

The HERLAND VOICE

March, 1998

CHANGES AT HERLAND

A lock has been installed on the inner door to Herland. Volunteers may lock that door and will come to the door and let you in. We apologize for the inconvenience but feel this procedure will make Herland safer for volunteers and patrons.

Herland hours have been changed to 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. on both Saturday and Sunday. The change will allow us to make sure the center is open during advertised hours. We also hope to have teams of two volunteers staffing the center together and the shortened hours make that plan more feasible. □

FOR RENT

Herland is available for your group meeting! If you need meeting space for just one day or a room for a regular meeting, Herland could be the space for you. For a one-time use, there is a rental fee of \$10 per hour. For regular use, a discount can be negotiated.

For information or to reserve Herland for your meeting, call Ginger McGovern at 942-1535. □

EXPLORE WRITING

Want to explore writing journals? Perhaps compose and share some poetry/ Expand and test your skills in an essay? Maybe even write a short play?

For March, April, and May a group will meet at Herland on Tuesday evenings between 6 P.M. and 8 P.M. Some ideas have already been suggested but all ideas are welcome.

Bring a blanket, a rug, a pillow, a candle with holder, a mirror, some chocolate, snacks, colored markers, sketch paper, and/or what ever will help get writing started; of course, include paper and pencils or pens. □

CUSTODY RULING

The Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals has ruled in a child custody case that the father's allegations that the mother is a lesbian were not enough to change custody from the mother to the father. The decision in *Maldonado v. Hall*, comes a year and a half after an Adair County District Judge made the custody switch.

The father, who had never paid any of his child support obligation in the previous five years, was almost \$30,000 in arrears under the child support order. At trial, the district judge had lowered this arrearage, granting the father a credit for extended summer visitation. The Court of Appeals agreed with the mother's argument that this was an erroneous retroactive lowering of the child support order and reinstated the full arrearage amount.

Appeal attorney Peggy Johnson stated, "This is a wonderful victory for our community on both the issues — custody and arrearage. But no one is happier than this mother who gets her little boy back home." □

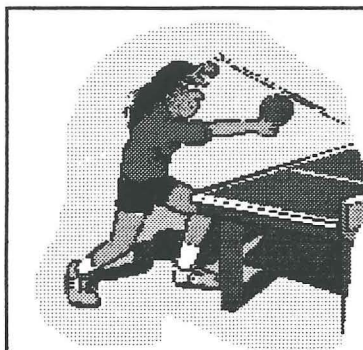
SUMMER OF PLAYS

This spring Herland Sister Resources and Diversity Coffeehouse will co-sponsor a Summer of Plays contest. The purpose of this contest is to give Oklahoma based playwrights with gay, lesbian, and bisexual material an opportunity to present their work in a public reading.

After the contest deadline, April 1, 1998, 6 original plays will be chosen by the Summer of Plays committee for performance. Members of the committee are Leigh Perry, HSR intern, Dianeme Weidmer, HSR Board Member, and Helen Hennessee, Diversity Coffeehouseowner. The committee will then provide actors for the readings which will be performed two each month in June, July and August.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Contest is open to Oklahoma-based playwrights only.
2. One act plays only with 5 characters or less.
3. No musicals or children's plays.
4. Play must have lesbian, gay, or bi-sexual content.
5. Only those works which have never been performed or read in public will be accepted.
6. Winning playwrights will receive no other remuneration that the public reading of their play and the return of all scripts minus one which will be placed in the HSR lending library.
7. Publicity for the public readings will be the joint responsibility of Herland and Diversity.
8. Neither Herland, Diversity, or the Summer of Plays committee will be held responsible for lost, damaged or stolen scripts. □



GAME NIGHT

Mark your calendar for game night at Herland at 7 P.M. on March 21st. Included will be a ping-pong tournament complete with trophies!

Snacks will be provided. Come join the fun! A \$4.00 donation is requested.

SAINT SYBIL

Sybil Ludington, Heroine of the American Revolutionary War and Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, answers your questions.

Dear St. Sybil:

Oklahoma State Representative Bill Graves has, as usual, introduced several anti-gay bills this session. The shortest one, and kind of funny besides, reads "No person may contract for insurance for a spouse if the spouse is of the same gender as the person contracting for the insurance and there is a gay, homosexual or lesbian partnership relationship between the contracting person and the spouse". I really like that Bill's bill kind of tacitly acknowledges that there can be such a thing as a "spouse of the same gender," but it makes me wonder - what kind of a spouse of the same gender would it be if there were no gay, homosexual or lesbian relationship????? And do you think that "gay, homosexual or lesbian" might be a bit of overkill? I myself have never known a lesbian who was not also more than a little gay and/or homosexual...

But I didn't come here to tease old Bill, I have a serious question for you. IS BILL GRAVES GAY, HOMOSEXUAL OR LESBIAN? If Bill Graves is gay, homosexual or -- lesbian and afraid of his own desires it would go a long way toward explaining why we queers seem to be on his mind so much of the time.

