

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Da-Da-Da-DAH!

We Bring You the 2011 Regional Gathering
By Gloria Stancich, 1935, and Mary Henry, 1939

The Portland and Puget Sound Chapters of OLOC are happy to announce that they will be hosting the 2011 Regional Gathering in Tacoma, Washington, July 28–31. Please mark your calendars now. In fact, we suggest being proactive and telling all your friends and family right now that that weekend is off limits for weddings, reunions, big birthday celebrations or any other events that might require your attention!

We'll keep you posted as plans develop for program and entertainment at the Regional Gathering, but you can already plan on having a good time while you are in the area. We suggest looking into other sightseeing or vacation opportunities before and after our dates so you can have double the fun. Seattle, with its Space Needle, aquarium, zoo, Pike Street Market, and the original Starbucks isn't very far from Tacoma. In addition to all the City has to offer, it's also a major cruise port for trips to Alaska. Portland, Oregon, located along the gorgeous Columbia River, is less than three hours south and is an incredibly vibrant city, chock full of museums, parks, and Powell Books (which you've got to see to believe).

With any luck, you'll be in the Tacoma area long enough to learn the lingo, such as saying "the mountain is out today" as you catch sight of the nearby glacier-covered Mt. Rainier, whose head is often in the clouds. Also, you can visit the Tacoma Museum of Glass. If you'd like to be on a mailing list for updates about this event and ideas for what else you can do in the area, drop us an e-mail request at pnwgathering@psoloc.org.



*"Hope we see you there!" say
Deirdre Knowles and Gloria
Stancich, two of the 2011
Regional Gathering planners.*

Arcus Foundation Grant

OLOC has just received a grant of \$25,000 from the Arcus Foundation, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for general operating support for education and advocacy with and by Old Lesbians and to increase cross-sector work on issues such as class, race, age, gender, and sexual orientation. We are honored by their generous support for the work we love doing: to be out and proud and sharpening the radical edge.

Carpenter Foundation Grant

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation recently awarded OLOC an \$8,000 grant for our organizing and outreach work. OLOC is honored.

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

Silver and Gold

The Silver Threads annual celebration for Lesbian singles and couples 50 and over will be held January 13–17, 2011, in St. Pete Beach, Florida. For more information: www.silverthreadscelebration.org.

Golden Threads is a discreet, quarterly contact publication with a focus on Lesbians 50 and over. 706-776-3959 Sample copy \$5, PO Box 1688, Demorest GA 30535. goldenthreads@earthlink.net.



New Resource Center for LGBT Seniors

In February, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded a landmark grant to Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)—in partnership with ten organizations from around the country—to establish the country's first and only technical assistance resource center aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults. SAGE is proud to announce the launch of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. For more information, visit: www.lgbtagingcenter.org.

*Pat Patton, Rachel Plevin, and Judith Fine share a game of dominos.
Photo by Cathy Cade*

Lesbophobia: An Old Lesbian's Experience in a Hospital By Mina K. Meyer, 1940

Eight months ago, after a heart attack, I ended up in the intensive care unit of a major hospital. I was receiving excellent care until I realized one nurse, on a particular shift, was not giving me the attention that I needed. My Foley bag was not being emptied in a timely way, my call button was not being answered, and I was not being turned at regular intervals. I felt very helpless, because I had also broken two bones in my ankle when the heart attack happened, so I couldn't move myself around in the hospital bed. I was also heavily sedated with morphine.

My Lesbian spouse of 39 years came to see me every day and concurred that there was Lesbophobia going on with that nurse. The nurse also ignored my spouse's attempts to get the situation corrected. When my

spouse asked the nurse about the Foley bag, the nurse replied, "Yes, it is close to bursting," and kept on walking past the room. I had to call in the charge nurse, complain about the Lesbophobia, and tell him not to allow that nurse near me again. I also emphasized the need to educate the nurses on that floor about Lesbians and gay men.

Communicating this information was very difficult for me because of my feeling vulnerable and not knowing how the hospital staff would react. On the other hand, I felt my life was endangered by this nurse's lack of respect for me. As it turned out, the charge nurse profusely apologized for the actions of the Lesbophobic nurse and made sure I received excellent care for the rest of my stay. I never saw the Lesbophobic nurse again. I can only hope she was educated so that her behavior will not be repeated ever again.

