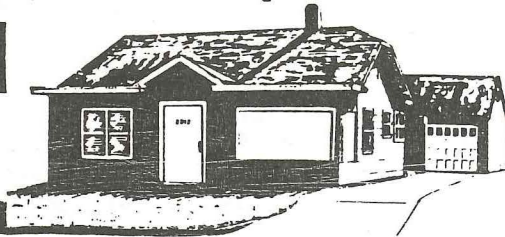


# HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES



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MARCH, 1989

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.  
2312 N.W. 39TH, OKC 73112 • (405) 521-9696

## Around the Corner

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY MARCH

by Mary Reynolds

Oklahoma City—There were no police dogs, not even very many policemen. There were no fire hoses for crowd control. There wasn't even the threat of an appearance by the Ku Klux Klan.

Those who marched to the Martin Luther King Day Rally at the State Capitol faced no such obvious obstacles. The enemies they faced were less visible and more insidious: apathy, an ignorance of the compelling questions of the 50's and 60's, a racism that hides its face to avoid detection, a government that cares more for rusting missiles than for its own people. These are enemies that women and lesbians can understand, as we face many of the same intangible antagonists.

So it was that I thrilled to see the marchers turn the last corner to the Capitol and heard their faint but resolute chanting as I struggled to get the P.A. system set up in time for the rally.

When the marchers arrived, they joined many others (especially the elderly) who had driven to the rally or walked shorter distances. As we gathered in the second floor rotunda, a choir made up of 30+ volunteers from the marvelous churches of Oklahoma City's East Side led the singing of a freedom song with an irrepressible Gospel beat. They held no music in their hands and didn't need anyone to tell them the words. The message was engraved on their souls and we all sang from our hearts—"WHO SHALL? WE SHALL!"

Donna Compton introduced State Representative Vicki Miles LaGrange who was filling in for Rev. Jackson of

Oklahoma City, who was unable to appear. She was a most capable replacement! Her oratory was as rhythmic and masterful as any evangelist. She introduced the audience to Civil rights pioneer Clara Luper, who most appropriately was "sitting in" with a large group of children and young people just as she did back in the 1950's. She reminded us of the 1969 sanitation workers strike here in Oklahoma City where men laid their bodies down in front of the trucks to keep them from rolling unjustly. And over and over she stressed her vital theme, "We've come a long way, but we've got a long way to go."

County Commissioner Shirley Daniels introduced the 1988 Executive Director of the National Rainbow Coalition, Mr. Ron Daniels. He began by quietly pointing out that most people associated Dr. King's work with the fight against racism, forgetting that later in his career, even when he died, he was speaking out against poverty and economic injustice. His voice rose as he recounted how Dr. King spoke out against the Vietnam War because he realized that the resources people needed for education and housing were being squandered on killing. And he thundered as he exhorted his listeners to keep constant vigilance against the powerful but invisible foes that the struggle for human dignity faces today.

Peggy Johnson, backed by the aforementioned mighty choir (and Nathaniel Batchelder of the Peace House and myself) led the assembly in "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around." Several other "Sisters" were there—some marched in the march—because they understood that lesbians share this fight for justice and human dignity. They recognize that we've come a long way, but that we are still barred from employment or paid less than we're worth because of our gender or preference. And since many of us are poor, we know that our tax money is not

going for our education or our housing or our protection from crime but for elaborate destructive toys conceived and controlled by violent men.

I hope that next year more women will take the time off from their everyday concerns to stand in solidarity with us and with the followers of Dr. King: to "just say no" to those who deny human dignity for their own gain, to hear dynamic speakers better explain to us these pressing issues, and to be moved by powerful music. And besides that, we need the practice. In the coming decade, our survival may depend on our ability to hit the streets! ■

### FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE: OU GLA BRINGS JEB TO NORMAN

The five days in October 1987 when 650,000 lesbians, gay men, and supporters converged on Washington D.C. to participate in what was the largest march ever held in our nation's capital will be brought to Norman in a multi-image presentation. J.E.B., noted lesbian photographer, is bringing her show "For Love and For Life: The 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights" to the OU campus March 17. Her hour-long presentation brings the speeches and sounds of the March combined with narration and hundreds of images by JEB and more than a dozen other lesbian and gay photographers.

