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herland VOICE

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Herland Oral History Project Update—Dr. Lindsey Churchill

By Dr. Lindsey Churchill, Director, The Center: Women's Research Center and BGLTQ+ Student Center, University of Central Oklahoma

Starting in mid-August 2016 at least a dozen University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) students will begin the **Herland Sister Resources Oral History** project. This project is funded through a 7.7 million dollar U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to the University of Central Oklahoma to fund the Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR). STLR tracks experiences, "found in both classroom and extracurricular activities — and students will graduate with documentation to show potential employers that they have proven competency in critical areas not represented on a traditional academic transcript." The Herland project received

over 25,000 dollars from STLR for materials and to compensate students for their work. The project is also supported by the new Center at UCO which includes the Women's Research Center and the BGLTQ+ Student Center.

Students will be grouped into different clusters for the nearly year-long project (August 2016-May 2017). One cluster will work on cataloguing the book donations from the Herland library. I have worked with archivists at UCO to ensure that these books are preserved. Another cluster will digitize the newsletters and preserve them in our archives at the Center. Around half of our students will work on the documentary portion of the project.

HAWKINS
& DELEAR

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405.521.9696 www.herlandsisters.org herland@herlandsisters.org
Regular hours 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1-5 pm

UCO Project (cont. from page 1)

We have received funding for a camera and other equipment to record interviews. We hope that we will have lots of members to interview. The project has many layers of importance for students. I can genuinely say I have never seen students so excited for a project.

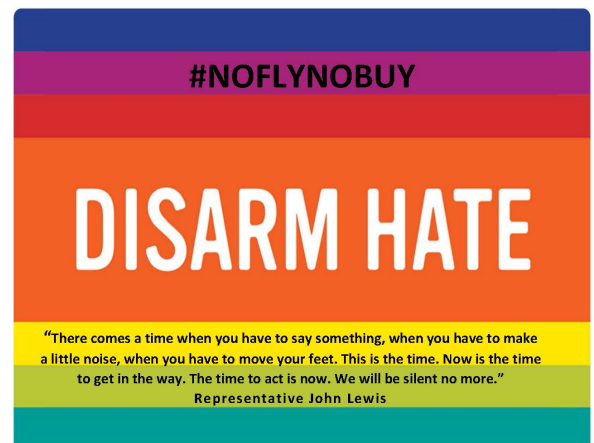
In addition to my personal interests and desire to write a historical monograph about Herland, my support for this project is largely inspired by my work in the classroom, particularly the History of Sex class that I teach at UCO. The class focuses on the "hidden history" of sexuality. However, when we talk about lesbian or queer women in history there are too many silences. My students consistently remark that we have such little information about women in history, particularly women in the LGBTQ+ community. I hope that this project will contribute to preserving a multi-layered history of activist lesbian women. Herland contributes and contributed so much to the community, it is only fitting that this history be honored. This project will ensure that the legacy and activism of Herland is preserved forever.

We are so grateful to Herland Sister Resources for gifting us with this opportunity. If you would like to participate in the project please contact Lindsey at lchurchill@uco.edu or call 813-956-7727. We are actively looking for current or former members to interview. Group interviews are 1 pm Aug 20 and 6 pm Sept 2.

Disarm Hate—Pat Reaves

On June 21, I watched transfixed while Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives held a sit-in on the floor of the U.S. House calling for a vote on two measures that they termed "common-sense gun" control. Just a few days after the mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, congressperson after congressperson spoke about the effects of gun violence and the need for legislation to address the problem. They called for votes on two gun-control measures before the House recess – a bill that would bar anyone on the no-fly list from buying a gun and a bill that would require background checks for more gun purchases.

Wearing a rainbow ribbon on his lapel, Representative John Lewis began the sit-in when took the floor saying, "how many more mothers, how many more fathers need to shed tears of grief before we do something...the time for silence and patience is long gone" ([watch his speech here](#)). Person after person echoed Speaker Nancy Pelosi's statement decrying moments of silence, "Moments of silence are a substitute for taking matters into our own hands." In a letter read by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, former Arizona Representative Gabby Giffords said, "Speaking now is difficult for me, but I haven't been silenced, and neither should the American people."



