

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Excitement is Growing for the Regional Gathering

By Margaret Purcell, 1951; Mary Henry, 1939; Gloria Stancich, 1935; and Deirdre Knowles, 1947

Mark your calendars: July 28–31! We're excited to share the latest news out of the Northwest with Old Lesbians everywhere about the summer's Big Event in Tacoma, WA! Can you feel it? The buzz is building for the Regional OLOC Gathering set to happen this summer. As members of the planning committee (dubbed the Gang of 4), we are excited to tell you that Lillian Faderman, the award-winning author and Lesbian historian, will deliver the keynote speech! And, we can now also let you know that Lucie Blue Tremblay will give a concert and participate in a panel. Can you tell we're buffing our nails on our shirts and patting each other on the back?

Our heads are spinning with all the details yet to work out, but we are psyched. If you're ready to sign up, you can find a registration form in this issue of *The Reporter*. And, if you'd like to chat with us about what else will be going on as plans develop, send us an e-mail at pnwgathering@psoloc.org and read our blog titled "Just Between Us" at www.psoloc.org. On our Website and at www.oloc.org, you can find additional copies of the registration forms to download. If all goes well, you'll soon have the option of registering online, too.

Regional gatherings began several years ago as an outreach by OLOC to encourage the development of local and regional groups. Our



Lillian Faderman



Lucie Blue Tremblay

national OLOC gatherings occur every other year, so the regional gatherings can fill the intervening years with a way to explore the effects of ageism on Old Lesbians at the local and regional levels. These gatherings provide opportunities to share information on resources available or needed and to develop skills for finding community coalition partners to address local needs. There can be a strong networking component and the honing of leadership skills to take back to local communities. Most important, perhaps, is the time to visit with old friends, to make new ones, and to share hugs, laughter, tears, and just good fun, eating, dancing, singing, and working together!

The 2011 Regional Gathering of Old Lesbians will be held July 28–31 in Tacoma, WA. The event will be hosted by the Puget Sound chapter with input and help from the Portland, OR, group. The OLOC Northwest region includes the states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, and we welcome our sisters from British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces, too. Old Lesbians from other regions are also welcome. This beautiful region offers breathtaking scenery and a variety of cultural events. Participants are encouraged to come early and stay on for a visit!

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Input Needed for Anti-Racism and Anti-Classism Work *By Sally Tatnall, 1937; Alix Dobkin, 1940; and Susan Wiseheart, 1941*

At the 2010 National Gathering, the fish-bowl titled "What Should OLOC Be Doing to Challenge Racism?" led to a committee (now called Task Force against Racism and Classism) to devise strategies for working against both racism and classism.

The OLOC Steering Committee, at its October 2010 meeting in the Boston area, spent a half-day with Antonieta Gimeno, Mexican-American community organizer and educator with over 35 years of experience, who attended the meeting at the Gathering, and Denise Simmons, former Mayor and current City Commissioner of the city of Cambridge. They made many suggestions to the Steering Committee on how OLOC might become more relevant to Old Lesbians of Color and poor and working-class Lesbians.

Since our beginning, OLOC's main focus has been to work to alleviate ageism in the world and in us and to form community with each other. However, working against both racism and classism has always also been a priority. At the first organizing meeting in 1989, Lesbians expressed concern about the lack of diversity within the group, and the first newsletter (1991) stated: "We are concerned about other issues that affect Old Lesbians, especially racism, sexism, and poverty as well as health, housing, and the environment."

Minutes from early meetings reflect repeated discussions on the issue of race, and why OLOC was not as successful in our efforts to attract Lesbians of Color as we wished.

Over the years, OLOC employed various strategies to encourage greater participation of Lesbians of Color in OLOC in general and in the Steering Committee, and we plan to continue our efforts.

Since October, at the direction of the Steering Committee, three Lesbians have drafted an initial statement and are refining an action plan.

We are asking OLOC subscribers for ideas and participation in this effort to become more attractive to and a better ally to Old Lesbians of Color and to poor and working-class Lesbians. Please contact us at info@oloc.org or 888-706-7506, or write the post office box with your suggestions.

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; 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 May 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.

Orders End Discrimination Against LGBT Partners in Hospitals

LGBT couples can no longer be denied visitation rights in most hospitals, according to regulations announced Nov. 19 by the Department of Health and Human Services. The new policy directs hospitals that receive Medicare or Medicaid funds to develop visitation policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Hospitals often bar visitors who are not related to a patient by blood or legal marriage, and many institutions disregard efforts by LGBT couples to designate a partner to make medical decisions on their behalf if they are seriously ill or injured.

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.

In Amerika They Call Us Dykes

By Billie Potts, 1940

The conference to honor Lesbians in the 1970s, held in NYC in October, 2010, was hosted and organized by academic dykes at CUNY's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS). Owing to this, there was a preponderance of academic papers. Many activists in the region didn't hear about the event until it was over. The organizers used the Web for major connectivity and seemed unaware of how many wimmin in the 55+ age group are living on the poverty side of the digital divide.

