

PHOENIX



rising

The
Asian/Pacifica
Sisters
Newsletter

30TH EDITION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1989

Second A/P L Retreat Coming Together Moving Forward

By Annie Moriyasu

On the grounds of ancient Native American land, upon which UC Santa Cruz is built, the Second Asian/Pacifica Lesbian Retreat was held. Over 175 lesbians and bisexual women of Bangladeshi, Chinese, Fijian, Filipino, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Pakistani, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Vietnamese and other Asian heritages met, networked, shared, played, empowered and inspired each other for four days.

The opening ceremonies introduced the international variety of the conference participants. Led by Ku'umealoa Gomes, a Native Hawaiian, a long line of women representing various Asian countries followed her onstage as she chanted an invocation in Hawaiian. Each woman then welcomed the A/PLs in her native tongue.

The first plenary went from the personal to the political - from the inane to radical consciousness-raising. The panel of speakers hailed from Singapore, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Hawai'i. At first, the panelists shared stories of coming out told in hilarious detail, but with each speaker there was an obvious high degree of political awareness. Because there were a number of

Hawaiians at the retreat, Ku'umealoa encouraged Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian-raised women to stand and let their presence be known. Julie Mau was invited to join the panel and she spoke about the "local Hawai'i" lesbian experience.

Other groups, such as the South Asian and the Canadian women ensured acknowledgement of their presence in a different manner. Because they had felt invisible and neglected

This issue is dedicated to those who were lost in the October 17th California earthquake, and to those who go on.

at the conference, the South Asian group, consisting of women of India's subcontinent, chose an emotional confrontation onstage that left most in tears. They asked the participants to repeat the names of South Asian countries to thereby educate and ensure their visibility. By contrast, the Canadian women struck an affable stance that was by no means any less powerful. They spoke about the chauvinism and nationalism of the retreat. Recognizing that Asian Americans were by far the majority, the Canadian women, like the South Asian women, felt lost in the crowd.

On a lighter note, cultural entertainment was provided by local writer Canyon Sam who read from a recently published anthology, Hawaiian jamming on ukuleles and guitars with the dancing of a hula by Ku'umealoa, soulful singing by Donna Ozawa accompanying herself on guitar, martial arts demonstration by Kelly K., slide-shows by a sister from London and Trinity

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EDITOR'S NOTE

"The Phoenix Rises Again."

--headline from editorial, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Thursday, October 19th.

In September, Santa Cruz, CA was the site of a historic meeting of the Second Asian Pacifica Lesbian [and Bisexual] Network. On October 17th, 1989 the same city was the epicenter of a disastrous 7.0 earthquake.

One cannot begin to measure the human and spiritual loss that has been inflicted on us by Mother Nature. Fortunately, out of destruction and mourning comes creation and hope.

I feel the distress of looking for my loved ones and being displaced from my home. At the same time I am comforted by my friends near and far. My sisters have opened their homes and hearts to me and I thank them.

Life is precious and the loss of life is tragic. We feel empathy for the family and friends of those who perished. We welcome submissions from our readers who would like to share their stories of grief or triumph with other A/PL's. Please let us know if you've heard from our sisters in Santa Cruz. If they are in need of emotional or financial support, the A/PL community is willing to help out.

The Asian/Pacifica Lesbians have come together and are moving forward! One sure sign of this activity is the addition of many new members on the *Phoenix Rising* staff. The new *Phoenix Rising* staff honors the time and commitment put forth by former staff members: Carol Cheh, editor, Ana Chang, Assistant to the Editor, P. Nishikawa, graphic designer, G. Yee, Promotions/Advertising, and Mei G. for maintaining the subscriptions.

I apologize for the lateness of this issue. The staff has been working diligently to pull this issue together in the 3 weeks around the earthquake.

Out of the ashes the Phoenix is rising again.

--Kolika O.

