

HerlandVoice

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Ochi at Herland Fall Retreat

Get ready to hear some great music on Saturday, October 28, at the Herland Fall Retreat at Lake Eufaula (more details in next month's Voice).

THIS IS MUSIC OUR WAY!! This is a new, same gender loving music for those tired of living in a "STRAIGHT JACKET". Grab ya girl, go meet a girl, and get ready for some GIRL to GIRL love for the lesbian in you.

Ochi is a proud but often bored transplant residing in Colorado. She moved to Colorado at the age of 10 with her family when they relocated from Chicago to start a church in 1970. For Ochi growing up in the church meant more than just religious teaching. In fact because she was in the ministerial family she had to work in all areas of the church. The bottom line, a church is a business where she learned about accounting, business management, volunteer recruitment, dedication, sacrifice, entrepreneurship, advertising & marketing, community service, and entertainment. Each valuable lesson has served her well. Ochi left the church but not the lessons and skills she acquired along the way.

Ochi is an activist and trailblazer from the crown of her head to the soles of her feet. She briefly served on the board for NCBLG and the Gay and Lesbian Center

of Colorado. Over the years she has begun several community organizations and clubs in Denver. Her goal has been to aid struggling businesses of color that were unable to access the needed financing that would create a more professional and marketable establishment. During the 80's she also began a youth program that matched at risk youth with seniors in need of a helping hand. She has worked on several community programs dedicated to cleaning up distressed areas making a cleaner, safer environment for the elderly and youth. Since 1998, Ochi has been known throughout Denver and surrounding areas as a teacher, drummer, guardian of culture/history, and an "A #1" volunteer. From cleaning carpets and painting at a shelter for battered women to rescuing injured animal and feeding the homeless, Ochi is there.

Her latest passion has been to create music her children can enjoy. "Let's face it, music has gone downhill and that's not just an opinion, it's a fact. Lyrical crime is

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soulforce "don't ask" protests end in arrests

(The Advocate)

While staging peaceful protests against the military's discriminatory recruiting practices, 11 young activists were arrested in mid August in separate incidents in Philadelphia and Minneapolis.

The actions were part of Soulforce's Right to Serve military equality program, which seeks LGBT equality through nonviolent resistance. Earlier in the summer, seven of the activists had attempted to enlist at National Guard centers – but were rebuffed when they announced they were gay.

This week, the activists returned to those recruitment centers and staged a sit-in. The Soulforce protesters were joined by supporters including straight allies and clergy. The potential enlistees were eventually jailed by local police. The activists are fighting the 13-year-old federal "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which bars openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual people from serving in the armed forces.

Right to Serve planned protests in additional cities the week of August 21-25, including New York, Austin, Texas, Chicago and Oklahoma City.

(continued from right)

under a 401(k) plan the ability to tap into their retirement funds in the case of certain medical or financial emergencies of the beneficiary. In the past, the federal law only permitted such withdrawals for employees' legally recognized spouses or dependents.

For more details on how the two provisions can help you and your family, please visit www.hrc.org/estateplanning.

Many thanks to our allies in Congress - Democrats, Republicans, and Independents like former Representative Rob Portman (R-OH), Representative Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ways & Means Committee Chairman Representative Bill Thomas (R-CA), Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR), Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Max Baucus (R-MT) and Senator Jim Jeffords (I-VT) - who partnered with us and did so with a cooperative spirit that is truly special in the current divisive political climate.

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. The submission deadline is the 20th of every month. Subscriptions to The Voice are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

pension protection act

It is a great and historic day for our community. Federal legislation called the Pension Protection Act was signed into law and it includes two provisions that extend important financial protections to more Americans - including same-sex couples. This is an incredibly exciting victory that will be helpful to millions of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families.

This Act is important because it has two hard-fought HRC-backed provisions that were lobbied for intensely to secure their inclusion. These provisions will help same-sex couples nationwide. Basically what this means is that these two provisions ensure that the U.S. tax code, in times of emergencies, is fairer to more Americans, including our community, and puts us on a more equal footing with other couples. Here's how these provisions can impact the lives of GLBT Americans:

The first provision, called "Non-Spousal Rollover" allows the transfer of an individual's retirement plan benefits, like a 401(k), to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for a non-spouse beneficiary like a domestic partner, sibling, parent, cousin or anyone else when the individual dies.

