

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Praise for the 2012 National Gathering

***From Sue B. Reamer, 1942, (to Steering Committee and Susan):*

Thank you for your tremendous, awesome teamwork to give our OLOC sisterhood the joy of being together right here in New England! I loved being with you—each and every one—at this exuberant, re-energizing, hug-filled Gathering! Your mission of being inclusive, empowering, activist, and supportive was more than met by your thoughtful, caring planning—tremendous attention to details—with resulting superb diverse speakers, programming, and workshops!

***From Marilyn Monteiro, 1941:*

The conference was fabulous! I had a wonderful time meeting, talking, and sharing with new people and was very, very happy to hear Charlotte Bunch and view the films. It was also good to see old friends and new in one place. Many of the workshops were very fruitful. It was a good Gathering and very fulfilling.

***From Jackie Grover, 1943:*

The conference itself was fantastic! I went to several workshops that were really well done! I especially enjoyed the ones on Feminist Lesbians and Disability, Interrupting Racism, New Forms of Leadership, as well as the “Tent Revivals” held by “Sistah” Carolyn Gage! The keynote speakers were excellent, the food hot and tasty and the conversation and friendships delightful!

***From Madeleine Winterfalcon, 1950:*

Attending the OLOC 2012 Gathering was a wonderful experience for me. I attended interesting workshops, met many of the women whose work I have admired over the years, and got to see and hear Ferron once again. I also was able to meet women from other countries whom I would otherwise never have known. This was my first Gathering, so I did spend a great amount of time just checking things out. I was fairly overwhelmed the first day. It was like the Michigan Women’s festival but with better beds!

Tita Caldwell 1931–2012



We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Tita Caldwell on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. Tita was a member of the Steering Committee until her resignation in July (more about Tita in next issue).

It was good to see that my Lesbian community has continued to grow and be strong as we get old. I never get the same feeling in my home community, as most Lesbians there are younger than me and have very different interests and politics.

I would never have been able to attend the Gathering if it were not for the financial assistance I received from OLOC. The organization made the Gathering accessible to **all without making one feel “less than.”** I thank the women who contributed to the financial assistance fund and hope to one day be in a better position to contribute as well. I am starting to save for the Oakland Gathering now, so, **perhaps, I won’t have to ask for as much** assistance as I did this time.

Thank you, OLOC, for providing a space for us Old Lesbians to be nurtured and to be ourselves.

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****From Attendees' Evaluation Forms:**

"This was a wonderful experience, well organized and fabulous speakers. My first Gathering but it won't be my last."

"The anti-racism/classism trainers helped me to synthesize the intersectionality of race/class/gender and culture." "Beyond excellent with an improbably hard mission." "More of the same."

About Barbara Smith: "Awesome to see one of my heroes."

"Great food and wonderful setting."

About Carolyn Gage: "She tells it like we want to hear it, synaptically."

About Vera Martin: "Excellent. So good to hear old one's life stories."

"Movies were very inspiring. Food was wonderful, something for everyone."

"Feminism is alive; women's rights are human rights."

"Hotel too cold."

"Hotel staff were very affirming, helpful, and courteous."

"Learned a great deal."

"Want time limits followed more closely."

About the open mic plenary: "Thank you for making this happen."

"Japanese Lesbian workshop was wonderful and needed a bigger room and a paid translator."

In general, such words as *awesome*, *fabulous*, *excellent*, *great*, *touching*, *wonderful* were said over and over.

Winner of 2012 Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award

Joy D. Griffith, 1935, won the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award at the July 2012 OLOC National Gathering. She and her dog, Nicky, were there, along with her partner and several other close friends.



Here is a condensation of what Judy Ross, 1942, and Christine Pattee, 1941, wrote when they nominated her:

Joy was born February 22, 1935, and took over Golden Threads when Christine Burton suffered a severe stroke. Joy was 61 at the time and ran the Annual Golden Threads Celebration for 12 years. She also edited the Golden Threads quarterly publication and personally answered every letter she received.

