

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

The Reporter

A quarterly
publication of OLOC

March 2016

Vol 26 #1

OLOC: Gathering Across Differences

By Charlene Ball, 1943

The tenth OLOC National Gathering will take place October 5–9, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia. National OLOC will partner with ZAMI NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging) and the recently formed Atlanta chapter of OLOC to produce the Gathering, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Airport North. Registrants for this Gathering only must be Lesbians age 40 or over, and one workshop track will be restricted to Lesbians who are 60 or over. (See article on workshop proposals, p. 5.)

The theme of the Gathering this year is “Gathering Across Differences: Lesbians in the South Take the Lead,” and our four areas of focus are “Organizing, Expanding, Listening, Transforming.” Our keynoters, special features, and other specifics of the program are being worked out, and we will let you know about them just as soon as we complete the process.

What’s Class Got To Do With It?

By Dorothy Emerson, 1943

I’ve been aware of class practically all my life, mostly because at age seven my family moved to the edge of an upwardly-mobile suburban community that gave me advantages, despite the fact that my family’s class status didn’t change much. Thanks to scholarships to Pomona College and later to Harvard Divinity School, I’ve had an elite education, but I’ve never made it beyond the lower end of the professional middle class economically, although I have upper middle-class status educationally. For the past three years I’ve had the opportunity to address class issues directly by facilitating Unitarian Universalist Class Conversations.



April 2015 Atlanta. See you in October 2016?

I applaud OLOC’s decision to address class. I believe that dealing with class in ways that honor everyone’s class backgrounds and perspectives is essential if we are to be effective in creating a world where peace and justice are possible for everyone.

Following is a quotation by Felice Yeskel:

Class is the last great taboo in the United States. . . Even in this period of growing economic inequality, we hardly ever talk about class.

Sometimes I think of class as our collective, national family secret. And, as any therapist will tell you, family secrets are problematic. . . Most of us believe that the United States is a classless society. . . We have been taught from childhood myths and misconceptions around class mobility and the American dream.

Many of us are confused about class and don’t tend to think about it as consciously as we might our race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age or sexual orientation. Nonetheless, our class identity has a huge impact on every aspect of our lives from parenting style to how we speak, from what we dare to dream to the likelihood we will spend time in prison, from how we spend our days to how many days we have.

~ Felice Yeskel in *Class Lives*

The OLOC Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

- ♦ www.oloc.org; e-mail: info@oloc.org
- ♦ PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701; 888-706-7506

This Newsletter Brought to You By:

Co-Editors: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Proofreader and copy-editor: Nancy Krody, 1939. Content review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, Jan Griesinger, 1942, and Sally Tatnall, 1937. Design/layout: Malinda McCain, 1940. The mailing crew and all of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue: May 1, 2016.

Limit submissions to 300 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC at info@oloc.org or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.

Current Steering Committee Members Contact List

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

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 Mission: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award

Created to honor Del Martin—activist, pathfinder, and OLOC member who died at age 87 on August 27, 2009, in San Francisco, the city of her birth—the \$1,000 Award will be presented to a Lesbian 70 years or older whose life and work have impacted and will continue to impact the lives of Old Lesbians.

Del was out, proud, and unapologetic when few were. She and her lifetime partner, Phyllis Lyon, forged an enduring image that continues to inspire generations of Lesbians around the globe.

Guidelines:

- Nominations not to exceed 500 words, describing the outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements of the nominee, should be sent by e-mail by April 15, 2016, to info@oloc.org or to OLOC's Ohio mailing address. Nominations must be postmarked by April 15, 2016, if sent by regular mail.
- The Award will be given to an Old Lesbian over the age of 70 at OLOC's tenth National Gathering to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, October 5–9, 2016.
- Nominations are worldwide and for an Old Lesbian in any field of endeavor.
- Nominee's life and work must impact the lives of Old Lesbians.
- Nominees must be alive at the time of nomination.

