

# Herland

## VOICE

December, 2000

### WILL YOU BE A PART OF HERLAND?

Herland is a remarkable organization, one of the oldest and longest-lived feminist/lesbian bookstores in the country. Herland has survived for over fifteen years entirely on sales and donations, with absolutely no paid staff and for a couple of hard years, no physical location. Herland has survived the advent – and onslaught – of the mega-book stores, both the chains and the e-retailers, all of which sell the kind of book for which Herland, at one time, was the only market. We're very glad that lesbian and gay books have a wider audience now; and glad also that somehow, like the little pink rabbit, we keep adapting and surviving.

We always make our bills; we raised a ton of money for the Herland Legal Defense Fund some years ago and fully intend to do it again this year. We paid off a very large mortgage, put heat and air in the building and paid it off, and are not threatening to close if you don't donate now. However, we did it *with your help!* *You are the ones who paid the mortgage and paid for the Supreme Court filings – Herland is yours!* It would be a fabulously luxurious feeling for us to plan the upcoming year knowing that some of the major bills were paid, and we could expand our minds, get creative, think a little outside the box, and come up with new and innovative programs to continue to serve our community.

Here are some of our regular monthly expenses:

Print and mail newsletter:	\$250
Utilities:	\$ 80
Telephone	\$ 50
Insurance (pro-rated)	\$100
Building Maintenance	\$100

We would like to ask you to please pick one of these activities and help us pay for them. To begin with the first item, will you pay for the newsletter for one month? Will you help us pay for one tenth of the newsletter for one month? Will you pay for the newsletter for one year?

We would also like to remind you, *We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.* And, for some of us, we save on our taxes by what we give, also. If this is the case with you, please remember, in this giving season, that Herland is a 501(c)(3), and as such your gifts to Herland are tax deductible. Thank you. □

### OKC METRO-CHORUSES CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The combined OKC Metro-Men's Chorus and Metro-Women's Choruses will present their second annual combined Christmas Concert at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 2 at Village Christian Church, 9401 Ridgeview Drive. This year's concert is entitled "Around the World in Christmas Ways" and will feature popular guest artist Darena Boswell. Admission is free and donations will be accepted.

The Choruses will also reprise last year's successful silent auction, preceding and during the concert. The auction opens at 7:00 with an opportunity to check bids during the concert intermission.

During November, the Men's Chorus will be performing at the Winds House wreath auction, and the combined choruses will sing for World Aids Day at St. Patrick's Church on December 1. □

### NEW YEARS DAY POT LUCK



*New Year's Day,  
January 1, 2001*

from 2 - 5 p.m.  
at Herland.

Bring something  
tasty to go with the  
Black-eyed Peas and Egg Nog Herland will  
provide.

Trivial Pursuit Tournament, Taboo, all  
kinds of card games - Canasta, Cribbage,  
Krypto

ALSO AVAILABLE for you gaming en-  
joyment - Video games!

Happy Holidays and a very happy new  
Millennium - hope to see you New Year's Day!

## HLDF UP AND RUNNING

The Herland Board has unanimously approved the Herland Legal Defense Fund recommendation, that HLDF take on a new case, a current custody battle at the appeal level. This case involves a lesbian whose son was taken from her by an egregiously bad lower court ruling. The mother was the sole custodial parent since the child's birth.

The HLDF committee put on two fundraisers last month, raising over \$1,000 that will be used both for educational purposes and to help finance the legal costs of the appeal of this case. One half of the proceeds from the Silent Auction and Musical evening at Partners is being donated to a gay father in our community who is having serious custody problems also.

The committee is promising several more fundraisers in the near future, all designed to be so enjoyable that you will forget you are being separated from a little money.

HLDF wishes to extend its sincerest thanks to Diversity Coffee Shop and Partners, where the fundraisers were held; and the performers, in alphabetical order, Tammy Black, Darena Boswell, Peggy Johnson, Alison Scott, and Victor Zuniga. We also wish to thank those fabulous chefs who prepared such tasty treats for the Tasting Party - Chris and Pam, Debbie, Pat and Jean, Ginger, Debbie, Ginnie, Doni, Jacqueline, and Margaret. □

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Sunday, December 10, 2000 at 3pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (121 NW 7th) will host a special event honoring, "International Human Rights Day" on Sunday, December 10, 2000 at 3pm. The event will focus on Indigenous Peoples and the case of Leonard Peltier.

