

The HERLAND VOICE

April, 1997

OFFICER'S ELECTED

Election of officers was a top priority at last month's Herland Board meeting held on March 16. The newly elected officers are Margy Dillon co-chairperson; Natasha Rice, treasurer, and Ginger McGovern, secretary.

The number of board members has increased to eleven with the addition of three new members in March. They are Dianeme Weidner, Maire Byrannah, and Melissa Chadwick. Herland welcomes this new involvement and knows the new board members will have lots of new ideas. We would like to see more women volunteer their services to create the best board ever. Everyone is invited to attend board meetings. The next scheduled board meeting is Sunday, April 20, so bring your ideas.

It's not too late to join a Herland committee. The newly formed committees are just beginning to take shape. The committees are Social Activities, Public Relations/Newsletter, Library/Bookstore and Building & Grounds. Call Herland at 405-521-9696 and leave a message indicating which committee you would be interesting in joining or just show up at the scheduled meetings announced on the calendar in this issue of *The Voice*. ■

GENDER BIAS VIDEOS

Herland Sister Resources will be showing several videos on the subject of gender bias in education. The first video, *Girls in the Middle: Working to Succeed in School*, will take a look at how girls in three middle schools cope with the challenges in their daily lives. *Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America*, explores the inequities girls face in school and *Girls Can* takes an inspirational look at programs across the country that are making a difference in fighting gender bias in schools.

These three short video will be shown on Saturday, April 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Herland, 2312 N.W. 39th. Refreshments will be served. If you have questions or need additional information, please call Herland at (405)521-9696. ■

THE PEACE FACTORY

The Peace Factory is coming to OKC: 9 am - 9 pm, April 17-20 at the First Presbyterian Church, NW 25th and Western. Created by over 100 Mennonite volunteers to help all people connect their life of faith with practice in peacemaking and resolving conflicts, the exhibit covers over 2000 square feet with six different types of hands-on learning experiences. All ages are invited to participate. To make reservations for groups call Jo Snyder at 947-5194.

prisoner of war

by Mary Reynolds

i started working on this in the weeks after the bombing. then i read an article by Michael Ventura that gave me the idea for the hook - "prisoner of war." i finished the song in time to play it at the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

now they lead him down the steps of the courthouse
people calling out his name
there's an open wound running through this city
and they think that he's to blame
a little storm of people wanting answers
hurling accusations at the center
who silent only stares back unbelieving
he is a prisoner of war

black smoke curls gently to the westward
it's a beautiful spring day
silence steals the screams of the afflicted
better get out of the way
there's silence at the checkout at the grocery store
as people who've forgotten what they're looking for
stand and gaze as one into the dark interior
they're prisoners of war
they just found out they're prisoners of war

sometimes this feeling catches up to me
and i want to run and hide

but my feet refuse to move
my arms hang useless at my side
cause somewhere way down deep inside
you know it's nothing new
up to now you've just been lucky
it hasn't come so close to you
i see smoke along the Washita
at the rising of the sun
i see the pride of East Virginia
rushing headlong to the guns
Rachel weeping for her children
Cassandra scans the skies in vain
smoking shores of Hiroshima
a Buchenwald bound train
it's the halls of Montezuma
it's the King David Hotel
it's just another chapter
in a book called war is hell
and now it's playing in my living room
at five and six and ten

a science fiction movie
that doesn't have the sense to end
complete with screaming metal aliens
and gaping maw of death
and it's going to be a long time
before i draw an easy breath
i am a prisoner of war
i am a prisoner of war

so once again the strong put on their armor
and walk into the fire
and the rest of us bring treasures up and stories
helpless peering through the wire
into a garden where courage and compassion
go hand in hand with hatred and contempt
the searing faces of a two-edged sword
we're all prisoners of war
we're all prisoners of war

copyright 1995 mary reynolds

IN PERFORMANCE

by Jill Garner

Another concert of note this spring is Janis Ian! She'll be performing at the City Arts Center April 20. Be sure and keep your calendars clear for this show.

Janis Ian became a star in the 1970s when she was only 15 years old with the hits **At Seventeen** and **Society's Child**. She kind of faded from view for awhile but she's come back in the past few years with a couple of strong albums, **Breaking Silence** (1992) and **Revenge** (1995). In addition, a 2 CD set, released in 1995, subtitled **The Verve Recordings**, is an overview of her extraordinary beginnings as a teenage star, and features 41 songs, and a 24-page booklet with a new interview and rare photos.

Janis Ian also publicly came out as a lesbian a few years ago, and has been writing a regular column in **The Advocate**. She's funny and insightful and I always look for her column. And after years of never knowing what to call our partners/girlfriends, Ian has nailed it. In her column, she affectionately refers to her wife as Mr. Lesbian. The search is now over. Ian also writes a column in **Performing Songwriter** magazine, giving tips to other performers on the business side of making music.

I actually never thought I'd have the opportunity to hear Janis Ian in Oklahoma City so I'm excited about it. I hope to see a good crowd there to hear this very talented singer and songwriter. Don't miss this chance because you might not get it again. See you there! Watch the Gazette or call 843-5789 for more information about this concert.

Ellen Takes the Step

If you haven't heard yet, the word is that Ellen Degeneres' character will come out as a lesbian on an hour-long episode on April 30, inadvertently over the public address system at the airport no less. I've read that Melissa Etheridge will sing the opening song, k.d. lang will appear as a singing waitress, Oprah Winfrey will play her therapist, and Laura Dern will be the love interest of Ellen Morgan. Don't miss what sounds like a fun episode, as well as touching. Some people who watched the taping of the show said it moved them to tears.

