

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

Founded in 1989



## Lesbian Activism Changing the World: OLOC Celebrates 25 Years

*By Alix Dobkin, 1940*

Plans are well underway for the 2014 OLOC National Gathering, Wednesday, July 23rd, through Sunday, July 27th, in Oakland, California. The national OLOC Steering Committee and Bay Area chapter have been working closely to make this a unique and outstanding celebration honoring where we came from. Rich in Lesbian resources and herstory, the Bay Area is home to OLOC's oldest and largest chapter. They were eager to host our 25th anniversary celebration at the site of the first Gathering in 1989, which led to the formation of OLOC a bit later that year, and where Lesbian feminists have been creating culture and community in northern California for decades.

At the end of September, during our last SC meeting in Oakland, "the Nationals" as we became known, spent a day getting acquainted with members of the Bay Area OLOC chapter at their fall retreat. A few days later the local planning committee joined us for an afternoon at the Oakland Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, site of the upcoming Gathering, where we continued the work previously conducted via e-mail and meetings with conference calls and Skype.

We are working so that you'll be able to relax and hang out in our hospitality room, check out the vendors, browse the book

exchange, and survey the latest as well as old favorite T-shirts.

In addition to a Writers' Night, we will feature noted authors Dorothy Allison and Cherríe Moraga and poet Chrystos. The entire event will kick off with a full day on feminism and activism—past, present, and future.

Prepare yourself to be excited and inspired by the program, which includes workshops and caucuses to choose from, Live and Silent Auctions, a Memorial Celebration, and a cross-generational panel. Evening programs will welcome women of all ages, including a one-of-a-kind dance with the Bay Area Lesbian Legends Boogie Band.

It's a big job to produce a Gathering and coordinate the tasks between the national Steering Committee and the local OLOC chapter. Every one of us plans that this celebration of our 25th year will be the best one yet.



The Reporter — A quarterly publication of OLOC

OLOC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Vol 23, Issue 4  
Dec 2013

### The OLOC Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

- ♦ [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)
- ♦ e-mail: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)
- ♦ Post Office Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701

### This Newsletter Brought to You By:

Co-Editors: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Proofreaders and Copy-editors: Nancy Krody, 1939 and Cheryl Larsen, 1949.

Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942.

Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.

The mailing crew and all of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is Feb 1, 2014. Limit submissions to 300 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to OLOC at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens OH 45701.

If you are a member of national OLOC who wants to be on OLOC's national yahoo e-mail list, you can subscribe by going to [groups.yahoo.com/group/NationalOLOC/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NationalOLOC/). If any problems, contact [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org).

To find OLOC on Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC](http://www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC).

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation and the Carpenter Foundation. OLOC thanks these foundations for their grants.

OLOC maintains a video library and will lend items to members. For a complete list of items available, check the web site: [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)

To find out about OLOC chapters and groups, presently in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington State, and Washington DC, look here: [www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php](http://www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php). Or call us: 888-706-7506.

---

### Del Martin Award – 2014

OLOC will award the 3<sup>rd</sup> Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award of \$1,000.00 plus travel, registration, and lodging expenses for the Gathering to the winner for 2014.

Send nominations for the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award to OLOC by March 15, 2014.

Any OLOC member can make a nomination.

Your nominee must be a living Old Lesbian 70 years of age or older.

You should describe her outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements.

You should also show how she has benefited the lives of Lesbians.

The award will be presented at the OLOC National Gathering in Oakland, July 2014.

Send your nominations with full contact information for yourself and your nominee to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or to OLOC, POB 5853, Athens, OH 45701.



Del Martin



## Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

### Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

#### Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH, [jan@oloc.org](mailto:jan@oloc.org)  
740-448-6424

Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY, [alix@oloc.org](mailto:alix@oloc.org)  
845-679-7586

#### Steering Committee Members:

Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA, [ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org)  
760-318-6794

Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH,  
[sally@oloc.org](mailto:sally@oloc.org), 216-862-0598

Bonnie Wagner, 1942, Woodstock, NY,  
[bonnie@oloc.org](mailto:bonnie@oloc.org) 845-679-7710 or 845-417-1481

Cheryl Larsen, 1949, Dobbs Ferry, NY, [cheryl@oloc.org](mailto:cheryl@oloc.org)  
914-693-7855

Pat Cull, 1942, Oakland, CA, [pat@oloc.org](mailto:pat@oloc.org)  
415-637-5002

### OLOC Vision Statement

OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian feminist activists from many backgrounds working for justice and the well-being of all Old Lesbians.

