



Serving the womyn's
community
since 1983

Herland Voice

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www.herlandsisters.org

October 2013



Fall Retreat

Eufaula State Park, Eufaula, OK

November 1 - 3, 2013



Protecting Oklahoma Families and Partnerships in Same-Sex Relationships

by Sandy Ingraham, J.D., M.S.W.

Lesbians and gay men create families, both with and without children. Like all families, those involving same-sex relationships fret over what will happen when one partner dies, or (heaven forbid) the couple breaks up. Unlike other families, those involving same-sex relationships in Oklahoma have precious few legal safeguards at this time.

Without a relationship recognized by Oklahoma law (biological parenthood, adoption or legal marriage), at least one of the partners is often treated as a virtual stranger. Questions involving property division, inheritance, child custody, child support, and child visitation will be answered by looking at strict legal entitlement, birth certificates, marriage licenses, divorce documents and adoption papers. The emotions of sadness and betrayal are heightened as families are forced to navigate the nightmares of death and divorce without legal process.

Partners can do something! Key is being honest about the nature of the relationship. Then a series of legal documents can be crafted to specify what the couple wants to happen when the inevitable occurs. Be proactive! Seek the advice of an attorney and make sure you have done all you can do to protect your family.

Depending on each specific situation documents might include the following possibilities:

- Wills or Trusts (to distribute property at death)
- Affidavits (specifying desires, such as cremation)
- Partnership Agreements (laying out financial agreements, payment of household expenses, impact on ownership)
- Co-Parenting Agreements (laying out each partner's commitment to a child; specifying custody, visitation and support agreements)
- Powers-of-Attorney (allowing partners to take care of each other's financial affairs, allowing the non-legal parent to exercise some parental rights such as consenting for a child's medical care, or allowing partners to consent to each other's medical care)
- Assignment of Rights to Make Final Arrangements (ensuring a partner the right to decide how and when their partner's remains will be handled)
- Joint Ownership or Transfer on Death Provisions (creating title or ownership in a manner which transfers property by law at the death of one partner without any court involvement)

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Are you ready for a weekend full of relaxation, great friends, mystery, good food, and tons-o-fun? Well, you're in luck! Make plans now to attend The **Herland Fall Retreat** at Lake Eufaula State Park (formerly Fountainhead) on November 1-3, 2013.

Now, it's easier than ever to register! You can send in the registration form and your check via snail mail (you can also download this article and registration form from www.herlandsisters.org), or you can register on-line at www.herlandretreat.weebly.com and pay with a credit card, or you can call (405) 550-2312 to register and then pay at the door.



This retreat will be PACKED FULL of fun events, including: A Friday Night Game Extravaganza, a yummy supper of regular and vegetarian soups with bread, and of course...the campfire!

Jean will be leading a workshop entitled "**Take & Make**" Fishing Lures. If you would like to learn how to make your very own fishing lures, please try to bring at least five twist-off bottle caps (If you use an opener, try not to bend the cap.). The type of caps needed are fluted around the edge and are metal; no plastic or screw-off caps. The rest of the materials and instruction will be provided.

Have You Ever Wanted to "Test-Drive" a Tattoo? Well, this is your chance! Instructor Jennifer Manning Cinocco has been a Henna Tattoo Artist for over 15 years. This will be a basic workshop on mixology of henna, basic cone

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A Little More *Peace* in Your Life?

If you are looking for peace, then join us on Saturday, November 9, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the **2013 Peace Festival** held at the Civic Center Music Hall, in the Hall of Mirrors.

