

Astraea

Lesbian Action Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT | 2000-2001

“The enormity of our task,
to turn the world around.”

~ Audre Lorde

Our Mission

THE MISSION OF THE ASTRAEA LESBIAN ACTION FOUNDATION is to raise and distribute funds to organizations, projects, and individuals that advance the economic, political, educational and cultural well-being of lesbians, their families and allies working on behalf of social justice. This mission is enacted through a variety of programs, including grantmaking, training, technical assistance, philanthropic advocacy, public education and fundraising. These activities are conducted throughout the United States and internationally.

In pursuing this mission, Astraea –

- Raises and disburses funds to programs and initiatives that directly benefit or serve our diverse constituencies.
- Expands the community of individuals and institutions that support lesbian issues.
- Promotes community-building, capacity-building, and movement-building through technical assistance, training and collaborative activities.
- Educates individuals about money, philanthropic giving, and the role of grantmaking in achieving common goals.

Underlying Astraea’s mission is an enduring commitment to feminism, progressive social change and an end to all forms of exploitation and discrimination. The Foundation supports programs and policies that strive to eliminate oppression based on race, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic exploitation, physical and mental ability, anti-Semitism, and other such factors. Astraea is dedicated to the belief that only through action can we build a world of peace and justice for lesbians, and for society as a whole.

A LETTER FROM

The Board Chair & Executive Director



Extraordinary times. There's no denying that in light of all that's happened in recent months, these words now resonate with renewed intensity.

For nearly a quarter of a century, the Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation has been deeply engaged with the very same issues that so urgently consume our attention today: *the struggle for human rights – for everyone, everywhere; the empowerment of communities whose voices are too often silenced or ignored; the battle against discrimination in all its forms; the pursuit of nonviolent solutions to seemingly intractable problems; honest and well-informed examinations of the complex dynamics that have led us to this pivotal moment; and an unwavering belief that a more equitable and therefore more peaceful world is within our grasp.*



Here at Astraea, we pursue ideals through action – by directing financial and practical resources where they are most needed to bring about meaningful and lasting social change. During the time period reflected in this Annual Report, we've had many successes, each directly linked to the tireless work of our grantees and the generous support of our members. This year, Astraea disbursed \$1 million in grants to creative, cutting-edge organizations throughout the United States and across the globe. Our U.S. Grants Fund and our International Fund for Sexual Minorities have expanded – extending their impact, increasing the ranks of Astraea partners and grantees, and enhancing the visibility of lesbian organizing and activism in countless settings and contexts. This year also saw the birth of two new Donor-advised Funds and the creation of our Lesbian Visual Arts Awards, to be formally launched in Spring 2002. And in partnership with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), Astraea formed and coordinated an international LGBT delegation to the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances held in Durban, South Africa, August 31 - September 7, 2001. You'll learn more about all of these activities and initiatives in the pages that follow.

But that's not all. This year, Astraea made it to the two-thirds mark in raising funds for our \$3.4 million Endowment Fund. The Astraea Challenge: A Campaign to Empower is creating a permanent financial reservoir for future generations of activists, artists and communities – a vital step toward ensuring that as the movement for social justice marches on, Astraea will be there every step of the way.

Thank you for "walking the walk" with us during these extraordinary times. Here's to continuing the journey together with hope, determination and the knowledge that together, we can, in the words of Audre Lorde, "turn the world around."

Katherine T. Acey

Executive Director

Cheryl Clarke

Chairperson, Board of Directors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Our Mission |
| 3 | A Letter from the Board Chair & Executive Director |
| 4 | Our Beginnings... |
| 5 | Public Education, Advocacy & Collaboration |
| 7 | Development Programs |
| 10 | Many Ways of Giving |
| 11 | An Overview of Astraea's Grants Program |
| 12 | Astraea's U.S. Grantmaking Program: Politics & Potential |
| 13 | U.S. Community Funding Panel Grants |
| 15 | The Tenth Annual Lesbian Writers Fund Awards |
| 16 | Grantee Highlight: GRIOT Circle |
| 18 | Grantee Highlight: National Center for Lesbian Rights |
| 20 | Supporting Lesbian Arts & Culture – Three "Snapshots" of Astraea Grantees |
| 23 | Astraea's International Fund for Sexual Minorities: A Global Movement |
| 24 | International Fund Panel Grants |
| 26 | Grantee Highlight: Women's Support Group |
| 28 | Grantee Highlight: Triangle Project |
| 30 | Grantee Highlight: ACCEPT |
| 32 | Partnering in Philanthropy: Donor-advised Funds |
| 34 | Our Partners in Philanthropy |
| 41 | Financial Information |
| 42 | Astraea Staff, Board of Directors & Panels |
| 43 | Contact Information & Credits |

Our Beginnings...

Astraea, or "Starry One," was the Roman title of the Goddess of Holy Law or Libra, also known as the Goddess of Justice. In most ancient writings, Astraea is associated with natural law, matriarchal justice, and the personification of truth and justice.

~ From *The Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* by Barbara G. Walker

In 1977, Astraea was conceived by a group of women who recognized that even small gestures, when unified, could bring about significant and lasting social change. These "Founding Mothers" were ahead of their time in envisioning a new kind of philanthropy – a *philanthropy of inclusion* – responsive to and inclusive of all women. This vision of a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-class foundation was successfully realized with Astraea's creation, setting the stage for the Astraea we know today: a dynamic, forward-thinking foundation with a penchant for risk-taking in the quest for social justice.

Sustained primarily by individuals, Astraea receives minimal foundation funding and few corporate sponsorships. Astraea philanthropists include women and men of all sexual orientations, ages, races, and ethnicities whose contributions range from \$1 to \$1,000,000. These individuals understand that money is an essential means of empowerment through which social change can be nurtured, strengthened, and advanced in many different ways. As such, Astraea plays a multi-faceted role in our community – as a lesbian foundation, a women's organization and a grantmaking entity. In these overlapping capacities, Astraea serves diverse communities, as colleague and advocate, facilitator and supporter – all toward advancing the spirit of fairness and equity for which this Foundation is named.



Top left: Founding Mothers: Betty Powell, Joyce Hunter and Leslie Kanes Weisman. Top right: Grantees Emily Paul of Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-FLAG) and Rossana Flamer of the Women's Support Group. Bottom left: Astraea Senior Program Officer Christine Lipat with Nicky McIntyre (Global Fund for Women) at the 2001 ILGA Conference, in Oakland, CA. Bottom right: Astraea Executive Director Katherine Acey with (l-r) foundation colleagues Joan Garner, Ellen Gurzinsky, Nancy Cunningham and Lila Gracey.

Public Education, Advocacy & Collaboration

IN SOCIAL CHANGE PHILANTHROPY, RAISING AND DISBURSING FUNDS IS ONLY PART OF THE PICTURE. TO PROMOTE A STRONG, CONSISTENT AND WELL-INFORMED COMMUNITY OF GRANTEEES AND DONORS, ASTRAEA CARRIES OUT A NUMBER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES ALONGSIDE ITS DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY-LEVEL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL ACTIVISM ON BEHALF OF LESBIANS, LGBT ISSUES, ANTI-RACISM WORK AND A HOST OF OTHER PROGRESSIVE ISSUES.

ASTRAEA EDUCATING

Smart Women/Smart Money is an educational program for lesbians focusing on financial planning, estate planning, socially responsible investing, and philanthropy. In providing lesbian-centered education on these issues, Smart Women/Smart Money promotes proactive financial decisionmaking, enhanced community awareness and increased giving amongst lesbians for LGBT, women's, and other social change initiatives. Workshops are held on topics such as *Women, Relationships, and Money* and *How to Create a Personal Giving Plan*. Roundtable discussions for specific groups such as women of color and women with wealth are also provided. This year, Astraea sponsored events in Menlo Park, California, Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Astraea's **Lesbian Visual Arts Project** promotes the visibility of contemporary visual art by lesbians by building relationships between the lesbian community and its visual artists. Along with our Lesbian Writers Fund and grants for film/video and other cultural undertakings by lesbians, the Lesbian Visual Arts Project is an expression of Astraea's belief in the power of art to effect social change, deepen our awareness and inspire. The project provides education to the lesbian community on the important contributions lesbian artists are making to today's visual arts scene, promotes the collecting of visual art by lesbians, and commissions art pieces by lesbian artists to benefit Astraea's programmatic activities. Renowned artists Deborah Kass and Joan Snyder have both created limited-edition commissioned works for this purpose. This year, Astraea hosted a book party to celebrate the publication of artist-activist Harmony Hammond's groundbreaking book, *Lesbian Art in*

America: A Contemporary History (Rizzoli). In Spring 2002, the Lesbian Visual Arts Project will launch the Lesbian Visual Arts Awards. In its first year, two \$1,000 grants will be awarded by jury to artists working in sculpture, painting, prints, drawings, work on paper or mixed media.

ASTRAEA ADVOCATING

Along with reaching out to and supporting lesbian communities worldwide, Astraea maintains a presence within the foundation philanthropic sector. This presence helps to ensure that lesbians have an articulate and well-informed advocate within all levels of the philanthropic community. Astraea is a founding member of Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, and Astraea's Deputy Director Karen Zelermyer serves as the group's co-chair. Astraea is also a founding member of the Women's Funding Network and a member of the LGBT Foundations Network. Astraea's Senior Program Officer Christine Lipat serves as a board member of the National Network of Grantmakers.

ASTRAEA COLLABORATING

To maximize its effectiveness in promoting social change and maintaining a powerful advocacy stance, Astraea works in close collaboration with other grantmaking institutions and organizations. With others, Astraea ensures that lesbian rights, anti-racism, and other social justice issues are not consigned to the margins but placed "front and center" within the broader philanthropic world. Astraea's current collaborations include partnerships with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the Social Change Opportunity Fund, the Pride Foundation's Washington Lesbian Organizing Project, the Lesbian Leadership Initiative, the Ms. Foundation's Collaborative Fund for Healthy Girls/Healthy Women, and the Women's Sports Foundation's Project to Eliminate Homophobia in Sport. Each of these partnerships is described below.

In collaboration with its longtime partner, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), Astraea formed and coordinated an international LGBT delegation to the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances (UNWCAR) held in Durban, South Africa, August 31 - September 7th, 2001. This historic event offered an unprecedented opportunity for activists from around the world to exchange ideas and jointly develop recommendations for action around these critical issues. The Astraea-IGLHRC partnership brought a delegation

of experienced LGBT activists to UNWCAR to articulate and illuminate the interconnections between racial discrimination and intolerance of sexual diversity. Under this Special Initiative, Astraea and IGLHRC sponsored nine activists, a lobbyist, and two staff representatives each from both IGLHRC and Astraea in traveling to Durban to conduct a host of activities at UNWCAR. Prior to the trip, the delegation created a powerful lobbying document analyzing the interconnections between racism and LGBT human rights issues, documenting the central problems facing LGBT people worldwide, and making recommendations for addressing these concerns. Astraea and IGLHRC co-led two panels on LGBT issues, as well as a lesbian caucus. Astraea and IGLHRC also organized two day-long trainings, one on U.N. lobbying, the other on post-conference organizing strategies to lay the groundwork for long-term collaboration to promote LGBT human rights and racial equity worldwide.

