Fantastic Gathering Coming
By Elana Dykewomon, 1949

The fantastic 2014 OLOC National Gathering is coming! Set your calendars now to be in Oakland, California (at the Oakland Marriott/Convention Center), from July 23 to 27 and join the hundreds of Old Lesbians who will make this the most exciting, eclectic, engaging Gathering ever!

Our keynote speakers are Cherrie Moraga, Chrystos, and Dorothy Allison. Wednesday we’ll have a pre-Gathering intensive on the Roots of our Feminisms (register early!). After an exciting inter-generational panel on Thursday afternoon, the Gathering will continue with an amazing line-up for our first Writers’ Night (including Jewelle Gomez, Canyon Sam, Dorothy Allison, Avotcja, Elana Dykewomon, Carmen de Monteflores, Teya Schaffer, Barbara Ruth, Kitty Tsui, and a tribute to Pat Parker).

See page 4 for pictures of some of the Lesbians who will read at Writers’ Night.

We will go through the weekend with plenary sessions on race and class, a historical overview of OLOC from those who attended the first Gatherings (25 years ago!), the Lesbian Tent Revival led by Sister Carolyn Gage, and the Saturday night dance with rousing music provided by the Bay Area Lesbian Legends Boogie Band. Of course, workshops will engage your interests, auctions will tempt you, and caucuses will provide welcome space. You won’t want to miss a minute of this herstoric event!

(Don’t forget to think about the Talent Show and bring things for the Silent Auction.)

Find print registration materials in this issue, or to register online, go to regonline.com/OLOC2014.

Watch oloc.org for more information and updates. You can also find the registration packet there if you need to print out more copies.

Note that we always can use volunteers at Gatherings. If you are eager to help (or even just willing), contact Pat Cull: pat@oloc.org 415-637-5002.
Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

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 Cheryl Larsen, 1949.
Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942.
Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.
Mailing crew and all writers and photographers.
Deadline for the next issue: May 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 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, subscribe by going to groups.yahoo.com/group/NationalOLOC/. If you have any problems, contact susan@oloc.org.

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

OLOC maintains a video library and will lend items to members. For a complete list of items available, check the website: www.oloc.org

Racism and “Colorblindness”

The following is an excerpt from “Detour-Spotting for White Anti-racists” by Jona Olsson. It was first published in Rain and Thunder, Spring 2009, and we reprint it here, with Jona’s permission, as part of our racism-awareness series. We invite more articles on this issue from OLOC members.

“Colorblindness” negates the cultural values, norms, expectations and life experiences of people of color. Even if an individual white person could ignore a person’s color, the society does not. By saying we don’t see their color, we are also saying we don’t see our whiteness. This denies their experience of racism and our experience of privilege… We have heard folks say “I’m not racist because…I have Vietnamese friends or my lover is Black. I donate to Casa Latina, or I marched with Dr. King.” This detour into denial wrongly equates personal interrelations with people of color, no matter how intimate they may be, with anti-racism. It assumes our personal associations free us magically from our racist conditioning. Someone may say, “I want to stop acting like a racist, so please tell me when I do something you think is racist.” White people often assume we can learn about racism only from people of color. We further assume that people of color have the energy and/or desire to do this teaching. My understanding is that most people of color are weary of educating white people about racism. We should seek out other white people before we go to people of color. We can’t assume people of color should be so grateful for our attempts at anti-racism that they will be willing to guide us whenever we are ready to be guided.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Open Meadows Foundation, the Carpenter Foundation, and the Horizons Foundation. OLOC thanks these foundations for their grants.

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

Portland, OR, Chapter Seeks Coordinator
Mary Beth Brindley is retiring as coordinator for the Portland, OR, chapter of OLOC. We honor and thank Mary Beth for all of her fine years of organizing in Portland. If you are interested in doing volunteer OLOC work in Portland, please contact us at info@oloc.org.

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.
Yet another year for the OLOHP was filled with milestones, learning experiences, and challenges. We’re ending the year with just over 325 herstories in various stages of completion. Unlike the previous two years, we didn’t conduct as many interviews in 2013. We felt it was important to take time out to put together an event that celebrated the myriad contributions and accomplishments of the women who have shared their stories. The event, Celebrating Our Lesbian Legacies, was held in October 2013 in Houston and was an incredible experience for everyone involved.

We’re pleased to say that in 2013 we had interviews conducted by ten different women. We’re also thrilled that we had several women contribute by volunteering their time and talents to transcribe for us.

We continue to work with Smith College on the processing and accessioning of stories from the OLOHP collection and anticipate transferring an additional 50+ herstories to them in 2014.

