the U.S., provides information and assistance for media works of relevance to People of Color.

Several resource materials available include: Independent Black American Cinema (1982) a survey from 1920-1980 with film descriptions, interviews and filmographies; In Color: Sixty Years of Minority Women in Film (1984) a look at images of Women of Color on screen and behind the camera; and Journey Across Three Continents: Films from the Black Diaspora (1986) a detailed listing of Black cinema focusing on Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas and Europe. Each is available for \$2.00. To order contact Third World Newsreel, 335 W. 38th St. 5th Fl., NY, NY. 10018 ph. 212-947-9277.

1) Favorite Female Vocalist of 1988/ of all time						
2) Favorite Male Vocalist of 1988/ of all time						
3) " Male Vocalist of 1988/ all time						
4) " Group/Duo of 1988/ all time						
5) " Album of 1988/ all time						
6) " Single of 1988 / all time						
7) " Dance Record of 1988 / all time						
9) " Slow Dance Record of 1988/ all time						
10) " Relaxing Music of 1988 / all time						
11) " Driving Music of 1988 / all time						
12) " Inspirational Music of 1988/ all time						
13) " 'I didn't think I'd like it but I did'88/ all time						
14) " Generally speaking, my favorite type / style of music is						
15) Favorite Radio Station						
16) Favorite Radio Program						
17) Favorite Dance Club						
(You can xerox this sheet or just copy the numbers & answers and mail them back ASAP at Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706)						

### **Highfights**

A benefit concert and dance to raise funds for medical expenses for bay area poet-musician Avoteja will take place Sunday, April 16th at the Women's Building, 3543 - 18th St. in San Francisco. Avoteja is a bay area legend and the line-up for this benefit really reflects how deep Avotcja's roots go in the community. A partial list of the talent coming out to perform and pay their tributes are Conjunto Céspedes, poet Pat Parker, Trinidadian steelpan master Val Serrant & Pan Asé, the Cool Papa Blues Band, poet/ musician Phavia Kujichagulia, Tomi Tabu & the Flaming Limbo, Charanga Tumbao y Cuerdas, and E.W. Wainwright & The African Roots of Jazz. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to come out and show your support for a woman who continues to give the community so much. From 5:30 sharp to 10:30pm. Tix. \$5-\$15 sliding scale. For more information call 431-1180. \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

This month, the revival of 2 films by Josephine Baker will be playing at the Castro Theater in San Francisco, and the U.C. Theater in Berkeley.

Baker started her career as a chorus girl in the early 20's. During a trip to France she discovered a freedom from racism that did not exist in the United States at that time, and like other Black artists of the time, never returned. Josephine became the highest-paid entertainer in Europe and for over 30 years was one of the most loved stars of France. She received a medal of honor from the French government for her work with the Resistance during world war II, however, in this country she remained largely unknown. Her films were not shown in the U.S., largely due to the fact that her leading men were white.

"Zou Zou" (1934) is a Hollywood-style musical telling the rags-to-riches story of a poor laundress who takes the place of a lead actress on opening night and steals the show. The musical highlight is her rendition of "Haiti." Co-starring Jean Gabin. Showtimes are: Castro) 3:10 & 7pm U.C.) 7:30pm. Sat/Sun 3:45pm.

"Princess Tam Tam" (1935) is a musical comedy about a French author who goes to North Africa to write, but gets distracted by a local girl. Her films were often showcases for her talents, here she leads a wild nightclub conga. Showtimes are:

Castro) 1:20, 5:10 & 9pm

U.C.) 5:45 & 9:30pm Sat/Sun mat. 2pm.

See "Film" section for dates

### CLASSES

Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25 Learn the songs to the Orishas (Yoruban deities) with Cuban singer Bobi Céspedes at Koncepts Cultural Gallery, 480 - 3rd St. in Oakland. 7:30-10pm. \$5

#### DANCE

Apr. 1 Ralph Lemon, a former dancer with the Bebe Miller dance company, is premiering 2 works in an evening of dance. Also performing are the Ellen Bromberg Ensemble and Della Davidson and the Moving Company. 8:30pm. \$14. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., in SF. For more info call 621-7797.

