

HerlandVoice

volume twenty-five number five

june 2007

the therapy sisters are coming to town!

Austin's "Divas of Dysfunction" have several appointments for new and returning clients in Oklahoma City. The Therapy Sisters, a.k.a. Maurine McLean and Lisa Rogers, long-time Lone Star lampoon artists, will travel to Oklahoma City to co-facilitate a large "group session" as well as some small group sessions June 22-24, just in time for OKC's Gay Pride Parade.

The large group session will be held at Church of the Open Arms on Friday, June 22. Co-pay for the session is \$10, or whatever you can afford. Then on Saturday, June 23, catch the Therapy Sisters along with local talent at the annual Herland Pride Picnic. Sunday, June 24, the Sissies will be featured during worship at the Church of the Open Arms, along with guest speaker Paula Sophia. If psychotherapy were this much fun, we'd all have good mental health.

Maurine McLean seeks stability by playing steady bass lines. She plays fretted or fretless bass, depending on her stress level. Maurine is a Spanish-English interpreter by day; a musician by night. Both trades allow her to play with sound and meaning, two tireless companions. She's responsible for such Therapy Sisters

songs as "My Finger is an Instrument of Death" and "Don't Touch Me When I'm Beautiful." Giving people the giggles by playing music is her heart's delight.

Lisa Rogers has played in various



and sundry bands throughout the developmental stages of her life. She was weaned on church music, cut her teeth on folk music, took her first steps to bluegrass, swore off high heels while listening to women's music, and found self-realization in the world of novelty tunes. A social worker by trade, Lisa is an avid reader of printed matter that ranges from the New York Times to the National Enquirer. Her most acclaimed news-inspired hit, "The Weenie Whacking Woman," based on the tale of John and Lorena Bobbitt, topped the charts on Dr. Demento's syndicated novelty radio show. Listen to Lisa as she sings of life at its most

bizarre; therapy at its best.

Lisa's melodic guitar playing and Maurine's fretless bass go together like hallucinations and Haldol. Though accepted by no major medical insurance, The Therapy Sisters continue to offer their musical mental health care nationwide, reminding you that if you're not part of the problem, you're not part of the Family. But if you *are* one of the best-stressed people you know, let these regular contributors to Dr. Demento introduce your tongue to your cheek with the most affordable therapy in town.

okc pride week june 16-24

June 16-17: Pride Festival noon to 10 pm Saturday and noon to 5 pm Sunday, Memorial Park, NW 36th & Classen.

Friday, June 22: Therapy Sisters Concert at Church of the Open Arms 8 pm, \$10. 3131 N. Pennsylvania in Oklahoma City.

Saturday, June 23: Herland Pride Picnic, 5:30 pm. Suggested donation \$5. See details page 4.

Sunday, June 24: Therapy Sisters and Paula Sophia at morning services at Church of the Open Arms, 10:45 am.

Sunday, June 24: OKC Pride Parade stepoff at 4 pm from Memorial Park, NW 36th & Classen.

\$10,000 to lesbian writers!

Deadline—Friday, June 29, 2007—
The Lesbian Writers Fund of the
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for
Justice

This grant is for emerging lesbian poets and fiction writers within the U.S. First place awardees and two runners-up in the poetry and fiction categories will receive cash awards (\$10,000 for awardee, \$1,500 for runners-up). Thanks to Skip's Sappho Fund, at least one grant will be awarded to a lesbian writer who is based west of the Mississippi River.

Guidelines and application forms are available online at: <http://www.astraeafoundation.org/PHP/Grants/DeadlinesAllGrants.php4>. For more information, or a copy of guidelines and application for the above, please contact us at: 212-529-8021, ext. 22 or via email at: grants@astraeafoundation.org.

What is ENDA?

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) seeks to extend fair employment practices under federal law to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. It does not create any "special rights," but simply affords to all Americans basic protection from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It is based on the principle that every worker should be judged solely on his or her merits. ENDA applies the same procedures and similar, but more limited, remedies as other federal civil rights laws, like Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A Pragmatic Approach

ENDA is a pragmatic and measured solution to the problem of workplace discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. It does not apply to small businesses, most religious organizations, or the military. It prohibits preferential treatment, the

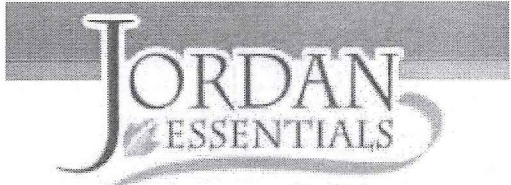
does not require that benefits be provided to the same-sex partners of employees.