In the past, unless you were the legally recognized spouse of the deceased, you were forced to withdraw the amount as a lump sum and you faced immediate tax penalties which would eat away at the savings amount intended for retirement.

The second provision, known as "Hardship Distribution" allows individuals who list their same-sex partner or other non-spouse beneficiary

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(OCHI continued from page 1)

at an all time high. Wimmin are degraded, humiliated, and gang raped to a catchy beat. Those whose only interest is turning a profit assault our ears and subconscious on a daily basis. WHERE IS THE LOVE, PEOPLEI??!" Ochi has launched her very own, one woman campaign called, "TAKE BACK THE MUSIC!" Using humor, relevant topics and good music she hopes to spread her message of love, harmony, and peace. She is working to prove that profanity, vulgarity, homophobia and sexism aren't necessary for music sales. Hold on to your bonnet. Her lyrics are sexy, even steamy but never vulgar. They are humorous but never obscene. Her wit is clever but never lame.

Ochi's production company, Gatekeeper Productions, was borne out of frustration over limited access to the music industry. Formulated to meet the needs of same gender loving artist who refused to conform to be heard, Gatekeeper specializes in non-offensive, sexy music that reaffirms supports and validates wimmin who love wimmin. Its goal is to encourage, entertain, and enlighten all people and especially same gender loving people through music.

Ochi has shared in joyous performances with Irepo Afrikan Dancers & Drummers, Baba Joda, the Watoto Afrikan Dancers & Drummers, Carmelia Van Horn, Carmen Toure', Moyo Nguvo, Jambalaya, Afia Walking Tree and many more. She has collaborated with: Heritage Dancers, Denver School of the Arts, the African American Leadership Institute, the Institute of Global Scholarship, the Denver Kwanzaa Committee, the Denver Black Arts Festival, Take Back the Night, the Denver Pan African Film Festival, and so many wonderful others.

work day

Are you handy with a rake? Come join us on *Saturday, September 9*, at 11 am to clean up the backyard and then stay for the potluck picnic that evening.

supper club

Join Herland this month on *Saturday, September 9*, at 5 pm for a potluck picnic in Herland's backyard.

After dinner, at 6ish, we will play indoor and outdoor games—volleyball, badminton, Taboo, poker, etc.!

scrabble

Have you ever been stuck with a rack of all vowels? Come share your frustration with other who will understand. Join us on *Saturday, September 16*, at 1 pm for our regular *Scrabble games*.

habitat for humanity

Herland is putting together a volunteer work crew for Habitat for Humanity on *Saturday, September 23*, from 9 am to 3 pm. If you would like to join us for a good cause, please email us at herland@herlandsisters.org.

voice mailing party

Catch up on the latest gossip and keep your hands busy on *Monday, September 25*, at 6 pm. It will only take about an hour and your help will be greatly appreciated.

poetry submissions

There is only one month left to submit original poetry for our upcoming poetry issue in November. The *deadline is October 1*. 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.

okc lightning tryouts

The OKC Lightning will hold tryouts for the 2007 season beginning Sunday September 17th from 3-6 pm, Saturday October 28th and Saturday November 18th from 9 am-1 pm at Taft Stadium at 2701 N. May (N.W. 27th and May). For potential players, there will be a one-time \$35.00 tryout fee as well as the need to show proof of insurance and proof of identification. They should also wear appropriate clothing and bring shoes (cleats) as well as water (during the heat). For more information on the OKC Lightning, please visit www.okclightning.com.

Now in its 5th season, the OKC Lightning finished 2006 with a record of 10-1 as the NWFA League Runners-Up, Southern Conference Champions and Southwest Division Champions.

september 2006 events

Mary & Louise Friday Sept 1
Grape Ranch Okemah 6:30 pm

PFLAG-OKC Tuesday Sept 5
Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

WOO Friday Sept 8 Partners 6
pm-9 pm

Herland *Work Day* Saturday
Sept 9 11 am

Herland *Supper Club* Saturday
Sept 9 Potluck Picnic 5:00 pm
followed by indoor/outdoor
games at 6ish

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Mon-
day Sept 11 Neighborhood Alli-
ance 7 pm

