

HerlandVoice

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november • 2005

building a culture of peace

Holiday shopping that supports social justice is the theme of the 17th annual Oklahoma City *Fall Peace Festival*. More than 50 organizations (including Herland) will have tables and booths offering such items as fair trade Guatemalan fabrics, Nicaraguan coffee, African carvings, woven baskets, handmade jewelry, art work, plants, books, calendars, and more.

Date: Saturday, November 12

Location: Civic Center Hall of Mirrors, Downtown OKC

Time: 10 am—4 pm (come and go as you please)

Admission: Free

The all-day live entertainment features exceptional local musicians, including Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg and other local bands, and family-approved belly dancing. There is face-painting for children and a variety of refreshments will be available at various tables. Healthy sandwiches will be offered by the Backdoor Coffee House. Admission is free and parking at the street meters is free on weekends.

Participating organizations include Herland Sister Resources, Amnesty International, Sierra Club, United Nations Association, Bread for the World, Esperanza en Accion, Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Skyline Urban Ministry, OK Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Human Rights Alliance, Vegetarians of OKC, Conscientious Objectors Coalition, and more. Call the Peace House at (405) 524-5577 for more information.

you make it happen: the herland fall retreat october 28-30

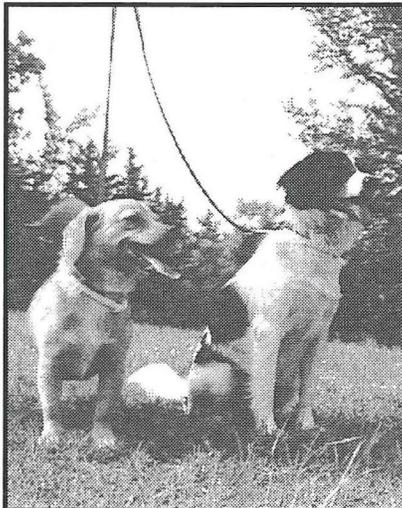
Our annual Fall Retreat is right around the corner. *Peggy Johnson and Nancy Scott* are back to provide the entertainment, plus there will be indoor and outdoor game tournaments, pumpkin carving, a Halloween costume contest, and lots more.

Date: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Oct 28-30

Location: Eufaula State Park Group Camp

Registration: Sliding scale \$15-\$60

Located conveniently 3 miles south of I-40 on SH 150, Eufaula is just 2 hours from OKC and even closer to Tulsa and Muskogee. Special activities planned will include the "ghosts of retreats past," omelets for Saturday brunch, a drumming circle, and tie-dyeing. And remember, dogs are welcome but must be on a leash! Make this Fall something special to remember. Call Laura at 286-0079 to register today!



spanish prime minister on passage of gay marriage rights

"We are not legislating, honorable members, for people far away and not known by us. We are enlarging the opportunity for happiness to our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends and, our families: at the same time we are making a more decent society, because a decent society is one that does not humiliate its members.

"Today, the Spanish society answers to a group of people who, during many years have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, whose dignity has been offended, their identity denied, and their liberty oppressed.

"Today the Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity, and restores their liberty. It is true that they are only a minority, but their triumph is everyone's triumph. It is also the triumph of those who oppose this law, even though they do not know this yet: because it is the triumph of Liberty. Their victory makes all of us (even those who oppose

(continued page 2)

spanish prime minister

(continued from page 1)

the law] better people, it makes our society better.

"Honorable members, there is no damage to marriage or to the concept of family in allowing two people of the same sex to get married. To the contrary, what happens is this class of Spanish citizens get the potential to organize their lives with the rights and privileges of marriage and family. There is no danger to the institution of marriage, but precisely the opposite: this law enhances and respects marriage.

"Today, conscious that some people and institutions are in a profound disagreement with this change in our civil law, I wish to express that, like other reforms to the marriage code that preceded this one, this law will generate no evil, that its only consequence will be the avoiding of senseless suffering of decent human beings. A society that avoids senseless suffering of decent human beings is a better society. With the approval of this Bill, our country takes another step in the path of liberty and tolerance that was begun by the democratic change of government. Our children will look at us incredulously if we tell them that many years ago, our mothers had less rights than our fathers, or if we tell them that people had to stay married against their will even though they were unable to share their lives.

