

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



## July 14–18, 2010 GATHERING UPDATE *By Alix Dobkin, 1940*

OLOC's July Gathering has been featured on the front page of *The Reporter* for several recent issues, and here comes another one with the latest news about our beloved OLOC Gathering.

Cleveland has an active and lively Lesbian population, and local Old Dykes will open the Gathering with a Cleveland Cabaret. Also, we are planning a cross-generational pre-Gathering conversation with women under 60 years old and hope to join in a political action/demonstration during the weekend.

To bring new blood to OLOC, the Steering Committee is also planning pre-event leadership-training sessions for interested Lesbians. Topics under discussion so far include working with the media, fund-raising, grant-writing, public speaking, organizing/facilitating, ageism/political analysis. We plan to go all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning, July 13–14.

We also plan to present *Hannah Free* starring Sharon Gless, "A feature film about a lifelong love affair between an independent spirit and the woman she calls home." We might be able to get a principal or two from the production for Q & A after the showing. (For info go to [www.hannahfree.com](http://www.hannahfree.com); Twitter-HannahFree; Facebook Pg-Hannah Free)

Delivering our keynote addresses, in addition to former OLOC Co-Director & Co-Founder, Vera Martin, 1923, will be author of *Learning to Be Old*, Margaret Cruikshank, 1940, and archaeologist of Mohawk descent, Marilyn "Jazz" Jesmain, 1931. We are delighted to add to our outstanding lineup the well-known writer of *Faultline* and

other novels, Sheila Ortiz Taylor, 1939, a Latina Lesbian and professor at Florida State University who, with her partner, won a 2002 suit to live in a Tallahassee retirement community.

We are planning speak-outs at every plenary, and fishbowls: *Age: The Personal and the Political by Decades* featuring women in their seventies and eighties, and another focused on helping women of color and white women work together on anti-racism with input from a black Lesbian activist, OLOC member, and self-described "bridge builder," Mandy Carter.

Besides our knockout roster of keynote speakers, the Gathering will offer the traditional Thursday night talent show, and, on Saturday night, our dinner-dance, during which we welcome women of all ages to celebrate with us the recipient of the first Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award. Also, I, Alix Dobkin, 1940, will sing songs, tell stories, and entertain you with the best I can put together from the better part of 40 years on the international women's music & Lesbian culture circuits.

Our workshop schedule is filling up, so send your proposals in. (See the first page of the Gathering registration materials found later in this issue.) One will be a reunion of Old Lesbians who were active in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, so those of you who were there or are interested in the experiences of those who were, stay tuned.

The response to our last Gathering (2008) was overwhelmingly positive, and we are geared up to exceed even that magnificent event, so if you haven't started planning, now would be the time!



*Sheila Ortiz Taylor*

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

## Leadership Training

OLOC has a grant to cover travel and two extra nights at the hotel for one and possibly two members from each chapter, either current leaders or up-and-coming ones. Chapters should get this information to [jan@oloc.org](mailto:jan@oloc.org) by March 1:

- names of those whom the chapter recommends to attend and some information about the attendee, including age, background, skills, interests
- the cost of travel for one person to Cleveland (e.g., estimated plane fare)
- suggestions from the chapter about training needs

## OLOC Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award Seeks Nominations

It is time to send in nominations for the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award. Nominations are due April 15, 2010. In 500 words or less, describe the outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements of the nominee. Nominees can be from anywhere in the world and are to be Old Lesbians 70 or older whose life and/or work have impacted or are impacting the lives of Lesbians. The first award will be presented at the 2010 National Gathering in Cleveland, OH and will include some cash (amount not yet determined). Send your nominations to the OLOC post office box or to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org). If you want to know more about Del Martin and her partner Phyllis Lyon, you can borrow one or both of the movies OLOC owns that tell about their lives: *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon* and *One Wedding and a Revolution*, the story of their marriage in San Francisco in 2004. See the Media Library listing at [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org) for more details, or send an SASE for the listing to Susan Wiseheart, HC 73 Box 169C, Drury MO 65638.



**OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.**

## Sending Best Wishes

OLOC Co-Director Mina Meyer suffered a heart attack and broken anklebone in October. She spent two weeks in the hospital, six weeks in rehab, and is now at home beginning to put a bit of weight on her foot. We send greetings and best wishes to her. For those of you who know her and want to send a card, here is her address: 3735 Albury AV, Long Beach CA 90808.

## Travel Plans for the Gathering

Consider taking the train to Cleveland next summer. A woman from Portland, OR, has already told us that is what she plans to do. Coming from the west, you can access Cleveland via Amtrak connecting in Chicago. Coming from the east, you can get Amtrak to Cleveland from Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, Rochester, Buffalo, or Pittsburgh.