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Phoenix Rising is published bimonthly by Asian/Pacifica Sisters. *Phoenix Rising* is staffed entirely by volunteers, and we strongly encourage all interested A/PL's to participate!!!

Display Ads: \$5 per column inch per issue, \$27/3 issues, \$50/6 issues. Medical and legal practitioners' license numbers must be provided for our files. Send ad, clearly printed or typed, to the above address.

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Celebrate New Beginnings

by Kolika O.

*It took me a long time to leave.
It was hard but I knew I couldn't go on
Being beat and living every day in fear.*

*I'm lucky I had a place to go.
At the Asian Women's Shelter, I can talk to
people,
Feel happy sometimes...and can plan how I'm
going to go on.*

-From an interview with a former
Asian Women's Shelter Resident

A woman is battered every 15 seconds. One out of every four women will be a victim of abuse from her partner. Abuse cuts across lines of class, race, and culture. Abuse can be physical, verbal or psychological. Abuse happens in the Asian and lesbian communities. The harsh reality is that family violence touches our lives whether or not we choose to acknowledge the issue.

On September 30th, nearly 300 supporters gathered for the first anniversary of the opening of Asian Women's Shelter. The fundraiser at the Asian Art Museum raised over \$24,000 for the only shelter in the Bay Area which provides culturally sensitive and language appropriate services and refuge for battered Asian/Pacific Islander women and their children. The goal of AWS is to educate our community on the issue of domestic violence and empower women to end the cycle of violence in their lives.

AWS is the vehicle through which, as Beckie stated in her opening address, "the women begin to heal their wounds, rekindle the hope within them, rebuild and forge their strength."

A Safe Place

Lesbians have historically played a large role in the organization of battered women's shelters. Beckie Masaki, executive director of the Asian Women's Shelter, openly acknowledges the important role that Asian/Pacifica lesbians have played in the creation and leadership of AWS.

One such A/PL is Lia Shigemura, a founder and president of the board of directors of AWS. "I couldn't do this job without Lia," Beckie said. Lia has been a spokeswoman for AWS since its formation, educating the community about domestic violence and the role of lesbians as activists. Lia feels that "many Asian/Pacifica lesbians would join a community project but because of homophobia...we feel unwelcome. AWS is an intermediary, a safe place to be part of the community. There is no other Asian community agency where A/PL's are out and addressing women's issues."

The issue of sexism also alienates women from the Asian community. Perhaps because Asian women are the organizers, staff and board of AWS, other Asian women and lesbians are drawn to working with the Shelter. Beckie estimates that as many as one third of the active supporters of AWS are lesbians.

Another member of the board is Z. Wong, a long time activist in the lesbian of color community. Z. says she "can't imagine how much more supportive a group there is than AWS. Lesbians can be so open."

Beckie recently announced the hiring of Cristy Chung, an organizer of the recent Asian/Pacifica Lesbian Network, as shelter services advocate. "The fact that Cristy is bi-racial and a lesbian lends to the diversity of our staff," added Beckie. In applying for the position Cristy struggled with her resume, debating whether or not to include her organizing experience in the A/PL community. "Is it okay?" was the bottom line for Cristy.

Beckie assures that it is okay, not only for Cristy, but for every A/PL who wants to be involved with the Shelter. A/PLs are welcome, supported and accepted. AWS is a model organization, proud of the contributions of A/PL's and striving for the empowerment of all women.

They find new apartments, go to school, get legal help, find jobs, get healthcare, and go forward with a new found energy that simply cannot be stopped."

The one person in the auditorium who had to best reason to celebrate was Mei, a former resident of AWS. Mei, who was raised in a village in Taiwan, came from an atmosphere where discipline was synonymous with abuse. From the time she was 9 until her teens she had been raped or escaped rape seven times. Her abuse did not end in Taiwan. She married an American, an alcoholic who beat her. She left him. Her second husband was a cocaine addict who on different occasions broke her ankle and raped her. He died of a drug overdose.