"Today we can offer them a beautiful lesson: every right gained, each access to liberty has been the result of the struggle and sacrifice of many people that deserve our recognition and praise. Today we demonstrate with this Bill that societies can better themselves and can cross barriers and create tolerance by putting a stop to the unhappiness and humiliation of some of our citizens."

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. Herland reserves the right to edit or not publish any article. Subscriptions to The Voice are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

women who eat leaves

The University of Central Oklahoma presents "Women Who Eat Leaves," recent work by *Asia, Abigail Chodosh, Elia Woods and Connie Seabourn*, October 13 through November 13, 2006, at the Donna Nigh Gallery Exhibit Hall, Nigh University Center, College of Arts, Media & Design, University of Central Oklahoma.

These diversely talented artists will be showing *works in metal sculpture, fiber art, painting, drawings, and natural dyed fibers*. Featured works will include wire animal sculptures by Asia and watercolors, acrylics and handmade books from Seabourn. Woods will exhibit her award-winning quilts made with alternative photographic images along with other fiber art creations, and Chodosh will display colorful silk sheets made with natural dyes in vibrant colors, many of which will be hung from the ceiling.

The group members are all vegetarians, and include avid gardeners, former La Leche League Leaders, and a grandmother. They all have different reasons for being vegetarians - including health reasons, ethical issues, and ecological issues.

For more information, contact the UCO Galleries and Museums Office at (405) 974-2432.

california legislature approves gay marriage

The California Assembly voted in early September to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry, making the state's legislature the first in the nation to deliberately approve same-sex marriages and handing a political hot potato to an already beleaguered Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R). The governor followed through on his promise and promptly vetoed the bill.

After a vehement floor debate in which legislators quoted the Pledge of Allegiance and accused each other of abusing moral principles, the state Assembly passed the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, which recasts the definition of marriage as between "two persons," not between a man and a woman. The state Senate passed the bill last week.

Advocates of the bill, including Christine Chavez-Delgado, granddaughter of Cesar Chavez and an organizer of the United Farm Workers of America, and Willie L. Brown, former mayor of San Francisco, argued that the bill fit into California's sense of itself as a trendsetter for the rest of the country. In 1948, California's Supreme Court became the first state court to strike down a law prohibiting interracial marriage. And California in 1976 was among the first states to repeal sodomy statutes.

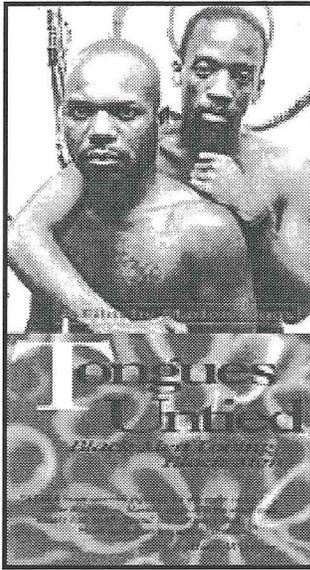
Californians had passed a defense-of-marriage act defining marriage as between a man and a woman in 2000, and the state, which mixes freewheeling Marin County with culturally conservative Orange County, has emerged as a front line in the battle over the bedroom ever since.

supper club

The *Belle Isle Brewery* has been one of our most popular Supper Club locations. They serve everything from pizzas, to burgers, to tuna steak sandwiches, to vegetarian fare. And they do it all very well. We'll be there on Saturday, November 12, at 6 pm for our monthly supper club. Belle Isle Brewery is located on the lower floor of 50 Penn Place, corner of NW Expressway and Pennsylvania.

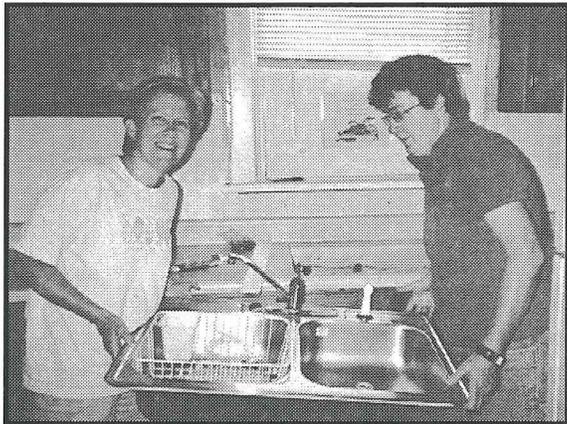
After dinner, some folks plan to wander down to Full Circle bookstore at the other end of 50 Penn Place to hear Mary Reynolds and Louise Goldberg perform. Others will head back to Herland at 8 pm to watch the historic film, *Tongues Untied*, Marlon Riggs's controversial, brilliant and highly political look at racism and homophobia in the United States.