OLOC News

OLOC wants to thank two non-Old Lesbians who spent several hours stuffing OLOC's December fund-raising letter: Heather Conner and Janeen Martin. Thank you, Heather and Janeen!

Lesbian Connection reported in its January/February 2016 issue that there was a New York City Dyke March last June. It said, "Edie Windsor participated and her presence there created a warm feeling despite the unrelenting rain." Edie is a long-time OLOC member, age 86.

New Book Published by OLOC Member

Carol Anne Douglas has published *Lancelot: Her Story*, a novel in which Lancelot is a woman disguised as a man. Guinevere is a Lesbian whose father required her to marry. The book shows how women negotiate a degree of autonomy under patriarchy. It also has an anti-war theme. It is available in both electronic and print form. Contact your favorite bookstore or the publisher Hermione at hermionebooks.weebly.com/.



Chapter News

Champlain Region (Vermont and New York) OLOC Chapter

By Louise Brill, 1946

We are excited about going to the National Gathering in Atlanta in October, especially since some of us went to the last two National Gatherings where we had a really good time and learned a lot.

Christine Pattee came for a visit and has now interviewed four of us and one other local Lesbian for the Old Lesbians Oral Herstory Project.

The check-ins we do first at every meeting continue to be critical for our ongoing connection with each other and for creating and nurturing our sense of community. Finding out about each other's political and social goals, no matter how much time it takes, is the foundation for all the other things we do.

Two of our members went to the Boston Climate March, one dressed as a Concerned Carrot for the Climate. Others participated in Black Lives Matter events and an anti-Trump demonstration and saw great signs there: "Bovines Against Blowviators" (it is a word in the dictionary and means a big blowhard); "Don't Give In To The Fear, Muslims (Refugees) are Welcome Here"; "New Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor: Dump Trump." A restaurant offered a new sandwich for \$20.16: "lots of baloney on white bread." No one was buying it, literally.

Hudson Valley (New York) Chapter

By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

We will have our first event of 2016 on Sunday, April 10, at the LGBTQ Center of the Hudson Valley. We plan to show *Acting Our Age* (with free popcorn and soft drinks) followed by a Spring tea dance with DJ Retts.

We are looking forward to having a very productive year by getting all our members to join National OLOC and to attend the Gathering in October in Atlanta. One item on our agenda is to organize a Lesbian archive at our Center. This would be a wonderful project for our members.

New Mexico Chapter

By Jay Daza, 1948

Our chapter has continued to support and participate in the Department of Justice Advocates and Stakeholder program (see "Update" by Maria Bautista).

Our financial support of Casa Q continues, including the second donation of a three-year commitment for this homeless shelter for LGBT teenagers. Additionally, we continue to interview 70+-year-old Lesbians for the Herstory Project. Plans have also begun to renew last year's effort to have OLOC volunteers provide outreach and social interaction with Lesbians in Albuquerque nursing homes.

We also had the pleasure of co-sponsoring, with National OLOC, an Alix Dobkin concert in Albuquerque that had a great turnout, including a strong contingent of Old Lesbians from Santa Fe.

New activities that the chapter has begun include: an outreach program to other cities in New Mexico to increase membership and, more importantly, provide support to older Lesbians outside the Albuquerque metro area; a monthly Games Afternoon; and a monthly Movie Discussion Group.

A new community-based project is also in its early planning stage, utilizing the Project Visibility materials (first developed 12 years ago and updated in 2010) by the Boulder Area Agency on Aging in conjunction with the Northern Colorado OLOC chapter. Project Visibility provides training to nursing home caregivers around issues of cultural sensitivity related to LGBT patients.

Finally, we are investigating uses of technology to enhance communication and to provide more opportunities for participation in community and social events.



OLOC is a Wolfe Video affiliate. Use this link to order from Wolfe, and OLOC will receive cash to support our work:
wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344

Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.



