

# The Herland Voice

September 2002

Volume 20, Number 9

## OBU GLBTA Alumni & Students Group

Dear Oklahoma Baptist University Alumni, former and present students...

My name is Karen Weldin. I am a 1975 graduate of OBU. I also happen to be a lesbian. The journey from my OBU days to the present has been one that included quite a struggle to reconcile my sexuality and my spirituality. Along the way I discovered a couple of organizations that have been influential in my life with this journey. One is Soulforce [www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org) (and [www.soulforceinoklahoma.org](http://www.soulforceinoklahoma.org)) and the other, Heart Strong [www.heartstrong.org](http://www.heartstrong.org).

As a result of my involvement and interest in these groups, I have found a passion and a desire to try and help other OBU students and graduates who have or may be struggling with reconciling their sexuality and spirituality. I would like to start an OBU GLBTA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and ally) Alumni group. The purpose of this group would be to offer support to one another but most of all to assist current OBU students with this struggle. It is my understanding that still to this day if an OBU student comes out of the closet they will be asked to leave OBU. With that kind of policy GLBT students are forced to continue to live in isolation and fear, damage their self worth, dignity, and integrity, and/or lose financial and emotional support to continue their education. I would love to see a group form that can continue to support one another and help one another continue to work through our own internalized homophobia (or help others if you have already worked through the majority of yours); find ways to raise money to assist students continue their education if they chose to come out of the closet; and to be a loving visible reality to the OBU community - past and present.

To date I have a list of twenty-four (24) names and addresses and/or email addresses of OBU GLBTA alumni and students who may be interested in such a group. (Be assured that I am the ONLY person who knows and has access to this list at this time.) This letter has been snail mailed or emailed to the 24. I know this is the tip of the ice berg. If you are interested in helping to form this group, and have names and contact information of other OBU GLBTA alumni and students, please forward that information to me. Be assured that this information is being held in the strictest of confidence. I have no intention of "outing" anyone. I would simply like to find out who all might be interested in such a group, how we can communicate, discover and share where we are in our own journeys, and be a resource for other OBU alumni and current students.

If you are interested in an OBU GLBTA ALUMNI AND STUDENT group such as I have described, please contact me as soon as possible and send me your updated Name, Address, phone number, Email address; Year graduated or attended OBU; Degree. Also, please inform me if it is okay to share any of your contact information with others on the list. Please be specific.

I appreciate you reading this letter and I hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this important group.

In love and peace, Karen Weldin

(918-452-2761 home, 918-605-7405 cell, [Karen@cwis.net](mailto:Karen@cwis.net))

## It's a Concert

To benefit

### Herland Sister Resources

4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday, September 8, 2002

At

### Leaf It To Us

300 N. Telephone Road, Moore, Oklahoma  
(Corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW and Telephone Road)

Join us for a casual come-and-go afternoon  
of smooth sounds with

Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg.

Refreshments provided.

Donations of any size appreciated.

For more information call Pam or Chris

at (405) 912-8724 or email [mocoxl@cox.net](mailto:mocoxl@cox.net)

for directions, look at the "Supporters" on the address page...

## Womyn of Color Club

The Womyn of Color Club will meet Sunday September 8 at Herland, at 4pm. A potluck will follow immediately after the meeting. For directions or other questions, contact WOC at their new email address: [womynofcolor@gay.com](mailto:womynofcolor@gay.com), or call Jacqueline at 405/842-2269.

## New OKC Pflag Chapter Forming

The Oklahoma City Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will hold an organizational meeting at the First Unitarian Church on Monday, September 9, at 7 pm. Bring your leadership skills and help form a viable group. The church, on the corner of Dewey and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, is a Welcoming Congregation. Coffee, lemonade and cookies will be served.

## Board Member Openings

Herland is seeking highly motivated women to join us as Board members, and as non-Board volunteers. Anyone wishing to lend their time and energy in helping to shape and guide Herland is encouraged to call us at 521-9696, or email us at [herlanddsisters@cox.net](mailto:herlanddsisters@cox.net). Our Board meetings are the third Sunday of each month at 4pm, at the bookstore.

