

# Herland

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## VOICE

September, 2001

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIANS

Are you tired of feeling like you are the only African-American Lesbian in the Oklahoma City area? Would you like an alternative to the bar scene, some place where you can meet woman of like mind and have stimulating conversation and great activities?

My name is Jacqueline and I am starting an African-American Lesbian Support group. When I came out, I had the great fortune to be involved with a wonderful organization called Herland. I am surrounded by very stable and positive Lesbians that made me feel like I was not alone. I would like to pass my experiences along to other African-American Lesbians. I would like to see more African-American Lesbian involved in the Gay/Lesbian community.

If you are interested in joining the support group, whether you have been out for a day or twenty years, we all need support. Please contact me at 405/842-3464 for more details. Woman of all ages are welcome. □

### HERLAND ONLINE

Has half the month already passed before your copy of the Voice arrives? You can be one of the first to read the Voice every month. Just stop by the Herland web site at [www.herlandsisters.org](http://www.herlandsisters.org) and sign up for an online subscription to the Voice. You'll receive a fresh, crisp copy of the Voice in your email around the first of every month. □

### RACE FOR THE CURE

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure will be held September 29, 2001 in Oklahoma City. Register for a 5K run/walk or the 1-mile fun walk and help raise money for breast cancer research, treatment, education, and screening programs. Call 232-2873 or see their website at [www.okbreastcancer.com](http://www.okbreastcancer.com) for more information. □

*Herland is open Saturdays from 1-5 PM.  
We are located at 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK*

### MARY N BRIGHT HEADLINE RETREAT

*Mary N Bright* -- a collaboration of Mary Catherine Reynolds, Kristall Bright and Nancy Nesser -- are the featured entertainers for the Herland Fall Retreat, September 14-16 at Roman Nose State Park.

The trio recently performed at the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in Okemah. Their performance was called "breath-taking" by Tomas Conner in the Tulsa World. He writes "The second breath-taker was nicely balanced, the fourth song from the end. Mary Reynolds, a native of Oklahoma City, played and sang "Hobo's Lullaby." It's not as important to say that she played the song as it is to say she sang it. Reynold's voice is a clarion call, a beautiful and controlled birdsong, and with the help of two friends backing her with harmonies, the performance was as if three angels were hovering over a lonely hobo in a dank boxcar, their voices alone filling him with hope."

Conner calls Mary Reynolds the "Queen Midas of folk music." He writes, "Mary Catherine Reynolds has found her voice, quite literally. She claims to struggle still with her figurative voice — songwriting, expression, starting from scratch — but her actual, physical voice is plenty for now. When she pours it like molten gold into the mold of someone else's song, she is the Queen Midas of folk music."

Retreat registration information is inside this issue of the Voice. The concert is scheduled for 8 PM on Saturday, September 15. Concert-only admission is \$5.00. □

*Herland Supper Club, 5:30 PM,  
September 8. Meet at Herland*

*Herland Board Meeting, 4:30 PM  
Sunday, September 9*

*Herland Fall Retreat, September  
14-16 at Roman Nose State Park.  
Check-in opens at 5PM on September 14.*

## CELESTIAL ADVICE

The spirit of Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Invisible Woman, contacted the "Voice" about eleven years ago. She had been receiving many soul-felt appeals and ponderings from perplexed sisters here in Oklahoma, wanting guidance on the confusing issue of "Right to Work"- then, as now, much in the news; and she asked if we would give her a forum in which she could respond to some of them. Of course we were happy to do so, and now that RTW has once again come front and center in our state, we thought we would reprint that first article.

Dear Saint Sybil:

During all of the election hype recently I have heard a lot about Right to Work, but I don't really understand what the term means. At first I thought it was a women's issue, like, the right to work at whatever job a woman wants to; and I thought Yes, Right On, I like that! Then I heard some people say it really means the Right to Work for Less, and of course I thought Oh No, that doesn't sound good at all... So Sybil, please tell me just what they do mean when they talk about Right to Work!

Thanking you in advance, I am,  
Your Friend & Fan,  
Eliza Domuch

Dear Eliza,

I agree that "Right to Work" is a strange and misleading term. My friend George Orwell, Patron Saint of the Pentagon, the White House, and the Daily Oklahoman, is quite impressed and amused by it too.

I like to compare "Right to Work" to a Mother's Right to Change Diapers; or to a Teenager's Right to Take Out the Trash; or to a Soldier's Right to Clean Latrines. In other words, we already *have* the right to work; the issue is what we will work at and how much or little the pay will be. People in Oklahoma pushing for "Right to Work" say that Oklahoma is losing new business to surrounding states which have "Right to Work"; and people in Oklahoma opposing "Right to Work" point out that wages in those states are in the main considerably lower than wages in Oklahoma.

