

To the HERLAND VOICE

September, 1997

FALL RETREAT TO FEATURE HERLAND SONGWRITERS' FESTIVAL

Girls with Guitars. Lesbians with Lyres. Sisters with Strings. What ever you want to call it, they're coming to the Herland Fall Retreat. A fabulous and diverse line-up featuring women of song will gather at Lake Murray State Park October 17-19.

This retreat will host the first Herland Songwriters' Festival, Saturday, October 18 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Performers confirmed to date include Peggy Johnson, Wende Allyn, Donna DeSalvo, Cuchla Fuller, Deb Mills, Wanda, and Amy.

Peggy Johnson and Wende Allyn were the featured performers at the spring retreat. Peggy has been writing songs and performing in the Oklahoma City area for many years. Her style of folk blues is immediately recognizable. Wende is in the process of releasing her first album, *Catalina Days*, a collection of original material featuring some of the most respected instrumentalists in the state. Her "Americana" brand of songs feature powerful lyrics and her strong voice.

Wanda, the Tex-Mex blues-pickin' mama, is back in Oklahoma after living in Boston for a while and is getting back to performing in places other than her living room. Her original material ranges from the sittin-on-the-front-porch-rockin-and-sweatin-I-must-be-close-to-the-gulf blues of "Muddy River" to the rock-pop feel of "Living in a Man's World."

Donna D. will do double duty, performing in both the songwriters' fest and with Circle of Friends, the featured entertainment for the evening. Donna has entertained the women of Oklahoma City with her songs, stories and antics for decades.

Cuchla Fuller, best known for her song "Backdoor to Heaven" was a member of the Desert Heart Band. Her style is reminiscent of the early days of the "women's music" movement. Whether singing about stepping out with an unavailable lover or spelling out the name of a popular watering hole for lesbians, her songs are lived in and comfortable. (Continued page 2)

IN PERFORMANCE AT MEDINA'S ON THE PASEO

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

JAMIE ANDERSON

7:00 P.M.

"Anderson's friendly, every-woman voice is open, engaging and occasionally, barely suppresses and aural grin or two." The Record, Sacramento, CA

MARY REYNOLDS & NANCY SCOTT

9:30 P.M.

After winning the Gazette's best Female Vocalist for several years running, Mary moved to Austin's music scene. This trip back she's performing with Nancy Scott from Austin.

CALL TO WRITERS

The first meeting of the new Herland Writers' Group was an unqualified success. Three of us met and discussed our hopes and plans for the future of our group. Our most immediate goal is to include as many new women in the circle as we can.

Our next meeting will be at Herland at 6:30 on Monday September 8th. Come to listen, or bring work you wish to share. All genres, all abilities welcome. See you there! □

FALL RETREAT (continued from page 1)

In addition to all of the seasoned performers, Herland is fortunate to have two fresh-faced newcomers who will be performing at the festival. Deb Mills is a spunky young woman from Oklahoma City who has recently been seen playing in a group with Peggy Johnson. Her original material falls somewhere between Indigo Girl Amy Ray and Melissa Etheridge.

The only non-Okie writer is Amy Belzer from Abilene, Kansas. When I started putting this festival together, I posted several notices on Internet bulletin boards. I had several responses, but as soon as I told them it was freebie, they all seemed to have another gig that weekend. Except for Amy. She just wanted a place to play her songs for a group of appreciative women. She describes her music as mushy love songs--come out to the retreat and see for yourself.

The evening concert will be provided by Circle of Friends, an Oklahoma City group of 4 women who have been playing together for several years. Circle of Friends includes Kristall Bright, Cathy Cahill, Donna DeSalvo and Tammy King. They have become infamous for their rowdy shows at the Cafe Paseo, a normally sedate jazz club.

After the concert, all the guitar players can "come out of the closet" for the biggest electric jam ever at a Herland Retreat. Bring your noisemakers and be ready to shake your groove thang at the fall retreat. □

HERLAND WISH LIST

Barbecue grill
Lawn mower
Refrigerator, 16 cu ft or larger
Garden tools
Weed eater
Carpentry tools
Heat and air installation, paid
Food pantry items
Bookcases

If you can donate any of the above, just drop it by Herland or give us a call at 521-9696 and we'll make arrangements to pick it up.

Keep My Voice Coming!

