

HERLAND VOICE

August 2003

Volume 21, Number 8

LGBT YOUTH SPEAK OUT!

Did you attend high school or middle school during the past school year (2002-2003)? Tell us about your experiences in school by completing GLSEN's 2003 National School Climate Survey on-line!

First conducted in 1999, the National School Climate Survey is the only national survey that specifically examines the experiences of LGBT youth in school. The survey examines the prevalence of school-based harassment and victimization, the frequency with which students hear biased language (e.g., homophobic or racist remarks), and the factors that contribute to or detract from an overall feeling of comfort or safety at school.

Take action by filling out an anonymous survey online and letting the public know what really goes on in school. To fill out this survey, please go to:
www.glsen.org/templates/news/record.html?section=20&record=1618

Herland Supper Club

Saturday, August 9, 5:30 pm
at Galileo

3009 Paseo in OKC
followed by Movie Night
at Herland at 7:30 pm

This month the Supper Club will eat at Galileo in OKC's historic arts district. The group will go back to Herland for a post-supper movie (title yet to be determined). Meet at Herland at 5:15 pm if you would like to carpool to Galileo.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
www.gayokc.com

Peggy Johnson and Wende Allyn at Herland Fall Retreat Osage Hills State Park September 5th-7th

The Herland Fall Retreat is proud to feature two fine Oklahoma singer/songwriters at its upcoming Fall Retreat at Osage Hills State Park. Veteran performer, Peggy Johnson is a native Georgian that made Oklahoma her home many years ago. Peggy has become the musical voice of social justice in Oklahoma City, donating her time and effort to causes



from education to equal rights to peace.

In addition to penning the poignant title track for the Herland CD, *Dustbowl Lullaby*, Peggy has released three solo titles over the years - *Time to Do It*, *Lost Wax Trains*, and her latest release *Pearls*.

Wende Allyn is also a very popular performer in the OKC area. Her CD, *Catalina Days*, showcases her fine musical sense and songwriting ability with the lively title track and the hauntingly

beautiful, *Marilyn in the Moon*. In addition to Oklahoma, Wende has also called California and Hawaii home. Wende has opened for such acts as Janis Ian and Ray Wylie Hubbard. Greg Johnson of the Blue Door has said that Wende is one of the best young songwriters in America today.

Osage Hills State Park is located five miles north of Pawhuska on SH-99, then 8 miles east on US-60. A densely wooded park nestled in lush, rolling hills, this area is largely untouched as it was part of the Osage Indian settlement. The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is only a few miles away and a group outing to the site is planned for Saturday morning. The preserve is host to bison, coyotes, bobcats, and white-tail deer. Hiking trails take visitors across grasslands, into wooded ravines, and across the oak savannah.

Other nearby attractions include the Woolaroc Museum, Tom Mix Museum, Prairie Song, Osage Historical Museum, and the Prairie National Wild Horse Refuge.

Retreat activities typically include workshops on Saturday morning and an afternoon open mic where everyone has a chance to share their talents. The Saturday evening potluck begins at 5:30 pm and usually features some true gastronomical delights.

Registration includes all retreat activities, Friday supper, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, and bunk space in a cabin. See page 4 for retreat pre-registration form.

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 August 28th at 6:30pm. The OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number is (405) 317-7283.

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

The Herland Book Club will meet on Monday, August 4th, at 7 pm to discuss *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* by Audre Lorde. Everyone is welcome.

Book Review

Woman on the Edge of Time

by Marge Piercy, Reviewed by GG

The woman on the edge of time in Marge Piercy's 1976 novel is Consuelo Ramos, held against her will in a New York mental hospital. Befriended by Luciente, a person from 2137, Connie time-travels to the seemingly idyllic village of Mattapoissett, Massachusetts where she meets an array of socialist and environmentalist alternatives to the violent and exploitive society that victimizes her in her own time.

Idyllic Mattapoissett is at war with another alternative future, a horrid extension of capitalism in which a few "richies" enjoy long life on space platforms

above the degraded polluted earth filled with poor people kept drugged and complacent, to be used as organ banks and sex toys for the "richies."

Part science fiction, part Utopian novel, part radical political tract, the novel is not to everyone's liking. Some called the frame too depressing, while others found the future worlds too far out. In any case, the book is complex, imaginative, and provocative.

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, August 9th. There is also an optional coffee gathering beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:30 am.