People against "Right to Work" also say that it allows some folks to get a free ride - to have the benefits of belonging to a union and having a union work for them, without paying the dues necessary to support the union's work. It's sort of as if the IRS told all us taxpayers not to worry anymore about paying taxes unless we feel like it, and we'll still have the right to police and fire protection, public roads, social security, Medicare, and so forth. All the benefits without helping to pay for them.

Right to Work reminds me of another Right from long ago, when there was a right enjoyed by the feudal barons known as the Droit du Seigneur, which not-too-loosely translates as Right of the Lord of the Manor. This gave the Feudal Lord the right to de-flower all of the local women prior to their wedding night, a kind of legal rape. It's true, I promise. I wouldn't make up something like that.

And so it seems to me that we have a really good analogy here, between these two "Rights". In both Right to Work and Droit du Seigneur, what we have on the one hand is a boss getting the benefit, and on the other hand, a peasant getting screwed.

Hope this helps.

Fondly,  
Sybil

□

## THROUGH THE FLOWER

Did you know that 95% of the artists in the collections of U.S. museums are male and their work represents 99% of all the objects in those collections? Through the Flower is a non-profit arts organization that supports the work of many artists and artisans that have worked collaboratively with Judy Chicago on the Dinner Party, the Birth Project, the Holocaust Project, and Resolutions: A Stitch in Time. Find out more by visiting the Endowment Page on their website at [www.JudyChicago.com](http://www.JudyChicago.com).

□

## EVERYTHING RELATIVE

Next time you rent a movie, look for *Everything Relative*. Called a lesbian Big Chill, this acclaimed independent film follows a group of gay and straight women who were friends in college in the late '70s. Reunited two decades later for a weekend in the country, the women explore the changes in their lives and the bonds that still unite them.

□

### Herland Board of Directors:

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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.

[www.herlandsisters.org](http://www.herlandsisters.org)

## LESLIE SATCHER — LOVE LETTERS

by Jill Gamer

I don't know how Texas does it, but they've produced yet another wonderful songwriter, who also happens to be a fabulous singer. Leslie Satcher's first CD, *Love Letters*, comes after a very successful songwriting career. Country singers such as Pam Tillis, Sara Evans, Terri Clark, George Jones, Reba, and Vince Gill have all covered songs written by Satcher, with about 80 covers to her credit. After finally getting signed to her own record deal, we get the joy of listening to her singing her own songs.

I love the record because it goes from rockin' country songs like "I Will Survive," "Every Time it Rains," and the wonderful "Texarkana," to slow, sultry songs like "Slow Way Home" and "Burn Me Down," and then the necessary heartbreak songs such as "Goin' Down Hard." She's got such a wonderful voice that even the sad songs make me happy listening to them.

I first heard *Love Letter from Old Mexico* on the post-country cable station and it definitely caught my ear. With help on background vocals by Emmylou Harris and Alison Krauss, Satcher's voice is gorgeous on this song of reminiscing about love left behind. "She'll be anniversary roses, and diamonds on Christmas Eve, I'll only be something that you'll never show, Just a box of love letters from old

Mexico." It's immediately followed by the sensuous "Slow Way Home" about rekindling passion. "I know it's crazy but get that blanket from the trunk, Come on now baby, oh it looks as if the moon was expecting us, Forget your job, the house, the dog, the telephone, Lay down in my arms and let's take the slow way home." "Burn Me Down" is a sultry passion-filled torch song that melts with words like "Surely you know how they take my breath, And that I look away just to save myself." And my absolute favorite heartbreak song is "Goin' Down Hard." "Oh, sad songs and whiskey, Are just mirrors and smoke, But I need something to lean on, While I Fall Apart." She also does a great version of "Ode to Billie Jo," not a song I'd go out of my way to find, but it fits in well on this collection and she sings it well.

I wouldn't call Satcher traditional country, nor would I even call her "alternative" country. In some ways she sounds as if she's been sanitized in hopes of getting a radio hit. Her songs are the same old familiar refrain, and none of them leave any question about what they're all about. However, even in that arena, she does stand out, partly because of her voice, alternating between the lilt of Dolly Parton and the depth of Emmylou Harris or Patty Loveless, and partly because of her skill at songwriting. I do recommend the CD though, if only for her voice alone. I look forward to more from her!

## HERLAND FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 14-16, ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. The deadline for pre-registration is September 10. Registration is non-refundable after September 12.

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland):

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

Saturday only Registration \$25

Single Person's Annual Income	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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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 10 are welcome)

Please send your completed registration to: Herland, 2312 NW 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  
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# Herland Fall Retreat

## September 14-16

### Registration Information Inside!

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