

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



## Building OLOC Communities *by Shaba Barnes, 71*

During our strategic planning meetings early last year we identified the need for more representation where we did not have local or regional groups and also where there may be a larger number of ethnically diverse old lesbians. We began looking for Old Lesbians for volunteer positions that we identified as Area Representatives. There were individual communications with several Old Lesbians across the country. Some were interested, some were limited in availability, or felt that they were not in a position to support that particular position at the time. All in all, only a few were ready to represent their community as out Old Lesbians and work toward organization.

Our planning changed to facilitating a workshop on Building OLOC Communities and the responsibilities that are associated with it. Some of the comments that we received were the use of the title Area Representative. Names suggested were Contact Lesbian or Contact Dyke. We were planning the upcoming Gathering and felt it would be the perfect arena to hear from each of you who are interested in volunteering on a local level in order to plan, collectively, for addressing the needs, wishes and desires of our constituents.

The following are excerpts and results from the Building OLOC Communities Workshop that was held during the Gathering.

Approximately 30 people attended representing Boston, Brooklyn and Upstate NY, the California Bay Area, San Antonio, and St. Louis, as well as Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, New Mexico, North and South Carolina, Ohio and Oregon.

The first part of the workshop was devoted to brainstorming the needs and desires of the supporters and members for this National Organization. That resulted in a list that included such basics as:

- better use of the computer, online classes
- accessibility issues
- better communication
- list serve of value to old lesbians
- housing needs and nursing care on the many levels that exist
- finding Old Lesbians
- developing personal contacts
- diversity issues
- frequent, less costly, regional retreats
- coalition building with Black Lesbian Groups

The second part prioritized that list and determined who would be responsible for taking the individual items to the next level.

Margaret Mann volunteered to help organize and support all Regional Retreats. The following women volunteered to work on planning and organizing retreats in their areas: Ffiona & Emily, Boulder, CO; Charlotte, St. Louis, MO; Nancy, San Antonio, TX; Kostya, Brooklyn, NY; Alix, Hudson Valley, NY; and Suzanne, Kerhonkson, NY.

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**California, Here We Come  
Right Back Where We Started From  
OLOC is headed to the Long Beach  
area for the 2008 Gathering.**

**Watch for further announcements  
on date and location.**

**The Reporter ... A quarterly publication of OLOC**

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...**Building OLOC concluded**

Cathy Cade volunteered to write an article on housing for Old Lesbians with opportunities shared in the Bay Area. (Her article will be featured in the next issue of *The Reporter*.)

Other comments and ideas included: "sharing our stories more often," "sprinkling OLOC in local Lesbian and Gay communities," "staying aware of what is happening in our LGBT communities," and "reaching out to Lesbians who are homebound, in nursing homes or are closeted."

The academic or professional titles of those agreeing to support these efforts became moot. We were open to dialogue and shared valuable information, some to be acted upon.

Every idea on the list was not addressed during this workshop. There maybe something you are interested in doing. How can you help the continued health and growth of OLOC? Call or email us with your support.

You make a difference.

*The workshop was facilitated by Shaba Barnes, 71, and Sally Tatnall, 69.*

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## Differently Abled

*Workshop Report: Differently Abled in Organizational Settings; Durham 2006*  
**by Mina Meyer, 66**

We had an interesting group of women in our workshop, many of whom articulated ways in which organizations can make a conference experience easier and more accessible, even for those who don't normally consider themselves disabled.

One suggestion that OLOC has already decided to implement was "no more buffet meals at Gatherings." It is too difficult for disabled women to carry trays and stand in line for long periods of time. And, of course, we need to make sure our food is healthful.

Another idea was to have an infrared system set up for deaf or blind attendees. Already implemented at many other

conferences, this will assist those needing to follow everything said. The Steering Committee will look into this. Signers and microphones should be available for more workshops.

Some Gathering-goers reported being able to rent electric scooters at other conferences. Not everyone owns an electric scooter or brings one to a conference, but many old women get very tired from walking in large hotels. This is something we can look into for the future.