Joy, as part of a lawyers' group in Burlington, helped make civil unions happen in Vermont. Asked to join an equality group at the Department of Health, she helped develop a safe and positive level of understanding and acceptance for the health/medical needs of LGBTs, especially for Old Lesbians.

At age 65, Joy flew to Washington, DC, with her partner, Judy Ross, for the Million March to be married on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial by Rev. Troy Perry, assisted by a Catholic priest and a female rabbi. Finally, on July 1, 2004, the two were legally married in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As a resident member of the Linden Ponds retirement community, Joy found a way to help Old Lesbians by bringing LGBT events to the 1,200 seniors at Linden Ponds. In response, Old Lesbians started to come out of the closet!

Joy Griffith has brought happiness and empowerment to the lives of hundreds, maybe thousands, of Lesbians for over two decades. Especially in this part of the country, the Northeast, no one comes close to doing what Joy has done for Old Lesbians.

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

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

This Newsletter Brought to You By:

Co-Editors: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Proofreaders and Copy-editors: Nancy Krody, 1939, and Ilze Mueller, 1935. Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942. Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.

The mailing crew and all of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is Nov 1, 2012. 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.

OLOC Vision Statement

OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian activists from many backgrounds working for justice and the well-being of all Old Lesbians.

Thanks to OLOC
Barbara Smith, 1946

“Please convey to all how much I enjoyed the opportunity to be at OLOC and how much I appreciated being invited to participate. It was great to reconnect with so many women whom I have known and worked with. The Gathering was inspiring.”

Thanks to OLOC Generosity
Anonymous

It would have been impossible to attend the 2012 OLOC Gathering without the financial support of other women. I felt true Lesbian **solidarity from those who contribute to OLOC’s vision of making our Gatherings inclusive through their donations to OLOC’s scholarship fund.** I plan to participate in this effort with my contributions in the coming years as my income improves when I go onto Social Security.

The powerful films on closing night reminded me of our shared herstory of making a difference in the world for all women. At the Gathering I was reminded that I am not as alone as I often feel. Other Lesbians are interested in prison justice, mental health justice, and justice for poor mothers and their children. Because of the conversation with one other Lesbian at the **Gathering I was able to assist the Women’s Prison Book Project to obtain copies of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander (now out in paperback).** Women who are incarcerated around the country will, we hope, be empowered by this book. I encourage other OLOC members to read it as we continue our process of being an anti-racist/anti-classist organization.

OLOC Honors Two Former Steering Committee Members

Mina Meyer, 1940, and Tita Caldwell, 1931, have each recently found it necessary to resign from the Steering Committee. The entire membership appreciates their extensive work.

Mina Meyer, (8 years of service on the **Steering Committee), says this: “After my open heart surgery to replace two heart valves, I had a leg injury and have had to rehab from both things. At this point, coming up on a year post-surgery, I am still rehabbing but improving all the time. As I look back on my eight years on the Steering Committee of OLOC as well as my years as a co-chair, there were many high points for me. One of the biggest was my shepherding the Los Angeles National Gathering in 2008. It was a huge amount of work but an amazing experience for me and, I hope, for all who attended. I look forward to participating in future Gatherings and continue to be involved with my local chapter here in Long Beach, CA.”**

Tita Caldwell, 4 years of service on the **Steering Committee, says: “A relatively mild brain injury made it too difficult to attend long meetings and participate fully in the work of the committee. I have really enjoyed working with such committed and active Old Lesbian Feminists and to being part of a growing national, and international, community.”**

Sharon Danann Featured in Article

Cleveland OLOC member Sharon Danann, 1950, worked in the antiwar movement **in Okinawa in the '70s. Her work is explored in an article from *Ryukyu Shimpo*: “In her speech at the protest rally 40 years ago, Danann called Okinawa’s reversion to Japan without the return of the U.S. military bases humiliating and claimed that she would wholeheartedly support the Okinawan people’s struggle.”**
english.ryukyushimponjp/2012/05/21/7106/

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

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

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

Steering Committee Members:

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

Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH,
tatnalls@yahoo.com 216-862-0598.

