



## E-News April 2017

Compiled by Sheryl Kaplan, 1954.  
Reviewed by Susan Wiseheart, 1941, Alix Dobkin,  
1940, and Ruth Debra, 1944.



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**ALL DETAILS ARE BELOW.**



*the path to lesbianism implies the renunciation of the path that was already written. everything that you should be and do is replaced with what strikes your fancy....  
being a lesbian is a changing of the hands of power. it is true that the power is always ours but many times we allow others to manage it for us. a lesbian reclaims her power.*

~~~Pathway to Lesbianism by tatiana de la tierra



**OLOC NEWS**

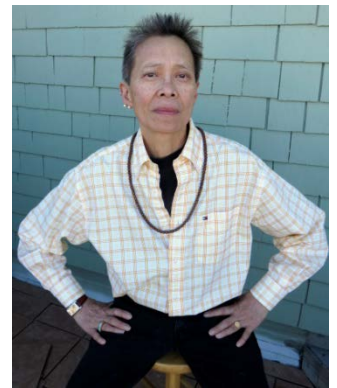


**1. Gathering “Big Stars’” Bios**



**Ubaka Hill**, keynote speaker: An inspirational visionary, she steps into leadership roles to help empower and improve quality of life through art, music, and community initiatives. A dynamic public speaker, she will give you new insights and make you laugh both in amusement and in recognition of profound truths. She has been an authentic, energetic performer, composer, songwriter, recording artist, and teacher of hand drumming for more than 30 years. Her appearances include street gatherings, the bedsides of the sick, theater productions and coffeehouses, concert halls, campuses, conferences, healing circles and ceremonies, festivals, and soon, an OLOC Gathering. She will also lead a drumming and percussion workshop.

**Kitty Tsui**, keynote speaker: Born in Hong Kong and raised in California, Kitty lives in Long Beach with her canine companion Beaux. She won a bronze medal in bodybuilding in the 1986 Gay Games and insists that Chinese women come with strength: "born into the/skin of yellow women/we are born/into the armor of warriors."



She was instrumental in the founding of the Asian/Pacific Islander Lesbian movement in San Francisco and an original member of Asian Pacific Sisters. Editor of *Phoenix Rising* and *New Phoenix Rising*, she was co-founder of the first Asian American women's performance group, Unbound Feet. In 2016, Kitty was honored with the Phoenix Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women and Transgender Community. Her new book, *Nice Chinese Girls Don't*, will be released in June. We are proud that Kitty will join us as the first Old Asian American Lesbian to address an OLOC Gathering.



**Mimi Gonzalez**, entertainer: She is a road-tested, high-octane comedian who takes the audience on a wild ride from the profound to the profane. Bawdy and political, her ferocious idealism of inclusion has been embraced by colleges, Prides, comedy clubs, resorts, festivals, cruises, and even battlefields.

Mimi's answered the call of duty to the U.S. armed forces and made them laugh in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Korea,

Japan, and Guam. Her television appearances include: LOGO's "One Night Stand Up," the "Today" show, Mo Gaffney's "Women Aloud," "Ellen," "Que Loco," "Funny is Funny," and "Latino Laugh Festival." She's even been a morning show co-host on New York's WPYX. She's used her Journalism degree to commit random acts of publishing, which have included interviewing Camille Paglia for *On Our Backs* magazine, and is a featured monthly columnist in GET-R.I. You can find her on the road, working her walnut farm in Michigan, or on Facebook.



### More Gathering Updates!

We will have **caucuses** on Thursday and Friday afternoons. If you missed the workshop proposal deadline, don't despair. You can sign up to initiate a caucus on a particular topic and you don't even need to lead it!

We will show the **film** *The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen*! It is an award-winning, inspiring movie about a young black girl who grew up in Boston during the Jim Crow era and became a classical ballerina, legendary dance teacher, Lesbian feminist activist, writer, and professor. You won't want to miss it!

Steering Committee Member Ruth Debra writes: "I just looked at **Weather.com**. It shows the average August high in Tampa to be 90 and says June is the warmest month. Humidity runs about 90%. We are not expecting our attendees to be doing strenuous outdoor work. Most everyone will be indoors in a well-air-conditioned [Editor: she means cold!] hotel enjoying lots of Old Lesbians. Or going in an air-conditioned [Editor: she means cold!] vehicle to an air-conditioned [Editor: she means cold!] restaurant. I was there at the beginning of July and it was a lot cooler than Palm Springs [California] even with our lack of humidity." [Editor: bring a jacket!]



## 2. Calling All Old Lesbians of Color

To further OLOC's goal of creating a Lesbians of Color caucus, we will host an Intensive for Old Lesbians of Color (in their 60th year or better) the day

before the Gathering starts. It is open to all Old Lesbians of Color, whether or not you attend the Gathering or are an OLOC Member. Please contact us at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) if you want to attend.

Tuesday night's hotel room and Wednesday's lunch will be provided for the Intensive, which will be held on Wednesday, August 2, from 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. at the Gathering hotel (info. below). Olga Orraca-Paredes, a champion of LGBT rights in Puerto Rico and South and Central America, will facilitate the special day. The Opening Reception for all will be that evening. ¡Nos vemos allí!