Budgets Are Moral Documents *By H. Patricia Hynes, 1943*

The Pentagon budget is likely to top \$700 billion in 2011, sustaining the growth in defense spending which has averaged a rate of seven percent per year over the past decade. Moreover, the defense budget is ironclad and untouchable, while federal spending on survival issues pits one vital domestic security program against another. On Tuesday, August 12, 2010, President Obama signed a \$26-billion emergency bill to help local and state governments make Medicaid payments and reduce layoffs of teachers and public employees. The bill had been whittled down from \$50 billion and nearly half of the \$26-billion emergency fund was poached from the food-stamp program. This at a time when the participation in the food-stamp program has increased to one in every seven Americans (or approximately 41 million people) due to the Great Recession, and when a new and more realistic poverty measure will increase the number of people who are recognized as poor, especially among older Americans.

"Budgets are moral documents," states Congresswoman Barbara Lee; but "they don't lend themselves to a moral reading." She adds that increases in military spending are made at the expense of federal investment in affordable housing, homecare, childcare, and education; yet no budget documentation acknowledges this trade-off.

The best resource I have read on the impact of the U.S. budget on women, with emphasis on defense spending, is *Women and the U.S. Budget* by Jane Midgley, for which Congresswoman Lee wrote the

Introduction. Here are five compelling points from *Women and the U.S. Budget* that address defense spending.

- The pieces of the federal budget pie that fund education, energy, environment, social services, housing, and new job creation, taken together, receive less funding than the military/defense budget.
- Over the past decade, domestic program budgets have grown at a lower rate each year, while the military budget continues to grow at a higher rate.
- The majority of military spending is "corporate welfare," funding high-profit defense contractors who are mainly white males.
- Conversion of military jobs to non-defense sectors, such as clean energy, healthcare, and education, would result in a larger number of jobs overall.
- A key survey of women's priorities for federal spending found that women ranked healthcare, retirement security, job opportunities, good schools, and housing above homeland security spending.

A valuable companion to this primer is the National Priorities Project or NPP (www.nationalpriorities.org/), a website database that offers up-to-date information on government spending on military defense overall and on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq specifically.

A growing movement, "Bring Our War Dollars Home," uses the National Priorities Project data to make the case for ending the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and redirecting defense spending to local social, health, and economic programs, including veterans' health services programs. Consider writing a letter to the editor or an opinion piece for your local paper, using the NPP data for your town or city, to inform readers about the unethical trade-off in social spending that our government continues to make.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation, the Carpenter Foundation, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and Mary's Pence.

Movie Review: Hannah Free

By Jennice Thomas, 1940

I saw *Hannah Free* at the OLOC Gathering in Cleveland last summer with an audience of Old Lesbians, and I think it's fair to say that we could all see ourselves in the love story of Hannah and Rachel.

Hannah (played by Sharon Gless) has pursued a life of independence and adventure. From an early age, she has known and accepted herself as a Lesbian. Rachel (Maureen Gallagher) is the love of her life, the one she always comes home to. But Rachel has been much slower to acknowledge her sexual orientation. She even marries to deny her feelings, but when her young husband dies and leaves her to raise her twins alone, she begins to admit the love for Hannah that she has tried so hard to bury. Their story unfolds in a series of flashbacks.

The movie opens in a nursing home, where Hannah petitions the patronizing staff in her characteristic strong and persistent way to allow her to visit Rachel, who lies in a coma, guarded by her daughter Marge (Taylor Miller), who forbids Hannah to visit her mother. Just as we begin to despair of the homophobia of our children, Greta (Jacqui Jackson), Rachel's great-granddaughter, arrives to visit "Grandma" Hannah. Hannah does not recognize the little girl she took fishing and is suspicious of another patronizing visitor. But Greta is genuine, a young Lesbian come to interview Hannah for a college course project (Women's Studies? Lesbian Studies?), and she easily recognizes Hannah as her family.

It's a wonderful love affair, about all kinds of families, and it isn't afraid of butch/femme issues. You'll love it. I did!

Directed by Wendy Jo Carlton and written by Claudia Allen, this one's worth keeping. You can find it at Wolfe Video.

