

HerlandVoice

volume twenty-six number two

february 2008

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February Calender of
Events

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Freedom to Marry

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In Memorium

Our Sponsors

Tobacco Companies Target the LGBT Community



If you smoke, you're not alone. Research shows that smoking is more prevalent among lesbians and gay men than almost any other demographic group. The tremendous amount of stress and social pressure this community experiences from a long history of discrimination no doubt contributes to these higher rates of smoking. But LGBT people also smoke because the tobacco industry actively targets them.

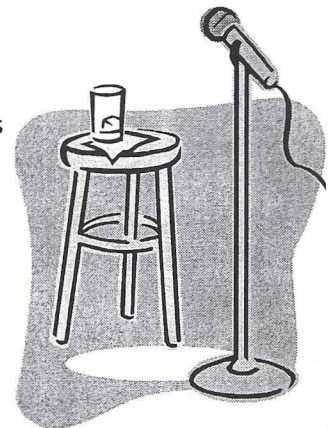
The tobacco companies were among the very first advertisers to recognize the LGBT community as a specific market. Today, tobacco ads continue to multiply in the gay press. In addition to these ads, which are often created to appeal specifically to lesbian and gay audiences, the tobacco industry successfully uses corporate sponsorship to sell an addictive product that kills thousands of LGBT persons every year.

Claiming to care about the LGBT community, tobacco companies sponsor gay and lesbian events such as Pride marches, give money to AIDS organizations, and profess support of political issues like "lifestyle freedom." What the tobacco companies don't mention is that they are exploiting LGBT people and their need for financial and political support—support that other industries don't provide—to

(continued on page 3)

February Winter Coffeehouse Features Joan Ackley

The next Herland Winter Coffeehouse will be on Saturday, February 23, at 7 pm and will feature Joan Ackley. A native Oklahoman, Joan is a singer, songwriter, musician who enjoys performing a wide range of musical styles. You can expect her to play a little bit of everything—funny, serious, originals, and covers. She has written songs about the environment, relationships, and even the ghost of Wiley Post. Come expecting a fun time and you won't be disappointed. The coffeehouses are free but donations are greatly appreciated.

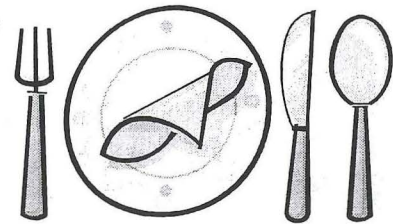


February Events

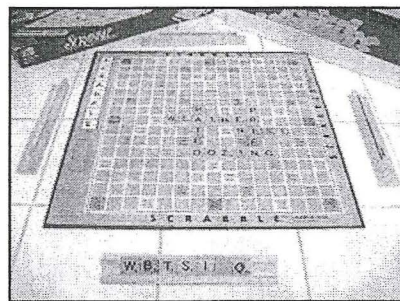
- Saturday February 2nd **Louise & Mary** Full Circle 7-9 pm
- Tuesday Feb 5 **PFLAG OKC**
Church of the Open Arms 7 pm
- Saturday February 9 **Herland Supper Club** at Belle Isle Brewery, 50 Penn Place, 5:30 pm, followed by **Games at Herland**, 7:30 pm
- Monday Feb 11 **OGLPC** Meeting at Neighborhood Alliance 7:00 pm
- Thursday Feb 14 **PFLAG Norman**
St Stephen's Church 7 pm
- Saturday February 16 **Herland Scrabble Day** 2 pm
- Saturday February 16 **Peggy Johnson** Red Cup 8 pm
- Sunday February 17 **Herland Board Meeting** 4 pm everyone welcome (eat at Gushers afterward)
- Saturday February 23 **Herland Winter Coffeehouse** 7 pm
- Tuesday Feb 26 **Louise & Mary**
Galileo Bar & Grill 8:30 pm no cover
- Friday February 29 **Louise & Mary** Full Circle Bookstore

Herland Supper Club

Join us on Saturday, February 9, at 5:30 pm for the Herland Supper Club at Belle Isle Brewery, located in 50 Penn Place, NW 50th and Penn. Belle Isle Brewery is one of our most popular restaurants for Supper Club because of their good food, varied menu, reasonable prices, and excellent service. After Supper Club, we will head back to Herland for card games, board games, and who knows what?



Herland Scrabble Day



Herland Scrabble Day for this month is Saturday, February 16, at 2 pm. Put your brain cells through a good workout and enjoy some good company at the same time. Players of all levels welcome.

