

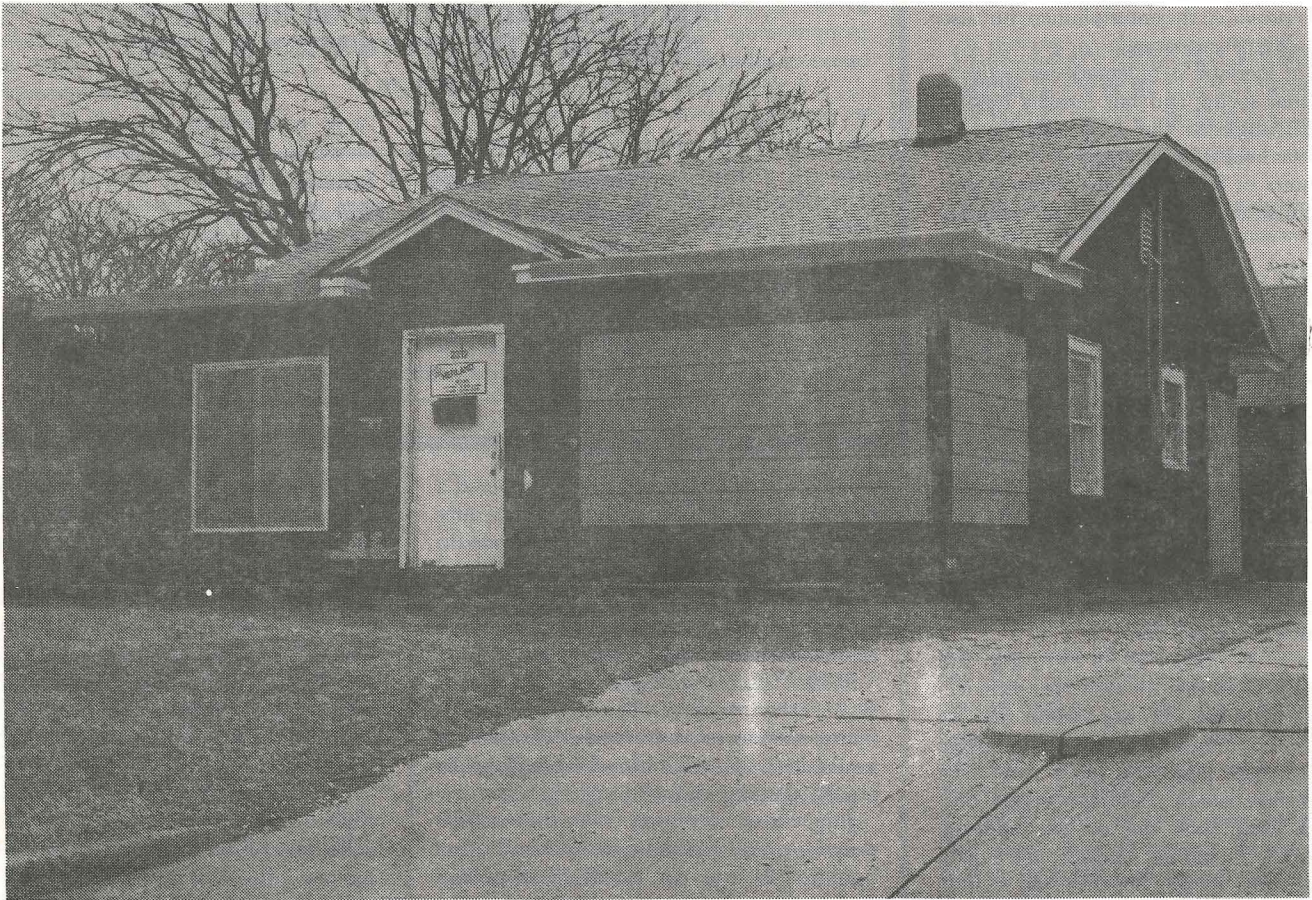


# Happy New Year!



VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1  
JANUARY, 1989

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



## MEMORABLE MOMENTS: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

by Sondra Metzger

November 30, 1987, was an historic moment for Herland Sister Resources. On that date, Herland purchased a building located at 2312 N.W. 39th Street. With many dreams, visions, hopes and desires, women worked long hours in an attempt to provide women with a place of their own where they could be themselves, exchange laughter or tears, find books written for women by women, or gain valuable information about what was available for them in Oklahoma City.

Moving into 1989, the collective found their backs against the wall many times, but worked through it with strength and determination. They also began the long process of networking with the hope of not only gaining knowledge that would be shared with

others, but also to let people know that Herland is here and is dedicated to working toward making life better for all women.

The following is what we have done over the past year. We present it to you with great pride in the strides we have made in the face of great adversity.

In January, 1988, Herland celebrated its fourth birthday, which would not have been possible without the leadership, vision, energy and dedication of Barbara Cleveland. It is with great respect and undying gratitude that we refer to her as "Mother Herland."

The resource center was closed for the entire month due to renovations to the new building. Plans were made to open the bookstore by February.

February came and unexpected problems kept the bookstore closed indefinitely. A call was put out for an electrical contractor to completely rewire the building.

The March winds, in conjunction with Herland and several local music personalities, combined to bring Nancy Vogl and Robin Flower to OKC for a concert at the Civic Center Little Theater. Peggy Johnson opened for Nancy and Robin. The concert also provided Herland with an opportunity to make books and music available for the first time since closing the old building at 19th and Blackwelder.

Herland also staffed a table at the Women Who Share festivities held at Meacham Aud-

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itorium on the OU campus, which included an evening concert featuring Donna DeSalvo opening for Sue Fink.

Herland started out the month by receiving its first nomination for Outstanding Community Organization at the annual Gay and Lesbian Awards Ceremony sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church. The Oasis Community Center won the award. It was both a surprise and an honor to be nominated.

April began with entertainment by Jasmine at the Civic Center Little Theater with the Shartels opening for the jazz duo. Herland not only provided the entertainment but also books, albums and tapes.

