

# Herland

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## VOICE

June, 2001

### 14TH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA CITY GLBT PRIDE PARADE

The 14th Annual Oklahoma City Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons Pride Parade and Human Rights March happens Sunday, June 24, 2001 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma! The pre-Parade Festival starts at 1PM in Memorial Park at NW 35th & Classen. All kinds of entertainment, refreshment & education will be on hand! The Parade itself steps off from Memorial Park at 5PM and marches down NW 39th Street to the heart of OKC's GLBT business district at NW 39th & Pennsylvania where thousands of OKC's GLBT Community members and supporters will be eagerly waiting to welcome it!

This year's Grand Marshall is Kevin Barker, a remarkable young man who succeeded in overcoming the resistance of his school's administration to start a Gay-Straight Alliance this year at Jenks High School in Jenks, Oklahoma!

Come join the celebration as we honor the achievements of Kevin and all of Oklahoma City's GLBT Community! Vendors and organizations are encouraged to rent booth space at the Pride Festival. Booth space rental is \$25 for nonprofit groups and \$40 for commercial booths until June 5, when prices go up. Forms are available on the Pride Parade website at [www.okcpride.com](http://www.okcpride.com), or by mail from: Pride Network, Inc., P.O. Box 60296, Oklahoma City, OK 73140-0296

#### Sponsors for the 2001 GLBT Pride Parade:

**GOLD LEVEL:** Bud Light, Cimarron Alliance Group, The Gayly Oklahoman, Habana Inn Complex (Copa, Finishline, Ledo, Gushers), and Wilson/Hill Investments.

**SILVER LEVEL:** Jungle Red, Outword Connection, and Westridge Labs.

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### GLBT COMMUNITY PRIDE PICNIC

Herland will hold the annual GLBT Community Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 23 at Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39, Oklahoma City. The picnic, which begins at 6:00 PM, will feature entertainment hosted by local comedian, Jeri James. Scheduled performers include the Oklahoma City Metro Women's Chorus, Oklahoma City Metro Men's Chorus, Wanda D., Terra Henry, Chaz, Alyson Scott, Peggy Johnson, and Sonia Martinez.

Traditional picnic fare — Hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian burgers and dogs and sodas will be provided by Herland. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

The Community Pride Picnic has become a popular part of the Pride celebration in Oklahoma City. Last year we had about 150 women, men and children in Herland's backyard for the event. This year is certain to be even better!

#### *Herland June Events*

*June 19, 5:30 PM  
Herland Supper Club  
(meet at Herland)*

*June 16 1 PM - 4 PM  
Clean-Up /Fix-Up Day at Herland*

*June 16 4:30 PM  
Herland Board Meeting*

*June 23 6:00 PM  
GLBT Community Picnic at Herland*

# SAINT SYBIL

*Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, is an occasional contributor to this space. Sybil, as you may recall, did everything Paul Revere did, only backwards and in high heels. Oops, no, that was Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. Sybil did everything Paul did, only longer, better, earlier, younger, and without getting caught by the Redcoats....*

Dear Saint Sybil,

Some of my family is upset that I'm going to walk in the Gay Pride Parade this year. They say they love me and all, and they are for gay rights and all, but they don't understand what exactly there is to be *proud* about? I'll have to admit I don't have an easy answer for them. Help, please?

Yours,

Ann R. Tickulett

Dear Ann,

Oh gee, really? They don't? You don't? That's too bad. Let's look at you.... You're a good person, you work hard, you play fair, pay your taxes, hardly ever kick the dog, and you're a lesbian. Being lesbian is a part of you, and either you're ashamed of who you are, or you're proud of who you are – you can't really be neutral about self respect. Now, why do you have to proclaim your pride? Well, if it weren't for the KKK and Reverend "Godhatesfags" Phelps and other yahoos and gay bashers; if it weren't for the thugs who harm GLBT people physically, emotionally, spiritually, and legislatively, you wouldn't have to. But those people do exist ("Rev" Phelps and his minions were at the OKC Pride Parade last year with some really ugly signs) and so you do need to assert your self worth; both to yourself and, if you can, to the world at large.

Be proud of the people who have come out and marched when it was even tougher than it is today. Think back to the first Gay Pride parade in Oklahoma City, some fifteen years ago. It took a lot of pride and guts and gumption to participate in that one. A malevolent bunch of ragtag societal misfits calling themselves the Ku Klux Klan, about forty strong, were waiting for the Parade at 39<sup>th</sup> and Penn; with tire irons and such. When the 500+ Pride marchers peaked the hill at 39h & McKinley, those pathetic trolls turned tailed and got outta Dodge, fast. Believe me, those marchers felt *proud*. They were marching because they refused to be ashamed of who they were; and then when those hooligans scattered they were proud that they were out there marching. Their pride and self-confidence just spiraled up and away.

