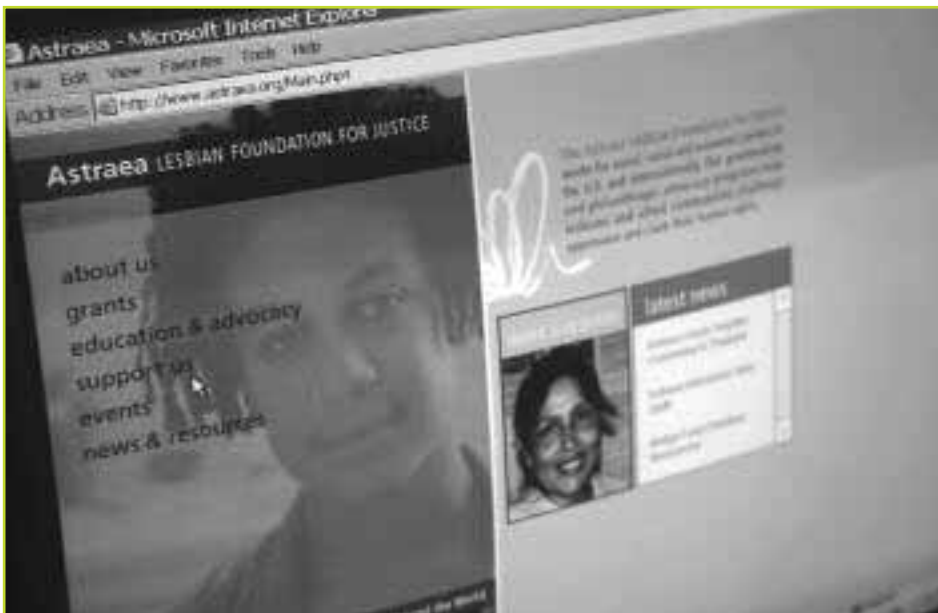




# Astraea LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

Funding Change and Strengthening Communities Around the World

www.astraeafoundation.org



Astraea's new website— a powerful resource for connecting with grantees and members

By Jennifer Einhorn

Director of Communications

On April 1, 2004, Astraea launched a new website— an online fusion of philanthropic, political and cultural activism. It reflects the depth and breadth of our work and those organizations and individuals we fund. It engages our constituents in a more personal and visceral way. And it demonstrates that by investing in Astraea, you too can become an agent of social change.

We worked with a talented graphic designer, Angela Lidderdale, who helped us create a beautiful, dynamic, and easy to navigate virtual home for Astraea. The website features vital information about Astraea programs and opportunities, as well as inspiring stories and photographs of grantees, members, staff, board members and volunteers.

Not only do Astraea grantees span the globe, but their work spans the spectrum of creative and cultural strategies as well. Astraea funds advocacy organizations that elevate the

level of public debate and reverse egregious, discriminatory public policy. We fund organizations that educate communities and offer safe havens. We also fund theatre troupes, filmmakers, poets and novelists, as well as website campaigns and wellness workshops.

Astraea grantees are making a real difference in the lives of LGBTI people in towns, villages and cities around the world. Every day, we see the extraordinary change that unfolds from their work. And now, if you log onto [www.astraeafoundation.org](http://www.astraeafoundation.org), so can you! Here's a quick glimpse of what you'll find.

## About Us

Meet Astraea's staff, board of directors, and advisory panels. Read our bios, view the Faces of Astraea slideshow, and learn more about the Foundation's history and mission.

## Grants

Access Astraea's U.S. and International Grants program guidelines and application forms. Find profiles of activists from around the world committed to debunking institutionalized homophobia in our Meet A Grantee section. Enjoy riveting fiction and poetry excerpts from Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund awardees, as well as beautiful samples from Visual Artist Fund awardees. Access a synopsis of every project we've funded for the past three years.

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SHAYLA M. BERGER

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## It's springtime

a time of growth and renewal—and Astraea is thriving. Today, thanks to the generous contributions of our members, we are able to grant nearly one million dollars to progressive lesbian and LGBTI organizations throughout the U.S. and internationally.

As we continue to support positive change around the world, we also continue to make exciting changes at Astraea. We are increasing our staff, restructuring our programs, launching a new website, and producing new communications tools in support of our mission. At the same time, we are active in engaging and established networks, conferences, and convenings all over the globe.

