

The HERLAND VOICE

December, 1998

CIVIL LIBERTIES AWARDS

The ACLU of Oklahoma honored the civil liberties-related achievements of number of outstanding individuals in Oklahoma during the Bill of Rights Day Celebration held on November 21, 1998.

Peggy Johnson and Terry Gatewood were co-recipients of the ACLU of Oklahoma Human Rights Project Award. Peggy Johnson, ACLU of Oklahoma cooperating attorney, was honored for her role as the lawyer in the *Maldonado* case, which resulted in the victory of a Lesbian mother in a child custody dispute. Oklahoma City activist Terry Gatewood received the award for his tireless work on behalf gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons.

The Angie Debo Civil Libertarian of the Year Award was presented to Garvin Isaacs. Mr. Isaacs is the Oklahoma City attorney whose dynamic advocacy was a key factor in the release of Robert Lee Miller, Jr., who was sent to death row for a crime he did not commit.

Sherri Finik, Director of Tulsa Reproductive Services Clinic received the Reproductive Freedom Award. This facility has been under siege and suffered bombing damage on numerous occasions. Ms. Finik is also the plaintiff in litigation challenging Oklahoma's restrictive regulations on abortion providers.

The Anti-Death Penalty/Prison Project Award was presented to Bud Welch, who lost his daughter Julie in the 1995 bombing of the Murrah building. Nevertheless, he has taken his message against the death penalty across Oklahoma and throughout the nation.

The Fran Morris Civil Liberties in Media Award was received by Oklahoma Gazette Associate Editor Phil Bacharach in recognition of his work as the writer of investigative stories about important topics such as the Robert Lee Miller, Jr. case and the suspicious death of Federal Transfer Center inmate Kenneth Michael Trentadue. □

**Happy
Holidays!**

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH

HERLAND
Sister Resources

Holiday We are hosting a
OPEN HOUSE

on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.

There will be refreshments,
entertainment and plenty of new
merchandise on sale.

Prices on holiday gift items and books
have been reduced to an
all time low.

Shoppers can browse to the music of
Peggy Johnson.

A donation of \$3 is suggested, but not
required to attend.

Come by for holiday cheer and visit
with friends.

New Year's Potluck

On Friday, Jan. 1, 2 - 4 p.m.
We'll furnish the black-eyed peas (for
luck) and cabbage (for prosperity).
You bring a New Year's dish to share.

For further info, contact Jeri at
755-4916

REMAKING THE HOLIDAYS

by Jeri Schaben

Do you suffer from the "holiday blues?" If so, could it be because you're still buying into the '80s philosophy that "bigger is better?"

I invite you to examine your holiday behavior and ask the question, "Is there a better way?"

You may not be ready for "radical" holiday changes, but by incorporating just one change into your lifestyle you may find a substantial increase in holiday satisfaction.

10 Ways To Increase Holiday Satisfaction

1. Decide to neither give nor receive gifts and state your intentions to family and friends.
2. If you feel you must give a gift, make a donation to a charity in the gift receiver's name.
3. Give and accept used, or "white elephant," gifts.
4. If you do send greeting cards, add more than just a signature.
5. Make your own holiday greeting cards.
6. If you enjoy holiday decorating, use what you have rather than buying new decorations.
7. If spending any part of the holidays with your family is unpleasant, don't.
8. Under no circumstances buy on credit.
9. Volunteer at a homeless shelter.
10. Don't forget to take time for yourself.

The first year I decided to go "giftless" was a wonderful, freeing experience. Keeping a list of people to buy a gift for, finding the time and energy to find the "right" gift, and tossing my hard earned money away on those gifts, is not conducive to "quality holiday time." It's time we say "no" to Madison Avenue and consumerism. Our lives mean more than acquiring or giving the latest gadget from The Home Store. If we become willing, it's still not too late to experience the last month of the year with true warmth and joy rather than in a frenzy of plastic decorations, rushed reunions and buy, buy, buyism. □

BIBLIOBITS

Besides books for lending, Herland receives numerous publications from organizations of interest. We receive the magazine *New Age* regularly and newsletters from Oklahoma (Tulsa and Lawton), Arkansas, Texas, California, New York, Connecticut, even Canada. All current issues are kept on the coffee table or slant shelves in the front room, and back issues are filed by category (health, politics, ethnic, spiritual) or title in the library room. Always ask if you are wanting information from a particular region.

Also the library has several lesbian/gay directories (national and international) in case a certain address is needed when planning to travel. Any current information of workshops, concerts, seminars, opportunities, etc. is posted on the bulletin boards or the back of the front door. New publication notices are posted on the door in the library. Watch for new information constantly!

