



Serving the womyn's
community
since 1983

Herland Voice

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www.herlandsisters.org

april 2011

Special Poetry Edition—starting on Page 4

Herland Spring Retreat Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK May 13-15, 2011

Do you have CABIN FEVER? Has it been a while since you spent an entire weekend RELAXING and HAVING FUN with FRIENDS? Are you ready for an AMAZING CONCERT, YUMMY FOOD, and the option to DO WHATEVER YOU WANT for the weekend? Well, Herland has just the event for you! The Herland Spring Retreat will be at Roman Nose State Park (near Watonga), Friday, May 13 to Sunday, May 15!

For those of you that have never been to a Herland retreat, or those that can't remember the last retreat they attended... come on and have some fun! Whether you come solo or with friends, are a certified camper or city grrrl, or come from near or far, it's a perfect, affordable opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old friends, play board games and sports, explore nature, fish, learn something new at a workshop, or simply take it easy in an incredibly supportive, women-only environment.

As usual, your registration includes lodging for both nights, supper when you arrive Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday scrumptious breakfasts, and our famous potluck Saturday evening, the Saturday night concert, campfires, and all activities planned throughout the weekend! Our Saturday evening concert will feature **"Petals and Friends" of the band IRIS!** With

Girls & Guitars, Incredible Harmonies, and Sharlene on the Harmonica - these musicians KNOW how to have a good time and promise to have Roman Nose Rockin'!

Plans are currently being made for all kinds of exciting activities, including a craft workshop or two, fabulous food, a group going fly fishing, dancing, campfires, and just about everything else you'd expect from a Herland Retreat. If you have a hobby you'd like to share with other awesome women, or have an idea for a workshop, email Sannie at SAHatwork@aol.com or call (405) 550-2312 and we'll get it planned. Be creative with this – anything goes!

**The Herland Retreat is whatever we make it.
Let's make it great!**

Since we're only publishing The Voice quarterly, **this is the only registration form you'll receive.** The deadline for pre-registration (which *really* helps us to know how much food to buy and how many awesome women to expect) is Monday, May 7th. After you send us your registration form and check, we'll mail you a packet which will include a map, more information about the planned activities, and a list of what you'll want to bring with you. Do yourself a favor, and register now while you're thinking about it!



The Herland Voice is a publication of Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112. Our bookstore/lending library is open Saturdays from 1-5 pm. Call us at (405) 521-9696 or email us at herland@herlandsisters.org. Visit us on the web at www.herlandsisters.org.

Herland Spring Retreat 2011 Registration

Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK May 13-15, 2011

Deadline for pre-registration is May 8th. Please return registration form and check to:

Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

A retreat packet with all information will be mailed to you.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Total Registration Fee \$_____ enclosed.

I'm enclosing an additional \$ _____ to help provide scholarships.

I'm bringing _____ children (girls of all ages and boys under age 10 are welcome).

I'm bringing _____ dogs that will be kept on leashes at all times and I will sign a waiver stating I am completely responsible for any injury or damage caused by my dog(s).

I have a disability and need the following if possible: _____

Sliding Scale Registration Fee (for entire weekend)

Annual Income PER PERSON

under \$13,300 - \$30 All Day Saturday - \$25 (includes Concert)

\$13,300-\$30,000 - \$45 Saturday Night Concert Only - \$10

over \$30,000 - \$60

Supper Clubs—April, May, and June

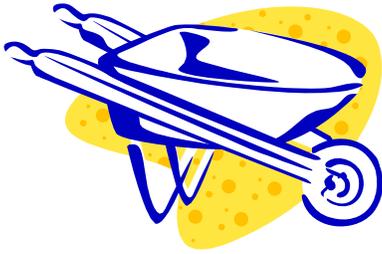
For the **April Supper Club**, which will be **Friday, April 1st**, we'll meet at **Picasso Cafe** on Paseo at 5:30 pm for dinner. Afterwards, we'll be taking the **First Friday Paseo Art Walk** and visiting the galleries. If we still have energy, we'll then go to the Blue Door at 2805 N. McKinley to hear Susan Gibson, an amazing singer-songwriter that wrote the song "Wide Open Spaces" that the Dixie Chicks recorded, for her CD release.

The **May Supper Club** (May 14) falls on the Saturday of the spring retreat, so we'll enjoy each other's Pot Luck dishes at the retreat!