This spring, Astraea staff and I have traveled around the world. First, to Rio de Janeiro for a meeting of the International Network of Women's Funds, where our new Director of Development, Sonya Shields and I met with colleagues and local grantees. Then, to Bangkok with our new Director of Programs, Joo-Hyun Kang, to host Astraea's first convening of international grantees. Finally, we traveled to Toronto to participate in the Women's Funding Network conference with our Board Chair, Brenda Funches, our new Philanthropic Partnership Officer, Shaya Mercer, and our Program Associate, Patricia Tumang. Each meeting provided a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow activists and funders.

The Women's Funding Network conference, a meeting we've attended for two decades, was especially inspiring this year. Along with Amy McQuaid and Friedrike Merck, I participated in a groundbreaking opening lunch plenary entitled "Assets for Social Change: Lessons from Lesbian Philanthropy." In addition to exploring why it is important that women's funds support the lesbian community, it was also a terrific opportunity to discuss issues of homophobia, racism and classism.

With the theme of Growing Communities of Values and Interests for Action, the WFN program this year focused on exploring partnerships with business women, allied men, and interfaith organizations. I was moved by many of the speakers who encouraged us to understand the differences that have kept these communities from working together in the past and the commonalities that may make it possible to work together in the future. By collaborating around our shared vision for social change, we may strengthen and diversify support for women's funds, women's issues and social justice for all.

As we continue to build, diversify and educate our membership through our House Party program, Astraea has also been visiting with old and new friends around the United States. In Miami, we enjoyed great food and comedy at a garden party hosted by stand-up comic Komal Bhojwani and her partner, Marina Bredda. On our 5th annual visit to New Mexico, we were treated to three fabulous parties. At a Wisdom and Joy Silver put on a fashion show at their home in Santa Fe. In Corales, Rae Siporin and Cheri Plavnick served a brunch with inspiring conversation about philanthropy and social justice. Singer/songwriter Linda Johnson serenaded us at the home of Elissa Breitbard in Albuquerque. Back in New York City, we introduced the Foundation to a diverse group of women and men at a cocktail party co-hosted by Stephanie Blackwood and Arthur Korant. We are grateful for our volunteer hosts and everyone who came out to support Astraea at these fun events.

In Dallas, community leaders organized a joint benefit dinner for the Astraea Foundation and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. NCLR Executive Director, Kate Kendall, and I were asked to lead a conversation on the state of the LGBT social justice movement, touching on issues of same-sex marriage, the upcoming presidential elections, and more. It is always a pleasure to collaborate with Kate, NCLR, and our mutual friends in Dallas and the event was a great success. While in Dallas, I also met with local activists from Leadership Lambda and the Dallas Women's Foundation about partnership opportunities.

Everywhere we go, we are reminded that Astraea is stronger than ever and growing, thanks to the generous support and visionary leadership of our partners in the community. Together we are truly Funding Change and Strengthening Communities Around the World.

Katherine T. Acey  
Executive Director

Letter from Katherine Acey

# Astraea in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## International Network of Women's Funds Conference



SONYA SHIELDS

A

straea's Executive Director, Katherine Acoy and new Director of Development, Sonya Shields traveled in March to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to attend the International Network of Women's Funds' (INWF) 5th Annual Conference. For the past three years Astraea has attended this event, participating in what has become a dynamic network of international women's funds providing vital resources to women's rights organizations around the world.

The INWF currently has a membership of over 15 Funds spanning diverse countries, cultures and traditions of activism. The Network includes representatives from

Africa, Eastern Europe, Mexico, South America, South Asia, Western Europe and North America. In addition to Astraea's participation in the Network, some of the other Funds that make up this groundbreaking group are Manacash of Amsterdam, The Global Fund for Women of San Francisco, The African Women's Development Fund of Ghana, Filia of Germany, Tewa of Nepal, Semillas of Mexico, and Angela Borba of Rio de Janeiro.

The International Network brings the Funds together so that important coordination of activities can take place. The Funds are able to learn from one another, engage in joint fundraising strategies, and speak as a greater voice on issues facing women globally. Previous INWF Conferences have been held in Ghana, India and Nepal.

