



VOLUME 5, NUMBER 12  
DECEMBER, 1988

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.  
2312 N.W. 39TH, OKC 73112

## Around the Corner

### ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS AT THE OASIS

By Sondra Metzger

A carnival to benefit the OASIS Community Center will be held at Angles on Dec. 13 beginning at 8 p.m. Entertainment will include the Shartels, Randall Powell, Michael Allen and Patty and Tuna Melt.

A Christmas stocking containing a variety of treasures donated by businesses and entertainers will be raffled off during the evening. Tickets for the stocking will be \$1. There will be games, food and entertainment with all proceeds going to OASIS.

The Third Annual Christmas Dinner for community families will be held at the Habana Inn banquet room on Christmas Day beginning at 3 p.m. Last year, 83 people traveled through ice and severe cold to attend the dinner.

There will be games for children. Iced tea, coffee and cups will be provided. Anyone wishing to contribute should bring one of the following: plates; plastic silverware; vegetables; snacks; a turkey; a ham; decorations; ice chest with ice; anything else that makes up a Christmas dinner.

Entertainment will be provided by Peggy J. and Mary R.

For those who don't have anything else to do that day, come on out to the dinner and meet new people, spend time with friends and enjoy!

On Jan. 1, OASIS Community Center will be open at 1 p.m. for those who do not desire to go to the bars or stay home alone. There will be a potluck snack table and free coffee. Two television sets will be set up for those who want to watch the bowl games. Bring a snack, recover from the night before, watch a football game, or just enjoy the day with friends.

#### ATTENTION!

Herland will be open Christmas  
Eve from 10:00 a.m. 'til 6:00  
p.m. for last minute shopping.

### MEET SISTER #4 PAT C.

The position of Sister #4 is the beginning of a two-year commitment to the board of Herland Sister Resources. The individual holding this position will eventually become Sister #1. Although the duties of Sister #4 are few, the woman who holds the position is more or less in a training mode for the future. At least, that's how I see it.

"What I do now," Pat said, "is make sure the Friends of Herland cards are up-to-date and send out past due notices for those who haven't paid yet. I also try to keep an eye on the financial records since I will be taking over that position in a few weeks."

Born on the east coast, the 44-year-old was on her way to California in 1969 when she stopped in Oklahoma to visit with a college friend and decided to stay. At this point, her story becomes part of the herstory of Herland.

"In 1980, two women approached me about starting a bookstore because I had experience as a bookstore manager," she said. "I told them you can't make money from selling books. It's just the nature of the business. But, the need was there to supply

the community with feminist-type books and also have space for people to go and to have coffeehouses and such. One of the women lived near the old building on 19th Street and talked the owner into renting it to us for \$100 a month, all bills paid."

I might add here that none of these women is Barbara Cleveland. "Barbara started coming around helping to get the place in shape," she said, "after we got the building. She found out about it from me!"

Two fundraisers provided money to make repairs to the building. Women rallied together and worked during weekends much like they're doing now.

"My dream of going to California finally came true and I left," she said, "turning all the record books over to one of the two women. By now, Cleveland was involved. It was her energy, enthusiasm, and charisma that kept the place going. When I left, the business bank account was turned over to someone else."

Unfortunately, while Pat was in California, she found out that her name had been forged on the checks and approximately \$600 was stolen from the account.

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## HERLAND GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

<b>WHEN?</b>	Saturday, December 17 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
<b>WHERE?</b>	2312 N.W. 39th
<b>WHO?</b>	<b>PEGGY JOHNSON performing</b> There will also be an Open Mic segment for anyone who would like to contribute something to the festivities.
<b>WHY?</b>	To formally and officially celebrate the opening of our new building. Refreshments will be served and will include wine, cheese, and whatever tasty morsels our chefs can come up with.

Come on by and see what we've done with your donations! Come by and see your place!



continued from previous page

"Cleveland knew I didn't do it," she said. "The woman I gave everything to told everyone that I took the checkbook with me. When I came back, I went to the bank, got it cleared up and then pressed charges. We did get it back."

She further explained that Herland started out as a for-profit kind of place and then evolved into a collective.

"Cleveland and I talked about it," she said. "We knew it needed to make enough money to sustain itself and it needed to have more people involved. We wanted to have the books and provide a place that people could come to as an alternative to the bars. It had to be a center, and that's exactly how it has evolved. But in the beginning, we were going to call it *The Women's Room*, but in French, not English. I think Cleveland named it Herland while I was in California."

Sister #4 brings a great deal of professional experience to the board. She presently works as an administrative assistant for a health care facility, but has worked as a social worker, typesetter, photographer, silk screen printer, VISTA volunteer, in corrections and retail management. With a BA in sociology, Sister #4 wants to further her education and obtain a masters in health administration.

"I'm most interested in quality assurance," she said. "It's a lot like quality control in a factory only quality assurance deals with the quality of care for people. That's why I left the corrections area. I didn't have the power to change things for youngsters."

Seeing Herland open and functioning is a dream come true for Sister #4. Although a lot of people are involved, she would like to see more, especially on the committees.