One of Herland's trademark festivities is the annual spring and fall retreats held at parks throughout the state. The spring retreat was held at Boiling Springs State Park. The Sisters of Swing and the Shartels provided musical entertainment on Saturday night.

If you have never attended a retreat, you're not only missing an opportunity to meet women from all over Oklahoma and surrounding states as well, but you're also missing a great time.

Herland's camp director, Laura, spends over 800 hours each year organizing the retreats. After setting dates and reserving a group camp at a state park, she arranges with a variety of women to hold seminars and workshops during the weekend and to entertain on Saturday night. She also schedules sporting events and other activities to ensure everyone has a good time.

Laura is very picky about campsites and selects only those that are somewhat secluded. If you were under the impression that we "roughed it", that we slept in tents and were without indoor plumbing, guess again. The campsites are usually made up of several cabins with bunk beds, one or two buildings with restrooms and hot showers, and a main building with tables, benches and a fully equipped kitchen.

Being the mother of one very special dog, I enjoy the fact that I can take her to the retreat with me as long as I keep her on a leash (state rules). Also, when you register at a retreat, you have the opportunity to select the cabin you want to stay in, whether it be smoking or non-smoking, with or without animals, chemical-free or anything goes. Watch the newsletter for word on the next retreat.

The month of May came and went without Herland being involved in any events. I think it's called Post-Retreat Blues. For herstory's sake, Herland celebrated three years as an incorporated non-profit organization on the 28th.

June was different. Herland co-sponsored the Gay Rights Parade and provided a table at the block party immediately following the parade. This was the first time Herland was involved in a community event and not just a



## ANNOUNCES

**THE NEW HERLAND CENTER IS NOW OPEN:**  
SATURDAYS 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. & SUNDAYS 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
at 2312 N.W. 39th St.

**HERLAND BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 3RD  
SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 2312 N.W. 39TH**

**4:30 p.m.**

*During the month of January, Herland will be open on Thursday evenings from 4-7:30 p.m. in addition to the regular weekend hours. This is an experiment. We would like to continue offering these hours, but will need your input and interest.*

women's event. The collective discovered a need to network more with the community as a whole and began to take measures to do just that. Since that time, several board members have also become involved with other local gay organizations in an attempt to achieve Herland's networking goals.

With that in mind, the newsletter staff began interviewing members of the community in an effort to let everyone know what is available to them and who the people really are who run the different organizations.

July was a busy month. Since the resource center was still not habitable, Herland's first bookmobile was set up at Metropolitan Community Church on July 8 and at the Hi-Lo on July 10.

In an effort to improve the handling of the business end of Herland, the collective attended board training where they were instructed on how to efficiently run a board for a non-profit organization. Among other things, they also were shown how to tap resources in the area, how to network and how to get more people involved in Herland.

Herland finally opened her doors for business at the new location on August 1 and made plans for a grand opening later in the year. HSR also was forced to face the reality of the departure of Barbara Cleveland, who moved to Ohio to attend graduate school.

The Fall Retreat at Sequoyah State Park was the highlight of September. Those who attended were treated to singer-songwriter Nancy Scott, and California comedienne Karen Williams. Both Nancy and Karen had us laughing all the way home. For the first time, food was provided at a cost of \$2.50 per

meal, prepared by chefs Mary R. and Chris C. Workshops were provided on such topics as women's spirituality, and dealing with intimacy.

Herland also supported the fundraising efforts of the Olympians, a composite women's softball team that traveled to Kansas City to represent the gay community in a national gay softball tournament. HSR also attended the fun night at MCC with her traveling book/music inventory.

October featured the Coming Out Day Rally at Angles on the 9th, where Herland staffed a table with not only women's books, but also titles relating to men.

After the rally came MCC's Fall Fest on October 23, and the annual yard sale on the 29th and 30th.

In the past, Herland held coffeehouses to raise funds. November 12th featured Herland's first coffeehouse in the new location, presenting Donna DeSalvo as the evening's entertainment. A smashing success, Herland will be having more coffeehouses in the future.

Earlier that same day, volunteers staffed a table at the state convention of the Women's Political Caucus held in Stillwater.

In conjunction with Shartel Productions, Herland sponsored a concert featuring Alix Dobkin at the Civic Center Little Theater and was treated to a memorable evening of entertainment. Alix not only shared her gift of music but also her knowledge of lesbian culture.

December began with a trip by several

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# Around the Country

## KILLER CONVICTED IN ANTI-LESBIAN SHOOTING; VICTIM BLAMING TACTIC FAILS

On October 27, Adams County, Pennsylvania Judge Oscar Spicer convicted Stephen Roy Carr of first degree murder in a shooting that killed Rebecca Wight and critically wounded her lover, Claudia Brenner. In a move praised by Brenner, the gay community and victim advocates, the judge also excluded as inadmissible any arguments by the defense that the victims' sexual orientation and behavior provoked the attack.

On May 13, the two women were fired upon at their Appalachian Trail campsite by Stephen Roy Carr, whose attorney claimed in a preliminary hearing that Brenner and Wight "provoked" the attack by performing sexual acts in front of him, and otherwise teasing him. While acknowledging that she and Wight had made love at the campsite, Brenner insisted that they both thought they were alone, and described the accusation that they provoked the attack as "not only untrue but insulting." In a statement released to the press, Brenner asserted that "Rebecca and I were lovers... Nothing about who we were or our love for each other could be considered motivation for the outrageous, inhumane violence that Stephen Roy Carr perpetrated against us."

Commented Kevin Berrill, Director of the NGLTF Anti-Violence Project, "While the criminal justice system's handling of this particular case was better than usual, we should all be outraged at the attempt by Carr's attorney to blame Brenner and Wight for provoking the attack. It is another revolting example of how our society seeks to shift responsibility for anti-gay violence from the victimizers to the victims."

