

# HERLAND VOICE

October 2002

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Volume 20, Number 10

## Take a Hike! (or two or three...)

October is the month to enjoy a walk in the cool crisp fall air with the swirl of brightly hued leaves and the smell of woodsmoke about.....and there are several fun events planned this month to keep us out in the open air with friends –

**Saturday, October 12 - -- Herland's HIKE is just for fun...** It will be led by Jane Powell, an accomplished hiker who has covered the length of the Continental Divide, the Pacific Crest Trail, and most of the Appalachian Trail.

We will meet at Herland at 9:00 a.m., and carpool to Travertine Nature Center at Chickasaw National Recreation Area in the City of Sulphur (less than two hours travel time); or you can get there on your own without carpooling. The Hiking will be approximately five miles of well-groomed trails in scenic woods, past gushing springs, along Travertine and Rock Creeks, up Bromide Hill, and around Bison Pasture. It is mostly easy, with some moderately strenuous hiking.

Other possible walks at the Recreation Area: 1. A more rugged and remote 4.4 mile walk to Lake of the Arbucks. 2. A lovely paved and accessible 2.8 mile walk around Veterans Lake.

What to bring: Water bottle, sack lunch, trail snack, rain jacket, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy, comfortable shoes or boots. Optional: Bring empty jugs and fill up with the best tasting sulphur water in the state! For more information contact Jane Powell, 521-9815 or [luckystarjane@cs.com](mailto:luckystarjane@cs.com).

## Saturday, October 5 - Race for the Cure

The Komen Central Oklahoma Race for the Cure® will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2002 at the SBC Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City. They expect a record-setting 16,000 participants this year.

Race-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; the pre-race ceremony at 8:30, and the co-ed 5k Run/Walk steps off at 9:15. The 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk begins at 9:30, and the Children's Dash at 10:30.

Pre-registration - \$18 for the run/walks, \$10 for the Kid's Dash - is available at 50 Penn Place, on Level R2 across from Harolds. You *must* have a Race Number to participate. For more info, see [www.okckomen.com](http://www.okckomen.com)

## Sunday, October 6 - - - - AIDS Walk

Gather at the Oklahoma City Myriad Botanical Gardens Sunday afternoon. Registration and entertainment begin at 12:30 p.m. and opening ceremonies begin at 2 p.m. This is a fun and exciting opportunity for Oklahomans to get out and support HIV/AIDS nonprofit organizations in the Oklahoma City metro area. The afternoon will kick-off with live entertainment followed by a one-mile walk through beautiful downtown Oklahoma City and Bricktown. For more information about supporting the AIDS Walk and organizing a Walk team, go to the Walk's website at [www.aidswalkokc.org](http://www.aidswalkokc.org)

## Herland Supper Club

The October Supper Club will meet Friday,  
October 18, at Herland at 6:45 pm  
for Pizza and Movies.

Soft drinks and other refreshments  
will be provided.

Following our supper,  
we will settle in for  
Herland's Movie Night.

Three documentaries will be shown:

*One Fine Day, Votes for Women,  
& Lesbian Tongues: Lesbians Talk about Life,  
Love and Sex.*

## Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are

October 11 is Coming Out Day. Are you Out? All the way? Congratulations! Life is so much richer and more relaxed when we are. If you are still lingering in the closet; if you still really believe it will kill Grandma; if you know that it might cost you your job – if you just *cannot* come out this October 11, set yourself this alternate task: spend the day, as much as possible, imagining, imagining, how wonderful it would be if *all* glbt folk came out. You know, for instance, Barney Frank, Jim Kolbe, and Tammy Baldwin are *not* the only glbt congresspersons in Washington – there are 535 Senators and Congresspersons – do the math. How wonderful would it be if the others came out?! David Kopay & Roy Simmons were *not* the only gay players in the NFL – Martina not the only tennis star, Rosie not the only media star - how great would it be if all the others came out?! It would only transform the lives of us more ordinary queer folk. It would, I wager, slash the teenage suicide rate. And as individuals, our own coming out does the same thing on a nuclear-family-size scale. How much easier it would have been for us if our uncles and aunts had softened the family up by their own openness..... It's a beneficial cycle we really need to be a part of, and the nice thing is it benefits us as much as anyone else. Good luck.

## Womyn of Color Celebrate

On October 13, 2002 Womyn of Color, an Oklahoma City based Lesbian support group will be celebrating their one year anniversary. In an effort to show unification with all Lesbians of our area we are inviting you to join us at Herland at 4:00 p.m. that day.

