

## Herland Spring Retreat - May 14-16, 2004

**R**etreat to Roman Nose State Park May 14 - 16, surrender your worries and cares and give up your responsibilities for one weekend. The retreat features workshops, recreation, entertainment, a potluck dinner and a Saturday evening concert in a women-identified and supportive atmosphere. While we have lots of activities which are listed below, many people come to the retreats and park themselves under a tree with a good book all day; or go off hiking on their own - there is no need or pressure to do anything you don't want to. All women and girl-children are welcome. No boys over 10, please.

The retreat starts Friday afternoon with plenty of time for unstructured relaxation. The famous Retreat soup will be simmering on the stove by 5 pm. Join other retreaters around the campfire for songs, fellowship and marshmallows. Saturday morning, bright and early, join Judy for a bird-watching nature hike. The rolling hills of Roman Nose State Park are an ideal setting for birding in May. We have spotted Indigo Buntings, Painted Buntings, Hawks galore, Kildeer, all kinds of songbirds, and wild turkeys. Other workshops include one on Temperament and Relationships, by Sharlene of IRIS. Margaret will facilitate one on Dreaming Herland - an open-ended brainstorming of what we would like Herland to be if we ever win the lottery, get a big grant or a nice bequest in someone's estate planning. Michelle is going to do a workshop on basic massage. And we're scheduling a Scrabble Tournament at 1 pm. Also we're hoping some creative people will get together and design a float or theme for a marching contingent that Herland can enter in the Pride parade.

Bring your musical equipment and talent for the Saturday afternoon Open Mic at 4.

The Saturday evening potluck will give you a chance to show off your culinary skills. Whether that means a bucket of KFC or flaming a Baked Alaska, or something in between, you'll enjoy

breaking bread with your sisters from near and far.

We're happy to have IRIS (Cathy Cahill, Marci Patrick, Deb Mills and Sharlene on harmonica) as our musical guests Saturday night. Last time they played a retreat they rocked the park, and some of us danced our socks right off. We'll have books, music, and gifts for sale; and if you have something you wouldn't mind parting with, please bring an item for our Door Prize drawing on Sunday. You may register at the Retreat, but to receive a map to Roman Nose and a schedule of events, complete the registration form and mail it in time to reach Herland by Monday, May 10. Pre-registration is also less expensive than on-site. Daytripper registration is available for those who want to attend during the day on Saturday and for the concert Saturday evening. Scholarships are available.

Hope to see you there! *Registration form on page 4*

## Get Lucky in OKC with Melissa Etheridge

**H**ave you heard? Melissa Etheridge is coming to the Bricktown Events Center on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. To celebrate, Herland is having a special Supper Club before the concert at 6:00 p.m. on May 19 at the Bricktown Brewery, 1 North Oklahoma Ave.

Melissa's new CD, *Lucky*, contains a perfect mix of ballads, rock, and raw passion that is sure to make her *Get Lucky Tonight Tour* one of her best. So buy your concert tickets and plan to join other Melissa fans for an evening of pizza and great music. Contact Joann at [jodebug@yahoo.com](mailto:jodebug@yahoo.com) or Herland at (405) 521-9696 for more information and to add your head count to the Supper Club list.

*Get Lucky Tonight Tour* tickets for reserved seating are available at Homeland stores or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) for \$50 and \$75. Fan club reserved seating, \$173 for 2 tickets may be purchased through <http://www.melissaetheridge.com/concerts/index.shtml> or the M.E.I.N. Hotline at 415-575-6655 (M-F 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. PT.) Check out the Ticket Program FAQ at <http://www.melissaetheridge.com/concerts/faq.shtml> for complete information on fan club tickets.



## Tracy Grammer Can Flat-Out Sing

By Jill Garner

The first weekend in April I ventured to The Blue Door to hear Tracy Grammer and was blessed enough to be at one of the best shows I've ever seen there. For one, Tracy Grammer can flat-out sing. I heard her the summer before at the Woody Guthrie Festival in Okemah and was wowed, but to get to hear her in the intimate atmosphere of the Blue Door was....., well, it was heaven. What a beautiful voice, and she's a great instrumentalist as well, playing the guitar, fiddle and mandolin. Jim Henry, who plays a plethora of instruments, sings wonderfully as well, and also records on the same label, Signature Sounds, accompanied her.

