

NEWS from the Freedom Archives

2003 James Madison Freedom of Information Award Winner

A PROJECT OF THE AGAPE FOUNDATION

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NEW RELEASES!



The Chile: Promise of Freedom CD was originally released as a two-part radio program in early August 2003. So far it has been sent to over 200 independent-educational radio stations in the US and Canada, been uplinked on the NPR satellite and is being broadcast by radio producers all over the world! We've received a great deal of feedback from radio stations like *Radio Netherlands* who wrote:

"Thank you very much for sending us the two documentaries on Chile They're wonderful programmes, with excellent speakers and a very good mix of archive material and sound. We're happy to broadcast them in our documentary slot. The documentary is broadcast to Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Asia and North America. It is also aired via satellite on the World Radio Network and can be heard on the Radio Netherlands Internet site."

Luc Lucas, Radio Netherlands

The Chile program is available for purchase on our website and is being distributed to bookstores by AK Press & to record stores by Alternative Tentacles Records. The Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media largely funded this project.

On September 12, 2003, we proudly hosted an evening of poetry and music at La Pena in Berkeley to mark the 30th anniversary of the Chilean Coup and to celebrate the release of the CD. Featuring Alejandro Murguía, Janice Mirikitani, Trio Caminante, Francisco Letelier, and Aldo Cabellos, the event was a rousing success honoring the importance of continued attention to crimes against democracy and the relevance of "the other September 11th" to our lives today.



photo by Scott Braley

Chile: Promise of Freedom production crew

l to r: Greg Landau, Andres Alegria, Nina Serrano, Daniel del Solar, Maria Alegria, Claude Marks, Isabel Alegria. Not pictured: Kim Davis

THE VINYL PROJECT



After over a year of intense production, the Vinyl Project is now available! Initiated by the Freedom Archives' student interns, the Vinyl Project is a collection of nearly 80 short soundbytes featuring the voices of Arundhati Roy, Ramsey Muñiz, Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, and many others designed

for DJs and other artists to mix with music. The project was made possible in part by the generous support of the Peoples' Life Fund and the Agape Foundation.

It was driven by the vision that progressive historical materials can be made available for DJs and radio people as resources to infuse into emerging cultural forms (hip-hop, political punk rock, etc.).

So far, we have been selling copies to young activists and sound artists around the world and hope to start generating reviews in music-oriented publications. Radio stations in Texas, Los Angeles, New York and the Bay Area have started using the album already.

Look for an announcement for the *Vinyl Project Release Party* featuring performances by DJs and artists using the material.

a call for submissions

Are you a DJ?

Have you used The Vinyl Project in a mix or at a party or on a stage?

Let us know!

In preparation for our release party, we are inviting all DJs to submit examples of your work with the Vinyl Project for inclusion in the event.

email: vinyl@freedomarchives.org

SUMMER AT FREEDOM ARCHIVES

Georgia Kral, a fourth-year student at Hampshire College in western Massachusetts, joined us this summer as one of our interns. She writes:

Metaphors such as "pulled the wool from my eyes" and "removed the veil" cannot be stressed enough when it comes to my experience with The Freedom Archives. In these times of distrust and unreliable sources (media and otherwise), it is increasingly important to hear other sides of stories, or what Howard Zinn calls, "the unrecorded histories of people's struggles." Having been a media studies student for two years, I felt the Archives would be a good next step for me. I was right.

Studying theories of the mass media and corruption and bias that are a part of it compare weakly with the reality of The Freedom Archives. There is something to be said about hearing events, as if you are there witnessing them. The Freedom Archives has in its collection; Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. speeches, recorded protests, discussions, radio shows interviewing people on important political topics as well as an overwhelming amount of prison interviews with political prisoners. Audio is a very powerful format. It has the ability to affect just one sense, your hearing. When you hear something, and aren't shown pictures or words to describe it, you are automatically pulled into a different kind of understanding. No visual images are involved, which usually have the power to manipulate. Hearing Malcolm X give a speech, the tremolo of his voice and the audience reaction, gives the listener a better idea of what was going on in the time period, and why he was so effective or controversial. His importance within the 1960's political movements became much more clear to me.

One example of the power of audio was the People's Park Protest, in Berkeley. A reporter for KPFA was on hand recording all the events and reporting on what was happening. You could hear people singing in the background, and when the police arrived you could hear helicopters overhead and them shouting at people. Chaos ensued that day and all was caught on tape.

The times we live in right now demand an increased level of knowledge on the part of people's struggles. When we are waging war in other countries we need to know about what our country has done in the past. We need to know what we have never been told, and learn quickly how we can go about changing it and our fact-less media. The Freedom Archives is an answer to this call.

MANY THANKS...

to all of our summer interns and volunteers

Shannon, Andria, Deb,
Erika, Georgia, Yamini,
Anthony, Laura, and Ben

your hours spent
listening and logging
researching and planning
editing and writing
are so greatly appreciated!

IN THE WORKS

Marilyn Buck CD Update

Poets and activists have joined together to celebrate the powerful poetry of political prisoner Marilyn Buck and acknowledge her inspiring spirit of resistance.

