



# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



## **OLOC Gathering A Thrill ! From the Blog of Jewelle Gomez, 60**



*L to R: Sandy Tate, Saundra Tignor, Shaba Barnes and Caryl Dahlen. Photo by Cathy Cade*

Thrilled would be an understatement for how I felt this weekend. I gave a keynote speech at the gathering of OLOC Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. It was inspiring and a blast. The organization, which has a gathering every two years, is devoted to capturing our stories, supporting political action and the empowerment & health of old lesbians---defined for this group as 60+.

Two hundred or more old lesbians in an airport hotel in LA sounds like the beginning of a great pulp novel and we could have written one if we hadn't been busy strategizing for smashing the oppressive system that ignores or destroys women.

I was one of the babies in the crowd (I moved my 60th birthday up a month so I could celebrate it there) and was it inspiring to know what life can be like for me in 10, 20 and 30 years!

Things I learned from OLOC:

- Old lesbians know a lot about the world and remember a good deal of what we all need to know
- Old lesbians can be cranky
- Most old lesbians are feminists
- Seeing all the changes--both good & bad---has not made them either bitter or complacent. Just more clever!
- They have great stories to tell...better than TV
- They treasure their activist history
- They are just as activist now as 'back in the day'

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

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### **OLOC Gathering A Thrill ! (Cont. from pg. 1)**

- They treasure their activist history
- They are just as activist now as 'back in the day'
- Operating one of those electric scooter chairs is a delicate skill
- Old lesbians love to dance and I can now do the electric slide! (THANKS SALLY!)

I have more to say on the weekend but I have to recuperate first!

~ From the blog of Jewelle Gomez, 60, August 4, 2008

[http://www.hillgirlz.com/blog\\_jewelle\\_gomez/](http://www.hillgirlz.com/blog_jewelle_gomez/)

#### **Importance of National Gatherings**

By Simi Litvak, 66

Until I went to the Gathering I did not understand the importance of these National Gatherings. They serve to bring people into the organization in various regions of the country, so they can go home and build an OLOC network in their communities. The conference was extremely well planned to take up the issues dear to our hearts and which are generated by past gatherings, so that we keep the national dialogue between Lesbian Feminists alive.



*Jennifer Abod and Angela Brown  
at the Gathering Photo by Cathy Cade*



*Rosemary Hathaway, Cristina Vegas, Barbara Kalish  
Photo by Marge Johnson*

#### **Hospitable Gathering with Much Else**

By Diane Germain, 66

The hospitality room was wonderful and always full of snacks, fruit, water, chips, cookies and candy. They had a great free book exchange, free flyers and pamphlets and items to buy (books, Tee-shirts and posters). Representatives from the Mazer Archives and Sinister Wisdom Journal were accessible all week as well

as other groups. There was a fun silent auction. I was thrilled to see my donation of a framed "Chinese Woman in a garden of Flowers" go (amid serious bidding) for \$ 80. And, I haven't even talked about the wonderful workshops, Lesbian made videos, the remarkable life stories, the dance and the banquet.

## The OLOC Reporter

### Gathering Participant Feedback

- I'll definitely be in Ohio. I am in an OLOC support group in CA - can see myself getting more and more involved.
- I feel the group has become more action oriented and this is good. What role models!
- This is my third gathering - all have been great. They always make me think and rethink a lot of issues. I'm always blown away by the stories of activists.
- This was a wonderful experience. Thank you for the financial help. And thank you for providing an atmosphere that made me feel welcomed, loved and that what I felt mattered.

#### The OLOC Reporter

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**Let YOUR VOICE be heard!**



Deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2008. Submission guidelines: copy usually due by Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1 and Nov 1. Limit submissions to 500 words. Articles may be edited for clarity and length. Send articles to OLOC: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701

- Happy to see black lesbians here. Need to see more lesbians of color.
- I want to meet with my African American sisters without others. We have so few chances to see one another to talk about our issues. I don't consider myself a separatist but there were some things said during the fishbowls that I felt a need to discuss without an audience. We have fought so many fights and need time alone together.
- I came by myself. Knew some others but maybe you could have 1-2 tables at the plenaries for people who are by themselves.
- Disappointment at having to choose from 5-6 workshops and not being able to attend some of them.
- I would like to see the 3 "classes" have discussions, then list from that misconceptions, myths, and raise the awareness of others. (refers to social/economic class status.)
- Attracted by the political, the emphasis on feminism and Old Lesbians working for change to bring about justice.

