

HERLAND VOICE

October 2003

Volume 21, Number 10

Celebrate Diversity - Stop The Hate!



According to FBI statistics, there were over 9,000 hate crimes reported in 2001. Several incidents involved Oklahoma individuals and groups. *Celebrate Diversity - Stop the Hate* is an annual national event designed to give people the opportunity to show they will not tolerate hate crimes in their communities.

Oklahoma City University is hosting this year's event, "Diversity thru Music Celebration & Candlelight Vigil" at 7:30 pm on October 9, 2003. It will be held at OCU's Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center, NW 25th and Blackwelder.

Dr. Robin Meyers, minister at Mayflower Congregational Church and sometimes quite controversial columnist in the OKC Gazette, will be the keynote speaker. Musicians from Morocco, Israel, and Oklahoma will be featured. A candlelight processional to remember those who were victims of hate crimes during the past year will follow.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

GAYducks.org

Herland 20th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion Planned

Do you remember the year when 150 women attended a Herland Retreat? The Winds Tape? Women Who Kill? Hawkins and Delear? These are just a few of some of the fun and the serious moments from Herland's 20 year history.

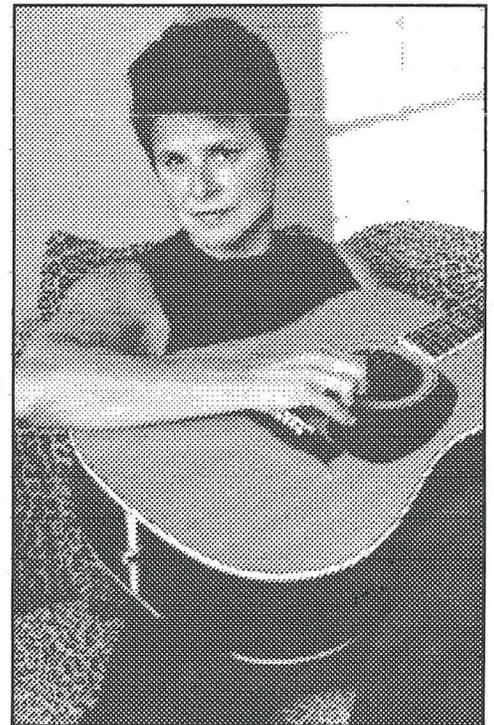
The Herland Collective was organized in 1983 and the women's bookstore, started as a private venture at NW 19th and Blackwelder, was "handed over" to the Collective in 1984. The first few years saw Herland host many a coffeehouse featuring local women performers. After several Herland women attended a retreat in Arkansas, the idea of the semi-annual Herland Retreats was born and continues to be a cornerstone of Herland's programs to this day. A lending library, workshops, concerts, lectures, potlucks, movie nights, and many other activities were added through the years to round out Herland's offerings to the Oklahoma women's community.

In honor of our 20 years, Herland is having a celebration and reunion on Saturday, November 15, 2003. The festivities begin with an open house/reception at Herland from 1 pm - 5 pm. We will have pictures, posters, mementos, Herland T-shirts, retreat videos, and much more on display. You can also pick up your ticket for the evening concert's door prize by coming by Herland during the afternoon. Former board members and volunteers are invited to pick up a name tag that will identify them and the years they served.

The day's activities will conclude with a concert by Tret Fure at 7:00 pm at the City Arts Center, 3000 Pershing Blvd. on the State Fairgrounds. Arguably one of the most multi-faceted artists in the contemporary singer-songwriter arena, Tret Fure is an extraordinarily talented songwriter and possesses an uncanny mastery of musical technology. Over the years, her wit and intrinsic sense of musicality have endeared her to longtime fans and critics throughout the world.

Opening for Tret will be local spoken word artist, Lynnsey Weber. Lynnsey is a wonderful poet and budding activist that we were fortunate to hear for the first time at the OU Women's Outreach Center Women's Equality Day program on the campus.

All former Herland board members, volunteers, and anyone who has participated in Herland events through the years are especially invited back for this 20th anniversary celebration. We will be recognizing former board members and volunteers at a short program during the concert intermission. Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance and can be purchased from any board member or at the bookstore on Saturdays or online at www.okctickets.com.



ANSWER March on Washington

On Saturday October 25, 2003, hundreds of thousands of people will be back in the streets in Washington DC and in capital cities of other countries to demand an end to the occupation of Iraq. Over 2,000 organizations and individuals have signed on as sponsors of the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) March. See www.internationalanswer.org for more details about the march.