Network attendees spent long hours discussing the issues affecting women in rural and urban areas, feminism, women and economic empowerment, women's health issues and women's rights. This year's conference was particularly significant because of the need to formalize the Network through a strategic planning process.

### Four key goals of the Network include:

1. Deepening and strengthening the relationships among INWF members
2. Understanding the political and economic context in which each fund works
3. Initiating a theoretical discussion of feminist philanthropy and diversity issues
4. Identifying areas where Funds can work collectively on a common agenda

Having limited time together it was a challenge for the Network to accomplish all of its goals. To ensure the continued strengthening of the Network, there is ongoing communication throughout the year, which helps to deepen working relationships. Many of the Funds enjoyed the opportunity to meet again in April at the Women's Funding Network 20th Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada.

The trip to Rio also allowed Katherine and Sonya to spend valuable time visiting with Astraea's grantees in the



SONYA SHIELDS

Women from CEDODOM and COLERJ-Astraea grantees in Rio

Continued on page 5

# Hamessing Change: Astraea Convenes International Grantees in Thailand

As part of Astraea's current strategic plan, we are examining ways to increase our impact on movement building, and enhance our support of the social justice work of Astraea grantees around the world. As part of this goal, we intend to convene groups to promote networking around critical issues, and to expand the capacity of grantees by facilitating shared strategies. To that end, we held our first convening in Bangkok, Thailand (March 29 - April 2, 2004) with grantees from Astraea's Social Change Opportunity Fund (an initiative of Astraea's International Fund for Sexual Minorities).



JOO-HYUN KANG

Astraea grantees bonding in Thailand

The 13 groups that participated in the Convening have extensive track records of working toward institutional change in their countries and regions. They all seek to employ multi-issue approaches that link discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) communities with issues facing other communities. Like Astraea, these groups recognize the broad diversity of LGBTI communities. A number of grantees prioritize work within those LGBTI communities who often have the least access to structural power (including women, transgender people, poor people, sex workers, and people living with HIV/AIDS).

The Convening included discussions regarding the political state of LGBTI movements in different regions and globally. The variations of language, particularly the textured

Continued on page 4

# Astreae's Bridge Fund

The past year has been a time of growth and transition at Astreae— with a change in our official name, and sharpening of our vision and plan for the future. Astreae's Bridge Fund was established to ensure that we were able to continue quality support of our grantees, while we also embarked on substantive internal planning and evaluation activities. Organizations that were invited to apply to the Bridge Fund were all former grantees of Astreae's U.S. General Grants Program (having successfully received grants approved by Astreae's Community Funding Panel of lesbian activists), and were primarily lesbian autonomous organizations and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTSTI) progressive or women's organizations with annual budgets of \$150,000 or less.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF GRANTS MADE THROUGH THE BRIDGE FUND IN JANUARY 2004:

**Aeromestiza Project** (San Francisco, CA) runs *The Size of Her Rage*, an arts-based community education program focusing on lesbian domestic violence. Grant funded performances at The 7th Annual National Queer Arts Festival in San Francisco in June 2004. \$6,000

**Affinity Community Services** (Chicago, IL) promotes visibility, empowerment and community building by hosting support groups, social justice forums, informal discussions and poetry nights by and for Black LGBT women and youth. \$7,000

**African Ancestral Lesbians United For Societal Change** (New York, NY) uses open discussion workshops to address spirituality, as well as political and social change. They provide resources and referrals, and foster cultural and social interactions between African Ancestral women. \$7,000

**Appalachian Women's Alliance** (Floyd, VA) is a grassroots coalition of low-income and working-women organized in regional "circles" tackling economic injustice, violence against women, racism and homophobia. Grant is for part-time salary and benefits for the lesbian field organizer. \$5,000

**Beyond Media** (Chicago, IL) creates media that empower underserved and underrepresented women and girls to tell their own stories, shape their own identities and organize for community issues. Their *Young Women's Media Empowerment Workshop & Video Production* is a collaboration with *Horizons Community Services*, and offers training in media literacy, media activism, production and distribution. \$6,000

**Charis Circle** (Atlanta, GA) offers events and programs that empower women, men and children to work toward a world where racism, sexism, homophobia, classism and all other oppressions do not exist. Grant is for their *Capacity Building Project*. \$2,000



