INVENTORY OF THE DADISI SANYIKA COLLECTION, 1940s-2005

Finding aid prepared by Kendall Hinesley
California State University, Dominguez Hills
Archives and Special Collections
University Library, Room 5039
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, California 90747
Phone: (310) 243-3895
URL: http://www4.csudh.edu/libarchives/index
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Dadisi Sanyika Collection
Dates: 1940s-2005
Bulk Dates: 1970-2005
Collection Number: Consult repository.
Creator:
Extent: 14 boxes 7 linear ft
Repository: California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections
Archives and Special Collection
University Library, Room 5039
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, California 90747
Phone: (310) 243-3895
URL: http://www4.csudh.edu/libarchives/index
Abstract: This collection contains archival material and rare books related to Dadisi Sanyika and his interests in African American history and culture, African drumming and dance, and the study of astrology, metaphysics, occultism, black gnostic studies, and PermaCulture. Included in the collection are published books and periodicals, pamphlets, yearbooks, handwritten notes, study materials, lesson plans, astrology charts, ephemera, newspaper clippings, and VHS tapes.
Language: Collection material is in English
Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Title of item], Dadisi Sanyika Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills
Acquisition Information
Collection donated to CSUDH Archives Gloria M. Sanyika, and the Sanyika Family.
Processing Information
This collection was processed in 2015 by Kendall Hinesley and William Marshall Jr.
Biography
Dadisi Sanyika was an educational facilities planner, teacher, artist, writer, traditional African drummer and dancer, researcher, astrologer, ordained metaphysical minister, social activist, martial arts master, and philosopher. He was born John Carl Stitt in Los Angeles, California, November 30th, 1948, and later changed his name to Dadisi Feleji Sanyika. Though he appears to have solely used Sanyika as his last name from that point on, he regularly used several combinations of his birth and assumed names such as: John Sanyika, John Stitt Sanyika, Dadisi Stitt Sanyika, and Dadisi Sanyika. He was raised in Los Angeles’ South Central area, and attended Los Angeles City College and California State University Los Angeles. He married was to Gloria (Heshima) Sanyika, with whom he had three daughters: Timiza Kwa-utulivu, Sebek-Nefera, and Neith Ra.
Professionally, Sanyika was the Director of Facilities Planning at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science for 15 years. Outside of this, he was involved in a number of endeavors and held multiple positions including: the Artistic Director of Dembrebrah West African Drum and Dance Ensemble, Director of Black Gnostic Studies with the Aquarian Spiritual Center, founder of Golden Thread Productions (an African Aquarian Cultural Educational Inner-Attainment Company), co-founder and editor for the Knowledge Broker newspaper, practicing astrologer, founder of the Malcolm X Community Youth Center, founder of the Watts Community Policy and Planning Institute, and teacher at Christ Unity Center in Los Angeles and the African Cultural Research Center in Long Beach.
As part of his interest in metaphysics and occult philosophy, Sanyika was closely aligned with the Aquarian Spiritual Center and Bookshop in Los Angeles, studying there for twenty seven years, and acting as the Director of Studies from 1985-1991. Founded by Alfred and Bernice Ligon, the center was prominent within the black community. They hosted the first black
history classes offered in Los Angeles, the founding of the US organization, Community Theater, occult philosophy lectures and classes, and black authors’ autograph parties. In 1969 Sanyika and others from the Spiritual Center developed Black Gnostic Studies. They concentrated on the connections between metaphysical thought and Ancient African cultures including those in Egypt and Ethiopia. From these studies came the concept of Blacks as “Seed People” (the source of life and culture).

Dadisi Sanyika passed away on January 28th, 2005 at the age of 56.

Scope and Content
The Dadisi Sanyika collection consists of over 800 published books (including small press and self-published works), published serials, pamphlets, paper ephemera, correspondence, newspaper clippings, newsletters, administrative documents, and VHS tapes. The collection is split between archival materials described to the folder level, and published materials catalogued individually and searchable through the California State University Dominguez Hills Library catalog.

Published materials focus on African American history and culture, African dance and drumming, Egyptology and the study of Ancient Egyptian religion, astrology, Cabala, tarot, metaphysics, occult philosophy, Jungian thought and psychoanalysis, Gnostic studies, and other esoteric studies. Books in the collection were used heavily in Sanyika’s studies and work at the Aquarian Spiritual center. Sanyika, Alfred Ligon, and others at the center used books on Egyptology and other ancient African civilizations in their work and teachings on the concepts of Black Gnostic Studies and SEED People. Because of the close relationship between Sanyika and the Aquarian Spiritual Center, books in the Dadisi Sanyika Aquarian collection are shelved together with books from the Alfred and Bernice Ligon Aquarian Collection. The two can be searched simultaneously by searching for “Aquarian collection,” or individually by searching “Sanyika/Aquarian” or “Ligon/Aquarian”.