Created with an anonymous gift of \$100,000, Astraea's **Social Change Opportunity Fund 2001-02** will direct grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to highly effective LGBT organizations in developing countries worldwide. Some of these grants will support major institutional improvements within the organizations themselves. Others will support programs that effect long-term societal change by altering the beliefs, policies, programs and/or behaviors of institutions of influence, including government agencies, mainstream media, medical institutions, religious leaders and other powerful institutional entities. Those organizations invited to apply to the Social Change Opportunity Fund have impressive track records in conducting timely social change work in their country. They include past recipients of support from Astraea's International Fund for Sexual Minorities, including grantees from Zimbabwe, Namibia, Bangkok, South Korea, Jamaica, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Brazil, Croatia, Slovenia and elsewhere. Priority will be given to organizations operating under extremely restrictive social and political conditions.

The Pride Foundation's Washington Lesbian Organizing Project brings



together emerging and seasoned leaders from across the state of Washington to forge statewide networks and develop projects that address lesbian issues and promote community-building and leadership development toward social change. Last year, Astraea not only helped to fund this project, but attended the two-weekend annual leadership workshop as a participant and co-facilitator.

Through a generous half-million dollar donation to Astraea, we are establishing the **Lesbian Leadership Initiative**, a collaboration between Astraea, lesbian activists and lesbian-led organizations. This unique grantmaking program will invest in developing strong leadership skills among lesbians and capacity-building within lesbian organizations. This initiative will help staff members of lesbian-autonomous organizations to enhance their leadership and management skills, address key organizational planning issues, and connect with a

powerful network of lesbian leaders across the country. This program represents a significant investment of resources toward nurturing the next generation of lesbian leaders, ensuring a vibrant future for lesbian activism, advocacy, and action, both locally and nationwide. It is, after all, these individuals and organizations whose passion, talent and commitment will help to transform the political and economic landscape of this country in years to come. To enhance this new initiative, Astraea is seeking funding partners – individuals and foundations who share an interest in investing in the future of lesbian activism and organizing.

The Women's Sports Foundation's Project to Eliminate Homophobia in Sport conducts education, develops resources, and advocates to promote fair treatment of and respect for LGBT athletes. **The Collaborative Fund for Healthy Girls/Healthy Women**, a project of the Ms. Foundation for Women, is a national partnership of funders, researchers, and grantees whose goal is to strengthen the field of girls' and young women's programming. Astraea is a funding partner of both initiatives. We also join with each of these foundations (together with their other funders and community activists) in an inclusive process of planning and implementing these important initiatives.

Development Programs

A PHILANTHROPY OF INCLUSION...AND ACTION

FOR NEARLY TWO-AND-A-HALF DECADES, ASTRAEA'S PHILANTHROPY OF INCLUSION HAS APPLIED TO THOSE WE FUND AS WELL AS TO THOSE WHO FUND US. OUR MEMBERS, LIKE OUR GRANTEES, FORM OUR CONSTITUENCY – ONE THAT FULLY REFLECTS THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. ASTRAEA'S MEMBERS ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND STRAIGHT. THEY REPRESENT EVERY STATE IN THE U.S. AND SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN EUROPE. THEY LIVE IN RURAL, URBAN AND SUBURBAN SETTINGS. THEY ARE MULTI-RACIAL, MULTI-CULTURAL AND REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL CLASS BACKGROUNDS. THEY GIVE IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM ASTRAEA'S BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND DIRECT MAIL FUNDRAISERS. SOME ATTEND OUR SPECIAL EVENTS AND HOST HOUSE PARTIES TO HELP RAISE MONEY, WHILE OTHERS PARTICIPATE ON A MORE PRIVATE LEVEL. REGARDLESS OF WHAT LEVEL OF GIVING OR TYPE OF PARTICIPATION OUR MEMBERS OPT FOR, ASTRAEA'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FORGE ACTIVE AND CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS AROUND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND PHILANTHROPIC GIVING ON BEHALF OF SOCIAL CHANGE.

RECLAIMING PHILANTHROPY

Reclaiming philanthropy by, for, and on behalf of lesbians and the issues we care about most is what Astraea's all about. Our programs demonstrate that *all* women, including lesbians and women of color, can be philanthropists – a concept often associated solely with economic privilege. Astraea recognizes and honors the tremendous contributions of

money and volunteer service that women and men of all backgrounds have made towards building a more just world.

Individual giving, in amounts large and small, is Astraea's main source of annual income, along with house parties and special events. As Astraea's primary fundraising venue, our Membership Program works to strengthen Astraea's relationship with our ever-growing base of donors. Benefits of membership include Astraea's newsletter, invitations to special events and programs throughout the year, and the satisfaction that comes with combining activism and philanthropy to sustain important work in communities throughout the world.

RAISING FUNDS, REINFORCING COMMUNITIES

Public events and house parties are activities through which Astraea fulfills the dual goals of community-building and fundraising for our programs. Highlights of this year's events are described below.

Astraea XXIII: Women Who Rock Awards & Concert at Studio 54 was a gala event celebrating Astraea's twenty-three years of trend-setting in the grantmaking arena. Held in April 2001, more than 750 attendees enjoyed performances by Ani Difranco, Holly Near and Margaret Cho. Vanessa Redgrave was awarded the



Top: Bea Kreloff and Muriel Miguel, Brothers for Sisters Awardees. Middle: (l-r) Astraea Deputy Director Karen Zelermyer with former Astraea board members Terry Lawler, Carol Alpert, Carletta J. Walker and Jennifer Knight. Bottom: (l-r) Chiqui Cartagena, Virginia Giordano, Jennifer Knight, Samira Ibrahim, "Women Who Rock" Anniversary Party.

Astraea Ally Award for her unwavering commitment to social justice and human rights. Candice Boyce – emeritus Director of African Ancestral Sisters United for Societal Change and Manager of the N.Y.C. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Services Center – received Astraea’s *OUTstandingLESBIAN Community Empowerment Award* for her 30+ years of activism in the African American and LGBT communities. Diane Sabin received Astraea’s *Philanthropic Activism Award* for her work as co-founder of *100 Lesbians and Our Friends*, a San Francisco-based circle of women dedicated to raising funds for lesbian projects.

100 Years of Lesbian Writing, held in Boston on May 12, 2001 and in San Francisco on May 19th, provided an overview of the thriving, surviving, cutting-edge legacy of lesbian lit. In Boston, a luminous line-up including Olga Broumas, Mi Ok Song Bruining, Letta Neely and Geeta Patel were on hand to read their work and share the work of lesbian authors from the past. The San Francisco gala, held at the Victoria Theatre, featured Dorothy Allison, Elana Dykewomon, Ronnie Gilbert and Jewelle Gomez, along with other local writers, musicians, and performers.

The 9th Annual Lesbian Writers Fund Awards, held in New York City on June 11, 2001, took as its theme the title of poet Audre Lorde’s pioneering essay, *The Power of the Erotic*. Featuring some of today’s hottest lesbian writers and performers – including Stacey Ann Chin, Beatrix Gates, Marga Gomez, and Tristan Taormino – this evening of erotic poetry, music and entertainment paid tribute to the recipients of Astraea’s Emerging Lesbian Writers Fund Awards for 2000.

An Afternoon of Poetry, held in Chicago in early April 2001, was a literary



Brothers for Sisters event in NYC.

get-together over brunch, featuring poet (and Astraea Board Chairperson) Cheryl Clarke, along with guest readers Juarez Hawkins, Nina’J Roriann Phillips and “A Real Read.” The event was co-sponsored with the Chicago-based Literary Exchange.

Brothers for Sisters – an Astraea “auxiliary” – is an exemplary group of gay men who support and embrace Astraea’s feminist, pro-lesbian mission. In 2001, *Brothers for Sisters* hosted two fundraising events for Astraea. The New York City *Brothers* hosted its fifth annual “Recognize and Remember” International Women’s Day Celebration, honoring New York City Council member Margarita Lopez, GRIOT Circle’s Executive Director Regina Shavers, Joann Lum of the Chinese Staff and Workers Association, and author/activist Amber Hollibaugh.

The San Francisco Auxiliary hosted its second annual “Women We Love” fundraising event in Oakland, honoring Sherron Mills (Dir., Pacific Reproductive Services), Barbara A. Garcia (Dir., Population Health and Prevention, S.F. Dept. of Public Health), Kim Klein (fundraising trainer, author, and publisher of *The Grassroots Fundraising Journal*), Stephanie Roth (activist, trainer/consultant, and co-publisher with Kim



Sarah Barber, Gloria Donadello, and Rachel Rosen, Santa Fe House Party hosts.

Joan Watts, Astraea Founding Mother, and Léonie Walker, Santa Fe House Party.



Klein of Chardon Press), Veronica C. Combs (dancer/choreographer, teacher, and former Artistic Director of Luna Sea Women’s Performance Project), and Vinh Vu (health educator, organizer, and activist in Asian and Pacific Islander communities).

This year, five house party fund-raisers were enjoyed by our generous hosts and party-guests alike. The Los Angeles garden party was given at the home of Gwen Baba and Nicole Conn. The Long Island Hamptons party was co-chaired by Marilyn Lamkay and Barbara Glassman, and held in Marilyn’s home. The Northampton house party took place at the home of Sarah Bittenwieser and Hosea Baskin, with co-hosts Felice Yeskel and Felicia Mednick. The Santa Fe party was given at the home of Founding Mother Joan Watts. The Washington, D.C. house party was co-chaired by Lisa Fuentes and Tom Cohen and held in their home. Other co-chairs were Emerich, Gael Murphy and Michael Rogers. This event featured readings by poet Cheryl Clarke and her sister, the novelist Breena Clarke.

To introduce potential supporters to Astraea's Endowment Campaign, a loyal cadre of Astraea allies generously opened their homes to sponsor *Endowment House Parties* this year: Sarah Barber and Gloria Donadello (Santa Fe, New Mexico), Carol Pencke and Dan Boyd (Seattle, Washington), Mudge Schink (Portola Valley, CA) and Richard Winger (New York City). An additional Endowment Campaign event was held at New York City's Eleven Madison Park Restaurant and co-chaired by numerous Astraea supporters.