JEANNETTE BRONSON

Youth activists from *United Lesbians of African Heritage* in Los Angeles, CA

**Christina Ibarra, Love & Monster Trucks** (New York, NY) is a film that follows 18-year-old Maria, a first-generation Chicana and first-generation college student as she returns home to El Paso, Texas. \$6,000

**Liquid Fire Productions** (San Francisco, CA) promotes the development of emerging lesbian artists of color and supports the creation and staging of their new work. Grant is for performances at the June 2004 National Queer Arts Festival. \$5,000

**Literary Exchange** (Chicago, IL) addresses racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression through a variety of literary, social and health-related programs and events for girls, lesbians of color, and other women. Grant is for *Windowsto-Freedom* and *Women-in-Transition* programs. \$5,000

Continued from page 3 THAILAND

nuances of terminology indigenous to various communities, spoke to the broad landscape of our movements— and different local histories, contexts, and priorities.

As grantmakers from the United States, Astreae staff was able to learn more about the work and conditions of grantees in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Latin America— particularly the continued and severe under-resourcing of lesbian-specific projects, and the creativity and resourcefulness of organizations working with modest resources. In addition, the experience of convening a four-day meeting with simultaneous interpretation for up to six languages at any given time (English, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Taiwanese, and

Thai) was both challenging and exhilarating as we witnessed participants adapt to the limitations of all of our languages in expressing our lived experiences as LGBTI people.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all who helped make this first Convening a success: Christine Lipat (former Senior Program Officer at Astreae), Kagendo Murungi (consultant who helped prepare for the Convening), Monnae Laphin on (Bangkok-based logistics coordinator), Javid Syed (International Fund Panel member and co-facilitator), Cindy Wiesner (co-facilitator), the staff of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGIHR), as well as Astreae staff, board, volunteers, panel members and donors.

And of course, the Convening's success depended most of all on the active and provocative participation of grantees from the following organizations: Accept (Romania), Anjree (Thailand), CIPAC (Costa Rica), Coletivo de Feministas Lésbicas (Brazil), Gender/Sexuality Rights Association of Taiwan (Taiwan), Jamaican Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals & Gays (Jamaica), Lesbian & Gay Human Rights Federation (Korea), Lesbian Group Kontra (Croatia), Grupo Lesbico Patlatonalli (Mexico), Prensa Editorial Les Voz (Mexico), Sangam (India), The Rainbow Project (Namibia), and Triangle Project (South Africa); as well as the skill and hard work of our interpretation team (Ding Naifei, Kihon Uhm, Andres Garcia, Judith Criado Fiuza, and Sunee Thechatakeeng). •

### **LVA /Lesbians in the VisualArts**

(San Francisco, CA) is building a network of lesbian artists and promoting their work through exhibitions, panels, conferences, a journal and a website. \$2,000

**M ACHA Theatre Co.** (Valley Village, CA) builds social, cultural and artistic bridges between straight and gay communities of various ethnicities. The grant is for production of a film *The Nun and the Countess*, a play about a 17th century lesbian poet (Sor Juana Inez de las Cruz) trapped in a nun's habit. M ACHA will also conduct its second master class in playwriting, facilitated by award-winning Chicago playwright Cherrie Moraga. \$5,000

**OUT Now, Inc.** (Springfield, MA) is a youth organization dedicated to support, safety, understanding, acceptance, equality and liberation for the LGBT community at home, in schools and throughout society. Grant will support the ongoing work of issues related to queer youth and the Prison Industrial Complex. \$2,000

**Purple Moon Dance Project** (San Francisco, CA) encourages social change, peace and healing through the medium of dance, and provides artistic and community-based programs to increase the visibility of lesbians and women of color. \$5,000

**Queer Women of Color Media Arts Program** (San Francisco, CA) organizes programs enabling emerging queer women of color film/video artists to complete their work and to reach their intended audiences. \$5,000

**The Network/La Red** (Boston, MA) addresses domestic violence in relationships between women by educating communities about LBT battering and providing services for battered LBT women. Grant will support their visibility campaign. \$3,000

### **United Lesbians of African Heritage**

(Los Angeles, CA) helps empower Black lesbians by hosting workshops and conferences, and by producing informational materials rooted in African American heritage and culture. \$8,000