Update on New Mexico OLOC and Albuquerque Police Department

By Maria Bautista, 1947

In April 2014 the US Department of Justice found that the Albuquerque Police Department had a pattern and culture of using excessive force, unconstitutional policing, and civil rights violations. For the first time in the history of the Department of Justice, community forums were organized. New Mexico OLOC member Maria Bautista was asked to facilitate the forums with help from Nyira Gitana and Ann Nihlen, also New Mexico OLOC members.

New Mexico OLOC, as part of a larger coalition, filed an Amicus Brief (Friend of the Court) to bring to the judge's attention the disparities that were left out, and argued for their inclusion. Maria Bautista and Nyira Gitana volunteered as community outreach coordinators and scheduled Round Tables so that the monitor, James Ginger, PhD, could meet with smaller groups.

Puget Sound (Washington) Chapter

By Kathy Prezbindowski, 1943; Gloria Stanchich, 1935; Ellen Kritzman, 1937; Aganita Varkentine, 1940; and Deirdre Knowles, 1947

At our Puget Sound OLOC quarterly meeting on January 16, we celebrated our ninth anniversary. About 20 women viewed the video *Light of Change*. The discussion that followed focused on ways we can continue our activism even as our lives change.

We are working in coalition with other local and state groups to stem the rising tide of ageism locally and nationally. Threats to Medicare, Social Security, and the funding of services for seniors are major concerns. Locally, United Way has severely reduced monies to senior centers. Senior Services of King County (Seattle) changed its name to "Sound Generations" to better position it for funding. The organization explained, "While our current name has served us well since Senior Services was founded in 1967, attitudes have changed." The new name "provides a broader description of who we serve. . . people who may benefit from our services but who might never consider themselves to be 'seniors.'"

Puget Sound OLOC is working with other local seniors' groups to protest these changes—and the ageism they represent.

Aganita Varkentine of Puget Sound OLOC is collaborating with PSARA (Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action) in developing a workshop on Social Security and Medicare for representatives of various minority groups aimed at building a statewide network to press for Social Security/Medicare reform. Puget Sound OLOC also sent representatives to talk to our legislators at the State Capitol in Olympia for Senior Lobby Day on February 25, 2016.

Thanks to a GiveCamp award that supported a weekend of website development, the new Puget Sound OLOC website features a new logo, an interactive calendar, recent Chapter newsletters, our collaborative organizations, resources, and more. See it at www.psoloc.org. In addition, we have a new Facebook presence and a plan for greater use of social media to reach out to local Old Lesbians.

OLOC Chapters

OLOC chapters and groups as of Feb. 28, 2016, are Arizona (meeting in Central Arizona); Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, San Francisco Bay Area, and Radical Lesbian Crones (also Bay Area), California; Northern Colorado; Washington, DC; Atlanta, Georgia; Boston and Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Cleveland and Central Ohio; Champlain Region of Vermont and New York; and Puget Sound Area, Washington.

OLOC would love to have more groups/chapters across the US. We are ready to hear from you if you are interested in pursuing this.

Have a photo to send with your article? Please send JPGs at 300 dpi without cropping or otherwise modifying. Watch for an article in the next issue with more details.

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



Want to offer a workshop at the October 5–9, 2016, Gathering in Atlanta?

Gathering Across Differences: Lesbians in the South Take the Lead
Organizing, Expanding, Listening, Transforming

Call for Workshop Proposals

Proposals for workshops for the 2016 OLOC/ZAMI NOBLA National Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia, will be accepted until May 15, 2016. We hope you will consider sharing your expertise and experience with us! Preference will be given to workshops relating to our theme: Gathering Across Differences: Lesbians in the South Take the Lead, and to one or more of our focus areas: Organizing, Expanding, Listening, Transforming.

Please send:

1. Workshop title.
2. Workshop description (one short paragraph).
3. Presenter's name, age at date of Gathering, phone, e-mail, race/ethnicity/disability status, and a brief (50-word) biography. Please submit information exactly as you want to see it in the program. We may edit for length.
4. Maximum number of workshop participants.
5. Which of the four foci—Organizing, Expanding, Listening, or Transforming—best fits your workshop?
6. Materials/equipment/room set-up that you need. Limited assistance is available for supplies and/or equipment.
7. Do you need accommodations for disability or other assistance?
8. Social media connections—website, Facebook, Twitter, any other.
9. We will have a track dedicated to Lesbians 60 and over. Do you wish your workshop to be included in this track?