"It is my intention to put the march into a context that all people can appreciate", JEB said. "I also want to make sure that our progress in obtaining civil rights is fully seen and remembered." JEB's show also hints at events that have happened since the March, such as National Free Sharon

*Continued on next page*



Kowalski Day, AID's-relate protests, and other grass-roots activities.

JEB has published two books of photography which have been described as "beautiful affirmations of lesbian lives." Her first was *Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians* and her latest is *Making a Way: Lesbians Out Front*. Her work also has been published in numerous books, magazines such as "Ms." and "Off Our Backs," and is found on book covers, album covers, note cards, post cards, calendars, posters and in films and videotapes.

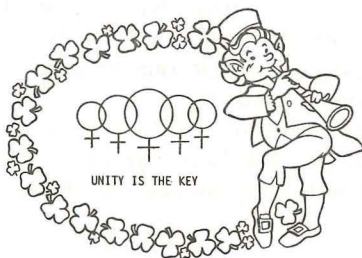
"For Love and For Live" will be presented at p.m. Friday, March 17 in room 200 Dale Hall, which is located on the corner of Lindsey and Elm in Norman.

The presentation is sponsored by the OU Gay/Lesbian Alliance and the OU Speakers Bureau as part of Gay Awareness Week. Admission is free, and American Sign Language translation will be provided for the hearing impaired. For more information, call 360-8723 or 329-1307. ■

## STATE MEETING

OK NOW will meet on Saturday, March 11th from 12 noon until 4 p.m. in Oklahoma City at the YWCA, 415 NW 5th. In addition to the usual business, they will be discussing the upcoming Annual Meeting and officers for 1989-90. Be sure to attend.

The October meeting of OK NOW was organized to be a planning session for the future. However, few decisions were made because of a lack of energy and ability to make commitments for other people to carry out projects. Admittedly, these are tough times, but we need to make some effort towards planning a direction for OK NOW in the next years. Hopefully, we will be able to accomplish this at the March 11th meeting. ■



## THE QUILT TO BE IN OKC

The NAMES PROJECT QUILT is a massive tribute to the tens of thousands of people who have already died in the AIDS epidemic. This memorial consists of thousands of fabric panels, each bearing the name of a single person lost to AIDS. Created in homes across America and the world by the friends, lovers, and families of people killed by AIDS, the panels arrive at the NAMES PROJECT workshop in San Francisco where they are stitched into the growing quilt.

Inspired by the American Folk Art tradition of quilting and sewing bees, the NAMES PROJECT is a positive expression of personal loss as well as a dramatic illustration of the impact of AIDS on our society.

On October 11, 1987, hundreds of people gathered at the U.S. capitol to view the inaugural display which was set up to urge our government to increase funding in the fight against AIDS. In the spring and summer of 1988, the quilt made an extensive tour across America, visiting more than twenty U.S. cities. In October of 1988, the quilt once again visited our nation's capitol. Seven times the original size, it now contained the names of 8,288 men, women, and children who have died of AIDS. Continuing its world wide exposure, portions of the quilt were sent to places as far away as Australia and South America on World AIDS Day, December 1, 1988.

Now Oklahoma City will host the quilt as a part of its Spring 1989 tour. Because of its immense size, only part of it will be on view here. Nevertheless, the impact will be felt. Some of our own Oklahoma names will be a part of the quilt. And donations taken at the display will be distributed among local AIDS service organizations, such as

Fishes and Loaves and chapters of the AIDS Support Program in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

With the warmth and beauty of the NAMES PROJECT QUILT, we can combat fear and ignorance of this terrible disease, commemorate those who have died, and educate those who don't understand or care.

The Oklahoma NAMES PROJECT Chapter urges your endorsement and support of the event so that many more people may be able to "REMEMBER THEIR NAMES."