Living in a place like Oklahoma, it's easy to feel silenced. Steve Russell, the congressman from Oklahoma's 5th district where I live, manufactures and sells military-style assault-style weapons. Every current member of the U.S. House and Senate from Oklahoma has accepted contributions from the National Rifle Association and opposes gun control. Under those conditions, how can I have any influence on national gun control policy? As I listened and watched, I resolved to speak out. Even though I have little confidence that Steve Russell will listen, I must tell him that as MY representative I expect him to take action to limit access to military-style weapons. I cannot silently assent to the continuation of laws and policies that allow for the proliferation of military-style weapons on our streets.

As Representative Lewis said, "There comes a time when you have to say something, when you have to make a little noise, when you have to move your feet. This is the time. Now is the time to get in the way. The time to act is now. We will be silent no more." I urge you to be silent no more.

What's Happening

AUGUST SUPPER CLUB

5:30 pm, Saturday, Aug 13
Potluck
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

UCO GROUP INTERVIEWS

1 pm Aug 20 & 6 pm Sept 2
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

SEPTEMBER MOVIE NIGHT

7 pm, Friday, Sept 2
Paris Is Burning
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

SEPTEMBER SUPPER CLUB

5:30 pm, Saturday, Sept 10
Mama Roja
9219 Lake Hefner Pkwy, OKC

OCTOBER MOVIE NIGHT

7 pm, Friday, October 7
GBF (Gay Best Friend)
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

OCTOBER SUPPER CLUB

5:30 pm, Saturday, October 8
Royal Bavaria
3401 S Sooner Rd, Moore

NOVEMBER MOVIE NIGHT

7 pm, Friday, November 4
Pariah
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

NOVEMBER SUPPER CLUB

5:30 pm, Saturday, November 12
Toby Keith's
310 Johnny Bench Dr, OKC

DECEMBER MOVIE NIGHT

7 pm, Friday, December 2
Fried Green Tomatoes
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

HOLIDAY PARTY/ POTLUCK

6:00 pm, Saturday, December 10
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

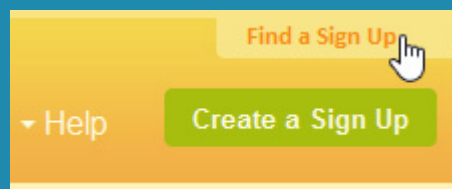
NEW YEARS DAY POTLUCK

1:00 pm, Sunday, January 1
Potluck
Herland, 2312 NW 39th St

UCO Group Interviews for Herland History Project

The Herland Oral History Project is set to begin! The first group interviews will be held Saturday, August 20, at 1 pm and Friday, September 2, at 6 pm. Since traffic noise is a problem at Herland, the interviews will need to be recorded at a different location (to be announced).

If you have been involved with Herland, we invite and encourage you to participate in this project. Think of it as NPR's StoryCorps only cooler! It's all about our women's community in OKC over the years.



To participate, go to signupgenius.com and click on "Find a Sign Up" in the upper right corner. Then search by email using mcging@aol.com as the person that created the signup. Then look for Herland Oral History. Please sign up for both a group and individual interview—we want all your stories!

Search by Email

If you know the person that created the sign up, enter his/her email address below:

Enter the random text below:

B4 H L E D

SISU Youth Update

SISU Youth continues to need over-night volunteers to serve as Youth Support Specialists for the youth shelter. Volunteers will be trained in:

- Basic Training
- Trauma Informed Care
- Medical First-Aid
- Mental Health First-Aid

All volunteers must pass a background check and be willing to work a 6-hour shift.

Can't volunteer at night? How about donating monthly to support SISU Youth's operating costs? Every dollar counts to ensure that OKC teens have a safe place to sleep at night.

Sign up to volunteer or donate at sisuyouth.org.



Together, we
can end youth
homelessness.