## Mission Statement for OLOC

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change is a national organization for Old Lesbians age 60 and over, and will:

- Promote Old Lesbian Pride.
- Educate, support and empower Old Lesbians.
- Challenge ageism in our society and educate the general public about the effects of ageism and oppression.
- Celebrate our strengths, our talents, our experiences, and document our lives.
- Convene National Gatherings of Old Lesbians.
- Encourage, establish, and support local chapters and regional events

## Reactions to *Learning to Be Old: Gender, Culture, and Aging*

by Peg Cruikshank, 1940

After the book came out in 2003, it received a few positive reviews and it was an honorable mention book for that year on a list of books on human rights put out by the Gustavus Myers Center at Simmons College in Boston. A few professors have used it in class—sociology, aging, family studies primarily.

I was amused that one reviewer called me “shrill” because, of course, that is such a predictable put-down for a dissenter who happens to be female. The most perceptive review was the one in the OLOC newsletter by Jean Eckerly. Better than other reviewers, she understands the harm the drug industry does in encouraging the overdrugging of old women. I had to laugh when one reviewer said I was “miffed” at the overdrugging of old women! What an inappropriate word for anger, outrage, indignation.

One reason the struggle for health care reform frustrates me is that billions could be saved if people over 65 took very few prescription drugs instead of many. Although *Learning to Be Old* expresses distrust of the drug industry, even I was surprised to learn that hormone replacement therapy was promoted by 26 supposedly scientific articles written by Wyatt and signed by researchers [*New York Times*, August 5, 2009]. What a heavy load of propaganda.

The issue of ageism came home to me recently. As I was walking down a street in Bar Harbor, I passed several teenaged boys sitting



on a bench. Sighting me, one said “ICK.” I was so surprised I just kept on walking. Later, of course, I imagined any number of retorts. Writing my chapter on ageism did not prepare me to be *insulted*, and the “ICK!” response led me to wonder if I have looked past a particularly disheveled or obviously demented old woman.

Like any author, I am delighted when a stranger writes me a thank-you note for *Learning to Be Old* or approaches me at a conference to praise the work. Nothing is as satisfying as thinking your work has found an audience, however small. The gulf between feminists aware of ageism and male politicians was painfully demonstrated during the debate on health care when they kept using the phrase “pull the plug on Grandma.” It never occurs to these “leaders” that a woman who is a grandmother might well be the doctor who cares for the dying person or the *lawyer* who draws up the living will. “Pull the plug” is so demeaning and crass. It signals that an old woman is disposable.

After Al Franken was seated in the Senate, I wrote to him offering a copy of my book because he is on the aging subcommittee. No response. That was disappointing.

The second edition of *Learning to Be Old* was published in January. Sales figures through December, 2008, show a total of 3200 copies sold. I would love to get to 5,000.

***Cruikshank will be a keynote speaker at the OLOC National Gathering in July.***

### Importance of *Learning to Be Old*

“It seems like there ought to be some kind of classes in getting old...I had no idea any of this stuff would be happening or that I would feel this way and it would be nice to have known something about it...”

This is a quote from Jess McVey, age 91, regarding some of the disabilities she is facing, described in the recent edition of *Sinister Wisdom* “Old Lesbians/Dykes II.” We encourage all to get this wonderful publication. [www.sinisterwisdom.org](http://www.sinisterwisdom.org)

OLOC suggests groups start immediately studying *Learning to Be Old* by Margaret Cruikshank.

### Notes from San Francisco *By Marge Nelson, 1928*

**Problem:** Our OLOC meetings and retreats are growing bigger and bigger but some of the oldest members and founders of OLOC—an organization dedicated to confronting ageism—don't attend meetings for many reasons: can't hear, chairs don't work, can't sit too long, no place to rest, can't climb stairs, too far to drive, trouble with the crowds around food.

We don't want to be stuck away on some pedestal, or tolerated as has-beens who used to be active. As Polly Taylor wrote:

*"What I want from OLOC is a place where I don't have to focus on my disabilities. I do no end of that every day. I want to be able to explore issues as the thinking, caring, concerned Lesbian I am today. I don't want younger women thinking what a fine, bright, active person I must have been before the great collapse of my physical self. I don't want them focusing on how it is possible to 'include' me in an occasion so they can admire me across the room.*

*I want to be there as the person I am—as I always was but now better and more experienced and living a better life because of my connections and community.*

*I want to engage with other OLOC members, relatively young and old in a context where we are peers and can share ideas and issues as they impact us. The impact may be the same, so we're mutually reinforced, or different, so we learn new things."*

**Solution:** Bring the meeting to them. So, last October 2009 we gathered here at Coleridge Affordable Senior Housing where seven Old Lesbians live. The invitation was extended to everyone in OLOC. Twenty-two participated, small enough so that we could talk and actually hear each other. I found this reminiscent of early days of OLOC when our coming out as Old Lesbians was much more than a matter of sleeping with another woman (never to be depreciated, however.) We understood that our coming out and our visibility as Old Lesbians involved a whole process of setting ourselves up as outlaws in a patriarchal world. Our gatherings then honored the courage, vision, passion and

history of our lives and all who'd gone before us to make our visibility possible, a sacred trust to be guarded, protected and struggled for. What has happened to this radical edge? A commonly expressed sentiment that day in the Coleridge community room was that we need to revive this tradition. Over and over I heard women say, "I like how we are actually talking together."

