

Herland

VOICE

April, 1999

COMING SOON!

HERLAND'S SPRING RETREAT

APRIL 30 - MAY 2
at Roman Nose State Park

Come and enjoy a fun-filled weekend
of food and fun . . .

WORKSHOPS, POETRY READINGS
OUTDOOR & SPORTING ACTIVITIES
and ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURING



Peggy Johnson

&

Kirsti Pollard

JOIN IN THE FUN!
REGISTER NOW

A registration form has been included in this
issue for your convenience.

NOTE: A photography workshop will be offered. Interested persons are
encouraged to bring a camera.

HATE CRIMES BILL DEFEATED

HB1211, the Hate Crimes Bill, authored by Representative Don Ross (Tulsa) and Senator Ben Brown (OKC) was defeated by a 35-65 vote of the Oklahoma House of Representatives on March 10. The bill would have increased the penalties for hate crimes and expanded the definition of hate crimes to include crimes committed against someone because they are gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Voting "Yes" on HB 1211

Benson, Blackburn, Braddock, Collins, Covey, Cox, Culver, Deutschendorf, Ervin, Gilbert, Glover, Gray, Kinnamon, Kirby, Leist, Lindley, Nations, Paulk, Plunk, Roach, Ross, Seikel, Sellers, Dale Smith, Staggs, Stanley, Stites, Sweeden, Taylor, Thomas, Toure, Turner, Tyler, Weaver, Wells.

The House of Representatives had previously passed measures affecting the parental rights of lesbians and gays. House Bill 1224, authored by Representative Tim Pope, would expressly prohibit homosexuals, lesbians, and other unmarried couples from adopting children. House Bill 1802, authored by Representative Bill Graves, declares that in considering child custody it will be presumed that "it is not in the best interests" of a child to grant custody of that minor to a parent who is either gay or lesbian. Both HB1224 and HB1802 passed the House with only two dissenting votes -- Representative Don Ross and Representative Opio Toure.

In the Senate, HB1224 and HB1802 were referred to the Judiciary Committee. At press time, the committee had not reported either bill out to the Senate floor. If not reported out of the committee by March 25, the bills will die for the current legislative session. □

AN EVENING OF POETRY

Celebrating April as National Poetry Month, Herland will again hold an evening of poetry. On April 10, several local poets are scheduled to share their work along with one of Herland's favorite emcee.

For the second time, Herland will be host for a lively group of artistic talents, who write on topics of childhood memories, violence, relationships, sexual experience, and lots of humor. Last year, a dozen women read, and one treated the group to a spiritually sung verse. Anyone else interested in reading poems that evening is welcome; call the bookstore and leave a message if more information is needed. Light refreshments will be served.

Readings will start at 7:00 p.m. but come early and meet with these gifted women—an audience is encouraged. Donations will be accepted. □

LESBIANS AT INCREASED HEALTH RISK

by Jeri Schaben

The most serious health issue for lesbians is the fact that an overwhelming majority of us are not comfortable seeing a doctor when we need one. This has led to a higher risk of breast, ovarian endometrial carcinoma and heart disease.

Once we're in a doctor's office, it can be extremely unpleasant "coming out" to a physician and understandably so. Most of the medical system continues to be anti-lesbian as well as anti-woman. And when we do come out, we are at risk of having this information documented in our medical records (which has been my case).

According to Dr. Katherine O'Hanlan, assistant professor of gynecology and obstetrics at Stanford University, even the office questionnaire can be alienating when the only options given are "single," "married," "divorced" or "widowed." She also notes that doctors can inadvertently alienate lesbian patients by presuming that all patients are heterosexual. Further, internalized homophobia — an internal message, taken from society, telling us we not worthy — diminishes a person's self-esteem. This extra emotional stress leads to increased alcoholism, drug addiction and mental health problems.

Currently, the Human Rights campaign is identifying and addressing the health needs of lesbians. The following are specific health issues that HRC is encouraging policy makers to address:

- Research inclusive of the racial, cultural and behavioral diversity of the lesbian community.
- Health care practitioner and caregiver education programs which remove barriers to care and promote culturally-sensitive and language-appropriate patient care.
- Research on cancer risk factors among lesbians and the gynecological/obstetrical needs of lesbians.
- Research, education and prevention addressing lesbian HIV/AIDS risk.
- Funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment programs that consider the lesbian identity and experience.

Hopefully, in the future, we will begin to see changes that will benefit us all — lesbian, gay and straight. □

NATIONAL LESBIAN RIGHTS SUMMIT

Activists from across the country will participate in the Lesbian Rights Summit, a feminist strategy session for lesbians and allies, organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and sponsored by more than 70 other organizations, in Washington, D.C. on April 23-25, 1999.

Roundtable and working group topics will cover the gamut of feminist issues. They will address lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) issues and incorporate multiple goals such as attaining economic justice; eliminating sexism, racism and ableism; assuring freedom from violence; electing feminists to political office; and educating the nation on the importance of civil rights for all. □

LANGE PHOTO EXHIBIT

In honor of National Women's History Month, the International Photography Hall of Fame (IPHF) is offering a rare exhibit of special interest to women. *Out of Obscura*, highlights the works of historical and contemporary women photographers, including Dorothea Lange, Imogen Cunningham, Diane Arbus, Mary Ellen Mark, and many others. The exhibit opened March 15th and continues through May 31st. The IPHF is located on the second floor of the Kirkpatrick Center Omnplex at N.E. 52nd and Martin Luther King Boulevard and admission is free.

SPRING
CLEANING
at Herland
APRIL 18th at 11:00 a.m.
BRING FLOWERS
TO PLANT
REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED

Female seeking female roommate to share large home in Norman. \$375.00 plus 1/2 bills. 321-6193

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.

PACKING FOR THE RETREAT

Screenwriting Workshop: Are you an aspiring screenwriter? Bring your ideas for screen plays or any prose you would like to turn into a screenplay for readings at the retreat. Be sure to bring as many copies as there are parts.

Photography Workshop: Bring your camera and examples of your photography and participate in this workshop to sharpen your photography skills.

Poetry/Creative Writing: Bring samples of your writing to read and discuss with others. Plans are still shaping up for a writing workshop but be assured there will be opportunities to enhance your skills and to share them with others.

Open Mic: Whether you are a comic, poet, serious musician, or just sing in the shower; whether you've never performed in public or you are a seasoned entertainer, the Saturday afternoon open mic offers the opportunity to perform for a supportive audience. Bring your props, guitar, flute or kazoo. We'll furnish the mic and friendly audience.

Sports/Recreational Activities: There's lots of open space for recreational activities (of the sporting kind) in the group camp. Come prepared with your volleyball, soccer ball, and/or softball equipment and join the fun. If golfing is more your bag, Roman Nose State Park has a golf course that has been recognized for its unique design which incorporates the natural features of the canyon to create a challenging course. There's also horseback riding available in the park.

Food! So you're not a screenwriter, poet, musician, funny person or great athlete --you've still got something to share. Bring all the fixings and whip up your special culinary delight for the Saturday night. OK --so your secret recipe for chicken comes in a cute little striped bucket -- bring it anyway.

P.S. Don't forget your sleeping bag. You might want a few minutes of sleep. □

Take time to relax

HERLAND'S SPRING RETREAT • APRIL 30 - MAY 2

Price Chart

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. Deadline for pre-registration is April 28 and registration is non-refundable after April 29.

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 an additional \$_____ to help provide scholarships.
 I'm bringing _____ children (girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome)

Return registration to:

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

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

Address Service Requested

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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!

405-528-1018

FAX 405-528-1035

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