

# The HERLAND VOICE

SEPTEMBER 1990

## WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS, *by Sunshine Schillings*

Even though some women still question whether HIV/AIDS is a relevant issue for them, at the 6th International Conference on AIDS, the lack of attention to women and AIDS was a major topic of discussion by women both in the conference and among activists in the streets outside.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue because women are infected. Women are the fastest growing group with HIV infections. Worldwide, 2 million of the 6 million persons with HIV are women. The World Health Organization projects that by the end of 1992, over 350,000 women will have developed AIDS—more than the total of AIDS cases reported to WHO during the first decade of the epidemic. In the United States, 13,667 women are reported with AIDS making up 10% of the total 136,204 reported cases. Women with AIDS die faster than men. According to Patricia Kloser of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a woman with AIDS lives an average of 15.5 weeks following diagnosis. In Oklahoma, while it has been rumored that no women have died with AIDS, women are infected and deaths have occurred. Of 638 AIDS cases in Oklahoma, 38 are women. Of the 612 cases of HIV infection reported in Oklahoma since 1988, 68 are women.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue because women are affected. Women are often the primary caregivers for men and children with HIV/AIDS. Women are the mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, daughters and lovers of persons with HIV/AIDS. Women are professional caregivers—nurses, social workers, educators—providing services to persons with AIDS and people at risk.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue because women care about their community. People with AIDS are our neighbors, friends, and co-workers. We meet PWAs in our churches, social organizations, and the bars. The gay community has lost many leaders to the AIDS epidemic.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue because HIV/AIDS is a children's issue. Women

give birth to children and are their primary custodians. In that role, women have the responsibility of teaching their children about the dangers and how to reduce their risk for HIV infection. There is a significant risk of HIV infection for adolescents. In Oklahoma, high rates of teen pregnancy, drug abuse, and runaway/throw-away increase the risks for adolescents. Oklahoma is one of the few states to mandate AIDS education in the schools, yet there is little evidence that this education is happening consistently throughout the state.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue because it is an issue for women of color. Women of color have higher rates of HIV infection. Of women with AIDS in the United States, 52% are African-American, 27% white, 20% Hispanic, 0.6% Asian and 0.24% Native American. Of the 185 Native Americans with AIDS in the United States, 22 are in Oklahoma. The racism faced by women of color increases their vulnerability. Women of color historically have experienced problems accessing health care. Few culturally sensitive, language appropriate educational materials are available.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue because violence is a women's issue. The risk of AIDS has made rape a more frightening and traumatic experience. There has always been a risk of sexually transmitted disease but now her life may be in danger. Domestic violence places women at risk for HIV exposure. A woman whose partner batters her places herself in immediate physical danger by insisting that her partner wear a condom to practice safer sex.

HIV/AIDS is a women's issue. HIV/AIDS and the daily sexist oppression faced by women cannot be separated. As women get better tools for increasing control and reducing the risk of HIV infection, women gain tools for the control of pregnancy and the reduction of violence in their lives. Solving the problems of women and HIV/AIDS depends on the empowerment of women.

Women are the key to the solution of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Women have done

it before. The March of Dimes, which was organized and carried out by women, led to the virtual elimination of Polio. When women mobilize, we can make a difference. AIDS is our problem. ■

**DON'T  
THROW  
AWAY  
THE  
FUTURE!**



The Herland Recycling Center, located in Herland's kitchen, is in full swing. We will take your aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic milk jugs and pop bottles, newspaper, computer paper, and corrugated boxes.

We will take these items in any condition rather than allowing them to be discarded. However, here's the ideal condition in which to bring them:

- **Aluminum cans** - rinsed and crushed
- **Glass** - No lids (labels okay); no metal rings.
- **Plastic milk jugs & pop bottles** - no lids; remove bottom section of pop bottle.
- **Newspaper, computer paper, boxes** - neatly stacked.

