

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded  
in 1989

# The Reporter

A quarterly  
publication of OLOC

September 2016

Vol 26 #3

## Clarification

*National OLOC Steering Committee*

*July 25, 2016*

The Atlanta Gathering was canceled by OLOC after the withdrawal of our partners, ZAMI NOBLA and Atlanta OLOC, from the project. The Atlanta Lesbians withdrew because the OLOC Steering Committee did not have consensus on specifically inviting “cis” and “transgendered” Lesbians to the Gathering. Besides the emotional aspects of the situation, it did not leave enough time for National OLOC to do it on our own. As this information went out, there began a lively discussion on National OLOC’s Yahoo group and in other places about what this meant.

What we want to clarify is that the decision to cancel the Gathering did not mean that OLOC is only a female-born-Lesbian organization. A great many of the responders on the Yahoo group seemed to think that is what it meant, but it is not the case.

Although the vast majority of our members are female-born-Lesbians, after years of working to reach a membership statement that purposely does not specifically mention either female-born or trans Lesbians (because the membership and Steering Committee are pretty evenly divided about the issue), we wanted to hold to that decision. We do know that there is currently at least one transLesbian (her term) in National OLOC and that several of our chapters, which are autonomous, do welcome transLesbians.

Our divided Steering Committee agrees that all Old Lesbians are welcome and that we do not check anyone’s birth status, nor do we look in anyone’s pants. If you are an Old Lesbian, you are welcome in OLOC. We are about Old Lesbians.

**Hold the date:** 2–6 Aug, 2017, for the OLOC National Gathering in Tampa, Florida, at the Holiday Inn Tampa Westshore. Yeah, we thought about summertime in Florida, but the hotel is air conditioned, the room rates are lower in summer. Besides, that’s when we usually select for our Gatherings, and many places are hotter and more humid in August than Tampa. Details to follow, so stay tuned. We can promise that you’ll have a terrific time with a gang of awesome Old Lesbians from everywhere.

## Rally/Vigil in Support of Victims of Orlando Shooting

*By Jan Griesinger, 1942*

A vigil organized by the Ohio University LGBT Center was held on the campus in Athens to protest the killing of people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. I was there wearing my OLOC t-shirt. I used the open mic to tell the crowd there was a song from the civil rights movement that we could apply: *We’re Gonna Keep on Movin’ Forward*. I also led the crowd in the chant: “We’re people, we’re here, we’re fabulous, don’t mess with us.”



Jan Griesinger at vigil

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 November 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**

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**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's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or e-mail.

## July 1, 2016

### Dear Old Lesbian Sisters,

We are writing to you all to say... let's stick together rather than separate. Of course we are very sad at the cancellation of the National Gathering to have been held in Atlanta.

But our disagreements have kept us apart for too long.

OLOC stands for Old Lesbians and we are not going to change. Old Lesbians are the focus and the delight of OLOC. Our stories, our herstory, and our lives are important. As an organization that has spoken for Old Lesbians for 25 years, we will continue to voice the concerns, passions, and interests of Old Lesbians.

Are we saying Old Lesbians too much? Not at all. It will take all of us to get the needs and desires of Old Lesbians met. We need to stick up for ourselves and not allow anyone to say our issues are not important. The issue of ageism for Old Lesbians is critical. If men were the majority of who gets Social Security, there would be no question of its importance. Old Lesbians face many more critical issues as we age because so often we are alone. Old Lesbians need community. The culture needs to change if Old Lesbians are to survive. Who will take up that banner? OLOC.

When a people are oppressed they need to come together to heal and to survive.

OLOC has never asked for Old Lesbian credentials and never will. Our commitment is to the experiences and needs of Old Lesbians. You all are members of the tribe. You all are members of the people called Lesbian.

Please come together in OLOC. We have work to do.

Sincerely,

Sally Tatnall  
Co-Director of OLOC

Alix Dobkin  
Co-Director of OLOC

### Next SC Meeting

The date of the next National OLOC Steering Committee in-person meeting is October 20–23, 2016, in Tampa, Florida. 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. They are also meeting every month by conference call.