Looking Ahead

Sexuality Identity & Spirituality Conference in March A coalition of six OKC area churches are planning a Sexual Identity and Spirituality Conference to be held on Friday & Saturday, March 7 & 8, 2008. Watch for more details in next month's Voice.

2nd Cimarron Summit Coming in April Cimarron Alliance Foundation and its community partners are planning a second LGBT Summit to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008. Watch for details for this exciting gathering to move LGBT advocacy forward in Oklahoma.

Eureka Springs Diversity Weekend in April IRIS, the band, will be playing the spring show at Chelsea's on Diversity Weekend Spring 2008, so mark your calendar. It is the first weekend in April.

The Voice is published monthly by Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th, OKC, 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.

Tobacco *(continued from page 1)*

gain and keep customers (replacement smokers) by trying to create a sense of loyalty. Indeed, only one thing motivates the tobacco industry's sponsorship of, contribution to, and interest in the LGBT community: increased cigarette sales.

Fighting back can start right here in Oklahoma County. First of all, LGBT Oklahomans can put the tobacco issue on their community's agenda. Also, this community can stop supporting organizations and publications that accept tobacco money. Without this support, tobacco companies could no longer carry on their façade of a supportive corporate citizen. And every cigarette LGBT people refuse to smoke is less money for these companies. Despite all appearances, the tobacco industry is not a friend.

The Central Oklahoma Turning Point Tobacco Use Prevention Coalition wants to help the LGBT community fight back against the tobacco industry. For more information, call Patty Norton Armond at 405-425-4328.

Show Me the Money!

It's that time of year again—yep, we're going to ask you to go to your bedroom, pull out the piggy bank and check to see if you can't send us a donation. Herland doesn't require a large budget because you helped us buy the Herland bookstore building. But, we still need donations to pay the utilities and insurance, and to print and mail the newsletter. Please check and see if you can't send us a donation—every little bit helps!



We Need Your Support!

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Your contribution is important! Herland operates on approx. \$12,000 each year so every donation, big or little, helps. Herland is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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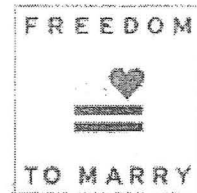
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Freedom to Marry Week Feb 10-16

The organization Freedom to Marry today announces the launch of a dynamic new website at www.freedomtomarry.org.

The newly reorganized and more user-friendly website is designed to



serve the nationwide civil rights movement aimed at ending the exclusion of same-sex couples and their families

from marriage. It also provides a starting point for all Americans seeking to learn more about the latest news on marriage equality, and contains an archive of tools to help people find their voice on why marriage matters, how the denial of marriage harms children and our country, and how to achieve fairness for all families.

Freedom to Marry is the gay and non-gay partnership working to win marriage equality nationwide. Launched in 2003, Freedom to Marry is headed by Evan Wolfson, nationally recognized as a central "architect of the marriage equality movement." Freedom to Marry guides and focuses this social justice movement on a nationwide level, serving as a strategy and support center for national, state, and local partners, a catalyst that drives and shapes the national debate on marriage equality, and an alliance-builder fostering support from non-gay allies.

"In 2008, as the freedom to marry continues to be the subject of debate and decision, we have the chance to help people push past their discomfort and continue moving toward inclusion," said Wolfson.

Progress Made in Infant Mortality

The number of children who die before their fifth birthday fell below 10 million in 2006, but much more still needed to be done, said a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released Monday. The UNICEF report attributed the progress in children's mortality rates largely to improvements in healthcare. By comparison, an estimated 20 million children under five were dying every year at the beginning of the 1960s.

Among the good news reported was that between 1990 and 2004 more than 1.2 billion people gained access to safe drinking water, which resulted in fewer deaths from infection diseases. Vaccination and other forms of public health care have also made great strides and have become more accessible.



More than four times as many children received the recommended two doses of vitamin A in 2005 as in 1999, according to the report.

