

Herland

VOICE

February, 2000

CHECK THESE OUT

By Deb Willis

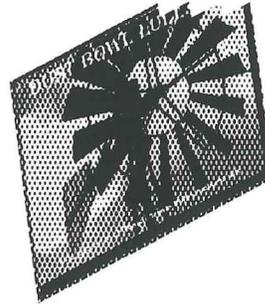
Don't let the corporate bookstores be your only reading or information source. The Oklahoma County Metropolitan Library System (the one you pay for and belongs to you) has many new titles of interest to our community.

For those pressing real-live concerns, take a look at *How to Legally Protect Yourself in a Gay/Lesbian & Non-Marital Cohabitation: The National Gay Lesbian Settlement Kit* (1999). This self-help book is designed to assist you with preparing a "living-together friendly agreement with your partner." Finish up that agreement then check out *4 Steps to Financial Security for Lesbian and Gay Couples* (1999) for some "expert advice for reducing your tax burden, increasing your wealth, and protecting each other."

Getting too bogged down in those practical matters? There's some great new fiction for your reading pleasure. Set primarily in London during the 1890's, *Tipping the Velvet* (1999), the first novel by promising British author Sarah Waters, explores seven years in the life of a young woman who moves beyond the bonds of Victorian behavior and sexuality. For the short story reader, the third volume of the Lambda award-winning lesbian short stories *Hers 3: Brilliant New Fiction by Lesbian Writers* (1999) is also on the shelves. It features stories from noted authors such as Emma Donoghue, Barbara Wilson, Judith Barrington, and Donna Allegra, as well as relative newcomers Amelia Maria de la Luz Montes, Natasha Cho, and Carolyn Clark.

Of course, books aren't the only items available for checkout at the library. Video titles include *The Real Ellen Story* (1998), a documentary on the rise and demise of the Ellen Degeneres' sitcom — be sure to continue watching after the ending credits — and *Out of the Past* (1997), a Sundance Film Festival award-winner about a teenage lesbian's efforts to get a "Gay-Straight Alliance" formed in her Salt Lake City high school. On the music front there's Ani Difrancio's *Up up up up up up* (1998) and Ulali's *Machjchi* (1994) both available on compact discs.

If you have suggests for material you would like the Metropolitan Library System to purchase, call your local system library or call me at the Midwest City Library (732-4828 ext. 3) □



CD RELEASE PARTY

Artists contributing to Dust Bowl Lullaby will perform at a CD Release Party at 7:30 PM, Sunday, February 6 at the Blue Door, 2805 N. McKinley in Oklahoma City. Confirmed performers include Louise Goldberg, Mary Catherine Reynolds, Peggy Johnson, Cuchla, Donna DeSalvo, and Wanda Jean. Malaki will provide a special magical surprise.

Dust Bowl Lullaby can be purchased in Oklahoma City at Herland, 2312 N.W. 39th, Music Go Round, 2320 N. Meridian; Diversity Coffee Shop, 1739 NW 16; and the Earth at 49th and Western and in Norman at Mystic Forest Treasures, 323 White on Campus Corner. □

FEBRUARY EVENTS

7:00 PM Saturday, February 5: Two-Spirit Group at Herland, 2312 NW 39, Oklahoma City.

7:30 P.M. Sunday, February 6: Dust Bowl Lullaby CD Release Party. Blue Door, 2805 N. McKinley, Oklahoma City.

5:30 P.M. Saturday, February 12: Herland Supper Club will meet at Chelino's, 4221 S. Robinson, Oklahoma City. Everyone is welcome!

4:30 P.M. Sunday, February 20: Herland Board Meeting at Herland, 2312 NW 39, Oklahoma City. Anyone with an interest in learning more about how Herland works and becoming more involved is encouraged to attend.

And Coming soon....

Herland Spring Retreat, May 19-21 at Roman Nose State Park

KRIS DELMHORST - *APPETITE*

by Jill Garner

One of the greatest benefits of the Internet, in my opinion, is getting to hear sound clips of music by artists I've never heard. Kris Delmhorst is one of those artists who I listened to one day, immediately ordered the CD, and have been thanking my lucky stars ever since that I found her music.

Delmhorst is best known in the Boston area as a member of the group Vinal Avenue String Band. The group, Kris, Ry Cavanaugh, and Sean Staples, play bluegrass and old-timey music at an Irish Pub called TirnnOg. Her skills on cello, fiddle and her wonderful voice also keep her in big demand by a lot of other artists.

Delmhorst grew up in Brooklyn studying classical cello. After she left New York, she was stuck in a one-room cabin in a Maine winter after breaking her leg. So, she learned to play guitar and fiddle to keep from going crazy. Now, many years later, she's one of Boston's most exciting acoustic artists, and I hope many of you will take the chance and discover what Boston already knows!

Appetite, released in September of 1998, is Delmhorst's second solo effort. The first was a self-released cassette, *Swim for It*. Five of the songs on *Appetite* are revised versions from *Swim for It*, and six are new recordings. *Appetite* includes guest performances by Patty Larkin, Jennifer Kimball, and Catie Curtis, among others. It was produced by Alan Williams who has also produced Dar Williams and Patty Larkin, among others.

First I'll start with Delmhorst's voice. Have you heard Catie Curtis, or even Ani DeFranco, and the way they can go in and out of their upper range? Delmhorst can do that too, just flip right in and out. It's pretty cool and I like both ranges a whole lot. She has a beautiful voice.

