

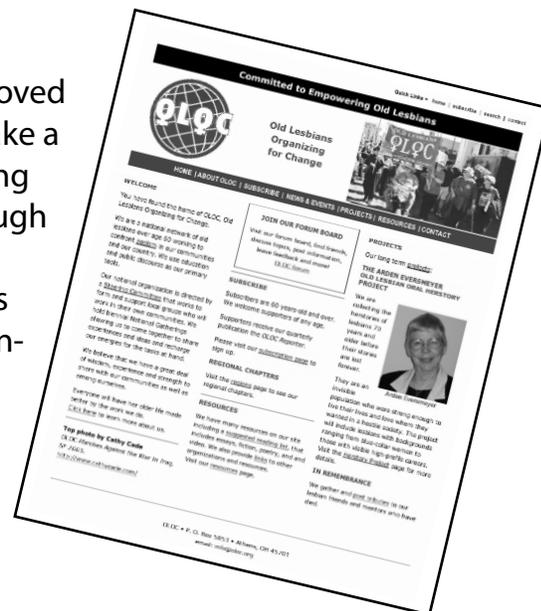
# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



## The New and Improved OLOC.org

If you haven't done so already, check out the new and improved OLOC website. OLOC has been working with a consultant to make a few much-needed changes and give our site a facelift. It's looking good and is much easier to navigate already and we're not through yet. Still to come is updating on the In Remembrance page and the Oral Herstory Project page. We also hope to have past issues of the newsletter and copies of various articles available to download in PDF form from the website.

We'd love to get your feedback on the changes and suggestions on what you'd like to see added to our website. Hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't contact us because they've learned about OLOC by finding us on the internet.



## OLOC Honors Retiring OLOC Steering Committee Co-Director

OLOC sends hugs and a big bouquet of flowers to Shaba Barnes, who served on the OLOC Steering Committee for 4 years and as the Co-Director since April 2004. She also attended the founding conference that created OLOC, and though at the time she was under 60, and serving merely in a helping capacity. There, her passion for OLOC was born. Shaba has been a key player in developing the OLOC Memorial Plaque project and securing biographical information and photos of Old Lesbians who have gone on before us. We are thankful that she will continue to coordinate this important project.

Many of you have received her wonderful thank you letters recognizing your financial contributions to OLOC. In addition she has worked closely with our web consultant Valda Lewis to launch our updated and wondrous web site. Check it out at [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org). Shaba did a fantastic job of coordinating the program planning and implementation for OLOC's 2006 National Gathering in Durham NC. She has represented OLOC in a very positive manner at numerous national meetings, including the national Women's Studies Association, Creating Change, SAGE, and the national conference of African American Lesbians.



Probably most important, she has been a major force in OLOC's efforts to build community, have more regional representatives, do field organizing, and stay in touch with women by phone who can't get out to attend events. We are most grateful for her passion and that she will continue to be involved in OLOC for many years to come.

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

March 2007 VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

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

## Newsletter Coordinator Needed

This volunteer position is now open and waiting for **you**. The job requires basic computer skills and access to email. Others do the proofreading, layout and mailing. There are 4 newsletter issues per year. Tasks include:

- working closely with the Steering Committee identifying topics that need to be covered and seeking writers
- keeping writers aware of upcoming deadlines
- occasionally entering material that is handwritten into the computer
- receiving material that is sent to you and editing it for basic structure, syntax, spelling, and sometimes for length
- prioritizing articles

## In the News!

**St. Louis OLOC** coordinator, Charlotte Ellis, was quoted in two consecutive issues of *Vital Voice*, the St. Louis-area LGBT newspaper. The October issue featured an article titled "An Aging GLBT Community: Older But Not Quieter," in which OLOC is mentioned as "a group of Lesbians over 60 organizing to confront ageism through education and open discussion." Ellis tells a story about an Army retiree she met who wore only her initials on her name tag in response to the homophobic atmosphere she'd dealt with for many years in the Army. "The OLOC discussion group was the only place this woman felt safe enough to reveal her real name."