Ann, on Sunday, June 24, you will be marching for many others: for all those who for one reason or another can't march for themselves. Some of them will be on the side of the road cheering you on, some will drive by, some will look (mostly in vain) for reports of the Parade on the evening news. And you'll be marching for your Aunt Sarah, your Uncle Bill, your cousin Allie – and who knows, probably a Greatgrandmother or two... look around your family tree, and march for your maiden aunt, your bachelor uncle, and your GLBT nieces and nephews to come. Their road will be far smoother and easier for having you be a strong role model of integrity and pride.

And here are a few role models for you: Leonard Bernstein, Rita Mae Brown, Lord Byron, King James I, Roberta Achtenberg, Jane Addams, Alexander the Great, Dorothy Allison, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, Aristotle, St. Augustine, Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, Albert Camus, Hans Christian Anderson, Sidonie Gabrielle Colette, Noel Coward, Aaron Copeland, Alvin Ailey, Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, Countee Cullen, James Baldwin, - and we're only taking a few of the well known, at the beginning of the alphabet!

Here are a few more who come quickly to mind – Martina Navratilova, Barbara Jordan, Jewelle Gomez, Audre Lorde, Bayard Rustin, Barbara Smith, Adrienne Rich, Gore Vidal, The Reverend Peter Gomes..... A small sampling, indeed, of a wonderfully strong and talented group of people. I ask you, What's not to be proud?

So get out there and hold your head high and have a great time at the Parade and Festival. As my great friend Emma Goldman, Matron Saint of the Staunch & Resolute is wont to say, "If I can't dance, I won't be part of your revolution". Kick up your heels, party hearty, and if you want a short answer for family as to why you're marching – just tell them it's for the fun of it, and ask them to come march with you! *Oklahoma City, my favorite city, where the women are strong, and the men are pretty...* Sing and dance and rejoice in yourself and the good company you keep.

Love,

Sybil

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#### Herland Board of Directors:

Laura Choate  
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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.*

**MORE COMPASSION, LESS  
CONSERVATISM: JEFFORD'S SWITCH MEANS  
IMPROVED CLIMATE FOR GLBT PEOPLE**

The shift in control of the U.S. Senate will create an environment more favorable for issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and to progressive allies, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Sen. James M. Jeffords announced on May 24 he will withdraw from the Republican Party, become an Independent and vote with the Democrats on organizational matters. The move, which effectively gives the Democrats a 51-49 majority, means that Sen. Tom Daschle will become the Majority Leader and that Democrats will have the power to name the chairs of all Senate committees.

Because of the shift, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT., will replace Sen. Orrin Hatch as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This is the committee that votes on George W. Bush's judicial nominations. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-MA, will become chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee. This committee considers a number of measures important to the GLBT community, ranging from nondiscrimination laws to school safety to programs that fight HIV and AIDS. Sen. Joe Biden, D-DE., will replace Sen. Jesse Helms as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Helms is one of the senators who held up the nomination of James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg during the Clinton administration.

"The new composition of the Senate will serve as a brake on Bush's more radical proposals," said NGLTF Political Director Tim McFeeley. "It will mean that Bush's nominees, particularly for the judiciary, will receive more careful scrutiny. It will mean that pro-GLBT measures, like the proposed hate crimes law, safe schools legislation, bans on discrimination and pro-GLBT immigration measures could stand a better chance of at least being aired for debate. All in all, this change will make the U.S. Senate more compassionate and less conservative." □

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evening appointment. Jo L. Soske, Phd, LPC,  
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*The HerlandVoice was graced with the fine womanist prose and poetry of Deborah Fox during the early 1990's. We are very pleased that she has resurfaced and sent us a new poem.*

**She Is With Me Always**

*By Deborah Fox*

I remember her  
In Grecian toga  
Her lithe form  
At my window

It was a deeply dark, moonless night  
The grove of chinaberry trees swaying, sighing  
At the mountain hideaway  
In my solitude.

I remember her  
How she frightened me  
Her human body and wolfhead  
Eyes yellow and piercing  
Skin pale and luminous,  
Canines glistening..

She was at the window sniffing  
Though I sensed her first  
Her presence unmistakably  
Quieting the nightlife.

I remember her  
Our mutual curiosity  
Noses twitching  
Pulses quickening

She was feral, beautiful  
And formidable all at once  
I was mesmerized  
And frozen with fear

I remember her  
Our meeting, then  
How she vanished  
Evanescenced into me.

Herland Sister Resources  
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