Herland will have a table among many groups celebrating peace with most offering lots of items for early holiday shopping! Stop by the Herland table and flash us the peace sign!Δ



The Herland **Voice** is a publication of Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, OKC, OK 73112. Our bookstore/lending library is open the first and third Saturdays from 1-5 p.m., but please call before you come by just to be sure we are open. Call us at (405) 521-9696 or e-mail us at herland@herlandsisters.org. Visit us on the web at www.herlandsisters.org.Δ

EVENTS AT A GLANCE—

October

- Tuesday 8th Special Elections in some areas
- Saturday 12th Supper Club at Hollie's Flatiron Steakhouse
- Monday 14th Columbus Day/Celebrate Indigenous People
- Sunday 20th 4 p.m. HSR Board Meeting
- Thursday 31st Halloween

November

- Friday-Sunday 1st-3rd Retreat at Eufaula State Park
- Friday 1st All Saints' Day
- Saturday 9th Supper Club at The Shack Seafood & Oyster Bar
- Saturday 9th Peace Fest @ Civic Center Music Hall of Mirrors
- Monday 11th Veterans' Day
- Tuesday 12th Special Elections in some areas
- Sunday 17th 4 p.m. HSR Board Meeting
- Thursday 28th Thanksgiving & Hanukkah

December

- Saturday 14th 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Dirty Santa Party
- Sunday 15th 4 p.m. HSR Board Meeting
- Wednesday 25th Christmas Day
- Thursday 26th Boxing Day
- Tuesday 31 New Year's Eve

January 2014

- Wednesday 1st 1-5 p.m. New Year's Day Open House/Potluck

Next Year's Events:

- Spring Retreat 2014—May
- Fall Retreat 2014—October



SUPPER CLUB DATES

October 12—Hollie's Flatiron Steakhouse, 1199 South I-35 Service Rd, Moore, @ 5:30 p.m.

November 9—The Shack Seafood and Oyster Bar, 13801 Quail Pointe Dr, OKC, @ 5:30 p.m.

December 14—Potluck & Dirty Santa Party @ HSR 6 p.m.

January 1—Open House and Potluck @ HSR 1-5 p.m.

If you have a restaurant to suggest for a future Herland Supper Club, please e-mail us at herland@herlandsisters.org. We welcome your ideas.Δ



Annual Herland Holiday Potluck/ Dirty Santa Party Planning

Come join your Herland Sisters on December 14th at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of holiday fun and feasting. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish to share, as well as a wrapped gift worth no more than \$12 to exchange during "Dirty Santa." This is a long-standing tradition at Herland, and every year is a blast! This party takes the place of our monthly Supper Club meeting for December and is the last big event of 2013.Δ



New Year's Day Open House

Herland's tradition of a New Year's Day Open House continues. Start off 2014 by visiting Herland to enjoy fellowship and food to help you start the new year off right! This come-and-go affair starts at 1:00 p.m. and lasts until 5:00 p.m. Following tradition, board members will provide black-eyed peas (both carnivorous and vegetarian), colcannon (a traditional Irish cabbage/potato dish), and cornbread. Please bring a sidedish or a dessert to share. Don't miss our first gathering of 2014!Δ

Cimarron Alliance Equality Center Lists Weekly Events

Beginning in September, the Center will provide a listing of all events coming up at the Cimarron Alliance Equality Center for the upcoming week. The staff are thrilled with the way the community is responding to the Center and are happily adding new programs, services, groups, and events each month (Contact Cimarron Alliance scott@cimarronalliance.org to get on the list.). Look through each week's listings and join a meeting when you can! Thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for more opportunities at your community center are also welcome. The Cimarron Alliance Equality Center at 5613 N May Ave, Ste 400, Oklahoma City, OK 73112, is in the center of Oklahoma, the center of Oklahoma City, and can become the center for your activities!Δ



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

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Herland Fall Retreat Eufaula State Park, Eufaula, OK May 3 - 5, 2013



making, and how to use a cone. Included in the workshop will be all the ingredients for making henna, cone making materials, and a practice sheet for learning basic design lines.



Ready to learn **"How to REALLY Fight Like a Girl"?** Oklahoma Boxing Celebrity and the National Native American Boxing Lightweight Champion Lacey "The Native Sweetheart" Crawford will demonstrate and teach a simple self-defense workshop on Saturday!

