



An International  
Community of  
Lesbian Elders

# The Reporter

A quarterly publication of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:  
An International Community of Lesbian Elders

JUNE 2022

Vol 32 #2

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## The Tempe Gathering has been cancelled.

*See page 3 for more information.*

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### We Will Miss You, María

From the Steering Committee

We are very sad to say María Cora, 1953, Co-Director of OLOC's National Steering Committee, has announced that, for her health and well-being, she will be withdrawing from all her committee work with OLOC.

María had taken on many responsibilities which included leading the DEI (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.



**Susan (not on the SC) 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 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.

I very much appreciated her input and advice about so much else OLOC is up to. I, too, will miss her presence, 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.

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*The mission of OLOC is to eliminate the oppression of ageism and to stand in solidarity  
against all oppressions.*

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**Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:**

An International Community of Lesbian Elders

PO BOX 100129 • Cranston, RI 02910  
Phone: 888-706-7506 (toll-free)

EMAIL: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)  
[www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)

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We have English and Spanish editions of the E-News and *Reporter* in both our electronic and print formats. If you receive print, right now we assume English. If you prefer Spanish or want one of each, let us know by phoning 888-706-7506 (toll-free) or emailing [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

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This newsletter is brought to you by:

Editor: Sheryl, 1954.

Content review: Sally Tatnall, 1937; and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Spanish Proofreader and Copy-editor: María Cora, 1953, and Papusa Molina, 1951 (guest).

English Proofreader and Copy-editor: Nancy Krody, 1939.

Design/Layout: Connie Rose, 1948.

All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2022.

Limit contributions to 300 words.

Memorial announcements only: send in name, birth and death years, and location of the Lesbian who died. See E-News for life stories.

We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to [reporter@oloc.org](mailto:reporter@oloc.org) or PO Box 100129, Cranston, RI 02910.

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.

**Who We Are:** OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians and our supporters. 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's Steering Committee welcomes feedback and suggestions from affiliates (formerly called members) by way of mail, phone, or email. Please let us know if you would like a response.

### Steering Committee Meetings

The National Steering Committee is meeting regularly by Zoom—most often on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. ET. If there are topics you want the Committee to address, contact the Steering Committee by email at [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org); a note to the PO Box in Cranston, Rhode Island; or a phone call to 888-706-7506 (toll-free). Be sure to say if you want a response.

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](mailto:info@oloc.org) before or after the meeting.

Meeting dates and times will be made available to affiliates upon request.

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### WE'RE TAKING NAMES!

In an attempt to expand the distribution of our *Reporter* and E-News, and visitors to our website, OLOC would love your help in spreading the word to all LGBTQ organizations. Please send your list to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

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*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.*

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*OLOC is supported in part by grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and Theresa Corrigan's Feminist Lioness Fund.*

# News from OLOC

## The National Gathering Has Been Cancelled

It is with great pain that we are cancelling this year's National Gathering. The Steering Committee has heard from many that they will not be coming 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.

## Thank You, Nancy!

OLOC wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Volunteer Extraordinaire Nancy Krody, 1939. Nancy has been proofreading the *Reporter* since March 2009, missing only one issue (and she had a pretty good excuse that time). That makes this one 53 issues! Your editor is especially grateful for Nancy's contributions to our newsletter, making sure we get all the little punctuation thingies right and checking grammar, catching those pesky little dangling participles. Thank you, Nancy, for your steadfast commitment to the *Reporter*, being so reliable, and making us better. We salute you!



## Announcement from the Steering Committee

By Sally Tatnall, 1937, OLOC Co-Director

Although OLOC legally is classified as a 501(c)(3) [nonprofit organization], it is technically not a membership organization. "Members" would have to meet regularly to make decisions for the organization. Instead, the OLOC Board of Directors delegates that to the Steering Committee. To be truthfully consistent, OLOC is changing the word "member" to "affiliate" to designate those in our organization who are Lesbians 55 and older. All others who help sustain OLOC through their donations and other forms of assistance are "supporters."