Herland Book Club Reads

Alice Walker

In Search of Our Mother's Gardens by Alice Walker is the October selection for the Herland Book Club meeting at 7 pm on October 6th.

In this, her first collection of nonfiction, Alice Walker speaks out as a black woman, writer, mother, and feminist, in 36 pieces ranging from the personal to the political. Among the contents are essays about other writers, accounts of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and the anti-nuclear movement of the 1980s, and a vivid memoir of a scarring childhood injury and her daughter's healing words.

In this work, Walker introduced the word *womanist* to the American lexicon. As Walker describes her, a womanist is bold, brassy, "universalist," "committed to survival and wholeness of entire people, male and female," "a woman who loves other women, sexually and/or nonsexually" and "Loves music. Loves dance. Loves the moon. Loves the Spirit. Loves love and food and roundness. Loves struggle. Loves the Folk. Loves herself. *Regardless.*"

Sound intriguing? Copies of this book are available at Herland or your local library. Newcomers are always welcome at Book Club and there is lots of good conversation and, of course, refreshments.

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.

Native American Women

OKC Two-Spirit Society is having meetings for lesbian and bi-sexual women of Native American descent. The next meeting is at Herland on October 23 at 6:30 pm. The OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number is (405) 317-7283.

Saint Sybil

She was a waif, a wraith, a rail, nearly as slim as Karen Carpenter. She wore a long wrap-around skirt and a long-sleeved sweater, many too many clothes on a hot summer afternoon in Norman, Oklahoma; still she hugged herself tightly, as if never quite warm enough. It was the OU Women's Outreach Center Celebration of Women's Equality Day. She eased past the Herland table, far enough away we couldn't snag her, close enough she could read our wares with a stretched body and inclined neck. She smiled wanly and caught my eye, "Feminism," she acknowledged, nodding. She moved on, turned, "I'm a feminist in the *classic* sense," she murmured. Another step, another beat, and the punch line: "not the *mean* sense."

Ouch. The *mean* sense? Like, I guess I'm a feminist in the *mean* sense? A ballbreaking, castrating, *mean*, with-no-sense-of-humor feminist?

Well, actually, I used to be, but I've lightened up a bit. I even tell Blond jokes sometimes.

Q. Why are blond jokes so short? A. So men can remember them.

Sorry, that was *mean*. So let's see if we can figure out what she meant by *classic*, and what she meant by *mean*.

Classic Feminism, I'm thinking, has a lot to do with economics - equal access for women to law school, medical school, Harvard and Princeton and Yale. *Mean* would be - affirmative action to force the above?

Classic: equal pay for equal work; *Mean* - affirmative action and wage equality studies and pay equity implementation?

Classic: girls can aspire to be anything they want, firefighters, police officers, Senators; *Mean* - affirmative action, and suggesting that only racism and sexism keep an African-American woman Senator from being just as qualified to run for president as her white male counterparts?

Classic: conditional support for Title IX; *Mean* - supporting Title IX even if it means some wrestling teams will be cut by universities who choose to protect the 4th-man-deep at each position in football?

Classic: hyphenating your name when you get married; *Mean* - keeping your own name? Asking him to hyphenate his?

Classic: Having it all, a family, a career, time for Starbucks and the gym; *Mean* - noticing that you also have all the work at home all to yourself?

Classic: equal rights for women; *Mean* - anything that inconveniences or discomfits any man, any time, any where, any how?

A friend of mine gave her mother a refrigerator magnet back in the 1980s. Her mother looked at it, shook her head sadly, and said, "I can't put that up on the icebox, darling; it would hurt your father's feelings." The hurtful words on the magnet were:

Women, their rights and nothing less.

Men, their rights and nothing more.

If this is mean, let's embrace meanness.

I believe our friend at OU, like many others, is trying to cope, without rocking the boat or getting hurt, with the reality that sexism and patriarchy are still dominant in the 21st century. I think she's afraid she will lose privilege or safety if she speaks up, if she were to be a *mean* feminist. I think she needs to consider Audre Lorde's observation, "I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't."

And so, sisters and brothers, I say Up the Revolution! Go forth and be *Mean* for Feminism. In radical sisterhood,
Sybil

Herland Hiking Club To Camp at Wichita Mountains

This month, the group will have a weekend camping/hiking trip to the Wichita Wildlife Refuge near Lawton on October 17-19. Call Jane at 521-9815 for more details or visit www.members.cox.net/herlandhiking/.

