

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

The Reporter

A quarterly
publication of OLOC

June 2018

Vol 28 #2

My First Steering Committee Meeting

By Windsor Young, 1943

I went to my first Steering Committee meeting in Columbus, Ohio, and stayed at the Embassy Suites Hotel, the site of the August 2019 Lesbians of Color Day and National OLOC Gathering. I was very impressed with the entire event. First, I'd like to say a few things about the hotel. The hotel is rectangular-shaped with rooms along the outer wall and, in the center of the hotel on the first floor, a number of large and small meeting rooms. There are also indoor and outdoor pools and a gym, and the hotel even provides a "Happy Hour" with free food and drinks every night. There is a free airport shuttle, a mile-long paved walking path nearby, and a park across the street.

Some Steering Committee members are retired from different professions and all are very good at running meetings. We introduced ourselves at the beginning of each segment of the meeting, so we got to know each other better. We discussed the need to get more Women of Color to join OLOC. We met with four local women from the Central Ohio Chapter who will help with preparations for the National Gathering. We had a discussion of the reasons the 2016 Atlanta Gathering did not happen.

We three provisional members [see pg 2, ed.] were tasked with helping OLOC get more Women of Color to the 2019 Gathering. We are urging all members of National OLOC to be sure that all of their Old Lesbian of Color friends know about the upcoming National Lesbian of Color event on August 21, 2019. We want all OLOC members to invite their friends personally and by any social media they use. Suggest a "Save the Date," and tell them to contact info@oloc.org for more details.



Jan and Windsor at the Steering Committee meeting

Thanks, Colorado OLOC!

Each calendar quarter, the Colorado Chapter of OLOC (formerly the Northern Colorado Chapter) chooses a program or organization with a mission in which they believe. Once they choose, they then collect donations to support that organization.

For the first quarter of 2018 they chose National OLOC's Lesbians of Color program. In memory of Gladys Lopez, one of their members (see March 2018 *Reporter* for Gladys's memorial and photo), they collected nearly \$500 to support the program and sent it to OLOC with "our hope that your program will attract more Lesbians of Color to become members of OLOC and lead to more collaboration with other groups to support and advocate for all oppressed women."

National OLOC thanks the chapter very much for their support.

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

OLOC Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

- www.oloc.org; email: info@oloc.org
- PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498
- 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.

All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2018.

Limit general submissions to 300 words, member memorials to 200 words, nonmember memorials to 100 words.

Contact us for the style guide (revised November 2017). We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org or PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498.

Current Steering Committee Members Contact List

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Bonnie Wagner, 1942, Woodstock, NY, bonnie@oloc.org, 845-679-7710 or 845-417-1481

Ali Marrero-Calderon, 1948, Oakland, CA, and Bayamon, Puerto Rico, ali@oloc.org, 510-365-6745

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's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or email. Please let us know if you would like a response.

The April 2018 OLOC Steering Committee Meeting

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

At the four-day, eight-hours-a-day (or more) National Steering Committee meeting, we welcomed Sherry Dowd, 1957, Windsor Young, 1943, and Maria Cora, 1953, as provisional members. They will attend another meeting before becoming full members. Current members briefed them on what to expect and our own experiences of membership. Then, going around the table consciousness-raising (CR) style, each Lesbian there described her vision for OLOC.

Our Old Lesbians of Color Day will open the 2019 National Gathering and will be planned by Ali Marrero-Calderon and our three new members. It will be for those identifying as Old who are Lesbians of Color. Anyone attending that event will be able to attend the full Gathering, no matter her age.

Business covered included attending other organizations' conferences, a Steering Committee retreat, our new website (we like it!), publications, and communication with our membership. We formed new committees, rearranged membership on old ones, and assigned tasks.

We plan to hold a reception to honor SC member and former Co-Director Jan Griesinger in Athens, Ohio, on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at which we also will raise money for OLOC.

Several members of the Central Ohio OLOC chapter attended part of one afternoon of the meeting. They plan to be local support for the 2019 National Gathering. You will hear more about them later. The Embassy Suites on Corporate Exchange Drive in Columbus, Ohio, is where our next National Gathering will be held and where we met. Our theme for the Gathering and the Old Lesbians of Color event is *Old Lesbians Resist and Persist*.

