

# HerlandVoice

volume twenty-five number two

march • 2007

## oklahoma lgbt leadership summit

Saturday, April 14, 2007

Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library  
300 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City

The Cimarron Alliance Foundation, with the grass roots support of the Human Rights Campaign, is pleased to announce it will host a leadership summit on April 14, 2007 at the Metropolitan Library System Ronald J. Norick downtown library for representatives of organizations that serve or support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Oklahomans. "There are several organizations across the state doing amazing work on LGBT related issues," states Chairman Richard Ogden, "Cimarron Alliance Foundation wants to provide a forum for those organizations to discuss how to work more effectively and more collaboratively so that we are all better equipped to support and represent the needs of LGBT Oklahomans." All leaders and board members of LGBT organizations or LGBT supportive organizations are invited, along with interested members of the community. Several community organizations have already signed on as partners for this historic event, including Herland Sister Resources.

The one-day program will be designed to address critical issues in the state of Oklahoma, including legislation and advocacy sessions specific to strategic media relations and programs to strengthen and advance



feature breakout sessions on issues facing LGBT people as well as anticipated Content presented in sessions including grant-writing, planning, and networking will enable leaders of the organizations in

which they represent and lectures, discussions and structured activities, will empower participants with knowledge and effective approaches to educate the greater community. Other breakout groups will focus on a range of issues including AIDS/HIV, seniors and Youth.

The growing list of presenters includes: Jim Roth, Oklahoma County Commissioner, Andrew Rice, Oklahoma State Senator, and Al McAffrey, Oklahoma State Representative. Beyond the borders of our state, the summit will receive support from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT non-profit organization.

For additional information or to register, contact Josh Hammers by e-mail or phone at [\\_jhammers@ou.edu](mailto:_jhammers@ou.edu) (mailto:jhammers@ou.edu) or (405) 570-0082. Registration deadline is April 2, 2007. An online registration is available at [www.cimarronalliance.org/leadership\\_summit.htm](http://www.cimarronalliance.org/leadership_summit.htm).

## anti-choice legislation introduced

On Feb 21, 2007, the State Senate Appropriations Committee met. On their agenda was a piece of anti-choice legislation (SB 714) which would prohibit government employees, government funds, or government entities from being used to assist in any abortion procedure. Planned Parenthood (PPCO) staff and other activists were in attendance to show opposition to this bill.

Other anti-choice bills: There are eight anti-choice house bills that were heard in subcommittee and passed on to the full committee. These are being closely monitored and when the Judiciary Committee meets with any or all of these bills on the agenda, PPCO will send out notification by email. PPCO would like to gather support of women's health by having a large constituent at this meeting in opposition of bills that would harm the health and safety of women in Oklahoma.

Prevention! PPCO has been working diligently with a lobbyist and legislators to have prevention legislation heard. Unfortunately, of the four bills introduced, it looks like three of them will never receive a hearing (SB 104, SB 105, SB 555). However, HB 1534, which requires medically accurate sex education to be taught when state funds are used, is showing some promise. When they find out the date and time of the committee meeting that it

*(Continued next page)*

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should be heard in, they will send out an email so that anyone wishing can attend and show support.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the bills mentioned above or how you can get involved, email or call:

Adrienne Brune, External Affairs Coordinator, Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, 405-528-0221, [adrienne.brune@ppfa.org](mailto:adrienne.brune@ppfa.org) or visit [www.ppcok.org](http://www.ppcok.org).

## black doll white doll

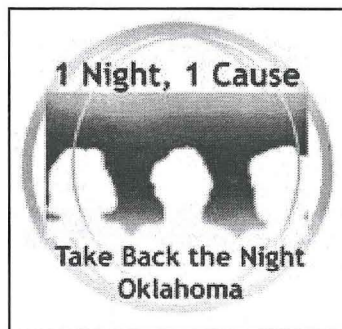
Kiri Davis is a young filmmaker whose high school documentary has left audiences at film festivals across the country stunned — and has re-ignited a powerful debate over race.

A young sister filmmaker does a documentary with other teens about the way they see themselves, in terms of skin color and blackness. Then, she recreates the famous Kenneth Clark tests when the little kids are asked which doll they prefer, the black one or the white one... The entire film can be viewed at [www.mediathatmattersfest.org/6/index.php?id=2](http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/6/index.php?id=2)

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.