Dave Carter, Grammer's partner in music and life, died two years ago way too young. He was an immensely talented musician and writer, and many predicted he and Grammer were poised to be rising stars. Grammer is a talented singer and great musician in her own right, and Carter always said he wanted Grammer to be the one to sing all his songs. She's committed herself to keeping Dave's songs alive, and I'm glad she is because his musical mind was so brilliant and mystical. Losing Dave Carter reminds me of how I felt when I heard Jim Henson died. They'll never be any more Muppets created by Henson's genius, and there will never be any more songs written by Carter. Fortunately, Grammer feels that Carter's music is too good not to be shared, and there's no one better to do it. Carter was a master of poetry and rhyme, and combined the common with the fantastical, the love struck with the heartbroke, and the old with the new. So many of his songs sound like timeless, traditional songs, while others are very modern, and then some, like Don't Tread on Me, are Carter being downright silly.

Carter was raised in Oklahoma and Texas, and many of his songs evoke the imagery of the open plains with mystical references and visions. He studied a huge range of things in his life including classical piano, mathematics, computer programming, philosophy, transpersonal psychology, various martial arts, all kinds of religions and spiritual paths, and so many of these experiences come out in his songs. A lot of his songs came to him in dreams as well. With lyrics like, "He worked the midnight diners, washed the weary dishes, Street poets and vision miners, starry-eyed ambitious, Blew like pilgrim leaves through the sad café, The bards and climbers tradin dreams and wishes" from "The Power and the Glory" evoke a colorful cast of characters, and capture the loneliness of drifters and dreamers. From 236-6132, "I am not looking for no champion of my freedom, I am anything but anybody's foundling, Sometimes I feel like I am wandering, an old balloon on broken string, A

buzzardling, A vulture beating creaky wings, while angry storms go gathering around me", the pain and futility of an indifferent love is so eloquently captured.

Carter and Grammer have three CDs. When I Go, originally released in 1998 and recently re-released on Signature Sounds, Tanglewood Tree, and Drum Hat and Buddha.

Please check out their music. You can find it all on the internet at <http://daveandtracy.globalhosting.com/index.php>, as well as other sites such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and sometimes you can find their stuff at Borders. Carter's words are brilliant, and Tracy's singing and musical ability is something you shouldn't miss. As Carter once said, "If I can bring the magic of the deep unconscious into the all-too-predictable realm of the daily grind, well that's like bringing water into the desert. I need this to live fully; I suspect we all do." Exactly.

## Have You Heard The Mermaids Singing?

This month's video night offering is "I've Heard the Mermaids Singing," a Canadian film from 1987 directed by Patricia Rozema. In T.S. Eliot's poem "The Love-Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," he writes "I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each. I do not think that they will sing to me." Eliot is right, they won't sing to him, but they will sing to us.

Set for the most part in an art gallery in Toronto, we will watch three characters create and release tensions in debut performances. This is an independent effort with a film-noir feel.

Join us at Herland, May 29th at 7:00 PM

The popcorn is free and the soft drinks and bottled water are available for a Herland donation. If the DVD or tape is closed captioned, captioning will be available.

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### Herland Supper Club

Herland Supper Club will meet at 5 pm on Saturday, May 8th, at Zios (Italian) in Bricktown. Following dinner, we will travel to the Farmer's Market at 311 S. Klein for the annual May Music Fest hosted by RAIN and CarePoint. This event benefits people living with HIV/AIDS across the Western region of Oklahoma. Wendy Woo, Shelly Phelps, and Pinkie and the Snakeshakers are the featured artists.

### 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.

### Womyn of Color

Womyn of Color group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month—except May's meeting is the 16th. Please email womynofcolor@gay.com or call (405) 842-3464 or (405) 947-7691 for more information.