"It's come a long way from where it was in 1980," she said. "But one thing that disturbs me is that a lot of people who were involved got burnt out and are no longer involved. I don't know why, even on a supportive basis. I would like to see what we can do about that."

Sister #4 would like to see the community consider Herland as a place to socialize, get a better concept of themselves and build friendships on a wholesome basis.

"When I came back to Oklahoma, I wasn't feeling good about why I left in the first place," she said. "I didn't feel like I was in good space in Oklahoma. I wasn't sure how I felt about what had been said about me and the money. Cleveland assured me that my involvement was welcome. She had talked to people and had taken care of what was being

said. She was the one who got me re-involved."

Sister #4 would like to see Herland become more involved with feminism and networking with feministic organizations such as the Womens' Political Caucus.

"I'd like to see Herland be a good resource center so that feminist organizations come to us for information," she said. "What the newsletter is doing is superb. It's making more people aware of what is going on. We can still go ahead with the strong lesbian issues but we also need to get more feminist oriented. There are so many issues that cross over."

Sister #4 has a Christmas wish list that includes getting people to donate money, getting a grant, and having the resource center open on weekdays.

"I don't think people realize that we have a \$261 mortgage payment each month," she said. "Our utilities run around \$50. We still need a phone. It would be nice if someone could give enough money to make one mortgage payment or cover the utilities for a month. A grant would be nice, but I think we need to become more politically involved to get it."

Sister #4 sees Herland's future as a continuation of the evolution process. She can see it becoming a viable resource center for all women in the state.

"Herland is," she said, "an opportunity to be involved with the community as a woman and lesbian, too, and to do some positive kinds of services, provide opportunities, bonding, friendships and education."

While all of the board members are awaiting word on which one of them won the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes, they would like to remind everyone that all contributions to Herland are tax deductible. The newsletter lists a circulation of 700. If all the subscribers would donate just 50¢ a month, Herland would be able to cover expenses and be there for all women. Think about Herland when you're making out your holiday shopping list!

As the next sister rotation is to occur in December and a new Sister #4 will be elected, January's newsletter will feature the new Sister #4! Stay tuned!



YES! I want to be a Friend of Herland. My minimum donation of \$12 allows me use of the Herland Library and a 10% discount on store purchase over the next 12 months. (My \$12 is enclosed.)

YES! I want to help Herland with a donation to the New Building Fund.

\$15       \$20       \$25  
 \$50       \$100       \$\_\_\_\_\_

Bookstore volunteer     Building volunteer

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Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Herland Sister Resources, Inc.**  
2312 N.W. 39th  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

## PASS THE TORCH! LIGHTS THE WAY

...In the beginning, the earth was flat. There were no VCR's and there were no lesbians.

Things changed. Then there were compact discs and an entire movement of dykes!

Later on, lesbians got culture and politics. Lesbian leaders made the earth round but so much work made them tired.

But now there is new light! Now there is PASS THE TORCH! What is the solution to the age old question what do tired lesbians do after they've processed? They PASS THE TORCH! . . .

As the contemporary national feminist, gay and lesbian movements roll into their third decade, many new lesbian leaders have expressed their desire for an organized mentorship program. One in which they can further develop their commitment and skills with direct assistance from veterans who built the lesbian movement.

In response to this expressed need, PASS THE TORCH!, A National Lesbian Mentorship Project, debuted at the October, 1988 N.O.W. sponsored National Lesbian Conference in San Diego, California. The workshop, one of the largest at the conference, drew 150 participants. Dozens of new activists are now being connected with Mentors of their choice. Much of the lesbian leadership from around the country have expressed interest in serving on the expanding Mentor

continued on next page

## HERLAND IS . . .

A non-profit corporation composed of a collective of wimmin — open to any womyn who wants to be a part of it — which works to maintain a feminist library and bookstore, sponsors workshops, retreats, concerts and other events for YOU. Herland's reason for being is to provide a framework for a variety of projects for the support and enjoyment of the area wimmin's community. It is a place to learn and grow, meet other wimmin, develop lasting friendships, receive support and nurture the positive self-image that societal attitudes sometimes make illusive to us. Herland exists to serve YOU.

Your donations are used to pay the mortgage and utilities on the resource center, and printing and postage for the monthly HSR Newsletter and Friend of Herland cards.

With the exception of the Library, all of Herland's services are free, including the Newsletter. This is why your donation is so important: It is Herland's lifeblood.

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VOLUNTEER INFO: 528-0604

ADVERTISING: 672-4141

DEADLINE on all advertising and submissions is the 15th of each month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to this Newsletter are free upon request.