To find out about OLOC chapters presently in Minnesota, California, New York, Ohio, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico, go to www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php.

Chicago OLOC Event

On June 20, 11 women gathered at the Affinity Community Services offices in Chicago. Affinity is an LGBT African American organization, which graciously agreed to host us. Of those gathered, seven were Euro-immigrants (sometimes called white people) and four were African American.

We all introduced ourselves, described our upcoming National Gathering, promoted the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, mentioned that we hope to have an OLOC regional event in St. Louis in July 2013, and talked about what could happen in the future regarding an OLOC presence in Chicago. A group that already exists in Chicago, Women of All Colors Together, meets monthly for potlucks in individual homes.

Some activities discussed include tutoring kids, visiting people in nursing homes, recreation with friends, educating providers of aging services, and mentoring bullied LGBT youth. No specific future plans were made, but there will be more discussion at an upcoming event.

St. Louis Chapter News

By Charlotte Ellis, 1943

Our chapter is small, and we are trying new things to attract more members. We moved our May meeting to the new LGBT center where we watched a film and invited younger women to join us. We might move our meetings there permanently or alternate this site with our meeting site at the church.

We had no meeting in June, as our meeting day was Pridefest. We had no booth at Pridefest but were able to give out flyers at the SAGE booth. A few of us took part in the parade riding in classic cars.

I had a wonderful time at the Gathering in Boston. We had our meeting a week late in July so I could report about the Gathering.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis for the Regional Gathering next summer.

Grief Groups at San Francisco OLOC Retreats

By Joan Emerson, 1935

When Lesbians gather, the atmosphere tends to be excited, loving, and joyful. Some of us push away emotional pain to join in this mood. San Francisco Bay Area OLOC has started the practice of adding a time to our weekend retreats when those who wish can be together and share their emotional pain. About 10 women come each time to the leaderless group, which meets for about an hour. The participants take turns talking, while the others listen and witness. Some have been to the grief group before; others are there for the first time. Women may come just to witness, but often they are moved to speak by what is happening. Women have talked about the death of loved ones, the ending of relationships, issues with their adult children, the limitations imposed by old age, and not feeling connected to others at the retreat. Any topic that elicits feelings of grief is welcome. Most grief-group members feel this was an outstanding part of the weekend.

At this May retreat we sat around a table on the patio. A deer strolled across the lawn. A noise—was it a garden hose? squirrels squabbling?—turned out to be baby great blue herons in a nearby nest, and we watched the parents fly to them.



Charlotte Ellis in St. Louis PrideFest Parade with Marcia Daab of SAGE in back.

Columbus OH Gay Pride

By Karen Kronenberger, 1947

I marched in the Columbus Gay Pride Parade with Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. The crowd cheered us so often tears started streaming down my face and goose bumps rose on my arms. To be cheered for the two hours we walked made my heart grow larger than the banner we were carrying. Maybe even larger than the biggest float of the high-heeled drag queens.

LGBT Pride flowed freely through my veins. Every closeted LGBT would have come out if they had known the fearless pride I felt today. The parade was about two miles long, and the crowds were anywhere from five to ten people deep (estimated at 230,000), often spilling into the street. Along the way I got kissed, hugged, and photographed hundreds of times. (Well, not the kissed and hugged part.) That so many sweet souls wanted to remember the moment touched me to the core.

It is a rush that will keep me smiling the next time a hatemonger tries to dampen my spirits. The damaged hearts and souls out there just **don't get it. We are your sisters, brothers,** mothers, daughters, sons, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, ministers, clerks, postal workers. We are your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. We may even be you.

Hugs dear OLOC sisters.

OLOC Receives Bequest

We have received notice from an OLOC member regarding plans upon her death. She told us that OLOC will receive money on a yearly basis from her foundation when she dies. We are truly honored and would urge others to consider establishing bequests.