## Creating Change Conference Report

By Jan Griesinger, 1942, with help from Ruth Debra, 1944

OLOC sent three Steering Committee members (Ali Marrero-Calderon, Ruth Debra, and Jan Griesinger) to Chicago for Creating Change, the annual national conference of the National LGBT Task Force, in January. We were very visible with our OLOC t-shirts.

We led a workshop on “Challenging Ageism,” which was attended by about 25 people. We had them sit in small groups, look at ageist birthday cards and newspaper ads, talk about what they saw, what the message was, why this message is so prevalent, and whether there are any solutions. All seemed to feel they really learned something and were committed to creating change. We also held an OLOC caucus and a gathering with Chicago-area OLOC women.

We attended two day-long institutes: one on racial justice, which was very good, and one led by SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) with a focus on “telling our stories.”

Creating Change was not free of controversy this year. Immigration and Customs Enforcement had been approved for a workshop, but many who planned to attend were so irate over this that it was canceled. There usually are a number of undocumented people at the conference.

There was also controversy and a demonstration over A Wider Bridge and Jerusalem Open House event, which was canceled after being shut down by about 200 demonstrators. The issue is complicated, as many people feel that Israel uses its LGBT-supportive policy to recruit LGBT visitors and cover up its anti-Palestinian policy.

Seventy-two Lesbians attended the Lesbian Caucus and had a very lively discussion about our invisibility in the world and at the conference, with much determination to change this. There was also an excellent plenary on black feminism, which is the first plenary we remember there using the term “feminism.”

## 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.

## Statement from COAL (Coalition Of Activist Lesbians Australia Inc.)

By Lavender, 1945

Orlando may be far away from Australia geographically, but we are close as targets of hate and intentional harm. As one of millions of Lesbians and gays across the world, I know that I am not alone in feeling horrified and overwhelmed by this homophobic hate crime.

Lesbian and gay rights do not differ from those of the heterosexual majority—safety; freedom from violence, discrimination, and preventable harms; respect of differences; equal participation in what our society offers; living within the rule of law and democratic processes; respect for both our communities and individuals; and the right to choose our intimates, friends, and affiliations.

Today in advanced western societies, the visibility of Lesbian and gay rights, responsibilities, media exposure, and participation is greater than ever before. Yet gays and Lesbians still live within the shadow of entrenched homophobia, so at times we experience hate and violence because some people hate us, while others stand by without speaking up for justice and equal participation.

Despite rainbow lights on bridges and statements by politicians, we also see that in reportage and commentary there has been some avoidance of naming the homophobic context of this crime. May I suggest that we clarify that it was gay men and Lesbians in a gay nightclub in Pride Week that attracted this hate-fueled mass murder?

A gay nightclub may not be the place of choice for all; the fact is that whether out and proud, closeted, or somewhere in between, no one deserves this ultimate expression of homophobic hate. Gays and Lesbians will not be silenced. We will continue to be ourselves. We will remain visible.

In solidarity with those in Orlando, COAL sends support and strength to gays and Lesbians—that we will prevail and flourish. We are not going away; we are here to stay!

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



## Chapter Coordinators and National Steering Committee Met in June

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

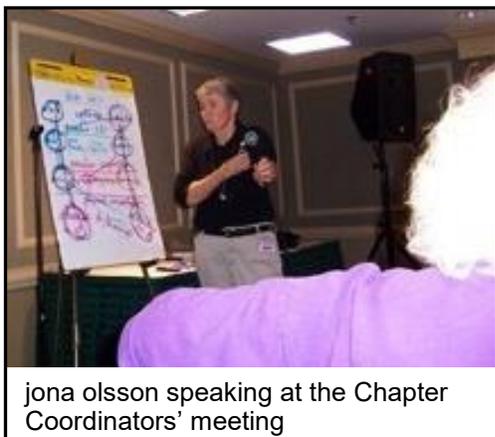
Thanks to Dottie Fowler's generous bequest, OLOC brought 26 Chapter Coordinators/representatives to St. Louis for the first such meeting of its kind.

