

HERLAND VOICE

June 2003

Volume 21, Number 6

Adoption Workshop for Non-Traditional Families

Come find out what is involved in adopting children in Oklahoma at Herland on Saturday, June 7th, from 3 pm - 5 pm. Presenters will include Sandy Ingraham (attorney), Nancy Viviani (adoptive mother), Carole Patten (licensed social worker who counsels adoptive parents and prepares home studies), and a representative of a family-friendly adoption agency licensed to place children in Oklahoma. The workshop is free, however donations are always cheerfully accepted. For more info call Herland at (405) 521-9696.

Herland Supper Club

Saturday, June 14, 6:30 pm
at River's Edge Bistro + Cafe
1924 Riverside Dr. in Tulsa
with music
by Mary Reynolds at 7:30 pm

The Supper Club heads to T-town this month. Nestled among the trees along the Arkansas River is River's Edge, an outdoor cafe with sandwiches, beer, and wine. Mary starts at 7:30 pm and IRIS is also playing in Tulsa that evening at Schatzi's, 2629 S. Memorial. Meet at Herland at 4:30 pm if you wish to carpool to Tulsa.

Native American Women

The OKC Two-Spirit Society is having meetings for lesbian and bi-sexual women of Native American descent. Come and share a meal with us at Herland on June 26th at 6:30pm. The OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number is (405) 317-7283.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
www.fistulahospital.org

Herland's Annual Pride Picnic Moves to Memorial Park

The annual Herland Pride Picnic is being moved to Memorial Park, NW 36th and Classen, this year for the first time. The new location is needed in order to expand the event and serve a larger crowd. As in previous years, popular community performers will be featured from 5-8 pm. After that will be a community dance under the stars with music provided by Miss Brown to You. This year's picnic will be Saturday, June 21st, the day before the Pride Parade. While the entertainment is free, hot dogs and other food items will be available for purchase and Herland will be selling pop and water.

Alix brought me to my feet. She is an ingenious poet, a brilliant performer, a funny person, and serious thinker. She is, quite simply, extraordinary.

Howard Zinn, Author
"The People's History
of the United States"

Herland Presents

Alix Olson

in Performance
8 pm, Friday May 30th
First Unitarian,
NW 13th & Dewey, OKC
tickets \$12
(available at the door
or by calling 521-9696)



Herland is proud to bring Alix Olson, spoken word artist, to town for her first performance in Oklahoma. Alix is a nationally-known artist that has headlined numerous festivals throughout the U.S. Opening the show and performing with Alix will be Pamela Means.

Training On Lesbian Health Issues Coming To Oklahoma

Removing the Barriers to Accessing Health Care for Lesbians is a special training project for health care professionals being provided free of charge through a partnership with the Mautner Project, Herland Sister Resources, the Take Charge! Program of the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and Church of the Open Arms. The training will take place on Friday, June 13th from 8 am to 12:30 pm at the Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City.

Providers attending the training will learn of the barriers faced by lesbians as they try to access health care services. Information will be presented on how to break down these barriers within their practices and/or institutions. Participants will work to increase their comfort levels when discussing sexuality with their patients, develop a common language around sexuality, and learn how to create an environment where all of their patients, regardless of sexual orientation, feel comfortable and safe in sharing important personal information. This training is intended for health care professionals who provide healthcare or health-related services, including physicians, physician's assistants, nurses, social workers, case managers, health educators, radiologists, radiology technologists, phlebotomists, and mental health professionals. Also welcome are clinic administrators, clinic managers, schedulers, and reception staff.

Class size is limited to 30 participants so pre-registration is required. To register or for (continued page 3)

Womyn of Color Club

The Womyn of Color group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please email womynofcolor@gay.com or call (405) 842-3464 or (405) 947-7691 for more information.

Herland Book Club

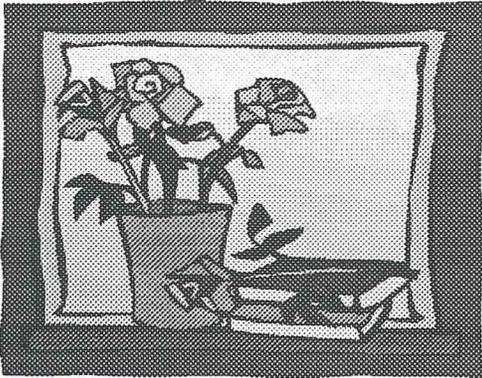
Our book club meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm at Herland. All are welcome and each person can have fun sharing their enthusiasm, or criticism, of the book being discussed. On June 2 we will discuss *A Woman's Reality* by Anne Wilson Schaef.