Carr waived his right to a jury trial in exchange for an agreement by the prosecution not to seek the death penalty and to drop several lesser charges. Although he has not yet been sentenced, Carr faces life imprisonment without parole. An appeal by Carr's defense attorney is expected.

Commenting on the sentence, Brenner stated that "a life sentence with no parole in a maximum security prison, while not compensating for our tremendous loss and pain, is the appropriate response to a nightmare that nothing can ever make right." Brenner also praised the handling of the case by the local prosecutor and police, describing them as "respectful and professional... All those involved never wavered in the investigation and prosecution of the crime. Most gay people who are victims of violence do not receive the kind of treatment that I received." Brenner also called for greater visibility as a means of countering anti-gay violence: "The only really helpful position we can take is to

be open about our lives and then share our loves and losses with all people we come in contact with," she said.

Brenner and Wight were on a hiking trip in Adams County, Pennsylvania when on May 13 they twice encountered defendant, Stephen Roy Carr, along their route. After making camp in a secluded area by a stream, the women were suddenly fired upon by Carr, who had been hiding nearby. Wight, who was shot in the back and the head, died at the campsite. Although shot five times, Brenner managed to walk nearly four miles to a road where she was able to get help.

"This attack is the worst nightmare of every woman and every gay person; it is the ultimate violation of our right to live and love as we choose," said Berrill. "In the face of this ordeal, Claudia has shown incredible strength and will and dignity. Her decision to speak out about the attack and the bigotry that led to it, is an inspiration to lesbian and gay people everywhere."

## DIVIDED, WE FALL

by Craig Davidson

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith seems to think that anti-gay bias is a second-class prejudice.

The ADL has launched a nationwide project to defeat prejudice using mass media and the schools. The project is called "A World of Difference," and in each city where it is implemented a local television station agrees to incorporate material about minorities into its news and public affairs programming for a whole year. ADL produces study guides based on the programming and provides these to local schools.

Unfortunately, this good idea is tainted by ADL's refusal to include information about lesbians and gays in "A World of Difference." So far, the project has been launched in Boston, San Francisco, New York and perhaps elsewhere.

ADL's intransigence is particularly appalling in light of the wave of anti-gay and lesbian violence that is sweeping the country, and the U.S. Justice Department's conclusion that gays are probably the most common victims of hate-related crimes.

We suggest you respond to this egregious case of institutional exclusion of gays and lesbians (by our allies in the civil rights movement, no less) in several ways. Write to Abraham Foxman, ADL National Director, 823 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017, to express your displeasure. Try to mobilize pressure against ADL within its own community by urging Jewish organizations and individuals to express their disappointment. If "A World of Difference" is scheduled for

your community and ADL doesn't relent, demand that the cooperating local television station produce equivalent programming about gays and lesbians. "Equivalent" programming would celebrate our achievements as individuals and as a community, moving beyond treating us as victims.

"A World of Difference" is a powerful marriage of schools and the media. ADL's conscious and stubborn exclusion of gays and lesbians sends a powerful message that prejudice against us doesn't matter. Fight back!

from Nov/Dec issue of GLPA

## ELECTION PRODUCES MIXED RESULTS FOR GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY; POST-REAGAN ERA BEGINS

This year's election brought mixed results for the gay/lesbian community, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The most significant victory was the defeat of Proposition 102 in California, the Danne-meyer AIDS initiative that would have eliminated anonymous HIV testing and imposed mandatory reporting of HIV positive individuals. The greatest disappointments were in Oregon, where a state executive order banning sexual orientation discrimination was overturned in a referendum, and in Connecticut, where AIDS and gay civil rights supporter Lowell Weiker was defeated in his bid for reelection to the Senate.

Irrespective of those results, however, Jeffrey Levi, NGLTF's executive director, observed that "this election marks the end of an era of neglect, by the President, of the nation's most compelling public health issue. While we do not fully agree with President-elect George Bush on many of his positions on AIDS, Bush has been more engaged on this issue than President Reagan. Bush actively supports anti-discrimination protections for persons with HIV infection, and has had an open ear to those working on AIDS in the Public Health Service."

Commenting on the defeat of Proposition 102 and its impact on national politics, Levi observed, "This is a great victory for public health. It is a statement by the people of California that they will not be browbeaten into accepting expensive and ineffective 'quick fixes' to the AIDS problem. It proves that education of a population can work in changing attitudes and increasing understanding about AIDS. We hope this defeat of William Dannemeyer—on the heels of three-to-one votes against his repressive proposals in the House of Representatives last month—will return debate to a more reasonable level in California and in the nation's capital. We also believe that defeat of this measure will stop a steamroller effect of copycat propositions around the country.



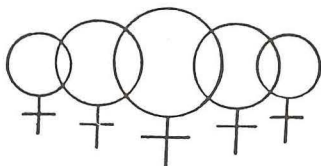
NGLTF noted with regret passage of the other California AIDS initiative, Proposition 96, which, among other things, allows court-ordered testing of persons accused of certain crimes. Observed public information director Urvashi Vaid, "While not as far-reaching as 102, it attacks the basic civil liberties of those most vulnerable in our society—persons accused of crimes. Had this required testing of those **convicted** of sexual assault, etc., this might have been and understandable—though not necessarily appropriate—approach. However, in permitting testing of those merely **accused** of certain crimes, the measure undermines the fundamental American principle of innocent until proven guilty—and provides a motivation for false accusations of crimes. It poses a substantial threat to the accused's opportunity to receive a fair, impartial trial, particularly in jury cases."

The vote to repeal the Oregon executive order on sexual orientation discrimination was the source of great disappointment—"to gays and lesbians and all those concerned with civil liberties," Levi said. "On the anniversary of Kristallnacht, it is particularly sad that the people of Oregon would turn their backs on any minority group that has suffered discrimination." The contrasting vote in the Presidential election—Oregonians supported Governor Dukakis—showed, Levi said, "that progressive views in other areas does not always translate into support for gay/lesbian civil rights."