Her third marriage was to a church-goer, not a substance abuser and ironically, he was the most abusive of all. She recounted, "He physically, mentally and verbally abused me every day." When Mei was pregnant with their first child, the beatings intensified. She did not leave her home because of her shame and signs of abuse.

Two days after the birth of their second child, her husband raped her. Mei developed a drinking problem. When she became pregnant a third time he started using objects and a knife to abuse her. On January 26, 1987, Mei was beaten so badly she had to be hospitalized. Her husband was jailed for five days but returned home to beat her again, causing her to miscarry the baby.

Mei finally left her husband last February. She said, "As I left, he caught me. He fought with me. He tried to keep one of my girls as hostage." Mei found leaving as traumatic as staying.

Despite her struggles of readjustment, there are reasons to celebrate. Mei said, "The best things I've given my daughters is getting them out of that abusive environment and being a clean and sober mother for 2 1/2 years. The best Mother's Day present I had was this year when my daughter told me, 'you are the strongest mother in the world.'"

I can contribute:

VCR/VHS
Educational or movie video cassettes
Fully working televisions
Radios
Apple Macintosh computer and laser printer
Computer table
Office chairs
Futon sofas
Repair tools
Full length mirrors
Bulletin and chalk boards
Kitchen knives and flatware
Games, sports equipment
Bicycles and tricycles
Children's art supplies
Education toys
Tickets to events, movies or activities
Magazine subscriptions
A Shelter facility of our own!

Please make sure your donations are in good working order. We'd like to emphasize that we don't need any clothing or other items that are not on the list at this time.

I am interested in:

- Fundraising Committee
- Volunteering at the Shelter
- Helping find, finance or buy the AWS a house

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (day & evening): _____



Return to Asian Women's Shelter, 3543-18th Street, Box 19, San Francisco, CA 94110. Thank you very much! We will contact you soon.

Thoughts and Impressions on the A/PLN Retreat

by C. Allyson Lee

The A/PLN Retreat was a real eye-opener as well as a humbling experience. I was warmed by the camaraderie that I was able to share with many of the women there. We compared similar stories of growing up as tomboys, fighting the images our parents wanted us to follow and striving to come out as painlessly as possible. The retreat opened many gates for me and allowed me to step back and bring forth thoughts which would otherwise have remained dormant for a long time.

Growing up in an all-white neighborhood in the Canadian prairies, I never thought of myself as being different from my friends and schoolmates—either visually or culturally. I was colourless. High school: Chinese-Canadian; Vancouver: Woman of Colour; Santa Cruz: Asian/Pacifica Lesbian.

Labels. All my life I've been fighting labels, but people are still trying to categorize me into a slot. It seems that there are some who are very uncomfortable unless they can lump people together into some sort of category or affiliations of identifiable order. I don't want to be typified, yet I do not want to be invisible.

I announced the formation of a Canadian caucus at the retreat because I did not want to disappear into oblivion amidst a sea of Americans and indigenous people. I felt fiercely and militantly patriotic. When an American woman asked to be associated with the Canadians, we welcomed her with open arms. A joining of hearts transcended geographical boundaries.

Throughout the retreat, I felt comfortable and uninhibited. I didn't have to worry about being stared at for being non-white. Safely ensconced in our little insular nest at UC Santa Cruz, we were free to discuss blatant racism. We talked about what made us laugh, hurt, cry and feel joy. This was the largest group of strong, articulate and committed women that I had ever seen. I became empowered, vitalized, intrepid.

A redneck man driving behind us in his truck shouted, "You lost the war for a reason!" An unsmiling waitress gave us curt service. Yet still, I am trying hard not to conclude that every rude, obnoxious reaction is a direct expression of racism, hatred and bigotry. Some powerful, admirable women taught me that weekend to open my eyes and not keep silent any longer. ○



Hapa Girls

First Annual Retreat Asian/Pacifica Lesbians

by Lotus Fong

"To see so many...other women, other Asian lesbians was really overwhelming...I am not alone," says Vickies Fong of Sacramento.

