

Herland

VOICE

May 2002

Volume 20, Number 5

RETREAT! The Herland Spring Retreat is scheduled for May 17-19 at Roman Nose State Park. The park is located about an hour west of Oklahoma City, just north of Watonga. The campsite includes hot showers, comfortable cabins, a full kitchen, and an area for tent camping (if tents are a good thing for you.) The State Park features an 18-hole golf course, fishing, mountain biking trails, and horseback riding. The largest collection of fresh water springs in northwestern Oklahoma is within walking distance (a short hike.)

Registration begins Friday afternoon about 5:00 p.m. A self-serve dinner will be available or bring your own to cook on the patio grill. (Bring charcoal.) **The retreat can be whatever you want it to be.** Bring games, cards, musical instruments, fishing gear, and sports equipment, and be prepared to have a relaxing weekend. Weather permitting, the focus will turn to the campfire Friday and Saturday evenings. Singing, playing, story telling, and camaraderie begin at dark and continue late into the night.

Saturday begins with breakfast provided as part of your retreat registration. Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. and continues until 10:00 a.m. Get up early, if you like, to join Judy Walden on a *Bird Watching Hike* at 9:00 a.m. Bring some shoes for hiking and binoculars if you have them. At 11:00 a.m., there will be a *Speed Match* session. Speed Match provides a chance to meet new friends and possibly pursue something further if you like. Alicia and Janie are facilitating a workshop titled "*Honoring and Owning Your Authentic Self*" at 1:00 p.m. Alicia and Janie are professionals who present the Silva Method seminars. Louise Weller will lead a workshop on *Meditation* at 3:00 p.m.

So you don't want to go to a workshop? How about a tour of the world famous Watonga Cheese Factory? Maybe throw frisbees, fish, nap, sunbathe, play Cranium, tune your guitar for the Open Mic, bird watch, people watch, set your watch? Need some down time? Get a massage from Suzie Marie. (Bring some extra cash, you'll be glad you did.) Suzie is a professionally trained massage therapist with knowledge of many techniques.

Bring your guitar, sitar, mandolin, violin, banjo or bagpipes to show off your musical skills at the Open Mic. Anything goes. Express yourself. Open Mic will start around 4:00 p.m.

Saturday night, bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner. Bring the groceries needed for your creation and store them in the walk-in refrigerator. Two commercial ovens and several stove-top burners are available. Potluck prep time festivities are legendary.

After you are fed and happy, the kitchen is cleaned and the dishes are put away, get ready to enjoy the songs and stories of Nancy Scott. You can sit in the house or sit outside in the fresh air to hear Nancy and her friends Mary Reynolds and Millie Marlow. For more information about Nancy, see the article in this issue of the Voice. You can also listen to a sample of Nancy's music at www.herlandsisters.org. If you don't get enough at the concert, come to the campfire to share more music.

Sunday morning, breakfast is provided. The highlight of Sunday is the raffle drawing. Tickets may be purchased throughout the weekend and you must be present to win. Herland requests that you bring

Herland Supper Club

Saturday, May 25, 5 pm

At Ricky's Café, 310 S. 19th, Moore

& OKC Lightning Women's Football Game, 7 pm

This month the Herland Supper Club will enjoy Mexican food at Ricky's Café located just off of I-35 at the S. 19th Street exit in Moore near the Braum's.

After dinner we will head over to the OKC Lightning vs. Tulsa Women's Football Game. Admission to the game is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 5 and over; children 5 and under are free. The game will be at the Moore Junior High Stadium, which is the large, extremely well-lit stadium you can see on the east side of I-35 between Main and S. 4th Street.

Meet at Herland at 4:30 pm if you wish to carpool, or meet at the restaurant at 5 pm. Call Laura at 943-4070 or Ginger at 942-1535 for more details. For more info about the OKC Lightning games call 286-2229.

items to donate to the raffle to help raise money to offset the operational costs of the organization. In the past, items such as gift certificates for goods or services, books, pictures, paintings, posters, candles, soap and other items have been donated.

Complete the registration form included in this edition of the Voice and mail it in time to reach Herland by May 13. If registration is received in time, you will receive a map and a schedule of the retreat activities. Daytripper registration is available for those who wish to attend only during the day on Saturday and for the concert Saturday evening.

