

# The HERLAND VOICE

June, 1994

## OUT AND ABOUT IN OKC, BEFORE STONEWALL

Musings of DJ, as told to MOC

In the beginning, there was softball. The Sooner Queens were a topnotch team in the 40's and early 50's, sponsored by a downtown Chevrolet company. Other than that, there was nowhere to go for lesbians and gays in Oklahoma City in the 40's. There was one het bar down on Main Street where we would congregate and felt welcome, and later, Chief Jim's, at Main & Penn. Later, men and women both went to Pete's Place, a big old ex-church building, and the men had Bishop's Restaurant on First and Broadway. And there was a restaurant down on Fifth and Western, where wino's, dopers, gay women and other "undesirables" would go after hours.

No one was openly "out" in those days. Boys were called "fairies" and the girls called "dykes". Interestingly, it was the women who first adopted the word "Gay" in Oklahoma City. The women were all either butch or femme, and many of them worked for car companies, jockeying people to work, etc. When gay men or lesbians needed a "date" to take to some function, we would go with each other.

The first gay bar, The Mayflower, was put in by men at 23rd and Classen, then another opened downtown, and there was one out on Lincoln - Jamil's. One of the owners was shot and killed. In the early 60's a paddy wagon came to the Mayflower Bar one night and loaded all the patrons up and took them to jail. Their crime? They were dancing together.

A women's organization/club got started back then, but it soon got too fancy for some of the oldtimers.

Police would take tag numbers of cars at bars, and inform people's work place; and there were many arrests made for loitering. It was actually a group of hetero women in Packing Town who managed to get the loitering law overturned.

Mostly in those days we partied at private homes, men and women together. We had a nice rapport with each other back in the 40's. Many of the men were lawyers and doctors, etc. After the parties we would go out to an all night restaurant for sunrise breakfast, and then go out to Lake Overholzer to continue the party. We often would party all night at het clubs, go home, take a bath, and head out to work.

I had one of the first liquor stores in town, then left, went to Dallas, lived in Hawaii, had a great time all around; then came back and opened a really clean and safe club for lesbians. We lived in back of the club, next to a motorcycle gang. One Sunday afternoon a rookie cop came in and raided us because some women were playing poker; later, all charges were dismissed.

However, this was in the early 1980's, long after Stonewall. I was in the whisky business when Stonewall happened, and was hardly aware of it. There was almost no mention of it in the news, and it had no effect on us at the time as far as I could see. □

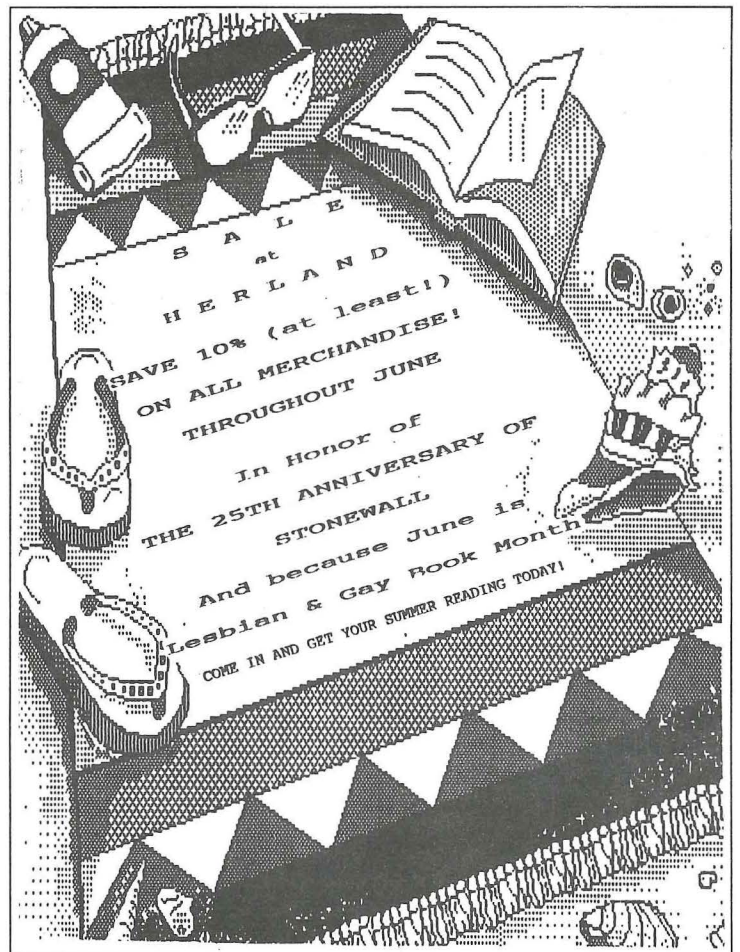
Many thanks to DJ for the above article. Any inaccuracies and omissions in it should be attributed to MOC and the difficulties of a telephonic interview.