**Wind River County Initiative for Youth** (Cheyenne, WY) is a unique alliance of LGBT and non-LGBT people of Native American and Caucasian ancestry addressing racism, homophobia, classism and ageism by teaching prejudice reduction and empowerment skills. \$5,000

**Women Food and Agriculture Network** (Atlantic, IA) co-sponsors conferences, leadership trainings and rallies that bring women's voices to issues of food systems, economic justice, globalization, trade and environmental integrity. Grant is for The Lesbian Farmers Outreach Project, a resource base for lesbian farmers in the Midwest. \$7,000

**Zami** (Decatur, GA) empowers and affirms the lives of lesbians of African descent by offering educational scholarships, discussion groups and social activities. \$7,000

**Zuna Institute** (Oakland, CA) is a national advocacy organization addressing the needs of Black lesbians in areas of health, public policy, economic development and education. Zuna's biannual conference bridges the gap between organizations and communities across the nation, and will be held next in Dallas in 2005. Grant is for general support and 2003 post-conference report. \$4,000

## **Astraea & theArts**

### **2004 Astraea VisualArts Fund Awards**

Astraea's VisualArts Fund promotes the work of contemporary lesbian visual artists by providing support to those who show artistic merit and whose artistic expression reflects a commitment to the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice's mission. Last year's awardees were Evelyn Emory and the late Maxine Fine.

This year Astraea will award two \$2,500 cash awards to lesbian visual artists. Submitted works will be judged anonymously by a panel of artists and art professionals. For more information please visit our website: [www.astraeafoundation.org](http://www.astraeafoundation.org) or contact grants@astraeafoundation.org or 212.529.8021.

Decisions will be made by June 30, 2004

### **Continued from page 3 BRAZIL**

community. It was a privilege to meet with staff from Centro de Documentação e Informação Coisa de Mulher, and Collective of Lesbians of Rio de Janeiro. CEDOICOM is a women's documentation and information center working in women's prisons supporting health, artistic and cultural activities, and political forums. COLERJ is a feminist organization committed to defending human rights and citizenship rights, and to building the self-esteem of marginalized women in Brazilian society. Both organizations are doing profound work in their communities with limited resources. Astraea is truly proud to provide vital resources to support their important missions.

Network attendees also learned about Brazil's rich history. From learning to samba to fine dining to sightseeing on top of Corcovado mountain— participants experienced a sampling of the rich art and culture that the city offers. At the same time, it was deeply challenging to witness the very visible issues of poverty resulting from inequities around race and class. Local organizers actively work to advocate and organize around all oppressions, and have a commitment to dealing with gender, class, race, ethnicity, age, and more.

Astraea believes that membership within the International Network of Women's Funds has helped the Foundation gain a larger context on the issues women

face. We will continue to support the Network, as we will continue our work to develop philanthropic opportunities to support women, and in particular lesbians throughout the world. •

### **Astraea Partners with Allied Businesses**

Are you a business owner,  
a service provider, an artist  
or a crafts person?

If so, you can support Astraea and promote your business at the same time by partnering in our auctions, events and membership benefits. For more information, please contact our Director of Development, Sonya Shields at [sshields@astraeafoundation.org](mailto:sshields@astraeafoundation.org) or 212.529.8021, extension 17.

# New Faces at Astraea

We are proud to present Astraea's newest board members and staff. The addition of these diverse and talented women to the Astraea team furthers the Foundation's goal of Funding Change and Strengthening Communities Around the World.

## New Board Members



ERICA LEE

**Alice Y. Hom** (Los Angeles, CA) is director of the Intercultural Community Center at Occidental College where she works on issues of diversity and social justice. She brings to Astraea 14 years of activism, research, teaching and writing on the intersections of race, gender and sexuality. In addition to being published in anthologies and journals, Alice is

co-editor of *Q&A: Queer in Asian America*—winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Best Non-Fiction Anthology and other awards. In 2000, she received the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's LACE Award for Grass Roots Activism.

**Toni Lester** (Boston, MA) is a teacher, scholar, writer, activist and artist. She consults with organizations and schools on strategic planning, ethics and multiculturalism. An associate professor at Babson College, her work explores issues relating to human rights, culture and society, the connection between multiple forms of oppression, and spirituality. She is a past board member of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Author of *Gender/Nonconformity, Race and Sexuality—Charting Connections*, Toni has been published in journals and has produced features for Pacifica Radio and National Public Radio.

