Hi from Highlander. This is a first time Board member's biased account.

On February 21 the ACD board gathered at the speculcuar and historic site in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains at Highlander Center. I had never ventured further south than our capital. Here was an opportunity that I looked forward to—a winter break down south. It had not occurred to me that there might be snow in Tennessee in February.

With true Southern hospitality, Katherine Pearson escorted the first arrivals, Lina, Wen-Ti and myself on a delightful tour of Knoxville. We crossed the Tennessee River and ventured to the site of the World's Fair, through the large developed university area and past the Jubilee Center into the quaint Shelton Quarter.

We met up with the rest of the Board that evening at the Bread and Puppet Theater’s performance of the Hunger Cantata, a sobering experience and excellent preparation for the two days that followed.

Saturday morning we awoke bright and early. From the picture window we looked out on the fog covered hills. The air felt refreshingly cool and I longed to go for a walk in the woods behind the conference center. But no...

We each selected our rocking chair to ready ourselves. I made sure that I found one with a high back, since I had been warned about the duration and intensity of ACD Bd. meetings. (20 of us were at this one!) We thanked our president, Debbie Landerman, for the diligent and skillful organizing she had done since the Boston Conference.

Then we had a workshop on racism facilitated by Sharon King. We introduced ourselves by telling a story about problems and successes in working in multi-cultural settings. Jane Sapp (of Highlander) brought up the common remark, “I wish we could all get together and be the same.”

Eaye MacBuffy often found herself the “minority representative” in many community organizations. Wen-ti and Ricardo live with their bi-cultural heritage—playing different roles in each situation. John O’Neal spoke of a difficult situation in which Roots opened the stage for a too-short discussion on There do we connect and where do we divide. How do we learn the differences between doing something with and doing something for someone? How does the myth of a democratic society divert attention from the economic and political issues of cultural differences?

We tried to glean the implications for the membership of ACD. We examined our organizational structure from bottom to top and realized that we need to develop and integrate our discussion into on-going ACD projects. For our words to take on meaning, in other words ACD needs a clearer structure or relationship between membership, projects and the stated goals of cultural democracy.
AN OPEN CALL TO A.C.D.

PAINT IT, SING IT, DANCE IT, SHOUT IT
IN THE STREETS

The time is ripe, the Spring is here, the President is floundering, PROTEST!
The crisis of faith in the Reagan administration is growing daily; it is time again to
make our rhythms and voices heard. An unusually broad coalition of labor unions,
religious groups, and peace groups have come together to organize the next March on Wash-
ington, April 25-27, 1987: the Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and
Southern Africa.

We in the cultural community know that the toll of these conservative times has been far-
reaching, personal, domestic, and international. The choice to rally 'round anti-intervention
in Central America and Southern Africa at this time is a choice of a newer, more radical common
denominator. Four years ago a truly broad coalition could have come together around, say,
anti-nuclear work; but anti-intervention was the domain of the peace movement, the already com-
mitted. Not today. In 1987 the hypocrisy, exploitation, opportunism and violence of Reagan
administration foreign policy is being exposed in full force; several major businesses and univ-
versities have divested their support from the government of South Africa; and the 'Contragate'
scandal has exposed the underbelly of a corrupt leadership. 'Contragate' shows the power of the
peace movement and of our protests—it shows that the leverage of the people on the United
States against the Reagan government is already so powerful that our commander in chief cannot
exorcize the power to make war, cannot send U.S. troops to Central America, and so has to resort
to illegal subterfuge and mercenary armies.

Please become involved. Contact your local coalition, put together a presence to include in the
march—your own full self expression of your reasons for coming, a performance with a friend,
a bunch of people with musical instruments or noisemakers, a float; create a bamba or salsa
line and dress brightly; contact a local union, find out who is going on their bus, and offer to
get together with them and silkscreen t-shirts or learn songs; by yourself, with your friends, or
just by yourself, with the beauty of the difference we want.

There will be a small festival the morning of the rally; there will be a meeting place for a
CULTURAL CONTINGENT to march together; we could organize affinity groups of cultural
workers to participate in civil disobedience together. For further information on all of
these possibilities, contact the National Cultural Coordinator: Tambrey Matthews, Mobil-
Take on as little or as much as feels right. I hope to see you here, with all your colors
and passion—

Susan R. McCarr
Cultural Consultant to the Mobilization
EldersShareTheArts, Inc.

425 E. 25th Street, Rm. 825
New York, N.Y. 10010
(212) 481-4330

ELDERS SHARE THE ARTS will present its Seventh Annual Living History Theater Festival on Thursday, May 21 at St. Ann's Church, Bronx, N.Y. from 1-4 P.M. Several of the ESTA drama groups will perform original plays based on stories from their lives. Everyone invited. Free public performance.

ELDERS SHARE THE ARTS will be conducting a One Day Workshop on Living History Theater and Life Review for cultural workers at Hunter School of Social Work, 129 East 79th Street on Saturday, May 2nd from 10-3 P.M. Fee $50, Student rate $35. For more information call 212 481-4330.
THE ALLIANCE FOR CULTURAL DEMOCRACY
BOX 2478 Station A
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 352-2421 or (814) 627-3241

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Mail the above information to Neil V. Seling, 3025 Bryant Ave. S. #1, Minneapolis, MN 55409. Make check payable to Alliance for Cultural Democracy (U.S. currency only).

Thank you for joining the effort.