As the only national organization for Old Lesbians, we are determined to persist. With the addition of three Old Lesbians of Color to the Steering Committee, our future looks brighter than ever.

Next Steering Committee meeting

The next National Steering Committee in-person meeting will be October 4–7, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. The Committee also meets regularly by conference call between the semiannual in-person meetings. If there are topics you want the Committee to address, contact the Steering Committee by email at info@oloc.org, a note to the PO Box in Woodstock, New York, or a phone call to 888-706-7506. Be sure to say if you want a response.



Chapter News

The Steering Committee urges all OLOC chapters to suggest strongly to all of your members that they join National OLOC.



This is a picture of 35 of our members who were present at the March meeting.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Introducing Colorado OLOC

By Katherine Wood, 1954

At our March 2018 meeting, our OLOC Chapter voted to drop "Northern" from our name in order to become Colorado OLOC or COLO OLOC. For our first 25 years, we were Northern Colorado, the name decided upon by our three founders, all of whom lived in Northern Colorado. Over 25 years, however, our membership has spread to include women as far south as Colorado Springs, as far west as Pine, and as far east as Aurora. Dropping "Northern" expresses more fully who we are.

Also at that meeting, our political committee reported on a bill before Colorado's legislature that, if passed, would have devastating effects on gay rights in the state. After discussion, we selected Gail Klock to represent us in giving testimony before the congressional committee, and Dr. Don Johnson spoke to the group about the impact of coming out later in life.

Our theme for 2018 is *Creating Memories Together*. We hosted a group of youth from Boulder County at our April meeting, where we did feminist craft projects together and discussed political activism. Many of us participated in March for Our Lives, and the meeting was a poignant bringing together of the generation who stopped a war, marched for civil rights, and changed the voting age (and who

lived through 1968) with the generation who is changing gun legislation in our country. They left assured that they can do this! And we were inspired again by these kids!

At press time, we are excited as we prepare for our 25th anniversary party on May 12.

Stay tuned!

TRAINING TO CONFRONT POLICE VIOLENCE New Mexico Chapter Report

By Susan Buchler, 1946

In February, to deal with Albuquerque police excessive use of force,* we invited Ilse Bealle, who has many years of experience training in nonviolent actions. We addressed what to do when you see someone being assaulted. In this interactive workshop, we learned how to go from withdrawing or being passive to standing up for ourselves and others in ways that are not dangerous. This program was a great success.

Our March program featured Jean Hopkins on Spirituality and Values. This was an interactive discussion program that built on the program Jean presented last fall. Jean asked us in a brainstorming exercise to identify our spiritual values. We then worked individually to diagram a web of our spiritual values and what we do to support them. Working in triads,

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Chapter News (cont.)

Continued from page 3

we shared our thoughts and feelings about how our spirituality shapes our values.

In April, we enjoyed a viewing of *Cloudburst*, a Lesbian movie starring Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker. Hari Sheppard presented the film and we brought popcorn (and brownies!).

*IMPORTANT POLITICAL NOTE: A *Compliance Plan* to help track the progress of the *Settlement Agreement* regarding police *Use of Force* was ordered by the Federal Judge in November 2017. On March 8, International Women's Day, our chapter joined representatives for a meeting to review the plan and make any suggestions, additions, and so on. New Mexico OLOC is the only Lesbian group anywhere in the US dealing with this issue!

FESTIVITIES AND CHAPTER BUSINESS

Pioneer Valley OLOC

Emily Greene, 1946

We have had an exciting and busy time since last we wrote. In December, we had a lovely Winter Solstice Holiday Potluck using Laura's beautiful dishes to save on paper plates. Roberta continues to show great Lesbian films each month. In February, she presented a workshop on Lesbians in film and TV.

A small committee has formed and is working on the possibility of finding a way to help us live closer together in an affordable housing situation/community. With snowbound winters and night driving difficulties, we feel it is going to be important to decrease driving.

