

Herland

VOICE

April, 2001

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

Who Are We?

Herland is a nonprofit organization operated entirely by volunteers. We publish a monthly newsletter, operate a bookstore and lending library, and host a wide array of social and educational activities. Herland has been serving the women's community since 1983.

The Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter circulates to about 1,000 readers and helps to inform individuals about pertinent issues and upcoming activities.

Social Activities

Herland hosts two weekend retreats per year. Retreats occur in the spring and fall and are held at various locations. Herland hosts additional social activities, which usually features musicians, poets and other artists. Upcoming events are published in our monthly newsletter.

Lending Library and Bookstore

Our lending library and bookstore include a substantial selection of feminist and lesbian fiction and nonfiction books as well as others books of interest to the community.

The Legal Defense Fund

A legal defense fund is in place to help ease the financial burdens of lesbian caught in the legal system. Individuals who may need assistance are encouraged to call for more information. Contributions to the legal defense fund are encouraged and appreciated.

Herland can mean a lot of different things to different people. Ever since the first function I attended with Herland I have been in awe, the women on the board have always been very friendly and helpful. There is always something to do with Herland from our Supper Club on the second Saturday of every month, the spring and fall retreats, to the legal defense fund, just to mention a few items. If you want to get involved with an organization that cares about what happens to Women and our causes, please come and check us out. The board meets every third Sunday of the month at 4:30 p.m. sit through a meeting, attend some of the functions or even just enjoy the reading materials that are available at the bookstore. You can contact us at 405/521-9696 or www.herlandresource.org.

PRIDE NETWORK NEWS

A reception and open house to honor participants in Pride, Network, Inc's 2001 Logo Design Contest will be held at The Center, 2135 NW 39th Street on Sunday, April 1 from 2PM - 5PM. PNI organizes Oklahoma City's annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons Pride Parade and Human Rights March, which this year - the Parade's 15th - will be held on Sunday, June 24.

PNI received 22 entries this year, over double the number from last year, when the contest generated 9 entries. Jodee Marcovich of Edmond claimed the \$150 first prize, and her design will be prominently featured in PNI's promotional efforts for this year's Parade, including the front of the popular official T-shirt.

Efforts by Pride Network, Inc to raise funds for this year's Oklahoma City Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons Pride Parade and Human Rights March were kicked off at their March 19 meeting when a check for \$1000 from the Cimarron Alliance Group was presented to PNI by CAG president Paul Bashline. Bashline is also on the PNI Fundraising Committee, along with his partner, Edward Kromer.

Edward Kromer and Paul Bashline may be contacted at 405-232-1451 or by e-mail at BashKrom@aol.com.

This year's parade theme is "Embrace Diversity". Information regarding participating in the parade, including entry forms and sponsorships, is available on the PNI website located at www.okcpride.com. PNI is currently actively seeking sponsors, and invites and welcomes the general public to participate in planning and organizing the Parade. PNI meetings are open to the public and are held at the Center, 2135 NW 39th Street in Oklahoma City on the third Monday of the month at 7:30PM.

*Beginning in May, Herland
will be open only on
Saturdays from 1 - 5 PM
and for scheduled events.*

MARY GAUTHIER — DRAG QUEENS IN LIMOUSINES

by Jill Garner

I first resisted buying Mary Gauthier's latest CD, *Drag Queens in Limousines*, because I thought it was going to be a sad one. But when I heard one of her songs one night on the Blue Door Music Show, it totally won me over so I ordered it and haven't been sorry. I suppose some of the stuff in her songs could bum you out, but not the way she writes and sings them.

Gauthier (pronounced go-shay) writes from the perspective of someone who has seen the darker side of life, and lived to tell about it. She writes compassionately of people that society doesn't value, and she said she has considered herself to be one. In an interview I read with her, she said, "Writing the songs for *Drag Queens and Limousines* was my way of looking back, but it's also very much about celebrating the people whose lives are lived outside of anything resembling normal. I'm trying to expose the humanity of those whom many consider to be society's rejects." In the title cut "Drag Queens in Limousines", she pays tribute to all the people who took her in when she stole her mother's car and left home at 15. "Drag queens in limousines, nuns in blue jeans, dreamers with big dreams, poets and AWOL marines, actors and bar flies, writers with dark eyes, drunks that philosophize, these are my friends."