The returning 101st Congress will look quite similar to the 100th, with one major exception. "The loss of Lowell Weiker—our strongest advocate and spokesperson in the United States Senate—will be a tremendous one," commented Levi. "Weiker stood alone at times in fighting uncompromisingly for those who were not represented in the Senate—all minorities, not just gays and lesbians. His role in increasing funding for AIDS, most recently in the extension of federal funding of AZT, cannot be overestimated."

With the election over, Levi said, "some of the most challenging work is ahead of us. A new administration is being constructed—and we plan to be in on the ground floor in helping advise and counsel the transition teams about AIDS and civil rights issues."

On a less optimistic note, Levi observed, "it is clear, based on the record, that George Bush still needs a good deal of education on gay/lesbian issues. It is our hope, however, that a younger, more moderate generation of cabinet officials and other political appointees will, at least afford access on these concerns."



## HATE CRIMES BILL NOT BROUGHT TO SENATE FLOOR; HELMS ATTEMPTS ANTI-GAY AMENDMENT

The first positive federal legislation to address violence against lesbians, gay men, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, stalled in the U.S. Senate because of threats by Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) to introduce sweeping anti-gay amendments. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act which would require federal data collection on crimes motivated by prejudice against gay people and other minorities, was never brought to the Senate floor despite vigorous lobbying by a coalition of over 50 groups led by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), the Hate Crimes Statistics Act made legislative history when it passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May of 1988. The bill marked the first time federal legislation specifically addressing sexual orientation was passed by either house of Congress. Attempts to delete the sexual orientation clause were repeatedly defeated while the bill was in committee, and were also defeated on the House floor.

The Senate version of the bill was introduced by Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL). The Senate bill achieved unanimous approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee in August. But efforts to bring the bill to the Senate floor crumbled as Helms told Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-WV) that he would fight the bill unless anti-gay measures were attached. Helms planned to introduce a four-part amendment which stated the following:

- "(1) The homosexual movement threatens the strength and the survival of the American family as the basic unit of society;
- (2) State laws prohibiting sodomy should be enforced;
- (3) The federal government should not provide discrimination protections on the basis of "sexual orientation"; and
- (4) School curriculums should not condone homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle in American society."

NGLTF Anti-Violence Project Director, Kevin Berrill noted that while the bill stalled in Congress, acts of anti-gay violence continued to shatter the lives of gay men and lesbians across the country. Said Berrill, "This bill reflects our call to the federal government to take a firm stand against homophobic violence. We intend to press forward, add more supporting organizations to our coalition, and continue the grassroots constituent pressure that helped so much this year."

Activists interested in generating support for the Hate Crimes Statistics Act in the next Congressional session are urged to contact Peri Jude Radecic at NGLTF, 1517 U Street NW, Washington DC 20009.

## RYAN NAMED NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR Also Honored by Gay Social Workers

National Social Worker of the Year, Caitlin Ryan received her profession's highest honor for her pioneering work in developing a local, national and professional response to AIDS over the past seven years of the epidemic. Ryan received her Social Worker of the Year award at the annual conference of the National Association of Social Workers in Philadelphia on November 12th.

Ryan, a long-time lesbian and gay health activist, has been involved in the organization of services for people with AIDS in local communities as well as in the establishment of the National Association of People with AIDS. She was also one of the early organizers and first director of AID Atlanta, the first and largest AIDS service organization in the southeast, and director of AIDS services for Whitman Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., one of the first AIDS services centers in the country.

Ryan helped the National Association of Social Workers develop its national AIDS agenda, and has organized conferences and national provider networks nationwide. "AIDS: We Need To Know. We Need to Care," is the theme of NASW's 1989 public information campaign to raise awareness about the devastating psychological and social problems engendered by the AIDS epidemic. "Honoring Caitlin Ryan is actually an honor for NASW," said NASW President Suzanne Dworak-Peck. "Social Workers are first on the front lines in fearsome times and first in numbers of professionals dealing with this epidemic, and Caitlin is the best example of why we need to know, and why we need to care."

Ryan has led in providing trainer support for caregivers who work with AIDS patients and their families. As president of Healthsource, Inc., a D.C.-based consulting firm, Caitlin has trained more than 40,000 individuals nationwide on the medical, clinical and psychosocial aspects of AIDS in health care, business and security settings. She has lectured to universities, trade associations and professional groups and has written extensively on the social work profession's ethical responsibility to clients and communities. In 1985 she developed one of the nation's first AIDS courses for providers at Catholic University's social work school and continues to teach in the graduate program.

As Co-Director of the AIDS Policy Center at George Washington University's Intergovernmental Health Policy Project, Ryan assists policy makers and legislators in developing sound and rational policy to manage the epidemic. She is co-author of **AIDS: A Public Health Challenge**, the first major review of state AIDS policy commissioned



## SPOTLIGHT ON: DONNA DESALVO

*Spotlight On* is a column designed to feature the various people and organizations within the community to familiarize those of you who don't know who they are and what they do.

This month, the spotlight falls on Oklahoma native Donna DeSalvo, an energetic performer who appeared at a coffeehouse at Herland on Nov. 12, which is where she first performed in public a few years before.

"I didn't even know what Herland was," she said. "Unless you were a very active feminist, no one really knew about it because it was just getting started. Barbara Cleveland called me to come and sing. Everyone liked it; it went all right."

The 36-year-old performer was born in Tulsa but moved to Texas with her family when she was in the third grade. The DeSalvos lived in Texas until the end of Donna's junior year when they moved back to Tulsa. After graduating from Edison High School, Donna went to OU, but dropped out after two years.

"I majored in history," she explained, "because it bored me to tears and I thought I should be more interested in the history of our world and the U.S.. I had one professor who told us that if we made a C in his class, he was going to flunk us because there was no such thing as a mediocre history major. Well, leave it to me to make a C. There was no arguing with him about it. I dropped out of school because I was tired of being broke. I went to work to make some money and have been doing blue collar stuff ever since."

Donna taught herself how to play guitar when she was 13 by listening to songs on the stereo or having someone show her.