This is the film that sparked an uproar during the 1992 presidential election when Republican candidate Pat Buchanan attacked George Bush Sr. because the film received a grant from the NEA.



work day

If you have been to the Herland bookstore lately, you may have noticed a difference. Improvements include a new sink, counter top, and cupboards in the kitchen. Join us on Saturday, November



19, from 1-5 pm as we put the finishing touches on these improvements. We'll need help *painting walls, putting up trim, sprucing up the flower beds,* and general fix up. Bring along any home or garden tools you think you

might need and join us for all or part of the work day.

scrabble night

Do you know the difference between *OSPD4* and *SOW-PODS*? Real Scrabble players do! Join the pros and amateurs alike for our monthly Scrabble night on Saturday, November 26, at 6 pm.

Games are played at all levels and pizza is ordered as soon as most of the players have arrived. Don't wait to exercise those brain cells any longer—let your Scrabble partners help you work out.

november 2005 events

PFLAG Tuesday Nov 1 Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Monday Nov 8 Neighborhood Alliance 1236 NW 36th 7 pm

LGBT *Talking Circle* Tuesday Nov 8 Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

Fall Peace Fest Saturday Nov 12 Civic Center 10 am—4 pm

Herland *Supper Club* Saturday Nov 12 Belle Isle Brewery 6 pm followed by Video at Herland at 8 pm

Mary & Louise Saturday Nov 12 Full Circle Bookstore 8 pm

Family Pride Sunday Nov 13 Church of the Open Arms 4 pm

Mary Reynolds Friday Nov 18 opening for John Gorka at All Souls Coffeehouse Series in Tulsa 7 pm

Herland *Work Day* Saturday Nov 19 1—5 pm

Lisa Rogers *Benefit Concert with Mary Reynolds* Saturday Nov 19 Church of the Open Arms 8 pm

Herland *Board Meeting* Sunday Nov 20 4 pm

LGBT *Talking Circle* Tuesday Nov 22 Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

Herland *Scrabble Night* Saturday Nov 26 6 pm

motorcycles drown out protesters

The noise of more than 100 motorcycles engines belonging to VFW and American Legion members drowned out the voices of members of a Kansas church trying to protest at a funeral for an Oklahoma soldier killed in Afghanistan. The bikers kept Fred Phelps and his followers from being heard or seen by family attending the funeral. Phelps and his anti-homosexual group believe God is punishing the U.S. for protecting homosexuals by killing soldiers overseas.

Phelps' group has shown up at funerals for slain soldiers in Wisconsin, Alabama, and Indiana this fall claiming that God is killing American soldiers using improvised explosive devices (IED). Previously, the group grabbed national attention by picketing the funeral of Matthew Shephard, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in 1998.

Phelps and his alleged cult live inside a fenced compound in Topeka, Kansas. The group has roughly 100 members, 90% of whom are related by blood or marriage to Phelps. His anti-homosexual core theology has been denounced by gay activists as well as both mainstream and fundamentalist Christians.

showcasing: women for women international

Across the globe, armed conflicts have reached an unprecedented number. There have been 250 major wars since the end of World War II. Ninety percent of those injured or killed in the conflicts are civilians, 75 percent of who are women and children. As never before, women bear the burdens of war and civil strife.

Millions of women are targeted for rape or other violence, displaced from their own homes, lose loved ones or suddenly obliged to become the sole provider for their families. They are frequently faced with the need to rebuild their lives without the basic necessities for survival or a viable means to earn an income.

Founded in 1993, Women for Women International helps women in war-torn regions rebuild their lives by providing financial and emotional support, job skills training, rights awareness and leadership education and access to business skills, capital and markets. Through the program, women become confident, independent and productive as they embrace the importance of their roles in rebuilding their families, their communities and ultimately, their nations.

