

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded  
in 1989

# The Reporter

A quarterly  
publication of OLOC

June 2016

Vol 26 #2

## OLOC Regrets That We Have Cancelled the October 2016 Gathering in Atlanta

We want you to know that we have cancelled the Gathering that was to happen in early October 2016 in Atlanta.

National OLOC deeply regrets that ZAMI NOBLA and the Atlanta OLOC chapter terminated the partnership with us to produce it due to "irreconcilable differences" about how to advertise who was invited.

The ZAMI NOBLA and Atlanta OLOC Lesbians wanted to advertise the Gathering as welcoming "trans and cis" Lesbians. Since about half of our members and half of the Steering Committee prefer that OLOC be for female-born Lesbians, not self-identified Lesbians, some of the Steering Committee members did not want to do that. They wanted to stick with the membership statement they worked for years to come up with\* and advertise it as "for all Old Lesbians." While it was still under discussion, ZAMI NOBLA and Atlanta OLOC decided to end the relationship.

Note that National OLOC had already agreed to open this joint event to Lesbians 40 or older as fits ZAMI NOBLA'S membership guideline.

We don't yet know when or where we will have our next Gathering, but we will let you know soon.

If you have already made flights or hotel reservations for Atlanta, simply cancel the hotel reservation. For airlines, if you need assistance, let Ruth Debra know by contacting her at [ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org) or 760-318-6794. Registrations will be refunded.

We very much appreciate your support and understanding, and we welcome constructive suggestions from our membership about this situation.

*The National OLOC Steering Committee*

### **The Longevity Wave: Meeting Future Needs**

*By Marcy Adelman, 1946*

People over 65 are the fastest growing segment of the population. The existing senior-serving infrastructure will be prepared to meet their needs only if government and philanthropy invest in affordable housing, services, and programs that will help us live longer and healthier lives.

It is estimated that half of all people over 65 will need assistance with daily activities. The focal point of this care is the home. Affordable housing, when combined with supportive services, allows people to stay in their homes independently as long as possible. The lack of affordable housing is a national crisis, and safe, affordable housing is cited as the #1 priority of LGBT seniors.

This is a time of great opportunity, if we have the courage and vision to meet the future head on.

(Marcy Adelman, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in private practice, is co-founder of the nonprofit organization Openhouse and was a leading member of the San Francisco LGBT Aging Policy Task Force.)

\*Membership Statement as of 10/23/15: "National OLOC welcomes as members Old Lesbians who have reached their 60th year."

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)
- PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701; 888-706-7506

This Newsletter Brought to You By:

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

Proofreader and Copy-editor: Nancy Krody, 1939. Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, Sally Tatnall, 1937, 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 August 1, 2016. Limit general submissions to 300 words, memorials to 200 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.

#### **Current Steering Committee Members Contact List**

Co-Directors:

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

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

Steering Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

Ali Marrero-Calderon, 1948, Oakland, CA, and Bayamon, Puerto Rico, [ali@oloc.org](mailto:ali@oloc.org), 510-365-6745

Paij Wadley-Bailey, 1939, Montpelier, VT, [paij@oloc.org](mailto:paij@oloc.org), 802-224-0406

**Who We Are:** 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 and threatens to erase it.

#### **OLOC Membership (10-23-2015):**

National OLOC welcomes as members Old Lesbians who have reached their 60<sup>th</sup> year.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation and the Horizons Foundation.

## **OLOC Receives \$5 Million Government Grant**

OK, we're way late for April Fool's, but did you know that almost 59% of OLOC's income is from memberships and donations from you, our members and supporters? Do you know about and use all the wonderful services OLOC provides to you, our members and supporters?

These include *The Reporter* (this newsletter), website with lots of news and resources, monthly E-News, Yahoo discussion group, 18 local chapters, Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, Media Library with 75 movies you can borrow for free, vetted opportunities to participate in research projects that affect our lives, a dedicated staff to address your needs, advocacy and collaboration with like-minded groups, and most important, the chance to meet friends new and old, give and receive support, and reduce isolation among Old Lesbians, especially at our regional and National Gatherings.

