

# the HERLAND VOICE

february 2004

volume 22, number 2

## La Salle De Femmes

By Jo L. Soske

Herland recently celebrated a twenty-year anniversary. That is a momentous accomplishment for an independent women's bookstore. A number of women worked very hard to put on an extensive celebration for this occasion. I want to commend them in the work that they did.

Prior to the celebration, a lot of information and history was gathered. This information was used to prepare a pamphlet telling about the history of Herland. It was also used to acknowledge a number of women on the night of the concert. Inadvertently, part of the history of Herland was altered, and part of it was left out. There was nothing deliberate about this. However, history is all too often rewritten, and many times in the rewriting women are excluded or delegated to a place of unimportance. For that reason, I believe that whenever possible we should hold on to our history and retell it. I wrote a similar article to this for *The Voice* ten years ago, and I have decided that it is time to write it again.

Near the end of 1981, a loosely knit group of women formed a collective and decided to write a newspaper called *The Brazen Hussy Rag*. I apologize in advance for the fact that I am certain to omit some of the names of these women. However, I will list the ones of which I am certain, using only first names and last initials, because I have not obtained permission from them to use their full names. The group initially in-

(continued on page 4)

## Herland Black History Month Movie Night

7 pm, Wednesday, February 18th

Join Herland as we celebrate Black History Month with a special showing of "Brother Outsider: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin". This is a gripping documentary about a brilliant gay, lifetime activist for social justice. Shown nationally on PBS's Point of View series, it is the story of one of America's great organizers for nonviolent social change. Rustin is credited with being a mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the central organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. Join us for an evening of celebration.

## Oklahoma Freedom & Equality Coalition Forms

Herland is proud to be a member of the newly formed Oklahoma Freedom and Equality Coalition (OFEC) formed on January 9-10 in Stroud, OK. Around 85 people from all over Oklahoma, representing dozens of equality groups, gay and straight, faith-based and secular, met for two days to form OFEC. Satellite meetings for those who could not attend in Stroud were held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa in the following weeks.

In addition to planning and strategizing, the group was addressed by Oklahoma County Commissioner Jim Roth, who spoke of his personal experiences, clearly illustrating that LGBT people are not asking for special privileges, merely rights due us all. Log Cabin Republican Mark Mead addressed the gathering, pointing out that there is a possibility that in addition to the Federal Marriage Amendment now introduced in the US Congress, another amendment may arise that would remove same-gender marriage from the "full faith and credit" clause of the US Constitution, whereby laws in one state are recognized in another state.

As the *Voice* goes to press, OFEC has twenty-one organizational groups as members, representing over 6,000 Oklahomans. Elected Co-Chairs of OFEC are Karen Weldin of Soulforce, and Rodney Johnson of OGLPC.

The Mission Statement adopted by OFEC is: "The Oklahoma Freedom and Equality Coalition is a group of organizations, faith-based groups, and individuals working together to achieve equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. We carry out this mission through education, advocacy, and grassroots organizing." OFEC's primary goal is to build a committed and powerful grassroots movement, one that will be capable, first of all, of defeating the kind of anti-gLBT legislation which is being introduced this session in the Oklahoma legislature.

Bills to be introduced this session and which OFEC will fight are listed here with their principal author and "short title":

- HB 2207, Graves, Same gender marriage recognition (and of course Rep. Graves is *against* recognition)
- HRJ 1045, Graves, Constitutional Amendment - same gender relationships
- HR 1027, Balkman-Cargill, Disapproval of US Supreme Court ruling invalidating state sodomy laws
- SJR 38, Senator Jim Williamson and Rep. Mike O'Neal, Marriage Protection Amendment

If you wish to register your disapproval of these bills and your desire that they receive a speedy death in committee, you can contact the following (being sure to mention the bill number, authors, and short title):

Larry Adair, Speaker  
Phone: 405-557-7394  
Fax: 405-557-7445  
Email: [adairla@lsb.state.ok.us](mailto:adairla@lsb.state.ok.us)

Danny Hilliard, Speaker Pro Tem  
Phone: 405-557-7412  
Fax: 405-962-7648  
Email: [hilliardda@lsb.state.ok.us](mailto:hilliardda@lsb.state.ok.us)

Jari Askins, Speaker-Elect  
Phone: 405-557-7327  
Fax: 580-522-3969  
Email: [askinsja@lsb.state.ok.us](mailto:askinsja@lsb.state.ok.us)

Senator Pro Tem Cal Hobson  
Phone: 405-521-5553  
Email: [hobson@lsb.state.ok.us](mailto:hobson@lsb.state.ok.us)

For more info about OFEC, please visit [www.ofec.org](http://www.ofec.org).