### Jan Griesinger's Gathering Report By Jan Griesinger, 66



Natalie Zarchin & Dottie Fowler at the Gathering Dance. Photo by Cathy Cade

#### Jewelle Gomez:

(Notes on Jewelle's keynote speech include the following, not Jewelle's exact words, but the spirit of what she said):

- The two most important things we as Old Lesbians face are accessibility issues and isolation.
- We must stay connected to our own creativity; we can't have a life of passivity
- Be out and be present with younger Lesbians to give them a bigger Lesbian, Feminist picture
- Pick a political/social change activity you can throw yourself into. This takes us out of our individual selves and puts us at the service of others.

- Prioritize how you spend your money - it is important to give to Lesbian groups.
- Actual quote "This is where we can come to complain about the pain in our bones and the pain in the ass in the White House."
- The miracle of the layers of age includes sweetness and mortality, rest and refreshment to pick up the journey again

**"African American Visibility, Activism"** workshop, Jeanne Walton, Sandra Tignor and Vera Martin told powerful stories of blatant racism north, south east and west and of course of their own confrontations of it from coast to coast - very inspiring.

#### Jackie Goldberg

We don't need to invent a new system - we have the Medicare system already. California would save \$3 billion a year if we had this single payer, universal health care. A lot of the problem is capitalism - the purpose of money is to make more money, not to educate or offer health care. She recommends the book "Privilege, Power and Difference: by Alan Johnson published in 2006. She also urged us to find out what our elected officials are doing and to write them every week. She noted that OLOC should be part of every organization working for change. Here is a direct quote from Jackie which I think is one of the more powerful one-liners coming from the conference: - **"We need to drop the age of Medicare to birth."**

#### Attendance:

More than 200 women attended the gathering from 20 different states and Australia and New Zealand. 15 of them were over 80. In addition another 68 women attended the Saturday night banquet. This far surpasses OLOC'S largest previous gathering in 2006 which had 125. ( *Cont. pg. 6* )

## The OLOC Reporter

### **Observations of an OLOC Virgin** By Marcia Perlstein, 63 Sequim/Port Townsend, Washington [scraggs3@earthlink.net](mailto:scraggs3@earthlink.net)

As we say in OLOC, I'm Marcia Perlstein, age 63 from Puget Sound, Washington and SF Bay Area chapters of OLOC. My virginal national experience was the OLOC "California Dreaming" Gathering this summer.

At my first national gathering of OLOC I found passion; hopefulness; warmth and sincere efforts to educate ourselves about all the "isms" which permeate our larger culture and can find our way into our group. I've never been part of a group to the personal and political concerns of its members than our OLOC. We attempted to deal with ageism, racism, classism, and ableism. We talked openly about preparing for inevitable increasing disability and eventual death. We were respectful of differences; moved seamlessly from heartfelt emotion to joyful celebration. We honored our founders, foremothers, steering committee, conference organizers and the folks who served our food and set up our rooms. We asked for what we needed from accessibility and practical concerns to hugs and "remember to tell me how beautiful my sparkling shirt is!"..



*Nyla Dartt and Marcia Perlstein  
Photo by Lynn Brown*

The Memorial Service, led empathically and adroitly by our own Shaba Barnes brought our deceased sisters and late foremothers into the room with all of us. Though the workshops were too numerous to re-cap in this brief article, it is important to note the range, breadth and depth of knowledge, skills and compassion we have amongst us.

Suzanne Bellamy from Australia's "Lost Culture of Women's Liberation" was quirky, original, funny and outstandingly artistic. The talent show included playwright/actress Terry Baum's excerpt of her one woman show; Ivy Bottini's stand-up; Susan Wiseheart's belly dancing. The rest of us had spirited vim, vigor and chutzpah underlying our moments at the microphone. Another very special contribution was the 30-year reunion of the Los Angeles Women's Community Chorus. They came together from points afar in honor of our gathering. OLOC singers assembled on site and sang several pieces with the chorus

More talent was showcased through Mothertongue Feminist Theater, with their performance of their Disability script. In the usual tradition of this group, it was poignant, funny, courageous. They wrote and performed complex thoughts, casting a lens on the multi-faceted prism of living with grave difficulties. The performance generated an intimate conversation in a group of more than 200 women. People in the audience still remembered Mothertongue's performance at the 1st National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta in 1991!

Other notable contributions continue long-term. The project with the greatest longevity is Arden Eversmeyer's Old Lesbians Oral Herstory Project.

The artfulness of the steering committee and other conference organizers was that their hard work, focus on abundance of detail appeared seamless but we all know the multitude of hours of contact and preparation this final result took.