## Saint Sybil

Dear Fellow Saints and Sinners,

Two letters. Very fine letters, it is true, but only two! Only two letters in response to my request for a little dialogue on feminism. I know there are more than just two of you out there who care. So I'm giving you another month to get in your definition of a feminist – twenty-five words or less, or many more if you like.... Mail them to me at Herland or email them to [Saintsybil\\_77@hotmail.com](mailto:Saintsybil_77@hotmail.com).

Meanwhile, in case you are not sure if you are a feminist or not, here's a little negative light on the subject.

*You know you're not a feminist...*

...if you think it's a compliment to say a woman talks/thinks/throws/catches/runs like a man....

...if you often say you couldn't work for a woman, women are such back biters

...if you're happy to have Duchess and Princess spayed, but can't bear to neuter old Duke...

...if you call any female who is not a real dog, a bitch

...if you say, "women are a significant part of our community"

...if you don't get why a woman might like to keep her own name when she marries

...if you don't get why women object to being called girls

...if you don't get why women object to being called ladies

...if you don't get that if a woman tells you something is sexist, it's sexist; end of story...

...or, if you can imagine ever stringing together these four words:

"I'm a feminist, but..."

Thanks for listening, love, Sybil

## Website of the Month

[www.gayokc.com](http://www.gayokc.com)

## It's Not About Sex . . . . .

It's not about sex. Rape is about power and control.

Not so long ago, a woman didn't report being raped because she was the one who would be put on trial. Her sex life would be scrutinized, her clothing, the time of night she was out, whether she knew her attacker: in other words, what had she done to "ask for it". Of course, if she had been raped by a woman, she would be written off entirely as not even credible. Twenty years ago, even ten years ago, woman who reported being sexually assaulted ended up being raped again by the system. Despite the changes in law enforcement and the courts, these concerns still linger, and it comes as no surprise that rape continues to be under reported: less than one in three women will report being sexually assaulted.

Every two minutes. Yes, every two minutes, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States. In Oklahoma County we average a reported sexual assault every day (reported is the operative word). The Rape Hotline averages at least two calls each day from someone who has been assaulted. Maybe the assault was recent, maybe the assault was twenty years ago, regardless, the women who call need someone to talk with.

What does any of this have to do with you? YOU can make a difference. You could be the woman who answers the Hotline and lends an ear, or you could be the Crisis Advocate who goes to the hospital in the middle of the night to offer support, information, and a change of clothes. Why not make a difference? The YWCA is offering Volunteer Training beginning September 16 in these areas. If you are interested, call Susan at 947-4506.

## Email Reminders - - -

Would you like an email reminder of upcoming Herland events? Email Ginger at [McGing2@cox.net](mailto:McGing2@cox.net) and she will put you on her list.

## Music Review

By Jill Garner

Patty Griffin's voice. Her skill and depth at songwriting. She should be a household name, although she's not, but as long as she continues to make music from her heart, she's definitely one of the best artists in music today, hands down.

Her voice can break your heart. It's breathtakingly clear and strong, and sometimes I have to stop singing along and just listen in awe.

Her songs introduce you to people you've probably overlooked, and may take you to places you didn't think you could bear to go. She does have some "happy" songs, but they're rarely ever light and carefree.

Griffin has struggled with record labels and industry executives who were disappointed in her because they said she didn't have a "hit" they could release. With two CDs already under her belt, she lost her last collection, *Silver Bells*, when the label she was on was sold. Not too long after, she and Dave Matthews appeared on Austin City Limits when Emmylou Harris invited them, as well as Julie and Buddy Miller to perform with her. Matthews had never heard Griffin but was so impressed he signed her to his label, ATO. She has since released *1000 Kisses*, her latest CD, which has been garnering a lot of good reviews and attention. And, no "hit" is required.