PURSUIING PARTNERSHIPS

Donor-advised funds at Astraea offer a philanthropic vehicle for directing increased support to lesbian, gay, women's and progressive organizations. The opportunity to establish a donor-advised fund is a service that Astraea provides to our members. It is also an opportunity for Astraea to partner with individuals who wish to be actively involved in grantmaking and who have the financial capacity to establish a fund (\$10,000 minimum). Donor members suggest new groups to us as well as support organizations that have been funded by our various community funding panels. For more information about Astraea's donor-advised grantmaking, see page 32.

ENDOWING SOCIAL CHANGE

As the world's largest lesbian organization – both in terms of budget and geographic scope – Astraea plays a unique role in the ongoing struggle on behalf of LGBT rights, economic justice, racial equality and the eradication of the many “-isms” that so diminish our communities, our society and our world. Indeed, Astraea has a well-established track-record as an innovative philanthropic entity that

partners with activists and donor members who believe, as we do, that meaningful change *can* occur when collective resources and energies are sharply focused. At the same time, we recognize that deep and enduring social change can only come to pass through long-term struggle – a struggle capable of staying the course regardless of the social, political and economic climate of the times.

Astraea's commitment to “being there” over the long term is exemplified by its Endowment Fund – a permanent financial reservoir on which our community's activists, artists and communities can rely in the years, decades and generations to come. The endowment campaign was publicly launched in

1999, on the eve of Astraea's twentieth anniversary, with the goal of raising \$3.4 million by 2002. As of the fourth quarter of 2001, \$2.4 million has been raised, ensuring that future generations will have access to Astraea's ever-expanding network of support.

INVESTING IN ASTRAEA

–WOMEN WILL

Astraea offers a variety of ways for people to establish a mutually beneficial economic partnership with the foundation. By including Astraea in estate plans, certain income and estate taxes can be reduced. A gift by bequest can also enable an individual to make a more significant gift than might be possible through annual giving, or make a gift of assets during one's lifetime and still enjoy the income from those assets. *Women Will* is a “club” acknowledging those women and men who have informed us in writing that they have included Astraea in their will.



“By meeting the challenge of raising \$3.4 million by the year 2002, Astraea is ensuring that activists, artists and the countless visionaries in our community continue their exceptional work for generations to come. Astraea prides itself on recognizing organizations, groups and individuals who possess a special kind of determination and a passion for justice.”

~ Katherine T. Acey, Executive Director

Many Ways of Giving

ASTRAEA'S MANY ACHIEVEMENTS ARE THE DIRECT RESULT OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS GIVING GENEROUSLY OF THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES. HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO PUT YOUR VALUES TO WORK BY SUPPORTING ASTRAEA.

GENERAL MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Unrestricted financial gifts are welcomed throughout the year in support of Astraea's grantmaking, community-building and development programs. These gifts ensure our ability to get resources to the organizations most in need of our support. You can make donations online using our secure server at the web site listed below. We accept credit cards.

MATCHING GIFTS

If you are employed by a company with a matching gifts program, you may be able to double, or even triple, your contribution. Check with your benefits office to see if you qualify.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

There is no more meaningful and respectful way to honor or remember a friend or loved one than by giving a gift to Astraea in their name.

APPRECIATED STOCKS

Contributions of appreciated stocks held for longer than a year can reduce or eliminate your obligation to pay capital gains tax while at the same time helping Astraea to carry out its mission.

BEQUESTS AND TRUSTS

Sixty percent of Americans die without a will. When this happens, the state assumes authority over the dispersal of all your belongings, including your pension fund, real estate, jewelry and any other personal items you may have. With a will, *you* decide who the recipients will be and what they are to receive. Leaving a gift by bequest to an organization you care about makes it possible for you to contribute at a level that might not have been feasible

during your lifetime. It also ensures that the issues you care about are supported in perpetuity. Such gifts also offer significant tax benefits that can have a positive effect on the sums of money that you are able to leave to your loved ones. Although legal consultation is always advisable with any type of will provision, a bequest can be simply stated:

I give and bequeath to the trustees of Astraea Foundation, Inc., a corporation under the laws of The State of New York, and located in New York, New York, _____ dollars, or _____ percent of my estate.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Donor-advised funds are established by individuals who want to be actively involved as grantmakers and who have the financial capacity to establish a fund (minimum contribution of \$10,000). When you open a donor-advised fund, you receive a charitable deduction for the full amount of the gift in the year of the contribution, but you can participate in the grantmaking for many years thereafter. There are a number of options for creating a donor-advised fund. Astraea's staff has considerable expertise in this area, and can meet with you at your convenience to explain these options and assist you in developing a charitable giving program that meets your particular needs.

VOLUNTEER

There is much work to be done, and a very real sense of satisfaction in undertaking this work together. Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks including office support, events organizing, fundraising and a range of *ad hoc* committees. We warmly welcome your gifts of energy, talent and time.

ATTEND OUR EVENTS AND HELP SPREAD THE WORD. Every time you purchase tickets to an Astraea event, you're making a direct financial contribution to Astraea's array of programming. By introducing your friends to Astraea's work, you're helping to widen the ever-expanding circle of community members concerned with promoting a vision of progressive social action.

For more information about any of the many ways of giving listed above, please contact us at 212.529.8021 or visit our website at www.astraea.org.

GRANT DEADLINES 2002

All proposals must be postmarked on or before the deadline date listed below.

U.S. Grant Fund: January 15, 2002.

Lesbian Visual Arts Awards:
February 25, 2002.

Lesbian Writers Fund: March 8, 2002.

Margot Karle Scholarship: June 1, 2002.

The International Fund for Sexual Minorities has two grantmaking cycles per year. The deadlines are May 31, 2002 and November 30, 2002.

Interim/Emergency Requests for U.S. and international organizations are accepted on a rolling basis.

For information or grant applications, please visit our website at www.astraea.org, call 212-529-8021, or contact us via E-mail at grants@astraea.org



An Overview of Astraea's Grants Program

ASTRAEA'S PURPOSE IS TO FUND AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO OR SERVING LESBIANS. THE PRIMARY MECHANISM FOR DOING SO IS ASTRAEA'S GRANTS PROGRAM, WHICH FUNDS A RANGE OF LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL GROUPS FOCUSED ON ORGANIZING, ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING.

Astraea also supports both print and online publications, as well as cultural and film/video projects that convey the depth, complexity, and diversity of lesbian experience.

In deciding which projects to fund, numerous considerations are brought to bear. One of Astraea's top priorities is to direct resources to lesbians of color, multi-racial lesbian organizations, and progressive, women's or LGBT groups that have lesbians in leadership positions and include lesbian issues as an integral part of their work. All too often these groups have the least access to traditional funding – a problem that Astraea seeks to remedy by lending support where other, more traditional funders “fear to tread.” Astraea also places importance on grantees whose approach is inclusive, reflecting the diversity of the geographic region in which they carry out their work. Astraea's Grantmaking Program includes the following funds:

The U.S. Grants Fund provides grants to exemplary U.S.-based lesbian and other social change organizations, as well as cultural and film/video projects. Most of these grants are determined by our U.S. grants panel – a geographically, racially and economically diverse group of lesbian activists who come together to review and recommend grants from Astraea's pool of U.S.-based applicants. This fund supports a range of social,

political, spiritual, economic, health and cultural initiatives across a spectrum of constituencies, including youth, elders, communities of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, artists, workers and others. Astraea's grants provide empowerment services and community-building, advocacy and organizing, leadership development and organizational capacity-building. At the heart of it all: the quest for social justice.

The International Fund for Sexual Minorities provides grants to organizations based in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Republic, Africa and the Middle East. The focus is on groups working to meet the needs of people oppressed or discriminated against because of their sexual identity or gender expression. Grants are decided by a panel of activist women and men with expertise on the specific regions eligible for funding. The panel receives input and advice from Astraea's International Advisory Board of activists.

The Lesbian Writers Fund makes grants to emerging poets and fiction writers via panels consisting of judges from these fields.

The Margot Karle Scholarship Fund provides grants to women activists enrolled as undergraduates in the City University of New York (CUNY) system.

The Lynn Campbell Memorial Fund was established in honor of Lynn's leadership and activism in the women's, labor and LGBT political movements. Each year, a grant is designated by the U.S. Community Funding Panel that supports projects that reflect Lynn's activism and commitment to social justice.

The Donor-Advised Funds Program allows donors to establish a fund at Astraea through which they may recommend specific organizations or projects for support in keeping with Astraea's mission. Astraea's Grants Program staff also identify – and bring to donors' attention – organizations in need of support whose work matches the interests of the donor.

ASTRAEA'S U.S. GRANTMAKING PROGRAM: *Politics & Potential*

“There is nothing spontaneous about racism, sexism or heterosexism. They are planned, and they are systemic forms of oppression. Their perpetuation is insured by the people who put hundreds of millions of dollars into the coffers of the Heritage Foundation, the Eagle Forum, and the Christian Coalition. For an effective national movement, we need to invest in organizing specific populations at local levels.” ~Carmen Vazquez, “What is the State of the Queer Union?” *Resist Newsletter*, June 2001.

For nearly 25 years, this is precisely the kind of investment Astraea has made within diverse lesbian communities throughout the U.S. Grassroots funding for an array of progressive visions, galvanizing issues and inspired activism is the hallmark of our work. Astraea's U.S. grantmaking program supports lesbian-led, lesbian-focused projects and organizations that promote social change through community-building, community organizing, and innovative programming. Astraea grantees invent new strategies or re-tool well-established ones to create compelling initiatives that speak with authenticity and relevance to the particular communities in which they work. Their activities are enormously varied: *Circuses that merge absurdist humor with potent social critique...Videos that simultaneously entertain and transform...Internet resources that provide help and hope to young lesbians facing homophobic families, disapproving communities, or rural isolation... Leadership development that combines analysis, information-sharing and action to address interconnected oppressions.*

Many of the groups that Astraea funds are modest in resources yet rich in imagination, energy, and tenacity. They operate at a healthy distance from a “middle of the road” philosophy by taking creative risks to pursue progressive agendas. As such, these groups are often unable to obtain support from traditional funding entities. Yet their work stands out – against assimilation, against lesbian invisibility, against racism, against simplistic “solutions.” And Astraea stands beside them, supporting their efforts when many funders can't or won't...at least not yet. Significantly, for many grantees, Astraea's support represents their first formal funding – a necessary precursor to attracting additional financial support over the long term.

Astraea's efforts focus on a three-pronged approach to social change organizing by supporting grantees in capacity-building, community-building, and

movement-building. Each is a step-by-step process that culminates in effective social and political action toward changing laws, changing minds and creating a more equitable world for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered persons...and for all oppressed groups.

