

# *To the* HERLAND VOICE

February, 1997

## VALENTINE'S DAY MARRIAGE PROTEST

The Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (OGLPC) and Oklahoma NOW are organizing protests against Oklahoma's anti-lesbian and gay marriage laws.

Members of OGLPC and Oklahoma NOW are making plans for events in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Norman protesting Oklahoma's version of the Defense of Marriage Act. Possible actions are carrying protest signs at the county courthouses and /or the state capitol and same-sex couples applying for marriage licenses in those counties. Same-sex couples who are willing to participate in such an action, and gay and straight supporters are encouraged to contact the organizers.

Oklahoma NOW state coordinator, Nancy Dwyer, will be organizing efforts in Cleveland County. She can be contacted for more information by calling 790-0757. Paul Thompson, male co-chair of OGLPC is leading efforts in Oklahoma County. Call him at 524-2131 for more information about Oklahoma County actions and for information about plans in Tulsa call either Dwyer or Thompson.

Donations to help support these efforts can be made to Oklahoma NOW "Marriage Protest." Mail all contributions to OK NOW, P.O. Box 5465, Norman, OK 73070. □

## IN REVIEW....

by Jill Garner

**Rory Block**, known for her Mississippi Delta style blues and skillful guitar work, will perform at the City Arts Center on the fairgrounds on March 1. Don't miss this show! Block has a beautiful deep voice and has long been known as one of the top acoustic blues guitarists performing today. And we have a chance to see her here in Oklahoma City! Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door, a bargain to see a great musician in such an intimate setting. Call 843-5789 for more information. If we can support shows like this one, we might see more of them coming to Oklahoma City! See you there!

Also, make plans now to see Catie Curtis at the City Arts Center on March 20! I will give you more information on Catie in the next newsletter.

### Claire Lynch - *Moonlighter*

Claire Lynch is well-known in Nashville circles for her bluegrass talent and she's hoping to be known around the country, and she should be. She and her band, the Front Porch String Band, have been playing together for years, honing their talent and gathering fans along the way. *Moonlighter* is the result.

Lynch was introduced to Nashville songwriter Paul Craft in the early '80s. He liked her and her songwriting talent and

urged Kathy Mattea to record "Hills of Alabam" and Patty Loveless to sing "Some Morning Soon." Then a producer heard her backup vocals and she was soon singing backup for Patty Loveless, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and Dolly Parton as word about her beautiful voice made the rounds.

After several albums by the Front Porch String Band and a critically acclaimed gospel album by Lynch called *Friends of a Lifetime*, *Moonlighter* was created. I hope it helps make the name Claire Lynch well-known because she has the talent that deserves an audience. With a wonderful bluegrass sound and a voice that can be beautifully soft and tender and also strong and forceful, *Moonlighter* should be added to your collection.

Many great instrumentalists helped out Lynch and her band on this album, Bela Fleck and Alison Brown on the banjo to name just a couple. The result is a great sound that will send your heart soaring and warm your soul, not to mention make you want to dance. Five of the songs are Lynch creations, including the title "*Moonlighter*" which is one of my favorites. Some of my other favorites weren't written by Lynch but she picked them well. The Cajun song, "*Thibodaux*," will get your feet tapping and take you to a dance floor on a warm New Orleans night where you'll swing the night away. "*Pee Wee and Fern*" is a wonderfully sweet love story that always warms my heart with the lines "It's another great American love story, this time it just happened in Missouri." "*My Heart is a Diamond*" is a beautiful feel good song and with words I love and a gorgeous fiddle accompaniment.

I would hesitate to characterize Claire Lynch solely as bluegrass. Certainly she is that, but if you think you don't like bluegrass, give this album a chance to change your mind.

In the liner notes, Lynch is quoted as saying, "Whenever I meet people who say, 'I am a big fan,' I always think, 'How do they know me? Where have they heard me?'" Fortunately my girlfriend takes chances on CDs of women she's never heard of. We've found some of our favorite music that way. That's how we made the wonderful discovery of Claire Lynch! Consider this your introduction. Take a chance. She's worth it! □

*Songs by*

PEGGY JOHNSON

*Comedy by*

JERRI

7:00 P.M.

Friday, Feb. 28

Herland, 2312 N.W 39, OKC

# LETTERS

TO: Friends and Neighbors in Oklahoma County

My name is Lee Brawner. I have been a professional librarian for over 38 years including 25 years as executive director of the Metropolitan Library System serving Oklahoma County.

For the past few months the Metropolitan Library System has come under a well organized local campaign by Oklahomans For Children and Families (OCAF) and Family Friendly Libraries, a subsidiary of the Christian Coalition and the Focus on the Family organization in Colorado Springs.

The true purpose of FFL is belied by its genial-sounding name. FFL believes that the library's purpose should be to emphasize the "superiority" of the traditional family--"mother and father, married to each other, committed to a lifetime of monogamous relationship and caring responsibly together for their children."

FFL has charged that our library has "obscene" and "pornographic" materials in its collection.

Anti-homosexual bigotry and attacks on books referencing the homosexual life-style also provides much of the fuel for FFL. FFL aims to exploit homophobia in the hopes of polarizing the community.