Mission Statement for OLOC

We are committed to:

- addressing what it means to be old and to be Lesbian
- finding ways to gather Old Lesbians for ongoing support
- working against every oppression that affects Old Lesbians
- standing in solidarity with allies for racial, economic, and social justice

OLOC works for change by supporting:

- comprehensive immigration reform
- elimination of violence against women
- enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- all efforts to challenge/overturn racism, classism, sexism, ageism

Selecting Sites for National Gatherings

Why does OLOC choose big hotels for our National Gatherings? Our first few National Gatherings were held on college campuses, but we were not able to continue this practice primarily because we require fully accessible space. On campuses it is very hard to find accessible spaces—large plenary room, cafeteria, dorm rooms, and workshop rooms fairly close together—especially when the weather is hot or it is raining. In fact dorm rooms are not necessarily cheaper than a hotel room for two women. We cannot choose a rural retreat or conference center, because we need easy access via public transportation from a major airport. We will continue to explore the possibility of meeting on sites other than large hotels, but so far this has been the best option to meet all our needs.

Lesbian Lives Conference in the U.K. February 2013

OLOC member Mary Jean Mulherin, 1951, sent us news of the upcoming Lesbian Lives Conference in the U.K. There is a call for papers, workshops, and film contributions for the 20th **Lesbian Lives Conference, "The Modern Lesbian,"** which will be held at the University of Brighton, U.K., on February 15 and 16, 2013. There is already an exciting lineup of speakers confirmed for the event, including Sarah Schulman and Lisa Downing. Also scheduled: a **book launch of Laura Doan's newest book,** Rachel Adams and her Modern Lesbian photography project, plus special screening/panels from the BBC. Interested in submitting a paper? Contact Susan at susan@oloc.org for a PDF of the call for submission.

Looking for Asian American Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Experiences

This study is under way until at least November 1, 2012. If you are an Asian American Lesbian or Bisexual or you know someone who is and who might want to participate, here is the link. This study has been looked over by our research gatekeeper, Sharon Raphael, and she has okayed our publicizing it. d1919.psychsurvey.com

Caring for Partners Study

Did you have a partner who was very sick or injured within the past five years and who stayed in a hospital or health-care facility? **Research approved by Sharon Raphael, OLOC's** research gatekeeper, is currently under way. The study includes an interview and questionnaire. You can earn \$15.00 for participating in a telephone survey at 206-744-9518. Or you can participate anonymously and unpaid at caringforpartners.org.

Caring and Aging

For information about results of a survey of issues affecting Old Lesbians (and GBT people), go to caringandaging.org. Or, for an e-mail version or print version, contact OLOC at the post office box or info@oloc.org.

AoA Acknowledges LGBT Needs

On July 10th the Administration on Aging (AoA), the federal agency responsible for **funding programs for our country's older adults**, released a historic announcement that recognized LGBT older adults as among those **populations of "greatest social need" when planning for and providing services throughout the country.**

It is important that the Obama administration's AoA took these significant steps to recognize that LGBT older adults exist and to ensure that there is money available to support programs that aim to reduce our isolation, thus improving our quality of life.

The LGBT Aging Project and our colleagues across the country have long advocated for such a ruling that would include LGBT older adults in these guidelines, and we applaud AoA for making this announcement. lgbtagingproject.org

Doing or wondering about participating in research? Check with our Research Gatekeeper Sharon Raphael or view our guidelines at www.oloc.org/researchrules.php. For research information in print, phone 1-888-706-7506 and leave your name and address.

New Films

Lesbiana: A Parallel Revolution

OLOC member Myriam Fougère has just completed her exciting movie, *Lesbiana: A Parallel Revolution*. In this story of '70s Lesbians who chose to live only among women, Fougère has used archival footage and photographs along with interviews to present the story. Some of us saw the movie at the Gathering, and it is wonderful. www.lesbiana-film.com

The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen

Award-winning director Jennifer Abod (*The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Visions of Audre Lorde* and *Look Us in the Eye: The Old Women's Project*) is nearing the finish of her movie about Angela Bowen. Both Angela Bowen and Jennifer Abod have been members of OLOC and attended the 2008 Gathering. *The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen* is an in-depth look at social justice activist Bowen, **whose focus has been to "bring diverse people and communities together."** You can find out more about Angela Bowen at profileproductions.wordpress.com

Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch

This film, which traces the history of the **Women's Movement, was a big hit at the 2012 National Gathering.** OLOC members can now buy personal home-use copies for less than the institutional rates on the movie website. If you are interested, e-mail or phone OLOC.