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To register for the Gathering (August 2-6) go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oloc-2017-national-gathering-tickets-28344116014>. The cost is **\$275 until June 1, \$300 from June 2-July 14, and \$325 from July 15-August 2**. This includes all workshops and panels, keynote speakers, access services, entertainment (Fri. night comedy concert), dance, hospitality suite with food, films, and lunch Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. **The deadline to apply for financial assistance is May 15.** The financial assistance form is at <http://oloc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Financial-Assistance-Form-2017.pdf>, in *The Reporter*, or you can ask Susan to send you one. **Financial assistance can include transportation, hotel, and/or registration.**

To make your hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Tampa Westshore, which includes breakfast for two for each room every day, go to: [tinyurl.com/zyxwacz](http://tinyurl.com/zyxwacz). If you click on 'more options' with the plus sign, you will see the group code. If you prefer to call, the direct number is 813-289-8200, and 800-439-4745 is a toll-free general Holiday Inn reservations number; the code for our group is "Old." If you have any difficulty, please contact [Ruth@oloc.org](mailto:Ruth@oloc.org) for assistance.

## SEE YOU IN TAMPA!



### 3. We Still Need Ads!

By OLOC Co-Director Alix Dobkin, 1940

Want to be in the OLOC GATHERING SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK? Here's how: take out an ad! We invite you to consider supporting OLOC with an ad in our Program Book, which will be given to all advertisers and attendees – hundreds of Old Lesbians from across the U.S. and beyond!

This year's theme is *Old Lesbians Mobilize for the Future*.

For as little as \$30, you can take out a personal 20-word greeting, or get together with your friends or your chapter/group (if you have one) for a business card-sized ad for \$60, with other options going up to \$650 for the back cover. You can solicit ads from anyone or any business you know who might want to support OLOC and gain visibility with our national constituency.

Please look over the form on the next page and let us know if we can reserve your space in the Program Book! These are the deadlines:

**May 1:** If you need our artist to create the ad

**June 1:** If the ad is camera-ready



**4. We Also Need Sponsors! **Deadline May 1 (for program book listing)****

Dearest OLOC Lesbians,

Here are other ways you can support the National Gathering:

Lesbians who speak or perform get their transportation and room paid for, as well as a fee to speak or perform. This averages around \$2,000 each Lesbian. So you could offer to sponsor or help sponsor one of them. If you would like to do that, choose which one: Ubaka Hill, Mimi Gonzalez, or Kitty Tsui. We will put your name in the program.

There are services we provide that add to the Gathering cost. Scooter rentals cost about \$160 each. Would you like to provide one or more scooters for Lesbians who need them?



# 2017 OLOC NATIONAL GATHERING

AUGUST 2-6, 2017  
TAMPA, FLORIDA

HOLIDAY INN TAMPA WESTSHORE

We would love to see your ad in the Program Book. The book is an excellent 40-page publication, distributed to attendees and advertisers from all over the country.

Do you have an organization, business, or group that would support OLOC by placing an ad? Or perhaps a personal or memorial greeting?

Here is the information for submitting payment, along with the form for placing ads.

Thank you for supporting OLOC by advertising!

## “Old Lesbians Mobilize for the Future”

Deadline for completed ads is June 1, 2017. E-mail Connie Rose at ImagesNatural@gmail.com with the ad attached or DropBox information.

Ads that can be created by Connie must be submitted to her by May 1, 2017.

Ad must be a PDF or .jpg file distilled at a print-ready resolution. Please snail-mail business cards to be scanned to Connie at: High Desert Rose, 441 W. Matterhorn St., Tucson, AZ 85737. Thank you.

### Ad and Greeting Sizes and Prices

|                                              |                     |       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| <b>Full Page</b><br>(7" wide<br>X 9.5" tall) | Inside Front Cover  | \$600 |
|                                              | Inside Back Cover   | \$500 |
|                                              | Outside Back Cover  | \$650 |
|                                              | Other full page ad  | \$400 |
| <b>Half Page</b>                             | (7.5" wide X 4.5")  | \$240 |
| <b>Quarter Page</b>                          | (3.75" wide X 4.5") | \$150 |
| <b>Business Card</b>                         | (3.5" wide X 2")    | \$60  |
| <b>Greeting</b>                              | (20 words or less)  | \$30  |

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Greeting text \_\_\_\_\_

Pay by Check

Pay by Credit Card

Pay by PayPal

PayPal Transaction ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Mail this form and check to OLOC or use the donate button at [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org) to pay by PayPal (include your transaction ID above once you've paid) or by credit card. For more private payment by credit card, contact Ruth Debra at 760-318-6794, or e-mail your phone number ([ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org)) and she'll phone you.

Perhaps you would like to help with ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters. At \$100 per hour, the total to provide this service for all of the major sessions is about \$1,600. You can also sponsor CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation). Real-time captioning is provided by workers who type into a computer what the speakers say as they say it, and the captioning appears on a big screen for those who cannot hear (well). At \$150 per hour, the total to provide this service is about \$2,300.

OLOC provides a hospitality suite to keep the cost of food low for attendees. This costs us about \$300 a day. We acknowledge hospitality sponsors in the suite each day.

The cost of sponsoring the opening reception is about \$1,500.

Please let us know which opportunity you would like to support. Without you, we could not all gather together and ensure that everyone's needs will be met. Thank you for considering our request to help make this happen.