The Herland Hiking Group will also have its regular monthly outing to Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, at 10 am on Saturday, October 11th. Meet for coffee beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:30 am.

By Hook or By Crook

Do you want to see something unique and inspiring come to the Oklahoma City community? Are you interested in the portrayals of gay/lesbian subjects in an atypical format? Do you just like a good ole night at the movies? Well, so do I! And, I am in the process of bringing an opportunity for all of the above to the University of Oklahoma.

I am a student of sociology at OU and am in the process of bringing the phenomenal film, *By Hook or By Crook*, and its writers/directors/producers/editors, Harry Dodge and Silas Howard. Harry is of theatre and spoken word fame, while Silas lays claim to playing for years in the lesbian punk band, Tribe 8.

Their film is an absolute work of art. It portrays gender variant/ butch women in a non-imposing way that neither makes explanations for nor lectures about, but rather just puts them out there to be seen as the humans they are. Following the lives of two eccentric and extremely real characters, the film creates thread after thread of issues in the lives of these characters, ranging from gay/lesbian existence and gender identity to psychological issues and just making it by in society.

A beautiful and poetic exposition, this film will touch your heart and ignite your mind. And I need help to make it happen. The screening is tentatively scheduled for November 5th at 7 pm in the Union Ballroom at OU, followed by an interactive discussion with Harry and Silas, and an open reception with them is planned for November 6th.

The total cost for this program is relatively inexpensive but university backing is not available. Donations and sponsorships are being sought and will receive credit in all publicity. I look forward to bringing this unique and mind-opening event to our community and hope to see you there! For information, donations, sponsorship, and suggestions please contact me, Lynnsey Weber, at (405) 408-4881 or email justsomegrrrl@yahoo.com.



Repairing a wall is fun at work day!

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

October

- Monday, October 6: Herland Book Club, 7:00 pm
- Thursday, October 9: Stop the Hate Vigil, OCU, 7:30 pm
- Friday, October 10: Dr. Leisa Meyer lecture entitled "The Politics of Intimacy: Why Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered History Matters" at All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria in Tulsa at 7 pm
- Saturday, October 11: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am
- Saturday, October 11: Herland Supper Club at Jaramillo's in Shepherd Mall, 5:30 pm
- Sunday, October 12: Womyn of Color Meeting
- Monday, October 13: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at The Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7:00 pm
- October 17-19: Herland Camping Trip, Wichita Wildlife Refuge
- Thursday, October 23: Women's Two-Spirit Meeting at Herland, 6:30 pm

November

- Wednesday, November 5: By Hook or By Crook, OU, 7 pm
- November 6-8: Out OK Film Festival, Northpark Cinema
- November 7-9: IRIS at Chelsea's for Diversity Weekend, Eureka Springs, Arkansas
- Saturday, November 15: Herland's 20th Anniversary Open House, 1-5 pm at Herland, and Concert 7:30 pm at City Arts Center
- Saturday, November 22: Peace Fest, Civic Center, 10am - 4pm
- November 1-30 (weekends): Louise, Elyse, and Mary in the Pollard Theatre's *Little Shop of Horrors*, Guthrie

Herland Supper Club

Saturday, October 11, 5:30 pm

at Jaramillo's

in Shepherd Mall (NW 23rd & Villa)

followed by Darts, Pool, & Dancing

at Partners (2805 NW 36th)

at 7:30 pm

Last month, 17 women attended Supper Club and dined on fine Italian food. This month the group will try some great Mexican food at Jaramillo's, located at the North end of Shepherd Mall. After supper, the group will go to the lesbian bar Partners for a night of darts, pool, and dancing. Meet at Herland at 5:15 pm if you would like to carpool. For more info, call Ginger at 942-1535.

The Rainbow Ride Across America

The First Annual Rainbow Ride Across America got off to a soggy start as lesbian civil rights activists Carrie Stone and Elisia Ross began their cross country bicycle journey on March 1st in St. Augustine, Florida. The rainy weather led them to wonder if their Rainbow Ducks logo was responsible for the inclement weather -- after all, ducks do love the rain and the cyclists were doused with it for 13 straight days!

Undaunted by the wet weather that later became intense heat and steep mountains, the couple arrived in San Diego on May 18th. Along the way, Ross and Stone stopped in towns and cities to speak to the LGBT community about the need to put their wishes in writing and to get more involved in the struggle for LGBT equality.