### **EVENTS**

- Apr. 2 A March / Rally for Women's Equality/Women's Lives will take place starting at 11am at the Justin Hermann Plaza in SF. After a March up Market St. a rally will be held at 1:30pm at Civic Center. Every one of us needs to get out and stand up for women's rights because powerful forces are rallying to take them away. See you there...
- Apr. 6 The National Lesbian Conference organizing meeting will take place at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. in SF. 7:30pm. Call Ilene Hanson at 621-5620 for further information.
- Apr. 9 A Gala Tribute to Paul Robeson with Maudelle Shirek, Vivian Hallinan and Dr. Carlton Goodlett will take place at Queen Adah Hall, 1390 1/2 Turk St. in SF. No-Host cocktails, African buffet, & special guests. \$25. For information call 893-6383.
- Apr. 13 Writer April Sinclair will read from her work in Progress "Coffee Will Make You Black". Sinclair is a contributor to the anthology "The World Between Women." She will also be celebrating her 35th birthday. 7pm. Donation. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St., SF. For info call 821-4675.
- Apr. 16 A benefit for Avotcja (see "Highlights") will take place at The Women's Building, 3543 18th St., in SF. \$5-15 sliding scale. From 5:30-10:30pm. For info call 431-1180.
- Apr. 19 A book-signing with Angela Davis will take place at San Francisco State University from 5-

7pm. For location contact Chinosolé, 338-1516 or 338-2235.

- \*\*Apr. 20 The 1st anniversary party of Morena, a newspaper for Women of Color will take place at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley. Featuring readings by Opal Palmer Adisa and Gwen Carmen. 7:30pm. \$5-10 sliding scale. For info 849-2568. \*\*(not listed in calendar)
- Apr. 21 A Lesbian of Color erotica and art show will take place at San Francisco State's A.S. Women's Center from 5-8pm. Free. 1650 Holloway Ave., S.F. For info call 338-2235.
- Apr. 29 An evening of poetry and music with Avotcja and Pat Parker at Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave. in Oakland. Starts at 8pm sharp. \$5-7 sliding scale. For info 428-9684.
- Apr. 30 A Cook-off fundraiser for NIA will take place between 11:30 and 3:30pm. For further information and entry form call 534-5847.

#### FILM

- Apr. 8 An evening of films by women features "Sacred Pictures", a reconstruction of the film legacy of Memphis' Black community of the 30's and 40's. Also featured are other works by women including "What the Belly Contains (A Homage to Frida Kahlo.) 8:30pm. 992 Valencia St. \$4
- Apr. 10 Charles Burnett's "My Brother's Wedding", is a part of the Monday series of Images of Minorities in Film at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. The film is a complex look at a family in Watts. \$4.25. 7:30pm. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. For info call 642-1124.
- Apr. 21-27, 28-31 The long-awaited revival of 2 films by Josephine Baker shall be showing this month on both sides of the bay. "Zou Zou" (1934) and "Princess Tam Tam" (1935) will be showing on the 21st thru the 27th at the Castro Theater, (Castro St. at Market) in SF, and on the 28th thru May 1st at the U.C. Theater, 2036 University Ave. in Berkeley. (See "Highlights" section for showtimes.) For information on the Castro showings call 621-6120; at the U.C. Theater call 843-6267.

### music

- Apr. 1 Latin jazz percussionist Poncho Sanchez will be performing at Yoshi's, 6300 Claremont Blvd. in Oakland. Sat. 9 & 11pm. \$12 For info 652-9200.
- Apr. 1 An evening of reggae with Lambsbread. 9:30pm. \$6 at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., in Berkeley. For info 525-5054.
- Apr. 1-2 The Herbie Hancock Trio and the Bobby Hutcherson Quartet open the new jazz club, Kimball's East, 5800 Shellmound St. in Emeryville. Showtimes are 8:30 & 11pm. Seating begins at 7pm. All shows are \$20. Tix available at BASS or by phone at 658-2555.
- Apr. 3 Celebrate Blue Monday with The Solid Senders and special guest Vicki Randle at Slim's, 333 11th St., SF. 9pm. \$6. For info 621-3330.
- Apr. 5 An evening with Sun Ra and his Intergalactic Arkestra performing a tribute to the music of Walt Disney. 9pm. \$13 advance/\$14 door. Slim's, 333 11th St., SF. For info 621-3330.
- Apr. 5-9 Ahmad Jamal Trio will be performing at Kimball's East, 5800 Shellmound St. in Emeryville. Showtimes are 8:30 & 11pm. Seating begins at 7pm. All shows are \$20. Tix available at BASS or by phone at 658-2555.
- Apr. 7 O.J. Ekemode & the Nigerian Allstars will be performing at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., in Berkeley. The Beat Freaks will open at 9:30pm, with O.J. going on at 11pm. \$7. For more info call 525-5054.
- Apr. 7-8 Singer Faye Carol & her Trio featuring her 16-year old pianist sensation (& daughter) Kito Gamble will be performing at Kimball's, 300 Grove St. in San Francisco. \$10 For info 861-5555.
- Apr. 7-8 Sarah Vaughan will be performing for 2 nights at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St. in SF. Tix \$20. Showtimes are 8:30pm & 11pm. For info call 885-0750.