## LESBIAN LEADERS KEYNOTE OK PRIDE SUMMIT

Peri Jude Radecic, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Mandy Carter, Directory of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum will be keynote speakers for the Oklahoma Pride Summit. The Summit will be held July 15-17 on the campus of the University of Oklahoma.

Carter, on leave of absence from the Human Rights Campaign Fund, is leading a national grassroots campaign by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum to counter the radical right's targeting of the black community in anti-gay ballot initiatives. As Public Policy Advocate for HRCF, Carter played an important role in the national battle to introduce and pass the Civil Rights Bill for 1994 that would, for the first time, include protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Radecic was appointed Executive Director of NGLTF in the fall of 1993. She joined the Task Force as a lobbyist in 1987, moved on to become NGLTF's first Legislative Director and in 1991, was promoted to Deputy Director of Public Policy, where she developed and managed Task Force Programming. □



# ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

So tell me, how is Paula Jones and her suit against the President any different from Anita Hill and her testimony against Clarence Thomas? Tell me that, will you, you sanctimonious left-wing know-it-all! The shoe's on the other foot now, isn't it? What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, don't you think?

Sincerely,  
Ima Nidiot

Dear Ima,

Leaving shoes and sauces and assorted wildlife aside, I see a whole lot of differences in the two cases, the two instances, the two women, and the circumstances of the two men.

Ima, let's look for a moment at just what sexual harassment *isn't*. A darling man of my acquaintance maintains that no man in power can proposition a woman of lesser power without it being harassment; but I think maybe he has never been a woman - or known a woman with great power. Power is sexy, to almost everyone, and a large number of young women are pleased to pieces to have an opportunity to be intimate with a powerful man; if he is good looking, so much the better. I understand that Margaret Thatcher and Jeane Kirkpatrick are considered very sexy by many men; and for all I know, by lesbians too - though I don't think so. But anyway. Maybe they are being stupendously foolish, maybe the Cinderella fantasy clouds their judgment and they dream that they will become mistress or consort or even wife; or maybe not - maybe the more sophisticated young woman simply thinks sex with the governor or whoever could be really good fun; whatever and whichever, it is just plain paternalistic to say that a pass is always harassment. In the Paula Jones/Bill Clinton saga, she admits that he in no way threatened or forced her or even persisted after she turned him down; and despite the claims in her suit, the record is clear that she did not suffer any consequences at her job. In other words, there was no harassment, legally or otherwise. The only thing that happened was that Bill Clinton made a pass. Yes, Ima, I wish he hadn't; I wish he was more like Carter and less like Kennedy in that respect. But he isn't, and every American who voted him into office was aware of this self-indulgent weakness. Flawed he is, but mean, I don't think so.

Finally, looking at the women, Anita Hill was (and is) a highly respected, well regarded, conservative (maybe not quite so conservative anymore) law professor. Her detractors are hard-core misogynist right-wing ignorami led by State Representative Leonard Sullivan - give me a break. Paula Jones is *supported*, financially and morally, by right-wing zealots; her word and her motives are doubted by members of her own family.

In Anita Hill's case, she was subpoenaed to testify before a Senate Committee. Her testimony was not punitive; it reflected on the character of a man not yet confirmed for high office. According to her testimony, Justice Thomas made her work environment extremely unpleasant by his persistent and crude comments and solicitations. In Paula Jones' case, she has sued the President for a large amount of money. Her suit is without merit. It is vindictive and mercenary, and seems designed more to disable the President and discomfit feminists than to achieve justice for one or more women.

