

ACHÉ

April, 1989

Vol. 1, No. 5

A Free Publication for Black Lesbians



"Woman in Boat" by Amana Johnson. For more artwork and information on the artist, see page 22.

Come Support Aché!!
This month we are having 2 benefits...

Tuesday, June 27th, 7:30pm

Aché presents an evening of video & film featuring women and their work around the world

"Sweet Sugar Rage" about Jamaica's Sistren Theatre Collective

&

"Minha Vida, Nossa Luta" about a group of Brazilian women who organized to improve the conditions of poverty in their community

(The proceeds from this event will go towards developing a continuing film series.)
La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley.
\$3 donation.

Thursday, June 29, 7:30pm

Aché presents:
An Evening of Black Lesbian Writers

Come share an evening with

Avotcja
Winn Gilmore
Anita Green
Stephanie Henderson
Pat Parker
Jean Weisinger

This promises to be a sell-out event so get there early!!

Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St.
in San Francisco. \$4-8 donation.

EDITORS

Lisbet
Pippa

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Darlene Angela
Avotcja
Carol Fields
Anita Green
Amana Johnson
Vivienne Louise
Alyse Richardson
Skye Ward
Storme Webber
Jean Weisinger

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 materials and 3.5" diskettes using MacWrite 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. The appearance of names or images in this publication does not indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons. 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

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While You Were Out

For those of you sisters who missed our first benefit at the Women's building on May 13th, it was a screamer. **Dr. Sheila S. Walker** gave a very informative slideshow/lecture on a group of Afro-Brazilian women titled "**The Sisterhood of Good Death and a Present for Yemanjá.**"

Dr. Walker is an extremely brilliant woman who is doing extremely valuable work; this was evident in her presentation and her presence. It's important that we as Black women acknowledge, endorse, and praise the efforts of Black women working to preserve our culture and herstory. Again Aché would like to thank **Sheila** and the women in the community who contributed to the success of our first benefit.

Also, on May 18th, Aché held a benefit dance at Colors which drew a tremendous crowd of beautiful women of all shapes, sizes and shades of black and brown. **Sandra Williams**, our guest DJ, just plan ole threw down!! Women were bouncing and rubbing all night long! It was quite a pleasant surprise for me to witness such a show of support!

It is our goal as the editors of Aché to be a cohesive thread that runs throughout the Black lesbian community. Aché will be sponsoring events throughout the year which will explore, honor & celebrate the diversity that exists within our communities' artistic, political, and spiritual realms.

This month Aché will present 2 events. On Tuesday, June 27th at La Peña in Berkeley, we will be showing 2 films "Sweet Sugar Rage" about a Jamaican women's theatre collective, and "Minha Vida, Nossa Luta" (My Life,

Our Struggle) about a group of Brazilian women who organize to improve their conditions of poverty.

On Thursday, June 29th at Modern Times Bookstore in S.F., we will present an evening with Black lesbian writers **Avotcja, Pat Parker, Winn Gilmore, Anita Green, Stephanie Henderson, and Jean Weisinger.**

Don't miss out, these events are an opportunity to come out and make the connections - be there!! (For more information on these and other events, check the calendar information on pages 9-15.)

Letters to Aché

Dear Sisters,

I was so happy to receive Aché in the mail, I read it cover to cover. As a Black lesbian, it is culturally reinforcing, politically and spiritually uplifting. It makes me envious (in a positive way) to see how many activities, meetings, and socials there are for Black lesbians in the bay area. In Canada (Toronto), we have a smaller Black lesbian community but we are growing. I will share your loving publication around to the sisters here. Please find enclosed "Our Lives" newspapers and a check for a subscription. Thanks for your labour of love.

In Sisterhood, toward our equality & justice,

Faith Nolan

(Faith Nolan is a member of Canada's Black Women's Collective in Toronto which publishes "Our Lives", Canada's first Black Women's newspaper. For subscription information on "Our Lives" see

page 5.)

Hi Lisbet, Hi Pippa:

I want to speak to the both of you about "On The Table." I think that it is a highly relevant column that could promote intense dialogue amongst our community and evolve our consciousness radically. I also believe that in order to keep the column from becoming mundane that it is important to not redialogue and renegotiate the same issues that have been hashed over and over again for the past decade.

Considerable time and effort needs to be given to asking the question of the month and an equal amount of time, if not more must be input to solicit the responses of the community. I also think that it is important to address issues as they arise and are hot off the press, i.e., when Wimmin of Brewster Place aired on national television, now that was a topic to immediately jump on because it was hot and wagging on the tongues of everyone in the lesbian community and many others.

One question that I feel is extremely relevant, that is very often ignored because of its complexity and taboo-ness but needs to have the dialogue intensely initiated is the question of "Is there a place for black males within the lesbian community" or "What is the role of the black male in the lesbian community, if there is any, why or why not?" or something to that effect. Of course I could be interested in this question because I have never been able to ignore this reality being that I have spent the past 20 years of my life raising two black

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Letters to Aché continued...

males. However, there are many black lesbians who have definite thoughts on the issue of lesbian separatism and I believe it is a hot enough topic to elicit a column full of responses. I would like for you to seriously consider this question for the June issue of Aché.

I welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the column; possibly taking over being responsible for outreach, surveying the community to find out what issues are relevant and need to be addressed, actually soliciting responses from writers and other community members. I don't know how "live" and controversial you want to be with Aché, but I am inclined to ask some of the questions that solicit secrets of the community and taboo, complex issues that are rarely if ever addressed. Please, let me know something soon.

Amana Johnson

Dear Lisbet & Pippa,

Just a short note to thank you all for the kind words & support you've given me as an artist. I'm truly honored & grateful. Any praise at all would have been an honor, but when it has come from a paper the quality of yours I find myself speechless. You know, I'm not a letter writer & I would be singing your praises even if you'd never mentioned me. What's really important is that you seem to have (for the first time), put together a paper that shows 360° of Blackness. Finally, we're all together in

the same paper, with no explanations or rationalizations. It's about time someone dared to show our diversity, from Park Avenue to the park bench. I think Aché is great, and I'm proud to be part of it & to have your support. Lisbet & Pippa, I want to thank you for having the guts to make your dream a reality. I luv yall!!!

Avotcja

For those of you who are not on our mailing list, Aché may be found at:

Old Wives Tales
1009 Valencia St., S.F.

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

The Pacific Center
2712 Telegraph Ave.,
Berkeley

Mama Bears Bookstore
6536 Telegraph Ave.,
Oakland

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

MY SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY CHOICE

by Alyse L. Richardson

The week-end of May 19-21, 1989 I had the most inspiring experience ever by being at an annual retreat here in the bay area given by the National Black Women's Health Project. Not only was I present in mind and spirit, I had the great opportunity to facilitate a small group of black beautiful women. A year ago, I was unable to talk or write about my experiences with black women. For the reason we as black women can identify with: SILENCE. Well, that's not the way it is for me anymore by my choice of course.

I became a self-helper with the National Black Women's Health Project in June of 1988. I was scared to death. The fear of the unknown. Another feeling we as black women can relate to. I have never been in a room with all black women sharing our lives and feelings. Especially when we weren't arguing, fighting or trying to kill each other with our eyes. You know, the rolling kind. Well, NBWHP has given me the opportunity to express myself to other black sistuhs. That's what I call a definite communication.

For the past six months I have attended conferences and retreats across the country given by the National Black Women's Health Project. I can actually say that my life and attitude have changed immensely.

I can only share my experience that I had at the '89 May retreat. It was a good feeling to be able to be heard, listened to, cared about and understood. I was able to cry

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The Edwin T. Beinecke Book Fund

SKYEVIEW

"Writing Our Peace"

"Breaking the silence", "finding our voice", and "running it down" are familiar phrases adopted by politically conscious black lesbians/gays to describe a process of empowerment through participatory discourse. Through our editorials, commentaries, poetry, essays and public forums, the issues that define our oppressions and struggles are presented for critical analysis. With the introduction of several community-based publications, an emphasis is being placed on increasing the visibility, and highlighting the diversity of black women's lives. To write and read about the individual and collective experiences of black women's lives is to take cognizance of the tenacious and concerted effort of black women to reclaim our spiritual, intellectual and creative selves.

