

HerlandVoice

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august • 2006

soulforce: a chance to serve

A gay youth movement began with the Soulforce Equality Ride, and its momentum continues with the group's latest effort to repeal the U.S. military's discriminative "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Soulforce will organize several demonstrations at various cities around the country, including Tulsa, Oklahoma as part of this effort.

There are currently 65,000 Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and other sexual minorities (BGLO) service members in the military. These individuals must live in a culture of oppression and homophobia created and condoned by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It has happened that at least one person was not informed that his partner had been killed in Iraq until three months after his death. Why? Because the military did not know this service person was gay. Why? Because he would have been discharged from the military had they known that he was.

The Action: One or more openly BLGO persons who truly want to serve their country by enlisting in military service, accompanied by supporters and allies, will walk into a military recruitment office and say, "I am an openly gay person, and I want to serve my country." Sooner or later during the interview/intake process, that person will be rejected. When that happens, the Soulforce contingent will begin a sit-in. The sit-in will continue until a congressperson for their state meets with them to discuss "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

It is very important that the potential recruit be openly out and seriously desirous of joining the military. This person or persons must be the ideal candidate, and meet the moral, physical and mental qualifications required in order to serve. The military recruitment office could use any excuse – asthma, past drug use, etc., to disqualify. The public and media must know that a qualified American citizen willing to serve her/his country has been denied that honor because of their sexual orientation.

Soulforce is looking for several BGLO persons and allies to support the candidate on the day of their enlistment and for the sit-in. If a congressperson chooses not to meet with the group, the group may be "forced" to leave the office, which may entail being arrested. Please know that everyone decides their own level of involvement in this effort. If you want to be arrested or simply stand outside as a show of support for the cause, it is your decision. Whatever you decide will be greatly appreciated.

This is not a war protest. Soulforce seeks to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." If you have issues with any military action of the current administration that you would not be able to keep securely to yourself, you should not participate in this action.

If you are interested in participating in any capacity, whether openly or behind-the-scenes, or have any questions, please contact Michael Cich, City Organizer for Tulsa's "Soulforce: A Chance to Serve" and President, OSU Sexual Orientation Diversity Association, 405-744-9098 days, and email michael.cich@okstate.edu.

don't ask, don't tell reconsidered

In 1993, President Bill Clinton was prepared to issue an executive order and lift the ban on Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and other sexual minorities (BGLO) serving in the military. Unfortunately, President Clinton relinquished the issue to Congress after an outcry from conservatives. Congress signed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy into law, and it now requires an act of Congress to lift the ban.

The U.S. House of Representatives will soon consider the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (MREH), which could do just that. Unfortunately, the legislation lacks the support to progress. Public awareness and support is needed to move it along. Please contact your representative and urge him/her to pass House Bill 1059 and repeal "don't ask, don't tell."

Herland planning retreat

Herland board members, one former member, and a regular volunteer met last week to begin Herland's strategic planning process. This is something we do every year or two so that we can focus our activities in ways that will best accomplish our mission: to provide resources to strengthen, enrich, and support women, and to promote a world free of prejudice, oppression, and exploitation.

Our planning session was preceded by a lengthy discussion about consensus—what it is, what it isn't, and how it should work. We are also reviewing the results of our survey to see what types of activities our community wants. (Check back next month for a progress report.)

Many thanks to Tina Stiefmiller for facilitating our retreat!

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.

National AIDS Memorial

The National AIDS Memorial is soliciting remembrances for a World AIDS Day observance. In the twenty-five years since AIDS was first identified, the presence of this pandemic has figured greatly in the lives of countless Americans and their counterparts all over the globe. Stories of their own struggles or those of their relatives and friends make up the often chilling, yet undoubtedly compelling portrait of the impact of AIDS on the lives of these ordinary people.

To commemorate this year's World AIDS Day observance at the National AIDS Memorial in San Francisco, the Memorial's Board of Directors is asking the public for personal testimonies, remembrances, and reflections on the sweeping effects of the AIDS legacy. The remembrance theme, "AIDS at 25," asks that people identify a single year during this period and explain how the pandemic affected them.

