

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

Founded in 1989



Mandy Carter at Summer Regional Gathering

Mandy Carter, a 40-year activist for Lesbian and (many) other rights, will give the keynote address at the 2013 OLOC Regional Gathering.



The Gathering begins late Friday afternoon, July 19, and ends on Sunday, July 21, at noon.

St. Louis Women's Chorus Charis will perform, and there will be caucuses, workshops, a dinner, and a dance with a local DJ. Evening events are open to all women.

St. Louis, one of the top 15 gay-friendly cities, is beautiful and lively, so plan to come early or stay late to enjoy **the city's offerings.**

Thanks to OLOC's Puget Sound chapter for contributing \$1,000 as seed money for the St. Louis Gathering.

Interested in presenting a workshop at the Gathering? Send title, a short description, and bio of the presenter(s) to Sally Tatnall at tatnalls@yahoo.com. OLOC does not pay presenters.

Some financial assistance is available for those within 600 miles of St. Louis.

Both the St. Louis OLOC chapter and the St. Louis SAGE affiliate are assisting in producing the event.

See pages 9 and 10 for registration and financial assistance forms. See page 8 for additional hotel information.

More about Mandy

Mandy Carter was the opening plenary speaker at the 80th anniversary of Highlander Center in Tennessee, the place where Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King received training in the early **1950s. Mandy said: "Equality and justice for all keeps you current, keeps you relevant, and keeps you intersectional."**

Conference Reports

OLOC Steering Committee attended three important conferences and events: Facing Race, Creating Change, and Silver Threads. For reports on those three, see oloc.org or request a PDF by e-mail or in print by contacting Susan at susan@oloc.org or 888-706-7506. Be clear about how you want to receive the report.

Readers: This was scheduled to be a 16-page issue until the post office changed some regulations at the last minute. Therefore, we had to cut out four pages. We are saving the copy and, if we can, will include at least some of it in future issues.

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

- ♦ www.oloc.org
- ♦ e-mail: 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 Ilze Mueller, 1935.
 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 May 1, 2013. 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 or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens OH 45701.

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

To connect to OLOC on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation, the Carpenter Foundation, and the Rainbow Endowment.

OLOC 2012 Financial Report

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Individual donations	\$41,543	Administration	
Grants	44,165	Supplies, equipment	\$2,443
Sales, T-shirts	4,446	Admin. Coordinator	2,184
Chapters	1,255	Steering Committee meetings	2,866
Grant for Bay Area OLOC	3,000	Grant for Bay area OLOC	3,000
National Gathering	47,072	Outreach/education	13,269
National/Regional Gatherings		Program coordination	2,800
financial assistance	4,008	Oral Herstory	6,034
Miscellaneous	2,182	Stipends Co-Directors	5,400
Total	\$147,671	Sales, T-shirts	4,853
		National Gathering 2012	5,047
		Financial assistance, disability	2,365
		Race/class education/support	4,253
		Miscellaneous	3,079
		Total	\$147,593

“The notion that older drivers are more likely to get in crashes is not borne out by the statistics. On average drivers in their mid- to late 80s have lower crash rates per mile driven than those in their early 20s, said Jake Nelson, AAA’s director of traffic safety advocacy and research. And still none of those groups drives as bad as teenagers—the nation’s riskiest drivers.”

Quote from an Associated Press story 8/31/12 following an accident caused by a 100-year-old driver in Los Angeles.

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
 and click on OLOC Market.

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH,
jan@oloc.org 740-448-6424
Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY,
alix@oloc.org 845-679-7586

Steering Committee Members:

Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA, ruth@oloc.org
760-318-6794
Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH,
tatnalls@yahoo.com 216-862-0598

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”**

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

OLOC Partners with NBJC for 50th Anniversary of 1963 March on Washington

OLOC member Mandy Carter is National Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin 2013 Commemoration Project of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC). This is the 50th anniversary year of the historic August 28, 1963, March on Washington **coordinated by black gay activist Bayard Rustin. This was the occasion of Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech.**

The King Center will be holding events in Washington, DC, August 24–28. **The Bayard Rustin Commemoration Project’s purpose is to ensure participation** by national Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders leading up to the August 24–28 events.