In an article in the November issue, "Welcome to Paradise: Retirement – But Where Will GLBT St. Louisans GO?" Ellis is quoted as saying, "Apply to retirement communities and take over." The reporter explains: "By *take over* she means that if a large number of queer people apply to a particular retirement community,

there's a good chance they will eventually make up a good part of that facility. Once they take it over, GLBT members will be able to persuade staff to pay specific attention to their needs, if only by their numbers alone. But will it work? Those who would take over would have to be out, both to each other and to the staff."

**Bay-Area OLOC** women got good coverage in a newspaper story titled "Lesbians Step Out With Pride." The story ran in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in early September 2006. The march was Oakland's "Sistahs Steppin' in Pride." Marge Nelson, age 77 (yes, the article listed ages!) and her sweetie, Tita Caldwell, 75, were wearing their T-shirts declaring them "Old Lesbians Organizing for Change." They met at last year's Dyke March. Cathy Cade, another Bay-area OLOC member, had set up the Telling HerStory tent to videotape oral histories of Lesbians. She dates the beginning of Bay-area Lesbian events to 1878 when Gertrude Stein moved to Oakland. "East Bay Lesbians have a very rich history, and it's very multicultural and, unfortunately, it's very invisible," said Cade, 64.

## Feminist Hullabaloo June 22-24, 2007 Santa Fe, NM

*Be a part of a multicultural feminist celebration bringing together for the first time, feminist leaders from around the world.*

*Enjoy the company of feminists from Korea, Australia, England, France, Canada and the US.*

*Three joyful days of Reuniting, Reconnecting and Recommitting*

*See and greet Alix Dobkin, Shaba Barnes, Afia Walking Tree, Mary Daly, Sally Gearhart and many others.*

**[www.feministhullabaloo.com](http://www.feministhullabaloo.com)  
Shaba Barnes at 505 856-1290**

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.

## THE MEDICAL CORNER

*Dr. Jean Eckerly, 69*

Well, here it is time for some words from the Medical Corner. While I'm rarely at a loss for words, I frequently feel some confusion as to exactly the subject toward which I should direct them.

What comes to mind is "follow the money."

We are about to be inundated with talk about "health care" reform, with words like "universal" and phrases like "single payer". Keep in mind that we live in a pyramid and the bottom is made up of us common folk and the top is corporate. There are too many interests in "health care" when the primary interest should simply be to care about our health. Health care spending hit nearly \$2 trillion in 2005 and the percentage of increase goes up each year.

On the one hand, the government is saying that the quality of health care has improved in 35 of 42 measurements, such as screening for colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, or controlling blood pressure. One of those 7 measurements that didn't improve was breast cancer screening. Keep in mind that these statistics come from commercial health insurance plans. So, if you don't have health insurance, you aren't being counted.

On another hand, the Institute for Health-care Improvement, a nonprofit, reports that whether you have insurance or not, your health care is mediocre, but nevertheless pricey. In fact it is so pricey that our president would like to relieve the employers of the burden of providing it to employees. Don't expect an increase in your pay to compensate for that.

I've been talking for several years, probably ad nauseum, about the definition of health care. In an essay entitled "What's Making us Sick is an Epidemic of Diagnoses," three physicians concur. I've written in the past about specific diagnoses such as diabetes,

high blood pressure, osteoporosis, and the heart disease/cholesterol scare. As these writers point out, we used to reserve diagnoses for serious illness, but now we are pushing a number of new diseases like GERD (gastro esophageal reflux disease - otherwise known as "heartburn"); RLS (restless leg syndrome); sleep disorder (I was recently in a gathering of six women and four of them were being treated with a machine strapped to their heads to help them sleep); autism in 1 out of every 147 children. You can see how many doctors are going to jump at the chance to treat a Medicare patient. I just read an article which says that some babies have some bleeding on the brain when they squeeze through that birth canal. You can see where this is going (or maybe where it is coming from since we have the highest rate of cesarean sections on the planet)!

Meanwhile, for years we were being told of all of the dangers we were headed for if we didn't do hormone replacement therapy. Now that many women have stopped because of the negative data about breast cancer, guess what? The incidence of breast cancer is dropping. Several years ago, Barbara Ehrenreich wrote a wonderful essay on the corporatization of breast cancer after her own diagnosis and treatment.