Access to newsletters, magazines and journals that analyze and celebrate the experiences of women throughout the African diaspora, provide a sense of validation and solidarity to sisters who experience geographical, ideological and cultural isolation. Most importantly, community based publications provide us with data that can be used to organize across regional and national boundaries.

Listed below is a selected list of publications that offer black lesbian readers an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the experiences of other black women regionally, nationally, and internationally. All with the exception of SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women the publications listed below are community based publications.

The Real Read Magazine
Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice
P.O. Box 341412
Los Angeles, CA. 90034-1414

An alternative to the very sexist and male-oriented BLK Magazine which at one time was the sole community magazine for the black gay/lesbian community in Los Angeles. The Real Read is the creation and public forum of B.L.G.H.J. The B.L.G.H.J. Collective is composed of an equitable number of women and men, dedicated to grassroots activism and expressing the concerns of our black working class. In my opinion, any publication that is named as a tribute to black gay activist-writer Joseph Beam clearly demonstrates its commitment to celebrating black gay culture. (Suggested)

Our Lives: Canada's First Black Women's Newspaper
P.O. Box 248, Station P
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S8
Subscription: \$15/yr. Quarterly

The bi-line of Our Lives states "...if you are a Black woman, you've got something to say. Say it here!" I found this paper to be an extremely refreshing, astutely political and analytical publication. The close proximity of our Afro-Canadian sisters make their observations of Afro-American gay/lesbian culture quite invaluable in terms of challenging ethnocentric attitudes that are inextricably tied to being Americans. (Highly recommended)

Gay Community News
62 Berkeley Street
Boston, MA 02116
Subscription: \$25/yr. Weekly

Articles by black lesbian writers like Cheryl Clarke, Jewelle Gomez and Beverly Smith appear regularly. The GNC prints more articles on the political and cultural shifts in the black lesbian/gay community than any other gay newspaper in

the country. (Recommended)

We Be Wimmin Colorful
Student Activities Center
Iowa Memorial Union
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

If you missed the historic and very successful Parallels and Intersection Conference at the University of Iowa in April do not despair. Many of the women of color who are on the Women Against Racism Committee (organizers of the conference) contribute to We Be Wimmin Colorful. Anti-racism work is made especially difficult in culturally isolated locales like the mid-west, and the necessity to build solidarity among women of color becomes quite urgent. The integration and adoption of strategies from the mid-west may prove quite useful in the West. (Suggested)

SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women
SWEP, Inc./SAGE
P.O. Box 42741
Atlanta, Georgia 30311-1741
Subscription: \$15/yr.

Well, what can I say, no one can research black women's lives better than black women! SAGE is a fantastic scholarly journal devoted exclusively to publishing the work of black female academics and scholars. The spring/summer edition had a delightful narrative called "Lesbian Mother" among its special black mother/daughter issue. (Highly recommended)

Skye Ward is an afrocentric, lesbian, feminist, poet, activist living in Northern California.



W.O.C. Students & Faculty Come Together at S.F.S.U.

by Anita Green

The Women's Studies program at San Francisco State University has been changing over the past few years. The potential for even better opportunities let over seventeen women students and faculty of color to meet on May 25th.

We came together to discuss various shared interests and to strategize. Although the department now has fifty percent representation by women of color, the classes rarely contain that many students of color. How to change that situation?

Many of the faculty come in as part-time lecturers and without their Ph.D's get stuck in what amounts to subservient wages. The demands of their classes limit their ability to do their post-graduate work. In the California State University system, when they get their doctorates, a new surprise greets them.

The University will not upgrade their salaries. Instead, if the professor is lucky, they get a "step" increase. Some of our brightest, involved instructors have been living on the edge, teaching classes in at least two locations plus other endeavors to make ends meet. The quality of instruction suffers.

The Women of Color Student & Faculty Caucus for the Women Studies Program has decided to take advantage of some upcoming vacancies. We will be attending the Hiring Committee's meetings to let them know what we want and to monitor what they do.

We will be looking to become a campus group so that there will be

a central place for women of color to go to find out about the dynamic women of color instructors that exist at S.F. Stage and so that we can meet and continue the discussion of what it is we want to see happen in the Womens Studies Program, especially with the Master's program that is in the works.

Alliances with the Ethnic Studies dept. and the Women's Center will be strengthened under our goals. Courses offering other than white lesbian theory are being proposed.

It will become increasingly more and more important for there to be more women of color in the department. Publicity and Outreach committees will be meeting to discuss how to have this happen on an ongoing basis.

The word is out. Choose a Women's Studies course for your electives. If you have some spare time this summer, get involved. Everybody is welcome.

"My Silence was Broken.."
(continued from page 4)

about the ugly issues that I carried with me for the longest time. Those were my secrets. We all have them. I was able to be held and nurtured and that was okay for me. I was able to create a safe place for myself. I allowed the child in me to come out that had been locked up inside me for so long. I found that I was not alone and that felt real good. But most important, I was myself and will continue to be myself because that's simply ME!

The "Guerilla" artist mural project (covered in last month's Aché) is at a standstill due to lack of materials.

Donations of old latex house paint, brushes, rollers, pans, water buckets, etc. are greatly appreciated. (Cash donations are also accepted.) Contact Aché if you have anything to give.

Want to get involved?

We are looking for some good women to help us with this project.

We need:

- * **A graphic artist to help us design business cards and a letterhead**
- * **Visual artists interested in displaying their artwork in Aché**
- * **Writers interested in being published in Aché**
- * **Energetic women with experience in fundraising**
- * **Anybody with graphics skills and access to a Macintosh computer**

**Contact Aché at
P.O. Box 6071,
Albany, CA. 94706
(415) 532-1719**

What About It?!

by Carol Fields

The bay area is always bursting with a variety of musical entertainment. June, of course, is no exception. Opening up the months live performances will be **Tuck & Patti** at the Great American Music Hall on June 2 & 3. Those of you excited about this duo will be happy to know that they have a new album entitled "Love Warriors," (produced by **Patti**) due in the stores at the beginning of this month.

Hopefully, many of us will find the means to treat ourselves to a couple of days in the sun and some great music at 2 upcoming outdoor music festivals. At the Berkeley Greek Theatre, June 4, will be ReggaeFest '89, featuring some of Jamaica's best: **The Mighty Diamonds, Steel Pulse, Sugar Minott, Marcia Griffith, Half Pint & Sophia George**. If this is not enough sun & fun, the "Return of the Blues - Monterey '89 Blues Festival" could surely set you right. This line-up includes **James Cotton, Solomon Burke, Johnny Copeland** and more. These are just the heavyweights I know out of an extensive line-up. Many of us should go for a little edjumikation in what is roots music.

But, jumping back to the West Indies...the Omni in Oakland will bring back **Shinehead** who (if you're not hip to yet) is a young Jamaican/Bronx bred rapper/toaster/singer who was climbing the charts with a dubbed over remake of Sam Cooke's "Chain

Gang." **Shinehead** is as clever & creative as he relays his stories and messages and the beat is live. My favorite is his anti-drug piece called "Gimme No Crack" with the chorus "I might act crazy, but I don't smoke crack!" According to those fortunate enough to have seen him at the Fillmore last month say he's worth seeing and if his album "Unity" is any indication - don't miss him!

More performances from around the world include a double-bill at the Fillmore featuring **Kassav** and **Mahlathini** and **The Mahotella Queens**. The rumored date of appearance for this triple bill is June 28th.

Despite the world famous status of these performers, they have never appeared in the bay area. **Kassav**, a large ensemble of musicians and dancers from the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, are reportedly one of the hottest performers in the Caribbean and Europe. Based in Paris, they run the monopoly in the dance/party music called Zouk.

Also on this bill, **Mahlathini** and **The Mahotella Queens**, who perform both together and separately, are South African artists who play in the Mbaqanga style. **The Mahotella Queens** are an all-women group which has been performing for some 20 years and are known for their sometimes outrageous and always high-energy stage shows.

Joining them will be "groaner" **Mahlathini**; according to **Hugh Masakela**, "so much of the music around South African today is because of **Mahlathini**." If you're

familiar with the variety of South African music, then you know that's quite a hefty compliment.

This is somewhat of a strange bill because of the different styles of music. However, it will undoubtedly be a great show to see all these performers together. Please watch the listings so you don't miss this!

