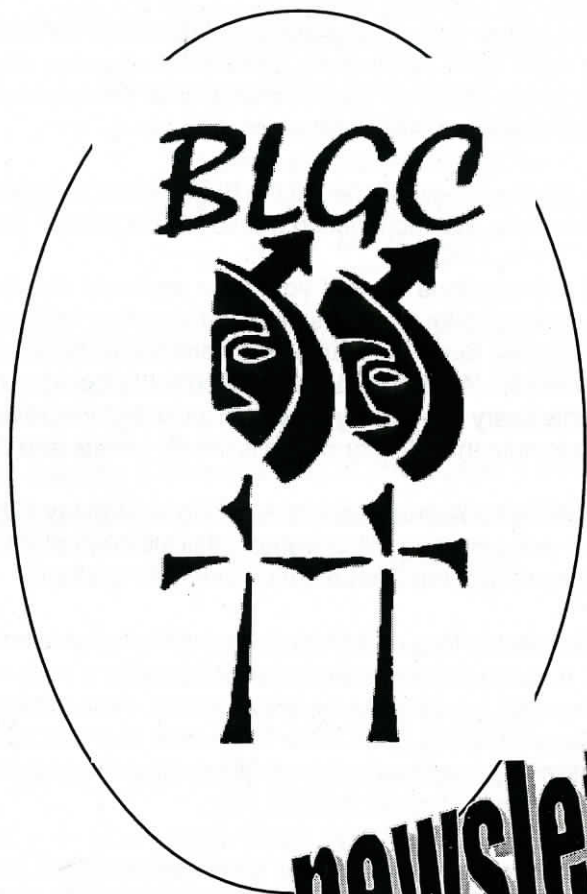


BLACK LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE



newsletter

SEPTEMBER '99 issue

BLGC LIFE

Hope you have all had a good summer and are ready and prepared for the winter months that are now approaching.

The centre, volunteers and Management Committee have had a well deserved break of 3 weeks, are now back and hoping to plan and organise activities in the coming months that will hopefully help stop us all getting down during the coming the cold days and nights.

Following a recent planning meeting, plans to re-launch the Wind-Down Zone on a Sunday evening are in hand, as are plans for a Parenting group, discussion groups and other Centre based activities. Details are included in this newsletter and more information will be distributed as things are confirmed.

The Wind Down Zone will be launched at the BLGC Black History Month event to be held at the Arts Cafe, Whitechapel on Sunday 31st October 1999.

If you have not already done so or if you know anybody who would like to be included on the mailing list for this newsletter and any other information and social events arranged for the Black Lesbian & Gay community, please make sure and return the enclosed slip. An update of the list is currently being completed, but we want to give people every opportunity to keep in touch before previous records are destroyed. Please note that all information is strictly private and confidential.

The Centre is holding it's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17th October from 2.30 to 4.00. This years meeting will be a small affair although all who are concerned or interested in the work of the Centre are encouraged to attend.

We have had nominations for a new Chair, following the resignation of current Chair Nyami Enyako. A nominations has also been received for a male member who we welcome and hope will join us. As we are all aware, male representation on the Management Committee has been nil for some time now and this is an area that we are constantly trying to address. It is envisaged that the present Secretary and Treasurer will continue in office for the next year.

In our June newsletter, we asked for ideas and views about the possibility of changing the name of the Centre. We had a small response to this, reflecting no need for a change. But we need to be sure. Call at the Centre and leave a message or drop us a line. We would like to publish views so please make it clear if you would rather not have your suggestions or views made public.

BLGC MESSAGE

*Our message for this quarter is as always
one of encouragement, friendship and unity.
We continue to be an important part of the existence of Black
Lesbian & Gays and their friends and supporters in
London and further afield.*

*Keep supporting it in any way you can.
Come to our discussion groups, come to our events,
please send a donation
(any amount is gladly welcome).*

STAY IN TOUCH.

It is a common misconception that Britain's Black community began with the arrival of West Indian settlers at the end of the second world war.

When taking a closer look at the history books, we see that Africans and their descendants have been living in Britain for much, much longer.

Let us not forget that there are still huge parts of our history still missing and that includes the history of Black Lesbian & Gays in Britain.

The BLGC is seeking funding to support research in this area, with a view to holding an exhibition in the millennium.

BLGC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD AT THE CENTRE
ON
SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER 1999

2.30 – 4.00pm

This year's AGM will be to a small affair where the agenda items will appoint and/or reinstate Management Committee members, Bankers & auditors and discuss the annual report.

All Black lesbians & Gay and their supporters are welcome to attend. Voting rights are however restricted to members of the Black Lesbian & Gay Community.

Nominations for reinstatement of Officers: **Nadine Forde** (Treasurer)
Helen Deane (Secretary)

Nominations for Chair have been received for: **Emem Akong**

Nominations for Management Committee members: **Leo Dickson**
Nyami Enyako

If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like a copy of the Annual Report please write to the centre, call or e-mail.