Sincerely yourself,  
Sybil

## PREMARIN

Premarin, an extract from the urine of pregnant mares, is currently the drug of choice for estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) in the United States. It is taken by over 8 million American women, with over 80% of the ERT market in the United States. If you or someone you love are one of these women, you should know the following facts, information from PETA, (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), and *WomenWise*, a Quarterly Publication of The Concord Feminist Health Center.

- Premarin is synthesized from horse urine. It is collected by impregnating mares, confining them to stalls, and using tubing to gather their urine.

- The conditions in which the mares are housed for much of their 11-month pregnancy echo the well-known confinement systems used to produce veal. The stalls prevent the mares from taking more than a couple of steps in any direction, from turning around or lying down comfortably.

- Once the foals (mere by-products of the process) are born, the mares get a two-month reprieve and then are usually reimpregnated and go through the cycle again. Some foals are kept as replacements for older mares, while the vast majority are eventually headed to the slaughterhouse as dog food and "gourmet" meat. An estimated 65,000 foals are slaughtered each year.

- Premarin is currently the only ERT drug that is still animal-derived, and the estrogen it contains is not the same as human estrogen. In addition, since the urine is animal waste and contains impurities, it is difficult to guarantee the consistency in quality that laboratory-synthesized drugs can.

- *Several FDA-approved synthetic estrogens make the use of Premarin unnecessary.* Ask your doctor about Estradiol Transdermal System, Estradiol tablets, Estrone, and Estropipate. At the wholesale level, Estradiol tablets are no more expensive than Premarin.

Also, because of the possible health risks and side effects associated with hormone replacement, you may want to investigate natural alternatives, such as exercise and a low-fat diet. □

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*The Voice* is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Articles reflect the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously.

Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request.

# DINOSAURS

by Vivien Ng

My first introduction to the explosive power of the word "queer" was at an academic conference in New York City several years ago. It was a Victorian Studies/Gay Studies symposium and my friend Thais Morgan (formerly of OU) was presenting a paper there. One of the presenters used the word "queer" at least a dozen times in his paper, and I remember that I nodded with approval each time he uttered that word. "What a clever way to appropriate an insult," I said to myself. At the end of his talk, as the audience signalled their delight, a man jumped to his feet and shouted in a trembling voice, "I object to the use of the word 'queer,' whether it is by you or anyone else! I remember what it was like to be called a 'queer' and had my face bashed in!" He did not win anyone over to his side, because we were all too proud of being "with it," of being "postmodern," to feel his anguish. In any case, in the non-academic world of political activism, Queer Nation was already pushing in-your-face resistance to new limits. "That man is such a dinosaur," someone said with a sneer.

Since then, the word "queer" has cropped up in the gay studies world like mushrooms after a spring rain. We talk about queer theories, queer identities, queer this and queer that. Special issues of journals are now devoted to queer topics. The upcoming Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference in Iowa City adopted a queer title. No wonder Elizabeth Kennedy discovered to her horror that not a single lesbian history panel had been organized. (Because of her initiative, there is now a proposal submitted for one such panel.) On this "queer planet," "queer" has turned into a gigantic shroud that covers up race, gender and class. I no longer identify as "queer." I have willingly devolved into a dinosaur. I cringe every time I hear someone identify herself/himself as queer. As a lesbian of color, I know from lived experience how dangerous it is for me to ignore the factors of race, gender and class. If I need any reminder, all I have to do is to recall the nastiness that tarred recent discussions on the Queer Asian Pacific Islander American list on the internet. It will take a paper to explain and analyze this mess; suffice to say that the discussions got racist as well as sexist, and white gay men on the list were responsible. No, being "queer" is not enough for me.