Now, for 2007, Medicare is introducing a program that will reward (not significantly) doctors who meet certain prescribed standards of care. The obverse is that those who don't may be at risk for some disciplinary action. One wonders how many of those prescribed standards will turn out to be like HRT. My personal guess is, most of them. Not surprisingly, they all involve the prescription of drugs.

Follow the money. This "health care" system has nothing to do with health. The system is here to perpetuate itself and to continue to grow. Translate grow into "make more profit." We are being used for profit in the name of health.

## Housing Old Lesbians *by Cathy Cade, 65*

There's a fair amount of talk these days about building LGBT retirement housing in different parts of the country. But many of us, especially old Lesbian activists, can't afford these accommodations. Several of my Bay Area OLOC friends have moved into already existing senior housing. I talked recently with Polly Taylor and Joan Emerson, and offer their experiences here, – not as necessarily directly applicable to the situation where you live, but to inspire and offer direction for where to look in your communities.



Polly applied to 15 senior housing facilities, and after 2½ years she was accepted to Coleridge Park Homes, where she now lives. She became friends with the building manager, became a representative to the board meetings of the managers, and told all her old Lesbian friends about her new home. She now has Lesbian friends living in five other apartments in her building and more on the waiting list. Polly suggests that you might want to look for "Independent Living" facilities run by non-profits. They receive city, state, and federal funding for their building needs, which means there is lots of paperwork to apply to live there, and every year you have to be recertified, but they tend to be better than city-run housing. Apartments in Polly's building are rented, some at 80 percent of local rental costs, some at 50 percent. They take people on "section 8," a classification in which the tenant pays one-third of her income toward rent and the city pays the rest. However, it takes 5 to 8 years to get on the San Francisco waiting list, let alone get a "voucher."

Polly's suggestions: Go to your local senior center and ask the social worker to call senior housing places for you to see if their waiting lists are open. They are used to making these calls and finding out who qualifies. Check out the buildings: are the apartments big enough, clean, and do the residents seem "at home?" Check out the manager and the staff. Connecting well with the manager is very important. (The manager at Coleridge Park is happy to have the support of old activists like Polly.) Check out the neighborhood. Do you feel safe and comfortable? Are there services and buses? Then start encouraging your old Lesbian friends to get on the waiting list and join you. Polly told all her friends and stayed close to her manager so she knew when her friends were on the top five of the waiting list. Then she supported (leaned on) her friends to get their paperwork done – and quickly.

Joan Emerson lives in The Redwoods in Mill Valley, a suburb of San Francisco in Marin County. What she likes best about her new home is that the staff is respectful of old people and there is little ageism. The residents are active people, she has a wonderful view from her apartment, and there are lots of organized activities.

The Redwoods has 150 units, of which 60 have section 8 certificates that are passed on to qualifying residents. To qualify for section 8 at The Redwoods you can earn up to \$39,000 a year. "As long as I have a car, I can go see my friends as much as I want and still enjoy my life and a retreat here. Joan, and now Ida Red, are very out as Lesbians. Joan says, "I bring it up all the time. Staff members have come out to me, but residents don't ask me questions about being a Lesbian and refer to my partner as "my friend." Joan and Ida are encouraging their friends to get on the waiting list.

*Cathy Cade, 64, is a member of Bay Area OLOC living in Oakland. She has a personal history business helping people organize and write their life stories. She had great fun at the Durham OLOC gathering. For more information please visit her web site at [www.CathyCade.com](http://www.CathyCade.com).*

## Lovin' Getting Out There *by Rainbow Williams, 72*

I can't believe how long it took me to find the "Lesbians of age" circuit! I plugged into SILVER THREADS for my first time last January, came home with my batteries recharged and my social life kick-started. Then I flew to GOLDEN THREADS, Provincetown, in June, and other than experiencing allergies to the old building and having to fly, loved that one, too. Then I drove to OLOC in North Carolina in August, where I met all the smartest Lesbians! Now I am involved in planning an OLOC regional gathering to be held AUGUST 17, 18, 19, 2007 in COLUMBIA, SC. (Supporters under age 60 are welcome and they will have their own caucus and some meetings).

