

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Old Lesbian Pride: Sharpening the Radical Edge

OLOC hosts a national gathering in even-numbered years. The next one, to be held in Cleveland July 14–18, 2010, is sure to be alive with awesome community activists, most sporting beautiful gray hair, and the knowing wrinkled faces of Old Lesbians.

Keynote speakers include:

Vera Martin, 1923, former OLOC Co-Director and Co-Founder

Margaret Cruikshank, 1940, author of the book *Learning to Be Old: Gender, Culture, and Aging*

Marilyn "Jezz" Jesmain, 1931, an archaeologist of Mohawk descent.

Alix Dobkin, 1940, will entertain and read from her recently published memoir, *My Red Blood: A Memoir of Growing Up Communist, Coming Onto the Greenwich Village Folk Scene, & Coming Out in the Feminist Movement*.

More details will be included in the next issue including a draft schedule and registration materials. The early registration fee will be \$225 if you register by May 15, 2010.

There's something new in the OLOC works: a leadership training event immediately prior to (and possibly a bit after) the Cleveland gathering in July, 2010, for current and upcoming chapter leaders and others who want to become organizers for OLOC. We will be holding workshops on such topics as building media skills, public speaking (especially about the politics/economics/big picture issues of ageism), organizing and group facilitation, grant writing, fund-raising, and more.

Ageism Is Never Dead *By Jan Griesinger, 1942*

Lenore Skenazy, a columnist for *Advertising Age*, reminds us of the prevalence of ageism in her column of May 17, 2009, titled "Why do people on the obit page look so good?" Of course, I would have preferred it if she had said "so young" instead of "so good." Her column is about how, especially with women, obituaries use a much younger picture. She cites research showing that the number of obituaries using younger pictures (she calls such pictures "age-inappropriate") has doubled in 30 years. She says "Ageism has been on the rise, along with, well, age. And sexism. It never seems to die. Even among the dead."



Vera Martin



Margaret Cruikshank



Jezz Jesmain

The Reporter ... A quarterly publication of OLOC

December 2009 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 4

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

National Steering Committee Update



Alix

The OLOC national Steering Committee (SC) met October 5–8, 2009, in Cleveland. The major agenda was planning for our national gathering.

In conjunction with the next SC meeting (April 23–26, 2010) Alix Dobkin, 69, (pictured to the left) will do a concert in Cleveland open to all women of all ages on Saturday night, April 24.

We proudly welcomed two new Steering Committee members.

Tita Caldwell, lower left, age 78, San Francisco. Tita has lived in Guatemala and in Europe, speaks three languages, is a full-charge bookkeeper, a movement activist, and is involved in leadership in the Bay Area OLOC chapter.

Carole Stoneking, on right, age 72, Columbia, SC.

Carole served for 27 years as a YWCA Executive Director and currently is a massage therapist. She was the key organizer for the OLOC Regional Gathering held in Columbia in July 2009.



Tita

During a welcome break from our four days of wall-to-wall agendas** we met with a dozen or so talented and enthusiastic Cleveland-area OLOC women. They are working very hard to host us and make sure our 2010 gathering is well supported in the famously well-grounded Midwest.



Carole

** Including but not limited to: field organizing, developing and strengthening our Chapters, policies and guidelines relating to disabilities, our Website, the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award (get your nominations in), Steering Committee member evaluations and job descriptions, focus on anti-racism materials and educational program for white women, brainstorming strategies to become more diverse, budgets, fund-raising, our newsletter, selecting an archive for OLOC materials, ways to support the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, and the project's beautiful newly published book, *A Gift of Age: Old Lesbian Life Stories*.

Calling Lesbian Poets

Sinister Wisdom Issue #81 "Lesbian Poetry—When? And Now!" Guest Editor Julie R. Enszer is seeking poems by 30 to 40 contemporary Lesbian poets, each paired with a poem by a Lesbian poet of yore. Think about whose work inspires you and submit creative, eclectic, and unusual pairings for consideration.

For details about submissions and to discuss copyright permission, please contact the guest editor well in advance of the March 1, 2010, deadline. Submit manuscripts to Julie R. Enszer, 6910 Wells Parkway, University Park, MD 20782 with SASE for response or e-mail JulieREnszer@gmail.com

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.