In the past, we have used "supporter," "member," and "supporter/member." *Member* gives an incorrect impression about the rights and responsibilities of affiliates of OLOC. When we use the word *member*, it repeatedly causes confusion. We decided instead to go with the English word closest to the best one in Spanish and that is *affiliate*. Partly it is because *miembra* is usually used to mean *penis* in Spanish (and less often in English). As Lesbians, we did not like that. We chose *affiliate*, which has many meanings. Some of them are: "join forces with," "be in league with," "ally with," "join up with," "align with," "unify with," and "belong with."



To find OLOC on Facebook, go to

[www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC](http://www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC)

amazon smile

Designate OLOC on Amazon Smile to donate a portion of your purchases.



The *Reporter* is available both electronically (PDF) and in print. To switch or add formats, please email [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org); write to OLOC at PO Box 100129, Cranston, RI 02910; or phone 888-706-7506 (toll-free).

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

An International Community of Lesbian Elders



# More News from OLOC

## Steering Committee All Together at Last!

By María Cora, 1953

The latest meeting of the OLOC Steering Committee took place in person at the Tempe, Arizona, Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center, April 27–May 1. This Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel [was to] be the location of the upcoming National Gathering, October



L to R: Alí, Michiko, María, and Sally hard at work

26-30. In attendance were Steering Committee members Michiko Bailey, 1953; María Cora, Alí Marrero, 1948; and Sally Tatnall, 1937; guest Sylvia Calzada, 1953, as photographer; and by Zoom, notetaker Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Outside, the Palo Verde trees were dropping their yellow blossoms everywhere, and every day it was 94 degrees in the daytime. We met in an indoor air-conditioned conference room to do our work every day from 9:30 A.M.–4:00 P.M. We started sharing some of our personal stories to get to know each other better. Our agenda was long as we juggled all things OLOC. This included challenges of the .io discussion group, the change from using “members” to “affiliates,” the updating of our mission/vision statements, logistics of maintaining an updated website, our strategic plan and the formation of committees, and discussion about expanding and revising orientation for new members of the Steering Committee.

We attended the Rainbows Festival one afternoon and did Gathering outreach. [Editor: the rest of the meeting was devoted to planning the now-cancelled Gathering.]

## Changes to Keep OLOC Running Smoothly

By Mev, 1955, OLOC Support Coordinator

Your electronics have circuitry that works in the background to make devices run efficiently. You don’t know exactly what’s back there, or need to know how it works; you’re just happy your TV, computer, phone, washing machine, coffeemaker, etc., run smoothly. You push the buttons according to your needs, and the device takes care of the rest. But every now and again, you need to adjust or upgrade the system to better serve your changing needs.

OLOC works the same way. There are many volunteers back here operating many different programs to serve the needs of OLOC affiliates (formerly called members) and supporters. One of the most critical systems involves our database, used to receive and track donations and maintain mailing lists, registrations for both Zoom events and Gatherings, dates for birthday cards, and more.

Our database needs an upgrade. We are currently working to make that happen. The goals include better management of our data, reducing our workload, and making it easier for everyone to join, renew, or donate, and receive information more reliably.

As this goes on, you will notice changes in the website. More functions will be handled electronically. Forms will be easier to complete. Registration for events will be more accurate. You will still be able to send and receive print versions of certain items. Some items/choices will be changed or expanded, with links to take you to exactly what you want to do.

It will take us a little extra time to make these changes into Spanish.



