

# *To the* HERLAND VOICE

October, 1994

## FALL RETREAT

Herland's Fall retreat will be held October 21 - 23, 1994, in the beautiful eastern part of our state, at Arrowhead State Park near Eufaula, Oklahoma. To get to Arrowhead from Oklahoma City, drive due east for two hours and turn south for a few miles (a map of the location will be sent with your registration confirmation, for those of you who prefer more specific directions...)

Arrowhead has been modernized in recent years, and is one of the most comfortable of our state parks; as well as being fully accessible. Be sure to have your fishing license current, as there is fine fishing - and swimming - in nearby Lake Eufaula. There are also good hiking trails and a golf course. Bring your bike -- park roads are a great place to ride and there's supposed to be a bike route around the lake. And you may be sure there will be softball games, volleyball, card games - and lots of trees to just sit and read or doze or meditate under if that's what strikes your fancy. Also, there will be a variety of workshops, the topics of which will be limited only by the imagination of the Retreaters themselves. There will be a women's market with Herland's books and music and other vendors' goods.

We will have wonderful entertainment -- provided by ourselves on Friday night at the campfire, and Saturday afternoon at the open mike; and Saturday night by the Therapy Sisters, who were a delightful act even before they were lucky enough to snag Mary Reynolds as one of their Therapists.

Retreat registration (see handy registration form in this issue) includes attendance at the concert, three meals, - a late supper on Friday (vegie and non-vegie), Saturday Brunch and Sunday breakfast - and lodging in a group cabin. Be sure to bring your tastiest dish for the famous Saturday night Pot Luck.

There is a lodge available for those who prefer more luxurious living and sleeping. The lodge, Arrowhead Lodge and Gaming Center, is not actually owned by the State; it belongs to the Choctaw Indian Nation, and the "Gaming Center" refers to Bingo, which is played there on weekends.

The RV hookups are about a quarter of a mile from the group camp. You will need to make arrangements for the Lodge or the RV area on your own.

Above all, there will be time to play and relax in the comfort and security of women-only space. Hope to see you there. □

## OCTOBER 1994

**October 11:** Coming Out Day. Do it today!

**October 15:** Jammin' For Peace, 8pm, First Unitarian Church, 600 NW 13th, OKC. Peggy Johnson and others.

**October 16:** AIDS WALK

**October 16:** Herland Board Meeting, 4:30pm; all welcome.

**October 21 - 23:** Herland Retreat at Arrowhead.

**October 27:** Newsletter mailing party; 6:30 pm

## JAMMIN' FOR PEACE

A benefit concert for The Peace House, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church, will be held on Saturday, October 15th, 8:00 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 600 NW 13th Street, Oklahoma City. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2.50 for children 7 - 12 years old. There will be free snacks and cash bar. Child care will be provided.

Several local musicians are donating their time and talents to benefit the Peace House. Come enjoy the singing, drumming and story telling of JAHURUBA; the lively, dynamic vocals of Peggy Johnson and traditional folk and acoustic music with Lonnie & Lee from Norman.

The Peace House has served central Oklahoma since 1981 as an education and advocacy center for issues of peace with justice -- most especially human rights, economic justice and environmental sustainability. For information call 524-5577. □

## AIDS WALK

This year's AIDS Walk Oklahoma will be held October 16 at the Myriad Gardens in Oklahoma City. As before, this year's event will be a 5K walk through downtown Oklahoma City. The money raised is earmarked for HIV/AIDS care and prevention services in Oklahoma, through twelve different agencies. Nearly as important as the money is raising awareness of a disease, stigmatized by ignorance and bigotry, that has already claimed more than 1000 lives in Oklahoma, and 200,000 throughout America. Registration begins at 1 pm, opening ceremonies at 2 pm, and the Walk steps off at 2:30. For more information about participating in the AIDS Walk, call 405/525-AIDS. Your tax-deductible donation may be made to AIDS Walk Oklahoma, P.O. Box 57754, Oklahoma City, OK 73157-7754. □