Please consider a few of the ways you can help OLOC survive and thrive:

- Donating stock
- Putting OLOC in your will
- Making OLOC the beneficiary of a bank account/IRA
- Charitable trusts/annuities (which provide you with a source of income for life)
- House parties (introduce your friends to OLOC!)
- Gifts in memory of those no longer with us
- If you don't need birthday gifts, ask friends and family to donate to OLOC instead
- Same as above in celebration of your marriage/anniversary if you already have a toaster oven
- Same as above in honor of your granddaughter's bat mitzvah
- Pledge a small amount every month or quarter

For more information about these or other ideas you may have, please contact Jan at [Jan@OLOC.org](mailto:Jan@OLOC.org) or 740-448-6424. To reach her using our toll-free number, please call Susan at 888-706-7506 and she will pass your number on to Jan. Thank you. And if you have already donated, thank you!



Ruth Silver

OLOC is honored to have received a gift from Mary Kurth in memory of Ruth Silver.



## Chapter News

### Puget Sound Chapter

By Margaret Purcell, 1951

Puget Sound OLOC women sure are busy, busy, busy! We're all involved in a surprising variety of non-OLOC related projects—add to the mix what Puget Sound OLOC is up to, and we are meeting ourselves coming and going. The Puget Sound is quite a large area geographically, which presents both interesting opportunities and logistical challenges.

Working on the divide and conquer principle, we have formed several smaller, more regional, groups: South Sound women gather for their monthly Lunch Bunch; Westies (women on the Olympic Peninsula side of the Sound) gather twice a month for films, outings, and discussions; and the Seattleites have a recurring dinner, as well as a book group. They also have their own subgroups, a housing committee, and a group working on end-of-life issues.

Recently, two new groups have emerged, working both independently and as allies to subgroups of Puget Sound OLOC. They are ALISS (Aging Lesbians in South Seattle) and ABLE (Aging Ballard Lesbian Exchange). And of course, Puget Sound OLOC continues working on its own events (like an upcoming showing of *The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen*), with the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (interviewing and the DVD project), and making sure the voices of Old Lesbians are represented by doing ongoing coalition work with other advocacy efforts happening throughout our area. We're also looking forward to two members of our leadership team heading to St. Louis for the Chapter Coordinators Meeting in June and are anxious to learn what they will bring home to share with the rest of us.

It's exciting to have so many ways to reach out and gather in—but it doesn't come without challenges. We rely heavily on a bimonthly newsletter and our Yahoo groups to keep us all informed.

### Puget Sound OLOC Housing Committee

By Ruth Vogel, 1954

Several of us are working on improving the housing situation for Old Lesbians in the Puget Sound region. Our focus: we have two primary areas; one is the research and dissemination of information about existing available housing options and the second is exploring the creation of housing.

We are wondering what work is being done elsewhere and if we could share this information with each other! The issues of poverty, isolation, health, aging, and Lesbianism seem to coalesce in housing. We would like to find some sustainable solutions. Please e-mail [ruth@ivylawgroup.com](mailto:ruth@ivylawgroup.com).

### Central Ohio OLOC Chapter News

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

In February, our Chapter led singing at a nursing home in Columbus, Ohio. Nancy Ratliff, whose sister lives at the facility, made the arrangements with the activity staff at the nursing home. Betty Howard, one of our members, had spent time there after knee surgery, and Donna Voelkel brought cookies to share with all.

Nancy Moore picked songs well known from the 1940s and 1950s (including "You Are My Sunshine" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart"), played the piano, and provided song sheets for those of us from OLOC to use. She encouraged residents to think back to times when they first heard the songs. About 30 residents participated and several of them knew the words to nearly all the songs and could sing along. It was wonderful to see them thinking back to pleasant memories.

This was the first time our chapter did this and we will do it again soon at another facility.



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Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned and-operated.