Urvashi Vaid ended the second plenary with an on-target question (to paraphrase): We thought our goals were ending patriarchy and overturning capitalism. We created revolution in many ways but didn't succeed in the core goals. So the question facing us is "What do we do next"?

Most of the wimmin over 55, who were active in the 70s, complained that the L in the LGBTQ "inclusivity" paradigm is getting short shrift in the gay movement, as is feminism. Other criticisms were that green activism among Lesbians was not represented; that there was no serious discussion of 70s Lesbian separatism and its contributions; and that class, race, age, and sexual orientation oppressions still experienced by most Lesbians are getting sidetracked by discussions of the Michfest policies against transgendered persons as well as by the gay marriage debate and "don't ask, don't tell" in the military. The most popular sessions dealt with the question "Are Lesbians going extinct?"

There was light representation of Lesbians in their 30s to 50s, heavy of wimmin in their 20s, and dominant attendance by older activists. Young wimmin seemed almost completely unaware of the writings, actions, institutions, and music created by visible Dyke pioneers of the 70s. They came out in the framework of LGBTQ politics and gender studies and have read very few germinal works of 70s Dyke theorists.

Need for Affordable Housing for Old Lesbians

By Jan Marotta, 1940

Many Old Lesbians may be thinking about senior-housing arrangements. Perhaps something easier, simpler, less stressful, where one can enjoy life without the responsibilities of home ownership. This is my situation as I do not wish to be a homeowner much longer, and I am searching for alternatives. At age 70, after owning a home since 1978, I want an easier life! Let someone else mow two acres, shovel snow, do the repairs, pay the taxes, etc.

In 2009 I began searching for affordable senior housing and started visiting a few of the independent-living locations in my general area. Most of them are new, very nice, but also very expensive and hugely mainstream. The lowest rent I found was \$1,900 a month for a one-bedroom, however that is a "find" because two others cost twice as much. Yes, easy living is a great concept, but way too expensive!

I plan to talk to real estate agents, builders, contractors, local/state government officials, etc, to determine if other affordable senior-housing communities are being planned that will include space for Old Lesbians. If you are a well-to-do straight person or couple, you are easily going to find your community! But, where will I find mine? Our faces are not on the glossy brochures. Wouldn't it be great if we could have affordable senior housing that reflected our community? If this topic interests you, perhaps give it thought, and then begin addressing it in your community.

***"Old age is not a disease, it is a triumph."
Maggie Kuhn.***

Two Upcoming Conferences of Interest

National Black Justice Coalition National Conference, September 20–25, 2011, “Out on the Hill”, in Washington DC, for Black LGBT activists and other leaders. www.nbjc.org.

ZUNA Institute National Black Lesbian Conference, August 25–28, 2011, in Orlando FL. www.zunainstitute.org.

SAGE Conference in New York City

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

The SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) opening plenary at the October 2010 event was very good. Panelists were Mandy Carter (African American and OLOC member), Barbara Satin (white trans m-f), Patty Collins (Cherokee-Choctow), Robert Nakatani (Asian), and Jose Martin Garcia Orduna (Latino).

Mandy Carter challenged SAGE to look to Old Lesbians and people of color who have already done a lot of work. She mentioned OLOC favorably. Barbara Satin, trans m-f, also complimented the sisters in OLOC and said, “I am 77 years old and I am old.”

The speakers were all wonderful activists who spoke about the need for inclusivity, and the need to combine with others around specifics. All of the panelists challenged SAGE to learn from what is already there and to reach out, even internationally.

One of the comments was about being able to have conversations that contain all of our selves . . . our old self, our gender self, our class self, our race self. This is all relevant to the work on which OLOC is embarking more strongly than ever. I was on the forum panel for “women on aging and ageism.”

I received a lot of compliments for my presentation as a long-time activist. Many other activists were there, and they wanted to hear the political points I made relevant to our experience as Old Lesbians, some of which seemed new to other panel members.

Leadership Conference

By Jan Griesinger, 1942; and Alix Dobkin, 1940

The OLOC Steering Committee sent us to Washington, DC, in Dec., 2010, for a conference sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian International Leadership Institute.

About 200 people attended, nearly all from the US, overwhelmingly white and male. A full-spectrum (even Log Cabin Republicans) of elected and appointed officials, bureaucrats, lobbyists, and an assortment of smart, well-appointed, and well-spoken out-LGBT politicians blended seamlessly with representatives of corporate sponsors.

The panel on “bullying” was interesting and informative, with one comment on the history of kids of color being bullied, and no mention of girls or women being bullied.

The most notable workshop was “Authentic Messaging to Communities of Color.” Several organizations explained their grassroots work and emphasized the importance of coalitions and alliances as our basic strategies for survival. At points in every session, finding and being allies, building mutual support, and strengthening communities emerged as key effective strategies.