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 Apr. 20 to: Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706 or phone 532-1719.

# CALENDAR - APRIL 1989

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm	E - March/Rally for Women 11am T- "Don't Let/Dream Go" 2:30 & 8pm T- "Don't Let/Dream Go" 2:30 & 8pm R - Lucille Clifton 5:30pm T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 2 & 8pm T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm		¥	M - Ahmad Jamal Trio 8:30 & 11pm M - Sun Ra & his Arkestra 9 pm	E - Nat. Lesbian Conf. Mtg. 7:30pm T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm	M - Ahmad Jamal Trio 8:30 & 11pm M - Faye Carol/Kito Gamble
R - Puerto Rican Prisoners 12:30pm R - Audre Lorde 1-2pm TV - Alvin Ailey (cable) 7pm T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm F - "Sacred Pictures" 8:30pm M - Ahmad Jamal Trio 8:30 & 11pm M - Sun Ra & Arkestra 9 & 11pm	T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 2 & 8pm M - Ahmad Jamal Trio 8:30 & 11pm		C - Orisha songs/Bobi Céspedes 7:30 M - Sun Ra & Arkestra 9 & 11pm M - Dizzy Gillespie 8:30 & 11pm	T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm M - Dizzy Gillespie 8:30 & 11pm	M - Bunny Wailer/Skatalites 7:30pm T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm	T- "Queen of Swords" 8pm
the control of the co	M - Paramount Gospel Singers 3pm E - Benefit for Avotcja 5:30pm M - Macheté Ensemble 8pm T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 2 & 8pm	17	18 C - Orisha songs/Bobi Céspedes 7:30	E - Angela Davis booksigning 5pm R - Faye Carroll/Maxine Howard 8pm	N - Colors	R - La Verdad Musical 12-3pm E - Lesbian of Color erotica 5-8pm F - Josephine Baker (SF) T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm M - Zulu Spear 11pm
R - "All About Ereina" 1-2pm F - Josephine Baker (SF) T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 8pm N - UJAMAA party 10pm M - Zulu Spear 11pm	F - Josephine Baker (SF) T- "Sophisticated Ladies" 2 & 8pm R - Tribute to Mingus 2:30-4:30pm	24 F - Josephine Baker (SF)	R - "Prime Time" 7-8pm F - Josephine Baker (SF) C - Orisha songs/Bobi Céspedes 7:30	R - Black Country & Western 8pm	F - Josephine Baker (SF) T- "Teenytown Project" 8pm M - Flora Purim/Airto 8:30 & 11pm	R - La Verdad Musical 12-3pm F - Josephine Baker (Berk.) T- "Teenytown Project" 8pm M - Flora Purim/Airto 8:30 & 11pm
F - Josephine Baker (Berk.) T- "Teenytown Project" 8pm	E - NIA Cook-off Fundraiser 11:30pm F - Josephine Baker (Berk.) R - Tribute to Duke Ellington 2:30pm TV - Alvin Ailey (cable) 7pm			M- music, N-nightlife, R-ra For details on calendar listi without notice, so please do To list something on next n	as follows: C-class, D-dance dio, T-theater, TV-television ings, see pages 6, 7 and 10. Couble-check with the source followh's calendar, by April 201 any, CA. 94706 or phone	Calendar listings may change or any last minute changes.  th, send notice to

### THIS MONTH IN ...

(continued from page 7)