Some 170 Asian/Pacifica Lesbians (A/PL) came from cities as diverse as London, Honolulu, Vancouver, Iowa City, Boston, Buffalo, New York City and Montreal to gather at the University of California at Santa Cruz for the first A/PL national retreat, Coming Together, Moving Forward, September 1-4, 1989.

"[The retreat] was really incredible...it was a great thing for me to know that there were so many Asian lesbians around...it's really nice to see other Asians reach out to one another...it was a wide range of all kinds of lifestyles but we all have this urge to reach out to one another," affirmed Canyon Sam of San Francisco.

The weekend was filled with workshops ranging from cross racial hostility, mixed race women, internalized homophobia, bisexual pride to Asian fusion music. Cultural events were equally diverse, everything from Tai Chi demonstrations, slide shows on the history of Asian lesbianism, to poetry/story readings were shared.

"There were so many talented and intelligent people out there...poetry, writing, photography, that was a very positive aspect of the retreat...we are talented, we are gifted and we need to share that more," states Susan of Foster City. ○

For many A/PLs, the retreat was a time of approval, of rejuvenation and love.

"I felt empowered. I felt it was a safe place to be an A/PL, to be a Pacific Islander, to be a lesbian, I felt at home", says Lisa Castro of Sacramento.

While there was unity amongst us, there were also misunderstandings and political awakenings that arose during the retreat. Hurtful allegations of racism within the Asian community against "South Asians" (Asians from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan) brought to light racism within the A/PL community; friction during the mixed race workshop when A/PLs of non-mixed-heritage attempted to participate highlighted the need for "hapas" to have their own safe space for sharing; frustration from the collective decision making process on how to organize the A/PL network illuminated the difficulties of organizing on a national level.

While these trials took their toll amongst us, a nurturing environment made it possible to voice and discuss our differences. Although many of the dilemmas will not be resolved overnight, the issues have been raised and from there we can grow.

"[The retreat was]...a goal that could only have been set by ourselves, an opportunity that only we could create and give ourselves which is community with each other...we may be late bloomers on the visibility issue but we are making a strong united presence...I feel very proud of being part of it," says Trinity Ordoña, one of the network organizers.

Four days. Four days of celebration, of pain, of unity. For those like myself, a seeming contradiction of heritage, culture and sexuality, the weekend was a time to affirm our right to exist, to share with others was the balancing act in our daily lives. ○

Coming Together, Moving Forward

Continued from page 1

Ordoña, various Hawaiian videos, an outrageous first autobiographical video by artist Melissa C. (lately of L.A.'s Otis Parson's Art Institute), poetry readings by Ana Calubiran, Mei-Ling and Lola L., and a reading from a soon-to-be published novella by Chea Villanueva of Philadelphia. Local photographer Julie Potratz showed recent favorite works.

Various workshop topics included adoption issues, focus on lesbians of mixed heritage, documenting ourselves as Asian/Pacifica lesbians, bisexuality and lesbian safe sex in the age of AIDS. Ethnic caucuses were formed and regional caucuses discussed the future of the network. Out of the discussions came the parameters for an interim structure for the network, rather than a formalized nonprofit entity. Representatives from all the national regions will meet in Hawai'i within the next year.

To be expected, criticisms of the organizing and programming were voiced and duly noted. MeiBeck Chung spoke to the paucity of resources for hearing impaired women; another woman was grateful for the bisexuality workshop, but felt there was a lack of emotional support for other bisexual women at the retreat. Trinity Ordoña, one of the principal organizers spoke of the need for financial support, and Ku'umealoa criti-

cized the lack of recognition and underrepresentation of certain minority groups. Political inexperience proved to be one of the stumbling blocks of the retreat.



Willy & Chea

As in all conferences or retreats of this nature, the frustrations, pain and hurt that existed fell away in the closing ceremonies when the women were brought together by their commonalities and even their differences. In the sunny courtyard, the women joined hands and one by one said their names in their native tongue and their ethnic word for "harmony." □



Picture perfect:
A/PL
photographers
are caught
in the act.

