

**"IF YOU ARE TRYING TO TRANSFORM A
BRUTALIZED SOCIETY INTO ONE WHERE
PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN DIGNITY AND HOPE, YOU
BEGIN WITH THE EMPOWERING OF THE MOST
POWERLESS. YOU BUILD FROM THE GROUND UP."**

ADRIENNE RICH is one of the major American poets of the last half of this century. Now 70, she's published more than 16 volumes of poetry and four books of nonfiction, and has been the recipient of nearly every major literary award, including the National Book Award and the MacArthur "genius" grant. Moving away from the more personal themes in her early work, her revolutionary writing has evolved into a passionately political force for women's rights in general, and queer rights in particular. "Feminist theory can no longer afford merely to voice a toleration of 'lesbianism' as an 'alternative life-style,'" she has written. "A feminist critique of compulsory heterosexual orientation for women is long overdue." In 1997, she made headlines when she refused the National Medal for the Arts. In a letter published by the *New York Times*, Rich wrote to Jane Alexander, then-head of the National Endowment for the Arts: "I cannot accept such an award from President Clinton or this White House because the very meaning of art, as I understand it, is incompatible with the cynical politics of this administration."

CHANCES DANCES invites you to celebrate the magic of Adrienne Rich and all queer revolutionaries, deviants, and witches! These masks portray a selection of radical queers and allies, some from the past and some from the present, some recognized and others hidden. We hope their lives and work will inspire current and future generations to

SUMMON A NEW QUEER REALITY!

We offer this mask as a symbol of power through knowledge and community through history! Please pass it on!

to see the other 26 masks and info on Chances events, go to

CHANCESDANCES.ORG

Chances Dances is a LEZ BI GAY TRANS INTERSEX HETERO DANCE PARTY that functions to bring together the varied queer communities of Chicago. It happens on the third Monday of every month, at Subterranean, 2011 North Avenue