OLOC is a Wolfe Video affiliate. Use this link to order from Wolfe, and OLOC will receive cash to support our work. Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated. wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344

If you are a national OLOC member and want to be on OLOC's national yahoo e-mail list, subscribe by going to groups.yahoo.com/group/NationalOLOC or contact susan@oloc.org.

Dangers of Focus on Single Issue

Affinity (an LGBT African American organization) **"urges lawmakers and LGBTQ rights advocates to take care not to prioritize marriage equality as the single 'gay issue' while simultaneously allowing other issues impacting our communities to go unaddressed. This prioritization pushes individuals such as Black gay and trans-gender people to the margins, leaving our needs to fall through the cracks, unnoticed and unaddressed. While the fight for marriage equality for same-sex couples is an important one, we must ensure that the same level of effort that is devoted to marriage equality is devoted to other pressing issues facing queer and transgender people of color, especially the more marginalized among us."**

Affinity also cites a report issued by the **Center for American Progress: "Families headed by Black same-sex couples are more likely to raise their children in poverty, Black Lesbians are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases, and Black gay and transgender youth are more likely to end up homeless and living on the streets."**

Eddie Windsor Scores a Victory

OLOC member Edie Windsor, 1929, is featured in the June 2012 ACLU online newsletter because of her part in the challenge to DOMA. **Here is some of what it says. "I'm thrilled to let you know we won a huge victory in Edie Windsor's challenge to DOMA (the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act") which prevents the federal government from respecting the existing marriages of same-sex couples. Edie Windsor has long been a voice of strength and compassion and in this momentous victory, she had some wonderful words to share: 'Thea and I shared our lives together for 44 years, and I miss her each and every day. It's thrilling to have a court finally recognize how unfair it is for the government to have treated us as though we were strangers.'" You can see more of the story in the movie *Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement*, available from Netflix and elsewhere.**

Report on the White House LGBT Conference on Aging

By Ruthie Berman, 1934, and Connie Kurtz, 1936

This was held Monday, May 7, 2012, at the University of Miami. Present were advocates, community leaders, and members of the public, including members of the Obama Administration, to dialogue and give information related to the health, housing, and security needs of aging members of the LGBT community. It was a first.

We went to represent OLOC. We have needs similar to all aging populations but also differences. The National LGBT Health and Aging Center reports that 13 percent have been denied health care or provided with inferior health care, a figure that reflects only those who were OUT. Too many return to the closet to protect themselves and may not, because of that, get the proper health care. Some 41 percent have a disability, and 82 percent have been victimized at least once in their lives. We are aware that isolation, finances, and ill health are big concerns of our elders.

We were assured that sexual orientation is included along with sex, race, and so on, and any private agency that signs on for Federal funds signs on to include nondiscrimination with regard to sexual orientation.

Connie pointed out that we "fear that we would face discrimination and possibly get poor care if one of us had to go into a nursing home. Ruthie and I want sensitivity training for every person working in a nursing home. We are talking about the cafeteria worker up to the administrator." We were assured that this was taking place.

We suggest to OLOC that we need to participate in the decision-making in these agencies, and we need to get involved with the ombudsperson and be our own advocates.

The following site will give you information about the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth.html

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation and the Carpenter Foundation.