Workshop presenters must register for the Gathering and do not receive pay.

Send proposals by e-mail to olocatlanta@yahoo.com or by snail mail to ZAMI NOBLA, PO Box 90986, Atlanta, GA 30364 on or before May 15, 2016. No exceptions! You will be informed by July 1, 2016, whether or not your workshop has been accepted.

OLOC Members Have a Congressional Bill Named for Them

The Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2015, which is named to honor LGBT activists Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz, would amend the Older Americans Act (OAA) to better care for Old LGBT Americans. Specifically, this 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 the 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 ombudsperson to collect and analyze data regarding LGBT discrimination.

Congratulations Ruthie and Connie and thank you for your work on our behalf!

Next SC meeting

The next National OLOC Steering Committee meeting will be held March 9–14, 2016.

If you have topics you want the Committee to address, let us know at least two weeks ahead of time by e-mail to info@oloc.org, a note to the PO Box in Ohio, or a phone call to 888-706-7506.



New Steering Committee Members

In October 2015, Ali Marrero-Calderon (1948) and Paj Wadley-Bailey (1939) were welcomed as full members of the Steering Committee. They had served as provisional Steering Committee members from April to October, including attending two full meetings.

Ali was born in Puerto Rico and raised as an Army Brat in the US. Active in the Lesbian community in California's San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area since 1969, she was one of the first Dykes on Bikes there in 1976. She has been working for the rights of People of Color since the Briggs Initiative and helped coordinate security at the International Women's Conference in Houston in 1977. She is married to her partner of 15 years, Doris Muñiz, another Puertorriqueña. She wants to work toward parity for Lesbians of Color, especially more visibility for Latina/Caribbean Lesbians. She would love to see more Old Latina/Caribeña Lesbians in OLOC and her goal is to start a group for them.



Paj Wadley-Bailey has travelled the world from Lillehammer to Denmark, Geneva to England, Cuba to South Africa, and Rwanda to Germany, advocating for peace, freedom, and justice for everyone. She is/was Director of the Vermont Anti-Racism Action Team; co-founder of Champlain OLOC; National Outreach Director, Stonewall 25th Anniversary; 35-year crew member for the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival; and recorder for Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, to name a few involvements. Paj is an eco-feminist, bulldagger, pacifist, and great-grandmother. She retired 10 years ago as adjunct faculty at the University of Vermont and Goddard College. She taught ESL at the Berk School in New York City. Paj was raised in West Hills, Connecticut, and has been living in Central Vermont for 43 years. She was interviewed for the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP) in 2014 and the interview will be part of her memoir.



OLOC 2015 Financial Report

INCOME

Individual donations	37,624
Grants*	12,250
Dues from chapters	1,326
National Gathering 2016 financial assistance	505
Bequest	5,103
Donation for Long Beach chapter	5,000
From previous MN chapter	1,935
Atlanta concert	2,964
Other	674
Total	\$67,381

EXPENSES

Staff	
- Administrative Coordination	22,577
- Program Coordination	2,800
- Stipends Co-Directors	6,100
Outreach (newsletter, conferences)	10,952
Ally with ZAMI NOBLA	2,360
Chapter development	2,069
Oral Herstory Project	3,015
Atlanta concert	4,325
Supplies, equipment	3,581
Steering Committee meetings	18,239
Other	2,552
Total	\$78,570

**OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation and Horizons Foundation.*

OLOC is committed to:

- addressing what it means to be old and to be Lesbian
- finding ways to gather groups of Old Lesbians together for ongoing support
- challenging oppression in all of its forms, including but not limited to ageism, ableism, racism, anti-Semitism, classism, sexism, transphobia, lesbophobia and homophobia (these are not listed in order of importance)
- supporting the rights of all immigrants

OLOC's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or e-mail.