The OLOHP Insider, our quarterly newsletter, continues to help our readers gain a better understanding of the Project, the women in the collection, and their place in history.

A new focus for the OLOHP is to explore various methods for sharing the herstories with a larger audience. In June, the group did a dramatic reading of excerpts taken from the herstories at an event in Seattle. Representatives of the OLOHP also did an extensive presentation about the Project to GLEAM, the LGBT workplace group of Microsoft.
Announcements

Coming to Oakland and Want to Share Your Herstory?
If you plan to be in Oakland for OLOC’s big anniversary Gathering in July and are interested in talking with the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project about sharing your story, please contact Arden@olohp.org. The criteria for inclusion in the OLOHP are that the woman identifies as a Lesbian and is 70 or older. Under special circumstances, such as extreme distance to travel to get an interview or health limitations that would make it even more difficult to do the interview at a later date, we do occasionally interview women who are a bit younger. If you're interested, or would like more information, please get in touch with the Project.

New Book Published
Margaret Garner’s story was the inspiration for Toni Morrison’s novel *Beloved* and for the libretto for the opera *Margaret Garner*. Essays in the book focus on resistance to both modern-day slavery in various global contexts and historic slavery in the U.S.

Australian Feminists Launch Publishing Site
OLOC member Jean Taylor would like to announce the launch of her new website and e-store. As far as we can tell, this may be a first in Australian feminist publishing. We would be most grateful if you could take the time to look us up and would also welcome reciprocal posting links. Anyone interested in having her site linked to this site, please contact the WebWeaver, Pat Mitchell, at DykeBooks.com.

Publication of Lesbian Experiences Planned
Rainbow Williams is gathering stories for a planned publication and would like to include experiences of Lesbians kicked out of school for their sexual orientation. Please send your stories or inquiries to: williamsrainbow@yahoo.com

LGBT writing programs
Information about many writing programs, webinars, seminars, self-publishing, day-long, or multi-day retreats beginning March 1st is available from Ronni Sanlo, Purple Distinctions Self-Publishing and LGBT Retreats. purpledistinctions.com

“I shall not grow conservative with age.” Spoken by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, late 1800s feminist activist.

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
Memorials

Billie Potts, 1940–2014

OLOC member Billie Potts, of Seneca Falls and Summit, NY, succumbed to heart failure in early December, which came as a shock to her long-time partner Sharon Kuromiya, her daughter, and a wide community of devoted friends and colleagues.

Billie taught workshops at the 2008 and 2010 OLOC Gatherings and once consulted with OLOC about fundraising.

Billie was a nationally known women’s spirituality pioneer, an artist, herbalist, and educator. Her many publications include A New Women’s Tarot, Small Scaled Goat-keeping, Witches Heal: Lesbian Herbal Self-Sufficiency, and Uncounted Daughters: Jewish Women Healers in the West.

She was a potter and ceramic sculptor, a dairy goat farmer and organic grower and co-ordinated alternative healing facilities for major women’s music festivals. She also facilitated herbal healing and tarot workshops across the US since 1976.

Kathy Glass, 1932–2014

After a long illness, OLOC member Kathy Glass died January 14 in Denver, CO. She and Carmah Lawler, her wife and partner of 36 years, received the first Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award in 2010.

Kathy and Carmah were active in local and state politics for many years on behalf of numerous LGBT issues and raised thousands of dollars to help elect candidates supportive of Lesbian and gay rights. They were recognized for their work on behalf of Jefferson County Democrats when the GLBT Democratic Caucus selected them Democrats of the Year. They were also honored to receive the prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt Award.

A Memorial Service was held on February 15, 2014, at the Lakewood Country Club in Lakewood, CO.

Rita Vander Weyden, 1927–2013

Rita, a member of OLOC since the early 1990s, died in November 2013. She lived in Louisiana.

(Note: If you knew Rita, please send us any information and we will publish more about her in our next issue).

Grief and Death

Resources for dealing with grief and loss of a loved one can be found at a website maintained by LIGHT (Lesbians in Grief Healthy Transitions) www.lesbianwidow.org. This site links to a very active forum (over 1600 posts since its inception in late 2011): email Stacey@lesbianwidow.org. The Reporter would be interested in publishing your articles on this issue.

OLOC 2013 Financial Report

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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.
Announcement and Chapter News

Way To Go, Arden Eversmeyer!
By Margaret Purcell, 1951

Each year, the National Women's History Project (www.nwhp.org) honors a group of outstanding women, and we're thrilled that Arden Eversmeyer is among those being honored in 2014. “The theme for the 2014 awards is Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment. The award honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. Against social convention and often legal restraints, these women have created a legacy that expands the frontiers of possibility for generations to come. These role models, along with countless others, demonstrate the importance of writing women back into history.”

