

Bay Area OLOC

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



WE'RE HAVING A FALL PICNIC!!

Sunday, September 25, 12:00 – 4:00

Live Oak Park, Berkeley

On September 25th, Bay Area OLOC will return to Live Oak Park in Berkeley from 12:00-4:00. During the pandemic (aka PAN-DAMN-IT!) our picnics have been the only way we have seen each other in person. The annual summer picnic in July was a big success with around 45 women attending at one point or another. Whether you're a regular or this will be your first OLOC event, we invite all lesbians 60 and over—plus partners and caregivers of any age—to attend. It is a great way to get to know new friends and/or connect with women you may not have seen for some time. Some women who have attended a picnic for the first time have been surprised to see familiar faces. We all wear name tags so we don't have to remember names!

Some of us feel comfortable sharing food. If you're willing, we encourage you to bring a dish to share. If you don't feel comfortable sharing, it's perfectly acceptable to bring your own food. OLOC will supply paper plates, cups, and utensils. **WE WILL NOT BE USING A GRILL, SO DO NOT BRING FOOD THAT NEEDS TO BE COOKED.**

The site has water, ample seating, and there is an accessible indoor restroom at the Berkeley Art Center right by our area. A public restroom for able-bodied women is across the street. Parking is on the street. The wooded, shady site is accessible and served by paratransit. For a ride from North Berkeley BART or to participate in a carpool, call Ginny Garrett ahead of time at 510 495-4285. **Our site is Picnic Area 2, between Oxford and Walnut** at the Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut Street.

Most of us have been vaccinated and boosted. If you have, you can choose whether or not to wear a mask. We ask that you wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated. Some of us can't get vaccinated for health reasons so don't make assumptions about mask wearers.

Hope to see you there!

We Just Lost Two Dear Members of Bay Area OLOC



Ann Valliant August 13, 1945–August 4, 2022



Elana Dykewomon October 11, 1949–August 7, 2022

There is so much to say about each of these sisters, we cannot do justice to them in this limited space. There are memorials to each of them on the national OLOC website:

<https://oloc.org/bayareaoloc/>.

Elana will be honored by Sinister Wisdom on Sunday, September 18th at 4 pm Pacific Time.

You can register for the memorial on the Sinister Wisdom website at

<http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/elana>. A long list of tributes appears there.

Ann was a resident leader at Strawberry Creek Lodge in Berkeley. A tribute was held there before she died and an audio file of the event can be accessed at the following link.

It is a little over an hour. After a number of residents and newer friends, Ann's brother Alan, her partner Mariko, Ann herself, and others share memories. It is so good to hear her voice! To listen, you will need to download Dropbox and drag the file into your Dropbox folder.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nurtl6q9wq9v6dn/Ann%20Valliant%20Tribute.m4a?dl=0>

A Wednesday Zoom “Check-In” Group Awaits You

A number of Bay Area OLOC women meet weekly on Zoom. It's a wonderful way to get to know each other better and participants have joined from a wide geographic area.

We are now offering a new time option, a drop-in Zoom meeting on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. The format is open, we talk about how each of us is faring, health, family, books and movies, pets, etc. We've also shared stories from our work lives, and thoughts about politics and feminism. We are on a drop-in basis, and anyone with a phone can participate by dialing into Zoom even if you don't have access to a computer or smartphone. Send an email to susanchnew@gmail.com to receive reminders but the link to join is always the same:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85377518443?pwd=WTErNDhSWjAwUnZEYIB0MFR5MWZZQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 7751 8443 - Passcode: 702822

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,85377518443#,,,,*702822# US (San Jose)

Plan to tune in to OLOC's 2022 National Zoom Gathering:

“The Focus is Lesbian: Body, Mind, and Spirit”

Thursday, October 27 through Saturday, October 29.

The schedule is available at <https://oloc.org/2022-international/> **Note that the Gathering begins with a Lesbians of Color Day on Thursday, October 27th.** The opening for all women is that evening. Bay Area Lesbians are featured at all the headline events including:

- **Melanie DeMore** as the keynote speaker on Thursday afternoon and lead performer for the Saturday evening concert,
- **Elana Dykewomon** receiving the Del Martin/Phyllis Lyon award posthumously on Thursday,
- **Terry Baum** performing her play about Eleanor Franklin's lesbian affair: “Hick” on Friday; and
- **Madeleine Lim**, QWOCMAP Director presenting her film “The Worlds of Bernice Bing” about a Chinese American artist with a Q & A following the movie on Saturday.

Some features of the program are still open. **If you are interested in facilitating an attendee-led talk session**, register for the Gathering and instructions will be emailed to you. The OLOC Gathering welcomes Old/Elder Lesbians who have reached their 55th year (and their partners and/or caregivers of any age). ***Lesbians of all ages are welcome to attend the Saturday evening programs.***

National OLOC offers Zoom programs and support groups

– Stay up-to-date by joining!

The national OLOC website offers a wealth of resources and material of interest to Lesbians 55 and over. There are recordings and links to Zoom programs going back to 2020, and links to support meetings for such groups as widows, caregivers, and Lesbians who are fluent in American Sign Language among others. A series of presentations on ending White dominance has had a number of sessions and is ongoing.

If you sign up with national OLOC, you will receive notices of up-coming Zoom events. The email notices are the only way to register and get access to online events, and these events are restricted to Lesbians. Everyone is asked not to post notices of OLOC Zoom events on social media so the events stay safer. There is a downloadable form for joining, and a link to join online. **You decide how much you are willing and able to pay for joining** – if money is an issue you can join for free. If you are not signed up yet, do it now!

You can help the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) reach senior voters before the mid-term elections!

If you are worried about the November mid-term elections, join the Bay Area OLOC members who are volunteering with CARA's "Senior Ambassador" program. We'll educate seniors in key districts on candidates and issues. Seniors vote, but they are misled by right-wing scare tactics. If the wrong candidates are elected, conservative forces could do terrible things such as privatizing Social Security and Medicare and taking away our right to marry.

While a majority of California's elected representatives support seniors, women, and LGBTQ people, there are many issues we need to advocate for. Go to the CARA Website to learn about regional virtual forums on California candidates and issues in September and find out how you can help: <https://californiaalliance.org/>