

# The HERLAND VOICE

February, 1999

## DUSTBOWL ULLABYE

Peggy Johnson's song "Dustbowl Lullabye" has been chosen as the "title cut" for the upcoming Herland CD Project. The recording process is in full swing, with 13 songs started and several of them completed or near completion. Peggy's song was chosen not only because it has an Oklahoma air to it, but also because it tells a story of one woman's positive experience in our community.

Dr. Jan Rosenberg has graciously contributed several of her own acoustic guitar tunes, two of which will most likely be used on the project. Her studies of traditional folk songs gives her creations a familiar feel with an original twist.

Julia Robinson recorded a song for the project before she moved to Nashville. The song is called "Fool That I Am" and was written by her friend Diane. Louise Goldberg arranged the song and plays keyboards; Elyse Angelo plays the drums.

Darenda Boswell, backed by local musicians including Terry Hoersch and Dana Jo Cox, recorded a song composed by a local songwriter. The song may have an official title, but is always referred to simply as "The Angel Song".

Freefall (Louise Goldberg, Ginger McGovern, Rhonda Smith and Tamara Smith), are in the process of finishing their contribution, "Jazz Dancer." The song was written by Donna of the group Still on the Hill from Fayetteville, Arkansas. This cut will feature Rhonda on the concertina (aka "squeeze box") and Tamara on penny whistle.

Donna D's song "Love You Always" was the first song started in the studio, but unfortunately, the original version is lost forever. The new, improved version, with Donna singing and playing guitar, Elyse on drums, Louise programming the MIDI tracks and backing vocals by Kristall Bright and Nancy Nesser promises to be even better than the now "lost classic."

Nancy Scott has contributed her song "Poco", which will be recorded with Mary Reynolds covering vocals and guitars. Nancy Scott and Louise Goldberg have recorded the backing vocals. The song will be completed after Mary is relocated to this red dirt country in February.

Before she headed to Vermont last spring, Wende Allyn recorded an acoustic version of her song "Carry On." Her buddy John Greenberg does the lead guitar and Mary Reynolds and Nancy Nesser cover backing vocals.

On her way from Vermont to California last fall, Wende added backing vocals to Wanda Dorrance's songs, "A Man's World." This song will most likely be the spunkiest number on the disk. With driving rhythm guitar by Donna D, drums by Elyse and Wanda's brand of Tex-Mex country blues lead guitar, your toes will be tapping to this one.

In late January, Cuchla recorded her song, local favorite "Backdoor to Heaven." Joining her in the studio are Elyse on drums, Kristall on bass and backing vocals, Wanda takes the lead guitar and Nancy helps out with the backups.

In addition to all her work with other musicians on this project, Louise is also contributing an original piano piece, "A Love Gone By." Her Yamaha grand piano was on loan to Mayflower Congregational Church last October, so we took advantage of the excellent acoustics in their sanctuary and recorded her piano work there.

The last song to be finished will most likely be an arrangement of the traditional song "The Water is Wide." This song has been recorded by literally hundreds of recording artists so the challenge will be in shedding new light on this old favorite.

The projected release date for the project is the fall retreat. There are still a limited number of sponsorships available for the project. A sponsor contributes \$50 in exchange for an autographed copy of the CD when it is released, free admission to any shows or concerts that benefit the CD, and free admission to the release party. □

**Valentine's DAY**

COUPON

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

**10% OFF**

All Bookstore Merchandise

Suggested donation of \$3.00  
Call Jeri at 755-4916 for more information.

This coupon expires on 2-28-99.

## STACEY EARLE - SIMPLE GEARLE

by Jill Garner

A funny thing happened at the Gillian Welch/David Rawlings concert last month. I actually liked the opening act a whole lot better! Stacey Earle, the sister of the very talented Steve Earle, has the family genes for great musical talent. Let me just say that I think Gillian Welch and David Rawlings are probably two of the most talented people in the business today. However, listening to them in concert sounded exactly like listening to their CDs in my living room. In other words, they were too polished and not spontaneous enough. But, maybe I only thought that because they had the misfortune of following Stacey Earle.

Stacey was accompanied by her husband Mark Stuart who played guitar and sang wonderful harmonies on nearly all her songs (and does on her CD as well). Stacey writes all her own songs and my first impression of her was a soft-spoken, clean cut girl who would probably sing some perfectly nice pop songs but nothing very memorable. Boy was I wrong! Stacey has such a way with words and develops some great characters in all her songs. And she can get down! I was totally impressed.