Along with the other honorees, Arden will be inducted at a gala reception and dinner in Washington, DC, on March 27. Tickets are still available if you'd like to attend.

Portland, OR, OLOC Donations
By Lorraine Fischer, 1948

Portland OLOC Lesbians discussed our privilege as citizens of the United States. We decided to do something as a group for Third World women who have little or no opportunity. Heifer International was chosen as the charity to channel our donation because the gift of an animal to one woman can benefit an entire community. We collected enough to send two flocks of chickens, ducks, and geese. You might want to create a similar donation for Third World women from your local OLOC group.

Hudson Valley OLOC
By Bonnie Wagner, 1942

In December, the Hudson Valley Chapter of OLOC sponsored a holiday party and dance. Retts served as our disk jockey. Our chapter also held a clothing swap. We exchanged some great items, had fun trying on clothes, and added new treasures to our wardrobes. Clothing that was not selected was donated to the battered women’s shelter.

We also joined with Voices of Diversity to show the film Brother Outside. Despite the foggy, rainy, and icy conditions, we had an excellent turnout, and we are planning to co-sponsor screenings of additional films.

Washington, DC, Chapter News
By Carol Anne Douglas, 1946

On a good day I was able to go to the Fast for Families Immigration Reform tents on the mall and to the South African Embassy. I signed guest books in both places saying that I was there for OLOC.

Alix Dobkin will appear in concert the evening of May 3 in the Washington, DC, area. The concert is being sponsored by the Folk Society of Greater Washington and will be held at a large home in the suburb of Hyattsville, MD. For reservations, driving directions, and other information, please contact Deb Friedman of DC Metro OLOC (jwanddf@juno.com).

Bay Area News

In anticipation of the 2014 National Gathering in Oakland, CA, and in honor of Mother's Day, the Bay Area Chapter will host a program about our Lesbian foremothers at the San Francisco Main Library on May 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

New Mexico OLOC Chapter News
By Zane Torelle, 1947

The best New Mexico news: The NM Supreme Court affirmed the NM rights of marriage equality. NM OLOC participated in advocating for and celebrating NM’s becoming the 17th state (including the District of Columbia) to legalize same-sex marriage. Our chapter worked toward the victory in several ways.

The New Mexico OLOC Chapter continues to add new members. Discussion ranges from awareness-raising regarding same-sex marriage to sharing simple, practical tips about how we can take care of ourselves. Once per quarter, we share a potluck in a member’s home. We formed three small groups: Game Night happens monthly; Sturdy Girls get together and coordinate “fix-it” projects in each other’s homes; and Travel Group members share stories and information about places to go. We also hold discussions and potlucks.

Reprinted from Lesbian Connection Jan/Feb. 2014 issue: “Rosemary Radford Reuther in the 1970s said ‘Language is the power of the ruling class to define reality in its own terms and make all others… invisible.’ ” Does this tell us anything about ageism?
OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE
2014 NATIONAL GATHERING
July 23-27, 2014

Lesbian Activism Changing the World
OLOC Celebrates 25 years

Panels, Workshops, Entertainment, Dinner, Dance, Silent and Live Auctions, Keynote Speakers, Writer's Night, Plenary Sessions, and Talent Show!

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

Early registration deadline May 15; workshop proposals due by March 20.

Registration form on next page.

THE HOTEL
Oakland Marriott/Convention Center
1001 Broadway in Downtown Oakland, California

Room rate is $129 per night (Includes breakfast daily for 2 people)

To book your hotel reservations, call (510) 451-4000 or use this link to book online:

http://tinyurl.com/myufhnx

Be sure to tell them you are coming to OLOC.

BE KIND TO YOURSELF AND YOUR SISTERS

In addition to sensitivity to and awareness of all disabilities, 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. Please come with fragrance-free body-care products and clothing. We urge you to read your confirmation packet for specific scent-free instructions.

Features

Don’t Forget National
By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

The National Women’s Music Festival performers are a wonderful mix of young women and oldie-but-goodie tried-and-true veterans.

Held in an air-conditioned hotel, there are workshops and concerts, jamming with performers, shopping at the marketplace, swimming in the pool, or having a drink at the bar. Most of the audience is over 60 years old! At National, OLOC members can enjoy all the festival offerings in the comfort of a hotel. We need to have an OLOC presence there and schedule a Meet-and-Greet workshop to get new members.

Go to www.wiaonline.org for all the details. It’s all about women being together and creating community. Come and join in.