### Herland Work Day

On Saturday June 12th from 1 to 5 pm, Herland needs volunteers to help prepare for our annual Pride Picnic in the back yard. Tasks include cleaning, painting and repairs and general yard work outside. All help is greatly appreciated.

### Herland Pride Picnic

On Saturday June 26th, Herland will be hosting our annual Pride Picnic in the back yard. Be sure to mark your calendars for an afternoon of food, live music and fun.

## HERLAND EVENTS CALENDAR

### May

- Saturday, May 1: Herland Scrabble Night, 6 pm
- Saturday, May 8: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am
- Saturday, May 8: Herland Supper Club at Zios in Bricktown at 5 pm, followed by May Music Fest at Farmer's Market at 7 pm
- Saturday, May 8: May Music Fest Benefit for RAIN, Farmer's Market, 311 S. Klein, 7 pm
- Sunday, May 9: Million Mom March, U.S. Capitol, Wash. DC, 10 am to 3 pm (Mother's Day)
- Monday, May 10: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7 pm
- May 14-16: **Herland Spring Retreat at Roman Nose with IRIS**
- Saturday, May 15: Miss Brown To You will appear at UCO Jazz Lab, 100 E. 5th St (at Boulevard), in Edmond
- Sunday, May 16: Womyn of Color Meeting, call 842-3464 for details
- Wednesday, May 19: Melissa Etheridge concert—see page 1
- Saturday, May 22: Herland Scrabble Night
- Sunday, May 23: Herland Board Meeting, 4 pm, everyone welcome
- Saturday, May 29: Herland Video Night, 7 pm
- **June**
- Saturday, June 12: Herland work day, 1 pm to 5 pm
- Saturday, June 26: Pride Picnic at Herland
- Sunday, June 27: Pride Parade

### Don't Forget to Support the Voice!

Your contribution is important! Just \$12 a year will help us pay for the \$300+ it costs every month to print and mail the newsletter.

- Enclosed is a contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please add me to the mailing list for The Voice.
- Please change my address (new address below).

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**Check Out Our New Website**  
**Herland Sister Resources**  
[www.herlandsisters.org](http://www.herlandsisters.org)

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.

# Herland Spring Women's Retreat Registration Form

## Roman Nose State Park - May 14-16, 2004

Below are guidelines to help you select an appropriate registration amount. Deadline for pre-registration is May 10th. 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.**

### Anyone for Scrabble?

A Herland Scrabble Club is an idea whose time is long overdue. We are going to meet twice in May. Saturday May 1, and Saturday May 22, both nights from 6 - 9. On May 1st we will order pizza, and thereafter we expect to have Food for Thought -- snacks provided by a \$2 assessment at the prior meeting.

We have a few scrabble boards, but please bring one if you have one. We have tables enough to have quite a few games going at once, so if you like to play strict rules or wild and crazy ones, you'll be able to find a game to suit you.

We'll set a regular Saturday meeting date at the May 1 meeting. We're also going to have a scrabble tournament at the Retreat on May 15..

### Herland/OGLPC Dance

Around a hundred people danced their socks off and had a fabulous time at the April Fools Dance. We even managed to raise some funds as well as raising a lot of fun. In addition to all the great volunteers affiliated with OGLPC and Herland, too many to list - oh, all right: Paul, Brenda, Sandy, Jay, John, Judy, Diane, Ginger, Margaret, Margie, Joann, Deidra, Chris, Evelyn, Laura, Linda, and Sandy, we especially want to thank Pam Trotter for the donation of helium, time, energy and the very beautiful floral arrangements from Pam Trotter Designs, which we enjoyed all evening and then auctioned off, with proceeds to Herland and OGLPC. Some of us still have orchids from those arrangements blooming on our desks. Herland thanks Deni and Carol for their wonderful donation of fun art which also was a great fundraiser; Miss Brown to You was as ever superb, and we want to thank again the Social Justice Committee (Ann, Anne, and Ruthie, Thank you!) of First Unitarian Church for the use of wonderful Daniel Hall. Let's do it again soon.