- Apr. 7-8 The legendary Sun Ra Arkestra will be performing in the Bay Area for 2 nights. On Friday the show will be "Space is the Place" on Saturday, "Sun Ra plays Walt Disney." For those of you who have not experienced them before, the Sun Ra Arkestra is not to be missed. Koncepts Cultural Gallery, 480 3rd St., Oakland. Showtimes are 9 & 11pm, Tix are \$15, available at STBS. For information call 763-0682.
- Apr. 11-15 Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie will be performing at the new club Kimball's East, 5800 Shellmound St. in Emeryville. Showtimes are 8:30 & 11pm. Seating begins at 7pm. All shows are \$20. Tix available at BASS or by phone at 658-2555.
- Apr. 13 The World Saxophone Quartet will be performing at Slim's, 333 11th St., SF. 8pm. \$15. For more information call 621-3330.
- Apr. 13 An evening of reggae with Bunny Wailer and The Skatalites at the Circle Star Theater. Whipple exit off Hwy. 101 in San Carlos. 7:30pm. Tix \$19.50 available @ BASS. For information call 366-7100.
- Apr. 14 Lady Bianca will be performing her own brand of blues at Your Place Too, 5319 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Oakland. For info call 65-BLUES.
- Apr. 16 The Paramount Gospel Singers will have a reunion concert with its original members in this rare appearance by one of Oakland's greatest gospel quartets of the 50's. 1601 McKinnon Ave., SF. 3pm. For info call 550-9202.
- Apr. 16 A tribute to Cuban percussionist Armando Peraza by The Macheté Ensemble. 8pm. at the Great American Music Hall. 859 O'Farrell, SF. \$12.50 For information call 885-0750.
- Apr. 21-22 Zulu Spear, the hottest South African band around, will be performing for 2 nights at Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., in Berkeley. They are a must!! Opening bands go on at 9:30pm, Zulu Spear at 11pm. \$7.
- Apr. 26-29 Brazilian singer Flora Purim and percussionist Airto will be performing at Kimball's East, 5800 Shellmound St. in Emeryville. Showtimes are

8:30 & 11pm. Seating begins at 7pm. All shows are \$20. Tix available at BASS or by phone at 658-2555.

### MIGHTLIFE

- Apr. 6 A 30th birthday party celebration for Maria Raquel Morales will be held at Colors, 22 4th St., SF. 9pm on. \$4 cover w/out printed invitation.
- Apr. 13, 20, 27 Colors, a nightclub operated by & for Women of Color happens every Thursday night at 22 Fourth St., SF. (between Market & Mission St.). Features guest DJ's, live bands, and special events. \$4 cover w/DJ, \$6 w/live band.
- Apr. 22 A Women of Color celebration!!! This event is put together by UJAMAA, a newly formed group of women of color dedicated to the concept of cooperative economics. The party will feature dancing from 10pm to 3am w/DJ Diane, a buffet, full no-host bar, and door prizes. \$6 at 1300 E. 8th St., Oakland. For more information call 763-2040 or 763-7230.

### RADIO

- Apr. 2 An interview with Lucille Clifton, one of America's major Black poets will be aired at 5:30pm on KPFA, 94.1
- Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27 "Rhythm Drive" with Avotcja. This show airs M-F from 4:30 to 6pm with different hosts each day. The focus is on music from around the world. KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28 "La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth" with Avotoja. She plays jazz, blues, salsa, reggae, hip hop, and the whole spectrum of musics from the Caribbean, South America, and Africa. Also has interviews and ticket give-aways. Every Friday from 12-3pm on KPOO 89.5 FM
- Apr. 8 "Puerto Rican Political Prisoners: The Women Speak" is a program about 4 women incarcerated in Pleasanton, who were arrested while fighting for Puerto Rican independence. They declared themselves prisoners of war under international law to underline the colonial status of Puerto Rico. The program will speak to the women directly via phone. 12:30-1pm. KPFA 94.1 FM