Throughout the weekend we spoke with many people, gave out OLOC business cards and literature, and talked about old pride. Ageism was not brought up unless we did it, and there was certainly no focus on women.

We received, after the usual initial shock, much positive feedback on our name. Most people seemed happy to have us there and listened attentively to our comments. OLOC was probably one of the few small organizations present and certainly the only one with “Lesbian” in our name or as our focus. We were able to bring the presence of Old Lesbians to a segment of our community increasingly influential in the wider political universe in which we all live.

Ohio Chapter Report *By Ruth Murray, 1933*

Ohio OLOC had a busy fall season with our stated goal of outreach to others about ageism. We were presenters at the annual Ohio NOW conference in Columbus, where our group fielded many important questions. We share some goals with NOW.

Two sessions with a psychology class at Ohio University in Athens brought good responses from the students. A student who had recently completed a nursing-home internship told us he would want us to present at any facility where he might be employed in future because our information is that important to caregivers.

Our latest outreach was to a group of Lesbians (Rainbow Sisters) in Columbus. A discussion of old, ageism, government policies, and the prevailing culture brought new ideas to the Rainbow Sisters. Most of the Rainbow Sisters are not OLOC-age-eligible, but recognition of ageism is important for all of us.

InterPride 2010 *By Ruth Debra, 1944*

In October of 2010, Mina Meyer, Sharon Raphael, and I participated in the InterPride 2010 Conference in Long Beach, CA. OLOC qualified for membership in this organization because we named our Cleveland, OH, National Gathering "Old Lesbian Pride."

Our workshop, "Old Is Not a Four-Letter Word," was held the first morning of the conference. It was attended by both men and women, and was well received. We discussed ageism and reclaiming the word "old." There was a good discussion, and attendees asked useful questions.

We attended sessions from Wednesday to Sunday and received much applause any time Old Lesbians Organizing for Change was mentioned. Our purpose in attending was to increase Old Lesbian visibility and increase (in many cases from zero) the amount of Old Lesbian inclusion in the planning and executing of Pride events.

Attendees came from the US and Canada, Puerto Rico, Greece, other European countries

The official poverty rate for Americans 65 years and older has stood for years at 10 percent, the lowest rate among age groups. But, according to a CBS news report, the true rate could be nearly twice that high, 19%, according to a revised formula.

News from the Bay

The Bay Area Chapter of OLOC held an all-day meeting on January 23 at the Redwoods Senior Residence in Mill Valley. The program included a check-in for attendees to tell about one of the first political, national, or international events they were aware of. After lunch, Marge Nelson led a program on how old-old women fare in OLOC. The program concluded with an ongoing discussion of feminism and OLOC.

such as Bulgaria, and also Hong Kong and India. It's exciting to see the worldwide spread of LGBT movements. The InterPride Organization is really working on Human Rights, and those workshops were both disturbing and fascinating.

I think we really got our message of inclusiveness heard in our workshop, and in everything we attended. In speaking to the various organizers, I kept telling them "nothing about us without us" and talked about looking for Old Lesbians to help with the planning of events as well as for participation in the actual events. We feel we also made some very good contacts for our 2012 Gathering in the Boston area.

The next conference (these are truly international) will be in Brussels, so I doubt that we'll attend that one. Maybe we'll go in 2012 when it will be in Boston.

OLOC 2010 Financial report

Income		
Individual donations		24,552
Grants		58,000
Sales, T-shirts		2,822
Grant for Bay Area OLOC		2,948
National gathering		
financial assistance		11,493
registrations		24,832
ads, vendors		4,200
hospitality, reception, dance		2,931
raffle, auction, vendors		2,350
Misc.		1,832
	Total	\$ 135,960
Expenses		
Administration		
Rent		1,728
Supplies, equipment		2,390
Admin. Coordinator		16,450
Steering Committee meetings		13,202
Grant for Bay area OLOC		2,948
Outreach/education		
newsletter		3,889
delegates to confs		9,029
ads, Web, PR		5,511
Field Organizing		5,665
Oral Herstory		9,246
Stipends Co-Directors		5,075
Sales, T-shirts		2,358
Leadership Training		4,598
National gathering		
hotel, food		17,269
financial assistance		8,698
program, speakers		4,577
administration		11,037
disability		2,627
printing, office		3,934
other		1,717
Misc		986
	Total	\$ 132,934

Dear Harvey By Jackie Grover, 1943

After I became a character in the play *Dear Harvey* by Patty Longfrey, I was asked for some "back story" of my life then and now. Here is what I shared with the Sunday matinee audiences:

Back in those days, I remember San Francisco as being an easy place to be out. I felt I no longer needed to lie about who I was: a Lesbian. It was with great exuberance that I joined the Golden Gate chapter of NOW to work against Prop 6. I took the bus trip to the San Joaquin Valley in my "little lady clothes" to a "meet your local Lesbian" event. I also worked on Harvey Milk's campaign for City Supervisor.