NANCY SCOTT

The Saturday evening concert will feature Nancy Scott, with Millie Marlow and Mary Reynolds. Nancy has been performing for over 20 years at Austin venues such as the Cactus Cafe, Chicago House, Chances, BookWoman, Threadgills, and Artz Rib House. She has appeared at national and regional festivals such as the National Women's Music Festival, the Lone Star Women's Music Festival, and the Blue Door Woody Guthrie Tribute Concerts.

Born and raised in Tennessee, southern hospitality and warmth connect her immediately with her audience. Not one to be pigeonholed, her original songs vary from folk to blues blended with a touch of country and rock.

Her first recording, *Both Sides of Me*, released in 1987, presents a cross section of song styles. Serious warmth, as well as insightful humor, characterize these songs. A 1992 article in *Music City Texas* says "Nancy Scott, a songwriter who has an unusually interesting voice and a relaxed, humorous stage presence, has a collection of tunes that many a popular, big name artist would give their eye teeth to own." (Continued on Page 2)

SOULFORCE

Dr. Mel White, founder and executive director of Soulforce, Inc., will speak at the Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Penn, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2002. He will speak on "Why We Can't Wait...to End this Debate?!" He will discuss the many reasons it is time "to quit cooperating with those who oppress gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons...and time to begin a campaign of relentless nonviolent resistance that will convince church leaders to do justice at last." The event is free and open to the public; donations will be accepted.

Rev. White also will participate in a training in the nonviolent principles of Gandhi and King, on Saturday, May 4, and will participate in the Soulforce vigil outside Village Baptist Church the next day, Sunday, May 5th.

AN OPEN LETTER TO JOHN ASHCROFT, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

By Claire Braz-Valentine, with her kind permission to reprint.
On January 28, 2002, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that he spent \$8,000 of taxpayer's money for drapes to cover up the exposed breast of The Spirit of Justice, an 18 ft aluminum statue of a woman that stands in the Department of Justice's Hall of Justice.

John, John, John,
you've got your priorities all wrong.
While men fly airplanes into skyscrapers,
dive bomb the pentagon,
while they stick explosives into their shoes,
and then book a seat right next to us,
while they hide knives in their luggage,
steal kids on school buses,
take little girls from their beds at night
drive trucks into our state capital buildings,
while our president calls dangerous men all over the world
evildoers and devils,
while we live in the threat of biological warfare
nuclear destruction,
annihilation,
you are out buying yardage
to save Americans
from the appalling
alarming, abominable
aluminum alloy of evil,
that terrible ten foot tin tittie.
You might not be able to find Bin Laden
But you sure as hell found the hooter in the hall of justice.

It's not that we aren't grateful.
But while we were begging the women of Afghanistan
To not cover up their faces
You are begging your staff members to
Just cover up that nipple
To save the American people
From that monstrous metal mammary
How can we ever thank you?

So, in your office every morning
in your secret prayer meeting
while an American woman is sexually assaulted every 6 seconds
while anthrax floats around the post office
and settles in the chest of senior citizens,
you've got another chest on your mind.
While American sons arrive home in body bags
and heat seeking missiles
fly around a foreign country
looking for any warm body
you think of another body.
And you pray for the biggest bra in the world John
because you see that breast on the spirit of justice
in the spirit of your
own inhibited sexuality.

And when we women see
our grandmothers, our mothers, our daughters, our granddaughters,
our sisters, ourselves,
when we women see that
statue the spirit of justice
we see the spirit of strength
the spirit of survival.

While every day
we view innocent bodies dragged out of rubble
and women and children laid out
like thin limp dolls
and baptized into death as collateral damage
and the hollow eyed Afghani mother's milk has dried
up underneath her burka
in famine in shame
and her children are dead at her breast.

While you look at that breast John
that jug on the spirit of justice
and deal with your thoughts of lust
and sex and nakedness
we see it as a testimony to motherhood
And you see it as a tit.
It's not the money it cost.
It's the message you send.
We've got the right to live in freedom.
We've got the right to cheat Americans out
of millions of dollars and then
just not want to tell congress about it.
We've got the right
to drop bombs night and day
on a small country that has no army,
no navy, no military at all,
because we've got the right to bear arms
but we just better not even think
about the right to bare breasts.