"I would pick up my dad's guitar and mess with it a little, then put it down, pick it up, put it down," she said. "I never learned to read music. I have a mental block when it comes to learning to read music. It confuses me, like numbers. I have a bad time with numbers."

The first song she learned to play was *Tumblin' Tumbleweeds*, which her father taught her. She says she confuses anyone who was properly taught how to play guitar because she bar chords wrong. She feels that not being able to read music and not knowing how to play guitar the right way limits what songs she can perform. She gives credit for her musical talent to her mother.

"Mom and her sisters were in a gospel group called the Norwood Sisters," she said. "They got to be pretty famous in Arkansas. A producer from New York came to hear them and wanted to move them up, make an album, make them stars. My grandfather wouldn't let them. If I have inherited any talent, it definitely came from my mother's side because my father can't sing a lick. But he sure could play guitar. Mom would always sing around the house and play the piano. My brother plays the accordion."

Donna also played accordion at one time. She faked her way through lessons by watching the teacher and listening very closely. She went through a whole year of accordion lessons and a recital without the teacher knowing she couldn't read music.

The first song Donna ever wrote was *Pitty Patty* in 1976. Her favorite song by someone else is *I'll Fly Away Without You* by Nicolette Larson. Her favorite songs by Donna DeSalvo are *My Two Sisters* and *Robbie's Song*.

"The song about my sisters is just as true as



the day is long," she explained. "My oldest sister cried when she heard it because she gets real sentimental about family. My youngest sister thought it was funny."

*My Two Sisters* is a comparison between herself and her sisters. Her sisters can cook and sew and love to wear frilly clothes. Donna, on the other hand, says she can't cook, can't sew, and hates frilly clothes.

"*Robbie's Song* still gives me goose bumps because I knew her," Donna said. "I can see her sparkly little face when I'm singing that song and it just takes a little piece of my heart because she was one in a million."

Donna was a paramedic at one time. Robbie worked for AmCare and was the one who got her interested in being a paramedic. Donna always felt she could do it as long as she had Robbie to fall back on. Robbie's life was not depicted in Donna's song. Instead, Donna wrote about her friend and the indelible mark she left on her own life.

"Robbie was a star at AmCare," Donna explains. "She loved everybody, even the derelict on the street. It wouldn't be unlike her to walk up to one, kiss his cheek and pat him on the head. She wasn't afraid of anything. She loved people."

Donna said that Robbie was involved with a woman who experienced severe mood swings and would sometimes beat the day-lights out of Robbie. Robbie tried to help her solve her problems, but finally had to tell her she was going to move out. Before that move

happened, Robbie was getting ready for work one day when the woman came in and shot her three times.

"The woman killed Robbie, ate dinner, made a tape, wrote a letter, then killed herself," Donna explained. "She had tried to shoot people before, so she knew she wasn't getting out of that one. I went over there and wiped my friend's blood up off the floor so her family wouldn't see it. It's an awful feeling to wring your friend's blood into the toilet."

Donna trained for three years to be a paramedic. During that time she would go on ambulance calls, work in hospitals and maintain a class schedule. She was the first female paramedic to be hired in Norman.

"I feel that they didn't want a woman down there," she said. "They didn't have the facilities for women to spend the night with men doing 24-hour shifts. The women would always pass the written and technical tests, but would fail the physical test. The physical test consisted of lifting a cot with someone on it into the ambulance. This is just my opinion, but I think they always got the biggest guy they could find to lie on the cot."

Although Donna feels she did a good job as a paramedic, she would never go back to doing it again.

"That was the scariest work I've ever done," she explained, "and I'll never do it again unless something happens in front of me and it's absolutely necessary. It's not only a lot of responsibility, but I would take things home with me in my mind and would be bugging my friends to be more careful because I knew what the consequences were."

Donna now works full-time as a delivery driver. After 12-14 hour days, she spends what's left of her evening hours with a very special friend, three cats and two dogs.

"Realistically, I wish I had more time to practice and get better so I wouldn't disappoint people who call me to play and sing," she said. "I'm not one to call someone up on the phone and sell myself. If I'm invited, nine times out of ten I'll play. I don't play uninvited. I tried that once with a friend in Tulsa. We were in a band that played five nights a week about 10 years ago. Every night it was the same thing. I really got burned out."

Donna enjoys what she's doing now because it gives her the ability to lay low for a few months so neither she nor the audience are tired of her music. At one point she found herself not even wanting to pick up her guitar.

"You have to be very dedicated to be a genuine musician," she said. "I don't know how Peggy Johnson and Mary Reynolds do it. That takes guts. That's what they love, what they want. You can tell they're musicians. They play the fire out of their instruments and they can sing real well because they do it every day. That's their life. I never planned to do anything but just enjoy it. I never planned to play for anybody but myself. To me, it's almost like a hobby. That's why I'm almost embarrassed if either one of them is in the audience."

*Continued on page 6*



In the past, Donna has opened for such nationally known acts as Sue Fink, Nancy Day and Deidra MaCalla. When asked what her worst experience as a performer was, it related to being an opening act.

"The worst thing is forgetting the words and being treated poorly by a national act," she said. "I don't expect them to gush or anything, just to be nice. One star's manager was really nasty to me, but I understand what was nasty to everyone. Later, after I had done my set, she came up to me and told me that I had been the best opening act they had seen. Another star ignored me completely when I tried to just say hello. We had similar styles and I really couldn't wait to meet her after listening to her tape. That broke my heart."

After that, Donna made a commitment to herself to never be nasty to anyone. She's very flattered when people tell her that they'd buy her album if she had one on the market. She knows how they feel because that's how she feels about performers. In her opinion, a performer has to be nice because it's the people who make her career.

If you haven't gathered this by now, Donna loves to talk. One of her trademarks is her monologue during her act. She says she has to ramble. She says when she first started, she had a very foul mouth but has since calmed it down to a certain degree. Her sense of humor has been known to bring down the house on an occasion or two. But, it's her music that is the spotlight of her act.