While the details need to be determined, we are all aware that we will continue the work we've been doing for many years, for the life of our organization.

### Mission Statement For OLOC

OLOC, Inc. is the national organization for lesbians of all races, age 60 and over, and will:

- ◆ Educate, support and empower Old Lesbians.
- ◆ Challenge ageism in our society and educate the general public about the effects of ageism and oppression.
- ◆ Celebrate our strengths, our talents, our experiences, and document our lives.
- ◆ Convene national gatherings of Old Lesbians.
- ◆ Encourage, establish, and support local chapters and regional events

### Jan Griesinger's Gathering Report *(cont. from pg. 5)*

#### Workshop List:

C.R. (Consciousness Raising) on Ageism  
Intimacy – More Than Just Coupling  
Single & Loving It  
Belly Dancing  
Herbal Medicine in the Second Half of our Lives  
Project Visibility  
Rural Old Lesbians  
1970s Activism  
Practicing Anti-Racism for White Women  
Organizing Old Lesbians: Challenges, Strategies, Issues, Coalition Building  
Storytelling  
Impacting the Aging Network  
Classism Panel  
So That's What Action Is!  
Same Sex Marriage  
Not For Profit Urban Housing Alternatives for Low Income Lesbians  
African American Lesbian Activism/Visibility  
A Meaningful Life/ A Meaningful Death  
Line Dancing  
Environmental Illness

#### Workshop List:

Life Long lesbians Speak  
Grief and Loss  
Honoring Spiritual Expression  
Oral Herstory

#### Caucuses:

In addition to scheduled workshops women organized a variety of caucuses to discuss topics they were interested in, including

- Friends of Bill W (AA)
- Animal friends/activists
- Care giver support group
- Sing bawdy songs and others
- Mothers and grandmothers of males
- Joys and challenges of being a grandmother
- Califia alumni
- Intergenerational dialogue
- Artists
- Going from space to small space – letting go

### National Black Lesbian Conference

By Saundra Tignor, 71

*(At OLOC's request and with OLOC's support, Saundra Tignor from Los Angeles and Eunice Samuels from New York City attended a national conference of Black Lesbians - this is Saundra's report on the event.)*

In July of 2008, and at the delightful town of Las Vegas, Zuna Institute held its fourth biennial conference. It was inspiring to see and engage with approximately 400 hundred Black Lesbians from all over the United States.

Zuna's mission is: Zuna Institute is a National Advocacy Organization for Black lesbians that was created to address the needs of Black lesbians in the areas of Health. Public Policy, Economic Development and Education.

The powerful voices of keynote speakers Dr. Marjorie Hill and Bishop Yvette Flunder (Pastor of City of Refuge United Church of Christ In San Francisco), targeted to the fact that it is time for the women of color to come out in their homes, families, communities and churches, resounded across the conference rooms. A record attendance was noted in the attendance of 400 women.

OLOC's Eunice Samuels was stated to be the oldest attendee (at 81) and the youngest was 21, a span of 60 years.

For me it was wonderful to see the diversity of ages, appearances, culture, (American, Caribbean, etc.) all emanating from Mother Africa, and to hear the needs and concerns of so many women.

### The L Word

By rainbow williams, 74

Recently I viewed four seasons of The L Word during my sprained ankle film festival. I found it intelligent and engaging with way too many sex scenes and they were backlit and mysterious rather than explicit.

Set in West L.A., it's the max of glam and glitter and even the butches are "stylin". The Planet, their chosen meeting place, is coffee shop, night club, community center. Having your own place is a real organizing tool!

Another key element is the timing: Sunday 10 pm airing of the series which many have turned into their weekly dyke discussion and ketchup with your friends. Someone with a big room and the Showtime channel hosts the group viewing. The L Word as an organizing tool!

But "The L Word" series eclipses our OLOC presence. So far, they just aren't there yet! Despite that, it's great to have our own series of desperate dykes not housewives! It's successful and popular and therefore will continue, and come to be known as The First. Our future will see "all lesbian this, all lesbian that" as we carve an ever larger niche.

Someday, my darling OLOC sisters, there may be a new show announced: "OLOC'S In Your Face": a new primetime series on your All Lesbian, all the time channel 13, with no commercial interruption. Stay tuned!

### **The Medical Corner Dr. Jean Eckerly, 70**

An OLOC reader suggested she would like to read how nutrition really affects our bodies. There is an overwhelming amount of printed material on just this subject but here is a brief guide:

Nutrition is defined as "the process of taking in and assimilating nutrients." Nutrients are the basic substances the body requires for growth and health. They can be ingested or absorbed. Even oxygen and sunlight are necessary nutrients.

