



Spinsterhaven

Volume VII, Number 1 Spring 1996

Spinsterhaven
P.O. Box 718
Fayetteville, AR 72702

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our annual meeting will be held at the Women's Project 15th Annual Retreat at Lake Fort Smith on Saturday, April 13th.

CALENDAR

March 8-9 ... Table at Women's Conference
10-22 ... Shewolf Land Workshop
30 ... Video Party

April 13 ... Annual Meeting
25 ... Board Meeting
27 ... Video Party

May 4 ... Plant Ann's tree on land
25 ... Video Party

June 27 ... Board Meeting
29 ... Video Party
? ... Watch for table at Gay Pride celebration in the park.

July 27 ... Video Party

Aug. 22 ... Board Meeting
31 ... Video Party

THE BOARD

Seeking women who are interested in learning about community building, and would like to serve on the board for Spinsterhaven. Terms of office are three years.

THE LAND

Seeking women who are at least age 55 or are disabled, and want to plan a secure future within a women's community. Call or write and let's get acquainted.

FUND RAISERS

We gave a dance in December and raised just over \$500. We had a Video Party in January which cleared \$80. Nancy Edelman has volunteered her home for future video parties, and if you noticed the calendar, we have scheduled the last Saturday in each month as Video Party night, a cheap fun Saturday night for the end of the month. They are from 7 to 9 and cost \$5.00. Snacks are free. A gourmet dinner is in the works for our next special event.



ROAD WORK

We have applied for a \$5000 grant from Lesbian National Resources to build a road on the land. It is planned to reach the site location of the first dwelling. Sustana is waiting with her own mobile home to move onto that site when it is ready. Then the gatehouse will be vacant and waiting for the next resident or residents at Spinsterhaven. It is a gradual process that has to be done as we are able to raise the necessary funds.

GEORGIA IN ACCIDENT

Georgia Northwind, our staff person has resigned for health reasons. She was in an automobile accident and received extensive head injuries. She says it has affected her short-term memory, and it may be a while before she is able to resume the busy life she led before the accident. She is much better now and has just begun to take part in her Flea Market again, which is a joint venture with other women. The community is helping her hold it together while she recovers, but Georgia says that if it weren't for Kathy and her loving and caring support she doesn't think she would have made it.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Carol Kretzmann is a very welcomed addition to the Spinsterhaven board. Along with her experience in feminist process, she brings an aura of peace and gentleness that rubs off on the rest of us. It helps make the meetings productive and positive, leaving us feeling good about ourselves, and feeling like we have done a good job.



IN MEMORIUM

We have lost two women this year who were very important to us. Mary Grace was the very first president of the board of directors for Spinsterhaven. She was living in the Washington, DC area when she died on October 18th. We have planted a blossoming cherry tree on the land in her memory. Ann Gallmeyer was also one of our early board members. She was living in Oregon when she died November 9th. We plan to honor her on Arbor day, Saturday, March 2 by planting a tree on the land in her memory. All members and friends are welcome.

The Goddess Was Called Sid That Day

Almost all the artwork in this issue was done by Sid Goodenough. It all started when I said, "I need a picture of a deer." She heard me and drew a deer, just like that. Of course I couldn't resist asking for more, even that beautiful road. I was amazed that whatever I asked for, I got.

FROM THE LAND



I have been living on the land for just over five months now. I've seen summer thunder storms that dumped hundreds of gallons of water. I've seen 18 inches of snow, and ten degrees below zero. I've also seen it so dry the well was literally empty.

But the sun always comes out after the thunder storms, and the snowplows the road after a snow. The house has central heating so I found out it was 10 below from the radio. And yes, I have had the water truck fill the well.