Ross and Stone hope their efforts have inspired the men and women they met to register to vote, educate themselves about federal, state, and local legislation, and to use the power of their vote to elect candidates who wholeheartedly support LGBT equality. "What we really wanted to do," explained Stone, "was to shed some new light on the confusing legal predicament facing the LGBT community today." Stone and Ross are of the opinion that the law is "schizophrenic" in states where legislators have passed both a hate crimes bill and an anti-gay marriage law. The couple believes contradictory laws send a mixed message because hate crimes legislation makes it wrong for individuals and institutions to mistreat gay men and lesbians on account of their sexual orientation. Meanwhile, anti-gay marriage laws permit institutions to treat gay men and lesbians like second-class citizens and deny them civil rights and liberties.

"The irony," according to Stone, "is that anti-gay marriage laws are themselves a form of a hate crime because they deprive same-sex couples a right that is considered sacred and fundamental to every American." "And," Stone continued, "the laws are clearly motivated by hatred of gay men and lesbians." As a result, Stone and Ross believe anti-gay marriage laws violate a State's own hate crimes legislation.

As the first Rainbow Ride progressed, Stone and Ross learned a lot about the LGBT community in America. "Across the board," they claim, "the communities we visited no longer see themselves as victims." "Contrary to the myth of the apathetic gay voter," said Ross, "the LGBT community is hungry for information about their legal status and is ready to do whatever it takes to achieve legal equality for their relationships."

Stone and Ross plan to do the ride again next year, this time traveling across the central U.S., beginning on May 1st, 2004 in San Francisco, California and ending on July 16th in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The couple, who own and operate Rainbow Law, a relationship planning information resource for the LGBT community, are recipients of OUT Magazine's 2002 OUT 100 Award for their contribution to gay and lesbian society. They present relationship-planning seminars across the country and offer affordable legal document packages so that every LGBT person will have access to vital legal protections.

If you are interested in contacting Stone and Ross or helping with the 2004 Rainbow Ride Across America, log onto www.RainbowLaw.com or email info@RainbowLaw.com or call (716) 435-0965. An email campaign to get them to come through Oklahoma City - the Heartland - next time couldn't hurt.



Red Dirt Book Festival

The Pioneer Library System is pleased to announce the Red Dirt Book Festival to be held on the campuses of Oklahoma Baptist University's Geiger Center and St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, October 17 and 18, 2003. More than 100 authors, publishers, storytellers, illustrators, scholars, and book lovers will gather to look at contemporary literature from an "Okie" perspective during this unique event. Featured author at the festival will be best-selling novelist Tony Hillerman.

Festival goers will also have the opportunity to contribute original, unpublished manuscripts to be considered for publication in the Red Dirt Anthology. Registration is free. You may register on-line at 222.reddirtbookfestival.org, where you will also find information about the authors, workshops, and activities.

Ruthie Foster - Runaway Soul

by Jill Garner

Probably the first thing you'll notice about Ruthie Foster is her voice. It's big. And powerful. And amazing that it can come out of one person. She's frequently compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin which I guess are fair comparisons. All I know is her voice will blow you away. The latest collection of songs by Ruthie on *Runaway Soul* are a great mix of blues, gospel, R&B, roots, and folk. It includes mostly originals as well as covers of tunes by Brownie McGhee, Big Maybelle, and one of my favorite Texas songwriters, Terri Hendrix. She also does a couple of traditional songs, *Death Came a Knockin* and *Woke Up This Mornin'*. Ruthie's manager and partner Cyd Cassone performs with her.

Not surprisingly, Ruthie came from a musical family and was surrounded by a lot of gospel and blues. She said in an interview I read that, "I thought my mom was Aretha Franklin. She'd be singing and then put on an Aretha Franklin album, and I couldn't tell the difference."

I got the opportunity in September to see Ruthie and Cyd perform at the Austin City Limits Music Festival. She's an excellent performer and kept the crowd enthralled with her stories and in awe of her voice. She also had us all singing along with her! It honestly felt like a southern church service with a totally amazing soloist in the choir. She was truly the highlight of the festival for me. And that's saying a lot because I left Patty Griffin's show a little early to go hear Ruthie, and Patty Griffin is amazing.

I highly recommend you search out *Runaway Soul* and get it however you can. I bought it in Austin, but you can easily get it from her website or from www.milesOfMusic.com. See for yourself why everyone is raving about Ruthie Foster.

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.

Cimarron Alliance Group Launches New Focus

The Cimarron Alliance Group (CAG) held a town hall meeting August 23, 2003. Acting President, Mark Bonney, said the meeting's purpose was to evaluate the future of CAG and its mission.