The basic food groups are carbohydrates, fat and proteins. Here is a helpful web site that can help you determine how to meet your dietary goals: <http://www.nutritiondata.com/help/caloric-ratio-pyramid>

The body requires about 1 ounce of protein for 30 pounds of body weight. Also omega 3 and omega 6 fats are essential and cannot be manufactured by the body. Therefore, it is unwise to avoid all fats. The carbohydrates found in vegetables also support our survival.

The main food problem we have in America is not insufficient nutrients in our food. Our problem is all the stuff in food that isn't nutrients. Don't eat processed food, foods with additives, and it's a good idea to know the source of the food you eat. Seek out locally produced foods when you can.

Assimilating nutrients is the next issue. We actually need acid in our stomachs for proper digestion. Many prescribed drugs inhibit proper digestion and absorption and may interfere with enzymes in normal biochemical reactions.

Do we need to take extra vitamins or "supplements"? Ideally the answer is no. Practically it's good insurance to take a multiple vitamin/mineral because it may help the body rid itself of all the non-nutrient stuff in our food.

Can we cure an illness with "supplements"? Often, yes, simply because the underlying cause of symptoms is a relative deficiency of some essential nutrient.

What we eat does make a huge difference in our health. Go natural. Shop the perimeter of the grocery store and your local farmer's market. Eating fresh food (that includes food that was fresh when it was frozen) is really not that difficult.

### **Quote from writer and activist Barbara Grier, 74**

"When I became editor of *The Ladder* in 1968, I was at the place where everything that mattered to me- being a lesbian, being a feminist, and loving the printed word- intersected. The world at large was in such ferment, you had to ask, 'What can I do?' If I accomplished anything, it was moving lesbian writers out of the shadows into greater acceptance. But I'm not naïve about reality.

Homosexuals are still the fear of the world. We're the last group it's okay to hate.  
(From May/June 2008 AARP Magazine)



## Memorials



*Del Martin (seated) and  
Phyllis Lyon*

### **Dorothy L. (Del) Martin**

1921-2008

Longtime OLOC member and community activist Del Martin was recently legally married to her life partner of 57 years, Phyllis Lyon, who was with her when she died. In 1955, Martin, Lyon, and six other lesbians co-founded the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first public and political lesbian rights organization in the United States. DOB and Martin and Lyon's book, *Lesbian/Woman* were pivotal building blocks of the feminist and lesbian movements. The list of Del's achievements and involvements spans too many interests and organizations to name here, all of them aimed at giving lesbians a strong place in the world. In 1995, Senator Dianne Feinstein named Martin, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi named Lyon, as delegates to the White House Conference on Aging where they made headlines when they charged the 125,000 attendees to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people explicitly in aging policies.

### **LeClaire Bissell**

1928 - 2008

LeClaire Bissell was the child of a military family who had attended 23 schools by the time she finished high school.

Once a heavy drinker, at age 25 she got sober and soon entered medical school. She paid her way through by donating blood frequently, and ghost writing for faculty members. She worked in the area of alcoholism and addiction treatment and was an internationally known leader in this field.

LeClair's partner of 48 years, Nancy Palmer, was a photographer. Nancy died in 2007 at age 90.

Leclair was always an activist. She was involved with OLOC, wildlife rehabilitation, chihuahua rescue, the Democratic Party, the Unitarian Universalist Church, PFLAG, the GLBT Coalition, and Planned Parenthood. Last year she was honored by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women for her life's work. (Thank you to Arden Eversmeyer, 77, of the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project for the details about LeClair.)

### **Paula Gunn Allen**

1939-2008

Paula Gunn Allen was Laguna, Sioux and Lebanese. She was a poet, novelist, and critic. Her highly influential writing and teaching affected the Lesbian community in a positive way. A foremost voice in Native American literature and the study of American literature, she was also a founding mother of the contemporary women's spirituality movement. Her most recent work, *Pocahontas: Medicine Woman, Spy, Entrepreneur, Diplomat* (2004, Harper-Collins), received a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

## Memorials

### Janet N. Lubeski

1933-2008

After moving to San Francisco in the early '90s, Janet soon became active in Old Lesbians Organizing for Change and in many other activities; Women Writers Group, Yoga, Reading & Talking Women, Second Sunday, and more. She loved to decorate the Cable Car for Pride Day and, along with other old lesbians, receive honor & kisses from young dykes during the Dyke March.

