

HERLAND VOICE

May 2003

Volume 21, Number 5

Herland Spring Retreat at Roman Nose State Park

May 16-18 at Roman Nose State Park
Plans are well underway for another great fun-filled Herland weekend retreat. Remember your first? Who doesn't?! Come and revive yourself with good food, workshops, the great outdoors, meeting new people, renewing old friendships, and more.

The featured entertainment for the Saturday night concert/dance is the band *Iris*. Cathy Cahill, Marci Patrick, Deb Mills, and Sharlene (on harmonica) will rock your socks off. We will clear out the chairs and make way for dancing to this band.

The Saturday morning workshops currently planned include drumming and possibly Tai Chi. Open mic starts at 4 pm, the Saturday evening potluck begins at 5:30 pm with the concert following at 8 pm.

A group is already planning for a game of golf on Saturday so bring your clubs if you would like to play. Hiking/biking trails, horseback riding, fishing, and a golf course are nearby in the park.

Registration includes all retreat activities, Friday supper, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, and bunk space in a cabin. Send in your registration form (see page 3) today - you need it!

Native American Women

The OKC Two-Spirit Society is having meetings for lesbian and bi-sexual women of Native American descent. Come and share a meal with us at Herland on May 22 at 6:30pm. We will be having a booth at the Gay Rodeo and will be attending Red Earth the following weekend at the fairgrounds! The OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number is (405) 317-7283.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
www.alixolson.com

Herland Presents Alix Olson with Pamela Means

ALIX OLSON is coming to Oklahoma City! Herland is proud to present slam poet Alix Olson



in performance at 8 pm on Friday, May 30, 2003, at Daniel Hall, First Unitarian Church, NW 13th and Dewey, Oklahoma City. Alix is a 27-year old folk poet, spoken word artist, and founder of subtle sister productions. She has performed nationally and internationally at hundreds of venues and festivals, including Amsterdam's Gay Games and the LGBT Cultural Arts Festival in London.

Alix has appeared on CNN, the Oxygen channel, and *In the Life*, and was featured on the January 2001 cover of *Ms. Magazine*. She was recently named *Outmusic's* 2002 nominee for Outstanding Debut Artist, Female Outstanding Producer, and Outstanding Songwriter.

Alix has headlined events such as NOW's National Conference and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's *Creating Change* conference and shared the stage with such artists/activists as Michael Moore, Pete Seeger, Alix Dobkin, and Catie Curtis.

After graduating from college, Alix moved to New York where she started pursuing political theatre and began her spoken word revolution. Alix has been described by *Ms. Magazine* as "a road poet on a mission." *Minnesota Women's Press* says that Alix "inspires audiences and challenges them to think, leaving many dizzy and breathless." Her CDs include "Built Like That" (available at Herland) and the soon-to-be-released "Independence Meal."

Opening for Alix is the effervescent Pamela Means, arguably the only Boston-based out folkie whose punchy political songs have worn a hole in her guitar. As her latest song, "Two Halves" boasts, there is indeed more than one side of Pamela Means. She is aggressive, bold, and attacking. She is shy, humble, and if it need be said, adorable. She is biracial. She is queer. She doesn't like Bush.

Pamela Means' "kamikaze guitar style, politically-charged lyrics, and funky 'fro" are all her own. Fittingly, Means has made a habit of quoting one of her deepest inspirations, Audre Lorde, "... I am myself- a Black woman warrior poet doing my work- come to ask you, are you doing yours?"

Tickets are \$12 and are available at Herland or from Herland volunteers and board members. For more info call (405) 521-9696 and leave a message; your call will be returned within a day.



Herland Supper Club

Saturday, May 10, 5:30 pm

at Tommy's

(in Northpark Mall)

NW 122nd & May

followed by a

Movie at 7:00 pm-ish

at Northpark Cinema.

(also in Northpark Mall)

Meet at Herland at 5:15 pm if you wish to carpool to the restaurant and movie.

Womyn of Color Club

The group will have a cookout at Lake Arcadia on Saturday, May 17, at 3 pm. Meet at Herland at 1 pm to carpool to the lake. For information, call Tippi at (405) 682-8027.