**Affiliates (formerly known as members): Are you in National OLOC’s online forum? It is a great place to have discussions with other affiliates.**

***To subscribe, go to***  
**<https://groups.io/g/nationalOLOC>.**

**If you have any problems, contact**  
**[susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org).**

## Remembering Alix on the first anniversary of her leaving us (May 19)

### **Sharon Raphael, 1941:**

I have a memory of visiting New York City with Mina [Meyer, 1940–2016], my deceased spouse, in the 1990s or early 2000s, and being shown around certain places in the City by Alix. She described how each section of New York City was like a village unto itself, with its own character and lifestyle that its residents lived. She seemed very proud of her native town, though she lived elsewhere for chunks of her life. I felt special that Alix took the time to share her love of her special place with us. My own parents were from there, and so it meant a lot to me. Alix's pioneering "proud to be a Lesbian" music was exciting to me as I was beginning my own search for Lesbian identity. Most of us starting that journey or already there basked in her folksy renditions of women-loving-women songs and musical entertainment. I was more than a fan. We will never forget Alix. She is in our hearts.

### **Reeni Goldin, 1948:**

She had a huge impact on so many women and is missed and remembered. Alix had the love and the clarity of mind to use "XX Alix" back in the 1970s! What a pioneer!

### **Rena Grasso, 1944:**

Alix played an iconic part in the Lesbian feminist movement. She was the artist activist; her music expressed and created the radical feminist ideas, feelings, and values of a movement, turning lesstigma to Lesbian pride, victimization to rebellion and assertion, woman-hating to women-loving.

Her concerts were theatres of resistance, loci of change. She demanded all-women's space, realizing that such rituals bonded and strengthened our collective selves.

Even as the dark clouds of backlash weighed

[Editor: check out <https://oloc.org/remembering-alix-dobkin/> for photos and videos of Alix.]



*Alix at Woodstock Women's March 2018*

upon us, in 1999, Alix graciously agreed to perform at my women's studies class in Washington State. The students were overwhelmingly from Christian fundamentalist backgrounds; yet Alix's talent, her charismatic presence, and joyfully assertive woman- and Lesbian-loving music won them over and assisted this word-ridden professor to get across that the "woman in (their) life is (them)," that "women's love makes the world go round," and that Lesbians can indeed be lovable.

### **Christine Pattee, 1941:**

A decade ago, Alix and I were at Silver Threads North in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, a summer resort and retirement area sometimes called "Provincetown on the Mid-Atlantic Coast," though with fewer LGBTQ folks and a much bigger population of retirees. Having lunch at one of the boardwalk cafés, a young, metrosexual [a fashionable, typically urban, heterosexual man interested in his personal appearance to a degree traditionally associated with women or gay men] male waiter said to us, in a cheery, professional voice, "And what can I get for you, young ladies?" Alix and I looked at each other and could only burst into laughter.

When he looked confused, we explained that in contrast to his usual customer base of white-haired old ladies who expected that greeting, he was now serving two Old Lesbians who were proud of their age. We agreed he was in a no-win situation, had a lovely meal, and left him a good tip.

### **Bonnie Wagner, 1942**

Alix and I (in picture) were very close friends. We went to demonstrations, movies, events, and concerts together all the time. We traveled to Steering Committee meetings and processed the outcomes on a regular basis. We knew each other's families, and our children were friends. Whenever Retts would go out of town, she would request that Alix check in on me. We would talk every day. As of this writing (early May), Retts is in California [we live in New York], and I miss the daily check-ins with Alix. Although we all love her music, her Head Lesbian status, and her opinions on politics, feminism, and Lesbianism, to me, I miss and love my friend.



# National Zoom and End White Dominance Events

## National Zoom Events

OLOC's Zoom Crew and End White Dominance Planning Committee have both been developing many exciting events to keep us all connected during the pandemic and beyond. The Zoom Crew is organizing and implementing three types of events: large group panels/presentations, support/discussion groups, and open house informal get-togethers. The End White Dominance Planning Committee is coordinating and facilitating a monthly series of events designed to further educate OLOC affiliates (formerly called members) and supporters about systemic racism and what we can do to interrupt it.



## Coming events include:

Terry Baum New Book Party!

Wednesday, June 22, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Intersectionality 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

## Open Houses

Pride Month! Coming Out Stories!

Monday, June 6, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET

## Ongoing groups include:

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

Check out our website at <https://oloc.org/zoom-schedule/>.