Janet was a human rights & peace activist, a talented healer, and a guide for dying loved ones.

From her friend Toni Langfield: "Among all her other talents she loved to cook. The morning of the day she died she had cooked up a huge pot of chicken soup and made a chocolate cake. So that evening when folks, hearing about her death, gathered at her flat, there was something to eat."

### Ruth Simpson

1924 – 2008

Ruth Simpson earned her place in GLBT history by heading the New York chapter of Daughters of Bilitis, founding the country's first lesbian community center and facing down the New York policemen who tried to close it. Simpson and her life partner of 37 years, Ellen Povill, moved from NYC to Woodstock, NY in 1976. There, she served on the Woodstock Library Board for more than 25 years, 10 as Board President. She has produced her very popular weekly local access political talk show "Minority Report" since 1982, and was also active in town politics

### Dorothy Kaliopi Hatzininkolis

1945-2008



Dorothy was the co-founder and editor of the *Lesbian Health News*, a bimonthly newsletter she launched in November 1993 to bring awareness to the Lesbian community about women's well being. It still publishes information about health issues specific to Lesbians. While living in Toledo, she was extremely committed to LGBT activism, volunteering countless hours for this cause. She thoroughly enjoyed both playing and umpiring women's softball for many years. She won multiple billiard tournaments. Dorothy was a board member of Lavender Triangle and Personal Rights Organization and was the co-founder of WomynshelF Feminist Library all in Toledo, Ohio. A memorial scattering of her ashes occurred on the shore of Lake Michigan, the Michigan Women's Music Festival and at Frontier Ranch (site of the Ohio Lesbian Festival).

**Nothing about us without us!** Contact Sharon Raphael, OLOC Research Gatekeeper, before doing or participating in research about Old Lesbians. Write to her care of the OLOC post office box or email her at: [smraphael@aol.com](mailto:smraphael@aol.com)

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### Opinion-Eightied

By Jean Mountaingrove, 82

Nearing 83 (Oct. 10, 2008), my hearing and sight are not as good as they used to be. "Too bad?" Maybe! I am having new experiences as I GROW old, surprising ones I want to share with you.

I've heard of Social Security for probably 70 years. Then a few weeks ago I suddenly "heard" SOCIAL security! OH! Well, I do receive a small check monthly from the government. And yes, it helps my financial security...but...social?

After "hearing" in that new way, I "see" security in a new way. Clearly my "social" security is with my friends: the women who care about me, who offer to help me, who share their feelings, who laugh with me, cry with me, listen to me, who are honest with me, phone me, come for a visit. Some even remember my birthday!

During the 36 years I have lived here, I have enjoyed giving my time, help and care, sharing my skills and resources, joining in many meetings and projects. All this with women who are my friends now.

Yes, it is a kind of "investment" which builds "interest" and results in "benefits." I feel secure and socially rich in this community of women. I want you to know that I am part of your social security too.

I am excited to discover these unexpected benefits of aging. Hearing with this new clarity leads me to new IN-sights! I am grateful.

## Chapter and Regional News

### Regional OLOC Chapter Contact List

Help form an OLOC chapter in one of our six regions. Contact [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) or write to the Ohio address on the front of this newsletter. We will send you basic information and direct your inquiry to a Field Organizer who will work with you.

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### Ohio Chapter Report

By Jan Griesinger, 66

On August 28 Sharon Deevey and Jan Griesinger from the Ohio Chapter presented an educational program for 25 case managers and supervisory staff at the Central Ohio Area Agency on Agency. Chapter members Gigi Kent and Karen Grieser attended in a supporting role. Case studies developed by Sharon were handed out. Participants in small groups looked at how staff persons could handle specific situations involving lesbian clients. This was followed by questions, answers and good discussion. The Chapter will do another presentation in November for staff at an adult day care center.

## Chapter and Regional News

### **OLOC-NYC meeting, Sunday, June 8, 2008, LGBT Center on 13th Street.** By Alix Dobkin, 68

About 17 Old Lesbians attended the meeting of OLOC-NYC at the NYC LGBT Center, a few to escape "cabin fever" & the heat & humidity of the sweltering Sunday.

After a check-in, we discussed what women wanted from OLOC meetings, & the importance of having a "purpose," in life.