All countries in sub-Saharan Africa made progress in expanding coverage of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, a fundamental tool in halting malaria, with 16 of these 20 countries at least tripling coverage since 2000. And in

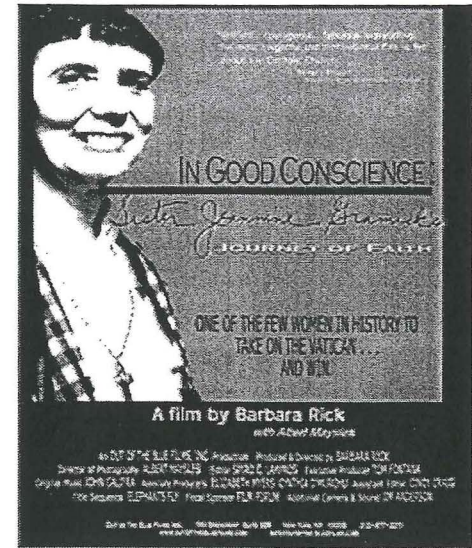
the 47 countries, where 95 percent of measles deaths occur, measles immunization coverage increased from 57 percent in 1990 to 68 percent in 2006, UNICEF pointed out.

Education, a key tool for improving public health care, has become more accessible, UN researchers noted. The number of primary-school-age children who were out of school fell from 115 million in 2002 to 93 million in 2005-2006 while many developing countries have come close to providing universal primary education.

The study also found an appalling lack of basic sanitation, hygiene and drinkable water, which contributes to the deaths of more than 1.5 million children each year from diarrhea and related ailments. About 158 million children between ages five and 14 were still engaged in child labour around the world, UNICEF estimated. Moreover, the number of people living worldwide with HIV-AIDS has continued to rise, affecting child welfare as well.

Only 11 percent of more than two million pregnant women living with HIV in the majority of developing nations in 2005 received antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent them from infecting their babies, according to the study. In low- and middle-income countries, only 15 percent of HIV-infected children under age 15 actually received treatment in 2006.

In Good Conscience



In Barbara Rick's acclaimed documentary, *In Good Conscience*, a most unlikely and very funny rebel — an American nun — finds herself at the center of a human rights storm with leaders of one of the world's most revered institutions, the Roman Catholic Church.

The film chronicles the true story of Sister Jeannine Gramick, who is defying a Vatican edict that she shut down her compassionate ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics, and silence herself permanently on the subject of homosexuality. Her battle takes her all the way to Rome where she attempts an audience with her key adversary over the years — none other than Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — the Inquisitor who would become Pope Benedict XVI.

Sister Jeannine has worked within the church for more than thirty years on behalf of the LGBT community and its fight for acceptance, recognition, and equality. When issued this ultimatum from Cardinal Ratzinger and Pope John Paul II — denounce homosexuality or lose everything — she quietly and respectfully refused.

Theila Ralphine Elliott

August 1, 1944 - December 15, 2007

Theila Ralphine Elliott, known by the many who loved her as Tre, slipped away in her sleep on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at her home in Oklahoma City, following a lengthy illness. Tre was born August 1, 1944, in Vinita, Oklahoma; the daughter of Lucille and Ralph Elliott. She graduated from Vinita High School and Oklahoma State University, with a degree in Physical Education.



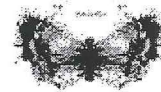
Tre was a fabulous athlete, highly skilled in sports as varied as fencing, field hockey and swimming. In the days before women received scholarships, Tre was a scholar/athlete. She also was a musician, playing the guitar, bongos, harmonica, kazoo, and on more than one occasion, the comb. She also wrote music and loved to dance. She was also a master jewelry maker, selling her work at festivals like the Paseo, and sharing with friends. She collected antiques, especially antique games. There was nothing she was not interested in.

Tre loved children, and taught in the Ponca City and Oklahoma City School systems for 27 years, teaching almost all sports, including modern dance and track & field. She took her students to State in swimming, and was Camp Director for Campfire Girls. Tre was an enrolled Cherokee, and greatly proud of it; it helped define her identity.

Tre believed passionately in equality for all, and when the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment came to Oklahoma, she threw herself into the fray, volunteering her time, efforts and even her house. Tre was a most faithful and loving friend, and she loved to dance and bring laughter into the lives of others.

She is survived by her best friend and partner, Marilyn Best; and a sister, brother, and aunt. Tre was one of the founding mothers of Herland and was an early promoter of womyn's music in Oklahoma. She and Marilyn hosted an annual New Year's Eve party for many years for Herlanders. A Celebration of her life was held on New Year's Eve at her home in Oklahoma City.

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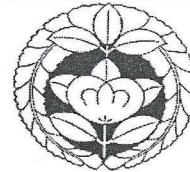
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Take a risk to create peace."
-Nikkyo Niwano

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