

The HERLAND VOICE

September, 1998

RUN AWAY....

....as Monty Python says; or as Herland says, Retreat! To Osage Hills near Pawhuska in Northeast Oklahoma. Northeastern Oklahoma is blessed with a little bit of everything, including a 52,000 acre Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, where buffalo roam on Bluestem prairie that has never been broken with a plow. Pawhuska itself has ninety buildings listed on the National Historic Register.

On the drive up, come through Hominy and check out the Native American-themed murals on more than forty-five of the brick buildings.

When you get to Osage Hills State Park you will find a warm meal waiting. (Soup Friday night, group cabins designed to fit your needs: smoking or not, drinking or not, early to bed or not, etc.), and scores of the nicest women in Oklahoma there ready to unwind and relax..

Running away with Herland allows you to be as sociable or as reclusive as you like. Friday night you can gather around the campfire and sing your heart out, or gather and listen, or hang off at a distance and listen or not. Saturday have a great brunch, read, play volleyball, play tennis, nap, or plays spades, or cribbage, read, hike, ride a bike, another nap under a spreading elm, squirt someone with your water bazooka, do a jigsaw puzzle, read, swim, write poetry, read. Think about doing a little sight-seeing. Saturday afternoon hang out (or not!) at the open mic. Go to workshops, (or not!), or even give a workshop. Saturday evening dine on one of the finest pot-lucks in the world, including your own culinary treat. (And if you are not that great a cook, we can always use more potato salad from Homeland.)

Saturday evening enjoy the often poignant and frequently hilarious music of Austin's own Emily Kaitz. (See accompanying article). Laugh, dance, sing - or not! It's your weekend.

And enjoy a bit of our own personal herstory. Osage Hills was the site of the first Herland retreat in 1986. Remember how excited we were, and how daring? Twelve years later we're going home. Other activities we are planning to commemorate the Return to Osage Hills will be displays of retreat memorabilia, photos and some story telling about retreats past. Everyone is encouraged to bring photos and other retreat memorabilia to share.

WHEN: October 9 - 11 - the weather will be gorgeous.

WHERE: Osage Hills State Park

HOW MUCH: \$25-\$65 (see registration form inside)

WHO: Women and girls only, boy children to ten years old.

WHY: The best weekend picnic all year, and someone else has done most of the work!

WHY ELSE: Fun, relaxation, and the change is gonna do you good! □



EMILY KAITZ

A songwriter and guitarist since 1965, a bass player since 1980, Emily Kaitz is a self-described "obscure and happy person." She has a cult following nationally. In 1997, she performed in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Arizona, California, and New York. Her songs which are performed far and wide by such artists as Trout Fishing in America, The Austin Lounge Lizards, The Therapy Sisters, Mary Reynolds, The Smith Sisters, The Jim Cullum Jazz Band, Dave Pomeroy (Nashville bassist extraordinaire) and most recently, Chet Atkins. Atkins adapted her song "The Day the Bass Players Took Over the World" as the title cut of his album *The Day Finger Pickers Took Over the World*.

Kaitz began performing in and around Austin in 1980 and just recently relocated to Fayetteville, Arkansas. Since 1984 she has produced and marketed eight independent albums on her own label, Pingleblobber, all featuring her original songs. □

TO GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE....

Quick, who was the first woman to pass astronaut qualifying tests at NASA? Here's a hint, she was born in Oklahoma and she still hasn't given up her dream to become an astronaut.

Jerrie Cobb, who had already distinguished herself as a record-setting pilot, was invited by NASA to undergo a series of qualifying tests for astronaut training. In February, 1960 she became the first woman test subject for research on women as astronauts. When she reported for testing, she had logged 10,000 hours of flight time (compared to Glenn's 5,100), and had set international records for speed and altitude three times. She had worked as a test pilot and had flown 64 different types of aircraft, including a jet fighter and four-engine turboprop transport.

