

Herland

VOICE

November, 2000

HERLAND LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The Herland Legal Defense Fund, which was instrumental in funding the Fox v. Fox case which won a substantial victory for gay and lesbian parents in the Oklahoma Supreme Court, has reorganized, and has two festive fundraising events planned for November. On Saturday, November 11, Diversity Coffee Shop will be the site for a "Tasting Party" – HLDF members will prepare delicious recipes from the HLDF cookbook, "Family Cookin" – all to the music of Peggy Johnson, Victor Zuniga and Tammy Black. It's not often we get to hear Peggy sing Blender Blues while savoring the same

Friday, November 17, Partners will be the venue for a musical evening, music provided by Peggy Johnson, Victor Zuniga, the fabulous Darendia and others. A special mystery musical guest will perform – you'll have to come out to discover who he is... Also that evening HLDF will conduct a Silent Auction, with a variety of really wonderful auction items.

These two events will be evenings filled with fun, and at the same time will contribute to a cause that is vitally important to many in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities.

The Herland Legal Defense Fund's purpose is to promote lesbian and gay equal rights through the legal system by providing community education, professional education and referrals and direct financial assistance in cases involving lesbian issues within the jurisdiction of Oklahoma. We are particularly interested in cases which can make effective use of existing positive lesbian precedents such as *Fox*.

For more information about the Herland Legal Defense Fund call Herland (405-521-9696) or email Herland@mailroom.com. □

AN ABBREVIATED TIMELINE OF US WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR THE VOTE

1776-1807: New Jersey grants women the vote in its state constitution.

July 19 and 20, 1848: Three hundred people attend the first convention held to discuss women's rights, in Seneca Falls, New York. 68 women and 32 men sign the "Declaration of Sentiments," including the first formal demand made in the United States for women's right to vote.

1878: Senator A.A. Sargent (California) introduces a woman suffrage amendment, the wording of which remains unchanged until passed by Congress in 1919.

July 23, 1890: Wyoming is admitted to the Union, becoming the first state since New Jersey to grant

women full enfranchisement in its state constitution.

1893: Colorado adopts woman suffrage.

1896: Utah joins the Union, granting women full suffrage.

1896: Idaho adopts woman suffrage.

1910: Washington State adopts woman suffrage.

November 1911: Women's suffrage campaign succeeds in California by only 3,587 votes.

1912: Oregon, Kansas and Arizona adopt woman suffrage.

1913: The Territory of Alaska adopts woman suffrage.

1913: Illinois becomes the first state to grant presidential suffrage by legislative enactment.

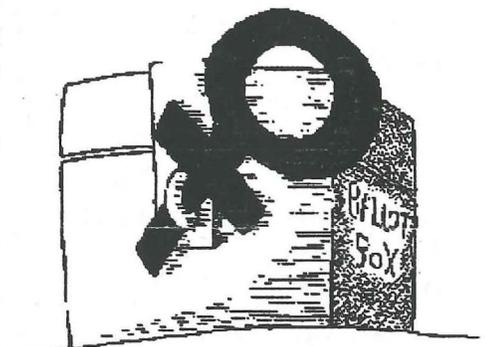
1914: Montana and Nevada adopt woman suffrage.

1917: New York State adopts woman suffrage.

1918: Michigan, South Dakota and Oklahoma adopt woman suffrage.

August 18, 1920: Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.

August 26, 1920: The 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote is signed into law by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby. □



Vote November 7!

ST. SYBIL

Dear Saint Sybil,

I would like to submit the following list to you and ask you, why bother??? The Top Four Reasons *not* to Vote in the November Election: George Bush, Dick Cheney, Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. Really now, is there a gnat's breadth of difference between them? The Democrats bow to Big Business and give us GATT and NAFTA, and the phony prosperity they brought. Republicans brought us détente with China and probably only a Republican can bring us détente with Cuba... I think I'm staying home in November. Can you talk me out of my apathy and despair?

Vera Cynical,

Dear Vera,

Here's another list for you there in the Heartland. This is for you Oklahomans, but there is another list just like it for every state in the Union: Top Ten Reasons to Vote in the November Elections: Debbie Blackburn, Bill Graves, Joan Greenwood, Maxine Horner, Tim Pope, John Sellars, Leonard Sullivan, Opio Toure, Penny Williams and Robert Worthen.

All ten of these people are incumbent State Reps or Senators; they all have opposition for office this year; and while I would never dream of telling anyone how they should vote, especially not in a newsletter with a 501c(3) to protect, they are all either pretty darn good or pretty darn awful, and anyone interested in voting should be able to figure out which camp they are in pretty darn easily.

Vera, you're right that the candidates at the top of the tickets are darn nigh interchangeable, but at the state and local level, who gets elected makes a huge difference in the quality of the lives of you and all your fellow citizens. Read and inform yourself and VOTE November 7. Thanks.

