

BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY CENTRE



THE FEMINIST LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION CENTRE

5-5a Westminster Bridge Road

London SE1 7XW In Support of

Tel: 020-7928 7789 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Regd. Charity No. 272410



Rosa Parks

In 1955 Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a white person. Led by Martin Luther King Jr., blacks organized a successful boycott of the bus system.

Winter 2000 Newsletter

Do you really want to be out there on your own?

Do you remember when you were young and confused about your sexuality? Those of you who are in the regions probably wondered if you were ever going to meet a single other person who was like you. Both black and gay. Your community was sending you negative messages about yourself through either your church, your music or even the Saturday night banter you had with your crew. Eventually you found yourself and realised that you were not alone. Eventually you realised there was a community of other black people, proud black people who were also gay. Okay, the community can



Tupac

do better and everyone can always think of ways in which the black gay community could do more? But at least we have a community... or do we? Britain's largest black gay centre the BLGC is hav-

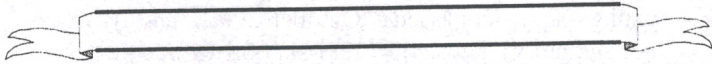
ing an emergency meeting on October 29th. The BLGC offers support to people coming out and those who are isolated as black lesbians. The helpline offers people a variety of help and assistance from finding accommodation to finding a place to party in peace. We also keep in contact with other white lesbian community

groups and provide information to make sure our needs are represented. Not many people are aware of how much we are doing to make their lives easier until they may need our services directly. Without centres like the BLGC many isolated black gay people will be left with the negative messages sent

out about our community and no way of challenging them. I for one, want to make sure the centre is kept open. If you do to. Turn to the back page and find out how you can help.

Editor

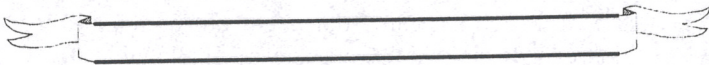
Lyrics




*Wander with me
through a thousand
years,
And whisper relent-
less songs to celebrate
this love.*

To S, the love of my Life
and the air that I breathe

Chris x





**SOS
INVITES YOU TO A**

Scorpio bashment

**The official screening of
SOS Millennium drum tour
WOMEN ONLY**

**Music by Levi and guests
A mix of reggae, soul, RnB, Garage
The last hour devoted to riva
Singers and players will be there
make sure you are**

**9 til 2am at Funky Monkey's
Camberwell Green**

£2 till 11pm and £3 after



...night of soul, RnB, reggae and drumming



Who's hanging out at the BLGC?

The BLGC offers social support, advice and social events to a wide variety of Black lesbian and bi-sexual women. Whether you want to read the newspapers, pick up information or chill out with other women call in to see us.

The 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month is an open drop in.

**BLGC-Room 113,
5a Westminster Bridge Road,
London SE1
(Elephant and Castle Tube)**



In the Spirit

by Andrew Gordon, Psychotherapist
and spiritual counsellor

Affirmations

An affirmation is a way of programming your mind to think positively about yourself and issues. You are constantly telling yourself negative things on a daily basis without realising it. This is only demonstrated when you challenge what you think versus what your mind really believes.

Look in the mirror and say I love me, I love my body and go on to say I love to each body part.... Was it difficult? Did you catch yourself being negative. We know you "think" women should not have hang ups about themselves but now you see what you actually believe.

Affirmations should be positive and in the present tense. They never use negative words like don't, never, want, shall, not, no etc. e.g I love myself, I am comfortable when I meet new people. Instead of "I will or want to love myself" "When I meet new people I won't be shy".

Affirmations last for a minimum of 10 minutes. Make a tape of your voice or the voice of someone you trust saying your affirmations and play your tape either 1st thing as you are waking or while you are falling asleep. Go back to the mirror Test to see if your affirmations are working.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Check your local library and gallery for an exhibition near you

A long, long, rich history

Reliable evidence indicates that when the first Africans were transported to the New World, homosexuality existed and was widely practiced on three continents. In Africa, the existence of homosexuality was noted among many ethnic groups in both the Bantu and Sudanese regions. Despite the myth that homoeroticism did not exist in precolonial Africa but was the product of European influence, In the Congo-Angola region, the year 1581 a people were noted as homosexuals who wore a cloth wrapped around them and tied in front.

Feminists put behind Bars



Egyptian artist and feminist political activist Inji Efflatoun depicts a sole woman staring out from her jail cell in this oil painting from 1961. Efflatoun was imprisoned in 1959 as a result of her activism and remained confined without trial for more than four years. She procured art supplies by bribing guards and painted works documenting women prisoners and prison conditions.

Stonewall

On Friday, June 27, 1969, eight New York City police officers raided a gay bar at 57 Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. The manager of the Stonewall Inn was served with a warrant for selling liquor without a license, and police ordered patrons to leave the bar. Led in part by black and Latino drag queens, a spontaneous rebellion erupted against the practice of police harassment of homosexuals.