Mission Statement for OLOC

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change is a national organization for Old Lesbians age 60 and over, and will:

- Promote Old Lesbian Pride.
- 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

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

OLOC Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award Seeks Nominations

It is time to send in nominations for the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride award which are due April 15, 2010. In 500 words or less, describe the outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements of the nominee. Nominees can be from anywhere in the world and are to be Old Lesbians 70 or older whose life and/or work have impacted or are impacting the lives of Lesbians. The first award will be presented at the 2010 National Gathering in Cleveland, OH and will include some cash (amount not yet determined). Send your nominations to the OLOC post office box or to info@oloc.org. If you want to know more about Del Martin and her partner Phyllis Lyon, you can borrow one or both of the movies OLOC owns that tell about their lives: *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon* and *One Wedding and a Revolution*, the story of their marriage in San Francisco in 2004. See the Media Library listing at www.oloc.org for more details or send an SASE for the listing to Susan Wiseheart, HC 73 Box 169C, Drury MO 65638.



Thanks to OLOC Volunteers *By Alix Dobkin, 1940*

Plenty of work goes into an issue of *The Reporter* and maintaining www.oloc.org. Much of it is volunteer, so some extra recognition and thanks are surely due. Words cannot hope to compensate the many hours of often tedious, painstaking work our heroic volunteers undertake so we can get the word out about OLOC to Old Lesbians everywhere on the planet. But, here goes anyway, along with the suggestion that you take a careful look at the list of names of the Lesbians who, despite tight schedules and busy lives, spend precious time helping to make this all possible.

Not nearly enough thanks go to Jennice Thomas, editor; Malinda McCain, Nancy Krody, and Susan Howe, proofreaders; Nan Worthing, mailings; and everyone who takes time to write for *The Reporter*. Thanks also to Sharon Raphael, our Research Gatekeeper. Our appreciation is also due to the Steering Committee members, all of whom spend enormous amounts of time on OLOC; our chapter contacts, who do the same; our Webkeeper Darlene Duncan and our layout artist Margaret Purcell, whose work is above and beyond what they are paid; Arden Eversmeyer for keeping the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project alive and vital; all of her volunteers, Kitty Sorell, Robin Ridgell, Jeanne Cordova, and Lynn Ballen, for helping with public relations and publicity; and anyone we have inadvertently left off this list.

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

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

Mina Meyer, 1940, Long Beach, CA mina@oloc.org (562) 420-3555

Steering Committee Members:

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

Myra Brahms, 1942, New York City, NY myra@oloc.org (212) 535-9633

Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA ruth@oloc.org (760) 318-6794

Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH sally@oloc.org (216) 862-0598

Tita Caldwell, 1931, San Francisco, CA Tita@oloc.org (415) 970-0694

Carole Stoneking, 1937, Columbia, SC Carole@oloc.org (803) 748-9490

Report from Coachella Valley OLOC

By Ruth Debra, 1944

Our chapter is almost 1½ years old and has had its ups and downs. It was very slow during the summer as the temperatures soared in the desert and lots of Old Lesbians left for cooler parts of the country. But we only cancelled one monthly meeting. Most of our meetings have been at the Golden Rainbow Senior Center, one of the few LGBT Senior Centers in the country, which has been very generous in providing us with free meeting space. We had an end-of-summer pool party in October at one of our member's condo complex and were very happy to have new women joining us. We're planning for a Thanksgiving weekend get-together at the lovely home of two of our members.

Although OLOC is by no means a "dating service"—far from it—we are pleased to announce that we do have several new romances in our group. One couple actually met at our meetings!! They have purchased a home together and seem so very happy. Another happy "new" couple (who did not meet at OLOC as they've been friends for years) have announced the joint purchase of a home too. There's something very special to us about Old Lesbians sharing the joys in their lives and also to proclaim that there's no such thing as "too old."