Remember—realistically, a plastic jug cannot be “thrown away” and glass, aluminum and paper are a privilege, not a given. **RECYCLE!** ■



# HERLAND FALL RETREAT IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Friday, August 31  
through  
Monday, September 3, 1990  
**ARROWHEAD STATE PARK**

Register on site and join us for Cruz Devon's concert, pot luck, open mike, live band and dance, great food, friends, parties, workshops, campfire, horseback riding, swimming and much much more. The Herland Retreats are as laid back or as involved as you want them to be. All women are welcome!

## SPECIALLY DESIGNATED SPACE AT RETREATS

The Herland Retreat Committee has had inquiries concerning support for women in recovery at the Herland retreats. At our biannual retreats, Herland provides the space, both literally and figuratively, for women—us—to gather and to create what suits, enriches and pleases them—us. There is bountiful diversity in the greater Herland family, and this is naturally and harmoniously reflected at the retreats.

There are always AA meetings, and retreaters are free to organize whatever more they want and need—ACOA, CODA, ISA or whatever. As there is a significant difference in the airborne irritation factor of smoke and alcohol, the common area, the main hall and kitchen, etc., are designated non-smoking but not non-drinking.

Some cabins are designated "Quiet"—for the early-to-bed; some are "Smoke-Free," some "Sane and Sober" and some "Chemical-Free," which is understood to include intoxicants of all kinds and all kinds of cigarettes; some are "Anything Goes," which the Board, of course, assumes does not include anything illegal. We have never in the past had a cabin strictly designated "Women in Recovery;" however if interest warrants and space allows, there will certainly be one this fall and in the future.

The location of various cabins and their designations will be available at the check-in table in the main hall at registration.

## MS IS BACK... BETTER THAN EVER

by Pat Reaves

Ms. Magazine has been reborn. Publication of Ms. had ceased following the sale of the publishing company to Lang Communications because the magazine did not receive adequate support from advertisers to be profitable. Due to the response of subscribers, Ms. will resume publication with a new format.

The new Ms. will be editorially free—without advertisements and supported solely by the subscribers. It will be distributed primarily by subscription with newsstand copies only in a few select locations.

Editor-In-Chief Robin Morgan says "this Ms. will be international, and unashamedly feminist" (her emphasis). The premier issue of the new Ms. lives up to this promise. It features Gloria Steinem exposing the demands of advertisers on women's magazines; poetry by Toni Morrison, Adrienne Rich, June Jordan and Diana Chang; news from the lives of women in Eastern Europe and much more. The familiar "No comment" features advertisements from previous issues of Ms. We are promised that each issue will include international and national women's news, feminist theory discussions, women's health, ecofeminism, and guest editorials by notable women.

My subscription to the old Ms. lapsed long ago because its content and editorial policy did not stimulate my interest. This new Ms. warrants a second chance—my check is in the mail. ■

*Subscriptions to Ms. are \$30 annually for 6 bimonthly issues. Correspondence regarding subscriptions should be sent to: Ms. P.O. Box 50008, Boulder, CO 80321.*

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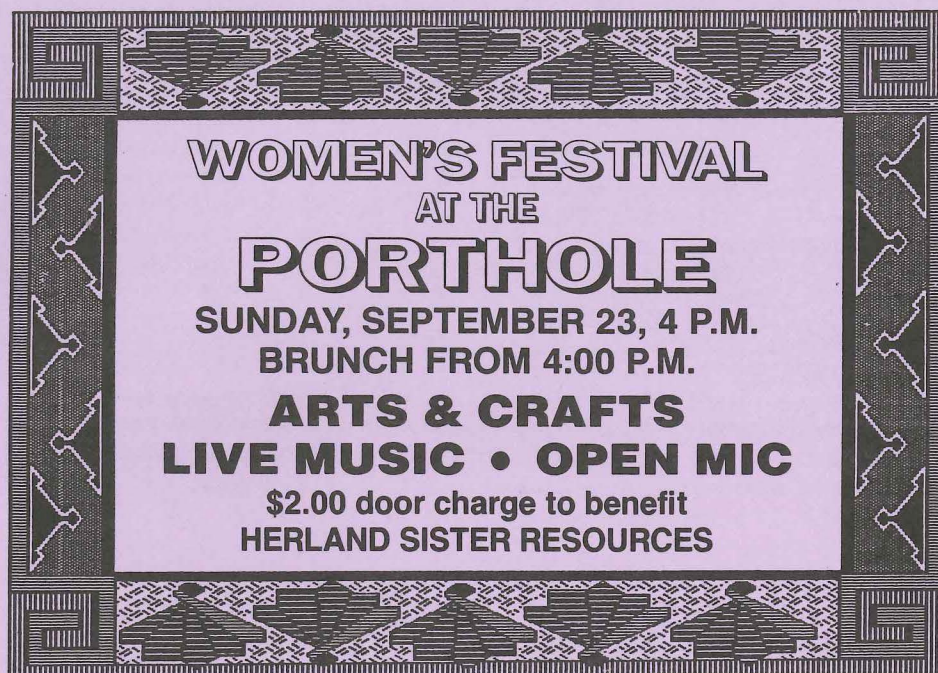
SUBSCRIPTIONS to the *Herland Voice*  
are free upon request.