A quorum of the membership voted to elect a new five member Board of Directors. The directors elected are: Ben Collum, Margaret Cox, Terry Gatewood, Rob Howard, and Richard Ogden. The charge of the new Board will be to substantially streamline, reorganize, and re-focus the organization.

Over the next few months, the new Board of Directors will be meeting to organize the Cimarron Alliance Group into a leaner, more vital political voice for the gay and lesbian community. It is the goal of the Board to introduce the new structure of the Cimarron Alliance Group to its existing members and to the greater community by the end of the year.

The new Board released this statement: "We intend to work diligently to uphold the original intent of the Cimarron Alliance Group, working within the political structure of our city and state, as a political voice to which our community may turn for support, ideas, and leadership. We also will work hard to build and rebuild membership and appeal to greater numbers in our community".

All current memberships will be honored during 2003 under the new structure of the Cimarron Alliance Group. Additional announcements will be released over the next few weeks and months in anticipation of the introduction of the new Cimarron Alliance Group. Call Margaret at (405) 842-3206 for more information.



Hammering is my thing!

Keep the Voice Coming

The monthly cost for printing and mailing *The Voice* is approximately \$300. If you enjoy reading *The Voice* each month, please consider making a donation to help cover these costs.

- Please add me to the mailing list for *The Voice*.
- Please change my address (new address below).
- I'd like to contribute \$ _____ toward continuing to bring *The Voice* to our public.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Booknotes

BUSWHACKED, Life in George Bush's America by Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose, is worth a read. Three-time Pulitzer finalist Ivins rakes W's administration over the coals for such moves as trying to kill language at a world summit last year that would have included female genital mutilation as a human rights violation.

Trace Elements of Random Tea Parties by Felicia Luna Lemus tells the story of a good girl who falls for bad chicas. Set in the Los Angeles dyke youth scene, the novel examines modern gender-bending as it is found in the bars and barrios of LA. Lemus is following in the footsteps of two other lesbian California writers, Michelle Tea and Lynne Breedlove, who have popularized San Francisco's dyke/queer street scene.

Real-Life Retreat Adventures

35 women were treated to nature's beauty at the Herland Retreat at Osage Hills State Park. One of the highlights of the weekend was when Diane B. talked Marcia, Ginger, and Peggy into trying out the rope swing over Sand Creek. Once she had them in the cold water and interested in the challenge of the swing, Diane quietly slipped off to the safety (and warmth) of the shore. Peggy Johnson had the best "swing form" as she developed the "lean back" technique and swung a wide, graceful arc over the creek before releasing at the prime moment and dropping easily into the water. Marcia handled the swing easily and Ginger took first prize for bug bites with over 200 in countable places!

Classifieds

Lawnmower & Microwave Wanted: Herland is seeking the donation of a used but working lawnmower for groundskeeping and a used microwave for Herland.

Duplex For Rent: 1 BD, 1 Bath with CH&A near Paseo area. Prefer no pets. \$350/month + bills + deposit. Call Ginger at (405) 942-1535 for more details.



PHONE: 943-1467

CITY ANIMAL HOSPITAL
2910 N.W. 23
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73107

N. WORLAND DVM
D. TRAVIS DVM

D.M. HAWKINS, DVM

Herland Sister Resources
2312 NW 39th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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

Return Service Requested

<p>M Coleen Woody Attorney at Law Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405) 245-1626 GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW LIVING TRUSTS, HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVES, WILLS, PROBATE, CONSUMER LAW, CONTRACTS</p>	<p><u>Stonewall Democrats</u> & <u>Eleanor Roosevelt</u> Invite you to her 119th Birthday Party Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003 at 7:00 pm Krumme Center, 4100 N. Lincoln, OKC www.oklahomastonewall.org (405) 843-3651 mystery guest to be announced</p>
<p>REBECCA R. HOLT, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology (405) 321-2148 Box 5119 Norman, OK 73070 Individuals - Couples Family Therapy, Retreats</p>	<p><u>Julia Irwin, M.D., P.C.</u> Psychiatrist Doctor's Park 500 E. Robinson, Suite 600 Norman, OK 73071 (405) 321-3719 <i>Young And Older Adults</i></p>
<p>DOROTHY E. HEIM Attorney at Law (405) 691-4949 dheim033@yahoo.com 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 Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Adoption, Contracts Route 2, Box 369-B McLoud, OK 74851 Tel. (405) 964-2072 Ingraham@mccloudteleco.com</p>