Polly concluded, *"I'm going to have to put time into self care and rest. But that seems secondary. I'm still living, after all, not yet a footnote in a history book."*

As members of the old guard, we intend to continue these meetings and cling to this tradition.

***Marge Nelson, 81, was one of the founders of OLOC in 1989, and a member of OWN (Older Women's Network), which preceded it.***

### Hudson Valley Report *Bonnie Wagner, 1942*

We are volunteering to help staff the Kingston LGBTQ Center and to answer telephones for our local NPR station (Albany) during their fund drive, which should help get OLOC some recognition. The LGBTQ Center will be getting a \$20,000 grant from SAGE, and we will check to see what it covers. We continue our monthly potlucks with social time and consciousness raising.

### Coachella Valley Report *Ruth Debra, 1944*

The Palm Springs LGBT Senior Center received \$50,000 from SAGE for mental health services and will become a SAGE affiliate. Twenty-two attended a Thanksgiving potluck the chapter sponsored. We hope to see the film "On These Shoulders We Stand" at the Palm Springs film festival—it's about LGBT History in LA and includes OLOC member Ivy Bottini, 1926.

### Report from Puget Sound Chapter

**Gloria Stancich, 1935, & Mary Henry, 1939**

The Puget Sound OLOC group is entering its fourth year and the QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council is our name for our leadership committee) feels good about the work we are doing and the growing numbers of Old Lesbians who have contacted us or have joined the e-mail list. A number of women have found us and used us as resources before moving to this area. Others stay in touch when they move away. There are some lively discussions on our list as we follow health care reform, elected officials, reading materials, comings and goings of Lesbians and feminists, and entertainment in the area.

Our networking activities have taken on a new twist as well. While we continue to meet in small and large groups of OLOCers around the Sound for business and pleasure, we have become loosely affiliated, mostly by e-mail, with a large number of other groups in the area who share some common interests. When any of those groups sponsor events and we are invited to come and show our wares (brochures, newsletters), we always carry copies of *The Reporter* and our own, periodically-published, *PS OLOC miniNEWS*, and talk to other interested and interesting folks. We call it *piggybacking* on those events. And, of course, we take a sign-up sheet!

We are also focusing on the gathering of Herstories and memorabilia from women in this area. We coordinate our work with *OLOHP, Inc. (the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project)*, and with the *PNLA (Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives)*. We have just applied for our second grant from the NW Pride Foundation to help us continue this work. Stay tuned!

### Chapters and Research

We have chapters all over the country and field organizers to help you start a new chapter. We also have a Research Gate-keeper to help those doing or participating in research about Old Lesbians. We will not send out information about research without the research being approved. For further information, call 888-706-7506 or e-mail [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) to ask for the contact list, for a contact for a particular place, for the field organizer contact information, or for the contact information for the Research Gatekeeper. All of this information is on our website, too.

### The OLOC Reporter

*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
- 888-706-7506

This newsletter is brought to you by: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941, Co-Editors; Malinda McCain, 1940, and Nancy Krody, 1939, Proofreaders and Copy-editors; Mina Meyer, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942, Content Review; Margaret Purcell, 1951, Design/Layout; All of the writers and the mailing crew.

### Let your voice be heard.

New deadlines for the next few issues: April 15, 2010 for a May 15 publication date and August 10, 2010 for an early September 2010 publication date. Limit submissions to 500 words. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to the addresses listed above.

### Story Corps

Story Corps is the largest oral history/herstory project ever undertaken. It gives pairs of participants the opportunity to leave a legacy in sound for future generations. A very small number of these interview excerpts make it onto NPR stations. All of them go to the American Folklife Center at the library of Congress.

They have two special initiatives of note: Griot Initiative, the largest African American oral history project since the WPA slave narratives of the 1930s, and Memory Loss Initiative, which brings Story Corps to individuals, families and caregivers struggling with Alzheimer's disease.

We urge OLOC members to make sure our Old Lesbian stories are included in this collection. They are at [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org)

Call 646-723-7020, extension 73, if you would like to find out when they are collecting stories in your area so you can make an appointment.

## Learning Widowhood *By Carol Anne Douglas, 1946*

A Lesbian widow. That's my new identity. Of course, death can happen at any age, and my partner's death wasn't age-related. She was killed in a subway crash. But, as we age, the odds increase that we could die.

Because several friends of mine died in the last few years, I had thought a lot about death, especially after I turned 60. I was healthy, but my friends who had died had also appeared healthy until shortly before they were diagnosed with cancer. I thought I was somewhat prepared for my own death. I had been fortunate, had love and friendship, and had done many of the things I wanted to do.

What I wasn't prepared for was my partner's death just two months before she was to have reached 60. She was three years younger than I am. Selfishly, I wanted to die first, unless we could go together.