Lynne presented a very interesting report on our aging brains. We all agreed we wanted to see more of the DVD she brought.

If you are a member of National OLOC who wants to be on OLOC's National Yahoo email discussion list, you can subscribe at 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.

At press time we were preparing for the BIG Northampton Pride March and picnic afterwards at Wraye and Sheryl's on May 5. We will end for the summer with a workshop in June on classism by Jean, Connie, and Carol.

JR has decided to stay on as Co-coordinator with Lynne, and Ellen as a back-up. We take a short break during the summer. Thanks once again to National for helping us Old Lesbians have a format to stay connected.

OLOC Chapters

OLOC chapters and groups as of June 1, 2018, are Arizona (meeting in Central Arizona); Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, California; San Francisco Bay Area, California; Radical Lesbian Crones (also Bay Area), California; Long Beach, California; Colorado; Washington, DC, Area; Boston Area, Massachusetts; Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Central Ohio; Champlain Region of Vermont and New York; and Puget Sound Area, Washington. Others are forming.

OLOC would love to have more chapters/groups. Please contact ruth@oloc.org if you are west of the Mississippi and bonnie@oloc.org if you are east of the Mississippi.

Announcement

OLOC member Ardy Tibby, 1941, has a piece in a newly published book, *Our Happy Hours: LGBT Voices from the Gay Bars*. She is very pleased to be part of such a wonderful anthology, prepared by Lee Lynch and S. Renee Bess. There will be two reading/celebration/launch/discussion events this summer in California, and Ardy hopes that OLOCians and friends will come. Please share this information and encourage attendance.

- Saturday, June 23, at 6:00 P.M. (during Pride weekend) at Laurel Bookstore, 1423 Broadway, Oakland (downtown), 510-452-9232.
- Sunday July 22, at 2:00 P.M. at the June Mazer Lesbian Archives, 626 Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood.



CONFERENCE REPORTS

Black Women Rise (West Palm Beach, Florida, March 2018)

By Windsor Young, 1943

Black Women Rise was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. The first night started with speakers explaining their activism. OLOC member Jewelle Gomez, 1948, said she was active with AIDS organizations because many of her male friends were dying. Valerie Papaya Mann also started her activism with HIV/AIDS. Danielle Allen saw herself as helping to bridge the gap between older women and very young women. Judge Helen Whitener said that the law as written and how it is applied depends on the life lessons learned by the judge deciding the fate of the accused. So she felt it was her duty to bring a perspective from a Person of Color and a woman to the mix. Nadine Smith spoke about getting different groups to talk to each other. Last but not least was Chanice Lee, a teenager who has written a book to help guide other teens in making changes in and around their communities.

On the first day, we also saw a powerful film, *Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed*, about Shirley Chisholm's run for President in 1972. (This film is available for loan for home use from the OLOC Media Library at <https://oloc.org/media-library/>).

Black men would not support her because she was a woman. This was an excellent film with archival footage, period music, and interviews with her supporters.

On the second day, we were given a choice of attending a number of small groups: "Authors/Writers Networking," "Multigenerational Activists Networking," "#SayHerName and #BlackLivesMatter," "Humor," "Healing and Self Care for the Activists," "LGBT Issues in the Black Community," "Planned Parenthood and the War on Women," "The Art and Spirit of Drumming," "Vampire Fiction," and "The Legacy of Octavia Butler."

I look forward to next year's Black Women Rise.

By Sandra Tignor, 1936

Attendance at this year's conference was lower than last year's. Workshops were excellent, however, and of course, these topics are not likely to be addressed in other venues. Examples include "Sexual Abuse in the Black Church," "Finding Our Female Roots: Intro to Genealogy," and "LGBT Issues in the Black Community." The workshops were given in or on the grounds of Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), and the weather was excellent.

We were also entertained and enlightened by several women who have been on the circuit of sharing their expertise/talent, such as: Ubaka Hill, drummer and teacher of drumming; OLOC member Jewelle Gomez (1948), author; and Karen Williams, comedienne and healer. I am always inspired by their presences and their spirits.



OLOC Mission Statement

To eliminate the oppression of ageism and to stand in solidarity against all oppressions.