## Black History Month: A Reading List

In recognition of Black History Month, Herland would like to recommend just a few of the great books we have in our lending library by African-American authors:

Audre Lorde	<i>Sister Outsider</i> <i>A Burst of Life</i>
Angela Davis	<i>Angela Davis, an Autobiography</i>
Maya Angelou	<i>Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diiiie &amp; Other Poems</i>
Zora Neale Hurston	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
Jewelle Gomez	<i>The Gilda Stories</i>
bell hooks	<i>Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center</i>
Ntosake Shange	<i>For Colored Girls Who have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf</i>
Assata Shakur	<i>Assata, An Autobiography</i>
Alice Walker	<i>In Search of our Mothers Garden</i> <i>Possessing the Secret of Joy</i> <i>Meridian</i> <i>The Color Purple</i>
Toni Morrison	<i>Beloved</i>
Bebe Moore Campbell	<i>What You Owe Me</i>
<i>Black Lesbians: An annotated Bibliography</i> Compiled by J R Roberts	

## Herland Discussion Group on the Web

Member of the Herland community are invited to join the Herland Discussion Group on Yahoo. The purpose of this group is to enable women involved with Herland to contact each other, invite others to join them for a social event, or just chat. To join the group, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/HerlandSisters>. Note that this is an unmoderated group which means Herland does not screen people as they join the discussion group. Your email address, and any other information you provide when signing up, will be listed on the "members" page. Because of this, you may wish to create a new email address, not your primary email address, for purposes of this group. And please exercise caution if you make plans to meet with someone from the group that you don't already know.

## HEALTH: Advances in Fighting Ovarian Cancer

*info from womensenews.com and OU Medicine*

This winter, researchers will be conducting clinical trials of a blood test, called Correlologic, a non-invasive, pin-prick procedure that is expected to be the first to be able to catch ovarian cancer in its initial stages. The test, which screens for protein patterns that appear at the onset of the disease, is being hailed as a major breakthrough by researchers, doctors, and patients alike. The Food and Drug Administration has yet to approve the test, which must complete clinical trials before the government sanctions its use. Instead of facing a round of detection tests--a pelvic exam, pelvic ultrasound, CAT-125 test and possible biopsy--patients will be able to be diagnosed after one pin-prick.

For late-stage patients there is also hope on the horizon: two new treatments now in the third and final round of clinical trials. The first drug is OvaRex, which targets cancer cells remaining after remission and the second is Telcyta, which attacks cancer cells while sparing healthy ones.

Ovarian cancer is a disease of 55- to 70-year-olds, although it can occur much earlier. The primary risk factor is lack of bearing children. Because progesterone plays a major role in ovarian cancer, women who have taken birth control pills or who have had children have much lower risk for developing the disease.

Symptoms of ovarian cancer (see inset right) are often mistaken for indigestion or just shrugged off as part of getting older. As a result, 75 percent of cases are not caught until the advanced stages. If caught early, it boasts a survival rate of 90 percent.

## Herland Sister Resources, Inc. Financial Statement (1/1/03 to 12/31/03)

### INCOME

Building Fund Donations	\$ 50
Events	\$ 5,984
Fundraisers	\$ 1,778
General Donations	\$ 1,736
Grants	\$ 1,300
Newsletter Subscriptions	\$ 352
Newsletter Advertising	\$ 670
Rent	\$ 270
Retreats	\$ 3,619
Sales	\$ 754
Sales Tax Collected	\$ 74
Miscellaneous	\$ 127
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$16,714</b>