Then, in that candlelight march after Harvey Milk was assassinated, we all silently walked down Market Street and up to City Hall. We were all there to honor a man who felt like family to us.

Now, looking at my life in the 30-plus years since Harvey Milk died, I realize that an updated version of the "meet your local Lesbian" gig could very well still work today. Since these ideas worked against Prop 6, why not use a version of them today to gain the civil rights we still need?

And, finally, one principle that Harvey Milk taught me about life I still use often. He taught me to be honest and to come out to the people I care about, whether my family of origin or my family of choice—that most of the time it works well. The best reaction came from a cousin who smiled and said: "Wow, so we have one of those in the family!"

Sixty-year-old topless-club waitress, Mary Bassi, won \$60,000 in an age-discrimination lawsuit in Houston, TX. Her employers called her "old," teased her about Alzheimer's disease and menopause, and then fired her at age 56, although she'd been performing her job well and had received no disciplinary action.



Alix Dobkin performs wearing a "This Is What An Old Lesbian Looks Like" shirt. Standing behind Alix are Marge Nelson, 1928, on the left and Lynn Brown, 1943, on the right. Photo taken by Cathy Cade in June 2010 at the San Francisco Dyke March.

The Commemorative Brick for the Memphis National Civil Rights Museum

OLOC is raising money to buy a commemorative brick or bricks to go with others on the plaza in front of the Civil Rights Museum. The museum tells the story of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and death. The brick or bricks will have the date and "Old Lesbians Organizing for Change" imprinted on it (or them) and possibly other things, depending on how much money we raise.

If you don't have e-mail, this may be the first time you have heard of this project. We have already raised more than \$900. If you want to be part of it, send a donation to OLOC, POB 5853, Athens, OH 45701 with the check made out to OLOC. Be sure to write "Brick" and "Yes, list me" or "No, don't list me" on the memo section of the check or a note included with it. We will eventually publish a list of donors either in *The Reporter* or on our Website or both. It's okay to send the money electronically, too. Click the donate button at oloc.org and pay through the PayPal site by using a PayPal account or a credit card (you can use a credit card there whether or not you have a PayPal account). Include the same information in the comments section. If you have any questions, call 888-706-7506.

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.



LOAF = Lesbians Over Age Fifty

LOAF is based in Houston and has nearly 175 members. It is not an OLOC chapter but many OLOC women are involved. This social networking and support group doesn't have projects as such, but helps shut-ins and isolated women. For more information contact Arden Eversmeyer. 713-869-1482 or arden1931@yahoo.com

OLOC's E-mail List

Susan has just spent some time removing everyone whose subscription is inactive and those whose electronic mailings were returned with the wrong e-mail address. If you have not received any e-mail from OLOC for awhile (or your e-mail address has changed) and you want to receive them, let Susan know your present address. E-mail her at susan@oloc.org.

Mother Jones quote on the topic of "ladies": "God almighty made women; it's that Rockefeller gang of thieves that made the ladies."

National Aging Network's Readiness for Meeting Needs of Old Lesbians (and GBT)

From the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (report was issued in Dec. 2010) "Ready to Serve? The Aging Network and Older LGB and T People," is a just-released national report that provides a snapshot of the National Aging Network's readiness for meeting the specific needs of the growing numbers of Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) older adults in this country.

The report presents findings from a nationwide survey of Area Agencies on Aging on its current work with LGBT older adults. It provides a more detailed picture of aging providers' experiences and capacities to serve LGBT elders. The study captured responses from 320 agencies nationwide, based in 45 states and every region of the country. Some of the report's key findings include:

- More than a third of agencies had offered or funded some type of LGBT aging training to staff, and four out of five agencies were willing to offer training in the future.
- Very few agencies offered LGBT-specific programs or outreach, and less than half of the agencies reported they would be able to offer or fund LGBT-specific services.
- While a majority of agencies believed LGBT older adults would be welcomed by local aging service providers, only 31% of agencies had received a recent request to help a Lesbian, gay, or bisexual person, and only 19% had received a request to help a transgender person.

To see the actual report, go to www.n4a.org/pdf/ReadyToServe1.pdf

No internet access? Write or phone OLOC for a print copy of the 17-page report.

The Reporter Seeks Greater Diversity

Because we seek a more widely diverse and representative OLOC, we are looking for articles, stories, health updates, and announcements of particular interest to Old Lesbians of Color to publish in *The Reporter*. Old Lesbians of Color, we welcome and want your presence in *The Reporter*. If you know of events or other things we could include, please send them in.