Monthly publication and distribution of 1,000 copies of the Voice is Herland's largest monthly expense. A donation of \$12 or more is requested to cover the cost of sending your monthly copy of the *Voice*, but we'll be happy to send the *Voice* even if you can't send a contribution right now. Just let us know you still want to receive the *Voice*.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ My contribution of \$12 or _____ is enclosed.
____ Keep the Voice coming! Maybe I can contribute later.

Return to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK 73112

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



Many women have read, or have at least seen the movie, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, both written by Jeanette Winterson, but those readers or viewers who stopped there are denying themselves the pleasures of a thoughtful, sexy, solid body of work.

To date Ms. Winterson has published five novels and a book of essays, each diverse in subject, theme and tone, but connected by the author's intellect, wit and skill. *Oranges*, if you have not read it, is the autobiographical account of Ms. Winterson's evangelical upbringing and painful coming out. Her next two novels have historical setting and subjects. *The Passion* is set in Venice and in the camps of Napoleon's army and tells the tale of a cook and a gondolier's daughter. *Sexing the Cherry* is the story of a giant woman, her son, and twelve dancing princesses in seventeenth century England.

For her fourth novel, *Written on the Body*, Ms. Winterson returns to her own life as inspiration for her hard, vivid picture of a multisexual love triangle in modern London. *Art and Lies*, perhaps her finest, most perfectly realized work to date, blurs the line between past and present, telling the story in the voices of three narrating characters: Picasso, a troubled young woman painter, Handel, a cold Victorian doctor, and Sappho, the ancient Greek Poet.

Two works have followed *Art and Lies*. *Art [Objects]*, her collection of essays, and her most recent work, *Gut Symmetries*, which deals with physics, astrology and yet another love triangle.

Jeanette Winterson is a brave, uncompromising storyteller, refusing to restrict her themes or characters to what some might call "normal" lives and behavior. It is her skill and confidence which make the implausible not just plausible, but breathtaking. An ancient Greek woman riding a London train, and a red-haired, web-footed Venetian girl literally losing her heart to a noblewoman are presented so beautifully and so well that they never seem cheap or trite, but are indeed illuminating experiences for the reader bold enough to accept the challenge.

Jeanette Winterson's body of work, like her characters, transcends categorization. Mysterious, adventurous, erotic, romantic, there are elements in her work to appeal to the tastes of any reader. □

HOME.....

I'm sitting here in my tiny haven thinking "I'm home", not just these four but in the middle of America, Oklahoma City to be exact.

A few years ago I would not have expected to be so happy, away from California and all those wimmin! But I needed a smaller, cozier scene, discontent with the transient nature of relationships. I needed deeper connections, I wanted a small town scene and part of the specialness of the gay community is its lack of size.

Now don't get me wrong, I'd love more and more gay awareness and that includes the bi folk but its sorta nice to have only a few choices, you get to see the same people again and again.

So just to let you know, or remind you, Oklahoma is happening. My view of life is similar to "love the one you're with". The positive I experience in Oklahoma is the friendliness of its people, the strong spiritual bonds (not necessarily religion) and the amazing array of talented artists.

I like that Oklahoma is still experimenting with ethnic foods/coffee houses/poetry readings because I was a sixties child/woman experiencing life's alternatives and content to stay there.

The most recent treasure I've ventured into is the beginning of a writing group at Herland, Wendy Allen's smooth, silky voice melting me down, and Diversity's smoky atmosphere (although I'd love a non-smoking night).

I'm looking forward to meeting Oklahoma's characters and becoming one of them. □

-- Deidra

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 publication and distribution costs.

GIRLS WITH GUITARS

Fall Retreat and Music Festival

Saturday afternoon Songwriter Festival

Featured performers:

♪♪ Peggy ♪ Wanda ♪ Wende ♪ Donna D ♪♪
♪♪ Cuchla ♪ Amy ♪ Deb M ♪♪

Songwriter Festival begins at 2:00pm

Evening Concert with

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Concert begins at 8:30pm

Herland Sister Resources

September, 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Moon Labor Day 30,000 women march in Chicago Labor Day Parade, 1903	2	3	4	5 Crazy Horse assassinated while in custody, 1877	6
7 Grandma Moses b. 1860	8 6:30 PM Herland Writers' Group	9 1st Quarter	10	11	12 7:00 PM Jamie Anderson 9:30 PM Mary Reynolds & Nancy Scott, at Medina's on the Paseo	13
14	15	16 Full Moon	17	18	HSR Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Welcome Back to School Bash	20 Equal Rights Party Formed 1884
21 4:30 PM HSR Board Mtg.	22 Autumn begins	23 Last Quarter	24	25 Sandra Day O'Connor appointed US Supreme Court, 1981 6:30 PM Newsletter mailing	26	27
28	29	30				

IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE?????

by Melissa

We all know and love her-that queen comedienne and day time diva. Yes, I'm talking about the one and only Rosie O'Donnell. Most of us have seen her comedic ability compliment that of Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez in *Another Stakeout*. Many of us have enjoyed watching her hilarious, yet somewhat sexy (come on girls-admit it. You know you felt that tingly feeling when you saw the leather-clad Rosie) antics as she played the role of undercover-agent -turned-dominatrix-to-catch-the-bad-guys in *Exit to Eden*.

Some of us have even been fortunate enough to see her grace the Broadway stage in *Grease*. And any so-called respectable dyke has sat down at least once to catch a glimpse of Rosie's refreshing Johnny Carson-ish daytime talk show.

Except for choosing such a public line of work, Rosie's life is a mystery to most. Nobody ever hears of a boyfriend or any other aspect of her personal life. There are speculations (unconfirmed, of course) that she may be a part of the family. And although this rumor may be just that-a rumor- we may be on the right track.

If one were to stop and think about it, they might find that ms. O'Donnell has many characteristics in common with our more butch sisters. She (when not working) dresses comfortably and prefers the natural look as opposed to wearing makeup or poofing her hair up. She would rather play handywoman around the house instead of calling a repair man. Not only does she own one motorcycle, but she in fact owns two (which might construe that this second bike might be for a significant other????).

In addition to these characteristics, she is very vague about her personal life and relationships. In any interview I've seen her do or read about, she is very careful to evade direct questions about her personal life and to use words such as partner or mate instead of using the pronouns he or she.

And who could forget Rosie and Ellen's word play with the word Lebanese???

It's not my right, nor do I condone publicly outing another sister or brother. The Goddess knows I wouldn't want to be the recipient of such an act. Until Rosie goes public it is all speculation, but I will say Rosie does make my gaydar go haywire! □

SUMMER

by Diedra

Summer was a bitch, striding into my heart like she owned the place. Laying me down with her sticky fingers, an extravagant landscape I traveled, nearly burning me alive. Yet when she left town I was searching for her twin in dark corners of my renewed life, discovering smoke and heat were stage props I couldn't lean against. Summer threw me a loop I didn't catch, chasing heat, needing her to open me wide.

Is love a place we've reached or a person?

Summer, a fickle dancer raving in the afternoons, offering a blooming sun you can't touch and all those full moons blinding me. I entered love thru the side door, barefoot, looking for the midnight show. Summer rocked and wooed me, forbidding sleep, my mistress, my guardian angel beating me senseless. I was reckless with desire, we found each other afterhours naked under a brightness we couldn't hide.

Summer was a feast, a taste I craved, a fast night running down my alley, a flight of spilled stars. There was no safeness to return to, once love held me in a lush possessiveness it was me who wouldn't let go. Summer wound me tight round her finger. Losing track of time and swallowing whole days I waited in the dark, an alley cat wet and howling.

There's never enough when you're young or hungry, only freedom is as strong an urge and love won out. Love has a louder voice, a greater promise of shiny summer nights. I kept slipping into her easiness, finding strangers whispers a noisy substitute for truth.

But love has Aged, an antique memory I climb when I need to be higher, looking over my life, Summer's long bittersweetness, refusing winter and fall, demanding warmer suns, empty cries irritating the moon, searching for the hapless reason love lost its freedom. The smallest details were pieces of glass cutting me with the memory of France.

Oh yeah, Summer admired my veins, held my fragile hands and put me out, like a light. □

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October is Lesbian and Gay History Month

We need your help to observe the month and celebrate National Coming Out Day!

The October Voice will feature your coming out story -- that is if you send it to us. Write a poem, an essay, a story... anything short of a novel about your coming out process and we'll consider publishing it (actually our space is pretty limited so your novella is probably a little long for the *Voice*.)

Send your submission to Herland Voice, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112 to arrive by the September 19 deadline. □

We are proud to support Herland Sister Resources and its work for equality and justice.



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RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. Deadline for pre-registration is October 14 and registration is non-refundable after October 16.

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 and additional \$ _____ to help provide scholarships.
- ___ I'm bringing ___ children (girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome)
- ___ I'm bringing ___ pets (LEASHED and well-behaved)

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

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