She had all the same physical and psychological tests as the male astronaut candidates and passed them all. After Cobb's successful completion of the tests, 12 other women successfully completed 2 rounds of testing. NASA cancelled the final phase of testing and it wasn't until 1978 that women were finally selected as astronauts.

(continued on page 2)

ST. SYBIL

Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, is an occasional contributor to The Voice..

Dear Saint Sybil,

I have a friend who wears one of these cute new bracelets, with WWJD embroidered on it. I asked her about it and she gave it to me, but I haven't worn it yet. The initials stand for "What Would Jesus Do?", and the bracelets are very popular, especially among teenagers. Whenever they find themselves in some sort of pickle or moral dilemma or something, they are supposed to look at their wrist and figure out how Jesus would respond. I think Jesus was a pretty neat peace-loving, people-loving guy, but I'm no "Christian" the way Jerry Falwell means it. What do you think of these bracelets and all this stuff, Sybil?

Yours,
Ima Jess Wondrin

Dear Ima Jess,

Really, I am of many minds about this phenomenon. My first instinct is to distrust any mass movement which is so completely religion-based; the Crusades and the Inquisition, for instance, spring immediately to mind.

Then again, I think the bracelets might, for a time anyway, have a beneficial effect on some people — it is hard to imagine that anybody, even members of the worst hate groups, could see an interracial couple or a couple of loving lesbians walking down the street, consult their wrist and decide that what Jesus would do is beat the hell out of them perverts....

But I do worry and wonder if these kids are really asking what Jesus would do, or rather asking what their ministers would do, or what Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson would do. Big difference. You are quite right, Ima Jess, Jesus was a loving man, but many ministers today who interpret him are not at all neat, cool or loving. Quite to the contrary.

A situation often cited as a perfect opportunity for teenagers to ask WWJD is the party where alcohol is being served. Should they go? Hello, wrist: What Would Jesus Do? Now you and I know that their wrist is supposed to tell them not to go to that party, and ok, we're pretty sure that Jesus would not want them to get tanked up and drive drunk or have unsafe sex or be date raped or even puke their guts up on their friend's mother's couch; BUT, let's tell the truth, Jesus *would* go to that party and if they didn't have enough wine he might be persuaded to conjure up some more.

So, really, the wristband is just being used as a shortcut to the wearer's own conscience, and as long as it is to the wearer's conscience, and not to Phyllis Schlafly's malicious and demented views, say, or James Dobson's homophobic misogyny, I don't see anything wrong with it.

I would like to see religion taken out of the bands altogether and a wider selection of spiritual guides embroidered upon them. WWR(osa Parks)D? WWM(artin)D? WWM(alcolm)D? WWE(leanor Roosevelt)D? WWK(insey Millone)D?

I have a friend who swears she can not tell right from — not *wrong*, but right from *left*, without looking to see which hand has the freckle on her knuckle. This woman has never once in life

answered a right/left question without checking her freckle; she is convinced that she couldn't do it. The fact is, however, that she could tell her right hand from her left in a locked closet on a submerged submarine at midnight blindfolded — ask her which is right and that befreckled right hand shoots straight into the air...

Looking for that freckle is just a habit with her, and I have a vision of a future where millions of people will check their wrist each time they are tempted to violate their personal value system. It'll be as good as a lie detector. Does your honey glance wristward too often when a certain gorgeous woman is around? Your romance may not be quite as secure as you had hoped. Does the treasurer of your business check her wrist too often? You might want to start thinking audit...

So, my dear, when you're in need of a little good advice, or a little moral or ethical direction, check your heart, check your mind, check in with your conscience. And in case you just have to have a little divine guidance emanating from your wrist, I'm sending you a special hand-embroidered bracelet that reads WWSSD? Wear it in good health.