Basic suggestions were offered such as not covering one's mouth when speaking, which allows lip readers to see what is being said and amplifies and clarifies one's voice. When setting up rooms, ample space must be allowed for comfortable passage by women in wheelchairs and walkers.

Most importantly, these differently-abled Lesbians want to help out, to continue to meet, to have sessions at the next Gathering, and to continue improving their lives and the lives of any Old Lesbians who may become disabled.

Disabled Lesbians wishing to attend the Fall 2008 Gathering can contact me about their special needs. To be part of the planning for the Differently-Abled, please call or e-mail me. (Contact information on page 6.)

**Correction: The name of the movie mentioned in the review of Mary Meigs' book *Beyond Recall* (in the September 2005 issue of *The Reporter*) is *Strangers in Good Company*.**

**THANK YOU to two special women who have been assisting with OLOC mailings — Sally Dahl from University Place, WA and Nan Worthing from Athens, OH — OLOC would not survive without dedicated volunteers.**

**LOOK AT YOUR LABEL — Does it have a date? If that date has passed your subscription has expired and money is now due. Please use the form on page 11**

OLOC provides Old Lesbians with the chance to meet like-minded women in our common struggle to confront ageism, to share mutual interests, and to experience the joy and warmth of playing and working together.

## THE MEDICAL CORNER

Dr. Jean Eckerly, 68

As promised during our workshop at the OLOC Gathering in North Carolina, I will give a brief summary of the content and furnish you with some references.

We attempted to look at our health care (better termed "disease care") system from a historical and political perspective. For an in depth feminist analysis, I strongly recommend the book *For Her Own Good - 150 Years of the Experts' Advice to Women* by Barbara Ehrenreich and Deidre English. This was first published in 1978 and was updated in 2005 with the subtitle "two centuries of the experts' advice to women." I am looking forward to reading the update. However, the first edition, along with two monographs, *Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A History of Women Healers, and Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness* (by the same authors), launched me into my career as a maverick physician (commonly referred to by the so-called "traditional" MDs as quack).

Even a limited perusal of the origins of "modern" medicine will quickly reveal that it is anything but traditional. What is traditional is healing. What we have with our system is merchandising.

This is not to say that many MDs are not well-meaning and dedicated; it is to say that the system trains us to use methods that are self defeating. We are not educated to understand and correct abnormalities that occur in human physiology, we are trained to employ methods that will artificially alter physiologic parameters. Simply put, we use drugs to alter laboratory measurements and we define "health" as having "normal" laboratory data. In fact, we can redefine the normal ranges of these parameters, or introduce new parameters that allow us to define more people as "ill" or certainly "at risk."

I have been writing these articles for 6 years and I continue to feel overwhelmed by the amount and intensity of the propaganda that comes from the medical establishment. On the other hand, very few MDs are involved in environmental issues which, to my mind, are the basic cause of the physiologic abnormalities that occur. We are talking about air, water, food, and certainly "medicines."

At any rate, here are some references for your winter reading:

### Websites that support the status quo:

- [www.firstwordplus.com](http://www.firstwordplus.com) a website for the pharmaceutical industry
- [www.open.imshealth.com](http://www.open.imshealth.com) a website for medical corporations (offers a free newsletter)
- [www.quackwatch.com](http://www.quackwatch.com) a website that allegedly steers you away from quackery

### Websites that seek truth in medicine:

- [www.campaignforthruth.com](http://www.campaignforthruth.com) has a number of links to other sites
- [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org) an organization is active in challenging the government
- [www.credence.org](http://www.credence.org) simply stating facts in "controversial situations"
- [www.paradigm-changes.com](http://www.paradigm-changes.com) looking for better answers
- [www.redflagsdaily.org](http://www.redflagsdaily.org) covers health news with critique
- [www.statinalert.org](http://www.statinalert.org) the truth about cholesterol lowering drugs
- [www.thincs.org](http://www.thincs.org) world class scientists tell the truth about heart disease
- [www.worstpills.org](http://www.worstpills.org) the truth about the safety of specific drugs
- [www.publiccampaign.org](http://www.publiccampaign.org) has a white paper on health care paybacks (how the white house and congress are neglecting our health care because of their corporate contributors)

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**Medical Corner concluded...**

**Books:**

Angell MD, M. *The Truth About the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us And What To Do About It*. The Random House, New York, 2004.

