

News from the Freedom Archives

A PROJECT OF THE AGAPE FOUNDATION

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Youth Coordinator Chosen!

YES! We are enormously pleased to announce that Sele Nadel-Hayes has been hired as a half-time coordinator for youth programs of the Freedom Archives. Sele has a great deal of experience working with youth, and has been active in many campaigns for community change with an emphasis on serving low-income communities of color. Welcome Sele—we're so glad you're here!



The initial focus of this work is for high school students to research, document, and produce youth-initiated audio programs that deal with militarization. We are particularly concerned with the targeting of youth of color and the insatiable need for building an infantry disproportionately made up of youth from the most oppressed communities. We are encouraged by the spirit of resistance rising in new generations and by the growth of the peace and justice movement. We believe the Freedom Archives can serve as a valuable resource and tool for both. Our intern program for college-age youth continues to thrive. More than 20 students were involved over the last two years. Many received academic credit for their work with the Archives. The Youth Coordinator position represents a great advance in staffing our work. It was made possible by a generous individual donation, and a series of matching donations from our most steadfast supporters. You have made all the difference in the world, and what can we say, but **THANK YOU!**

Youth Vinyl Project

The Freedom Archives youth interns initiated this antiwar, antiracist, pro-resistance project. It is now in its final stages and will bring the powerful impact of selected Archives historical materials into sharp and useful focus for use by DJs and spoken words artists on radio and during live performances. This merging of politics and contemporary culture is one of the clearest examples of what our vision is as a project: making progressive history relevant and accessible to new generations. (*Our Prisons on Fire* CD was sampled on the new release by Dead Prez and by a Portuguese punk group.) We expect completion of this youth-produced vinyl record by mid-2003.

Freedom Archives Receives SPJ Award

In March 2003, we were honored to be awarded a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). The awards are presented to individuals and organizations who "have promoted and defended free speech and public access to state and local government." We received the award in the Electronic Access category. The announcement states: "For more than two years, the activists and volunteers of the Freedom Archives have worked to assemble, and begin to publish online, an extensive collection of tape recordings preserving more than 30 years of progressive history in the Bay Area, the United States, and internationally." We very much appreciate this recognition, and wanted to share it with you, our most generous supporters!

Chile: Promise of Freedom

We are making excellent progress on a two-part radio program and documentary CD to mark this year's 30th anniversary of the fascist coup in Chile. A production collective composed of founding members of Comunicacion Aztlan (whose great early work is a central component of the Archives) along with students is leading this work. The programs are funded in part by the Robeson Fund for Independent Media, which also helped fund our "Prisons on Fire" CD. In addition to historical material, the Chile programs include current interviews. To date, interviews have been completed with Isabel Allende, Ariel Dorfman, Joan Jara, the Letelier family, and many others. The bedrock for this CD is the large body of compelling historical and cultural material on Chile in the Archives. The CD will be distributed along with a new book from Ocean Press entitled *Chile: The Other September 11th*. The Archives programs will be offered widely to radio stations. The CD will be distributed by AK Press and Alternative Tentacles Records to bookstores and music outlets.

Progress on Marilyn Buck Poetry CD

We've begun working on an audio CD of well-known poets reading the poetry of political prisoner and P.E.N. award-winning poet Marilyn Buck. Working with *Friends of Marilyn Buck*, her support committee, we are gathering readings and doing studio recordings. The CD will include an introduction from Amiri Baraka, and readings of Marilyn's poetry by such true poetic luminaries as Sonia Sanchez, Nellie Wong, Mitsuye Yamada, devorah major, Dennis Brutus, and others.

Web Weaving at www.freedomarchives.org

We've expanded our website substantially, posting many new sound files. The website now includes a custom-designed searchable database of the materials in the Archives that have so far been entered in the database. We still have a long way to go, but try a search and you'll see we're making progress. We also have downloadable files of our "Prisons on Fire" CD. Visit us on the web, let us know what you think, give us suggestions, come in and volunteer to help us enter more materials in the database!

Archives Represented at NFCB

As the Bush-Cheney regime began bombing Iraq, hundreds of progressive radio journalists and organizations met in San Francisco at the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB) convention. The Freedom Archives was represented on a panel organized by the Pacifica Archives. We welcomed the chance to network with great folks from diverse communities who are maintaining journalistic integrity amidst the "in bed with" journalism of the corporate media.

Available from the Freedom Archives

- **Roots of Resistance: Volume 1**—70-minute CD sampler, with material from the antiwar, civil rights, women's, and other movements, and voices of Fannie Lou Hamer, Angela Davis, Ho Chi Minh (in English), Jane Fonda, Cesar Chavez, June Jordan, Assata Shakur, and many others. Thanks to the support of the Agape Foundation's Wayne Hultgren Memorial Fund, we were able to duplicate and distribute **Roots of Resistance**, which has increased awareness of and interest in our work locally, nationally, and internationally.

- **Prisons on Fire**, with George Jackson, the Attica Brothers, Angela Davis, Ruchell Magee, and others—a CD with dramatic recordings from the protests and rebellions at **San Quentin** and **Attica State Prison** in the 1970s, with current interviews reflecting on these events.

- We've added video capability to our work, co-producing three documentary videos on political prisoners.

Call Me Nuh—based on a 1988 interview with political prisoner Nuh Washington and completed weeks before his passing in 2000. Nuh talks about his politics and spirit.

David Gilbert: A Lifetime of Struggle—an edited prison interview recorded in 1998. David talks about his history as an anti-racist and anti-imperialist activist.

Jalil Muntaqim: Voice of Liberation—Jalil talks about growing up to become a Black Panther and part of the Black Liberation Army. Arrested in 1971 at the age of 19, he is one of the longest held political prisoners.

Check the website for ordering and other information.

What is the Freedom Archives?

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. 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 has a growing youth program. We welcome comments, suggestions, tax-deductible donations, and volunteers of all ages. Among primary producers of the programs and related materials—all still involved with the Archives are: Lincoln Bergman, Claude Marks, Nancy Barrett, Barbara Lubinski, Heber Dreher, Emiliano Echeverria, Nina Serrano, and Kiilu Nyasha. There were and are many other contributors locally, nationally, and internationally.

Our Advisory Board includes: Robbie Meeropol (Director of the Rosenberg Foundation); Margaret Randall (poet and journalist); Elizabeth "Betita" Martinez (Chicana writer and historian); Ellen Barry (Founding Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children); Joy James (African-American historian); Barbara Dane (singer and record archivist); Jonah Raskin (Chair, Communications, Sonoma State); Walter Turner (Africa scholar and broadcaster); Hilton Obenzinger (Director of Honors Writing Program, Stanford University).

Thanks to you, our supporters, we are now able to intensify our efforts among young people through the hiring of our new Youth Coordinator and a series of planned projects. As we face exceedingly difficult times of war and repression, it is our hope that through our work with youth we can make a meaningful contribution to education, media, and our common struggle for justice, peace, and freedom.

Speaking of contributions, we are very grateful for grants from and the fiscal sponsorship of the Agape Foundation, also for a two-year staff fellowship from the California Wellness Foundation, two grants from the Robeson Fund for Independent Media, and contributions from the Sonya Staff Foundation, People's Life Fund, the Puffin Foundation—and, most especially, to you, our friends, for all the ways each of you has helped build and sustain our efforts. You are truly our lifeline!

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE IF YOU CAN!

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THANK YOU!