YES, JUNIOR, I SAID "OLD!" not OLDER, not SENIOR, no softening of the plain fact of life. REMEMBER when we didn't use the L word, we maybe used GAY, or "alternate life-style," or other bull crap. NOW WE ARE TELLIN' IT LIKE IT IS. The simple, unvarnished facts of life shouldn't have to be made palatable. If you can't stand the heat, git outta the kitchen. SUCH A PROUD PEOPLE ARE WE!

The other day, driving home from St. Pete on MLK day, I saw a T-shirt that said: NAACP: KEEP THE VOTE ALIVE. That inspired me. WOMEN ALSO NEED TO KEEP OUR "VOTE" ALIVE. Keep our candles burning bright. I am 72¾ and full of enthusiasm for my road ahead, even though it's shorter than the road behind.

There now exist in our new world many

TOOLS that can speed up consciousness raising, communication, networking, and support of each other in ways we never had before. As we lose our physical abilities, we can use these new ones. Many of us fought using cell phones, computers, and gadgets of any kind, trying to live simply so that others may simply live. My daughter insisted on my having a cell phone so she would feel safer, and guess who feels safer now? We need technical advantages these days to give us an edge. Like knowing how to use leverage, gravity, and the laws of physics to compensate for less strength as time goes by. Now I have this philosophy: REALLY, OLD GURL, IF YOU NEED IT, GET IT! We wouldn't think of being without glasses, bifocals, trifocals, hearing aids, or whatever we need for gaining some comfort and communication, and for getting around, since there is never decent public transportation. We need our wheels, and all sorts of gear. My van has to be "Home Sweet Home" these days, with hurricane and emergency boxes, meds, jugs of water, and all the stuff to support me as life gets more complex. Hell, I used to sleep on the ground, and now I can't even rise from it without a struggle. And thank the goddess for central heat and air, even though most of the time in Florida I don't need it. What's age got to do with it? Practically everything!

*This article is also appearing in Mama Raga*

### Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

#### Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, Athens OH	jan@oloc.org	(740) 448-6424
Mina Meyer, Long Beach CA	mina@oloc.org	(562) 420-3555

#### Steering Committee Members:

Mary Henry, University Place WA	mary@oloc.org	(253) 565-0829
Sally Tatnall, Cleveland Heights OH	sally@oloc.org	(216) 932-0977
Alix Dobkin, Woodstock, NY	alix@oloc.org	(845) 679-7586

## Regional OLOC Group Contact List

OLOC would love to have regional groups form all over the country! If you're interested in helping form a group, email us at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or write or call Jan or Sally. (see below)

New York	Kostya B. Sudice	718-638-1361	<a href="mailto:kostya@oloc.org">kostya@oloc.org</a>
Southeast Region	Patricia Voelker		<a href="mailto:patricia@oloc.org">patricia@oloc.org</a>
Ohio	Sally Tatnall	216-932-0977	<a href="mailto:sally@oloc.org">sally@oloc.org</a>
Minnesota	Annalee Stewart	612-724-6541	<a href="mailto:annalee@oloc.org">annalee@oloc.org</a>
St. Louis	Charlotte Ellis	314-962-2188	<a href="mailto:charlotte@oloc.org">charlotte@oloc.org</a>
Northern Colorado	Cindy Bear	303-258-9424	<a href="mailto:cindy@oloc.org">cindy@oloc.org</a>
Southern California	Mina Meyers	562-420-3555	<a href="mailto:mina@oloc.org">mina@oloc.org</a>
San Francisco Bay Area	Joan Emerson	415-388-5001	40 Camino Alto #12209 Mill Valley, CA 94941
Portland, OR	Mary Beth Brindley	503-286-3575	<a href="mailto:mary_beth@oloc.org">mary_beth@oloc.org</a>
Puget Sound/WA	Mary Henry	253-565-0829	<a href="mailto:mary@oloc.org">mary@oloc.org</a>

## Southeast Regional Event Planned

A number of OLOC women who attended the OLOC workshop led by Sally Tatnall, OLOC's Field Organizing Project coordinator, at the Silver Threads conference in Florida in January, have begun planning an event for this summer. The planned dates are Aug 17-19, 2007, in Columbia SC. There is already an email list. To join it: [OLOCregional-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:OLOCregional-subscribe@yahoo.com). Or you can contact Tatnall, directly, at [sally@oloc.org](mailto:sally@oloc.org) or 216-932-0977.