We will meet at Herland and from there we will go to Golden Corral located at 6161 N. May Avenue for dinner. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate this joyous occasion. We would appreciate your support. If you have any questions or want information about our organization please feel free to email us at [womynofcolor@gay.com](mailto:womynofcolor@gay.com) or call 405/842-3464 or 405/947-7691.

## Saint Sybil presents: Guest Feminists

Yes, Readers, there are feminists out there. You've been writing, bless you. Our thanks and warm appreciation go out to this month's Guest Feminist, **Rebecca Howard**, who writes:

Feminism is not solely about equal pay for equal work, universal childcare, or creating safe streets after dark. These are the products of feminism, but they are not feminism. Rather, feminism is a spiritual path chosen by individuals who value people of all genders, abilities, ethnicities, and ages. Is this the history of feminism? Was the women's movement of the 1960's homophobic, white, and middle-class? Absolutely. But at the core of feminism is a belief that women, children, and the domestic sphere are essential to the existence of civilization. Feminism is about men sharing household chores, diapering babies, nurturing toddlers, and creating environments of peace and safety as much as it is about women making executive decisions, becoming senators, and running Fortune 500 companies. Feminism is not the switching of gender roles, but the annihilation of roles that are determined by anatomy all together, so that any individual may realize her or his full potential.

**One Fine Day - Herland Movie Night**, Friday October 18 at 7 pm, We will watch two very short films: one honoring the Suffragists and the celebratory "One Fine Day"; followed by a longer documentary, "Lesbian Tongues: Lesbians Talk About Life, Love and Sex", featuring interviews with, among others, JoAnn Loulan, Joan Nestle, Jewelle Gomez and Minnie Bruce Pratt. There is no charge for the movies and refreshments, but Supper Clubbers will chip in for the pizza; and donations will be cheerfully accepted.

**Our Space for Rent** - Herland's space is available to lease on most weekdays and evenings; \$15 per meeting, \$50 a month for weekly meetings. If you are interested in using our space, please call Diane at 521-9696; and ask about possible sliding rates.

**Congratulations to PFLAG of Norman**, and their Chapter leader Kay Holladay, who have been chosen PFLAG Chapter of the Month for their work with the "Our House to the Schoolhouse" campaign. Facing the challenge of reaching out to students in schools where personnel are not permitted to provide information about homosexuality, they have championed the cause of safe schools, conducted assessments, and met with school board members. Contact them at (405) 360-4497.

**Free Concert** - - - - To Benefit the **Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

October 11, 2002 at the Myriad Botanical Gardens, Water Stage, 6 - 9 pm. Featuring: *Local Hero*, *Son Del Barrio*, *Alma Latina*, *Ollie Nathan*, *Matthew Atkinson* Ojibway Traditional Native Flute; and Mary Lee's Corvette. For more information call 405/848-1815.

**Heartfelt Thanks** - - -

To Pam and Chris of **Leaf It To Us** - for the great Fundraiser they gave for Herland. It was a lovely musical afternoon in a charming indoor garden; and raised equal parts of fun, funds, and goodwill. Thank you Pam and Chris!

**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.

**Soulforce** - The relentless efforts of Soulforce at Village Baptist Church are bearing fruit. The congregation and new minister are finding it hard to resist the gentle vigilers standing steadfast in freezing cold, scorching heat, and pouring rain. If you would like to join them and participate in the vigil on Sunday, October 6, email [Info@SoulforceInOklahoma.org](mailto:Info@SoulforceInOklahoma.org) or call 405/ 524-2292.

## ♪♪♪ The Music Scene ♪♪♪

By Jill Garner

Cheryl Wheeler and Kate Campbell - Blue Door, October 26<sup>th</sup>

I thought this month I was going to write about all the reasons you should go hear Kate Campbell at the Blue Door on October 26<sup>th</sup>. But, now the night is even sweeter with the recent addition of Cheryl Wheeler to the bill. I'm a little floored because the two of them are capable of a great show all by themselves. I own all their CDs, I've seen them both several times in concert, and I hope they both continue to make music for a long time because they're amazingly talented. They're both great songwriters, and even better, awesome singers. To have both of them play in one night is definitely a show no music lover should miss.

I've seen Kate Campbell several times at the Blue Door and each time her beautiful voice, thought-provoking lyrics, and her southern accent make me swoon. While religious references and themes can be found throughout her songs, her style and philosophical openness make her music completely accessible to religious and non-religious alike. As Campbell said in an interview I read, "I just see things and think, 'That's a story that's got to be told.'"