Northern Colorado OLOC

Cindy Bear, 1947

In 2009 we had our first contingent march in the Denver Pride Parade, supported Rainbow Alley GLBTQ Youth as part of the GLBTQ Center in Denver, held discussions about current topics in the news, had the privilege of a visit from Arden Eversmeyer and Charlotte Avery with an Oral Herstory presentation at our May meeting, supported local food banks with monthly donations, and supported Ronald McDonald House with donations of aluminum pull tabs. In January several of our members attended the Creating Change conference sponsored by the National G/L Task Force. Several attended an intergenerational telling of coming out stories in April with Rainbow Alley. We continue to average 25–30 women per month attending our gatherings.



Lesley, Julie and Sue proudly carried the OLOC banner at Portland Pride June 14, 2009.

Photo courtesy of JustOut

Puget Sound OLOC Report

By Mary Henry, 1934, Gloria Stanchich, 1935, and Margaret Purcell, 1951

Progress. It's an elusive but wonderful thing and often hard to measure. But at a simple event—eight women, connected by the Puget Sound OLOC group, meeting for lunch last month—there was a loud and clear message that we are doing something right.

It was one of those times when everything and everyone seemed so connected. Our local group has been doing work for the Old Lesbian Oral History Project (OLOHP) by collecting some interviews. One of the women recently interviewed was at lunch and was getting back her transcript to edit. When we joked about having to look up the spelling of such terms as “mammalogist,” someone new to the group asked about it. It was explained that Ellen had written a book on mammals. When the new woman inquired about the title, it turned out that she had a copy of that book, had had it for better than 20 years, loved it, and refers to it quite often! (In case you're wondering, it was *Small Mammals of the Pacific Northwest* by Ellen Kritzman.) And when another new woman was paging through a copy of *A Gift of Age*, she noticed the story about Scottie, looked up and declared, “I can't believe it. She was my PE teacher in junior high!” Those were just a few of the connections and stories and we all came away exhausted from laughing.

We were also able to turn the lunch into a little activism. Gloria had a coupon for 10% off on the tab so she asked if everyone was willing to pay full price and donate the discount to the local effort to keep our new-found rights in Washington from being repealed in November. Everyone went for it.

Between lunch-bunch events, working on collecting and processing herstories, helping members make connections with local health support services, and a quick retreat at the ocean, we've had a busy, busy fall. To us, this is such an essential part of what OLOC is all about: new bonds being built and old bonds being strengthened. Progress.

Chapters and Research

We have chapters all over the country and field organizers to help you start a new chapter. We also have a Research Gate-keeper to help those doing or participating in research about Old Lesbians. We will not send out information about research without the research being approved. For further information, call 888-706-7506 or e-mail info@oloc.org to ask for the contact list, for a contact for a particular place, for the field organizer contact information, or for the contact information for the Research Gatekeeper. All of this information is on our website, too.

Profile of OLOC Steering Committee Member Alix Dobkin, 1940

She has been dubbed “Head Lesbian” and “Her Dykeness” by her community in upstate New York and “Womyn's music legend” by *Spin Magazine*. On her 60th birthday she joined OLOC and accepted an invitation to join the Steering Committee in 2007 because “OLOC is the best way I can think of to help re-create the Lesbian-feminist community of the 1970s & 80s.”

Recently published by Alyson Books, the long-awaited *MY RED BLOOD: A Memoir of Growing Up Communist, Coming Onto the Greenwich Village Folk Scene, and Coming Out in the Feminist Movement* documents her pre-Lesbian years growing up radical in New York, Philadelphia, Miami, and Kansas City. www.alyson.com/9781593501075.html

“... those who have more negative images of aging have worse functional health over time, including lower rates of survival.” Becca Levy, an associate professor of epidemiology and psychology at Yale University

Sinister Wisdom Published Work by OLOCers

This wonderful publication of Lesbian work has its new issue out: *Old Lesbians/Dykes II* with writing, art, and photos by many of our talented OLOC sisters including Shaba Barnes, Henri Bensussen, Lynn Brown, Cathy Cade, Jeanne Cordova, Emma Joy Crone, Fran Day (editor), Tita Caldwell, Alix Dobkin, Vashte Doublex, Sally Duplaix, Arden Eversmeyer, Dorothy Fowler, Jane Herman, Maggie Leigh, Rose Beth Levno, Simi Litvak, Janet Lubeski, Margaret Mann, Jess McVey, Ruth Mountaingrove, Marge Nelson, Marj Norris, Marcia Perlstein, Sharon Raphael, Ida VSW Red, Lilith Rogers, Jayne Snook, Carole Stoneking, Sandy Tate, Jean Taylor, Cristina Vegas and many others. Also Jewelle Gomez's keynote address to the OLOC National Gathering in 2008 is included, as is an article by another speaker from that event, Gaye Adegbalola.

