

# HerlandVoice

volume **twenty-four** number **four**

**april • 2006**

## controversy over jerusalem world pride 2006, love without borders

Jerusalem World Pride 2006 (WP), a weeklong international event, will be held August 6-12, 2006. Organizers say this is a unique opportunity to make a global statement of pride and tolerance. The message sent from Jerusalem WP will echo worldwide, redefining LGBT identity, faith, and vision. This boundary-crossing event will be a massive demonstration of LGBT pride and human rights. In these times of intolerance and conflict, from the home of three of the world's great religions, WP will proclaim that love knows no borders. Licensed by InterPride, Jerusalem WorldPride 2006 will be the second WP event ever, following the historic first WP held in Rome in 2000.

Some groups however are urging LGBT people not to go to Jerusalem WP. Boycott World Pride Jerusalem issued a call to boycott travel to World Pride Jerusalem as part of an international boycott of Israel. They support the rights of all LGBT people to love and live in freedom, and to demonstrate publicly to demand their/our rights. However, they feel these rights should not be placed in competition with the long struggle of the Palestinian people, including Palestinian LGBTIQ people, for self-determination, for the right to return to their homes, and the struggle against apartheid and the occupation of their lands.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission will not be participating in World Pride 2006, but say they support the work of LGBTI and human rights organizations which embrace the indivisibility of human rights and will continue to work with national and international partners to advance the global cause for the full enjoyment of human rights by all. IGLHRC encourages all human rights organizations and individuals who choose to participate in World Pride 2006 to engage in active discussion about the denial of human rights of all people in the region as well as LGBTI communities in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

website of the month  
**[www.worldpride.net](http://www.worldpride.net)**

## frolick in the woods with wimmin: herland spring retreat

It's that time of year again! Herland's Spring Retreat will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 19-21, at Roman Nose State Park.

If you like hanging out around a bonfire and singing, playing games or cards till all hours of the night, and meeting new friends over breakfast, this is for you.

Even if you prefer more low-key activities like reading and relaxing, it's still for you. We'll have workshops, arts & crafts, card tournaments, and a doggy contest.

The retreat starts Friday evening around 5 pm and continues to Sunday at noon. The group camp has cabins that hold about 10 people each, central bathrooms, and a dining hall. We provide most meals but bring something for the Saturday evening potluck (concert featuring Mary Reynolds and band to follow). Make your plans now to join us for a weekend you won't forget. See the registration form on page 3.





## april 2006 events

Mary and Louise Saturday April 1st  
Full Circle Bookstore 7 pm

Mary and Louise Tuesday April 4th  
Galileo's 8:30 pm

PFLAG Tuesday April 4th Church of  
the Open Arms 7 pm

IRIS in concert at Chelsea's Diversity  
Weekend in Eureka Springs April 7-9

Herland Work Day Saturday April  
8th 11 am

Herland Potluck Cookout and Games  
Saturday April 8th 5 pm

Mary and Louise Saturday April 8th  
UCO Jazz Lab 8:00 pm \$7

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Monday  
April 10th Neighborhood Alliance 7  
pm

Eliza Gilkyson in concert Friday April  
14th at The Blue Door

Herland Video Night Saturday April  
15th 4 pm

Herland Board Meeting Sunday  
April 16th 4 pm

Talking Circle: Our Mothers Saturday  
April 22nd 5 pm

Herland Scrabble Game Sunday  
April 23rd 1 pm

Mary and Emily Tuesday April 25th  
Galileo's 8:30 pm

Sisters of Swing Wednesday April 26  
Festival of the Arts Deck Stage 6 pm

Catie Curtis in concert Saturday  
April 29th at The Blue Door

Herland Spring Retreat May 19-21  
Roman Nose State Park

## potluck cookout

On Saturday, April 8th, at 5 pm (after our work day), we're going to fire up the grill and fix some hot dogs and not-dogs (vegetarian dogs) and play some backyard games. If it's raining we'll play indoor games and cook the hotdogs inside. We'll provide the dogs, fixins, plates, drinks, etc. You bring a side dish or dessert. Even if you can't come for work day, please join us for the cookout.

