



Serving the womyn's  
community  
since 1983

# Herland Voice

volume thirty-one number two

[www.herlandsisters.org](http://www.herlandsisters.org)

April 2013

## Kaylee Losawyer

### April House Concert & Cookout!

On Saturday, April 27th, make plans to be at Herland (2312 NW 39th Street) at 6 p.m. We'll be cooking burgers & dogs, shamburgers & not dogs, and all the fixings. Feel free to bring a side dish if you'd like. If it's nice outside, we'll be in the backyard, so bring a blanket or chair.

Best of all . . . **Kaylee Losawyer** will be performing! If you've never seen or heard **Kaylee** perform, you are in for a Real Treat!



Kaylee is a 17-year-old singer/songwriter who plays a wide variety of originals and covers, spanning decades. She has played in just about every coffeehouse/bookstore there is around here, and now Herland has the opportunity to support her! I think Kaylee is absolutely amazing and bet you will too!Δ

## Spring Retreat

Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK  
May 3 - 5, 2013

Have you been diagnosed with a case of **SPRING FEVER?** Neighbor... How long has it been since you spent an entire weekend **RELAXING** and **HAVING FUN** with **FRIENDS?** Are you ready to do some **Taking Care of YOU?** Well, we have just the event for you!

The Herland Spring Retreat will be at Roman Nose State Park (near Watonga), Friday, May 3 until Sunday, May 5! Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m.

For those of you who have never been to a **Herland** retreat, or those who can't remember the last retreat they attended... come on and have some fun! Whether you come solo or with a group of friends, the weekend is a perfect, affordable opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old friends, explore nature, learn something new at a workshop, or simply take it easy in an incredibly supportive, women-only environment.

*continued on page 5.*

## APRIL POETRY MONTH

Sharing from readers . . . pages 3 and 4

**April 20th, SATURDAY**

**Spiffing Up the Joint**

**WE WANT YOU!**

see page 2.



## EVENTS AT A GLANCE—

### March

- Saturday, 6th International Women's Day

### April National Poetry Month

- Friday/Saturday, 5th-6th Earth's Body . . . Conf.
- Saturday, 13th Supper Club at The Big Easy
- Saturday, 29th HSR Work Day (yard/bldg.)
- Sunday, 21st HSR Bd Mtg @ 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, 22nd EARTH Day
- Saturday, 27th Coffeehouse with Kaylee

### May

- Friday-Sunday, 3rd-5th HSR Spring Retreat
- Tuesday-Sunday, 14-19th Midwest Wimmin's Festival @ Lake of Ozarks St Pk, MO
- Saturday, 18th Supper Club Annual Pride Picnic
- Saturday/Sunday, 18th-19th "The New Normal" Pride Fest & Parade
- Sunday, 21st HSR Bd Mtg @ 4:00 p.m.

### June

- Saturday, 8th Supper Club at Irma's
- Sunday, 21st HSR Bd Mtg @ 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, 29th Sthrn Reg PFLAG Conference

### July

- Saturday, 13th Supper Club at El Chico
- Sunday, 21st HSR Bd Mtg @ 4:00 p.m.

### Upcoming Events:

- AAUW Nat'l Convention—June 9-11, New Orleans, LA
- Michigan Women's Music Festival—Aug 6-11
- Fall Retreat—Nov 1-3 at Eufaula State Park

*The Voice* is published quarterly by Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, and 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. The submission deadline is the 20th of every month. Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.Δ

## SUPPER CLUB dates . . .

April 13—Supper Club at The Big Easy in Yukon @ 5:30 p.m.

May 18—Herland's Traditional Pride Picnic & Entertainment @ 6:00 p.m.

June 8—Supper Club at Irma's on NW 63rd @ 5:30 p.m.

July 13—Supper Club at El Chico on N May & Britton Rd. @ 5:30 p.m.