- **CAPACITY-BUILDING**, as the term implies, means bolstering an organization's ability to carry out its goals and to thrive over the long term. Strengthening an organization's internal operations, infrastructure and staffing means stronger and more effective organizations – which translates into better services, broader reach and more successful initiatives.
- **COMMUNITY-BUILDING** means removing the barriers that separate us from others who share our experiences, issues, interests and concerns. Astraea supports organizations and projects that provide safe spaces for lesbians to be visible, to find each other, to work together and to express themselves freely. Community-building provides opportunities for creating lesbian culture, exchanging information and ideas, and organizing actions and initiatives that promote justice and equality. Building community is important to lesbians everywhere, but may be especially crucial – and challenging – in rural areas, communities of color, economically disenfranchised communities, and in countries where homosexuality is illegal or taboo and the right to associate freely is not guaranteed.
- **MOVEMENT-BUILDING**, both locally and regionally, brings individuals and organizations together in large numbers to create a broad-based movement for social change. This involves looking beyond one's own identity-based issues or immediate personal priorities to find common ground with others across differences of race, age and class, working together to accomplish goals that could otherwise not be achieved. Movement-building means creating strong cooperative alliances within, between, and among various social justice movements. Astraea supports organizations and projects that strengthen existing coalitions or create new ones.

As you will see in our grants list, Astraea supports lesbian organizing by, for, and within an eclectic range of constituencies – lesbians young and old, urban and rural, from many racial and cultural groups. Astraea supports both single issue and multi-issue groups, prioritizing organizations working on the cusp of various issues – particularly the intersections of race and class alongside those of sexuality and gender.

U.S. COMMUNITY FUNDING PANEL GRANTS



Cherry Hussain and Hazel Hastings, SONG Women's Retreat

This year, Astraea's Community Funding Panel (CFP) awarded grants to 34 exemplary U.S.-based organizations as well as cultural and film/video projects. These grants cover a wide spectrum of social, political, spiritual, economic, health and cultural issues across diverse constituencies. Our focus is on multicultural and lesbian of color organizations, as well as LGBT, women's and progressive organizations with lesbian leadership and a solid commitment to lesbian issues.

Unless otherwise specified, the grants listed below were for general support of the organization. In cases where the Astraea grant supported a particular project or initiative, the activity for which funding was given is described.

ORGANIZATIONS

AFFINITY COMMUNITY SERVICES

(CHICAGO, IL) offers programming by and for Black LBT women and youth to promote visibility, empowerment, and community-building. \$4,000

AUSTIN LATINO/A LESBIAN AND GAY ORGANIZATION (AUSTIN, TX) for *Entre Ellas*, a community-building and empowerment project by and for Latina lesbian and bisexual women. \$6,000

CENTER FOR LESBIAN AND GAY STUDIES (CLAGS) (NEW YORK, NY) to host a roundtable discussion among activists, attorneys, and researchers on "Strategies for Equalities: Transgender Rights in the 21st Century." \$4,000

CIRCUS AMOK (BROOKLYN, NY) offers free public circus-theater addressing contemporary social justice issues, providing a visible lesbian activist presence and bringing live theater to diverse neighborhoods and underserved populations in New York City. \$5,000

DIS-SCENTING OPINION (FAIRFAX, CA), a collaborative theatre art piece, addresses environmental racism, disability access, and other community issues from the perspective of LBT women living with environmental illnesses. \$3,000

DYKE TV (NEW YORK, NY) promotes lesbian visibility through video and digital media workshops, an award-winning public access TV magazine, and public screenings of new work by lesbians – all with an emphasis on producing positive, realistic and truthful images of lesbian lives. \$8,000

ELLAS EN ACCIÓN (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) focuses on the political, educational and cultural advancement of Latina lesbians and bisexuals through the arts and educational forums. \$2,000

ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER (SAN ANTONIO, TX), for *Lesbians of Colour Speak*, a reading, dialogue, and workshop series to be delivered through Esperanza's community school, Puentes de Poder. \$5,000

GRIOT CIRCLE (BROOKLYN, NY) provides monthly newsletters, support groups, and other programs targeting senior LGBTs of color coping with issues of isolation, ill health and loneliness, which are further complicated by homophobia and racism. \$5,000

INTERSEX SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA (PETALUMA, CA) conducts community education and advocacy to change policies regarding the medical and social management of intersex children. \$2,000

JACKSONVILLE AREA SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH NETWORK (JACKSONVILLE, FL) provides LGBTQ youth with support, leadership development, and youth development activities to promote social change through advocacy, outreach, and education. \$2,000

LAS BUENAS AMIGAS (NEW YORK, NY), a Latina lesbian social, political, educational, cultural and recreational organization, provides a safe space in which to address, discuss, inform, empower, and increase visibility among Latina lesbians. \$2,000

THE LITERARY EXCHANGE (CHICAGO, IL), an all-volunteer arts and advocacy organization representing women of color and lesbian writers and artists, is dedicated to the empowerment of girls and women of color through the support and strengthening of new, emerging and important voices. \$2,000

THE MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER (MILWAUKEE, WI) exists to improve the quality of life among LGBT people by providing office/meeting space, educational and cultural programs, and a *Lesbians and Cancer Project*. \$3,000

MUJADARRA GRRLS (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) hosts *Bint El Nas*, a web-based magazine produced three times a year by and for queer and Arab-identified women. "Bint el Nas," an Arabic phrase meaning "Daughter of the People," is used in Arab culture to describe a girl or woman of good standing. \$4,000

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) dedicates itself to achieving full civil rights for all lesbians, particularly marginalized groups such as lesbian mothers, lesbians of color, LGBT youth, and immigrants, through litigation, public policy advocacy and community education. \$5,000

NETWORK FOR BATTERED LESBIANS & BISEXUAL WOMEN (BOSTON, MA) addresses domestic violence in relationships between women and provides community organizing and education on battering in LBT communities as well as direct services for battered LBT women. \$2,000

NORTH CAROLINA LAMBDA YOUTH NETWORK (DURHAM, NC) is dedicated to developing young people as leaders and community organizers, while providing a space which affirms their identities and struggles as young people of different sexualities, genders, abilities, class backgrounds and races. \$2,000

PURPLE MOON DANCE PROJECT (SAN FRANCISCO, CA), a multiracial women's dance company, presents images of lesbians/women of color in clear and provocative ways, integrating western modern dance and Asian dance forms. \$3,000

QCC: CENTER FOR LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER ART AND CULTURE (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) presents a series of writing workshops and showcases featuring work by a diversity of established and emerging lesbian writers alike. \$4,000

RAINBOW PLACE: NEVADA'S GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER (RENO, NV) increases the local lesbian community's visibility and organizing capacity through discussion groups on body image, a lesbian chorus, the Northern Nevada Lesbian Herstory Archives, and a website. \$2,000

SOUTHERNERS ON NEW GROUND (DURHAM, NC) helps build the progressive movement by integrating work against racism, sexism and economic injustice into LGBT organizing, and integrating the struggle against homophobia into the broader freedom struggles in the South. \$10,000

SPIDERWOMAN THEATRE (BROOKLYN, NY) uses "story weaving" – language, movement, sound and design – to address issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality while seeking to empower Native people and communities. \$3,000

UNITED LESBIANS OF AFRICAN HERITAGE (LOS ANGELES, CA) provides seminars, workshops, conferences, public literature and materials with the goal of empowering Black lesbians through building knowledge of their heritage and cultural traditions. \$5,000

WISE FOOL NEW MEXICO (SANTA FE, NM), to produce One Railroad Circus, a queer women's circus performing low-cost shows for diverse audiences in rural and underserved areas, audiences of color, and incarcerated women. \$4,000

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT (PORTLAND, OR) educates, empowers, and activates women in the Portland metropolitan area by providing accessible community education and resources through its bookstore, *In Other Words*. \$2,000

YOUTH GENDER PROJECT (BERKELEY, CA), a youth-adult partnership, uses a peer-based model to empower and support trans, gender-queer, intersex and gender-questioning youth and young adults of all cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds. \$7,000

FILM/VIDEO PROJECTS

I LOOK UP AT THE SKY NOW (NEW YORK, NY) synthesizes self-portraits, creative work, animation, and interviews to document the struggles and triumphs of a vibrant community of queer youth activists, artists and leaders in New York City. \$4,000

NUESTRA SALUD (NEW YORK, NY) is a bilingual video-based community health education and empowerment program by and for lesbian/bisexual Latinas. \$2,000

POETIC HEALINGS (AUSTIN, TX) uses videotaped poetry readings, interviews, and dramatic presentations to explore various health and social issues affecting lesbian and bisexual women of color, including abuse, breast cancer, HIV/AIDS and racism. \$3,000

SASSY B. GONN: SEARCHING FOR BLACK LESBIAN ELDERS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) uncovers and explores the integral presence of Black lesbians within Black communities prior to U.S. racial integration. \$3,000

STICKS & STONES (HONOLULU, HI) depicts the harassment lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in Hawai'i face in school and identifies ways for teachers to help curb homophobia in educational settings. \$2,000

SUNSHINE BOUTIQUE (NEW YORK, NY) explores sources of hope, inspiration and self-recreation among contemporary African women who love women, while addressing issues of feminist creativity, racist violence, xenophobia, and spirituality. \$2,000

HAND ON THE PULSE: A PORTRAIT OF JOAN NESTLE (NEW YORK, NY) documents the life and cultural influence of Joan Nestle, a working class "fem" lesbian and co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives. \$3,000

U.S. INTERIM & EMERGENCY GRANTS

Using the same criteria as Astraea's U.S. Grants Panel, the following grants were made to projects falling outside our regular grantmaking cycle but in need of special consideration or emergency funding.

