

December, 2022



Dear Bay Area OLOC Sister,

HAPPY SOLSTICE AND BEST WISHES FOR 2023!

The Old Lesbians who are keeping Bay Area OLOC alive send you our warmest wishes. It's our annual tradition to send everyone on our mailing list a holiday letter, bringing you up to date on what we have been doing. It's also a chance to let you know our plans for the coming year, and ask for your suggestions about future activities.

During this third year of pandemic restrictions, we have again confined our in-person events to outdoor picnics in July and September. About 50 women came in July and some 30 attended in September. There were many old friends who were very glad to see each other and some new faces too. Many hugs were given and gratefully received!

In the coming year, we're scheduling more face-to-face activities:

- On February 12, we plan to hold a **Valentines dance** in Berkeley at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall on Cedar at Bonita Street. The music will be like us: oldies but goodies!
- We have reserved space at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma for a **two-night retreat over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27 – 28**. The facilities are fully accessible. Too bad they don't have a swimming pool! The venue is expensive but the Organizing Committee agrees we can afford subsidies. It will be available to all who wish to attend. Check it out at: <https://www.walkercreekranch.org/>
- Bay Area OLOC will again volunteer as a community partner with the **Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project film festival June 9 – 11, 2023**. QWOCMAP will likely offer screenings in person and on-line as they did in 2022.
- **Our annual picnic** will be in Live Oak Park Berkeley on Sunday, July 23rd.

Stay in touch with us – we'll send out email notices on all these events, and if you have requested "hard copies" of notices by regular mail, you'll get those too.

National OLOC has a wide range of on-line resources and events available through their website – widows and caregivers support groups, cultural events, feminist presentations and discussions on ending white dominance. Recordings of past events and a schedule of upcoming ones are under the tab "Everything Zoom" on the webpage at OLOC.org. If you missed OLOC's National Zoom Gathering October 27 –

29, or if you want to see any of the main sessions again, videos are available there. Bay Area OLOC members were everywhere at the Gathering. Melanie DeMore gave the keynote address and a concert, Madeleine Lim of QWOCCMAP showed her film on artist Bernice Bing, and Terry Baum performed her one woman play HICK. The 2022 Martin-Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award was presented to our own Elana Dykewomon posthumously. Affiliation with national OLOC is available on an ability-to-pay basis at www.OLOC.org . Lesbians in their 55th year (that's 54) and up who join get electronic and snail mail newsletters and notices of on-line events which are needed to register.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Bay Area OLOC has done our best to keep women in touch and give each other support. On May 29, 2022 BA OLOC hosted an on-line meeting with Rebecca Silverstein from the Bay Area Lesbian Archives (BALA) on the importance of archives to preserve our personal stories. During the conversation, we learned that younger Lesbians are interested in our stories and in the future we may plan a way to engage in intergenerational dialog.

With sadness, we want to acknowledge the deaths of Ann Valliant and Elana Dykewomon. Both were long-time members of Bay Area OLOC. Ann served as treasurer and was an ardent voice for Lesbians from poor, working class, and community of color backgrounds. Elana co-chaired the planning committee for the national OLOC Gathering held in Oakland in 2014 and organized the fabulous literary reading at the event. She also donated a writing workshop to OLOC. Both Elana and her partner Susan Levinkind left generous bequests to OLOC.

We are not soliciting donations this year as our expenses have been minimal. To report on finances, we have spent money on: postage for women who prefer getting "hard copies" of our letters by mail; Zoom fees; membership in the California Alliance for Retired Americans; a donation to QWOCCMAP; and chapter dues to national OLOC. **If you would LIKE to donate to Bay Area OLOC, send a check to Pat Cull at 70 Yosemite, Apt 105, Oakland CA 94611.** We appreciate past support from grants and legacies.

As we live through this challenging time, the Bay Area OLOC organizing team wants to stay in touch with you. We send you our very best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season, and a peaceful new year!

Bay Area OLOC Organizing Committee

Andre Rivers, Barbara Cleveland, Eve Goldberg, Ginny Garrett, Jeannine Toussaint, Laura Tow, Michiko Thorne, Pat Cull, Patty Schamus, Susan Chacin, Tara Sterling and Windsor Young