A 30 minute spiritual vigil beginning the event will be followed by a panel of local Religious Leaders and Indian activists. The panel will include participants of the 1973 Occupation of Wounded Knee which led into years of horrendous atrocities on the Pine Ridge Reservation, including the arrest of Leonard Peltier. The panel will introduce the screening of Robert Redford's documentary, "Incident at Oglala" which describes the lack of justice during the Peltier trial.

Other issues concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples will be presented including an update on the recent action by United Nation Member States, creating a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Rights which for the first time, gives Native Americans high level representation in the United Nations.

The controversial incarceration of Leonard Peltier, Indian activist, has been of worldwide interest for over twenty years. Widely known throughout the world as the United States' most famous political prisoner, Leonard Peltier's request for clemency is currently being reviewed by President Clinton. The appeal for Leonard Peltier has received support from a broad range of international leaders including Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Rigoberta Menchu, Amnesty International, the Parliaments of Canada, Belgium, Italy and Europe, the National Congress of American Indians as well as over 50 members of the Congress of the United States, all of whom are asking for Leonard's immediate release.

The 12-10-2000 event is being sponsored by the the Coalition for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. □



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# TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

by Jill Garner

My dad, Frank Eugene Garner, died in early September. He'd been sick for a while so it was not unexpected. Still, however prepared you are for a death to happen, you can't prepare for the loss of that person in your life.

But the reason I'm telling you about my dad is because he was a big supporter of organizations like Herland. He supported anyone working to fight discrimination and make the world a better place for everyone. He was quite the liberal democrat and I have him to thank for the subscriptions that flood my mailbox: The Nation, The Progressive, and The Oklahoma Observer. In the last few years of his life he continued subscribing to them largely so he could help keep them going.

I made a long overdue donation this month to Herland in honor of my father because it would make him happy to know it was helping, in whatever small way, to allow organizations like Herland to exist.

My dad rooted for the underdog. Injustice and inequality bothered him a lot. He grew up in Tulsa during the Depression, and he and his mother were quite poor. But he would tell me of seeing people begging on the streets and

would tug his mother's coat saying, "Please mom, can't we give them a nickel?" He also talked often of seeing a Ku Klux Klan march as a kid and how much it scared him.

After my mom died several years ago, my dad began going to PFLAG meetings. He went not because he had any problem with me being gay, but he supported what they were doing, and it was a social event for him. He was the only father to attend the meetings, and they loved him for that, as well as for his kindness and humor.

But one of my fondest memories over the last several years was sharing my love of women's sports with him. Seeing the proliferation of new opportunities for women athletes over the last 20 years was exciting for him, and we went to many OU basketball and softball games, watched the Women's College World Series games when he was able, and spent this past summer watching the WNBA on TV. At every softball game we attended, he would lament the fact that they didn't have enough black players. He rooted not so much for any particular team, but for the women themselves who finally had the opportunities that he had seen so many denied during his lifetime.

It may be too painful this year to go to any OU basketball games without him. But perhaps next year I'll go, and after a particularly good play, gently elbow the empty seat next to me and whisper, "Did you see that shot dad?" and smile at the memories. □

**Yes**, I would like to help pay for Herland's newsletter printing and mailing costs (I know that all of the work involved is done and donated entirely by volunteers).

I'll donate enough for .....

- \$250 for one month's newsletter. Thanks for all the work you do!
- \$ 5 I know that every bit helps!
- \$ 12 I'll cover the cost of sending me the newsletter for a year.
- \$ 25 (1/10<sup>th</sup> of the monthly cost - I know there are nine others who will give this much also)
- \$ 50 (I've got the phone covered)
- \$3,000 to publish the newsletter for a whole year \_\_\_\_\_ - I want to pay for a full year and be your angel forever but I *won't* try to tell you what to write!

My check is enclosed. Please feel free to use  my full name;  just my first name in your thanks in the newsletter - or just call me another  anonymous sister or  anonymous brother.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Please send with your contribution to Herland, 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK 73112

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