Campbell grew up in the south, the daughter of a prominent Baptist preacher, and that experience, growing up during a time of racial unrest, and her master's degree in southern history all influence her music. Her latest CD, *Wandering Strange*, is a collection of hymns and gospel songs, some of which she wrote herself. "10,000 Lures", dealing with struggles of temptation, and "Bear it Away", about the 1963 bombing of the Birmingham Baptist Church where four girls were killed are two of her own.

Campbell has five CDs to her name now, with songs stretching the gamut from heart-wrenching such as "Crazy in Alabama" and "Perfect World" to light-hearted like "Funeral Food" and "Jesus and Tomatoes". Campbell, in an interview with *Ethics* magazine, said, "I was driving through North Carolina one day and I came across a sign that read 'Jesus and Tomatoes Coming Soon. It was a great illustration of the place of religion in the South.'"

Cheryl Wheeler for years has been one of my very favorite singers/songwriters. She can have you laughing during one song and wiping tears from your eyes the next. She tells wonderful moving stories in her songs but can also write cutting satires of culture and politics.

Her songwriting skills are undeniable, and based on the number of singers who have recorded songs by Wheeler, it's obvious her talent is gaining notice. Suzy Boggus has recorded a number of Wheeler's songs, most notably "Aces", a hit for her, but also "Moonlight and Roses" and "Don't Wanna". "Addicted" gave Dan Seals a hit, Kathy Mattea covered "Further and Further Away", and Chris Raines (a.k.a. Garth Brooks) sang parts of "If It Were Up to Me" on his CD.

Wheeler's voice is gorgeous, her songwriting talent immense, and she'll be right here in OKC in October. For the price of one, there will be two extremely talented women in a small intimate space to sing their songs. For your sake, and so they'll keep coming to Oklahoma, please don't miss it. If you don't want to take my word for it, find their music on the internet and listen for yourself.

The show on October 26<sup>th</sup> starts at 9:00 and tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the door. If you've never been to the Blue Door, then take whatever you want to drink with you in a small ice chest because no drinks are sold at the concert. If you're concerned about smoke, don't be because it's a non-smoking venue and the focus is all on the music. See you there!

## And More Music.....

♪ Friday, October 11, 6 pm, Free Concert at the Myriad Botanical Gardens, Water Stage, to benefit OCADVSA

♪ Saturday, October 12: The Sisters of Swing at Galileo's, 9 to midnight, \$5.

♪ Sunday, October 13: Mary Catherine Reynolds at the River's Edge, Tulsa, 2:30 - 5:30; that's just north of the 21st street bridge on Riverside Drive.

♪ Tuesday, October 22: Louise Goldberg & Mary Reynolds at Galileo's. 8-11, no cover.

♪ Saturday, October 26: Cheryl Wheeler and Kate Campbell at the Blue Door - see the advance review on the facing page.

♪ Sunday, October 29: Mary Catherine Reynolds at the River's Edge again, 2:30 - 5:30.

♪ 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.

## SAVE THE DATES

- November 15 - 24; **OUT OK Film Festival** (see article below).
- Saturday, November 9: **Mary Reynolds** at Java Dave's.
- Friday November 15, **SNU Varsity/Alumni ♀♀♀ Basketball**.
- Tuesday, November 19th: **Louise & Mary @ Galileo's, 8-11.**
- Friday, December 6th: **Therapy Sisters** at the Blue Door.
- Sunday, December 15th: most likely date for the **Sisters of Swing** Christmas show.
- Tuesday, December 17th: **Louise & Mary** at Galileo's, 8-11.

## OUT OK Film Festival

OUT OK proudly announces two GALA films for The Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival. Join us in Oklahoma City (Norman) and Tulsa for the premiere of MARGARET CHO'S NOTORIOUS C.H.O. and DIRK SHAFER'S CIRCUIT. We are honored to present the highly anticipated works of these two gay icons. Following the demise of her controversial and groundbreaking sit-com, "All-American Girl", Margaret achieved national notoriety with her hilarious and uncompromising concert, film, and best-selling book "I'm The One That I Want". NOTORIOUS C.H.O. is the one that you want. Come and see why the GLBT community has warmly embraced this comedienne-extraordinaire. Laugh Track Not Needed!

Dirk Shafer is a born and bred gay Oklahoman. Dirk has turned his story of beauty and deception into the successful documentary, "Man of the Year". His latest directorial effort focuses on the circuit party scene. Come and bear witness to this international gay phenomenon. Disco Ball Included!