May 5-7, 1989 at INTERNATIONAL TRADE BLDG., STATE FAIR GROUNDS. ■

## MARCH CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

**March 10** - Video Night at Herland, 7:30 p.m.

**March 11** - N.O.W. Meeting at the YWCA, 415 NW 5th, 12 noon.

**March 11** - Gay and Lesbian Awards Ceremonies, at the American Legion Hall, 6101 NW 50th, 6 p.m.

**March 17** - J.E.B.'s OU presentation of the Gay & Lesbian March on Washington at 200 Dale Hall (corner of Lindsey and Elm), Norman, at 8:00 p.m.

**March 18** - Potluck at Herland, 7:00. Bring covered dish and meet J.E.B.

**March 22** - JUNE MILLINGTON! At the Hi-Lo Club, 1221 NW 50th. 2 SHOWS: 8:00 and 10:00. Don't miss this!

**March 24** - Video Night at Herland, 7:30 p.m.

**March 31** - Herland Coffeehouse presents Nancy Scott in concert at 7:30 p.m.

**April 1** - Three of Hearts with Nancy Scott at Hi-Lo Club, 1221 N.W. 50th, 9 p.m.

### 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.

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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# Around the Country

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## ROE V. WADE ALERT

Washington, D.C. — The anti-abortion forces are, and have been, flooding the U.S. Supreme Court with mail demanding the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. Not surprising, Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is the main target of the mail campaign from the organized Right. Frankly, this is indirect confirmation that O'Connor has been the "swing" vote on the High Court for this issue, and not Justice Anthony Kennedy. The bottom line is for each of us to write to Justice O'Connor and re-emphasize that the overwhelming majority of American citizens want abortion kept safe and legal. Encourage all your friends and relatives to write immediately:

Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor  
U.S. Supreme Court  
One 1st Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20543 ■

## MARCH FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY/ WOMEN'S LIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National NOW is sponsoring another Women's March to follow up the very successful March held in 1987. With the election of George Bush as President, most people feel the need to re-emphasize our commitment to women having control over their own lives. The March will be held April 9 in Washington, D.C. with the Step Off at 12 noon and the Rally on the Capitol West Side at 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending the March contact GET Meeting Planners; 1522 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, Attn: Vicki Ferguson. National has contracted with these meeting planners because this is also the weekend of the Cherry Blossom Festival, so D.C. will be full to the brim. Make your reservations as soon as possible. Buses are being filled from Arizona, Kansas and Texas, so you may want to contact National to coordinate with one of these groups. ■

## ELLEN RATNER APPOINTED TRUSTEE OF SAMARITAN BOARD First Person of Jewish Faith to Join Christian College

Samaritan College and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) announced . . . the appointment of Ellen Ratner to the Board of Trustees of Samaritan College. Ms. Ratner is the President of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation—the oldest lesbian and gay health organization in the country—and is a nationally recognized leader of the lesbian and gay community. The UFMCC—a 20-year-old international network of congregations that provides lesbians and gays with the opportunity for religious worship—established Samaritan College as a training seminary for clergy representing the Metropolitan Community Churches.

Ms. Ratner is the first person of the Jewish faith to be appointed to the Board of Samaritan College, a substantially Christian organization. Ms. Ratner's appointment reflects a decisive step toward establishing the College as the first accredited university with a predominately gay and lesbian student body—Samaritan's long-term objective.

"We are delighted that Ellen Ratner will be joining our Board," said Reverend Sherre Boothman, President of Samaritan College. "She will be an enormous asset. Her credentials are outstanding, particularly her expertise in the human services area where Samaritan has recently added a degree program," she explained.

"I look forward to devoting my time and energy to the growth of Samaritan College," expressed Ellen Ratner. "Samaritan has filled a major void in the lives of so many gays and lesbians. It has a great future ahead of it, and it's extremely fulfilling to me to know that I will be a part of Samaritan's future."

