



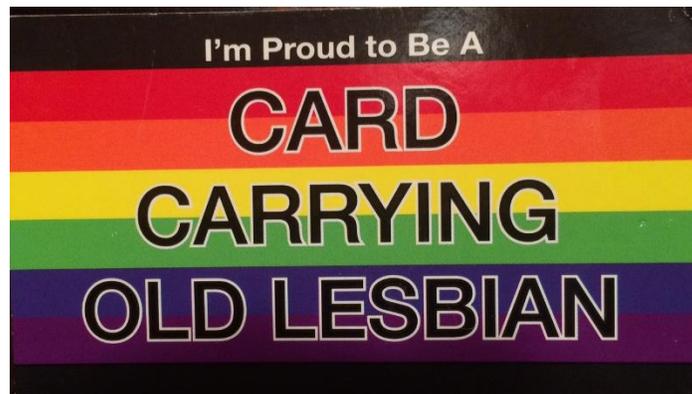
**An International
Community of
Lesbian Elders**

**E-News
June 2022**

Edited by Sheryl Kaplan, 1954.
Translated to Spanish by Google Translate.
Fine-tuned in Spanish by María Cora, 1953.
Reviewed by Susan Wiseheart, 1941, and
Sally Tatnall, 1937.

www.oloc.org/

Send articles to E-News@oloc.org.



Old Lesbians, June is a time to be especially proud!



NOTES TO OUR READERS:

We now provide the E-News in both Spanish and English and are working toward making all OLOC communications bilingual.

In all OLOC communications and events, you are responsible for your own contribution. Please use respectful and considerate language at all times.

OLOC supports civil discourse and reflective listening. Individual opinions do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or attitudes of OLOC as a whole.

The Steering Committee welcomes affiliates (formerly called members) as guests at its meetings. As a guest, you are welcome to listen but not to verbally participate unless the Steering Committee requests you to. Send questions and comments by email to info@oloc.org before or after the meeting. Meeting dates and times will be made available to affiliates upon request.



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Whoever thought up the word "Mammogram"?
Every time I hear it, I think I'm supposed to put my breast in an envelope
and send it to someone.
 ~~~Jan King



**OLOC NEWS**



**1. The In-Person National Gathering Has Been Cancelled**

May 18, 2022

Dear OLOC Affiliates,



It is with great pain that we are cancelling this year's in-person

National Gathering. The Steering Committee has heard from many that they will not be traveling because of the growing threat of a new COVID-19 virus. There is also the responsibility for the health of all of you. If even one attendee contracted COVID-19 at our Gathering, and particularly if anyone became seriously ill or died, we would be so deeply damaged in every way, as individuals and as an organization.

The Steering Committee will be working on building our strength and planning on a future fabulous Gathering. We love you all and hope you understand how difficult this choice is.

### **Important Update, June 5!**

#### **Save the date**

Though the OLOC in-person Gathering for 2022 has been cancelled, we are planning to offer **Zoom Gathering-type events from Thursday, October 27 through Saturday, October 29**. It will probably include a Lesbians of Color Day. The theme remains *The Focus is Lesbian: Body, Mind, and Spirit*, and it will include several engaging events. The Zoom Crew, the Gathering Program Committee, and the Steering Committee are working diligently to come up with a viable Zoom schedule for this online Gathering. Please hold the dates and we'll have more information soon!



## **2. Adiós María**

We are very sad to announce that María Cora, 1953, Co-Director of OLOC's National Steering Committee, has decided, for her health and well-being, she will be withdrawing from all her committee work with OLOC. She has since left on May 31.

María had taken on many responsibilities, which included leading the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and translation services for the E-News and the *Reporter*.

María was often the facilitator of our SC meetings. She was



very good at keeping us on topic. She has great writing skills and would wordsmith an article so it was better.

She was also involved with the Lesbians of Color discussion group. María was a woman on a mission. She worked toward a truly diverse OLOC, which the Steering Committee is dedicated to. María gave us focus, guidance, and grounding. She will be greatly missed by all of us on the SC.

**Susan adds:** I was delighted when María joined the Steering Committee. It is a huge commitment, and she had a full-time job. We knew she would not be as active as she might otherwise have been until retirement rolled around.

She is an expert meeting facilitator and gave a presentation at a Steering Committee meeting about the skills involved. Steering Committee members take turns facilitating meetings, so the more skills learned, the better the meetings go. She also brought cultural knowledge of Puerto Rico.

She had been planning to be in charge of workshops at the Gathering; to run, and be the MC for, the Talent Show; and to head up Lesbians of Color Day. When the SC met with the hotel staff in Tempe, María had many questions for them that helped clear up a lot of details that needed to be dealt with.

María also agreed to get her then-recently-disbanded band, “Azúcar Con Aché” together to perform at the Columbus Gathering in 2019. What music! Those of you who were there may have been part of the audience who loved it. We were fortunate to experience that night’s show.

I very much appreciated her input and advice about so much else OLOC is up to. I, too, will miss her presence on the various OLOC committees, to say nothing of her bright spirit, the sound of her dog Sugar barking now and then on Zoom (and glimpses of her), and so many other things. We all will.

*Thank you, María, for your years of service to OLOC.  
We wish you the best, whatever you do!*



### **3. Spread It Far and Wide!**



In an attempt to expand the distribution of our E-News and *Reporter* to Old/Elder Spanish-speaking/reading Lesbians, OLOC would love your help in spreading the word to all organizations with such members. Please send your list to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).



#### 4. Attention White Antiracist OLOCians

We're looking for a few more Lesbians to join The White Group. We meet once a month for one-to-two hours. Right now, our focus is to produce a one-page electronic publication for OLOC. It will include brief stories, quotes, and insights to help us all learn more about working against racism. Send a short description of your current experience as an antiracist in today's world, in both your local community and elsewhere, to [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org). Meetings are by Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 A.M. ET.