You can see videos of the past Zoom Crew events, with resources such as reading lists, transcripts, and viewer reports, at

<https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2022/>  
<https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2021/> and  
<https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2020/>.

End White Dominance past events will be posted soon.

If you would like to receive notices about OLOC Zoom Crew events (including registration information), send an email to [mev@oloc.org](mailto:mev@oloc.org) with the subject heading “Zoom events” and message body “Please add me to the Zoom event email notifications.”

If you have any questions, please contact [zoom@OLOC-Chapters.groups.io](mailto:zoom@OLOC-Chapters.groups.io) (National Zoom events) or [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) (End White Dominance programs).

## We Get Mail!

By Becky Thacker, 1948

I saw with sadness that Charoula Dontopoulos, 1940–2021, has died [March 2022 Passings]. We're very sorry to hear about that.

We met her when she advertised her villa on the island of Aegina, Greece, for rent in *Lesbian Connection*. We stayed there a couple of times and were charmed by the goddess paradise she had set up in that little house, which she dubbed Moon Rock. A great selection of books and goddess-



themed art was scattered throughout the house, and an enormous ancient olive tree stood sentinel at the top of the winding driveway.

I see that she had been living in Ohio when she died; we thought she'd planned to retire to Moon Rock. I hope she managed to spend at least some of her retirement years at that magical place she had created.

Thanks for sharing the information, sad though it is.





# Thank you, Elana and Charlene!

Earlier this spring, OLOC received two memorial gifts to support our work.

Elana Dykewomon, 1949 (right in photo), donated to OLOC in memory of Susan Levinkind, 1942–2016 (left in photo), a/k/a Lesbian Tax Mom, her partner of 27 years. Susan was a long-time affiliate (formerly called member) of OLOC and the San Francisco Bay Area chapter, briefly a member of the National Steering Committee, and active in the planning and execution of the 2014 Gathering in Oakland.

Charlene Shur contributed “in memory of Alix Dobkin, 1940–2021, and honoring the entire scope of her life, her work, her music, and her activism. ‘May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.’”

Thank you, Elana and Charlene, for your wonderful support! We are so pleased that you have chosen to honor Susan and Alix, respectively, by supporting OLOC, which is one of very few organizations **in the world** dedicated exclusively to the needs of Old Lesbians.

If you would like to designate a gift to OLOC in honor or memory of someone special (two-legged or four-legged), or for any of our activities (the



Photo by Jane Tyska

Gathering, outreach, chapter development, the Martin–Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award, the newsletters, Media Library purchase, or any other) go to <https://oloc.charityproud.org/Donate>. (Toward the bottom of the form, you will see options for honorary and memorial gifts. All donations to OLOC made by credit card via the Internet are sent through a secure encrypted processor. OLOC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

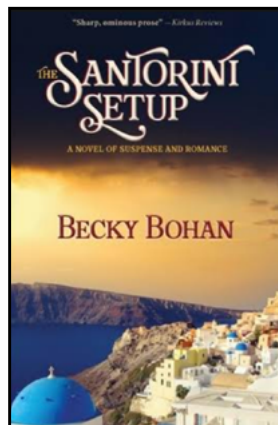
*Thank you so much for supporting OLOC with your donations.  
Your contributions make a significant difference in our  
ability to carry out our work, which benefits all Old Lesbians,  
us here now and those yet to come!*

## Two Wonderful New Books

By Peg Cruikshank, 1940

*The Santorini Setup*  
by OLOC affiliate  
Becky Bohan, 1952.

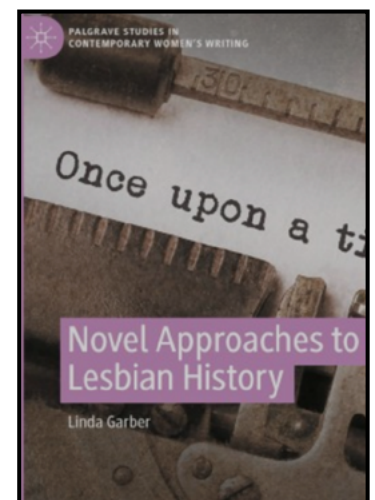
Mystery and romance  
from Nanbec Books.