In an interview I read recently in *Acoustic Guitar*, Griffin laughingly called the theme of this release "sad". However, that's not entirely true. Griffin has a way of exposing the humanness and the ordinary in everyday life, yes, complete with pain, but you can also tell she's celebrating those very things and the ordinary people who live those lives. She does have some sad songs, but it's easy to get drawn into the lives of her characters rather than feel overwhelmed by them. In the same interview, Griffin said, "I think that love and sadness are married to each other indefinitely. ....I definitely feel like our culture doesn't support exploring the sadness for very long. It's a difficult way to live, trying to avoid pain all the time."

*1000 Kisses* does explore the sadness in songs like "Rain". "It's hard to know when to give up the fight, the things you wanted that will never be right, It's never rained like it has tonight, before." "Long Ride Home" follows a regretful widower riding home after the funeral, normally a song I couldn't bear to listen to, but Griffin can do that, make it bearable by drawing you in to something you can relate to, and explore the regret of taking a marriage for granted. "Forty years go by with someone laying in your bed, Forty years of things you say you wish you'd never said, How hard would it have been to say some kinder words instead."

"Making Pies" is one of the lighter songs on the CD, but I kept looking for some deeper meaning, like depression perhaps, but it really is about making pies. She saw a picture of a group of women who worked at New England's Table Talk Pies and it sparked her about these quiet persevering characters. A Native-American war vet who never quite got over the war is detailed in "Chief". One of the prettiest songs on the CD, "Mil Besos" (translated for the title of the CD into *1000 Kisses*) is a beautiful Spanish song her friend, producer and keyboard player Michael Ramos talked her into recording at the last minute.

On "Nobody's Crying", one of my favorite moments of listening to Griffin's gorgeous voice occurs when the music softens and it's almost acappella for a moment as she sings, "I still have this secret hope, Though sometimes all we do is cope, that somewhere on the steepest slope, There's an endless rope, and nobody's crying." I tell ya, it's worth the cost of the CD just to hear that, although fortunately you get to hear her on 8 other songs too!

The Dixie Chicks recorded Griffin's song "Let Him Fly" on their 1999 release *Fly*, and she opened for them when they performed at the Myriad. I'm still sad I missed it! Though we might never get to see her again in OKC, don't miss this CD!

## The Music Scene

♪ **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>:** Mary Reynolds at the Full Circle Book Store, 50 Penn Place, first floor; 7 pm.

♪ **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>,** Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg at Leaf It To Us, 300 N. Telephone Road, Moore 4 – 8pm

♪ Attention all you other Oklahoma songbirds & musicians, if you would like your gigs to be listed here, email Roadiechick at [mocox1@cox.net](mailto:mocox1@cox.net), and she'll put it in.

## Take the Journey into Soulforce!

Soulforce In Oklahoma will start a new study group effective August 21<sup>st</sup> in Oklahoma City. More than 5,000 people in 1999 followed a 17 Step Journey to prepare, as Gandhi and King taught, for the Soulforce meeting with Jerry Falwell. The OKC study group will be using this same material to learn more about the soulforce process and to continue to learn and train to do justice work in OK.

The meetings will be held at Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Pennsylvania Ave., OKC, every other Wednesday at 8 pm. The theme of the study is "Getting Ready For a Journey Into Soulforce." The goals of the study group are: 1) to help end the anti-homosexual rhetoric that leads to suffering and death; 2) to see our own spirits revived and renewed; 3) to see how nonviolence offers an old/new way to accomplish our goals, and 4) to help create a network of soulforce friends determined to apply nonviolence to the liberation of sexual minorities. The study group is open to all interested persons and you can join in at any time. For more information contact Philippe at 405-528-1148 or [info@soulforceinoklahoma.org](mailto:info@soulforceinoklahoma.org) by email, or visit the website at [www.soulforceinoklahoma.org](http://www.soulforceinoklahoma.org).

Soulforce In Oklahoma is an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Soulforce teaches and applies the principles of M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information, go to Soulforce In Oklahoma: [www.SoulforceInOklahoma.org](http://www.SoulforceInOklahoma.org). The next Soulforce vigil will be Sunday, September 8, at Village Baptist Church.