Crafty Cuties, Ariel & Holly, will be back again, this time to show us how to make **bracelets, using hemp!** They will also bring an assortment of handmade Fimo (polymer clay) beads to adorn our new bracelets, for a small fee.

Some of you may remember Rose's 18+ stimulating "sex-full" workshop from last fall's retreat. We had so much fun that she'll be back again!

Our Saturday Night Entertainment will feature... **YOU!** We'll be having our very own Murder Mystery entitled **"Cruising for Murder"**! There are about 20 spots for those of you that want to be IN the mystery, and we'll need a great audience for those who wish to just sit back and watch the fun unravel. If you would like to participate in the show, please indicate so on your registration if you mail it in, or call (405) 550-2312 or e-mail SAHatwork@aol.com if you register online. Once we have the 20 actors



needed, we'll call or e-mail you your part! IT WILL BE A HUGE HELP IF YOU CAN TELL US IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN THE CAST OR PART OF THE AUDIENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. This should be REALLY fun, and we hope that EVERYONE will participate in this new event! Remember--you'll NEVER find a more supportive group than Herland Retreaters, so step out of the box and make your magic happen!

If you have never been to a Herland Retreat, you owe it to yourself to give it a try! 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, hone your acting skills, explore nature, create or learn something new at a workshop, express your culinary skills at the Saturday evening potluck, sing and tell stories around the campfire or simply relax in an incredibly supportive environment. **Also, please remember to bring an item or two for the raffle &/or silent auction.** This helps keep the costs of the weekend low for us all, and helps to keep Herland here for us all!



Your registration fee includes lodging in a cabin, dinner on Friday, scrumptious breakfast/brunch on Saturday and Sunday mornings, Saturday evening Potluck Dinner (bring or plan on making a dish to "wow" your fellow campers), all workshops and group camp activities, and the **Saturday Night Murder Mystery!**

The Herland Retreat is whatever we make it. Make it magical and memorable!

~ ~ This will be the only article and registration you'll receive (via mail) before the retreat. So...do yourself a favor and register now, while you're thinking about it! To register, just mail back the registration form with your check, OR register on-line at www.herlandretreat.weebly.com, OR call (405) 550-2312 and pay at the door. Visit our website at www.herlandsisters.org where you can print off a map of how to get to Lake Eufaula State Park, a map of the campgrounds and where the Herland group camp is, and find out lots of other information like what you'll want to bring, etc. Deadline for pre-registration is October 25.Δ

Herland Fall Retreat 2013 Registration Eufaula State Park, Eufaula, OK during November 1-3, 2013

Deadline for pre-registration is October 25. Please return registration form and check to:
Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Name(s): _____
E-mail: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____ enclosed.

I want to be an Actor or Audience Member for **Saturday Night's Murder Mystery!** (please circle one)

- () 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 the entire weekend for each person) — Annual Income PER PERSON

• under \$13,300	\$40		• All Day Saturday	\$30
• \$13,300-\$30,000	\$55	OR	• Saturday Evening Only	\$15
• over \$30,000	\$70			

Editorial

Forgiveness *by J.R.*



I have a friend who plays poker—not just casually but seriously, week-ends and tournaments and out-of-state trips. After many years, she’s still ahead in the profit column, so I guess she’s fairly good. She was talking with me about her fascination with the game. “After I played for a few months, it occurred to me that poker is like life: you have to make decisions based on incomplete information.”

Most of you know how Texas Hold’em works. You receive two cards, face down, and based on those two cards you make your first decision—to stay in the game or not to play that hand. After betting, the dealer puts out three cards, face up. Decision time again, more betting; the dealer puts out another card and, after the bets are laid, the final card is dealt.

All this time you are weighing the options (assuming that you are playing this hand) based on not only what cards you are holding but also on the cards that are showing and what you think the other players are holding. Parenting, relationships, careers...they’re all poker hands. You make decisions based on what you know—but you have only a partial view of the picture. You don’t know what is coming or how others will react. The picture fills out some as the game goes on, and even when you finally have access to the dealer’s face-up cards, you still do not know what others are thinking or planning. You do your best to make the right decision, but it is based on incomplete information.