• *Novel Approaches to Lesbian History*  
• by Linda Garber  
• is about Lesbian  
• historical novels  
• (Palgrave Macmillan).

• Next fall the paperback  
• will be \$35.

• If you cannot wait, the  
• hard cover is \$104.



# Affiliate (formerly known as member) News

## Watching Our “We”

By Susan Wiseheart, 1941

I have often heard white Lesbians (mostly) and (sometimes) Lesbians of Color do something that I wish we all would stop doing.

We use the word “we” without being clear who “we” is.

Most often it is white Lesbians who use it to mean other white Lesbians, not all Lesbians. This is part and parcel of the racism that makes Lesbians of Color invisible. It is based on an underlying assumption that our audience is all white. Mostly it is unconscious. Let us white Lesbians bring it to consciousness, stop doing it, and challenge other white people when they do it.

It continues to promote the systemic, underlying, ubiquitous, ongoing, relentless racism in the US and on Earth. It makes invisible all of the many Lesbians of Color in OLOC and elsewhere. OLOC is not and has never been an only-white group. Saying



*Some of who “we” are,  
Tampa, Florida, 2017*

“we” with the underlying implication of whiteness is not only incorrect when talking about OLOCians, it is egregious.

Occasionally, I hear Lesbians of Color in OLOC saying “we” without being clear who they mean by it. Is it only other Lesbians of Color or Lesbians of their own particular group or all of us? If it is confusing, it contributes to assumptions.

Clarity is a key point here. Who is the “we”? Say it. If you mean “we” white Lesbians or “we” Lesbians of Color or “we” all Old Lesbians, or whatever you mean, make it clear. Do not unconsciously assume you are talking or writing to only to one group when addressing two or more.

And let us pay attention to those who speak and write elsewhere, then point it out to them if it happens. I would consider that antiracist action.

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## Be an Artist

By Janis Sommers, 1951

On the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 P.M. ET is an OLOC Artist and Writers Zoom Group. I attended last week [week of March 14]. It was such a comfortable environment. The base rule is “Just be nice.” At least, that’s how I say it. Clove Haviva, 1960, facilitates and is the Zoom Administrator. She does a good job.

I am a self-identified artist and writer with little-to-no formal training in either, although I’ve been doing these two things all of my life. It was my partner who told me I was an artist. She encouraged me to make my art the way I wanted to make it, and to follow my intuition, to write my truth. Getting past the stigma I placed on myself—the “untrained” stigma—is, again, a struggle now that my partner has died.

I showed a few pieces of my work from “The Mermaids I Have Known Series, 2010–2017.” I read a piece I have not completed because my identity was taken when she left on the gurney through our front door for the crematorium a year ago this February and I don’t know what I have to say next.

What I am getting at is that when I went to this OLOC Zoom Group for the Arts, I saw an opportunity to explore the new personal ecosystem that is my emerging life. The group is open to a few more women who want expression through making and sharing their art and writing. Contact Clove Haviva at [clove.haviva@bastyr.edu](mailto:clove.haviva@bastyr.edu).



# Chapter News

## New Mexico Chapter

By Susan Buchler, 1946

**February:** In this program, we worked on creating personal stories. The idea was to come up with our own short story about some aspect of our own life. Paper and pencils were passed out with some suggested questions, and we split into small groups to discuss. Then each member reported to the whole group what she learned and how she responded to others' ideas. From there, we all agreed to write our short stories. So as to make it possible to read them at a future meeting, a limit of five minutes per story was suggested. Story ideas can be as different as the participants.

**March:** This program was presented by Dr. Cara Ninivaggio (pictured), a board-certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery who practices at the University of New Mexico (UNM). She is a Lesbian who studies urogynecology, focusing on the pelvic floor.



