

# The HERLAND VOICE

December, 1996

## AND THE SURVEY SAYS ...

Many of you will remember that we surveyed our readers (and retreat participants) last summer. The idea for a survey came out of a couple of planning meetings we had over the summer. We were concerned that participation in Herland events and business at the bookstore had fallen off over the last year. We hoped the survey would help us know more about the women who currently attend the retreats, read the newsletter, and come to the store.

Herland has been a patchwork of women connected in many different ways. Many have come and gone over the years. Herland has always been more than just a physical space for women, it's been an emotional and spiritual space, often a safe haven for women in need.

But right now, participation and support is low. We don't have adequate resources to do all the things that Herland has traditionally done. The mainstream bookstores now have abundant gay and lesbian selections and compete for what were once our customers exclusively. Many women find spiritual and social opportunities through several gay or gay-friendly churches. There is also a shortage of volunteers to staff the bookstore and help with special events.

The survey showed us that we're mostly older (over 35) women who stay at home more. The types of activities you were most interested in included evening activities, such as poetry or comedy night, bowling outings, discussion groups, and game or movie nights.

So, we have some choices to make about how Herland can best use her available resources. The two planning meetings have come up with some ideas for changing the way Herland operates. These changes are directed at using our board members/volunteers wisely and provide for Herland's best interests.

The proposed changes are:

Do away with the "sister" rotation which meant a commitment of two years. Officers began at the Sister IV position and were trained as they rotated every six

months up through the positions to Sister I. The new structure would be one year terms for all positions with no obligation to move up through the ranks. The elected positions would include two Co-chairs, a Secretary, Treasurer, and Volunteer Coordinator. The duties of each would be changed slightly to more evenly share the workload.

We would like your input about these proposed changes. Please write and tell us what you think and any other suggestions you might have about where Herland should be headed at this time. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

**WENDE ALLYN  
IN PERFORMANCE AT  
HERLAND  
7 P.M. FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 13**

**HERLAND NEW YEAR'S  
OPEN HOUSE  
2-5 P.M.**

**JANUARY 1, 1997**

We'll provide the black-eyed peas, all you need to bring is yourself and a friend. Come start the New Year out right!

## Your Letters:

*The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) has received a grant from the Gill Foundation to match all new memberships and gifts to NCLR received before December 31, 1996. NCLR is the only national legal organization for lesbians. NCLR receives no state or federal money and depends on contributions from individual members across the country. Membership is the heart of our organization. Gifts from individuals enable us to do our work, to provide advice and counseling free to anyone who calls us and to take impact litigation cases. Since NCLR was founded in 1977, we have represented hundreds of lesbian mothers in custody, adoption, and foster parenting cases and provided information and assistance to thousands of lesbians, please help us continue to assure that lesbians are included in the lesbian and gay civil rights movement by joining NCLR, renewing your membership, or making a special extra gift. The Gill Foundation will double your contribution if we receive it before December 31st.*

**To Friends in the Oklahoma Community:** I am making a special request that you support this organization for this special membership drive if you can. They have provided selfless aid to clients I have represented in court...without asking for funds to do so. Most of you know the importance and value of that type of help to women as they work their way through the court to get or keep their children. Help if you can ... they are a great group of people and provide valuable help.

Thank you,  
Sandy Ingraham  
Attorney at Law

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**Lesbian only counseling.** Wednesday evenings. Call for an appointment. Jo L. Soske M.Ed./M.H.R./C.A.D.C./L.P.C. 879-2226

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**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!!**



## HEAT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thanks to each of you who has contributed or pledged support for a central heat and air system for Herland. The contractor is waiting, with just a few more pledges we'll be able to authorize beginning work on installation.

Will you be a heat and air angel? All those contributing \$50 or more will be recognized with a plaque placed in Herland.

**Add your name to this growing list with a contribution/pledge of \$50 or more.**

Anonymous  
Jill Burroughs  
Jo Soske  
Susan Eaton  
Dee Butler  
Jean Kelsey  
Jill Lacher-Holmes  
Sherry Murphy  
Natasha Rice  
Pat Reaves  
Dorothy Ribold  
Debbie T.  
Anonymous  
In Honor of Jingles  
In Memory of Mary Kathryn Reaves  
In Memory of Anita Bumgarner  
Helen and Tina Stiefmiller  
In Honor of Finding Myself  
In Memory of Mattie and Al  
In Honor of Barbara Cleveland  
In Memory of John Whittmore  
In Memory of Kris Delaney  
In Honor of DHS Field Operations Staff

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***I want to be a Heat/Air Angel!***

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My contribution of \_\_\_ \$50 or \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_  
is enclosed.

\_\_\_ I'll pledge \_\_\_ \$50 or \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_ by  
January 1, 1997.

\_\_\_ My contribution is in honor of / memory of  
(circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Please keep my contribution anonymous.

Herland Sister Resources - December 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>World AIDS Day</b>	2 Last Quarter	3	4	5 <b>1st day of Hanukkah</b>	6	7
8	9	10 New Moon	11	12	13 7:00 PM Coffeehouse with Wende Allyn	14
15 4:30 PM Herland Board Meeting	16	17 1st Quarter	18	19 Deadline for submissions to The Voice	20	21 <b>Winter begins</b>
22	23	24 Full Moon	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26 <b>1st day of Kwanza</b>	27	28
29	30 6:30 PM Newsletter Mailing Party	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>JANUARY 1 2 - 5 P.M. NEW YEAR'S OPEN HOUSE</b>			

***Peace on Earth -- Goodwill to All***

Published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 N.W. 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.

Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request.

**Red Rock Gay and Lesbian  
*OUTreach***

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Workshops (Dance, Pottery, Relationships, Safer Sex, etc.)

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***OUTreach & Calendar of Events***

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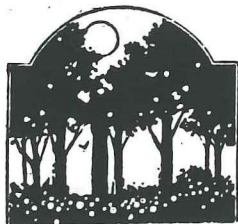
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