### Mission Statement for OLOC

#### We are committed to:

- ♦ addressing what it means to be Old and to be Lesbian
- ♦ finding ways to gather Old Lesbians for ongoing support
- ♦ working against all oppressions that affect Old Lesbians
- ♦ standing in solidarity with allies for racial, economic, and social justice

#### OLOC works for change by supporting:

- ♦ comprehensive immigration reform
- ♦ elimination of violence against women
- ♦ enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- ♦ all efforts to challenge/overturn racism, classism, sexism, ageism
- ♦ an end to corporate "personhood"
- ♦ reinstating the Voting Rights Act

*OLOC's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or e-mail.*



### July Gathering Workshop Proposals Due No Later Than March 20

Workshop proposals for the 2014 OLOC National Gathering in Oakland, CA, will be accepted until March 20, 2014. We hope many of you will consider sharing your expertise and experience with us! Preference will be given to workshops relating to our theme, "Lesbian Activism Changing the World."

#### Please send:

1. Workshop title.
2. Workshop content/outline (one short paragraph).
3. Leader's (and co-presenters', if any) name, birth date, age, phone number, e-mail address, race/ethnicity, and a brief (50-word) bio. Please submit exactly as you want to see it in the program. It may be edited.
4. Maximum number of workshop participants.
5. Materials/equipment/room set-up that you need. LIMITED help is available for supplies and/or equipment. You must let us know exactly what you need.
6. Presenter photo (please upload .jpg photos if at all possible, approx 300 dpi). We may use these for publicity, but they will not appear in the program book.
7. Social media connections (website, Facebook URL, Twitter URL, any other).

Do you need any other assistance?

Please be aware that workshop leaders must register for the Gathering and are not compensated in any way.

Send proposals by email to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) (preferred) or in print to Bonnie Wagner, 11 Olde Zena Lane, Kingston NY 12401.

With questions, call 888-706-7506.



## Sept 2013 Steering Committee Meeting

*By Cheryl Larsen, 1949*

The National OLOC Steering Committee held its fall meeting in Oakland, California, July 23–27, 2013, at the Oakland Marriott, the site of the 2014 National Gathering. The National Steering Committee met with the Bay area OLOC group and was thrilled with preparations and plans for the Gathering, which will feature fabulous speakers, a writers' night, and a dance with the Bay Area Lesbian Legends Boogie Band.

As with any Steering Committee meeting, there were a lot of both practical and policy issues to deal with. One of the major items discussed was strategic planning for OLOC. We agreed to look into some new initiatives including (a) outreach to women in isolated areas, (b) creating an OLOC video for use in developing new chapters, and (c) pushing for insurers and Medicare to pay for dental, vision, and hearing coverage. Another major policy discussion concerned the membership statement, the current version of which is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

No Steering Committee meeting would be complete without talk about finances, since the organization's financial needs are greater than ever before. OLOC continues to be grateful for the generous responses to the annual fundraising requests, especially in light of the anticipated financial-assistance needs for the 2014 Gathering. Additionally, planned-giving brochures are available for those members who are in a position to remember OLOC in their long-term plans.

The Steering Committee values and carefully considers suggestions and comments from its members. We look forward to hearing from you.

**OLOC T-Shirts Denim Shirts  
Sweatshirts Cloisonné Lapel  
Pins Buttons And More!**  
**e-mail, phone, write, or go to**  
**[www.oloc.org/market/market.html](http://www.oloc.org/market/market.html)**  
**and click on OLOC Market.**

## Lesbian Legacies: Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project Conference

*By Ruth Debra, 1944*

I attended the Lesbian Legacies Conference held in Houston, TX, Oct. 10–13. All 96 attendees seemed to think it was a wonderful conference.

I found the structure quite different and very interesting. Instead of workshops, there were interactive facilitated Focused Discussion Groups with diverse topics. This structure made it possible for all women to speak and tell their own truths.