Sally Tatnall, Co-Director of OLOC



## 5. The Crowd is Funding!

We started the GoFundMe crowd-funding site back up to raise money to get Lesbians to the Gathering and to help with needed services there. Our original goal was \$20,000. With the earlier effort and this one, **we are fast approaching half-way!** Every little bit helps. If you don't like or do crowd-funding, below are some other ways to contribute, but if you like crowd-funding, now is your chance: <https://www.gofundme.com/www-oloc-org>.

- 1) Secure credit card or PayPal account by going to [OLOC.org](http://OLOC.org) and clicking the yellow "donate" button on the right side of the page.
- 2) Credit card over the phone by calling Ruth Debra at 760-318-6794 (if you can't reach her, e-mail [Ruth@oloc.org](mailto:Ruth@oloc.org) to set up a time to talk).
- 3) Check sent to OLOC, P.O. Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.

We very much appreciate any help you can give. Spread it around!



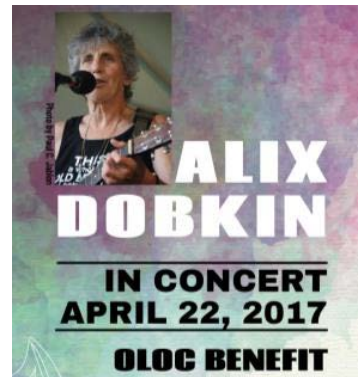


## 6. The Tampa Bay Area Will Be Rocking in April, Too!

The Steering Committee will be meeting April 20-23 in Tampa, Florida. If you have items you would like them to discuss, please contact them by any of the methods listed at the end of this newsletter by the 18th.

Alix is Coming to Gulfport  
By OLOC Member Retts Scauzillo, 1953

Attention! Alix Dobkin will be performing a benefit concert for OLOC on Saturday, April 22, in Gulfport, Florida. I am hoping that everyone who can attend will make it to see her and help OLOC raise a few dollars for the Gathering. So all you veteran Alix fans bring an Alix virgin and get to Gulfport for this fun concert. We need to be together as much as possible in order to change the world.



As you know, when Lesbians gather—and especially Old Lesbians—we do great things and bring about change. Our country and the world need us. The Women’s Marches around the world were only the beginning. We need to keep this activism going. You know Alix will sing her heart out for you, and have a lot to say about Lesbians and the world today. We all need to do something, so here is one thing that will make us all feel good.

When: Saturday, April 22 from 7:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.  
Where: Scout Hall, 5315 28th Avenue South, Gulfport  
Access: ASL interpreter and access for wheelchair users  
Cost: \$15-\$25 sliding scale; **donations over this amount to support the Gathering are especially appreciated**  
Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/h7d7o9a> or <https://www.facebook.com/events/590994601094659/>. It is going to sell out, so get your tickets now!

And **Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>** we are planning a community **potluck** for all ages at the Town Shores Clubhouse, 3210 59th Street South in Gulfport at 2:00 P.M. How Lesbian is THAT!! Come on down to Gulfport and show your support for Alix, OLOC, and our country. For information about either event, contact Carol at 516-314-3891 or [carolcreates@yahoo.com](mailto:carolcreates@yahoo.com).



## 7. OLOC Receives Major Bequest



OLOC is pleased and grateful to be the recipient of a generous bequest of \$9,144.67 from the estate of Sally Taft Duplaix, who died at her home in Chatham, Massachusetts on July 19, 2012.

A librarian, she was a great lover of books and read voraciously throughout her life. She started a collection of Lesbian pulp fiction in the 1950s. Sally enjoyed the arts: music, theater, visual arts and crafts; and also loved to travel, as evidenced by her early stint as a stewardess for PanAm flights into South America. She was actively involved in the civic life of Chatham.

Born in 1936, Sally was also active in OLOC, starting from her 60th birthday in 1996, when she joined the Steering Committee. In the old OLOC online forums, under "Interests," she said: "too many to list." She helped to organize a women's music festival and was interviewed by OLOHP in 2001 and 2008; her life story is included in *A Gift of Age: Old Lesbian Life Stories*.

- If you, too, would like to leave a legacy to help ensure OLOC's future, please contact us at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or 888-706-7506.
- Are you getting a tax refund this year? If so, please consider contributing part of it to OLOC to support our work.
- Also, with Mother's Day coming up, what better way to honor your mother than by making a donation in her name to strengthen OLOC?

**If Old Lesbians don't support OLOC, who will?**



## OLOC MEMBER NEWS



## 8. Report from Women’s Night in San Diego

By OLOC Member Diane F. Germain, 1942

I went to this Women's panel event at the Lambda Archives of San Diego last night [March 23]. The topic for Women's Night was about activism and intersectionality. Each woman spoke about her membership in different groups that were part of her life, such as race, class, sex, disability status, immigrant status, religion, and how that overlaps with her orientation or gender identity.

One very salient observation was that when a person speaks up in public for a person of a different group (that the speaker does not belong to themselves) it is often listened to more and carries more weight with the audience. For example, when a white person speaks against racism or a man speaks up against misogyny, it seems to have more impact. **So, we can increase our power by being an advocate for others among all the other things we do.**



## 9. International Women’s Day Report from the Ozarks

By OLOC Administrator Susan Wiseheart, 1941

Here’s what we did today.

Mary Chipps, Mary Hoelterhoff, Blue Barringer, and I met in Ava, Missouri dressed in red to celebrate International Women’s Day. We first ate at a new restaurant run by women, two of whom we know, joined by Kris Schewe and Connie Grand; then the four of us went down to the square and walked around it, visiting each woman-owned or -run business (except the yoga studio, which is closed on Wednesday) to wish them all Happy International Women’s Day.



