

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded  
in 1989

# The Reporter

A quarterly publication  
of OLOC

Dec 2019  
Vol 29 #4

## OLOC Steering Committee Meeting Report

*By Alix Dobkin, 1941*

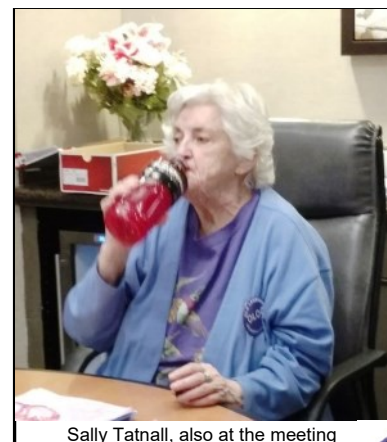
The OLOC Steering Committee met October 24–26 in Tempe, Arizona, for a post-Gathering debriefing and welcome for our two provisional members, Jacqui Lewis, 1949, and Bethsaida Ruiz, 1957. We dearly missed our still-recovering Susan and also Jan, who has retired from the Committee (see articles on pages 6 and 2, respectively).

OLOC faces ongoing logistical considerations and also new ones. We expect to lose money on our Gatherings, but the losses have increased with each one. Sally presented a draft financial statement to review and we considered our expenses, including the amount of financial assistance we provide. We also have the cost of an editor for the *Reporter* since Jennice retired along with her amazing donated labor. OLOC has many other expenses, and our survival depends on more income. A new fundraising committee was formed, and the fundraising discussion will continue next spring with an updated budget. We brainstormed about how to deal with the lack of support for Lesbians in general and Old Lesbians in particular. Donations from foundations are drying up, and other sources are needed.

Besides finances, top priorities continue to be anti-racism and increasing our membership. For more participation of members in the decisions and work of OLOC, we will take up the draft proposal from Susan Chacin, 1945, of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter, “Moving Forward Together,” which proposes a new committee of Steering Committee, chapter, and at-large members to explore ways to further “embody our commitment to equal participation by Old Lesbians of all racial and ethnic identities and heritages.” Our spring meeting will focus on strategic planning, and we look to our Puerto Rican members for plans of a future meeting or Gathering on that island. Whew, it was a very productive meeting!



OLOC Steering Committee meeting: Maria Cora, Bonnie Wagner, Ruth Debra, Ali Marrero, Alix Dobkin



Sally Tatnall, also at the meeting

OLOC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization



OLOC Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

- [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org); email: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)
- PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498
- 888-706-7506 (toll-free)

This newsletter brought to you by:  
Guest Editor: OLOC Member, 1954.  
Proofreader and Copy-editor: Nancy Krody, 1939.

Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, Sally Tatnall, 1937, Jan Griesinger, 1942, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.  
All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2020. Limit general contributions to 300 words. Contact us for the style guide (revised November 2018). We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

Memorial announcements: Send name, birth and death years, and city and state of the Lesbian who died. See the E-News for life stories.

### Current Steering Committee Members Contact List

Co-Directors:

- Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY, [alix@oloc.org](mailto:alix@oloc.org), 845-679-7586
- Sally Tatnall, 1937, Lyndhurst, OH, [sally@oloc.org](mailto:sally@oloc.org), 216-912-8627

Steering Committee Members:

- Ruth Debra, 1944, Operations Coordinator, Palm Springs, CA, [ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org), 760-318-6794
- Bonnie Wagner, 1942, Woodstock, NY, [bonnie@oloc.org](mailto:bonnie@oloc.org), 845-679-7710 or 845-417-1481
- Alí Marrero-Calderón, 1948, Bayamón, Puerto Rico, [ali@oloc.org](mailto:ali@oloc.org), 510-365-6745
- María Cora, 1953, San Lorenzo, CA, [maria@oloc.org](mailto:maria@oloc.org), 510-366-8630

**Who We Are:** OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians. We are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Lesbian voice as well as increasing Lesbian visibility in a world that stifles it and threatens to erase it.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation and Resist (P.O. Box 301240, Boston, MA 02130; 617-623-5110).