## **Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts, Chapter** *By Emily Greene, 1946*

We have been busy beavers for most of 2015 and 2016. Two of our members, Carol Vincze (1951) and Judith Sara (1950), started putting out a newsletter called *The Pioneer Valley Experience*. We have had three issues so far. Each issue tells what we are doing and highlights the life stories of two members. The newsletters are often 6–8 pages long and include a calendar of events.

In the fall, we had a soup recipe swap, which was a great success. In November, Lynne Lennon (1945) gave an inspiring talk on aging. In January, we had a speaker and film on green burials, organized by Roberta Pato (1946). In February, Carol Vincze organized a program on the consensus-making process. In March, we discussed Coordinators' responsibilities and chose Judith Raphael (1943) and Bim Burns (1945) to be our new Coordinators. They will attend the June Chapter Coordinators' meeting in Missouri. In April, Emily Greene (1946) organized a program on white privilege. There were about 20 in attendance, and everyone opened their hearts to looking at this difficult issue.

We are grateful for the support and an inspiring DVD, *Mirrors of Privilege*, from National OLOC. We are also grateful to Roberta Pato, who provides us the space to meet each month. In addition to our meetings, she also shows a Lesbian movie once a month.

## **New Mexico Chapter News**

*By Jay Daza, 1948*

Spring has been an exciting and busy time for the New Mexico OLOC chapter! Not only have our established activities such as the monthly breakfast and lunch talk groups thrived, but also newly implemented groups such as the movie discussion group have grown and provided a forum for social interaction as well as for intellectual stimulation.

Recently the chapter implemented a (closed) Meet Up group, taking advantage of established social media to enhance communication and foster social, educational, and community activities for New Mexico OLOC members. Members can post a variety of activities so

other members may join them. Two examples of recently posted activities were a Mother's Day concert at the zoo and a camping trip to Bandelier National Monument.

Effective March 2016, New Mexico OLOC began a collaborative relationship with SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) Albuquerque intended to enhance the quality of life for LGBT residents in long-term care facilities. Utilizing training materials developed by SAGE National and expanded with some local information, volunteers from New Mexico OLOC and SAGE are providing presentations to long-term care providers that are designed to bring awareness and sensitivity to the unique challenges LGBT elders face.

Monthly gatherings were well-attended and topics such as "Spirituality: What we Believe and Live," "Ten Minute Coming Out Stories," and "Shared Governance" were covered. The concept of Shared Governance, as a way of encouraging participation, sharing responsibility, and fostering inclusiveness, is a model that is being refined even as it has already become implemented. This new structure has brought a spirit of volunteerism and new energy into the chapter and takes advantage of the broad skill sets our members have.

## **Boston Chapter Produces *Erasing Lesbians*** *By Alix Dobkin, 1940*

Responding to a hot topic in our community, OLOC's Boston Chapter Planning Committee has published *Erasing Lesbians*, a booklet put together by Sarah Pearlman, who organized a February 7th panel attended by over 50 Lesbians. A big "thank you" goes out to Sarah and panel members Alice Fisher, Ann Kennedy, Jyl Felman, Cynthia Bauman, Sue Katz, and Sue Reamer for the presentations contained in this thoughtful collection. Read it and see what you think yourself! For a copy, contact [SBReamer@earthlink.net](mailto:SBReamer@earthlink.net).

## **New Chapter Development Funds**

OLOC recently received a bequest from an OLOC member's estate for chapter development. If you have some interest in developing an OLOC chapter near where you live, let us know and we may be able to use these funds to help you.



## OLOC Chapters

OLOC chapters and groups as of April 11, 2016, are Arizona (meeting in Central Arizona); Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, San Francisco Bay Area, Radical Lesbian Crones (also Bay Area), and Long Beach, California; Northern Colorado; Washington, DC; Atlanta, Georgia; Boston and Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Cleveland and Central Ohio; Champlain Region of Vermont and New York; Richmond, Virginia; and Puget Sound Area, Washington. Others are forming.

OLOC would love to have more groups/chapters across the US. We are ready to hear from you if you are interested in pursuing this.