Public Support

ENDA's goal is widely supported by the American people. According to a 2006 Gallup study, 89% of Americans believe gay people should have equal job opportunities. In a 2004 Hart Research poll, 65% of those surveyed believe it should definitely be illegal to fire someone because he or she is transgender. ENDA is also supported by large coalition of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

States' Experience

Seventeen states (California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin) and the District of Columbia have passed laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. In addition, eight states (California, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Washington) and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. Most of these laws are broader in scope than ENDA, covering discrimination not only in employment, but also in housing and public accommodations.



bath, body, spa

<http://jordanrep.com/10522>

use of quotas, and the collection of statistics. It permits employers to maintain generally-applicable workplace policies, including dress codes. ENDA

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FREE HOUR CONSULTATION

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.

health note: lesbians more likely to be overweight

Researchers compared population estimates of overweight and obesity across sexual orientation groups using data from the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth. The study sample of almost 6,000 women found that lesbians were more likely to be overweight and obese, putting themselves at higher risk for conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. The study's authors said their findings point to "an urgent need for weight-reduction interventions that target the high-risk group of sexual-minority women." For more info see: "Overweight and Obesity in Sexual-Minority Women: Evidence From Population-Based Data." Ulrike Boehmer, PhD, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.

when smokers quit

Within 20 minutes of smoking that last cigarette, the body begins a series of changes that continues for years.

20 minutes

- Blood pressure drops to normal, Pulse rate drops to normal, Body temperature of hands and feet increases to normal

8 hours

- Carbon monoxide level in blood drops to normal, Oxygen level in blood increases to normal

24 hours

Chance of heart attack decreases

48 hours

- Nerve endings start regrowing
- Ability to smell and taste is enhanced

2 weeks to 3 months

- Circulation improves
- Walking becomes easier

Lung function increases up to 30%

1 to 9 months

- Coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue, shortness of breath decrease

NWSA Conference

The National Women's Studies Association

28th Annual Conference

Pheasant Run, St. Charles, Illinois

**PAST DEBATES, PRESENT POSSIBILITIES,
FUTURE FEMINISMS**

June 28 - July 1, 2007

Featured Speaker: Sandra Cisneros, celebrated author of *The House on Mango Street* and the novel *Caramelo*. She will read from *Caramelo*, which devotes much of its text to immigration issues, and comment on the politics of migration and mobility today.



The 2007 conference marks the National Women's Studies Association 30th anniversary celebration. Established in 1977 at a conference funded by the Ford Foundation, NWSA has survived and thrived in the context of fundamental shifts in higher education, an increasingly complex understandings of gender, and the transformative challenges of globalizing women's movements.

Feminist inquiry within women's and gender studies has broken new ground in the past three decades, while facing key social, political, and scholarly challenges.

NWSA 2007 will provide opportunities both to revisit past debates in light of today's priorities and to chart possible futures for feminisms in the academy and beyond.

In particular, the conference will examine three sub-themes, each related to the past, present, and future of women's and gender studies.

For more information, see <http://www.nwsaconference.org>.

thank you for your support!

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. 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).

June 2007 events

Mary Reynolds Friday
June 8 Clear Bay, Lake
Thunderbird

Herland Work Day
Saturday June 9 11 am

OGLPC Monthly
Meeting Monday June
11 Neighborhood Alli-
ance 1236 NW 36th 7
pm

PFLAG OKC Tuesday
June 12 Church of the
Open Arms 7 pm

PFLAG Norman
Thursday June 14 St
Stephen's Church 7 pm

Herland Supper Club
Saturday June 16 The
Lido NW 25th &
Military 5:30 pm

**Herland Board Meet-
ing** Sunday June 17 4
pm

**Herland Annual
Pride Picnic Satur-
day June 23 5:30
pm**

**Herland Voice Mail-
ing** Wednesday June
27 6 pm

Herland Craft Day
Saturday June 30 2
pm—5 pm

herland annual pride picnic

As promised, Herland's Annual Community Pride Picnic will not disappoint. This year we have a super lineup of talent, some coming from as far away as Austin. Yes, the Therapy Sisters, Maurine and Lisa, will perform at our picnic this year, along with Tara Henry, Chaz, Peggy Johnson, and others.

The Pride Picnic is held in Herland's backyard and will be on **Saturday, June 23**, from 5:30—8:00 pm. Herland's Pride Picnic has traditionally been the Saturday before the Parade, so we have kept it that way this year even though Pride is stretched out over two weekends this year.

The burgers and dogs (meat and vegetarian) go on the grill at 5:30 pm and we'll have lots of side dishes including potato salad, baked beans, chips, and desserts. We supply pop and water. Entertainment will start at 6:30 pm and go until about 8:30 pm. Bring lawn chairs and the kids—this is a family event. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

work day

Please come to Herland on Saturday, June 9, at 11 am and help us get the yard ready for the Pride Picnic. If you have a weed-eater please bring it. We will mow, weed-eat and trim trees and bushes. Also, we will do some repair on the front ramp and move stuff from the front porch to the garage. Please come help for a few hours if you can.

supper club

Join us on Saturday, June 16, at 5:30 pm at The Lido, 2518 N. Military, for some great Vietnamese and Chinese food. After supper, you are welcome to join some of us as we head over to Memorial Park for the Pride Festival.

craft day

Saturday, June 30, from 2-5 pm, Herland will have an afternoon of crafts. Supplies will be on hand for making artbooks, beading, and several other crafts. Just make an afternoon of it!

