

Herland

VOICE

April, 2000

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

May 19-21 at Roman Nose State Park

Wende Allyn and Wanda D. will join forces as the featured entertainers for the Herland Spring Retreat scheduled for May 19 -- 21 at Roman Nose State Park.

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.

Workshops are still being planned for the retreat. If you are interested in leading a workshop, please call Herland or send a note to Attn: Retreat Workshops, Herland, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

The canyons of Roman Nose State Park offer ample recreational opportunities. Softball and volleyball playing fields are on the retreat grounds. Hiking trails, horseback riding, and a golf course are nearby in the park. If that's not enough, there's sure be a group heading out to the Watonga Cheese Factory for a tour and some tasty curds.

An open mic on Saturday afternoon and the evening potluck will give everyone a chance to share some of their talents with other retreat goers.

Registration includes all retreat activities, Friday supper, Saturday brunch and Sunday breakfast, and bunk space in a cabin. Saturday-only registration includes Saturday meals and activities, and the concert. Concert-only tickets are \$10 at the door. See inside for Retreat pre-registration form and suggested registration amounts. □

"Wende Allyn brings to mind the best of Mary Chapin Carpenter. A wonderful voice, great story-songs and some of the best country-folk hooks you'll ever hear" --Matthew Smith of FolkWeb

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATIONS

At 2:45 p.m., April 2, 2000, at the Ralph Ellison Library, located at NE 23rd and MLKing Boulevard, there will be an opening remembrance ceremony to precede a traditional silent march to the Oklahoma State Capitol Building. The feature remarks will be made by Calvin Luper, an original Civil Rights Sit-Inner. At approximately 3:00 p.m. the march will proceed down NE 23rd Street to the South Steps of the State Capitol.

At 4:00 p.m., April 2, 2000, the Oklahoma City Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition is sponsoring "A Dream to Act On", at the Oklahoma State Capitol building, on north Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City. This program, held to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, (April 4, 1968) will be reflective of the life and philosophy of Dr. King. We will take a look at how far we have come and how far we still have to go. The keynote speaker will be Lecia Swain Ross, Editor of the Ebony Tribune. Music will be provided by Bridgeforth Show Choir 2000.

Immediately following the program there will be a candlelight ceremony at the MLK Tree of Life, which is planted just south of the east entrance to the State Capitol building. The featured speaker will be Representative Opio Toure.

Dr. George Cooper is the Master of Ceremonies. □

Happening at Herland

Two-Spirit Group - Saturday, April 1, 7:00 P.M.

*Supper Club - Saturday, April 8 5:30 P. M.
Meet at Herland with your suggestions for dinner.*

*Herland Board Meeting - Sunday, April 16 4:30
P.M
Come see what makes Herland work and add your voice.*

*The Lunch Bunch - Thursday, April 13, 11:30 A.M.
Meet in the Backroom of the Boulevard Cafeteria, 525
N.W. 11, OKC*

*Spring Clean Up-Fix Up - Sunday, April 22, 1 P.M.
We'll provide the lunch. You bring a friend and come
help spruce up Herland.*

*Herland, 2312 N.W. 39, OKC
Open every Saturday and Sunday 1 P.M --5 P.M.*

MAKE YOUR FAMILY COUNT!

"Make Your Family Count" is a national public education campaign of Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS) and the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) encouraging same-sex couples within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) communities to be counted in the U.S. Census.

The campaign urges same-sex couples living in the same household to mark the 'Unmarried Partners' option when asked to describe their relationships. The forms will be mailed to every household in the United States in March and April.

"This campaign has one simple message: Our families exist and we must be counted," said Paula Ettlbrick, Family Policy Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. "Over the last ten years our community has had a major impact in changing family policies, from domestic partnership to second parent adoption. It's time that we include our families in the official count."

"The Census will provide us with a gold mine of information. We will have a statistical picture of same-sex households by racial composition, where they live, and how many children they have," said Dr. Lee Badgett, Director of the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. "The Census tracks changes in families in the U.S. Our families deserve to be counted so that the full diversity of the American family can be reflected and presented to policy makers."

In 1990, the category of "unmarried partner" first appeared on the census form. Approximately 150,000 households self-reported as same-sex unmarried partners - a severe undercount compounded by the U.S. Census Bureau's disqualification of same-sex couples who marked "spouse" to describe their relationship.