## Connecting with Icelandic Lesbians

*By Ruth Vogel, 1954*

In March, I travelled to Iceland. Before going, I e-mailed the local gay community center that I was interested to meet Old Icelandic Lesbians. I explained Puget Sound OLOC, ABLE (Aging Ballard Lesbian Exchange), and our effort to create groups linked with a small geographic area.

I was invited to attend a Lesbian "Diva Gala" in Iceland and later to make a presentation at the Queer Center. The Gala was held in a historic wood building next to a lake in central Reykjavik. About 100 Lesbians ranging in age from 35 to early 70s attended the dinner. There were speeches, music, delicious food, and much merriment. I met many women who had looked up OLOC online. The word "old" proved to be a challenge as a personal label for some. Icelanders are generally quite healthy and long-lived.

A couple of days later, I met with some Queer Center board members. I learned a lot about the challenges of creating a sustainable Lesbian community in Iceland. That evening, I made the presentation at the Queer Center. Supported by government funds, the space includes a meeting room and private offices. About 20 people attended, mostly Lesbians. I talked briefly about OLOC, Puget Sound OLOC, and ABLE. Politically, Iceland has been ahead of the curve on civil rights for GLBT folks, but among the communities themselves, there has not been a great level of awareness of who

or where the Old Lesbians might be. We talked about how to seek them out and about the isolation of senior housing and nursing homes.

Since then, there has been a group meeting to discuss Old Lesbians. I'm hopeful we can be supportive and develop our connection with the Icelandic Lesbian community.

## From Detour-Spotting for White Anti-racists

*By jona olsson, 1945*

### **Detour: Innocent by Association:**

"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."

### **Reality Check and Consequence:**

This detour into denial wrongly equates our personal interactions 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.

## Response to Last Issue's Ageist Terms List

*By Holley Humphrey, 1942*

Here's another one: "Long in the tooth."

A cousin to that topic is how we are addressed as we show our age. Since I have gotten white hair, I notice more people calling me "Sweetie" and "Honey." It might be that I am new to the South—not sure. There's sometimes a sort of demeanor and tone of voice—like they are really wanting to help the old lady cuz she can't manage herself.



*By Sally Miller Gearhart*

## International News – from Rain and Thunder Winter/Spring 2016

Women's Equality Party—feminists in Britain founded this group in October 2015, and it already has more than 65 branches and over 45,000 members. In 2014 a woman was elected to the European parliament from the Swedish Feminist Initiative Party. In October 2015 Kabul University launched its first Gender and Women's Studies graduate program—the first of its kind in Afghanistan. In that country about 20% of all students are female.



# Memorials

## Darlene "Ollie" Oliveira, 1941–2016

Ollie was a longtime member of OLOC and attended OLOC events in the San Francisco Bay Area. In the 1970s she ran the Bacchanal Bar in Albany, New York. In 1981, she opened her nightclub, Ollie's, in Oakland, California. Many performers played their first gigs there, among them: Mary Watkins, Rhiannon, and Linda Tillery. She also ran a Lesbian softball team, the Beavers, and printed a set of "Can't Lick Our Beavers" buttons, in case anyone didn't get the joke. Attending the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade in 2010, Ollie carried a sign proclaiming: "Old and bold."

Born in Lafayette, Mississippi, Ollie grew up on a ranch milking cows and riding horses. Later, when she moved to California, she drove school buses and made sandals in Sausalito. Nadine Beachamp, her partner of 35 years, helped manage Ollie's until the bar closed in 1991. Later they moved to Mariposa County and took jobs at Yosemite National Park. In 1997, they moved to Santa Rosa.

In her last few years, Ollie battled breast cancer and asthma. She ignored conventional medicine, choosing instead to use medical marijuana and drink special teas. According to Nadine, "Ollie was kind of private about her health. She was a very positive person."