We discussed the cancellation of our 2016 Gathering and shared our process and experiences with ZAMI NOBLA and the (now former) Atlanta OLOC chapter. Some on the SC voiced objections to an ad the Atlanta women placed welcoming "cis" and "trans" Old Lesbians to the Gathering, terms we have never accepted.

The SC was discussing the ad when the two Atlanta groups pulled out for "non-negotiable" reasons. Although members of the SC strongly disagree, we love OLOC and are determined not to follow the well-worn path of so many other Lesbian institutions destroyed or corrupted through confrontation with this issue. As the **last remaining national Lesbian group still dedicated to Lesbian well-being**, we are determined to find our way through this turmoil.

The question remains: does OLOC welcome "self-identified Old Lesbians" (transgender males to females and anyone else who so claims) or is it for female-born Old Lesbians? This bitter division has no immediate solution except the (universally unsatisfying) compromise that OLOC is for Old Lesbians.

jona olsson of Cultural Bridges to Justice ([www.culturalbridgestojustice.org](http://www.culturalbridgestojustice.org)) provided training using material from her "In Pursuit of



Racial Justice" and "Detour Spotting." She led us through analysis and exercises from her "Reality Check and Consequence." We focused on anti-racism, white supremacy/privilege, and internalized misogyny to help us better understand how institutional/societal oppression affects our beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. In small groups, we learned how easy it is to divert attention from difficult topics and that there is no such thing as "reverse racism" or "reverse sexism" due to powerful institutional/historical pressures.

Feedback from the weekend was overwhelmingly positive, and everyone seemed to agree OLOC was strengthened by the meeting.

### REQUEST FOR WRITING:

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

## Fatema Mernissi on Aging

The *New York Times* featured a story on December 10, 2015, titled "Fatema Mernissi, an Early Force in Islamic Feminism, is Dead at 75." It included a wonderful quote about ageism: "The Western Man," she [Fatema] wrote, "declares that in order to be beautiful, a woman must look 14 years old. If she dares to look 50, or worse, 60, she is beyond the pale. By putting the spotlight on the female child and framing her as the ideal of beauty, he condemns the mature woman to invisibility." She was from Rabat, Morocco.

Her English-language books include

- *Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in Modern Muslim Society*
- *The Veil and the Male Elite: A Feminist's Interpretation of Women's Rights in Islam*
- *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*
- *Women's Rebellion and Islamic Memory*



# Chapter News

## Ohio Pride

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

The OLOC Central Ohio chapter marched in the Columbus, Ohio, pride parade in June. Seven of us marched with our large, purple Old Lesbians Organizing for Change banner.

There were police everywhere and they got a lot of praise from pride marchers. And, as usual, we got a lot of cheers from bystanders, saying things like “Old Lesbians—Yes!” And, a few times we did our chant, “We’re women, we’re old, we’re fabulous, don’t mess with us.” Many seemed to like that.

While we were at the pride march in Columbus, I saw a *Columbus Alive* newspaper with a photo of a man holding a sign: “Universal and Inclusive ISLAM—Muslims for Progressive Values, Intentionally Gender Equal, Positively LGBTQ Friendly.”

I had never heard of such a very good thing. Even though no details were given about their contact information, the article did report: MPV is a national social justice organization that promotes inclusivity through discourse and community activities. Four years ago, they established a Friday prayer service in which women were not seen as second-class citizens and in which homosexuals were not disparaged (or seen as any less than fully human).

OLOC chapters and groups as of July 20, 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; Boston and Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Central Ohio and Cleveland; Champlain Region of Vermont and New York; Richmond, Virginia; and Puget Sound, Washington. Others are forming.

## Radical Lesbian Crones Chapter

By Joan Margaret, 1942, and Pacifica, 1941

Radical Lesbian Crones is deeply troubled that yet another Lesbian gathering space is gone. To blame is the disagreement about whether people who were born and raised as males and who self-identify as Lesbians or transwomen are entitled to be in spaces specifically created for females. It is sad that after much effort to form a politically powerful collaboration among three unique Lesbian organizations—National OLOC, Atlanta OLOC, and ZAMI/NOBLA—this disagreement has created divisions.

