

Herland

VOICE

June, 1999

PRIDEFUL PAST, POWERFUL FUTURE

OKC

Oklahoma City will celebrate it's annual Gay Pride Week June 20 -27. Pride Week activities will culminate with an Arts Fest and the Pride Parade on June 27.

Parade activities will start at 1 PM with a rally in Memorial Park, 36th and Western in Oklahoma City. Parade step-off is scheduled for 4 P.M.

Pride week is held at this time every year to coincide with the June 28 anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. 1999 marks the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall riots which are commonly held as the beginning of the Gay Rights movement.

For more information about vendor booths at the Arts Fest, please call 524-2131 or 524-6000.

TULSA

The first ever Tulsa Gay Pride Parade will be held on June 12 with Congressman Barney Franks as the Grand Marshall leading the parade on its route through the Brookside community.

The parade route begins at 10:00 A.M. at 38th & Peoria and proceeds North on Peoria, through Brookside to 31st Street; West on 31st Street to Riverside Drive, and North on Riverside Drive. The parade will end at Veteran's Park at 21st Street and Boulder Avenue, the site of the 18th annual Gay Pride Picnic.

TOHR, the sponsoring organization for the parade, has faced numerous delays in obtaining the parade permit. At press time, the Tulsa City Council is scheduled to vote on the permit and is expected to approve the application for the parade permit despite opposition from council members which delayed the vote on two previous occasions.

Pride Weekend will kick off at 7:30 on Thursday, June 10 with the showing of the motion picture Stonewall, a documentary on the events of the Stonewall Riots in New York City In 1969. The movie will be shown at TOHR's Tulsa Gay Community Services Center. Other Pride Weekend events include an interfaith prayer breakfast and a \$50-a-plate black-tie-optional dinner hosted jointly by TOHR and the Cimarron Alliance Group, a statewide political action group for human rights which focuses primarily on gay rights. □

HERLAND COOKOUT, CONCERT TO FEATURE LOTS OF VARIETY

The 3rd Annual Herland Cookout and Concert benefit will be held Saturday, June 26, at Herland, 2312 N.W. 39th St. in Oklahoma City.

The event is held in conjunction with the gay and lesbian community's annual Gay Pride parade and celebration.

The benefit will begin at 6 p.m. with a cookout and silent auction, followed by entertainment and a live auction at 7 p.m.

A picnic meal of charcoaled hamburgers (including "veggie" burgers), hot dogs, chips, salads and soft drinks will be served on the lawn behind Herland. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

Items ranging from Ellen DeGeneres' autograph to vintage Star Trek memorabilia will be sold at the auction, with all auction proceeds benefiting Herland and the Herland Legal Defense Fund.

"We have a lot of great items up for auction this year," said Laura Choate, benefit chair. "There should be something for everyone."

Other auction goodies include autographed items from Whoopi Goldberg, Chastity Bono and Margaret Cammermeyer; gift certificates for chair massages, photography packages, bakery items, eye care and housecleaning services, stained glass artwork, compact disc collections and more.

Gift certificates for \$200 worth of landscaping services and \$100 worth of auto parts also will be offered.

The evening also features a wonderful entertainment line-up, Choate said. Peggy Johnson, Dee Britt and Marilyn Moore, Darena Boswell, Donna D, Nancy Nesser, Crystal Bright, and the Jeri James Comedy Troupe are among those performing.

"Herland welcomes everyone — women and men, gay, lesbian or straight — to join us for an evening of food and fun," Choate said. "It's a great way to show your support for the community."

For more information about the benefit, or to donate auction items, call Jeri Schaben at 755-4916 or Herland at 521-9696. □

PEGGY DURHAM

8/10/41 - 4/27/99

By Margaret Cox

"Well, you know Peggy Durham, of course" - I heard this often from people who knew us both, and always I would have to say, "I know *of* Peggy Durham, but I don't really *know* her, and I'm sure she doesn't know me." And now Peggy is gone, much too young at 57, and I'll never know her, though we were comrades in the struggle.

As everyone does, we came to our activism in our own time. Some people, like singer/songwriter/bad-ass radical Alix Dobkin, a "red diaper baby", are reared as activists.. Others get downright old before they join the fray. Peggy, although a few years younger than I, was a mature activist while I was just a germinating malcontent.

In the desert, after a heavy rain, in joyful evanescent puddles, one can find little bitty *fish* swimming around: Imagine. Where on earth do they come from? In the brief time before the puddles dry up again, these fish swim, mate, write a sonnet or two, and lay their eggs, which will lie dormant in the arid sand for *decades*, perhaps, before another cloudburst brings them to life.