**OLOC Membership** (as of 10-23-2015): National OLOC welcomes as members Old Lesbians who have reached their 60th year.

## Jan Griesinger Resigns from Steering Committee

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

Recently, Jan Griesinger, 1942, let the OLOC Steering Committee (SC) know that she would not continue as a Committee member because of health reasons.

It is with sadness that I experience the loss. Jan recruited me for the Steering Committee some time ago. She herself has been with the SC since 2000, when she started as an intern. (OLOC used to have an intern program as a way to introduce Lesbians under 60 to who we are and what we do.)

After she reached the good old age of 60, Jan became a fully-fledged member of OLOC and stayed on the SC. She was a Co-Director for ten years and was well known for the workshops on ageism she presented at Creating Change (a national conference for LGBT people). Jan has always led the SC to be politically aware of all the issues that oppress us. She is also well known for her activism in Ohio and, as a minister, was the first Lesbian to come out in a religious community.

I met Jan about 35 years ago on the SuBAMUH (Susan B. Anthony Memorial Unrest Home) Land Trust where she and her partner began one of the first land communities. I spent many summers going there to learn about radical feminism, as well as all the isms we are under.

I also learned how important the land is for women and why we must own our own space. There are so many memories in this long herstory of developing and learning radical feminist theory and activism. I will miss her contribution to my life mightily.

Thank you, Jan.



The Reporter is available both electronically (PDF) and in print. To switch formats or add one, please email [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org); write to OLOC at PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498; or phone 888-706-7506.

OLOC's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or email. Please let us know if you would like a response.

**OLOC Support:** Anyone who agrees with our purpose is welcome as a supporter.





## Apologies to Kristi, and Thanks, and Thanks to Mev, Too

Because of an oversight, credit for this grouping of three photos was left out of the version of the September *Reporter* sent out by email.

They should have had a citation saying “Photos by Kristi Hildebrand.” Our apologies to Kristi for this error. We are really sorry. We love your photos!

Indeed, OLOC is grateful to Kristi and to Mev Miller, 1955, for the hundreds of fabulous photos and videos they took at the Gathering. Kristi was the “official” photographer and Mev generously provided additional support to make sure nothing was missed. Thanks so much to both of you for the great job you did! We are pleased to have this documentation of the wonderful Gathering so we can preserve our precious Old Lesbian herstory.

Kristi has 13 short videos of Alix’s concert online. You can start at [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWGbypFy7mCyAXkmZK-PvRwIb5U0SsHLf](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWGbypFy7mCyAXkmZK-PvRwIb5U0SsHLf) and then click the others on the right side. The songs are captioned, too! There are also 15 videos of María Cora and her band at [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWGbypFy7mCy-lxurKQh-9nmK0opQseXP](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWGbypFy7mCy-lxurKQh-9nmK0opQseXP). If you can, turn the sound up on your computer and get up and dance!



## OLOC’s Website Has Been Refreshed!

Did you notice that our website ([oloc.org/](http://oloc.org/)) has been updated to include new photos, reports, videos, and the memorial slideshow (at [oloc.org/memorial-slideshow/](http://oloc.org/memorial-slideshow/)) from the 2019 Gathering? We also changed the main slideshow on the home page (to include the exuberant group at the bottom here) and will soon be adding four articles on ableism to our resources section. The articles are “Disability Awareness,” “Fact Sheet on Disability Oppression,” “A Deaf Lesbian Speaks Out,” and “Fact Sheet on Deafness.” They have been updated from the 1980s. If you have information about other disabilities that will raise OLOC members’ consciousness about the oppression of ableism and/or educate us about specific disabilities, please send it in.

We will be updating the resources section soon, so if you have suggestions for relevant links for us to consider, please send them. Currently we have resources for Lesbianism, Ageism, Feminism, Racism, Classism, Feminist Bookstores, and much more ([oloc.org/more-resources-for-old-lesbians/](http://oloc.org/more-resources-for-old-lesbians/)), including Housing, Legal/Relationships, Health, Financial/Retirement, and Caregiving. In the meantime, check out what we have done so far and enjoy the words and images from the Gathering ([oloc.org/2019-2/](http://oloc.org/2019-2/)), whether or not you were there!

To find OLOC on Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC](http://www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC).