The selections for the following months are:
July - *Woman on the Edge of Time*

by Marge Piercy

August - *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*

by Audre Lorde



Book Review

Tipping the Velvet by Sara Waters

Reviewed by PM

This novel was a delight to read. It described in saga, story, epic form the life stages of two young women who were lesbians (Toms) in late 1800's in England - actually, the "gay nineties." It was informative of gay life at that time. Their issues were similar to ours: coming out, or living in the closet; dressing and wearing one's hair-do; employment choices. Both women were actors, and one, at one stage of her life, supported herself as a prostitute dressed as a young man pleasuring older men. Later, she served as a "tart" for an upper class woman who belonged to a Sapphist society of women engaging in fantastic orgies, among other entertainment activities. The main character, Nan, journeyed from rags to riches, with the author weaving into the story a brilliant description of upper, middle, and lower class societal living elements (clothes, housing, food, and relationships) in that period.

The relationships between the main women characters were characterized by falling-in-love crushes, the process of becoming aware and coming to terms with their lesbian "turnings", telling their friends and families, disillusionment and betrayal, lust, and sacrificial love.

It was a great story and fun to read. Sara Waters other books include *Affinity* and *Fingersmith*.

Womyn's Goddess Study Group

A study group of womyn celebrating and exploring the Mysteries of the Dark Goddess has begun meeting at Herland. We meet on or just before the dark of the moon to study Her powers of healing and renewal. We work together in consensus to share in Her wisdom. Our meetings will be scheduled at 1 pm on the Sunday on or before the Dark Moon--13 meetings/year. By consensus, those of us at the first meeting have decided to perform the 13 rituals described in *Sisters of the Dark Moon* by Gail Wood. Membership is limited to womyn only. For more information email wyrdwynd@juno.com or call (405) 840-9972 and leave a message for Iris Wyrdwynd.

Recommended readings for the group are: *Mysteries of the Dark Moon* by Demetra George, *The Myth of the Goddess* by Anne Baring & Jules Cashford, *When God was a Woman* by Merlin Stone, and *The Spiral Dance* by Starhawk.

Herland Receives Astraea Grant

For the second year in a row, Herland is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant for general operating support from the Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation. Astraea is a national nonprofit public charity whose purpose is to advance the economic, political, educational, and cultural well-being of lesbians.

The Astraea Foundation was established in 1977 by a group of women activists concerned about the many women's programs and projects having difficulty getting funding due to their lesbian, progressive, and feminist perspectives. Their mission was to raise money to support the work of these women's groups. For more info about Astraea's programs, see their website at www.astraea.org.

Sorenstam Plays in Colonial

Playing in the Colonial Tournament May 22-25 in Ft. Worth, Texas, Annika Sorenstam is the first woman in 58 years to compete against men on the PGA Tour. (Babe Didrickson played in the PGA's Los Angeles Open in 1945.) Since she is not on the PGA Tour, and thus has not qualified for tournament play, Sorenstam asked for a sponsor's exemption in order to play in the Colonial. Her motivation, she says, is to see how her game stacks up against the best players in the world.

Sorenstam has dominated the LPGA for the last five years by winning 43 times and four majors. However, tour money might also be a reason for some of the top women golfers, like Sorenstam, to try the PGA. First prize money for men's tournaments hovers around the \$1 million range while women play for about \$150,000 for first place.

At least one PGA golfer, Vijay Singh, stated he would refuse to play if paired with Sorenstam and did, in fact, take the week off after winning the Byron Nelson Championship. Singh objected to Sorenstam's playing in the tournament without actually qualifying. Many of the male golfers on the tour seem to share Colonial defending champ Nick Price's sentiments: he respects Sorenstam's courage but thinks the media circus is overshadowing the rest of the tournament.

The next woman to compete on the PGA Tour may well be Susan Whaley. Whaley became the first woman to actually qualify to play in a PGA tournament by winning a PGA sectional championship (from the ladies tees) in 2002. Winning the sectional qualified her for the Greater Hartford Open to be held in July 2003. "I think it's pretty cool," Tiger Woods said at the time she qualified. "She went out there and she earned her right. She beat everybody in the field, and that's what you have to do."

And the Upper Deck Co. is releasing its first set of women's golf trading cards to coincide with Sorenstam's debut in the PGA. The set features Sorenstam along with Nancy Lopez, Laura Davies, Karrie Webb, Julie Inkster, and eight other women golfers.

Herland Hiking Club

Join the Herland Hiking Group for its regular monthly outing to Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, at 10 am on Saturday, June 14th. There is also an optional coffee gathering beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:30 am.

The Voice is published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 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.

Training (continued from Page 1)

more information, call 405-521-9696 and leave a message or email jawber@lycos.com.

The instructor for the training, LauraLynn Jansen, MEd., is the Health Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Mautner Project in Washington, D.C. Learn more about this project by visiting the Mautner Project *Removing the Barriers* website at www.mautnerproject.org/barriers.html.