## Toni Langfield, 1935–2016

Back in 2008, Toni explored membership on the Steering Committee, attending a meeting or two before deciding it wasn't for her. She was a vital part of Mothertongue Feminist Readers' Theater in the San Francisco Bay Area. Here is what her friend Jan Van Schuyver wrote about Toni when she told us of her death:

"With great love and honor to Toni, a fierce activist, a generous friend, a woman who enjoyed life fully, and got a kick out of... a lot of things. I know there are some Sandhill cranes flying somewhere and calling out in her honor right now."



## Carole Stoneking, 1937–2016

Carole Stoneking was a former member of the OLOC Steering Committee and a board member for the South Carolina Council on Aging. At the 2009 OLOC Regional Gathering, in recognition of her leadership in OLOC and her promotion of issues of aging in the LGBT community, she was presented with the Order of the Pink Palmetto by the boards of the South Carolina Pride Movement and the Harriet Hancock Foundation.



Carole was born and raised in Michigan and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit. During her 27 years with the YWCA, she was Executive Director of affiliates in Jacksonville, Florida, and Columbia, South Carolina. She received the Outstanding Leadership Award for United Way Executives in 1988. She trained at the Ozark Life Center of Therapy Technology in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was the owner of the Stress Management Institute of Therapeutic Massage in Columbia for 23 years.

She had been Vice President of the Columbia Chapter of the National Organization for Women, a board member for the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Business Guild, and a delegate for the South Carolina Equality Coalition. She received a special Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 from Listen, Inc.

## Sally Slater Gabb, 1944–2015

Sally was a Founding Mother of the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA).



If you now receive *The Reporter* in print and want to switch to electronic, please e-mail [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org).





## Book about OLOC Member Published

A wonderful book about the life and accomplishments of OLOC member Mary Margaret Steele Morgan (1925–2015) is now available. It brings together a selection of her writings, memoirs, short stories, poetry, tributes, awards, and letters to the editor.

She was the first woman to run for public office in Dayton, Ohio, in 1969 and was endorsed by the *Dayton Daily News*. The Mayor of Dayton later proclaimed “Mary Morgan Day” on 9/20/09. She also received an award from the League of Women Voters on 2/23/10 for “Making Democracy Work.” And she was a Leadership Award winner of the Greene County Council on Aging in 2011. She received the Social Justice Lifetime Service Award from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs in 2007.

Mary was active in Dayton Women’s Liberation from 1969 to 1976, co-founded the Yellow Springs group “Older and Bolder: The Joys and Challenges of Growing Old,” and served on the board of the Yellow Springs Senior Center.

She co-founded the Susan B. Anthony Memorial UnRest Home Womyn’s Land Trust in Athens County, Ohio, in 1979. In the 1980s she was the first woman to be a candidate for the Ohio University Credit Union board. She received an award in 2003 for 50 years of activism in the Athens County ACLU.

Her partner was Jan Griesinger, OLOC Treasurer.

## Natalie Zarchin’s Life Celebration Report

*By Susan Chacin, 1945*

On November 1, 2015, BA OLOC [San Francisco Bay Area chapter] participated in a celebration of Natalie Zarchin’s life (August 1922–July 2015) with a number of other groups she had been involved with, including the Mothertongue Feminist Theater, the Pacific Center for Human Growth (LGBTQ), Lavender Seniors, and the Richmond Art Center.

Mothertongue readers presented a selection of her writing over the years, and her family donated ceramics [made by Natalie] for a silent auction benefitting OLOC. Natalie was a founder of OLOC and attended every National Gathering held, including the one in Oakland in 2014. She appears in the video clip of the Gathering on OLOC’s website.

## OLOC Members Published in Feminist Journal

*Sinister Wisdom*, *A Multicultural Lesbian Literary and Art Journal*, the “Pleasure” issue, Winter 2016, featured writing by several OLOC members: Kitty Tsui, Susan Levinkind, and Jean Taylor. Check it out!

Other recent issues also include OLOC members. See *Landykes of the South* (Fall 2015) for work by OLOC members Merrill Mushroom, Dolphin Dragon, Rose Norman, Kate Ellison, Barbara Ester, TeNaj McFadden, Lynn Hicks, and Susan Wiseheart, and *Southern Lesbian-Feminist Herstory 1968–94* to read some of the same Lesbians plus Ronni Sanlo, Edie Daly, Charlene Ball, Gail Reeder, Lorraine Fontana, Beth York, Pat Hussain, Pam McMichael, Mandy Carter, Barbara Esrig, and others you may recognize.