For the **June Supper Club**, we'll be taking a road-trip to **Tulsa!** On **Saturday, June 11th**, we'll meet at Herland at 4:00 and head up the turnpike to have dinner with our Tulsa friends, and then check out Tulsa's Pride Parade and Festival! We have a few vans and large cars lined up, so let us know if you're thinking about joining in the fun, and we'll make sure we fit everyone in! Watch the June issue of the Voice for more details.

upcoming herland events

April 9th - HSR Clean Up Day!

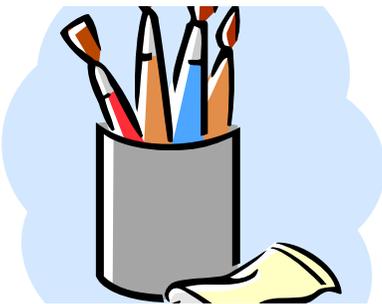


Have you been thinking... How can I help out Herland? Well, now's your chance to help! We're having a clean up day on Saturday, April 9, 2011. We'll be cleaning up the yard, so please bring your rakes (leaf & garden varieties), shovels, chainsaws, pole saws, pruners and hand pruners, eye protection, heavy gloves, and of course yourselves! If you're not the outdoorsy type, don't worry – we can find something inside to work on! We'll start around 8:30am and will be working all day, so come when you can. Sounds crazy, but we always end up having a good time on work days. Hope to see you all there!

April 10th - Curious About Fly Fishing?

Join us for a seminar on fly fishing at Herland, on Sunday, April 10th from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. See more details on page 5.

April 23rd - Crafts!



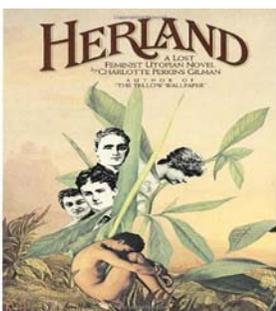
A crafting workshop will be held at Herland on Saturday, April 23 from 1-5 to make extravagant decorations for the King and Queens Ball. We will use feathers, sequins, and cardboard to construct outlandish table centerpieces and candle-lampira to create a mood of hilarity! There may be several kinds of glue involved.

April 30th - from 7-11- Kings & Queens Ball!



At 7pm at Church of the Open Arms! We will have a costume contest for children, teens and adults, with trophies all around; a place for everyone to make a crown and cape; and music and dancing! There will be a (semi) quiet area where a tape of the Royal Wedding of Kate and William, from the day before, will be shown. A box of tissues will be provided for the Weepies. Attire for this event is the same as the Royal one: "Uniform, Morning Coat, or Lounge Suit", which we shall interpret as uniform of any union worker, bathrobe/pajamas, or 70's disco outfit. There will be REAL royalty present, who will perform as Kings and Queens! Tickets are at the door: \$12 for adults, \$6 for teens and \$3 for children. We will keep in mind that some people think they are children until they are 90!

Soon!- Herland Book Study Coming Soon!



Kathy McCallie will be leading a book study of the book Herland, by the feminist writer, Charlotte Perkins Gilman. This discussion group will meet once each week for three weeks, and will probably start late this summer. If you'd like to go ahead and put your name on the list, we'll contact you with more details when they become available. Just leave your name and number on the Herland answering machine, indicating you want to be on the "Book Study List", or better yet – stop by on a Saturday from 1 until 5 and visit in person!

Making the Bed

Here the unmade bed
we slept in,
silent white wrinkles
are the betweenness
of us, crinkling into
our night words,
they separate
but hold us
together.

Here we lie down
together. Our worlds
meet. Beauty
you have quilted
spreads over us
insulating
from so many things
we might fear.

Here, we lie down
looking into
the blackness,
towards the universe
of stars until
dreams invite us
to separate worlds.

And again, in the morning,
we wake differently,
you sit quietly with a tea cup
I look outside the window.
Pieced colors unfold
in flowerbeds
we've made and unmade
year after year, from
here, I pull up the sheets
until night falls
hoping we come
to each other again.

Abigail F Keegan

Dr. Abigail Keegan teaches British and Women's Literature at Oklahoma City University. She has published two previous books of poetry, [The Feast of the Assumptions](#), [Oklahoma Journey](#) and a critical book, [-Byon's Othered Self and Voice: Contextualizing the Homographic Signature](#). Her most recent book of poems, [Depending on the Weather](#), has just been published by Village Books Press.