PFLAG-Norman Thursday Sept 14
St Stephens Church 7 pm

Herland *Scrabble Day* Saturday
Sept 16 1 pm

Herland *Habitat for Humanity*
Saturday Sept 23 9 am-3 pm

Herland *Board Meeting* Sunday
Sept 17 4 pm

Mary & Louise Tuesday Sept 19
Galileo 8:30-11 pm

Herland *Voice Submission Dead-
line* Wednesday Sept 20

Herland *Voice Mailing Party* Mon-
day Sept 25 6 pm

Upcoming Events

Herland *Bicycle Ride* Sat Oct 7

OUT OK Film Festival Oct 19-21
UCO

Herland *Fall Retreat* Oct 27-29
Lake Eufaula State Park

Peace Fest Saturday Nov 11



peace fest time

The 2006 Peace Festival will be at the Civic Center Hall of Mirrors on Saturday, November 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parking is free downtown on Saturdays. The Peace Festival celebrates groups working for PEACE, Justice with Compassion, Human Rights, Civil Rights, Economic Justice, Environmental Sustainability, Rights of Nature, Animal Rights, Sufficiency for All—in short, a better, more livable world.

Herland will have a table at the Peace Festival 2006 with books and other items for sale. Mark your calendar to attend. If you have wares or services for Holiday shoppers, call 405-524-5577 or email batchokc@aol.com to reserve a \$40 a table with two chairs or \$20 half-table with one chair.

website of the month

www.thetrevorhelpline.org



Saturday, September, 26, 2006

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Chadick Park, McAlester, Oklahoma

A family picnic in Chadick Park. Entertainment, speakers, information booths games and more!

Picnic starts at 11:00 AM and will continue until 5:00 PM. Everyone is welcome! Bring your families!

Chadick Park in McAlester, Oklahoma. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed in Chadick Park.

Picnic Guest Host: Stephanie DeBarge

Special appearances by: Oklahoma's Cowboy Crooner Matthew Heath-Fitzgerald, Kris Kohl, Phillip Parker, Michael Camfield and many more!

Many of the entertainers participating in this picnic are donating their time & talent, so tipping is encouraged!

For more info about the picnic email INFO@MCPRIDE.ORG or visit their web site at www.mcpride.org.

The Trevor Project

is a nonprofit endeavor established to

Promote Acceptance

of gay and questioning teenagers, and to aid in

Suicide Prevention

among that group.

The Trevor Project believes that the high rates of suicide are preventable. To this end, they created The Trevor Teaching Guide, a classroom tool to be used in conjunction with the short film, TREVOR, to constructively generate discussion about the myriad of issues surrounding suicide, personal identity and sexual orientation. The free teaching guide is available at www.thetrevorhelpline.org.

L word raffle winner

Thanks to everyone for participating in our L word raffle. Congratulations to the winner, Sandy W. of Oklahoma City.

In the last two episodes of the season, Shane left Carmen standing at the alter, shame on Shane! Helena Peabody lost her trust fund. Bette kidnapped baby Angelica. Alice stole Dana's ashes for a "family" memorial service and she hooked up with Lara on the sly! Can't wait to see what they are up to next season!



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a gay-friendly kan- sas establishment

An article in the August 29, 2006 issue of the Advocate newsmagazine tells of a small bed and breakfast called the Lakeway Hotel in Meade, Kansas. The proprietors, Mr. J.R. Knight and his wife, Robin, hung a rainbow flag along with the family's American flag in front of their hotel. Local residents assumed the rainbow flag was an expression of gay pride and boycotted their business. It was actually a Wizard-of-Oz museum souvenir brought home by the couple's 12-year old son.

Mr. Knight is quoted in the article as saying "Any gay or lesbian people that do stop by will be treated with the best service I can give you." Mr. Knight also said "When this rainbow flag shreds, I will buy another one - and another one and another one. Just [as I'd do with] my American flag, I'll buy another one."

coming out after 60

Small, well-respected film company in New York is currently seeking stories for a cable TV documentary, an honest portrayal of gay men and women who didn't come out until past 60, or still haven't.

Seeking all types of stories: funny, honest, sad, brave, unexpected, life-affirming. If you'd like to tell your story, or know someone who might, please contact Bea, Jennifer, or Jason at Forever Films to learn more.

jason@foreverfilmsinc.com
PHONE: (631)899-3889

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 \$

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Please change my address (new address above).

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