For those who haven't lost a partner to death, there's no way I can adequately explain the horrifying sense of loss. I had suffered before, certainly. My mother had dementia for years, and died. I have had some other dreadful experiences, and I had gone through breakups with previous lovers. But nothing was like this loss. Mandy and I had talked often about being glad that we would grow old together. We looked forward to the continuing growth of our love, the continued sharing of all our jokes and customs.

All gone. Sweet memories, yes, but just memories. I've been "lucky" in that my friends, my cousins, and my workplace all recognized my relationship and did their best to help me. I've had far more support than most Lesbian widows. But that doesn't replace Mandy.

I was also fortunate because there was a Lesbian widows' support group I could join. Most communities won't have that, but I urge any widows to try to start one if they can. I have found that widows—both Lesbians and some heterosexuals—have understood me in ways that others don't.

If this happens to you, I ache for you. I

know not everyone feels able to reach out when a tragedy happens. I've found it particularly rewarding to deepen my friendships with some women who had primarily been my lover's old friends. They could share the loss with me, and the memories.

You can never tell how you'll react. I've kept as many of Mandy's things as I could, though I've given remembrances to everyone who loved her. I often wear her clothes and jewelry. A quilter has made memory quilts of Mandy's clothing that was too small for me or any of her close friends to wear.

I talk to her. I wouldn't have guessed I'd do that. I don't really believe that there's a life after death, but who knows? I want to talk, whether she's listening or not. I have things to say to her that only she would understand.

*Douglas is an OLOC member and was a member of the collective of Off Our Backs, 1973 to 2008*

### Member News

#### Vera Martin Joins GLBT Advisory Council

Vera Martin, one of OLOC's co-founders, has been invited to be a participant on the Advisory Council to the GLBT Elder National Technical Resource Center, which is intended to be a brain trust of expertise and knowledge that can provide advice and counsel on Center Projects. The Advisory Council is composed of individuals who, through their own experience and expertise and that of their agencies, bring a depth and diversity of experience and perspectives to contribute strategies and plans.

Karen Taylor of SAGE extended this invitation to Vera. SAGE has been an active agency for services to old GLBT citizens for many years, and Vera has been a supporter over these years and created a viable association between SAGE and OLOC. We are pleased to see Vera accept this role, and we wish her much success.

## **Aging in Place** *By Winnie Freed, 1942*

At Alapine (a Lesbian community in Alabama) we hold monthly meetings called "Aging in Place" or "Death and Dying," where we discuss things such as: do you want to be buried or cremated, what life-extending efforts do you want ordered on your behalf, writing your own obituary, etc. If you go to [www.critical-conditions.org](http://www.critical-conditions.org), you can find a very helpful 40-page booklet costing \$15.00 on these issues. If you are not on the Internet, you can order it by phoning them at 1-877-633-2433.

Each womyn here at Alapine has been asked to fill in a copy of the book and have it available should the need for the information arise. Of course, we do not always remember to update this info, so a reminder does go out to everyone once a year to please update it. I'm always surprised at how much of my information can change in the course of a year.

At Alapine we also took the information usually requested by a paramedic and created a form; almost everyone here has filled it in and posted it on their refrigerator door. (I also recommend putting a copy in your glove compartment and in your luggage when you travel.) Then, if anyone ever has to call an ambulance, they can grab that form and hand it to the paramedic. The form includes medications, allergies, known diseases/illnesses, doctor phone numbers, contact info for next of kin, etc. Any community of Lesbians can do this with each other. For womyn who don't choose to participate, my response is: "If you don't provide this information, you are leaving the decisions up to whoever happens to be there should you become incapacitated. I hope you are okay with what is decided."

For an electronic copy of the form Alapine created, go to [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org) or request it by e-mailing [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org). For a print copy, send an SASE to the OLOC post office box.

## **The Travel Directory**

The OLOC Travel Directory, which is updated twice a year, is now available electronically. Cost is \$5.00 no matter which version you choose (print or PDF). If you want the electronic version, say so when you send in your money, or e-mail [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) to say you've made payment. Reminder: To change your listing in the Travel Directory or to remove or to add a listing, let us know by March 31st. E-mail [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org), or send it to the post office box.

## **Member News**

### **New Book by OLOCer**

*A Lab of My Own* is a new book by OLOC member Neena B. Schwartz, age 83, describing how she became a successful scientist and administrator when few women did that. She was instrumental in the formation of the Association of Women in Science and Women in Endocrinology. The book also describes her life as a Lesbian and her commentary on the "evidence" for hormonal and genetic theories for homosexuality. It can be ordered from Rodopi Publishers (1-800-225-3998) or [orders@rodopi.nl](mailto:orders@rodopi.nl)

### **Bay Area OLOCer Wins Award**

Natalie Zarchin was selected to receive the 2010–2011 California Senior Leaders Award and their Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in promoting Lesbian rights, protecting battered women, and ending war. There will be an award ceremony in February and she will receive a \$500 check for her favorite charity, which, as she says, "is OLOC, naturally." It will go to Natalie's chapter, Bay Area OLOC, to be used to help provide assistance to local Old Lesbians who can't afford Bay Area retreats or the National Gatherings.