## Welcoming Old Lesbians

*By Connie Barrett, 1945*

When, in June 2015, I moved to the Pioneer Valley area of western Massachusetts, I wanted to meet Lesbians in my age group (70). An Internet search led me to OLOC’s website, and I found a western Massachusetts Chapter (Pioneer Valley OLOC). I e-mailed the contact person, who sent back a very warm e-mail inviting me to the group’s next event, in August. At the potluck social, I met around 20 friendly and welcoming Old Lesbians.

Since then, I haven’t missed a monthly meeting, and OLOC has become a big part of my life. In November I volunteered for the Chapter’s Planning Committee, and I intend to do all I can to help strengthen my Chapter (and National, too!).

In this society, Lesbians and old people are marginalized—at best. OLOC gives me and all Old Lesbians the possibility of empowerment. Our voices are important. I intend to help make them be heard.

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Sweatshirts Cloisonné Lapel Pins  
Buttons And More!**

Go to [www.oloc.org/market/market.html](http://www.oloc.org/market/market.html).



## OLOC Member Looking for Information on Feminist Bookstores in the South

By Rose Norman, 1949

For a special issue of *Sinister Wisdom* about Lesbian feminist activism as expressed in art and culture in the South, the Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory project is collecting information about all of the feminist bookstores that ever operated in Southern states. So far, we have interviewed many feminist booksellers, including Carol Seajay (based in California), who ran *Feminist Bookstore News* (1976–2000), kept a list of feminist and LGBT bookstores that she rented to publishers, and added a lot of Southern stores to our list.

We would like to find out more about 15 stores that we have heard of but can't get good dates or contacts for. If you know anything about these stores, please call Rose Norman at 256-539-0723 or e-mail

[rose.norman@gmail.com](mailto:rose.norman@gmail.com).

The bookstores are:

- Bad Habits Etc., Norfolk, VA.
- Equilibrium, a mail order service "celebrating Girls and Young Women" in the 1990s.
- Half the Sky, Dallas, TX.
- Healing Rays, Charleston, SC.
- Lavenders, Naples, FL.
- Moore Magic Womyn's Bookstore, Royal St., New Orleans, LA.
- New Leaf Books, 1980–?, Warrenton, VA, or Raleigh, NC. Sadhbh Neilan?
- Out of Bounds, Greenville, SC, original owners?
- Purple Moon Women's Bookstore, August 1993–?, Fredericksburg, MD, owned by Suzy Stone.
- Rising Moon, Wilmington, NC.
- Seven Rays Bookstore, Columbia, SC [same as Healing Rays above?]
- Sisterspace Books, Washington, DC.
- Southern Wild Sisters Unlimited, November 1987–?, Gulfport, MS.
- Textures Books & Gifts, San Antonio, TX.
- Two of a Kind, Norfolk, VA.

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

### Next SC meeting

The date of the next in-person National OLOC Steering Committee meeting is unclear. However, if there are topics you want the Committee to address, contact the Steering Committee by e-mail to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org), a note to the PO Box in Ohio, or a phone call to 888-706-7506. It currently meets every month by conference call.

## End Citizens United

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

One of the events at the Creating Change conference in January in Chicago—attended by three Steering Committee members—was about Citizens United, the Supreme Court ruling that said corporations are people. This data confirms that we need to work hard to get rid of the ruling:

- Formerly, 30% of private sector employees were union members; now 6% are. And they make less money than they did 25 years ago.
- The banking industry salaries from top to bottom are 1,500 to 1 (top makes 1,500 times more than the bottom).
- Big donors can give money and we won't know who it comes from.
- Union members have the right to know where their money goes.

The most powerful solution would be public funding of elections. For further information, go to [endcitizensunited.org](http://endcitizensunited.org).

