



ANI AHAVAH, a.k.a. Jackie Martin

### Background

I was born during WWII in the Midwest, lived 15 years in Baltimore, 2 years in Israel, moved to Santa Barbara in 2005, and, here, have found the home of my dreams in this environment of beauty and higher consciousness. The Bible, Self-help books and groups, college education in African American institutions, ministerial training, study in science and conscious evolution, travel, my community of liberated friends, and my primary relationship with the Source and substance of my being are my foundational support.

### Catalysts for Growth

Indelibly written into my character is the suicide of my parents from alcoholism and overdose of prescribed medicine. Equally impactful was my experience in the tomb of resurrection in Jerusalem and the March on Washington August 23, 1963 hearing Martin Luther King deliver his Dream Speech. The single most impactful experience of my life happened while I was held-up at gunpoint in my home for drug money. It was in the midst of that that incident that my lifelong anger resolved into compassion.

### Engagement Highlights

I was a court-appointed officer with the Dept. Of Juvenile Services in Baltimore, MD with a bulging caseload of incarcerated girls, responsible for their release plan and probation supervision. I worked with the Institute for Self-Governance as Community Liaison to the Resident Councils in City subsidized housing, helping them develop nested enterprises. The National Association for Family and Community Education gave me the first Family Community Leadership award for the urban Community-based training institute I developed in Indianapolis. I retired early from 11 years with the US Postal Service in 1996 to pursue creative pursuits.

### Current Involvements

Recently, I feel I have found a life-partner in the American Red Cross as a volunteer in the Santa Barbara office. As a global humanitarian organization, it is big enough to utilize all I have yet to give for the good of all, and small enough for my daily growth and contribution.

The last 3 years I have worked to build a center for Community in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara at Ayni Gallery. The universal matchmaker amuses me, with the paring of "Ayni," which means "reciprocity" in Quechuan, and "Ani," which means "I Am" in Hebrew. We have turned a storage room with beautiful paintings into an oasis of events for Community to congregate, contribute and SELF-organize. The public is invited into this warm Community embrace the 1st Monday of every month at the SB Love Grid for a potluck social and spontaneous Circle sharing where everyone is honored. I maintain the website and do the broadcasting of events at [www.AyniGallery.com](http://www.AyniGallery.com)

### Weekly Life

I live in a lovely 1BR apartment with a mountain view with my little dog Yofi. We met 3 years ago at D.A.W.G and fell in love. I spend a lot of delicious quiet time at home in reflection, meditation, contemplation and poetic journaling, interspersed with the activities that support the flow of my health, wellbeing and service. [www.AniAhavah.com](http://www.AniAhavah.com)