OLOC’s focus is on Lesbians who participated in the civil rights movement and to partner with NBJC’s 50-state outreach efforts to include and involve OLOC members and other Old Lesbians.

Jan Griesinger, Sally Tatnall, and Ruth Debra attended NBJC’s National Mobilization Meeting at the Creating Change Conference in Atlanta. They have DVD copies of *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* for community screenings and programs. Important websites are www.rustin.org; www.nbjc.org; www.thekingcenter.org.

Mandy Carter can be contacted at mandycarter@nc.rr.com.

Utah Chapter News

By Kate Call, 1953

About 12 wonderfully Old Lesbians meet monthly in Salt Lake City. We try to support each other, especially with rides **to doctor's appointments, etc. We have a** political action committee and want to work toward a statewide nondiscrimination bill and improvements for LGBT elders, particularly discrimination related to nursing homes. We feel that old people working on these issues should make them a bit less controversial. A few years ago Utah passed an anti-gay marriage/civil union amendment and there is now a group legally challenging it; several of us have been going to meetings to support the cause.

New Mexico Chapter One Year Old!

By Elizabeth Berrey, 1945

What an active, awesome OLOC chapter we have here in NM! We gather monthly, twice a quarter in a public library, where we proudly display our OLOC banner, and once a quarter for a potluck. As many as 40 members and usually 20-30 attend our meetings. We believe socializing and being a community are as radical as any political action.

Our chapter began in January 2012 with five of us and has thrived! Lesbians routinely step up to rotate roles as facilitator, timekeeper, and minutes-taker.

During this past year, we have had four CR sessions at our gatherings. At the most recent, using the format introduced to us at the National Gathering in July, we broke into small groups and talked about our privilege. Those gathered agreed that not only did

we learn about ourselves and one another, but also the deep listening and telling our truths deepened our connections to one another. We have scheduled speakers for two of our upcoming gatherings: one on legal information for Old Lesbians and the **other on bladder control. ("Beyond Kegels,"** as our Old Lesbian expert calls it).

We continue to pass the basket to have money for needed expenses for our chapter and to have a sharing table for donated items. Anyone can take what she wants or needs; any donations to that table will be used to help support womyn from NM to attend National in 2014. And we encourage membership in National.

Our latest collective action was Feb. 14. Some of us participated in the international onebillionrising: to walk out, dance, rise up, and demand an end to violence against women in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Hudson Valley Chapter News

By Bonnie Wagner, 1942

The Hudson Valley chapter continues to meet monthly with potluck dinners and a consciousness-raising format. Our December meeting was a holiday party that included OLOC members as well as younger Lesbians. We had a potluck and a dance that was deejayed by Retts, who spun at the Boston area OLOC National Gathering last summer. At least 40 women attended, and we danced and partied for hours. We plan to show *Cloudburst* at our next meeting. We seem to have our best participation at social events.

A Cup of This, a Spoonful of That, and Voilá: You've Got a Celebration

By Arden Eversmeyer, 1931

The most recent issue of *The Reporter* included an announcement about this fall event, but we promised to keep you posted as plans developed. The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project has been busy gathering all the ingredients to make this symposium irresistible and unforgettable. Of course, everyone who attends will play a role in creating a **memorable weekend. We're especially** pleased to let you know the featured speaker at our Celebration of Lesbian Legacies will be the award-winning author/historian **Lillian Faderman. We're also** excited that Jamie Anderson will join us, both to perform and to take part in a panel exploring the role **women's music** has played in our lives.