Herland to Participate in OU Campus Block Party

To celebrate National Women's Equality Day and five years of providing education and support services to the Norman community, The Women's Outreach Center is throwing a block party on August 26, 2003 on the South Oval of the OU campus from 3 pm to 7 pm. On August 26, 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote. Several decades later, President Jimmy Carter declared August 26th Women's Equality Day. Today, Women's Equality Day is a day to celebrate past successes and the on-going struggle for equal rights.

The block party will kick off at 3 pm with several important keynote speakers from the OU campus and the Norman community. There will also be local performers providing entertainment throughout the event.

The Women's Outreach Center has planned a myriad of exciting events, information tables, and activities. The block party will feature belly dancing, yoga, face painting, henna body art, and Party Pix of Norman. Participating organizations, including Herland Sister Resources, the Society of Women Students and Supporters, Hillel Jewish Student Foundation, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, OU Habitat for Humanity, and many others, will staff booths in order to provide information for interested students and participants.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy these exciting activities, to learn about the resources available to the community, and to commemorate the women's struggle for equal treatment.

The Oklahoma Spiritual Walk for Peace Takes a New Tack

With the strong perception in the mind of the general public that the Iraq war is over and should be forgotten, we have put aside our Sunday walks and are instead planning special events. Four different entities have been spun off which we hope will make a difference for peace in Oklahoma and the world. We hope one of them will appeal to you and that you will join us.

Peace Circles - Imagine millions of people throughout the world, joined in small, intimate circles of spiritual support, praying together, meditating together, envisioning a healed and peaceful world, and creating among its members a sense of sacred communion. Hundreds of Peace Circles, sponsored by the Global Renaissance Alliance, exist around the world today with more forming daily. The only membership criteria is the personal desire to seek the spiritual healing of our individual and collective wounds. Contacts for Peace Circles are: Donna Compton in OKC at (405)751-6956 and Lydia Gill Polley in NE Oklahoma at (918) 487-5603.

Department of Peace Campaign - On April 8, 2003 Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) introduced a landmark bill to establish a U.S. Department of Peace. HR 1673 would make peace and non-violence the organizing principles in our society. A cabinet level Secretary of Peace would head seven offices: Peace Education and Training, Domestic Peace Activities, International Peace Activities, Technology for Peace, Arms Control and Disarmament, Peaceful Coexistence and Non-violent Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights and Economic Rights. We have the unique opportunity to confront the root causes of war, violence, and human rights abuse. Contact: Lydia Gill Polley at (405)206-6061 or (918)487-5603.

Peace Potluck "Program and Possibilities" - This group will create monthly gatherings for interested peace activists to gather, share food and solidarity, enjoy a program, or take action. It has been proposed that we meet on the fourth Sunday afternoon of each month from 3 pm to 5 pm. If interested in joining this team, contact: Nathaniel Batchelder, Peace House, (405)524-5577 or email BatchOKC@aol.com.

Peace Education - The Peace Education Team meets to brainstorm creative ways to include elements of peace-making in the school curriculum at every level - elementary through college. Ideas and energy are needed. American youth are the most competitive in the world. While this has its positive side, American youth are less able than youth from other cultures to perceive the greater benefits that result from cooperation. Peace education can awaken their gentler side. More schools and colleges are teaching principles of nonviolence and conflict resolution through mediation. Contact: Marge and Bob Delaney at (405) 424-1025 or email Margdbob@swbell.net.

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.

LGBT Community Center opens in Hometown of Rush Limbaugh

Visions of Pride LGBT Community Center opened July 1, 2003, at 30 N. Pacific, Cape Girardeau, MO. The cottage is located adjacent to beautiful gardens so that the feel of the center will be homey and peaceful. The organizer, Denise Eaker, said her "vision" is for the local LGBT community to come together under one roof that will provide a safe place for LGBT people to share community and grow together without fear, disapproval, or shame.

Planned activities include INSISTERHOOD (lesbian support group) twice monthly, EQUALFOOTING (LGBT support group) twice monthly, potlucks, Friday night coffee house, and a library with LGBT information and books.

Eaker is using her own savings and disability income to rent the building and to create a safe haven for those who identify as LGBT. The inspiration for such a center came from the pain and isolation she felt being alone in a Southern town in 1989 that had no support system for the LGBT community. After feeling desperately depressed with the situation, Eaker called a crisis line and was told she was going to burn in hell for being a lesbian.

That incident lit a fire in Eaker to start a support group for lesbians. Then she saw the need for a community phone line and a mixed group to address the needs of the men in the community.

Eaker plans to make *Visions of Pride* a nonprofit organization, so funding can be sought and donations can be a tax deductible. There won't be any membership fees and monthly costs of the center will be covered by passing the basket contribution. Events involving a fee will have a sliding scale so that everyone will be able to partake in offered events.