The archival collection focuses on biographical materials covering Sanyika’s many endeavors as a cultural and spiritual community leader, his work in the study of occult philosophy and esoteric studies, his astrology practice, African American cultural events, African dance and drumming, and Permaculture (a sustainable mode agriculture and social planning based on natural ecosystems). The bulk of the collection material focuses on his work in these areas rather than his personal life or professional career as a Director of Facilities Planning.

Biographical materials include his yearbooks from John Muir Middle School and Jefferson High School in South Central Los Angeles; newspaper and magazine articles about Sanyika’s work with African dance and drumming, Golden Thread Productions, and his involvement with cultural events. Also included are notebooks with notes on planning and management.

Materials concerning metaphysics and esoteric studies include notes, lesson plans, assignments, tests, readings, flyers and handouts, and astrology charts prepared by Sanyika. Topics in this area include astrology, tarot, philosophy, SEED people and Black Gnostic Studies, metaphysics, and other esoteric studies. Also included are flyers, handouts, and other materials from the Aquarian Spiritual Center. Materials concerning African and African American culture include flyers, handouts, event tickets, magazine and newspaper clippings, and VHS videos on African drumming and dance.

Items found within individual books cataloged for the collection were removed unless the context of the book is necessary to understand the item. Removal is noted in the catalog record for the book when the connection between the item and the book is useful but not necessary for the item to remain in the book. Items include: bookmarks from local bookstores, event tickets, event flyers, notes, business cards, and publisher order cards.

The collection also includes materials on Sanyika’s interest and work with PermaCulture, a sustainable mode agriculture and social planning based on natural ecosystems. Included are notes on PermaCulture design and application, flyers and brochures, e-mails from the Los Angeles PermaCulture Guild, and project proposals and plans.

Arrangement
Arranged in 5 series:


Subjects for Archival Collection
African Americans -- History.
African Americans-- Culture.
African American dance.
Astrology.
Blacks -- Religion.
Dance—Africa.
Drum--Performance--Africa.
Existentialism.
Gnosticism.
Metaphysics.
New Age movement.
Occultism.
Tarot.

**Corporate Names**
Aquarian Spiritual Center (Los Angeles, Calif.)

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

**Subjects**
African Americans -- Poetry.
African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- History
African Americans -- History
African Americans -- History
Alternative medicine.
Astrology.
Aquarian Spiritual Center (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Black theology.
Blacks --Egypt
Blacks -- Religion.
Civil Rights Movement
Color -- Therapeutic use.
Cosmogony.
Egypt -- Civilization
Existentialism.
Geometry -- Philosophy.
Gnosticism.
Hatha yoga -- Therapeutic use.
Houses (Astrology)
Jesus Christ -- Words -- Extra-canonical parallels.
Jesus Christ--New Age movement interpretations.
Magic.
Metaphysics.
Music -- Philosophy and aesthetics.
Mythology.
New Age movement
Occultism.
Pan-Africanism.
Psychoanalysis and religion.
Race.
Race relations.
Spiritualism.
Spirituality.
Symbolism of numbers.

**Prominent Authors**
Ashby, Muata.
Bailey, Alice, 1880-1949.
Baker, Douglas.
Besant, Annie, 1847-1933.
Blavatsky, H. P. (Helena Petrovna), 1831-1891.
Budge, E. A. Wallis (Ernest Alfred Wallis), Sir, 1857-1934.
Churchward, Albert.
Churchward, Albert.
Clymer, R. Swinburne (Reuben Swinburne), 1878-1966.
Curtiss, Harriette Augusta, 1856?-1932.
Eliade, Mircea, 1907-1986.
Fortune, Dion.
Gadalla, Moustafa, 1944-
Gauquelin, Michel, 1928-1991
Ghose, Aurobindo, 1872-1950
Hall, Manly P. (Manly Palmer), 1901-1990.
Hartmann, Franz, 1838-1912
Heline, Corinne, 1882-
Hodson, Geoffrey, 1886-1983
Jackson, John G.
Jones, Marc Edmund, 1888-1980
Jung, C. G. (Carl Gustav), 1875-1961
Lévi, Eliphas, 1810-1875
Massey, Gerald, 1828-1907
Purucker, G. de ḥq (Gottfried), 1874-1942.
Regardie, Israel
Rudhyar, Dane, 1895-1985
Sakolai, Frances.
Saraydarian, Torkom
Schwaller de Lubicz, R. A.