ALLEGRA VIDA (GILBOA, NY) offers writing workshops and artists' salons that encourage and enable lesbians to give voice to the realities of their lives and communities on both the public and private levels. Astraea's grant supported the *Damas Gracias Writers & Artists Workspace*. \$1,000

ASIAN PACIFIC LESBIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK (SAN FRANCISCO, CA), a volunteer-run coalition of individuals and groups at the local and national level, empowers and supports Asian/Pacific Islander LBT women. Astraea's grant supported the national organizing effort to address the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. \$1,000

AUDRE LORDE PROJECT (BROOKLYN, NY), the nation's only center run by and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, and transgender people of color communities that works for community wellness and social/economic justice through community mobilization, education and capacity-building, received an Astraea grant for its 5th Annual Gala Celebration. \$1,000

BRAVA! FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS/BRAVA THEATRE CENTER (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) gives voice to the unspoken realities of women's lives through new theater works and improves the quality of life in San Francisco's Mission district by providing opportunities for its residents, primarily youth. Grant is for outreach and post-performance discussion of "Stop Kiss!", a play about love between women and homophobia. \$1,000

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) protects and advances the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. Grant is for the Felipa de Souza Awards. \$500

LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE & ELISABETH IRWIN HIGH SCHOOL (NEW YORK, NY), for "Love Makes a Family – Family and Friends Make a Community," a photo exhibit celebrating the lesbian and gay connections that shape our lives: parents, faculty, close friends, and family members. \$1,500

LLEGO: THE NATIONAL LATINA/O LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER ORGANIZATION (WASHINGTON, DC), the only national organization devoted to organizing Latina/o LGBT communities, addresses the need to overcome social, health, and political barriers due to sexual orientation, gender identity and ethnic background. Grant supported the "Celebrating Our History, Taking Pride in Our Future" National Event. \$500

MAUTNER PROJECT (WASHINGTON, DC) provides client services to lesbians with cancer, their partners and caregivers; education/information about cancer to the wider lesbian community; education to the health care community on the special concerns of lesbians with cancer; and advocacy on lesbian health issues locally and nationally. The Astraea grant was for *Healing Works: The First National Conference on Lesbians and Cancer*, September 2000. \$1,000

MOTHER KALI'S BOOKS (EUGENE, OR) provides the women's, lesbian and progressive communities of Eugene and its rural environs with a resource center and venue for literary, cultural, and political events. The Astraea grant supported their 25th Anniversary Event in November 2000. \$500

SOJOURNER FEMINIST INSTITUTE (JAMAICA PLAINS, MA) is an activist, community-based, monthly, national, feminist and lesbian newspaper. Astraea's grant was for Sojourner's 25th Birthday Party Circle. \$1,000

STREET TRANSGENDER ACTION REVOLUTIONARIES (BROOKLYN, NY) for a protest and vigil in honor of Amanda Milan, a transgender woman of color who was murdered one week before LGBT Pride Week in New York City, June 2000. \$500

TEXAS LESBIAN CONFERENCE (SAN ANTONIO, TX) is the only statewide annual conference for lesbians, held each year since 1988, to educate and empower local lesbian communities. \$1,000

U.S. URBAN-RURAL MISSION (DURHAM, NC) for *Lifelines: Journeys of Sex and the Spirit* – popular education exercises and educational material for teachers, trainers and community organizers as tools for shaping dialogues on human sexuality in culturally appropriate ways. \$1,000

ZUNA INSTITUTE (OAKLAND, CA) for the National Black Lesbian Conference in April 2001 to collaboratively launch a national advocacy organization for Black Lesbians to address the health, public policy, economic development, and educational needs of the community. \$2,000

U.S. PHILANTHROPIC GRANTS

FUNDERS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY ISSUES (NEW YORK, NY) conducts education and advocacy to increase funding support for the LGBT community. \$6,000

FUNDING EXCHANGE (NEW YORK, NY) for *10 Years of Progressive Queer Grantmaking*, an event held in September 2000 to support The Out Fund for Lesbian and Gay Liberation. \$500

PRIDE FOUNDATION (SEATTLE, WA), for the Washington Lesbian Organizing Project, convening emerging and experienced leaders from across Washington State to forge a statewide network for addressing key issues. \$10,000

WOMEN'S FUNDING NETWORK (SAN FRANCISCO, CA), a worldwide partnership of women's funds, donors and allies committed to social justice, seeks to ensure that women's funds are recognized as the "investment of choice" for people who value the full participation of women and girls as critical to strong, equitable and sustainable communities and societies. \$2,500



Elizabeth Acevedo

MARGOT KARLE SCHOLARSHIP

ALIZABETH ACEVEDO (ASTORIA, NY) is a senior at Hunter College and a member of the Single Parent Student Association and Latino Honor Society. \$1,000



Circus Amok

The Tenth Annual Lesbian Writers Fund Awards

LAUNCHED IN 1991, ASTRAEA'S LESBIAN WRITERS FUND ANNUALLY DIRECTS MAJOR FINANCIAL AWARDS TO EMERGING LESBIAN VOICES IN THE FIELDS OF POETRY AND FICTION. THESE AWARDS ARE FOR OPENLY LESBIAN WRITERS WHOSE WORK SHOWS EXTRAORDINARY PROMISE. TOO OFTEN, LESBIAN WRITING IS MARGINALIZED BY MAINSTREAM LITERARY VENUES AND FUNDING INSTITUTIONS, THE RESULT BEING THAT MANY LESBIAN WRITERS ARE UNDER-SUPPORTED IN THE DIFFICULT TASK OF CREATING, REFINING, AND DISSEMINATING THEIR CREATIVE WORK. As an expression of Astraea's dedication to nurturing lesbian culture in all its forms, the Lesbian Writers Fund (LWF) provides financial support to help these writers buy whatever it is they may need to do their work – be it time to conduct research or generate new work, a new computer or other necessary materials, or the opportunity to tour with their work. Along with money, these awards provide encouragement and visibility to emerging lesbian writers, along with opportunities to bring their work to the attention of new audiences. Many LWF awardees have gone on to publish important work, building careers that have enriched not only lesbian culture but the wider literary world as well. The Lesbian Writers Fund has helped sustain these artists in the early phases of their journey.

Since its inception a decade ago, the LWF has awarded one hundred grants (including honoraria for the awards judges) totaling almost half a million dollars to emerging lesbian writers across the U.S. This year, for the tenth year in a row, Astraea presented lesbian writers with two awards of \$10,000 and four \$1,250 grants to honor and support their work.



Clockwise from top:

Aleida Rodriguez, **Loving Lesbians Award for Poetry** (\$1,250), lives in Los Angeles, California.

Jenny Factor, winner of **Astraea's Emerging Lesbian Writers Fund Award for Poetry** (\$10,000), lives in Pasadena, California.

Judith Frank, winner of **Astraea's Emerging Lesbian Writers Fund Award for Fiction** (\$10,000).

Marci Blackman, **Claire of the Moon Award for Fiction** (\$1,250), lives in San Francisco.

Loving Lesbians Award for Poetry (\$1,250): Tuka lives in Warren, MI.

Loving Lesbians Award for Fiction (\$1,250): Carla Trujillo lives in Berkeley, California.

Honorable Mentions in Poetry

Caroline Garrett (Brooklyn, NY)

Julie Hall (Bainbridge, WA)

Judy Jordan (Salt Lake City, UT)

Victoria Alegria Rosales (San Pedro, CA)

Honorable Mentions in Fiction

Kirsten Dinnall Hoyte (Concord, MA)

Christiana Langenberg (Huxley, IA)





GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT:

GRIOT Circle



“I’m a 70-year-old woman and I joined GRIOT Circle six years ago. This place has made a great impact on my life. It’s like a homecoming here. I see old acquaintances – people I haven’t seen in years, the old-timers. It’s great to put on a nice pair of pants, dress up, and go out to GRIOT Circle to see my friends. I work out at the gym here and learned how to use a computer here. I get a lot out of GRIOT.”

~ Marion Murdaugh,
former GRIOT Circle Board Chair and current volunteer

advocacy

For too many older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and two-spirit (LGBTST) people, access to traditional elder care services is hampered by discrimination. These elders must often choose between making use of much-needed social and health services and being open about who they are. For those who do access mainstream senior services, the fear of being “found out” can reinforce the very isolation such services are meant to relieve. Fulfilling the need for responsive community services for LGBTST seniors is just what GRIOT Circle does.

Based in Brooklyn, GRIOT Circle was formed in 1996 to assist a 60-year-old African-American lesbian who was about to be evicted from her home. Ill, alone, and unable to work, this woman would have faced homelessness had it not been for the support of her friends. While advocating for her, a wider need was recognized, and a few months later, GRIOT Circle was born. The acronym stands for “Gay Reunion In Our Time.” The word “griot” refers to one who keeps a village or community’s history alive by telling stories through music. As one writer in GRIOT Circle’s monthly newsletter – which reaches many isolated and homebound seniors – puts it, “a griot is a walking archive of history.”

Programming at GRIOT Circle includes educational and community forums, health services, a “friendly visitor” program for the sick and homebound, computer training, and fitness activities.

Identifying as “a gathering of elders,” GRIOT Circle is an intergenerational, multi-cultural group of individuals 50 years of age and older. The group offers a safe and comfortable environment in which to meet, socialize, and access social programs that affirm age, gender, and sexuality alongside racial, spiritual, and ethnic origins. Most of GRIOT Circle’s members live on fixed incomes and are underserved when it comes to health and social services. Ninety percent are African American or Caribbean American; 5% are Latino/Latina; and the remaining 5% are Asian American or European American. Lesbians make up approximately 95% percent of GRIOT Circle’s membership. As Executive Director Regina Shavers observes, “Like most organizations, our members reflect our leadership. GRIOT Circle was started and is run by mostly African American and Caribbean American lesbians, along with a few gay men. Our objective is to help people get in touch with aging as something to look forward to by embracing the wisdom, the dignity, the history, and the role we can play as elders of the community.”

- *Astraea’s grant in the amount of \$5,000 to GRIOT Circle provided general support.*



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT:

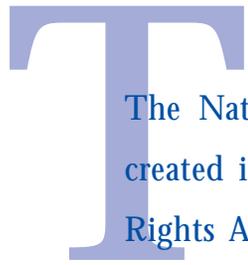
National Center for Lesbian Rights



“When I needed information on employment benefits for domestic partners, I could think of no better place to call than NCLR. I found the staff completely friendly, prompt, thorough, and eager to be helpful. I was hoping for a little help and was very impressed with the great amount of help I received. I realized how valuable a resource NCLR is and I have become a loyal supporter for life.”

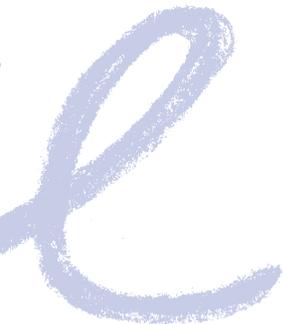
~ Melissa Martinez, San Antonio, Texas

Justic



The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) was created in 1977 as the Lesbian Rights Project of Equal Rights Advocates, a feminist law firm in San Francisco.

The original impetus for forming a lesbian-specific legal rights organization was that during that time lesbian mothers were losing their children in record numbers to former husbands and had no legal protections to ensure their parental rights. In the almost 25 years since, NCLR has evolved into a multi-strategy non-profit law firm devoted to achieving full equality for lesbians and our families. Working within a feminist and multicultural perspective, NCLR focuses on serving those most marginalized by the legal and political systems: lesbian mothers; lesbians of color; poor and working-class lesbians; and LGBT youth, immigrants and elders.