Donations are welcome and needed, whether it's books, magazines, time, or financial assistance. Please call Denise Eaker if you want more info at (573) 651-6220 or e-mail her at DELADYKE@aol.com or write her at Denise Eaker, PO Box 0623, Cape Girardeau, MO 63702-0623.

Request for Donations

Herland is a nonprofit, entirely volunteer organization that needs your donations to survive. If you value and appreciate the services that Herland provides to the community, such as the newsletter, concerts, retreats, supper clubs, bookstore and lending library, please consider sending a donation today. Your support - emotional and financial - is critical to our success. Thank you!

Enclosed is my contribution for:

___ \$12 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Herland is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

August

- Saturday, August 2: IRIS at Alibies, NW 11th and Penn, 8 pm
- Sunday, August 3: Miss Brown to You and Sisters of Swing at Mount St. Mary's School, SW 28th and Shartel, 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, August 5: Louise and Mary at Galileo, 3009 Paseo, 8 pm, no cover
- Saturday, August 9: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am
- Saturday, August 9: Louise, Mary, and Emily Kaitz at the Claude Anderson Festival on the Paseo, 11 am
- Saturday, August 9: Herland Supper Club at Galileo, 3009 Paseo, 5:30 pm
- Sunday, August 10: Womyn of Color Meeting
- Monday, August 11: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7:00 pm
- Friday, August 15: Louise and Mary Unplugged at One, 323 White Street in Norman, 7:30 pm, \$5 cover
- August 12-17: Michigan Womyn's Music Festival
- Thursday, August 28: Women's Two-Spirit Meeting at Herland, 6:30 pm

September

- Friday, September 5: Mary and Louise at One in Norman
- September 5-7: Peggy Johnson and Wende Allyn at the Herland Fall Retreat, Osage Hills State Park
- Saturday, September 6: Miss Brown to You at UCO Jazz Lab
- Saturday, September 13: Mary Reynolds and Greg Jacobs at the Blue Door

November

- November 7-9: IRIS at Chelsea's for Diversity Weekend, Eureka Springs, Arkansas

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Volunteers!

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Herland. We have been very active this past year, and could do it only because of the tremendous help we have gotten from scores of volunteers.

Some of the things you do: staff the store on weekends, lead hikes, write grants, present workshops, sing at our events, drive in from distant towns, log in library books, run sound, run open mic, post fliers, sell tickets, facilitate Board retreats, serve on committees, write book reviews and other articles for the Voice, wield chainsaws, brick up windows, paint, buy food for our entertainers, build campfires, cook, clean, hang lights, do layout.....

And some of you are (in no particular order): Betsy, Silver, Jonalu, Joanna, Cathy, Kathy, Linda, Fran, Ginny, Wende, Peggy, Stephanie, Kendra, Andy, Riki, Welda, Jill, Sandra, Jane, Nancy, Karen, Linda, Peggy, Cindi, Dorothy, Linda, Judith, Elaine, Jacqueline, Beth, Laura, Judy, Lydia, Margaret, Jerita, Jan, Diane, Ginger, Marilyn, Shirley, Audrey, Joanna, Sherry, Janis, Sarah, Ruth, Pat, Jean, Regina, Rhonda, Sandy, Elyse, and Gail.

And you whose name we have inadvertently left off this list! We are deeply indebted and grateful to you. Thank you, you are Herland.

Saint Sybil

Dear Saint Sybil, What in the name of heaven is going on with this paintball "hunting?" Men in camouflage with paintball guns, hunting their prey: naked women. How on earth can our country sanction this renting of a woman's body - and her soul - for "sport" and her total degradation. How can this be permitted?

So they have a contract - but surely an agreement to participate in an illegal act doesn't make a valid contract. For instance, if you want to commit suicide, you can't contract with someone to kill you. That would still be murder. And if one of those paintballs hits a woman in her temple, it will be just that, murder. Now, these women running and hiding naked in the woods, hunted by "sportsmen," did not contract to be killed. No, they merely contracted for assault and battery upon themselves: men shooting them with paintballs that travel at 200 miles per hour. Apologists say, Well, they are well paid - up to \$2,500 a "hunt". And the same people, when they see the fury in the eye of their listener, fall back on the ultimate put-down and justification: Well, they're only prostitutes, anyway. As if prostitutes are a sub species. As if they aren't someone's daughter, mother, sister, lover, aunt, niece, wife, friend. As if prostitutes are in it for the good pay, safe working conditions and excellent benefits. As if prostitutes...don't have souls.