We've found a great location near Hobby Airport in Houston, TX, where **we're all set to convene October 10-13, 2013.** The Celebration will explore the legacy that each and every one of us has created by our willingness to live our lives as women-loving-women. The event will also provide several opportunities for you to share some of your stories.

If you'd like to be notified as soon as registrations begin in late spring, drop us an e-mail and **we'll make sure to keep** you in the loop: info@olohp.org or www.olohp.org

Additions to OLOC Media Library

Three new films are available from our media library. Charlotte Bunch, Myriam Fougère, and Tiona McClodden all donated films to the library: *Passionate Politics*, *The Life and Work of Charlotte*

Bunch (thank you, Charlotte); *Lesbiana: A Parallel Revolution* by Myriam Fougère (thank you, Myriam); and *Black Womyn: Conversations with Lesbians of African Descent*, produced by Tiona McClodden (thank you, Tiona).

OLOC depends on donations or loans of DVDs to increase the collection, as there is no budget for purchases.

Contact info@oloc.org or phone Susan at 888-706-7506 to request to borrow them or to find out how to buy your own copy. We also have a copy of the well-done documentary *MissRepresentation*, about the representation of women in the media, with much insight into how the media has come to be what it is right now. Prepare for your feminist self to emerge and be angry. It is a great film to show around to create activists.

A third movie shown at the Boston area Gathering, *Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years (1984-1992)* by Dagmar Schultz is available for home video purchase. It includes seldom seen footage of Lorde.

From the flier: "stunning and endearing images of Audre Lorde off stage."

www.audrelorde-theberlinyears.com/presskit.html

Film on Old Black Lesbians

OLOC supports the effort by the Untitled Black Lesbian Elder Project to finish a film on Old Black Lesbians. Tiona McClodden and Lisa C. Moore are collaborating on the film, which features several OLOC members. We also recommend: *Does Your Mama Know? An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories*, 2009, edited by Lisa C. Moore.

Research

OLOC members often are asked to participate in research. We have two sets of study results available if you want to see them. If so, contact Susan at susan@oloc.org or 888-706-7506.

From Peg Cruikshank

The last quote on page 3 of the Dec 2012 *Reporter* is actually not by me but by one of the contributors to *Fierce with Reality*, Gloria Wade-Gayles from Spelman. I can see why it looks like my words because the previous paragraph on Black women IS from me. Although this is a small point, I would not want another writer, especially a Black sister, to think I was taking credit for her words.

[Note: The 3rd edition of *Learning to be Old* (by Peg) came out in February. You can order it before April 30 for the discount price of \$20.96 (use code 4S13LTBO). Publisher Rowman and Littlefield, 1-800-462-6420 or <http://rowman.com/ISBN/978-1-4422-1365-4>.]



National Steering Committee member Ruth Debra says about riding in the convertible in the Pride Parade in Palm Springs as the recipient of the Community Service Award: **“It was quite an honor but I kept worrying about falling.”** Ruth had recently had knee replacement surgery and didn’t want to fall out of the car.

Walk in the Woods

By Jan Marotta, 1941

I recently completed a volunteer work week immersion at Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Rowe MA, tucked just below the Whitingham VT border. I believe in volunteering, and the location and community of people tend to restore my energy as three times a year a group of volunteers from all walks of life come together to do some good work on buildings and grounds.

On a much needed work break, I walked in the woods, contemplating the state of our nation, the November election, our economy, and the healthcare system. I walked quietly with a heavy heart and deep concerns. I hoped the peace and quiet of the woods, the scent of pine, the magical ferns, and the wonderful flora and fauna would renew my energy. As I worked my way deeper into the forest, rain falling lightly, I breathed in crisp Fall air, admired the mysterious gray mists hanging in higher elevations, the rippling brooks alongside the trails, the woodland creatures I encountered, particularly a curious porcupine and a lively tree frog. All began to give me a calm, centered feeling of being one with nature and in harmony. Some time later, with my walking meditation completed, I felt renewed. I did not solve any issues or problems but my heart felt lighter, and I felt hopeful again. Mother Nature envelops and welcomes, invites you into her domain, and gives you her gift of **peace and balance. Lift YOUR spirits...** walk in the woods!