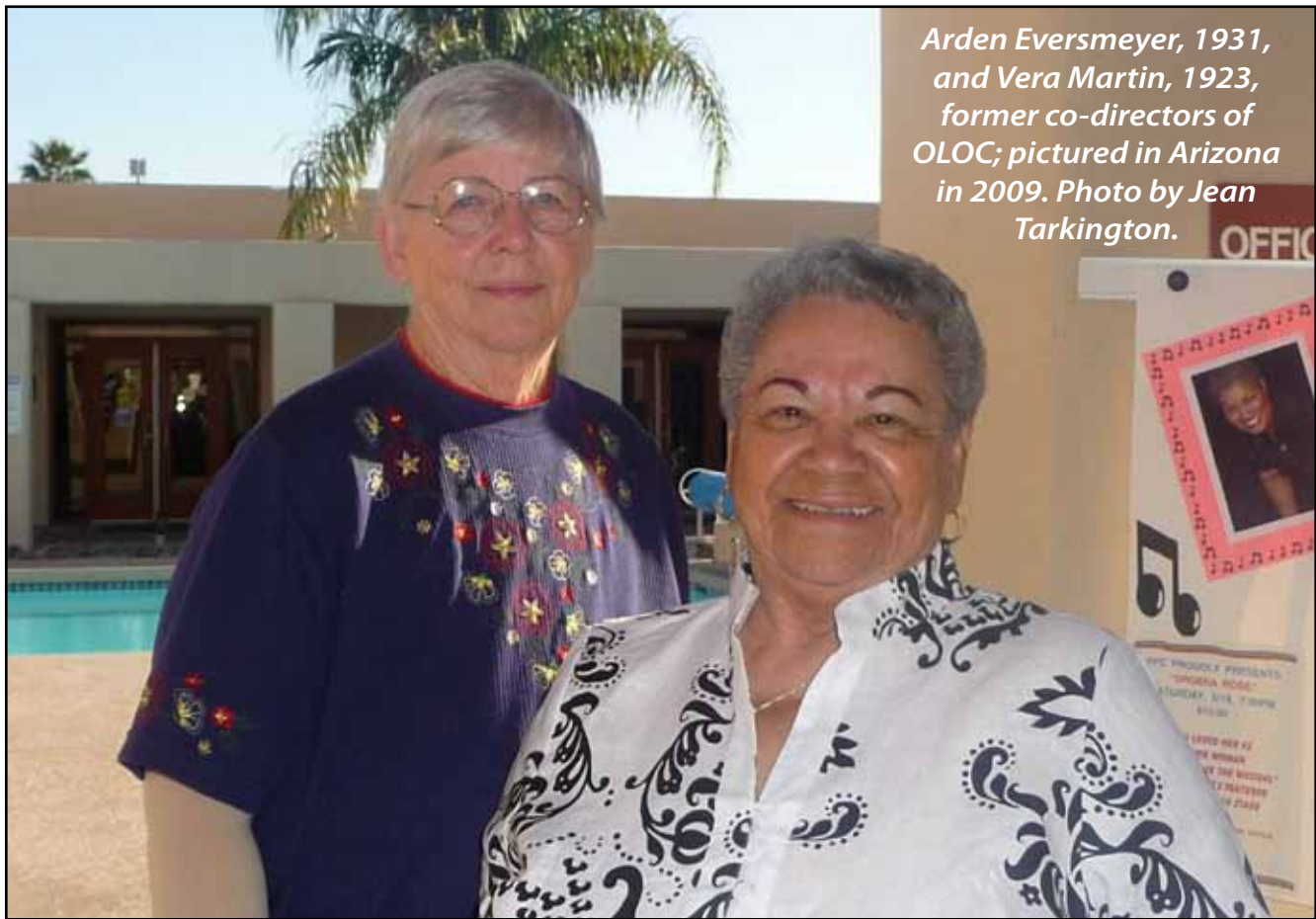
Great Lesbian Poetry

Lesbian Jottings: 1970–2010 by Sharon Deevey, 1944, is a collection of 46 poems compiled for a senior center project in Columbus, OH, as a fundraiser for OLOC. Print copies are available (in a limited edition of 40) for a \$10 donation to OLOC plus \$3.00 postage. *Lesbian Jottings* is also available online at Julie Enszer's site, www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/node/243. For more information, or to order a print copy, contact Sharon at sdeevey@columbus.rr.com. Note from Susan: "I read this from cover to cover in two sittings. I loved reading about the life of an Old Lesbian and that our buying it benefits OLOC."



Women and Poverty

The average age of mortality for women of poverty is 47–51 years old. When we discuss the rights and respect due to Lesbian elders, it would be gratifying to hear it at least noticed that poor women seldom ever live long enough to join the ranks of the elders. Because we live as prey, women of poverty learn that it is unwise to form into groups, for as groups, we make easier targets. . . . Women of poverty learn to give trust reluctantly. A mistaken trust will not only result in a broken heart, but possibly in the loss of our next breath and heartbeat."--From "No Mercenary Warrior" by Bridget Collins in *Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Discussion and Activism*, Summer 2010. (First published in *Lesbian Ethics*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Spring 1991.)



Arden Eversmeyer, 1931, and Vera Martin, 1923, former co-directors of OLOC; pictured in Arizona in 2009. Photo by Jean Tarkington.