## work day

It's time for pruning, planting, and painting. Gather your rake, clippers, and work gloves and join us on Saturday, April 8th for some good outdoor work that will leave you feeling refreshed. We will be trimming bushes, cleaning out flower beds, planting new flowers, and touching up some outside paint. We will be starting at 11 am but come whenever you can. If you hang out till about 5 pm, we'll fire up the grill (see above).

## L word video night



On Saturday, April 15, 7 pm, we will watch the fifth and sixth episodes of *the L word, Season 3*. In the last two episodes, Jenny returned to LA with her very butch girlfriend and her friends don't know what to think. Tina went to work for Helena Peabody and Bette is still unemployed—friction there! Bette went to Washington for a Senate hearing on the arts and was propositioned by a tough female senator. Alice is still working on letting go of Dana, who has a suspicious lump in her breast. Kit is falling for Bette and Tina's "manny."

As always, bring something to snack on and join us for another two episodes of America's best lesbian soap opera.

## talking circle: our mothers

On *Saturday, April 22*, at 5 pm at Herland we are going to have an informal potluck dinner and "talking circle." This is a time for women to reflect and share about their mothers. Particularly if you have lost your mother, you may want to share your thoughts and feelings in this safe and comfortable environment.

## scrabble games

Join us on *Sunday, April 23*, at 1 pm at Herland for a few games of Scrabble and some pizza. Our competitors range from the novice to the expert so come and play at your preferred level.



# Herland Spring Retreat Registration Form

## Roman Nose State Park, May 19-21, 2006

Deadline for pre-registration is May 15. 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 (includes concert & one night stay) - \$25

\_\_\_Concert only - \$10

Sliding Scale Pre-Registration		
Single Person Annual Income	Household Annual Income	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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

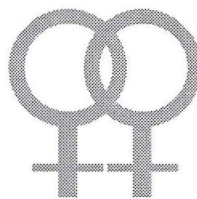
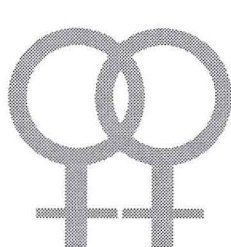
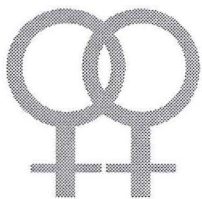
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

( ) 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.



*thank you for your gift!*

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[ ] Please change my address (new address above).

Please mail to: Herland, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112.

## diversity week- end in eureka springs

There's a little something for everyone at the Eureka Springs Diversity Weekend, April 7-9, 2006.

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. Other fun events will include a welcome mixer on Friday night at Caribe Restaurante, Diversity Bikers Show and Shine on Saturday at the Bank of Eureka



Springs, two performances by a gay comedy troupe from Chicago, and a Golden Oldies Dance and Social on Saturday night at Caribe Restaurante.

For more info see:  
[www.diversitypride.com](http://www.diversitypride.com)  
or  
[www.eurekapride.com](http://www.eurekapride.com)



# soulforce equality ride update

By Haven Herrin (reprinted from the Advocate)



When I first committed to joining the Soulforce Equality Ride, I applied a detached, businesslike attitude toward how I would conduct myself on conservative Christian campuses. The experiences I had at Liberty University and Regent University helped to solidify this view because these colleges were so eager to arrest us for attempting on-campus dialogue with their students. Though it cannot be said that Lee University administrators went out of their way to welcome us, my experiences talking to the students there has shifted my purpose and understanding of what this ride is about.

When we first arrived at Lee [on Thursday morning, March 16], students had plenty of reasons to avoid us: It was early, they were rushing to class, and they had no idea that we were interested only in peaceful, open dialogue. No tricks up our sleeves.

I quickly learned that the best way to engage in conversation was to just sit down somewhere—be it the student union, a campus bench, or a café—and let students approach me. More students would soon gather and broaden the discussion.

We usually did not agree. A few students commented that though my life was sinful they still believed that Jesus loved me, and they offered me prayer. Others listened to my personal story, never judging, yet not necessarily affirming my experience. Their acceptance was not essential; I wanted students to feel free to ask me difficult questions.

By the afternoon, I began meeting students who honestly admitted to struggling with their sexual orientation, some of whom claimed to be on the road to becoming ex-gay. Their admissions came as a surprise to me. Previously I had doubted that LGBTQ students would want to stay on such an oppressive campus or that they would risk coming forward to me with such honesty.