Headquartered in San Francisco, NCLR provides free legal advice to 3,000 clients from all 50 states and several counties each year. Its many groundbreaking victories in state and federal courts, and with policymakers, widely benefit LGBT people by creating new legal protections that form the basis for future civil rights advances. For example, in July, NCLR client

Sharon Smith won the right to sue for the wrongful death of her partner, Diane Whipple, who was mauled to death by neighbors' dogs. This is the first such ruling in the U.S. and an important milestone in recognizing all same-sex couples.

NCLR has a long history of innovation. It created the legal mechanism of second-parent adoption in the 1980s, now used by thousands of parents in 22 states. In the early 1990s NCLR founded pioneering youth and immigration projects, and in 1999 created a much-needed Elder Law Project in consultation with veteran lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, among others. NCLR's new Homophobia in Sport Project, launched in 2001, provides legal resources to lesbian athletes and coaches nationwide.

NCLR's mission is to create a world in which all lesbians can live fully, without fear of discrimination. This vision of social change is promoted by addressing the root causes of lesbian oppression: lack of public understanding of lesbian lives and issues; the intersections of homophobia, sexism and racism that keep lesbians subjugated; a legal system that fails to recognize lesbians as deserving of constitutional protections; and the fact that the majority of lesbians cannot safely come out of the closet and are thus not equipped to assert their legal rights. Because lesbian issues continue to be marginalized, there remains an urgent need for NCLR: a legal organization governed by and focused on serving lesbians, rooted in feminism and linking lesbian issues to those of other oppressed peoples. NCLR is a leader in this struggle.

- *Astraea's grant in the amount of \$5,000 to NCLR provided general support.*



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

SUPPORTING LESBIAN ARTS & CULTURE—

Three “Snapshots” of Astraea Grantees



“Discussions about sexuality and human rights are necessary precursors to social change. We push the envelope – we do not ask for tolerance or respect, we demand it. We take commercial spaces for our events – we leave the private and jump into the public sphere and the public debate. We demand the media cover our events and that they do so respectfully. We write and call and complain when the coverage is sensationalistic, and we applaud efforts to cover our issues as they deserve to be covered...[In this way] we encourage others to join us in our efforts to defend our sexual and human rights.”

~Statement from TETA-TETA TV

A

Astraea supports an array of lesbian cultural projects that help us to re-envision and re-create ourselves and our communities. Here's a look at three recent Astraea grantees engaged in cultural activism and social change.

WISE FOOL NEW MEXICO'S ONE RAILROAD CIRCUS

Wise Fool New Mexico is a Santa Fe-based group that uses folk art theatrical forms such as storytelling, puppetry, circus arts, song and processional theatre to bring people together, build community, inspire dialogue, and create thought-provoking alternatives to generic, mass-produced culture. A project of Wise Fool NM, One Railroad Circus (ORC) is a women's circus troupe that promotes lesbian visibility, challenges gender norms, and sparks social change through allegorical storytelling. ORC performs low cost circus shows for diverse audiences in rural and semi-urban areas in the Southwest, many of which, being both physically remote and economically disenfranchised, lack access to theatrical and creative arts programming. ORC performs for the region's Hispanic, Anglo and Native families, as well as the growing number of lesbian partners and their children. Performances are also provided in correctional facilities, juvenile detention centers, and other under-served settings. ORC reaches thousands of people in a given year with, in the words of one circus performer, "something beyond a 'great show' – an important message, and our shared striving to be socially just."

By making use of an art form deeply rooted within New Mexico's long-standing cultural traditions, One Railroad Circus offers a readily-accepted



venue for showcasing lesbian issues and progressive concerns. As the ORC collective explains, "it is a truly awesome sight to view a 'packed house' of faces – straight, queer, of many colors and cultures, with families of all kinds, in a rural and very traditional part of the country, seated side by side, anxiously awaiting the antics of a queer women's circus troupe."

TELEMANITA'S TETA-TETA TV

A project of Telemánita, an electronic media production, distribution, and training center for various women's groups, TETA-TETA TV produces videos about lesbian lives, culture, and politics in Latin America for *lesbianas latinas* everywhere. As a feminist, anti-racist, pro-choice organization, TETA-TETA TV represents diverse viewpoints from the women's and lesbian movements. Based in the city of Tepoztlán in Morelos, Mexico, the group strives, internally and within the larger society, to combat heterosexism and misogyny.

TETA-TETA TV produces magazine-style video programs on lesbian issues, presents public screenings of lesbian-themed videos, and co-sponsors the International LGBT Film Festival in Mexico City. To further enrich the cultural lives of lesbians in the region, TETA-TETA TV acquires quality films from other countries, subtitles them in Spanish, and distributes them for local viewing. TETA-TETA TV provides an all-too-rare environment in which, as the group explains, "lesbians can see themselves in a positive and supportive light." At a time of rising conservatism within the Mexican state, and given the marginalized status of lesbians and feminists in much of Latin America, media work of this kind becomes ever more urgent.



POETIC HEALINGS

Poetic Healings is engaged in creating a series of videos – part-documentary, part arts project – covering a spectrum of issues often shrouded in silence, secrecy or shame. The first installment, *Poetic Healings*, addresses childhood abuse, breast cancer, lesbian-phobia, and racism, among other issues. The second video, *Renewed Warriors*, is currently in production with support from Astraea. *Renewed Warriors* examines racism in more depth, while addressing abuse from an adult perspective, chemical dependency, HIV/AIDS, and sexism. In both videos, the intersections between these issues – and their implications for lesbian and bisexual women of color – are documented, discussed, and explored.

Indeed, *Poetic Healings* promotes awareness and provokes discussion wherever it is screened. As Austin-based Director/Producer Chinwe Odeluga explains, “Poetic Healings is a creative manner for imparting health information and examining social issues in a community. It’s more than a single health, poetry, political or self-help video – it’s a combination of them all. It has the power to motivate lesbian and bisexual women of color to discuss their views with others, and to act on their health and political issues. *Poetic Healings* provides inspiration for activists, scholars and the community. Hearing the voices of those who thrive in spite of obstacles is part of encouraging human beings.”

- Astraea’s grant of \$4,000 to Wise Fool New Mexico’s *One Railroad Circus* subsidized free local performances in underserved communities, including the rural town of Penasco, the Santa Fe Juvenile Detention Center and Grants Women’s Correctional Facility.
- Astraea’s \$4,000 grant to Telemanita supported the production and distribution of TETA-TETA TV Program 3, and the Second Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Film Festival in Mexico City.
- Astraea’s \$3,000 grant to Poetic Healings supported distribution for *Poetic Healings* and production of *Renewed Warriors*.

Astraea's International Fund For Sexual Minorities: A Global Movement

Two women are reportedly sentenced to death for “unnatural behavior” in northeast Somalia. A lesbian inmate in Colombia petitions to be allowed a conjugal visit by her lover – and is instead transferred to a men’s prison where she is humiliated and harassed. A group of more than fifty Egyptian men are arrested on charges of “obscene behavior” and “contempt of religion” at a Cairo discotheque; many are beaten and tortured while detained. Serbia’s first-ever Pride Parade in July 2001 is forced to disband after violent attacks by nationalist thugs, and the Belgrade police fail to protect the LGBT marchers’ exercise of freedom of association and expression. In much of the world (including the U.S.), LGBT people – especially those who seek the dignity to which they are entitled – are under attack in various forms.

Indeed, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), “Every day, in countries throughout the world, the fundamental human rights of LGBT people, and people with HIV/AIDS are violated. These abuses include: murder; incarceration; forced psychiatric ‘treatment’; torture; arbitrary arrest and detention; denial of the freedoms of association, press, and movement; denial of the right to seek refuge/asylum; immigration restrictions; forced marriage; the revocation of parental rights; and other forms of discrimination.”

Now entering its fifth year of grantmaking, Astraea’s International Fund for Sexual Minorities supports communities pursuing self-determination with

regard to sexual expression and gender identity. This work is often carried out under extremely difficult and dangerous circumstances. In much of the world, LGBT organizing is illegal and/or culturally taboo. Retribution for daring to “shine the light” on human rights abuses is a common method for deterring activism, and LGBT activists face the very real risk of harassment, imprisonment, torture and murder. Astraea’s International Fund supports those individuals and groups courageous enough to undertake this struggle by providing financial resources, technical assistance, linkages to other groups doing similar work in their region, and capacity-building assistance to promote organizational survival and growth over the long term. Groups based in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Republic, Africa and the Middle East are eligible to apply.

In a departure from Astraea’s usual focus on lesbian-specific initiatives, the International Fund supports lesbian groups as well as LGBT organizations and progressive groups that integrate LGBT issues within their broader efforts. This is because in much of the world, given the extraordinary legal and social pressures under which they live, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered individuals must band together if they are to achieve social or political progress of any kind. In creating its International Fund, Astraea has adapted its programmatic guidelines to suit the needs of the growing global movement for the human rights of sexual minorities.

Astraea has supported more than one hundred organizations since this Fund’s inception, while also providing numerous travel scholarships to allow representatives of new and emerging groups to attend important regional and international conferences. This year, the International Fund supported the organizations listed in the docket below. These funds helped grantees to address a multitude of issues, including anti-LGBT discrimination and violence, economic justice, health advocacy and promotion, STD and HIV/AIDS prevention, LGBT visibility and culture-making. Strategies for advancing these issues include public advocacy and education campaigns, community organizing, capacity-building, leadership development, empowerment services, and media activism. Notably, many of the groups Astraea funded this year provide direct services and social/cultural meeting spaces to help LGBT people come out of the closet, meet others, build community support systems, and express themselves in a safe, supportive environment.

INTERNATIONAL FUND PANEL GRANTS



Astraea's International Fund for Sexual Minorities was established with a donor-directed grant from Ise Bosch, through the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Germany. This year, the fund awarded 18 panel grants, six Interim/Emergency grants, three donor-advised grants, and one International Collaborative grant, for a total of 28 awards. Three additional grants were disbursed through Astraea's Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund.

The International Fund for Sexual Minorities is the only U.S.-based fund solely dedicated to funding LGBT human rights and community-building efforts in developing countries. As with Astraea's U.S. grants, priority is given to groups with the least access to traditional funding.

Unless otherwise specified, the grants listed below were for general support of the organization. In cases where the Astraea grant supported a particular project or initiative, the activity for which funding was given is described.