## THE MANGLED SEPTEMBER VOICE:

It was a nightmare getting the September Voice out. First, we had to cram a lot of information into a tiny space, on account of a temporary cash flow crunch; then we forgot that the August calendar called for a "newsletter party" on Monday the 22nd, so people showed up at Herland to fold a newsletter that was far from ready; then it got too late to get it to and from the printer until after Labor Day; then, when it was ready to prepare for mailing, we had only a few people to spend a lot of time folding, inserting a pamphlet, and stapling it....then, the mailing was refused at the post office because the enclosed pamphlets had bulk rate postage imprinted on them -- the post office has a zillion rules for bulk mail, and this is the first time we have run afoul of one of them for many years. Anyway, then we had to take the mailing home, pull out every staple and insert, bundle them up again, and take them back to the post office. And that, dear readers, is why your newsletter was so very late and kind of molested looking (and why one article referred to an insert that wasn't there). □

# LILITH'S TURN

*Eds. Note: This space has been reserved for St. Sybil for some time now. Recently in attempting to channel to Sybil, we have been blocked by a very obnoxious, annoyed and annoying Lilith, who claims to have been the first woman in the bible until it was sanitized and she was purged for refusing to submit to Adam. We promised to let her speak at least one time, so with more than a few misgivings, here she is.*

Greetings from beyond, from the great divide, from the first, the last and every oasis on the great Continuum. I am Lilith, and I am come to enlighten you. Today, I wanted to suggest thirteen ways to improve this world you are making, but they wouldn't give me enough space in this abbreviated little issue; so here are five ways to make people in this world happier.

1. Toilet paper should be hung with the paper coming over the roll, not under. Now you know, so no more griping and complaining and asking Ann Landers. Gee whiz, that was easy.

2. Women will hereinafter refuse to accept higher wages than men for doing equal work.

3. Women will hereinafter faithfully do their full share of the housework and child nurturing, bill paying, doctor finding, etcetera. It's only fair.

4. Third World people promise to hereinafter use their fair share of the earth's resources, and not one loaf of bread, gallon of gas or rainforest more.

5. Women everywhere will swear off violence, so the world will no longer have to fear any violence perpetrated by women.

Sing Hallelujah, y'all. Don't you feel safer now? Thanks for your time, and the blessings of the universe on you. Lilith. □

## GIRLS WITH GUITARS

Herland was proud to sponsor the second open mic coffee house of 1994 on September 24. With only word-of-mouth advertising, the coffee house was well attended and featured some of Oklahoma City's finest female singers and songwriters.

Joan R. opened the show, making her first reappearance in the music scene in several years. It was great to hear her play and sing again. Joan was followed by the ever-talkative Donna D. who was a crowd-pleaser as always.

A new trio of "girls with guitars" featuring Kristall, Tammy and Wanda rocked the house with covers of the Indigo Girls, 4 Non Blondes, and Melissa Etheridge, in addition to introducing us to some of Wanda's bluesy originals.

Cuchla was joined by Kristall, Wanda and Nancy on her popular original "Back Door to Heaven" and then played several more original songs.

Stacie closed the first set with several original country tunes and a couple of Melissa Etheridge covers.

Tammy, Kristall and Wanda came back in the second set with more great songs and guitar picking.

The next open mic is tentatively planned for December and may be held in a larger place to accommodate the crowd. Keep your ears open and watch *The Voice* to be informed. If you are interested in performing at the next open mic, please leave your information at Herland for Nancy. □

## SEVENTH ANNUAL CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will host its annual skills-building conference in Dallas, Texas, November 11 through 13, with pre-conference institutes on November 9 and 10.

More than 70 workshops will be showcased at this year's Creating Change. Prior to the main body of the conference, Creating Change features full-day pre-conference institutes: the People of Color Organizing Institute; the Transformation Institute on November 9; and the Race, Class and Gender Institute on November 10. This year's conference will include three-Fight the Right intensives (elections, education, religious organizing) as well as a Fundraising Intensive, AIDS Intensive, and Youth Intensive.

The conference will be held at Southland Center Hotel in downtown Dallas. Call 800-272-8007 for room reservations, and identify yourself as a Creating Change participant for special rates. For further information about Creating Change, contact Sue Hyde at (617) 492-6393. □

## LESBIAN/GAY EDUCATIONAL/SOCIAL GROUP

An educational and social activities group for lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults sponsored by Red Rock Mental Health Center meets every Thursday evening from 7:30 - 10 pm at Triangle Association, 2136 NW 39th Street.