#### 5. Upcoming National Zoom and End White Dominance Events



The schedule of Zoom events—with all the details, including full descriptions and who may attend each program—is on the website. The schedule is on a separate page (look at the tabs on the menu on the top), and the past Zoom Crew events (video recordings and other resources) are organized by year. The End White Dominance videos of past events will be posted soon. These are the links for the existing pages, followed by a list of upcoming events:

- ✦ <https://oloc.org/zoom-schedule/>
- ✦ <https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2022/>
- ✦ <https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2021/>
- ✦ <https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2020/>

## Panels and Presentations

Terry Baum: *One Dyke's Theater*—Online Book Party!  
Wednesday, June 22, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Interconnectedness of Dominance  
Friday, June 24, 4:00–6:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Racism and Middle Eastern Communities  
Friday, July 22, 4:00–6:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Racism and Poverty  
Friday, August 26, 4:00–6:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Missing and Murdered Women and Girls  
Friday, September 23, 4:00–6:00 P.M. ET

## Open Houses

None happening just now, but keep checking the [website](#)!

## Support and Discussion Groups

- Lesbians of Color Discussion Group
- ASL Chat
- Caregivers Support Group
- Lesbian Widows Group
- Radical Lesbian Feminist Discussion Group

### Notes:

🌀 Registration links are in the emails sent out to you, not on the website. If you have questions, the [schedule page](#) on our site should have the information you need. It also has the addresses for who to contact with additional questions.

🌀 Please do not share information about upcoming OLOC Zoom events on social media. This includes mixed group email forums or listserv groups to which you belong. Thanks for helping to maintain our Zoom events as safer Lesbian-only space. If you have questions about your list, please contact [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or [OLOCCcZoom@gmail.com](mailto:OLOCCcZoom@gmail.com).

🌀 OLOC is working toward being a bilingual organization. We will let you know with each step we take. Right now we are focusing on publications and on fundraising for the project. Zoom promises that soon it will have electronic interpretation. When it does, we will tell you.



## 6. It's Alive! Introducing OLOC's New Database

By Mev, 1955, OLOC Support Coordinator

As promised, OLOC now has a new database. You've probably already noticed some procedural changes over the past few weeks. It will take us all some time to get used to these changes, and there are still a few kinks to be worked out.



### What does this mean for you?

More functions will be handled electronically and better. We no longer use PayPal. The program we use is called Charityproud. Everything is secure and encrypted and no one in OLOC has access to your credit card information. Also, everything sent using Charityproud gets quickly and properly linked to your information in our database. This will help us to keep your contact information up-to-date and our accounting records more accurate.

### Here are some tips:

We have redesigned the [“Support OLOC”](#) section of our website.

**Affiliation** (formerly known as membership): Lesbians in 55th year or older. You may use these options for new, renewal, or gift membership affiliations.

- Go to: “Join OLOC as an Affiliate,” then select the “Use online form” button. The link will take you to a form that asks for all the information (including demographics) that we request from you. Then you select the amount you want to send for your affiliation. Can't send money now? No worries; there's an option for that as well. Complete with your payment and done!

- If you prefer to pay by check, we provide a link on the website and in our emails so you may download the fillable PDF form ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) to complete, print, and then mail with the check.

### **Supporters and Donations:**

If you're not an Old Lesbian and want to support OLOC, select the dropdown "We Welcome General Supporters." Anyone can make a one-time donation, recurring, memorial, or honorary gift from the dropdown or sidebar donate button.

There are various suggested amounts as well as a sliding scale option. There is no mail-in form to be a supporter or donor, but you are always welcome to send a check to our PO Box. Just be sure to let us know who you are and what it's for!

### **Fundraisers:**

Throughout the year, we have several fundraisers, usually designated for a specific purpose. For example, our Give Out Day fundraiser this month is designated to raise funds for language translation. All fundraisers will now have a designated donation link. You can either donate online using the link posted on our website or emails, or download a fillable PDF form to send the donation by check. This process helps those of us doing the accounting to be sure funds are directed accurately.

### **Zoom Registrations:**

Many of you may have already noticed this change. Each Zoom has its own registration link. When you register, you will be sent the access link for that Zoom event and reminded of it again on the day of the event. We ask you not to share the Zoom access link. If you want to invite someone to a Zoom, please give her the registration link. No links (registration or event) should ever be posted on social media of any sort. If you have questions about this, please contact the Zoom crew at [oloccczoom@gmail.com](mailto:oloccczoom@gmail.com).

### **Important Things to Know:**

During the transition, we haven't been sending renewal notices. In June, all affiliates will receive notification of your renewal date (either overdue or current). Please contact us at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) if you experience any of the following:

- 1) You notice an error in your renewal date.

- 2) You are not receiving emails such as the *Reporter*, the E-News, or Zoom event notices, and think you should be.
- 3) You have other questions.



## 7. For Chapters Participating in Research Projects

We want to make sure that all chapters and affiliates (formerly called members) know that Sharon Raphael, Ph.D., 1941, is our National OLOC Research Gatekeeper. Chapters can decide on their own about local research and review our National criteria if they need assistance in deciding whether or not they will participate in a study. For more information, including how to reach Sharon, please see <http://oloc.org/research-criteria/>.



### OLOC AFFILIATES (formerly called members) NEWS



## 8. Message from Margie Adam, 1947



May 13, 2022

I simply cannot sit still or be silent in this moment. These are songs I would be singing if I were on the road right now. Here's a three-song [YouTube Playlist](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcj2JSXrD813F4lYOTsdZWl7kpSvQlQuR) [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcj2JSXrD813F4lYOTsdZWl7kpSvQlQuR] (13 minutes total): “Wake-Up Call,” “Los Caldonés,” and “Long Haul.”