Many of us are blaming others or ourselves for “bad hands.” I’ve often thought about what the moderator said in a 12-step group years ago: “Looking back on childhood, we can see the mistakes our parents made, and some of us hold on to bitterness we feel toward them; but to grow, to heal, we must forgive and accept that they did their best in terms of their personalities and circumstances.”

We look back on failed relationships, tragedies or set-backs with the blurred vision of “What if’s and “If only’s” and “Should have/could have’s”; but whatever led up to those misfortunes, we and the other players were making decisions based on incomplete information—doing our best with the hand we were dealt and our assumptions or hopes about the final results. It’s also true that “our best” is not always synonymous with “wisest” or “kindest” because it is human nature to protect our own investment.

Life can deal really bad hands. Win or lose, we have done our best with the incomplete information available. A loss is not our failure but the interaction of circumstances we cannot totally control or anticipate. We *can* control some of the cards we choose to play: regrets and anger are terrible cards that keep us from making wise decisions in Life’s games. Accepting that all of us do or have done our best with incomplete information makes forgiveness possible...and forgiveness is a great healer.Δ

Oklahoma Women Veterans’ Recognition Day

All women who have served, or are currently serving, are invited to attend an annual Oklahoma Women Veterans’ Recognition Day event which will be held October 25-26 in Tulsa, OK, at the Wyndham Hotel this year.

This annual day-long event is free to resident Oklahoma women veterans and women who are currently serving. A light continental breakfast in the morning will be available and a luncheon later in the day, as well as a hospitality room at the hotel the evening before the event. In addition to some notable guest speakers, a memorial service and the naming of the Oklahoma Woman Veteran of the year are scheduled into the event besides a silent auction and door prizes. Reservations for the event are appreciated. Guests are welcome for a nominal fee. Registration forms and more information may be obtained by contacting Pam Bloustine @ pamokwm@aol.com or at www.okwvo.org (website for the Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization OKWVO, a 501 (c)(19) non-profit War Veterans Service Organization).

Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization holds its regular meetings in the Sunny Lane Family Reception Center, 3900 SE 29th St, Del City, OK, (also where the Catholic War Veterans meet). OKWVO meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the 3rd Saturday in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December.Δ



AAUW OKC Branch Recognized

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. This 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.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls, paving the way for women to pursue their goals. AAUW has been in the forefront of the battles for civil rights, education, and reproductive rights. Membership is open to males and females who have a college degree or are currently seeking a college degree. Through branch membership, opportunities are open for activism and helping to develop programs that promote education and equity, not just for women and girls but for the entire community. Members can enhance their leadership skills and can take advantage of numerous benefit programs, as well as network with women in the OKC area, the state, and the nation.

To learn about the new branch in south Oklahoma City, contact the branch president, Jessica Martinez-Brooks, at (405) 682-7859, Fax (405) 682-7848, www.occ.edu/coe Δ

Two Activities for Adult Girl Scouts

First, the Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma Alumnae Association, a group of dedicated Girl Scouts alumnae, truly are committed to ensuring current Girl Scouts learn the essentials of scouting, including traditions, safety training, camping techniques, and more.



The Alumnae Association also participates in networking engagements, volunteer opportunities, and special events, including the Alumnae Annual Meeting, the Juliette Low Leadership Society Luncheon, and the Alumnae Tea. A newsletter from this very active Alumnae group offers updates and lists opportunities, as well as invites all GS alumnae to be involved! If you want to get involved or if you have any questions about the alumnae group,

please contact our Alumnae Chairman, Pat, at p.wimberley@cox.net or Council staffperson, Julie, at jbohannon@gswestok.org.