The UFMCC was founded by Reverend Troy D. Perry in 1968. The UFMCC has over 250 congregations throughout the United States, Central America, New Zealand, Indonesia, Australia, Canada and Europe. Over 400 students attend Samaritan College in the United

States, Canada, Australia and Western Europe.

Samaritan College has a long history of service to the gay and lesbian community, and is committed to building a university that will meet the special needs of gays and lesbians. Its principal goals are:

- to seek academic excellence;
- to provide professional leadership to the gay and lesbian community;
- to encourage the self-value and expression of each student's full potential;
- to promote understanding of the dynamics of oppression and the commitment to the journeys of liberation;
- and to recruit a top-flight faculty committed to these values

In addition to serving as the President of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation, Ms. Ratner is widely recognized as a leader in the field of chemical dependency treatment for lesbians and gay men. In 1974 she founded and became Director of the Wollaston II Psychiatric Day Treatment Center, New England's largest day treatment facility. Ms. Ratner also co-directed the Boundaries Therapy Center in 1973.

Currently, Ms. Ratner serves as a member of the management team of the Addiction Recovery Corporation, which is dedicated to research, education and the prevention of addictions.

Press Release

## LESBIAN AGENDA CONFERENCE

So many lesbians are doing vital work creating change to better this world, yet our issues as lesbians are rarely in the forefront for social change. **WHY?**

It may be that we have not taken the needed time to create a space for us to really discuss what our issues are and how to best promote our concerns on a wide variety of agendas.

We need to acknowledge and validate our vast differences of lifestyles and work methods. We need to develop ways to help us accomplish goals without pushing those powerful "territorial buttons" that block us from trusting each other.

Our greatest strength is our diversity. Lesbians of every race, class, religion, ability and ethnicity must be involved

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in all aspects of planning the conference. Whether you are a courageous lesbian who deals with local, state or national governmental bodies, an amazon challenging the might of the world's militaries or the average dyke who deals with varying degrees of homophobia while living the reality of loving women, all our voices must combine to form a community. As we learn to tap into the power of our community, we become an awesome force to be reckoned with.

Our lesbian agenda must come through collaborative means to form a lasting foundation. Dealing with differences among ourselves is often hard but we are strengthened when it is done successfully. Now is the time to use creative means to get past our "isms," work together and realize our potential. And, we need to be able to laugh together.

An Ad-hoc group met in Washington D.C. in September to discuss organizing a national lesbian conference. A brief summary of some of the recommendations from that meeting:

1. This conference should be by, for, and about lesbians.
2. The conference should be planned according to feminist principles and process.
3. The planning and conference should represent our diversity and welcome all lesbians.

Some of the suggested topics to be addressed at the conference: lesbian legal rights; custody; job security; unity on definitions; visibility; women and AIDS; day care; fair housing; coming out; racism; violence; money issues; and the list goes on . . .

Watch for updates on planning for the Lesbian Conference in upcoming HSR Newsletters. ■



## SCWSA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Please type or print legibly. Use this form for one person only.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Eve ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Fees: (all registration fees include membership in SCWSA)

#### Pre-Registration (deadline for pre-registration is March 10, 1989)

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Regular
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Limited Means/Students
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$12 Luncheon (12 p.m., Friday, March 31) \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer vegetarian
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Feminist Cabaret and Coffeehouse (7:30 p.m., Friday, March 31)

#### On-Site Registration (or after March 10, 1989)

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Regular
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Limited Means/Students
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$7 Feminist Cabaret and Coffeehouse (7:30 p.m., Friday, March 31)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** (Make check payable to UH-CL/SCWSA Conference)

Special Needs (please indicate any special needs): \_\_\_\_\_ Signing \_\_\_\_\_ Child Care \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify)

Mail to SCWSA Conference, c/o Dr. Angela Howard Zophy, Box 400, University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, Texas, 77058-1098

For further information: Cynthia Miller (713) 488-9687 or Angela Zophy 488-9659 or 488-9370

### HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM: MAIL THIS FORM BY MARCH 15 DIRECTLY TO: Doubletree Hotel, 400 Dallas St. at Bagby, Houston, TX 77002

#### SOUTH CENTRAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: MARCH 31 - APRIL 2, 1989

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of room requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Single/Queen ☐ \$48

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Single/King ☐ \$48

\_\_\_\_\_ Double/Queen ☐ \$48

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Double/King ☐ \$48

Share with \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date and Time \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* to guarantee, send first night's deposit Departure Date and Time \_\_\_\_\_

## Women's Studies Conference Invites All Feminists

Houston, TX — The South Central Women's Studies Association will hold its annual conference here, March 31-April 1, 1989.

Hosted by the Women's Studies Program at the University of Houston — Clear Lake, the conference will offer over 60 paper presentations, workshops, demonstrations and panel discussions in all major disciplines.

The Keynote Speaker for this year's conference will be Dr. Judith Fetterley, renowned critic of American literature and author of *The Resisting Reader*. Dr. Fetterley will speak on "Mothering and Reading"; women's values and the act of reading a literary text.

Entertainment will include a feminist cabaret and coffeehouse featuring local poets, musicians, and other feminist performing artists.

The Doubletree Hotel at Allen Center, located in the theater district of downtown Houston will be the site of the conference. Convenient, elegant and charming, The Doubletree is offering a special conference rate of \$48.00 for a single or double room. Accommodation arrangements may be made by March 15 by calling the hotel at 1-800-528-0444. — Specify that you are attending the SCWSA conference. ■



## HERLAND NEEDS YOU!

What does Herland Sister Resources mean to you? Many of you have passed through the doors of both our old location and now our new home on 39th Street. HSR has affected all of us in one way or another: through new friendships, sisterhood, love, caring and support. We've grown through the years and will continue to do so with support from all of you.

We always are in need of volunteers to either staff the center or work on the building. We have several committees that need volunteers, including the Resource Center committee, Fundraising, Programming, Library, Newsletter and Volunteer Committee. The continued success of HSR depends on people getting involved and making a difference in our community. We must all work together to ensure our place in society.

Think about this and your involvement with HSR, because without your help we could be another statistic like the Bookstore in San Antonio and Several others across the United States.

In these depressed economic times in Oklahoma it is difficult to make ends meet and HSR fully understands that. Many of you see us in a new location, but we too have needs.

We know many of you give faithfully of your time, talent and money, and we are very appreciative of your continued support. We cannot survive without you. ■

## HELP!!!

Herland needs you now more than ever. Herland's monthly bills:

Mortgage	\$260
Utilities	
Gas	\$ 40
Sewage	\$ 38
Electric	\$ 25
Insurance	\$ 75
Newsletter printing & postage	
(This cost is defrayed somewhat	
by paid advertising)	\$200
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$638</b>

Herland extends sincere thanks to those precious few who have sustained her through regular donations.

Herland's new location has caused her expenses to almost triple. With fewer donations coming in due to difficult economic times for everyone Herland is left perched precariously close to extinction. This potentially disastrous financial situation can be alleviated if Herland's 700+ newsletter subscribers donated just \$1 a month. Please ask yourself if Herland is worth the price of 2 Cokes or a pack of cigarettes a month to you. If so, please let us hear from you via the form below.

PLEASE HELP!

Thank you!

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**YES! I WILL HELP. I AM SENDING MY DONATION OF \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP



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# Meet the Board

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## A NEW YEAR, A NEW SISTER #4 MEET KATHY C.

It took us awhile, but the board finally has new Sister #4, Kathy C. The previous Sister #4, Pat C. (no relation), moved up to Sister #3 in January. Kathy agreed to fill the position at our January board meeting (okay, Sisters, you can untie her now—it's in writing).

Kathy is not a native Oklahoman. She was born in the spring of 1955 in Minnesota and is the middle child of 5 brothers and 5 sisters, and came to Oklahoma after a three-and-a-half year stint in the Army.