The Dynamics of Color

By Leslie Hu

Can women with diverse cultures, different levels of organizational consciousness/style, and varying life experiences, come together and address an issue as elusive and opaque as racism? The organizing committee of the Dynamics of Color Conference has...as will be witnessed on November 11th and 12th at Mission High School in San Francisco. According to MeiBeck Chung, tri-chair of the conference committee, it hasn't been an easily travelled road. "We understood the need to understand racism and to bring that understanding into the organizing process and into the conference itself," MeiBeck reflected. A first hand look into their own backyards served as a backdrop for a structure/process of identifying racial dynamics. At meetings, when a racial dynamic occurred an "agenda break" was called where the dynamic was not only identified, but established as to how it occurred and how to address it. Overcoming denial, defensiveness and anger allowed for the conflict to rise above the personal level...and to be addressed in the broader picture of the political implications of oppression that had been internalized.

A lifetime of social conditioning has made



MeiBeck Chung (right) with Leslie Hu

identifying racial dynamics, with all of its' subtleties, a painstaking task. This structure has, however, taken precedence and has been the committee's primary focus since it began meeting over a year and a half ago. A structure that, by its own example, combats racism and illuminates the meaning of the idiom, "practice is the criterion of the truth." As an ever evolving structure, it will be tested at the conference, where there be workshop facilitators and racial dynamic facilitators.

As victims of racism, the conference will give us a framework in confronting and combating racial hostilities in a loving and supportive environment. The first multicultural organizing effort of it's kind, the two day meeting will entail workshops, children's and youth programs, a dance, alliance building and networking. Volunteers at all skill levels are greatly needed. Don't miss this event as it will be talked about for a long, long time. This reporter, for one, will be there. □

NEWS BITS

Senate Votes to Pay WWII Internees

Heeding an emotional plea from heroic combat veteran Senator Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, the Senate voted yesterday to guarantee that Japanese Americans interned by the United States during World War II will receive \$20,000 redress payments starting in October 1990.

Congress authorized up to \$1.2 billion last year for payments to as many as 60,000 survivors of the internment camps, but it has not approved funds to make any payments.

The Senate-passed legislation would automatically make \$500 million available in the fiscal year that begins October 1, 1990, an additional \$500 million in the following year and the remainder in the year beginning October 1992.

—Reprinted from *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 30, 1989

Fatal Drug Directed to Women

Menstruating women are the target for increased promotion in Thailand of a potentially fatal drug. West German pharmaceutical manufacturer Hoechst is promoting its drug Baralga R to ease menstruation pains. The Drug Information for Action Centre (DIAC), which is part of the Drug Study Group, a Thai public interest and protection group, has been campaigning against this promotion since October 1987.

—Reprinted from *Voices of Thai Women*, Issue 2, June 1989

A/PL Retreats Across the Continent

During the weekend of September 30, Asian Lesbians of Toronto (ALOT) held a cottage retreat for approximately 30 women. During the weekend of October 7, Asian Lesbians of the East Coast (ALOEC) held their retreat. Reports on these and other regional meetings will appear in the next issue of *Phoenix Rising*.

Senate Approves ADA By Wide Margin

With swift consideration cheered by activists, the U.S. Senate on Sept. 8 voted to codify civil rights protection for people with AIDS, HIV infection, and other impairments by overwhelmingly passing the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

The bill forbids bias in private-sector employment, public accommodations, communications, transportation, and activities of state and local governments. The protection equals what is afforded others on the basis of race, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

—Reprinted from the *Sentinel*, September 14, 1989



100th day Ti'anmen Square Rally

A/PLs at the 100-Day Memorial

Remembering Ti'anmen Square

By Julie Mau

On September 10th in front of City Hall, A/PLs in the San Francisco community gathered for the 100-Day Memorial to commemorate the massacre at Ti'anmen Square in China. Those of us in the contingent still felt the rush left by the Labor Day Weekend Retreat in Santa Cruz. The Retreat had definitely brought us closer together as a lesbian community and we felt it would be important for us to be politically visible as A/PLs in the San Francisco Asian community.