## House Bill 2259, the Mean, Selfish Amendment

by moc

In 1982 the Oklahoma Legislature saw fit to vote down the Equal Rights Amendment. The entire text of the ERA is: "Equal Rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged, by the United States or any state on account of sex." Not too radical, is it? What a breathtaking disregard for women's rights it was, what a slap in the face, to vote against the ERA.

In April of 2004, the Oklahoma legislature again stepped up to the plate and hit a home run for hatred, bigotry, fear, meanness, small-mindedness, and provincialism. Having denied a constitutional amendment to extend rights to all people, they have now, twenty-two years later, voted *for* a constitutional amendment that will severely limit the rights of a large number of people. Here's the language of the Ballot Question for the Mean, Selfish Amendment, aka the Marriage Protection Amendment:

"This measure adds a new section of law to the Constitution. It adds Section 35 to Article 2. It defines marriage to be between one man and one woman. It prohibits giving the benefits of marriage to people who are not married. It provides that same sex marriages in other states are not valid in this state. It makes issuing a marriage license in violation of this section a misdemeanor."

This amendment even prohibits civil unions, which bestow at least a few of the many rights and responsibilities of marriage. It is just pure meanness – mean as in small, mean as in cruel. And in an absolute wallow of self-loathing, cowardice, internalized homophobia and sexism, there were women in 1982 who voted against the ERA, and there are glbt members of this legislature who voted for today's amendment. Shame on them.

There were just eleven members who voted against the amendment. In the House, Representatives Opio Toure, Judy Eason McIntyre, Darrell Gilbert, and M.C. Leist, voted against it. If you feel inclined to thank them for their vote, the House switchboard is 405/521-2711, or you can email them using their lastname and the first two letters of their first name; @state.ok.us; for instance gilbertda@state.ok.us.

In the upper chamber, Senators Maxine Horner, Bernest Cain, Cal Hobson, Dick Wilkerson, Penny Williams, Angela Monson and Ben Robinson voted against it. The Senate switchboard is 405/524-0126; their emails: Lastname@state.ok.us, for

instance, monsoon@state.ok.us. It is good but not surprising to note that a disproportionately large number of women and African-Americans legislators voted against the bill.

There will be a massive effort put forth on both sides of this proposed Amendment in the next six months. GLBT groups will be raising money for advertisements and commercials, doing voter registration, getting out the vote, and raising issues like these for the voters to think about:

- First you brand us as promiscuous and now you tell us you won't let us get married?
- Are heteros being a little bit selfish here?
- How in the name of heaven can it matter to a heterosexual couple if their glbt neighbors have the same 1,300-plus rights and responsibilities and protections of marriage that they do?
- Why does it matter to Adam and Eve if Adam and Steve's children have the same right to child support that little Cain and Abel have?
- Do they know the story of the dog in the manger? Are they proud to act that way?
- If they want to be biblically correct, why don't they define marriage as being between one man and one woman, *one time, for life?* That's biblical!
- If marriage is for procreation, why do we let old geezers get married? And why do we let married couples use birth control?
- Why would anyone fear that their church would be forced to perform gay weddings if they don't want to – no one today can force a Catholic church to marry divorced people, for instance, or an Orthodox Synagogue to marry couples outside their faith.
- Sanctity of marriage? Please let's get real. Marrying for a million dollars on television (or in real life?) Britney Spears and her 36-hour marriage, this is sacred? Liz Taylor and her eight marriages? And let's not even go to the divorce record and fooling around of our legislators and other elected officials – at least not unless we get it all documented.
- If you won't let us get married, can we take like ten or twenty percent off our taxes, since we won't get the same benefit from taxes that married folks can get?
- Is the pursuit of happiness for heterosexuals only? Are we going to use our constitution to restrict rather than expand the rights of our citizens? Or are we the land of the free and equal, and lovers of liberty?
- If we're married to a man and our husband dies, do we really have to marry his brother?

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