There were a number of excellent and interesting Panel Discussions. I participated in the one titled "OLOHP: Where We Go from Here." Other Panels were on Women's Music, Lesbian books, authors, Birds of a Feather, the Civil Rights Movement, etc.

Highlights for me were the two Keynote speakers, Lillian Faderman and Mayor An-nise Parker. Both spoke well and clearly to the audience, which was primarily Old Lesbians, including quite a few OLOC members. I think there were about 15 members of the Puget Sound OLOC Chapter helping to make this conference a success. I also appreciated a dramatization of abstracts from some of the Old Lesbian Herstories. There was a concert by Jamie Anderson and a dance and a raffle.

I staffed the hospitality room, a great opportunity to promote OLOC and our upcoming Gathering. I sold OLOC and OLOHP shirts and received one membership renewal and a donation toward financial assistance for our upcoming Gathering. I am very grateful to OLOC for sending me to this conference.

I know the amount of work that went into this conference was enormous and so commend the organizers (primarily Arden, Margaret, and Mary) for taking it on, and the volunteering was a terrific group endeavor.

### Washington, DC, Area – New Chapter Forms

By Deb Friedman, 1949, and Carol Anne Douglas, 1946

It's time that our nation's capital had its own OLOC chapter, and now we do! We have launched an OLOC chapter in DC and the nearby areas of Maryland and Virginia. Our first action was participating, together with Alix Dobkin and Jan Griesinger of national OLOC and Jeanne Walton of West Virginia in the August 24 march commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream* speech. Jeanne and Alix had participated in the original event in 1963.

It was deeply moving to be part of this march. Many people commented favorably on our OLOC signs and on a "This is What an Old Lesbian Looks Like" T-shirt.

Though being in DC will enable us to participate in national actions, our main focus will be local. Our November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at the Methodist Home of DC. We are really pleased that organization is letting us use its space, and perhaps members in other cities can find space at similar institutions. If any readers in our area would like to attend, you can find more information by contacting Carol Anne Douglas ([caroldouglas12@gmail.com](mailto:caroldouglas12@gmail.com)) or Deb Friedman ([jwanddf@juno.com](mailto:jwanddf@juno.com)).

### St. Louis, Missouri

By Charlotte Ellis, 1943

The St. Louis chapter was pleased to welcome women from all over to the Regional Gathering held here in July.

In August we watched the film *Brother Outsider* about Bayard Rustin in honor of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. A lively discussion followed.

As a result of the regional gathering, we have some new women attending our meetings.

### Hudson Valley, New York

By Bonnie Wagner, 1942

Our chapter recently sponsored two events that were open to the community. We organized an Alix Dobkin concert at the

LGBTQ Center in Kingston on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The concert brought together Old Lesbians who had attended Alix Dobkin performances in the Woodstock area in the 1970s with women from throughout the Hudson Valley.

Our chapter also sponsored a reading of *Hick*, by Terry Baum, about the relationship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok. The reading was awesome, and we all are looking forward to seeing the play.

In addition to these two events, which drew large attendance from women throughout the Hudson Valley, we are planning to hold a clothing swap at the LGBTQ Center.

### Boston, Massachusetts: New Chapter Up and Running

By Judith Stein, 1952

Our October 6 meeting of OLOC Boston was very successful. The 18–20 lesbians in attendance want to continue as a group and liked our proposal for shifting from CR-type discussions to political-education-type sessions, with an emphasis on how these topics affect Old Lesbians.

The programs planned for the coming year include:

Viewing the movie *Heist*. To get our post-movie discussion started, Ann Kennedy, Gay Ferguson, and Sarah Pearlman volunteered to share their first impressions (be 1<sup>st</sup> responders) after the movie.

A presentation/discussion about environmental issues. Jean Weber and Sue Reamer will prepare information and discussion questions.

A memoir-writing workshop led by Jyl Lyn Felman.

A discussion about end-of-life issues based on the *Wall Street Journal* article "The Ultimate End of Life Plan," led by Judith Stein and Barbara Mantel, with Gay Ferguson as our "guest resource."

A program focusing on other decentralized activist organizations, organized/led by Alice Fisher.