I invite you to unplug from whatever you're thinking and/or doing for a moment—or two or three—and touch down in “Another Place,” circa 1993. The songs and sentiments feel eerily current. Feel free to share this playlist with your friends, comrades, and progressive groups. With a steady heart,  
Margie



## 9. Birth Announcement

By Laura Bock, 1945

Hello OLOC Sisters,

It took nine months, but then that's rather ordinary, wouldn't you say? In July of 2021, I decided to donate the papers of my partner Suzanne Gary to the Hormel Center at the San Francisco Main Public Library. She died in April of 2019. At the time, I asked for special permission to process this collection myself. They granted this unusual request, and therein began weekly treks into San Francisco. The library staff could not have been more supportive.

What enabled me to do this work was the crucial assistance of my friend Katherine Cowan. She provided the transportation, the "eyesight," and her pleasure in doing the work with me, while I provided the "know-how" and my gratitude. We were amazed at some of the things we found.

The project has now been completed, including the Finding Aid (FA), which details what is in the collection and where it is found. Please give it a look! It is at <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8ns12dx/>.

The FA includes highlights in each section of the collection which may be of interest to you.

I think Suzanne would be pleased that her life's work and her "life" has been preserved and made available forevermore. She was, of course, an exquisite poet and prose writer, and a dedicated activist in the Second Wave of the Women's Movement.

Please forward this announcement to anyone you please who might be interested. And, of course, I'd love to hear your reactions. Anyone can make a reservation to see the collection in person at the SFPL. You don't have to be a bona fide scholar or even a member of the Library.

With best regards and hugs to those who want them,  
Laura

*[Editor: Coming soon! An article about archiving Lesbian lives from one of our community's foremost preservationists of Lesbian culture.]*



## **10. Wanderground, New England’s First Lesbian-Centered Archive**

By Sue Reamer, 1942

Mev Miller, 1955, is the “Lesbrarian/Instigator” of the new Wanderground Lesbian Archive/Library, New England’s first Lesbian-centered archive (there are other LGBTQ and feminist archives in New England, mostly at universities).

Mev formed this archive/library from her extensive personal collection of Lesbian literature, media, and art that she had been collecting for 40 years as a writer, educator, women’s and Lesbian advocate, bookseller, editor, and consultant. And just last week [week of May 16], Wanderground Lesbian Archive received a prestigious grant to enable the cataloging and preservation of thousands of Lesbian publications and herstorical items, create storytelling and artistic expressions of selected objects, provide digital visibility, invite community involvement in creating physical display and storage spaces, and offer visibility through education and public events.

If you are going to Cape Cod from now through August 31 via Interstate 95 through Providence, Rhode Island, stop by the Providence Public Library (main branch) where Mev has her first physical public viewing of a wide selection of the Archive’s extensive cornerstone holdings of Lesbian/feminist culturally significant publications and art.

If your chapter or a group of you would like to plan a private curator’s tour of the exhibit, conducted by Mev in July or August, please contact Mev at [mev@wanderground.org](mailto:mev@wanderground.org) to make arrangements. The exhibit at the library highlights the early days of Lesbian-made culture and activism (1970–2000). During her tour, Mev will share stories about the significance of various items. They include: writings by Rhode Island Lesbians, early publications from independent Lesbian/feminist publishers, music and videos, art and artifacts, and other life-affirming Lesbian legacies. Mev is

also willing to Zoom-meet with chapters/groups not in the area but interested in this work.

Because Wanderground is still new, Mev doesn't know all that the Archive needs just yet and what we might do. She is still in the process of incorporating as a non-profit and seeking a permanent space (outside her home) for the collection. However, she recommends that we stay current with Wanderground's activities, progress, and future events by joining the mailing list at <https://wanderground.org/>.

Mev also hopes we will consider donating Lesbian cultural items as a way of preserving our critical publications, records, journals, and artifacts, which might otherwise become lost in time. If you are considering donating—including general supplies and resources (e.g., bookshelves, file cabinets, etc.), or have any questions, email [archives@wanderground.org](mailto:archives@wanderground.org). She is still in the process of cataloging her collection, but you can see much of it at <https://wanderground.org/collections/>.

Mev is also looking for volunteer help. Various skills being sought include: website design, social media communications, librarian/archive experience, feminist organizational collaboration (leadership), fundraising, artistic skills, networking or facilitating, and “other,” to be described by the volunteer. Please email Mev at [mev@wanderground.org](mailto:mev@wanderground.org) if you are interested.

When you go onto Wanderground's website, you will also find some books for sale at the Litwomen Alibris Bookstore. As a book reviewer and longtime bookseller, Mev's personal library has gotten quite big over the years, and now it's time to downsize. The Litwomen Alibris booksellers page features primarily women's studies books in a wide range of topic and genre areas. Unless noted, books are in excellent/brand new condition. All proceeds go to Wanderground.

Congratulations, Mev, on preserving and bringing to public display your outstanding collection of Lesbian cultural artistic expression. We look forward to seeing your exhibit, to contributing our own Lesbiana to this New England Lesbian archive, and to following Wanderground's future progress and programs! And thank you, Mev, for your continuing diligent dedication to OLOC's Zoom programming, as these events and OLOC's newsletters remain OLOC's prime form of communication.



## 11. Too Many Cancellations

By Jean Taylor, 1944

Along with approximately 200 other participants, I attended my first residential Lesbian gathering—Witches and Wild Womyn’s Spiritual Gather-In—at Aldinga Beach in South Australia, in April 1985. Since then, I have come to see that this was a most joyous and exciting way of exchanging important information in workshops, of being moved by listening to a poet reading and a singer-songwriter sharing their work and just hanging out with a bunch of amazing dykes over a period of several days.