August 10—Supper Club at Dot Wo Garden

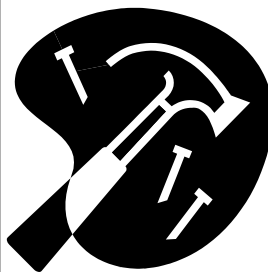
*If you have a restaurant to suggest for a future Herland Supper Club, please e-mail us at [herland@herlandsisters.org](mailto:herland@herlandsisters.org). We welcome your ideas.*

### PFLAG Regional Conference

Saturday, June 29, 2013, PFLAG in Norman and the OU School of Social Work are partnering to present the Southern Regional PFLAG conference. Watch for our website, PFLAG website, Facebook, or Twitter for details.

## WE WANT YOU

### To Help Us Spiff Up The Joint!



On Saturday, April 20th, starting at 11 a.m., we'll be putting in some sweat equity to improve Herland, and in the process, our Neighborhood, and even Ourselves! We'll be working in the yard and flowerbeds, so please bring gloves, rakes,

and yard tools you may specialize with. We'll also be tidying up inside in anticipation of our Cookout/Concert on April 27th, as well as our Annual Pride Picnic. And if the weather is really nice, we'll be painting the trim outside. So you see? There is SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! We hope you will join us, even if just for a little while. Your help is much needed and VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!Δ

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# APRIL POETRY MONTH

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month is now held every April, when schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers, and poets throughout the United States band together to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.Δ

## OPAL *by Shayla Dodge*

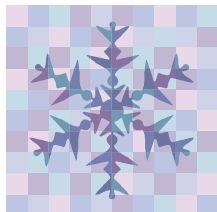
Snow is not falling  
yet the days are short and weak  
like fragile smoke coloured glass.

I am loosely wrapped  
in the maroon blanket you gave me  
but I am not pleased by its warmth.

Days creep passively by, time dallying  
and I've so much to ponder,  
tears held within my open lids.

You were not up at your regular hour.  
It destroyed me to think  
you'd be tired of my fretting,  
decided to be done.

I am forgetting how I felt when you  
gently rocked on my lap.  
I do not remember your scent  
only the perfume you gave me.



I don't want you to be some abstract thought,  
a photograph, a blink of insight.  
I want to push you away when you radiate heat,  
I want that privilege of an overabundance of you.

The time in this place seems indefinite  
long, and cold, and painful.  
Yet if we can endure this state  
I will surely return to you.Δ

### National AAUW Convention 2013

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 150,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and 700 college and university partners. Since AAUW's founding in 1881, our members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and political.

Have general questions about the American Association of University Women (AAUW)? Please contact [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or call 800/326-2289 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET M-F. The 47th AAUW National Convention will be in New Orleans, LA, during June 9-12, 2013! To see the latest in Oklahoma AAUW: <http://www.aauwoklahoma.org/leaderdec2012.pdf>Δ

## Motions *by Scarlet M*

Tropical shades of heat building,  
relentlessly building.  
My mind searching.  
Hunting inwards.  
Again, towards rocky refuge,  
*Oh, Goddess,*  
Yet again...Δ

## Maternal Separation *by Paula Sophia Schonauer*

They took away all the mothers  
Children sleeping on streets  
Cuddled close to concrete curbs  
Freezing under wet blankets  
Drenched by the torrents of a crying sky  
It makes me think of the monkey mother  
Terrycloth wrapped around a frame of wire  
Baby clings to cloth, milking it for warmth  
But when you're saturated with tough love  
A dropout from the school of hard knocks  
You get nothing but a deluge of hate and ridicule  
Wrapped in cold  
Children cling to gaping grates  
Falling between the gaps  
Flushed down the sewer  
Someday the father will come  
Judge the children  
Put everything in its place  
Heaven or Hell  
To bask in the light of God or  
Bake in the lake of eternal fire  
The destination doesn't matter  
It all looks warm from here.Δ