Jack Porter, co-chair of the Memorial's 13th annual World AIDS Day observance, describes the Board's expectations as broad. "This could be a recollection of your own or a loved one's experiences in dealing with AIDS, or remembering the wide swath the disease made in those early years when there were no medications," said Porter. "Or it could be related to learning of your own diagnosis or that of a loved one in the last couple years; a visit to an AIDS-stricken African village; or a poignant moment in your work with a client of an AIDS service agency."

This year's observance will be held Friday, December 1st, at the Memorial in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The goal of the commemoration is to bring people together to remember and honor the many lives lost to AIDS, the people still fighting to survive, the many caregivers, and those working to find new treatments and cures for the disease that takes 8,000 lives worldwide every day.

Porter said that some of the submitted stories will be selected to be read during the gathering on World AIDS Day, and all will be posted on the National AIDS Memorial's website, www.aidsmemorial.org.

"Submissions do not have to be letter-perfect, but a telling from the heart," Porter said. "These stories and comments will provide all of us with a meaningful and historical record of the personal impact of the disease this past twenty-five years."

The National AIDS Memorial is a living tribute to all whose lives have been touched by AIDS. It is set in a seven-acre dell where people gather to heal, hope, and remember. The National AIDS Memorial Grove Act of 1996 bestowed national significance upon the memorial, which began as a grassroots effort by local residents searching for a positive way to express grief in a community devastated by AIDS. The Grove is the only federally designated AIDS Memorial in the United States.

Please send your stories by September 15, 2006, to mystory@aidsmemorial.org or mail to National AIDS Memorial, 856 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.

supper club

Join Herland this month as we head over to *The County Line BBO*, 1226 NE 63rd (between Kelley and MLK), for Supper Club on *Saturday, August 12*, at 5:00 pm (meet at Herland at 4:30 if you wish to carpool).

After dinner, at 7 pm, we will go around the corner to Tinseltown, I-44 & MLK, to see what's showing at the movies. With all those screens there should be something for everyone!

scrabble

Don't miss out on a challenge against some of the best Scrabble players around. Join us on *Saturday, August 19*, from 2 to 5 pm for our regular *Scrabble games*. After scrabble we will have a potluck from 5 pm to 7 pm. Then stay for video night!

potluck

Bring a dish and join us on *Saturday, August 19*, from 5 to 7 pm for a potluck dinner. Then stay for video night and the final episodes of the LWord!

video night

Herland presents the final two episodes of season 3 of the *LWord* at 7 pm on *Saturday, August 19* for video night. We'll also draw a name from those who have bought raffle tickets and give away the box set of season 2 LWord DVDs.

Lots has happened in the last few episodes. Bette had enough peace and quiet and left her silent retreat, Tina is seeing a guy (looks like that relationship is finally over); Jennie's ex Tim and his new wife came to town and they got to meet Max; Carmen confessed to Shane that she had cheated also; and Helena was sued for sexual harassment.

scrapbook days are here!

Herland is starting a project to pull together its collection of photos and memorabilia and put them in order in scrapbooks. Join us and bring your old photos and mementos, your creativity and experience, as we try to memorialize our herstory. We will work on the scrapbooks on two Saturdays, August 12 and 26, from 1-3 pm.

submissions for poetry issue

Herland is still seeking submissions of original poetry for our upcoming poetry issue in November. 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.

august 2006 events

Mary & Louise Saturday Aug 5 Full Circle Bookstore 7-9 pm

PFLAG-OKC Tuesday Aug 8 Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

PFLAG-Norman Thursday Aug 10 St Stephens Church 7 pm

Herland Scrapbook Party Saturday Aug 12 1 pm

Herland Supper Club Saturday Aug 12 County Line BBO 5:00 pm followed by a movie at Tinseltown at 7 pm

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Monday Aug 14 Neighborhood Alliance 7 pm

Mary & Louise Tuesday Aug 15 Galileo 8:30-11 pm

Miss Brown to You Thursday Aug 17 UCO Jazz Lab 8-11 pm \$7

Herland Scrabble Day Saturday Aug 19 2 pm-5 pm

Herland Potluck Saturday Aug 19 5 pm-7 pm

Herland Video Night Saturday Aug 19 7 pm

Herland Board Meeting Sunday Aug 20 4 pm

Herland Scrapbook Party Saturday Aug 26 1 pm

before & after

PUSH magazine wants your stories, paintings, cartoons, plays, photographs, essays, illustrations, or poems on the theme: before & after.