Actually, now that I think about it, that wasn’t the first time I’d slept, lived, loved, and bonded with Lesbians at a gathering. In 1983, I spent ten weeks sleeping on the nude beach at Skala Erresou, where the international community of Lesbians came and went on the island of Lesbos over the Greek summer, an informal arrangement that had been happening on an annual basis for years. Again, this was such an incredible experience that I wrote a book about it, *Sappho’s Wild Lesbians* (Dykebooks, 1984).

Since then I have enjoyed innumerable annual Lesbian residential gatherings here in Australia: National 10/40 Conferences for Lesbians and feminists over 40, National Lesbian Festivals and Conferences, National Lesbians Over 40 Reunions, and Spring Holiday Camps, to name the main ones. Also, in the UK there was Women in Tune (WIT) in Wales, and in the US, the Old Lesbians Organising for Change (OLOC) Gatherings. Without exception they have all been empowering, informative, entertaining, and reaffirming gatherings with lots of talking and laughter, delicious food, and the like-minded company of as many Lesbians as could be accommodated.

Even though I hadn’t planned to go myself, I, too, felt the pain when I received the notice about the cancellation of the forthcoming [in-person] National OLOC Gathering in Arizona in October 2022. Here in Australia, we have experienced the angst of making and receiving news of these very difficult decisions over these past two years, when both of our annual Lesbian gatherings were cancelled/postponed in 2020 and then again in 2021, and one so far in 2022. But with the fact of the highly-infectious and

life-threatening COVID-19 still out and about in our communities, the organisers were right to err on the side of health and safety for all our sakes.

Still, it's not easy not being able to meet IRL [in real life], to have to forgo all the laughter and hugs we have taken for granted over these past 50 years whenever and wherever Lesbians have gathered. In Australia, we have been making do with Zooms. All credit goes to our Lesbian techies and those who have organised comprehensive programs of workshops and entertainment over three full-on days, twice in 2021 and once in 2022, so far, to keep us connected and to try and replace what has been lost. However, some of us are still hanging out for another IRL get-together later in the year.

Almost without exception, those of us who love to organise and attend these gatherings are old now and maybe it is time for a different approach not only with gatherings but also with many of our Lesbian groups. Because whichever way we look, the young Lesbians are not interested in joining the activist collectives some of us have kept going for years, and quite frankly, I'm tired. While I'm not quite ready to give up yet, I'd really like to ensure that the activist collectives I'm in are finalised in the next couple of years, and any finances are passed on in the most appropriate and responsible fashion.



## **12. A Radical Feminist's Call to Action: A Summer of Rage**

By Rena Grasso, 1944

“Choice” is a superficial battle cry for abortion rights. It doesn't touch the material matrices of women's oppression, especially the discriminatory economics that weigh on mothers and that will cause the death of desperate women. Supreme Court Justice Alito, who wrote the leaked draft that portends overturning Roe v Wade, ignores these, basing his argument against abortion on the Constitution's precepts “deeply rooted in this nation's history and tradition.”

That tradition? Constructed by and for white, propertied men, the Constitution adopted the fundamental premise of British Common Law:

women are property owned by fathers and passed on to husbands. They lack codified rights; Roe v Wade was won under the umbrella of privacy rights, not on women's rights. Constitutionally, women are not equal to men. A century after its proposal in 1923, the ERA is still in abeyance.

This hoary tradition originates in the shadowy centuries during which matrilineal, goddess-centered societies were transformed into Patriarchal states. Historians continue to develop the details of this evolution, but the possession of women is undisputed. Lenin saw sex antagonism as the first class division and "the world defeat of the female sex" as concurrent with private property and the male-headed monogamous family. Feminist Gerda Lerner's study of Patriarchy's foundation refines Lenin, specifying the "appropriation of women's sexual and reproductive capacity" as the model of class oppression and exploitation.

Radical feminism adds race, and expands Marxist materialist analyses to encompass religion's sacramental role in blessing and perpetuating Patriarchy. The Judeo-Christian roots of western civilization reflect how a male god replaced female divinity, and created and anointed the template for male domination and warring, class-stratified Patriarchal states. The Bible's myths debase women and legitimize our subordination to "earthly lords."

Eve is the source of evil; her pain in childbirth her punishment. "You play, you pay," scorn the "pro-lifers." Women's sexuality is stain and shame. We must cut our hair, cover our heads, and veil our faces. We glimpse the societies matching these teachings in the Old Testament—the man possesses his wife along with his ox and ass [donkey]. Lot offers his virgin daughters for ravishment to save his male guests from wicked men. Ah ... tradition!

"Naturally," then, fundamentalism provides a major impetus for returning women to their properly degraded patriarchal position: "others," not quite human possessions. Justice and handmaid Amy Coney Barrett [of the US Supreme Court] is a member of People of Praise, the cult that preaches "men are leaders of their families." Men are stewards; women are "handmaids."

Abortion is a battleground on which we confront 5,000 years of Patriarchal "tradition" intent on erasing feminist gains, returning women to a state of

possession, unfreedom, inequality. At the Boston May 14 rally for reproductive rights, I asked a white elder, “Why are you here? You won’t need an abortion.” Stunned by my ignorance, her eyes bore into mine: “I *have* grandchildren! And *don’t* we fight for others, Black Lives Matter?” I agreed ... and more: “We are fighting for our (human) Being. We are not things. Our bodies don’t belong to the State fathers. Our Bodies, Our Selves!”

A rally organizer in DC proclaimed a summer of rage. Susan B. Anthony prayed for a “terrific shock” to awaken women to their “abject degradation” and to “spur their self-respect” to action. We self-respecting elders, justly shocked at this pernicious ploy to return us to servitude, must summon our righteous anger and become Mary Daly’s “positively revolting hags,” sisters in a critical mass of women, for as long as it takes, organizing and agitating to protect and advance our humanity.