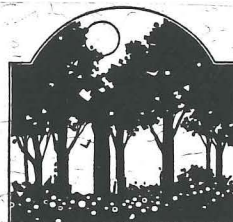
October activities include: October 6 -- Alan Nytray of OSDH will discuss HIV / AIDS research and progress; October 13 -- "Is Prejudice & Discrimination Against the Homosexual Today Real or Perceived", a debate and discussion with Mike Splitt and Bill George; October 20 -- "How Not to Have Sex on the First Date" discussion led by Terry Dennison of Planned Parenthood; and October 27 -- "Homophobia" a workshop led by Tina Steeves and Steve Lazarus from Simply Equal of Norman.

All groups are free and open to the public. For more information on these or other services provided by Red Rock, call Betsy Murphy at 425-0399. □

### Rebecca R. Cohn, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

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# Herland Fall Retreat

featuring

# The Therapy Sisters



"Call them the Jung, and the Restless. They skillfully lampoon musical styles from Andrews Sisters-style scat to lilting folk Madonna harmonies to faux-Seattle grunge."

--Austin American Statesman

Sparkling wit, solid musicianship and stylistic breadth from rockabilly and swing to folk and showtune genres."

--Victory Review, Seattle, WA

## October 21-23

## Arrowhead State Park

Pre-registration \$15-60

On-site registration \$60

Call Herland at 521-9696 for information

There'll be lots of other fun and entertainment with a Friday night campfire, open mic, hiking, biking, and all the fun a hundred or more women can dream up.

# DOCTOR, DOCTOR

by Vivien Ng

Scenario One, Doctor's Office: My internist peered over his half-glasses and asked me in a stern voice, "When did you have your last pelvic examination?"

(Damn, this is the question I have been dreading ever since my lesbian-friendly gynecologist in Seattle retired several years ago.) "Well, not since my GYN retired," I stammered. "Young lady, you know better than that! I'm going to refer you to Dr. X. Don't be alarmed, it's only a routine exam, and you don't have to do it immediately!" I mumbled that I did not have a free moment for another two months, just to buy more time to psyche myself up for the inevitable.

Scenario Two, Home: I called a friend of mine, a pediatrician, and asked him about Dr. X. "Is she okay?" "Sure, she's a bit of an old-school, but I refer my patients to her." "Old-school? Do you mean that she is conservative? Is she homophobic?" "Nah, she's okay." (Damn, again. This is by no means a ringing endorsement. How do I deal with the questionnaire that I will have to fill out at the doctor's office? Questions like: Are you sexually active? How often do you have sexual intercourse? Do you use birth control? Does your partner use condoms? Maybe I should tell her that I'm a nun. Or a former nun who has just left the convent. Hey, that's an idea! I went to a convent school, and my classmates and I used to speculate wildly about the goings-on in the convent adjacent to the school, so all I have to do is to pull from memory whatever bits and pieces about convent life that we thought we knew and pass it on to the doctor as my own personal experience! But what if she's a practising Catholic? It's been years since I have seen a convent, do nuns still live in convents? Maybe it's better that I present myself as a sexually active heterosexual who doesn't use any form of birth control. Maybe I should just tell her the truth. But what if she is homophobic? Can I risk being poked "down there" by a god-fearing, lesbian-hating doctor? Maybe I should just cancel the appointment! But I am long overdue for a pelvic exam....)

Scenario Three, Doctor's Office: I showed up half an hour before my appointment in order to fill out the dreaded new-patient questionnaire. The receptionist handed me a couple of standard forms and a booklet of questions. Good thing I gave myself 30 minutes to do my assignment! "Are you currently engaged in sexual intercourse?" I had only two choices: yes or no. I was tempted to write, "Not right here in the doctor's waiting room, no!" Instead, I scribbled on the margin, "Not in the heterosexual sense!"

(What I was really tempted to do was to quote at length passages from Marilyn Frye's essay, "Lesbian 'Sex'." For example, about a study on couples conducted by Blumstein and Schwartz which suggests that lesbians "had sex" less frequently than heterosexual couples, Frye writes, "What violence did the lesbians do their experience by answering the same question the heterosexuals answered, as though it had the same meaning for them? How did the lesbians figure out how to answer the questions 'How frequently?' or 'How many times?' ... We have no idea how the individual lesbians surveyed were counting their 'sexual acts.' But this also raises the questions of how heterosexuals counted *their* sexual acts. By orgasms? By *whose* orgasms? If the havings of sex by

heterosexual married couples did take on the average 8 minutes, my guess is that in a very large number of those cases the women did not experience orgasms.... So, do lesbian couples really 'have sex' any less frequently than heterosexual couples? I'd say that ... by the criteria that I'm betting most of the heterosexual people used to count 'times,' lesbians don't have sex at all. No male orgasms, no 'times'.")