Julia Penelope, 1941–2013

My Friend, the Big Dyke

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

Julia Penelope was brilliant. In person she was smart and fun, and she loved to laugh. She was passionate about Lesbian-feminist political analysis and enjoyed lively conversation.

She wrote and collaborated on *The Coming Out Stories*, *Call Me Lesbian*, *Finding the Lesbians*, *Lesbian Culture*, *Out of the Class Closet*, and more. I think *Speaking Freely* should be required reading for every speaker of English.

Julia was a fountain of critical thinking, a blessing in the world, a courageous, **outrageous Big Dyke whose life's work** and contributions to Lesbian thought and culture are deep, wide, and utterly priceless.



Sally Duplaix, 1936–2012

Sally Duplaix, with her partner Deedy Breed, was active in OLOC from her 60th birthday in 1996 when she joined the steering committee.

Books, especially books about Lesbians, were always important to Sally, who started a collection of Lesbian pulp fiction in the 1950s.

She and Deedy were active in many Lesbian and community projects. They **helped to organize a women's music festival** and were excited to discover OLOC, a community of their peers. Sally was interviewed in 2001 and 2008 and her life story is included in *A Gift of Age: Old Lesbian Life Stories*.



Ruth E. Frederick, 1931–2012

By Jazzmyn Bronzli, 1947

(married to Ruth for five years)

Ruth E. Frederick had been a member of OLOC since 2008. She was a pioneer in the fight for Lesbian rights and recognition.

Ruth was the first person in her family to attend college and was expelled from college for a crime she did not even know was a crime—loving another woman.

She and her partner of 35 years, Pat Healy, became activists in Sonoma County, initiating and sustaining services to Lesbians with alcohol and drug addictions.

(Note from OLOC: Ruth's estate donated \$1,000 to OLOC, \$100 designated as financial assistance for the St. Louis Regional Gathering.)



Martha Felstein, 1941–2012

OLOC member Martha Felstein died November 2012 in Oceanside, CA. She is survived by her devoted companion of 22 years, Sharon Bohannon of Carlsbad, CA. She was an early feminist, a musician, poet, and writer.



Marlene Feingold, 1931–2013

OLOC member Marlene Feingold, aka Peanut, who also served on the national steering committee and who lived in NYC, died in January. There will be more on Marlene in the next issue.

OLOC Chapters

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

OLOC Receives Bequest

OLOC is honored to have received a bequest from the estate of Susan Kuhner of Kent, OH, and Palm Springs, CA. She died at age 64 (details were in our May/June 2012 newsletter). She founded the Kuhner Institute of Multiple Personalities in Los Angeles. She was a leader in the **women's and gay movements in the 1970s and 1980s in Los Angeles.**

Articles on Age and Aging

We urge you to read the fall/winter 2012 issue of *Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Discussion and Activism*. The theme is Age and Aging, and there are many fine articles there, including several by OLOC members. *Rain and Thunder* can be reached at www.rainandthunder.org or PO Box 674, Northampton, MA 01061.

OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE
PRESENTS REGIONAL GATHERING 2013
July 19-22, 2013

Meet Us in St. Louis: Gateway to Old Lesbians

Keynote speaker, workshops, entertainment, dinner, dance, hospitality room with games and food.

Lesbians 60 or over (and female partners/female caregivers of any age) are invited.

Early registration deadline May 15; workshop proposals due by April 1.