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

Arden Receives Honor and Invitation

OLOC's Arden Eversmeyer, 1931, of the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project was honored at the 2012 BOLDfest [Bold Old(er) Lesbian & Dyke] in Vancouver, BC, in September. She is this **year's recipient of the Bold Woman of the Year Award** for all of her decades-long valuable work on behalf of Lesbians. BOLDfest.com

Not only that, but she was also invited by Olympia Dukakis (who stars in the movie *Cloudburst*, about two Old Dykes who run away from a nursing home to go to Canada and get married) to attend a premiere of the movie. Why? Because Dukakis received a copy of *Without Apology: Old Lesbian Life Stories* (the second OLOHP book) and thought Arden should be there and sell books! The movie has won numerous awards: cloudburstmovie.com

Network Proposed

National OLOC is considering whether or not to set up a phone support network. If you are interested in receiving or making telephone support calls, let us know. 888-706-7506

“Corrective Rape” in South Africa

By Diana Russell, Ph.D., 1938

I was surprised to discover that the gruesome misogynist male crime called **“corrective rape” in South Africa was the topic** of an article in *The New Yorker* on May 28, 2012. So-called corrective rapes are perpetrated by lesbiphobic, misogynist males **who rape Lesbians to “cure” them of their sexual orientation.** According to Charlayne Hunter-Gault, the author of this article, at least 31 Lesbians have been killed in attacks that started out as so-called corrective rape since 1998. Few arrests have been made for these lethal femicides—the feminist term referring to the killing of females by males because they are female (i.e., misogynist murders).

Hunter-Gault noted that South African Lesbians face assault twice as often as heterosexual women.

She also cited the research finding that Black Lesbians, especially those who are viewed as butch and who live in isolated Black townships, are particularly vulnerable to such attacks.

More generally, members of the LGBT communities in South Africa are subjected to widespread discrimination, despite the fact that **this country's constitution “was the first in the world with a clause explicitly forbidding discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.” A Lesbian housemate of mine in Cape Town in 1993 was a member of a small group of gays who used to meet in our home to work on a draft of this progressive section of the constitution.** The disparity between the progressive law and the vicious acting out of the homophobia that is especially prevalent among Black Africans reveals that progressive laws are **useless if they aren't implemented.**

Regarding the astronomical prevalence of rape of women in general in South Africa, Hunter-Gault reported that one woman in two in South Africa can expect to be raped at least once in her lifetime; and a reputable study found that one in four men admitted having raped a woman.

Reach Out

By Jan Marotta, 1940

Call me old fashioned or unfamiliar with some of the new technology that is growing by leaps and bounds, but I think we are losing the art of real communication and interaction with each other. No one calls anyone much anymore. We are in a forest of tweets, twittering, texting, etc. Forget about mailing a handwritten note, card, or letter. All that is a dinosaur. Forget about sending a Hallmark or other kind of card when you can e-card for free. I do not write this because I object to technology. I do not! I just think we rely on it too much, take electronic shortcuts, and are losing the real art of one-on-one communication. Look up, **meet someone's eyes, see real expressions.** Something to think about. I know I am.

To connect to OLOC on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Lesbians-Organizing-for-Change/314859309054?ref=hl

Ruling on Lesbian Access to Public Housing

Go to the National Center for Lesbian Rights website for information on a new ruling from the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding a new Lesbian (and GBT) access policy announced in February at the Creating Change Conference. The ruling will protect more than 5.5 million people across the country from discrimination in public housing and Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgages. Go to www.nclrights.org and type HUD into search box for two great stories.

The Women Who Didn't Come Back

By rainbow williams, 1934

Arden and Charlotte, my OLOC and Texas buddies, have just left after a very pleasant visit.

We three first met in 1993 when the OLOC Steering Committee met at Pagoda community in Florida. Arden and I discovered we had both attended the same school, a college for women in Texas. Arden graduated spring 1951, and I entered fall 1951. We compared stories about classmates.

A woman disappeared from my class rolls after a rumor that she and her roommate were seen giving each other a massage. Arden remembered as many as 20 women students not returning after a holiday! Nothing was known of what had happened. She remembered several of these purges. The dean and assistant dean of **women were silent strikers who would "protect"** the girls from the evil influence of Lesbians by sending away anyone with the slightest whisper against her.

Where did they all go? What happened to all these young women?