## News from Puerto Rico

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

*This is excerpted from an article by Sandra Guzmán.*

Underneath the protests forcing the resignation of Governor Rossello is a women's movement that began following the devastation of Hurricane Maria. Unlike feminist movements from other areas in the world, this charge is horizontal and massive, with no leader. In every town, in every home, the power of the feminine voice in Puerto Rico is lit.

If there is a face to this movement, it is Colectiva Feminista en Construccion. Five years ago, Shariana Ferrer, a black, queer, feminist activist, came together with six compañeras and they began to discuss how to build a better Puerto Rico. They learned how intersectionality and race work, how they were racialized and colonized.

Today, hundreds of thousands of women across the island are participating in this slow but steady revolution. Many are on the front lines being pelted and gassed and confronting riot police. Others are doing the quiet, behind-the-scenes work in their communities, tending to farms, leading community workshops, healing, and educating.

American Lesbian feminists could learn from these women. The revolution is not over. We also must learn how we are colonized and racialized and how the oppressive structures that control us are alive and well. Women must remember and recognize that what we learned in the 1970s and 1980s is still relevant and necessary.

For the complete article, go to [www.shondaland.com/live/a28653844/puerto-rico-protests-feminist-revolution/](http://www.shondaland.com/live/a28653844/puerto-rico-protests-feminist-revolution/).

## How You Can Support the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act

OLOC member Ruthie Berman, 1934, is asking OLOC members to support the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act (HR 1777) by encouraging your Congresspeople and Senators, especially Republicans, to co-sponsor it. Congresspeople can be reached through [www.house.gov/representatives](http://www.house.gov/representatives) and Senators are listed at [www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm). Please request that they attach their names

to the House bill and the Senate bill. Three Congressmembers sent this letter to their colleagues:

*The LGBT senior population is growing and will roughly double to six million Americans by 2030. Unfortunately, decades of marginalization and legal and institutional barriers have left LGBT seniors with fewer sources of support, higher poverty rates, social isolation, and inadequate access to health care. In 2016, President Obama signed into law the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act, bipartisan legislation that provides services and support for older people nationwide. It did not, however, include language to specifically address the needs of LGBT seniors.*

*The Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2019...would amend the OAA to better care for older LGBT Americans. Specifically, the bill would*

- *Include LGBT older adults among women, rural, and racial and ethnic minorities as a population with the greatest economic and social needs under OAA.*
- *Permanently establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging to provide critical resources, information, and tools for aging service providers to better address the needs of LGBT seniors.*
- *Require the Assistant Secretary of Aging to oversee data collection for LGBT adults, their needs, and efficacy of state aging resources to meet those needs.*
- *Require the long-term care ombudsman to collect and analyze data regarding LGBT discrimination.*
- *Prioritize grants for organizations working to improve LGBT health, long-term care, and access to culturally responsive services.*

Please contact your Representatives and Senators to help promote Old Lesbians' access to health care. Thank you!

We miss you, Connie Kurtz (1936-2018).





## How You Can Help Reduce Old Lesbians' Loneliness

Did you know that you can designate a gift to OLOC in honor or memory of someone special? S/he does not need to have been an OLOC member or even an Old Lesbian or even a two-legged. Fur babies deserve to be honored too! OLOC will send a note to anyone you wish, telling her/him about the gift without mentioning the amount. Just include the name and address with your donation, and we will take care of the rest!

OLOC greatly needs our members' support to continue providing Old Lesbians with much-needed opportunities to interact with friends new and old and reduce the despair of isolation and loneliness many of us Old Lesbians experience. Please consider some of the many ways in which you can help OLOC survive and thrive by giving now and/or planning future gifts to ensure your legacy:

- ◆ Donating stock
- ◆ Putting OLOC in your bequest (will)
- ◆ Making OLOC the beneficiary of your bank account(s)
- ◆ Establishing charitable trusts/annuities (which also provide you with a source of income for life)
- ◆ Holding house parties (introduce your friends to OLOC!)
- ◆ If you don't need birthday gifts, asking friends and family to donate in your name to OLOC instead
- ◆ Same as above in celebration of your marriage or anniversary if you already have a toaster oven
- ◆ Same as above in honor of your granddaughter's bat mitzvah if she has enough to meet her needs
- ◆ Donating your IRA Required Minimum Distribution
- ◆ Pledging a small amount every month or quarter