We were well-received at the coffee shop, the antique shop, the print shop, Jean’s Health Foods, and the Western Shop (which both Mary and Blue supported by buying new shoes). Then we went down a side street to

Jane's Beauty Shop. We were well-received there, too. Then we decided to go to the drug store and wish our friend Sharon, who works there, Happy International Women's Day.

Last stop, back on the square, was the upholstery shop, where we chatted with Audrey for awhile. It was just great. Much different than New York City, where the organizers of the January 21 Women's March were arrested outside Trump Towers. No one bothered or threatened us in any way.

We plan to go to Ava again next year. There is something very satisfying about being in the town we all relate to the most (Blue lives there) and are known and doing an action. We used to go in the Christmas Parade for a few years, along with other Lesbians and supporters, and hand out origami peace cranes we'd folded, and play drum and percussion, carrying a banner about peace. So they are used to us.



## 10. Irene Weiss Video



Kathy Wolfe wrote to ask that we share this video with all who loved OLOC Member Irene Weiss, 1926-2016. Filmed by Kathy on August 7, 2005, we all owe her a debt of gratitude for making Irene's story available to us. The video is at <https://vimeo.com/195337443/1305721f00>. Here is a review of it by a close friend of hers. Thank you, Diane!

By OLOC Member Diane F. Germain, 1942

There are so many wonderful things about the recorded biography of Irene Weiss that I will have to seriously contain myself to keep the review concise. I have known Irene since 1979 when we met at Califia, the Feminist Alternative Education Institute, or as we called it, "Lesbian Summer Camp."

Irene's process of learning her own identity was fraught with many of life's familiar potholes. As a girl, she related to the descriptions of Wilhelm Steckl

and thought she was "sick." Later, Freud claimed she was merely "retarded in her psychosexual growth."

Still she persisted! In high school, she learned about Lesbians and gays, helped by Gertrude Stein, who wrote so charmingly about Miss Furr and Miss Skene who were very gay in being gay in small ways and were then gay there. In nursing school, she found a senior-class woman with whom she was able to have a clandestine but fully articulated love affair.

Irene related personal stories of serial monogamy and the loss of several lovers to graduation, parental kidnapping, and the clashing of two butches in Greenwich Village, New York. Fortunately, Irene discovered the Women's Movement through books. Then, she found her true identity, solid and deep. She had many adventures — amusing, charming, and perilous — which she willingly shared.

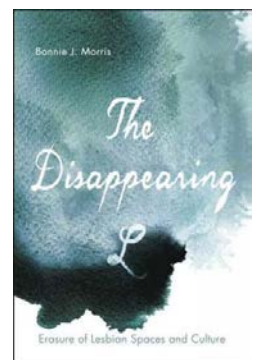
She ends with the story of her 27 years as partner-lover to Marilyn Murphy, who was a teacher, leader, and writer. [Following Marilyn's death in 2004, Irene later found love again with Michelle de Beixedon, with whom she spent her final six years.]

The best part of this recording, for me, is that I learned more new things about my friend. I feel that through this biography, I can continue my special relationship with Irene even though she has shuffled off this mortal coil.



## 11. Lesbian Books (the Best Kind, Of Course!)

*The Disappearing L: Erasure of Lesbian Spaces and Culture*, by Dr. Bonnie J. Morris, is a must-read for any and every Lesbian who is conscious of and concerned about our history and our culture. This means everyone who is aware of patriarchy's latest effort to disappear us, but as Alice Walker has noted and Dr. Bonnie here proves, no matter how hard they try, they can't banish us from the cosmos.



OLOC Co-Director Alix Dobkin, 1940

If you would like your favorite book included in a future issue of the E-News, send [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) the title of a book you have written or read by or about Lesbians within the last few years, along with a very brief summary and your year of birth.



## 12. Transformative, Educational, and Creative Programs (Oakland, CA)



Labrys School of Self-Healing Arts for Women & Girls, founded by OLOC Member Dr. Joan Margaret in 1995, is an initiative of ACE, a nonprofit organization in Oakland. Labrys is open for Spring Class Enrollment until April 20. They hope that these classes, playshops, and events support you in your personal quest for health and well-being.



## NEWS OF INTEREST TO OLOC MEMBERS



### 13. Terrific Idea for Activism

ProPublica, an investigative-journalism nonprofit organization, reported receiving \$11,500 in donations on April 3 — nearly 10 times its typical daily take — and added 70,000 Twitter followers. This came after the White Guys' House press secretary derided it as a "left-wing blog" over its reporting on changes in trust documents governing the Golfer-in-Chief's business ties.



What an excellent idea – to support the groups that are targeted by these guys, if not with donations, then by joining their mailing lists and social media to strengthen them and push back when they are attacked!



## 14. The Equality March for Unity and Pride (Washington, DC/elsewhere)

On June 11, this Lesbian and Gay Pride March will take place in Washington, DC, with multiple solidarity marches nationally and worldwide. For those who cannot attend the March in DC, we urge all our community members, their families, friends, and allies to reach out to your local Pride organizations to help coordinate solidarity marches.

Use these organizations to help bring your local communities together. The issues that face our community are not just national, but local as well. We encourage OLOC members to have a presence in their area marches and especially in DC. It would be inspiring and important to the thousands of young people who will doubtless be there to see visible contingents of Old Lesbians.