Intersection of Oppressions *By Jan Griesinger, 1942*

Everything is connected. OLOC has a focus on Old Lesbians, but that is not enough. Old Lesbians aren't all alike. Some can afford to travel and come to our national gathering. Some have good health that also allows this. We can't allow these fortunate, privileged women to be our only concern or constituency, any more than we can say "women" when we really mean only "white women." We can't assume that Old Lesbians mostly suffer from being old or Lesbian when in fact many also experience discrimination based on race, class, undocumented immigration status, national origin, religion, disability, etc.

Dealing with the intersection of oppression means being verbal and visible on the issues and lives of the poorest and most oppressed. This is one reason, for instance, that OLOC has advocated for Medicare to include payment for hearing aids and dental care and we have offered financial assistance to all women who

want to attend our national gatherings—no one who asked has been turned away for lack of funds.

OLOC is exploring how to increase its verbal and visible commitment to go to the radical edge, to demand action on the root causes of how oppression is perpetuated in our exploitive corporate-capitalist world.

"The future of our earth may depend upon the ability of all women to identify and develop new definitions of power and new patterns of relating across difference. . . . Change means growth and growth can be painful. But we sharpen self-definition by exposing the self in work and struggle together with those whom we define as different from ourselves, although sharing the same goals. For Black and White, old and young, Lesbian and heterosexual women alike, this can mean new paths to our survival." Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, 1984, p. 123.

Mistaken Identity *By Toni Langfield, 1935*

It was the last day of Burning Man (a weeklong arts festival and 24-hour party NE of Reno NV). It had been a week full of heat, whiteout, and loud, thumping music interspersed with so much creative energy that the whole place throbbed. My daughter had arranged a ride home for me on the Green Tortoise. She and her partner were staying on to help take down the festival. The bus left at 10 am and crawled along for hours in Labor Day traffic, getting to San Francisco at 10:30 that night.

I dug my suitcase out of the jumble of backpacks, mats, and sleeping bags. I had pulled it a few feet away and was preparing to go look for a BART station when two young women ran up, and one shouted at me, "You're stealing that suitcase!" I immediately replied that it was my suitcase and I'd just gotten off the bus. She yelled again, "You weren't at Burning Man! Where's your wrist band?" I answered, "I don't have one because I only came home on the bus. See I have a pendant of the Burning Man and a wrist band from the Black Rock City Municipal Airport."

Eventually, her friend pulled her away. All I could think was that even though my shoes, my coat, and my suitcase were covered with dust, she thought I couldn't possibly have been at Burning Man because I was old. She saw me as a derelict old woman making off with the suitcase. It was an odd sensation to be so misjudged and probably the most obvious incident of ageism I've ever encountered.

--Langfield is a Bay Area OLOC member running for tenant representative to the Board of Trustees at a senior residence in Berkeley.

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Cloisonné Lapel Pins • Buttons • And More!**

(e-mail, phone, write or check www.oloc.org)

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Confronting Ageism Response *by Ruth Debra, 1944*

In response to an example of ageism in a seminar titled "Eating to Live Young" I feel very strongly that the message of this to our constituents is really negative messaging and just plain wrong. I have a major problem with the Golden Rainbow Center/SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) promoting such nonsense. Please advise the workshop leader that the name of his seminar is ageist and totally against our mission and against the reality of our constituents. If it were "Eating to Live Healthier" it would be fine.

Ageism is the assumption that one age is preferable to another. It is saying young=good and old=bad. I could eat the way he wants all to do and I'd still be 66—not younger. And unless he's invented a miracle, I doubt very strongly if anyone else would become younger by attending this seminar. It's ageist and very misleading.

Anti-ageing is a total scam, and I am appalled to see the Golden Rainbow buy into it. I am also surprised that we allow this to be posted. I would certainly discourage anyone in our OLOC group from attending this. I would use this as an example of the kind of thing we should avoid, along with similar promises.

I think this would be a good discussion topic. Ageism in our society really affects the LGBT community—especially the male community. It leads to all kinds of negative self-esteem. And, that's not what we want to promote at the Golden Rainbow. Note: The Center, after more interactions with Ruth, withdrew the workshop.

Memorial: Renee Hanover (1926–2011)

A co-founder and steering committee member of the Old Lesbian Organizing Committee (the original name of OLOC), Renee Hanover, a Chicago-based lawyer who worked for senior issues and LGBT rights through a long and active career, died on January 5, 2011. She was 84 years old.

In 1964, four months shy of her degree, she was dismissed from law school for being a Lesbian. She later returned to graduate and opened what is believed to be the first law office in the US focused on women's issues. She was also believed to be the first "out" Lesbian attorney in the country.



In the 1980s Hanover took an active role in a pioneering group working on issues important to Old Lesbians. She helped found and was a director of LEGACY (Lesbian and Gay Seniors). During the 1987 March on Washington, DC, the 61-year-old Hanover was among those arrested at a protest in front of the US Supreme Court.

Hanover was one of Chicago's most cherished Lesbian activists.