Get a copy by contacting *Sinister Wisdom* at PO Box 3252, Berkeley, CA 94703. www.sinisterwisdom.org

Young at 68? By Mary M. Morgan, 1926

Even though NPR has deteriorated to "infotainment," as has nearly all news media, I still listen regularly to Weekend Edition Sunday. On Sunday, June 28, I was washing dishes when I heard the following from Lianne Hanson: "Do you mind if I ask how old you are?"

Guest: "68." Hanson: "Oh, you're still young."

I left the dishpan, dried my hands on my shorts, turned on the computer and wrote to the NPR Ombudsman: "So Hanson has decreed that 68 years of age is 'young.' Then that pronouncement is modified by 'still'. Does that mean that the guest is: 1) Not a waste of her interviewing time? or 2) Not yet invalid as an interesting person? or 3) Within the acceptable age range of living, breathing, working, worthwhile personhood?"

Hanson could well ponder why she asked the question. And then ponder more on what her quick response would have been had the guest answered 58? 78? 88? There are a number of good resource books to help us become aware and overcome our nationally pervasive ageism: *Learning to Be Old*, 2nd ed., Margaret Cruikshank, *What Are Old People For?*; or even the groundbreaking *Look Me in the Eye*, 1990, by Barbara Macdonald. Ageism is destructive, disabling, and cruel. Go for it, Lianne."

Then I marched back to the kitchen sink and resumed washing the dishes in the still warm water.

The Beauty of Aging By Joan Healy, 1929

The fact that I am Lesbian and 80 years old tells almost nothing about me! I don't believe in categorizing people. I have had a rich life socially, spiritually, and intellectually.

But the ageism in our culture attempts to negate this rich experience. Old trees are as beautiful as young ones. Gnarled branches might indicate age and survival of drought or storm but they are as beautiful as the slim branches of new growth and I treasure trees during their entire life cycles. They have their own beauty and shape, just as do we as we age.

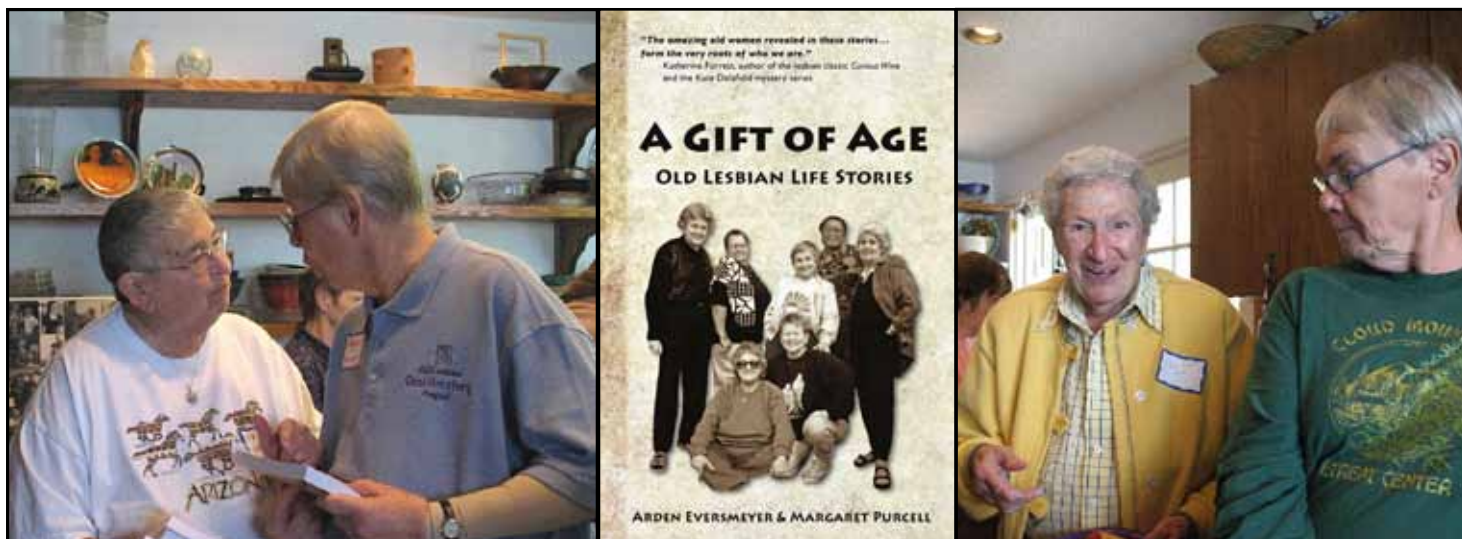
Old women are often marvelously wise and nurturing to others. I am not the beauty I was as a young Navy nurse with numerous dates, but I would not trade my spirit and wisdom to be that person again! Because of life's experiences, we have much more patience and honesty to share with each other than were present as a young "twenty something."