Let's make this truly a "National Pride March" that spreads from coast to coast and shows solidarity through our Pride movement. Finally...we want to keep building off the momentum and follow the leadership that Black Lives Matter and the Women's March have created in this new era of activism. To find out more:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEqualityMarch2017/> or your local Lesbian/gay news source.

[Editor: a Member asked us to include this information, but we were unable to find a website for the March. You do not need an FB account to access the page.]



## 15. Code Pink Activities (Anti-Militarism Activism)

### Shut Down Creech, April 23-29

Join them in the beautiful Nevada Desert just north of Las Vegas for the 3rd annual mobilization against killer drones. Drones operated from Creech Air Force Base drop bombs on Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, and more. Sign up to join them to shut down Creech!

<http://shutdowncreech.blogspot.com/>

### War is Not Green, April 29

To pay for his \$54 billion for war, rump wants to slash the Environmental Protection Agency by 30%. We need clean air to breathe and safe water to drink, not more tanks and warships. Say no and join them in Washington, DC, April 29 for the People's Climate March!



This **May Day** take a stand by staying home from work and taking to the streets!  
[http://www.codepink.org/may\\_day\\_2017](http://www.codepink.org/may_day_2017)

### **Mother's Day to End War, May 12-13**

In 1872, Julia Ward Howe sounded the call to Disarm, Disarm (<http://www.peace.ca/mothersdayproclamation.htm>) and declared the first "Mother's Day for Peace." This year, we will heed Julia's call and bring together our mothers, daughters, aunts, nieces, grandchildren, and all who want to work for an end to racism, Islamophobia, misogyny, militarism, violence, war, and other forms of hate. Join them in Washington, DC, for a direct action on Friday, May 12 and a Mother's Day Peace Vigil in front of the White Guys' House on Saturday, May 13.



### **16. Colorado Grassroots Fundraising Skill Share (Denver or online)**

Do you want to share and learn skills and resources for grassroots fundraising? Are you interested in ensuring your grassroots fundraising strategies support your programs and community organizing? Do you want to meet other local social justice fundraisers and organizers?

If so, please join this!

Who: Individuals raising money to support social justice movements, e.g., community organizers, development directors, board members, volunteers, etc.

When: Thursday, April 27 from 4:00-6:00 P.M.

Where: Mitch Ackerman Room, Justice for All Center, 2525 W. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO. Parking is available.

Accessibility: Space is wheelchair accessible. Spanish language interpretation and child care are available by request through registration form.



How: Register online

[https://docs.google.com/a/grassrootsfundraising.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxM\\_OPPCsdphWuUCQXHT-](https://docs.google.com/a/grassrootsfundraising.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxM_OPPCsdphWuUCQXHT-QaVZCKOi2y6XGRz_jDS2FNnTVRA/viewform?c=0&w=1)

[QaVZCKOi2y6XGRz\\_jDS2FNnTVRA/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/a/grassrootsfundraising.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxM_OPPCsdphWuUCQXHT-QaVZCKOi2y6XGRz_jDS2FNnTVRA/viewform?c=0&w=1). This event is free. Space is limited. They plan to livestream it on Facebook. Registration is not required to view the stream.



### **17. BART Sings for Black Lives Matter/Protect the Vulnerable (N. Berkeley)**

Occupella organizes informal public singing at Bay Area occupation sites, marches, and BART (subway) stations. They sing to promote peace, justice, and an end to corporate domination, especially in support of the Occupy movement.



Occupella has had big demonstrations for women, in support of Standing Rock, against the Muslim Ban, and for climate justice, but Black people are still being killed and injured by the police, and media attention is not focused on this. They want to keep this struggle in people's (particularly white/suburban people's) consciousness.

There are lots of ways to participate and everyone is welcome. Not in the Bay Area? You can make use of the online songbook and start a branch of Occupella in your community.

Event: BART Sings for Black Lives Matter/Protect the Vulnerable  
Thursday, April 20 from 5:30-6:30 P.M.  
North Berkeley BART  
<http://www.occupella.org/>



### **18. Black Women Rise Reports**

1) By Delores M. Walters, BWR presenter and organizer, 1944



Black Women Rise, a multigenerational and multiracial gathering held March 17-18 in West Palm Beach, Florida, was an amazing event. According to one of my friends, the conference was “The best one I ever attended. The presenters were so passionate and committed to their cause that we were all inspired and empowered.”

To back up my friend’s point that “lots of good things will come from this conference,” I reunited with an academic-scholar activist who was part of a group that spoke out against racial, gender, and LGBT exclusion in higher education in the 1990s. She came to my presentation and bought two copies of my co-edited book (*Women, Slavery, and the Legacy of Margaret Garner*, University of Illinois Press, 2013)! These community and university women whose activist perspective contributed to my survival in academia more than 20 years ago continue to be supporters today!

Beyond the joy of interacting with highly distinguished and respected authors and scholars, past and present, it was equally gratifying and energizing to encounter women from amazingly diverse backgrounds, including so many younger women. I really appreciated the multigenerational aspect of the panels — imagine being able to match the passion and intensity of the ever-revolutionary Dr. Angela Davis! As younger activists, Danielle Allen, Nadine Smith, Tananarive Due, and Judge Helen Whitener were all outstanding.