"Sometimes I feel like my music touches people," Donna explained. "I can feel an energy when I'm sitting in front of people. All it takes is one person to sparkle up in a crowd. That makes it all worth it."

Donna claims to be interested in all music, but leans more toward mellow music artists such as Linda Ronstadt, Karla Bonoff and James Taylor. While doing this interview, we ran into a problem and would appreciate some help solving it. What category would you put Donna's music in, and what radio station in the city would play a song such as *My Two Sisters*? If you figure this out, we would really like to know. As it stands, we let it go under "crossover," but we don't know what it's a crossover of.

Donna enjoys a more personal, coffee-house atmosphere where the audience is right in front of her. During Herland's 1987 Fall Retreat, where she had such an audience, Donna experienced something not too many other performers have.

"I was sitting up there doing a real sad song," she explained, "and it was real quiet. The biggest moth I had ever seen in my life flew up in front of me. It was a monster moth and all I could hear and see was this moth."

One of Donna's goals is to sing with a band, especially to do *I'll Fly Away Without You*. However, she feels that the sacrifice right now would be too great. It would take time she doesn't have because of her full-time job, something she cannot quit because she would have no way to pay her bills. How many of us

can relate to that?

Donna does manage to find time for hobbies, which include reading, spending time at home with her special friend, playing her guitar, playing with her pets, piddling around the house and listening to music.

"Music is like praying to me."

In March 1988, Donna received the G.A.L.A. outstanding female vocalist of the year award, which came as quite a surprise to her.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I thought someone was pulling my leg when they called me up and told me I was nominated. I was flattered, but I thought I could kiss that award goodbye because other nominees were Peggy Johnson and Mary Reynolds. I didn't get to go to the banquet because my brother and his family were visiting and were only going to be here for two days. When they called me again the day of the banquet and told me I had won, I was so proud."

Donna will be one of the featured artists on the Christmas tape being made to benefit the Winds.

Her advice to aspiring performers is to just do it no matter how scared you are.

"I'm scared to death every time I perform," she said, "but the minute I see a grin or somebody applaud, I know I'm okay. It's hard to sing when you're scared. Your air doesn't come out like it should and you can't sing pretty. I sing real pretty in the bathroom!"

Maybe next time we'll all come to your bathroom, Donna!

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## 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.

☐ 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# Around the Corner

## WINDS PROJECT

### Donations are Music to Ears of Project Coordinators

Donations toward the musical endeavor by local performers to raise money for the Winds have reached 50% of the estimated goal, according to project coordinator Palmira Campos.

In order to produce a tape whose proceeds will benefit the Winds (and AIDS support center), organizers of Friendships United have to raise enough money to pay for studio time for the artists who will donate their time and talent and tapes.

A fundraiser held at the Bunkhouse on Nov. 20 raised \$176 for the project. Organizers would like to express their appreciation and thanks to the Bunkhouse and the band who performed, The 3 of Hearts.

The group is also selling doormats made out of burlap with heart designs and either "Welcome," "Love," or "Peace" interwoven with the burlap. Doormats can be special-ordered to include other sayings or names.

According to Palmira, the group is expecting to sell the first tape by the second or third week of March.

"I think what is making a difference," Palmira said, "is that the artists and workers are really committed and strong Christians, using their belief and prayer as a source of strength."

Donations may be sent to:

FRIENDSHIPS UNITED  
c/o Peggy Johnson  
P.O. Box 75842  
OKC, OK 73147

Please make checks payable to ASP (AIDS Special Project) and include FRIENDSHIPS UNITED in the lower lefthand corner.

A fundraiser will be held at the Hi-Lo on January 15th and will feature the talents of Mary R., Peggy Johnson and Donna DeSalvo.

## FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEOS

Beginning January 13, Herland will feature Friday Nite Videos at the resource center.

Every second and fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m., a video for and about women will be presented for your viewing pleasure. Admission is free, but donations will be greatly appreciated, as well as suggestions of videos for future showings. Coffee, tea and popcorn will be provided.

The first video will be "Desert Hearts." "Lianna" is scheduled for January 27th.

So if you're looking for something different to do on a Friday night, join in an evening of fun and entertainment at Herland.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HSR!

According to past issues of the newsletter, Herland Sister Resources will celebrate her fifth birthday on January 1.

With that in mind, we think it is time to start a journal of her herstory that will be kept at the resource center for reference.

The journal will consist of not only the written herstory of Herland but also pictures of important events, locations, etc.

We would like to make you a part of this project by asking those of you who have remembrances of the early beginnings of Herland and her five years of existence to submit them to us for inclusion in the journal. Not many of the original organizers are as involved with Herland now as they were in the beginning and we lack a lot of information.

Please send your information to HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, 2312 N.W. 39th St., OKC, OK, 73112, ATTN: HERSTORY. If you would rather tell it than write it, call Sondra at 732-2315 and leave a message. We will make arrangements to record your remembrances on cassette and transcribe it for the journal.

We're counting on you! Don't let her story fade away!



### Thanks from the Editor

*The editor wants to thank her prolific, devoted and friendly staff—all volunteers—who are donating their time, energy, and resources to keep Oklahoma's women's community up-to-date on local and national happenings of interest to women and their supporters. Thank you, staff—I love you all!*



**NOTICE: to organizations, businesses, production companies, etc: Events and happenings planned for the first week or two of any given month should be advertised in the previous month's edition of the HSR Newsletter. By getting your information into the newsletter a month prior to the event it reaches more readers and more people will know about it before it happens. So, when planning an activity or event you hope to share with the women's community keep this in mind and get the word out early—for a happy turnout.**

## HERLAND'S NEW YEARS BABY

Guess what's new at Herland? Herland is announcing a new feature in their book department. As of January 1, 1989, there'll be a used bookbin. Herland customers will be able to purchase Lesbian or Feminist books at a reduced price. Most paperback books will be \$3.00, Hard cover will be \$5.00.