- Apr. 8 "A Burst of Light" is a recorded presentation of poet/activist Audre Lorde in an event which took place last year at Stanford University in which Lorde speaks on the importance of women's power, and the need to break silence around issues affecting our lives. This program also includes readings from Lorde's most recent book, "A Burst of Light." 1-2pm on KPFA 94.1 FM.
- Apr. 12 A special program of blues with host Avotcja, 8-10pm. KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 13 "Straight From the Source" is a program hosted by the African Women United for Development on issues facing the community. 8-9pm. KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 19 "Oakland to Hamburg Boogie" follows two of the bay area's premier blues singers, Faye Carroll and Maxine Howard as they take Germany by storm. This program will air exclusive concert tapes, interviews, and cuts from Maxine's German albums. 8-10pm KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 22 "All About Ereina" is the story of a child born into an inter-racial family in 1979. She was separated from her mother when her mom came out as a lesbian, and was killed in a car accident in 1987. Her story is told by her mother. 1-2pm KPFA 94.1 FM.
- Apr. 23 A tribute fo bassist/composer/author jazz legend Charles Mingus featuring several recent issues of live recordings made in the 1960's. 2:30-4:30pm on KPFA 94.1 FM.
- Apr. 25 "Prime Time" is an hour-long program in 2 segments: "Poverty Forum" a series dealing with issues of poverty and homelessness, and "Crossroads", a multi-cultural magazine.
  7-8pm. KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 26 "America's Black Forty: R & B Artists Sing Country & Western" is a show examining the considerable influence of Black artists in country music. 8-10pm on KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 29 "Community in Recovery: AIDS, Alcohol, and Other Drugs" provides important information for Women, lesbians, and all women. 1-2pm KPFA 94.1 FM
- Apr. 30 A tribute fo Duke Ellington. This program will features reissues of previously unreleased

private recordings from the 50's and 60's. 2:30-4:30pm KPFA 94.1 FM

### TELEVISION

- Apr. 8, 30 The Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre performs "Revelations," a celebration of the Black South, and "Divining," the first major work by former principal dancer, Judith Jamison. Shown at 7pm both nights on cable station BRAVO
- Apr. 7, 26 "Quilombo" This 1986 Brazilian film is about a group of 17th century Brazilian slaves who establish a jungle utopia which survives and flourishes under the leader Ganga Zumba. This film features actress Zeze Motta. On the 7th showtimes are 5 & 10pm; on the 26th, 5 & 11pm. Shown on cable channel BRAVO.

### THEATER

### Apr. 1-2 "Don't Let This Dream Go"

This Gospel tribute to Mahalia Jackson was postponed due to the illness of its star, Queen Esther Marrow. Veteran singer Marrow shared the title role with Jennifer Holliday in "Sing, Mahalia, Sing" which played at the Paramount Theater. Showtimes are: Wed. - Sun. 8 pm / Sat./Sun. Mat. 2:30 1428 Alice St., Oak. 839-5510

- Thru Apr. 15 "Queen of Swords" by poet/ author Judy Grahn is an erotic look at mythology and personal transformation. Featuring bay area actresses Imani Harrington and Elizabeth Sommers. \$10-13. Shows Wed.-Sun. 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 -16th St., SF. For info call 861-5079.
- Thru Apr. 23 Duke Ellington's "Sophisticated Ladies" opens at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in SF. This music/dance revue features over 30 compositions by the Duke. 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
- Apr. 26-29 "Teenytown Project" is an ongoing work exploring themes and images which examine racial myths and stereotypes in popular culture. It is written and performed by the Thought Music Group, a New York collaborative troupe featuring Jessica Hagedorn, Laurie Carlos, and Robbie McCauley. 8pm at Intersection, 766 Valencia St., SF. For more information call: 626-3311.

W48455

### ON THE TABLE...

### HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE TERM "WOMAN OF COLOR"?

"Of color" is a social and cultural state that mainstream society prefers to pretend does not exist, attempts to make invisible, does not enhance or support.

"Of color" can not be defined by physical endowments and char-

acteristics.

To be "of color" is to experience and know the reality, frustration and search for weaponry against the denial of our cultural significance and social inequalities.

To be a womon of color is to be in a continuous state of battle against these daggers and poisons hurled and poured upon us.

Being "of color" is to be a warrior, the only status that provides visibility and survival in a world where we are deemed unreal apparitions to be ignored, uncared for and unnourished.

The oppressions associated with being "of color" bring about a unity in struggle against the killing forces of mainstream society. However, because there have been such stereotypical constructs as to exactly what "of color" means, many times we unknowlingly function within the media-made archetype of colored culture, associating our comraderie with characteristics that fit these constructs such as, dark hued skin, thick lips, nappy or locked hair, or high yella, goodhaired, delicate featured half-whites or welfare families, the occupants of barrios, reservations, ghettos, etc...and therein find our associations for unity.