OLOC Vision Statement

OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian feminist activists from many backgrounds working for justice and the well-being of all Old Lesbians.



Dear Sisters in OLOC,

I've just returned home from our spring Steering Committee meeting. At this meeting, we had extensive and active conversation about OLOC's shrinking membership. "What!" you say, "OLOC's membership is shrinking? How could that be? OLOC is so important to Old Lesbians."

We don't know all the reasons, but right now we are asking for your help. So—bring on the ideas. While you are thinking, there is one thing you can do. Give the gift of OLOC membership or supportership as a birthday gift (or an any reason or anytime gift.) If you don't have money for this gift, you still can do this. Just notify us at info@oloc.org or contact me at ruth@oloc.org and make sure your friend is a member (Lesbian 60 or older) or supporter (anyone else) of OLOC as we know and love it.

Ruth Debra, 1944

Fundraising for OLOC

By *Alix Dobkin, 1940*

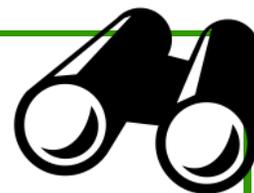
The National Steering Committee spent time at the April meeting reviewing the financial reports and budget, discussing them at length and in detail.

OLOC loses money on every Gathering, so we brainstormed about fundraising, including urging chapter members to join National OLOC. Should we send out more than two solicitations a year to our members? The results from our GoFundMe page and Give Out Day have been improving, but we will need to raise more money if OLOC is to survive in a world where fewer and fewer foundations are funding Lesbians, and within LGBTQ institutions we seem to be experiencing something resembling an existential crisis.

Take a Look

OLOC is very pleased to announce the launch of our redesigned website! It has a lot of new content, such as resources on Lesbianism, ageism, feminism, racism, classism, and ableism (coming soon); our founders and extensive documentation of our herstory; photos and bios of some of our OLOC worker bees; our memorial slideshow; a free download of *Sex and the Older Lesbian*; a brand new marketplace for getting your OLOC swag (coming soon); four slide shows; lots of beautiful photos; the benefits of joining and providing support (whether or not you donate to us); information about the 2019 National Gathering in Columbus, Ohio; and much more—all with a fresh, new look, easy to see and navigate. A site map lists all the pages and ensures that you won't miss anything. Be sure to click on all the arrows, especially in the resources section. Check it out at oloc.org and let us know what you think!

Kudos to Barbara Gottlieb for her awesome work and endless patience in creating our beautiful new site. The happy Lesbians in this photo from the website's front page are some of the attendees of the Lesbians of Color Intensive prior to the National Gathering in Tampa last summer.



Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

SAVE THE DATE!
2019 National Gathering
Columbus, Ohio • August 21-25, 2019

CONTACT US

info@oloc.org

1-888-706-7506

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MEMORIALS

Charlotte Avery 1930–2018

By Margaret Purcell, 1951

Charlotte was a Texan her whole life, born and raised in a big family crowded into spartan housing. After struggling to get through high school, she went directly to work and spent most of her career working in the shop at Western Electric. Charlotte was basically a loner until after she retired and met Arden Eversmeyer, the woman from whom she was practically inseparable for the next 30 years. Together, she and Arden discovered and developed their activist sides. They were mainstays in LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), a social network for Lesbians in the Houston area.



Together, Charlotte and Arden joined OLOC and held office on the Steering Committee. It was during those years that Arden started the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. Charlotte accompanied Arden on hundreds of interviews. She was always the Project's Number One Cheerleader.

Charlotte was outspoken, with a keen mind and a sharp wit. Charlotte's often gruff outside demeanor didn't fully hide her compassionate side. She was incredibly generous. Her generosity was most often directed toward Native American children and LGBTQ youth, but it didn't end there. Tell her you admired the socks she was wearing—and she was known for her extensive collection of flamboyant socks—and next thing you knew, she'd given them to you. That was Charlotte.



