

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

The Reporter

A quarterly publication
of OLOC

September 2020

Vol 30 #3

More Responses to *What Do You Think?*

In response to Jan Griesinger, 1942, asking in the March issue, "What is best about getting old? What is worst about getting old?," we received these two more comments. We also had three in the June Reporter. So what do YOU think?

By Amie Bluestone, 1955

The best thing about getting old for me is: I did it! Everything life has thrown at me, I've survived! I might not have everything I want, but I've got everything I need! The worst part of getting old is that feeling that I've become outdated and fallen behind. Being pushed aside, replaced, or forgotten—growing old, for better or worse, is like mud stuck on my wheels!

By Marlene Bluestone, 1946

To me, one of the best parts of growing old is not having the alarm clock be in charge of my time and having our lives sliced into tiny little pieces that fit together in someone else's puzzle.

I enjoy having enough time to work with my flowers as long as I want to. I am glad that I am healthy, can see and hear well, and sleep well at night. I love spending time with my wonderful wife. We might be having important discussions on world events or just hanging out watching a movie. She is my best friend.

Thank You, Pelican Lee

By Jodi L. Glass, AuD, 1953

Pelican Lee, 1947, wrote a response in the June issue, "Feminist Amendments to the Equality Act," to my March article re an "all-inclusive ERA." THANK YOU, Pelican!!!! The source (feministstruggle.org/faea/) is absolutely fabulous and has enhanced my understanding and conversation. Most appreciative. FIST is amazing.



Marlene (L) and Amie

I am pleased that I can fetch and carry to my satisfaction. I love watching the birds that come to our feeders. It gives me such a connection with nature.

The worst part about getting old is the difficulty I have opening jars or other types of containers. I don't seem to be as strong as I used to be.

I get aggravated when a well-meaning person suggests an assistive device and then proceeds to show me how to use it. After I see how slick it works, I think it's the greatest thing since sliced bread.

I am sad that I have lost muscle toning in my arms and legs. I never saw that coming. People in the course of my life have suggested that I make sure to do muscle-strengthening exercises. I blew them off because I was so active and slender. I found out that doesn't matter; at a certain age, women will begin to lose muscle mass. Now I am trying to build that back, and to tell the truth, it's not that easy. I make keeping your muscles toned and not taking your body for granted a topic of conversation I have with younger women.



The Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

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

This newsletter is brought to you by:

Editor: Sheryl, 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 November 1, 2020. Limit contributions to 300 words. The opinions expressed in OLOC's newsletters do not necessarily reflect the views held by all members. We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC at reporter@oloc.org or PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498.

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

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

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.

Steering Committee Meetings

The National Steering Committee is meeting regularly by Zoom (online video conferencing) at this time. If there are topics you want the Steering Committee to address, contact the Committee by email at info@oloc.org, a note to PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498, or a phone call to 888-706-7506 (toll-free). Be sure to say if you want a response.

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

Get Two Sweet Romance Novels While Supporting OLOC!

One of OLOC's newer members is spending her retirement writing romance novels for Old Lesbians

who can remember falling in love at a time when society found our relationships scandalous. Most Lesbians in the days before Stonewall kept their relationships secret for fear of losing employment security and their straight friends and family members.



As a 70-year-old Lesbian who first knew her sexual orientation at age 23, Martha E. Bellinger, 1950, remembers that first love with clarity and all the unbelievable passion she had never known was possible. Her first award-winning novel, titled *The Two Ruths*, tells the story of Ruth and Ruthie, who manage to find one another in rural upstate New York in the 1950s and fall in love. Ruthie runs a dairy farm and Ruth keeps house.

This book is available absolutely free with mailing costs in the US paid by the author. If you enjoy the book, she suggests you consider donating \$10 to OLOC. Of course, you can give more if you wish and are able to.

If you would like to keep following this couple, email judgebellinger@aol.com, and the second novel will be sent to you, with the author again covering mailing costs. *She Who Is Without Sin*, the sequel, tells what happened to these partners throughout the 1960s and 1970s. (Martha is currently writing the third and final book on Ruth and Ruthie!)

The second novel has more suspense, humor, and passion than the first. Another donation of \$10 to OLOC is suggested, and both books will be signed by the author. **This offer is good until September 30**, and the books are available on Kindle and Audible. If you make a donation, please tell us on the check or in the purpose area of PayPal that the money is for the books.

Thank you, Martha!

Donate



OLOC Zooms!

By Mev Miller, 1955

Since March, several Chapter Coordinators (me, Deirdre Knowles, 1947; Ruth Debra, 1944; JR, 1943; and Retts Scuzillo, 1953) have been moving our chapters forward during the pandemic through the use of Zoom, a video conferencing platform. We were able to secure a shared Zoom account specifically for use by chapters for meetings.