Being "of color" is not only a social/cultural reality, but it can, under certain circumstances, also be a state of mind.

Many wimmin of color are of

not possess the constellation of characteristics that have traditionally been associated with wimmin of color. Sometimes these characteristics may enable a child of mixed heritage to experience a state of mind other than one "of color," particularly if this child is also a member of an economic class that is not traditionally considered to be "of color."

Sometimes we get confused and angry when confronted with the womon of color possessing these non-stereotypical characteristics. We forget it is the stereotypical construct that creates the deadly loopholes that make it possible for this daughter to assume a "noncolored" state of mind.

Our anger with her comes from her potential to take on a state of mind and social privilege other than that of being "of color" and to "pass" with it.

Our confusion comes from perhaps seeing our experiences mirrored in the face of this womon but not necessarily seeing what we perceive to be our own physical reflection.

Facts of colored reality are, no matter what your class, if you associate and identify with being "of color" you are forced to experience an "of color" state of mind and forced to acquire the specific battle tools and techniques necessary to maintain your survival and associations.

If you have color in your skin, no matter what state of mind you choose for movement through the world, you will experience the oppression of being "of color."

But that is not the all of it, being "of color" is also and foremost a celebration...from the rhythm and movement of our walk and dance, to the depths of our singing voices, to the get down style of our partying, to the rich metaphor of mixed heritage and physically do | our grandmother's wisdom, to the

drumbeat that is apparent in every gesture, movement and utterance we make, to the passionate spirit in which we fight for and maintain our survival and recognition, and more, and more, and more....

To be a woman "of color" is to be infintely diverse. Liken the world of wimmin of color to that of a field containing every species of rose on the globe, and in that metaphor, consider the various soil constituents, factors of climate, predators, fungus and parasites that thrive on particular varieties, level of resistance to attack, seasons for bloom and dormancy, preference to sunlight, size of buds, height of plant, long or short stems, color variation, other plants they thrive and grow with best....then you may, just may, begin to touch upon the vast expanse of what it is and means to be a womon of color.

### Amana J. Johnson, Artist, Poet, Mother

"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:

#### Who are your role models? In what ways?

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

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

We are the editors, Plppa and Lisbet. We wanted to give some insight into our ideas around Aché and how we would like it to develop. Given that neither one of us are writers, most of our input into the publication first comes from taping conversations that we have. The following is a transcription which (hopefully) also gives you a little idea of who we are and what we would like to do.

# Q) What was the motivating force behind the creation of Aché?

Lisbet) One day, I was talking to a friend of mine in New York, letting her know what all the women were doing over here, and after I hung up I started to call my friends over here letting them know what was up in New York .... and my brain started to clicking. I thought it would be fun to put out a little newsletter for my friends keeping up with each other and all the gossip and stuff. Then, I figured if I was going to do it, why not do it right and see what happens. I'm used to being behind the scenes supporting people and making things happen without putting my name out there; so part of Aché is a result of me taking myself and my abilities one step seriouser. Is that a word?

Pippa) To get all the girls. No really, my motivating force was that I was dying from the inside out and I needed something to keep me alive in a way that was expressive and very close to me. It needed to be done and I thought I was the womon for the job. The other motivating force was, I like being behind the scenes. I like being responsible for creating dramatic change in people's lives; just totally bringing them off balance.

### Q) What impact would you like Aché to have?

P) I would like Aché to be on the lips of every Black lesbian around the globe!! I want wimmin waiting by their mailboxes the 1st of each

month. Seriously, I would like Aché to be a vehicle of expression for any Black lesbian who has something that is in her heart or on her tongue to say. I want Aché to be of support to Black lesbians.

Given how we're not visible to some people even ourselves at times, the existence of Aché is a way to raise the consciousness of the community. To get wiminn thinking of things they've never thought about; to be a vehicle for wominn to express things that they were not able to express before, because there was no forum for expression.

L) I would like to see Black lesbians come into some power. If Aché was used to its full potential as an organizing tool and got farreaching distribution things could happen. There's a community of women that are ready to create, to move, to act, to do. There are skills and tools that we need to share with each other. If the right group of women got together, it's scary what we could do. Without a doubt, we would change the world.