Media Library News

Thanks to donations from OLOC members and others, our Media Library has expanded!

Letter to Anita, the heart-wrenching true story of Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign, its shattering effect on one Florida family, and the redemptive power of forgiveness. Donated by OLOC member Ronni Sanlo, the subject of the story.

Desert Hearts: A Lesbian classic starring Helen Shaver and Patricia Charbonneau. Based on a novel by Jane Rule, it is "a soulful portrayal of relationships between women."

If These Walls Could Talk 2: Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Chloe Sevigny, Michelle Williams, Ellen DeGeneres, and Sharon Stone, it includes the stories of three couples over three decades. Passionate, steamy, and funny. This and *Desert Hearts* donated by an anonymous donor.

The updated version of *Project Visibility* (we have had the old one for a long time), a film to bring awareness and a face to the issues of aging for LGBTs that is aimed at service providers to LGBT elders. Includes a manual and PowerPoint. Updated 2010. Boulder County [Colorado] Area Agency on Aging's Nancy Grimes, LGBT Program Specialist, saw to the donation.

Martha Wheelock donated several of her wonderful movies to our Media Library.

Votes for Women: Celebrates the magnificent campaign, the ultimate victory, and the path that contemporary women are taking in politics.

Katherine Mansfield's *The Thistle Hotel*, Based on the life of Ms. Mansfield.

One Fine Day: An Inspiring Celebration of the American Woman — Past and Present: To the song "One Fine Day" by Kay Weaver, a series of photos of famous and not-famous women.

Save the date for the ZAMI NOBLA/
OLOC National Gathering,
Oct. 5–9, 2016, at the
Holiday Inn Airport North
in Atlanta, GA.

Take the Power: From the creators of *One Fine Day*. Kay Weaver sings the title song while video images of 1980s women illustrate the theme.

Madeleine L'Engle: Star Gazer: An honest self-portrait of the award-winning author of *A Wrinkle in Time*.

World of Light: A Portrait of May Sarton: A huge treat to see and hear May Sarton in her 60s, giving advice about creativity, being a Lesbian, and her work.

Berenice Abbott: A View of the 20th Century: This was filmed when amazing and famous photographer Abbott was 91/92. She talks about her life, accompanied by music and images. Her thoughts on aging and old women are worth the entire movie.

(Martha requests that if you want any of these or Ishtar's other films, you not copy them but order them from her at ishtarfilms.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PLST&Store_Code=ISHTAR or 800-428-7136. If you mention OLOC, Martha will waive the shipping costs. Enter the online form, and even though the shipping cost comes up, she will not charge the card with it. There is a place to enter code or a contact where you can put in OLOC's name.)

We also recently purchased:

Acting Our Age: A Film About Women Growing Old: This classic film offers empowering insights about womyn and aging. Portraits of six womyn in their 60s and 70s, including OLOC co-founder Shevy Healey. In candid interviews, they display both a vibrant strength of spirit and an inspiring zest for life.

The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen: OLOC member Jennifer Abod, PhD, made this excellent film about Angela, a classical ballerina, legendary dance teacher, black Lesbian feminist activist organizer, writer, and professor.

Thank you to the donors of films and money who help us expand our collection.

If you are a member of National OLOC who wants to be on OLOC's National Yahoo e-mail list, you can subscribe by going to groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NationalOLOC/info. If you have any problems, contact susan@oloc.org.



Memorials

Barbara Jean Seegert, 1948–2015

By Lynne Derus, 1951

Despite challenges from dyslexia to renal cell carcinoma, Barb lived fully and zestfully. She was always active in disability rights, one year serving as an accessibility coordinator for the National Women's Music Festival and once as disability representative on the planning committee for the National Lesbian Conference.



She felt honored to be considered a genuine ally to people of color. She used her white privilege whenever she could to make a difference in others' lives. Her Ojibway friends gave her a name meaning "good with her hands." And she was good with her hands. She excelled at every art or craft she turned to, from oil painting and copper enameling to building a deck in one weekend.