Barbara Smith, in an essay published in the July 5, 1993 issue of *The Nation* (called "A Queer Nation" by the editors), wrote: "Unlike the early lesbian and gay movement, which had both ideological and practical links to the left, black activism and feminism, today's 'queer' politicians seem to operate in a historical and ideological vacuum. 'Queer' activists focus on 'queer' issues, and racism, sexual oppression and economic exploitation do not qualify, despite the fact that the majority of 'queers' are people of color, female or working class.... At a time when the gay movement is under unprecedented public scrutiny, lesbians and gay men of

color and others committed to antiracist organizing are asking: Does the gay and lesbian movement want to create a just society for everyone? Or does it want to eradicate the last little glitch that makes life difficult for privileged (white male) queers?...

If the gay movement ultimately wants to make a real difference, as opposed to settling for handouts, it must consider creating a multi-issue revolutionary agenda. This is not about political correctness, it's about winning. As black lesbian poet Audre Lorde insisted, 'The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house.' Gay rights are not enough for me, and I doubt that they're enough for most of us. Frankly, I want the same thing now that I did thirty years ago when I joined the civil rights movement and twenty years ago when I joined the women's movement, came out and felt more alive than I ever dreamed possible: freedom."

As we observe the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, it behooves us to reflect on the wisdom of Barbara Smith's words. In other words, we need to understand Stonewall in the larger historical, social and political context. □

## ALISON KRAUSS AND UNION STATION *EVERYTIME YOU SAY GOODBYE*

by Jill Garner

I remember clearly the first time I heard Alison Krauss sing. It was on a 95 degree day in Telluride, Colorado and I loved her so much I had goosebumps everywhere the entire time she sang. With a voice reminiscent of early Dolly Parton, Krauss brings a wonderful vitality and passion to the traditional sound of bluegrass with her talented fiddling and her beautiful voice.

Krauss began as a fiddling prodigy winning several fiddling championships around the midwest while she was still a teenager. Rounder Records signed her when she was only 14 years old and she remains faithful to them today. She has released four albums and won two Grammy awards, and she's just 23!

While Krauss' fiddling is driving and strong at times, soft and sweet at others, her voice knocks me out. Krauss is the selling point for me but she also shares the spotlight with her band Union Station. They provide the wonderful music backing up Krauss and also contribute lead vocals on several of the songs on this latest release.

On *Every Time You Say Goodbye*, Krauss draws from country, bluegrass and gospel, and includes songs by Shawn Colvin and Karla Bonoff. "I Don't Know Why" was written by Colvin and Krauss speeds it up and puts a bluegrass twist on it with beautiful results. "Heartstrings" is one of the showpiece songs on the album that shows off Krauss' breathtaking voice. Gospel is also included with the song "Jesus Stand By Me" and with Krauss' voice a cappella near the end of the song, it's one of my favorites.

"Last Love Letter", a song lamenting unrequited love, is one of the most beautiful songs I've ever heard. Krauss has a way with songs of love lost and mourning so that I never know whether to cry over old memories or smile because an angel is singing to me.

At the 1990 Grammys, Jimmy Ibobotson of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band said of Krauss, "She's very simply one of the best singers on the planet." I couldn't have said it better.

Also available by Alison Krauss and Union Station are *Two Highways*, *Too Late to Cry* and *I've Got That Old Feeling*.

To order any of these call Herland at 521-9696. □

**Rebecca R. Cohn, Ph.D.**  
**Clinical Psychology**

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# A MODERN DILEMMA

by Margaret Cox

Progress in science has frequently been accompanied by controversy, as the expansion of the frontiers of science pushes back the frontiers of the mind. Think of Galileo, who was forced to disavow his brilliant discoveries; and Darwin, whose theory of Evolution is still unacceptable to some whose minds cannot balance it with their religious beliefs.

When the use of ether as an anesthetic was first propounded, Queen Victoria and her doctors wanted her to use it for the birth of one of her nine children. A large number of Victoria's otherwise loyal subjects felt that this was against God's will, as the Bible clearly states that women shall bring forth their children "in pain."

In the past, scientific discoveries and breakthroughs occurred slowly and infrequently enough that their effects and meanings could be debated at leisure. Today an explosion of science leaves many ethical and practical questions unexplored. Two of the most perplexing concern the beginning and end of life - Dr. Kervorkian, the Hemlock society and the Right to Die at one end; and at the beginning, interference in the process of fertility that has been unchanged since the dawn of time. When people sue over custody of frozen, fertilized eggs, the rest of us scratch our heads in puzzlement.