Herland Book Club

The Herland Book Club meets on the first Monday of every month. The next meeting on May 5th at 7 pm will be to discuss *Tipping the Velvet* by Sarah Waters.

The selections for the following months are:

June - *A Woman's Reality*

by Anne Wilson Schaef

July - *Woman on the Edge of Time*

by Marge Piercy

August - *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*

by Audre Lorde



Book Review

Herland and the Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Reviewed by RB

Herland. Now, 20 years or more since I first read it, I still find it absolutely brilliant. It stirs my imagination and desire for a woman-centered world.

Gilman's genius is most evident by delegating the storytelling to a man, who comes into this feminist utopia with all of his patriarchal preconceptions. The reader experiences Herland as a moderate patriarch, not as strident as Terry (the misogynist), nor as benevolent as Jeff (the gynophile [is this a word?]). Van, the narrator, is the moderate democrat or some may say republican. And what this shows to the astute reader is that even a moderate heterosexual society will never achieve what a completely woman-centered world could be.

I love the notion of parthenogenesis (an ideal which has been reawakened by the recent report of a female shark who gave birth after years of captivity without contact with a male) and of the primacy of children in this world. By comparing our world with Herland, we see that the human endeavor has failed miserably, for instead of our most important goal of raising healthy, happy, intelligent children, we plunder and rape less powerful people and nations.

Children Of Lesbian Mothers No Different, Studies Show

In an article entitled "Very Young Children in Lesbian-and-gay-headed families: Moving Beyond Acceptance" by Virginia Casper in *Journal of Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families*, January 2003, it is reported that children of lesbian mothers are not significantly different from children raised by heterosexual parents. The first wave of research, from the 1970s to the early 1980s, looked at the basic mental health of the child, gender identity, gender roles, parenting styles/attitudes and sexual orientation of the grown children and found no statistical differences between children of lesbian mothers and those of heterosexual parents.

The second wave of studies, from the mid-1980s to mid-1990s, found no statistical difference studying the same variables. The third wave of studies, from the mid-1990s to the present, kept the same variables and added variables of role division of parents, family support, relations with families of origin, schools, etc., and found only "subtle differences that present interesting questions for further study." More information can be found at the journal's website at www.zerotothree.org

Mother's Day Proclamation, 1870 - by Julia Ward Howe

(The First Mother's Day proclaimed in 1870 by Julia Ward Howe was a passionate demand for disarmament and peace.)

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or tears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions answered by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!"