## MEMORIALS



### **Pan Haskins, 1949–2021**

Longtime activist Pan Haskins, of Oakland, California, had been part of OLOC since 2014. She grew up working in the family printing/map publishing business. She worked every job there and took over the company at age 19, after her father’s death.



A few years later, Pan moved to San Francisco. She continued to run the business on a bi-coastal basis for another few years. She enrolled in San Francisco State University (SFSU), immersed herself in Women’s Studies, and came out as Lesbian.

She was involved in the committee to create a Women’s Studies Department at SFSU and she helped launch and sustain the Bay Area Federal Feminist Credit Union. Pan became involved with the Women’s Building and with Supervisor Harvey Milk on the No on 6 Campaign. She was also on the committee to transition the Lesbian Rights Project to the

National Center for Lesbian Rights, where she was on the board for several years.

She moved to Willits, California, and then the Mendocino Coast, splitting her time between there and San Francisco for 18 years. She loved tax preparation, and in 1988, got her Masters in Taxation from Golden Gate University, and her CPA. She started a Lesbian feminist accounting firm, specializing in estates/trusts.

### **Nan Worthing, 1938–2021**



Nan, with Jan Griesinger, 1942, sent out the bulk mail *Reporter* for many years, meeting to get it ready and sorted, then taking it to the post office. She also was supportive of OLOC in other ways.

Nan was born in Barnesville, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in education. Upon her marriage, she moved to Athens and became a kindergarten teacher for 26 years for the Athens City schools. Nan taught students from many countries. Her philosophy of teaching was to put kids at the center, respecting them as people, encouraging their curiosity, and instilling in them a love of learning and social justice. Every kindergartener who passed through her class was lucky to have had her as a teacher.

Nan didn't only teach about social justice; she was active in various social, political, and women's causes, such as United Campus Ministry, the Susan B. Anthony Memorial Unrest Home Women's Land Trust, and the United Church of Christ. In 1991, while supporting a union rally for striking hospital workers, she was struck by lightning. Nan spent months in recovery, and was able to regain complete control of her life.

### **Urvashi Vaid, 1958–2022**

Urvashi Vaid was born in New Delhi, India, and moved to the US with her family at age eight. Drawn to activism early, she participated in the anti-Vietnam War movement as an 11-year-old and joined anti-apartheid groups

while studying English and political science at Vassar College, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1979.



After graduating from Northeastern University's law school, she worked as a staff lawyer at the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, seeking to improve treatment for prisoners with HIV and AIDS. Other professional positions included work at *Gay Community News* in Boston, media director and Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Executive Director of the Arcus Foundation.

Long before the concept of intersectionality was widely discussed, she connected issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality, drawing on her own experience as a Lesbian immigrant.

Urvashi wrote a column for the *Advocate*, served on numerous Boards, and published books including *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* (1995) and *Irresistible Revolution* (2012). Also in 2012, she founded LPAC, often described as the first Lesbian super PAC (Political Action Committee). Survivors include her wife and partner since 1988, comedian Kate Clinton of Manhattan, New York.



### **NEWS OF INTEREST TO OLOC AFFILIATES (formerly called members)**



### **13. *Fanny: The Right to Rock* is in Theaters Now!**



*Fanny bassist Jean Millington, drummer Brie Darling, and lead guitarist June Millington at the photoshoot for the album cover of *Fanny Walked the Earth*. (Photo by Marita Madeloni.)*

Documentary filmmaker Bobbi Jo Hart had never heard of Fanny, the first all-female rock band to release an album

on a major label, when she stumbled onto a biography of lead guitarist June Millington, 1948, on the Taylor Guitars website about eight years ago.

Hart's instincts were good because Fanny, the band formed by June and her sister Jean, with Alice de Buhr and Nickey Barclay, truly was a groundbreaking group.

On five albums released by Reprise Records between 1970 and 1974, they rocked as hard as any of their male rock and roll peers. They opened for everyone from Chicago and Humble Pie to Jethro Tull and Jeff Beck. Barbra Streisand hired them to back her in the studio on her albums *Stoney End* and *Barbara Joan Streisand*.

The documentary film Hart made, *Fanny: The Right To Rock*, includes all of that as well as the long shadow of the band's influence on female rock bands and musicians who followed. Cherie Currie of the Runaways, Kathy Valentine of the Go-Go's, and Kate Pierson of the B-52's are among the musicians interviewed.

*The rest of the article is at <https://www.ocregister.com/2022/05/31/david-bowie-wrote-them-a-fan-letter-now-fanny-a-groundbreaking-female-rock-band-gets-their-due/> and includes a slideshow of 22 photos of the band. Fanny: The Right To Rock opened in theaters on June 3.*



#### **14. The Sports Bra: First-of-a-kind Bar Features Only Women's Sports**

*The new Lesbian-owned bar in Portland, Oregon, has quickly become a popular spot for women.*

At first glance, Sports Bra may seem like a typical neighborhood sports bar, but guests will soon notice that its posters and televisions exclusively feature women's sports and realize it's anything but your average watering hole playing live games.

That's exactly what the pub's owner, Jenny Nguyen (in black shirt in photo), intended.



“Ultimately, my mission is to expose as many people as possible to women’s sports, give people access,” Nguyen, 42, told NBC News.

The bar, which opened in Portland, Oregon, just last month [April 1], has already become a popular haunt for women and the LGBTQ community, especially since the city has lost all of its Lesbian bars, a trend that has grown across the United States over the last several decades. **There are only about 20 Lesbian bars left in the country, compared to about 200 that existed in the 1980s.** [Editor added bold.]

