

Herland

VOICE

May, 2000

WENDE ALLYN & WANDA D. HIGHLIGHT SPRING RETREAT

Where are all the lesbians? At the Herland Spring Retreat, of course. Join Herland this May 19-20-21 at Oklahoma's beautiful Roman Nose State Park for a weekend of fabulous entertainment, workshops and recreation in a women-identified and supportive atmosphere.

WORKSHOPS

A variety of workshops will be offered on Saturday including financial planning and "Two Spirits." "Two Spirits" refers to a Native American who has the spirit and understanding of both male and female and most often refers to a gay man or lesbian. The Two Spirit workshop is open to all retreat participants. Most folks think "Financial Planning" is what you do the year just before you retire. WRONG — financial planning needs to be part of every year's plans. The workshop will cover 9 pitfalls and offer suggestions on how to avoid them. Lack of knowledge is the 1st pitfall - what you don't know can hurt you.

OPEN-MIC

There will be an open-mic Saturday at 4:00 p.m. This is a popular event including old-time favorites along with newcomers who share their talents. It's a great place to sing that song you've always wanted to sing or read your poetry in a supportive, very much appreciative, environment.

CONCERT

Wende Allyn and Wanda D. perform Saturday at 7:00 p.m. A well-known performer in Oklahoma City, Wende has opened for national touring acts like Janis Ian, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Guy Clark, Sara Hickman, Betty Elders, Cheryl Wheeler and Meredith Louise Miller. Known for her raucous Tex-Mex blues style, Wanda D. is a member of the new band, Iris, and a member of the popular group, Circle of Friends. Both musicians have selections on DustBowl Lullaby, the Herland CD.

RECREATION

The rolling canyons of Roman Nose State Park offer ample recreation opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, golfing, softball and volleyball. And, for cheese heads, don't miss a tour at the Watonga Cheese Factory.

REGISTRATION/MEALS/LODGING/Etc.

Upon registration you will receive the weekend's schedule and directions to Roman Nose State Park. Registration includes all retreat activities, Friday supper, Saturday brunch, Sunday breakfast, and bunk space in a cabin. You may also bring your own tent if you choose. There will be a pot-luck Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. All guests are asked to bring a meal contribution.

Pre-registration for the weekend is on a sliding-scale. On-site weekend registration is \$65. (See inside for the pre-registration form and suggested registration amounts.) Deadline for pre-registration is May 14. Saturday-only registration is \$25 which includes Saturday meals and activities, and the concert. Concert-only tickets are \$10 at the door.

Don't miss the Spring Herland Retreat and this opportunity to see old friends, make new friends, have fun, fun, fun, and enjoy some of the best music Oklahoma has to offer.

If you have questions, call Jeri 755-4916 or e-mail Herland@mailroom.com. □

Herland Activities for May

Saturday, May 6: 7:00 PM — Two-Spirits Group for Native American lesbians and friends, Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, OKC

Sunday, May 7: 9:00 AM — Bike Ride.
Meet at The Bruce Gray Center of Francis Tuttle Vo-Tech on south east corner of Portland and NW 150th. Use second entry east of Portland off 150th - in the area near the flag pole. After the ride, we gather for brunch at a restaurant of our choice.

Sunday, May 14: 4:30 PM — Board Meeting and Open House, Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, OKC. *If you've ever wondered what goes on at a Herland board meeting, who these women are and how they manage to come up with some of this stuff, this is the meeting for you. Come get an introduction to the current board members and see how you could join this illustrious group.*

Friday, May 19: 5:00PM — Retreat Check-In begins at Roman Nose State Park

ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

I had such an unpleasant experience the other day. I was at the store, minding my own business, when my attention became riveted upon a horrid looking man in his late twenties or early thirties. The dingy, grungy, used-to-be-white t-shirt that covered his beer belly was entirely without decoration, other than this three word message:

SHUT

UP

BITCH.

Seeing it was like a kick in the stomach. I looked around and found his family: a woman positively reeking of no-self-esteem, and two pasty-faced cowed little children.

I wanted to do or say something, but I didn't know what. It would have been a pleasure to confront him, maybe say something gently reproving like "Gee, that shirt makes you look to be as mean as you are stupid and ugly, you simple foul piece of buffalo dung," but I figured if I did, his wife and his kids would just pay for it later. Then I thought of joshing with him, "Gee, thanks - I'm a bitch, and I was just wondering what to do today, and now I know: I guess I'll shut up." Or just "Hey! Good looking shirt, Buddy-boy", and let him think about it. Of course he didn't look capable of an independent thought, so that wouldn't have worked either.

Some people are waiting impatiently for the Rapture. What I wish we could have - soon - would be something we could call the Capture, where angels would come down and point to people like this guy and say "Poof, that's all for you", and their angelic digit would just pulverize the creeps. Wouldn't that be great?

But of course that's not happening, so until then, do you have some advice for me on how to handle something like this if or when I see it again?