Room 113, 5 /5a Westminster Road, London, SE1
0171-620-3885
blgc@btinternet.com

Women & Girls Mini Drumcamp

Saturday October 23rd 1999

at

Lambeth College,

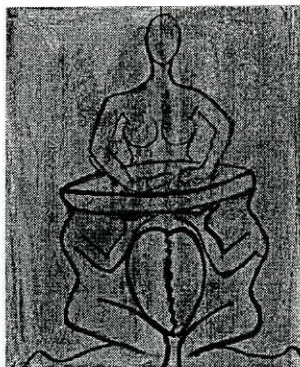
Clapham Centre,

45 Clapham Common Southside, London SW4

àFRIsistahs & Black Women in The Arts

Presents

Iya Onilu – Mother of the Drum



a multicultural drum camp for women

***Internal sounds of Women birthed
the external tool of healing -
rhythms of de sistahs/mothas/
daughters - DE DRUM.***

AFTER CAMP PARTY

SATURDAY 23RD OCTOBER

WOMEN ONLY

(Men as guests)

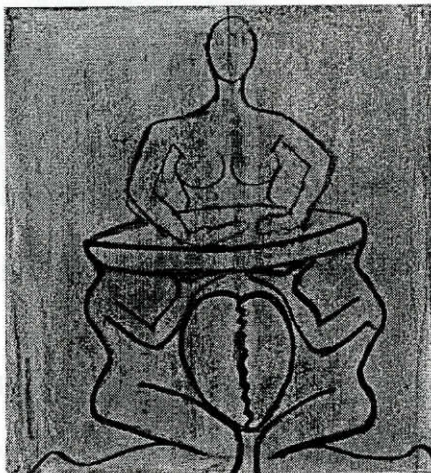
12.00am til it dun

32a Wilson Road, off Camberwell Church Street, SE5

DJ's LEVI, ASHA (Liberte)

and guest's

Soul, Funk, Reggae, Afro-Beat, Jazz, Calypso and more...



£4 allnite

WHAT IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH & WHO IS IT FOR?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SHOWCASE

The BLGC is holding an exhibition and showcase on

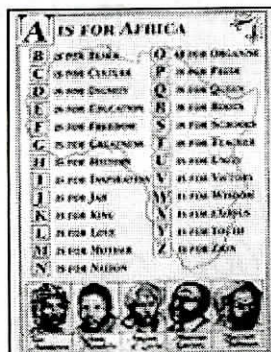
Sunday 31st October 7.00 - 11.00

**The Arts Café,
28 Commercial Street
Aldate East (Tube), London EC1**

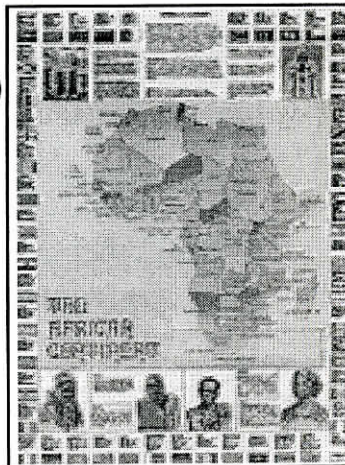
To celebrate of Black History Month with the Black Lesbian & Gay Community and their supporters and friends.

There have been a number of events that have been organised across the capital and nationally, which we hope you have taken the opportunity to take part in. Now Let us get together for a chilled out session and at the end the last Black History Month of the century by spending some time to celebrate our Black History

Performances include, Drumming, poetry and music. All are welcome. this will be th re-launch event of the Wind-Down Zone, which will be taking place on the last Sunday of every month.



Venue and details of the November Wind down Zone will follow in the next mail out and will be advertised in popular listings



The BLGC are increasingly receiving calls from Black Lesbians and Gay Men from all over the country and occasionally from overseas.

If you are a Black Lesbian or Gay man who is not able to come to the centre for support because of location, have you considered starting your own support group in your local area.

The BLGC would like to hear from genuine Black lesbians or Gay men who feel isolated in the town or city they are living in. We would like to support you by opening up the opportunity to meet others in you area.

This is a service we are keen to develop and from the number of calls we receive of this nature, it is a service that is needed. Write to me. Let me know what is happening for you.

Call and leave a message or write to me, Nadine (National Outreach Volunteer) c/o the Centre. You can also e-mail me on blgc@btinternet.com

If there is anybody who would like to be involved in any of the following events, please contact the BLGC who have contacts with each of the organisations listed.

Some support with organising activities may be available from the Centre

~ *Mardi Gras 2000* ~
~ *Summer Rites 2000* ~
~ *Brighton Pride 2000* ~

DISCUSSION GROUPS AT THE CENTRE

Bryony: Discussion group for lesbians of colour.

The first group meeting will be at 3 - 5pm on Saturday 16th October. The group will meet on every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Meeting days 6th & 20th November, 4th & 18th December.

Drumming

Sister of Sense Drumming Workshop meet on most Sundays at the Centre. Please call on 0171-620-3885 to check venue.



Lesbian & Gay Parenting Group

The Centre continues to receive calls from parents who need support and who would like to set up a self-help support group with the aim or organise events for lesbian & gay parents and their children, as well as hold discussion groups etc. If you are interested in participating, please write to or leave a message or e-mail us.