#### **Also Available:**

**OLOC T-Shirts**

**Denim Shirts**

**Sweatshirts**

**And More!**

**Cloisonné Lapel Pins**

**Buttons**

**(e-mail, phone, write or  
check [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org))**



### **Mary Daly, 1928–2010** *By Suzanne Bellamy*

It's a remarkable and significant moment in all our lives to mark the passing of perhaps our greatest scholar, Mary Daly. So many of us have stories, that I hope will unfold over the coming time. I last saw her at the Feminist Hullabaloo in Santa Fe two years ago. It was probably her last public event, and she wasn't well, but she was still as spiky and confronting and courageous and outrageous as always. A group of her oldest students from Boston College, led by Emily Culpepper and Linda Barufaldi, formed a support team and made her last years better organized and comfortable. Thanks to Emily, I know that her legacy and her papers/archives are all in order. She died in Western Massachusetts on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

Mary was 81, born in 1928; she worked and wrote and thought about the end of patriarchy all her life. She burst out of the cobwebs of the old catholic church in the 1960s, went to study theology in Freiburg, Switzerland, and attended some of the sessions of Vatican II. I remember her describing the servitude of the women, and the fast revelations that followed her writing *The Church and the Second Sex*. I first wrote to her after reading *Beyond God the Father*.

I finally met her in 1979 in Boston, went to her class at Boston College, stayed with her and Denise Connors at Newton Ville for two weeks, and we became life-long complicated friends, as she was with all her friends.

She visited Australia in 1981. It was an exhausting and controversial trip and culminated

in a public meeting at the Teachers Federation Hall in Sydney that some described as a riot. Maybe now I can start to tell some of that story.

Her great book *Gyn/Ecology* was read widely and had women up in arms and passionate like almost no other book of the 1970s. For me the greatest of all the books is *Pure Lust* from 1983. It's time to revisit them all.

Her own theological roots went to Thomas Aquinas, and she took him apart in a radical feminist revisioning of the whole of western male thinking. Hers was a huge life throbbing with ideas at the very edge of our thinking, and that's a lot to consider. There will be stories and gossip, reflections and laughs as we remember the remarkable achievements and legacy of this very complex woman. Mary Daly was very alive to the deep background world, and very much loved and honored.

I thank the spirits for her life and commend her to the galactic cows and to Stein and Woolf and the other women she can now hang out with in the spiral galaxies of the ancestors.

**(NOTE: NPR's "All Things Considered" included a very positive four-minute feature on Mary Daly that included Daly's emphatic assertion, "I am a Radical Lesbian Feminist!")**

### **Luna Luvster (Lester), 1935–2009** *By Lilith Rogers, (her partner for 13 years)*

Luna Luvster was born on Sept.26, 1935, in Brooklyn, NY, and died on Nov.1, 2009. We were all stunned by her death. At her memorial under the beautiful bay tree in the yard she shared with her daughter, Victoria, and daughter-in-love, Weed, everyone said, "But she was the healthiest woman I knew!"

Raised Catholic, Luna's





spiritual path was “eclectic”: Buddhist, Hindu, Pagan. At one time, she spent a year in India, cooking her way through various ashrams. She meditated almost daily and went on long, silent retreats. She loved celebrating the full moon around the fire in her backyard singing, drumming, and talking story with her full-moon sisters.

Luna was a free spirit who traveled extensively. I was fortunate to have taken some great trips with her across the country and to Europe, Israel, Jordan, and Morocco. Luna traveled with some of her family to Africa to visit her son Frank, who was in the Peace Corps. We went to the Big Island of Hawaii many times. Luna had lived there and had almost as many friends on the island as she had here. She loved to lie in the sun and swim in the warm waters. She had an almost personal relationship with Pele. Her spiritual teacher Betty lived there, and Luna would go and be with her whenever she had a chance.

Luna was actively involved in her Lesbian, environmental, and political communities. She belonged to OLOC. She and I went to several Bay Area retreats and gatherings. In the last year, a North Bay chapter of OLOC was formed. Luna participated in a writing and performing group, CroneSpeak, which grew out of that chapter.

Luna was a long-time anti-war activist—she organized protests against the Vietnam War and continuing through demonstrations to protest the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. She supported equal rights for all. Her son Frank was born deaf, and Luna actively advocated for disability rights.

A long-time vegan, Luna strongly advocated for the humane treatment of animals. She was a great vegan cook who felt her creativity was best expressed in the kitchen.

Luna gave amazing healing to others. She was a wonderful masseuse, who performed Reiki and other forms of hands-on healing. Don't get the impression that Luna was a saint. She was definitely gifted and strove to be her best self. She loved to party, to dance, to play, to get dressed-up and undressed. In bed she was a tiger!!