## JUDY CHICAGO'S "DINNER PARTY"

The University of the District of Columbia has spent \$1.6 million to acquire and exhibit "The Dinner Party," the mammoth and revolutionary work of art created by Judy Chicago.

The 46½-foot triangular sculpture of embroidery and porcelain features 39 place settings with 39 dinner plates, each depicting a stylized vagina and meant to represent attributes of each woman. The work took 6 years and required the help of over 400 craftswomen to complete.

Because of the frankly feminist and controversial nature of the work, it has not been exhibited for many years; and has instead been crated and warehoused. It is wonderful that this work has finally found a home. In the thinking of many, this work of art is rivalled only by Judy Chicago's later work, the Birthing Process. ■



**WOMEN'S FESTIVAL**  
AT THE  
**PORTHOLE**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 4 P.M.  
BRUNCH FROM 4:00 P.M.  
**ARTS & CRAFTS**  
**LIVE MUSIC • OPEN MIC**  
\$2.00 door charge to benefit  
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

## ISSUES OF DIVERSITY, *by Deborah Fox*

Whether we admit it or not, we have all been conditioned by patriarchy to certain behaviors, beliefs, and prejudice, given gender, race, class, age, sexual preference, physical ability, appearance, spiritual affiliation or non-affiliation, educational background, etc. Hence, we have become alienated from each other and from our elemental powers. Divisiveness and powerlessness are tools of patriarchal oppression to maintain control over the people.

It is not enough to *want* to be feminist, or to respect diversity, we must also become aware of our unconscious assumptions and prejudice, admit them, and explore our differing experiences of privilege and oppression. When we gloss over our differences seeking instead only our similarities, we unwittingly undermine each others sense of reality (Adrienne Rich calls this: "gaslighting"), and therefore perpetuate divisiveness rather than attain the bonding and collaboration we desire. We must not gaslight the differences in experiences of a white feminist and a black feminist, for example, a married woman and a lesbian, a Catholic and a Witch, etc. It may be uncomfortable to talk honestly about our differing experiences, but it will open the way for deeper understanding which will unite us and create an atmosphere where everyone is important.

United we stand, divided we fall. When we exclude a woman from the ever-expanding circle of women because of a

difference, we have played into the hands of patriarchy, weakened our power, and undermined our collective goal of liberation.

My most cherished vision is of loyalty among all women of all diversities towards each other—a universal sisterhood. "Sisterhood does point directly to the revolutionary phenomenon of the bonding of those who have been conditioned to be divided against each other—a bonding that signals revolt and is in itself the beginning of liberation." (Mary Daly, *Beyond God the Father*.)

Before feminism existed, or could exist, there were lesbians, who in their refusal to define themselves in relation to men, laid the foundation for the feminist movement. Yet there has been homophobia within the feminist movement! On the other hand, there has also been the implication that if a woman is involved with a man, she is not valuable to the feminist movement, that she cannot possibly separate herself from patriarchal elements while she is relating to males.

The men are probably laughing all the way to the positions of power while we squabble within the feminist movement; which keeps us diverted from claiming our primary and central vision in shaping the future.