Within the context of history, females globally are still a sex-oppressed class, and in all patriarchal cultures we have been trained for thousands of years to support the privilege of males over females. This has led us to internalized misogyny and uncritical thinking. Because we still live in a white supremacist capitalist patriarchy, the issue of transwomen having unlimited access to female spaces must be carefully questioned.

Radical Lesbian Crones believes the rights of one group should not be sacrificed at the expense of the rights of another. When the physical protections of female children and adults are sacrificed to protect the feelings of trans/queer people, it makes civil rights and protections for all of us meaningless.

Recognizing an urgent need for an autonomous body of Old Lesbians to share the experience of surviving globalized female oppression, we formed the Radical Lesbian Crones OLOC chapter four years ago after a similar divisive dispute occurred within Bay Area OLOC. We assert that we have the right to autonomy, to gather exclusively with others who have shared experiences whenever we choose. We have been working on our *Principles of Solidarity* and plan to be inviting more radical Lesbian crones to join us.

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



## Northern Colorado Remembers Our Founders

By Katherine Wood, 1954

In October 1993, three Old Lesbians (DJ Furnish, Carol Lutey, and Bev Todd) formed the Northern Colorado chapter of OLOC. These founders were all originally from the Midwest and were college-educated, professional women.

*DJ Furnish* (1921-2011) was an Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Nebraska Wesleyan University (1952-1957) and was the Director of Christian Education at First Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska (1952–1965). In 1965, she received a PhD in Religion from Garrett-Northwestern, where she taught until her retirement in 1991. She also published four books and loved camping and hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park. Her partner of 50 years, Dr. Mary Jo Osterman, is still a member of our chapter.

*Carol Lutey* (1924-2014) was a professor at Northern Illinois State prior to earning her PhD from Michigan State University in 1955. She taught at Ball State University before becoming a Professor of Psychology at the University of Northern Colorado (1959–1981), where she was my teacher. She was an author of many professional manuals and also loved nature around her mountain home.

*Bev Todd* (1930–2015) had a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, which she earned while working full-time and raising her five children. She worked at the Estes Park library for many years, inspiring readers, and was a lifetime advocate for social justice. She was an avid hiker and sang in many choral groups. Her life-long partner, Tobi Hale, was an active member of our chapter, too.

As we near our quarter-century mark in 2018, we reflect on these three women as excellent role models who believed that Old Lesbians need to gather, to support, and to thrive as they age.

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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)

## Northern Colorado News

By Janet Gilmore, 1948

Betsey McConnell and Gillian Edwards, two long-time members of Northern Colorado OLOC, were recognized for their participation, support, and volunteering at The GLBT Center SAGE of the Rockies in Denver, Colorado. The recognition was part of The GLBT Center's fortieth anniversary celebration on June 11, 2016, during Pride Week. SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) is a national organization that provides activities and opportunities for elders to socialize and find community. Betsey and Gillian are both on the Denver SAGE Advisory Board. They participate in many SAGE activities, including the Monday Storytelling Group, and they also started a monthly Women's Salon. Betsey and Gillian are the backbone of the SAGE Elders group and encourage all they meet to participate and join in the fun. Their joyful presence at The Center and at our OLOC Chapter is a testament to their lives as Old Lesbians Organizing for Change!



Gillian Edwards and Betsey McConnell accepting SAGE awards.

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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).



## Hudson Valley News

By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

The last time I wrote with news from the Hudson Valley, we were all going to Atlanta in October. We in the Hudson Valley stand with the Steering Committee as far as the Atlanta issue is concerned. We accept the Steering Committee's statement that "All Lesbians who have reached their 60<sup>th</sup> year are invited to become members of National OLOC and attend the Gathering." We look forward to the next chapter in the OLOC saga.

As the Hudson Valley Coordinator, I attended the St. Louis meeting and met other Chapter Coordinators and got a perspective on their thoughts about the cancellation of the Gathering. Our chapter is not meeting until September, when I will report back to them.