"I couldn't find a job back home," she said, "so when I came to visit an Army buddy in 1978, I found a job and stayed."

As a dispatcher, Kathy sometimes maintains a strained work schedule when she has to work double shifts to cover for those who are sick or on vacation. One would think the life of a dispatcher would bear some stories, but not according to Kathy.

"The emergencies are few and far between," she said. "Everything else is pretty boring. I was unemployed at the time or I'd probably be doing something else. I don't think anyone chooses to become a dispatcher. It's something that just happens to them."

While hoping to fill a supervisory position in the near future, Kathy is also contemplating a return to the academic life at Central State in the fall where she will be finishing work on a degree in computer science.

After talking with her, it seems to me that this quiet, unassuming individual has lived a varied life. Stationed in Germany while a member of the better half of the Army, Kathy was what she called an electronic eavesdropper, monitoring radio transmissions from other countries, transcribing them and sending them to those inquiring minds in the military.

When she's not dispatching or volunteering for Herland, Kathy reads and listens to music. She has taken on the job of stripping off the old paint from the woodwork in her house and is planning to finish it as close to its

natural state as possible.

Kathy found out about Herland in 1983 when a friend on a softball team took her to the bookstore on 19th and Blackwelder.

"I can remember the stock of books the first day I went there," she said. "A whole four titles! What impressed me the most was the fact that there were actually titles about lesbians as well as books on the subjects. That's when I picked up a book and saw two women kissing on the cover. Talk about an identity realization. That was all I had been wanting to do since I was 14—go to the beach and kiss women! Don't ask me what I'm doing in Oklahoma."

Kathy didn't get involved with Herland at that point, but she became a steady customer who started volunteering so she could read the books.

"It was great," she said. "I was really impressed with what they were trying to do with the bookstore. There was so much energy. What impressed me the most was the amount of renovations they did on the store. I was very intimidated by their talent, by the fact that these women knew how to put in ceilings, level floors and put up a false wall. Four years later, I'm putting in windows and plumbing in another building that has to be renovated. I don't know what it is about bookstores and lesbians and renovation, but they seem to go hand-in-hand."

Kathy claims her impression hasn't changed.

"I still like kissing women on the beach," she said. "But a lot of the initial innocence has been lost. I'm still very fond of the books and literature, but the initial thrill of discovery is gone."

Kathy's main duties for Herland over the years have been to order books for the bookstore and maintain the mailing list on her home computer.

"It's mainly because of the mailing list that I'm on the board," she said. "For protection and confidentiality the mailing list must be in the hands of a board member at all times, so when I volunteered to take care of it, I also joined the board."

Claiming guilt as the reason for becoming Sister #4 (and the tight ropes that held her in the chair), Kathy is optimistic about her future with Herland, but only up to a point.

"I'm looking forward to computerizing Herland more," she said. "But the thought of someday being Sister #1 is scary. If you go back and think of how far Herland has come in the last few

years, the activities it has generated, the energy, the tasks that have been accomplished... This has been done by some very dynamic Sister #1s. To think that you're going to have to fill their shoes or at least try to maintain that level is intimidating."

Kathy tends to be a big dreamer when it comes to Herland, hoping to see a computer sitting in the office at the resource center, an increase in the book inventory, videos available to rent, a TV and VCR available to watch videos on and an upswing in the used book bin.

"We're going to have to move slowly and concentrate on what we want to accomplish," she said. "Fundraising is going to take a special effort. We have a phone now because once we concentrated on it, we got the job done. That's the kind of power and energy this board has. Once they set their goals and with adequate resources, it comes about."

All board members have their own visions about Herland: where she's going, how she's going to get there, what they would like to see her doing in the next five years. Kathy is no different.

"I would like to see all the stuff I mentioned," she said. "I see Herland as a Women's resource center. I want to see her become more involved in networking with other women's groups and political organizations."

Kathy not only enjoys the books and the availability of them, but also the sisterhood.