Another rumored appearance is that of jazz vocalist/lyricist **Cassandra Wilson**. I don't mean to mislead but I'm too excited not to let this out. Supposedly in June or July we're to see this performer who reminds me of **Betty Carter** but who definitely has her own unique style.

It's unfortunate that some of the above-mentioned performers are not well-known in the states. Black radio rarely gives air time; it is the couple of hours a day on community stations by dedicated (and unpaid) DJ's and the white FM rock-formatted stations that support these musics. Well, that is only our loss and the subject of some future issue of Aché.

REVIEWS

The long awaited **Eddie Palmieri** release is in the stores. If you like salsa, if you like jazz, if you love the piano and know it for the percussion instrument that it is, you will love his new release "Sueño." Someone said to me "oh, you know it's nothing new, it's the same ole stuff he always does..." Well, I always like what **Eddie** does! I don't have all his works, but I'm blown away this

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Music Review

by Vivienne Louise

On April 28, 1989 when I entered the Artemis Café in San Francisco my mood was a deep, gut-wrenching blue. I came to hear Anna Maria Flechero because I was curious and remembered her from her band "We Sound Like This" of the early 80's. However, I didn't know what to expect and frankly my expectations were consistent with my mood.

To say that I was shaken from my doubting rafters is an understatement. Anna provided upbeat entertainment that demanded I get off the pity pot and move to the beat of the music. Her soft, easy voice was both high spirited and mellow, lifting me, gently to a pleasant state of mind. I found myself swaying to the music, moving as if without will. I was coaxed into a gentler, kinder mood and, albeit reluctantly, accepted the change.

Anna is a keyboard artist who plays an electric piano and sings. She composes medleys of songs that seem unlikely bedfellows. But when Anna sang them I found myself wondering why no one had done it before. One of her most popular medleys is Motown based; something she affectionately calls "Proud Mary." It not only contains part of its namesake but also "Sugar Pie Honey Bunch," "Heard it Through the Grapevine," "Stop in the Name of Love," and "Please, Please Mr. Postman." Before Anna could sing the first three words of the latter song, the entire room had joined in singing nostalgically to memories of long gone teenage dreams and years.

As I watched Anna I was struck by what seemed to be her Mona Lisa type expression. No, she wasn't smiling, but she wasn't not

smiling either. It was clear that she was serious, but it was also clear that she was having fun too.

Gwen Avery opened the show for Anna Flechero. I hadn't seen Gwen in many years and was reminded of her natural showwoman-ship. She serenaded us with her rich alto voice, interjecting comic relief between songs. Gwen also took us down memory lane with her rendition of "Chain of Fools" by Aretha Franklin, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," and an original "Mary Ann." Gwen's honky tonk/blues rhythms sparked the crowd and got us ready for Anna's smooth style.

Thanks to the excellent performance by Anna Maria Flechero and Gwen Avery, I was eased out of my blue mood into spontaneous tingling laughter. I smiled all the way home to Oakland fondly humming bits and pieces of melodies strung together by Anna Maria Flechero. Anna will be appearing at Artemis Society in S.F. on June 9, 1989 and Mama Bears on June 24, 1989.

I am an ardent fan of avant garde music. However, as an ardent fan I know its limitations. When it is good it is very, very good and when it is bad it is horrid. I also know that there is a thin line between being very, very bad and very, very good.

The Glenn Spearman Quartet, however, has found the formula and are creating very, very good avant garde jazz. Of particular note, is India Cooke, the violinist. India is an excellent musician who has played in various musical arenas from the San Francisco Women's Philharmonic to the Dance Brigade's Nutcracker Sweetie. On April 30, 1989 at Concepts Cultu-

ral Gallery she appeared with the Glenn Spearman Quartet, a group composed of tenor saxophone (Glenn Spearman), cello (Kash Killian), drums (Paul Murphy) and violin (India Cooke).

The operative word when speaking of India's playing is passion. She approaches her instrument with a passion I find unparalleled by many musicians. During the performance she held her violin in various positions, eeking from its strings just the right sound. She appeared as if in a trance, with us the audience, as mere onlookers to some sacred passage. The music surrounded me, seeping into my pores, engulfing me with its intensity. It wasn't intrusive, however, simply existing as its own entity demanding acceptance.

As someone who is very sensitive to music, offensive music hurts me and sometimes that hurt stays with me for days or even weeks. In early April 1989 I exposed myself to some very bad avant garde jazz and I was still smarting at the end of the month. However, the powerful drama of this quartet drew me in, moving me to exquisite emotional planes and plateaus; oozing the pain and consequent apprehension out of my system; replacing it instead with a firmer respect and belief in this type of music.

I didn't want them to stop. And when the concert ended I could still feel the resonance of the music in my bones, shaking my very foundation.

Vivienne Louise has been writing, editing and organizing for the feminist community for the past 11 years. She was one of the original founders of Onyx: A Black Lesbian Newsletter in 1982.

This Month In...

CLASSES

June 2-30 - Conjunto Folklorico Nacional de Cuba, Cuba's premiere folkloric troupe, will lead an intensive dance and drum workshop at Casa de la Cultura, Tijuana, Mexico. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from masters in Afro-Cuban folklore. Instructors include Margarita Ugarte, prime ballerina (Afro-Cuban folkloric dance), and Lazaro Ross, Cuba's premiere singer of songs to the Orishas. Workshop prices are \$55/weekend, \$125/one week, \$220/two weeks, \$300/three weeks, \$400/four weeks. This entire workshop is dependent on the group's getting visa's, so definitely check last minute with the local contact for any last minute changes. For information call 655-6554.

DANCE

June 2-3, 9-11 - The 11th annual Ethnic Dance Festival featuring the bay area's finest dance troupes representing cultures from all around the world. Each nights show vary, and each features a wide spectrum of ethnic dance. 8pm. Tickets from \$8-35. The Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. at Bay in San Francisco. For ticket information call 552-3656 or 762-BASS.

June 9-10 - "Dance Diaspora" a concert of Black Dance expression with influences from the African Diaspora choreographed by Myrtha Muse & Michelle Martin. 7:30pm. Buriel Clay Theater, 762 Fulton St. at Webster in SF. \$7 general/\$5 students & seniors. For information call 563-3519.

June 9-10 - The Jazz Tap Summit is a rare opportunity to witness the artistry of the geniuses of tap including The Nicholas Brothers, Steve Condos, Honi Coles, Sandman Sims, Camden Richman, Eddie Brown and Zane & Chance Taylor. 8pm. Davies Symphony Hall, Van Ness & Grove in S.F. \$16.50-\$28. (Several of the dancers will also be teaching master tap classes from June 6-8th. For information call 864-5449.)

EVENTS

June 1 - "Las Mariposas" an evening of music and comedy including Rumba Mezcla featuring Maria Cora on vocals and Remy Arnone on piano. Also showing is "Women in the Mission" a slide show by Cristina Corrada. 7:30pm. at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley.

June 1-3 - "The Mission is Bitchin'" is a 3-day celebration of Mission District art and performance. Different artists will perform each night; an art exhibit titled "Sheltering the Flame: Growing Up in the Mission" will be on display through June 24. 8pm each night. Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St. in SF. 626-3311

June 2, 3 & 4 - Festival at the Lake is a 3-day celebration of the bay area's diversity featuring the finest in gospel, jazz, salsa, reggae, r & b, blues not to mention every other kind of performer. 3 days of non-stop entertainment. \$3. Lake Merritt in Oakland. See east bay papers for complete schedule.

June 2-3 - "Talking About Talking: The Power to Shape the World" is a narrative play of humor, music, movement, and folk history about a Black lesbian, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, and a Jewish lesbian, Robin Podolsky, who explore anti-semitism, racism, sexism and homophobia. On the 2nd, \$4-6. 8pm @ Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave. in Oakland. On the 3rd, 7:30pm. @ A Different Light, 489 Castro St. in SF. For information call 431-0891.

June 9 - An evening of laughter, song and poetry with a lineup including June Millington, Pat Parker and Karen Williams in celebration of the release of "Harbor Girl". 8pm. \$10-25 sliding scale. First Congregational Church, 432 Mason, SF. For information call 658-5283.