She worked inside and outside the system to save and change the lives of tens of thousands of people and was inducted into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1991.

Memorials: Jan Kronholm—Candice Boyce—DJ Furnish—Kathryn Kay

OLOC wishes to acknowledge the passing of four Old Lesbians for whom we did not receive any written memorial.

One is Jan (Snooky) Kronholm, who was an OLOC member. We didn't hear about her death until quite awhile after it happened, but Jan died in July of 2010 at age 71. She lived in Connecticut most of her life and in Florida the last several years.

Another is Candice Boyce, born in 1943, who was never an OLOC member, though it would have been great if she had been. Candice was instrumental in the founding of New York City's Salsa Soul Sisters, Third World Wimmin Inc Collective (now African

Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change and still going strong as the oldest Black Lesbian organization in the United States). She died in August of 2010.

Third is DJ (Dorothy Jean) Furnish of Colorado, who died in early January of 2011. We hope to have a more detailed memorial of DJ in the next issue. We know she was helpful in setting up the networking for the first OLOC National Gathering and helped start and was active in the Colorado chapter.

Fourth is Kathryn Kay, who attended the OLOC National Gathering in Cleveland last summer. She died in the fall. We will have more about Kathy in the next issue.

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH
Mina Meyer, 1940, Long Beach, CA

jan@oloc.org
mina@oloc.org

740-448-6424
562-420-3555

Steering Committee Members:

Tita Caldwell, 1931, San Francisco, CA
Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA
Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY
Carole Stoneking, 1937, Columbia, SC
Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH

Tita@oloc.org
ruth@oloc.org
alix@oloc.org
Carole@oloc.org
tatnalls@yahoo.com

415-970-0694
760-318-6794
845-679-7586
803-748-9490
216-862-0598

OLOC's Media Library

We've added quite a few new DVDs to our library, including a set of them about the 2010 National Gathering. The ones that are not OLOC-made are for loan only. The ones about OLOC can be borrowed or purchased. To see the list and more details, go to the Website oloc.org and find www.oloc.org/resources/library.php or send an SASE with postage for two ounces to Susan Wiseheart, HC 73 Box 169C, Drury MO 65638.

Ruthie and Connie's Documentary

Our award-winning documentary: "Ruthie and Connie...Every Room in the House", now has a Website: www.ruthieandconniethemovie.com. We also have a blog and place for you to comment and, of course, buy the film. Please spread the word. Thank you.

Lovingly, *Ruthie and Connie*

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

Internalized Ageism *By Joan Emerson, 1935*

At the Bay Area September Retreat in 2010, women were asked to tell about an experience of internalized ageism as they checked in. Three important themes emerged from the responses:

It's all downhill from here. When the group of 38 women were asked, "Who is finding old age to be the best time of her life?" about one-third raised a hand. Even more indicated they had experienced difficult times followed by rewarding times. These experiences suggest that "it's all downhill from here" is infused with ageism.

We are uncomfortable with the changes in our aging body. The experience of being startled when we look in the mirror resonated with a number of women. Some are dismayed to note the resemblance between themselves and their parents or grandparents. "I am surprised that I am the same age as 'old looking' women," someone said. One woman recognized the internalized ageism in her reaction that old women look beautiful to her only when she gets to know them.

No one will want to relate to me at this age and with these disabilities. How can we forget the new relationships popping up in our community?

Other ways ageism was expressed: "I don't think about my age." "I don't think of myself as old." "I envy young people." Some experienced horror at birthdays or depression around birthdays. An excessive fear of disability contains elements of ageism. "If I slow down, then I'm really old."

In many women, periods of denial of aging, disability, and their consequences alternate with periods of recognition, grieving losses, and acceptance. Our afternoon discussion on internalized ageism ended on a hopeful note.

Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

Marian Wright Edelman

Fees and Registration Forms

(Flip side: event description, hotel info and financial assistance form)

Look! There is an early bird discount!

Registration Fees (some prices are sliding scale)

No Refunds after July 1, 2011		Pre-registration received by June 1	after June 1 and On Site	Amounts
Full Conference* Early Bird Special! Reg. by May 15 = \$120				
Full Conference (includes 1-6 listed below)*		\$135	\$150	
1	Thursday eve, program plus hors d's	\$15	\$15	
2	Friday, day program (lunch included)	\$35-40	\$40-50	
3	Friday eve, social hour, hors d's and dance	\$15	\$15	
4	Saturday, day program (lunch included)	\$35-40	\$40-50	
5	Saturday banquet/entertainment	\$35-40	\$40-50	
6	Sunday morning program (coffee/pastries)	\$15-20	\$20-25	
* Includes all of the above items, 1-6. * Does not include housing or dinner on Thursday & Friday.			TOTAL:	
We cannot guarantee meals for registrations received after July 20.				