### EXPENSES

Bank Charges	\$ 92
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,800
Community Support	\$ 308
Event Expenses	\$ 4,240
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 185
Insurance	\$ 1,657
Merchandise for Resale	\$ 284
Newsletter Postage/Printing	\$ 3,645
Other Postage/Printing	\$ 193
Retreat Expenses	\$ 1,931
Sales Tax Paid	\$ 58
Telephone	\$ 675
Transfer to Legal Def. Fund	\$ 289
Utilities	\$ 1,331
Miscellaneous	\$ 162
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,851</b>

<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (138)</b>
Building Fund Carryover from 2002	\$ 2,656
General Fund Carryover from 2002	\$ 4,725

### OVARIAN CANCER SYMPTOMS

- Abdominal pressure, bloating or discomfort
- Nausea, indigestion, or gas
- Urinary frequency, constipation, or diarrhea
- Abnormal bleeding
- Unusual fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss or gain
- Shortness of breath



## Herland Book Club

The Herland Book club will meet at 7 pm on Monday, February 2 to discuss *Fingersmith* by Sarah Waters, the award-winning author of *Tipping the Velvet*. The Book Club will then take a break and not meet in March.

## Herland Supper Club & Road Trip

Herland Supper Club hits the road this month for a trip to Stillwater on Saturday, February 14th. For those who wish to carpool, we will meet at Herland and leave around 3 pm. We'll meet for supper at Hideaway Pizza, 230 S. Knoblock, around 4:30 pm. After supper, we'll go to the OSU vs. Missouri women's basketball game at 6 pm. Join us for a great evening! For more info, call Ginger at 942-1535.

## Herland Hiking

The Herland Hiking Group will have its regular monthly outing to Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, at 10 am on Saturday, February 14. There is also an optional coffee gathering beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:00 am.

## Womyn of Color

Womyn of Color group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please email [womynofcolor@gay.com](mailto: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. Please call the OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number at (405) 317-7283 for information about the next meeting.

## The Vagina Monologues!

The Monologues will be presented Feb 12th and 13th at 8pm both nights in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds benefit the Norman Women's Resource Center. To reserve tickets or for accommodations on the basis of disability contact [ryan@bluejellybean.com](mailto:ryan@bluejellybean.com). Tickets will be available at the door and seating is open.

## A Weekend with Lisa Thiel

The Deep Root Community Center (DRCC), Unity Church, and Gather the Women are sponsoring a weekend with Lisa Thiel, March 13-14, in celebration of International Women's Week. Lisa will be performing a benefit concert on Sat., March 13, and offering a workshop and sacred ceremony on Sun., March 14. For more info, see Deep Root's website at [www.deeproot.org](http://www.deeproot.org).

## Website of the Month

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

## HERLAND EVENTS CALENDAR

### February

- Monday, February 2: Herland Book Club, 7 pm
- Sunday, February 8: Womyn of Color Meeting, call 842-3464 for details
- Monday, February 9: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7 pm
- February 12-13: Vagina Monologues at OU Memorial Ballroom, 8 pm, \$5
- Thursday, February 12: Miss Brown to You, UCO Jazz Lab in Edmond, 8-11 pm, \$7
- Friday, February 13: Mary Reynolds, Louise Goldberg, and Emily Kaitz at the Spotlight Theater in Tulsa, 1381 Riverside Drive, 8 pm.
- Saturday, February 14: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am
- Saturday, February 14: Herland Supper Club goes to Stillwater for Hideaway Pizza & OSU Women's Basketball Game
- Saturday, February 14: Peggy Johnson at Deli on the Labyrinth, NW 32nd and Classen, 9 pm-midnight
- Sunday, February 15: Herland Potluck, 3 pm, followed by Herland Board Meeting, 4 pm
- Wednesday, February 18: Herland Black History Month Movie Night, 7 pm
- Friday, February 20: Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg at One, 323 White Street in Norman, 7:30 pm, \$5

### Looking Ahead

- Saturday, March 13: Herland Supper Club at Grand House followed by OKC Lightning Women's Football Game
- March 14-20: Second Annual LGBT Health Awareness Week
- Saturday, April 3: **Miss Brown to You at the Herland and OGLPC April Fool's Dance, First Unitarian**
- April 3 & 4: IRIS at Chelsea's in Eureka Springs for Diversity Weekend
- Sunday, April 25: March for Women's Lives, Washington DC
- May 14-16: **Herland Spring Retreat at Roman Nose**

## It's Your Voice!

If you value receiving the Voice every month, consider this: Just \$12 a year (a mere \$1 per month) will help us pay for the \$300+ it costs every month to print and mail the newsletter. Please help with a donation today!