A small donation is requested to cover supply costs.

our sister's closet benefits ywca

Our Sisters' Closet is a new resale shop that was recently opened to benefit the YWCA Oklahoma City. The YWCA uses volunteers to assist in providing services to women and children in crisis from domestic violence or sexual assault.

The shop is not your typical thrift store. It has a touch of class and a look that expresses the dignity that the YWCA strives to maintain for its clients. This quality will set them apart from most shops-- offering quality at bargain prices.

Let friends, associates, and family members know what a great store the YWCA has. Donations are welcome, but right now the main issue is informing the public so that they can have lots of SHOPPERS!! Volunteers are also needed to help sort, clean and refurbish donated items.

Our Sisters' Closet
6012 S. Western
Oklahoma City, OK 73110
phone: 631-7171
OPEN: Tuesday—Saturday
from 10 am—6 pm

help stop child sex tourism

For a long time, ECPAT has been engaging the travel and tourism industry in efforts to end the abhorrent practice of child sex tourism—traveling away from your home country or region to sexually exploit children. While the legitimate travel industry is not promoting child sex tourism, their facilities are used by sex tourists to get to destinations where they can find vulnerable children. This puts the industry in a position to help combat child sex tourism.

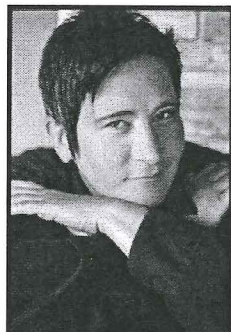
For that reason ECPAT-Sweden developed a *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* (www.thecode.org). More than 500 companies around the world have signed the *Code of Conduct*. In the U.S., one large travel company has signed the *Code of Conduct* as have several small companies and one travel industry trade association.

ECPAT estimates that 25% of the sex tourists abusing children around the world are Americans. But few U.S. companies have signed the *Code of Conduct*. We need to let these companies hear from all Americans that this is not acceptable. Everyone has a role to play. There are three things you can do:

- 1) **Send letters to the four large US hotel companies asking them to sign the *Code of Conduct*.** Attached are copies of four letters that we ask you to sign and send to the CEOs of these large companies. If you prefer to have ECPAT-USA send these letters for you, just respond to this email with your name and address and we will send these letters on your behalf.
- 2) **Patronize *Code of Conduct* companies when you travel, for leisure or business.** You might also want to let them know that the reason you are patronizing them is because they have signed the *Code of Conduct*. Here's the list of companies that have signed: www.ecpatusa.org/documents/Signatories_COC_Condensed_2006.doc.
- 3) **Encourage the company you work for to get involved.** If you work for a company that has an in-house travel department, ask them to adopt an ethical policy on child sex tourism, such as the one in the *Code of*

win (2) k.d. lang concert tickets!

Satisfy your constant cravings with two general admission concert tickets for k.d. lang with Lyle Lovett on Saturday July 7 at the Zoo Amphitheatre. Tickets cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please mail or bring to Herland, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112. Drawing to be held on June 24. Need not be present to win.



k.d. lang with Lyle Lovett

at the Zoo Amphitheatre on July 7, 2007

Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email (optional): _____

Tickets cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please mail or bring to Herland, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112. Drawing to be held on June 24.

Conduct, and to book company travel only with companies that have signed the *Code of Conduct*. Some companies might be interested in training their personnel and taking other steps to follow the *Code of Conduct*.

Please write your letters today to support all children's right to be safe from sexual exploitation. For more information about child sex tourism go on: ecpatusa.org/travel_tourism.asp. To report suspected cases of child sex tourism, go to:

www.cybertipline.com

ranting women bloggers

RantingWomen.com is a collection of women's blogs, sometimes controversial, about women's issues. The blogs are written BY women, FOR women, and all viewpoints are respected, along with our right to express them.

All contributors welcome on this new website. You are welcome to write about women's issues and be unafraid of political correctness, judgement, or censorship.

RantingWomen lets you rant, laugh, and even inspire... Discussions and blogs are periodically compiled into essay collections, and shared with Ranting Women everywhere...

Categories include angry women, gay women (that would be lesbian to us!), famous women, disgraceful women, inspiring women, outrageous women, political women, and more.

website of the month
www.ecpatusa.org



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Rissho Kosei Kai Dharma Center of Oklahoma

Sundays: Service and Hoza 10 am
Wed: Core Teachings of Buddhism Class 7 pm
June 8th Movie Night "Twilight Samurai" 7 pm
June 10th Combined Japanese/English Service 10 am
June 15th Lotus Sutra Study with Kris Ladusau 7 pm
June 16th Dharani Practice 1 pm

"She is able
who thinks she is able"
-Buddha

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