So now John you can be photographed
while you stand there and talk about
guns and bombs and poisons
without the breast appearing over your right shoulder
without that bodacious bosom bothering you
and we just wanted to tell you
in the spirit of justice
in the spirit of truth
John,
there is still one very big boob left standing there in that picture.

TULSA PRIDE week starts early, June 2, with the Parade Saturday, June 9th.- Don't miss any events in early June - check out : <http://www.gaytulsa.com> or call 918/743-4297 for information.

NATIONAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

Radical Women of Color Organizing Conference

May 9-12, University of Illinois at Chicago. We are gathering to leverage the power of women of color to organize in our communities across age, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and trade for personal and community liberation. Will You Be There? Sponsored by the National Women's alliance. Info: 202/483-0265 or www.nwaforchange.org

National Conference on Gender

May 18-20; The National Conference on Gender unites, informs, and connects diverse Americans - gay, straight transgender, youth, feminist - who are committed to ending discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes. Youth/student/elders \$150, includes accommodations. DuPont Circle, Washington DC; Info: 202/462-6620 or www.gpac.org/ncg/index.html or ncg@gpac.org

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

May 17-19, 2002 - 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 May 11 and registration is non-refundable.



Single Person's Annual Income	Pre-registration per person	Household Annual Income
Under \$6,500	\$15	under \$13,300
\$6,500-- \$13,200	\$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

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland): \$15 \$25 \$35 \$45 \$60
 \$25 Saturday-only Registration

Name _____ Phone _____ Email? _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I need a scholarship to attend.

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

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

Please note, your dogs are always welcome but they must remain on leashes and outside the dining hall -State Park rules.

Please return your registration form and check to:
Herland, 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Nancy Scott, Continued: Joining Nancy on the retreat stage will be Millie Marlow and Mary Reynolds. Millie has played lead and rhythm guitar in bands in New York City, Austin, and Dallas. A versatile guitarist, she is equally at home playing rock, blues, jazz, and country-rock. Millie has accompanied Nancy Scott for the last 10 years or so and was a member of Boarding House Reach, an Austin collaboration led by Mary Reynolds.

While Mary Reynolds was living in Austin, she took advantage of the active music scene by performing with several combos on a regular basis. One of her most popular gigs was hooking up with Nancy and Millie for three part harmony on Nancy's original songs.

You can hear this line up for yourself at www.herlandsisters.org. Listen to a live performance of Nancy, Millie, and Mary recorded at Uncle Calvin's in Dallas. Even if you can't come to Roman Nose for the whole retreat, plan to come out for the concert.

OKLAHOMA'S OWN WOODY GUTHRIE! Held over until June 1st. Oklahoma Museum of History, Wiley Post Historical Building, Oklahoma City: Special Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition: "This Land is Your Land: The Life and Legacy of Woody Guthrie." Free. (405) 522-5248.

THANKS! – to all of you who took those little envelopes in last month's newsletter and stuffed them full of fodder – cash, checks – to help us continue our various programs including mailing you this newsletter!! Over \$600 – we appreciate it!

A STORY OF TWO MOMS

Venus: It's a boy! That's what I wanted to tell my friends and family. I had met a great woman who had a 4 month old baby boy. At first I did not think that dating someone with a child would change my life so much. No one quite understood why I wanted to "play mommy" to another woman's child. But let me tell you I do more than "play" mommy. I am the proud mother of a fantastic 3 year old son. It took a little getting used to, but I would not change it for the world. My son is the joy of my life, and he knows that he has something special because he has two mommies.

I laugh when I hear people ask me how it works. We have our daily routines just like other households. Our day is filled with Nick Jr. and tons of cartoons and group hugs. I have been in his life pretty much from the beginning. We have a bond. I spent nights rocking him when he had a fever or when he was teething, I was there for his first step, word, birthday. His very first day at daycare, now that was a big day for all of us, as our little man went off to school. Sometimes when we wake in the morning we have this little person wedged between us and when we look down at him we feel all the love.

We both take pride in being mommy. I was given the chance to be a mother to a wonderful little boy. I may not have given birth to him (but sometimes by the way he acts you would think I had).... but I am his mother, in his eyes and in hers – his other mother; my Love; my Life. My son. Our Son.