Why Old?
By Sharon Raphael, 1941

We call ourselves Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, not older Lesbians. The reason we claim the word Old is to cut through the usual euphemistic terms adopted to hide aging which, consequently, reinforce an ageist attitude. Terms like senior, mature, older (than what?) prime timer, etc., objectify the old person.

There is also a movement sense of affirming being old, just as the slogan “Black is Beautiful” signified a change from a negative to a positive attitude toward being Black. Similarly, gay people have embraced the word Queer.

The term elder but not elderly seems popular today because of its cultural authenticity. Though I do have some question about its authenticity in non-tribal society.

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Support OLOC by Advertising

We’d love to see your ad in the Program Book. Here is the form for placing ads in the Souvenir Program Book, which will be given to all attendees and all advertisers.

Do you have an organization, business, or group that would like to place an ad?

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☐ Paying by check  ☐ Paying via PayPal   PayPal Transaction ID ________________

Deadline for ads is May 16, 2014. Send your ad via e-mail to Connie Rose at imagesnatural@gmail.com in either straight text for her to typeset and lay out for you at a fee OR as a camera-ready PDF saved at print resolution. You can also mail your camera-ready ad or business card with your check and we will scan your ad.

You can pay for your ad via check or PayPal at oloc.org. Visit oloc.org and click on Donate via PayPal; include your transaction ID on the form once you’ve paid. Or send your payment to

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change
OLOC • PO Box 5853 • Athens, OH 45701
info@oloc.org • www.oloc.org • toll free 888-706-7506
2014 National Gathering Registration Form
July 23–27, 2014      Oakland, California

STEP 1: Tell us about you. Please print exactly as you want to be listed.

Name _______________________________________________________________

Date of Birth ___________________ Age as of 7/23/2014 ________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _____ Zip __________

Phone ________________ e-mail _______________________________________

Add me to a contact list that all attending will receive. Yes___ No ___

Do you want the contact list sent to you electronically ___ in print ___

How did you hear about this event? _______________________________________

I plan to attend all-day session on The Roots of Our Feminisms July 23

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 ___

vegan ___ other ___________________________________________

STEP 1: Registration fee covers programs, entertainment, Friday
night dinner & Saturday lunch. It does not cover housing, transportation, or meals other than
those listed above.

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE IF POSTMARKED BY MAY 15, 2014 $300
REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED MAY 16–JUNE 15 $325
REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED JUNE 16 or later $350

STEP 3: PAYMENT: (financial assistance form below)

Registration fee (see schedule above) $_______

OLOC Membership (optional, includes newsletter) ($25–50) $_______

Contribution for financial assistance (optional) $_______

TOTAL $_______

(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 ___

To register online:
regonline.com/oloc2014

Note that you still must register separately with the hotel
for your lodging.
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, 2013.

2014 REGIONAL GATHERING
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM
(Send this form with your registration form by May 15, 2014)

Your name ________________________________ Phone # ________________

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? Yes___  No ___ How much can you pay?_______
2. Housing costs: Do you need assistance? Yes___  No ___ How much can you pay? _______
3. Transportation costs: Do you need assistance? Yes___  No ___ How much can you pay? ________
4. What type of transportation will you use? ______________________________
5. Any other info or details you would like to give us? ____________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
6. 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, 2014. This will make the registration and hotel process easier.

Send your payment to Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:
OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701
info@oloc.org  toll free 888-706-7506

Download this form at www.oloc.org or request via e-mail info@oloc.org

July Gathering Workshop Proposals
Due No Later Than March 20

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, birthdate, 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 (preferred) or in print to Bonnie Wagner, 11 Olde Żena Lane, Kingston NY 12401.
OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

We welcome everyone as either a member or a supporter, whether or not you can send money now. 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 a supporter, you will receive four issues of the OLOC Reporter before you have to renew. Couples may both use the form below.

I am not sending money at this time, but I am an Old Lesbian and want to become/continue as a member for the coming year _____
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 4 issues of The Reporter. 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. 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 to OLOC? 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 to OLOC? 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. _____________________________________
Oakland National Gathering

Dates and Deadlines

♦ March 20th: Workshop proposals due.
♦ May 1: Information about whether or not chosen to those who proposed workshops.
♦ May 15th: Forms postmarked or sent online for earliest registration price.
♦ May 15th: Financial Assistance requests due.
♦ Between May 16th and June 15th: Next earliest registration price forms due.
♦ May 20th: Program ads and greetings due.
♦ May 31: Financial Assistance awards information to applicants.
♦ June 16 to event: Highest of three registration prices.