



Serving the womyn's
community
since 1983

Herland Voice

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Alright Women—Who's Ready For The Spring Retreat?

As you may have heard, this year's Spring Retreat will be at *Roman Nose State Park, May 14 - 16*. The retreat begins at 4pm on Friday and lasts until noon on Sunday. Your registration includes lodging in a cabin for Friday and Saturday nights, dinner on Friday, scrumptious breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings, Saturday night Potluck Dinner (bring or plan on making your favorite culinary dish to share), all workshops and group camp activities, and the Saturday night concert.

This retreat promises to be extra special, with the Saturday night concert featuring Kristie Stremel, an incredible singer/songwriter from the Kansas City area, currently recording her fourth CD. Others who have experienced Kristie's performances have said "Kristie Stremel is a jolt of what rock-n-roll should be—a powerful voice dripping with passion and heart-ache accompanied by a driving beat and stellar guitars." - GoGirls Music, and "Stremel is a rock-n-roll Buddha, pure zen and pure passion." - The Zone.

You can check her out for yourself at www.kristiestremel.com. Other events to look forward to include, but are certainly not limited to: **The Friday Night Meet and Greet**, a **Bread Making Workshop** led by Ginger (bring a loaf pan if you can - all other ingredients will be provided), a **Salsa Dancing Workshop**, an empowering workshop, led by Rev. Dr. Kathy McCallie entitled "Keeping Girls in School in Nicaragua", an always entertaining **Open Mic**, and **Mesmerizing Campfires** each evening.



You are also encouraged to bring any sporting equipment, games or crafts, that you would like to share with others. If you'd like to lead a workshop, just call one of the numbers below. ***The greatest thing about the retreat is that you can do as few or as many of the planned activities as you choose!***

In addition to all the Herland Retreat activities, the state park offers horse-

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Herland Supper Club



Saturday May 8
5:30 pm
Cocina de Mino
12325 N May

Followed by a Movie
at Northpark Cinema
12100 N May

Cocina De Mino Restaurante Mexicano offers patrons a perfect blend of excellent service and a vibrant and lively atmosphere, along with Oklahoma City's finest Tex-Mex cuisine.

Join us for dinner at 5:30 and then go to a movie with us at the Northpark Cinema (movie is only \$1.50!).

Wilma Mankiller, First Woman Chief of Cherokee Nation, 1945–2010

Wilma Mankiller was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the capital of the Cherokee Nation, on November 18, 1945. Her father was Charlie Mankiller, a Cherokee, and her mother was Irene Mankiller, who was of Dutch-Irish ancestry. Wilma had four sisters and six brothers. Her great-grandfather was one of the more than sixteen thousand Native Americans and African slaves who were ordered by President Andrew



Jackson (1767-1845) to walk the Trail of Tears that led to the deaths of at least four thousand of them.

The Mankillers were very poor in Oklahoma. Charlie Mankiller thought he could make a better life for them in California and accepted a government offer to relocate. However, promises that were made to the family were not kept, money did not arrive, and there was often no employment available,

so their life did not improve after their arrival in San Francisco. The children were also homesick.

As Mankiller recalled in her autobiography, called *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, "I experienced my own Trail of Tears when I was a young girl. No one pointed a gun at me or at members of my family. No show of force was used. It was not necessary. Nevertheless, the United States government, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, was again trying to settle the 'Indian problem' by removal. I learned through this ordeal about the fear and anguish that occur when you give up your home, your community, and everything you have ever known to move far away to a strange place. I cried for days, not unlike the children who had stumbled down the Trail of Tears so many years before. I wept tears ... tears from my history, from my tribe's past. They were Cherokee tears."

In 1983 Ross Swimmer, then principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, asked Mankiller to be his deputy chief in the election. While campaigning she was surprised by the criticism she received—not for her stand on any particular issue, but simply because she was a woman. Swimmer and Mankiller won the election and took office in August. In 1985, Swimmer was nominated to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. Mankiller was sworn in to replace him as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. She focused on education and health care, overseeing the construction of new schools, job-training centers, and health clinics. She was freely elected in 1987, and re-

elected again in 1991 in a landslide victory, collecting 83% of the vote.