"The women bonding together to accomplish something is great," she said. "The retreats are fun, but I'm going to have to suggest a beach to the camp director. I just like getting together with the women and doing something, whether it's putting in windows or plumbing or getting together to order books. There's a special relationship between everyone."

Kathy feels that Herland has a lot to offer the individual, even though we aren't open for business as much as we would like.

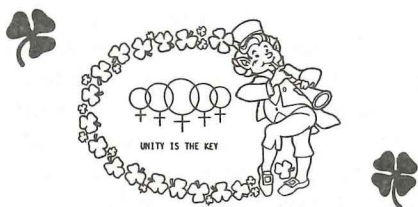
"Herland can offer a sympathetic ear," she said. "We offer a place for women to go for books, periodicals, music and entertainment. There's the newsletter, referrals for counseling, Friday Night Videos, coffeehouses and concerts. We offer a place they can come to see people and to have at least a reference point to get what information they need."

*Continued on next page*



The importance of Herland in Kathy's life was evident in my last question to her: What does Herland mean to you?

"It's such a growth process for me in just being able to come to terms with myself," she said. "I've done a lot of growing up. There are so many times when Herland is such a whore. You love her so much and she takes all your money and all your energy and leaves you more infatuated with her. You can't stay away. I think about the people over the years who have been to the store to buy books. They're learning about themselves and about me. I see the walls we've created and the walls we've torn down. In a word, it means 'myself.' She represents so much of me by wanting to reach out to other people, to help somebody come to terms with herself when she's confused, the fun, the laughter. It represents women. I don't know where I'd be without Herland... I don't want to know where." ■



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you are planning to move, and you don't want to miss any issues of the HSR Newsletter, please let us know your new address BEFORE you move. For your protection the Post Office will not forward the Newsletter, and Herland will not change your address without your authorization. Therefore, to ensure receipt of the Newsletter, fill out and mail us this change-of-address form BEFORE you move. The form may also be used to add your name to the mailing list.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Sisters of Herland:

After reading Sondra Metzger's article on the "Memorable Moments" of Herland, I wanted to write and offer all of you my congratulations for your continuing efforts and for all that you have accomplished in keeping a wimmin's bookstore alive and well in OKC.

I lived there in the 70's... As an author, I had the privilege of doing public readings at the Herland store on Blackwelder for my mysteries *Mrs. Porter's Letter* and *The Burnton Widows. Double Daughter* is my newest adventure featuring Lesbian sleuth Nyla Wade—just released from Naiad Press in October.

When I get to thinking that the third wave of feminists has been drowned by this country's right wing conservative backwash, hearing of your valiant struggle to keep a sacred space for womyn open and available gives me considerable hope. And the support of bookstores and readers, particularly for those of us who still value writing about and for our gay people, is an essential source of inspiration.

I've had the opportunity to meet bookstore owners and readers in various parts of the country, most recently with the release of *Double Daughter*—from the warm, well-stocked shelves of Category Six and Book Garden in Denver, to Pasadena's Page One and A Different Drummer in Laguna Beach. And in Louisville, Colorado, you can get used books and wimmin's books with a welcoming smile where you wouldn't expect it—at Beebo's, just a block from the local tavern. We are everywhere. In Colorado Springs, Together As One has turned a spare bedroom into a delightful space—small but rich with womyn's music and writing, t-shirts hung in the corners like kites. They believe they can provide a positive force of cohesion in their community. They still believe in community.

These are your dear sisters in the struggle to keep wimmin's bookstores open. I think it's a struggle too many of us ignore and fail to appreciate. How shocked I was to find that all the womyn's bookstores in New York City are gone. So these special places to meet and browse the literature that is uniquely our own cannot be taken for granted.

Along with my congratulations to you, then, this letter is a call to action to the

womyn of Oklahoma City. We're still getting 59¢ on the dollar to men, but we ought to be spending it with each other. What a simple way to show support, to dam up the new tidal wave of judgement and condemnation washing over us, especially with the continued spread of AIDS. We have Herland, and that is herstory. That we have my books and those of the many other Lesbian feminist authors is herstory. That we have gay presses growing in strength is herstory. Perhaps the most important herstory is our courage in this complicated world. The courage to abandon our closets forever, the courage to create and validate our special, precious places—like Herland.