The *Take Charge!* Program is the Oklahoma State Health Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The mission of *Take Charge!* is to inform women about early detection of breast and cervical cancer to prevent unnecessary suffering and death. The program provides no-cost health counseling, clinical breast exams, Pap smears, and mammograms for women that qualify. For more information, call 1-888-669-5934, or visit their web site at www.health.state.ok.us/program/cds/breastcervical.html.

The Church of the Open Arms is a congregation of the United Church of Christ that welcomes and affirms all persons regardless of race, color, ancestry, age, gender, sexual or affectional orientation, ethnicity or national origin. For more information, call 405-525-9555, or visit their website at www.openarms.org.

Ethiopian Hospital Helps Women Injured in Childbirth

One out of every twelve women in Africa dies in childbirth and many more find their lives destroyed by childbirth injuries, mostly from untreated obstructed labor. In western countries, obstructed childbirth is almost always successfully overcome with proper medical assistance and caesarean section. However, in many developing countries, people live in remote areas, and access to these procedures is nearly impossible.

In such countries, including Ethiopia, a woman with a small or malformed pelvis or a badly positioned child may be in labor for five days or even longer. Long after the child has died, the pressure of its head interrupts blood-flow to pelvic organs, often resulting in a perforation between the vagina and bladder or rectum causing urinary or fecal incontinence and sometimes damage to nerves controlling the lower legs. Such women are often abandoned by their husbands and driven out by other villagers.

Dr. Catherine Hamlin and the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, have treated over 20,000 women with fistulas since 1974. Last year President Bush, upset by abortions in China, cut off all \$34 million in U.S. funds to the U.N. Population Fund, which sponsors programs to prevent fistulas. Meanwhile, two American women began the "34 Million Friends" campaign last year to get people to donate \$1 each to make up the money that President Bush cut. Find out more about what you can do to help at www.fistulahospital.org or www.unfpa.org.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

May

Sunday, May 25: Goddess Study Group, at Herland, 1 pm

Friday, May 30: Herland presents Alix Olson in performance, First Unitarian Church, OKC, 8 pm, \$12

June

Sunday, June 1: Sisters of Swing celebrate the 20th anniversary of St. George's Guild at St. Paul's, 127 NW 7th, 5:30-7:30 pm

Saturday, June 7: Adoption for Non-Traditional Families Workshop at Herland, 3 pm

Saturday, June 7: Miss Brown to You at the Jazz Lab, 100 E 5th Street in Edmond, 8 pm, \$7

Monday, June 9: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7pm

Saturday, June 14: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am

Saturday, June 14: Herland Supper Club at River's Edge Bistro, 1924 Riverside Drive in Tulsa, 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 14: Mary Reynolds at River's Edge Bistro, 1924 Riverside Drive in Tulsa, 7:30 pm-10:30pm

Saturday, June 14: IRIS at Schatzi's, 2619 S. Memorial in Tulsa, 9:00pm

Saturday, June 21: Herland's Annual Pride Picnic at Memorial Park, NW 36th and Classen, 5 pm

Thursday, June 26: Women's Two-Spirit Meeting at Herland, 6:30 pm

July

Tuesday, July 1: Miss Brown to You at Galileo, 8:30 pm

In Memoriam Nancy Sue White Seattle, WA

November 21, 1947 - March 15, 2003
An original founding mother of Herland
Soar on the wind, Sister!
(Memorial donations may be made to Herland)



Spring Retreat a Great Success

Herland's Spring Retreat at Roman Nose State Park was a huge success with over 70 women attending. The weather was perfect for bird-watching, hiking, and just relaxing. The crowd was especially taken with the band IRIS and their easy-going groove. Thanks again to IRIS and sound tech/emcee Elyse Angelo for helping make this such an enjoyable retreat. IRIS will be playing at Schatzi's in Tulsa on June 14th (Tulsa's Pride Weekend) so head on up for an evening of fun. To get on IRIS' email list: iristheband@yahoo.com.

Herland Sister Resources

2312 NW 39th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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<p>REBECCA R. HOLT, Ph.D.</p> <p>Clinical Psychology (405) 321-2148</p> <p>Box 5119 Norman, OK 73070</p> <p>Individuals - Couples Family Therapy, Retreats</p>	<p><u>Julia Irwin, M.D., P.C.</u></p> <p>Psychiatrist</p> <p>Doctor's Park 500 E. Robinson, Suite 600 Norman, OK 73071 (405) 321-3719</p> <p><i>Young And Older Adults</i></p>
<p>DOROTHY E. HEIM Attorney at Law (405) 691-4949 dheim033@yahoo.com</p> <p>Call me with your legal questions: estate planning personal injury contract issues small business *</p>	<p> Sandy Ingraham, J.D., M.S.W. Attorney-at-Law Ingraham & Associates, PLLC</p> <p>Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Adoption, Contracts</p> <p>Route 2, Box 369-B McLoud, OK 74851</p> <p>Tel. (405) 964-2072 Ingraham@mccloudteleco.com</p>