For more information, please contact your financial advisor or Sally at [sally@oloc.org](mailto:sally@oloc.org) or 216-912-8627. **Thank you so much for your interest in supporting OLOC so she can continue to be there for all of us.**

## An Easy Way to Support Old Lesbians in Puerto Rico

*By Mary Jean Mulherin, 1951*

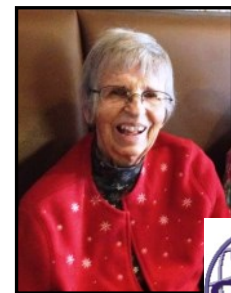
I was so heartened to hear [at the Columbus Gathering] of the work on behalf of Marta in Puerto Rico by other OLOC Lesbians that I decided I could do something here in Minnesota to help the effort to bring Lesbian aid to more Old Lesbians in Puerto Rico.

How does an old dyke in a small condo hold a fundraiser? I decided I'd invite women I knew, both Lesbian and not, to come at 5:00, 6:00, or 7:00 P.M. for a homemade lasagna supper, and they did! Worked like a charm. Women ate and chatted and when the next group arrived, the first group moved into my living room to continue their conversation. Four hundred and fifteen dollars was raised and sent in the next morning to OLOC for Puerto Rico—Marta. It was a great opportunity to tell other local Lesbians about OLOC, too, and the next Gathering in 2021 in Phoenix.

I have three pans of homemade lasagna in the freezer for any women who want to schedule supper with me to raise more funds.

*[Editor: The November E-News has other creative ideas if you don't like lasagna. Marta has mental disorders and continues to experience problems caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017. A video about her is at [oloc.org/2019-2/](http://oloc.org/2019-2/). OLOC members are helping her with expenses. Some of her support team were in Columbus, where they led a workshop that Mary Jean attended. To contribute to Marta or other Old Lesbians in Puerto Rico, please designate her name or "Puerto Rico" in the memo space of your check. Thank you, Mary Jean!]*

**A big thank you to Emily Greene, 1946,** who recently made a donation in memory of Jean Adele (left) and Nancy Breeze (right).



## More on Class (Follow-up from June Reporter)

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

I often hear women saying something about what they feel they deserve or have earned. *I earned my promotion; I deserve a raise; I deserve respect; I earned my doctorate; I deserve this vacation* are some of the things we hear. I often experience middle and upper class women asking for the sliding-scale rate as though they have a right to this consideration. To a working class or poor person, this is something that will separate us from the person asking. There is a feeling on my part that I did not earn something nor do I deserve something that you might have received.

I also have a feeling of "What if I had had that opportunity? Would I also be saying I had earned it?" Probably not. I would ascribe it to luck or good genes or something else to take away the personal validation of getting something.

Middle class and upper class people rarely give their success away to something other than their own ability. This validation of their own personhood is something taken for granted. There is no awareness of their position in society as the given in their success. Having a few rungs up on the ladder to success seems to be the natural order of things, which then allows earning and deservedness. As I see it, without this advance, you would not have achieved what you think you have earned or deserve.

Without this awareness, I don't see how class understanding will get any clearer. It never helps to be defensive about what you have been given. As in understanding racism, being defensive about being white never gets us anywhere.

### In the mail

Sally, I enjoyed your articles on class and language (June 2019 Reporter). And appreciation to entire staff.

From your fan, rainbow williams, 1934

## Response to "Honoring Native American Residents"

By Janine Baer, 1950

In response to Jan Griesinger's note on page 5 [September Reporter] about changing Columbus Day to a day that honors Native people, it is being done in many places, as is explained in Wikipedia's entry ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous\\_Peoples'\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_Peoples'_Day)) about "Indigenous Peoples' Day" which I copied in part below:

*Indigenous Peoples' Day was begun in 1989 in South Dakota, where Lynn Hart and Governor Mickelson backed a resolution to celebrate Native American Day on the second Monday of October, marking the beginning of the year of reconciliation in 1990. It was instituted in Berkeley, California, in 1992, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas. Two years later, Santa Cruz, California, instituted the holiday, and in the 2010s, various other cities and states took it up.*

*It is similar to Native American Day, observed in September in California and Tennessee....*

*In 1977, the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, sponsored by the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, began to discuss replacing Columbus Day in the United States with a celebration to be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day.*

Great minds think alike!