Bartlett, D.L., Steele, J.B. *Critical Condition: How Health Care In America Became Big Business And Bad Medicine*. Doubleday 2004.

Carter MD, J. *Racketeering In Medicine; The Suppression Of Alternatives*. Hampton Roads, 1992.

Griender, K. *The Big Fix: How The Pharmaceutical Industry Rips Off American Consumers*. Public Affairs, 2003.

Hilts, P.J. *Protecting America's Health: The FDA, Business And One Hundred Years Of Regulation*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

Kassirer MD, J.P. *On The Take: How Medicine's Complicity With Big Business Can Endanger Your Health*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

Krimsky, S. *Science In The Private Interest: Has The Lure Of Profits Corrupted Biomedical Research?* Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.

Moynihan, R., Cassels, A. *Selling Sickness: How The World's Biggest Pharmaceutical Companies Are Turning Us All Into Patients*. Nation Books, 2005.

Strand MD, R.D. *Death By Prescription: The Shocking Truth Behind An Overmedicated Nation*. Thomas Nelson, 2003.

Szasz MD, T. *The Theology Of Medicine: The Political-philosophical Foundations Of Medical Ethics*. Syracuse University Press, 1988.

Washburn, J. *University Inc.: The Corporate Corruption Of Higher Education*. Basic Books, 2005.

**The OLOC Reporter**

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

- www.oloc.org
- Email: info@oloc.org
- Post Office Box 5853 Athens, OH 45701

The OLOC Reporter is produced through the collective efforts of many women.

**Let your voice be heard.**

Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2007.  
Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org  
or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701

**Want To Be An Editor?**

The volunteer position of Newsletter Editor is now open and waiting for you!

The job requires basic computer skills and access to email. Submissions for upcoming issues are sent to you (usually via email) to be edited for basic structure, syntax and spelling. Occasionally, material is submitted in writing and will need to be entered into a computer. The Editor will work with the Newsletter committee to identify topics and prioritize articles. Edited materials are then sent on to other women for layout and proofreading before the quarterly newsletter is printed and mailed.

If you have an interest in this position, please contact us at info@oloc.org.

**Job Announcement**

The National OLOC Steering Committee is seeking resumés from Lesbians with office experience as candidates for the position of Office Manager. The position will include some travel with paid expenses. This position is a part-time, work from home opportunity with scheduled phone meetings with Co-Directors. Approximately 20–50 hour per month will be required and the pay will be commensurate with experience. Responsibilities shall include maintaining our database, retrieving emails from info@oloc.org, assisting with mailing newsletters, attending 3-4 day SC meetings once every 6 months (in various cities), taking notes and transcribing minutes. The successful candidate will be expected to start March 1, 2007.

This is an excellent opportunity for the successful candidate to learn about the inner working of the only national organization of its kind dedicated to Old Women who identify themselves as Lesbian, Queer, Radical Feminist, etc. Please send your resumé to info@oloc.org or mail to PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701 as soon as possible and no later than 1/15/07.

## So Many Smart Lesbians

Comments excerpted from the Fall 2006 issue of *MAIZE*, a Lesbian land magazine.

Written by Rainbow Williams from the Pagoda in Florida: "Gosh, what a fabulous group OLOC is — so many smart lesbians." She goes on to explain that there were many land dykes at the OLOC national gathering in Durham, NC. Many attending came to the "lesbians land communities" workshop hoping to see a slide show featuring various women's land, but the projectors went on strike. Individual women attending did give short presentations on their communities — Alapine in Alabama, Pagoda in Florida, Susan B. Anthony Womyn's Land Trust in Ohio, Full Circle Farm in North Carolina. "The question asked most: how many women live there? And how about long term care? Our answer is everyone is working on solutions."