# DANCE

WITH

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Saturday,  
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Sisters at 8pm,

Shartels at 9pm

## SISTERS of SWING

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DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

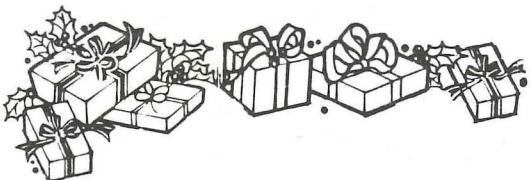
2 SHOWS: 5:00 pm & 8:30 pm

\$5 adults

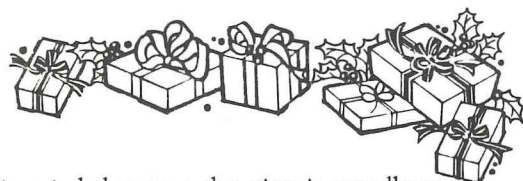
\$2 under 18 or over 60

Proceeds from the concert will benefit  
St. Joseph Children's Home and  
Southeast Area Health Center





# GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



If you're having a problem trying to figure out what to get that special someone in your life, stop in at Herland and check out the array of tapes, albums, books, buttons, note cards, envelopes and t-shirts now in stock.

Herland provides the tape *Dyke The Halls* for your holiday cheer. Who could pass up the opportunity to sing along on that great holiday favorite, *Jerry Falwell's Coming To Town*?

If you missed Nancy Day at the 1987 Fall Retreat, you can still enjoy her fine instrumentals on her *Daylight* tape. If Nancy isn't your style, other tapes available are Sweet Honey In The Rock, Casselberry & Dupree, June Millington, Heather Bishop, Meg Christian, Robin Flower, Nancy Vogl and Alix Dobkin. The tape inventory also includes our own Peggy Johnson as well as Nancy Scott, who performed at the fall retreat this year. Tapes make great stocking stuffers!

For those of you who prefer albums and are stuffing a big stocking, Herland offers Casselberry & Dupree, Nancy Scott, Robin

Flower, Tret Fure, Holly Near and Deidre McCalla, among others.

The book inventory carries so many titles they're just too numerous to mention in this short article! The inventory ranges from self-help topics to historical, to lesbian-oriented and works of fiction, and all are by women for women.

If you still can't find that one special gift, why not give a Herland gift certificate! This certificate is redeemable at any time.

Now, if you want to give Herland a gift, the board's list consists of cash donations, your personal time, a sturdy folding table, toilet paper, a light in the bathroom, the electrical work to be finished, someone to pay off the mortgage (yeah!) or at least to make one payment, coffee, tea, someone to buy the old building on the corner of 19th and Blackwelder, a computer and printer for the resource center, better security for the resource center and someone to work the resource center during the week.

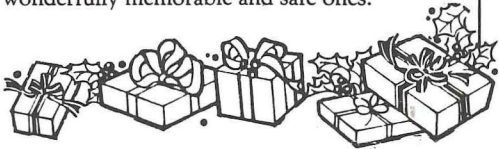
If you want to contribute something, keep

in mind that your donation is actually an investment in yourself, because everything we receive is used for something that benefits you, whether it be fixing the leaky roof on the resource center or providing a place to retreat to twice a year to relax, be yourself, make new friends and enjoy warm fellowship.

The one thing you can give Herland, not just for the holidays but always, is your continued support. By coming to the functions Herland sponsors and buying things from the resource center, you are letting us know that we do need to be here and that we are doing something right.

The new building is beginning to look like a home. If you haven't been by to visit, make it a point to do that soon. We've gotten great feedback from women who've seen what we've done. And we couldn't have done it without the help of all of you out there. Let us see your smiling faces!

Once again, thank you all for the support you've given since Herland became a reality, and may whatever holidays you celebrate be wonderfully memorable and safe ones.



*continued from previous page*

Roster: Diane Abbitt, Dina Bachelor, Roberta Bennett, Pat Bond, Ivy Bottini, Betty Brooks, Charlotte Bunche, Shirl Buss, Leslie Cagan, Susan Cavin, Lucia Chappelle, Jean Conger, Jeanne Cordova, Michelle Crone, Rosemary Dempsey, Alix Dobkin, Judy Free-spirit, Suzann Gage, Joyce Hunter, Lauren Jardine, Sonia Johnson, Ariana Manov, Del Martinez, Suzan McGrievy, Marilyn Murphy, Jean O'Leary, Torie Osborn, Helene Rosen-bluth, Vivian Shapiro, Margaret Sloan-Hunter, Ayofemi Stowe, Ardy Tibby, Robin Tyler, Irene Weiss, Kay Whitlock and Betsy York.

PASS THE TORCH! applications are now available. If you are a lesbian with one year's demonstrated commitment to the feminist,

gay or lesbian communities, and you want to further your commitment and skills by working directly with a veteran lesbian leader, now is your opportunity! Telephone or write: PASS THE TORCH!, 2305 Canyon Drive, Los Angeles, California 90068, (213) 469-4454.



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FOR INFORMATION CALL  
DANNY (405)787-1253 OR JANIE (405)755-7259

## Classifieds

**GOLDEN THREADS**—A contact publication for lesbians over 50 and women who love older women. Canada and the U.S. Confidential, warm, reliable. For free information, send a self-addressed envelope (U.S. residents please stamp it). Sample copy mailed discreetly, \$5.00 (U.S.) **GOLDEN THREADS:** P.O. Box 3177; Burlington, VT 05401.

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