I live near Berkeley, California, which changed the name 27 years ago.

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### OLOC Mission Statement

To eliminate the oppression of ageism and to stand in solidarity against all oppressions.

### OLOC Vision Statement

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



## Chapter and Regional News

### New Mexico

By Susan Buchler, 1946

**AUGUST PROGRAM:** “The Writers among Us” featured Lesbian writers sharing their stories of how and when they began to write, what their writing means to them, and reading from their writings. Big thank you to Susan Turner, 1946, for organizing! Featured writers at the gathering were Joan Robins, 1947; Lhyv Oakwomon, 1943; Rebecca Dakota; Joyce Depow, 1941; Nat Burns, 1958; and Jean Barrett McGill. The writers informed us of a conference that happens every year—next year it will be in Albuquerque! Imagine 350 Lesbian writers under one roof! Save the date: July 8–12, 2020, [www.goldencrown.org](http://www.goldencrown.org).

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:** “Sex 2.0—Sexual Pleasure that Works NOW.” Presenter Molly Adler explained how bodies change, desires change, and relationship status changes. This discussion was about learning what our bodies need to feel good when exploring sensual pleasure solo or with partners. Tools and toys can help! Topics were solicited from the group: sensuality/sexuality and the health of the vulva as related to overall health and how sexuality changes frequently over our lives or years or months, and how responsiveness and desire differ from the general norm based on male experience.

**OCTOBER PROGRAM:** Ilse Biel from the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice returned to speak about what is happening with unhoused persons: the consequences of more persons and fewer places to relieve themselves, and the increased quantity of used needles in public places, which may be a result of no longer requiring the return of used needles. There were updates on a new mega-shelter, a tiny-home village, progress resulting from community clinics and behavioral health initiatives, a triage center as a safe place, and people living in cars. Ilse also discussed strategies for getting involved, such as preparing gift packs and providing input.

### Colorado OLOC Retreat a Big Success

By Katherine Wood, 1954

In early October, Colorado OLOC had our first annual retreat with 12 members attending. (We’ve already booked for next October.) We rented cabins at Town-N-Country in Manitou Springs, Colorado, which is a lovely spot in the foothills. We sat by the creek and celebrated Carol Weiser, 1939, on her 80th birthday, and Cindy Long, 1948, on her 71st birthday on Friday. We watched movies, played poker, enjoyed the passing wild turkeys, competed at Corn Hole, put together a puzzle, shared a ceremony with the rock Lepidolite, enjoyed the deer babies and their parents, and hiked. Also, some went downtown to drink from each of the famous springs and shop. We shared breakfast each morning and all had dinner together on Saturday night in a local restaurant (see photo). Mainly though, we talked. And talked. And talked. And reveled in the luxury of time to enjoy one another and deepen our friendships.

(To plan this retreat, our first step was to find a location that was at an altitude that worked for everyone and that could accommodate our group. We wanted something with common meeting spaces and where each person could be responsible for booking and paying individually, including deposits. Finally, we wanted a location where there were outside things to do.)



Colorado OLOCers sharing breakfast





## More Chapter and Regional News

### Radical Lesbian Croners Are Meeting with Young Dykes

By *Pacifica, 1941, and Joan Margaret, 1942*

Since last we wrote to OLOC publications a year ago, we have been organizing Old and young Lesbians in the San Francisco East Bay Area. While we've held Radical Lesbian Croners (RLC) community meetings mostly monthly, it was last summer that RLC joined energies with a separate Lesbian social club.

The new group is called By Invitation Only Sisters (BIOS) and is our principal activity at this time. RLC and the Lesbian social club have agreed to work and play in harmony with Lesbians of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. We agree that sex is not changeable. We create safe spaces for female-born Lesbians and we make decisions by consensus. We are building Lesbian community.

In early October, we saw the film by Debra Craig, *A Great Ride*—three views of Old Lesbians conspiring to live in community in Northern California. Author Sally Gearhart and political activist Brenda Crawford were two of the women featured.