Other panels included Black Women in Electoral Politics; Black Women in Corrections, Law Enforcement, and on the Bench; and a Women of the Harlem Renaissance revue. For the latter, Jorjet Harper illustrated known and lesser-known Black female singers of the 1920s and ‘30s with a slide show interspersed with the deeply resonant singing of Nedra Johnson and spoken words of C.C. Carter.

Clearly, there were many highlights in a conference that educated, engaged, and empowered participants through presenters’ words, music, art, and dance. Overall, it was the breadth, depth, and wealth of contributions by presenters AND the organizers, especially from BLAST (Bi, Lesbian, and Straight Together), who made this such a memorable event. Without powerful organizing, the presenters would not have had the

opportunity to radiate their brilliance before so many. I am grateful to be among those passionate, committed, and visionary women who birthed this revolutionary event.

## 2) By OLOC Member Sandra Tignor, 1937

“The women, the women,” (and two men), made it to Florida’s West Palm Beach to attend the first Black Women Rise conference. In the comfort and beauty of the Embassy Suites, African-American women shared their lives, vocations, and expertise. From what I could determine, there were approximately 200 attendees, from a variety of ethnic and age backgrounds.

The workshops were quite diverse; among the topics were: “Sexual Abuse in the Black Church,” a topic that has not been discussed openly often enough, to my knowledge (the presenter was Dr. Charmayne Davis). “Can W---e Talk? Biracial/Multiracial Conversation for Women of Color,” moderated by Michiko Bailey, Laura Irene Wayne, and Veronica Drake, was interactive and spirited.

“The Art and Spirit of Drumming” workshop, facilitated by the well-known Ubaka Hill, was fantastic, uplifting, and well-attended. Dr. C.C. Carter and Ms. Karen Williams were among the luminaries of the conference. Saving the most well-known luminary (probably) for last: Dr. Angela Davis spoke magnificently about women, African-American women, and their upward climb to equality and justice.

## 3) By Toni Armstrong, Jr., BWR organizer, 1954

- The conference was a huge success. Approximately 240 participants attended, ranging in age from 14 to 83 years old, and they came from 20 states, DC, and Canada.
- Denise Walker and OLOC Member Connie Kurtz, 1936, collaborated to create a stunning Black women's history quilt that drew a substantial donation via silent auction that turned into a real auction.
- There is great demand to have the event again in 2018, so we are going to do that.
- We have added Karen Williams and Lillie Harris to the production team, two dynamic high school girls to the youth leadership development team, and a Northwestern University professor to head up the college

outreach team, and we are already beginning to sign performers and presenters for next year.

- Financially, there is still a significant deficit, and we hope you will support BLAST’s ongoing “Retire the Debt” events.



### 19. Landyke Book Seeking Stories

The land movement of the 1970’s and ’80’s brought wimmin to lands and lands to wimmin to explore our strength, skills, independence, interdependence, spirituality, culture, community, and creativity. Many wimmin, landykes, and lands have come into being since then. Many of the lands in the first book about landykes have changed, developed ways to live self-sustainably, transitioned to new members, and/or formed new alliances with neighbors and urban Lesbians.



LESBIAN  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES

It is time to tell these stories. We have much to gain from one another’s experience and wisdom ways, from our relationships to the natural world and our place in it. The story of your land is important to all landykes, and to those who will be coming. For more information, go to <http://www.lesbiannaturalresources.org/news/>.



### 20. *Left On Pearl* Update (Boston, Massachusetts)

The movie will have its official premiere at the Boston International Film Festival. The first showing, on Friday, April 14, which we told you about last month, is sold out, so a second screening has been added. It is scheduled for Monday, April 17, at 5:00 P.M. at AMC Loews Boston Common at 175 Tremont Street. [Click here](#) to buy tickets.



### 21. Sequel to *Lesbiana* is on Its Way!

OLOC Member rainbow williams, 1934, wrote to tell us: “Myriam Fougere, who took her film *Lesbiana* to Europe and met activists there, has made a

new documentary [*Feminista*] which I previewed at Pagoda New Year's week, and it's another award-winning film! She's in the process of funding through Indiegogo and if you can help launch it, you will be glad!"

OLOC has *Lesbiana* in our Media Library, so you can rent it at no charge, with a small donation requested for postage. Contact [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) if you would like the film sent to you.



## 22. For Lesléa Newman Fans (New York, Massachusetts, and Texas)



After a long hiatus from writing fiction, Jewish femme Lesléa Newman (with Neshama in photo) has resumed writing short stories, and a new piece, *Maidel*, has just been published in *Persimmon Tree: An Online Magazine of the Arts By Women Over Sixty*.

Lesléa is the author of 70 books, including short stories, novels, and novels-in-verse. Her literary awards include writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation. Her newest poetry collection, *I Carry My Mother*, explores a daughter's journey through her mother's illness and death and how she carries on without her. She will be reading from her work at the following locations:

Reading and booksigning: *I Carry My Mother*

Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 P.M.

The Twig Bookshop, 306 Peak Parkway, San Antonio, TX; 210-826-6411

Poetry Reading with Molly Peacock and Dale Matthews

Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00 P.M.

Broadside Books, 247 Main Street, Northampton, MA; 413-586-4235

Reading from *I Carry My Mother*

Sunday, April 30 at 11:00 A.M.

Sons of Zion Synagogue, 378 Maple Street, Holyoke, MA

Fierce Hearts: A Poetry Reading with Joy Ladin and Cheryl Boyce Taylor

Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 P.M.