Thanks very much,

Yours,

Stella N. Raged

Dear Stella,

Yes you are, and it isn't good for you, not for your health or for your soul; so take a deep breath and relax. You already knew there was evil and stupidity in the world. In fact that's a line you could have used: "Hey buddy, thanks. I always knew there were stupid evil people in the world, nice of you to let us know you are one of them." BUT you are right, you can't do that, any reaction you generate in him will be dealt upon his family, not upon you.

Now my good friends and fellow saints Jean Paul & Albert are inclined to think that you *should* do what's right for you at the time; just speak your mind to this fellow, and

if his anger is vented on his family on account of your words, that is just one assault closer to his wife finding the courage or desperation to leave him. Still, I share your unwillingness to antagonize someone whom you know will just take it out on others.

So what can you do, Stella? Stellllaaa... Like so much else, you have to deal with the underlying disease, not its manifestation. You go to work and fight sexist oppression however you best can - join NOW and The Feminist Majority and other national and local feminist organizations; participate and send them money; subscribe to and read Ms and Off Our Backs and other feminist journals; volunteer at your local battered women's shelter; get on the shelter board; write letters to the editor; run for school board; fight for gender equity in sports in school - make them enforce Title IX; support women's sports; don't use sexist language yourself, no calling anyone "bitch" or "sonnavabitch", and don't let anyone in your acquaintance get away with using "pussy" for weak, or "balls" for strong.

And that's all. Do those things, and the next time you see an unholy excuse for a man like that, you can just take a deep breath and know that his days, and those of his kind, are numbered. Ignore him, smile at his wife, wink at the kids, and go on in peace.

Love,

Sybil

See Herland on the web!

www.herlandsisters.org

Herland Board of Directors:

JB

Laura Choate

Joanna Fife, Secretary

DTH

Ginger McGovern, Treasurer

Pat Reaves, Co-Chair

Jerri Schaben

Denise Smith

Judy Walden

*The Voice is published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.*

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 although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

SPEAKERS FOR GAY AND LESBIAN ISSUES

Speakers for Gay and Lesbian Issues is a new service for the central Oklahoma area providing speakers on the experience of being gay or lesbian. Speakers from the group are gay men, lesbians, parents of gays and lesbians, or heterosexuals who support the efforts of gays and lesbians to be accepted by the community at large.

The speakers are members of such groups as the Cimarron Alliance Group, Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies, Church of the Open Arms, and the Oklahoma Peace House. They are experienced in a wide range of public speaking situations and are knowledgeable on a variety of topics pertaining to the experience of being a member of a sexual minority.

To arrange a speaker for your neighborhood association, political club, employee group, civic league, chamber of commerce, church, or discussion group contact Nathaniel Batchelder at 524-5577 or Paul Thompson at 524-2131.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR PRIDE 2000!

Herland Picnic – Saturday, June 24
OKC Pride Parade – Sunday, June 25
Pride 2000 t-shirts will be available at the Herland Retreat

Individual, couples or family counseling. Accessible rates. Call for a Wednesday evening appointment. Jo L. Soske, Phd, LPC, CADC 879-2226

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

MAY 19 -- 21, ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. Deadline for pre-registration is May 14 and registration is non-refundable after May 17.

Single Person's Annual Income	Suggested Pre-registration per person	Household Annual Income
under \$6,500	\$15	under \$13,300
\$6,500 - \$13,250	\$25	\$13,300 - \$18,000
\$13,250 - \$19,500	\$35	\$18,000 - \$26,000
\$19,500 - \$30,000	\$45	\$26,000 - \$50,000
over \$30,000	\$60	over \$50,000

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland): \$15 \$25 \$35 \$45 \$60
 Saturday only Registration \$25

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- I need a scholarship to attend.
 I'm enclosing and additional \$ _____ to help provide scholarships.
 I'm bringing _____ children (girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome)

Return registration to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Herland Sister Resources
2312 N.W. 39
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Address Service Requested

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 861

Support our Supporters

Mechanical Technologies Corp.

A leader in Air-conditioning and Heating Service

(405)948-0707 Fax (405)942-6598

REBECCA R. HOLT, Ph.D.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

321-2148

P.O. Box 5119
Norman, Okla. 73070

Individual - Couples
Family Therapy, Retreats



Campus Corner
323 White Street
Norman, OK 73069

mystic FOREST TREASURES

• incense & oils • candles • imports
• crystals & stones • jewelry
• unique & unusual gifts
• new age supplies

Natasha Rice (405) 447-5111

THE LAW OFFICE OF SANDY INGRAHAM @ TURTLE CREEK

NANCY NESSER, J.D.
ASSOCIATE

ROUTE 2, BOX 369-B
MCLLOUD, OKLAHOMA 74851

TELEPHONE (405) 964-2072
FAX (405) 964-2058

email - njnesser@aol.com