Warriors



Woman Hero, by Elsa Yacob

Elsa Yacob's powerful 1989 watercolor *Woman Hero* portrays a woman engaged in battle. The painting is presumed to be a self-portrait, depicting Yacob's days fighting for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

On the town

Bars

Vespa Lounge - Thurs-Sun 6-11pm. Men as guests. Upstairs at conservatory beside centre point. Pool table and occasional bands.

First Out Café Bar— Mixed. 52 St. Giles High Street. Next to Centre point. Open 11am-11pm. Vegetarian café upstairs. Music downstairs.

Candy Bar (Precious Brown) Now at Dean Street. £5 entry at weekends. Open until 11pm weekdays and 3am weekends. Poor air conditioning .

Glass Bar Opposite Euston Station. Look for blue lights in the window or call and staff will pick you. Last Saturday of the month DJ Asha an RnB Mix til 4am. Thursday is singles night. Women only

Fried Green Tomatoes Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at Café Goya, 85 Acre Lane Brixton SW2. - 0207 7274 3500. Women only

Clubs

Liberte— at the Oak Bar, Green Lane, Stoke Newington., last Saturday of the month. . Prices: - £3 before 10.30pm and £4 after. Women only

Black Angel the last Friday of every month. RnB, Garage, Hip hop, Asian Breakbeat & Bhangra Hollywood Lounge, Pheonix Centre, off Princess Street, Manchester (Rainbow Cars entrance.) Info: - 0161 835 9426.

Good Vibes Y2K . Last Friday of the month. at the Jack of Clubs, 47 Ossary Road (behind McDonald's pm the Old Kent Road.) SE1. £3 before 11, £5 after. Happy hour between 9-11pm. This is a mixed club night playing soul, RnB, revival, garage, socca ,.

Club Kali Mixed club playing Bhangra, Hindi, house, soul and swing. £5 before 11 with a flyer then £6. £2 discount for concessions. Find Club Kali at The Dome, 1 Dartmouth Park Hill, London N19.

Off The Hook—At the Velvet Room, 143 Charing Cross Road WC2. Info 0171 439 4655. Every Monday night from 10.30. Recommended mixed RnB, Funky soul club.

Karess - At the Unity Centre 37 Peckham High Street. Recommended mixed club playing RnB and Revival. 1st Saturday of the month. £6 or £5 with flyer.

Groups and Events

Shugs the word Book club for black and Asian lesbian women. At the glass bar—twice monthly. Call the glass bar for details or www.gingerbeer.co.uk.

BLGC—Open drop in for information, advice or chill out with other women 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month between 3-5. Come on your own or bring your friends, everybody receives a warm welcome.

On Line

www.Gingerbeer.co.uk—site for lesbians of colour. UK based. Good events and group information

Www.blktriangler.com—contacts, links and information for gay women of colour.

Www.kuma2.net—safe space for lesbian erotica

Www.aol/members/uloah/home.html—united lesbians of African heritage web site.

Get 2 Gether



Whether you are looking for a gym pal to keep you motivated, someone to cycle with, someone to club with, or someone special to share your life with, this new page offers you a way of communicating what you want to other black lesbian women and black gay men.

When meeting through this service use your common sense. Tell a friend when you are going and never give out your address or other personal details until you feel comfortable.

To advertise write your advertisement ensuring your contact name and address is at the top. (Your contact details will not be printed) and send the advertisement to the BLGC stating which heading you would like it to appear on it. Please also state clearly whether you would like to A) Pick up your replies or b) Have them posted to you. If you pick up your responses it will not cost anyone to reply to you. You will have to wait until someone is at the centre before you can pick up your responses. There is usually a volunteer available every 2 weeks. If your replies are posted, they will be sent on approx every 10 days to 2 weeks.

To respond to a box number. Please write your response and place in a secure envelope. On the outside write the box number clearly in the top right hand corner. Only add a stamp to this envelope if the advertiser wants their replies posted to them. Leave space for the advertisers name and address, we will fill this in for you. Place your response in a second envelope and send it to the BLGC address on the back page. Make sure you use two envelopes as we do not want to open your reply!

Get 2 Gether

Classifications:

Just come out/New In town
Cycling and Fitness
Amateur sports
Romance

Amateur Dramatics
Musicians/Artists
Clubs and socialising
Contacts

Just come out

Hi I'm an 18 year old black Lesbian. I'm into clubbing, sports and socialising. I'm looking for likeminded women for friendship in the London area. Box 503.

Pick up responses

Amateur Sports

34 year old footballer Black lesbian. Little experience seeks friendly team. Box 505

Pick up responses

Musicians and artists

Drummer seeks band to jam With. Telephone directly on XXXXXXXXXXXX

Amateur dramatics

31 year old black lesbian seeks established Amateur dramatics group. Male s or females bored with the scene who are interested in pursuing this challenging pastime Please contact me. We can find a suitable group together or enough responses Are received we can set up our own.

Pick up responses

To respond to ads or place your own please see the previous page. If you would like to place an ad but you do not see your classification listed here, please tell us which new classification