Probably even better than her voice though are her songs. She wrote all the songs on the CD. Her lyrics are intelligent, not too simple and not so obtuse that you have no idea what she's singing about. Her songs make me think and that's one of the reasons, even though I've listened to this CD about a million times, I'm not tired of it yet. There's only one song on this CD that I don't particularly like, "Sink or Swim," and believe me, I treasure CDs like that.

Where do I start? There are so many good songs that I don't even have a favorite. One of the best is "Weatherman" in which she warns a lover not to depend on her for everything. "I make a really bad umbrella just like I said I would, I'm full of holes and I do not stay put, So don't think I'm keeping you dry it just is not raining yet, When the clouds come to our sky we'll both be soaking wet."

The song "North Dakota" reminds me a little of Ani DeFranco's style and it's really a fun, satisfying song. It begins very sparsely with just her voice and a drum and then the

guitars and the fiddle are added. "I love North Dakota cause you have never been there, and the days go on forever and the towns all look the same, and I can ride the back roads and I can walk the main streets, and show someone your picture but they would not know your name.

"Red Herring" is another fun song, even though it too is about a flailing relationship. I love the harmonica on the song and it's the most likely song that'll make you want to get up and dance. "You and I are like a red red herring baby, we go nowhere at all, You and I are like a ten pin bowling, ten pin bowling you just set us up and watch us fall, You and I are like a weak cup of coffee, weak cup of coffee on a winter's day, You and I are like a free lunch, there's no such thing but we eat it up anyway."

Please, please, please treat yourself to this CD. You deserve it! You'll probably have to order it because I've never seen it around here. You can order it through www.folkweb.com or send a check or money order for \$15 to Kris Delmhorst, Big Bean Music, PO Box 440283, W. Somerville, MA 02144. I HIGHLY recommend it and I hope you love it as much as I do. □

SECOND FEMINIST EXPOSITION NATIONWIDE & WORLDWIDE

Feminist Expo 2000, the first coming-together of the feminist movement in the 21st century, will be held March 31 - April 2 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Feminist Expo 2000, which is produced by the Feminist Majority Foundation, has more than 300 cosponsors and 65 international delegations and global participants.

Highlights of the expo include four general assemblies that will be translated into Spanish and French for international participants; some 250 feminist speakers, celebrities and entertainers; more than 60 roundtables, symposia, and training seminars, some of which will be translated; and an interactive Exhibit Hall organized around the theme "Visualize a Feminist Future" which will feature high-tech tools for organizing women in the next century, book signings by many of your favorite feminist authors and a Feminist Career Center.

Of particular interest to Oklahoma feminists is the ERA Countdown Get Together/Reunion at 9 P.M. on March 31. The word is going out to as many of those who worked in the Countdown campaign who can be located, and it should be a wonderful event.

Registration fees are on a sliding scale. Full fees for students are \$95 (early) and \$120 after January 31; and for others \$195 early and \$245 later.

More information is available from the Feminist Majority web site www.feminist.org/expo2000; by phone at 703-522-2214; or email at expo2000@feminist.org. □

SAINT SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

I guess I'm playing the Devil's Advocate here, but can you tell me just why we need a Black History Month? (That would be February, you know). We don't have a White History Month, after all..... All of this special treatment really starts to gall me after a while.

Sincerely,
Tired of it

Dear Tired,

I think you are right about the *special* treatment, but I think we need Black History Month to take notice of all of the *special* treatment African-Americans have received over the years:

Slave ships; Sold children; Sundered families; Jim Crow; Lynching; Cross burnings; Segregated schools; Second-hand books and third-class conditions in those segregated schools; Red lining by insurance companies and mortgage companies; Tokenism; Discrimination; Discrimination in hiring; Discrimination in college enrollment; Discrimination in housing; Past injustices; Present inequities (think ten times the punishment for black drugs-of-choice compared to white drugs-of-choice); lower pay for harder work; Racial profiling; Racist jokes.....

Special treatment, indeed. Fie upon it, let's vow not to put up with it any more, and let's for at least one month of the year CELEBRATE black history, a story of strength, pride, determination, endurance, achievement and triumph over conditions and public and private policy that any group of people would have been excused for perishing under.

*Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.*



*Dear Herland,

I'd like to make this contribution in memory of my mother, Vaunda Bussey, for bringing me up in a feminist household and in honor of Laura, Peggy, Donna, Deb, Miss Brown and all of the other great womyn I met at the two retreats I was able to attend a few years ago. Thanks for the great time and all the good you do for the womyn's community in Oklahoma.

Kylia Bussey*

We thank Kylia and the other contributors who make it possible to continue to provide the Herland retreats, keep the center open on weekends, and provide social, cultural and educational events.

Herland is a volunteer, non-profit organization and depends on the contributions of individuals to meet operating expenses.

If you would like to make a contribution to Herland in memory or in honor of someone, simply send your contribution and a note to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39, Oklahoma City, OK. We'll acknowledge your gift in the *Voice*.

Herland is a 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax deductible.

Here's my contribution to support Herland.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ In memory of: _____

___ In honor of: _____

___ Please keep my gift anonymous

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.

Herland Sister Resources
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**THE LAW OFFICE OF SANDY INGRAHAM
@ TURTLE CREEK**

NANCY NESSER, J.D.
ASSOCIATE

ROUTE 2, BOX 369-B
MCLLOUD, OKLAHOMA 74851

TELEPHONE (405) 964-2072
FAX (405) 964-2058

email - njnesser@aol.com