As Luna would say at the beginning of a meal or the end of a prayer, BLESSED BE!

### Kate Rosenblatt, 1922–2009

Kate (Katherine P.) was a founding member of OLOC from back in the early days.

She is survived by her partner, Joyce Pierson, and by two brothers, two daughters, and a son. Another son died in 1991.

She was an activist, involved in many Lesbian organizations, including: Workshop Leader, Califia Collective Retreats, Southern California; Co-founder, writer, and editor, the *San Diego Lesbian Newspaper*, a monthly publication; Co-organizer, San Diego County older Lesbians group; Founding member, organizer, first West Coast Crones Conference, Dominican College, Long Beach, CA, 1986–87;



*Photo by C. Cade*

Planning Committee member, National Old Lesbian Conference in San Francisco, CA, 1989; and active member, Gay and Lesbian Outreach to elders, women's programs, in San Francisco, CA. She was a poet, playwright, novelist, educator, and the founder and director of Lesbian Thespians in San Diego. Kate and Joyce enjoyed trips together over the years from the Pacific Islands to Europe. Kate is also remembered for her wonderful sense of humor.

### Deedy Breed, 1922–2009

Deedy (Elizabeth Collins) Breed, member of the OLOC Steering Committee from 1993 to 2003 and serving as OLOC treasurer during that time, was also active in New Haven Women's Liberation and NEWMR, the New England Women's Musical Retreat. She was a member of the National Organization for Women. She was the publisher of *And Then She Continued*, a book of poems published by the New Haven Women's Poetry Group (1974). She was also involved in setting up the New Haven Feminist Federal Credit Union, the



New Haven Women's Health Center, and the Women's Center in New Haven. She was active on the board of the Connecticut Trails Girl Scouts Council in New Haven. In the 1970s she was partners with OLOC member Christine

Pattee and for 17 years she was with Sandy Duplaix (OLOC member) before she moved to Florida because of her illness (Alzheimer's). She was an avid golfer, and she loved skiing and sailing. Deedy also enjoyed card games, especially Poker and Bridge. Two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren survive her.

**Gloria Groves, 1930–2007**



Gloria June Groves was born in Missouri on January 3, 1930. She died in Las Vegas, Nevada, on September 23, 2007.

Gloria was a member of NOW for more than 30 years and edited the Nevada Chapter's newsletter for ten years. Gloria loved reading

history books, loved the French language, and was an expert with computers. Gloria had many feminist friends, including Judith Meuli and Toni Carabillo, for whom she worked as a graphics designer.

She met her life partner Denise Neron, now a member of OLOC, on July 4, 1984, in Los Angeles. During their 23 years together, they traveled some in Europe and were active for many years in feminist causes. When Gloria lost her job due to downsizing at the bank for which she worked, they moved to Las Vegas. Gloria worked at the Las Vegas Convention Center for eight years before her death. She will be remembered always by her partner, Denise, who misses her so much.

**A Moment of Fame**

New book in process: *Old Lesbians and Their Brief Moment of Fame*. To submit your own story of something in your life that was especially important and/or exciting, contact Joy Griffith or Karen Gibson for details. Karen Gibson: P. O. Box 334, North Conway, NH 03860 or 603-356-7172. Joy D. Griffith: [joydg2002@yahoo.com](mailto:joydg2002@yahoo.com) 781-749-1978 or 617-680-0995 or 781-229-9028. Please phone us at any time should you have any questions.

**Help with Outreach**

OLOC is interested in outreach to progressive religious groups such as the Quakers, Unitarians, United Church of Christ, UFMCC, Jewish organizations, and others. If you know of and/or are attending a convention of such groups and would be willing to take OLOC literature, please let us know. Also let us know of other religious groups not on this list.

**Call for Photos**

If anyone has a photo of the following Old Lesbians that we can use in the Memorial Slide Show (at Gatherings and online), please contact us at the PO Box or at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org). Right now we are missing:

- Barbara Pyle 1930–2001
- Dorothy Greene 1913–2002
- Janny MacHarg 1923–2003
- Carol Macdonald 1943–2007

**NOW AVAILABLE**

*Sinister Wisdom Journal 78/79 Old Lesbians/ Dykes II* \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 s/h for the first copy, 50 s/h cents for each additional copy. Make checks payable to Sinister Wisdom, Inc.

Mail to: Sinister Wisdom, P. O. 3252, Berkeley, CA 94703

(Note from one of your editors: This is stuffed with work by OLOC Lesbians and is a wonderful publication. Highly recommended. Susan)

If you want to receive *The Reporter*, please let us know even if you can't contribute.

## OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Form

Lesbians 60 and over: We urge you to subscribe to *The Reporter* as an expression of your commitment to be with Old Lesbians in your own area, working to confront ageism. If no such group exists, become an OLOC Contact Lesbian and work with a mentor to start a local chapter. If you are not yet 60, we welcome you as a Supporter. By giving OLOC your generous financial contribution you can show your commitment to and support for challenging ageism.