Mankiller faced many obstacles during her tenure in office. At the time she became chief, the Cherokee Nation was male-dominated. Such a structure contrasted with the traditional Cherokee culture and value system, which instead emphasized a balance between the two genders. Over the course of her three terms, Mankiller would make great strides to bring back that balance and reinvigorate the Cherokee Nation through community-development projects where men and women work collectively for the common good, based on the Bureau of Indian Affairs "Self Help" programs first initiated by the United Keetoowah Band, and with the help of the Federal Government's Self-Determination monies. These projects included establishing tribally owned businesses (such as horticultural operations and plants with government defense contracts), improving infrastructure (such as providing running water to the community of Bell, Oklahoma), and building a hydroelectric facility.

Mankiller overcame many tragedies to become a guiding power for the Cherokee people of Oklahoma and a symbol of achievement for women everywhere. Throughout her life, Mankiller managed to not complain about how bad things were for herself, for her people, and for Native Americans in general. She instead worked to help make life better. Although she declined to seek another term as principal chief in 1995 for health reasons, she remained in the public eye, writing and giving lectures across the country. She stressed that if all the Native Americans who were eligible to vote actually did so, officials elected with those votes would be forced to address the problems of Native Americans. She also called for an end to the increasing problem of violence against women. Mankiller was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in New York City in 1994 and was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom by then-president Bill Clinton in 1998.

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back riding and a golf course (additional fees), biking trails, two lakes for fishing, and lots of nature to explore.

With so many fun activities planned, and time to just relax if that's what you need, we hope you'll come for the entire weekend, but if that's not possible, consider coming for the day Saturday, or even just to see Kristie Stremel!

A few reminders: Start thinking about what you want to bring for the Potluck, polish up your talent to share at the Open Mic, gather an item or two to donate to the Silent Auction and/or Raffle, stretch your hips in anticipation of the Salsa Dancing Workshop, and dig out a loaf pan for the Bread Making Workshop.

This is your last chance to pre-register, so if you haven't already, please send in your registration. It is very helpful for planning and buying food, AND you get a **free raffle ticket just for pre-registering!**

After we receive your registration, we will mail you a packet which has the retreat schedule, a list of things you may want to bring, more details about the weekend, and a map to Roman Nose State Park. If you have any questions, please call Herland at (405) 521-9696 or Sannie, the Herland Camp Director at (405) 550-2312. Leave a message and someone will call you back.

Looking forward to seeing you all and having another Fabulous Herland Retreat!

Herland Spring Retreat Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK May 14-16, 2010

Herland Spring Retreat 2010 Registration

Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK May 14-16, 2010

Deadline for pre-registration is May 8th. Please return registration form and check to:

Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

A retreat packet with all information will be mailed to you.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____ enclosed.

I need a work scholarship to attend.

I'm enclosing an additional \$ _____ to help provide scholarships.

I'm bringing _____ children (girls of all ages and boys under age 10 are welcome).

I'm bringing _____ dogs that will be kept on leashes at all times and I will sign a waiver stating I am completely responsible for any injury or damage caused by my dog(s).

I have a disability and need the following if possible:

Sliding Scale Registration Fee (for entire weekend)

Annual Income PER PERSON

under \$13,300 - \$30 All Day Saturday - \$25 (includes Concert)

\$13,300-\$30,000 - \$45 Saturday Night Concert Only - \$10

over \$30,000 - \$60

Census Counts Gay Marriages Even In States That Don't Allow Them

From the Huffington Post

With strong backing from the Census Bureau, gay-rights activists are urging maximum participation by their community in the first U.S. census that will tally same-sex couples who say they're married - even those without a marriage license.

The move has drawn fire from conservatives, who complain that it's another step toward redefining marriage. For the first time, the bureau has deployed a team of professional field workers - about two-dozen strong - to reach out to gays and lesbians. On Monday, the bureau unveiled its first public-service videos encouraging gay Americans to mail in their census forms.

"What I tell folks in the bureau is that this is a powerful, important part of American society," said Tim Olson, a Census Bureau assistant division chief helping to oversee the campaign. "We have to reach out and engage this part of the population. Anything less than that is a failure," he said.

Only the District of Columbia and five states - Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont and Iowa - have legalized gay marriages, starting with Massachusetts in 2004. But the Census Bureau says same-sex couples in any state who consider themselves spouses should feel free to check the "husband" or "wife" boxes on the census form, rather than "unmarried partner."