Next, GS Cornerstone, a young professionals group of Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma (ages 40 and younger), is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of girls. GS Cornerstone started the council's first Gold Award Scholarship Fund to recognize young women who have earned the highest honor awarded to a Girl Scout—the Gold Award. GS Cornerstone participates in exclusive networking events, leadership opportunities, professional development seminars, volunteer activities tailored to young professionals, and special events such as Cookies & Cocktails. If you wish to view their scheduled events or receive additional information about GS Cornerstone, e-mail: GSCornerstone@gswestok.org.

Flag Etiquette: Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions:

The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.

The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.

The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.

The flag should not be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use.

Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.

The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.

The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind placed on it, or attached to it.

The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Read a more comprehensive set of flag etiquette on the website for rules for display of the American Flag.Δ

Pinwheels Promote Peace

OKC joined the world in celebrating the International Day of Peace at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, OK, on Friday, September 20, 2013. Students in OKC created pinwheels to celebrate Oklahoma City's 7th Annual International Day of Peace and joined a global carnival promoting harmony and goodwill in the world. Over a thousand pinwheels were designed and decorated by students and community members throughout the greater OKC area in preparation for the city's large annual celebration of world peace and harmony.

"In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word," said Respect Diversity Foundation representative and event organizer Joan Korenblit. "Students are bombarded with television images, video games, and magazine and newspaper articles that promote conflict and war." As part of a global collaboration, Korenblit teamed with Pinwheels For Peace--a Not For Profit Organization using pinwheels to promote "whirled peace."

As students created their pinwheels, they are asked to include their personal thoughts and images relating to "peace" and answer the question: "Whom will you make peace with?" Their pinwheels make a visual statement of their hope for a kinder world and their personal contribution to being the change they want to see. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982.

"Through the Pinwheels for Peace Festival," continued Korenblit, "we help students create a public and visual statement about their feelings about war and peace, tolerance and cooperation, harmony and unity. Our hope is to further awaken our community to what the next generation is thinking."

For more information, contact Joan Korenblit, Respect Diversity Foundation at (405) 706-3828 or e-mail rdfrdf@cox.net or visit <http://www.pinwheelsforpeaceokc.org> or www.facebook.com/pages/Pinwheels-for-Peace-Oklahoma-City-Festival/147353361424.



Strong Women Needed for Board of Trustees



Herland needs more board members to help with the function of our activities and the maintenance of community services. The duties and responsibilities of leadership in the collective are outlined in the by-laws; however, general members are asked to attend once-a-month meetings and give input on agenda topics and planned activities (Leadership "sister" positions are not required.). To understand the collective design of leadership, attendance at board meetings is encouraged for all volunteers and interested community members. Our board meetings are the third Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. usually lasting an hour and a half, frequently followed by some sisterhood time afterwards at a restaurant. If you are a strong woman in the community, we NEED you!Δ

Improvements Recommended for Strip of 39th Street

A group of 39th Street business and property owners have taken an interest in improving the safety and attractiveness of the area between NW 39th and NW 40th, Pennsylvania and Youngs. Those concerned have met a few times with City staff and Councilperson Ed Shadid. In April, the City hosted Dan Burden of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute for a walkability assessment of the area. Three key concerns identified were 1) Traffic is unpredictable and often moves at higher than desired speeds, 2) The area does not encourage pedestrian and bicycle activity and is potentially dangerous, and 3) The district does not have a sense of place. Among the recommendations made by Burden were to put the road on “a diet” by removing one or more lanes and converting part of the road to bike lanes, add buffers between the travel lanes and sidewalks, add trees, add crosswalks in key areas, and add district markers at each end of the Strip.

To begin this process, the City is now soliciting support for a proposed street improvement. The project would resurface and re-stripe 39th Street to two lanes and add bike lanes on both sides and a crosswalk at the Barnes intersection. The re-striping project could start in a couple months and would help address a few of the safety concerns on this street. It could, for example, slow down the traffic by narrowing the lane width and create crosswalks to alert the drivers to buffer space between cars and people. Working together as stakeholders in this business district, along with the City, will help position the area to receive future funding for additional improvements, such as better street lighting, transit access, sidewalk repair, tree planting, and district markers.Δ

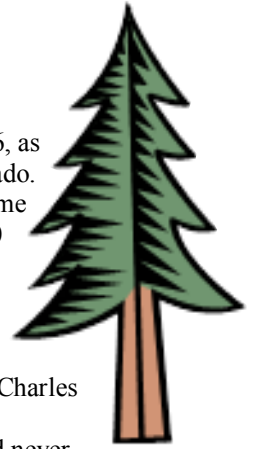


What is the GL Sierrans?