Before the rally began, we assembled along the fountain area at the United Nations Plaza with our Asian/Pacifica Lesbian banner and

signs. Of course, we received a lot of double takes as many people from the Asian community came closer to read the signs. A good number of them actually took our picture and silently welcomed our presence. Even throughout the rally, we received positive response from other demonstrators. Not once were we harassed.

The A/PL's were acknowledged and accepted by those in the Asian community as a part of the struggle. There was an overwhelming feeling of solidarity between us. We as A/PLs definitely made our presence known and made a statement. Our roots are basic to our identity as lesbians. ○

Facts about Prop S

On November 7, registered San Francisco voters will get a chance to vote on Proposition S, the domestic partnership law.

Proposition S basically says that two people who are not related and are not married can become domestic partners if they live together and agree to be responsible for each other's basic living expenses (food and housing).

The law states

- that domestic partners, like people who

are married or related must be allowed to visit each other in the hospital.

- that city government will not discriminate against domestic partners. For example, domestic partners will get bereavement leave like married couples do.

The law *does not* state

- that being domestic partners is the same as being married. The law does not take the place of a will or a medical power of attorney.

- that health or pension benefits will be given to domestic partners.

—Reprinted from ACLU informational flyer (abridged)

CALENDAR

Oct.

4 Wednesday through November 4

Art Exhibit -The Dynamics of Color art exhibition. Featuring works on racism by lesbian artists. Conceived to promote lesbian visibility in the fight against racism and to promote dialogue within the lesbian community. Sargent Johnson Gallery, Western Addition Cultural Center, 762 Fulton St (at Webster). Gallery hours Wednesday through Saturday, 1-6 p.m.

28 Saturday

Day of Remembrance-To remember those who have died of AIDS, to honor those who live with AIDS, and those who provide care and support. Grace Cathedral, S.F. 9a.m.-6p.m.

Film-"Kababaihan, Filipina Portraits," a look at the lives of women activists in the Philippines. 7:30 p.m. at the Womens Building, 3543 18th St., S.F. Info 548-2546.

Training-Volunteers sought for the Asian/Pacific AIDS Coalition to help A/P persons with AIDS. Training includes AIDS/HIV education, practical and emotional support in a multicultural framework. Volunteers are supported and supervised on a regular basis. Training through Nov. 8 Sat. 9-5, M/W 6-9 p.m. Info call Steve Lew 255-3660 Tuesday or Thursday.

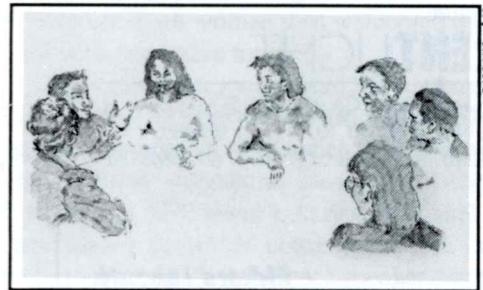
29 Sunday

Cultural Program-Benefiting the Dynamics of Color Conference with Karen Williams, Kitty Tsui, Different Touch (a Brazilian jazz band), MC's Judi Friedman and Dee Williams, and special guests. 8 p.m. at La Peña, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, \$7-\$10 donation. Wheelchair accessible, SIGN, Info 552-5677.

Nov.

3 Friday

Meeting-Self-help, an informal support group for Asian-Pacific lesbians and bisexual women. This is an ongoing group which will be meeting on the



APL Self-Help Group meets first & third Friday of each month. See Nov. 3.



Glamour Girls: a scene from "Forbidden City U.S.A." See Nov. 15 listing.

first and third Fridays of each month, 6:30 p.m. Call Leslie at 821-7670 for info.