**Separated Materials**
The collection includes over 800 published books and serials individually cataloged and searchable through the University Library catalog (www4.csudh.edu/library/), or WorldCat (www.worldcat.org). All items are labeled as Sanyika/Aquarian Collection.
### 1 Personal, 1962-2004

**Physical Description:** 1 linear footboxes 1-2  

**Scope and Content Note**  
This series includes yearbooks from John Muir Middle School and Jefferson High School in South Central Los Angeles; an obituary, newspaper and magazine articles about Sanyika’s work with African dance and drumming, documents concerning Golden Thread Productions, and articles and ephemera from cultural events. Also included are notebooks with notes on planning and management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Personal Biographical (obituary, business cards, questionnaire, newspaper articles)</th>
<th>1990s-2000s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence 2003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Jefferson High School Yearbook 1966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>John Muir Junior High Yearbook 1962</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Jefferson High School Yearbook 1964</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Notebook 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Planner 1994-1995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>Bedroom Noise Journal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Published books by Dadisi Sanyika. Swords: a Poem. Rise of the Midnight Son.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AFrican Drum and Dance:Teh Reconnection with African Ancestral Wison. 2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Notebook (electricity,physics,etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Notebook (marketing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Notebook (marketing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Notebook (small business marketing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Notebook (metaphysics and occult studies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2 Metaphysics and Occult Studies, 1960s-2004

**Physical Description:** 2 linear ft. boxes 3-6  

**Scope and Content Note**  
This series includes materials concerning metaphysics and occult studies. Formats include: notes, lesson plans, assignments, tests, readings, flyers and handouts, and astrology charts prepared by Sanyika. Topics in this area include astrology, tarot, philosophy, SEED people and Black Gnostic Studies, metaphysics and other esoteric studies. Also included are flyers, handouts, and other materials from the Aquarian Spiritual Center.

| Box 3, Folder 1 | Astrology Readings (1 of 3)                                                      |             |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Astrology Readings (2 of 3)                                                      |             |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | Astrology Readings (3 of 3)                                                      |             |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | G.T Astro Outline Astrological Chart, Outline, and Calculations                 |             |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Rebirth of the Mysteries Series Charts 1999-2000                                |             |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | 3 Crosses Astrological Handouts                                                  |             |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Notebook #1 Cycles and Charts                                                    |             |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | New Cycle of Meditation and Rhythm of the Drum Brochures                         |             |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | Masonry, Initiation, Solomon (BGS) Notes, Lessons Plans, and Masonic Charts      |             |
| Box 3, Folder 10| Higher Magic-Levi Readings                                                       |             |
| Box 3, Folder 11| Chakras, Clairvoyance, etc. Subject file                                         |             |
| Box 3, Folder 12| Spring Cleaning/Health Diet Lessons Plans                                         |             |
| Box 3, Folder 13| Easter Flyers and Studies                                                        |             |
Box 3, Folder 14  Hollow Earth 1995
Box 3, Folder 15  Philosophical Research Society
Box 3, Folder 16  Black Gnostic Studies and Masonry Concepts
Box 3, Folder 17  Black Gnostic Studies Workshops 1981, 1985
Box 3, Folder 18  Flyers and Newsletters
Box 3, Folder 19  Wynn: The Astrology Student's Handbook; Aspect Houses. Astro Carto Graphy (booklet about astrology and planetary influence)
Box 4, Folder 1  Jamal/Vicki Astrology Chart 2001
Box 4, Folder 2  Yendi Astrological Calculations 2003
Box 4, Folder 3  Jamal Ali Letters 2001
Box 4, Folder 4  Queen Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 5  Chuck Hicks Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 6  Carla Hicks Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 7  Manya Anderson Letters and Astrology Charts 2004
Box 4, Folder 8  Tommy Astrology Charts 2004
Box 4, Folder 9  Elayne Dolores Sanders Numerology Analysis
Box 4, Folder 10  Melida Hines (8) Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 11  Gregory Praeter Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 12  Baby Sharma/Lily Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 13  Brother X Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 14  Astro Charts Letters Oct/Nov 2003
Box 4, Folder 15  Baby Michelle Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 16  Franklin Michelle Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 17  Kathryn Farmer Astrological Calculations 2004
Box 4, Folder 18  Kenka Astrological Calculations and Charts 2004
Box 4, Folder 19  Shamala Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 20  Rena Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 21  Lendra Lee (60) Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 22  Cecilia Astrology Chart
Box 4, Folder 23  Willetta Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 24  Alia Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 25  Percell Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 26  Kenyako Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 27  Taiwo Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 28  Asali Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 29  Lois Palmer Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 30  Aurora Lee Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 31  Whyatt Lee Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 32  Taybren Lee Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 33  Donyelle Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 34  Quincey Mitchell Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 35  Peter Farmer Astrology Chart 2003-2004
Box 4, Folder 36  Kamal Astrology Chart 2004
Box 4, Folder 37  Mary Pratar Astrology Chart and Calculations 2003
Box 4, Folder 38  Danielle Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 39  Kweku Jones Astrology Chart
Box 4, Folder 40  Kusudi Astrology Chart August 2003
Box 4, Folder 41  Qya's Sisterhood (Charts) 2003
Box 4, Folder 42  Seth Lennon Weiner Astrology Chart
Box 4, Folder 43  Erica Byrd Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 44  Beverly Coleman "Ushukela" Letter, Astrology Chart, and Calculations 2003
Box 4, Folder 45  Timiza Astrology Chart 2003
Box 4, Folder 46  Neith Astrology Church
Box 4, Folder 47  Sebek Astrology Chart
Box 4, Folder 48  Dadisi Composite Charts
Box 4, Folder 49  Sanyika Family Charts
Box 4, Folder 50  Steve Faison Astrology Chart 2003
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 51</th>
<th>Kevin Terry Astrological Calculations 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 52</td>
<td>Alexander Astrological Calculations and Charts 2003-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Astrology Charts and Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Astrology Charts and Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Dadisi #55 Astrology Charts and Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 5</td>
<td>Astrology Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 6</td>
<td>University of Metaphysics; Study Lesson Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 7</td>
<td>University of Metaphysics, lessons and exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 8</td>
<td>University of Metaphysics Lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 9</td>
<td>Bruce S. Fisher: Man, Grand Reflection of the Greater Cosmos Oct 12, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 10</td>
<td>Personalized Astrology Lesson, Astro Communications Services Inc. Prepared for John Sanyika 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 11</td>
<td>Adams: MA'AT (Ancient Egyptian Spirituality)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 11</td>
<td>Print-out of articles by H.P. Blavatsky from Blavatsky.org 1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 African and African American Cultural Studies and Events, circa 1990s-2000s