Written by SheWolf from Florida: "One of the best workshops I attended was on disability issues of old lesbians. One of the several suggestions that came from the meeting was that OLOC sponsor a web site to connect old lesbians, later year housing, special programs, and information on disabilities. Getting information to old lesbians is a major issue, especially as more of us are coming out of the closets and don't know where to go to find services that are open to us. Another dynamic presentation was a post conference presentation by Emily Lewis from Boulder CO. Her training program of the LGBT Visibility Project goes into nursing homes and assisted living — it has become a model for the nation on how to recognize the needs of US in our older years. The training program can be purchased for \$15 — Power Point for those with that computer software." It is sponsored by the Boulder County Aging Services Division. Contact for information: emilylew@earthnet.net or 303-938-8052.

## On a Personal Note...

It is with a great deal of sadness that I must give notice of my resignation from the National OLOC Steering Committee as Co-Director. Due to personal reasons and the belief that I have given my best to a cause that I believe in, I recognize that this is the time for me to make this change. I shall miss working with you but hopefully we may remain friends and stay in touch. I plan to attend future Gatherings wherever they may be. I shall remain in my present position until January 31, 2007. Shaba Barnes, age 71

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## Anyda Marchant 1911-2006

Marchant, who died in January 2006, was born in Brazil and moved to Washington, DC as a child. As a lawyer, Marchant served the World Bank as an attorney in the Legal Department for 18 years. After retiring in 1972, Marchant, under the pen name of Sarah Aldridge, and her partner of 57 years, Muriel Crawford, started Naiad Press. 11 Aldridge novels were produced along with a wide selection of other feminist and lesbian literature. Her last publishing enterprise (A&M Books) was release of the novel *Celebrating Hotchclaw* by literary icon Ann Allen Shockley in 2005.

Carol Seajay, former editor of the Feminist Bookstore News, wrote this to Marchant: "Anyda, it was your vision of a possible world in your first lesbian novel and your vision that we could have such books, and your vision and skills that launched our first, grand lesbian publishing house — and published books that have gone out all over the world, changed countless women's lives, given hope and opened doors."

A lengthy article about Marchant's life and the importance of her accomplishments appeared in the Washington Post on Tuesday, February 7, 2006.

**Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members**

**Co-Directors:**

Shaba Barnes, Albuquerque NM	Smokeyb2196@msn.com	(505) 856-1290
Jan Griesinger, Athens OH	ucmjan@frognet.net	(740) 448-6424

**Steering Committee Members:**

Mary Henry, University Place WA	mandm@mandmcentral.com	(253) 565-0829
Sally Tatnall, Cleveland Heights OH	Tatnalls@yahoo.com	(216) 932-0977
Mina Meyer, Long Beach CA	minakay@aol.com	(562) 420-3555
Alix Dobkin, Woodstock, NY	XXAlix@aol.com	(845) 679-7586

**Happy Birthday To You**

OLOC initiated a new project of sending birthday cards to OLOC supporters this year. The response has been very enthusiastic. If you've already had a birthday this year and didn't get a card from us, we may not have your birthdate on record. Send it to us and we'll be sure you get a card from us next year. Recipients of cards wrote to OLOC to thank us for the cards. Here are a few of their comments:

- ☺ Thanks for the great birthday card. It made my day.
- ☺ Thank you so much for the thoughtful birthday card. What a pleasant and warm fuzzy surprise! I especially enjoyed seeing so many smiling faces 'just for me' on my special day. It's a GREAT card. For all those who thought of it, got it together, and did the personal signatures and picture — I appreciate you.
- ☺ Thanks so much for the birthday card — a nice surprise.
- ☺ To the OLOC Steering Committee members: If I missed your birthdays — then let me wish you all a happy birthday. Thank you for the lovely birthday wishes. I'm 75 and believe me birthday wishes come few and far between."