## Q) Why is Aché just for Black lesbians?

P) I'm a Black lesbian! I'm at a point where I'm very selfish. I want my reality and my community to be addressed solely. If we undertook writing, painting, sculpting or philosophizing about Black lesbians, we would have books filled with our herstory. We need to know we exist.

L) I'm a native Californian and

I've grown up with this everybody-is-everthing "melting pot" mentality and I'm sick of constantly having to justify why it's necessary to separate sometimes. Every community has work that it needs to do just for itself and its own growth. The bottom line is; why is it that people think that we [Black lesbians] don't deserve something that's just for ourselves. All of our issues and experiences are not the same; Black lesbians are as broad as the sea and that's all I want to chew right now. Even in terms of forming a cohesive Women of Color community, Black lesbians need to come from a place of centeredness and power. Knowing who we are collectively and individually is extremely important right now, to ourselves and to the communities we need to build alliances with. Our work is not just about how do we "fit in" with everybody elses big picture.

### Q) What goals do you have for Aché?

- P) My ultimate goal is that Aché be an international publication. I also want Aché to be known for its literary, artistic, and political content. The broader the better. I'm into being deep and truthful these days. Exactly what goes on in our lives is exactly what Aché will reflect.
- L) I'd like to get some money for some serious distribution. If I could have anything I wanted, I'd like Aché to hook up Black lesbian communities all over the world. I'd like for Aché to make women realize that we exist all over the world

in some pretty big numbers doing some pretty incredible things.

## Q) What does Aché mean for you personally?

- P) Oh God, it's changed my life! I've never met more wominn in my life. No really, I have met so many fine wiminn doing this work. Aché has been a tremendously spiritual boost for me. It's contantly giving me confidence like I've never had before. Aché is going to make me a wise old lady.
- L) I see it as a step. Aché is testing my organizational and communication skills. I had a reading done where I was told that this year I would come into my power and accept it. I guess at this point, Aché is my vehicle. It'll be even better when I start to get out and meet people. This is gonna be a test for me because women make me really shy. People know my name but they don't know my face because I never go out.

# Q) You've been mentioning power throughout, what does that mean to you?

L) I have a fascination with the media, and as a Black lesbian when I get an opportunity to do something it's going to reflect issues that are of importance to me and my community. Power to me, means getting to a place where I can actually produce. This can't happen until I empower myself. The best thing that ever happened to me was to be born a Black lesbian. It makes you strong. You've got to be. If I hadn't made the steps to accepting and developing my power I couldn't have accomplished a thing. I think this process is vital for anyone who wants to affect change. We need to first truly believe that we can. This is how Aché got started.

# Looking for something to do on a Tuesday night?

of the Afro-Cuban Conjunto Céspedes, teaches a class on songs to the Orishas [African deities.] This is a unique opportunity to study with one of the most powerful singers in the bay area. The class is accompanied by 3 of the bay areas master bata drummers. The class is held on Tuesday nights from 7:30 to 10pm at Koncepts Cultural Gallery, 480 - 3rd St. in Oakland. \$5 Bring your tape recorders!!

### (Angelina Weld Grimké continued from page 4....)

women writers of the Harlem Renaissance in her book, "Color, Sex, and Poetry", Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis (1987)

- 2. "Color, Sex and Poetry" Hull, Gloria T., Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis (1987), p. 146.
- 3. Ibid., p. 132
- 4. Ibid., p. 140-41.
- 5. Ibid., p. 139.
- 6. Ibid., p. 139.
- 7. Ibid., p. 148.
- 8. Ibid., p. 148.
- 9. Ibid., p. 138.

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### FROM THE ARTIST

"It has been said that real art (original art) is the antidote for too much technology, that it is very needed in a world of such busy-ness as exists today.

Original things help me, as a primal being, stay in line with the essential nature of things. My crafts are my contributions to those things which are both primitive and progressive in life. In this way I practice my notion of 'true state of being' or being in the 'state of art."

The artist, Barbara J. Sandidge was born in Pittsburgh and currently resides in Oakland. She works as an artist and therapist with numerous exhibits yearly.

You can see more artwork by Barbara Sandidge by making an appointment at The Guardian Workshop (see below.)