Puget Sound OLOC Reporting In

By Gloria Stancich, 1935, and Mary Henry, 1939

We don't know who it was that said life slowed down as you got older, but those of us in the Puget Sound OLOC chapter can testify that whoever it was got it all wrong! We were already busy with our ongoing local activities: getting together for a big ice cream social; hosting OLOCers who were traveling throughout the area; heading down to Olympia to hear Alix perform at a local venue; venturing across the border into Canada to attend the BOLD (Bold Older Lesbians and Dykes) conference in Vancouver, British Columbia; gathering in smaller groups for occasional lunch meetings; working on Herstories to contribute to the OLOHP as well as the local Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives; continuing our investigation into culturally sensitive services for aging Lesbians in our area; and visiting the Olympic Peninsula while on a retreat. Since we obviously didn't have enough to keep us out of trouble (or enough sense to say "No"), we said, "Yes" when National OLOC asked if we'd host the next regional Gathering (2011 Pacific Northwest Regional OLOC Gathering, July 28-31, Tacoma, Washington).

To those who wonder what an OLOC chapter does, or can do, we're here to say, loud and clear, let your imagination be your guide. There are so many ways that Old Lesbians, even if in a very small group, can come together, sharing their knowledge, experiences, interests, and enthusiasms, that the possibilities are almost endless. With any luck, the rewards will make it well worth your time. (We call some of these activities "exercising community", or "networking" or "being visible" or "being active"). Whatever you call it, it's fun doing things together.

Institutionalized Ageism and You

How has ageism appeared in your life? How has your self-image been affected, and are you treated differently now than you used to be? How? *The Reporter* is looking for brief personal stories (250 words) illustrating an experience with institutionalized ageism, and we'd like some funny pieces, too.

South Carolina OLOC Celebrates Pride Week

By Carole Stoneking, 1937

The Saturday morning of the Pride Parade in Columbia I got up at 8:00, left the house by 8:30, and got to the park by 9:00. I dropped off the tent (EZ up), banners, brochures, etc., and walked back to meet Maggie and Donna by 9:15. They arrived with four other women from Rock Hill to set up our OLOC booth. After setting everything up, I encouraged the women to come with me to meet the other OLOC members in Columbia. I explained that next year these women would be taking over setting up the OLOC booth and riding in the parade.

It was a long and treacherous walk to get to the float, and I fell and bruised my body badly, but we climbed aboard and settled on the float. The parade started to move after about a 30-minute wait, and I could not believe my eyes. It looked like everyone in Columbia was on the parade route. The police department estimated the crowd to be 10,000 people, the biggest crowd in 21 years to watch the parade. The 11 o'clock news that night even broadcast coverage of the parade.

The Pride festivities actually began on Friday night with the Pink Party, which drew a crowd of 1,000 to Belks Department Store, where we raised money for our political campaigns. These were two solidly good Pride events to make Columbia proud of its progress this year.

St. Louis Chapter Views Video

By Charlotte Ellis, 1943

The St. Louis group held our monthly meeting on Aug. 29th. We had a visitor from Spain who brought us a video that her brother had obtained in England. The video was a BBC production called *The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister* about a 19th-century Yorkshire landowner and industrialist who defied the conventions of her time by living with her female lover. It was followed by a documentary discussing how Lister's open Lesbian lifestyle contrasts with our idea of life at that time as presented in the Jane Austen stories.

Two of our members, Sue Pratt and Chrissie Farthing, were featured in an AP article about coming out after age 60, which appeared in many publications and online last spring.



Donna Dozier and Carole Stoneking at South Carolina Pride Parade. Photo by John Patrick Dawkins

OLOC Chapters – OLOC has chapters in California in the Bay Area, the North Bay Area, Coachella Valley, and Long Beach. In New York there is a chapter in the Hudson Valley and one in New York City. Ohio has a statewide chapter and one in Cleveland. There are also chapters in St. Louis, Missouri; Portland, Oregon; Puget Sound, Washington; and Northern Colorado.

To get contact information on how to reach these chapters, or for information about our research guidelines, e-mail info@oloc.org or call 1-888-706-7506.