**GALA Tickets** - (Guaranteed seating to all films and all GALA films) - \$20.. **GALA After-party Tickets** - Guaranteed entrance to all GALA After-parties - \$20. **VIP ALL ACCESS PASS** - Oklahoma City (Norman) \$120, Tulsa \$150.

You may pre-purchase your GALA tickets and your VIP ALL ACCESS PASS through [www.out-ok.com](http://www.out-ok.com) or telephone Philip Au at 918-682-4654 ext. 2.

**DATES & VENUES:** Norman - November 15, 16, 17 (Film and Gay Cinema Conference), Meacham Auditorium.

Tulsa - November 22, 23, 24, Supersaver Theatre (31st & Sheridan)

Please mark these dates on your OUT OK docket.

SEE YOU IN THE DARK!

## Naming the Violence:

**Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering.** Edited by Kerry Lobel for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Lesbian Task Force

Denying that violence exists in the lesbian community is like Bill Clinton denying he had 'sex with that woman'. Violence in same sex

relationships is not a question of semantics, it is a reality. Those of us in Oklahoma City have witnessed first hand too many sisters hurt or dead at the hands of their lovers to dismiss it as 'playing rough.'

Anger, stress, depression, job worries and substance/alcohol abuse do not cause violence. Violence is a choice the abuser makes. Abusers are so insecure they use threats and violence to force their lover to stay: "I can't live without you." (also means "you may not live without me.") "I don't believe you were at the store at 2:30. Show me the receipt." (time management) "If you leave me, I'm calling your boss, (or your family), and telling you're a lesbian"(emotional blackmail). Then there is the apology: "Baby, I didn't want to hit you, but..." and fill in the excuse of choice: "...but I was drunk," or "...but you knew that would make me mad," or..."but I love you so much I couldn't stand the thought of your leaving and you make me crazy." Note the failure to accept responsibility for her behavior: it's just not her fault she is abusive.

In the beginning, abuse begins very subtly and is difficult to detect. It frequently starts with verbal assaults, accusations of flirting or being unfaithful. A little jealousy in the first blush of a relationship might even seem like a neat thing- a special thing. But the reality of having a jealous lover can be something else entirely. Extremely jealous lovers want to control time, who it's spent with, and when, and the end result is isolation: isolation from friends, family, and other couples.

An Abuser doesn't accept responsibility for her behavior, blaming her partner instead, and the tragedy is the abused partner frequently blames herself. She will often feel that if she were just "better" the abuse would stop. If she was just more loving, more patient, more understanding: if, if, if.

And it is difficult to talk about to friends because the friends may be mutual, and dissing a partner is bad form; besides, what if she does change like she said she would? What if the friends didn't believe her? What if they told her lover what she said? Where is help when you need it?

Help can be a phone call away. There is DVVAP (Domestic Violence Victims Assistance Program) at (405) 297-2881. DVVAP can help you file a VPO (Victim Protective Order). In Oklahoma, the language in the law is gender neutral, so someone in a same sex relationship can get this level of protection. There is the Battered Women's Shelter hotline: (405) 917-9922. The hotline can offer information for getting out of the house safely and can also provide emergency housing at the shelter. These hotlines can make referrals to other services in Oklahoma County and throughout the state. They can also provide numbers for emergency services in other states as well. There is no charge for counseling at the YWCA, and the number is 947-4506.

The Internet offers a wealth of information, links and phone numbers. Some frequently visited sites are: [www.4woman.gov](http://www.4woman.gov), [www.nwnetwork.org](http://www.nwnetwork.org) and [www/ncadv.org](http://www/ncadv.org) National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. There are many more sites and not time nor space to list them.

"... Bruises do not become metaphors, poems don't heal a thing." October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Genuinely loving relationships are partnerships in the truest sense of the word, filled with love and trust. If you are in an abusive relationship, call for help. Call now.

### When She Says She Can't live Without YOU -

When your lover beats you  
When your lover beats you  
When your lover beats you

Bruises do not  
become metaphors

poems don't  
heal a thing.

Sarah, March 1982

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**Interfaith Celebrate Diversity -- Stop the Hate**  
St. Paul's Cathedral  
127 N.W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City  
October 3, 2002 - 7:00 p.m.

MC: Camille Landry-Gaters  
Keynote: Dr. Robin Meyers  
Jahrua Drums for Peace  
Dr. Belinda Biscoe  
Kirk Forthman, 7<sup>th</sup> grader  
from Longfellow Middle School  
Experiential Exercise in Diversity  
Followed by a candlelight processional  
to the Plaza of the Oklahoma City National Memorial  
to remember those  
who were victims of hate crimes the past year.

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