During & after a round of CR on issues of old age, we considered what "old" means to us (many things, but no one actually knows how "old age" is supposed to feel)

Most women suggested a topic for future CR sessions & would like to select them in advance of the meetings to have time for consideration. They are:

- |                              |                        |                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. loss                      | 5. bartering & support | 8. isolation                   |
| 2. language (words = worlds) | 6. acceptance          | 9. feelings about young people |
| 3. fear                      | 7. independence        | 10. old age identity 11. Humor |

### **Southern California Chapter Report**

By Mina Meyer, 68

We spent a very active spring season with a booth at the Long Beach Gay Pride Festival in May, which brought us lots of attention in the local press and as well as new members. Along with our monthly meetings, we participated in the Gathering this summer in Los Angeles, which energized us all. Since the Gathering, we have decided to form support groups based on the geographic locations of our members. Although many of our members are in their late 70's or in their 80's, we recognize that we may need each other's help at any age, whether it be a ride to the doctor, someone to pick up a prescription when we are sick, or some other kind of help. We look forward to developing these groups and continuing with our other work.

At the Sept. meeting a candle was lit to honor the life and many contributions Del Martin, an OLOC member, gave to the Lesbian community. Many of us spoke of our positive experiences and the support we received over the years from Del & her spouse/partner Phyllis Lyon. We imagine this will be one of many well deserved memorials to Del Martin, a Lesbian who the world will remember.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Bixby Towers in Long Beach from noon to 3 PM, bringing our lunch and a beverage. Contact me for more information

[MinaKay@aol.com](mailto:MinaKay@aol.com).



Booth at Long Beach Pride staffed by Cristina Vegas, Helen Factor, Barbara Kalish, Mina Meyer and Jackie Grover.



### OLOC at the New York City Dyke and GBLTQ2 Pride March

By Ellen Ensig-Brodsky, 75

July, 2008 NYC OLOC Chapter

Hot - we were Hot - really hot. - It was just as hot on Saturday for the Dyke March. Yes, partially because NYC temperature and humidity on Pride Sunday were in the upper 80's - but by the march's end in Greenwich Village - it was clear that Old had become "Hot".

At 11:30 AM on June 29, 2008, we had met at the rendezvous with the women's groups at 55th Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues. Things were not inspiring at this point as only a few showed up to march with OLOC and support our banner. The banner, by the way, reached from one sidewalk completely across the road to the opposite sidewalk. Three of us managed to stretch it out and hold it high enough for clear viewing of "OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change." Just in front of us, a women's percussion group sparked sexy dance steps in those that marched and drew immediate attention from onlookers. Twice our OLOC banner was announced from the reviewing stands as we joyously moved down Fifth Avenue and the estimated one million observers responded.

Excitement was becoming infectious. We waved, smiled and shouted hooplas to our left and to our right. Increasingly our eye contact with the crowd was revealing an admiration we had not expected. We could see their lips reading off the words on our banner - and at the point at which it says Old Lesbians there were smiles and wild clapping. This reaction was not just from other old people-not just from LGBT people - but straight couples - youngsters, and folks representing every conceivable nationality. We were witnessing a new respect that came from the gut - Maybe it was seeing old women marching in the heat and then in torrential rain, - Maybe it was in anticipation of their own aging and the realization that there could be passion and strength in the late years - and maybe it was because we were promising change.

To sum it up, yes, old is in. OLD has gained respect and now inspires leadership. In this OLOC charted the way. We must now move on. The power can be ours to offer true leadership for change in many ways - LGBT families, marriage, intergenerational partnerships, health coverage, multicultural enrichment and political support.



### OLOC Seeks Volunteer Outreach Coordinator

OLOC is seeking a volunteer outreach coordinator to help us get OLOC better publicized in women's, LGBT, and aging publications. It would help if anyone interested has done PR work for organizations before. The position would probably include coordinating paid ads (when we have money for these), press releases, and notices to list serves. If interested, please contact

[susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org).

## Announcements and Resources

### Member News

#### From Marcy Adelman, 62

6/5/08 I am proud to tell you that I have been named the recipient of the 2008 KQED Bay Area Unsung Hero Award for LGBT Pride Month. The awards ceremony took place on June 11 at the KQED Public Broadcasting Center.

There are so many, many wonderful people who volunteer their time and talent to accomplish openhouse's vision to take care of all of us as we age by building mixed income, multicultural senior housing with comprehensive services and social programs that are welcoming to LGBT people. I have to say I am humbled to receive this award and proudly accept it for all of us who work to make the dream a reality.