Dr. Ninivaggio shared information about a nationwide study: Pelvic Floor Disorders among Sexual Minoritized Women. The objective of this research is to perform a qualitative study regarding the impact of pelvic floor disorders (PFDs) on sexual function in women who have sex with women. We were offered the possibility of joining the study.

**April:** We were to have had a presentation about Valle de Oro, a 540-acre National Wildlife Refuge within the Albuquerque city limits that was to open in May. Due to internet problems, this part of our program was cancelled, but we talked about the possibility of going on a field trip there. We plan to learn about the Backyard Refuge Program and creating habitat for wildlife and pollinators within our own back yards. We shared some of our experiences with wildlife—birds in particular—and everyone had stories to tell.

## Colorado Chapter

By Katherine Wood, 1954

OLOC in Colorado has voted to remain on Zoom for now. Our April program was given by a former FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] employee who talked to us about preparing for emergencies, particularly fire and flood. We talked about what to put in a to-go bag, as several of us were evacuated by the Marshall Fire and the recent NCAR fire. Several years ago, the Boulder flood impacted many of us. There was a lot of interest in procedures, and perhaps the program was a little late.

We begin each monthly meeting with a personal check-in with each member, followed by a program and discussion. We decided that as long as the program is informative and we learn from it, we are interested. A list of topics was brainstormed for meetings through the summer months. We are going to vote at each meeting to determine if the next meeting will be live or virtual.

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*OLOC Chapters as of June 1, 2022, are Arizona (meeting in greater Phoenix); Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, California; San Francisco Bay Area, California; Colorado; WMass, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Central Ohio; Rhode Island; Vermont; Puget Sound Area, Washington; and Tri-State (West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky).*



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[www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)

## Rhode Island Chapter • Keepin' On

By Mev Miller, 1955

As we continue to meet via Zoom, we look forward to summer months when we might actually get to meet in person!

In March, we entertained ourselves with an adapted version of “Dictionary.” Our word was simply DYKE—and (without Googling)—each member wrote her version of the origin of the word DYKE and/or what it meant. They were emailed to Mev, who read them out and we each voted on the “true” origination.

Some definitions were quite simple: “This was 1940s code so that Lesbians could find each other by asking ‘Do You Know Eleanor?’ (words starting with D-Y-K-E),” the female equivalent of “Are you a friend of Dorothy?” for gay men to find each other.

One member offered an elaborate story involving Mona Dyke in Holland and solutions to holding back

the sea (as failed by the King of England). “Mona Dyke realized that there was a better way than merely sitting on a throne at low tide and ‘commanding’ the sea to turn away. She and her team of engineers set about building seawalls, which proved to be a great success. Henceforth, these walls ... would be known as DYKES. Furthermore, in honor of all the women whom she loved, Mona named women who loved women DYKES.”

Someone offered an adapted version of Merriam Webster—a barrier constructed to contain a flow of water or keep out the sea—or a woman constructed to contain the flow of love for another woman. We finally settled on Judy Grahn’s longer version from *Another Mother Tongue*, page 47 (see next issue for more). Recently, we’ve been working on additional strategies for increasing the visibility of and participation in OLOC Rhode Island. We’re a work in progress!

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Want to start an OLOC Chapter in your area? Contact [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) for information.

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## And the Winner Is ... !

OLOC is proud to announce that Elana Dykewomon, 1949, has been selected as the 2022 recipient of the Del Martin-Phyllis Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award.

Here are just a few things that Jewelle Gomez, 1948, said in her nomination:

At age 24, following the publication of her first novel, *Riverfinger Women*, she changed her name to Dykewomon to serve as a beacon to all who would need to find their way. Her groundbreaking novel, which related the reality of life for Lesbians in the 1960s and 1970s, was given (among others) the Lee Lynch Classic Award by the Golden Crown Literary Society in 2018.

Elana’s other highly lauded novel, *Beyond the Pale*, presents a complex and proud story of Jewish immigrants and Lesbians in an even earlier part of the 20th Century. As the Jewish Book Council wrote, “The book is both epic and intimate.” It’s



Photo by Jane Tyska

an unforgettable narrative that is deeply imbedded in Lesbian (American) history.