ACCEPT – BUCHAREST ACCEPTANCE GROUP (BUCHAREST, ROMANIA) aims to improve living conditions for LGBT people in Romania through public education, a legal rights campaign, and various services. The Astraea grant supports a training program and the creation of a network of LGBT groups in Romania and the Republic of Moldavia. \$6,000

ALTERA ASSOCIATION OF LESBIAN & BISEXUAL WOMEN IN SLOVAKIA (BANSKA, SLOVAKIA) supports lesbian visibility, provides a safe, prejudice-free environment for lesbian and bisexual women, and provides meeting space and networking opportunities. \$9,340

CEPRESI - CENTRO PARA LA EDUCACIÓN Y PREVENCIÓN DEL SIDA (MANAGUA, NICARAGUA) fosters the defense of human rights through the production of news programs and information campaigns and works to repeal Article 204 of the penal code which punishes homosexuality. \$5,000

GALZ - GAYS & LESBIANS OF ZIMBABWE (HARARE, ZIMBABWE) fights to attain equal rights and remove all forms of discrimination in all aspects of life for LGB people in Zimbabwe. The Astraea grant supported lesbian outreach activities and the hiring of a lesbian coordinator. \$2,500

GRUPO LÉSBICO PATLATONALLI DE GUADALAJARA (GUADALAJARA, MEXICO), for the hiring of two employees to catalog, classify, translate and maintain a lesbian documentation center. \$7,000

KONTRA (ZAGREB, CROATIA) confronts homophobia and raises public awareness about the nationalist, militant and patriarchal society of Croatia and helps lesbians escape invisibility and isolation through personal counseling, a lesbian hotline, public events and the development of educational, social and cultural opportunities. \$6,000

"LABRYS" – ST. PETERSBURG LESBIAN ORGANIZATION (ST. PETERBURG, RUSSIA) is the only actively functioning lesbian organization in Russia and works to improve society's attitude toward homosexuality, and increase lesbians' self-awareness as equal and valuable citizens. The Astraea grant is for the establishment of a Lesbian Information and Cultural Center. \$7,000

LESBIAN ADVOCATES – PHILIPPINES (QUEZON CITY, PHILLIPINES) offers fresh and innovative approaches to lesbian rights advocacy and visibility work on the local, national and international levels through a telephone information service and visibility campaign. \$4,250

LESBIAN & GAY EQUALITY PROJECT (YEUVILLE, SOUTH AFRICA), to train and hire two Black lesbian jurists to provide access to justice for lesbians and gay men who cannot otherwise access the justice system regarding issues of discrimination in the workplace, immigration, and domestic violence. \$6,000

MUJERES Y CULTURA SUBTERRANEA (MEXICO D.F., MEXICO), to publish a book of narratives, anecdotes, poetry, and plays on lesbian lives in order to inform the general public about economically marginalized women who love women. \$4,500

SANGINI PROJECT (NEW DELHI, INDIA), to organize a community and capacity-building training project for emerging lesbian organizations in India. \$8,000

OLA-ARCHIWUM POLISH LESBIAN ARCHIVES (WARSAW, POLAND) operates a library, disseminates information, and provides meeting and discussion space to promote fair images of lesbians and to facilitate the development of positive social and cultural identities among Polish lesbians. \$5,800

OUR WORLD GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER (LUGANSK, UKRAINE) works to secure legal protection against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation; provides legal education to LGB citizens; and analyzes Ukraine's legislative development of specific recommendations for solving the problems faced by gays and lesbians. \$3,500

SIGLA SOCIEDAD INTEGRACIÓN GAY-LÉSBICA (BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA) conducts weekly radio broadcasts; runs health-related support groups for lesbians, gays, and low income youth; and provides HIV prevention courses for teachers and the general community. \$6,000

TELEMANITA, A. C./TETA-TETA TV (TEPOZTLÁN, MORELOS, MEXICO) is a woman's electronic media production, distribution and training center that produces videos by, for and about lesbian culture, politics and lives in Latin America. \$4,000

TRIANGLE PROJECT (WOODSTOCK, SOUTH AFRICA) empowers LGBT individuals through health and social development programs that promote personal and community pride, as well as conducting HIV/AIDS prevention training in the Black township of Guguletu. \$4,000

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP (COLUMBO, SRI LANKA) works to win legal recognition and social acceptance for LGBT people; develop multi-dimensional approaches toward the elimination of violence against women; and create a social climate for the full expression of lesbian sexuality. \$10,000

YAYASAN GAYA CELEBES (SOUTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA), to hire two lesbian coordinators to advance the organizational goal of reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on LGBTs throughout Indonesia and imparting skills to lesbians for greater politicization and community strengthening. \$5,000

INTERNATIONAL INTERIM/ EMERGENCY GRANTS

Using the same grantmaking criteria as Astraea's International Grants Panel, the following grants were made to projects falling outside our regular grantmaking cycle but in need of special consideration or emergency funding.

ANONYMOUS GROUP IN AFRICA, to provide emergency support for lesbian and gay activists to escape to safety after fleeing police arrest due to a government sanctioned crackdown on LGBTs in the country. \$2,000

ACCEPT - BUCHAREST ACCEPTANCE GROUP (BUCHAREST, ROMANIA), to send lesbian activists to the International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA) Europe Conference in Bucharest, October 2000. \$2,000

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL/OUT FRONT (NEW YORK, NY), to support a forum to introduce the work of the Romanian Association ACCEPT to the LGBT community in the U.S. \$200

EAST BAY PRIDE (OAKLAND, CA), to aid activists in attending the September 2001 International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA) World Summit Conference in Oakland. \$2,000

IMMIGRANTS FIGHTING AIDS (NEW YORK, NY), to support the sponsorship of Yoire Ferrer, an openly gay HIV-positive activist from Cuba, to visit LGBT organizations in the U.S. in October 2000. \$200

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (SAN FRANCISCO, CA), to support activist and staff participation at the meeting of the U.N Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, March 16-April 27, 2001. \$2,000

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) protects and advances the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. \$12,500

INTERNATIONAL DONOR-ADVISED GRANTS

AGAPE FOUNDATION/HEART & HAND FUND (SAN FRANCISCO, CA), to produce "Bread, Salt and Heart" a Kosova Book Project that tells the story of Marta, her mother, and three of the women Marta saved from Little Krush and Agim during the ethnic cleansing and bombings in Kosovo. \$1,500

INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) protects and advances the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. \$13,118

ANONYMOUS GROUP IN AFRICA, to provide emergency support for lesbian and gay activists to escape to safety after fleeing police arrest due to a government sanctioned crackdown on LGBTs in the country. \$5,000

NAZI PERSECUTEE RELIEF FUND GRANTS

During World War II, the Nazi government stole gold from the countries it occupied. The U.S., British and French governments set up the Tri-Partite Gold Commission to handle the redistribution of these monies after the war – a process that took decades to complete. In 1998, the Pink Triangle Coalition was formed by eight LGBT advocacy organizations in Europe, Israel and the U.S. to coordinate affairs relating to the Nazi persecution of gay men and lesbians. In early 2001, the Pink Triangle Coalition received monies from the United States' portion of the Relief Fund and asked that Astraea establish the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund to distribute grants to relevant LGBT-related projects. The recipients are described below.

MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD SOCIETY (BERLIN, GERMANY), to create a virtual memorial in CD-ROM, web, and book form to document the Nazis' destruction of the Institute for Sexual Sciences and its effects on the gay and lesbian community. \$212,000

REFLECTIVE IMAGES (SAN FRANCISCO, CA), to help produce "Paragraph 175," an award-winning documentary that premiered on HBO in July 2001 depicting the persecution of gay men during the Holocaust. \$238,000

SCHWULES MUSEUM (BERLIN, GERMANY), for an exhibition on underground gay and lesbian life in Berlin during the Holocaust. \$30,000



This row from top: San Francisco Lesbian Writers Fund Gala, author Dorothy Allison; *Women Who Rock* Astraea's 23rd Anniversary Party; Jewelle Gomez and Dr. Diane Sabin; South African activists, U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances, South Africa.



This row from top: One Railroad Circus; San Francisco Lesbian Writers Fund Gala, Rachel Bolden-Kramer, Emily Bender, Desi del Valle, Carolyn King, Jewelle Gomez, Ronnie Gilbert, Laura Crut, Nedra Johnson; Brothers for Sisters event, Margarita Lopez and Tami Gold.





GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT:

Women's Support Group



The Women's Support Group is the first women's group in Sri Lanka to focus on issues concerning lesbian and bisexual women.



equality

D*issident sexuality.* That's the phrase used by the Women's Support Group (WSG) to describe the prevailing view of LGBT persons in Sri Lanka. Formed in 1999 to foster a more hospitable social climate for persons with "dissident sexualities," WSG is the first-ever women's group in Sri Lanka to focus on issues concerning lesbian and bisexual women. WSG's membership includes women from all ethnic, religious, class and language backgrounds in Sri Lanka, with programs and materials provided in all three national languages – Sinhala, Tamil and English.

As its name implies, the Women's Support Group began by offering peer support to lesbian and bisexual women. Soon thereafter, WSG made its first foray into the public sphere, and immediately met with hostility. The controversy began in June, 1999, when WSG held a press conference announcing its intention to hold a lesbian conference in Colombo (Sri Lanka's largest city) at year's end. The press conference was covered in the local English daily newspaper, *The Island*, which then printed a vicious letter to the Editor advocating the rape of the women attending the proposed conference. Protests

followed, with organizations such as the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and the Asian Human Rights Commission coming to the WSG's defense. A complaint against *The Island's* decision to print a letter inciting the rape of lesbians was filed with the Sri Lanka Press Council by Companions on a Journey, a local gay organization supportive of the WSG. Months later, the Press Council issued its judgement in the case, condemning lesbianism as "sadistic and salacious" – a vivid signal of the difficult environment in which WSG was to forge ahead in its efforts to support women struggling against compulsory heterosexuality.

Though a young organization, WSG is active on various fronts. WSG's Drop-in Center activities in Colombo and the city of Kandy provide essential opportunities for lesbian and bisexual women to develop a supportive community in an antagonistic society. WSG also provides workshops on sexual and reproductive health to women who would otherwise lack such information, including young women working under exploitative labor conditions in the Free Trade Zones. Meanwhile, ongoing collaboration with other women's and human rights organizations extends WSG's movement-building capacity even further. Efforts currently underway by WSG include legal aid services for women victimized by the homophobic legal system and advocacy toward decriminalizing homosexuality in Sri Lanka.

- *Astraea's general support grant of \$10,000 went toward organizational capacity-building to bolster and enhance WSG's ongoing work.*



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT:

Triangle Project



health

Lesbians and gay men have achieved the tremendous victory of Constitutional protection from discrimination in South Africa, yet societal prejudices have remained largely unchanged. The Triangle Project, based in South Africa's Western Cape province, is Africa's largest LGBT health organization. Its multi-faceted programming addresses internalized homophobia, unequal access to resources, and the complex manifestations of anti-gay discrimination in various segments of South African society – a society still emerging from the repressive apartheid environment that long dominated South African life.