#### Call for Submissions

**Sinister Wisdom** has put out a call for writing and/or photos for its upcoming issue #78 "Old Lesbians/Dykes II." If you would like to send something, material is due by 3/1/09 to: Sinister Wisdom, POB 1180, Sebastopol, CA 95473 or [fran@sonic.net](mailto:fran@sonic.net). For more details, check [www.sinisterwisdom.org](http://www.sinisterwisdom.org) The summer 08 issue of Sinister Wisdom featured photos by OLOC members Lynn Brown, Cathy Cade, and Jan Couvillon. Fran Day, editor, is also an OLOC member.

#### Available Now

*Herstory of OLOC: 1989 to 2007*

The herstory is 100 pages long and includes excerpts from lots of primary documents in OLOC's early years that are stored in the OLOC archives.

Each piece in the Herstory is the result of a coordinated effort between Arden Eversmeyer, Margaret Purcell, and Mary Henry. Vera Martin carefully reviewed it. Martin is a co-founder of OLOC and she and Eversmeyer are former OLOC Co-Directors. Purcell did the major work of searching for and extracting material from the archives and also did the layout. OLOC sends her a huge thank you for this marvelous document.

The Herstory is available for purchase for \$20.00. Please pay by check or Paypal or by contacting [ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org).

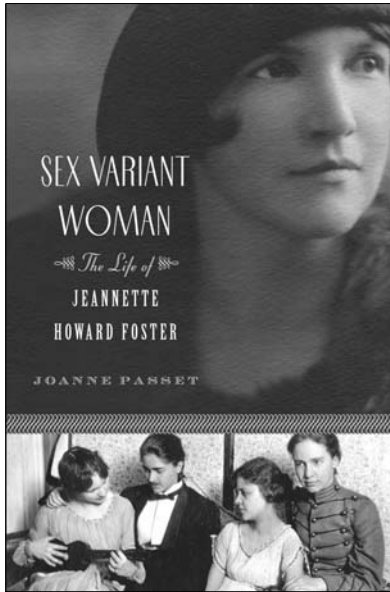
#### Check this Blog

Robin Tyler, Lesbian producer and activist, is now blogging on the Huffington Post once a week. You can read her humorous articles at:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robin-tyler/>

Michigan has a **GLBT Older Adult Legal Hotline**. Contact phone number is 1-877-482-8529. [www.glbtlaw.org](http://www.glbtlaw.org)

## Announcements and Resources



### OLOC Supporter Joanne Passet Publishes Jeanette Foster Biography

Joanne Passet's stunning biography of the long-neglected, firebrand author of the "bible of lesbian literature" *Sex Variant Woman: The Life of Jeannette Howard Foster*, is just out.

In 1956, Foster blew the lid off Cold War sexual repression with her *Sex Variant Women in Literature*—the first-ever study of homosexual, bisexual, and cross-dressing characters appearing in more than 300 works, from ancient times to the present. Passet's biography is a fascinating portrait of Foster, who also served as the first librarian at the Kinsey Institute before leaving to publish her controversial book. It is available at bookstores world-wide.

### OLOC Wear Available to all Old Lesbians

If you weren't able to attend the Gathering, (or if you were able to attend but were just too busy to shop,) OLOC wear is still available. Many of you have seen your friends wearing these great wardrobe additions and have wondered if you could "borrow" them when your friends were sleeping. Well, we wouldn't encourage Old Lesbians to engage in criminal activity. Pictures will soon be on the web-site, but in the meantime you can contact [ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org) or call her 760-318-6794 to order or ask questions. If you prefer a toll-free number, call Susan at 888-706-7506.

Don't forget - cold weather is approaching in some areas of the country despite global warming and you may need one of our warm and cuddly sweatshirts.

And most important of all - OLOC wear promotes the VISIBILITY OF OLD LESBIANS!!!

### Social Services Publication Addresses Lesbian Aging

The Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services Vol. 20, issues 1/2, 2008 is a special issue focused on LGBT Aging. With titles like [Conducting Research Among Older Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults](#)", and [Social Support as a Predictor of Psychological and Physical Well-Being and Lifestyle in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adults Aged 50 and Over](#)", anyone interested in Social Service issues may find this a valuable resource.

**OLDER FEMINIST NETWORK** is an organization in Great Britain which works to challenge ageism and sexism. They can be contacted at [beryl@bmdouglas.supanet.com](mailto:beryl@bmdouglas.supanet.com) or Older Feminist Network, c/o 54 Gordon Rd. London, England 020 8346 1900. [www.ofn.org.uk](http://www.ofn.org.uk). They say "We are proud to be older and bolder."



## Announcements and Resources

### Document Design and Layout Lesbian

OLOC produces many documents each year, including the Reporter, brochures and chapter information cards, birthday cards, and many others. We are looking for someone with desktop publishing experience to help with design and layout of the documents. Most were done in the program In Design, so it would be a plus if you have and are familiar with this program.