Through conversations on the National OLOC listserv, it became clear that members would like to meet with other Old Lesbians across the country and beyond via Zoom. So we organized the first National Zoom call, a "Meet and Greet," for June 2. Around 85 participated in the call. Overall, we'd say it was a successful first attempt.

On June 27, OLOC held its second National meeting, with approximately 60 Old Lesbians in attendance. The topic was *What kind of activism work can you do while staying home or safe from COVID-19?* In this Zoom event, facilitators randomly separated participants into chat rooms. Each room was asked to have a notetaker to list its activities. The combined list is on the OLOC website at oloc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/zoom_06-27-20.pdf, and we hope you will check it out. It has a ton of terrific ideas!

These are our next steps:

- Maintain a *tech team* to organize tech-related events such as Zoom meetings and to address some of the kinks we encountered, as well as respond to various concerns that were raised, including accessibility.
- Analyze the Satisfaction Survey results.
- Conduct a larger survey of the full membership to learn more about member desires for content, format, and scheduling.
- Analyze results and make a more stable plan for future Zoom events.

Your comments on the National listserv are being integrated into our efforts. If you have any questions, please write me at OLOCccZoom@gmail.com.

[Editor: Many thanks to Mev for putting the Zoom events together and to the tech team for leading successful meetings!]



Calling All Lesbians of Color

For OLOC to continue its goal of standing with all People of Color, they need help from Lesbians of Color to really meet the needs of OLOC membership. Without you, we cannot do that. Please consider helping us.

An ad hoc volunteer National Zoom *tech crew* is forming. If you are interested and need more information, please refer to the ad in the July E-News. If you don't have it, write Susan or Retts, and we will send it to you. We are volunteers who have been working with the Steering Committee in this time of COVID-19 to help keep OLOC members connected. We have successfully launched two Zooms and are working on a third one in August (as of press time). Please email Retts at rettsie@gmail.com if interested.

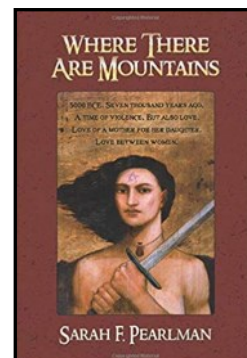
OLOC Member Publishes New Book

By Sarah Pearlman, 1935

Where There Are Mountains, a newly published novella, tells the story of three women who lived 7,000 years ago, 5000 BCE. Hunter-gatherers had just begun to live in settlements, planting wild grasses in nearby fields, grasses that would become grain. A time of great migrations that took place over hundreds of years and thousands of miles as numerous tribes left the cold and hunger of their northern homelands to travel a path south. Most were peaceful, wanting only a place where there was food and warmth—struggling past matrilineal tribes that lived near Mount Olympus and the mountain passes of what would become Greece. A people that worshiped an Earth Goddess. Celebrating and giving gratitude for the fertility of the land, the birthing of children, and sexual pleasure. Desire without rules. Others on the path were warrior people. Tribes who came to conquer and enslave. Bringing their male gods. A time of violence, but also love. Love of a mother for her daughter. Love between women.

Get it at [your favorite feminist* or other independent bookstore]. The paperback costs \$15 and the eBook is \$10.99.

*For a list of feminist bookstores, go to oloc.org/feminist-bookstores/.



Chapter News

Pioneer Valley Chapter

By Emily Greene, 1946

We are now 4½ months into an ongoing pandemic that has changed our lives in so many ways. Going back to normal is not an option and hopefully won't be. We are given the opportunity once again—especially because of the uprising of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement that cannot be pushed under the rug—to make systemic changes.

Our local BLM group, Franklin County Racial Justice Collective, led by Greenfield's Black community, is working to "Reimagine Community Safety." With the incredible insight of two of its members—Brianna, 1994, and Trena, 1987, both Women of Color—the process is moving forward. I am so encouraged by their wisdom and steadfastness. Trena can't join OLOC yet, but she will be a leader to whom we can pass the torch.

I have worked with Gloria, who runs a summer program for kids in the projects, learning drumming and playing the violin. In the words of four of her students who came to our Racial Justice Vigil, their signs said, "I am cool; racism is not; it's really, really old" (Savanah, 10); "It's time for everybody to be kind to everybody" (Leilany, 9); "Racism makes me sad" (Mason, 7); and "Don't let the bullets of racism kill my spirit or yours" (Jayden, 12).

Our group continues to meet on Zoom, and our last one was a trial run of doing OLOHP (Old Lesbians Oral Herstory Project) with an interview of my life by Edie Daly, 1937. We were fortunate to have Arden Eversmeyer, 1932, and Margaret Purcell, 1951, via Zoom to give our group an idea of what the Project is all about. Zoom has made it easier to get more interviews of Lesbians over 70 done, and what a gift this is to all of us.