All of her writing—poetry, fiction, and essays—expertly explores the significance of Lesbian life. Elana has published innumerable significant essays in journals including *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives*, *Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Women’s Anthology*, and *This Bridge We Call Home*.

Her community activism over the past three decades has been soft-spoken (as she is) and relentless (as she is). From 1987 to 1995, she edited *Sinister Wisdom*, the international Lesbian/feminist journal of literature, art, and politics. Her support of Lesbian projects has been tireless and [includes the] Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project and the Bay Area Lesbian Archives. She also served [as a key planner] on the committee which organized the 2014 OLOC National Gathering in Oakland.

**Congratulations, Elana! We are honored to call you one of our own.**

**Thank you for everything you do for Old Lesbians.**

## OLOC 2021 Year-End Financial Statement

### Income

Contributions	\$85,943.02
Unrealized gain/loss on investments	6,540.35
Chapter dues	905.00
Investments	0.67
Other	912.00

**Total Income** **\$94,301.04**

### Expenses

Administrative Coordinator	\$10,502.80
Advertising and promotion	894.55
Bank service charges	744.83
Contract services	4,539.39
E-News Admin	7,077.10
E-News Spanish	956.50
Education	22,732.49
Fundraising	225.00
Media Library	219.85
Miscellaneous	80.92
Office supplies	74.96
Operations	959.40
Postage and delivery	988.72
Queer Women of Color Film Festival	5,000.00
Steering Committee	13,152.88
Strategic planning	7,000.00
Zoom meetings	1,468.19
Other	2,332.00

**Total Expenses** **\$78,787.74**

**Net Income** **\$15,513.30**

### Where is the Supporter Form?

In order to provide you with more exciting articles, reviews, stories, and news, the supporter form is no longer included inside the Reporter.

If you want forms and are a Lesbian in your 55th year or older, you can:

- Go to <https://oloc.charityproud.org/Membership/Signup>, complete the form, and pay (if sending money)
- Download the form in PDF (to print and mail) at <https://oloc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FORM-Affiliate-5-16-22-EN.pdf> (English) or <https://oloc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FORM-Afiliada-5-16-22-SP.pdf> (Spanish)

Otherwise, please contact us directly:

- Email: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) • Toll-free phone number (888-706-7506)
- Write us at our PO Box

To make a supporter (general) donation to OLOC, please use the Donate button on our website ([www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)) or go directly to <https://oloc.charityproud.org/Donate>

However you get the form, fill it out and send it back to us either electronically or in print.

**That's all there is to it!**

## Attention Sonoma County, California, Lesbians, Past or Present

There is a new Sonoma County Lesbian Facebook group. This group is specifically for women who were part of the lively and engaged Sonoma County Lesbian community—regardless of your identity today—from the 1960s through the 1990s. To join, go to [SoCo Lesbian Reunion Facebook](#), answer a few questions (current partners welcome), and hopefully upload a few pictures or memories from the old days. Please forward this link to others. If you do not use Facebook but would like to attend the virtual and real events, please contact Tina at [Lezarchsc@gmail.com](mailto:Lezarchsc@gmail.com).

## Passings

Kaye Smith, 1935–2022, St. Louis, Missouri  
 Marge Chockley, 1941–2022, St. Louis, Missouri  
 Peggy Luhrs, 1945–2022, Burlington, Vermont  
 Joan Margaret, 1942–2022, Berkeley, California  
 Sue Parker (Rainbow) Williams, 1934–2022, St. Augustine, Florida  
 Pan Haskins, 1949–2021, Oakland, California  
 Nan Worthing, 1938–2021, Athens, Ohio  
 Urvashi Vaid, 1958–2022, New York, New York

See the E-News for more about these Lesbians.



**OLOC**

**PO BOX 100129**

**Cranston, RI 02910**



*SEE INSIDE PAGE 3*