OLOC Membership (as of 10-23-2015): National OLOC welcomes as members Old Lesbians who have reached their 60th year.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation, the Horizons Foundation, and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

Marcia Perlstein 1945–2018

A long-time member of OLOC, Bay Area OLOC, and Puget Sound OLOC, Marcia was instrumental in many nonprofit organizations but she loved OLOC the very best.

While revisiting the Bay Area in 2014 for the National OLOC Gathering, Marcia hobbled through the halls making elevator jokes, enjoying the various workshops, and trying to participate, though her energy was beginning to wane.



Marcia was a fan of Arden Eversmeyer for her efforts in organizing the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP). Marcia interviewed a number of other Old Lesbians in the Puget Sound area and was herself interviewed for the OLOHP.

Here in Port Townsend, Washington, Marcia will be deeply missed by our local arts community. She hosted a radio show on KPTZ and interviewed many involved in the Film Festival and the community theater.

A long-time psychotherapist in the San Francisco Bay Area, Marcia was a director of the Alternative Family Project and volunteered at the San Francisco AIDS Project. Both she and her partner, Nyla Dartt, championed the Open House GLBTQ senior housing project. In 2004, Marcia and Nyla moved from the Bay Area to Sequim, Washington. After 27 years, they married in a small ceremony in Connecticut in 2011.

OLOC works for change by supporting:

- comprehensive immigration reform
- elimination of violence against women
- enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- an end to corporate "personhood"
- an end to any curtailment of voting rights
- the Black Lives Matter movement
- the Say Her Name! movement

Coming next issue: Additions to this list and organizations to support.



MEMORIALS (cont.)

Kim (Ethel) Hayes 1931–2018

By Henri Bensussen, 1937

Kim and her partner, Henri Bensussen, enjoyed attending OLOC Gatherings and participated in the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. In 2001, when they moved to the Mendocino (California) coast, they tried to form an OLOC chapter, but that attempt did not work out.



Kim was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and graduated from high school there. She enlisted in the Women's Air Force (WAF) in 1951 and was stationed in Texas, Colorado, Tokyo, and Ramstein, Germany, where she served as referee at WAF volleyball and basketball tournaments. Caught up in an investigation while stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base near San Francisco, she decided to end her WAF career and was honorably discharged in 1959.

For 30 years, Kim worked with special needs children in a school setting. She also joined the Sisters of Notre Dame for three years and later continued on as an Associate. After retirement, she was active in the Lesbian community in San Jose and Palo Alto, California, where she met her future partner, Henri Bensussen. They moved to Ft. Bragg, California, in 1999, and to Santa Rosa in 2016. Kim believed in prayer and angels, and in keeping up an exercise program.

Laurie Rose Simon 1949–2018

By Lyn Crosby

Laurie was a member from Minnesota who attended a number of OLOC Gatherings. She was often the first to register and came to Gatherings despite being on dialysis for a number of years.

Over 25 years ago, she met her partner, Carol Hohenstein, and they married in October 2013. They shared a home in Maplewood and in recent years started spending winters in Palm Springs, California.

Many of her friends referred to Laurie as the “energizer bunny”—she was always on the move, going to plays and movies, events, and parties. She knit wonderful hats, scarves, and blankets as gifts. She and Carol reveled in their dozens of nieces and nephews, and



they traveled a lot. Their home was often open for parties or just hanging out. Laurie had numerous health issues for many years, but her attitude was always to live life to the fullest—and most of the time she certainly did. In fact, she was at a Judy Collins concert the night before she went into the hospital in

Palm Springs. She died early in the morning on Monday, March 5, just 10 days before she would have turned 69.

Ann “Annie” Marie Hershey 1940–2018

Ann “Annie” Marie Hershey, a San Francisco Bay Area artist and filmmaker, began her professional career making independent award-winning films in the mid-1970s, following her studies at the Art Students League of New York. Eventually settling in the Bay Area, Annie also studied at the San Francisco Art Institute.



The National Organization for Women awarded Annie a special medallion for her work as one of the first female cinematographers of the 1970s. Annie's ongoing focus has been the telling of stories about older women so that their lives and accomplishments will not be forgotten. Annie shared her life and Lesbian Buddhist practice with her wife and partner of 30 years, Carol Osmer Newhouse.