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The questions and discussion these students offered me were compelling. We could relate to each others' struggles more intensely, and though I could not offer any solid reassurance that they would not go to hell, or that celibacy was an unrealistic solution to avoiding expulsion, I had a forum for my personal story and could justify my own imperative to live openly as a lesbian. I attested that I would not be able to live honestly while inside the closet or while trying to become straight, and that my overall growth and comprehension of unconditional love had suffered back when I constantly denied and abhorred my natural feelings and need for intimacy.

I came face-to-face with the struggles of LGBTQ students living on a college campus that harasses and expels them. I was alarmed at their lack of support and community resources and immediately became fearful of the repercussions of our visit. Many students thanked the riders for bringing a temporary oasis of freedom to be themselves without scrutiny. But they also said that while we get to leave their situation, they must continue to survive in such an environment.

One month ago I would not have known how best to help struggling Christian LGBTQ people living in such an oppressive place, aside from suggesting that they transfer. Now I am convinced that we must provide these students with safe spaces to confidentially discuss their struggle and receive no-strings-attached advice. Yes, we need to help abolish the antigay discriminatory policies, but these students also need a place to turn to—right now.

*(Continued on page 5)*

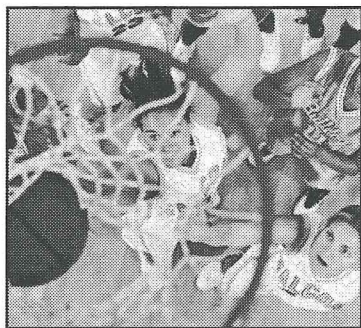


(Continued from page 4)

The LGBTQ students of Lee University are brave, because their strong Christian faith leads them to remain on their campus and bear the brunt of antigay policies. They need those of us on the outside to give them some space to breathe and to be reassured that they are not alone in their struggle. They need a strong alternative to the reparative therapy that is offered to them repeatedly. Until they have such resources to assist their survival, I remain fearful for their well-being. I move forward on the Equality Ride with a greater urgency for more dialogue with students attending schools with antigay policies. I want them to come to know that God created them with an unalterable gift, not a sickness. I feel driven to provide tangible resources that can prevent the further torment of those living with a minority sexual orientation.

## ncaa 25th anniversary team

The NCAA has named five players and one coach to the Division I Women's Basketball 25th Anniversary Team. Honored are five players who combined to win 11 national championships during their respective careers and the winningest coach in the history of men's or women's basketball.



The 25th Anniversary Team consists of Cheryl Miller, who led the University of Southern California to team titles in 1983 and 1984; Chamique Holdsclaw, who led the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers to championships in 1996, 1997 and 1998; Diana Taurasi, the University of Connecticut guard who led the Huskies to three consecutive championships in 2002, 2003 and

2004; Bridgette Gordon, who helped lead Tennessee to championships in 1987 and 1989; and Sheryl Swoopes, who led Texas Tech University to the national title in 1993.

Selected as the coach of the team is the legendary Pat Summitt, who has led Tennessee to six national championship titles and 16 Women's Final Four appearances during her illustrious career that began in 1982. Summitt, who just recently topped 900-career wins, is the all-time leader in every NCAA tournament coaching record including titles, appearances, games, wins and winning percentage. She has led Tennessee to 24 consecutive tournament appearances.

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## lesbian tennis star grabs top spot again

Out lesbian tennis player Amelie Mauresmo became the number one female tennis player in the world. Mauresmo, a French citizen, has been public about her sexual orientation since she nonchalantly came out to a French newspaper in 1999 and told reporters she was in love (with then-girlfriend Sylvie Bourdon, a nightclub owner) and that her relationship with Bourdon improved her tennis.

Mauresmo was unprepared for the media attention she received around this disclosure of her sexual orientation, or the flurry of homophobic comments made by fellow women's tennis stars. Among the most inflammatory was Martina Hingis's statement that Mauresmo was "half a man." The remarks were just as quickly retracted, but players continued to comment on Mauresmo's aggressive game on the court and muscular physique, which challenged their more conventional notions of how women present themselves and play tennis. Regularly Mauresmo was said to play like a guy.

At the same time, the Williams sisters were tearing up the courts with a style very similar to Mauresmo, but they were not being compared to men (although they did face an equal amount of derision for not being feminine enough).



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