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

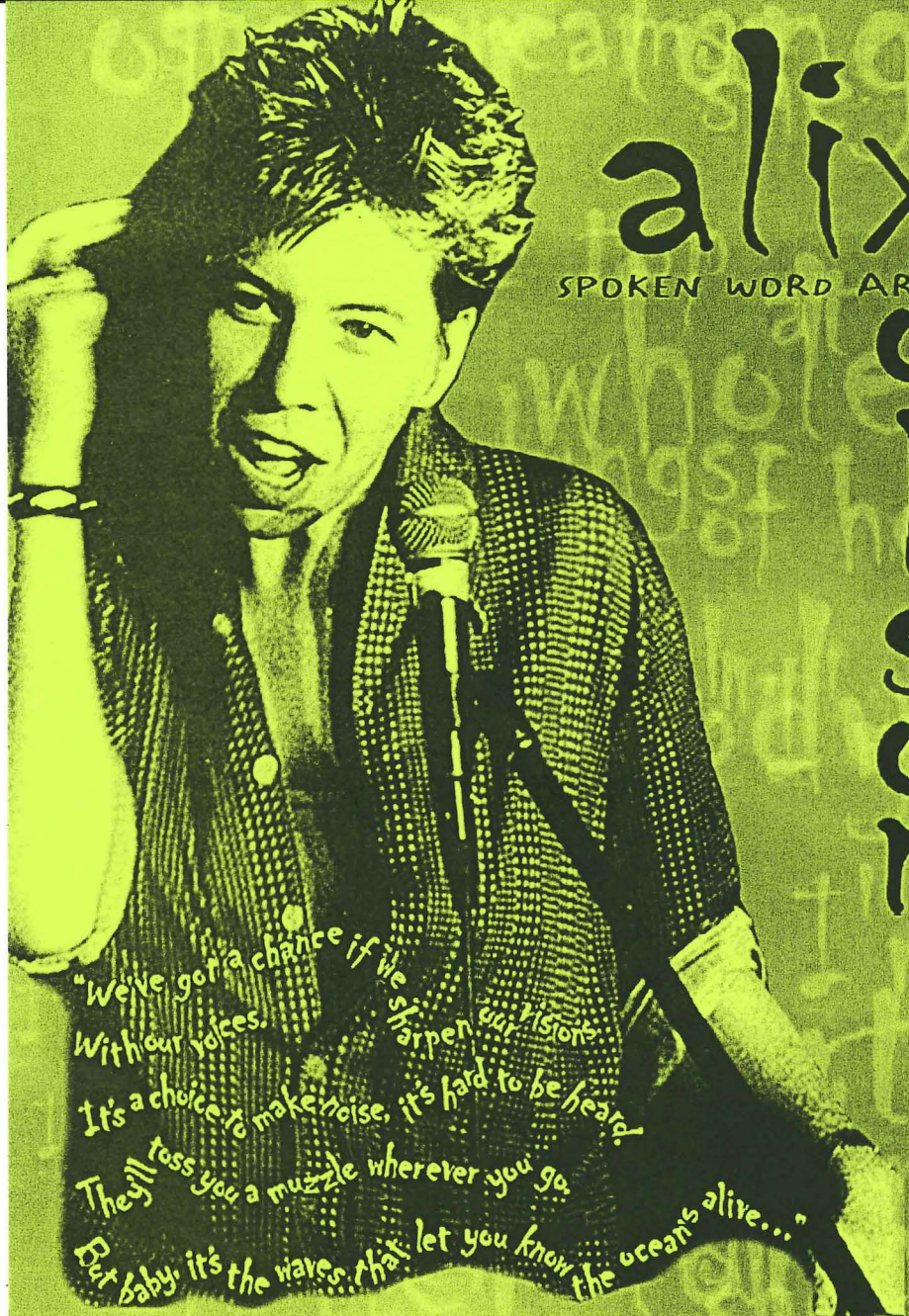
Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Diversity Education Network and Paco's Patio Grill are hosting a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 4, from 6 pm to 11 pm. Paco's is located at 2124 NW 39th Street. There is a \$3 suggested donation and everyone is welcome.

Herland Hiking Club

Join the Herland Hiking Group for its regular monthly outing to Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, at 10 am on Saturday, May 10th. There is also an optional coffee gathering beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:30 am.

The Voice is published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 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.



alix

SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

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3
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"We've got a chance if we
With our voices.
It's a choice to make noise, it's hard to be heard.
They'll toss you a muzzle wherever you go.
Let baby, it's the waves that let you know the ocean's alive..."

IN CONCERT

8 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2003
1ST UNITARIAN - NW 13 & DEWEY, OKC
FOR INFO: CALL HERLAND AT (405)521-9696

TICKETS \$12

WNBA Season Canceled - Almost

by Jill Garner

Tragedy, in my life anyway, almost struck in March when the WNBA, still trying to hammer out a contract with the players, almost had the season canceled. Draft day on April 15th came and went with no draft, then the NBA Commissioner told them the season was canceled unless a deal was signed by the end of that week.

The players' demands were higher starting salaries for rookies, higher salaries for veterans, a three year term, and free agency status after 6 years.

What they got was the same starting salary for rookies (the league wanted to cut it from \$30,000 to \$25,000), a slight increase in the minimum veteran's salary (proposed by the league to be \$41,200, increased to \$42,000 in the agreement; the players had wanted \$48,000), concessions on free agency status, and a five year term (56 of 80 players conceded this issue).

What they got more than anything out of the process was a rude awakening that the league does not value the players as much as they hoped. In an NPR interview, sportswriter Stefan Fatsis said that even though the NBA lost money for several years when it began, the stakes are much higher today. NBA teams are routinely sold for \$300 million and up, while one of the WNBA teams last year went for \$10 million.