Gauthier's been compared a lot to John Prine and Kris Kristofferson. She writes with a simple honesty about many things that might make us uncomfortable in a different context. She simply tells the story and it's easy to get drawn in and feel compassion for the people in her songs. She's like a troubadour traveling from village to village telling stories about the things she's seen and the places she's been. Her voice is at times breathtaking, at other times very southern (with the name Gauthier you probably already guessed she's from Louisiana), at times she almost talks, but it fits her style of music perfectly. She draws mostly from folk and country roots in her music and says her songs are "about telling the truth and making it rhyme."

"Evangline" tells the story of an obsession with a hard core stripper. "I Drink" is not a celebration or condemnation of drinking, but just a stark acknowledgement of it as a fact of life. "Lifetime" is a conversation with her mother about the older friends of her mom's who have died from cancer, and her friends who are young and dying from AIDS. "Life'd mean nothing if we didn't die, Laughter empty if we didn't cry, It's all the way it's supposed to be, It moves fast it's hard to see." There are a couple of songs dealing with trust and love. One of them, "Different Kind of Gone", I

could listen to all day long because it's such a good song, a different kind of love song, and her voice is so smooth and beautiful on it. "There's a tapping on my shoulder, a tugging on my soul, The restlessness that torments you, is making me whole, you're the one I'm drawn to, My heart is yours and it don't carry on, but you must let me go babe, I'll be back, I'm a different kind of gone."

"Karla Fay", written about the woman executed in Texas, allowed me to get a glimpse into the mind of a drug addict who killed a man. "Alone in her cell, no dope in her veins, The killer'd become, little girl lost again, She fell to her knees, she prayed she would die, on the cold cement floor, she finally cried." It's probably my favorite song on the album, largely because of the beautiful way she tells a story about someone who just got lost along the way, but without preaching, or struggling to fit some kind of message into a song.

Gauthier had some good help on this CD. Crit Harmon produced and co-wrote many of the songs with Mary and was nominated for outstanding producer of the year for this CD by the Boston Music Awards. Some of the Austin Lounge Lizards provided backup vocals on several songs, along with backup help from Caroline Aiken and Catie Curtis. Curtis' mandolin player, Jimmy Ryan, played on several songs, and she had help from many other musicians as well.

Gauthier has won numerous awards for her work and rightly so. I feel fortunate that I heard about the CD because it's a great one to start the year off right with! You can get it at www.marygauthier.com, folkweb.com, or milesOfmusic.com. She also has an earlier release called *Dixie Kitchen*, named for her award-winning restaurant in Boston she sold to perform music full-time. *Drag Queens in Limousines* is so refreshing because it's so full of substance and talent and it gives me hope that there is still a lot of great music out there to be found. Please check it out because it's worth it! She's definitely a musician to pay attention to. □

Herland Board of Directors:

Laura Choate	Ginger McGovern
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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.

Check These Out!

—Deb Willis

In February, the Lambda Literary Foundation announced the finalists for its 13th annual literary awards for excellence in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered literature. Below are a few of the titles available through the Metropolitan Library System.

Check these out for your reading pleasure.

Lesbian Fiction

Affinity by Sarah Waters
Tea by Stacey D'Erasmio
The Powerbook by Jeannette Winterson
Black Girl in Paris by Shay Youngblood
Valencia by Michelle Tea

Lesbian Studies

Girl Reel by Bonnie J. Morris

Lesbian Poetry

A Map to the Next World by Joy Harjo

Lesbian Mystery

The Case of the Orphaned Bassoonists by Barbara Wilson
Booked for Murder by Val McDermid

Lesbian Biography/Autobiography

Soldier: A Poet's Childhood by June Jordan
The Room Lit by Roses by Carole Maso

Humor

The Femme's Guide to the Universe by Shar Rednor

The complete list of finalists is online at www.lambdalit.org.

Deb is the Assistant Manager at the Midwest City Library and can be reached there (732-4828 x 3) or via email at dwillis@mls.lib.ok.us

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HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

APRIL 13-15

ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. The deadline for pre-registration is April 10 and registration is non-refundable

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland):

\$15 \$25 \$35 \$45 \$60
 Saturday only Registration \$25

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I need a scholarship to attend.

I'm enclosing and additional \$ _____ to help provide scholarships.

I'm bringing _____ children (girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome)

Please send your completed registration to: Herland, 2312 NW 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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

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*Herland Spring
Retreat
April 13-15*

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