**Regional OLOC Group Contact List**

OLOC would love to have regional groups form all over the country! If you're interested in helping form a group, email us at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or write or call Jan in Athens, OH. (see below)

Minnesota	Annalee Stewart	612-724-6541	stewie4@mac.com
Portland, OR	Mary Beth Brindley	503-286-3575	calinpx@aol.com
Denver	Emily Lewis	303-440-8767	emilylew@earthnet.net
St. Louis	Charlotte Ellis	314-962-2188	cellis@wustl.edu
Ohio	Sally Tatnall	216-932-0977	tatnalls@yahoo.com
Northern Colorado	Cindy Bear	303-258-9424	msdivide@yahoo.com
San Francisco Bay Area	Joan Emerson	415-388-5001	40 Camino Alto #11209 Mill Valley, CA 94941

## SAGE New York Welcomes OLOC To The Neighborhood...

New York, NY ~ Join the Women of SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) New York in welcoming OLOC~NY (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change in New York) to the neighborhood at a Festive Holiday Party on Sunday 10 December from 2~5pm in the ADA~Accessible SAGE Drop~In Lounge at The LGBT Center, 208 W 13th Street, New York, NY 10014.

Come, Meet~&~Greet Old Friends & New while enjoying Egg Nog & other Holiday Goodies, as well as a screening of Tipping The Velvet, a BBC Drama, set in the 1890s, offering a frank depiction of Lesbianism in Victorian England.

All Women, 60 & Older, as well as their Female Partners & CareGivers of any age, are welcome.

For More Information, Please Phone 347~278~8993 or E~Mail [Kostya@oloc.org](mailto:Kostya@oloc.org)  
Visit OLOC~NY on The Web <http://kbs.mahost.org/oloc/ny.html>

## Southern California Is Getting Organized!

OLOC has decided to have the next national Gathering in the Fall of 2008 in Long Beach, California. To make this our most successful Gathering ever (and each one should be better than the last) we are going to need as much help as possible.

We will need you to get involved. We have a huge group of old Lesbians in southern California that we want to reach. I think this is going to be an exciting time for us.

As an organization, OLOC began in southern California but we have never had a local group here, and it's long overdue. So, I am calling for a first meeting of the Long Beach local group of OLOC to be held Friday, Jan. 5th from 2 to 5 PM at the Lesbian & Gay Center in Long Beach on 4th St. at Cherry.

Please let me know if you can join us at the January meeting or, if not, you still want to be a part of the Long Beach group and included in other meeting notifications.

[MinaKay@aol.com](mailto:MinaKay@aol.com) • 562-420-3555 • 3735 Albury Avenue • Long Beach, Ca. 90808

## Washington State South Sound OLOC Regional Group Gets Together !

*If you live in the South Puget Sound area (Pierce, King, Kitsap and Thurston Counties especially), we'd like to invite you to join us in an organizational meeting. It will be held Saturday, January 27, 2007 at 2 pm. We'll meet in Tacoma at the Weelock Library at 26th and Proctor.*

*For more information, or if you can't make this meeting but would like to stay informed, please contact Janá or Mary at [mary@oloc.org](mailto:mary@oloc.org), [jana@oloc.org](mailto:jana@oloc.org), or call 253-565-0829.*



## Project Visibility

Presented at the OLOC Gathering 2006

**By Emily Lewis, 65**

Seven years ago Boulder County Aging Services Division (BCASD) recognized that one under-served segment of the older adult population in Boulder County Colorado was the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) older adult. First, there was a need to acknowledge the existence of older LGBTs from service providers. At that time, LGBT older adults were virtually “invisible” in the county. Secondly, there was a need to provide training to cultivate a more sensitive and aware aging services system in the county.

Project Visibility as a training program grew out of these needs. Project Visibility puts a “face” on aging as an LGBT, and subsequently brings a new awareness of how to provide culturally-competent care to the older LGBT. The training is comprised of a 20-minute locally produced documentary film that showcases the lives of older LGBTs. (A number of OLOC members in the Colorado area were interviewed in the film.) The PowerPoint presentation, manual and tool-kit provide research data, tips, and other materials to further educate the provider.

The history of Project Visibility can be traced back to September 2000 when BCASD along with Longmont Senior Services jointly established the first Colorado publicly-funded support group for the LGBT Elder Community in Boulder County. When the group, now known as the Rainbow Elders, first met only two persons attended. It has now grown to over 100 members sponsoring activities and events designed for older LGBT adults.