This is the context in which the Triangle Project pursues its vision “to develop visible and confident LGBT people in communities that are in control of their mental, physical and emotional health.” This vision is nurtured by a three-pronged approach: direct services to the community of LGBT persons in the Western Cape; public education to the province's mainstream community; and the promotion of equitable policies within state institutions in which LGBT people are particularly vulnerable.

The Triangle Project's community-level interventions include medical services, HIV/AIDS care and prevention, supportive counseling, training, health pro-

motion workshops, and outreach – all with the goal of promoting empowerment within diverse LGBT communities. The organization has initiated the first LGBT health project in an African township, piloted a program for Xhosa-speaking fieldworkers, and conducted skills-building workshops for black lesbians. One of the Triangle Project's major lesbian-specific interventions is “Intouch,” a safe and creative space for African black lesbians living in the townships. The group performs dramatic and dance pieces, using their own experiences as springboards for developing creative material on topical issues such as violence, discrimination and rape. The group has performed publicly at a number of venues – no small achievement considering the extremely high level of discrimination under which African black lesbians live their lives, and the risks involved in coming out publicly.

These interventions are coupled with extensive public education on LGBT issues in schools, churches, unions and other settings. Triangle Project staff also work closely with the Department of Health, Department of Corrections and other institutions whose policies directly affect the health and safety of the LGBT community. Together, these eclectic programs combat the intertwining effects of discrimination, homophobia, racism and sexism on lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered persons in South Africa's Western Cape.

- *Astraea's \$4,000 grant to the Triangle Project supported HIV/AIDS prevention training for LGBTs in the Black township of Guguletu. The Western Cape currently has the highest rate of increase in HIV prevalence in all of South Africa.*



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT:

ACCEPT



The repeal of Article 200, which legally sanctioned anti-gay discrimination, was brought about under pressure from the European Union coordinated through ACCEPT's organizing activities – a significant achievement in paving the way for greater gains.

human

ACCCEPT (also known as the Bucharest Acceptance Group) was founded in 1994 and legally registered in 1996 with the mission of creating a more just society for LGBT people living in Romania. The organization evolved out of a symposium entitled “Homosexuality – A Human Right?”. Convened in May, 1995, this historic symposium – the first of its kind in Romania – was attended by LGBT and human rights activists, government officials and representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Church. Afterwards, a small but committed group of volunteers joined together to create ACCEPT – one of only two registered LGBT groups in Romania, and the only organization working on LGBT issues on the national level.

To advance its stated principle of promoting “the acceptance of diversity, mutual respect, human dignity, equal opportunities for all, and the unrestricted assertion of personal and community identity,” ACCEPT provides legal advocacy, public education, community organizing, direct services, and collaboration with like-minded groups. ACCEPT counters isolation among LGBT individuals by building social and political networks that support a strong community. Social gatherings called “circles” are organized around particular interests and activities. Direct services include psychosocial and medical counseling, HIV/AIDS prevention and health promotion. Outreach

efforts include a monthly newsletter for the regional LGBT community, participation in international conferences, and forums to educate the public within and beyond Romania about the situation of LGBT individuals in this region. Recent advocacy gains include the repeal of Romanian Penal Code Article 200 in June 2001. The repeal of Article 200, which legally sanctioned anti-gay discrimination, was brought about under pressure from the European Union coordinated through ACCEPT’s organizing activities – a significant achievement in paving the way for greater gains.

ACCEPT also nurtures emerging LGBT programs in the region, believing that “empowering the LGBT movement in Romania is the only way towards increasing visibility of LGBT people, reducing homophobia, and achieving social equality and human rights for LGBT people in Romania.” With funding from Astraea, ACCEPT is assisting in the development of five emerging LGBT (including lesbian-specific) organizations in various parts of Romania and the Republic of Moldavia. Astraea funding is helping ACCEPT to provide technical assistance to strengthen these fledgling organizations. It is also supporting formal efforts to empower lesbian women within these groups and improve lesbian visibility within the larger women’s movement in Romania and the Republic of Moldavia.

- *In 2000, Astraea awarded a grant for this project in the amount of \$6,000. A previous grant of \$2,000 was awarded by Astraea to ACCEPT and the International Lesbian and Gay Association-Europe (ILGA-Europe) to sponsor the participation of three lesbian activists from Central and Eastern Europe in the “ACCEPTing Diversity” Conference of ILGA-Europe, hosted by ACCEPT in Bucharest, Romania, in October 2000.*

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2001

| | UNRESTRICTED | TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED | ALL FUNDS |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | | | | |
| Individual Contributions | \$ 397,996 | \$ 1,091,150 | \$ 1,077,480 | \$ 2,566,626 |
| Foundation Contributions* | 201,251 | 302,705 | 50,000 | 553,956 |
| Corporate Contributions | 29,507 | 1,000 | 9,000 | 39,507 |
| Federation Contributions | 218 | | | 218 |
| Bequest | 10,000 | | | 10,000 |
| Government | | 504,889 | | 504,889 |
| Special Events | 174,742 | | | 174,742 |
| Administrative Fees | 72,125 | | | 72,125 |
| Interest and Dividend Income | 81,414 | 8,782 | | 90,196 |
| Net Realized Gains on Investment Transactions | 19,921 | 4,062 | | 23,983 |
| Net Unrealized Loss on Investment Transactions | (24,265) | (37,349) | | (61,614) |
| Miscellaneous Income | 12,280 | | | 12,280 |
| Total Support and Revenue | 975,189 | 1,875,239 | 1,136,480 | 3,986,908 |
| Net Assets Released From Restriction Satisfaction of Program Restrictions | 1,042,678 | (1,042,678) | — | — |
| Total Support and Revenue | 2,017,867 | 832,561 | 1,136,480 | 3,986,908 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Program Services | | | | |
| Program Services | 1,749,899 | | | 1,749,899 |
| Supporting Services | | | | |
| Administrative and General | 63,954 | | | 63,954 |
| Fund Raising | 158,985 | | | 158,985 |
| Total Supporting Services | 222,939 | | | 222,939 |
| Total Expenses | 1,972,838 | | | 1,972,838 |
| Changes in Net Assets | 45,029 | 832,561 | 1,136,480 | 2,014,070 |
| Net Assets as of June 30, 2000 | 60,374 | 142,270 | 874,902 | 1,077,546 |
| Net Assets as of June 30, 2001 | 105,403 | 974,831 | 2,011,382 | 3,091,616 |

*Included in the foundation contributions for the year are donor-advised gifts in the amount of \$135,251 distributed through other foundations.

To obtain a copy of our audit contact the Astraea office.

Astraea

Staff

Katherine T. Acey, *Executive Director*
Kim Ford, *Events Manager*
C.J. Griffin, *Program Assistant*
Petrina Hicks, *Development Assistant*
(as of 6/2001)
Jazmine Irizarry, *Office Manager*
Helen Lang, *Director of Finance and Administration* (as of 7/2001)
Christine Lipat, *Senior Program Officer*
Laura Miller, *Assistant to Executive Director*
(as of 7/2001)
Sonja Sivesind, *Development Associate*
(as of 12/2001)
Anjana (Tang) Suvarnananda,
Program Officer
Karen Zelsermyer, *Deputy Director*

Board of Directors

Cheryl Clarke, *Board Chair*, Jersey City, NJ
Kimberly Aceves-Denyer, San Francisco, CA
C.C. Carter, Chicago, IL
Brenda Funches, Los Angeles, CA
Jennifer Knight, New York, NY
Terry Lawler, New York, NY (term ended
10/2001)
Denise Liggett, Midlothian, VA
Odalys Nanin, Los Angeles, CA
Sandra J. Robinson, Bethesda, MD
Cindy Sterling, New York, NY
(term ended 6/2000)
Eleanor Thomas, New York, NY
Léonie Walker, Portola Valley, CA
Su Ming Yeh, Philadelphia, PA

U.S. Grants Panel

Mary Li, Facilitator, Portland, OR
C. Hope Artichoker, Minneapolis, MN
Trang Duong, Anchorage, AK
Ju Hui Judy Han, Oakland, CA
Donna Korones, Berkeley, CA
Connie Leeper, New Market, TN
Nusrat S. Retina Rabbee, Jamaica Plain, MA
Renée Sánchez, Oakland, CA
Barbara Turk, Brooklyn, NY

International Grants Panel

Marta Drury, Half Moon Bay, CA
Kagendo, New York, NY
Nguru Karugu, New York, NY
Dora Helen King, Chicago, IL
Scott Long, New York, NY
Javid Syed, San Francisco, CA

International Advisory Panel

Stuart Burden, Chicago, IL
Bev Clark, Harare, Zimbabwe
Palesa Beverly Ditsie, Johannesburg,
South Africa
Fatima Jaffer, Vancouver, Canada
Lepa Mladjenovic, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Gloria Careaga-Perez, Mexico City, Mexico
Alejandra Sardá, Cordoba, Argentina
Michael L. Tan, Quezon, City, Philippines
M. Georgianna Villar, Quezon City, Philippines
Sridhar Venkatapuram, New York, NY
Mirka Negroni, Tepoztlan, Mexico

Lesbian Writers Fund Judges

Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Fiction, Claremont, CA
Lisa C. Moore, Fiction, Austin, TX
Joy Harjo, Poetry, Honolulu, HI
Irena Klepfisz, Poetry, Brooklyn, NY



From top: Astraea Staff; Board of Directors; International Grants Panel; U.S. Grants Panel; Lesbian Writers Fund Judges

Lesbian Action Foundation



ASTRAEA LESBIAN ACTION FOUNDATION
116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10003-2112
212.529.8021
fax 212.982.3321
www.astraea.org

Photo Credits

Cover:

Center photo by
Ace Morgan

page 7:

Bottom photo by
Helene Glanzberg

page 15:

Bottom left photo by
Ace Morgan

page 25:

Left column center photo
and right column top
photo by Donna Korones

page 42:

Bottom row (from l-r):
second photo by K. Perry;
third photo by Hulleah
Tsinhnahijinnie; fourth
photo by Layle Silbert.

We thank all the individuals
and organizations who
contributed photos to this
Annual Report.

Writer & Editor:

Gerry Gomez Pearlberg

Design:

Diane Bonder | RATSTAR

Lettering Illustration:

Mona Jimenez

Contributors:

Katherine Acey

Christine Lipat

C.J. Griffin

Petrina Hicks

Laura Miller

Karen Zelermyer



E M P O W E R
E N V I S I O N
E M B R A C E