June 11 - "Passion and Repression" is a community forum that will assess the current state of the lesbian/gay sexual revolution. 7pm. \$4-6 sliding scale. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. in San Francisco. For information: 282-9246.

June 11 - Host Stephanie Henderson is reinaugurating the monthly open gay and lesbian reading at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. in S.F. 7:30pm. For info: 282-9246.

June 13 - Author Carmen de Monteflores reads from her book "Singing Softly / Cantando Bajito" which traces 3 generations of a Puerto Rican family. 7:30pm. FREE. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. in S.F. For info: 282-9246.

June 14 - Celebrate the 10 year anniversary on Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services with Alice Walker, Linda Tillery, Deidre McCalla and JoAnn Loulan. 7:30pm at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell in S.F. For more information call 885-0750.

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This Month In...

June 15 - Join **Belvie Rooks, Lois F. Lyles, Opal Palmer Adisa and Nikkey Finney** for a reading and celebration of "Mothers and Daughters," the most recent issue of SAGE: A Scholarly Journal of Black Women (published by the Women's Resource center at Spelman College.) Donation. 8pm at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. in San Francisco.

June 17-18 - **Juneteenth Celebration-1989** presented by the Western Addition Cultural Center starts with a parade on the 17th from 11-1pm from Pierce & Ellis in SF to Webster at Grove. This 2-day celebration will feature music, culture, food, children's activities, etc. Sounds like a good line-up but it's too much to list. 1-6pm.

June 22 - "**Brother to Brother**" Washington D.C. Black gay poet **Essex Hemphill** will present his multi-media performance piece "Brother to Brother: Words from the Heart" with collaborator **Larry Duckette**. "Brother to Brother" explores the impact of racism and homophobia on the variety of relationships between Black men. A second piece "Public Servant" concerns the undercover syphilis experiments conducted on Black men in the South. 7:30pm. @ Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. in San Francisco. For more information call 282-9246.

June 22 - **Rumba Mezcla**, an all-women percussion group, will be performing at Mama Bears coffeehouse/bookstore, 6536 Telegraph Ave. in Oakland. For information call 428-9684.

June 23-24 "**The Africans are Coming**" The 7th annual African Cultural Festival featuring performances by master drummers from Ghana, the Ladzepko Brothers, Dimensions Dance Theater, Diamano Coura West African dance company, Ceedo Senegalese Dance Company and Fua Dia Congo. Also, African food, arts and crafts, and a fashion show at this 2-day event. 8pm. Henry J. Kasiser Convention Center, 10th & Fallon St. in Oakland. \$10 advance/\$12 door. Tix at BASS. For more information call 763-3962.

June 25 - **THE 1989 LESBIAN & GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE!!** (Check "Coming Up" for specifics on the parade & other activities) Market St. in San Francisco.

June 27 - "**An Immigrant's Story**" A publishing party for "Tintame Angelitos Negros: An Immigrant's Story" a spe-

cial edition of **Esporadica**, the Mexican feminist comic with the creators **Ana Barreto and Adriana Batista**. 7:30pm at Modern Times Bookstore at 968 Valencia St. in San Francisco. For more information call 282-9246. Free.

June 29 - **Benefit for Aché: An Evening of Black Lesbian Literature** with **Avotjca, Winn Gilmore, Anita Green, Stephanie Henderson, Pat Parker and Jean Weisinger**. 7:30pm at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. in San Francisco. \$4-8 sliding scale. For info. call 282-9246.

FILM

June 3 - **Linton Kwesi Johnson in "Dread Beat An' Blood"** This film features Britain's premiere reggae/poet through his music, probing the problems of London's Black working-class community. The bill also includes an musical excerpt from **Jimmy Cliff's "The Harder They Come."** 9pm. \$4 / \$5 2779 - 16th St. in San Francisco.

* * * * *

This month Frameline presents the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival from June 16-25. Films will be showing at the Castro and Roxie Theatres in San Francisco. Advance tickets are available at Captain Video, 2358 Market St. in SF, and through the mail. For more ticket information call 431-9227.

There isn't enough room to list every film, so I suggest picking up a schedule (available at cafes and bookstores that would be so inclined.) The following is a short list of films which will be shown...

June 16 - "**Therese and Isabelle**" is a French film exploring sexual awakening and first love through 2 women. 9:30pm. \$6 at the Castro Theatre, Market St. at Castro in SF.

June 17 - "**Infidel**" (45 min.) is a complex film about a Black lesbian fashion model who deals with issues of racism in the fashion industry. The film festival hasn't always had a lot for lesbians of color, so for me, this is the biggest must see of the festival - if any of you reading this feel the same, I suggest

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 June 15th to: **Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706** or phone (415) 532-1719.

This Month In...

getting your tickets *today*, without a doubt this will sell out and it would be a shame if we were the ones left standing outside on the street. Nuff said. This film is one of several on a program of experimental lesbian short films. 3pm. \$4 at the Castro Theatre, Castro at Market St. in San Francisco. 431-9227.

June 17 - "**Out of Our Time**" (70min.) is about 2 circles of women, one a literary/artistic society of women in 1930's Chicago, and the other a contemporary group of feminists. The 2 circles are linked by a granddaughter and grandmother who both, in their own eras, grapple with the frustrations of not fulfilling themselves as writers. 5:30pm. \$6. Castro Theatre.

June 20 - "**Looking For Langston**" (40min.), and exploration of black and white gay identities, is a poetic meditation on **Langston Hughes** work and life-style during the Harlem Renaissance. The screening will be preceded by poetry by gay Black poet, **Essex Hemphill**, and precious, precious singer / songwriter, **Blackberri**. Not to miss, not to miss, not to miss!! Get your tickets way in advance. 9:30pm. \$6 at the Castro Theatre. For information on tickets, call 431-9227.

June 21 - "**All Girl Action: The History of Lesbian Erotica**" is a presentation exploring lesbian eroticism in films and videos from '70's Euro-trash to early lesbian feminist saphistry, from B-grade Hollywood fantasies to "Desert Hearts." 7pm. \$6. Castro Theatre, Castro St. at Market St. in S.F.

June 21 - "**The Killing of Sister George**" is a lurid melodrama explicitly exploring the '60's lesbian bar scene. 9pm. \$6. Castro Theatre, Castro at Market St. in S.F.

June 22 - "**Urinal**" is part-narrative, part-documentary, brings together a group of dead lesbian & gay artists including **Frida Kahlo & Langston Hughes** to explore the politics of public washroom sex and the policing of sexuality in society. 9:30pm. \$6 Castro Theatre, Castro St. at Market in San Francisco.

* * * * *

June 27 - **Aché** presents "**Sweet Sugar Rage**" a 45 min. video about the Sistren Theatre Collective, a Jamaican women's theatre troupe and "**Minha Vida, Nossa Luta**" a 43 min. film about a group of Brazilian women doing grassroots community organizing. 7:30pm. \$3 donation. La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 849-2568.

June 30 - "**Two in Twenty**" is a 5 episode lesbian soap opera that follows the lives and loves of 2 lesbian households. With humor and suspense, the characters in this soap opera confront such issues as racism, AIDS, coming out, sex, etc. The 5 episodes will be split over 2 days with #1-3 on Friday, June 30, and #4-5 on Saturday, July 1. 7:30pm both shows. \$6 per night. The Women's Building, 3543 - 18th St. in San Francisco. (closed captioned, wheelchair accessible.)

MUSIC

June 1-3 - **Tito Puente & The Latin Jazz All-Stars** will be performing at **Kimball's East**, 5800 Shellmound St. in Emeryville. \$15. Shows at 9 & 11pm. 658-2555 or 762-BASS.

June 2 - Black diva **Wilhelminia Fernandez** will be performing in Oakland opera's "**Tosca**". Friday at 8pm, Sunday at 2pm. at the **Calvin Simmons Theatre**, 10th & Fallon St. in Oakland. \$14-22. For ticket information call 832-0559.

June 2, 3 - **Tuck & Patti** will be performing at the **Great American Music Hall**, 859 O'Farrell St. in SF. 8 & 10:30pm. \$12.50. For information call 885-0750 or 762-BASS.

June 3 - **Walter Hawkins and the Family** in a gospel extravaganza at the **Paramount Theatre**, 2025 Broadway in Oakland. 8pm. Tickets are \$8-30. For information call 465-6400.