## Southern California Organizes

On January 5, 19 Old Lesbians met in Long Beach CA for the first organizing meeting to begin a new regional OLOC group. It was a very successful meeting, with many future plans discussed. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 13, noon to 3 pm. Bring a sack lunch. In the future we will meet on the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 3 pm at the Gateway Bank Community Room, 4146 Woodruff, Lake-wood CA (use side entrance outside). For further information or directions call or write Mina Meyer, 562-420-3555, or [mina@oloc.org](mailto:mina@oloc.org).

## Let's Get Acquainted, Y'all!

Four first-time attendees at Durham have created an email group of Southerner OLOCers. We invited those who pre-registered from a Southern state toward creating online community and planning a 2007 gathering to get better acquainted. From four, the group has grown to more than 15.

Sandra's checking out the Gulf area of AL and FL. Glenda's checking on the Mentone area in NE AL where there is a Lesbian community called Alapine. The idea is to learn more about one another and put faces with names, not to hold a mini-conference with workshops and guest speakers. If you feel a theme is important, one suggestion has been share your hobby.

We want to invite other Southern OLOCers to join us. (See article on left.) If you're interested, email Patricia Voelker at [patricia@oloc.org](mailto:patricia@oloc.org) with your email address. Tell us if you want to be part of the email conversation only or if you'd come to the gathering. And, if you have an "in" with a retreat center or other place that would accommodate us, please tell us that, too.

## **SAGE/OLOC Party A Huge Success!**

**by Kostya Branwen Sudice, 63**

It was Wonder~Full! About 60 Wombyn showed up – half staying for our OLOC presentation and movie, *Tipping The Velvet* – and several signed up for our OLOC~NY RiseUp.net list!

While I was setting up the buffet, SAGE's new Director of Women's Programming, Michele D'Amato, and her partner, Vickie, decorated the ADA Accessible SAGE Drop-In Lounge at the LGBT Center with holiday lights and tinsel. Michele also served as our Mistress of Ceremonies, while Vickie later served as our videographer. Beth Kling, editor of SAGE Matters, was on hand to photograph and cover the event for an article in the spring.

The buffet was scrumptious, and once the crowd had gathered and everyone was well-fed, Michele introduced Myra Brahms and me as OLOC~NY's co-organizers. We gave a short introduction to national OLOC, making it clear that OLOC~NY would not be duplicating any services currently offered by existing senior LGBT organizations such as SAGE or GRIOT, but will refer Wombyn to those organizations.

Myra and I then conducted a short "Brain-Storm" to determine what direction our new OLOC~NY group will be taking. Ideas that emerged include: ReClaiming "Old" as a Good Thing; having an OLOC~NY banner visible in local political actions; holding consciousness raising (CR) sessions around diversity issues among Old Lesbians; lobbying state and local governmental agencies for Old Lesbian Urban "Cement Dykes" Housing. Some of the more frivolous ideas included Old Lesbian ping pong and Old Lesbian matchmaking. At the end of the BrainStorm it was suggested that for our next OLOC~NY event (most likely in the Spring), paper and pencils be provided so that Wombyn who are reticent about speaking up in public can still have input to the direction of OLOC~NY

activist/organizing.

Most gratifying was the offer of Dell Williams, founder and GardenKeeper of Eve's Garden, and author of *Revolution In The Garden*, to serve on the OLOC~NY Steering Committee, and she offered us a meeting space at Eve's Garden in midtown Manhattan. We three will be holding a OLOC~NY SC meeting in late January.