Family Values

The rule of thumb was,
he could beat her with any stick
that was no thicker than his thumb.
This was no fond game of bondage,
but the state religion of empires.
In ancient Rome,
familia meant all of the slaves
belonging to one master,
and in this century,
a family is said to have come to its end
if it spawns a generation without sons.

Thirty years ago, in every state
it was legal for a woman's husband to rape her.
Today few women promise at the altar
to obey the man they've wed,
but how many submit to his torture
to keep their health insurance?
Sister, you can fight for the right
to marry the woman you love,
but how will you answer that tired question,
"Which one of you is the man?"

You can fight for the right
to join this man's army, to join the CIA,
to watch our kind appear on network television.
When did your dreams shrink so small?
Don't you remember when we fought for all of us
to have food and medicine,
and for no one to own anyone else?
When the sound of one heart beating
might make only a tiny rumble,
but all of our hearts beating together
might make an earthquake
that would bring down all of the armies,
and would topple the kings in their stone towers.
I remember, and my heart is still beating.
Is yours?

Betsy Brown

Sodomy

Turned to stone
just like that
left alone for all eternity
for all the gawking tourists
to photograph and talk about.

How did she get mixed up with that fucker Lot, anyway?
He, known as the one righteous man in Sodom,
the kind whom angels come to visit.
He was a pillar of the community
before she was.
He wore his righteousness like a shroud.

His neighbors were not so neighborly.
"Intercourse" is a work that also means "to talk"
but the neighbors didn't want to talk with the angels.
"Take my wife, please,"
a phrase remaining to be invented by some much later wiseass.
But Lot was not about to put his own butt on the line.
"Do not be so wicked," he told the neighbors.
"Take my daughters, they are virgins,
you can do as you please to them."
He pulled his righteousness around him like a shroud.

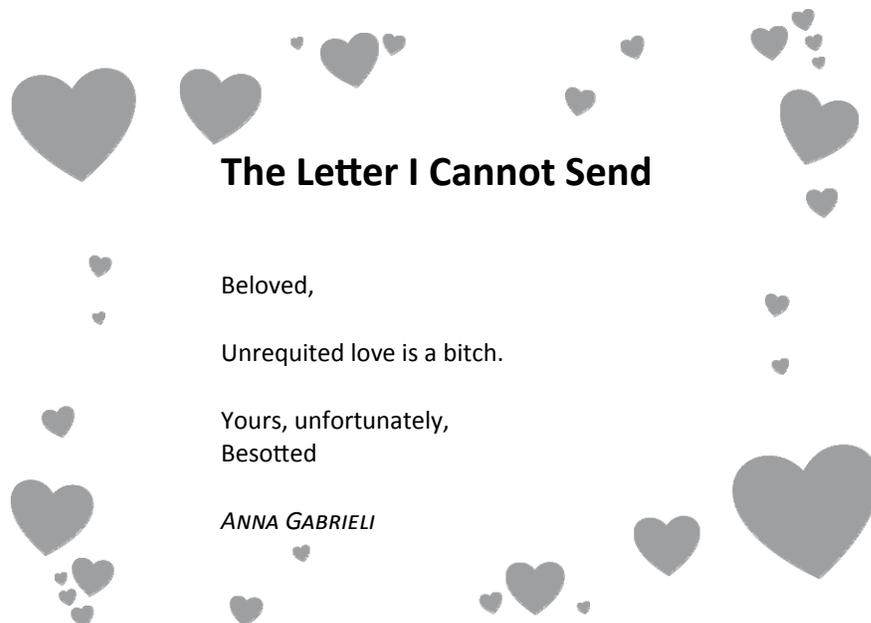
He had offered his dearest possessions.
His neighbors, not deterred, tried to break down the door
only to be driven back by an angelic lightning flash.
Those Sodomites didn't care who they fucked with.
This town could not be saved.
Only the family of the righteous Lot could escape with the angels.
But they must trust in righteousness
and not look back.

What was her name, anyway?
Was she not ready to leave behind
the grief and sorrow of this place
or did she know what tragedy lay ahead?
She could not trust.
The river of salt flowed from her eyes.
She knew what was underneath the shroud.

Flowing powerless like a river of salt,
she could go no further.
She could not conceive
how to protect her daughters from righteousness.
She looked back.
Frozen, now, for all eternity as a bad example.