June 3, 4 - **Orquesta Guayacan**, the bay area's newest Afro-Cuban Charanga orquesta will be performing on the 3rd at **La Peña**, 3105 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley. 9:30pm. \$6. Also, on the 4th from 12-6pm at 362 Capp St. in SF. \$5

June 4 - **Reggae Sunsplash World Tour '89** with **The Mighty Diamonds, Steel Pulse, Marcia Griffiths, Sugar Minott, Half Pint & Sophia George** and others. From 1pm on at the **Greek Theatre, UC Berkeley**. \$18.50 in advance. For tickets call 642-9888 or 762-BASS.

June 9 - "**Flechero and Mason**", something different in musical entertainment. 8pm. \$6-8. **Artemis Cafe**, 1199 Valencia St. in San Francisco.

June 9 - The exclusive bay area appearance of **Casselberry & DuPreé**. Performing with **J. & Jaqué** are bassist **Toshi Reagon** and percussionist **Annette Aguilar**. This should be one the events of the month for the sisters, so get your tickets in

(continued on page 14)

Calendar - June 1989

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, T-theater, TV-television</p> <p>For details on calendar listings, see pages 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15. 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, send notice by June 15th to: Ach�, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, Ca. 94706 or phone (415) 532-1719.</p>							1 E - "Las Mariposas" 7:30pm E - "Mission is Bitchin" 8pm M - Tito Puente 9 & 11pm	2 TV - B. Smith, P. Giddings 4pm D - Ethnic Dance Festival 8pm E - "Mission is Bitchin" 8pm E - Festival at the Lake E - "Talking About Talking" 8pm M - Tito Puente 9 & 11pm M - Wilhelminia Fernandez 2& 8 M - Tuck & Patti 8 & 10:30pm	3 D - Ethnic Dance Festival 8pm E - "Mission is Bitchin" 8pm E - Festival at the Lake E - "Talking About Talking" 8pm M - Tuck & Patti 8 & 10:30pm F - Linton Kwesi Johnson 9pm M - Tito Puente 9 & 11pm
4 E - Festival at the Lake M - Reggae Sunsplash '89 1pm R - Dorothy Donegan special 8pm	5 R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm TV - Frameline gay video 8:30pm	6	7	8 R - "Straight/Source" 8pm N - UJAMAA dance 9pm-2am.	9 R - "La Verdad Musical" noon-3 D - Ethnic Dance Festival 8pm D - "Dance Diaspora" 8pm D - Jazz Tap Summit 8pm E - Millington, Parker ... 8pm M - Flechero & Mason 8pm M - Casselberry/DuPre� 7 & 9pm	10 D - Ethnic Dance Festival 8pm D - "Dance Diaspora" 8pm D - Jazz Tap Summit 8pm M - Char. Tumbao y Cuerdas 9:30 M - Ruben Blades 9pm			
11 D - Ethnic Dance Festival 8pm E - "Passion & Repression" 7pm E - Open gay/lesbian reading 7:30	12 R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm TV - Frameline gay video 8:30pm	13 R - Maya Angelou noon E - Carmen de Monteflores 7:30pm	14 E - Alice Walker 7:30pm	15 R - "Gay/Lesbian Youth" 4:30pm E - celebration for SAGE 8pm	16 R - "La Verdad Musical" noon-3 R - Maki Mandela noon M - George Duke... 9:30pm F - "Therese & Isabelle" 9:30pm	17 E - Juneteenth Celebration 11am R - Salsa day on KPFA T - "Langston" 2 & 8pm F - "Infidel" 3pm *** F - "Out of Our Time" 5:30pm N - "Under One Flag" dance 8pm			
18 E - Juneteenth Celebration 11pm	19 R - "Freedom Summer..." 9am R - Coretta Scott King noon TV - Frameline gay video 8:30	20 F - "Looking for Langston" 9:30pm TV - "Rights & Reactions" 11pm	21 F - "All Girl Action" 7pm F - "Killing of Sister George" 9pm TV - "We Are Family" 11:55pm	22 E - Essex Hemphill 7:30pm E - Rumba Mezcla F - "Urinal" 9:30pm TV - "Out of Suburbia" 7:30pm TV - "Before Stonewall" 8pm TV - "...Harvey Milk" 9:30pm	23 R - "La Verdad Musical" noon-3 T - "Langston" 2 & 8pm E - "The Africans are Coming" 8 M - Anzanga 8:30pm TV - "...Harvey Milk" mid.	24 R - "Women's Magazine" noon T - "Langston" 2 & 8pm E - "The Africans are Coming" 8 M - Flechero & Mason 8pm M - Conjunto C�spedes 9:30pm N - JAM productions dance N - Flechero/Mason after party			
25 E - Gay Freedom Day Parade!! M - Manhattans, Harold Melvin	26 R - "The Soundstage" 2:30pm TV - Frameline gay video 8:30pm	27 E - "An Immigrant's Story" 7:30 F - "Sweet Sugar Rage" 7:30pm	28	29 E - Ach�'s poetry benefit 7:30 pm TV - "Transformers" 8:30pm M - Kym Jackson Band 9pm	30 R - "La Verdad Musical" noon-3 T - "Langston" 2 & 8pm F - "Two In Twenty" 7:30pm				

This Month In...

advance (available at La Tienda, 3105 Shattuck Ave. for \$10.) \$12 at the door. 7 & 9pm. La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. For more information call 849-2568.

June 10 - Charanga Tumbao y Cuerdas will be performing Afro-Cuban dance music at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 9:30pm. \$6 For more information call 849-2568

June 10 - Panamanian singer/actor Ruben Blades will be performing at the Fillmore, 1805 Geary at Fillmore in SF. 9pm. \$20. Tickets available at BASS, 762-BASS.

June 14 - Celebrate the 10 year anniversary on Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services with Alice Walker, Linda Tillery, Deidre McCalla and JoAnn Loulan. 7:30pm at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell in S.F. For more information call 885-0750.

June 16 - George Duke, Stanley Clark, and Gerald Albright will be performing at 7:30pm at the Circle Star, Whipple exit off Hwy. 101 in San Carlos. \$16.50. Tickets are available at BASS. For information call 366-7100.

June 23 - Anzanga, an award-winning ten-piece marimba ensemble on tour from Seattle will be performing traditional marimba music from Southern Africa - Zimbabwe, South African, Mozambique and Gambia. 8:30pm. \$6. La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. For more information call 849-2568.

June 24 - "Flechero and Mason" something different in musical entertainment. 8pm. \$6-8. Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave. in Oakland. After hours party at 6034 Colby St. in Oakland after 10pm.

June 24 - Conjunto Céspedes, the bay area's finest Afro-Cuban band, will be performing at 9:30pm at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. \$6 For info. call 849-2568.

June 25 - The Manhattans, Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, and Main Ingredient will be performing at 7:30pm at the Circle Star, Whipple exit off Hwy. 101 in San Carlos. \$16.50. Tickets are available at BASS. For information call 366-7100.

June 29 - The Kym Jackson Band will be performing at Colors, 22 Fourth St. in San Francisco. 9pm to 2am. \$6.

NIGHTLIFE

June 8 - Fundraiser for UJAMAA at Colors, 22 Fourth St. in San Francisco. Rumba Mezcla will be featured during intermissions. 9pm to 2am.

June 17 - "Under One Flag" is a dance commemorating the 20th anniversary of Stonewall benefitting the Asian Pacific Lesbian Retreat, the Men of Color conference, and the 1990 Int'l. Bisexual Conference. Will feature live music from 8pm-mid. \$10 & up. The Women's Bldg., 3543 - 18th St. in SF. Ethnic refreshments, no host bar. For more information call 821-3534.

June 24 - JAM Productions is having a dance at Koncepts Cultural Gallery, 480 - 3rd St. in Oakland.

June 24 - After-gig party for Anna Maria Flechero and Charlene Mason at 6034 Colby St. in Oakland. Come after 10pm.