How has an event, moment, or political action rocked your world? How has a community, society, or nation been transformed by some event? Was your life revolutionized the first time you heard someone speak? Or read a particular book? Or took a class? How does a community change after a violent act occurs within that community? What was it like before, and how did it change after...?

PUSH, a magazine of queer feminist subversions, is an all volunteer, queer feminist collective located in Seattle, Washington. We have published nine topical print (free!) issues since 1999. Our topics have ranged from revolution to taboos. We publish essays, stories, poetry, interviews, visual art, book reviews, and regular columns. Our goal is to create a collaborative, queer, feminist publication that engages our Pacific Northwest community in an ongoing dialogue on issues of politics, activism, identity, and representation. With each issue, we attempt to choose a dynamic theme that inspires multiple voices to reflect, speak out, and keep talking to each other long after the issue has gone to print.

Submissions due by September 1, 2006. To find out where to submit pieces or to contact us with questions, go to www.pushmagazine.org.

website of the month

www.pushmagazine.org

how we got the right to vote

First women's rights convention in Seneca Falls	Fourteenth Amendment passes defining citizens as male	Susan B. Anthony is arrested attempting to vote	Women's suffrage amendment introduced in Congress
1848	1867	1872	1878
Belva Lockwood runs for president—see bio below	Susan B. Anthony dies, her dream lives on	Illinois joins six western states in granting women the right to vote	Alice Paul & others arrested picketing the White House
1884	1906	1913	1917
House of Representatives passes Suffrage Bill	US Senate approves Suffrage Bill	Suffrage Bill signed into law	Equal Rights Amendment introduced in Congress—not yet law.
1918 & again in 1919	1919	1920	1923

those who fought for us

Born on a farm in Niagara County, New York, Belva Lockwood was the first woman to practice law before the United States Supreme Court. A teacher at age 15, a widow at age 19, Belva did not study law until she was nearly 40. When her husband's death left her with an infant to support, Belva noted that she earned only half the salary of the male teachers. Determined to continue her education, she graduated with honors from Genessee College (later to become Syracuse University) in 1857 and moved to Washington, D.C. She fought for admission to law school and was finally admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia in 1873.

When she was prohibited from practicing law before the Supreme Court, Belva lobbied Congress for five years and eventually drafted the law allowing women to do so. In 1879, Belva Lockwood became the first woman lawyer to practice before the court. An important Supreme Court case in which she participated was brought by the Cherokee people in 1906, in which they won \$5 million through her efforts.

The Herland Voice goes to press on July 25, 2006, Primary Day in Oklahoma. Did you vote? Please vote in the run-offs on August 22, and in the General Election on November 7. If not for yourself, vote for Belva, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and all those who had such faith in you and your wise woman's vote.

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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.

thank you for your gift!

Name

Street.....

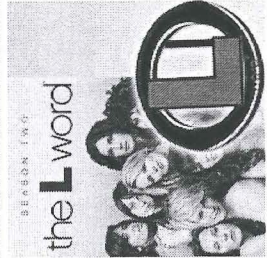
City State Zip

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.

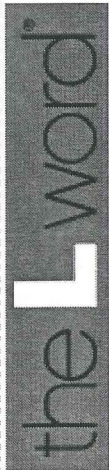
Enclosed is a contribution for \$

Please add me to the mailing list for The Voice.

Please change my address (new address above).



Season 2
 DVD set



Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

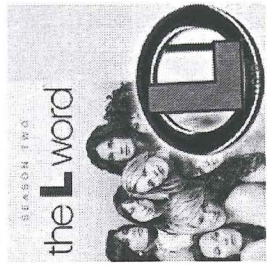
Phone: _____

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): _____

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.

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