## Puget Sound, Washington State

By Gloria Stancich, 1935

### *Lesbian Legacies OLOHP Symposium*

More than a dozen women from the Pacific Northwest attended the recent OLOHP (Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project) Symposium in Houston, TX, titled *Celebrating Our Lesbian Legacies*. The event drew Lesbians from all around the country (and Canada), the majority of whom had given their oral herstory and/or are working on interviewing, transcribing, or otherwise contributing to the Project. Lesbian historian Lillian Faderman keynoted, and Jamie Anderson provided music and song. The event was very well organized and presented, with panels and focused discussion groups being tape-recorded for future transcription and then archived with other project pieces at Smith College. There was an impressive display of the history of the OLOHP, including a graphic chart of where the women who gave their stories lived and whether the interviewers had traveled there by auto, airplane, or motor home!

### *Lesbiana Screening*

While some of us were in Houston, others helped out as Puget Sound OLOC sponsored the screening of *Lesbiana: A Parallel Revolution* at the Seattle Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. This film is the product of extensive work done by Myriam Fougere, who researched the separatist movement in the US and Canada in the 1970s, 80s, and early 90s. Alix Dobkin, current co-director of the National OLOC Steering Committee, was in the film, and many other OLOC members were interviewed as well. We learned that the screening was well attended and enthusiastically received! We're watching for a re-release date, so others of us can see it also.

## Central Ohio OLOC – Rally to Protest Ohio Laws

By Pam Jackson, 1941

On October 2, three members of Central Ohio OLOC—Debbie Ratliff, Jan Griesinger, and Pam Jackson—joined close to one thousand other participants on the State House lawn to protest the draconian bills passed regarding women, their health care, and severe limitations on abortion rights. Some of these bills were passed in late hours and, of course, with all-male participation.

More than 60 agencies, groups, and corporations were involved in organizing this event. Representatives of the medical community spoke and presented a strong presence in the day's activities.

We received many positive responses to our OLOC banner.

The whole point of these laws is control of women. Let's continue to remind women that it does matter who you vote for!

## Marching for Jobs and Freedom 1963 and 2013

By Jeanne Walton, 1925

I marched in Washington, DC, 50 years ago and, at the age of 88, I marched again on Saturday, August 24, 2013.

People ask me about the difference between the two marches. There were several differences—some minor, some major.

Fifty years ago, many black women attending the march were dressed up as if they were going to church, and many black men wore suits and ties.

This year I saw many more children of all ages and especially little children. I mean babies and toddlers in carriers, carriages, and strollers. At the time of the first march there



OLOC is a Wolfe Video affiliate. Use this link to order from Wolfe, and OLOC will receive cash to support our work. Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.  
[wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344](http://wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344)

were rumors that there would be violence, and city police and the National Guard were present, so parents, of course, would not want to expose their children to danger. Now, in 2013, I think parents wanted their children to be able to say, 50 years from now, “We were there.”

This year there was a large number of different organizations supporting the black struggle for freedom and jobs, but also seeking recognition of their own striving for full equality. There were groups representing labor demanding an increase in the minimum wage, women’s groups, immigrants, gays and Lesbians, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, senior citizens, people with disabilities, people living in poverty. All these groups saw their oppression linked to the oppression of others.

At the first march, speakers and marchers spoke of civil rights workers who were killed in the struggle. In this march, speakers and marchers spoke of Trayvon Martin, whose murderer was acquitted, and the Voting Rights Act that was gutted by the US Supreme Court.

The speakers agreed that we had come a long way but that we still have a long way to go to achieve equal rights for all in this, the richest country in the world, which also likes to think of itself as the best and greatest country in the world.

### March On Washington

*By Jan Griesinger, 1942*

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington was celebrated over several days. The biggest march was Saturday, August 24 but the one that probably got the most publicity was Wednesday, August 28.



Jeanne Walton  
at the march

Nine of us from OLOC marched on August 24th (we were from the states of New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, New Jersey, West Virginia, and the DC area) and were well received with our large, purple OLOC banner. Many, many people wanted to take a picture of it and some wanted their own picture taken in front of or behind it. One woman gave us a cheer and said, “My mother is an Old Lesbian.” Others just giggled—the sort of involuntary, bodily reaction when they see the word “OLD.” A man said he would put a photo on his Facebook account, so who knows where we could show up.