The bureau's willingness to count gay marriages - despite a federal law that denies legal recognition to any of them - has been hailed as a historic milestone by gay-rights leaders.

Some conservatives have complained that the eventual count of same-sex unions will be legally inaccurate while serving as ammunition for gay-marriage advocates. Olson said he was aware of the criticisms, but defended the Census Bureau's policy of counting people according to how they identify themselves.

"We're treating the gay community the same as other segments of the population," he said. "There's a respect factor there. ... We've never asked people to show us their marriage licenses. We don't do that for straight people." Olson also stressed the confidentiality of the census - insisting, for example, that gay members of the military should have no fear about identifying themselves as part of a same-sex union, even though the "don't ask, don't tell" policy forbids gay service members from being open about their sexual orientation.

The census forms do not inquire directly about sexual orientation, and some gay-rights activists have complained that this means single gays - as opposed to those with live-in spouses and partners - have no means of gaining collective representation through the census.

Olson said an act of Congress would be needed to add a sexual orientation question to the form, and some activists are already planning a campaign to achieve that. In a first step, a campaign called "Queering the Census," activists are distributing stickers for gays and lesbians to attach to this year's forms on which they can identify themselves as gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual.

Community Events

Monday May 3rd, 7-9 pm OKC Pride Meeting Expression Community Fellowship Church, 4010 N. Youngs Blvd, OKC

Tuesday May 4th, 5:30 pm Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Boulevard Cafeteria, NW 11 & Dewey, OKC

Tuesday May 4th, 7 pm PFLAG OKC/Edmond Channing Unitarian Universalist Church, 2800 West 15th Street in Edmond

Friday May 7th, 7-9 pm Louise Goldberg & Mary Reynolds Full Circle Bookstore, 50 Penn Place, no cover

Monday May 10th, 7-9 pm OGLPC 1236 NW 36th St, OKC

Thursday May 13, 7 pm Norman PFLAG St Stephens Methodist Church, 1801 W Brooks in Norman

Friday May 14th, 8-11 pm Miss Brown to You UCO Jazz Lab in Edmond, \$7

May 28-30, Great Plains Rodeo, OK State Fairgrounds

Sunday May 30th, 4:30 pm Louise Goldberg & Mary Reynolds at the Paseo Festival

Every Thursday, 5:30-7:30 pm OKC Youth United First Unitarian 600 NW 13th

Obama Orders Visitation Rights for Lesbians and Gays

In a move hailed as a step toward fairness for same-sex couples, President Barack Obama is ordering that nearly all hospitals allow patients to say who has visitation rights and who can help make medical decisions, including gay and lesbian partners.

With no fanfare, the White House on Thursday night released a statement by Obama instructing the Health and Human Services Department to draft rules requiring federally subsidized hospitals to grant all patients the right to designate people who can visit and consult with them at crucial moments.

The directive said Medicare-Medicaid hospitals, which include most of the nation's facilities, may not deny visitation and consultation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The White House on Thursday released a statement by Obama instructing his Health and Human Services secretary to draft rules requiring hospitals that receive Medicare and Medicaid payments to grant all patients the right to designate people who can visit and consult with them at crucial moments.

The designated visitors should have the same rights that immediate family members now enjoy, Obama's instructions said. It said Medicare-Medicaid hospitals, which include most of the nation's facilities, may not deny visitation and consultation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

The new rules, Obama said, should "guarantee that all patients' advance direc-

tives, such as durable powers of attorney and health care proxies, are respected," and that patients' designees be able to "make informed decisions regarding patients' care."

The Human Rights Campaign, which backs gay rights, called Obama's

decision an "important action" that was inspired in part by a New York Times article about a lesbian couple in Miami. They were kept apart while one lay dying in a hospital despite having an "advanced health care directive" asking for full visitation rights for each other. Flying back to Washington from Miami, President Obama called Janice Langbehn, the woman who accused a Jackson Memorial Hospital worker of not letting her visit her dying partner, after signing a directive ordering hospitals to allow visits to anyone a patient decides, including gay and lesbian partners

In his statement, Obama said: "... uniquely affected are gay and lesbian Americans who are often barred from the bedsides of the partners with whom they may have spent decades of their lives — unable to be there for the person they love, and unable to act as a legal surrogate if their partner is incapacitated."



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- Reverend Dr. Kathy McCallie

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