## take back the night: ok

The struggle against sexualized violence is a continuing one, but we must come together to inspire changes in our community and give survivors a place to heal. Take Back the Night is an evening dedicated to raising awareness of sexualized violence committed against children, women, and men in Oklahoma communities, while creating a supportive environment for expression and empowerment.



People will gather at the South Plaza of the State Capitol on Lincoln Boulevard on Sunday, April 1st. Music and entertainment will begin at 3:00 pm. and the March itself will step off at 6:00 pm.

Following the march, a rally will begin where people will express their voices and Oklahomans can take a stand against Sexual Violence.

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## martin luther king celebration

Oklahoma City will be celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday starting March 3, 2007. The events were postponed from January 15, 2007 because of freezing weather. A number of events have been planned by the Oklahoma City Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition.

The Coalition chose two themes for this year's celebration, "Value Your Vote, Vote Your Values" and "A Fair Wage - We Have Work To Do." The second theme was added because of the new focus on the minimum wage. Roosevelt Milton, Vice Chair of the group says, "It is timely because of the Democratic takeover of congress on the national level."

Activities begin Saturday, Mar. 3, with a program at Ralph Ellison Library, at 9 a.m. Afterwards, a Silent March from Ralph Ellison Library will proceed down NE 23rd Street to the State Capitol's South Steps at the Martin Luther King Tree of Life.

The public is invited to a program at noon, at St. Paul's Cathedral, at NW 7th & Robinson, featuring words by local opinion leaders, music and presentation of proclamations.

At 2 pm, the annual Parade will step off from St. Paul's Cathedral, marching south on Robinson and across into Bricktown, terminating at the Coca Cola Convention Center.

On Sunday evening, Mar. 4, Temple B'Nai Israel will host the annual Cross Cultural Dialogue and Program. Events begin at 5:30 pm with a pizza supper. A keynote address and dialogue will follow, by Joyce Henderson, one of Oklahoma City's original "Sit-Inners."

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## upcoming: herland spring retreat

Mark your calendars now for the Herland Spring Retreat coming up the weekend of May 18-20th at Roman Nose State Park. Although it is not confirmed yet, we are hoping to have IRIS, always a favorite, perform again this year for the Saturday night concert. We are currently brainstorming ideas for new workshops, so if there is one you would like to see, drop us a line.

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## ellen & melissa

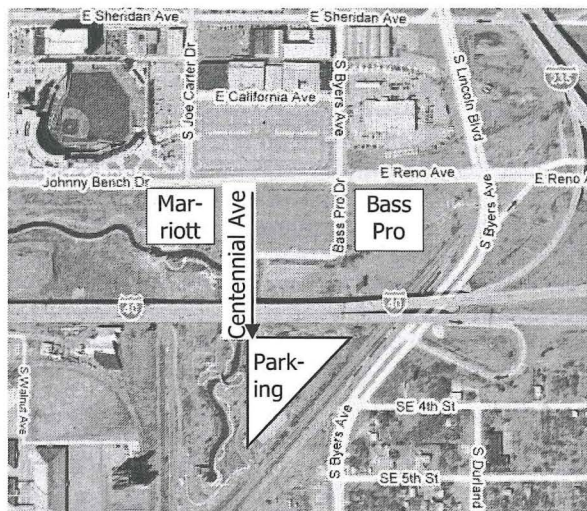
The LGBT community was well-represented at the Academy Awards this year as Ellen DeGeneris hosted and Melissa Etheridge won an award for best song.

## supper club

The *Red Onion* is a new restaurant that we have never tried for Supper Club. This Mexican restaurant has gotten great reviews for its good food. We'll be there on Saturday, March 10, at 5:30 pm for our monthly supper club. The Red Onion is located at 5936 N.W. 23rd St. just west of MacArthur. After dinner, we will head back to Herland at 7:30 pm to watch, *Tipping the Velvet, Part 2*, the saucy and tantalizing tale of an adventurous British lesbian!

## herland urban hike: bricktown

Join us on Saturday, March 10th, 10 am for a slight variation on the regular Herland Hikes. This month we will take a lively walk up and down the *Bricktown* canal, as well as Sheridan Avenue. We will check out scenery, shops, murals, and people, then lunch in Bricktown, if women so choose.