Teresa De Anni, then the Aging Services Nutrition and Wellness Coordinator, sought to identify the needs of the older LGBT community in Boulder County. She established a task force, AGLE (Advocates of GLBT Elders). This was an advisory board to BCASD whose mission was to identify and plan programs to meet the needs of Older LGBTs in Boulder County. I became a

volunteer member of the AGLE advisory board.

It was out of AGLE that the need for a sensitivity training like Project Visibility was identified. To find out what LGBT elders in our community needed, focus groups were held around the county. Those LGBT elders who participated were not certain where to turn if they should need services. They expressed a concern about the level of sensitivity and awareness of staff at facilities and agencies. There was a general hesitancy to reach out for help. If they did accept help or enter a facility to live, they often chose not to speak about their lives for fear of discrimination, neglect, and/or violence.

In response to these expressed needs the first edition of *Silver Lining, A Resource Guide for Boulder County Elder LGBT Community* was published in 2003. Although happy with the product, BCASD wanted to be sure that those entities listed really did understand how to provide service to this population. Hence, the development of Project Visibility began. BCASD continues to offer the trainings and manuals to participants free of charge. Funding for the video and trainings came from local foundations, including the Open Door Fund, a fund of the Boulder Community Foundation; the Theodore and Chandos Rice Charitable Foundation (local to Boulder County); the Aging Services Foundation of Boulder County, the charitable arm of Boulder County Aging Services Division plus numerous private donors.

The film was unveiled in August of 2004 and the first general training took place in October of 2004. I came on board Aging Services on a part time hourly basis as the Project Visibility Trainer in October of 2004. Since that time Project Visibility Trainings



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**Project Visibility concluded...**

have been held throughout Boulder County, the State of Colorado and the US. Project Visibility has also been taken to a number of conferences including the 2005 National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform, the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance and the American Society on Aging 2006 conference.

In our recent outcomes measurement survey over 90% of respondents indicated that they had recommended the training to others. About 75% responded that the training had raised their awareness of LGBT elder issues and at least two-thirds had changed their agency policies and personal interactions with older adults based on what they had learned in a Project Visibility training. In 2007 Project Visibility will remain one of the components of Boulder County's Aging Service's Wellness Services for older adults.

While there are a number of other LGBT sensitivity training programs around the country Project Visibility is the first and only one, so far, developed by a government agency. Most recently Project Visibility was the winner of two national awards. It received the 2006 n4a (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging) Aging Innovation Award for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity and the 2006 NACo (National Association of counties) Innovation Achievement Award. You can learn more about these awards, Project Visibility trainings and how to purchase the video by visiting the Project Visibility web site: [www.projectvisibility.org](http://www.projectvisibility.org). In 2006 Project Visibility was a recipient of a Gill matching grant. The Gill Foundation will match dollar for dollar every contribution. To donate to this fund you can send a check made out to the Aging Services Foundation of Boulder. In the memo line write glbt or gill grant donation. Send checks to Aging Services Foundation, PO Box 471, Boulder CO 80306. If you have any other questions you can direct them to [elewis@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:elewis@co.boulder.co.us).

**OLOC would like to belatedly acknowledge both Cathy Cade and Kostya Branwen Sudice for photos they allowed us to use in the September 2006 Reporter. Thanks!**

**Buy a T-Shirt, or an OLOC Pin!**

One way to support OLOC and the 2008 Gathering is to buy an OLOC T-shirt or pin. The attractive 1 inch, enamel pins are \$6. T-shirts are \$20. Most of the shirts are purple with a white OLOC Gathering logo on the front. We also have a few black shirts with gold logos and a few white shirts with the design below. Various sizes are available. Prices include postage. If you are interested, send a note to the Ohio address or email us at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).



**OLOC Statement of Purpose**

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) is a national organization of Lesbians 60 and over. We are committed to networking with Old Lesbians everywhere in order to:

- confront ageism within our own and the larger community.
- explore who we are and name our oppression.
- analyze our experience of ageism which has been so little defined.
- develop and distribute educational material.
- facilitate formation of new groups and refocusing of old groups to confront ageism.
- make our presence a visible force in the women's movement.