## New Program & Development Directors

**Jo-Hyun Kang** (Director of Programs) is a Seoul-born Korean American activist working in the areas of racial/gender justice, anti-war, self-determination and LGBT/STI liberation struggles. She is a trainer and speaker on various topics, including direct action organizing and organizational development. Jo-Hyun was the first paid staff person and former executive director of The Audre Lorde Project, a center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit & Transgender People of Color community organizing, and has served on the boards/steering committees of organizations within the organizing community.

**Sonya Shields** (Director of Development), previously director of development for the New York Anti-Violence Project, has 17 years of experience with nonprofits in the areas of fundraising, marketing and public relations. Her work within the LGBT and HIV-affected communities began in 1994 at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington DC, first as director of membership and ultimately as director of development. She is currently on the board of the National Black Justice Coalition, and has served on numerous boards working toward social and economic justice. A self-published writer of poetry and fiction, Sonya completed her first book *Spinning Out* in 2002.



JENNIFER ENHORN

Clockwise from top left:  
Jo-Hyun Kang,  
Shaya Mercer,  
Sonya Shields,  
Candace Sala Hewitt,  
Lorraine Ramirez,  
Audrey Rivers.

## New Development and Administrative Staff

**Candace Sala Hewitt** (Events Coordinator) developed her professional background as a strategic planner in consumer marketing at Saatchi & Saatchi. She is also a writer, poet, and performance director who believes in the transformative power of political self-expression through cultural arts and media. Candace received her B.A. from Smith College in 2001.

**Shaya Mercer** (Philanthropic Partnership Officer) brings to Astraea a wide variety of freelance and consulting experience in communications, development, events, and media production for both nonprofit and for-profit organizations, including the Seattle International Film Festival and the Environmental Grantmakers Association. She directed the award-winning documentary film, *Trade Off*, about the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle and co-produced Dyke TV's coverage of the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney, Australia.

**Lorraine Ramirez** (Assistant to the Executive Director) graduated in 2003 from Pomona College, earning a degree in Women's Studies that focused on women of color feminism and feminist anti-violence theory. A leader in the school's feminist and queer activism arena, she served as co-facilitator of the Women's Union and of the Claremont Colleges Queer, Questioning, and Allied Mentor Program. Lorraine spent several summers working at Hidden Villa Ranch, an organic farm and summer camp in California committed to community education, social justice activism, youth leadership and environmental stewardship.

**Audrey Rivers** (Administrative Assistant) began her career in the field of healthcare at Mt. Vernon Hospital where she helped organize the union for laboratory employees. She previously worked for three years as program assistant of group services for SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment). A lesbian single mother and student at Lehman College, she will graduate in the Fall of 2005 with a B.S.W. She currently serves on the advisory board of AALUSC (African Ancestral Lesbians United for Social Change).

Astraea extends best wishes and enormous thanks to out-going board members Christine Garza and Denise Liggett, and to those staff members who have recently transitioned to other exciting opportunities—Heather Artemis, CJ Griffin, Christine Lipat, Laura Miller, and Karen Zelmanyer.

## Women Will Circle

Astraea has been the beneficiary of gifts entrusted to us by generous donors who recognize the importance of supporting the Foundation for the benefit of generations to come. The Women Will Circle provides a way for Astraea to recognize and thank the women and men who have designated us as a beneficiary of their estate, and to involve them more intimately in the Foundation's work during their lifetime.

If you have designated Astraea as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policy or retirement fund, please notify us so we can include you in our Women Will Circle. For more information on planned giving at Astraea, please contact Sonya Shields, Director of Development, [sshields@astraeafoundation.org](mailto:sshields@astraeafoundation.org) or 212.529.8021, extension 17.