Meet at the free parking lot at the LANDRUSH monument, south and west of the Bass Pro Shop. Drive south on Centennial Ave. (between the Marriott Hotel and the Bass Pro Shop), going under I-40, and you will be in this parking lot.

## st pat's game night

Wear something green and join us at 7 pm on Saturday, March 17, as Herland hosts a special night of games in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Win fun prizes all night by playing games like O' Hergo (yes, we made up that name in honor of St. Pat's Day). Drinks will be provided, bring a snack to share if you like. Suggested donation \$5 to play all evening.

## scrabble

Join the Scrabble pros and amateurs alike for our monthly Scrabble game on Saturday, March 24, at 2 pm. Games are played at all levels so don't wait to exercise those brain cells any longer—let your Scrabble partners help you work out.

## the L word video night

On Saturday, March 24, at 7 pm, Herland will show the first two episodes of the L Word, Season 4. You'll surely want to see Cybill Shepherd as she joins the cast this year as Bette's new boss. All the regulars are back as well, so you won't want to miss Shane, Tina, Kit, Alice, or Jenny either.

## march 2007 events

*MLK Celebration* Saturday  
March 3 Program at noon, Parade  
step off at 2 pm St Paul's NW 7th &  
Robinson

*PFLAG OKC* Tuesday Mar 6  
movie "All God's Children" exploring  
homophobia in the African-American  
Community. Church of the Open  
Arms 7 pm

*PFLAG Norman* Thursday  
March 8 St Stephen's Church 7 pm

Herland *Urban Hike* Saturday  
March 10 Bricktown 10 am

Herland *Supper Club* Saturday  
March 10 The Red Onion 5:30 pm  
followed by Video at Herland

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

Herland *St Pat's Game Night*  
Saturday March 17 7-10 pm

*Herland Board Meeting*  
Sunday March 18 4 pm

*Herland Scrabble* Saturday  
March 24 2 pm

Herland *L Word Video Night*  
Saturday March 24 7 pm

*Peace & Non-Violence  
Workshop* March 29-30 OCU call  
208-5284

Church of the Open Arms *MLK  
Special Services* 7 pm Sat. Mar.  
31 & 10:45 am Sunday April 1

*Take Back the Night* Sunday  
April 1 State Capital Complex Rally at  
3 pm, March at 6 pm

## human rights speaker: all god's children

The Human Rights Campaign, Cimarron Alliance Foundation, and Church of the Open Arms invite the public to two services featuring African-American scholar, theologian and professor Rev. Dr. Randall C. Bailey from Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA. Bailey wrote, "My brother, a gay man who died of AIDS-related complications, helped me with my spiritual journey and my understanding of culture."

Dr. Bailey will be guest presenter at services to be held at 7 pm, Saturday, March 31st, and 10:45 am, Sunday, April 1st, at Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Pennsylvania, in Oklahoma City. The church's lively "Mixed Company" ensemble will provide vocal music. Dr. Bailey's full bio can be found on the website [www.freetomarry.org](http://www.freetomarry.org).

## research surveys

Two researchers are looking for participants to take part in two different surveys about glbt issues. The first is conducting a study on lesbians and gay men's experiences of coming out. The website for the study can be accessed at: [www.uakron.edu/psychology/comingoutsurvey.html](http://www.uakron.edu/psychology/comingoutsurvey.html).

The second study is on the relationships that lesbian and gay male employees have with their straight coworkers, and the circumstances and conditions surrounding the disclosure of a lesbian or gay male sexual orientation at work. This study is at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=193432691499](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=193432691499)

## working together = a better oklahoma

*"Creation Weekend" Planned for March in Tulsa*

By Laura A. Belmonte, Ph.D. President, Oklahomans for Equality

It will not likely surprise most of you to learn that Oklahoma ranks as one of the worst states in the nation in regard to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. At a time when 300 cities in the United States (and 86% of Fortune 500 companies) have non-discrimination policies that encompass sexual orientation, no city in Oklahoma does. In Oklahoma (and 32 other states), it remains entirely legal to fire someone, deny them a lease, or ask them vacate a public establishment simply because he or she is LGBT. In 2005, 75% of Oklahoma voters elected to amend the state constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. And now, while several state legislatures and cities are passing laws extending some basic rights to domestic partners, a new piece of legislation seeks to outlaw civil unions in Oklahoma.