She was delighted to be in Lesbian community. She and Anita Stahl were *Lesbian Connection* contact dykes for years and welcomed campers on their land. She loved festivals and the lifelong friends she made there.

She had a varied employment history: Apple computer consultant, potato harvester, early-childhood home teacher, Christmas-tree planter, dishwasher, and lab dispatcher, among many others. She always had a great story to tell about every experience.

She loved nature; as a small child she spent school days among the trees before entering formal schooling at age nine, and she would always say that she was "part tree." She loved adventures, from thrift-shopping and dumpster-diving and bicycling long distances to hang-gliding and cruising the Baltic in luxury with Olivia Cruises. Everyone who met her, even briefly, remembers her by her loving smile.

Pat Patton, 1940–2015

Patsy died in late October, not long before we went to press for the last issue, so we promised a bit more information about her. She attended her first OLOC Gathering in 2004 in Houston with Alix Dobkin, Lucille

Frey, and Susan Wiseheart, and they all drove together from Springfield, Missouri. Though she said hotel events were not really her "thing" (she preferred camping), she enjoyed it enough that she not only returned to several, she also convinced three other Old Lesbians from the Ozarks to attend. She was warm, welcoming, compassionate, and kind as her life path. She ran the Over 40s tent at the Michigan festival, was a moving force behind Midwest Wommin's Festival, began the social group "Out in the Ozarks," attended Landyke Gatherings several times, and was involved in several other communities, including supporting feral cat colonies and working for the welfare of animals. She is gravely missed by many!

Amoja ThreeRivers, 1946–2015

Amoja wrote the book *Cultural Etiquette, A Guide for the Well Intentioned*. She founded the Womyn of Color Tent at the Michigan festival and at other womyn's festivals. She was "an American-born African, Choctaw, Tsalagi, Ojibway Jew." She was "into Judaism, Buddhism, quantum physics, linguistics, speculative fiction, microbiology, and history, especially Indigenous and African." She was a bright light to everyone in her life and is deeply missed by all who knew her.

You can find more about Amoja at carolyn-gage.weebly.com/blog/cultural-etiquette-a-guide-for-the-well-intentioned-by-amoja-three-rivers

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 and Black Women's Lives Matter movements



Memorials

Jeanne Córdova, 1948–2016

OLOC member Jeanne Córdova was born in Germany and grew up in California. After high school, she planned to become a nun. Instead, she became a social worker.



She earned both her BS in Social Welfare and MSW from UCLA. In graduate school, she was president of the Los Angeles chapter of Daughters of Bilitis.

Jeanne started *The Lesbian Tide*, the first national Lesbian newspaper. She founded the first Lesbian community center in Los Angeles and co-organized the International Women's Year Conference in Houston, the first national Lesbian conference, a gay and Lesbian caucus at the 1980 Democratic National Convention, and the No on California Proposition 64 (LaRouche) campaign, and helped fight the anti-gay Proposition 6 Briggs Initiative.

She started the Community Yellow Pages, the largest and most comprehensive LGBT directory in the US; created and published *Square Peg Magazine* (LGBT culture and literature); began LEX, The Lesbian Exploratorium, devoted to Lesbian culture and history;

co-founded/chaired the Butch Voices LA Conference and co-founded Butch Nation; and published three books, including her award-winning autobiography *When We Were Outlaws: A Memoir of Love and Revolution*, from which she read at the 2014 National Gathering in Oakland despite her illness.

Jeanne was one of the facilitators of a workshop at the 2008 OLOC Gathering.

She is survived by her spouse, Lynn Ballen. (If you missed seeing Jeanne Cordova's eloquent letter about her dying and want to read it, you can request it from susan@oloc.org or by writing to OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.)

More about these two in next issue.

Rosemary Hathaway, 1929–2015

One of OLOC's founders and longest-time members, Rosemary died after a long illness. She attended many OLOC events over the years.