As my OLOC~NY co-organizer, Myra, said in her follow-up post to me, "A job well done. Many came, most stayed, and only a few volunteered. I think this effort will pay off very nicely in the new year to come."

Visit OLOC~NY on the web  
<http://kbs.mahost.org/oloc/ny.html>

Subscribe to the OLOC~NY RiseUp.net list  
<http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/oloc-ny>

## **Puget Sound Women Form Group**

**by Gloria Stancich, 71**

Thanks to the efforts of Janá, Gloria and Mary, eighteen women attended the 1st Washington State gathering of Old Lesbians and their friends in Tacoma in January. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for moving forward, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting date has been set for April 14<sup>th</sup> to further develop the form the group will take. Members of this original group came from N. Everett, Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, NE Tacoma, Bainbridge Island, Gig Harbor, Olympia, Spanaway, University Place and Tacoma! Women from eastern parts of Washington state are encouraged to cross the mountains and join in – or at least, join the email list.

In the meantime, a Yahoo email list has already been established and has already had several requests to join from women who couldn't make the first meeting or just now heard about us. If you'd like to join this group, or have questions, please contact: Mary Henry at [mary@oloc.org](mailto:mary@oloc.org) or 253-565-0829 or Gloria at [gloria@oloc.org](mailto:gloria@oloc.org).

## Creating Change

Co-Director Jan Griesinger, and Coordinator of Field Organizing Sally Tatnall, attended the Creating Change national conference November 8-12 in Kansas City. The annual event is sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Jan and Sally held an OLOC caucus attended by 8 women from Kansas City, New York, and Ohio. They also offered a workshop "Why We Call Ourselves Old," attended by only 6 people. (Guess not that many people care why.) They distributed much OLOC literature at the Elder Suite, open daily during the conference, and at the conference literature tables. And they did a lot of networking with groups such as Queers for Economic Justice and Southerners on New Ground, educating about ageism and sharing common concerns.

Taking advantage of being in that part of the country at the right time, Jan and Sally also visited with the St. Louis area OLOC group on November 12. Fifteen women attended and shared stories and news of upcoming events. Jan and Sally shared news of national OLOC and from the Creating Change conference they had just attended. They thanked the St. Louis Old Lesbians for their ongoing work and adjourned to a nearby restaurant.

## New Interim Co-Director

Mina Meyer, from Long Beach, CA, began serving as Interim Co-Director for OLOC on February 1. She has served on the OLOC Steering Committee for 1½ years and will serve as a primary organizer for OLOC's next national gathering in Long Beach in 2008. She worked to put together the founding conference that created OLOC, serving in a helping capacity (she was under 60 at the time). She has experience working with many community organizations on LGBT issues, HIV/AIDS, and aging issues. For many years she worked at the women's bookstore in Long Beach.

## If You Are Interested in Writing...

Here's a website for Lesbian writers: [www.justaboutwrite.com/index.html](http://www.justaboutwrite.com/index.html)

One of the authors of articles on this site also writes reviews for the prestigious Midwest Book Review, and she rated OLOC's own Chris Roerden's tenth and latest title, *Don't Murder Your Mystery*, "highly recommended." That review can be found on [www.midwestbookreview.com/rbw/jan\\_07.htm#lori](http://www.midwestbookreview.com/rbw/jan_07.htm#lori)

And here's an organization for Lesbian writers: Golden Crown Literary Society. It's annual convention is in Atlanta in June, for readers as well as writers. For information: [www.gclscon.com](http://www.gclscon.com)

Finally, please tell your writing friends that Chris is running a name-the-next-book contest, open 'til April 25, and is also calling for submissions from all fiction genres 'til Thanksgiving 2007. Details: [www.tinyurl.com/yclawc](http://www.tinyurl.com/yclawc)

## Golden Threads Conference

The 21st annual Golden Threads celebration for older Lesbians will be held in Provincetown MA, June 21-14, 2007. The featured performer is Jamie Anderson. Barbara Love will host a Pioneer Feminist Reunion for all those active in the early days of Women's Liberation. Love is editor of the book *Feminists Who Changed America*. For more information, contact Golden Threads, c/o Judy Ross, 1 Nevada Rd., Burlington MA 01803; 781-229-9028; [www.GoldenThreadsPtown.org](http://www.GoldenThreadsPtown.org)

### **The OLOC Reporter**

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

- [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)
- Email: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)
- Post Office Box 5853 Athens, OH 45701

The OLOC Reporter is produced through the collective efforts of many women.