Pamela Wheeler, the chief negotiator for the players association, said acceptance was reluctant, but she added, "The players want to play basketball." However, "the players realized the partnership, quote unquote, that the players thought was there was not there," she said. "It's quite an astonishing revelation."

Play ball.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Wednesdays: Rally for Peace with Iraq, NW 23rd and Classen, 4 - 5:30 pm

Saturdays: Rally for Peace with Iraq, NW Expressway and Penn, noon - 1 pm

Sundays: Spiritual Walks for Peace, NW 9th & Robinson, 2-3 pm

May

Thursday, May 1: Miss Brown to You, Jazz Lab in Edmond, 8 pm

Saturday, May 3: Strut Your Mutt, Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Penn, 3 pm

Saturday, May 3: RAIN Benefit, OKC Farmer's Market, 6:30 pm

Sunday, May 4: Diversity Education Network's Cinco de Mayo, Paco's Patio Grill, 6 pm

Saturday, May 10: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W Memorial, 10 am

Saturday, May 10: Herland Supper Club at Tommy's, 122nd & N. May, 5:30 pm

May 16-18: Herland Spring Retreat at Roman Nose

Saturday, May 17: Womyn of Color Cookout, Lake Arcadia, 3 pm

Thursday, May 22: Two Spirit Dinner at Herland, 6:30 pm

Friday, May 30: Alix Olson in performance, First Unitarian Church, OKC, 8 pm

June

Saturday, June 7: Adoption for Non-Traditional Families Workshop at Herland, 3 pm



Herland Spring Women's Retreat Registration Form

Roman Nose State Park - May 16-18, 2003

Below are guidelines to help you select an appropriate registration amount. Deadline for pre-registration is May 12. Please remember that dogs are welcome but must remain on leashes and are not allowed in the dining hall.

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland):

___ \$15 ___ \$25 ___ \$35 ___ \$45 ___ \$60

___ Saturday only (workshops, concert, & one night stay) - \$25

___ Concert only - \$10

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

email (optional): _____

() I need a scholarship to attend.

() I'm enclosing an additional \$___ to help provide scholarships.

() I'm bringing ___ children (girls of all ages and boys under age 10 are welcome)

Sliding Scale Registration Guidelines Based on Income

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

Please return registration form and check to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
A retreat packet with all information will be sent to you.


Herland Sister Resources

2312 NW 39th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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

Return Service Requested

Soulforce Action planned May 26-29
www.soulforceinoklahoma.org

<p>Molly Whitworth THREE CDS NOW AVAILABLE * WEIRD DUCK* * LEAN IN FOR A KISS * * HUNGRY WHEN I WAKE CDS \$10, LYRIC BOOKS \$5, SHIPPING/HANDLING \$2 HEAR ALL THREE CDS AT HERLAND email: MollyWhitworth@aol.com http://mollywhitworth.blogspot.com/</p>	<p><u>Central Oklahoma Stonewall Democrats</u> <i>voicing gay/lesbian concerns</i></p> <p>Monthly meetings every 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm at Democratic Party Headquarters NE 41st and Lincoln, OKC for info call James Nimmo at (405) 843-3651 or email violadamore2@yahoo.com</p>
<p>REBECCA R. HOLT, Ph.D.</p> <p>Clinical Psychology (405) 321-2148</p> <p>Box 5119 Norman, OK 73070</p> <p>Individuals - Couples Family Therapy, Retreats</p>	<p><u>Julia Irwin, M.D., P.C.</u></p> <p>Psychiatrist</p> <p>Doctor's Park 500 E. Robinson, Suite 600 Norman, OK 73071 (405) 321-3719</p> <p><i>Young And Older Adults</i></p>
<p>DOROTHY E. HEIM Attorney at Law (405) 691-4949 dheim033@yahoo.com</p> <p>Call me with your legal questions: estate planning personal injury contract issues small business</p>	<p> Sandy Ingraham, J.D., M.S.W. Attorney-at-Law Ingraham & Associates, PLLC</p> <p>Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Adoption, Contracts</p> <p>Route 2, Box 369-B McLoud, OK 74851</p> <p>Tel. (405) 964-2072 Ingraham@mcloudteleco.com</p>