We produced singer/songwriter Jamie Anderson on Friday evening May 20<sup>th</sup> at the LGBTQ center in Kingston, NY. Forty women attended and enjoyed Jamie's light-hearted songs and banter. We did not meet in June or July, but some of our members did march on Pride Day, June 5<sup>th</sup> in New Paltz. In August we enjoyed a special event. On Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, Lesbian writer Alison Solomon read from her first novel, *Along Came the Rain*. Alison is from Gulfport, Florida, and is on a book tour. Her reading was followed by a Q&A.

## Pioneer Valley OLOC (Northampton,



Pioneer Valley (Northampton) OLOC members in 2016 Pride Day parade

## Massachusetts)

By Emily Greene, 1946

We had a great showing at Northampton, Massachusetts Pride Day, May 7, with our new banner and some brave souls who walked in the rain and held our banner high.

Two of our members (Judy Raphael and Bim Burns) went to the special gathering in Missouri for Chapter Coordinators in June. In July, we had a social picnic at MaryLou's house on a lake. Roberta continues to show great Lesbian films once a month, and our lineup for the fall will include the final work on our decision-making process, local Lesbian authors, meeting up with Vermont chapters, transgender discussion, and addressing racism. This list covers our monthly programs until January 2017. Once again, thanks to our wonderful National OLOC team.

## Pioneer Valley Chapter Chooses New Coordinators

By Judy Raphael, 1943

In May, we chose two new Chapter Coordinators. Tryna Hope had stepped down from that position, which she had held for almost three years, keeping only the "welcoming potential new members" aspect of this position. For the sake of continuity, our chapter decided that one position would be for two years and the other position would be for nine months. This would allow for one Coordinator to have enough experience to train the new person. Three people ran for the two positions: Bim Burns was chosen and selected the nine-month position; Judy Raphael was chosen and selected the two-year position. We both hope others will be willing to serve in the future.



OLOC is a Wolfe Video affiliate. Use this link to order from Wolfe, and OLOC will receive cash to support our work:

[wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344](http://wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344)

Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.



## New Movies in OLOC's Media Library!

Thanks to Paj Wadley-Bailey, SC member, and Tiona McClodden, director/producer, who each donated a copy, our Media Library now has two copies of *black.womyn: conversations with lesbians of African descent*. Approximately 50 Black Lesbians discuss coming out, love/relationships/marriage, patriarchy, media visibility, elders, balancing gender/race/sexuality, and what it means to call oneself a Black Lesbian.

*Cracking the Codes: The Systems of Racial Inequity* is a film that asks North America to talk about the causes and consequences of systemic inequity. It features moving stories from racial justice leaders.

*Lennie and Pearl: Living in the Overlap* is the story of Lennie and Pearl who, for over 40 years, have shared a passion for social justice and for each other. Now, the indelible spark of their love inspires many others as they fight for their right to marry in North Carolina. Donated by its director, Mary Dalton. Thank you, Mary!

*She's Beautiful When She's Angry* tells the story of the brilliant, often outrageous wimmin who founded the feminist movement of the 1960s. They said "the personal is political" and made a revolution in the bedroom, the workplace, and all spheres of life. Called threatening by the FBI, yet ignored in many histories, these women changed the world.

*Suffragette* is the powerful and thrilling first film about the remarkable untold story of the real foot soldiers of the British Suffragette movement. The story of Maud—one such foot soldier—and her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller; it is also heart-breaking and inspirational.

*Our Stories, Our Voices: Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project* is filled with dramatic readings of excerpts taken from stories in the OLOHP collection, narrated by Project Director Arden Eversmeyer and featuring readers from OLOC's Puget Sound chapter.

We now have 80 movies for you to watch for free (we request a small donation for postage)!

**OLOC Mission: To eliminate the oppression of ageism and to stand in solidarity against all oppressions.**

## Ooops!

We apologize for giving credit to the wrong person for the drawing of an Old Lesbian in the June issue. The artwork was done by Diane Germain. We're sorry, Diane, and thank you for sharing your "Curly" with us.