If you now receive The Reporter in one format and want to switch to or add the other (print and electronic), please email susan@oloc.org; write to OLOC at POB 834, Woodstock, NY 12498; or phone 888-706-7506.



MEMORIALS (cont.)

Suzannah Tilton 1935–2018

Suzannah, along with her wife, Virginia Mollenkott, was a member of OLOC for 13 or more years.

Suzannah and Virginia met in 1996, became domestic partners, and married in 2013. They moved to Cedar Crest Village in New Jersey, where Suzannah made many friends. She was known for her intelligence, compassion, and dry wit.

Virginia's son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughters were an important part of "Nana" Suzannah's life. Her friends, family, and beloved spouse deeply miss her presence in their lives.

Earlier in her life, she taught high school science for many years until illness forced her to retire. She belonged to several book clubs and support groups in the Durham, North Carolina, area when she lived there.

Friends who wrote about her after her death called her "truly a noble person, an intelligent and gentle soul." She was known for her graceful wisdom. She and Virginia had a visibly deeply supportive and rooted love that friends loved seeing. She was "a gift to us all" with a "bright smile. . . quiet wisdom and patience." Another friend referred to her "fierce feminism, all wrapped up in one powerful woman."



At press time, we were sad to hear of the passing of Betty "Jo" Hiner of Minneapolis on March 22 and of Pat Nitsos of the Long Beach chapter on May 19. We hope to have more about their lives in the September *Reporter*. If you have anything to contribute to either memorial, please let us know.

New Life after Lesbian Widowhood

By Sharon Raphael, 1941

July 29, 2016, my spouse of 45 years died of endocarditis [an infection of the heart valves]. She was 76 years old. From the age of four to our preteen years, Mina [Meyer] and I were playmates on the same street in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio.

Twenty years later, I met Mina again as an adult. I was just "coming out" at age 30. It was 1971, two years after the Stonewall Riots. Gay and Lesbian activism was flourishing.

My relationship with Mina was one of love and commitment. We were married officially in 2008 when it became legal in California. Though Mina had endured a lot, her life suddenly ended. It was hard to accept that she was gone.

We never stopped our activism; however, after Mina died, I paused and redirected my thoughts in a new direction, given that my true soulmate was gone forever. After about a month of grieving, I sought the help of a therapist who said I was "in shock."

Therapy helped. After six months, I started corresponding on Facebook with a woman named Jenny Wrenn. She is an artist. I was startled to learn that Jenny lived in China, though she still had an address in Long Beach [California], where I live. We video-chatted and our relationship deepened. Then Jenny left China to visit me, taking a big chance, and we "fell in love."

Life was moving on for me and my new love, plus I was getting support from everyone I knew.

My relationship with Jenny is romantic. We fit. I went to China for a month to visit her. Jenny left China and moved back to Long Beach. We married October 1, 2017.

Life goes on at age 77. I am happy and grateful for the future ahead. See you all in Columbus!



Jenny and Sharon



Facebook: A Resource for Old Lesbians

By Rand Hall, 1945

Facebook has gotten a lot of bad press recently for selling our information, being addictive, and getting rich on us. I want to share the upside of Facebook for me as an Old Lesbian.

Social media can be daunting for those of us who grew up before the information age, iPhones, and even computers. I originally got on Facebook to keep up with my grandchildren. But I have discovered much more.

I like that I can choose my “friends,” whose posts I want to read, and whose I prefer not to see.

I belong to my town’s Alerts and Neighbor to Neighbor Pages. This keeps me abreast of road closings, mud slides, Town Hall meetings, and events that I might want to attend.

My art club created a closed “group” which makes it easy for us to set up dates for our studio days, share information about purchasing supplies, and post photos of our latest projects.

Recently, a friend posted pictures of her visit with a local woman and a tour of her garden. The woman is 99 years old! How encouraging to see this active and capable person I would not have known about.

I also belong to a couple of Lesbian discussion groups. I can read posts from women all over the world and add a comment or not. As an Old Lesbian living in the rural deep South, I do not have access to groups of Lesbians here. Events such as OLOC’s Gatherings and Lesbian festivals are usually in other states and expensive to attend. My friends and family are scattered across the country and overseas.