**Let your voice be heard.**

Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2007.  
Send articles to OLOC: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)  
or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701

## National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform

NCCNHR formed in 1975 when various citizen advocacy groups met in Washington, DC, to lobby for improvement in the quality of care given to residents of nursing homes. Elma Holder, who worked with the Long Term Care Action Project of the Gray Panthers, organized this initial meeting. Today, there are citizen advocacy groups in every state.

For over 30 years, representatives from these groups have been meeting yearly in Washington, DC, to address such issues as inadequate staffing, poor working conditions, maintenance of residents' rights, support for family members, development and support for the long-term care ombudsman program, minimizing the use of physical and chemical restraints, and so on, as well as to lobby on Capital Hill for reforms.

To learn more about NCCNHR, become a member and get information on the citizen advocacy group in your area. To learn about the long-term care ombudsman program, go to the NCCNHR web site [www.nccnhr.org](http://www.nccnhr.org) or write the national office: 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036.

## 2006 Budget Report

INCOME	Budget	Actual
Newsletter subs	3,500	4,804
Individual donations	16,000	15,118
Grants	24,700	24,900
Local group dues	700	866
Sales	1,300	1,419
Transfer from reserves	1,000	1,000
National gathering		
registrations	12,775	16,948
scholarship donation	500	2,454
program book ads	3,000	4,205
auction	1,000	2,136
banquet	2,500	1,805
Misc.	460	1,335
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,985</b>	<b>76,990</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration		
rent	1,350	1,356
supplies, postage	2,950	2,036
office manager	6,000	4,007
Steering Comm. Mtgs	10,000	16,652
Outreach/education		
newsletter	3,200	2,012
delegates to confs.	2,200	1,218
advertising	500	410
web site	1,900	1,250
Field Organizing	10,000	3,725
Oral Herstory Project	2,800	4,853
Stipends – Co-Directors	4,800	5,000
National Gathering		
hotel, food	10,060	10,471
leadership	2,000	1,564
scholarships	7,000	5,626
ads	1,000	1,105
ofc/supplies	1,050	1,960
refunds	1,100	
misc.	1,900	1,874
Misc.	1,275	1,198
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>69,985</b>	<b>67,417</b>

### OLOC Statement of Purpose

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) is a national organization of Lesbians 60 and over. We are committed to networking with Old Lesbians everywhere in order to:

- confront ageism within our own and the larger community.
- explore who we are and name our oppression.
- analyze our experience of ageism which has been so little defined.
- develop and distribute educational material.
- facilitate formation of new groups and refocusing of old groups to confront ageism.
- make our presence a visible force in the women's movement.

*We want to celebrate our differences and affirm the diversity of our races, our ethnicities, our class backgrounds, our herstories, and our present lives.*

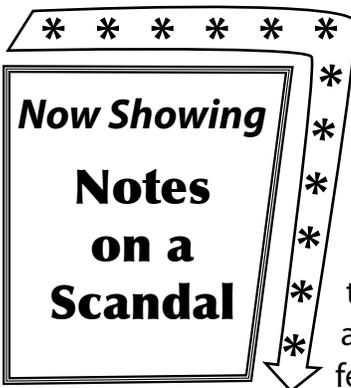
## Lesbian Connection *submitted by Jan Griesinger, 64*

*Lesbian Connection*, a 35-year-old national magazine for Lesbians, publishes a regular feature, "Notes from our Elders," and asks that we send a few paragraphs about our lives. This could include answers to: "When did you come out and what was it like then? How did you find other Lesbians? What sort of work did or do you do? If you're retired, how's that going for you? Any words of wisdom for the rest of us?" Send your notes to LC at [elsiepub@aol.com](mailto:elsiepub@aol.com), fax to 517-371-5200, or mail to PO Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826.