## Praise for an Important Biography

*By Jan Griesinger, 1942*

The Oregon State University Press sent OLOC a book titled *Marie Equi: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions* by Michael Helquist. It can be summarized as follows: "Marie Equi was a physician for the working class, a Lesbian, and a fiercely independent activist unafraid to take risks or stand by her principles." She was born in 1872 in New Bedford, Massachusetts, but most of the story is about her life in Portland, Oregon. It's a wonderful, powerful story about a Lesbian feminist we have mostly never heard of. Check it out!

## From the Older Feminist Network, London, England, Newsletter

"We are two women who have each lived on our own for some time. We both feel that as we get older this is not the best way to live and have an idea of setting up an older women's co-housing community. The ideal would be to live in a big house, each with our own room but with communal areas to cook, eat, drink, laugh, share, and support each other. E-mail: [BrightonWomensCommunity@gmail.com](mailto:BrightonWomensCommunity@gmail.com)." This sounds like something to pursue in the US, yes?

## More about Ageist Language

Alene Smith, 1949, phoned with a couple more examples of ageist language: *old bitch* and *old butch*. Comments?

She also mentioned *wise old crone* as a positive term for Old women/Lesbians and wonders if we can think of other positive terms. Let us hear your examples.

*Why do they say we're over the hill? I don't even know what that means and why it's a bad thing. When I go hiking and I get over the hill, that means I'm past the hard part and there's a snack in my future.*

~Ellen DeGeneres



# Memorials

## Mina Meyer, 1940–2016



Mina was a Co-Director of OLOC and took the lead on the Los Angeles Gathering in 2008. Although she was born in Zwickely, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, she spent most of her active life in Los Angeles, California.

In 1971, Mina met Sharon Raphael and they spent the next 45 years together in partnership both in love and in their life-long battle for social justice. They shared interests working as gay liberationists and Lesbian feminists. Mina received a B.A. and M.A. in Sociology/Gerontology and wrote the first thesis ever completed on the topic of “The Older Lesbian.”

Mina was Vice President of the Board of Directors at the Gay Community Services Center in Los Angeles. She created the first health clinic for Lesbians at GCSC and recruited doctors to help give much needed Pap smears and gynecological exams to Lesbians.

Mina worked for 16 years at Sisterhood Bookstore, where Lesbians and feminists could exchange ideas and read the current publications about women’s lives and how to change the world for the better.

In addition to her work for OLOC, Mina was instrumental in creating the groundwork that inspired several pioneering conferences and gatherings that addressed issues about Lesbians growing old. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

## Toni Langfield, 1935–2016

A long-time member of OLOC, Toni was also a member of Mother Tongue Readers Theater where she collaborated with others to write and perform theater pieces.

She was born in Redford Township, a suburb of Detroit, but she moved to New York City where she married Melvin Baker and had four children. After a nervous breakdown, she was hospitalized at Bellevue, where a female psychiatrist encouraged her to work outside the home as a children’s librarian.

Toni moved her family to Berkeley, California, where she worked at the San Francisco Public Library before accepting a position as librarian at Town School for Boys, a position she held for 24 years.

After her divorce, Toni came out as a Lesbian and met her partner, Carly Rivers. For over 20 years, they traveled, partied, worked, wrote scripts, mailed out newsletters, networked, and socialized all around the country with the women’s community. She was adventurous and enjoyed hiking in Yosemite and watching Sandhill cranes in the California Delta. She is greatly missed by family and friends.

## Polly Taylor, 1929–2016



Polly was an active member of OLOC for many years. She was also one of the founders and editors of *Broomstick Magazine*. Polly died on her own terms, in her own home, just as she wished. She was surrounded by her friends and her favorite caregiver when she quietly slipped away.



## Paij Wadley-Bailey, 1939–2016

Just as *The Reporter* was going to press, we learned that Paij died on August 18, 2016, in Montpelier, Vermont. On the day before her death, friends and family attended a big celebration of her life, which she was able to enjoy. One was also held in June when she began the dying process. We’ve heard that both were fabulous. She was one of our newest Steering Committee members. We are very sorry to lose her and will have a full memorial in the next issue.