4 Saturday

General Meeting-An informational meeting for Asian Pacific lesbians and bisexual women interested in finding out more about *Phoenix Rising*. Potluck brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Lori at (415) 563-8689.

Talent Show-Benefiting the GAPA Community HIV Project and Project Open Hand. 8 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka, S.F. \$4 donation. For information call Donald Masuda at (415) 387-0466.

5 Sunday

Benefit Brunch-Celebrating Women in the Trades Brunchon. Women Empowering Women and Tradeswomen, Inc. invites all advocates of women working in trades to a celebration brunch. A benefit fundraiser. Albany Veterans Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Avenue, Albany, CA. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For information, call Leslie 821-7670.

Training-Racial Dynamics Facilitation for the Dynamics of Color Conference. Lesbians of color are invited to train as racial oppression workshop facilitators utilizing a five-step structure developed by DOC in order to deal with the racial dynamics within each workshop. For more information call 441-2847.

8 Wednesday

Art Exhibit-Opening reception for six Asian American Women Artists: Zand Gee, Stephanie Lowe, Nancy Hom, Kay Fujita, Beckie Masaki and Tomie Arai. 6-8 p.m. at the Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny St., 3rd Floor, S.F. The show runs from November 2 to December 2. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: 922-8700.

9 Thursday

Meeting-APS monthly board meeting, all Asian/Pacific lesbians welcome, 7p.m. Call Lori at 750-3385 for location.

11 Saturday

Hawaiian Comedy Show-Frank Delima, the "Portagee with da kine maut," will be performing at the Holiday Inn, Chinatown, 750 Kearny St., S.F.

Conference-Dynamics of Color. The aims of the conference are to look at racism as an institutionalized system and as it is personally experienced, to educate, and to develop strategies for multicultural alliance building. Two days of workshop, plenaries and a cultural program Saturday night. Childcare, sign, wheelchair accessible. \$20-\$40 sliding fee, but no one turned away for lack of funds, 8 a.m. registration, Mission High School, 3750 18th St., S.F. Info 552-5677.

Cultural Event and Dance-Unity party for the Dynamics of Color at Club Rapture, 1484 Market St. at Van Ness. Doors open at 7 p.m. Live entertainment 8-10 p.m. Dance 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$3 & up for conference attendees. \$5 & up for others.

12 Sunday

Conference-Dynamics of Color conference continues, see Saturday, November 11.

15 Wednesday

Reading-Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*, will speak and read from her work at 4 p.m. in the Student Union at Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Free. Info 430-2217.

Film-"Forbidden City, USA," Arthur Dong's documentary about the nation's first all-Chinese American nightclub will be screened at a benefit for the National Asian American Telecommunications Association and the Asian/Pacific AIDS Coalition. Black-tie optional, with a special performance by many of the club's original dancers and singers, 7 p.m., Palace of Fine Arts, S.F. Info 863-0814. An edited for television version will be aired as a part of the PBS series "American Experience" on January 2, 1990.

17 Friday

Meeting-Self-Help. See 11/3 listing.

30 Thursday

Dance-A benefit for the Women's AIDS Network at Colors (Scooters), 22 4th St., between Market and Mission, 9 p.m.-1:00 a.m., sliding scale \$5 and up.

Calendar Submissions: Performers, clubs, individuals and groups who want to list events of interest to APL's may mail notices to *Phoenix Rising*, P.O. Box 31631, Oakland, Ca. 94604. Deadline for next issue: November 14, 1989.

NOTICES

Volunteers Needed

UJAMA, the Women's Building Project of the East Bay, needs you to serve on these task committees: Event Fundraising, Fund Development, Real Estate, Legal, Community Relations, Finances, Public Relation, and Economic Development. General meetings first Tuesday of each month through 1989. For more info call (415)255-2155 (SF) (415)436-6145 (Oak.).