Lot took his righteousness and her daughters
and made camp in the mountains.
Later, he said the daughters were seductive.
He said they got him drunk.
We've heard that excuse many times since then.
The daughters heard it many times before
and blamed themselves as damaged goods
the neighbors would not accept.
Lot's line went on
to prove a paradigm of righteousness.
The daughters wept many bitter tears.
And their mother, whoever she was
stands alone for all eternity as the first bad example.

Betsy Brown



The Letter I Cannot Send

Beloved,

Unrequited love is a bitch.

Yours, unfortunately,
Besotted

ANNA GABRIELI

Stupid Love

When you know he's lying,
When you know he cheats,
When you know he's broken,
Maybe beyond repair,
Certainly beyond your repair,
Absolutely undependable...

When you know she's desperate,
When you know she manipulates,
When you know she's abusive,
Controlling with rage,
Terrifying and overwhelming,
Absolutely terrified...

When you know it can never last,
When you know it can never work,
When you know it can only hurt,
When you know it's a fraud,
When you know it's all a lie...

And you go there anyway.

ANNA GABRIELI

Joanne

I was the weirdest girl at Northeast High School.
My hair was as short as I could make the hairdresser cut it.
I wore oxford shoes and plain shirts and jeans.
I played field hockey and softball badly,
skipped the junior prom,
and spent my weekends at Girl Scout camp.
I did not flirt, did not date,
did not carry a pocketbook or wear makeup.
The boys called me names in the hall
and in the lunchroom, but I didn't care.
Because they were only calling names,
not hitting me, not threatening to fuck me
to find out if I was a girl or a boy,
I was no coward for not fighting them.
I could ignore them and hold my head high.

I don't know why Joanne liked me.
She wore miniskirts and pantyhose,
coated her mouth with lipstick,
caked her cheeks with powder and blush,
had at least two boyfriends at once,
so she could use one to make the other jealous.
She was determined to make a lady of me.
"Eee-liz-a-beth," she told me, "you don't know
what you're missing." I figured not much.
Once she had plumbed the depths of my obstinacy,
Joanne changed her approach.
"They're called lesbians," she told me.
"The ones that act like men are called butches,
and the ones that act like women are called dykes."
She never let on she was talking about me.

Betsy Brown

Geraldine Ferraro, 1935-2010

BOSTON (AP) — Geraldine Ferraro was a relatively obscure congresswoman from the New York City borough of Queens in 1984 when she was tapped by Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale to join his ticket.

Her vice presidential bid, the first for a woman on a major party ticket, emboldened women across the



country to seek public office and helped lay the groundwork for Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential candidacy in 2008 and John McCain's choice of his running mate, Sarah Palin, that year.

Ferraro died Saturday in Boston, where the 75-year-old

was being treated for complications of blood cancer.

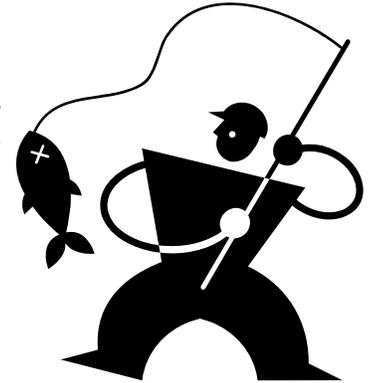
Mondale's campaign had struggled to gain traction and his selection of Ferraro, at least momentarily, revived his momentum and energized millions of women who were thrilled to see one of their own on a national ticket.

Polls showed the Democratic ticket gaining ground on President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H. W. Bush initially. But her candidacy ultimately proved rocky as she fought ethics charges and traded barbs with Bush over accusations of sexism and class warfare.

Ferraro later told an interviewer, "I don't think I'd run again for vice president," then added "Next time I'd run for president."

One of the Best Kept Secrets—Fly Fishing in Oklahoma!

Fly Fishing has been around for hundreds of years, starting with a stick, string, hook, and something looking like a bug. Today, we've advanced to carbon rods, state of the art fly line, and other equipment.



Fly Fishing is not just for trout anymore! Jean will be hosting a short seminar on fly fishing at Herland, on Sunday, April 10th from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Learn the art of casting, rigging your equipment, selection of flies, fly tying, and what equipment is needed for fly fishing.

After honing your skills at the seminar, Jean will be helping us "Catch The Big One" on Saturday morning at the Spring Retreat (May 14th)!

The Voice is published monthly by Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Articles reflect the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously. Herland reserves the right to edit or not publish any article. Subscriptions to The Voice are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

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- Reverend Dr. Kathy McCallie

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