After initial work gathering and recording more than 20 leading poets from across the country, including Marilyn herself reading her work over the phone, we are well into the production process: editing, adding music, writing liner notes, and working out the order.

Keep a look out for a release date in early spring!

Robert F. Williams Documentary

We are seeking funding to produce two 28-minute programs and a CD on the life, struggle, and contributions of civil rights leader and international activist Robert F. Williams, narrated by Mabel Williams, his widow, as she tells their compelling story. Although Robert Williams gained a measure of fame during his lifetime, this program will deepen understanding and recognition of his important work.

Among his notable accomplishments are his crucial role in leading a mass community struggle in Monroe, North Carolina, raising the right of self-defense against the Klan to a national level, advancing Mao Tse-tung's message of solidarity to the African-American people and effectively using broadcast media to analyze and inform the events of his time.

Our approach will be to tell this story through the words of Mabel Williams culled from an in-depth interview with her we conducted in late May 2003 thanks to funding from the Puffin Foundation. The program will include the recorded voice and fiery radio broadcasts of Robert Williams himself, as preserved in the University of Michigan archives, the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives and the Pacifica Archives.

The lives of Robert and Mabel will provide a unique lens through which to view important and little known aspects of recent history and convey the considerable charisma and leadership of Robert Williams, who stands tall in the pantheon of great African-American leaders of the 20th century.

Charisse Shumate Video

We received initial funding from the SF Women's Foundation to work with California Coalition for Women Prisoners on a video about Charisse Shumate. This video will serve as an organizing tool about women in California State prisons and will also utilize materials from the State Senate hearings on conditions for women in the California State prison system.

Charisse was a life term prisoner incarcerated for 16 years at the Central California Women's Facility who died of complications from sickle cell anemia, cancer and hepatitis C. She championed the cause of battered women when few were rallying to their support.

Charisse was the woman who made the California Department of Corrections, its administration and all of its employees, shake in their boots when she stepped forward to be the lead plaintiff and prisoner spokesperson in the class action lawsuit challenging the medical neglect and abuse of women prisoners.

We are honored to contribute to the continued struggle for the rights of women prisoners to medical care and adequate treatment in Charisse's memory.



The beautiful cover art and design for our newest releases are thanks to

Rene Castro and Francisco Letelier
for Chile: Promise of Freedom
and
Granger A. Davis
for The Vinyl Project



We are so grateful to have these artists in our community willing to contribute their talents to our work.

We are proudly supported by

Agape Foundation · California Wellness Foundation · Common Counsel Foundation · Joseph & Sally Handleman Foundation · Paul Robeson Fund · Peoples' Life Fund · Puffin Foundation · Sonya Staff Foundation · San Francisco Women's Foundation and numerous individual donors.

THANK YOU!



detach here and mail

**FREEDOM ARCHIVES
DONATIONS & CATALOG**

Surviving and moving forward in these times of severe economic adversity is a difficult struggle for The Freedom Archives as well as for our donors and community. Given these harsh realities, we are continually and deeply moved by the generosity of our contributors, who somehow find it within their hearts and budgets to support our work.

We hope we can count on you to ensure the preservation and development of The Freedom Archives.

Please make a fully **tax-deductible contribution** today and/or purchase any of the products listed. Thank you!

CDs

Chile: Promise of Freedom
Prisons on Fire: George Jackson, Attica, and Black Liberation
Roots of Resistance: Volume 1

QUANTITY DONATION

_____] @ \$10
_____]
_____]

Videos

Call Me Nuh & Last Statement
on political prisoner Nuh Washington
David Gilbert: A Lifetime of Struggle
on his anti-racist & anti-imperialist history
Jalil Muntaqim: Voice of Liberation
on the Black Panthers & Black Liberation Army

_____ @ \$15
_____] @ \$20
_____]

Other Materials

The Vinyl Project: a 12-inch vinyl record

_____ @ \$15

make donation checks payable to:

AGAPE FOUNDATION / FREEDOM ARCHIVES

SHIPPING: \$2 PER ITEM _____

please note if you require an **alternate shipping address** & a **telephone number** where we can reach you. Thanks!

TOTAL _____

PLUG IN



There are many ways to be part of our work at Freedom Archives. Here are a few:

Check out the website:

www.freedomarchives.org includes a custom-designed searchable database of materials in the Archives that have so far been entered into the database. Try a search!

Request a workshop or presentation:

Interested in something particular from the Archives? We can work with you to design a short workshop or presentation using our materials.

Volunteer:

If you have a spare hour or twenty, you're welcome to visit the Archives and spend some time getting to know more about the voices who have led movements locally and around the world.

GOT HISTORY?

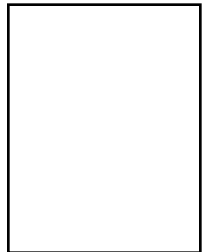
calling all . . .

poets loudmouths freestylers painters film-makers activists singers b-ballers readers geeks photographers DJs writers dancers baby-sitters coffee-makers musicians actors techies story-tellers dreamers
MCs and revolutionaries

The Freedom Archives is full of people **just like you** who have led their communities in the movement for justice. Learn how you can follow in their footsteps and **make paths of your own.**

Internships for students are available now!
Call Sele at 415.863.9977 for more info

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