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(continued from page 1)

cluded: Jana B., Tanya J., Pat C., Mary B., Jonna R., Myra F., Jo S., Susan S., Vicki R., and a few others.

We began to meet in the home of Jana B. and Tanya J. to make article selections, cut, and paste. The first issue of the paper appeared late that year. In all, I believe that we published five issues of the newspaper. I still own copies of two of the issues.

One afternoon, as we were putting the newspaper together, Jana and Tanya took a break and went out for a walk. While they were walking, they came across an old store in front of a house that was located at 19th and Blackwelder. They began to talk about the possibility of a bookstore and they knocked on the door of the house to talk with the owner. A woman in her late seventies or early eighties answered. Her name was Murray. She said that she would be willing to rent the space, but she would have to have \$125 a month for it.

In that moment, the concept of La Salle de Femmes was born. When Jana and Tanya returned to the newspaper gathering, they told us of their find, and plans were underway. Pat C. and Tanya J. were to organize the bookstore aspect of the collective. We immediately began making arrangements for our first benefit to raise money for the future bookstore. That benefit took place at D.J.'s on Thursday, March 11, from 7-11 p.m. Live entertainment included Bonnie H., Cate C., and Brette B. We provided food to accompany the entertainment, and the cover charge was \$2.00. We held two similar benefits at The Rose. Additionally, Barbara C. produced a concert by Sharon Ridell, and part of the proceeds from that concert were donated to La Salle de Femmes.

In addition to benefits, there were workdays and book drives. There was a LOT of work to do. The workdays took place every Saturday from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and every Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many women participated in these workdays. Some women, such as Cathie C., never missed one. Others, such as Barbara C., were present for most. They did yardwork, removed debris from the store, and began building walls and doing drywall work. Many hours of hard labor were put into that building. Volume I, No. 4 of The Brazen Hussy Rag has a picture of Tanya J. on a ladder painting.

Unfortunately in July or August of 1982, it all began to fall apart. Pat C., who was a major organizer and took a great deal of responsibility for the bookstore project, moved to California. Jana and Tanya broke up, and Tanya moved to Texas. One of our group, (since very remorseful, but too late!) stole the money that had been raised and donated for the bookstore. The account was temporarily empty. Women were very discouraged and the workdays stopped. The owner, Murray, began to lose patience, and she padlocked the door. It looked as though the dream of La Salle de Femmes had died.

What was needed was a strong, dedicated, organizer to take over the project and make the dream a reality. It had to be somebody who could follow through and get things done. That's when Barbara C. stepped up to the plate. She was all of those things, a leader, an organizer, and a motivator.

After Barbara took over the project, a decision was made to change the name of the store from La Salle de Femmes to Herland. Pat C. returned from California and helped Barbara C. retrieve the stolen money. The bank had let it go with only one authentic signature, and thus they had to restore it.

Workdays resumed. Barbara lifted a dying project from the ashes and made it into a reality. She had not been the one who conceptualized the dream, but she was the one who made it into a reality. Without her, there would have been no twenty-year celebration, because there would have been nothing to celebrate.

There was a lot of division in the lesbian community with respect to the bookstore for many years. I feel certain that much of the division was rooted in territorialism, a very human but not very feminist response to a change in leadership. That is why I feel that it so important that this story be told and retold. Without the women of the Brazen Hussy Collective and without Barbara C., Herland would not exist today. It was not one or the other that made the bookstore a reality, it was both, and I personally am grateful for both.

## The Key to the Closet Door

By James Nimmo, moderator OGLPC News

The upcoming nationwide Spring primaries and November election will be the most critical voting opportunities that gays/lesbians and our straight supporters have ever had in history. The 2003 court decisions concerning sodomy and same-sex laws have galvanized people on both sides of these civil issues. All of us will be affected in ways which can bring equality and daylight to our lives or will bring back the closet door. Each person reading this possesses the key to the closet door in the form of a ballot marked at your polling place for progressive candidates who will support gay/lesbian equality.