Another feature that Herland customers will enjoy is the "trade-in" feature. A customer may trade in a used book and get a 15% discount on a new book, limited to two books per day. Also, for a limited time customers may trade in two used books for one. Books shall be of Lesbian or Feminist nature.

Herland is very excited about this new addition and hopes that it will provide opportunity to members of the community who may not be able to afford Lesbian or Feminist books any other way. Check it out in the new year.

## OUR NEW LOOK!

*Have you noticed a change in the newsletter? Herland would like to thank AccuType and its owner, Rhonda Smith for the professional look they're giving the HSR Newsletter! Typesetting of the magnitude of the HSR newsletter is tedious and time-consuming, not to mention a great expense. Rhonda and her staff-person, Loral Reeves, are donating their time and effort to Herland to produce a professional-looking newsletter for us all. So, if you see Rhonda or Loral, let them know what a fine job they're doing.*

*And, if you've got typesetting you need to have done, take it to AccuType—they'll do it right!*

PUBLISHED BY: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.  
2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

EDITOR: Karen Lewis  
CHIEF REPORTER: Sondra Metzger  
ADVERTISING MGR.: Laura  
TYPESETTING: Rhonda Smith  
and Loral Reeves

CIRCULATION: 700

GENERAL INFO: (405) 794-7464 or 672-4141

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.

*HSR Newsletter is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Materials printed herein reflects the beliefs & opinions of the authors of the articles or letters, and not necessarily those of the Newsletter or the Herland Board.*



# Potpourri

## THE THIRD WAVE: Feminist Perspectives on Racism

edited by Norma Alarcón, Jacqui Alexander,  
Sharon Day, Lisa Albrecht & Mab Segrest

We have all been witnesses to an unprecedented resurgence of racism with its national and global implications. In the 1980's, **Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press** published two of the foremost books on women of color: *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, and *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*. As Afro-Caribbean, American Indian, white Jewish and white Southern women working together, we ask you to contribute to a book that will build on these earlier works, and articulate this historic third wave of feminist thought and action, to create a transformative feminist theory and practice that empowers all the world's peoples.

We encourage submissions covering a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

- dialogues among diverse women of color on the different effects of racism
- racism & its connection to misogyny, anti-semitism, class & homophobia
- historical analyses & contemporary manifestations of racism
- racism from an international perspective & the changing global economy
- national & international policies determining forced inclusion/exclusion of oppressed peoples
- the impact of the Reagan years upon the escalation of racism & racist policies
- dialogues among white women regarding the elimination of white supremacy
- coalition politics between & among women of color & white women
- explorations of how racial identities are shaped by culture
- pedagogical anti-racist strategies for progressive educators
- accounts of effective anti-racist organizing models

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: January 31st, 1989. Length: Maximum 25-30 pages double-spaced. Send 5 copies to: Sharon Day, 444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN. 55155

## PHOTOS SOUGHT FOR REVISED EDITION OF "OUR RIGHT TO LOVE"

BROOKLYN, NY - Ginny Vida, Editor of *Our Right To Love; A Lesbian Resource Book*, is inviting lesbian photographers to submit photos of lesbians for possible inclusion in the revised edition of *Our Right To Love*, to be

published by E.P. Dutton.

Photographs depicting: affection, friendship, outdoor and indoor scenes, lesbians at work, individual portraits, lesbians engaged in sports, Black, White, Asian America, Latina and Native American, lesbians of all ages, lesbians who are abled and differently abled, are being sought. Lesbians who are national or local movement leaders are also desirable subjects for photos.

"I'm looking for photographs that portray lesbians as women who are making positive contributions to society, enjoying life and interacting in a positive way with others," Ms. Vida said.

Photographers will receive \$35 for each photo published in the revised edition, payable upon publication. Photos must be black and white, professional quality, and all persons pictured must sign a release which the editor will provide. Photographers will be credited in the book.

*Our Right to Love* is an anthology of lesbian writing that includes more than 40 essays, dozens of personal testimonies, more than 100 photographs of lesbians plus some lesbian rights supporters. The original edition was published in 1978 by Prentice Hall.

Photos may be submitted to: Ginny Vida, Editor, *Our Right To Love*, 45 Plaza St., #1-G, Brooklyn, NY 11217. (718) 789-0391.

From Dimensions, Oct. 1988, Vol. 3 No. 4

## ANNOUNCING NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

The 1989 conference of the Association for Women in Psychology will be held in Newport, Rhode Island, March 9-12, 1989. The Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) is a nonprofit and educational feminist organization dedicated to encouraging feminist teaching, research, and mental health practices in psychology and related fields.

In keeping with this year's theme, "The Many Faces of Feminist Psychology," we are encouraging contributions covering the many facets of women's lives, as experienced by women from diverse circumstances and backgrounds. Interdisciplinary presentations and different kinds of programs (research, theory, or practice) are welcome. We would especially like to encourage participation from cultural and racial minority, disabled, older or younger than average, and economically disadvantaged women; from grass-roots organizations; and from mental health consumers.

For more information, please write or call Kathryn Quina, Rhode Island AWP, Dept. of Psychology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881. Phone (401) 277-3832.

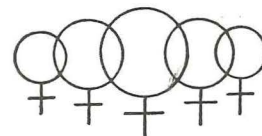
## NATIONAL LESBIAN CONFERENCE SET TO USHER IN THE GAY 90'S

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first meeting to organize a comprehensive national conference by, for and about lesbians, was held here September 24 & 25, to launch coordination of the idea born of the October 11, 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. An ad-hoc group of east coast lesbians convened the open meeting to begin to set goals and to establish the initial planning structure for the conference, which is tentatively scheduled for late 1989 or early 1990.

The conference envisioned is the first of its kind: a broad-based coalition effort to set a lesbian agenda for social, economic, and political change, to increase lesbian visibility and to acknowledge lesbian diversity and common ground.