Ohio Chapter Report

The Ohio Chapter has chosen three arenas for “change” in the next year: (1) Old pride—targeted at LGBT groups—we hope to meet with a Lesbian group in Columbus to talk about ageism and also with the Stonewall Ohio Board. (2) Homophobia in aging services—we plan to invite social workers and activity directors from senior centers and maybe nursing homes to come to one of our meetings and tell us what they are doing to welcome Old Lesbians. (3) Immigration—following up on the resolution that was adopted in Cleveland—we don’t have a specific strategy for this yet

In addition we recently did OLOC workshops at the Ohio Lesbian Festival and the statewide NOW conference.

Out in the Senior Centers

By Sharon Deevey, 1944

In 2008, we (a single life-long Lesbian activist and a somewhat closeted 40-year Lesbian couple) decided to integrate the local senior centers in central Ohio. We knew each other from a Lesbian ballroom dance group and all had worked previously in recreation and aging services. We therefore knew about the extensive activities, services, and networking available to both able-bodied and disabled seniors. We believe that (1) senior resources should be available equally to LGBT elders; (2) the notion that “all old people are homophobic” is an ageist stereotype; and (3) Lesbian women who are visible and friendly in senior centers serve as individual activists for change.

We joined groups for writing, line dance, and ballroom dance at four senior centers in Columbus, Westerville, and Reynoldsburg, Ohio. We came out verbally to individuals or visibly by dancing together. We have been welcomed, despite differences in politics and faith. We have learned about many daughters, granddaughters, and nieces who are openly Lesbian in the families of our senior center friends. We have had fun with kind and caring people. We have gained respect for our skills in dancing and writing and have had some interesting discussions about politics, religion, and sexuality.

We wonder about the experiences of other Lesbians in the Aging Network of services and activities. What makes Lesbian participation in senior centers positive or negative? Are integrating strategies different for single or coupled lesbians?

The OLOC Reporter

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

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This Newsletter Brought to You By: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941, Co-Editors; Sue Atlas, 1947, Photo Editor; 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.

Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2011.

Submission guidelines: copy due by Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, and Nov. 1. Limit submissions to 300 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.



Pat Meller, takes a few minutes to study the program book at the recent Gathering.

Love Letter to OLOC after Attending My First National Gathering

By Felicia Sobel, 1944

As I recall attending my first OLOC National Gathering this past July, I feel profound gratitude—for having found OLOC, which by its mere existence affirms me; for having had the opportunity to know such extraordinarily gifted women; and for having seen that sisterhood still lives. I was riveted from the day I arrived until my reluctant departure on the final day.

Being surrounded by boldly radical women is nothing less than exhilarating. It is no exaggeration to describe the Gathering as transformational; as my understanding of the pervasiveness of ageism, lesbophobia, and sexism deepened, I wanted to rise against these destructive forces.

Space does not allow coverage of all the talented, stimulating speakers, workshop facilitators, and entertainers. One person, Alix Dobkin, did give special, personal meaning to the event for me. I had seen her sing onstage as a proudly out Lesbian feminist in New York City some 30 years earlier, when I was inching out of the closet. And so it was poignant to see her now presiding onstage, her energy igniting the Gathering; she remains an inspiring force in speech, book, and song.

Having taken our Lesbian path (and surviving into our sixties and beyond), I believe, gives us the perspective of a pioneer. At this historic meeting, yes, there were words of pride, but also wise words of caution for our planet, of justice for our sisters, and, of course, deep respect for our maturity and its sanctity—for the ages.

Sonia Johnson, who ran for president in 1984, led a well-attended workshop on Lesbian radicalism. She suggested that, while men have control, they lack power, which we women possess, and, therefore, it is inappropriate to say we need empowerment. This pleasantly arresting idea enhanced my appreciation of my power. After the workshop ended, I encountered Sonia in the hallway, where she embraced me, looked me in the eye, and said, "This is home." Indeed, it was. And I can't wait to return home to OLOC again.

Participants Rate the 2010 Gathering

Evaluation Forms for the 2010 OLOC Gathering gave highest praise to planned events and to the entire experience:

"In essence this weekend was like a mini Lesbian festival for me...with flush toilets." "My soul needed all of you so much." "My mind was awakened once more after a very long drought with varied and worthwhile commentary, viewpoints, and beautiful Lesbians from the world." "Aging will not be so difficult after all."

The hospitality suite pleased many:

"Hospitality was a great set-up this time." "Crowded with fun activities." "Great to have such a place to get together and talk and play." "Best ever hospitality."