As the president of Oklahomans for Equality (OkEq) (formerly Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights/TOHR), the state's oldest gay rights organization, I care very passionately about these issues. But I know that many of you do as well, whether you are LGBT or not. Many of you represent organizations that support equal rights for LGBT Oklahomans. Many of you long for an Oklahoma where diversity is a reality and not a buzzword. *My question then is, why aren't we working together? Why are we not joining forces on the myriad issues where our interests obviously overlap such as civil liberties, economic justice, and human rights as well as those where our common ground may be more subtle such as the environment, immigration, health care and education?* Building a truly progressive, inclusive, and effective LGBT rights coalition in Oklahoma is my dream and I respectfully seek your help in making it come true.

I will soon be posting an online survey in which OkEq will be assessing what issues are of most pressing concern to LGBT Oklahomans and their allies. The data will enable us to pinpoint where activists are, especially those who may be disconnected from larger LGBT communities. All respondents will be invited to attend a statewide "creation weekend" on March 24-25, 2007 at the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center in Tulsa. During this historic gathering, we will build an agenda, formulate a steering committee, and develop a launch plan for statewide LGBT organizing. I would be honored to have the assistance of fellow Oklahoma progressives in helping OkEq disseminate this survey widely - and more significantly, in aligning yourselves and your organizations with this ambitious endeavor. Please contact me at [labelmonte@hotmail.com](mailto:labelmonte@hotmail.com) or 918.906.2134 if you would like to join us in the effort to make Oklahoma a better place for all her citizens.

## books: the other history channel

By Betsy Brown

Along with hail storms and the beginning of tornado season, March brings us International Women's Day on March 8, and National Women's History Month, all month long. On the chance that you might be looking for some inspiring rainy day activities, I've compiled a brief list of books on women's history that are available through the Oklahoma County Metropolitan Library System.

This month, I've decided to focus on the history of the U.S. woman's rights movement in the nineteenth century. We sometimes think of this as the women's suffrage movement, but winning the vote was merely one goal. Women's rights activists began by establishing the right of women to speak in public. In theory, women always had this right, but religious dogma and popular prejudice meant that it did not exist in practice. Other issues included the right of married women to own property (including their own wages) and the right to divorce (controversial even among activists). The women's movement had close ties to the abolition and temperance movements (abuse by drunken husbands was a matter of obvious concern). Please keep in mind that we are dealing with history rather than mere nostalgia. Some of what you read will make you want to cheer, and sometimes you will want to scream out of sheer frustration.

Gabriel, Mary. *Notorious Victoria: The Life of Victoria Woodhull, Uncensored.*

Griffin, Elisabeth. *In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.*

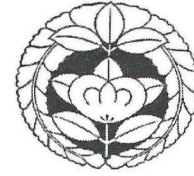
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## Risho Kosei Kai Dharma Center of Oklahoma

March 4th 10 am combined service (English and Japanese)

March 9th movie night "The Secret" 7 pm

March 16th Lotus Sutra study with Kris Ladusau 7 pm

March 31st lecture with Rev Mizutani 7 pm

"Compassion is the active power which enables us to break through walls that separate us - the doorway through which human spirit moves from selfishness to service."

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[www.cohokc.com](http://www.cohokc.com)

website of the month

[takebackthenightok.com](http://takebackthenightok.com)

(Continued from previous page)

Humez, Jean M. *Harriet Tubman: The Life and the Life Stories.*

Husted, Ida Harper. *Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony.*

Kerr, Andrea Moore. *Lucy Stone: Speaking Out for Equality.*

Larson, Kate Clifford. *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero.*

Mankiller, Wilma, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith, and Gloria Steinem, eds. *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History.*

McMurry, Linda O. *To Keep the Waters Troubled: The Life of Ida B. Wells.*

Painter, Nell Irwin. *Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol.*

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. *Eighty Years and More: Reminiscences, 1815-1897.*

Ward, Geoffrey C. *Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: An Illustrated History.*

The Herland Library (open most Saturdays from 1-5) is also a good source of books on women's history. For more information on International Women's Day, see <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/womday97.htm>.

*thank you for your support!*

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