The time is coming when those Lesbians who were kicked out, however unofficially, can tell their stories and have a bit of validation for being Lesbian. Silent strikes by the dean of women or her assistant may or may not be a thing of the past. Some changes in consciousness have come, but we are not there yet. May we see the day!

Army of Women about Breast Cancer

If you have been diagnosed with breast cancer, go to armyofwomen.org. Or, if you have

friends who have been so diagnosed, let them know. Be one in a million to answer a survey, which will help increase the well-being of Lesbian and bisexual women with breast cancer and help reduce health disparities. Thank you, Sharon Kuromiya, for alerting us to the study (approved by our research gatekeeper, Sharon Raphael).

A Bit of History about Our Herstories

By Mary R. Henry, 1939

OLOC is working on a range of efforts these days, all of them of value, all striving to improve the lives of Old Lesbians. Since 2002, one of those efforts has been to provide support and encouragement to the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory **Project. The project came to OLOC's attention** because Arden, who began the project on her own, was integrally involved in the Steering Committee. In those early days, OLOC would occasionally publish a condensed version of one **woman's herstory in *The Reporter*.**

It didn't take long before both the rest of the Steering Committee members and readers of *The Reporter* fell in love with a simple concept: sharing the life experiences of Old Lesbians was important to each of these women, and their stories would be invaluable to researchers. For a decade now, OLOC has recognized the importance of what the OLOHP does and has generously been a sponsor of the project.

From the beginning, the OLOHP has encouraged each woman sharing her story to start at the beginning, telling stories of her family of origin and her upbringing and then continuing on through her life. Although Arden may ask a few questions and suggest a few topics of conversation, nothing is required, and nothing is off limits. The result is that stories gathered and preserved by the OLOHP reflect the woman as a whole. When you read a story in one of the books the project has produced, you feel almost as though you know the woman **personally. Arden's approach has resulted in a** unique collection. (If you would like to read some of the stories in the OLOHP collection, our two books are available at www.olohp.org.)



Fumiko Ohno and Masami Inoue

Pat Patton

Ferron

Charlotte Bunch

Paji Wadley-Bailey, Vera Martin, Eunice Samuels, Marilyn Monteiro

Natalie Zarchin and Margaret Mann

Memorials

Eunice M. Wood, 1927–2012

Eunice Wood was a member of OLOC from 1993 to 2005. **“Woody” was blessed** from birth with a sense of wonder and love of life. She was awarded a two-year Fulbright Fellowship in Paris and earned a Ph.D. in microscopic anatomy from Harvard University.



She taught for several years at Wellesley College and Mount Holyoke College before becoming a biology professor for 13 years at California State University at Long Beach.

In 1990, Woody fell in love with Dorothy, retired, and settled in Ventura. They were ultimately married and lived happily together for 22 years. She will be remembered for her wonderful sense of humor, fun, and authenticity. Friends also remember her singing harmony in a lovely alto voice and her fierce love of the Dodgers.

Rosemary Keefe (Curb), 1940–2012

Best known for *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*, which she co-authored with Nancy Manahan,

Rosemary Keefe Curb had a fierce passion for social justice. She marched, protested, and **advocated for women’s rights, civil rights, and equal rights for all.** Born in Chicago and raised Catholic, she spent eight years as a Dominican nun.

Rosemary cared more about causes than money, ideas more than fame, people more than possessions. She fought for rights wherever she went. She was a woman of integrity who stood up **for those who can’t stand up for themselves.**

Rosemary Keefe Curb is survived by her partner, Doris Burkemper.

Sally Ride, 1951–2012

Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly in space. She was chosen to be an astronaut in 1978, the same year she earned a doctorate in physics from Stanford. After she retired from NASA in 1987, she became a member of the faculty of the University of California, San Diego, and the California Space Institute.

Ride was a physicist, writer of five science books for children, and president of her own company, which motivates youngsters to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and **math. Tam O’Shaughnessy, her partner of 27 years,** was a co-founder of Sally Ride Science.

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