But Nguyen, who is gay, stresses that the bar is welcoming of everyone. While a majority of its patrons are women, she said, the Sports Bra is an inclusive space that also attracts a large number of families and even quite a few men—many of whom, according to her, say they prefer watching women’s sports because female athletes “give 110 percent all the time.”

Nguyen, a Portland native and avid women’s basketball fan, opened the Sports Bra near the corner of Northeast Broadway and 25th Avenue to jampacked crowds April 1—the launch of the NCAA women’s Final Four basketball tournament—and has kept busy since. On any given day, patrons might catch a game of college softball, volleyball, or soccer. But the bar features plenty of other women’s sports including football, tennis, golf, swimming and even those not typically seen in sports bars, such as gymnastics, cheerleading, and ultimate frisbee.

“Basically, whatever we can get our hands on, we will play,” Nguyen said.

Aside from its exclusive focus on women’s sports, the bar has some other feminist features. **Its 21 taps all come from local women-led breweries and cideries, and its outdoor picnic tables were made by Girls Build, a local nonprofit that teaches girls construction skills.** [Editor added bold.] Then there’s the drink menu, featuring signature cocktails such as Title IX and the Triple Axel, named after former US figure skater Tonya Harding, a Portlander. The food menu includes various vegan and vegetarian options containing ingredients from women-owned businesses. It also features some Vietnamese family dishes from Nguyen, whose parents immigrated from Vietnam.

The idea for the Sports Bra was born out of a crucial need for spaces to watch women’s sports, Nguyen said. She added that she first thought of

the concept while watching the 2018 NCAA Division 1 women’s basketball final in a local pub with friends on a single, muted small screen, which a server put on at their request. As Notre Dame narrowly defeated Mississippi State, winning by three points in the final two seconds, she and her friends “went nuts,” Nguyen recalled. But she also realized no one else in the bar was paying attention.

*The rest of the story is at <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-community-voices/welcome-sports-bra-first-kind-bar-features-only-womens-sports-rcna28634>.*



## 15. Improv in Troubling Times

By Mary Fridley, 1954

These “life rules” can be taken from improv theater:

- **Say “Yes/and” and “Both/and.”** “Yes/and” is the phrase improvisers use to keep action advancing during a scene. Whatever your partner says, you say “yes, and,” and build on what they said. Saying, “No, and” or “No, but” kills the movement and fun. “Yes/and’s” cousin, “Both/and,” is a phrase that allows us to embrace contrasting or opposing ideas. “I have dementia” and “I have a rich, creative life” aren’t mutually exclusive when we hold them in the tension of “Both/and.”
- **Think like an ensemble.** No one and no country is an island. We need each other. Resolving any of the world’s major problems (war, climate change, refugees) is a team game; no country plays alone.
- **Make your partner look great.** Appreciating the good can be so valuable. I’m taking an art class that includes people from around the world, who bring many different levels of art experience. In a competition-free environment, we support the good in each other’s work (which includes my very beginning efforts). Art schools are notorious for shredding self-esteem and killing the childlike joy that makes one want to create. Today’s times call for enhancing joy, making others look and feel great.

- **Be present, not clever.** The world is full of clever people, but cleverness without depth and caring is hollow and can even be evil. Let's practice presence, the ability to stay connected and calm in the midst of whatever is happening.
- **Notice life's offers.** Life is always making us offers, opportunities to act. We may not like some of them, like war, disease, or the "opportunity" for a tax audit. When we respond positively to an offer that's going to be there whether or not we wanted it initially, we step into our roles as actors, with agency, creating the life around us.
- **Focus on intentions, not outcomes.** Many situations in the world are complex. It's hard to have specific goals to deal with them. Goals are fine as long as they don't blind (sic) us to what is happening in front of us.
- **Let it go.** The world changes quickly. I can treasure the past, but if I hold on to it too tightly, I bog myself down. I can't manipulate my way into the future by insisting on having what I want. When I'm not lugging the past or chasing the future, I have a better chance of being present with what is happening now.
- **When it starts, it starts. When it ends, it ends.** Life sometimes throws a message that tells us it's time to move on. In an improv class, when it ends, you stop. Take a break. Change. Whatever will be coming next will undoubtedly be interesting.
- **Celebrate, no matter what.** I once took a super fun class in Kentucky clogging, a dance class that felt like tap dancing in clogs. I loved the instructor when he said, "If you're performing on stage and fall off, jump back up, take a bow, and say "TA-DAH!" Whatever our performance in life looks like, we can always claim victory.

*Mary Fridley is on the faculty at the East Side Institute in New York City, co-creator and leader of The Joy of Dementia (You Gotta Be Kidding!), and coordinator of Reimagining Dementia: A Creative Coalition for Justice. This piece was previously published in <https://www.agebuzz.com/>. Thanks to Beth T. for bringing it to our attention and to the author for permission to reprint.*



## 16. DONATE TO SUPPORT THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN BUFFALO

*These direct fundraising asks are rooted in our understanding of the systemic white supremacy experienced by the community and the impact of the current closure of TOPS Supermarket:*

- **Black Love Resists in the Rust:** Black-led organization focused on developing BIPOC leaders locally and running campaigns to redefine public safety
- **VOICE Buffalo:** A faith-based community organizing project (formerly a part of FIA/PICO)
- **African Heritage Food Cooperative:** Member-owned food cooperative focusing on sustained access and Black ownership
- **Open Buffalo:** A racial, economic, and ecological justice civic organization focused on leadership development, advocacy, and organizing
- **Every Bottom Covered:** The only diaper bank in Western New York



## COLUMNS



### Discoveries, for Lesbians Who Wish to Examine Their Beliefs about Race

By Katherine Wood, 1954

#### Discoveries About Goals to be Anti-Racist [for White Lesbians]



In my past several columns for the E-News, I have referred to Robin DiAngelo’s book, *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm* (2021) and what has come up for me to contemplate. This book takes a deeper dive into topics she brought up in *White Fragility*; both books are great reads. In *Nice Racism*, she presents a checklist of anti-racist skills

created by education professor John Raible. How many of these have you mastered? What area(s) need your concentration?