We invite all women who value female-born, Lesbian-only space to join us. You can't buy your

way into this club; feminist criteria must be met to join. If your interest is in RLC, an OLOC chapter, contact us at [RadLezCroners@gmail.com](mailto:RadLezCroners@gmail.com). And if you want to join our potluck meetings of BIOS with Lesbians of all ages, send us your female address and phone number (at the address above) so we can contact you.



This photo was taken with our umbrella banner made by *Pacifica, 1941; Crosby, 1995; Joan, 1942; Ginger, 1969; and Kristi, 1967*. The clitoris is proudly displayed as our contribution to the Cliteracy Project, an underground art movement by artist Sophia Wallace; please see [projects.huffingtonpost.com/projects/cliteracy](https://projects.huffingtonpost.com/projects/cliteracy).

### Next Steering Committee Meeting

The next National Steering Committee in-person meeting will be April 15–18, 2020, in the Phoenix, Arizona area. The Committee also meets regularly by conference call between the semiannual in-person meetings. If there are topics you want the Steering Committee to address, contact them by email at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org), a note to OLOC at PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498, or a phone call to 888-706-7506. Be sure to say if you want a response.

To borrow films (documentaries, drama, activism, and comedy), music, audio, National Gathering presentations, and other herstorical videos of interest to Old Lesbians, contact Susan at [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org), phone 888-706-7506, or look at our website under OLOC PROJECTS: Media Library ([oloc.org/media-library/](http://oloc.org/media-library/)).

### OLOC Chapters

OLOC chapters and groups as of December 1, 2019, are Arizona (meeting in greater Phoenix); Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, California; San Francisco Bay Area, California; Radical Lesbian Croners (also Bay Area), California; Long Beach, California; Colorado; Washington, DC, Area; Boston Area, Massachusetts; Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Central Ohio; Rhode Island; Champlain Valley of Vermont and New York; and Puget Sound Area, Washington. Others are forming.

Want to start an OLOC chapter or group in your area? Contact [bonnie@oloc.org](mailto:bonnie@oloc.org) if you are east of the Mississippi and [ruth@oloc.org](mailto:ruth@oloc.org) if you are west of the Mississippi. See Steering Committee list in this issue for phone numbers.





## Update on Susan's Injury

OLOC's Administrator, Susan Wiseheart, 1941, fell on March 2 and broke her hip. She has had four surgeries and is well on her way to a full recovery. Here is an update in her own words:

*I went to see one member of my surgical team today [November 4] for my six-week check-up after surgery. The x-rays look great. He thinks I am doing very well. I am to add three or four more exercises specifically for the operated leg, ones I have not been asked to do before. I will continue the ones I have already been doing. I am to keep strengthening for six more weeks and then go back for another x-ray and possibly will be assigned a [physical] therapist at that point. I can try one or two steps if there are handrails.*

*And, I can begin driving, tomorrow if I want!!! I will try it out in small bursts around home to begin with and see if I can get in and out of my van okay and how it goes. Then I can begin lengthening the drives.*

*I can also now put full weight on the operated leg as long as the walker is close by to steady me if needed. So it was a very good visit. Everyone in the exam room was happy and excited for me. Hooray.*

If you want to communicate, Susan loves to receive cards and letters by USPS. The address is HC 73 Box 169C, Drury, MO 65638.

Get well soon, Susan!

OLOC works for change by supporting:

- comprehensive immigration reform
- elimination of violence against women
- enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- an end to corporate "personhood"
- an end to any curtailment of voting rights
- the Black Lives Matter movement
- the Say Her Name! movement
- the civil rights of all indigenous people

## PASSING

Pat Hight, 1947–2019, West Plains, Missouri

See the November E-News for more about this Lesbian.

## New OLOC Forum!

Were you in OLOC's Yahoo group? It was a great place to converse with other members. Because Yahoo is in the process of shutting down its groups, the forum has moved to groups.io. Everyone who has been in the Yahoo group is now in this new group, and if any other members of National OLOC with Internet access are interested, we encourage you to join the group.

Do you want to have discussions and share information with other Old Lesbians? Do you miss having a Lesbian and feminist community? Do you think communication is important within OLOC? If so, come and join us at the new and improved OLOC forum on [groups.io](https://groups.io)!!