As part of FFL's carefully orchestrated plan, over the past several months our library has received numerous demands from FFL members to remove or restrict books that have been listed in FFL's campaign materials. Most of these individuals cite the books listed in the FFL literature and many concede they have neither seen or read the books or even know if the library owns them.

FFL seeks to change and control the mission of the public library. That mission is to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.

The freedom to read and unrestricted access to books and information -- within legal limits is fundamental to libraries. Ideas can be dangerous, but the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. When a censor gets a library book removed or restricted, that censor is making a decision for you and your families. If any book is removed or restricted because it might offend someone, every book is in danger. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but, fortunately, it is ours.

Your Metropolitan Library System is a tax-district type of system and ninety percent of its funding comes from a special ad-valorem tax approved by Oklahoma County voters. The library is seeking a small increase in the library mill levy on Feb. 11, 1997. Your library system is governed by a nineteen member, citizen's body, the Metropolitan Library Commission. Members devote considerable time to this important public duty and the library achieves high service standards.

The FFL wants to restrict the library access of certain books and subjects for minors. At the request of FFL, the Library Commission has agreed to review the library's policy regarding unlimited access policy in February 1997.

The Library Commission has proposed to review the policy in February to afford ample time to review the policy including legal and First Amendment issues with regard to restricting access to books and information.

Your library's policy's state, in part, that, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of...age..." Limiting access to certain materials or portions of the library only to adults abridges the use of the library for minors. Access to library materials is an integral part of the right to use a library. The library believes that it is parents, and only parents who may restrict their children and only their children. Libraries do not serve *in loco parentis*.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP CENSORSHIP OUT OF YOUR LIBRARY:** Write to individual members of the Library Commission or to "Metropolitan Library Commission, Metropolitan Library System, 131 McGee, Oklahoma City, OK. 73102" (copies will be sent to all Commission Members). Attend the monthly public meeting of the Library Commission to express your views. Express your views in letters to newspaper editors. Copy and share this information with your friends and neighbors. And, more than ever before, keep our libraries strong by voting for the library mill levy increase on Feb. 11.

Lee Brawner

*Editor's note: This letter is excerpted from a longer letter which is available with its enclosures at Herland. □*

## 14TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL & MOBILIZATION

"Illuminate the Truth: Honor Every Death, Value Every Life: Global Solidarity for Access to Health Care, Dignity and Life" is the theme for the 14th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial & Mobilization to be observed world-wide on May 4. In 1996, the annual mobilization was observed in over 300 cities in 43 nations, making it the world's largest annual community-based event. The Oklahoma City 1997 event will be held at the north shelter and amphitheater at Will Rogers Park. Activities will start at 3 P.M. with a picnic and continue with various entertainers throughout the afternoon in honor of those that are living with HIV and AIDS. At dusk, a program of remembrance will be conducted in honor of those who have fallen in the battle. Closing out the day of activities, there will be a candlelight service in the amphitheater.

Individuals or organizations who would like to participate in this event should contact Andy Southam at 942-1014 or make plans to attend an organizational meeting at 7 PM, February 10 at North Winds Living Center, 3714 N. Portland, OK, OK. □

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**Individual, couples, and family counseling for lesbians. Contact Jo L. Soske, M.Ed./MHR/CADC/LPC for a Wednesday evening appointment: 879-2226.**

## Herland Sister Resources -- February 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 84th Birthday of Rosa Parks, who started the Montgomery bus boycott	5	6	7	8
9	10 7:00 PM Planning for AIDS candlelight memorial, North Winds, 3714 N. Portland, OKC	11	12	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15 177th Birth Anniversary of Susan B. Anthony
16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">4:30 PM HSR Board Meeting</div>	17 95th Birth Anniversary of Marian Anderson, the first woman of color to sing with the Metropolitan Opera	18	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Voice Deadline</div>	20	21	22 105th Birth Anniversary of Edna St. Vincent Millay, American poet
23	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Newsletter Folding Party</div>	25	26	27 Sonia Johnson's 61st Birthday. She was excommunicated from the Mormon Church for her support of the ERA.	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">7:00 PM Coffeehouse featuring Peggy Johnson and Jerri</div>	

Have an event of interest to Voice readers? Let us know by the Voice deadline and we'll put it on the calendar. Call 521-9696 and leave a message for Pat or email preaves@mail.icon.net.

**Thanks to all who contributed to the heat and air fund. We'll publish the final list of heat and air angels in the March Voice. Contributions are still needed to pay off the loan that partially financed the new system. Come by Herland, Saturday 10- 6 or Sunday 1-6 and enjoy the warmth!**

**The Voice is 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 although a donation is requested to meet distribution costs.

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**Return to HSR, 2312 N.W. 39, OKC, OK 73112**

### Red Rock Gay and Lesbian *OUTreach*

Free Seminars & Workshops • Substance Abuse Prevention  
Education & Referral • Lesbian and Gay Support Groups  
Activities (Dances, Arts & Crafts Classes, Sports, etc.)  
Workshops (Dance, Pottery, Relationships, Safer Sex, etc.)  
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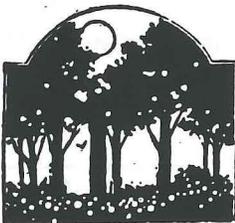
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