

HerlandVoice

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june • 2006

herland pride picnic time!

Herland invites everyone in the community to its annual Pride Week Picnic in the backyard. Peggy Johnson will be our emcee and we promise to provide a great lineup of performers. Bring the kids and enjoy some great backyard fun.

We'll have hotdogs, hamburgers, (with not-dogs, and shamburgers for the vegetarians), baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, chips, as well as all the fixin's for the dogs and burgers, drinks, and lots of desserts. The entertainment will start about 5:30 and you might want to bring a lawn chair or blanket as our chairs get taken quickly.

Date: Saturday, June 24

Location: Herland Backyard

Time: 5 —8:30 pm (come and go as you please—food ready at 5:30)

Admission: \$5—\$20 (your call) suggested donation



OKC will celebrate its 19th annual Pride Weekend with the 2006 Pride Festival at Memorial Park. The festival will run from **noon to 10 pm on Saturday June 24** and **noon to 5 pm on Sunday June 25**. The parade steps off at 5 pm sharp on Sunday.

There will be two stages again this year with a variety of exciting entertainment. On the north

stage on Saturday afternoon, there will be the **Pride Idol Contest**. The top two winners will perform on the south stage on Sunday afternoon. Also on Sunday at 4:00 pm is the **Dogs With Pride Contest** on the North Stage.

On Saturday night from 8-10 pm OKC Pride is proud to present **Betsy & The Edge in concert**. (Betsy being Garth Brook's sister!) Don't miss the chance to hear the debut performance of what should be a great band.

This year there will be over 100 vendor and organization booths. Shuttle buses will run on Sunday and provide rides from the Strip to Memorial Park and back. Both days there will also be a special children's area with a moonwalk, crafts, face painting and other great activities. Unlimited entrance to the children's area will be \$5 per day.

judge strikes okla. anti-gay adoption law

Tim Talley, Associated Press

A federal judge struck down a 2-year-old law that prohibits Oklahoma from recognizing adoptions by same-sex couples from other states and countries.

U.S. District Judge Robin Cauthron ruled Friday the measure violated due process rights under the U.S. Constitution because it attempted to break up families without considering the parents' fitness or the children's best interests.

Gay-rights organization Lambda Legal had challenged the law on behalf of three same-sex couples.

"Gay and lesbian parents in Oklahoma can now breathe a collective sigh of relief because their relationships with their children are no longer threatened by the state of Oklahoma," said Ken Upton, an attorney in Lambda Legal's Dallas office.

One of the plaintiffs, Heather Finstuen, said

(continued page 2)

judge strikes law

(continued from page 1)

the ruling will allow her and partner Anne Magro to focus on being parents to their 7-year-old twin girls rather than worrying about the adoption law.

"This is really good news for our family," she said. "It's a huge relief."

The couple said the law endangered the legal relationship established by a New Jersey court between Finstuen and her adopted daughters. The girls were born to Magro.

The ruling was attacked by supporters of the law, which was passed by the Legislature with bipartisan support in 2004.

"It's another case of an activist court trying to legislate from the bench," said Republican Rep. Thad Balkman. "It's unfortunate that a single judge is trying to rewrite the law."

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.

submissions for poetry issue

Herland is seeking submissions of original poetry for our upcoming poetry issue in November. We will have a poetry night at Herland in conjunction with the special issue and all authors will be invited to read their work. Please keep in mind our space limitations when choosing your submission(s). You may mail your submissions to Herland, 2312 NW 39th, 73112 or email them to us at Herland@herlandsisters.org. Please tell us how you wish your name to appear in publication.

inlaws & outlaws

The World Premiere showing of Inlaws & Outlaws will be at Stage Center on Sat, June 10 at 7 pm for the deadCENTER Film Festival. As the gay marriage debate rages, this film goes beyond the rhetoric and straight to the heart. Whether loving inside or outside of marriage, struggling to get in or suing to get out, we follow the lives of ordinary folks as they navigate their own path to happily ever after.

Drew Emery, the filmmaker, will be there - and we may be joined by some of the folks in the film! Tickets will be available on their website: <http://www.deadcenterfilm.org>. Stage Center is located at 400 W. Sheridan.

town hall meeting with hrc president

The Cimarron Alliance Foundation (CAF) announced that Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) will be in Oklahoma City for a Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, June 8, at Mayflower Congregational Church, 3901 N.W. 63rd Street, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The Human Rights Campaign, a 25-year-old, national organization with more than 650,000 members and a \$30 million budget, is the nation's largest civil rights organization dedicated to achieving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) equality.