I'll look forward to your answer, because I know that where you are on the time continuum you know all.

Love,

MaggieMay

Dear Maggie,

Is BILL GRAVES GAY, HOMOSEXUAL, or - LESBIAN? Hmm. You know, as long as there are people like Bill Graves around making it scary for homosexuals to be open and uncloseted, there is really no way to be one hundred percent certain whether or not Bill Graves is gay, homosexual or lesbian. If Bill Graves is gay, homosexual or lesbian, I am confident that he would deny it and might not even know himself, on a conscious level, that he is gay, homosexual or -- lesbian, if he is. And it would be hard to blame him for denying it. Oklahoma has had some elected officials much higher in rank than Bill Graves who are/were gay, and if they don't admit it, why would he, especially since his constituents by now are as homophobic as he is and would overwhelmingly vote him out of office if they discovered that it were true that Yes, Bill Graves is gay or homosexual or--lesbian.

One thing I will tell you, Maggie: I know lesbians; I admire lesbians; lesbians are my friends; and I assure you of this, Maggie, BILL GRAVES IS NO LESBIAN. Now, having said that, I must also tell you that I am unalterably opposed to the practice of outing, and so therefore I am not going to even consider answering your remaining question, "IS BILL GRAVES GAY OR HOMOSEXUAL?" That, my dear, is for Bill to know and you to find out.

Love,

Sybil

CD UNDERWRITERS

Thanks to all our CD underwriters, we are half way to the goal of \$4000. There's still time to become an underwriter. Underwriters will receive complimentary admission to all CD benefit events and the CD release and will receive an autographed CD. To become a CD underwriter, send your contribution of \$50 or more to Herland CD, 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK 73112.

Anonymous

Carla Splaingard

Debbie Teel

Donna DeSalvo

DTH

In honor of Herland Board

In honor of Honey West

In Honor of Making Music

In honor of Mary Reynolds/Ms Brown to You

In honor of Nancy Nesser

In honor of the members of Miss Brown to You

In Memory of Vern Tanner

J.A. Graham

Jan Reed and Nickie Flambures

Janis Galloway

Jean Kelsey

Jim and Ruth Gordon

Judy Kaufman and Jan MacDonald

Karen Messana

Kathie McCallie

Lee Anne Wilson

Margaret Cox

Margy Dillon

Medina's Coffeehouse

Meg Moore

Nancy Jones

Pat Colognesi

Pat Reaves

Partners

Renee McBride

Sandra Hoyt

Stiefmiller Family

Tim Larason

Timi Richardson

Wendy Galbraith

Garage Sale behind the Center on March 21st, 7 am to whenever. Bring donations to Herland booth that morning before 10:30 am.

Excellent Office Space for Lease:

3300 NW 50th (50th & Independence) 700 Sq. ft., remodeled in 1993. Enclosed office and open front area. Private kitchen and bathroom. Availability of monitored alarm and phone system usage. Lease amount and contract negotiable. Utilities paid. Call Teresa or Karen @ 405.721.8689 Or email: ktbeard2neshop.net

Please Be Our Guest

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Pastor

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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.

Herland Sister Resources

March, 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 <small>Jeannette Rankin, first woman in Congress sworn in -1917</small>	5	6	7
8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">International Women's Day</div>	9	10 <small>Harriet Tubman, d. 1913</small>	11	12	13	14
15 4:30 PM HSR Board Mtg.	16	17 St. Patrick's	18	19	20 Spring begins	21 7:00 AM Community Garage Sale – behind the Center 7:00 PM Game Night
22	23	24	25 <small>Triangle Shirt Waist fire kill 146 sweatshop workers - 1911 Gloria Steinem 64th Birthday</small>	26 6:00 PM News-letter Folding Party	27	28
29	30	31				

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT MAY 1- 3, Red Rock Canyon State Park. Entertainment by The Therapy Sisters of Austin, TX. Watch for Registration information in your April Voice

“Ask not what Herland can do for you — ask what you can do for Herland”(apologies to John F. Kennedy)

As in President Kennedy’s original statement, there is no real conflict between the two ideas. Doing for Herland is doing for yourself. As a community organization, Herland is only what the members of the community make it at any given point.

What do you have to give Herland? Can you help financially to meet the monthly expenses of the building and the newsletter? Can you volunteer to staff the center on one Saturday or Sunday a month? Can you volunteer occasionally at a work day or special event? Do you have some special skill or talent that you can share with others through Herland? Perhaps you’d like to take the lead on a special project through Herland. Can you participate as a member of a committee? Maybe you’d even like to join the Board of Directors.

Everyone has something to share. What will you contribute?

I will contribute to Herland.

- __ Here’s my financial contribution of _____
- __ Please call me about volunteering
- __ Please call me about working on a committee
- __ Please call me about joining the Board

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



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