### Please check all that apply:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) 60 or over and wish to subscribe or renew my (our) current subscription to <i>The Reporter</i> . \$25 to \$50 for a one-year subscription. | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm (we're) already listed in the <i>TD</i> and the contact information is correct.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to receive <i>The Reporter</i> but I (we) can contribute only \$ _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to be added to the <i>Travel Directory</i> listings.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) not yet 60 but want to Support OLOC. Enclosed is \$30 to \$60 for a one-year subscription to <i>The Reporter</i> .                         | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to purchase the <i>Travel Directory</i> . Enclosed is \$5 for costs.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to keep OLOC alive and strong. Please accept my (our) tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ or my (our) pledge of \$_____ / month.          | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter (PDF) instead of a paper copy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) would like to give a \$25 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send a sample of <i>The Reporter</i> to the name(s) listed below.   |   |

### **Travel Directory**

### **OLOC Endowment**

An additional way to help OLOC grow is through the OLOC Endowment. It was created to receive bequests from OLOC Subscribers and Supporters. A copy of the OLOC Endowment brochure is available by calling 888-706-7506 or by e-mailing info@oloc.org.

Date of birth enables us to keep accurate Subscriber/Supporter records for grants and other purposes. Your ethnicity and disability status is requested as part of our ongoing awareness of and commitment to diversity. OLOC's mailing lists are for OLOC's use and not available to any other persons or organizations.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnicity** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ethnicity** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disability** \_\_\_\_\_ **Disability** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Out of United States? If so, additional address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**New Subscription**  **or Renewal**  **May we send you an occasional e-mail?** **Yes**  **No**

**I prefer: a print copy via U.S. Mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **or a PDF via e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills you can offer OLOC:** \_\_\_\_\_



**OLOC**  
**PO Box 5853**  
**Athens, OH 45701**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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ATHENS, OH  
PERMIT NO. 82



### **Time to Renew?**

If your label says 2010 (meaning 2010 March) or earlier, your subscription has ended and it is time to renew. Note that this issue and the next are out a bit early so we can let you know about the summer Gathering news.



## OLOC Solicits Workshop Proposals for 2010 Gathering

Proposals for 90-minute workshops are being solicited for the Cleveland 2010 Gathering, July 14–18. They must include: Title, Presenter(s), A Brief Description, and Special Needs/Equipment. Preference will be given to workshops relating to our theme: “*Old Lesbian Pride: Sharpening the Radical Edge*,” with final approval by the OLOC Steering Committee.

Proposals must be received, via mail (OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701) or e-mail ([info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)) by **April 1st, 2010**. For questions, call 888 706-7506 (toll-free)

## OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE PRESENTS NATIONAL GATHERING 2010

### OLD LESBIAN PRIDE: SHARPENING THE RADICAL EDGE July 14–18, 2010, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Speakers, Workshops, Entertainment, Dinner Dance. Lesbians 60 or over  
(and partners/female caregivers of any age) are invited

Early Registration deadline May 15; Workshop proposals due by April 1  
Registration form next page

#### Program

Keynote Speakers: Margaret (Peg) Cruikshank 1940; Vera Martin 1923;  
Sheila Ortiz Taylor 1939; Marilyn “Jezz” Jesmain 1931.

Entertainment: Alix Dobkin 1940

**THE HOTEL** The Skyline Hotel where the Gathering will take place is minutes from the Cleveland airport and provides free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. The hotel also has indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a hot tub and provides free breakfast every day. You must call the hotel at 216-524-0700 and make your own reservation (tell them you’re with OLOC and a room costs \$89/night + tax no matter how many are in the room.) For more information about the hotel you can go to the website below, but **you must register by phone, not online, to get OLOC’s special rates.**  
[http://www.skylinehotelindependence.com/About\\_Us.html](http://www.skylinehotelindependence.com/About_Us.html)

### Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

#### Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH	<a href="mailto:jan@oloc.org">jan@oloc.org</a>	(740) 448-6424
Mina Meyer, 1940, Long Beach, CA	<a href="mailto:mina@oloc.org">mina@oloc.org</a>	(562) 420-3555

#### Steering Committee Members:

Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY	<a href="mailto:alix@oloc.org">alix@oloc.org</a>	(845) 679-7586
Myra Brahms, 1942, New York City, NY	<a href="mailto:myra@oloc.org">myra@oloc.org</a>	(212) 628-6797
Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA	<a href="mailto:ruth@oloc.org">ruth@oloc.org</a>	(760) 318-6794
Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH	<a href="mailto:sally@oloc.org">sally@oloc.org</a>	(216) 862-0598
Tita Caldwell, 1931, San Francisco, CA	<a href="mailto:Tita@oloc.org">Tita@oloc.org</a>	(415) 970-0694
Carole Stoneking, 1937, Columbia, SC	<a href="mailto:Carole@oloc.org">Carole@oloc.org</a>	(803) 748-9490

# 2010 National Gathering Registration Form

## July 14-18, 2010 CLEVELAND, OHIO

*Younger partners  
and female caregivers  
of Old Lesbians  
may also attend if  
registered.*

### Step 1: Tell Us About You

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of 7/14/2010 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

May we add you to a contact list that all attending will receive? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you need any specific services such as electric scooter, ASL interpreter, to assist with disabilities?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Food Preferences:

meals with meat     vegetarian  
 vegan     fish  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if bringing a female attendant.  
Someone will contact you with details.