## SAVE THE DATES

- Thursday, October 3 – **Celebrate Diversity, Stop the Hate**
- Saturday October 5 – **Race for the Cure**
- Sunday October 6 – **OKC Aids Walk**
- Friday, October 11 – **Coming Out Day!!!** Just do it....
- Friday, October 11 – **Faith in Action**
- Friday, October 11 – **Domestic Violence Awareness Concert & SpeakOut**
- Saturday October 12 - Herland's **day hike** in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area at Sulphur.
- Friday October 18 – **Herland Movie Night**, 7 pm, "Honoring our Foremothers". Refreshments will be served.

**The Voice is published by:** Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Herland Supper Club

The September Supper Club  
will be **POTLUCK** at  
Roman Nose State Park  
On Saturday September 14  
at 6 pm

The Saturday Evening Retreat Potluck  
is world renowned, and  
following dinner we will attend the Concert  
with California Recording star

♪♪ TAMARAS ♪♪

Potluck and Concert are \$10 plus  
a covered dish  
We will have signs at the Resort  
leading you to us at the Group Camp

**African American Women's Institute** – The African American Women's Institute recently held its third conference, *Building Bridges of Power* at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. The conference celebrated the lives and achievements of African American women and youth in the rural south. If you would like information about the Institute contact Tufara at 501-372-5113. From the Women's Project Newsletter - at [www.womens-project.org](http://www.womens-project.org)

## New Support Group

The Oklahoma chapter of the Depression/Manic Depression Association (DMDA) has added a new support group geared toward our gay lesbian bisexual transgendered community. All ODMDA meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend - not just people who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder, but also their loved ones and other supportive people. Our group consists primarily of gay lesbian bisexual and transgendered people who live with depression, bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorders, but straight family members and friends are also welcome, whether they are experiencing depression themselves or have a loved one who is.

Our group was created because many of us feel much more comfortable talking and relating in a group of glbt people than in a group consisting mostly of straight people. It is also a high priority for our group to be a safe, comfortable place for everyone who participates, and to be aware of and sensitive to the unique challenges and issues faced by women, as well as bisexual and transgendered individuals.

We are not professional therapists or a 12-step group. We simply are a group of people sharing with and supporting each other as we deal every day with depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder in addition to the challenges we face in a straight world.

We meet every Monday evening from 7 pm to 8:30 pm downstairs at Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Penn. If you have any questions, please email Kane Watkins at any time at [okcglbtsupport@aol.com](mailto:okcglbtsupport@aol.com). The state DMDA office can be reached at 634-4646, and you can also visit their website at <http://www.geocities.com/bipolar2lb/>

Herland Sister Resources  
2312 NW 39  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

NonProfit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Permit No. 861

Address Service Requested

*SUPPORT  
Our  
SUPPORTERS*

<p><b>REBECCA R. HOLT, Ph.D.</b></p> <p>Clinical Psychology</p> <p>405/321-2148</p> <p>P.O.Box 5119                      Individual – Couples Norman, Okla. 73070            Family Therapy, Retreats</p>	<p><b>Julia Irwin, M.D., P.C.</b> Psychiatrist</p> <p>Doctor's Park 500 East Robinson, Suite 600 Norman, OK 73071                      Young (405) 321-3719                              and Older Adults</p>
<p>Directions to Leaf It to Us:</p> <p><u>Directions from OKC:</u> Take the N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street exit off of I-35; stay on the service road until N. 5<sup>th</sup>; take a right and jog left immediately onto Telephone Road.</p> <p><u>Directions from Norman:</u> Take the S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street exit off of I-35; go west over the Interstate then three more blocks west</p>	<p> <i>Leaf It To Us!</i> </p> <p><i>the special events florist</i></p> <p><i>300 N. Telephone Rd., Moore, OK</i> <b>(405) 912-8724</b></p> <p><i>www.leafittous.com</i></p> <p><i>Chris Chrisstoffels, designer</i></p>