Another advance in technology, one that impacts Herland and its community and which prompts these musings, involves sexuality and gender. The controversy around transsexuality and transgenders began in 1953 when George Jorgensen travelled to Denmark for a widely publicized early "sexual reassignment" surgery.

If our sex is a chromosomal and anatomical fact we are born with, gender is more of a mental and social construct. Throughout the ages gender assignment (and acceptance) has been bent - picture Joan of Arc, or your everyday tomboy - or ignored completely. Gender is a fluid continuum of possibility, and as long as society tries to force people into one of two narrow slots on that continuum, there will be gender outlaws.

Thanks in large part to advances in hormonal research and WWII wartime advances in trauma surgery, it is now possible to change the body to align and integrate with the mind; and we have transsexuals and transgenders in various stages of change, involving years of hormonal treatment, counseling and living as the target gender before the actual surgery itself. The surgical procedure, dramatic as it is, is in most respects not the most important aspect of the gender transition; indeed some transgenders are so happy with the results of hormone therapy that they skip the more expensive and intrusive operation entirely. Transsexuality is predominately male to female; the cost of the female to male procedure is much higher, and the effectiveness less, than the more usual male to female.

At the Herland goal setting conference in March of this year, the Board agreed to by the end of August 1994 develop a policy for active participation in Herland by transgendered persons (e.g. as volunteers, Board members, and at Retreats). There has been ongoing dialogue on this issue in *Off Our Backs* and other feminist journals for years. The issue has been raised and caused considerable havoc and dissension at the Michigan Women's Festival and elsewhere. As the women of Oklahoma confront and deal with it; one would expect to see a fair amount of tolerance, a lot of good common sense, a decent amount of compassion, and hopefully, a good understanding of the issue and a broad view of its future historical treatment. □

*The Herland Voice* invites its readers to participate in Herland's decision-making process by submitting letters and articles. Deadline for the July issue is June 15 for written submissions, and June 20 for submissions on floppy in WordPerfect 5.1 or less, or ASCII.

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Celebrate Lesbian and Gay Pride** by marching with Herland at OKC's 1994 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade on June 26. As *The Voice* goes to press, the schedule details are not available, but the festivities will begin in the early afternoon at Memorial Park (N.W. 36th and Classen) with an ecumenical service and pre-parade rally. Check the *Gayly* for schedule details.

**Lesbian only counseling group.** Wednesday evenings. Contact Jo L. Soske, M.Ed., M.H.R., I.C.A.D.C., N.C.C., L.P.C at 364-5708.

**Thanks Georffery:** The Herland Legal Defense Fund sends its heartfelt thanks to Geoffrey of Geoffrey's of Nichols Hills, for it generous donation to Fund.

**Summer Camping on the Land:** Enjoy the Ozarks at Speinsterhaven. This safe, women-owned space has 43 wooded acres with gentle slopes, deer trails for hiking, and the White River nearby for fishing and swimming. Tent or RV spaces (no hookups) area available for \$3/night donation. For information: write Spinsterhaven, P.O. Box 718, Fayetteville, AR 72702 or call (501)-442-7164.

**Thanks advertisers:** *The Voice* costs about \$500 each month to print and mail. Advertising helps to support this community service. *The Voice* is mailed to 1200 households monthly. If you'd like to tell them about your business or service, contact Herland for more information about advertising in *The Voice*.

*Debra K. Browning, R.Ph. D.D.S.*

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handicap line of the registration form

Registration fees:	received Before	after June 27, 1994
Student/low income	\$7.50	10.00
Medium income	10.00	15.00
Upper income	15.00	20.00

Dorm rooms on the campus have been reserved. These rooms are \$25.00 per person for double and \$50.00 for single occupancy. Two rooms share a bath. A maximum of two people per room only. The price includes linens.

Meals: one meal and two continental breakfasts and snacks during the conference are included in the registration price. All other meals are on your own.