The cloudburst that brought me to life was feminism, and when the push to get the Oklahoma Legislature to ratify the ERA came to life in 1981, so did I. I became a worker bee in a movement in which Peggy Durham was already a leader. She had been publishing *Sister Advocate* for many years by then.

From Civil Rights to the ERA to NOW, Herland, Gay Rights, and the Bill of Rights, I've had a fun journey. I have met more wonderful people along the way than anyone has a right to, and today I am sad that Peggy Durham was always one of those yet-to-meet. And now, never.

Remembering a few who have moved to more hospitable climes (yes, it is hard working in a city controlled by Gaylord) but who are surely still working for progress: Kathy who sold her house in Tulsa and moved to Oklahoma City to live on the proceeds while she worked for the ERA; Deborah Fox, who raises horses and sons and feminist consciousness in rural Oklahoma, and seeks perfect connectedness with the earth and sky. Barbara Cleveland, who will never not be radical. Dreama Moon, Candy Tucker, Rosemarie Stupely.

Gone on before us to help organize the great Rally in the sky: Thelma Shumake, Kathy Silovsky, Kris Delaney, Stephen Hardway, and now, Peggy Durham.

We need to remember, and we need to remind those wonderful youngsters in OLIC and the fourth wave of NOW and other peace and justice organizations, that we have in Oklahoma a rich history of awesome women and men who have seen the need and tried to fill it. Here's to them all, to all

of us then and now and tomorrow: those in the struggle today, as well as the moved on, the passed on, and the temporarily burnt-out (waiting for another cloudburst!)

If we ever get around to establishing an Oklahoma Activists Hall of Fame, Peggy Durham will be in the first group of honorees. Goodbye, Peggy, and thanks. We salute you. □

WALK TO FIGHT AIDS

(Oklahoma City, OK) Get your walking shoes on and get ready for the 1999 Oklahoma City AIDS Walk! The Walk will be a fun worthwhile event benefiting AIDS service organizations in the OKC Metro Area. It will kick off Sunday afternoon, October 17th, 1999 starting at the beautiful Myriad Botanical Gardens. The Walk will have entertainment at the Gardens followed by a 1+ walk through historic Bricktown. A large enthusiastic turnout is expected to help out in this very worthwhile cause.

Currently the perception exists that HIV disease is no longer a threat to our community. This is untrue. Persons living with HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma are increasing. Although deaths have declined, infection rates have not. As of 3/31/99, the Oklahoma State Department of Health reports 3,918 living cases of HIV and AIDS.

Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in San Francisco, will be this year's Walk Marshal. Jones was one of the first gay community activists to recognize and respond to the threat of AIDS. He founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in 1983.

This year's co-chairs of The Walk are Pat Capra and Linda Larason. Capra is the president-elect of the CarePoint board of directors. Larason is with the Community Council of Central Oklahoma as well as a former State Legislator.

Planning meetings are held twice a month at CarePoint. Anyone interested in being a part of a "working committee" can call Pat Capra (478-2664) or CarePoint (232-2437) □

The Voice is published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
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Subscriptions to The Voice are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Is it time to clean out the closets? Herland is looking for auction items for our upcoming Pride Week Picnic, Saturday, June 26. If you're not ready to part with the wedding china, or that silver tea set you're tired of polishing, possibly you have a service to donate, such as carpentry, massage, auto mechanics, house cleaning, sewing, or any creative endeavor.

Donations are needed by June 13. For questions or pick-up, call Jeri at 755-4916.

SPEAK UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A very exciting and important event for members and supporters of the GLBT community is coming Tuesday, June 1! The Citizens League of Central Oklahoma - a non-partisan group which promotes civic involvement - has announced a "SPEAK UP" on the subject of Human Rights in Central Oklahoma.

The "SPEAK UP" will be a moderated, discussion-group event, something like a town-hall forum. One of the topics to be discussed will be the possibility of reinstating the former Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission.

Herland Sister Resources

Presents

**Don't Ask, Don't Tell...
Everyone's Welcome...**

3rd Annual Pride Week Cookout and Concert

Saturday, June 26, 1999

6 p.m. Cook-out, Refreshments and Silent Auction

7 p.m. Entertainment

Featuring

Crystal Bright

Dee Britt

Donna D

Jeri James Comedy Troupe

Marilyn Moore

Nancy Nesser

Peggy Johnson

\$5 suggested donation

For more information, or to donate items for the auction, contact Jeri Schaben - 755-4916

BRING BLANKETS OR LAWN CHAIRS.



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

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