Love and kisses,
Saint Syb

COBB (*continued from page 1*)

At age 67, Cobb continues to be an active pilot flying as a missionary pilot in the Amazon and still wants to fly in space. When asked by a reporter what it would mean to her to be able to fly in space now, she replied "It would mean everything in the world and out of this world to me. I'd give my life to fly in space. I would have then and I will now," she said.

Citing NASA's recent interest in the study of the effects of space flight on aging and plans for former astronaut John Glenn to return to space, the Oklahoma American Association of University Women has joined in support of Cobb's efforts to become an astronaut and is encouraging individuals to contact the Administrator of NASA in support of her efforts.

Cobb was named "Woman of the Year in Aviation" by the Women's National Aeronautics Association and received the "Pilot of the Year" award by the National Pilot's Association in 1959. She was awarded the gold wings of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, the international governing authority for aviation records. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1981 for her work as a medical and agricultural missionary. Cobb was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1976.

If you want to help send Jerrie to space, you can contact NASA director Daniel S. Goldin at 2 Independence Square, 300 E St. SW, Washington, DC 20546, Fax: (202) 358-2810. □

Our condolences to Cheyenne, and the friends and family of Jackie Pemberton

CALLING THE ROLL STUDY CIRCLES FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

Study circles will address the challenges schools face and basic questions underlying education through a community-wide study circle program sponsored by the Oklahoma League of Women Voters. Circles will meet on from 7 -9 PM on September 1, 9, 15 and 22 in various locations in 10 Oklahoma communities. Thirteen meeting locations are planned in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area. Other communities participating are Tulsa, Ada, Bartlesville, Enid, Lawton, Muskogee, Norman, Shawnee, and Stillwater. For information about locations in Oklahoma County, call 232-8683.

Study circles are small, democratic, highly-participatory groups which allow people to take part in both dialog and action. By bringing community members together with public officials and professionals in education, study circles create opportunities for ideas and action to make an impact and contribute to community problem-solving.

Study circle outcomes range from the actions of individual volunteers, to the actions of cooperating organizations to the actions of governing bodies, such as Oklahoma HB1231 which revamped the state criminal justice system based on input of over 1,000 study circle participants. □

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.

UP-COMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 12

 Mary Reynolds and Nancy Scott will perform in a house concert on Saturday, September 12. Tickets will be sold in advance due to limited seating availability. Advance tickets are available at Herland. This will be an outdoor concert, weather permitting. Call 942-4190 for information.

Saturday, September 19

 It's Girl's Night Out! Show up at Herland at 7:00 PM and we'll decide where to eat and then what to do for the evening's entertainment. For information call Jerri at 755-4916.

Tuesday, September 22

Church of the Open Arms is having a skating party Tuesday, September 22nd from 8-10:00 PM at the Comet Skating Club located at 5800 N.W. 36th. Tickets are \$5.00. All are welcome. For more information call 524-6300.

Saturday, September 25

 Church of the Open Arms is proud to announce a Celebration Concert. The concert will be in the Fellowship Hall at Mayflower Congregational Church, located at 3901 N.W. 63rd, Friday September 25 at 8:00 PM. Those scheduled to perform include Peggy Johnson, Julia Robinson, Deb Roberts, Wanda D, Donna D, and Darenda. Seating and tickets for the event will include a VIP section. VIP tickets, which are \$25.00, will get you a seat at a table, close to the stage. Regular seating will be \$10.00. VIP tickets should be purchased before the day of the event, but regular tickets will be available at the door. For tickets or more information, Call Kathy at 524-6300 or Nancy at 942-4190.

HERLAND FALL RETREAT

OCTOBER 9 -11, OSAGE HILLS STATE PARK

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. Deadline for pre-registration is October 5 and registration is non-refundable after October 8.

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland): \$15 \$25 \$35 \$45 \$60
 Saturday only Registration \$25

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)

Single Person's Annual Income	Suggested 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

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

Please Be Our Guest

CHURCH OF THE OPEN ARMS
Worship Sundays 1:30 p.m.
3901 N.W. 63rd

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Pastor

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