So my first question is how can it be legal, and why don't the authorities stop it right now!? My second question is this: how can the men who participate dare go out in daylight, why are they not pariahs, outcasts, in their communities and families? I would cut a father, a brother, a husband, a friend out of my heart with a dull knife if he participated in one of these odious hunts. And anyone who condones them is little better.

Yours in horror and dismay,
Mags

Dear Mags,

You know, being a saint sitting on the great Continuum, I can all too often spot two sides of an issue. It's a curse. In this case, however, there's only one side, and you are squarely on it. This "game" is an abomination. Why is it legal? When there is enough of an outcry, reasons will be found to make it illegal. Why do the participants go home from their "sport" and not find the locks changed and all their worldly goods in a pile in the street? For the same reason women stay with abusive husbands, and the same reason women who serve as the prey in these "games" participate: they are women beaten down by all of the facets of a sexist and unjust society, economy, and culture.

Don't let them get away with it, Mags.

*Yours in sorrow,
Sybil*

Herland Spring Women's Retreat Registration Form Osage Hills State Park - September 5-7, 2003

Below are guidelines to help you select an appropriate registration amount. Deadline for pre-registration is Sept. 2nd.

Please remember that dogs are welcome but must remain on leashes and are not allowed in the dining hall.

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland):

— \$15 — \$25 — \$35 — \$45 — \$60

— Saturday only (workshops, concert, & one night stay) - \$25

— Concert only - \$10

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

email (optional): _____

Sliding Scale Registration Guidelines Based on Income

Single Person Annual Income	Household Annual Income	Pre-Registration per person
under \$6,500	under \$13,300	\$15
\$6,500-\$13,300	\$13,300-\$18,000	\$25
\$13,300-\$19,500	\$18,000-\$26,000	\$35
\$19,500-\$30,000	\$26,000-\$50,000	\$45
over \$30,000	over \$50,000	\$60

() 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 age 10 are welcome).

**Please return registration form and check to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
A retreat packet with all information will be sent to you.**

Women's Equality Day Quiz

To help celebrate Women's Equality Day, the National Women's History Project has developed a quiz to stimulate your thinking.

1. August 26th is celebrated as Women's Equality Day to commemorate
 - a. the work women did during the Second World War
 - b. the anniversary of women winning the right to vote
 - c. the flappers of the 1920's
 - d. the contemporary women's rights movement
2. In what year did Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduce legislation to ensure that this important American anniversary would be celebrated?
 - a. 1992
 - b. 1984
 - c. 1971
 - d. 1965
3. In what year did women in the United States win the right to vote?
 - a. 1776
 - b. 1848
 - c. 1920
 - d. 1946
4. How many years did it take for women to win the right to vote in the United States?
 - a. 72 years
 - b. 120 years
 - c. 20 years
 - d. 51 years
5. Women in most of the western states won the right to vote years before the Federal Amendment was secured. This is the 90th anniversary of women in Kansas and Oregon winning the vote. What other state is celebrating the 90th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in their state.
 - a. New York
 - b. Florida
 - c. Maine
 - d. Arizona
6. What was the name given to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guaranteed women's right to vote in the United States?
 - a. Abigail Adams Amendment
 - b. Sojourner Truth Amendment
 - c. Susan B. Anthony Amendment
 - d. Gloria Steinem Amendment
7. Women who worked for women's right to vote were called
 - a. radical
 - b. immoral
 - c. suffragists
 - d. all of the above
8. The term suffragist is derived from
 - a. one who suffers
 - b. a voting tablet in ancient times
 - c. the Constitution
 - d. the Bill of Rights
9. How many other countries had already guaranteed women's right to vote before the campaign was won in the United States?
 - a. 6
 - b. 2
 - c. 1
 - d. 16
10. What was the first country that granted women the right to vote?
 - a. Canada
 - b. Germany
 - c. New Zealand
 - d. United Kingdom

And one question from Herland: In what year did the Equal Rights Amendment become the law of the land?

- a) 1948
- b) 1972
- c) 1982
- d) Huh?

Yep, "d" is right, we're still waiting.

Answers: 1. b; 2. c; 3. c; 4. a (from the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848 to 1920); 5. d; 6. c; 7. d; 8. b; 9. d (New Zealand (1893), Australia (1902), Finland (1906), Norway (1913), Denmark (1915), USSR (1917), Canada (1918), Germany (1918), Poland (1918), Austria (1919), Belgium (1919), Great Britain (1919), Ireland (1919), Luxembourg (1919), the Netherlands (1919), Sweden (1919)); 10. c (1893)

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