*We want to celebrate our differences and affirm the diversity of our races, our ethnicities, our class backgrounds, our herstories, and our present lives.*

## **We Came, We CR'd, We Consensed** by **Alix Dobkin, 66**

*A report on the OLOC Steering Committee meeting held Oct 12-15 near Portland, OR*

At our August Gathering, five women answered our call and expressed interest in joining the SC. Their first meeting was quite unusual. Committee members spent four days covering a daunting agenda prepared by our hard-working and capable co-directors, Jan & Shaba. New provisional members and guests contributed their thoughts throughout.

A substantial effort is involved in the management of OLOC, much of which falls to our Steering Committee, communicating with each other through a multitude of e-mails, several phone conferences a year, and twice-yearly meetings where OLOC work is envisioned, assigned, and accomplished (or tabled).

I adore Consciousness Raising — our stories are so spectacular! And the frequently thrilling (to me) results of the Consensus Building process, as tedious, nit-picking, and plodding as it can sometimes be. In my opinion, those two practices are life-saving gifts to current and future pre-feminists. At the SC meeting, although we each experienced difficult, frustrating, and tedious moments, our consensus process mostly worked and the actual work was, mostly, handled efficiently and openly.

Under the pressure of a jam-packed agenda, we rotated the jobs of facilitator, time keeper, and a "vibe watcher" to improve communication and help keep us brief, kind, and respectful. It worked. A CR session opened the weekend, with a focus on visualizing/building a stronger OLOC and Steering Committee. We closed the CR determined to try and build upon each other's ideas and suggestions in doing the work of OLOC.

I'll spare you the details of every discussion filling four frenetic days working through

the two-and-a-half page agenda. Suffice it to say that many things were discussed, some at great length. Topics ranged from fine-tuning our Mission Statement, to evaluating the recent Gathering, beginning plans for the next Gathering, field organizing, evaluating our work, mentoring provisional SC members, development of new local groups, harnessing the interest and energy of women approaching 60, budgeting, planning for changes to our website, reviewing OLOC bylaws, updating guidelines, forming standing committees, and more.

We receive excellent feedback from subscribers and love hearing from our amazing, creative, funny, accomplished tribe. Personal meetings are special treats, and happily, on Saturday afternoon we were treated by visits from a dozen or so Oregon and Washington State OLOC gals plus two more en route back to California. The SC had invited area women to join us for conversation so that we could get better acquainted with them and the OLOC work going on in the northwest. A couple of delightful hours flew by while we exchanged information, opinions, stories, and jokes before going out to dinner together.

There's good evidence and a strong sense among many in OLOC that we are on the threshold of tremendous growth. First of all, there are lots and lots of us. Second, we, the very first generation of post-menopausal, feminist Lesbians on this poor, abused planet share a unique perspective and experience not to mention knowledge and wisdom. As patriarchy goes totally bonkers, it's easy to feel grim and frightened, but there's another path to walk, and I came away from the weekend feeling energized, hopeful, and grateful to OLOC for helping me stay on mine.

## OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Application

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 Woman and work with a mentor to start a local group. If you are not yet 60, we welcome you as a Supporter. By giving OLOC your generous financial contribution you can show your commitment and support for challenging ageism.

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### Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am (we are) 60 or over and wish to subscribe (or renew) my (our) current subscription to *The Reporter*.  
\$25 to \$50 for a one-year subscription.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to receive *The Reporter* but I (we) can contribute only \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to become an OLOC Contact Woman and work with a mentor to organize a local group.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am (we are) not yet 60 but want to Support OLOC. Enclosed is \$30 to \$60 for a one-year subscription to *The Reporter*.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to keep OLOC alive and strong. Please accept my (our) tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or my (our) pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / month.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to purchase the *Travel Directory*. Enclosed is \$3 for costs.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want my (our) names to be included in the *Travel Directory*.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) would like to give a \$20 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send a sample of *The Reporter* to the name(s) listed below.

### 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. The bequest can be an outright gift listed in a will or a percentage of assets. If you are interested and would like additional information, please send for a copy of the OLOC Endowment Fund Brochure.

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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 only and not available to any other persons or organizations.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Disability \_\_\_\_\_

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