Taking the helm of the Human Rights Campaign in the spring of 2005, Solmonese's vision for equality is clear: taking the fight for equality not only to the floor of Congress, but to the kitchen table, to factory floors and to church pews.

Committed to making clear that nobody has a monopoly on religion, Solmonese launched HRC's new Religion and Faith program. The program provides resources for GLBT and straight-supportive people of faith while combating those who use religion as a weapon.

Most recently, HRC began an initiative for mobilizing straight supporters to help build a broad coalition of voters who support fairness.

Last fall, HRC led a strategic political and lobbying effort that resulted in the historic passage of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender-inclusive hate crimes legislation in the House of Representatives. Not only was it the first time the House ever passed a hate crimes bill protecting our community, but it was the first time either chamber of Congress ever passed legislation that specifically included gender identity.

For more information regarding the Town Hall meeting, please call the Cimarron Alliance Foundation at 405.495.9300.

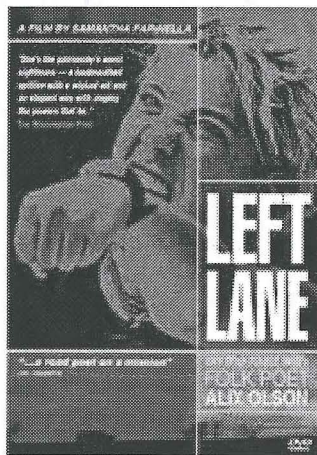
supper club

La Luna's has been one of our most popular Supper Club locations. They serve tasty Mexican dishes at a reasonable price. This month we head back to *La Luna's*, 409 W. Reno, for Supper Club on *Saturday, June 13* at 5 pm (meet at Herland at 4:30 if you wish to carpool).

After dinner, some of us plan to walk across the street to Stage Center to see the movie *Inlaws and Outlaws*. Several of us saw a sneak preview of the movie last month and are eager to see it again. The movie starts at 7 pm.

video night

Herland presents *Left Lane: On the Road with Alix Olson* at 7 pm on *Saturday, June 17* for this month's video night. Samantha Farinella's documentary is a love letter to her subject. Effusive accolades from fans, colleagues, and figures in the feminist and gay-rights movement fill every frame. The film offers an extended glimpse into the mind and motivations of this thought-provoking artist, whose feminist poetry issues a slap in the face to the patriarchy. Behind the scenes during Alix's cross-country tour, *Left Lane* follows her through college campuses, women's festivals, and high schools, inspiring young poets and provoking audiences with her incisive wit.



scrabble and game day

This month we are going to combine indoor and outdoor games into one event. Join us on *Saturday, June 13*, from 1 to 5 pm for our big GAME DAY. Inside we'll have the more reserved *Scrabble games* and possibly cards and outside we'll have *volleyball and badminton*. Bring a lawn chair or any other games you like and share the fun!

scrapbook days in august

Herland is starting a project to pull together its collection of photos and memorabilia and put them in order in scrapbooks. We have bits and pieces of herstory going back more than 21 years—remember the Holly Near concert in Oklahoma, how about Nancy Day? We would like to get some years associated with our photos and secure them in scrapbooks for better preservation.

We plan on doing this most every Saturday afternoon in August—but watch future newsletters for more details.

june 2006 events

PFLAG-OKC Tuesday June 6
Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

PFLAG-Norman Thursday
June 8 St Stephens Church McGee
& W Brooks 7 pm

Herland *Scrabble and
Game Day* Saturday June 10
1 pm-5 pm

Herland *Supper Club* Saturday
June 10 La Luna's 5 pm followed
by *Inlaws & Outlaws* at Stage Center
at 7 pm

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Monday
June 12 Neighborhood Alliance
1236 NW 36th 7 pm

New Moves Friday June 16
Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

Herland *Video Night* Saturday
June 17 7 pm

Herland *Board Meeting*
Sunday June 18 4 pm

OKC Pride Festival Saturday
June 24 noon—10 pm

Herland Pride Picnic Saturday
June 24 5—8:30 pm

OKC Pride Festival Sunday
June 25 noon—5 pm Parade steps
off at 5 pm sharp

Mary & Louise Sunday July 2
at Grape Ranch I-40 east to SH 27
(Woody Guthrie Blvd. in Okemah),
south 6 miles, then 1 mile west
2:00 to 5 pm; no cover

seeking ex-gay dropout stories

Laurie Cox of Seattle, Washington is putting together a collection of stories from people who have participated in and dropped out of an ex-gay program or "reorientation" therapy.