ARE YOU A BLACK GAY MAN WHO NEEDS TO DISCUSS OR SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES?

- ~ *Do you have an issue that you would like to discuss or share with a group?*
- ~ *Do you want to meet other Black Gay Men in different environment than usual?*
- ~ *Are you interested in facilitating a discussion session for Black Gay men?*

WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR BLACK GAY MEN TO ORGANISE DISCUSSIONS AND DROP IN SESSIONS AT THE CENTRE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP, OR HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN GO FORWARD, PLEASE CONTACT HELEN ON 0181-639-0520 OR CALL AT THE CENTRE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON 0171-620-3885 OR E-MAIL

ON blgc@btinternet.com

***COUNSELLING & THERAPY IN THE
BLACK LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY***

*Some of you may have received a questionnaire regarding
Counselling & Therapy in the Black lesbian & Gay community to.*

*I would be very grateful if you could spend 5 minutes
to completing & returning it to me.*

Thank you for your help and your time

M Malley

***THE BLGC CAN ADVERTISE OR
DISTRIBUTE FOR YOU***

*If you have any information of interest or concern to
Black Lesbian & Gay Community that you would like
to be distributed, please contact the Centre.*

*For a small fee, we can advertise or distribute your
information to a growing contact list.*

RECOMMENDED LISTINGS

Her/She bar - Jacamo's

88-89 Cowcross Street EC13

Stylish womens bar, boyz as guests, open seven nights, normal pub hours. Mon - Thurs boyz as guests, weekends girlz only.

Farringdon Tube station

Off The Hook - The Velvet Room

157 Charing Cross Rd, WC1

Start the week on a high note on Mondays at The Velvet room
Uplifting vibe enjoyed by all who attend, no attitudes, no egos.

DJ Chris Mckay, (also at Fruit Machine - Heaven), giving you R&B,
house & garage, ragga, hip hop and soul accompanied by an MC.
£3/£4 after 11.

Tottenham Court Rd Tube station

The Candy Bar

4 Carlisle Street, W1 (off Dean Street)

Women's Bar in the heart of Soho: Boyz can come as guests.
Good place to meet for a drink with friends. Also has club nights.
Those recommended are listed under club listings.

Well worth a visit.

Mon - Thurs 5pm - 12am

Fri & Sat 5pm - 2am

Sun 5pm - 11pm

Tottenham Court Road Tube station

The Glass Bar

West Lodge, Euston Square Gardens, Euston Road, NW1

Women's Bar in the heart of Soho: Boyz can come as guests.
Good place to meet for a drink with friends. Also has club nights
Pub prices at the bar, smart dress code. No admission after
11.30pm

Tue-Fri	5pm - late
Sat	6pm - late
Sun	2pm - 7pm

Euston Tube station

Ku bar

75 Charing Cross Road, W1

Stylish central London Bar with a young scene friendly crowd.
Can get busy

Mon - Sat	4pm - 11pm
Sun	4pm - 10.30pm

Leicester Square Tube station

**Where do you recommend to go?
Want to let us know, so that we can let others
know?**

Call and leave a message on

0171-620-3885

or

e-mail *blgc@btinternet.com*

PACE provides counselling, groupwork and mental health advocacy for lesbians and gay men.

The PACE Mental Health Advocacy Project is a free confidential and independent service for lesbians and gay men who are experiencing emotional distress. Our trained volunteers will support you in finding out what services are available to you, support you in saying what you want and can refer/accompany you to appropriate agencies or meetings.

We are based near Caledonian road in Islington. Our office hours are 10am – 5pm Monday – Friday.

The telephone numbers for each service are:

<i>Counselling</i>	<i>0171 697 0014</i>
<i>Advocacy</i>	<i>0171 697 0017</i>
<i>Groupwork</i>	<i>0171 697 0016</i>

We also offer workshops and groups for gay men and lesbians, please phone the above number to put your name on the mailing list.

We run a mental health support group for lesbians which meets at PACE every Wednesday afternoon from 2 – 4.30pm. Please telephone for further details.

ARE YOU GAY/LESBIAN/BI & WANT TO TALK ABOUT DRUGS?

LSD LINE 0171 439 0717

Weds 6 - 9pm

A confidential service provided by Project LSD

BLGC CHATBACK

Dear Tanti,

Can you give me any advise on how to become more confident about myself? I am really shy, but I'm just waiting for any excuse to come out of my shell. And believe me when I do, I'm never going back.

Tanti says....

Well, what can I say? You sound to me like you're almost there anyway. Why not come to the Wind Down Zone on a Sunday and maybe you'll meet some people there who will give you the excuse to take that next step.

Dear Tanti,

I have recently fallen out with with a close friend over guy that we were both seeing. I am furious with him and keep seeing myself having a real row if I see him out anywhere. This other guy is now seeing another friend of ours, but I'm still angry with my best friend. what can I do to stop my temper. We're supposed to be mates!!

Tanti says....

Why not come to the Wind Down Zone on a Sunday, listen to some good music, feel some good vibes and chill with the still!! Kaa....

Kaaaa.....