Tippi: I have had a lot of practice being a gay mother. I have been a Mom for most of my life - I have a 21 year old son as well. With my son Tobias I missed the first words, the first steps and all that because I had to travel for my job

Being a parent along with my partner has brought joy to both my son and me. The joy we bring to one another's lives is something that can't be equaled. Just like any other household we have rituals but nothing fills my heart more than a family hug, or the smiles that greet me when I get home, because I have a happy healthy child who loves me and knows I love him. If you have that in your family nothing else matters. All kids don't have two parents but for me and my son, having a second Mom in our life has helped build a fine family. With all the love and good values we try to instill in him, we can only hope as other parents do that in the end we have raised not a boy but a man. We do not know what the future holds but we do know this. Our son has two mommies who love him dearly.

LETTER TO THE VOICE

The following letter was received by Saint Sybil's channeler, accompanying an otherwise handsome long-sleeved tee.... Come see the tee make a beautiful fire at the Retreat!

Dear Saint Sybil,

Thank you for your column in the most recent Herland Voice, which opened my eyes to a certain shirt that was hanging in my closet. Can you believe I had never actually really looked at Eskimo Joe or thought about the implications of the name of that business?!

Bless you for opening my eyes. We always have more to learn and farther to travel.

Please take this shirt to the Retreat and burn it with my blessings.

Chagrined, but wiser,

Renee

HERLAND WOMEN OF COLOR CLUB

The Women of Color group will meet this month on Sunday, May 5, at 4:00 p.m., at Jacqueline's house. Call Jacqueline at 842-3464 or email her at jscottross_42@hotmail.com for directions.

HERLAND BOOK CLUB

The Herland Book Club will meet on Saturday, May 11, at 5:00 pm, at Herland. Our book for this month is *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. It is available at the public library in quantity.

HERLAND BIKE RIDE -

Sunday, May 12th, 8:00 am., At Lake Overholser

Meet the Herland Bikers for a ride of approximately 10 miles around Lake Overholser. All level of riders are welcome so don't think you have to be a speed queen to do this ride. Then we typically go to Jimmy's Egg for breakfast. Meet at the parking lot at NW 16th and Overholser Road on the East side of the lake. Get to the parking lot by going West on NW 16th until it dead ends at the lake. Call Judy at 721-6578 if you need more information.

Website of the Month
michaelmoore.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: If you have energy and the desire to make things happen in your community, Herland is looking for you! We are seeking volunteers with a few spare hours a month to serve on committees. You don't have to become a board member or devote extraordinary amounts of time - just a few hours a month will go a long way. The following committees are in need of some extra womanpower:

Finance – Help create a budget and financial procedures

Social & Public Relations – Plan and help publicize social events

Building & Grounds – Mow the grass, plant some flowers, or help renovate the garage

Library – Catalog and process donated books

Retreat – Plan the next retreat and help staff it

Fundraising – Plan fundraisers and help put them on

Email us at Herlandsisters@cox.net or call and leave a message at 521-9696 and tell us which committee you would like to join.

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SUPPORT WOMEN'S SPORTS!!!
OKC LIGHTNING

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM
(Remaining Games)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
May 11	At Memphis	Memphis	TBA
May 18	Home Game	Austin	7:00
May 25	Home Game	Tulsa	7:00
June 8	Austin	Austin	6:30
June 15	Home Game	Memphis	7:00
June 22	TBA	Playoffs	TBA
& July 6	TBA	Playoffs	TBA

Home games are played at Moore Jr. High Field
East side of I-35 between Main and SE 4th, in Moore
Contact number 286-2229
Admission - Adult - \$7.00; child - \$5.00; under 5 - Free

Support our Supporters

OKLAHOMA METRO WOMEN'S CHORUS ASSOCIATION

Singers Wanted! Even if you have little or no formal Training or experience, if you like to sing and you're a woman, we want you!

Rehearsals are at Epworth United Methodist Church (1901 N. Douglas - between NW 17th and NW 18th) every Thursday evening, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

Contact us at Singalot3@aol.com for more info.

REBECCA R. HOLT, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychology

405/321-2148

P.O.Box 5119

Individual - Couples

Norman, Okla. 73070 Family Therapy, Retreats