It is not all celebration at this point to be honest. This body is old and shows its wear which is why I treat it with renewed care and tenderness.

What a Fall! What a Ball! An OLOHP Update **By Arden Eversmeyer, 1931, and Margaret Purcell, 1951**

An exciting fall started when we held a kick-off event for the newly published OLOHP book, *A Gift of Age*. Put on by the Puget Sound OLOC group, we welcomed over 60 women (and two supportive men) to the ever-expanding home of our Port Townsend hosts Marcia and Nyla. Lots of books were signed by us as well as Irene Weiss and Ruth Silver (whose stories are in the book) and Pokey, who did the very first work toward sharing the stories in the OLOHP. It took a village to pull it off, but it was an exciting way to start us off in this additional direction. http://www.olohp.org/the_book.html

Of course, gathering more herstories is still the main focus. In fact, while in the Pacific Northwest, we collected five new interviews, three in Washington and two in Oregon. The book is turning out to be a good tool to create excitement about the project and gather more and more names of potential herstories. Four or five trips are in the planning stages for 2010 and we'd love to hear from women who are interested in participating!



Irene chats with Arden at the book event and Ruth Silver, the oldest woman present, with co-host Nyla Dartt.

A Gift of Age: Old Lesbian Life Stories **A Review By rainbow williams, 1935**

BINGO! This book (by Arden Eversmeyer and Margaret Purcell) arrived a week ago and I have been transported with delight to spend all my available reading time, finding the 22 true-life tales of my peer group completely to my satisfaction!

Now these stories just grabbed me, feeling I could relate to so many things that happened to these women: early denial, marriage to a simpatico guy (gay of course as it turns out so many times), finally getting it figured out, and coming out in so many ways, so many ways. Annalee Stewart's many comings out, for instance. And some like Irene Weiss (my ex-neighbor at Pagoda) who was so sure what she was, and her photos show us: the LOOK IN HER EYE. Do we have a song about THE LOOK? Please Alix, make us a song! Tre's story of coming and going with her education at Texas State College for Women, her alma mater, and Arden's, and mine, also a couple named June and Helen(?). While I was at Texas State, someone was expelled, on suspicion. I hope she survived and thrived after that hard bump in the road. We know it can lead to suicide. Peggy, you are in my heart. This book is about the ordinary extraordinary ones: us!

All Subscribers

If you and a partner both read the newsletter, please give us both of your names and demographics when you renew. It helps us with our grant applications to include statistics (unattached to any names) for all of our readers. Also, if you have e-mail but have not received one from us in a while or if your e-mail address has changed, please send your current e-mail address to susan@oloc.org

E-mail Subscribers:

Please note that the greatest cost of *The Reporter* is staff time, not the actual printing and mailing, so unless you are unable to do so, please do send money with your subscription.

Audio Version:

We are planning to make this newsletter available on audio for those who find reading it in print or online difficult or impossible. Please let us know if you or someone you know might like this service.