RADIO

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - "La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth" with Avotcja. 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. Fridays from 12-3pm on KPOO 89.5 FM

June 4 - The Dorothy Donegan Special features an interview with and music by the legendary pianist. 8pm on 94.1FM

June 5, 12, 26 - "The Soundstage" with host Donald E. Lacy, Jr. His weekly show features anything and everything relating to the Black experience. He has interviews, ticket giveaways, entertainment information and plays music ranging from the Funkadelics to Gil Scott-Heron. 2:30pm on KPFA 94.1 FM

This Month In...

June 8 - "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.

June 13 - A speech by poet/philosopher Maya Angelou recorded at the first National Conference on the Black Family/Community and Crack Cocaine: Prevention, Treatment & Recovery. 12pm on KPFA, 94.1 FM.

June 15 - "Gay & Lesbian Youth: The Risks of Suicide" looks at the special needs gay & lesbian youth have which are seldom addressed. 4:30pm. KPFA 94.1 FM

June 16 - The daughter of Nelson Mandela, Maki Mandela, speaking recently at Mills College. She discusses the oppression of South African women. 12 noon. KPFA 94.1 FM

June 17 - Today KPFA celebrates Salsa Day with a day-long program focusing on the roots of salsa. 9am - "Roots of Salsa" traces the elements that form salsa's foundation from the slave trade to the Yoruba people of Nigeria. 10am - A look at the music and influence of Afro-Cuban tres player Arsenio Rodriguez. 11am - A look at the origins of the mambo. Noon - The music of Puerto Rico. 2pm - A look at the Fania Record label. 4pm - A look Salsa today with Chata. 6:30pm. - The music of Eddie Palmieri. 9pm. - Salsa Dance Party.

June 19 - A look back at "Freedom Summer: Mississippi Revisited, 1964". 9am. KPFA 94.1 FM

June 19 - A speech by Coretta Scott King at 12 noon on KPFA 94.1 FM

June 24 - Women's Magazine features 2 segments - "Lesbian Ethics" and "Community in Recovery" which looks at how sexual issues are affected by recovery from addictions. 12 noon. on KPFA 94.1 FM

TELEVISION

June 2 - Barbara Smith and Paula Giddings are just two of the guests on "The Phil Donahue Show" discussing the topic of Black semitism. 4-5pm. on KGO channel 7.

June 5 - "Let's Play Prisoners" and "I Like Girls for Friends" video by Julie Zando are part of Frameline's Lesbian and Gay TV Mondays, featured month-long on SF Viacom cable channel 25. 8:30pm.

June 12 - A preview of the 13th annual S.F. Int'l. Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Part of Frameline's Lesbian and Gay TV Mondays, featured month-long on SF Viacom cable channel 25. 8:30pm.

June 19 - "Where There was Silence" is a look at the reaction of British gays to the 1961 release of the movie "Victim". SF Viacom cable channel 25. 8:30pm.

June 20 - "Rights and Reactions: Lesbian and Gay Rights on Trial" documents the fight for and against legal and civil rights for lesbians and gay men. 11pm-12am, KQED channel 9.

June 21 - "We Are Family" a look at life within 3 gay families. 11:55pm-12:55am. KQED channel 9.

June 22 - "Out in Suburbia" offers a positive image of domesticity and assertive portraits of lesbian professionals. 7:30-8pm. KQED channel 9.

June 22 - "Before Stonewall" traces the social, political and cultural development of the lesbian and gay communities before and after Stonewall. This film features various community activists including Audre Lorde. 8-9:30pm. KQED channel 9.

June 22, 23 - "The Times of Harvey Milk" is a profile of S.F.'s gay supervisor who was assassinated in 1978 by Dan White. (22nd) 9:30-11pm. (23rd) mid.-1:30am. Channel 9.

June 29 - "Transformers/Aids" Paper Tiger Televisino analysis of a Reagan speech on AIDS. The last part of Frameline's Lesbian and Gay TV Mondays, featured month-long on SF Viacom cable channel 25. 8:30pm.

THEATRE

June 17, 23, 24, 30 - "Langston" by Ossie Davis celebrates the early poetry and passion of poet Langston Hughes with drama, dance, music and song. Choreographed by Leon Jackson. 8pm, 2pm matinees. Presented by Oakland Summer Theatre at the Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St. (at 9th st.) in Oakland. \$6 (\$5 students & seniors.) For info: 273-3896

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Avotcja

The following pieces are by 3 of the writers, Avotcja, Anita Green, and Jean Weisinger who shall be reading at a benefit for Aché that will take place on Thursday, June 29th at 7:30pm at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. in San Francisco. \$4-8 donation.

SEARCHING FOR SAPPHIRE

by Avotcja

I know she's out there somewhere
A licorice lady
Walking wild
An arrogant chocolate child
With
Beauty enough to embarrass perfection
And she'll have a brain
Brilliant enough to outshine all
The lights of heaven
She's out there,
I know it!!!
Black enough to make midnight jealous
Senegalese sugar sweet
An Alabama amazon
With saffron sunshine in her eyes
Hey,
The feeling is real folks
I got it so bad it's good
And I'm not too proud to admit it
I say, I'm searching for Sapphire
But,
"They" say she doesn't exist anymore
"They" tell me
She was destroyed by an overdose of
The "Man's" welfare lines
Too little money for too much work
Too much dope & too much wine
"They" say that as far as I'm concerned
There isn't any hope
She just doesn't have the time
"They" tell me I'm a dreamer, a fool & a dope
But, I tell you she's still out there
I can feel it in the air
And,
I won't stop looking until the mountains melt
& I see the rocks jump up & cry
I say I'm searching for Sapphire
She's Libyan lovely
An indomitable Dominicana

A Mississippi mountain Mama
Borinqueña bold
She's fiery & strong & soft & warm
With passion so powerful
She could raise more than enough sweat
To drown even the fires of hell
She's blue-black, brown, high-yaller & red
And everything in between
She's short & tall & skinny & fat
Flat chested & stacked
With an African shelf in the back
SHE'S FINE!!!!
Beautiful inside & out
Just color her Sapphire
"They" could never destroy her
There is not enough work on Earth to break her
There's never been enough slavery to enslave her spirit
She's a tough & gentle warrior/woman
A natural born fighter
The Lady's a survivor
& so am I
So don't be surprised
If you pass me on the street when she comes walking by
& I turn my head so fast I get a case of whiplash
Lord, she makes me want to testify
I say, I'm searching for Sapphire!!!!!!

An accomplished writer, musician, photographer, composer and more, Avotcja has been a leading voice in the community for over a decade.

Avotcja hosts 2 weekly radio shows: La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth on KPOO 89.5 FM every Friday from 12-3pm, and Rhythm Drive on KPFA 94.1 FM every Thursday from 4:30-6pm.

Anita Green

BONES OF OUR ANCESTORS

I
In a little shop off Haight St.
Blonde, blue-eyed children
Sell precious crystals and stones
To the enlightened

My heart cries,
Bones shriek in outrage.
Hands clench with fury:
My ancestors called primitives, heathens,
Pouches snatched from necks,
Contents thrown to the ground.

I split in two:
Remembering my ancestors with rage,
Holding tight to my white lover's hand.

II
Awakening memories take me from you.
There are days when I cannot touch you.
Your body reeks of decay, corruption,
Cruel faces and tortured screams.
The weight of your Southern birth,
Your love for your Black nanny,
Repulses me.
Your "I love you" nauseates me.

III
Anger brings clarity.
I overstep your definition of me,
Become stronger in my center,
Turn into the strong black
Woman you fear.
You are no longer willing
To discuss racism with me.

IV
My mind screams:
ALL WHITE PEOPLE HAVE TO STOP TALKING
None will be allowed to utter, sign or print
One word,
Without fear of banishment.
Any violation will be taken as a sign of
TREASON.

Those people of color who have enjoyed
White privileges, at the expense of their
Brothers and sisters,
Must submit to deprogramming measures.

V
Remembering my ancestors with rage,
I look at you and pull away.

NAMESAKES

A whore is a woman
who gives you exactly
what you want,
what you expect.

For her devotion,
you shit on her,
despise her best work,
and throw her in jail.

Her creativity lies
within her body,
the ability of her
stomach to roll
up to you
bringing your
shudders when
she, herself is
unmoved.

A whore is a
creative genius
unrecognized,
the wife you
married outside the
law.

She is a mirror,
a woman surviving
in your world,
creating her own.