**A COMPLETE BROCHURE WILL BE AVAILABLE JUNE 1, 1994**

-----REGISTRATION FORM CLIP HERE-----  
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# Dykes To Watch Out For

## brunette ambition

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# NEWSLETTER PARTY

The newsletter folding party for the July issue of the Voice will be on Thursday, June 30. We will begin at 6:30, and work until it is done. Past experience has shown that it takes about 18 woman-hours to get the newsletter ready for mailing. In other words, it takes one woman 18 hours or 18 women 1 hour. More usually, we have about 6 - 12 women working from two to three hours.

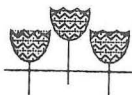
The folding parties are fun events. We usually order pizza, and conversation ranges from serious philosophical discussion to irresistable gossip to jokes to - whatever. You come and set the topic and tone. Come at 6:30 or 7:30 or 8:00 or whenever. We are almost always done by 9:00, and just 30 minutes or so is valuable help. (This is a great way for people new to the community to meet other people.) We hope to see you then. □

# SWEETHEART BALL

The Herland/ OGLPC semi-annual event, The Sweetheart Ball, held on Saturday, April 30, was quite a success. The crowd of attendees grows each time and there was a very nice mix of people. The ceiling of the ball room was filled with pink and white balloons with metallic streamers giving the impression of frozen pink and silver rain; pink and silver hearts adorned the walls.

Ball attendees in a spirited election elected Dusty to be King, Lynn as Queen and Sandy as Fairy Princess. Harvest Moon royalty ceremoniously relinquished their crowns to the new royalty. "Festive Formal Wear" included everything from duded-up western wear to impeccable tuxedos and evening gowns. □

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# June, 1994

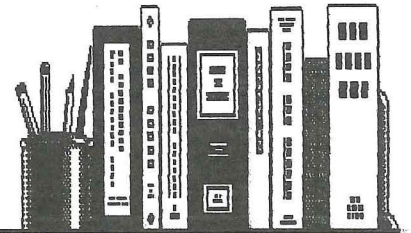
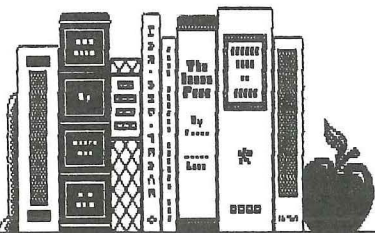
Otilia de Koster: What I fear is being in the presence of evil and doing nothing. I fear that more than death.

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

Happy Birthday to Emma Goldman. She would have been 125 on June 27. She was heard to say "It is organized violence at the top that creates individual violence at the bottom." She also opined "If I can't dance I won't be a part of your revolution."

			1 Cleveland County NOW 7pm Norman Public Library	2	3 CoDA 7pm Herland	4
5	6	7 Simply Equal 7pm Herland	8	9 Teachers Group 7pm Herland	10 CoDA 7pm Herland	11 PEGGY JOHNSON at La Baguette in Norman 9pm - 2am
12 PEGGY JOHNSON at Randy's M&M 2nd & Bryant in Edmond 5 - 6 pm	13 Herland Legal Defense Fund 6:30 at Herland	14 Simply Equal 7pm Herland	15	16	17 CoDA 7pm Herland	18
19 JUNETEENTH # HERLAND Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.	20	21 Simply Equal 7pm, Herland # OKC NOW, 6:30 Gaylord YWCA # Summer Solstice	22	23  Wilma Rudolph Born 1940	24 CoDA 7pm Herland	25 MARY REYNOLDS & Emily Kaitz at the Blue Door Call 525-7472 for time
26 STONEWALL 25 YEARS Gay Pride March	27  Emma Goldman 1869 - 1940 # Helen Keller 1880 - 1968	28 Simply Equal 7pm Herland	29	30 Herland Voice Newsletter Folding Party 6:30 pm at Herland Y'all come, for fun & work & Pizza	<p>Happy Birthday to Helen Keller, born June 27, 1880: "Literature is my Utopia. Here I am not disfranchised. No barrier of the senses shuts me out from the sweet, gracious discourse of my book friends. They talk to me without embarrassment or awkwardness".</p>	

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