Laurie is an ex-gay dropout herself and has experienced the healing power of writing her own story. She wants to spread the same healing to others as they tell their experiences through story, poetry, journaling, or whatever format works for them.

Laurie believes this will increase awareness and understanding of the damaging effects of the ex-gay movement. She would like to have all written work submitted by July 5, 2006 so she can publish this fall. All proceeds will be donated to Soulforce or other LGBT non-profits. You may contact Laurie at goldstars-rock@gmail.com.

website of the month

okcpride.com



lgbt parenting conference

June 10, 2006, 8 am—5 pm Lunch provided
St. Stephen's Methodist Church, Norman, OK

Topics will include: Political/Legal Picture (Lambda Legal); Protecting Our Families: Legal Needs of Families in Oklahoma; Creating Families Through Adoption; Dads In A Mom's World; Creating Families Through Insemination; OUTSpoken Families (Family Pride); Opening Doors: Talking to Your Child's School; Step-parents: You're Not My Mom (or Dad)!; Healthy Families, Healthy Kids; and a Film and Youth Panel.

After the closing plenary there will be a Family Ice Cream Social.

COLAGE (Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere) will provide programming for children and youth 8-17. Childcare will be provided for infants through 7 year olds. If you have young children, please remember to bring enough diapers, formula, snacks, etc for a full day.

For more information, email stacjean1@cox.net.

shake your groove thing, yeah

Friday, June 16, 7 pm, cost \$6

Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N Penn

New Moves will host a special multicultural "square dancing" on Friday, June 16, at 7 pm at Church of the Open Arms. (They also meet every Thursday from 7-9 pm.) No prior experience is needed.

New Moves combines some movements of square dancing with a wide variety of music including pop, rock, disco, blues, dance and techno beats. Expect to hear the music that you love and learn some new hot moves! Wear casual attire and comfortable shoes. You don't need a partner, just come and make new friends. Call 525-9555 for more info.

i wrestled with an angel

"Human authenticity comes more from wrestling with angels than from being one." - Unknown

Grateful Bean and Back Door Café proudly present one of the most controversial people in the State of Oklahoma, Paula Sophia Schonauer: the minister, the cop, the father, the poet, the person...the woman.

Opening Friday, June 16th will be a special preview of Paula Sophia Schonauer's, "I Wrestled with an Angel," a poetic journey through gender transition in an experiment in interactive theater at the Individual Artists of Oklahoma.

Performances will be held at the IAO Gallery at 811 N. Broadway starting with a special opening night on June 16th at 8 p.m. Paula will return on Thursday June 22nd through Saturday June 24th just in time for the Oklahoma City Pride festivities.

Regular admission is \$10, student with proper I.D. is \$5. For gallery information call the IAO Gallery at (405) 232-6060 or check out their website at www.iaogallery.org.

L word, season 2 dvd set raffle

As a fundraiser, Herland is raffling off a brand-new box set of the L word, Season 2 DVDs. Raffle tickets will be sold at Herland until August 19. Then, at the last showing of the L word for this season (on August 19), we will draw a ticket and announce the winner. Tickets are \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5.

lifetime abolitionist award

Margaret Cox was the recipient last month of the Lifetime Abolitionist Award given by the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Margaret has contributed her talents for many years to the anti-death penalty movement as well as Herland, Cimarron Alliance, Pride Inc., Spiritual Walks for Peace, and many other organizations.

Congratulations, Margaret! We honor your contributions.

thank you for your gift!

Name

Street

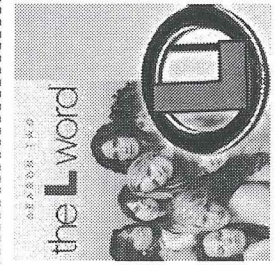
City State Zip

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 and exists solely through contributions and the efforts of our volunteers. 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).



Season 2
DVD set



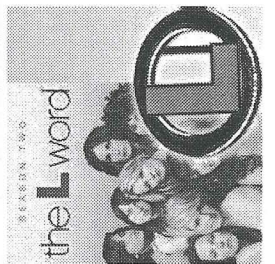
Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email (optional): _____

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Please mail or bring to Herland, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112. Drawing to be held August 19.



Season 2
DVD set



Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email (optional): _____

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Herland Sister Resources

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