Peace & Love,
Sybil

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at

WWW.HERLANDSISTERS.ORG



Check These Out!

—Deb Willis

With the weather cooling consider snuggling up with a hot mystery, available from the Metropolitan Library System.

Detective Kate Delafield returns in Katherine V. Forrest's *Sleeping Bones* (1999). Delafield investigates a case involving the stabbing death of an elderly man at the La Brea Tar Pits, which leads her to the reappearance of the possibly genuine remains of an important anthropological find, Peking man.

Jane Lawless, restaurateur and amateur detective, becomes involved in a murder investigation in Ellen Hart's *Hunting the Witch* (1999). Thickening the plot is the involvement of Jane's ex-lover, Dr Julia Martinsen, who is attempting to rekindle their relationship while keeping Jane in the dark about her involvement with the murder victim.

In Lambda-award winning author J.M Redmann's newest mystery *Lost Daughters* (1999), New Orleans private investigator Micky Knight takes on two cases searching for missing family members which lead to further investigating of the not-so-coincidental murders of two patients from the clinic run by Micky's lover.

Author Baxter Clare debuts with *Bleeding Out* (2000). Set in a tough Los Angeles precinct, Lieutenant L.A. "Frank" Franco tracks a serial rapist and killer. A non-related shooting brings up long buried emotions surrounding the murder of her lover, Maggie, and results in Frank being relieved from duty. Now Frank must pursue the rapist outside the purview of the LAPD.

Until next time, happy sleuthing.

Deb is a librarian at the Midwest City Library. You can reach her there (732-4828 x 3) or via email at windeater@planetout.com. □

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IN REVIEW

by Jill Garner

Carrie Newcomer will be appearing at the Blue Door on December 3rd. Newcomer is one of my favorite singer/songwriters. She's a poet who was blessed with a gorgeous deep voice to express her gift of words. To be in a small intimate room with Carrie Newcomer singing to you is the stuff that makes life worth living. I've been fortunate to have that experience twice, once traveling to Dallas to hear her. I'm looking forward to this show and I'd like to share a little bit about her music so that some of you will hopefully venture out to hear her, or if you don't get this in time to catch her show, will buy one of her CDs.

As I mentioned, I consider Newcomer a poet. Her words can be so beautiful, and universal at the same time, and oh that voice. On Newcomer's latest CD, *The Age of Possibility*, the author Barbara Kingsolver writes the liner notes and says, "It's the rarest kind of musician who can use the power of words and the irresistible pull of music to wrap up the things you and I have always known and whisper to us: Yes, I know. Me too." Newcomer writes the kind of songs I can just read the lyrics to and feel complete. The fact that she then uses her incredible voice to sing them is just icing on the cake.

Newcomer has 7 CDs released on Rounder/Philo records. She's also an artist with a social conscience. She donated all the proceeds from a live acoustic CD, *Bare to the Bones*, to Planned Parenthood. On this tour, she's donating 10% of all concert CD sales to the National Coalition for Literacy, and donated 10% of CD sales from her last tour to local hunger, health and homeless organizations.

My favorite songs of hers are scattered throughout all her CDs. Newcomer has a lot of love songs, but she also writes songs with a message. Every once in a while, some of her songs gets bogged down by the message, but for the most part, Newcomer usually pulls it off smoothly. She also sings some good old rock and roll, a few funny songs here and there, and then she takes it down and sings songs so honest and beautiful they take my breath away. One of her early message songs, "In the City," talks of homelessness coexisting with great wealth, and has my favorite lines, "We can be perfect, we can be stronger, Saints are sinners who just tried longer." After hearing about the killing of an abortion doctor, she wrote "Wisdom is Watching" "He stepped into the circle, he read between the lines, With a bloodlust religion saying, 'Vengeance is mine', But God is

watching, Wisdom is weeping, This is not what was meant, this is not what was said." One of the most tender songs and one of my all-time favorites is "Yes of Yes," and with lines like "When the morning comes, like a moment blessed, Breathing next to you, my Yes of Yes, And hold you like some promise made, It's a way of, way of praying", all is right with the world. In a later song, "Close Your Eyes," she writes, "So how I got this job I'll never know, But when it calls you can't refuse to go." Singing is not an easy profession, but Newcomer was born to do it, and it's obvious she has so much to say and writing and singing songs is the way her gift comes out.

I could go on and on about Carrie Newcomer, but go hear her for yourself. If you can't make her show, go buy one of her CDs or order one from Rounder Records. I think you'll be moved by much she's written. And if you're not, just sit and listen to that exquisite, gorgeous voice, and be moved by that. If you are touched by music like I am, it doesn't get much better than that. □

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