Ecology teaches us that the more diversity within an ecosystem, the more capacity it has for survival. The feminist movement is strengthened by the diver-

sity within it. I believe it is the only movement radical enough to be the greatest force in the world today for a complete transformation of society and of our relation to all life. Our behavior is an example for humanity, as it was in pre-history. We are the mothers of the world whether we bear children or not. Women's issues are *all* women's issues whether they be reproductive rights, homophobia, racial issues, etc. We must validate our differing experiences so that a bonding can take place that will be strong enough to negate all patriarchy's attempts to divide us, and get on with our collective goal: bringing a new world to birth. ■

### The Pledge of The Universal Sisterhood

*I pledge my loyalty to the female species, to honor and respect, love and accept, validate and encourage, all womyn of all diversities of race, class, age, sexual preference, physical ability and appearance, spiritual affiliation or non-affiliation, educational and economic background, and cultural heritage. To sow understanding and knowledge where prejudice and ignorance have grown.*

*I am a member of the universal sisterhood, and I take my place with pride.*

## NAVY RESTORES RECORD OF MARINE

The Navy has awarded back pay and restored the good-service record of a former Marine sergeant who lost her assignment after testifying as a character witness for a lesbian colleague who was facing a court martial.

Nan Hunter, the American Civil Liberties Union attorney who represented the former sergeant, Christine R. Hilinski, said the ruling will make it easier for service men and women to voice their opinions that the military's anti-gay policy is irrational.

"We know that there is tremendous disagreement with the policy among officers and others," Hunter said. "This ruling will enable them to express that opinion by protecting them from retaliation during the internal policy battles that lie ahead."

During testimony at the 1988 court-martial trial, Hilinski said that her former colleague, Sergeant Cheryl Jameson, "did a fine job" and that Jameson's sexual orientation had not affected her work in any way.

After the trial, Hilinski's supervisor demoted her and cut her pay by \$220 a month. The corp's only justification, the ACLU argued in legal papers, was that her supervisor believed that Hilinski showed poor judgment in her testimony because she was "lenient in her position on homosexuality."

Earlier in the same month, Hilinski's supervisor had called her "dedicated, polished, professional and dependable." At that time, her supervisor had also called her judgment "outstanding."

After serving for 11 years with the Marines, Hilinski left the service in 1989. She said she hoped her successful legal challenge would encourage others to speak out against the military's anti-gay policies. "I strongly believe that sexual orientation should not be considered in evaluating anyone's performance," she said.

William B. Rubenstein, the Director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, said the Navy's decision in the Hilinski case represents the latest blow to the military's anti-gay policies. "We will use this victory to further advance our war against the military's homophobia," he said. "It will be particularly important in our continuing challenge to ROTC discrimination on campuses across the country."

The Lesbian and Gay Rights Project is sponsoring a national organizing conference on the ROTC in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 9, 1990. Several hundred people are expected to attend the one-day conference, which is being designed to provide campus organizers and other interested persons with strategies to combat ROTC discrimination against gays and lesbians. ■

## VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

The U.S. Commission on Fine Arts has accepted a recommendation to locate the Vietnam Women's Memorial in an area just south of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The memorial will serve as a tribute to the 265,000 military and civilian women who served in the Vietnam War.

The vote by the Commission on Fine Arts was the culmination of a more than two-year struggle by the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project. Originally, the Commission blocked the memorial saying it might encourage other ethnic groups or organizations to seek recognition. The Commission's rejection of the project was overridden when Congress passed a bill authorizing the memorial in October of 1988.

The Project will select a design for the Vietnam Women's Memorial through a national open design competition.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project is a non-profit volunteer organization whose goals are to educate the public about the military and civilian women who served in the Vietnam War, and to create a memorial for them.

The women's memorial will be paid for entirely by private contributions raised by the Project. Contributions can be made to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc. 2001 S Street, N.W., Suite 710, Washington, D.C. 20009. ■

## NOW COMMISSIONS MEMORIAL TO WOMEN

The National Organization for Women has commissioned the building of a Memorial to Women which is being used in rallies and actions held across the country. A large Memorial was constructed specifically for the November 12, 1989, "Mobilize for Women's Lives" rally in Washington, D.C. The second memorial was commissioned specifically to allow for more portability.