## If Barbie Went to War *by Joanna Schonauer (Wendy Clear)*

Been in every profession from accountant to whore  
So why not a hero who fought in a war?  
Army Barbie  
Complete with accessories like  
Bomber disarmament training, AK-47's  
And courage galore  
The kind of Barbie girls should be proud to have and hold  
But Army Barbie won't be the same when she gets home  
Simple stove fires turning into body burning massacres  
One loud pop and she's ducking under tables  
She puts up a wall of stone  
Allowing herself to become completely alone  
Divorce rings as Ken can't take it anymore  
Losing the kids  
Due to lack of money and scattered thoughts  
This High School graduate  
Was signed in before college  
And changed before a full life  
Outside of hatred and blood  
All at the age of eighteen  
Army Barbie is now in stores  
Though her classic smile has been replaced with a serious grimace  
And a Battle Rattled head for heart.Δ

A pile of shit...  
Clouded with a miasma of confusion  
Reeking with the stench of depression  
Oozing with the gore of incest  
Coating everything with its horror  
Maggots of self-doubt burrowing  
Through my confidence  
That was me...  
Then...  
Watered by the tears of my sorrow,  
From this mound of muck  
A seedling appeared!  
Chartreuse with veins of color,  
A rainbow of color  
Hesitant, hopeful, healthy  
Basking in the richness of the fertile ground  
From which it sprang  
The chartreuse wonder  
stretching upwards  
Toward the sky becoming  
stronger  
Using the coating of  
incest as an armor  
Against further abuse  
The maggots of self-  
doubt take wing  
And fly away  
I need this shit!  
It makes me strong makes me grow  
Chartreuse leaves unfurl revealing gems of color  
Shimmering in the light  
Of love and compassion  
My stalk grows strong  
As I discover my God Self  
The center of my being  
Tendrils stretching out  
Timid at first—then stronger  
I need this shit,  
It makes me grow  
The once tiny tendrils grow into branches  
Sturdy branches the armor turning into bark  
And from these branches of experience  
Appear beautiful blossoms of love  
From the blossoms emerge fruits of compassion  
And after the fruits bide their time  
They drop the seeds of my legacy  
I need this shit...  
It makes me stronger  
And Keeps me growing.Δ



How do I explain - that I have mixed feelings about killing an embryo,  
zygote, or fetus.  
No matter how young or how little developed; the size of a pea, acorn,  
pit or baseball.  
Scientist can now describe in great detail when each physical or mental  
function develops.  
Is that how we measure reality?

Everyone has a choice and should make their own decision despite what  
I think or what I feel.  
I will deal with my feelings in my own way but I WILL feel.

My heart breaks when someone who desperately wants a baby has a  
miscarriage - they affix a name, have a burial and mourn.  
Once that woman knows she is pregnant, she will never ignore the fact  
that something is growing within her because she is CHANGED.  
Very early a woman's body adjusts for the sake of the new life.  
It doesn't wait until the new life is a certain age or size to set into  
motion the necessary life support system.  
It is something that all beings on this planet automatically instinctually  
do.  
Reproduction is a survival mechanism built into the DNA of all things.

Everyone has a CHOICE and the right to make their own decision despite  
what I think or feel.  
I will deal with my feelings in my own way but I will FEEL.

My heart breaks when a woman doesn't have the knowledge or maturity  
to prevent a pregnancy that she clearly does not want.  
I wish those women felt hopeful enough to be able to bring the baby  
into this world for those who long, perhaps forever, for a child.  
I wish all people cherished each new life so that there would be no need  
for orphanages or unwanted children.  
I know this is not the world we live in and my idealism is just that; a  
dream of a better world that will never arrive.

Everyone has a choice and the RIGHT to make their own decision  
despite what I think or feel.  
I will deal with my feelings in my own way but I WILL feel.