Lucinda Williams

If you've never listened to Lucinda Williams, you're missing out on one of the most talented songwriters around. Quite a few singers have covered Lucinda Williams' songs (Patty Loveless and Mary-Chapin Carpenter are just a couple) and I've read about her songwriting for years. Since she doesn't have a classically great voice, I hate to say that I never bought one of her CDs until recently when I bought **Sweet Old World** (1992). Well, I haven't been able to take it out of my CD player yet. Her songs are wonderful, colorful snapshots of places and people and feelings and I'm always listening closely trying to catch every word. Check her out. ■

MUSICIANS ON THE WEB

by Nancy Nesser

Last month, I gave you a brief tour of some of the web sites of interest to lesbians and gay men. This month, I want to give you a few starting points for finding your favorite performers online.

If you want to be able to hear samples of music and see video clips, you should first download "Real Audio" from www.real.com. This technology allows you to hear a music file *while* you download the file you want to hear. Sites with real audio will call it "RA." When you click on the RA file, it takes about five seconds before you hear the sample. In comparison, a ".wav" file may take 20 minutes to download a 20 second clip. *(continued next column)*

While I was doing research for this article, I came across a site called the Ultimate Band List at www.ubl.com. This site links record labels, artists, web sites, music publications and more. When I find a site that claims to be the "ultimate" anything, I put it to the test. So I searched for "therapy", hoping to find the Therapy Sisters from Austin. I was disappointed at first, but then I noticed that one of the links it pulled up was "Marilyn Rucker". Marilyn is a former member of the Therapy Sisters. When I went to her page, she had links to the Therapy Sisters and Emily Kaitz.

Emily's site has a Real Audio clip of her song "I Will Stay With You." Emily sings with Ray Wylie Hubbard on that song and Mary Reynolds play the bass. You can order her CD's and check out her touring schedule. To go directly to her web page, go to www.songs.com/noma/ek.

So the UBL wasn't totally ultimate, but it lead me down a good path. When I searched for the Indigo Girls, I found several unofficial web pages in addition to their Sony-sponsored page. There are fan sponsored sites that have everything from a virtual museum to guitar chord charts for their songs.

Another way to find recording artists is through the web site of their record company. For example, www.sony.com has sites for Mary-Chapin Carpenter, Shawn Colvin, the Indigo Girls, Janis Joplin, and Cyndi Lauper, to name a few. After you get to Sony's home page, click the icon "On Music" then click "Artist Info". At this page, you can either scroll down to the artist's name or you can pick a letter in the alphabet to get you there quicker.

Warner Brothers Records at www.wbr.com has pages for Joan Jett, Paula Cole, Ferron and Tish Hinajosa. On Joan Jett's page, you can download a .wav file of her version of the old Mary Tyler Moore theme song.

If you are interested in being connected to Herland through the new Email list, send your Email address to HerlandSisters@Juno.com. I hope to be able to send out reminders of Herland events and information about local performers of interest to the community. Especially if you are from out of town, the Email list will be a great way to stay in touch with Herland.

If you have found a great site, send a message to NJNesser@Juno.com and I will mention it in a future article. ■

Your Letters

Dear Herland,

Living in this right wing reactionary state is very depressing to me so I want you and your staff to know that I see your store as a beacon of light in the darkness. Living in Oklahoma with charismatic churches on every corner and OCAF spreading it's campaign of fear and hatred could cause me to despair but with Herland growing there is great hope. Keep up your admirable work!

Alma Webb, OKC

FYI...

April 24th is Armeidian Marcher's Day. On April 24th in 1915, 3 million Armenians were killed by Turks. It was the 1st genocide of the 20th century and people were beheaded, crucified and raped. The Turkish government still denies it.

Individual, couples, and family counseling for lesbians. Call for a Wednesday evening appointment. Jo Soske, MEd/MHR/CADC/LPC 879-2226

April 1997

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2	3	4 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated, 1968</i>	5 <i>Medieval Fair through Sunday. In Norman</i>
6 1pm library committee*	7 <i>Billie Holiday's Birthday</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 <i>Income Taxes Due</i>	16	17	18	19 5-7pm sexism video & discussion, food served*
20 3pm building and social committees* 4:30pm board mtg	21	22 <i>Passover</i>	23	24 <i>Barbra Streisand turns 55</i>	25 <i>1993 March on Washington</i>	26 5pm meet at the Arts Festival and enjoy Freefall!!!
27 12-5pm Workday* <i>Coretta Scott King turns 70</i>	28	29	30		*at Herland	

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

MAY 16-18, ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK

Do you need a weekend away from it all? Come enjoy a weekend away with a hundred or so of your closest friends at the Herland Spring Retreat. There'll be music -- featuring performances by Wendy Allen and Peggy Johnson and an open mic for all who have a talent to share; a scavenger hunt with prizes to win; a fabulous potluck supper; time and equipment for softball and volleyball.... And if that's not enough you can always go horseback riding, hiking, fishing in Lake Watonga, or play golf at the one-of-a-kind course in Roman Nose State Park.

Registration includes all the fun you can have, the Saturday evening concert, a cabin bunk and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Space is available for tents and RVs (no hookups). Register now and avoid the last-minute rush!

Suggested Retreat Registration Fee

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

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland):

\$15 \$25 \$35 \$45 \$60

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I need a scholarship to attend.

I'm enclosing an additional \$_____ to help provide scholarships.

I'm bringing _____ children

(girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome)

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. Deadline for pre-registration is May 11 and registration is non-refundable after May 11.

Return registration to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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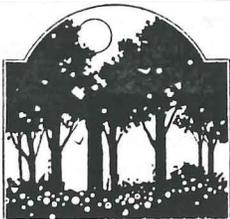
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