#### Emergency Contact (if you become ill or need help)

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

### Step 2: Registration Fee

**Registration Fee covers:** Registration Fee covers programs, entertainment, daily breakfast, Friday lunch & dinner/dance Saturday night. It does not cover housing, parking, transportation or meals other than those listed above.

Registration fee if postmarked by May 15, 2010: \$225  
Registration fee if postmarked between May 16 and June 10, 2010: \$250  
Registration fee if postmarked June 11, 2010 or after: \$275

### Step 3: Payment

Registration Fee (see schedule above) \_\_\_\_\_  
OLOC Newsletter Subscription or Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$25 to \$50)  
Contribution to help  
low income Lesbians to attend \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**No refunds  
after  
June 30th.**

Mail a check and this form to  
OLOC  
PO Box 5853  
Athens OH 45701  
or use PayPal at OLOC.org  
*Please include your PayPal  
Transaction Number*  
PP# \_\_\_\_\_

### BE KIND TO YOURSELF AND YOUR SISTERS

We request that you make every effort to help us create a space that is free of the chemicals used to make scented products. They affect the health of all of us, some more severely than others, plus they degrade the environment and the water tables. Please come with fragrance-free body-care products and clothing and, if you normally use cologne, essential oils or perfume, we ask you not to use these during the Gathering.

**Financial Assistance:** OLOC is committed to making it possible for every Old Lesbian who wants to attend an OLOC gathering to be able to do so. If you are unable to pay all or part of the costs, please fill out this form and return it to us with your registration form no later than May 15, 2010.

## 2010 National Gathering Financial Assistance Request Form

Send this form with your registration by May 15, 2010

Your name and phone # \_\_\_\_\_

What is your level of need? Please answer all the questions so we fully understand the extent of assistance you need:

1. Registration fee: do you need assistance? \_\_\_\_\_ How much can you pay? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Housing costs: do you need assistance? \_\_\_\_\_ How much can you pay? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Transportation costs: do you need assistance? \_\_\_\_\_ How much can you pay? \_\_\_\_\_  
What type of transportation will you use? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other info or details you would like to give us? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you prepay any of what you need and be reimbursed? \_\_\_\_\_

\* financial assistance is available according to how much we are able to raise and we will let you know how much you have been awarded by May 31st so you can make your plans.



**Support OLOC by Advertising**  
The ad deadline is May 15, 2010.

We'd love to see your ad in the Program Book. On the next page, you'll find the form for placing ads in the Souvenir Program Book which will be given to all attendees and all advertisers. Do you have a local organization, business or group who would like to place an ad? You'll find our advertising/greeting form next page.

**Feel free to photocopy these forms if you need extra copies.**

You can also download copies at [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)



**2008 OLOC National Gathering Souvenir Program Book  
Advertising/Greeting Form**

**OLD LESBIAN PRIDE:  
SHARPENING THE RADICAL EDGE  
JULY 14 - 18, 2010  
SKYLINE HOTEL  
CLEVELAND, OH**



**OUR 21<sup>ST</sup> YEAR  
CELEBRATION...  
OUR 7TH  
NATIONAL  
GATHERING**



**Sizes and Prices for Ads and Greetings**

Full Page	7.5" wide x 9.5" high	\$550 inside front cover	<i>If you have an ad that does not fit these size requirements, please contact us and we'll see if we can accommodate your needs.</i>
		\$450 inside back cover	
		\$600 outside back cover	
		\$350 other full page ads	
1/2 Page	7.5" wide x 4.5" high	\$200	
1/4 Page	3.75" wide x 4.5" high	\$125	
Business Card	3.5" wide x 2" high	\$ 50	
Greeting	20 words or less	\$ 25	

**Name (Please Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Phone(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail (if available):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Text for Greeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Paying by check**       **Paying via PayPal**      PayPal Transaction ID \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for ads is May 15, 2010. Send your ad via e-mail (info@oloc.org): **either** straight text for us to typeset and lay out for you, **or** camera-ready as a PDF saved at print resolution. Contact us if you have a question. You can also mail your camera-ready ad or business card with your check and we will scan it. You can pay for your ad via PayPal. Visit oloc.org and click on: Donate Via PayPal. Include your transaction ID.

**Send your payment to Old Lesbians Organizing for Change**

**OLOC • PO Box 5853 • Athens, OH 45701**

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