Registration Form (One form per person -- Please print!)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State ____ Zip _____ Birthdate _____
 Phone(s) _____
 E-mail _____

Food Preferences

- no special needs
 special requirements

Tell us: _____

Any other special needs or requests? _____

There are some funds available for financial assistance. If you are applying, see reverse side of this form. You will still need to fill out this registration form, too, but can leave the space for the totals empty for now. Deadlines: Financial assistance applications must be received by May 1, 2011.

Payment Options:

You are welcome to pay via mail by sending a check along with this form to the address below. To register online and pay via PayPal, go to www.psoloc.org and following the link for the 2011 Regional Gathering. Extra copies of this form can be downloaded there, too.

Registration Fee (see schedule above) \$ _____
 Donation to help low income lesbians attend \$ _____
 Registration Total \$ _____

Younger partners and female caregivers of Old Lesbians may also attend if they have registered.

**PS OLOC (Puget Sound OLOC) www.psoloc.org pnwgathering@psoloc.org
 9916 90th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 phone messages: 253-777-3425**

Regional OLOC Gathering July 28-31, 2011 in Tacoma, WA www.psoloc.org

Event Description

The 2011 Regional OLOC Gathering will take place at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites in Tacoma, WA, July 28 - 31. It is structured similarly to a national OLOC gathering. The theme is Community • Visibility • Action. The event will begin Thursday evening with a welcome and a special program. Friday morning kicks off with a keynote speech by award-winning author and Lesbian historian Lillian Faderman (www.lillianfaderman.net). Friday and Saturday will be filled with panel discussions, group discussions, presentations and workshops. Friday evening there will be local entertainers and a dance. Saturday evening there will be a banquet and concert. Lucie Blue Tremblay (www.luciebluetremblay.com) will be our entertainer for the evening. The event will continue with a program on Sunday morning and conclude by 1 pm. Come prepared to have a good time, learn, share, reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Hotel Information

Our headquarters will be the LaQuinta Inn & Suites in Tacoma. They have offered us a \$99/night plus tax room rate for 1-4 in a room with 2 doubles or a king bed (king rooms also have a sleeper sofa). A continental breakfast is included. To get this rate you MUST CALL to make the reservation. The rates are available several days before and after the event as well. Small refrigerators and microwaves are standard in king rooms and by special request for doubles. Call 253-383-0146 direct and **press 6, front desk**. (A word of advice: Don't press #4 for reservations!) Tell them you are with the OLOC Regional Gathering. Or, call 866-527-1498 daytime (EST) only and reference this number: 0685GRLIFQ. If you ask for a handicap room and they say they're all booked, clarify that all the handicap rooms are being held for our group.

Financial Assistance

A modest amount of funds has been raised for the purpose of assisting Lesbians who could otherwise not attend the 2011 Regional Gathering. Priority will be given to women from within the region (which is defined as Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and British Columbia) but women from outside that area may be able to get funds to cover registration fees. If you would like to apply, please answer the following questions and submit this form along with your registration form (from the other side) as soon as possible. PS OLOC will take assistance applications until May 1. **Applicants will be notified of the outcome by May 20.** These early deadlines will enable you to finalize your plans as early as possible.

What is your level of need? Please answer all the questions so we can fully understand the extent of assistance you need:

Registration Fees? yes no How much can you pay? _____

Housing? yes no How much can you pay? _____

Transportation? yes no Estimated Cost? _____

What type of transportation will you use? _____

Can you prepay any of what you need and be reimbursed later? yes no

Women receiving financial assistance will be expected to fully participate in the event. Please tell us how you expect attending the 2011 Regional OLOC Gathering will benefit you and how it might benefit your local community.

All attendees must fill out the registration form.

Return registration and financial aid forms to the address at the bottom of the other side.

OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Form

We want everyone who wants *The Reporter* to receive it. Please check all that apply:

General	<input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) not sending money at this time <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) want to receive <i>The Reporter</i> but I (we) can contribute only \$ _____ <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. <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) would like to give a \$25 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below. <input type="checkbox"/> Please send a sample of <i>The Reporter</i> to the name(s) listed below.	To donate by credit card, go to our website (www.oloc.org) and click on donate.
Travel D.	<input type="checkbox"/> I'm (we're) already listed in the <i>TD</i> 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 for paper or a PDF. I prefer <input type="checkbox"/> a paper copy OR I prefer <input type="checkbox"/> an electronic copy/PDF.	

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) _____ / _____

New Subscription **or Renewal** **May we send you an occasional e-mail?** Yes No

I prefer: a print copy via U.S. Mail a PDF via e-mail **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "OLOC"**

Skills you can offer OLOC: _____

I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and could help work toward establishing one.

I found out about OLOC from _____

*Winter and Summer addresses: It does cost us money if we don't have your correct address.
 Let us know which address to use for March, June, September and December.*

03.2011

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
JULY 2011						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Pacific N. West Regional Gathering Tacoma, WA July 28-31							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	watch for details				
ends Sunday	1 lets stay & play	2	3	4	5	6	

Time to Renew?
If your label says 2011.03 (meaning 2011 March) or earlier, your subscription has ended and it is time to renew.