We can all make herstory. Value your bookstore. Every time you buy books, thank the Goddess you have that place. Remember the fires of the past, when books were burned, as were witches and Lesbians. Value the voices of those who write for you, and those sisters who get these books into your hands. Maybe it starts when we value ourselves.

All the best continued success to each and every one of you at Herland Sister Resources.

Vicki P. McConnell

**Editors Note:** Thank you, Vicki, for your words of encouragement. Herland's energies are growing along with the Center's quantity and variety of stock and local wimmin's consciousness! ■



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

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

CIRCULATION: 700

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SUBSCRIPTIONS to this Newsletter are free upon request.



## COFFEEHOUSE

### NANCY SCOTT: BOTH SIDES OF ME

by Mary Reynolds

There is nothing in my record collection that is quite like Nancy Scott's *Both Sides of Me*—it's unique. That's why I often cue it up on quiet mornings around the house, especially rainy ones. But there are other good reasons to listen to this excellent first album.

*Both Sides of Me* creates a definite mood. It's as if Nancy invited you to sit around her breakfast table and share her hopes and heartaches. And it feels good to be there, because Nancy is a very warm hostess, and somehow that comes through the speakers. The album has an unashamed Texas outlook and is reminiscent of the laid-back Austin scene where it was produced.

Nancy's poetry is lean and tight. Not the obscure kind. No digging for meaning here—it's all crystal clear. But there's plenty of depth in the way Nancy sheds new light on those ancient situations that face modern lovers.

Emotion stays close to the surface on this album. "Lost in Austin" is a humorous tale with a little sadness in the back of the throat. But "Laying the Cards on the Table" is a sad song with a clever turn of phrase that is sure to bring a smile. The images in "Moon" and "Winter Comes Softly" are so vivid as to be almost painful.

The other element that makes *Both Sides of Me* songwriting at its best is the way the music is a perfect fit for the lyrics. Nancy's music reminds me of the original songs of Mary McCaslin.

*Both Sides of Me* is an album of fine tunes, accessible yet original, which is so difficult in the country-blues genre, where it seems it has all been done before. These songs are like a breath of fresh air, and I think that "Reason for Singing the Blues" should become a standard for enthusiasts of that form. Also my cats like it when I sing it in the bathtub.

Nancy sings with an even-tempered deadpan delivery which is absolutely devastating to this reviewer. You'll have the opportunity to experience that in person when she appears at the Herland coffeehouse on March 31st and at the HiLo on April 1st.

The arrangement ideas on *Both Sides*



# HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES



## ANNOUNCES

### FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO

March 10th, 7:30 p.m. at Herland  
Presenting "Before Stonewall"

plus

"Two in Twenty - Part I"

(A lesbian soap opera)



### J.E.B.

Saturday, March 18th, 7:00 p.m. at Herland

Open Pot Luck — Come and

meet J.E.B. and

bring a covered dish.

### FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO

March 24th, 7:30 p.m. at Herland  
Presenting "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk"

plus

"Two in Twenty - Part II"

## COFFEEHOUSE

Friday, March 31st, 7:30 p.m. at Herland

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singer/songwriter/guitarist from Austin

### THE NEW HERLAND CENTER IS NOW OPEN:

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**4:30 p.m.**

of Me are inspired although sometimes in execution they fall short of their intent. Hats off to bassist Lynn Keller—fine job! It's tough for the lone, unarmed singer-songwriter to confront the mighty technology that it takes to get the stuff on vinyl, but Nancy wins the fight much more often than she loses, and those great songs come shining through. This is a very ambitious project in terms of

sessions and musicians. And I say, so what if the seams are showing a little? The liner notes show that about one zillion people had a hand in making this album. So it's a very friendly, hands-on, womanly kind of album. And that really comes through, especially on those rainy mornings when it's just you and the housework.



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