Two popular fishbowls attracted comments:

The Racism Fishbowl:

"great." "inspiring." "one of the best conversations." "high marks."

The Ageism Fishbowl:

"very good." "clear." "thoughtful." "really good content."

The press conference drew praise even without media presence:

"great role modeling, panelists and mock reporters."

The speakouts were popular:

"Great idea." "Worked really well."

The workshops provided information and entertainment:

Herb workshop: "phenomenal." "helpful info."

Belly dance workshop:

"very fun."

Frances Ann Day, 1942--2010

By Roxanna Fiamma and Lilith Rogers

The Lesbian community has suffered a tremendous loss in the passing of Frances Ann Day. Our beloved Fran had the courage to end her suffering after a fourteen-month illness. Fran was a long-time member of OLOC and enjoyed participating in their conferences and other activities.

She had been the editor of *Sinister Wisdom*, a thirty-plus-year-old Lesbian periodical, for the past six years. Her passion for writing began in Denver, where she was a member of the Big Mama Rag collective. She also was part of Woman to Woman, a Lesbian bookstore in Denver for many years.

Fran once said, "My work in the field of Women's Herstory is dedicated to my dream of dignity and freedom in the world for all Lesbians and Women." She was an educator, an activist, and a writer in all aspects of Lesbian life. She believed strongly in multicultural diversity. She was also an advocate for animal rights. Fran wrote and published three books: *Latina and Latino Voices in Literature*, 1997; *Multicultural Voices in Contemporary Literature*, 1999; and *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, 2000. All of these books are resources for teachers of children and young adults.

Fran was born in Nebraska and grew up on a farm there. She loved horses and cows—as a child, one of her jobs was to do the daily milking. She went to college in Lincoln, Nebraska, and became an elementary-school teacher. She moved to Denver in the mid-60s and came out as a Lesbian.

Fran met her partner, Roxanna Fiamma, while both were browsing the shelves at Woman to Woman bookstore in 1981. They soon became lovers and partners and remained together until Fran's death.

Fran and Roxanna spent a year in San Francisco in 1982–1983 where they started a



Lesbian Separatist group called SEPS (Separatists Enraged, Proud and Strong) and immersed themselves in the Lesbian community in the Bay Area. Returning to Denver, they continued their teaching jobs until both retired in 1993. In 1994, they moved to their beloved land and home in Sebastopol, California, where they became part of the Lesbian community and opened their

home to many affairs, adventures, and celebrations. Fran continued her writing and activism. She will be dearly missed. Her last message to us all: "Please take good care of each other. And thank you for your love and support."

Roxanna also THANKS the Lesbian and Women's Communities worldwide for your loving support in this time of deep grief.

Donations in Fran's name can be made to your favorite Lesbian and/or animal rights organization.

Jill Johnston, 1929–2010

Jill Johnston, 81, died of a stroke on Sept. 18, 2010. She is survived by her spouse, Ingrid Nyeboe; her two children, Richard Lanham and Winifred Lanham; and four grandchildren.

For many years a dance and art critic for *The Village Voice*, Jill became associated with a variety of avant-garde events, but she is perhaps best known for her 1973 book, *Lesbian Nation: The Feminist Solution*. She defined her position for *The Gay and Lesbian Review*: "Once I understood the feminist doctrines, a Lesbian separatist position seemed the commonsensical position, especially since, conveniently, I was an L-person. . . . Women wanted to remove their support from men, the 'enemy' in a movement for reform, power and self-determination." In *Admission Accomplished*, she continued to assert: "The centrality of the Lesbian position to feminist revolution—wildly unrealistic or downright mad, as it still seems to most women everywhere—continues to ring true and right." Her voice will be missed.

Judy Freespirit 1936–2010

By Susan Levinkind, 1942, Cathy Cade, 1942, Elana Dykewomon, 1949, and Pnina Tobin, 1941.



Activist, organizer, performer par excellence, Judy Freespirit died at the age of 74 in San Francisco. She leaves her son Joe, daughter-in-law Laurie, grandchildren Amy and Andrew, as well as a loyal band of ex-lovers, friends, and those who

consider her their greatest life teacher.