Extra for Low-Income Subscribers:

Some of our subscribers are unable to send in money due to difficult circumstances. Consider sending in extra for your subscription if possible to help cover the costs.

Financial Assistance Fund

Can you help? We want to build our fund to help Lesbians attend the National Gathering this summer. It will be very useful for us to know as far ahead as possible how much money we have to work with. If you are able to donate to the fund, we would appreciate you doing it as soon as possible. Send it to the post office box or by clicking the donate button on www.oloc.org. Be sure to specify what it is for. Thanks so much.

Arcus Foundation Grant

OLOC has received its largest-ever grant, \$25,000, from the Arcus Foundation based in Kalamazoo, MI. The grant is for OLOC to be bold and out in various venues, including national conferences of other organizations. It will also cover our first-ever gathering for chapter leaders and others interested in leadership skill development (see cover story on this summer's national gathering). It is also to help enhance our field organizing and cover some of the extra operating costs that have accompanied OLOC's growth.

Our Media Library

The OLOC Media Library List was updated on 11-3-09. There are only a few additions, but if you want a new version of the list, go to www.oloc.org under Resources or send an SASE with postage for 2 ounces to Susan Wiseheart at HC 73, Box 169C, Drury MO 65638

OLOC Solicits Workshop Proposals

Proposals for 90-minute workshops are being solicited for the Cleveland 2010 Gathering, July 14–18. They must include: Title, Presenter(s), A Brief Description, and Special Needs/Equipment. Preference will be given to workshops relating to our theme: "Old Lesbian Pride: Sharpening the Radical Edge" with final approval by the OLOC Steering Committee. One workshop we'd like to hold is "Old Lesbians & the Civil Rights Movement." If you were involved in the 1960s struggles for equality, please let us know your name, year of birth, phone numbers, e-mail address, and a paragraph about your involvement, so we can set up the workshop. Thanks.

Proposals must be received by April 1st, 2010 at info@oloc.org or via traditional mail at OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701. You may also call 888 706-7506 (toll-free).

A Choral Festival

The National Women's Choral Festival will be held July 1-4, 2010 at Loyola University in Chicago. OLOC Co-Director Jan Griesinger will be singing there with her local feminist chorus and would love to know ahead of time if other OLOC members will attend so we can plan an OLOC gathering there. Let Jan know at jan@oloc.org.

www.sistersingers.net has all the details on the choral festival.

Do You Have Plans to Travel?

The OLOC Travel Directory (\$5.00) has a new revision schedule. Every correction, addition or deletion we receive by the end of March and the end of September each year will go into a revised version to be published in early April and early October of each year. Those of you who are in the directory, send us feedback about how it is going for you. Do you get contacted? How about the ones who own the directory but aren't in it? Do you use it? susan@oloc.org or the Ohio address.

Nominations for "OLOC Song"

Comin' Into My Years by Betsy Rose. "I'm a gray-haired woman and I'm comin' into my years. I'm a weathered woman and I'm comin' into my years. No more holdin' back, no more tryin' to please. I got the will and the power to get off a' my knees. I'm an agin' woman and I'm comin' into my years." The other verses are equally powerful.

One of Us by Judy Fjell. One of us can make a difference. Two of us form a committee. Three of us start a movement. And the world is bound to change."

Older Women's League (OWL)

As part of their annual meeting 50+ women headed to Capitol Hill while wearing OWL masks (it was Halloween) to meet with their Members of Congress and talk about health reform and other OWL issues. Website: www.OWL-national.org

GREAT BUMPER STICKER from the Older Women's League:

**For-Profit Health Care
Makes Me SICK**

New Resources for Old LGBT Individuals

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced plans to create a national resource center to assist local communities in providing services and support for older LGBT individuals. This new center will be funded by an HHS grant and will offer assistance and resources not only to LGBT organizations but will also encourage mainstream state and community aging service providers to reach out to the LGBT population, estimated at 1.5 to 4 million individuals.