Black Lives Matter—Rev. Kayla Bonewell

*Kayla Bonewell,
Pastor of Church of the Open Arms
and Cathedral of Hope OKC*

Recently my fiancé Dana and I attended the Black Lives Matter march and rally which was spearheaded by Rev. Sheri Amore. I've heard reports that it was the largest attended rally in Oklahoma City since the 1960's civil rights movement, having around 4500 people in attendance. There have been over 1400 Black Lives Matter protests in 300 US and international cities since November of 2014. We gathered to seek justice for Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. Tensions were high in the wake

of the horrendous and heart-wrenching murder of 5 police officers at the Dallas protest just days before. When we arrived on the scene, there was a feeling of warmth and gratitude that so many cared about black and brown lives, when events and circumstances in our culture say the opposite, that black and brown lives do not seem to matter to a majority of people.

Dana and I have taken part in several Black Lives Matter protests in Minnesota. In the town where we lived, the Rochester, MN police chief would attend our rallies and

march alongside of us as we stood up for justice and equality. As members of the NAACP, we had a good relationship with the police department, and were able to build on that relationship through honest conversation, and opportunities to listen to each other when difficult situations would arise. The atmos-



phere was much different when we would drive an hour and a half north to support Black Lives Matter events in St. Paul and Minneapolis. There we would be met at protests with police officers in riot gear, holding batons, shields, and tear gas grenades. How we greet each other matters.

Fortunately, at our Oklahoma City rally, police officers protected and served in a much less menacing way, some even arrived via bicycle. As the march headed toward the Harkins Theater, police officers lined the streets on either side of

BLM (cont.)

the march. I watched as many protesters made their way over to police officers to give them a handshake, a high five, or a hug, thanking them for their service, and expressing condolences for the fallen officers in Dallas. Someone caught these handshakes and hugs on video and shared it online.

When we got home that night, I saw that the video had already been seen by 4 thousand people. Shortly thereafter it has been viewed by over 338 thousand people. Love, respect, and opportunities for grace and growth are contagious and viral.

Again and again I have learned that if you are given the opportunity to listen to someone's personal experience, you can learn something very important. Never should you discount someone's experience, just because it differs from your own. I have never encountered the travesty of treatment by the government as many have, but thank goodness I did not dismiss or disregard the sacred stories I have heard along the way.

Certain times in history call for showing up and speaking out. Let us speak out and at the same time, listen with an open heart and mind to the sacred truth and wisdom of those around us. Whose story can you listen to this week? Or what sacred truth and stories can you pass along?

**BLACK LIVES
MATTER**

Pryor Rendering Musical Raises Awareness of LGBT Teen Suicide

Oklahoma City PFLAG is raising funds to send 250 LGBT kids in the Oklahoma City area from 3 youth groups to a completely private showing of the world premier musical, *Pryor Rendering*, the poignant story of a gay child born in rural Oklahoma in 1960 where there was no support.

PFLAG wants to send these kids to a show that is for and about their community to give them a chance to have a real and meaningful communication for what will be in many cases the first time. The goal is to help reduce the rate of LGBT teen suicides.

Through the cooperation and generosity of the show's assistant producer, Sue Marinello, CityRep Theater Company, and the directors of the show, PFLAG has secured an entire show for our kids and their family members, but to accomplish this they need donations fast! They only have 5 weeks to raise the entire sum of money.

Please help PFLAG make this a reality for these kids; please help make these terrible statistics drop in our area! Donations may be sent to: PFLAG OKC, 4001 N. Classen Blvd., Ste. 160, Oklahoma City OK 73118

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10-24 year olds in America today and LGBTQ youth are 4 times more likely than straight youth to commit

suicide. This comes from lack of support, shaming, bullying, anxiety, depression, confusion, and sheer loneliness and hopelessness.

- LGBTQ youth from rejecting families are 8 times more likely than those from supporting families to commit suicide.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death among gay and lesbian youth nationally. More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from automobile accidents, cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease, COMBINED.
- Oklahoma leads the country in teen suicide rates!
- Four out of Five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs. Each day in our nation there are an average of 5,400 attempts by young people grades 7-12.



HERLAND

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