To date the Census Bureau has not included a question about sexual orientation. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people not living with someone of the same sex whom they consider to be an unmarried partner will not be visibly counted. However, a large enough count of same-sex households, with or without children, could help substantially in future efforts to be included in the Census count. □

See Herland on the web!
www.herlandsisters.org

CHECK THESE OUT

Spring, when a woman's fancy turns to...vacation!!!! If you're in the planning mode check out some of the travel guidebooks available at your local Metropolitan Library System branch library. The System offers a wide variety of guidebooks, from standards such as the Fodor and Mobil series, to some that take you off-the-beaten path, like those published by Lonely Planet. These mainstream guidebooks are good starting points for your trip planning; many provide some information to gay/lesbian places of interest. The library system also offers some travel guidebooks designed specifically for the gay/lesbian traveler.

If your vacation destination is in the US, check out *Gay USA: Where the Babes Go* (Lori Hobkirk, 1998). With coverage of 11 "big cities," such as Atlanta, Minneapolis, and Seattle, and seven "smaller towns and resorts," including Palm Springs and Santa Fe, this guidebook does a great job of meeting the author's goal of being "an all-in-one lesbian travel book." So, which Atlanta café does attract lesbians like biscuits attract gravy?

Heading to the Big Apple? Be sure to check out *Stepping Out: Nine Walks Through New York City's Gay and Lesbian Past* (Daniel Hurewitz, 1997). The tours will take you from New York City's West Village through Midtown and into the Battery, pointing out historic sites and profiling historic persons of importance to the history of gays and lesbians in New York City and the United States.

If your travels take you across the Pacific to Hawaii, check out *Rainbow Handbook Hawaii: the Islands' Ultimate Gay Guide* (Matthew Link, 1999). Although written more for gay men, this book will help you locate "friendly" places in the islands.

Do you have a travel guidebook you would like to see added to the Metropolitan Library System's collection? You can use the System's website, www.mls.lib.ok.us, to place a request to purchase it or any other material. Follow the Library Catalogs & Databases link, click on CyberMARS, logon with either your card number or anonymously, and scroll the Library Catalog window down to the Request for Material link.

Until next time, good reading and happy travels! □

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.

YOUR LETTERS

Hi,

I work out at the General Motors Plant. During the last contract negotiations, domestic partner benefits were proposed. They have been a part of Canada's GM/UAW for many years now. Anyway, it was agreed upon that GM would look into the feasibility and cost of this. I was so thrilled that it was finally an issue in the US auto industry not to mention the US union that collects dues from us.

Anyway, what happened as a result of this proposal was very disturbing to me. My own union members, people I have worked beside for years, began circulating petitions to stop gays from getting this benefit. There were several petitions that were taken to the Union meeting and forwarded upward to the appropriate top union and management positions.

Another very disturbing fact is, one of the instigators of these petitions is a gentleman (I use this title loosely) who has a booth out at the Arts Festival every April. We all know, as I'm sure he does, that there would be very little art if not for the gay community. I am asking that you get the word out to boycott his booth. The booth is Beau Dan's. It serves Cajun food.

Please help me get this information out to the community. I don't believe we need to be spending our money at an establishment that not only disagrees with our basic rights, but goes out of his way to DENY us these rights.

"A Union Woman"

WOW! What a great page...really a beautiful site to behold! Although I absolutely love living in CA, I wish I could take part in all the activities and music going on in OKC via Herland in one way or another. I look forward to The Voice every month...it brings a little bit of home to me, now the website...well, what can I say but Congratulations! BTW, I'd like to take this opportunity to send kudos to each and every one of you who participated in making "Dust Bowl Lullaby" happen. We play it often and will be ordering more to pass around to our CA friends.

Pat Colognesi

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
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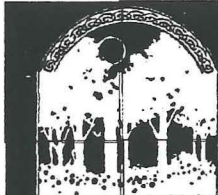
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**THE LAW OFFICE OF SANDY INGRAHAM
@ TURTLE CREEK**

NANCY NESSER, J.D.
ASSOCIATE

ROUTE 2, BOX 369-B
MCLoud, OKLAHOMA 74851

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

email - njnesser@aol.com