## Going Away for a While?

Right now 345 households are receiving *The Reporter* in print. If *The Reporter* cannot be delivered to you, the Post Office returns it. OLOC pays \$.68 for the return and \$.71 more if we send it out again first class. If you are going to be away for any length of time and are having your first class mail held or forwarded, *The Reporter* is returned to us. It cannot be forwarded. If you notify us when you will be away, we can either hold your *Reporter* for a later mailing at the first class rate or send it to you at your temporary address, if you provide it. *The Reporter* is mailed out at the end of February, May, August, and November. It arrives a few days or so later.





## More on Consensus

*By rainbow williams, 1934*

I was so glad to see the conversation continues around Consensus and Class. I really enjoyed reading the very thoughtful articles by d. maria and Conni Johnson in the December 2015 issue of *The Reporter*. I hope this discussion will continue.

*By Pelican Lee, 1947*

I have witnessed the consensus process used well and also be abused. I do not believe it is classist, but like many things, it can be used in a classist way.

Groups need to be aware of how oppressions can operate among members and help members see when oppressions are getting in the way. It also helps to recognize when personal emotional issues come up and not allow them to take over. Consensus also does not work if there are a large number of conflict-avoidant folks who will go along with anything to avoid controversy.

There need to be many members who are skilled in the process. This includes careful listening, being kind and gentle when bringing up oppressions and personal issues that threaten to divide us, and bringing the group back to being a caring community. Consensus used well means there is a set amount of time for discussion, and if consensus cannot be reached by that time, the issue is laid aside until the next meeting or, at least, is laid down for a while. Using consensus is a skill that takes time to develop. It also takes time for us to work through our emotional issues. We all make mistakes, and a healthy community gives each member slack to allow mistakes to happen and to be recognized. Amends can then be made without resentments. I believe that those of us who are doing our emotional and skill-building work and have not thrown the consensus baby out with the bathwater have the skills to use the process well.

In recent years I was in a consensus-using group that was not able to prevent bullying and, therefore, fell apart. Caring for each other just wasn't there. I'm also in a group that uses consensus well and is thriving.

*By Susan Wiseheart, 1941*

I've worked closely with several nonprofits that use consensus-decision-making, beginning in the 1970s. I once analyzed how decisions billed as consensus really got made for one of those nonprofits, tracking when decisions were assumed, pushed by one person and the rest just went along, voted on, not really decided at all but everyone acted as though they were, and so on. True consensus is a lifelong commitment and Quakers do it best, as far as I can tell. It requires a clear understanding by everyone participating of what it is and how it is to be done. Often there is much confusion about it. I like it and want to be involved in it, but it can be very tedious and time-consuming, that's for sure. I recommend training for those who use it. It is very useful.

### **LGBT Older Adults Face Unique Challenges to Staying in Their Homes**

*By Marcy Adelman, 1946*

1. High levels of financial insecurity after a lifetime of discrimination.
2. High rates of discrimination in housing and senior service settings.
3. Fear of not being treated with dignity and respect by service providers.
4. Lack of protection from discrimination in housing.
5. Limited support networks.

To best prepare for the increased need to rely on home health care services to stay in our homes, we should:

1. Assure increases in the supply of affordable housing with services for seniors, and the development of more LGBT-friendly senior housing.
2. Reward innovative housing programs that create more housing options.
3. Increase funding for LGBT senior cultural competency training for senior services and housing.
4. Target funding that supports collaborations between mainstream for-profits and LGBT nonprofits.
5. Increase funding for capacity building for the existing LGBT aging infrastructure.



**From *This River of Courage: Generations of Women's Resistance and Action*, by Pam McAllister**

Some early feminism we may not know about and a clue as to how long it has been going on:

In the months before July 4, 1776, as the male revolutionaries were busy preparing to declare independence from the British, Abigail Adams wrote her husband, John, urging the men to “remember the ladies.” She cautioned them not to once again give unlimited power to men, for “All Men would be tyrants if they could,” she wrote, restating one of her husband’s own political maxims. And she added, “That your Sex are naturally Tyrannical is a Truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute.” In her letter, Adams warned that women of the future would not feel bound to obey laws in which they had had no voice and that someday they might even incite a rebellion of their own. But John Adams wrote back with an affectionate chuckle, “Depend upon it, we know better than to repeal our Masculine Systems.”