LC's January/February issue featured a number of OLOC writers. Lilith from Portland, OR, talks about coming out at age 61 and joining the local OLOC chapter. Cynthia Kelly from Oxford, OH, offers a great review of Alison Bechdel's new book, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. There is a story about the new OLOC group starting in the Pacific Northwest. Rikki Lewis from Gulfport, FL, writes a rave review of the Lesbian movie *The Gymnast*. And Rainbow from St. Augustine sent a 1896 photo of 4 cowgirls, and seeks information about who they are.

LC has also started a pen pal list. Use the above email or phone number to get details on how to be put on the LC pen pal list.



## More Than One Side to an Issue

*by Mary Henry, 67*

When this issue of our newsletter was being put together, the movie *Notes on a Scandal* had just been released and quickly began generating controversy within the lesbian community. OLOC was asked by Diana Russell, a scholar who has worked for years to end violence against women, to include her thoughts about the movie. Part of the article she submitted appears below. As Russell's thoughts on the film, and those of others who felt likewise, gained attention, other lesbian voices were also raised offering disparate thoughts on the character Judi Dench portrays in the movie. Some felt that the film was more about loneliness and isolation that can come from denying one's own sexuality. Others said they felt Dench was not ugly in the film. One OLOC woman wrote: *This film deserves our serious attention. Do see it. Do share your opinions, discuss it with your friends, perhaps at the next OLOC meeting. Our chapter is planning to continue our exploration of ageism – internalized and otherwise. Please do not boycott it under the name of OLOC. On the contrary, let's invite Judi Dench to our next retreat. Let's urge her to make more films about old lesbians.*

Why not see the movie, then make up your own mind?

### **Homophobic, Ageist Movie** *submitted by Diana E.H. Russell*

A shockingly homophobic and ageist movie titled *Notes on a Scandal* opened in the San Francisco Bay Area on Friday, January 19. The reviews I read didn't even mention that one of the two major characters, an old woman played by the Oscar-winning actor Judi Dench, was a Lesbian, let alone that she is portrayed as evil incarnate. Judi's character is depicted as a wretchedly lonely and embittered predator of straight young women, whom she tries to coerce into sexual relationships with her. In addition, the striking-looking Dench is made to appear very ugly. It is repugnant to see this reactionary negative stereotype of an old Lesbian, particularly in a contemporary film.

## OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Application

Lesbians 60 and over: We urge you to subscribe to *The Reporter* as an expression of your commitment to be with old Lesbians in your own area, working to confront ageism. If no such group exists, become an OLOC Contact Woman and work with a mentor to start a local group. If you are not yet 60, we welcome you as a Supporter. By giving OLOC your generous financial contribution you can show your commitment and support for challenging ageism.

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### Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am (we are) 60 or over and wish to subscribe (or renew) my (our) current subscription to *The Reporter*.  
\$25 to \$50 for a one-year subscription.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to receive *The Reporter* but I (we) can contribute only \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to become an OLOC Contact Woman and work with a mentor to organize a local group.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am (we are) not yet 60 but want to Support OLOC. Enclosed is \$30 to \$60 for a one-year subscription to *The Reporter*.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to keep OLOC alive and strong. Please accept my (our) tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or my (our) pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / month.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) want to purchase the *Travel Directory*. Enclosed is \$3 for costs.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I (we) would like to give a \$20 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send a sample of *The Reporter* to the name(s) listed below.

### OLOC Endowment

An additional way to help OLOC grow is through the OLOC Endowment. It was created to receive bequests from OLOC Subscribers and Supporters. The bequest can be an outright gift listed in a will or a percentage of assets. If you are interested and would like additional information, please send for a copy of the OLOC Endowment Fund Brochure.

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Date of birth enables us to keep accurate Subscriber/Supporter records for grants and other purposes. Your Ethnicity and disability status is requested as part of our ongoing awareness of and commitment to diversity. **OLOC's mailing lists are for OLOC's use only and not available to any other persons or organizations.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Disability \_\_\_\_\_

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