

FREEDOM ARCHIVES

Newsletter

A PROJECT OF THE AGAPE FOUNDATION

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Chile Program Launched!

Thanks to a very-much-appreciated grant from the Robeson Fund for Independent Media, the Freedom Archives has embarked on an exciting and important two-part radio program and documentary CD to mark the 30th anniversary of the CIA overthrow of the socialist Allende regime of Chile on September 11, 1973. In addition to a great deal of historical material, these programs will include current interviews with Isabel Allende, Ariel Dorfman, Joan Jara, and Isabel Letelier.

Kissinger's first thoughts when he heard about September 11th, 2001, flashed to Chile. (No guilty conscience at work there.) We used to call him "Kissinger of Death" back in the anti-Vietnam War broadcasting days.

The Chile programs will draw from one of the most unique parts of the Freedom Archives—the Comunicacion Aztlan Collection (see article, page 3). Many of the most historic and powerful portions in the collection focus on the rise of socialism in Chile and the brutal crushing of the democratically-elected government. What lessons for today and tomorrow may be drawn from the historic experience of Chile? As new mass movements rise in Latin America why is remembering and understanding what happened in Chile so important? A wonderful group of the talented original producers, working with Archives interns, are spearheading this project. Contact the Archives office for more information, and look for more on this program in future newsletters!



Socialist President Salvador Allende of Chile.

THANK YOU!

It is fitting that this first issue of this newsletter begin with an expression of sincere and lasting gratitude to each and every one of you for having helped make the Freedom Archives possible! Hundreds of you have made donations or contributed in some other ways and we deeply appreciate your support. As the Vietnamese saying goes: a loaf of bread when you are hungry is better than a banquet when you are full! We have also received support from the Robeson Fund for Independent Media, a fellowship from the California Wellness Foundation, and two grants from the Agape Foundation, our 501 (C) (3) fiscal sponsor. An anonymous donor made possible *The Roots of Resistance, Volume 1 of Selected Highlights from the Freedom Archives*. See the order form enclosed in this newsletter for more on this CD and other Archives productions. We were deeply honored to receive a glowing note from radical historian Howard Zinn about the CD:

Thanks so much for the Freedom Archives disk. It is a rare gift, an inspiring collection of voices, an important glimpse into the history of our time —
Howard



WHO WE BE

The Freedom Archives is an intergenerational organization committed to the preservation and distribution, through diverse programming, of over 5,000 hours of audiotape recordings from the late 1960s to the mid-1990s. Taken together, these materials constitute a compelling record of social transformation and cultural multiplicity. Historian Howard Zinn has said, "The Freedom Archives plan is splendid, and will make a wonderful contribution to the unrecorded history of people's struggles." The Archives also has an extensive La Raza component that chronicles the rise of Latin political consciousness and culture, and it maintains the papers of KPFA's legendary Public Affairs Director, Elsa Knight Thompson. The Archives has produced new programming, CDs, and videos, and we welcome comments, questions, suggestions, tax-deductible donations, and volunteers of all ages. The offices of the Freedom Archives are at 522 Valencia in San Francisco, and are staffed on a daily basis. We welcome visitors! Contact us to set up a time.

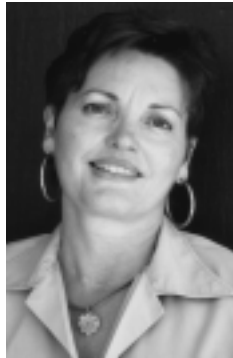
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RESCUING THE WORD...

“Words are in danger” ...Words of struggle, words of passion, words of truth are disappeared behind prison walls. Attempts are made to silence political prisoners, to make them invisible. Many, such as Marilyn Buck, have refused silence, stretching their words into spaces beyond bars and walls. To help celebrate this triumph of spirit, Freedom Archives in collaboration with Friends of Marilyn Buck is producing a CD of Marilyn’s poetry. San Francisco’s poet-laureate devorah major, Mitsuye Yamada, Genny Lim, Nellie Wong, Uchechi Kalu, Merle Woo, Jean Stewart and Sarah Menefee have already recorded for the CD. Other poets who have committed to this project include Sonia Sanchez, Chrystos, Dennis Brutus, Boots and Aya de Leon. Amiri Baraka will introduce the work, and music, much of it original for the CD, will frame the poetry. Recording for the CD began in late September in Berkeley and is continuing there, in New York City, Boston, Puerto Rico, Syracuse, Washington State and Davis. The CD will be released in the spring of 2003.



Vinyl Almost Final

The youth interns of the Freedom Archives, who take part in all projects, are completing a special production of their own—a vinyl record of historic sound bites for turntable use by DJs, performance artists, and on radio. The record includes antiwar material with historic and contemporary voices, as well as other selections from the Archives they’ve unearthed with powerful, relevant meaning for the rising generations.