The Sierra Club is the oldest and largest environmental organization in the country with a mission to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.” As of 2012, the Sierra Club in Oklahoma City has a new section called the GL Sierrans. The GL Sierrans is the new Gay and Lesbian section of the Sierra Club in Oklahoma. The purpose of the Gay and Lesbian Sierrans is to involve the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community in conservation and environmental efforts by creating outdoor, social, and fun activist opportunities for LGBT members of Sierra Club and the greater Oklahoma City community.

History of the GL Sierrans

The GL Sierrans of Oklahoma is patterned after the Gay and Lesbian Sierra Club Group in San Francisco that originated in 1986, as well as the GL Sierrans Groups in Los Angeles and Denver, Colorado. Kristy Larson, co-founder of Oklahoma’s GL Sierrans group, became a Sierra Club member at age 15. She met her future partner in 1990 in Los Angeles in the Gay and Lesbian Sierra Club while on a moonlight hike. They now have a beautiful 21-year-old daughter. Larson contemplated starting the Oklahoma GL Sierrans when she moved here from California, and the dream of doing so came true when she approached co-founder and now chair of the new group, Charles Shah, with the idea.



Shah had never been on a hike when he joined the group. “I had never heard of the Sierra Club, nor had I ever been on a hike, but the idea of the group and the objective behind creating this group made me whole-heartily support and back it.” Shah and Larson approached the Oklahoma City branch of Sierra Club, the Cimarron Group, with their idea for creating the GL Sierrans. “The Cimarron Group showed great interest and enthusiastic acceptance of the idea. We are so excited to have formed this relationship with the Club,” said Shah.

The GL Sierrans currently meet with the Cimarron Group (Sierra Club of Oklahoma City) on the third Thursdays of every month at United Life Spiritual Center at 3333 N Meridian Ave, OKC, at 7:00 p.m.

GL Sierrans Future Events

Future events of the GL Sierrans include biking at Lake Hefner, trips to the zoo, a farmer’s market tour, and kayaking the Oklahoma River. The next scheduled event is October 20 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Jones, OK, at Doug Hill’s Farm (10800 E Hefner Rd, Jones, OK 73049). Sierra Club will be celebrating its 41st birthday. Join us for grass fed local burgers (or veggie burgers!), good company, games, recognizing our outstanding volunteers who have made such an impact this year, and most importantly, celebrating the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club’s birthday and our environmental victories this year.

The event is free to attend, but all donations are welcome to help us pay for the event as well as to help us pay for our environmental work next year. Although it is not required to be a paid member of GLS or Sierra Club to participate in outings, membership does provide support to the Sierra Club programs. To support the group, please check out Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/gl.sierrans>.Δ



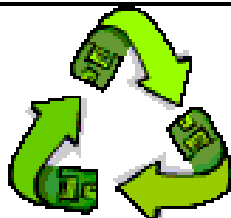
Oklahoma GLBT Film Fest

OUT OK brings
back The GLBT Film
Festival in

2013 on November 15,
16, and 17 at the Circle
Cinema, 10 S Lewis,
Tulsa, OK 74104. Film
schedule to be announced.

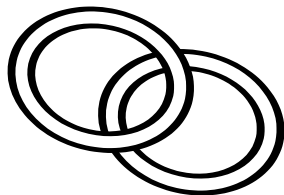


For more information, contact
<http://www.out-ok.com/> or 918-682-
4654 (Philip Au).Δ



**Recycle,
Reuse,
Repurpose**

Continued from page one . . .