At least three OLOC members also attended the event on August 28. Some of the key issues raised: the curtailing of voting rights done by the Supreme Court recently; seeking justice in the Trayvon Martin case; raising the minimum wage; eliminating mandatory minimum jail sentences; implementing comprehensive immigration reform; establishing statehood for DC.

Many speakers noted that women had not spoken at the 1963 event. However, a lot of women spoke this time—by my count about 45%, including groups such as NOW, National Council of Negro Women, and Planned Parenthood. Labor Unions were also a large, visible presence (such as SEIU, AFSCME, AFGE, NEA/UFT).

One of the most radical speakers was the Rev. Al Sharpton, one of the March organizers. He mentioned tax breaks for the rich, bailing out banks and corporations, and the need to flip some members of Congress. He also said, “Rosa Parks was no whore; Fannie Lou Hamer was no bitch.”



Carole Anne Douglas  
at the march

### Reminder to OLOC Chapters and Groups:

Mandy Carter has requested that every OLOC chapter and group show the movie *Brother Outsider*, which is about Bayard Rustin, the out gay African American man who organized the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington and was a cohort of Martin Luther King, Jr. If you need a copy, let us know; we have several to loan. Individuals, you are welcome to borrow and show it, too.

### Mailing List Updated

We added everyone attending the September Bay Area Retreat who wasn't already included to our mailing list. The listing will continue through June of 2014 so everyone will receive all of the information about the upcoming Gathering in July. If you were added and you prefer a different format than the one you received (print or pdf), let Susan know at [Susan@oloc.org](mailto:Susan@oloc.org) or 888-706-7506.

### Estates/Bequests

OLOC honors recent donations from the estates of Susan Kuhner, Kent OH; Dotty Fowler, Berkeley, CA; and Sandra Tappen, Seal Beach, CA. We deeply appreciate that OLOC members chose to contribute substantially to OLOC's ongoing work.

### Additions to Our List of Writers:

We regret that we missed listing Carol Anne Douglas and Batya Weinbaum as writers who have published books. There may be more of you out there. If so, just let us know.

### OLOC Thanks Our Many Volunteers

OLOC depends upon volunteers to get much of the organizing and work done at all levels. We greatly appreciate all of this good work. Besides those already listed elsewhere for our newsletter production, we owe a debt of thanks to the chapter and group contact Lesbians and organizers. Thanks also to Cristina Vegas, who handles the steering committee and chapter contacts e-mail lists, does the Memorial Slide Show, and has

provided us with over 50 video DVDs of OLOC events. Then there are Suzanne McHugh, who looks in on the website now and then and gives her expert input; Susan Bader, who also looked over the site and gave us some ideas; Nan Worthing, who is devoted to mailing out *The Reporter* and assembling fund-raising letters for mailing; and everyone who helps out at Gatherings in myriad ways. In addition, we have several workers on contract for small or large jobs, including our webkeeper, Darlene Duncan, and Connie Rose, graphic designer. We may have a PR Lesbian by the time you read this. And, thanks to the SC members who contribute so much unpaid time to making OLOC work for all of us and to Susan Wiseheart, whose contract work helps keep it all going.

### News of our Founders

Barbara Kalish (1929) and Cristina Vegas (1945) were recently married after being together for 28 years (to the day). Barbara was a Founder of OLOC and, although Cristina was too young to be a member at the time of the founding, she attended all the founding meetings, videotaping the proceedings for our herstory. They have both continued to be active in OLOC in many valuable ways through the years.

As of September 2013, Membership Statement:

OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians. We are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Lesbian voice as well as increasing Lesbian visibility in a world that stifles it. National OLOC supports the right of all people to be treated fairly and respectfully and with equal justice under the law. National OLOC is an ally to all who struggle for justice. In the LGBTQIA\* community, we are the L. Therefore, National OLOC welcomes as members only those women who have reached their 60th year and who are Old Lesbians.

\*Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Transsexual Two-Spirit Queer Questioning Intersex Asexual and Ally.