## More to Consider in Later Life

By Shewolf, 1932

The most important step you can take now to ensure your best future in retirement living is to create a serious list of priorities for you alone and a *separate* one for your partner, if you have one. The priorities list is mind-boggling once you take it seriously. Be sure to list the obvious priorities you take for granted.

On your list, consider mostly what you WANT to do and WILL actually do in the future. Include things like weather, location, family closeness/distance, living space needs (after you get rid of all the extras you will not need in a CARE place), timing, health needs, pets, present expenses, community, medical workers, activities, *daily* pleasures, etc.

I found several ways of gathering facts about care places. Internet information is good and often exaggerated a little; visits are great and have certain limitations in time and scope; printed materials are educational and glamorous; and interviewing residents is revealing and biased. You may find a lot of information about places from national, state, and county reports (issued monthly or yearly) on medical status, cleanliness, staff-to-resident ratios, training, etc.

One easy way to learn a lot quickly is to contact one of the free placement services for retirees. If you send them your needs (priority list), they will check out several places for you. For starters you might contact [aplaceformom.com](http://aplaceformom.com), [senior-living-choices.net](http://senior-living-choices.net), [www.matureandseniorlivingchoices.com](http://www.matureandseniorlivingchoices.com), [www.choiceadvisory.com](http://www.choiceadvisory.com), [www.55places.com](http://www.55places.com), and/or [www.caring.com/](http://www.caring.com/).

I hope this is helpful and gets you to start thinking about your future retirement and care when things start to get a little harder to do and keep up with. Some places offer more entertainment and activity choices than you ever had. Don't you deserve to take life a little easier now after so many years of hard work?

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OLOC maintains a video library and will lend items to members. For a complete list of items available, contact [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) or write the PO Box in Ohio.

## If You Have Always Wanted To Serve In the Peace Corps, It's Never Too Late!

The Peace Corps is seeking Volunteers of all ages to serve in more than 60 countries to address the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work with their community members at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions to challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment, and youth development. Peace Corps has different length programs: one that is two years plus training and one ranging from three to 12 months in a shorter-term, high-impact program called Peace Corps Response.

Supporting a diverse and inclusive environment is essential to achieving the Peace Corps mission, and for that reason, it values diversity—the individual attributes that together help it meet its goals. This includes, but is not limited to, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. Its success and longevity are dependent on its ability to engage and include people of all backgrounds and perspectives. Call 855-855-1961 or go to [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) for more information about an opportunity of a lifetime!

Links to recent articles:

- [nprberlin.de/post/peace-corps-volunteer-values-staying-active-old-age](http://nprberlin.de/post/peace-corps-volunteer-values-staying-active-old-age) (article about the oldest currently serving Volunteer at age 87)
- [www.peacecorps.gov/stories/myth-all-peace-corps-volunteers-are-young/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/stories/myth-all-peace-corps-volunteers-are-young/) (stories about serving in Peace Corps “later in life”)
- [www.peacecorps.gov/faqs/lgbtq/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/faqs/lgbtq/) (serving as a same-sex couple)
- [files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/learn/howvol/faq/LGBTQ\\_FAQs.pdf](http://files.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/learn/howvol/faq/LGBTQ_FAQs.pdf) (LGBTQ Volunteer FAQ)

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 and Black Women's Lives Matter movements



## 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/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/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: \_\_\_\_\_

Skills I can offer OLOC: \_\_\_\_\_

I already belong to the following OLOC group: \_\_\_\_\_

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 would love to have an OLOC group 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 newsletter and OLOC will have to pay for it to be returned to us. \_\_\_\_\_*

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If your label says 2016.09  
(meaning 2016 September)  
or earlier, your membership  
or support has ended and it  
is time to renew.

Be sure to  
vote in November!

**OLOC National Gathering**  
**August 2–6, 2017**  
**Tampa, Florida**