To join groups.io you need an email address and a password. Once you have signed up, you can post messages and make changes to your personal settings. Your posts are delivered instantly via email or you can view them on the National OLOC groups.io website at [nationaloloc.groups.io/g/main](https://nationaloloc.groups.io/g/main). This is a private group for National OLOC members only and it is not on the public list of groups belonging to groups.io.

New members have to be approved, so contact Susan at [Susan@OLOC.org](mailto:Susan@OLOC.org) if you want to join. You can also check with her for any kind of help. If you plan to use a different email address from the one we have for you, please identify yourself to Susan so she knows who you are and can get you signed up.

OLOC extends HUGE THANKS to member Sandy Covahey, 1949, for not only paying the fee for us to have premium membership in groups.io so we could save our valued archives, but also for doing the HUGE AMOUNT OF WORK it took to move our forum over and keep us all connected. Thank you, Sandy!!!

See you in cyberspace!



## Good Stuff from Books I Am Reading

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

*For many, the final manifestation of medical racism is the postmortem display of African American bodies. Without their consent, stuffed, mummified, or skeletal black bodies have been displayed in doctor's offices, anatomy laboratories, museums, traveling sideshows, and even private businesses. Some libraries and physicians still possess books bound in the skins of African Americans, souvenirs that were typically bought from grave-robbers. Even in death, African Americans were bought and sold. From *Medical Apartheid* by Harriet A. Washington*

*Passionate knowledge can turn the fear of aging into the disdain of ageism. If a larger collective embraces resistance, then the harsher aspects of American decline ideology might not become more cruelly influential. From *Agewise: Fighting the New Ageism in America* by Margaret Morganroth Gullette*

*No, I'm not American. I'm one of 22 million Black people who are the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy. So I'm not standing here speaking to you as an American, or a patriot, or a flag-saluter, or a flag-waver—no, not I. I'm speaking as a victim of this American system. And I see America through the eyes of the victim. I don't see any American dream; I see an American nightmare. Malcolm X, quoted in *Civil Rights since 1787*, edited by Jonathan Birnbaum and Clarence Taylor*

Just read the Mary Morgan book again, *Mary's March: A Social Activist's Life from 1925 to the Digital Age*. She is a former OLOC member, not living now. This is a good quote from the book, said by Mother Jones: *I tell the women everywhere, 'no matter, no matter what your fight, don't be ladylike.' God Almighty made Women. It was the Rockefeller gang of thieves who made 'the ladies.'*

## An Old Australian Lesbian Negotiates Paris

By Jean Taylor, 1944

The day after the OLOC Gathering finished in Columbus—and what an inspiring Gathering it was—I flew to Paris for a self-funded writer's retreat on my own, something I have been wanting to do for quite awhile, with the clear realisation if I didn't do it now that I've turned 75, I might not get round to doing it at all, heaven forbid. I was fortunate to be able to rent a small flat from a friend of a friend in the 18th arrondissement. Part of my settling in was to get to know the immediate neighbourhood on foot and to work out where I could buy food to cook in the evening and have lunch and afternoon tea at the local cafés and bars, as well as croissants and camembert at home.



This is proving to be a marvellous and productive experience. I am working on the two books I brought away with me to rewrite and have been correcting the manuscript of a third, which is in the pipeline to be published and launched by the end of the year: *What Are Dykes Doing: Collected Non-Fiction*.

I've been to Paris before but this time it's quite different. While I've been able to write a great deal and have enjoyed eating crème brûlée at a cafe at the Bar on the corner as well as negotiating the Metro which takes me further afield to Montmartre, for example, it's a more introspective and contemplative time, which I feel fortunate to be experiencing, and wouldn't have missed for the world.

###

*I've always thought that there was nothing smarter than an old woman ... they have some remarkable quality that no other people have.*

Berenice Abbott, photographer

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To join us in promoting the well-being of all Old Lesbians, send us this form. If you are an Old Lesbian, let us know and you will be considered a member as well as a supporter. This form makes you active for one year. Each form is valid for one person. For couples, send a form for each. If you need a second copy, write to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org), call 888-706-7506, or download one from the page at [oloc.org/join-support/](http://oloc.org/join-support/). Although we rely on your financial support, if you can't send money now, you can still be a supporter and, if eligible, a member.

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