Both versions of the Memorial carry the inscription, "In memory of the courageous women who died from illegal, unsafe abortions because they had no choice." Accompanying the Memorial are posters which tell the stories of six women who died from abortion in this century. The most recent is Becky Bell, a 17-year-old Indiana woman who died in 1988 from an illegal abortion because she could not comply with that state's law requiring parental consent for a minor to obtain a legal abortion.

The Women's Memorial Project is seeking additional stories of women who have died from illegal abortion for a Roll of Honor. The purpose is to make clear that these women were real people, not just statistics, and to pay tribute to them. Anyone wishing to contribute stories for the Memorial Roll of Honor should write the National NOW Action Center, 1000 16th St., N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036. Permission from an authorized person for the story to be told must be included with the story. If possible a photograph is requested. ■

## COMMISSION FOR RESPONSIVE DEMOCRACY

NOW is forming the Commission for Responsive Democracy to consider the possibility of organizing a new political party. The Commission mandated by resolution of the 1989 NOW Conference, will begin with an organizational meeting which will be followed by a series of regional meetings and culminate with a meeting to formulate recommendations to the 1991 National NOW Conference.

The formation of the Commission was prompted by the voter dissatisfaction indicated by the low voter turnout in the 1988 presidential election and the fact that citizens registered as independent represent a larger block of voters than Republicans or Democrats. ■

# WOMEN'S ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The Porthole is sponsoring a women's arts and crafts festival on Sunday, September 23, 1990. It will be at the Porthole, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in having a booth should call Shatzky at 949-9837; space is free but limited.

There will be a brunch at 4:00, lasting until food runs out. Local women entertainers will perform throughout the day—entertainers also please contact Shatzky for scheduling. For people who decide at the last minute to perform, there will be several open mik sessions.

The cost is \$2.00 at the door, with the door proceeds going to benefit Herland. Thank you Shatzky!!!

So beat the rush and come do your Christmas shopping early, and have a great time while you're at it. ■

## BE A PART OF HERLAND

Herland is the collective effort of the women of Oklahoma. You can be a part of creating and sustaining this very special community we call Herland. Join a committee, volunteer to work in the resource center, or make a contribution to help meet the monthly expenses. Herland will be what you make it.

### YES, I want to help Herland continue to grow.

- ☐ I'm interested in working on a committee. Please have the committee chair call me.
- ☐ I'd like to volunteer at Herland. Please have the volunteer coordinator call me with more information.
- ☐ Here's my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to help support Herland.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chatterbox

Contributions are being sought for an international collection of writings by *Battered Women and Survivors of Domestic Violence*. Journals/diaries, autobiographies, letters, essays, and even fragmentary accounts can be sent to Miriam Harris, P.O. Box 670-655, Dallas, TX 75367-0655 by Sept. 1, 1990.....

**ACT-UP OKC** has joined gay and lesbian organizations nationwide in promoting a boycott of Philip Morris products, specifically Miller Beer and Marlboro. Philip Morris is the biggest sponsor of Jesse Helms—known for his homophobia and hatred of women. Robert Bray, a spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, says "every time you light up, you're having a one-person fund-raiser for Jesse Helms." .....

**ELECTIONS**—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Political Caucus has studied and rated many of the candidates in this year's elections. They give three different ratings: recommended, acceptable, or unacceptable. Copies of this listing are available at Herland, Oasis, and many of the clubs.....

**IF YOU MOVE**, please let Herland know. Otherwise our policy is to remove you from the mailing list. This is to protect you in case you require anonymity at your new address. Thanks.....