The Hotel

The lovely Hilton St. Louis Frontenac (in a suburb of St. Louis) is our hotel for the Gathering. An express bus is available from Lambert St. Louis International Airport to the hotel. Rooms are \$104 per night and include free breakfast for two people each day and complimentary Wi-Fi service. You can have either one king-size bed or two double beds and up to four people in a room, but if more than two, you will have to figure out about the breakfast. The hotel has an outdoor pool, gym equipment, and many small areas for Old Lesbians to gather. You will need to reserve your own room by calling the hotel at 314-993-1100. Remember to inform the reservationist that you are with OLOC to confirm the rate.

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 adversely affect the health of all of us, some more severely than others, and they degrade the environment. 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. *Thank you.*

2013 National Gathering Registration Form

Online Registration coming soon
St. Louis, Missouri, July 19–21, 2013

Name _____ Phone _____
Date of Birth _____ Age as of 7/18/2013 _____ e-mail _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Do you wish your information to be added to a contact list that all attending will receive?
Yes No

I prefer my contact list electronically in print

Do you need any specific services to assist with disabilities? If yes, please describe what you would like: _____

Emergency contact (if you become ill or need help)

Name _____ Phone _____

Cell phone number _____

Food preferences: meals with meat fish vegetarian

other _____

Do you need OLOC to arrange for a roommate? _____

Additional comments _____

Online Registration
now available:
[regonline.com/
oloc2013](http://regonline.com/oloc2013)
Note that you still
must register
separately
with the hotel
for your lodging.

Registration fee covers programs, entertainment, Friday lunch & Saturday night dinner.
It does not cover housing, transportation, or meals other than those listed above.

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE IF POSTMARKED BY MAY 31, 2013	\$150
REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED JUNE 1–JUNE 30	\$175
REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED JULY 1 or later	\$ 200

Please note that those who request financial assistance or disability services will receive a phone call to confirm the details.

PAYMENT: (financial assistance form on page 10)

Registration fee (see schedule above)	\$ _____
OLOC membership (optional, includes newsletter) (\$25–50)	\$ _____
Contribution for financial assistance (optional)	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

(Please mail a check and this form to OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701, or use PayPal at oloc.org.)

Would you like to volunteer to assist during the gathering?

Yes (if yes, you will be contacted later) No

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

OLOC is committed to making it possible for every Old Lesbian who lives within 600 miles of St. Louis who wants to attend the St. Louis Regional 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, 2013**.

2013 REGIONAL GATHERING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

(Send this form with your registration form by May 15, 2013)

Your name and phone # _____

City, State _____ e-mail address _____

What is your level of needed assistance? (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? _____

Can you prepay any of what you need and be reimbursed? _____

If you are going to be able to pay for part of the fees, please have check to OLOC by July 1, 2013. This will make the registration and hotel process easier.

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.

**Send your payment to Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:
OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701**

info@oloc.org toll free 888-706-7506

Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at www.oloc.org
or requested via e-mail info@oloc.org

OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

Everyone who wants to be a member or supporter is welcome, whether or not you can send money right now. As either a member or supporter, you will receive four issues of the OLOC Reporter before you have to renew. Please check all that apply:

Options	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not sending money at this time, but I am an Old Lesbian age 60 or older and want to be a member for another year.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	My partner's information is below.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	We want one <input type="checkbox"/> two <input type="checkbox"/> copies sent to us. We prefer print <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail <input type="checkbox"/> one of each <input type="checkbox"/> . If e-mail, which address or addresses? _____
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter and receive four issues of <i>The Reporter</i> . Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year. Amount _____.

To pay with a credit card or a PayPal account, go to 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.

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 _____ **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 Member/Supportership Okay to send you occasional E-News by e-mail? Yes No

Prefer: a print copy via U.S. Mail a PDF via e-mail **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "OLOC"**

Skills you can offer OLOC: _____

I already belong to this OLOC group: _____

I would love to have an OLOC group near me and could help work toward establishing one.

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.

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Time to Renew?
If your label says 2013.3
(meaning 2013 March) or
earlier, your membership/
supportership has ended
and it is time to renew.



Meet us in St. Louis

July 2013 (details inside)