My heart break sometimes spreads through out my body and I find it  
difficult to go on - but it isn't my CHOICE or RIGHT to end my life.  
I am told that this is a crime; that I will be put in a hospital and labeled  
mentally ill.  
I will be put on medication that perhaps will mask MY heart break and  
allow me to continue to be a silent witness for those who are only  
very briefly in this world.  
Everyone has a choice and the RIGHT to make their own decision  
despite what I think or feel.  
I will deal with my feelings in my own way but I WILL feel.Δ

## Help Us Go Green!

Herland wants to save paper and postage, and you can help us. If you are willing to receive *The Voice* in electronic form only, please drop us a line at [herland@herlandsisters.org](mailto:herland@herlandsisters.org) and tell us you want to receive the electronic version of *The Voice*. Please remember to let us know your street address, so we can remove it from our hardcopy mailing list.Δ



## EARTH DAY—now, Every Day!

The name and concept of Earth Day was pioneered by John McConnell in 1969 at a UNESCO Conference in San Francisco. He proposed March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. This day of nature's equipoise was later sanctioned in a Proclamation signed by Secretary General U Thant at the United Nations. A month later a separate Earth Day was founded by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970.Δ



## 40TH ANNIVERSARY TITLE IX *celebrated in 2012*

Let's call the 2012 Olympics the "US Women's Games." For the first time, more women competed for the United States than men. And overall, women made up 45 percent of the Olympians in London in July-August of 2012. This was the first Olympics where every country had at least one woman compete.

In 1972, when Title IX was passed in the US, only 15 percent of all Olympians were female. In the 40 years since Title IX was enacted, women's participation in sports has gone from 32,000 to 200,000 at the college level and from 295,000 to more than 3 million in high schools nationwide.

As Mariel Zagunis—who in 2004 became the first American fencer in 100 years to win a gold medal—said, "I was born in the right generation. You still have to fight to be the best. But you don't have to fight for the opportunity to compete. It's come so far. leaps and bounds."



And while sports may be the most visible benefactor of Title IX, the effect of the law has been broad. Herland joined with other organizations last year to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Title IX. Watch for other Title IX history news in upcoming newsletters.Δ

*Continued from page one . . .*

## Herland Spring Retreat

Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK

May 3 - 5, 2013

As usual, your registration includes lodging for both nights, a weenie roast when you arrive Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday scrumptious breakfasts, and our famous potluck Saturday evening, the **Saturday Night Dance, campfires**, and all **workshops and activities** planned throughout the weekend!

We have some really great activities planned for the weekend, including **Introduction Games** on Friday night, a **Super Fun Dance** Saturday night, where we'll be dancing the night away, to music from all the eras that **Herland** spans! On Saturday, our full day includes Cindy teaching us the fine art of **Belly Dancing**, Rachel will lead a workshop entitled

**Goddess Love**, Laura will facilitate a craft workshop where we'll make our very own **Strong Women Collages**, Jean will be taking a group out **Fishing**, Ginger will lead us in an Introductory Course to the **Basic Yoga Poses**, and there is a strong possibility that Elizabeth will be helping us make **Tie Dye** items! Be sure to bring a 100% cotton garment from home if you'd like to tie dye something!

So – get plenty of rest before this weekend, remember to bring your dancing shoes, a 100% cotton item to tie dye, something to share for the Potluck Supper, and expect to have an unforgettable weekend! If you have any questions, please call (405) 550-2312.

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

The deadline for pre-registration (which *really* helps us to know how much food to buy and how many awesome women to expect) is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition, you can now pay for the retreat, via PayPal. Just go to [www.HerlandSisters.org](http://www.HerlandSisters.org) and sign up! Do yourself a favor, and register now while you're thinking about it! Even if you don't pre-register, we hope you'll still come and join in the fun! If you decide to come at the last minute, you're welcome to call 550-2312 to register, and you can pay at the door.Δ

### **Herland Spring Retreat 2013 Registration** **Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK during May 3-5, 2013**

Deadline for pre-registration is April 27. Please return registration form and check to:  
Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 and 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 the entire weekend for each person) — Annual Income PER PERSON**

- |                     |      |                    |      |
|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| • under \$13,300    | \$40 | • All Day Saturday | \$35 |
| • \$13,300-\$30,000 | \$55 |                    |      |
| • over \$30,000     | \$70 |                    |      |

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