CAUTION: Some agreements will not be enforced by an Oklahoma court.

Once agreements are made, partners are advised to honor them and do whatever is necessary to stay out of court. The inclusion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (such as required mediation, binding arbitration & liquidated damages)

can avoid the nightmare of a public proceeding in an open court which has no respect for non-traditional relationships.

There is hope that laws may improve to better support same-sex families in Oklahoma. Legal marriage for same-sex couples is or soon will be recognized in fifteen countries (Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay, and most of Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand). Legal marriage for same-sex couples is or soon will be recognized in thirteen US states (CA, CT, DE, IA, MA, MD, ME, MN, NH, NY, RI, VT, WA), the District of Columbia and five tribal jurisdictions (the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomie Indians, and the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel). One state court with anti-same-sex marriage laws on its books (NM) recently required two counties (Bernalillo and Sante Fe) to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Six more states have domestic partnerships or civil unions; two more states have limited recognition. Twenty-eight states, including Oklahoma, have nothing or anti-same-sex marriage provisions. Courts, agencies, and legislatures in states and the federal government are rapidly changing this picture, and the information written in this or any article may only be valid the day it is written.

Some states are beginning to honor co-parenting agreements or second parent rights (see, for example, In re Bonfield, 96 Ohio St, 3d 218, 2002; Frazier v. Goudschaal, No. 103487, Kansas Supreme Court, 2013). Full joint adoptions by same-sex couples are currently legal by statute or court ruling in many US states (AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, MA, ME, MD, MN, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, VA, WA) and the District of Columbia. Other states, including Oklahoma, remain antagonistic. There is little basis to believe Oklahoma courts will begin to follow a more progressive path on such issues. However, a state statute requiring that same-sex adoptions finalized in other states could not be recognized in Oklahoma was found to be unconstitutional and was struck down (Finstuen, et al. v. Edmondson, et al.; Case #CIV 2004-1152 in Western District of OK; Case #2006-6216 in Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit). Louisiana's similar statute was upheld, with the US Supreme Court

denying a review to settle this issue for the rest of the nation. Again, courts, agencies and legislatures in states and the federal government are rapidly changing this picture and the information written in this or any article may only be valid the day it was written.

On the 26th day of June, 2013, the heart of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was invalidated by the US Supreme Court. Now, same-sex married couples and their families residing in states which recognize their marriage will be able obtain more than a thousand previously denied federal benefits, rights or protections.

Since states are allowed to define marriage for its citizens, federal law often defers to the state definition in determining eligibility for federal benefits. Oklahoma is one of many states with a law or constitutional provision defining marriage as being between one woman and one man. Federal benefits which do not rely on state definitions of marriage are available to Oklahoma same-sex couples who were legally married in a jurisdiction which recognizes same-sex marriage. For example, Oklahoma same-sex couples with valid marriage in other jurisdictions can now file joint federal income tax returns, take advantage of options to select the same long-term care facility under Medicare, receive military marital benefits, and have spousal privileges for immigration purposes. Oklahoma joins a few other states in actively objecting to benefits for same-sex families. For example, Oklahoma (along with LA, TX, and MS) will not allow National Guard same-sex benefits to be administered in Oklahoma facilities, requiring national guard members eligible for same-sex benefits to travel to federal facilities in Oklahoma to get those established.

Oklahoma laws and statutes protect a family and declare what will happen to the property or children when one partner in a legally-recognized Oklahoma marriage leaves or dies. For everyone else, silence means walking away with nothing, leaving your child, and putting your partner or yourself at risk.

Nothing in this article creates an attorney-client relationship or constitutes legal advice for any particular family or partnership. For such advice, consult with an attorney licensed to practice in Oklahoma about your specific situation. Sandy Ingraham, J.D., M.S.W. may be reached at Ingraham & Associates, P.L.L.C., 333629 E Kickapoo Valley Rd, McLoud, OK 74851; Tel (405) 964-2072; Fax (405) 964-2058; e-mail sandyjoingraham@gmail.com Δ

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