Carole Stoneking, 1937–2016

Carole served on the OLOC Steering Committee in the early 2010s. At the 2009 OLOC Regional Gathering in Columbia, South Carolina, she received the Pink Palmetto for her leadership in OLOC and for promoting issues of aging in the LGBT community.

OLOC Receives Monetary Donations

Thank you to Nancy Krody for a contribution in honor of Gerry Woodroffe's birthday (hope it was a good one, Gerry!) and to Susie Sweetree, who contributed in memory of Pat Patton, who died in October 2015.

"The instinct to say, 'See, we're just like you,' is frightening. It means we accept the lie that the world is okay if only we can get in on the goodies. If they'll give us insurance, let us have babies, and wear red ribbons at the Academy Awards all is right with the world. That instinct to meld into the mainstream has to be consciously fought in order for social change to really be profound."
~ Jewelle Gomez

If you now receive *The Reporter* in print and want to switch to electronic, please let us know at susan@oloc.org. The electronic version arrives sooner, is in full color, can be made as big as you want so it's easier to see and read, and costs us less.



Food Stamps Profit the Rich

In keeping with OLOC's current focus on the issue of class, here is a story about food stamps from the Indian Summer 2015 edition of the excellent *Mother Warrior's Voice* put out by Welfare Warriors (welfarewarriors.org/), led by OLOC member Pat Gowens in Milwaukee.

We all know how Walmart keeps its workers in poverty and depends on government welfare to supplement their low pay. Then Walmart makes a mint selling their workers groceries paid for with food stamps. So Walmart profits double off taxpayers—and workers' misery.

Banks also rake in millions off food stamps. Remember when the banks lobbied Congress to change from paper to plastic food stamps?

JPMorgan is the country's largest processor of food stamps. An employee stated, "This is a very important business to JPMorgan in terms of its size and scale." According to the company's most recent quarterly filing, the Treasury and Securities Services (the division that includes the food stamp business) brought in \$5.47 billion in net revenue for 2010.

So JP Morgan helped gut the economy, got saved with billions from US taxpayers and is now profiting from the misery of the poor at the expense of the American taxpayer again.

L-Fund Annual Gala

The annual L-Fund Gumbo Gala was held on February 20, 2016, honoring Lucy and Gail (Lucy DeBardeban and Gail Christian) who received the Bobreta Franklin Community Service Award for their many years of work with the Lesbian community. The L-Fund is a nonprofit organization supporting Lesbians in the Palm Springs, California, area. Steering Committee member Ruth Debra is one of the founders and an active organizer.

"Please stop debating about whether or not I aged well. Youth and beauty are not accomplishments, they're the temporary happy by-products of time and/or DNA." ~ Carrie Fisher, regarding peoples' comments on how she has aged after they saw her in The Force Awakens

Classic Feminist T-shirt Makes Comeback

The original "The Future is Female" t-shirt design was made by Labyris Books, the first women's bookstore in New York City. In 1975, photographer Liza Cowan took a picture of Alix Dobkin, her girlfriend at the time, wearing the t-shirt. Fast forward to



2015, when graphic designer Rachel Berks, who sells feminist products from her studio-store, Otherwild, re-created the shirt and began selling it, with 25% of profits going to Planned Parenthood. Here are then-and-now photos of Alix wearing this iconic shirt. Liza is an OLOC member and Alix is now our Co-Director.



Ageism

By Susan Wiseheart, 1941

Here are a few ageist terms from a memoir I was reading about residents of a nursing home, written by one of them.

old bird	senile old bat
hag	old bag
game old bird	old biddy
spinster	old witch
a woman of a certain age	

Do you have others you would like to add to a list of ageist terms? It helps us to have good examples when we go out and talk about ageism and how it affects old people, especially Old Lesbians.

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I am not sending money at this time, but I am an Old Lesbian and want to become/continue as a member for the coming year ☐

I am choosing to send (suggest between \$25.00 and \$50.00) for my membership. Amount: _____ (less if you can't, more if you can)

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