## Lesbians in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

In this series, OLOC would like to honor several activist Old Lesbians in the next few issues of *The Reporter*. We welcome you to share your experience of the 1960s civil rights movement: PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701 or e-mail [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

Jeanne Walton, 1925, is African American and lives in Keyser, WV. You can read her story on page 6–7 of this issue.

Saundra Tignor, 1937, is African American and lives in Los Angeles, CA. “I went to Greenwood, Mississippi, for two weeks as a member of a health auxiliary team, but I did not participate in any front line work, i.e., sit-ins, marching, demonstrations etc. We did first aid, taught health classes, counseled, etc.”

Cathy Cade, 1942, is a Euro-immigrant\* who lives in Berkeley, CA. She began her life in the Midwest and then attended a segregated high school in Memphis, TN, where her first anti-racist activities were through the Unitarian Church. In the spring of 1962 she began participating in the Southern Freedom Movement while an exchange student at Spelman College, a historically Black college for women in Atlanta. She spent the next seven years working with SNCC, CORE, and local groups in Atlanta; Albany, GA; New Orleans; and Mississippi while going to graduate school. In the last couple of years she has led a Bay Area OLOC monthly support group on anti-racism and a workshop at the Cleveland National Gathering on the connections of Civil Rights and Lesbian Feminism with members of OLOC who were in the Civil Rights Movement. Cathy has written a brief memoir “My Family, The Movement, and Me,” which can be read now online at [www.crmvet.org](http://www.crmvet.org) under “Our Stories—Cathy Cade.”

Alix Dobkin, 1940, is a Euro-immigrant\* and lives in Woodstock, NY. “In college I organized a picket line at the local Woolworth’s in Philadelphia to support the sit-ins. I toured Mississippi as part of the voter registration drive.”

Sharon Raphael, 1941, is a Euro-immigrant\* and lives in Long Beach, CA. “My involvement in civil rights began officially in high school when, as a founding member of The Council on Human Rights in 10th–11th grade, 1957-58, I invited guests who were working toward civil rights to come speak to our club members. Most of the speakers were highly educated persons of color who talked about the conditions of minorities in the U.S. and around the world. This was a rudimentary attempt to allow the primarily white students in the club to have an interracial experience.”

Jan Griesinger, 1942, is a Euro-immigrant\* and lives in Athens, OH. “[I] organized a demonstration in 1963 on my campus to protest the bombing of the Fifteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL, where four young girls were killed. . . [I] attended an anti-war protest in Washington, DC, in February 1968 at which Martin Luther King was the keynote speaker.”

\*The phrase “Euro-immigrant” is used at the suggestion of Native American Old Lesbian Chrystos as an alternative to “white.”

## Why Old?

By Sharon Raphael, 1941

OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, has no problem naming itself and claiming the word “old,” redefining old in a positive sense. Those who have problems with our name are younger folk and those who unconsciously refrain from using the word “old” and change it to “older” because of fear of offending. It is Western ageism that causes this reflex reaction to not using the word “old.” Old is equated with used up, over the hill, frail, and other negatives because of cultural taboos around old age, fear of death and dying, and youth culture. We proudly claim the word “old” and think it reflects reality, not myth. We are proud Old Lesbians and wish to live positive lives as old women, refuting stereotypes of who we are.

## Ageism in Japan

By Sachi Nakachi, professor of women's studies at Tsuru University in Japan

Ageism in Japan could be different from that in the USA. Confucius's idea of respecting the elderly is strong in Asian countries, including Japan.

Japan is under the influence of Confucianism rather than Buddhism in terms of ethics. Therefore, Japanese are mostly trained to be respectful to the elderly and their seniors. But, Confucianism is very patriarchal and forces women to be silent and submissive.

Therefore, women suffer from ageism more than men do because of sexism. Women over 40 years old were called "babaa" (an insulting word for older women) and looked down on. Old men are called "jijii" in the same way, but they have suffered less than women because of their gender privilege.

## Workers Treated Unfairly

OLOC member Dr. Batya Weinbaum (also editor of *FemSpec* journal) wonders if our concern about Walmart's employee practices and wanting to support Walmart workers is as informed as it could be. She compares the Walmart cashier's pay to that of adjunct faculty in the universities. The university workers come out behind the Walmart workers in her figuring. We don't have a clue how many Old Lesbians are affected by either of the two horrid worker policies. If anyone else has experience or thoughts, let us know. If you want to read Batya's entire piece, contact [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) or 888-706-7506.