Being the first resident here, it is sort of like pioneering, but I wish I could relate to you the peace and tranquility of living here. Although I am a plant person myself (as opposed to an animal person) and talk with the trees and grass and wind, I think part of the magic here is the birds and wild animals. We have a small herd of deer (7) who graze in the yard at dawn. If I go outside they look me in the eye with an expression that says, "Now you aren't going to be a nuisance and frighten us off are you?" So I slip back inside the house and close the door as quietly as possible. After the snow I discovered so many different kinds of tracks and footprints that I realized I only see a very small portion of who lives here.

The board serves as my community right now as we work together to try and get the space ready for more women, but I look forward to welcoming other retiring women, and us building a community of our own. And perhaps raising a garden together.

In Sisterhood, Sustana



SPECIAL PEOPLE

Some of our members spent a long, hard day on October 28, getting Spinsterhaven ready for the winter. They built a pump house for our new pump and dug ditches. Nancy Vaughn, Carol, Linda, Guthrie, Karin and Barbara labored outside while Sustana made a pot of soup and fixed lunch for everyone. We also want to thank all you who have donated money, materials and time for Spinsterhaven. Nancy Vaughn has given beyond the call of duty working on the water system. And Nancy Edelman, who chaired the dance committee and provides a place for the Video Parties, has reached that category too. Thank you all.

FROM THE VICE PREZ

It used to be that Spinsterhaven was just one of the groups I was involved in. Now, since we have a real person living in a real place that we are still setting up, it is a center of vital interest for me because I like Sustana. She has added immensely to our community and to Spinsterhaven. Now we aren't just planning for a theoretical set of old women in a community we can't quite imagine. We are realizing that each woman will add energy and abilities unique to her, each will have her own needs and desires, and that if we just do one step at a time, we'll adapt and attract the energy and resources that the universe provides only for specific people. As feminists, we realize that retirement is the chance many of us get to start living by our own rules, with all the energy that is freed up by escaping from the patriarchy. Sustana's not old, and I doubt that any of the women who come to live at Spinsterhaven will be old. We welcome the wisdom and freedom our residents will bring to Northwest Arkansas.

My newest interest is in helping to create a federation of 501(c)3 womens groups in Arkansas. Yesterday I met with a woman from D.C. who belongs to the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy. They are a research group who think that Arkansas is ripe for such a women's federation. It only takes 15 women's groups to qualify. If we all sign up as members, we could have people "give at the office" as they do for United Way. The prospects look promasing and the long term results can make a real difference for all the women's organizations in Arkansas.

Karin Wiggins

SHEWOLF'S WORKSHOP

Shewolf of Woman's Land in Madisonville, LA, is holding her fourth annual two-week long camping and workshops event on her land. The dates are March 10-21, but she wants applications ASAP. There is a \$25 a week charge to help cover food costs.

Some of the workshops are: Carpentry, ECO Systems, Solar Planning, Community Building, Preparing a Perennial Garden, Writing For Publication, and more. You will be camping with women from at least eight other Women's Lands across the US.

Some of the Spinsterhaven board members are going to attend the last week. We will leave here on the 15th. If you are interested, and want a ride, call and see if we still have room. Shewolf's number is (504) 892-0765.

WOMEN'S PROJECT ANNUAL RETREAT

The retreat runs from Friday, April 12 through Sunday 14th, at Lake Fort Smith near Mountainburg on HWY 71.

Suzanne Pharr will speak on How To Move Your Political Message Through Cultural Work.

Bring your own bedding and food, plus there will be one shared meal. You are asked to contribute to that also. A-E bring bread for 8, F-K bring salad for 8, L-Q deserts, and R-Z snacks.

The cost is \$25 to stay in the dorms for the whole week-end, \$12 if you stay elsewhere. It is \$7 a day to just attend the meetings. Send your check for the dorm in by March 29 to Women's Project, 224 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72206. Hope to see you there.



SPINSTERHAVEN NEEDS YOU!

Join Now! Please consider making a monthly pledge.

Membership Fees: \$5 low-income \$10 basic \$25 Contributor \$50 Sponsor

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mail to Spinsterhaven, Inc. P.O. Box 718, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

P.O. Box 718
Fayetteville, AR 72702



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