A note of interest is that our own newsletter, *The Voice* is archived by some other organizations, even Cornell University. We have been publishing a newsletter for about fifteen years and have been keeping copies for our file. It was recently discovered that a few issues are missing and we are asking that all readers check their own files to help us in getting copies to complete ours. Please contact the library clerk or any board member if you have issues from 1984, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, or 1996 (selected issues). □

My Favorite Things

(sung to the tune of *My Favorite Things*)

*Big dykes with small dogs and butches with kittens;
Diesels in tall boots with chains on their mittens;
Femmes in their lipstick with rings in their nose;
These are a few of the gays that I know.*

*Men who can cook and make great apple strudels;
Women who think and can sure use their noodles;
Some who like dressing in black leather clothes;
These are a few of the gays that I know.*

*Men in tight dresses with gold lame sashes;
Makeup and high heels and long false eyelashes;
Men who have muscles and men who wear hose;
These are a few of the gays that I know.*

*REFRAIN: When the right wing spews its hatred
And it makes me sad,
I simply remember the gays that I know
And then I don't feel so bad.*

*Doctors and nurses and students and teachers,
Soldiers and singers and actors and preachers;
Lawyers who fight in the courts with our foes;
These are a few of the gays that I know.*

*Nieces and uncles and sisters and brothers;
Parents who live with significant others;
Brave sons and daughters who let their love show;
These are a few of the gays that I know.*

*Young politicians with courage and vision;
Leaders with guts who can make a decision;
Those in the closets and those on the go;
These are a few of the gays that I know.*

*REFRAIN: First Anita, now it's Limbaugh,
It just makes you mad,
But always remember the gays that you know
And then you won't feel so bad...*

Editor's Note — These lyrics came to us through the Internet. The original author is unknown to us — if anyone knows the source please send that information to Herland. □

GLBT IN OKC SCHOOLS

by Joe Quigley

Beginning in March 1997, the District [Oklahoma City School District] was asked to conduct inservices for staff on the existence and needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students. The request came as a result of reports of harassment, both verbal and physical that had happened in some schools and the reading of reports on teen suicides. The district was not only reluctant to do this but equated anything lesbian and gay related with a political agenda.

I went to the School Board's public meeting on two occasions presenting the possibility of potential litigation if a student were to be severely harassed with the district not only doing nothing to control harassment, but going so far as to refuse information. The district was told about potential court cases whose decisions would force the district to do the right thing.

Basically the district's best friends were those trying to prevent litigations. The district was being asked to do the right thing for the wrong reason if they wouldn't do it for the right reason.

This past summer, the district was informed by its lawyers that court decisions now render the district liable for same-sex sexual harassment was ignored. I had not been lying to them.

One of the strongest opponents of dealing with gay and lesbian "issues" now has the assignment of giving sexual harassment inservices to teachers, and this is a statement he made. *"Recently there have been same-sex sexual harassment complaints, and more and more we have to realize that among our children there are some who have not determined, fully, their sexuality, and there are some of our children that may be gay. Regardless of what you think, let me tell you one thing that IS an imperative, those children must be protected. If we don't pay attention and protect those children, we are in violation of their rights under Title IX, and we could be liable."*

GLBT kids can now fight back. They do not have to put up with it anymore, and the district cannot ignore them.

HELP STILL NEEDED

My name is Jill Rohrbaker and I am currently a graduate student working on my Ph.D. in Family Relations and Child Development at Oklahoma State University. My dissertation is focusing on studying family relationships and parenting styles in lesbian headed households.

You may recall from the August newsletter that I was seeking 20 couples of whom at least one member has brought a child into the current relationship from a previous relationship (i.e. a previous heterosexual relationship, an adoption, etc.). Thanks to your assistance, I have been able to interview 15 couples **but still need five more to complete my data**. The child or children do need to still be living at home.

Participants will be asked to participate in three areas: The completion of a questionnaire packet, a personal interview with each individual and an interview with the couple. These interviews will concentrate on the family dynamic and parenting styles of the participants and will **not** cover topics with sensitive aspects of personal behavior such as drug use, sexual behavior, or use of alcohol.

As a member of the lesbian community I am very aware of the degrees of "outing" we all experience therefore every effort will be made to insure confidentiality. Pseudonyms will be used in any discussions and written materials dealing with interviews.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please call me (feel free to call collect) at (405)377-2068.

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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.

Keep My Voice Coming!

Monthly publication and distribution 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 want to receive the Voice.

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