Anita Green is a writer living in the bay area with her lover and daughter. She is in an ongoing writing group and is in the Graduate Creative Writing Program at S.F.S.U. Her works can be found in the current issue of Sinister Wisdom and the January/February issue of Morena.

Jean Weisinger

CAN I WRITE

can i write
can i write
can i write words...that

pour out of me
expressing me...
expressing feelings
and changes as they occur.

do you want to move with
me across pages with black ink...
as i move thru the changes within.

can i write
can i write

can you handle the words,
the feelings, the changes, the growth
and sometimes the ups and downs of me,
without getting defensive, judgemental.

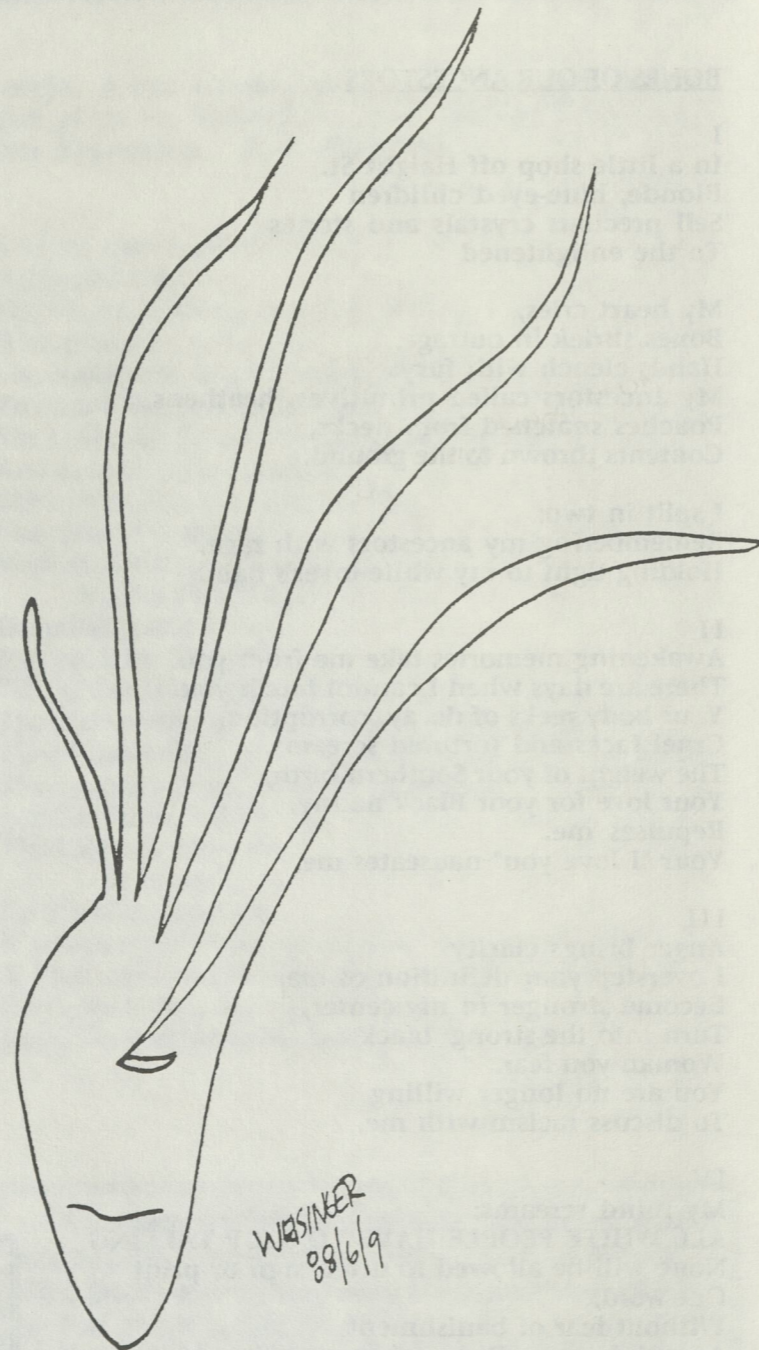
can i write...words

that pour out of me constantly
like a waterfall and know that
you would try to understand me
without rejecting me...disliking me.

can i write...words

that pour out of me
to share my life
my daily, everyday night...
thoughts, ideas, happenings, fear,
with you and know that you would
still love me.

can i write words...



Jean Weisinger: I am an African American lesbian mother, grandmother and teacher from Chicago. I started journal writing at 14 due to the fact that I am the oldest of 9 children.

* "New York, just like i pictured it!
Skyscrapers and everythang!"

© 1989. stome webber/poet-correspondent

manhattan microcosm:
the lower east side the east village
loisaida alphabet city avenues A thru D
herstorical historical hysterical home
to immigrants workers hustlers gays
crackheads artists squatters homesteaders
poets musicians magicians lesbians
puerto ricans polish afrikan americans
native americans rastafarians jews asians
gentiles muslims prophets junkies
merchants winos homeless
(in all various & sundry combinations)
- and their children
- and their dreams

in nyc this capital of capitalism dream space is almost as hard to come by as an affordable apartment. time is money and land is money but people are not always money so the esteemed city leaders spend time and money to shove the non-profitable citizens from some raggedy pillar to some non-existent post...

now there are barges tethered to the mainland that are being used as jails and due to overcrowding recently a homeless shelter was commandeered and transformed (only slightly, we can be sure) into a jail. the new plan is to anchor the homeless, too, offshore.

and someday this may be trump city & all the servant class population re-gimed will be maintained in floating work camps shelters jails.

& this present "savagery" can be brought to an end; ultimately amerika has always preferred her savagery to be of the genteel, discreet, behind the scenes/ seal it with a hand shake gentlemen - variety.
indeed is it not a veritable hallmark of western civilization?

stome webber is a poet/performance artist living on the lower east side in n.y.c. her work was recently published in "serious pleasure: lesbian erotic stories and poetry" by sheba feminist press in london (1989), and has self-published her own book of poetry/prose "diaspora."

Darlene Angela, student,
poet, activist

Because I am an avid reader, to come up with a few must read books is rather difficult. Searching inside of myself, I was able to come up with some books that touched be very deeply - each in their own way: The Bluest Eye (Toni Morrison), But Some of Us are Brave (ed. Patricia Bell Scott, Barbara Smith, Gloria T. Hull), Home Girls (ed. Barbara Smith), When and Where I Enter (Paula Giddings), This Bridge Called My Back (ed. Gloria and Cherrie Moraga), and Sister/Outsider (Audre Lorde).

The Bluest Eye in its exploration of the roots of and emotions involved with the internalized racism we, as African-Americans, must deal with. This novel touched me deeply because I heard my own story being told of the little girl I once was who wanted long, straight hair and white skin to match. As painful as it was to read this novel, the end result, for me, was a sense of validation for the pain and self-hatred I once had, which is a common experience for women who are also of African descent in this society. As my healing continues, I am grateful for Morrison's courage to tell the story/truth exactly as it is.

But Some of Us Are Brave has a special relevance to my life because of my interest in Women's studies coursework at the universities I attend. The anthology is a compilation of essays, syllabi, references and resources for Black Women's studies. After sitting in many Women's studies courses that were Euro-American in focus, to discover that Black women were

active in developing a Women's studies that focused on them - without apologizing for focusing on themselves. This anthology let me know that I was/am no crazy when I asked in a Women's studies course "is this all?!"

Home Girls is a Black feminist must read. This anthology shows the political analysis, issues, courage and unity despite the diversity among Black women as well as the passion Black feminists have for the importance of a multi-issued feminist movement. Home Girls brought me back to identifying as a feminist - a Black feminist - at a time when I was disillusioned with the brand of feminism I was digesting (and later throwing up.)

When and Where I Enter gave me the connection to my her-story/heritage as an African-American women at a time when I began the search for myself. As I read the book, I wanted to give it to every Black woman in this country in order to empower them as I was so empowered. With this book, I began to find the legacy of Black women I belong to and am proud to be a part of.

This Bridge Called My Back reflects and captures the issues that are important and integral to my life as a Black feminist. Because this anthology was written by women of color, it is special to me, as the voice of radical women of color, and it reminds me of both the similarity and diversity among women of color, our issues, and the work we do.