Stacey's music is country-flavored folk with a twang. Earle's voice is sweet in the way of Nanci Griffith, but she's got a way of writing that makes you think she's seen the world in ways that you wouldn't expect. One of my favorite songs on the CD is a song about domestic violence. The song consists of the abusive man justifying his actions in all the usual ways; "where would you be if it weren't for me, you'll never leave, now look what you made me do, etc., while she plots a way to leave. "No time to waste, I must save my strength, keep my head on straight, just long enough to think." My favorite line is, "And if you see someone that you never knew, well that's where I'd be if it weren't for

you." This is one of the best songs I've heard in a long time. But the CD is full of them. "Wedding Night" is another one of my favorites about a young girl's wedding. "Daddy paid a fortune for my white wedding gown, seems a little silly when it's only his tradition now, back down deep in my suitcase got a black silk gown, let's get the ceremony rollin', I'm ready for my wedding night." "Cried My Heart Out" is one of the most rockin' songs on the CD and it's the toughness after the pain theme that's always satisfying to hear. The title song, "Simple Gearle," is probably my least favorite song on the CD, but overall it's a solid CD and certainly more interesting than most of the music out on the market. I'm really impressed by her work and look forward to listening to this CD a lot more. As she said in an article I read about her, "I call my record *Simple Gearle*, but it's still a thinker. Even the little ditties-if you listen deeply, there's a trick to 'em. At this point in my life, I need to do something I'm gonna feel really good about when I leave this earth." She certainly deserves to feel good about this debut CD and I hope some of you reading this will take the chance on this CD and hunt it down because it's worth it!

The CD was released on Stacey's label, Gearle Records, but her brother Steve's label, E-Squared is distributing it. That may mean you can find it in record stores around Oklahoma. If not, you can order it through Stacey's website at [www.staceyearle.com](http://www.staceyearle.com). Hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

### Kate Campbell - *Visions of Plenty*

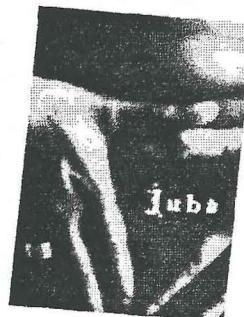
This is another CD I'm very impressed with. I bought Campbell's first CD, *Songs from the Levee*, saw her live at the Blue Door, and she was great by the way, but I didn't love her album enough to ever get her second one, *Moonpie Dreams*. Fortunately, my girlfriend showed up one day with this CD and I haven't stopped listening to it since.

Kate Campbell is definitely from the south, and she paints a bittersweet picture of it. Her descriptions of the terrain (and the food, as she describes in the song "Funeral Food;" "we sure eat good when someone dies") make me long to be there, but she doesn't shy away from the south's painful past either. "Bus 109" and "Crazy in Alabama" deal with busing and segregation, "Visions of Plenty" paints a picture of economic disparity, and "Deep Tang" laments the environmental damage caused by the steel mills. "Jesus and Tomatoes" is an absolutely wonderful song about the commercialization of religion. Her tomato bed has an image of God and she writes, "Folks came from miles around, They laid their money down, To see that ripe phenomenon, It even made the evening news, And had a website too." "Sing Me Out" is a gospel-tinged song dealing with grief. And "A Perfect World" is an absolutely beautiful song celebrating love in the midst of a crazy world. "Rebels rage and lions roar, Everyday it's a brand new war, Lines are crossed and bombs are hurled, But in your arms it's a perfect world."

I have to pay a special nod to "Crazy in Alabama." This is one of those songs that even if all the other songs on this CD were bad, which of course they're not, this one song would make the CD worth buying. With Emmylou Harris providing gorgeous background vocals, Campbell sings about segregation in the south from the view of a little girl. I swear it makes me cry every

LENDING LIBRARY

### EXCLUSIVE



#### Juba

by Letta Neely

Herland's

Lending Library

RATING: ♫ ♫ ♫

Letta Neely's *Juba* is definitely worth checking out of the lending library.

Neely's collection of poetry is a fierce and potent cry for an awareness of society's dark side. Her writing is provocative and spares the reader nothing.

Neely's raw use of language breathes life into her work. Ranging in themes from sex and violence to disease and death, *Juba* is an honest and gripping analysis of the cruel aspects of life.

Rating      ♫ poor ♫ ♫ fair ♫ ♫ ♫ good ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ very good  
System      ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ ♫ excellent

single time I hear it. The words, "We watched the marchers passing by, Felt the rumble heard the roar, They all held hands they sang and wept, And freedom rang in every step, Cause the train of change, Was marching through my home town, We had the choice to climb on board, Or get run down" makes me feel the power, the pain, and the hope, and I can envision this little girl watching it all from her window. It's truly a great song. It gives me goosebumps and I love music that can do that!

Campbell has some good musicians backing her up on this one, including Emmylou Harris, Anthony Crawford, Bo Ramsey, and Spooner Oldham. I highly recommend it! □

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday, Feb 6** - Freefall performs a benefit concert for the legal and educational funds of the American Association of University Women. 7:30 PM at Mayflower Congregational Church 3901 NW 63rd Street, OKC. Ticket price: \$10.00.

**Saturday, Feb 6** - Allison and Lori at Diversity at 9pm. 524-PERK

**Saturday, Feb 13** - Darend and Kirsti Pollard perform a special Valentine's concert at Diversity. This includes a catered dinner. Reservations are required by Feb 9. There is a "no food" option if you come in after 9pm. Cost is \$25 per person for dinner or \$10 for the no food option. 524-PERK

**Friday, Feb 19** - Marca Cassity returns from Boulder, CO for a 9 pm show at Diversity. Come hear her new original material.