Suffragists in France, like suffragists around the world, were watching their militant British sisters, but the tactics did not translate easily. Women in France had a long tradition of revolutionary involvement and active leadership in social causes. Theirs was the country of Joan of Arc, who had led an army in 1429; Marie de Gournay, who had written about the equality of men and women in 1722; and the 800 women who had marched to the National Assembly at Versailles in 1789 to demand bread. They had seen their first feminist magazine in 1791, the same year that Olympe de Gouges had written a “Declaration of the Rights of Women and of the Citizen;” she was beheaded two years later for “having forgotten the virtues which belong to her sex.”

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

We'd love to have more articles about the joys and challenges of being old. So write us some of your stories and share some of your good things and hard things about being over age 60.

We also welcome interviews of Old Lesbians—someone poor, someone in a nursing home, an immigrant, someone who feels invisible, someone very disabled—this would feature some of the more “hidden” Old Lesbians. We could put a short version in *The Reporter* and a longer piece in our E-News. Send to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

**Take Your Best Photos**

*By Malinda McCain, 1940*

Photos in *The Reporter*—especially the chapter news—add a lot to the story! Here are some tips.

Using the camera in your mobile phone is fine; you can get good photos that way. If possible, stand everyone in front of a plain wall (no pictures, no doors—especially no windows). Try not to have non-OLOC people in the background. Help everyone relax: Tell them to smile. Then tell them to make funny faces. Then tell them to smile again.

Indoors, take the photo as close to a window as you can, or find good artificial light. Keep everyone out of shadows; especially make sure faces are in light. Make sure no one is hidden behind someone else. Best: Take photos outdoors. Look for the brightest area of shade you can find. In or out, keep the light source to your (the photographer's) back.

On an Android phone, tap the button lightly and then wait a few seconds before you take a photo so the camera will focus.

Pick the highest setting: best is JPG 300dpi. Don't crop or compress. Leave files at 100%.

Don't zoom. To make something bigger and get more detail on a cell phone, get closer.

I like using photos in *The Reporter*. Doing something fun and interesting? Historic—or not? Send us a photo, even if no one writes an article about it.

Remember: Have everyone in light, and the light coming from behind the photographer. Don't crop and don't compress—save at 300dpi, full compression, JPG.

And have fun while you're at it—it shows in the photo!





## 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. Anyone who is not an Old Lesbian is welcome as a supporter. Membership or support is for one year. We need to hear from you each year to keep you active. Both members of a couple may use this form.

### Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

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 sending this amount \_\_\_\_\_ (suggest between \$25 and \$50) for my membership (more if you can, less if you can't).

I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year (more if you can, less if you can't). Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer (circle one) print copy / electronic / both

### Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

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 sending this amount \_\_\_\_\_ (suggest between \$25 and \$50) for my membership (more if you can, less if you can't).

I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year (more if you can, less if you can't). Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer (circle one) print copy / electronic / both

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

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

Disability status \_\_\_\_\_

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 monthly E-News by e-mail?

Yes ☐ No ☐

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 monthly E-News by e-mail?

Yes ☐ No ☐

To pay with a credit card or a PayPal account, go to [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org) and click Donate. You do not need a PayPal account to use a credit card there. If a couple is paying, please include both names in the purpose/comments section. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OLOC. All money sent is considered a donation, which is tax deductible for those who itemize.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_*



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***Time to Renew?***

**If your label says 2016.06  
(meaning 2016 June) or  
earlier, your membership or  
support has ended and it is  
time to renew.**

“It’s your outlook on life that counts. If you take yourself lightly and don’t take yourself too seriously, pretty soon you can find the humor in our everyday lives. And sometimes it can be a lifesaver.”

—Betty White, who turned 94 in January 2016