

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland CA—FACES of the East Bay is celebrating Black History Month at the East Bay Church of Religious Science, 4130 Telegraph Avenue Oakland with two free public events.

On Sunday, February 27, from 2:00 -4:30 pm, FACES is honoring the 50th anniversary of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and the courageous women who dedicated their lives to the front lines of the civil rights movement. The young women, black, white, and latina from all corners of the country, north and south, left home and college in the early 1960s to participate in sit-ins, voter registration campaigns, and freedom rides. They experienced beatings and arrests, and witnessed unspeakable violence.

The Sunday afternoon event will feature presentations by four Bay Area activists, Cathy Cade, Betita Martinez, Jane Bond Moore, and Jean Wiley—all contributing authors to the new book, *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*. Chude Allen, poet and former Freedom School teacher will moderate the program. Additional guests will include Rev. Phil Lawson and pianist and composer Jacqui Hairston, who will present history and highlights of the musical spirit that carried the Civil Rights movement. Sale of *Hands on the Freedom Plow* and booksigning will be part of the event.

About *Hands on the Freedom Plow*: Fifty-two women share their stories in this book about the movement that changed the course of history. As editors of the book write in the introduction, "Though the voices are different, they all tell the same story-of women bursting out of constraints, leaving school, leaving their hometowns, meeting new people, talking into the night, laughing, going to jail, being afraid, teaching in Freedom Schools, working in the field, dancing at the Elks Hall, working the WATS line to relay horror story after horror story, telling the press, telling the story, telling the word. And making a difference in the world."

On Friday, February 25 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm, at the same location, FACES will show two films, *Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders*, a powerful documentary about courageous women leading the Civil Rights movement, and excerpts of *You Got to Move*, featuring profiles of African American activists Bernice Reagon and Bernice Robinson.

The event facility is wheelchair accessible. FACES of the East Bay is a non-profit organization serving San Francisco East Bay Area communities.

Event co-sponsors include Bay Area Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement and Ella Baker Center.