If you are interested in volunteering for this please contact

[susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org)

### OLOC Video Library



The Library continues to grow and to save space, we are not updating it here. Look for the list at [oloc.org](http://oloc.org) or send a #10 self addressed stamped

envelope to OLOC c/o Susan Wiseheart  
HC 73 Box 169C Drury MO 65638 or  
request by email [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org)

### Assumptions

By Ruth Mountaingrove, 85

When I had a racing heart and made three trips to the ER last November before I learned to control it with deep breathing, I asked my doctors (I had two) what was I allowed to do physically. They told me I could do anything I had done before the racing heart.

Well I'm pretty active. Before the attacks I walked around the block where I live. That's a mile. I have yet to do that again. I was a producer of the radio program Through the Eyes of Women. Reviewed a book for the L-word once a month, occasionally wrote a column for RSVP, had meetings in my home, did my shopping at the grocery store, had friends visiting from time to time, so doing whatever I had been doing seemed a bit much.

Then I got to thinking about that permission to do what ever I had been doing. What did the doctors think I was doing. Maybe sitting in my Barcalounger watching TV, getting up to make myself a meal, then back to the chair.

I began to think ageism. I'm 85. I can see them thinking that of course I wasn't doing anything strenuous so it was safe for them to say that. Both of these men were either in their forties or fifties.

### Number of Email Subscribers Rises

Our number of email subscribers has risen from 4 to 66 in the last year or so, likely due both to our growing computer competence and to us being clear that it is an option. If you receive print and want to switch to email, let us know. We still need your mailing address, though.

### Great Anti-Racism Resource List

Free Anti-Racism Resource List available from OLOC. Send a #10 (letter-size) self-addressed stamped envelope to OLOC c/o Wiseheart HC 73 Box 169C Drury MO 65638 or request it by email [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org)

**OLOC is supported in part by grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and the Astraea Lesbian Action Foundation**

Thank you to Mary M. Morgan for the quotes on aging from well-known women within the text. They were first printed in the newsletter of the Senior Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio

“I’ve always believed that the secret of eternal youth is arrested development.” ~*Alice Roosevelt Longworth*

“The aging aren’t only the old; the aging are all of us.” ~*Alexandra Robbin*

### **Lesbian Housing Alert!**

We are creating a predominantly lesbian and lesbian friendly neighborhood outside of Gainesville, FL. This is in a lesbian friendly little town where many lesbians already live in the town and in the countryside around it.

This is northern Florida where the storms are mild and not in the hurricane belt. There are no earthquakes, no nuclear plants around and trees are respected. The climate is terrific 10 months of the year and hot the other two but not as hot as central Florida. The University of Florida is 20 minutes away as is the large medical complex and the many cultural events.

The little houses are 16 years old, in the \$99,900 to \$110,000 range and are newly renovated and in ready to move in condition. The soft real estate market makes it a great time to buy or rent one of the 15 available houses now. Come see for yourself and enjoy a large lesbian community of friendly wimmin in a liberal area of Florida. If interested contact [ShewolfOriginal@aol.com](mailto:ShewolfOriginal@aol.com) directly for details on how to see and get specific information from the right people. Shewolf



### **Housing**

OLOC member Sally West belongs to the Intentional Community and Cooperative Housing movement. According to Maize: A *Lesbian Country Magazine* of spring 2008 she first thought to turn her own home into a living cooperative by reading information at a Twin Cities website that matches women with houses and those looking for housing, [www.goldengirlhomes.com](http://www.goldengirlhomes.com) so check it out for ideas and, if you live near the Twin Cities, for contacts.



## OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Form

6-08

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.

### 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 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 \$5 for costs.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) would like to give a \$25 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.

A copy of the OLOC Endowment brochure is available by calling 888-706-7506 or by emailing [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

**Also Available:**  
**OLOC T-Shirts and**  
**Cloisonné OLOC Lapel Pins, Buttons**  
*(email or write for full details)*

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

Disability \_\_\_\_\_ Disability \_\_\_\_\_

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

Out of United States? If so, additional address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

New Subscription \_\_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_ I Prefer: print via U.S. mail \_\_\_\_ or PDF via email \_\_\_\_

Skills you can offer OLOC: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Time to Renew?**

If your label says 2008.09 ( meaning this issue, originally due out in September 08) or earlier, then your subscription has ended and it is time to renew.



*Early Morning Santorini~Photo by Melanie Jones*