Participation in the one-year program launches women on a journey from victim to survivor to active citizen. W4W identifies services to support graduates of the program as they continue to strive for social, economic and political participation in their communities.

As each woman engages in a multi-phase process of recovery and rehabilitation, she opens a window of opportunity presented by the end of conflict to help improve the rights, freedoms and status of women in her country. As women who go through the progressive leadership positions in their villages, participate in the reconstruction of their communities, build civil society, start their own businesses, train other women and serve as role models, they become active citizens who can help to establish lasting peace and stability.

Women begin in the Sponsorship Program where direct financial aid from a sponsor helps them deal with the immediate effects of war and conflict such as lack of food, water, medicine and other necessities. While continuing to receive sponsorship support, women embark on the next leg of their journey and participate in the Renewing Women's Life Skills Program that provides them with rights awareness, leadership education and vocational and technical skills training. Women build existing skills and learn new ones in order to regain their strength, stability and stature on the path to becoming active citizens.

Building on the skills training program, W4W offers comprehensive business services designed to help women start and manage their own enterprises. W4W gives them access to capital, and operates micro-credit programs in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Iraq with an overall repayment rate of 98%. W4W gives them access to markets by facilitating product sales through outside retailers and their online Virtual Bazaar. They provide expertise such as product design, production assistance and business development workshops. They also help women form micro-enterprises such as production facilities and cooperative stores to sell the goods women produce.

Read more about Women for Women International at www.womenforwomen.org.

website of the month

www.peacehouseok.org

family pride

Family Pride, OKC was started in 2002 as a source of support and resource for *lgbt couples with children*. The group occasionally sponsors activities such as a day at the zoo or a picnic in the park but they primarily seek to be a resource for families. Family Pride meetings are held from 4-6 pm on the third Sunday of every month at Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N Penn.

Meetings are broken into four groups: Nursery (infants to 4 year olds), Children (ages 5 to 11), Teens (ages 12 to 18), and Parents. There is a topic each month and the Parents group has a speaker on that topic, Teens have a roundtable discussion, and Children focus on a story and activities. At the November meeting, they will be focusing on the holiday season and how to handle your family, your partner's family, and the decision of who to visit.

Currently, Family Pride is seeking people who can facilitate the topic discussions or be a resource for the group in the following areas:

- Becoming a parent through adoption or artificial insemination
- Becoming a family: parenting and step-parenting
- LGBT-friendly vacations

For more information about Family Pride or to volunteer to be a resource, call Dedra at (405) 514-5088 or email her at FamilyPrideOKC@yahoo.com.

...so who does the spanking?

Research has shown that in straight couples, men more often take on the role of disciplinarian with the children while women are often the nurturers. C. Gonzalez, an OU undergraduate student in sociology, is doing her McNair Scholar *research paper* on how this process plays out in *same-sex couple households with children*. She is seeking volunteers to fill out a short, confidential questionnaire about their parenting styles as well as those of their partner/spouse. If you are willing to participate further, she will do an in person follow-up interview about your family dynamics.

If you are interested in participating in the survey, contact Ms. Gonzalez at (405) 314-8498 or email her at chimba12000@ou.edu.

thank you for your generous gift!

Name

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Your contribution is important! Just \$15 a year will help us pay for the \$300+ it costs every month to print and mail the newsletter. Herland is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. Your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Enclosed is a contribution for \$

Please add me to the mailing list for The Voice.

Please change my address (new address above).

eureka! it's diversity weekend

There's a little something for everyone at the Eureka Springs Diversity Weekend, November 4th-6th.

This small Victorian town nestled in the Ozarks of Arkansas hosts the lgbt community twice a year for a weekend of dances, entertainment, and live bands. Don't miss Oklahoma City favorite *IRIS at Chelsea's* on Saturday mid-afternoon through evening and again Sunday afternoon or the Drag King show at the Lumberyard Bar & Grill.

Moodswing from Tulsa will be playing Friday and Saturday night at the country/retro dance.

For a listing of some of the events visit these sites: www.diversitypride.com or www.eurekapride.com.

Herland Sister Resources

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