Yes, we're all in this together. The problem is that too many gays/lesbians go their merry way without much thought as to how important it is to elect people who are supportive of gay/lesbian equality. Gay life is more than being comfortable in your own circle of friends. It involves getting with the program and talking to friends, family, and co-workers about equality in a non-accusative way in order to point out the fallacies of the fundamentalists and the politicians of any party who use homophobia as a weapon to ensure their re-election.

Gays/lesbians can get involved with a campaign and help with phone banking, letter stuffing, sign making--in short, all those things which can help promote the candidate, but for which there is not enough money to pay anyone to do, which makes you and your time literally priceless.

As the political activist Abbie Hoffman said, "Democracy is something that you actively do, not something you passively celebrate." And there's the secondary possibility - you might meet Mr./Ms. Perfect! Give it a try!

The Voice is published monthly 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.



## Massive Support Seen for Gays in Military

A new poll has found that 79 percent of all Americans believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military. The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll, which was conducted December 5-7, 2003, surveyed 1,004 adults. Survey participants were asked, "Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should - or should not - be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?" In the 18-29 year age range, 91 percent said that gays should be allowed to serve openly. Those aged 30-49, 50-64, and 65 and over were 81, 74, and 68 percent respectively. Seventy-three percent of men, and 85 percent of women, responded affirmatively.

The numbers show a significant improvement over earlier polls. An August, 2003 Fox News poll found that 64 percent of the public believed that gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military. Previously, a 2001 survey published by MIT Press found that 56 percent of civilian respondents believed that gays should be allowed to serve openly.

"After ten years of Don't Ask, Don't tell, the public understands that discrimination undermines military effectiveness," said Geoffrey Bateman, Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (CSSMM) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Bateman said the shift in public opinion may reflect ongoing concern about the firing of gay Arabic language specialists during the war on terror. Over the past two years the military has fired 37 linguists for being gay. Earlier this month two brigadier generals and a rear admiral, all retired, came out to mark the 10th anniversary of "don't ask, don't tell".

Fact: the more g/bt come out of the closet, and the more it is publicized that discrimination against us is real, the sooner we will all have real equal rights, treatment, and acceptance.

Source: [www.365gay.com](http://www.365gay.com)

## The Music Scene

By Jill Garner

Toni Price doesn't tour, and she doesn't have to. She has one of the best gigs in Austin, playing the happy hour every Tuesday evening at the Continental Club. Crowds pack in to hear her strong, bluesy voice. Price isn't a songwriter, but rather an interpreter of songs. As she said in an interview I read recently, "...I'm amazed at songwriters. It's a sacred mystery, what they do. Some people open their mouths to sing and that's what I do."

Since 1993, Price has released six CDs. Her latest, *Born to Be Blue*, was released after the death of her good friend and fiddler Champ Hood from cancer. She surrounds herself with excellent musicians and several tracks on this latest release feature the prolific guitarist James Burton. She also picks good songwriters and Gwil Owens writes three of the songs.

The easiest way to get any of Toni's music is to order it online, either through her website or Amazon.com. I highly recommend that you do, and get to hear what people in Austin have known for years. Toni Price is a voice to be reckoned with, so get it while you can. She's definitely at the top of her game right now so don't miss out on any of her wonderful music.

Inside the front cover of *Born to Be Blue*, there's a letter from Toni to Champ. She ends it by writing, "I tried to make my tears into something beautiful, like you did. I chose songs to make you smile..." They should make you smile too, knowing you're listening to one of the best.

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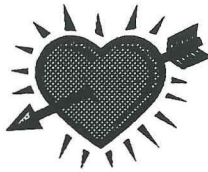
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The Society of Women Students and Supporters at OU meets every Thursday night at 7:30 pm in the Student Union, 2nd floor, across from Meacham Auditorium. Contact Michell at [feminazi\\_ou@yahoo.com](mailto:feminazi_ou@yahoo.com) for more info.

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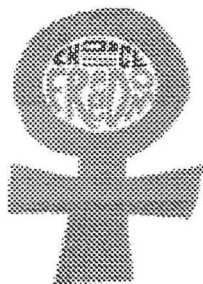
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# March for Women's Lives

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