Posted on www.advocate.com/
Oct. 22, 2009, by Julie Bolcer

The OLOC Reporter

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

- www.oloc.org • E-mail: info@oloc.org
- Post Office Box 5853 Athens, OH 45701
- 888-706-7506

Brought to you by: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941, Co-Editors; Malinda McCain, 1940, and Nancy Krody, 1939, Proofreaders and Copy-editors; Mina Meyer, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942, Content Review; Margaret Purcell, 1951, Design/Layout; All of the writers and the mailing crew.

Let your voice be heard.

New deadlines for the next few issues: Jan. 15, 2010 for a Feb. 15 publication date, April 15, 2010 for a May 15 publication date and August 10, 2010 for an early September 2010 publication date. Limit submissions to 500 words. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to the addresses listed above.

Workshop on Race for White Lesbians

By Simi Litvak 1942, Cathy Cade, 1942, and Ann Valliant, 1945

The workshop we presented at the National OLOC Gathering in 2008 is an improved version of one we did in the Bay Area. We hope you will find this workshop format useful in doing your own anti-racist work. We started by asking Lesbians to give their names and where they were from. Next we posed a series of questions. We asked people to raise their hands if their answer was "yes" and to keep their hands up for awhile so everyone could see the response. We questioned our own self-identity as white or of more than one race; the racial and ethnic backgrounds of our families, friends and neighborhoods; our influences by people of other races; and the music we listen to. We asked about belonging to groups in which whites were in the minority, our stands against racism, our experiences with immigration and languages.

Next, in small groups of four, we discussed our earliest memories of a person of color and how we learned that some whites had unacceptable behaviors and beliefs that you should NOT act out or believe.

When we returned to the large group, we talked about anti-racism activities we've participated in that worked well and times we have been proud of being white.

Through the workshop we learned that people are much more complicated racially than they appear and that most of us have a long history of working against racism.

For a more detailed version of this article that will enable you to lead similar workshops (including a reading list), contact susan@oloc.org or write to the Ohio address.

Learning to Be Old: Gender, Culture, and Aging by Margaret Cruikshank **A Review By Jan Griesinger, 1942**

Cruikshank is a lecturer in Women's Studies at the Center on Aging at the University of Maine and a member of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC).

This wonderful book "compares the old to a 'colonized people,' suggesting that ageism goes beyond dehumanization into actual scapegoating of the old." (Quote from Daphne Merkin, *New York Times Magazine*, who reviewed the book).

The chapter titles give you a flavor of the author's approach: "Cultural Myths and Aging," "Fear of an Aging Population," "Sickness and Other Social Roles of Old People," "Overmedicating Old Americans," "The Politics of Healthy Aging," "Gender Class and Ethnicity," "Ageism," and "Prescribed Busyness and Its Antidotes."

Our culture is so filled with promoting ageism through advertising to convince us all that we can each do something to our bodies that is "anti-aging." And making women ashamed to tell their age. And trying to get us all to believe we should look young, act young, think young and, yes, be young.

Read this wonderful book to hear the truth and help yourself to embrace old pride.



*Drawings on mailing panel by
Sally Miller Gearheart on the left
Diane Germain on the right*



Also Available:
OLOC T-Shirts • Denim Shirts
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Cloisonné OLOC Lapel Pins, Buttons
(e-mail, phone, write or check www.oloc.org)

If you want to receive *The Reporter*, please let us know even if you can't contribute.

OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Form

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

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) 60 or over and wish to subscribe or renew my (our) current subscription to <i>The Reporter</i> . \$25 to \$50 for a one-year subscription. | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) would like to give a \$25 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to receive <i>The Reporter</i> but I (we) can contribute only \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send a sample of <i>The Reporter</i> to the name(s) listed below. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) not yet 60 but want to Support OLOC. Enclosed is \$30 to \$60 for a one-year subscription to <i>The Reporter</i> . | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to keep OLOC alive and strong. Please accept my (our) tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ or my (our) pledge of \$_____ / month. | |

Travel Directory

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm (we're) already listed in the TD and the contact information is correct. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to be added to the <i>Travel Directory</i> listings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to purchase the <i>Travel Directory</i> . Enclosed is \$5 for costs. |

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. A copy of the OLOC Endowment brochure is available by calling 888-706-7506 or by emailing info@oloc.org.

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 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) _____ / _____

E-mail(s) _____ / _____

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