Before you begin, you might want to start with the questions: “How have I been impacted by the racist ideology circulating in the culture?” AND “How does this show up in my relationships and interactions?”

The checklist:

- \* I demonstrate knowledge and awareness of racism.
- \* I continually educate myself about racism and perspectives of BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) people.
- \* I hold awareness of my whiteness in all settings and that awareness guides how I engage.
- \* I am involved in anti-racist projects and programs.
- \* I raise issues about racism over and over, both in public and in private.
- \* I make sure anti-racism is part of the discussion in meetings and project planning.
- \* I avoid personalizing racial issues as they are raised in conversation.
- \* I can identify many aspects of racism as they are happening.
- \* I attend to group dynamics to ensure the inclusion of BIPOC people.
- \* I support and validate the contributions of BIPOC people.
- \* I have personal relationships and know the private lives of a range of BIPOC people, including Black people.
- \* I use my position as a white “insider” to share information with BIPOC people.
- \* I have developed the skills to strategically intervene in racist dynamics.
- \* I have demonstrated that I can accept leadership from BIPOC people.
- \* I debrief with BIPOC people to give and get “reality checks” and affirmations after meetings and interactions.
- \* I accept—with no explanations or “proof” necessary—a Person of Color’s experience.
- \* I can be present emotionally when individuals need to express feelings about racism.
- \* I have demonstrated that I am trustworthy and BIPOC people consistently confide in me and also challenge me on my racist conditioning.
- \* I have demonstrated that I am open to feedback on my own unaware racist patterns.

- \* I have the skills to repair racism when I realize I have perpetuated it.
- \* I recognize my own limitations in doing anti-racist work and have set up ways to be accountable to BIPOC people.

How did you do? Can you make a plan to practice what you've mastered and a way to learn more about what you need to develop? I'd love to hear about your progress. [Editor: You can contact Katherine through [E-News@oloc.org](mailto:E-News@oloc.org).]



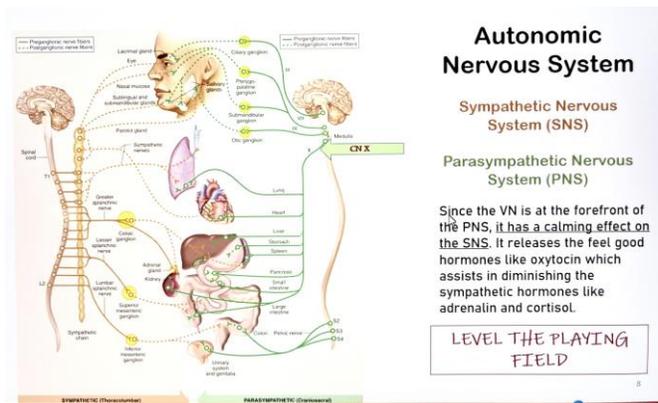
## Reflexology for Self Help

By Janet E. Stetser, 1937

Everybody needs to decide what they wish to do for themselves and how often, but know that there are reflex points for every part of the body on your feet, hands, and ears. The bottom line is what Eunice Ingram (the original reflexologist in the US) said right from the start: "If it hurts, it needs to be worked."



The vagus nerve is a major contributor to your good health and balancing your body when life throws a challenge your way. But keep in mind that your "second heart" is the calf of your leg. It is the movement of the muscles in your lower leg that pump blood back to your heart to get oxygenated and thus renew your body and all its organs. It is also why walking is such a great addition to your exercise routine. To walk, you need to use your leg muscles, and keeping them loose, relaxed, and functioning is another great addition to your general health.



### Autonomic Nervous System

Sympathetic Nervous System (SNS)

Parasympathetic Nervous System (PNS)

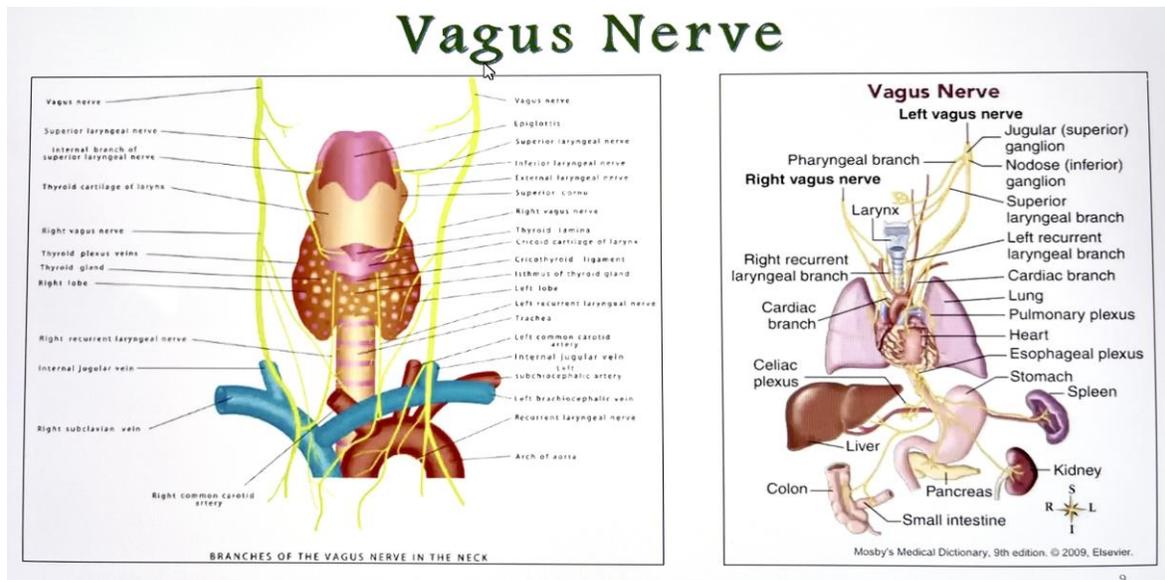
Since the VN is at the forefront of the PNS, it has a calming effect on the SNS. It releases the feel good hormones like oxytocin which assists in diminishing the sympathetic hormones like adrenalin and cortisol.

LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

During the summer, we need to be sure to keep our total body relaxed and functioning. That can be by exercises or reflexology; both work at keeping one's body in good balance. As the weather warms up, we need to be sure to keep our bodies active and functioning. Working our feet/hands or ears will also

accomplish the same goal, if done consistently. The stimulation of the vagus nerve is most important, as it benefits more of the body than any other nerve. You can locate it at the base of the ear and behind the lobe. That depression has an area that pumps like your heart, and that is the location of the vagus nerve.

Stimulating the vagus nerve is most important in keeping one's body in good balance. Eunice Ingram, the original reflexologist, would have told you to do this by working the base of the pad of the great toe on both feet. You can also do this on the base of the pad of the thumb, but I find the easiest location is the depression behind the ear and allowing your hands to fall around the neck.



In this way you will connect with the most number of locations that will send a message to your body to relax and balance. As shown in the visual above, there are many connections in the neck, but they also continue on to stimulate the heart, lungs, and digestive system. You can take care of yourself with this most important nerve. You can do this consistently wherever you are; it is a simple and useful way to stimulate the majority of your body.

If you have any questions, comments, or thoughts, please let me know at [footloose.js37@gmail.com](mailto:footloose.js37@gmail.com).

'Til next time, smile.  
Janet/Stets



## Amazon Women Rise

By Jamie Anderson, 1957

## The Variety in Women's Music

Women's music is only folk singers and singer-songwriters, right? That's what a lot of people outside the Lesbian community think. We know that's wrong. Sure, a lot of our musicians are solo performers but they play a variety of styles. It's tempting to classify anything with an acoustic guitar as folk music but really, it could be jazz to classical.



Judith Casselberry played guitar for Casselberry-DuPreé. Some of what they did was folk; they also played reggae, soul, African, and country. Nedra Johnson calls herself a singer-songwriter who is "... more on an R&B tip than what one might expect of a 'girl with a guitar.'" And of course, there were bands like The New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band and jazz group Deuce.

We may not remember some of the bands because many of them didn't stick around very long. It's expensive to keep a band on the road and in the recording studio. Radical folk/rock/jazz ensemble The Berkeley Women's Music Collective toured awhile and put out two albums in the late 1970s featuring radical songs like "Gay and Proud" and "Class Mobility." Rock band Bebe K'Roche did one album in the 1970s and a bit of touring but didn't last as long. Jazz group Alive! played bebop, Latin Jazz, and more. They lasted the longest of these mentioned, releasing three albums before they disbanded in 1986.

No one would call pianist/composer Mary Watkins a folk performer. Playing everything from gospel to jazz to R&B, she also composed three operas and has written for symphony orchestras.

Musica Femina was a classical music duo featuring flute player Kristan Aspen and guitarist Janna MacAuslan. Popular through the 1980s, they released four albums. Kay Gardner was also known for her classical work. Much of her music focused on healing and spirituality.

Rock was not forgotten with Carol McDonald, June Millington, Tribe 8, The Fabulous Dyketones, Toshi Reagon, and Yer Girlfriend. Most specialized in transcending genres. The Dyketones leaned heavily toward comedy and 1950s/1960s rock. Toshi Reagon’s website says she plays “folk to funk, blues to rock.” Yer Girlfriend was a Kentucky-based band that played folk/rock. Gretchen Phillips came from the punk scene, then went on to play in Two Nice Girls and Girls in the Nose. Canadian Ember Swift played rock with a jazz bent.

Suede is a cabaret performer known for jazz standards and pop on keyboard, trumpet, and guitar. She’s playing at this year’s National Women’s Music Festival. Also at this year’s festival is guitarist Mimi Fox, known for jazz and more, and Tammy Hall, a pianist specializing in gospel, jazz, and classical.

There’s more, but I’ve run out of room. You can find some of these musicians on YouTube:

Kay Gardner:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtlK8fQV5jHKhhnJUAcglmw>

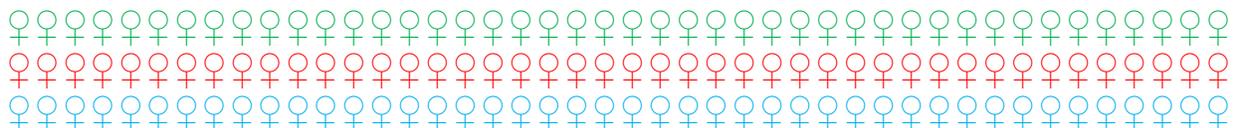
Mary Watkins (interview): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piVq4h64utk>

Suede: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH2w52s0bJ5qIL-Cpd7mU3g>

Toshi Reagon: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Hkiu6XM4r\\_JdbDlf1-gWA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Hkiu6XM4r_JdbDlf1-gWA)



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We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of the OLOC E-News! If you have any comments, feedback, or questions, reply to the cover email or to [Susan@oloc.org](mailto:Susan@oloc.org) and include whether or not you want a response. Also contact Susan if you want to sign up as a supporter or affiliate (formerly called member) or be taken off this list. If you have something of specific interest to Old Lesbians to share with our other readers, please send it to [E-News@oloc.org](mailto:E-News@oloc.org) by the fifth of the month (sooner if possible) for that month’s issue and put “for the E-News” in the subject heading. There is a 600-word limit. Include your name (or indicate if you want to be anonymous) and birth year. We may edit for length or clarity, and we reserve the right to decide which contributions to publish.



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