Regional planning meetings on the national lesbian conference are being organized throughout the country in the months ahead. The first national steering committee meeting, with representatives chosen by each region at the regional planning meetings is scheduled for the weekend of March 4-5, 1989 in Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

Lesbians interested in getting involved should watch for local announcements of regional planning meetings. For more information, write: National Lesbian Conference, P.O. Box 3057, Albany, NY 12203.



UNITY IS THE KEY

Westport  
Liquors



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by the Public Health Service in 1986. The document, which was distributed to all members of Congress, all governors and key state officials, had a major impact on shaping both the state response and the Presidential Commission's final report on AIDS.

Ryan was also honored at the conference by NASW's National Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues for her outstanding contributions to lesbian and gay health. These include organizing numerous national and regional conferences on lesbian and gay health care, founding the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation, publishing the first National Gay Health Directory and coordinating the National Lesbian Health Care Survey, the first baseline study of lesbian health concerns.

In her acceptance speech Ryan revealed that in her initial application to social work school 10 years ago, she included her work in the lesbian and gay community to demonstrate her ability to practice social work—and then was rejected for applying as an open lesbian. Ryan traced the roots of homophobia from denial of the lesbian identity of the profession's founder, Jane Adams, 100 years ago, to placing clients at risk through secrecy and denial, for infection with HIV today.

Criteria for receiving the award include taking risks in the pursuit of social work goals, demonstrating significant leadership qualities, effective advocating on behalf of client groups, contributing to the positive image of social work, and helping ameliorate a pressing social problem.

The National Association of Social Workers is the world's largest professional organization with 120,000 members in the United States and overseas. They work in family service agencies, mental health facilities, schools and colleges, hospitals, industry and private practice. They have taken the lead in raising awareness of the psychological and social problems created by the AIDS crisis and in organizing and providing appropriate services.

board members to Fayetteville, Arkansas, for a women's arts and crafts fair that invites one bookstore each year. This was Herland's year.

December marked Herland's grand opening. Although the building is still not 100% finished, the collective felt it was time to have the opening. Peggy Johnson provided live entertainment for the event, which welcomed some 100 women. There were tables of delicious food, wine and caroling—Herland style.

Volunteers also staffed a table at a fundraiser for the Oasis Community Center held at Angles.

I realize this doesn't sound like we've done much. I have neglected to list the monthly board meetings, emergency board meetings, committee meetings, work days on the old and new buildings and time spent preparing the newsletter, staffing the resource center and preparing the necessary monthly reports.

We feel good about this past year, and are looking toward 1989 with hope for greater involvement, more outreach, bigger and better events, and a well-stocked bookstore.

We are slowly becoming the viable resource center we have been envisioning. It's not going to happen overnight, and we can't do it without your continued support. I know that sounds like a broken record, but it's a fact: we need you. Someday you may need us. We're working to be there. Thanks!

## DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

Sondra Metzger

An article I wrote in the December issue of the newsletter has caused quite a stir with some of our subscribers.

I have mixed feelings about this because on one hand it pleases me to hear about disagreement because that means you're really reading the newsletter. We seldom if ever receive letters to the editor like newspapers do, though we continue to encourage this. Without feedback, we have nothing to gauge how we're doing with presenting what information we receive.

But on the other hand, I don't want what I write to be harmful to Herland as a whole, just as the women I interview don't want their words to do the same.

The article in question dealt with Her-

land's early beginnings, something we have no way to research other than by asking those who were involved for their perspective. Everyone's perspective is going to vary. All we can do is print what is relayed to us.

Any article appearing in the newsletter, including this one, is the opinion of either the author or the person who has been interviewed and not that of the collective as a whole.

Any disagreement with the facts presented should be directed to the newsletter via a letter to the editor and not to the collective. Letters to the editor will be printed in the newsletter if accompanied with a valid signature and telephone number (this is so that we may contact the writer if we have questions concerning the letter. The writer's name will be withheld from publication if so indicated).

It is my job to present what facts are given to me. It's your job to let me know when I'm off the mark, or simply if you disagree. To those who wish to be dropped from the mailing list because of this incident, if you really care about Herland as a whole, you will speak your peace and stay. There's more to Herland than one article in the newsletter. If you feel that strongly about the article in question, there's nothing I can do to change your mind. I do, however, feel sorry for you that you are letting one thing isolate you from your community and keep you from growing and learning. Again, this is my opinion.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clarification concerning article in last month's newsletter

There have been some misunderstandings concerning last month's article, and the herstory of Herland's beginnings. This was an interview which took place over the phone, and as interviews go, much of what was said was not included; therefore, some of the information was taken out of context. I was answering questions that were posed to me.

The interviewer mentioned the fact that all the current Board Members were initially recruited by Barbara Cleveland's volunteers. I was the first person she had talk with who had not been involved through Barbara.

One of the reasons for talking about the initial beginnings was to help document Herland's Herstory (this was done at the urgings of those involved in the first few months of the bookstore's beginnings); another reason was to let those involved know that the bank had returned the money stolen through forged checks (Barbara and numerous volunteers worked for over a year without the "seed" money).

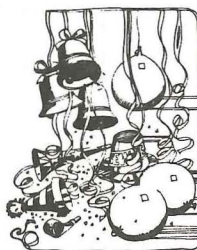
My apologies to all who may have been offended or upset about the article. I hope we can all work together to continue the growth and spirit Barabara instilled in us.

Pat C.

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## Classifieds

### POSITION AVAILABLE:

**Non-profit Agency Coordinator.** Challenging position for self-motivated person for AIDS support program in Tulsa. BA minimum with emphasis in Public Health or related field preferred. 2 yrs. experience with community-based agency. Candidate should have excellent oral and written skills, public relations experience, knowledge of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), HIV infection and testing. Ability to plan and implement budget and financial practices. Fundraising experience, coordination of volunteers and computer knowledge helpful. Complete job description available on request. Salary in \$20,000 range. Submit resume by Jan 10th, 1989. Send resume to: ASP Search Committee, c/o Mike Williams, P.O. Box 671, Tulsa, OK 74101.

**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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