### Women Will Circle Members

, Circle Chair

Katherine Acey	Donna Cassidy	Nusrat Rabbee
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Carla Albert & Sarah Scabba	Pamela Tucker Farley	Stephanie L. Roth
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Stephanie Blackwood	Donna Korones	Alida Walsh
Elissa Brietband	Marilyn Lamkay	Jessica Weisman
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### Gifts In Honor Of

Kinberly Aceves  
Marion Banzhaf  
Jennifer Brier  
Arlene Bronstein, Mairgot Karle Scholarship  
Chiqui Cartegena  
Betty Furdon  
Gay & Lesbian Labor Activist Network, Boston, MA  
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### Gifts In Memory Of

Selma Fineman  
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Deborah Stone  
Phyllis Yeskel

To give a Gift In Honor Of or In Memory Of someone, please fill in the gift recognition section of Astraea's pledge envelope or, contact our Membership Coordinator, Monique George at [monique@astraeafoundation.org](mailto:monique@astraeafoundation.org) or 212.529.8021, extension 18.

Continued from page 1 [www.astraeafoundation.org](http://www.astraeafoundation.org)

## Education and Advocacy

Link to the LGBT and progressive groups with whom we collaborate, and learn how philanthropic advocacy and collaboration is a core part of Astraea's mission. Learn about the Astraea Visual Arts Committee, and view the series of limited edition prints created especially for Astraea by well-known lesbian artists.

## Support Us

Click on the Donate Now button to become a member, renew your membership or make a donation. Choose from an array of quick and secure ways to support Astraea's work. Research the Ways Of Giving section for options ranging from writing Astraea into your will, to purchasing one of our beautiful limited edition commissioned prints. Browse stories from Astraea donors and discover what fuels their commitment to the Foundation.

## Events

Join us at the next Astraea event in your area. Click on the Volunteer section to learn how to support Astraea by hosting a House Party— a great opportunity to craft a unique, informative and fun event of your own. Check out reports and photos from Astraea conferences and gatherings, like our recent historic Grantee Convening in Thailand. Link to events we've participated in around the world.

## News & Resources

Gain immediate access to Astraea news and publications by downloading newsletters and annual reports. Link directly to the websites of all Astraea grantees— from the mountains of Appalachia to the South Side of Chicago to the isolated townships of South Africa.

There's much more to explore on the site, and we invite you to log on. Stay tuned for expanded and new sections, additional profiles, and testimonials from our grantees. This is just the beginning. Enjoy our new virtual home! •

KATHERINE ACEY



1

SONYA SHIELDS



2

LISA JONES



3

COURTESY OF NGJLF



4



5

SONYA SHIELDS



6

STEPHAN E LAKE

1 Stand-up comic Komal Bhojwani (left) and her partner, Marina Bredda, hosting an Astreae garden party at their home in Miami. 2 Women at Elisa Brietbard's Astreae house party in Albuquerque. 3 Sonya Shields with Astreae house party host. 4 Shaya Meroer (right), attending the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Leadership Awards honoring Bishop V. Gene Robinson (left) in NYC. 5 Gordon Clark, Hugh Graham, Jeffrey Hull, Stephanie Blackwood and Candace Sala Hewitt (left to right) at an Astreae house party in NYC. 6 Patricia Tumang (left) and Brenda Funches, Astreae Board Chair (right), at the Women's Funding Network Conference in Toronto.

## Astraea BULLETIN Spring 2004

### Staff

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You may obtain the latest financial audit from Astreae or the Office of Charities Registration, Department of State, Albany, NY 12231.

**Our Mission** The Astreae Foundation for Justice works for social, racial, and economic justice in the U.S. and internationally. Our grantmaking and philanthropic advocacy programs help lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights.

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

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## UPCOMING Events!

Watch for your invitation to Astreae's annual Lynn Campbell Memorial Fund Event in October, 2004. Every year at the Lynn Campbell Event, Astreae features work by independent lesbian filmmakers, writers and performers. The event is held in memory of human rights activist Lynn Campbell (1955-84), who worked for lesbian and gay rights, labor rights, and ending violence against women.

### HOST A HOUSE PARTY FOR ASTRAEA!

House parties are one of Astreae's primary vehicles for increasing our visibility and membership, and we'd like to visit your neighborhood to greet new friends and update old ones on our recent activities. However, we can't do that without members like you. Is this something you might consider?

For more information about any of our upcoming events or about hosting a House Party, please call Candace Sala Hewitt, Events Coordinator, at 212.529.8021, extension 14, or email her at Candace@astraeafoundation.org.