OutWrite '90

The first National Lesbian & Gay Writers Conference, set for March 3-4, 1990. Potential participants such as interested writers, editors, publishers, booksellers and critics are asked to contact the conference organizers at (415)626-7929 (ask for Jeff Escofier).

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are \$3 per 25 words, \$.05 per additional word, per issue. Send ad, clearly printed or typed, plus advertiser's name, address and phone number (for office purposes only; will be kept confidential) to P.O. Box 31631, Oakland, CA 94604. A check or money order made out to Asian/Pacifica Sisters should accompany all ads. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Call for Submissions

Seeking women's stories about the deaths of their mothers. There are no books that speak to the specific grief of women losing their mothers. I know. I looked for one when my mother died. This anthology will allow us to find strength and solace in each other's experiences and insights. First person narratives, short stories and essays welcome. Send SASE for more

The Newsletter About Feminist Success

Strategies, a newsletter which helps feminists meet organizational challenges (generating operating funds, etc.) and clues you in on feminist success (sexual abuse, housing, employment and training, etc.). For more info call (201)689-8817 or write *Strategies*, P.O. Box 162, Port Murray, NJ 07865.

Is your father willing to write?

We are looking for fathers willing to contribute to a book of writings and to share their thoughts about having a homosexual son or daughter. 5 to 25 pages preferred. For more info contact Ann Davidson, P.O. Box 8265, Stanford, CA 94305 or Laurie Salen (415)641-4556.

info, or contributions by December 31, 1989 to:

Helen Voznilek
P.O. Box 18
Berkeley, CA 94701

Chinese lesbians wanted

I am a non-Asian lesbian majoring in Mandarin Chinese at U.C. Davis. I am interested in learning about lesbian culture in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and especially mainland China. If you have any personal experiences, opinions or information to share, please write:

Medea Karr
771 Pole Line Road
Davis, CA 95616

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Check the appropriate box:

- Yes! I'd love to join A/PS! Enclosed is my check for \$15.
- No, I don't want to join the organization at this time, but please enter my subscription to *Phoenix Rising*. Enclosed is my check for \$10 (6 issues).
- I'd like to subscribe for half a year only. Enclosed is my check for \$5 (3 issues).
- Please renew my present subscription:
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(optional)

Your confidentiality will be respected.

Environmental and Political News

by Telefax, Telex or Mailbox
Phoenix Pressagency (Frechinger & Glattau Ges.m.b.H., Mariahilfer Straße 105/11/13, 1060 Vienna Austria) is an independent press agency for politics, ecology and science with an "around the clock" information service. For more info contact Wings, P.O. Box 6758, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Important Financial Aid Resources

Information regarding financial aid for minorities and financial aid for women is available from Reference Service Press, 1100 Industrial Road, Suite 9, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Asian AIDS Project volunteers needed

We need you to: staff information tables, do mailings, design newsletters, do public speaking and more! Contact Lori Lee 541-9285.

Photographs wanted for The Lesbian and Gay Wedding Book

Please send 3-5 photographs (B/W

or color) from the ceremony and a 500-1000 word description of your love story, decision to commit their lives in public, ritual, and a copy of your vows by certified mail to WIM Publications, 3601 Crowell Road #100, Turlock CA 95380. For more info contact Dr. SDiane Bogus (209)667-0966.

Attention all Hawai'i/Pacifica Women

The Asian/Pacifica Lesbian Retreat in Santa Cruz was a success and we are going to continue with the A/PL Network next year. There will be a meeting in Hawai'i in February 1990 of the regional representatives. The Hawai'i/Pacifica region women will be in charge of coordinating this meeting. We need all the titas to kokua to make this meeting happen. The titas in Hawai'i, we need your help, too! Contact Ku'umealoaha at (808)239-7201 in Hawai'i. Titas in California call Julie at (415)255-9426. The first meeting of the Hawai'i/Pacifica region women will take place in San Francisco on Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Call Julie for location.

(415) 647-2845



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