The Freedom Archives has begun to thrive and grow thanks to the active participation of more than a dozen student/youth interns (and a solid core of volunteers of all ages). This mix has been inspiring for all involved. If a match to an offered generous donation can be found (see page 4 of this newsletter) we plan to add a project coordinator to the (very moderately) paid staff in January 2003. Can you help? The new coordinator will facilitate and help lead several planned programs related to anti-violence organizing in high schools, and anti-militarization efforts, accompanied by youth-produced audio and/or video productions. We are so happy to see this part of our work blossoming!

Listen my children and you shall hear
 The sounds of freedom in your ear
 Past and present, future too
 Voices chant for me and you
 May peace and justice persevere—
 Perhaps you’d like to volunteer!

*Crouching
 Tigers
 Standing
 Dragons*



The database in which all Archives recordings will eventually be catalogued is starting to come on-line. Design of the database was supported by the Agape Foundation. Visit www.freedomarchives.org and do a search to get a sense of what’s to come!

Some of the bunch at a recent Archives meeting: From left to right, standing are: Emiliano, Claude, Lincoln, Barbara, Heber; from left to right crouching are Joey, Erika, Andria, Renee.

The Comunicacion Aztlan Collection

by Emiliano Echeverria

The origins of the Comunicacion Aztlan Collection of the Freedom Archives date to the late 1960s when Raul Torres of Oakland California began recording and collecting audio recordings of rallies and other events taking place in the Latino, particularly Chicano communities. Out of this effort came the radio program *Reflecciones de la Raza*, which began airing on KPFA-FM in Berkeley, California on November 13, 1971 with Raul Torres, Hal Levin, Emiliano Echeverria, and others. Subsequently, by September, 1972, this small group evolved into the "Comunicacion Aztlan Collective," with a working membership of twelve. It was a "Training Collective" because at the outset, only three people in the group had previous radio experience. As a testament to the collective's commitment to its excellence, all members became proficient radio programmers, many getting FCC licenses and learning how to be able to engineer their own programs. As a result, over time, the production quality of the programs kept improving throughout the life of the collective

The Comunicacion Aztlan Collective was active during the most active years of the "Movimiento de la Raza" of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Most of the activists prominent at that time appeared in front of the microphones of the programs produced by the collective from 1971 until late 1974. From the Farmworkers Union and Cesar Chavez, and La Raza Unida Party to the Crusade for Justice, Wounded Knee, and more, Comunicacion Aztlan chronicled the Chicano and Native American Struggle for self identification and determination.

The national and international struggles were also well covered with extensive coverage of Puerto Rico, living conditions of the large Newyorican community, developments in Cuba and a special emphasis on unfolding events in Chile leading up to and following the brutal coup of September 11, 1973. Local events in the East Bay, South Bay and San Francisco's Mission District were well covered. In addition Comunicacion Aztlan produced two other "series" on KPFA: *Como Mis Antepasados* (1973-74) a weekly hour long program, each focusing on a specific aspect of Latin American History, and *Unidos/Together* (1972-74), one of the Bay Area's pioneering "Salsa" (Afro Cuban/Puerto Rican music) programs. Although the collective disbanded at the end of 1974, the recordings of the programs and their pre-recorded components were preserved, under sometimes difficult circumstances. Today, the permanent repository for the Comunicacion Aztlan Collection is the Freedom Archives.



Nina

Isabel



Erika

Photographs by Barbara Lubinski



Emiliano and Andreas



Yuri Kochiyama



Ama and Kiilu

PLEASE HELP US MOVE FORWARD

Matching Grant Offered for Youth Coordinator

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to announce a very special opportunity for a donor or donors to match a recent offer from one of our supporters who will donate \$5,000 to the Freedom Archives—if it can be matched by others.

This would enable us to hire a part-time youth coordinator for 2003. Doing so would represent a major step forward—a precious opportunity to deepen and extend all of our work.

In order to hire someone and make at least a one-year commitment to them, we need to match this donation before the end of 2002. We would then begin 2003 with two half-time staff members and could move forward on many needed fronts. We hope you can help us make this next major leap by making a generous tax-deductible contribution.

We have worked with more than 20 student interns in the last two years. Their interest, enthusiasm, talent, and political consciousness are encouraging beyond words! As work further develops with college-age youth, we are about to embark on a program that will involve high school students. The Archives received a small grant to train its current crop of youth/college student

interns to be high-school mentors. These projects will focus on investigations of militarization and Junior ROTC in high schools, and students will create their own audio and/or video programs.

The current interns have been instrumental in organizing the archival audio, creating their own projects, and participating in our CD productions. This coming spring, they will release a vinyl record with historic anti-war content for radio stations and concert DJs (see page 2). Interns are also working on the Chile documentary described in this issue. Their energy and commitment to progressive history is at the core of how we anticipate growing in the coming years.

We know economic times are difficult, and there are many worthy causes, but, if you are in a position to help us make this match, please note this on the enclosed form and make checks payable to Agape Foundation/Freedom Archives. Contact us if you have questions. As we began this newsletter, so must we end, with:

**THANK
YOU!**



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First Class Mail