Physical Description: 3 linear ft. boxes 7-12

Scope and Content Note

This series includes materials concerning African and African American culture. Formats include flyers, handouts, event tickets, magazine and newspaper clippings, and VHS videos on African drumming and dance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 7, Folder 1</th>
<th>African American Mental Health Conf. Letters and Workshop Presenters Application 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 2</td>
<td>African Technological Resource Conference; The Knowledge Broker. notes, flyers, agendas, etc. 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 3</td>
<td>The Knowledge Broker Administrative Materials 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 4</td>
<td>African Cultural Center Mailing List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 5</td>
<td>Black Studies Printouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 6</td>
<td>A Society of Men Notebook 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 7</td>
<td>African and African American Cultural Events and Flyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 8</td>
<td>African Drumming and Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 9</td>
<td>Golden Thread Productions Mailers 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 1</td>
<td>Truth Seeker Handbook: Training in African Spirituality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 2</td>
<td>Universal Revolutionary Wisdom Study Books for the Wise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 3</td>
<td>Newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 4</td>
<td>Newspapers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 5</td>
<td>Newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 6</td>
<td>The Black Orange (Orange County, California, African American Newsletter) June 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 1</td>
<td>African Dance and Percussion Videos 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 2</td>
<td>The Healing Passage Video 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 3</td>
<td>The Healing Passage Video 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9, Folder 4</td>
<td>Journey into Rhythm Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 1</td>
<td>Pangolins and Rhythmes Traditionnels du Mandingue Videos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 2</td>
<td>Leeyen Story and CSULB Celebration Afrikan Culture Videos 1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 3</td>
<td>Hands on Drumming Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 4</td>
<td>Doundolinba, Sano, and Maharishi’s System of Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 1</td>
<td>Black Dance Programs Videos 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 2</td>
<td>A Kalahari Family, Views of American Futurists, and 1992 Dance Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 3</td>
<td>Power Nomics and African Ballet Videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 4</td>
<td>Jailyaa, Malcolm X, and 50th Jubilee Videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 2</td>
<td>Music and Dance of Guinea and Mamady Leita Videos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
African and African American Cultural Studies and Events, circa 1990s-2000s

4 Items Removed From Books, 1970s-2000s

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of items removed from published books cataloged individually including bookmarks from local bookstores, event tickets, event flyers, notes, business cards, and publisher order cards.

5 PermaCulture, 2003-2004

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of materials on Sanyika’s interest and work with PermaCulture, a sustainable mode agriculture and social planning based on natural ecosystems. Included are notes on PermaCulture design and application, flyers and brochures, e-mails from the Los Angeles, PermaCulture Guild, and project proposals and plans.