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

# JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSITION: COMMUNITY MEMBER ORGANIZER / RESPONSIBLE TO: DIR. OF NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

THE PROGRAM: The Community Board Program, Inc. is a non-profit organization which trains San Francisco residents to assist their neighbors in resolving conflicts voluntarily and peacefully. Program goals and principles emphasize the empower ment of people and communities. The organization also provides training and other services nationally.

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 1) Promote and maintain the values, goals and policies of Community Boards in all work relationships.
- 2) Educate and inform the public about Community Boards.
- 3) Recruit people into Community Boards.
- 4) Motivate members and develop leadership within the membership.
- 5) Coordinate, monitor, and evaluate members' work.
- 6) Maintain an effective case management system that enables cases to come to conciliation panels.
- 7) Serve as a trainer.

QUALIFICATIONS: Familiarity with or experience in the Black community.

Substantive knowledge of and/or experience in the following areas:

- Administrative, organizational, and planning skills
- Case management

- Community organizing
- Working with multi-racial, multi-cultural people
- Good writing and public speaking skills

SALARY / BENEFITS: Starting annual salary is \$20,000. Excellent fringe benefits, including life, medical, dental, vision, and long-term disability insurance.

STARTING DATE: Open

DEADLINE: Open until filled.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Send cover letter, resume, references, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

COMMUNITY BOARDS
161 LELAND AVE.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94134
ATTN. RITA ADRIAN

Public Media Center, a non-profit national public interest ad agency in San Francisco, is looking for a receptionist/office manager to begin immediately.

RESPONSIBILITIES: answering telephones, secretarial/receptionist and front desk procedures, distribution of publications and commercial work, ordering office supplies, assistance with proofreading, storage of media work and various research projects as required.

QUALIFICATIONS: good verbal communication and organizational skills. Good typing skills. Macintosh experience preferred.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: \$18,000 a year. Vacation, health, dental, optical, and life insurance benefits provided.

For more information contact DeeAnne Davis at (415) 434-1403.

# FIE BACK PACE

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**

L.O.C. sketch workshop

[next meeting: Sunday, April 1 from 12 - 4pm at 662 Apgar, Oakland. For details call 654-6592]

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

### **HOUSING**

Looking for a large, bright apartment or room. Up to \$250 including utilities. Call 452-4571.

### **NOTICES**

Want to be on Aché's mailing list? To 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.

The National Lesbian Conference organizing meeting will be held April 6, 7:30pm at the Women's Building. For more information call Ilene Hanson at 621-5620.

The NIA Collective is looking for workshop proposals for the 1989 gathering "Loving Ourselves". The gathering for 1989 will be held at the Marin Headlands from November 17-19.

For all Black lesbians interested in conducting workshops please submit:

- An outline or description of your workshop and how it pertains to this years theme
- A brief biography which will be printed in the program

Deadline for this information is Sept. 1, 1989. Participants will be notified no later than Sept. 30. Mail to, NIA Collective, P.O. Box 40134, Berkeley, CA. 94704.

As a fundraiser towards the NIA gathering, a community Cook-Off will take place on April 30 between 11:30 and 3:30. There are 4 categories: appetizers, vegetarian, any entry, and dessert. All recipes should be original or family handdowns. For more information and an entry form call 534-5847.

Women of Color interested in joining Sistahboom, a women's percussion ensemble for Spring and Summer (including the Gay Day parade) contact: Renaye Brown, 548-7510 or Kay Sato 654-3360. Deadline: April 15.

### **SERVICES**

### Head Designs

Dread lock care. For more information call 658-8226. Monday thru Saturday, closed Wednesday.

### Watercolor Portraiture

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

### The Ginseng Connection

Natural herbs can break chronic addictions -- if you're ready???? Call 658-5373 for more info.

T-Shirts!!

\* \* \* \*



### BEING AFRICAN AMERICAN

The emblem is red and black with black lettering. They come in sizes:

L (38-40) XL (42-44) XXL (46-48)

Price: \$10 each plus \$2.95 to cover mailing and handling. Please specify quantity and size. To order send your order along with your name, mailing address, and daytime phone. Please pay with money order only.

Sista Love, P.O. Box 20810, Oakland, CA. 94620 "Aché." Aché, vol. 1, no. 3, Apr. 1989, p. [1]. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/UHHPHU613691153/AHSI?u=umuser&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=699bcb05. Accessed 8 Dec. 2022.