Batya adds, "We are also doing a Great Age Issue of *FemSpec*, so see our webpage if you are interested in reviewing manuscripts, submitting, or distribution." [www.femspec.org](http://www.femspec.org)

**Apologies** to Jeanne Arnold, who sent us the lovely picture of her deceased partner Barbara Lindquist for the September 2013 issue of the *OLOC Reporter*. Somehow it got misplaced and ended up next to the story about Dotty Fowler instead of the one about Barbara. Apologies to Dotty's friends, too. Here are photos of both of them.



Barbara Lindquist



Dotty Fowler

## List of Threats to Lesbians

Hate crimes, bullying, higher suicide rates, workplace harassment and discrimination, assault, depression, stigma, familial/ and/or religious persecution, the possibility of, in some countries, being stoned to death, flogged, or suffering "corrective rape," having to come out every time you meet a new person, threats of being disowned by loved ones, and having to constantly educate non-Lesbians about who you are. Besides that, sexism causes misery to every woman, whether or not she is a Lesbian.

This list mostly came from an Altnet article here: [www.altnet.org/sex-amp-relationships/10-things-not-say-lesbian?paging=off&current\\_page=1](http://www.altnet.org/sex-amp-relationships/10-things-not-say-lesbian?paging=off&current_page=1)

If you do not have internet access, request an electronic or print copy by contacting [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) or phoning 888-706-7506.

---

*Lesbian Connection* magazine has been carrying good writing in the last few issues about grief from death of a partner or family member. One of the writers, Anita, says "This conversation is really important not only for those of us who have lost a soulmate, but also for the Lesbian community as a whole so they understand how they are needed to support their sisters when there are these loses." OLOC would welcome your writing about this topic.

## OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

We welcome everyone as either a member or a supporter. To be a member, you must be in your 60th year or older and be a Lesbian. To be a supporter, you may be anyone else. As either a member or supporter, you will receive four issues of the OLOC Reporter before you have to renew. Couples may both use the form below.

I am an Old Lesbian \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am not an Old Lesbian \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am choosing to send (suggest between \$25.00 and \$50.00) for my membership.  
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ (less if you can't, more if you can)  
 I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter and receive four issues of *The Reporter*. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year. Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prefer (circle one) print copy / electronic / both

I am an Old Lesbian \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am not an Old Lesbian \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am choosing to send (suggest between \$25.00 and \$50.00) for my membership.  
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ (less if you can't, more if you can)  
 I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter and receive four issues of *The Reporter*. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year. Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prefer (circle one) print copy / electronic / both

To pay with a credit card or a PayPal account, go to [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org) and click Donate. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use a credit card there. If a couple is paying, please include both names in the comments section. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "OLOC"

Please include demographics (date of birth, ethnicity, disability status) below to help us in achieving grants and diversity. No names will be associated with any of the information.

**Name #1** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disability status \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State or province \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip or postal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out of United States? Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 New? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Okay to send occasional E-News by e-mail?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skills I can offer OLOC: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 I already belong to the following OLOC group:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would love to have an OLOC group near me and could help work toward establishing one.  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 I found out about OLOC from \_\_\_\_\_

**Name #2** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disability status \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State or province \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip or postal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out of United States? Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 New? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Okay to send occasional E-News by e-mail?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skills I can offer OLOC: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 I already belong to the following OLOC group:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would love to have an OLOC group near me and could help work toward establishing one.  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 I found out about OLOC from \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a different address during different seasons of the year, please give us details as the post office will not forward your newsletter and OLOC will have to pay for it to be returned to us. \_\_\_\_\_

OLOC  
PO Box 5853  
Athens, OH 45701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ATHENS, OH  
PERMIT NO. 82

.....  
: **Time to Renew?**  
: **If your label says 2013.12**  
: **(meaning 2013 Dec) or**  
: **earlier, your membership/**  
: **supportership has ended**  
: **and it is time to renew.**  
.....