Postscript: My "female parts" checked out okay. The doctor was nice but the receptionist who processed the questionnaire would not look me in the eye. I should have read Marilyn Frye's essay in its entirety to her. □

## AT HERLAND LOOK FOR THESE SALE BOOKS!

**Happy Endings** edited by **Kate Brandt**: Intimate portraits of the lesbian writers whose books have shaped our lives. Reach into the soul of National Book Award nominee Dorothy Allison. Look behind the art of Lambda Award winners Jewelle Gomez, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Joan Nestle, Katherine V. Forrest. Meet the chroniclers who powerfully convey our lives and culture: Carol Seajay, Sarah Schulman, Lee Lynch, Franco, Leslea Newman, Toni Armstrong.

**The Spy in Question** by **Amanda Kyle Williams**: Topical as today's headlines, filled with all the fast-paced action and high-octane suspense you have come to expect from Lambda Award nominee Amanda Kyle Williams. Madison is thoroughly enjoying an accidental liason with a famous female rock star when she is summoned to her most challenging assignment: locate and offer help to a small resistant band hidden in the Peruvian jungle.

## LOOK FOR THESE NEW BOOKS!

**Triple Exposure** by **Jackie Calhoun**: Photographer Nicky Hennessey is at a crossroads. Passionately involved with old friend Beth Forrester, she must face the painful truth that Beth is unwilling, and perhaps unable, to leave her marriage. To make matters worse, the property that Nicky has bought appears to be a financial disaster. But from the moment she meets Meg, Nicky's life takes a new direction. Still, Meg has her own tangled relationship with jealous, possessive Denise.

**Second Guess** by **Rose Beecham**: After a year's leave of absence in New York, Detective Inspector Amanda Valentine is looking forward to life in the slow lane in New Zealand. Instead, she returns just in time for the most sensational homicide of the year. The body of Sybil Knight, daughter of a former Ambassador to the United States, has been found trussed and battered in a private room in a lesbian sex club. Ride along with this unusual, engaging cop on her latest case. You'll love Amanda Valentine's unique brand of police procedure. □

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Academic Dykes** will have a potluck at 7pm on November 5 in Stillwater. The program will be reading of Marilyn Frye's essay, "Lesbian 'Sex'" from *Lesbian Philosophy and Culture*.

**Pride Network Inc.** needs new individual members and representatives of organizations, clubs and businesses. PNI will meet Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 pm at Gushers. For information call 340-3575.

**Lesbian-only counseling group**, Wednesday evenings. Call Jo L. Soske, MEd/MHR/ICADC/NCC/LPC at 364-5708.

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# HSR RETREAT

OCT. 21 - 23

ARROWHEAD STATE PARK

Single Annual	Person's Income	Retreat Pre-registration per person	Household Income	Annual
under \$6,500	\$6,500 - \$13,250	\$ 15	under \$13,300	\$13,300
\$6,500	- \$13,250	\$ 25	\$13,300 - \$18,000	\$18,000
\$13,250	- \$19,500	\$ 35	\$18,000 - \$26,000	\$26,000
\$19,500	- \$30,000	\$ 45	\$26,000 - \$50,000	\$50,000
over \$30,000	\$30,000	\$ 60	over \$50,000	\$50,000

Please choose the registration fee most appropriate for you based on the above guidelines. On-site registration will be \$60 with no exceptions. The deadline for pre-registration is Oct 19, 1994. Registration is non-refundable after October 20.

Complete and return the pre-registration form to Herland, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration fee enclosed:  \$15  \$25  \$35  \$60  I need a scholarship to attend.

I'm enclosing an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to provide retreat scholarships.

I'm bringing \_\_\_\_\_ children. (Girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome at the retreat.)

I would like to ride with someone.  I can help provide rides.



2312 N.W. 39th Street  
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