BGSQD (Bureau of General Services, Queer Division), LGBT Community Center, 208 West 13th Street, Room 210, New York, NY



### **23. Out Books On Wheels Updates (Northampton, Massachusetts)**

The Archives housing Out Books On Wheels is coming along nicely. The Open House will probably be in early summer. Until then, you may pick up books when they are delivered to OLOC, GenQ in Northampton, and Gen Q in Greenfield.

Out Books may also be borrowed from Forbes Library in Northampton. They are located on the ground floor in the Main Room on the Sojourner Truth carousel. If needed, you may contact them via e-mail for a personal delivery. For more information, please write Jean Savarese at [OutBooks@SexualMinoritiesArchives.org](mailto:OutBooks@SexualMinoritiesArchives.org) or call her at 413-538-4750.



### **24. Any Playwrights Out There?**

Senior Theatre Resource Center ([www.seniortheatre.com](http://www.seniortheatre.com)) is selecting new plays, books, and materials for its 2018-19 catalog. The goal is to meet the needs of older (sic) performers, from amateur to professional, so the catalog has something for everyone, from short and easy sketches to three-act musicals.

The collection features plays and musicals of all lengths, but short shows which run up to 20 minutes are the most popular. Directors look for comedies with mainly female casts that require few technical elements and ones that can be staged as readers theatre.

The deadline is June 15. Before you send it in, please review the [catalog](#), read [Writing Plays for Senior Theatre](#), and Follow the [Writers' Guidelines](#). To find out more, call 503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998, or e-mail [bonniev@seniortheatre.com](mailto:bonniev@seniortheatre.com).



## 25. Nominations Sought for Lifetime Achievement Award in Neuroscience

The Society for Neuroscience is seeking nominations for the 2017 Mika Salpeter Lifetime Achievement Award. The annual award recognizes an individual with outstanding career achievements in neuroscience who has also significantly promoted the professional advancement of women in the field. The recipient will receive a \$5,000 prize and registration, transportation, and hotel accommodations for the annual meeting.

The deadline is June 9. For more information: [www.sfn.org/Awards-and-Funding/Individual-Prizes-and-Fellowships/Outstanding-Research-and-Career-Awards/Mika-Salpeter-Lifetime-Achievement-Award](http://www.sfn.org/Awards-and-Funding/Individual-Prizes-and-Fellowships/Outstanding-Research-and-Career-Awards/Mika-Salpeter-Lifetime-Achievement-Award).



## 26. Multicultural Women's Healing Hearts Dialogue (Brewster area, MA)

A Multicultural Women's Healing Hearts Dialogue will take place on Saturday, May 20 from 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. It will be co-facilitated by Jeanne Morrison and Tia Cross. Feel free to bring your journal/writing materials, a beverage, and some munchies. If you have questions, to get the location, or to sign up (necessary), you can contact Tia at 508-385-3114 or [tcross38@gmail.com](mailto:tcross38@gmail.com).



## 27. Women's Community Drum Circle (Sebastopol, California)

Come join Miss Daisy's Magical Wonderland's Monthly Drum Circle. It meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month; please check website calendar to confirm. Upcoming dates are: April 23 and May 28, starting at 3:30 P.M. All levels and styles are welcome. A love offering of \$10-\$20 is requested, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, go to [www.missdaisysmagicalmusicland.com](http://www.missdaisysmagicalmusicland.com) or call Miss Daisy at 707-478-7419. Bring your towel and stay for a soak in the hot tub!



## 28. Music in Michigan (not the Festival, but...)

More information on the following concerts is at [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org) except where indicated otherwise.

- 04/17: Tift Merritt - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 04/21: Chenille Sisters - Ten Pound Fiddle, East Lansing, <http://tenpoundfiddle.org/>
- 04/21: Over the Rhine - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 04/23: Paula Cole - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 05/02: Eileen Jewel - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 05/11: Mouths of Babes - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 05/20: Lucy Kaplansky - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 05/20: Grand Rapids Women's Chorus Spring Concert - East Grand Rapids Performing Arts Center, <http://grwc.org/events.php>
- 06/02: Annie & Rod Capps - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 06/10: Cowboy Junkies - The Ark, Ann Arbor
- 06/16: Valerie June - The Ark, Ann Arbor



## 29. Toshi Reagon and Big Lovely Concert (Berkeley, California)



Toshi and her band will be in concert! Enjoy retro funk, urban blues, and folk.

When: Saturday, May 6 at 8:00 P.M. Doors open at 7:00 P.M.

Where: Freight and Salvage, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley

<http://thefreight.org/toshi-reagon-and-big-lovely>

Cost: \$35 advance/\$38 at the door. [Purchase tickets online.](#)



## 30. Cris Williamson/Barbara Higbie/Teresa Trull: The Reunion Tour (CA)

This is the first time they have played together in 10 years! Back momentarily from New Zealand, Teresa Trull joins forces with Barbara



Higbie and Cris Williamson for a couple evenings of your old and new favorites.



When: Friday, May 5 at 7:00 P.M.

Where: Occidental Center for the Arts, 3850 Doris Murphy Ct., **Occidental**, CA

Cost: \$27 in advance/\$30 at the door.