Sister Outsider, for me, is an ultimate source of strength and courage that feeds me as I struggle to exist/live as an out Black lesbian. Two essays, in particular, that reach into my insides are "Eye to

Eye" and "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action." "Eye to Eye" answered questions I had about my own fear and distrust of Black women. It was painful reading, but my fear and distrust is also painful. I want to embrace Black women but feel the barriers within myself and other Black women. Audre had the guts to write down the complexity of emotions experienced by Black women in this society surrounding our genuine ability to come together. This essay validated my experience as well as explained it to me.

"The Transformation" is one of the most powerful essays I've ever read. Because, by nature, I am a shy and quiet person, Audre's words of encouragement and power about using our voices, our strong, intelligent voices - as we struggle for social change and/or to live our lives as Black lesbians are the words I return to when I feel I am faltering. This essay gives me the ammunition I need to never be silent again as I not only find but also use my voice. Loudly. Passionately. Honestly. And, with confidence.

* * * * *

Skyediver

The past decade has ushered in what has amounted to a virtual renaissance of Black female writers. Black women internationally are heading the lists of literary and scholarly achievements. As coordinator of a university-based women of color discussion group, I have incorporated, with regularity, the works of Bell Hooks, Barbara Smith and Angela Davis, in partic-

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"On the Table" is a monthly forum where you respond to various topics. Please, send us your thoughts and comments.

Next month's topic:

[Black lesbian mothers are in many ways invisible in the Black lesbian community., particularly mothers of male children. Due to the fact that child-rearing issues are not deemed community issues.]

What is our communal responsibility in addressing child-rearing issues? What personal work must be undertaken by the Black lesbian community that will influence the role of Black males in our community?

Deadline for response is June 15th. Please specify if you would not like your name included.

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

What About It?!

(continued from page 7)

time (like every time) by his classic rhythms to his always genius piano solos. This is his first release on a major label (Capital/EMI.) Perhaps that's why he thanks Paul Simon, maybe he arranged this (I'm happy to say Simon only appears in the 'thank you' credits and he's

not performing as I mentioned in a previous article.) I hope Capital pumps some promotional monies into this as Warner Bros. neglected to do with their Ruben Blades 'Latin' project. Anyway, hopefully a new release by Mr. Palmieri means an upcoming concert date.

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More piano virtuosity can be found on the Ray Brown Trio release "Bam Bam Bam." I first heard their version of "Summertime" on Avotcja's radio program with its mean jazzy blues piano solo by keyboardist Gene Harris.

I had to run out and get it. Not only did I find the above mentioned classic, but several including the popular "Night in Tunisia". A wonderful live performance release for anyone who enjoys jazz or blues (or anyone who doesn't feel they need to draw those lines.)

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If you still have a little Carnival spirit left in your system but you prefer yours New Orleans-style, the new release "Yoodoo" by The Dirty Dozen Brass Band will certainly keep you marchin! Now I know there's a bunch of Louisianans out there (those of you at the NIA gathering last Nov. know what I'm sayin) and if you're not, this music will convert you. This all brass and percussion funky marching band jazz will have you with your parasol up and waltzin' to the nearest crab shack.

Hope to see us all where the music is, until next time.....

Carol Fields

ular, as tools for introducing Black feminist issues to young Black female university students. It's been a source of great pleasure and empowerment to witness the beginning of personal transformation and political awareness in some of the women as they absorb the scholarly analysis of Hooks; the profound and prophetic visions of Audre Lorde and Angela Davis.

The following list of non-fiction works is by no means a definitive list, but is offered as a resource list of books that are fast becoming cornerstones for our contemporary Black female literary traditions.

Christian, Barbara. "Black Feminist Criticism: Perspectives on Black Women Writers" Pergamon 1985.

Davis, Angela. "Women, Race and Class" Random. 1983.

Giddings, Paula. "When and Where I Enter" N.Y. William Morrow, 1984.

Hooks, Bell. "Talking Back, Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black"

Lorde, Audre. "Sister/Outsider" N.Y.: The Crossing Press, 1984.

Smith, Barbara, ed. "Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology". N.Y.: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press 1983

Walker, Alice. "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens" Harbrace, 1984.





a fertile womb about them
giving birth to myself
to my world

art is the voice of my soundless self
my cry, my purge, my joy,
my scars, my heal, my rejoice
my conjure

it be words, texture, images
conversing with you
your senses
touching without reaching
offering you taste of my bittersweetness
taste of yourself, vision behind my eyes
smell of emotion

it be self preservation, gratification
sanity and empowerment
it be beautification, confirmation
experimentation, through these...
creation
creating my world as i rebirth myself
from my hands

art is my breath and my heartbeat
it is simply what i do

UJAMAA

A new group of women of color, dedicated to the concept of cooperative economics and survival. Our initial goal is to secure funds to purchase a building to house a multi-cultural center. We wish to provide an area for growth and prosperity for all women of color. We need your ideas and expertise, as well as your time!! All volunteers will be gladly accepted. For more information, contact Annette Martin: (415) 255-2155, or Suzanne Lovest: 832-0531. You may write UJAMAA at 6116 Merced Ave. #373, Oakland, CA. 94611

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Study Group for Black Women

There is nothing more beautiful or more powerful than Black women working together. We need to come together across our differences as Black women, straight & lesbian. We will study and share, read and discuss books relevant to our lives as Black people, Black women, Black lesbians. We'll discuss:

- anger
- health
- spirituality / Yoruba tradition
- homophobia
- relationship to our communities
- Black feminism
- colorism
- the African diaspora and more

Our first meeting will be Mon., July 10th, 7-9pm. We'll start by reading selections from "Sister / Outsider" by Audre Lorde. Reading material will be made available to those of us who can't

Bulletin Board

afford to buy the books. Requires at least 2 months commitment. Childcare available. For more information call Erica, 641-0187.

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Sources, a magazine that reviews books and publishes writing by Black women, is looking for writers. We need:

- * Book reviews.
- * Interviews with authors.
- * Historical features highlighting Black women whose main body of writing occurred thirty or more years ago.

* Autobiographical pieces by soon-to-be published or recently published writers emphasizing their relationship with their work, and how they go about being a Black woman writer in today's society. A piece of the author's finished work will also be printed in the same issue as her autobiographical piece.

Send submissions to J. Wallace, 4678 Belfast Ave., Oakland, CA. 94619.

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VOICES: Bay Area Lesbian Choral Ensemble has openings for altos with basic music reading skills. Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights. For info, call Allison, 658-8119.

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The NIA Collective is looking for workshop proposals for the 1989 gathering "Loving Our-

selves". 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 year's 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.

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The United Communities for Human Rights is looking for women to join their task force and work in a women of color crew. They run a successful community outreach program that reaches diverse communities around the bay. Work to stop rape, homelessness, battering and sexual assault. Full & part-time paid positions. Call 653-2719

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There will be a reunion of some of the women of color who attended the Parallels and Intersection Conference on Racism, Univ. of Iowa (Apr. 6-9, 1989) at the annual conference of the National Women's Studies Assoc. on June 14-18, @ Towson University, Baltimore, Maryland. KEEP THE CONNECTIONS ALIVE-BE THERE!!!

THE BACK PAGE

Make Aché work for you!! List your service (send us a business card), find a roommate, organize a group whatever!! FREE...The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of each month.

Groups

Lesbians of Color Support Group, every Thursday evening from 6:30-8pm at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley.

Notices

"Guerilla" artist mural project has reached a standstill due to lack of materials. All donations of materials are gladly welcome. Old latex housepaint, brushes, buckets, any painting materials are desperately needed for the work to continue. If you have anything we can use, (or a cash donation to help us continue) please contact Aché and arrange details.

Services

Black women mathematicians available for tutoring children and adults. \$12/hr. For info call Marguerite at 654-5432.

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Certified Massage Practitioner

Francoise Spaulding
658-5725

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Head Designs

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

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Watercolor Portraiture

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

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The Ginseng Connection

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

Wanted

Accompanist wanted. Acoustic guitar and/or piano player for serious vocalist. Crystal-Cleer, 268-0865.

Portraits



H.L. Keller, photographer (415) 845-2206 ext. 84

Botanica Oshun

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

Books
Reference materials
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Orisha tools
Over 200 herbs & spices
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Incense
Massage oils