**SAFO CANCELED**. If you want to direct a women's choir and have the time and energy, let Herland know. It is possible.

# TON-O-PENNIES!

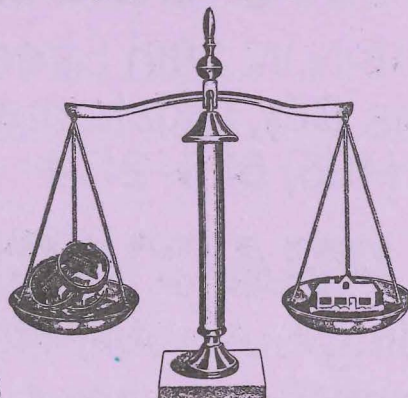
## "IT MAKES CENTS FOR HERLAND."

Start saving your pennies now and win prizes for the most pennies donated. Rumor has it that some people already have several pounds of pennies in their possession. We also heard that some people are going out and buying pennies. Is that cheating? NO! DO IT! You can also combine efforts with your friends—we don't care how you get your pennies (well, don't *steal* anything), just bring them to the weigh-in on October 13th at Herland.

### Grand Prize - 2 FREE RETREAT REGISTRATIONS

#### OTHER PRIZES:

- 1 free retreat registration
- 2 concert tickets to 2 upcoming concerts (4 tickets total)
- Magic Hands Stress Buster Massage
- 2 concert tickets



**WEIGH-IN OCTOBER 13**  
**HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, 2312 N.W. 39th**

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hey You! Yes, you sitting there reading *The Voice*. Herland needs your help in achieving some goals and commitments. Now we don't want to change your lifestyle, but if you find that you have 4 to 8 hours a month when you hear yourself saying, "Wow, I wish I had something fun and different to do with myself," w-e-e-l-l-l, have we got a deal for you! Herland has several diversified committees that you could test the volunteer waters in, including programming, staffing the store, upkeep of the building, etc.

One example is fundraising, a committee very near and dear to my heart. If you like a challenge and sisterly comradery, please give me a call. Fundraising is an ongoing process and new ideas and fresh angles of approach are always welcome. I'm hanging on the cliff's edge waiting for your call! My number is 525-5907. (Ok, I'm not really hanging, but it makes a good closing statement!) See ya later! Sally ■

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1/2 page . . . . . \$ 60.00  
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first 10 words . . . . . \$2.50  
each additional word . . . . . \$ .10

### DISCOUNTS: available on advance

prepaid orders only

1-3 months order . . . . . none  
4 - 6 months . . . . . 10%  
7 - 9 months . . . . . 15%  
10 - 12 months . . . . . 20%

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# SEPTEMBER 1990

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

- Every Wednesday at Noon; Silent Vigil for Peace in Central America; Fourth & Robinson; across the street from the Federal Building.
- CODA meeting, every Friday at Herland, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

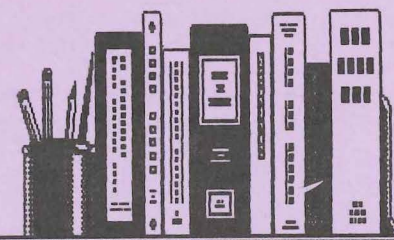
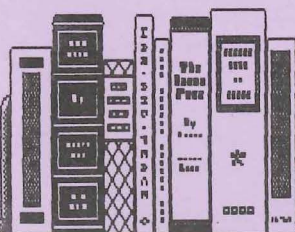


HERLAND  
RETREAT

2  HERLAND RETREAT	3  LABOR DAY - Last day of Retreat	4	5	6	7 "MISS BROWN TO YOU", 8 pm; First Unitar- ian Church, 13th & Dewey; A Benefit for Leonard Peltier	8
9	10	11	12	13	14  MARGARET SANGER 1883-1966	15
16  BOARD MEETING 4:30 p.m.	17	18	19  SAVE THOSE PENNIES....	20	21	22
23 Women's Arts, Crafts, Music Festival - 4pm The Porthole * *World Summit for Children. details below	24	25	26	27	28	29 MIMI BACZEWSKA in Concert at Mary's 8 p.m., \$5.00. 528-0020 for reservations

\* Candlelight Vigil for World Summit for Children; September 23, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at the Myriad Gardens Water Stage, 301 W. Reno, Oklahoma City. Call the Peace House, (405) 524-5577 for more information.

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES  
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