Tickets: at [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com). Call 800-838-3006 or visit [occidentalcenterforthearts.org](http://occidentalcenterforthearts.org). [On

April 5, we heard the show is almost sold out, so get your tickets now!]

When: Sunday, May 7, 7:00 P.M.

Where: Freight and Salvage, 2020 Addison St., **Berkeley**, CA

Cost: \$45 premium advance (includes Meet and Greet)/\$30 in advance/\$34 at the door. [Purchase tickets online](#)

(<https://www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1433086>).



### 31. Singing for Our Lives (Vancouver, BC, Canada)

Holly Near (vocals; center in photo), Tammy Hall (keyboards; right in photo), Jan Martinelli (bass; left in photo), and Tory Trujillo (in pink) will



bring songs of hope and awareness to Vancouver.

When: Monday, May 22 at 7:30 P.M; doors open at 6:45 P.M.

Where: St. James Community Square  
3214 W. 10th at Trutch,



Vancouver, BC, Canada

Cost: Sliding scale \$30-\$45. This is a paperless event and names will be held at the door. Purchase tickets at

<http://www.soundsandfuries.com/concerts.html>.



### 32. Zoë Lewis in Concert (Santa Rosa, California)

Troubadour, vaudevillian, storyteller, adventurer, and singer-songwriter Zoë Lewis will perform at Oakmont, a 55+ housing development. She plays jazz, jump jive, Latin grooves, swing, international folk, and funk originals on anything from the piano to the spoons!



When: Saturday, May 13 [we don't have the time]  
Where: Oakmont Village's Berger Center  
Cost: Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased by sending a check (payable to ORW) [Oakmont Rainbow Women] to Sue Dibble, 6519 Meadowridge Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Your tickets can be picked up at "will-call" in the Berger Center after 6:30 P.M.

Note: This event is for Oakmont residents and their guests. Please be sure you can provide your host's name (Sherri Hoefling or Sue Dibble) if asked. You can attend if you say you are their guest. For questions and to make sure tickets are still available, contact Sue at 707-623-9097 or [oakmontrainbowwomen@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontrainbowwomen@gmail.com).



### 33. Festivals and Gatherings!

#### **Amazon Music Festival**

April 22

Fayetteville, Arkansas

[www.reneejanski.com/amazon-music-festival](http://www.reneejanski.com/amazon-music-festival)

#### **Sistrum: Lansing's Women's Chorus**     **NEW!**

May 12-13

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

<http://www.sistrum.org/events-tickets/>

#### **Midwest Wimmin's Festival**

May 16-21

Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri

[www.midwestfestival.com](http://www.midwestfestival.com)

**Womonwrites**

May 17-21

Near Atlanta, Georgia

[www.womonwrites.wordpress.com](http://www.womonwrites.wordpress.com)

**Virginia Women's Music Festival**

May 26-28

Kent's Store, Virginia

[www.campoutva.com](http://www.campoutva.com)

**Cinema Systems Film Festival**

May 26-28

Paducah, Kentucky

[www.cinemasystems.com](http://www.cinemasystems.com)

**Where Womyn Gather**

June 8-11

N. E. Pennsylvania

<http://wherewomyngather.com/>

**Artemis Singers Concert**

June 17

Chicago, Illinois

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

**National Women's Music Festival**

July 6-9

Middleton, Wisconsin

<http://www.wiaonline.org>

**OLOC National Gathering**

August 2-6

Tampa Bay area, Florida

<http://oloc.org/new-event/gathering/2017-2/>

**Michigan Family Reunion**

August 4-7

Near Grand Rapids, Michigan

[www.michiganfamilyreunion.com](http://www.michiganfamilyreunion.com)

**Butch Voices**

August 17-20

Oakland, California

<http://www.butchvoices.com/butchvoices-2017-conference/>

**Savanna Moon Music Celebration**

August 18-20

Near Stockholm, Wisconsin

[www.savannamoon.org/events](http://www.savannamoon.org/events)

**BOLDFest**

August 31-September 4

Vancouver, BC, Canada

[www.boldfest.com](http://www.boldfest.com)

**Sisterspace Weekend**

September 8-10

Darlington, Maryland

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

**Ohio Lesbian Festival**

September 14-17

Near Columbus, Ohio

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



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- 1) Secure credit card or PayPal account by going to [OLOC.org](http://OLOC.org) and clicking the yellow “donate” button on the right side of the page.
- 2) Credit card over the phone by calling Ruth Debra at 760-318-6794 (if you can’t reach her, e-mail [Ruth@oloc.org](mailto:Ruth@oloc.org) to set up a time to talk).
- 3) Check sent to OLOC, P.O. Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.

Whichever method you use, please mention that you are responding to the E-News. Your support is deeply appreciated and will be acknowledged.



We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of the OLOC E-News! If you have any comments, feedback, or questions, reply to this e-mail or to [Susan@oloc.org](mailto:Susan@oloc.org) and include whether or not you want a response. Also contact Susan if you want to sign up as a member or supporter or be taken off this list. If you have something of specific interest to Old Lesbians to share with our other readers, please send your information to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) by the first week of the month (sooner if possible) for that month's issue and clearly mark the e-mail subject heading "OLOC E-News." Include your name (or indicate if you want to be anonymous) and birth year. We may edit for length or clarity, and we reserve the right to decide which contributions to publish.



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