**Friday, Feb 26** - Diversity sponsors their monthly Open Mic (pay or play). Call 524-PERK for more info and times.

**Sunday, March 7** - Celebrate International Women's Day with Herland. Details in the March *Voice*.

**April 30 - May 2** - Herland Spring Retreat at Roman Nose State Park -- more details in upcoming issues of the *Voice*.

## BIBLIO BITS

The Herland lending library has a wide variety of materials which include ethnic/cultural subjects; and if reading to honor African-American History Month, a few titles may be of interest. For history, the library has *Black Women in White America* (1972), *Negro in the Making of America* (1969), and *Black Women and the Peace Movement* (1983). More politically-focused titles are *Black Rage* (1968); *Skin Deep: Women Writing on Color, Culture, and Identity* (1994); *Black America: Accommodation and Confrontation in the 20th Century* (1969); and *Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman* (1979). For personal stories, the library has two books on Angela Davis and one on Audre Lorde on our Biography/Autobiography shelves. One reference book that might be consulted for more titles is *Black Lesbians: An Annotated Bibliography* (1981). Of course, the library has some fiction titles and some poetry, as well, written by African-Americans. Herland also occasionally receives magazines and newsletters specifically addressing African-Americans; these are out on the racks/tables or filed when another issue arrives.

If a specific title is needed, leave a message for the library clerk or visit the library and browse anytime the bookstore is open on the weekends.

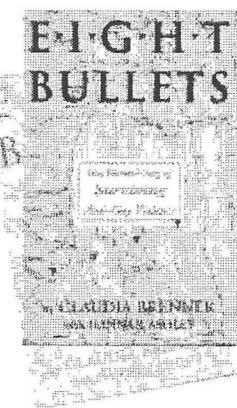
## LOOKING FOR LOVE?

Intelligent, attractive, medium-sized, neutered male dog needs new home. Found stray. Great personality. Likes sticks, walks, and petting. Must relocate due to grumpy old dogs. Contact Kay at 521-8176.

**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.

ON SALE NOW!



**Eight Bullets:**  
*One Woman's  
Story of Surviving  
Anti-Gay Violence*

by Claudia Brenner  
with Hannah Ashley

**Herland's Bookstore  
\$12.95**

**RATING: ♀♀♀♀♀**

Anti-gay violence has become a heated topic in the months following the beating death of Matthew Shepard. Shepard's death was not the first to send shock waves across the nation's gay and lesbian community.

In May 1988, Claudia Brenner and her lover,

Rebecca Wight, became the unfortunate victims of a brutal shooting attack which left her seriously injured and took the life of her lover.

Brenner shares her horrific account of this crime and its aftermath. Her chilling story delves into the harsh reality of blind hatred and its profound and permanent results.

Brenner's brave and emotional journey through pain, discovery and recovery are enlightening and offer hope to others scarred by hatred.

*Eight Bullets: One Woman's Story of Surviving Anti-Gay Violence* is more than a book about hatred and violence. It is an inspirational story of survival, strength and pride which will definitely produce a range of emotions.

A box of Kleenex may come in handy for this one.

Rating System	♀ poor	♀♀ fair	♀♀♀ good	♀♀♀♀ very good
	♀♀♀♀♀		♀♀♀♀♀	

Herland Sister Resources  
2312 N.W. 39  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Address Service Requested

NonProfit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Permit No. 861



*jean's* **PLUMBING**  
— ★ —

844-1951

"FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS"

405-528-1018

FAX 405-528-1035

Peggy C. Johnson  
Attorney At Law

Associated with  
Parr, Friend and Johnson

2200 Classen Blvd., Suite 650  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106-5609

HERLAND IS OPEN EVERY SATURDAY AND  
SUNDAY FROM 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M. COME  
IN TO BUY A BOOK OR TO CHECK OUT A BOOK  
(OR BOOKS) FROM THE LENDING LIBRARY OR JUST  
TO HANG OUT FOR A WHILE!

**REBECCA R. COHN, Ph.D.**  
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

321-2148

P.O. Box 5119  
Norman, Okla. 73070

Individual - Couples  
Family Therapy, Retreats



Campus Corner  
323 White Street  
Norman, OK 73069

**mystic**  
FOREST TREASURES  
+ incense & oils + candles + imports  
+ crystals & stones + jewelry  
+ unique & unusual gifts  
+ new age supplies  
Natasha Rice (405) 447-5111

**THE LAW OFFICE OF SANDY INGRAHAM  
@ TURTLE CREEK**

**NANCY NESSER, J.D.**  
ASSOCIATE

ROUTE 2, BOX 389-B  
MCLOUD, OKLAHOMA 74851

TELEPHONE (405) 964-2072  
FAX (405) 964-2058  
email - njnesser@aol.com