My time on Facebook is like having my morning coffee with all the people I care about. I am grateful for that, for them, and for Facebook, which makes it possible.

At my age, in this still hierarchical time, people often ask me if I’m “passing the torch.” I explain that I’m keeping my torch, thank you very much—and I’m using it to light the torches of others. Because only if each of us has a torch will there be enough light.

~Gloria Steinem

The Reporter Wants Your Story

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

In this day of renewed activism, OLOC would like to know how your activism is of benefit to you.

I know activism gives me a reason to get up in the morning sometimes. It keeps me engaged with others and learning more of what my country is all about. I recently got involved in an immigration struggle in Northeast Ohio. We have a very large nursery and landscaping industry here and it is mostly staffed by undocumented workers.

It is very good for me to be active at 80 years of age; my energy is stimulated by what I am learning and by how much I can accomplish by doing so little. We want to know about your efforts with activism, so write and let us know your experiences.

End Citizens United

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

We need to end corporate rule, promote real democracy, and create campaign finance reform.

In 2010, the Supreme Court made a disastrous decision to deregulate limits on group spending for (or against) specific candidates.

End Citizens United is a grassroots political action committee dedicated to pushing big money out of politics. Its mission statement promises “to end Big Money in politics and fix our rigged political system by electing campaign finance reform champions, passing state ballot measures, and elevating this issue in the national conversation.” It targets “Big Money 20,” a group of Republicans who have favored special interests over the welfare of their constituents.

OLOC will work in partnership with these champions to overturn *Citizens United* and end the unlimited and undisclosed money in politics.

Take action now by letting your political leaders know that our system has got to change. Support the work of End Citizens United in ending corporate privilege.

For more information, go to endcitizensunited.org.

As I always say, “We have the best government money can buy.”



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. You will receive issues of our publications, the *OLOC Reporter* (quarterly) and the *OLOC E-News* (monthly), if you want them. 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 be a member for the coming year.
- I am sending this amount _____ (suggest \$25–\$50) for 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 _____

Name #2 _____

- I am not sending money at this time, but I am an Old Lesbian and want to be a member for the coming year.
- I am sending this amount _____ (suggest \$25–\$50) for 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 _____

Please include demographics (date of birth, race/ethnicity, disability status) here to help us in obtaining grants and achieving diversity (we never give out names of members or supporters to anyone outside OLOC).

Date of birth _____
 Race/ethnicity _____
 Disability status _____

Date of birth _____
 Race/ethnicity _____
 Disability status _____

Address _____ City _____ State or _____ Zip or _____
 Out of United States? Country _____ province postal
 (If needed, write 2nd address on back.)

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Email _____

New to OLOC? Yes No

New to OLOC? Yes No

I would like to receive the *Reporter* as (circle one)
 print copy / electronic / both / neither

I prefer to receive the *Reporter* as (circle one)
 print copy / electronic / both / neither

I would like to receive the monthly E-News by email
 and have given my email address above.
 Yes No

I would like to receive the monthly E-News by email
 and have given my email address above.
 Yes No

To pay with a credit card or a PayPal account, go to 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 and send to OLOC, PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498. All money sent is considered a donation and is tax deductible for those who itemize.

Skills I can offer OLOC _____

Skills I can offer OLOC _____

I already belong to the following OLOC chapter or
 group _____

I already belong to the following OLOC chapter or
 group _____

I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and
 could help work toward establishing one. Yes No

I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and
 could help work toward establishing one. Yes No

I found out about OLOC from _____

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 newsletters and OLOC will have to pay for them to be returned to us.

OLOC
PO Box 834
Woodstock, NY 12498
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Time to Renew? Check
your label. →*

If it says 2018.06 (meaning
June 2018) or earlier, your
membership or support has
ended and it is time to
renew.

**Next OLOC National Gathering
in Columbus, Ohio:
August 21, 2019, LOC event all day.
Evening of 21st to midday 25th of August,
2019, full Gathering.**