Judy was born Judith Berkowitz in Detroit to a working-class Jewish family. Subject to her father's incest, and pressured to diet from the age of eight, she danced and performed to survive her adolescence. She attended Michigan State, majored in drama, married, and worked to support her husband through graduate school. When he was drafted, she followed him to Japan, and gave birth to her son, Joe. In 1960, they moved to Los Angeles, where Judy finished college and worked in a psychiatric hospital.

All her life she founded and nurtured radical, activist, and educational organizations. In the early 70s, she discovered the Women's Liberation Movement and got divorced. She got trained in Radical Therapy and, with a collective, facilitated mediations with women's groups.

Judy was one of the founders of the Fat Underground—the first activist organization to deal with fat oppression. She coauthored the *Fat Liberation Manifesto*, proclaiming the rights of fat people, and organized Fat Lip Readers Theater and Fat Chance.

Judy joined the Berkeley disability movement and worked with the Center for Independent Living. Later she worked with the World Institute on Disabilities (WID) to bring the issue of fat to the movement.

She worked hard to fight the Briggs anti-gay teacher initiative in 1978 until it was defeated. She founded the Jewish Lesbian Writers Group.

Judy was recognized by NAAFA (National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance) in 1999 for her leadership of their Feminist Caucus. In 2004, she received the Bay Area Pat Bond Award, given to Lesbians over 60 who have worked unrecognized for the Lesbian community.

Black Lesbians United Retreat

Sandra Tignor, 1937, represented OLOC at the second annual Black Lesbians United retreat in Malibu, California, in August. Mostly younger women attended, with some in their 50s and 60s. Sandra:

"The energy of this retreat is guided and molded by the African energies and practices which all attendees have in common to greater or lesser degree. The combined drumming/dancing workshop was outstanding—reconnective and rejuvenating simultaneously. Even in the short amount of time allotted, great joy and connection were experienced by attendees."

Marcy Adelman Wins 2009 Purpose Prize

Openhouse founder and board member Dr. Marcy Adelman has been awarded a 2009 Purpose Prize, which honors social entrepreneurs over 60 who are using their experience and passion to take on society's biggest challenges. Dr. Adelman will receive \$50,000 for her work to provide housing, services, and community programs for Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) seniors.

A 2001 government survey of San Francisco's neighborhood senior centers reported that they don't serve any LGBT people. "We don't have anyone who fits that description" was a common comment. So Adelman and her partner Jeanette Gurevitch (now deceased) created Openhouse, a nonprofit advocacy group intent on providing affordable LGBT-friendly senior housing, cultural awareness, and sensitivity training for healthcare and social workers and a voice for the city's aging LGBT population.

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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

Why “Old”?

There’s no disgrace or shame in growing old. The problem is how to deal with it. To be old is to have lived. We must learn to cherish and value our experience instead of depreciating it like some old model car.... We should look at life and age and growing old not with fear but with the hope of fulfillment. We must work to create a more human society that maximizes the potential of everybody. That is authentic maturity and authentic liberation.

Maggie Kuhn (1905–1995), founder of the Gray Panthers.

Letter to the Editors:

I just finished reading the last issue (Sept. 2010) of *The Reporter* and enjoyed the many articles, especially on the wonderful Gathering in Cleveland. But I wanted to take issue with one thing that was said and emphasized by our terrific keynote speaker Peg Cruikshank, whom I have known and admired for many years. She talks about the danger of taking multiple drugs for many years, particularly for Old Lesbians. That may be true for women with no illness or disease, but for those of us with multiple diseases, there is no choice if one wants to stay alive. Cardiomyopathy (an enlarged heart) is a condition for which I was told I had only five years to live, but it was cured by drugs given to me by a specialist. My heart is now normal in size. That process took seven years. Over the years I have tried alternative therapies, and none of them were able to replace the multiple drugs I take daily for the many conditions I have. These pills have nothing to do with my aging; they have to do with my health.

Mina Meyer, 1940

OLOC is now an affiliate of Wolfe Video. You can order *Hannah Free* or any other Wolfe Video by using our link and we will receive cash from Wolfe to support our work. www.wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344 will take you to their site. Once there, you can move around, order what you want, and OLOC will receive some money. Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.



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This photo was taken in the parking lot at the 2010 National Gathering. We hope to see this very same car, along with many, many others, traveling to Tacoma, July 29-31, 2011 to the Pacific Northwest Regional OLOC Gathering!

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