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

OLOCATHOME (New Chapter!)

By Amie Bluestone, 1955

June 2, when OLOC had its first National Zoom meeting and I got to see so many wonderful Old Lesbians face to face, I was thrilled and just did not want it to end! That is when the idea came to me to create an online chapter for those who are homebound and cannot get to a local meeting, or for those who do not have a local meeting to attend. So I jumped into action and created this Facebook group. It is okay if you also belong to a local chapter and use the online chapter for more community. For now, all Old Lesbians are welcome to join.

Potential members will be screened, and their requests to join must be approved. As members, we are able to introduce ourselves, share pictures and stories, and video chat, all from the comfort of our homes. To find the group, search in Facebook for "OLOC" and click on the "join" button.

You must have your own Facebook account, but it is a private group, meaning you can see the group but you cannot see what was posted or who the members are until your request is approved. When we have a few more members (currently, there are 21), we will hold a group conscience meeting to decide how to structure the chapter.

In the meantime, on June 20 we had our first Zoom meeting! We are encouraging members to do their own meetings on Zoom or by using Facebook video rooms. We have been posting some "how-to" links on sitting (chair) exercises, hoping to create more interest in our health, and I'm looking forward to seeing what else we share.

If you need help finding the group or have questions, email amie.bluestone@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing our chapter grow!

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More Chapter News

New Mexico Chapter

By Susan Buchler, 1946

May: No meeting was held this month. Paula Fisher, 1951, stepped forward to be our Zoom coordinator for the remainder of the year.

June: The first Zoom meeting, hosted by Mary Oishi, 1956, new Poet Laureate of New Mexico, was a “show and tell.”

Mary brought some of her political/historical memorabilia collection with political pins from every 20th century presidential campaign and causes such as women’s suffrage and early gay rights.

Rita Noe, 1943, loves the feel and smell of woods and sawdust and uses them in making jewelry based on her own photographs.

Susan Turner, 1946, has two obsessions: Frida Kahlo and little dogs. She believes that she has every book ever written about Frida; her dog collection is of 176 miniatures, made of anything imaginable.

Paula Fisher showed some of her frog collection. She collects frogs with personalities. She sends visiting great-nieces and -nephews to count the frogs and report back. When they tell her the number, she then shows them the frog tattoo on her ankle.

July: “What is the ERA? Where is it now? And why does it matter?: A Conversation” had guest presenter Dr. Sylvia Ramos Cruz, New Mexico’s authority on women’s suffrage. Sylvia went through the history of the ERA. Every year since 1923, the ERA had been introduced in Congress, but until 1972, it never got out of committee. It finally passed but had to be ratified by 38 states. New Mexico ratified it early, in 1973. Virginia ratified it this year, the 38th state to do so. Once an amendment is ratified, it is sent to the US archivist. The archivist accepted it for Nevada and Illinois but refused for Virginia, which has resulted in a lawsuit. Sylvia asked for support from New Mexico OLOC members.



To find OLOC on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC.

Colorado Chapter

By Katherine Wood, 1954

Colorado OLOC had the honor of being one of the grand marshals for Denver’s Virtual Pride Parade in June. Our contribution was created virtually during our May meeting.

We continue to follow our schedule and program plan for the year via Zoom. For our meeting on June 13, we had the honor of sharing in Rebekah Shardy’s program, “Wild and Soulful Aging.” Her PowerPoint and talk were very inspirational. Rebekah is willing to share with other chapters via Zoom. You can contact her at RebekahShardy@yahoo.com.

Our July 11 meeting included a book talk on *Charity and Sylvia: A Same Sex Marriage in Early America*. On a visit to Vermont several years ago, I saw the adult-sized cradle the women used to nurture one another when ill, and then I attended the Holiday Fair in Bryant Park in New York City last year. The park is named for William Cullen Bryant, a nephew who wrote about their relationship. I was then led to this book that details their relationship right after the American Revolution. They lived in a one-room house where they ran their tailoring business, so the entire community was aware that there was one bed in this room. The book details their lives, their acceptance, and their personal struggles to justify their love with their beliefs in God.

Our August 8 meeting was sharing what we are reading, watching, learning, and doing around the topic of race. More on this in the next E-News.

We have made recent donations to Puerto Rico Lesbians through National OLOC and a Colorado organization called All Terrain Lesbians, which supports Lesbians with medical financial needs.

Want to start an OLOC chapter or group in your area? Contact bonnie@oloc.org if you are east of the Mississippi and ruth@oloc.org if you are west of the Mississippi.



More Chapter News

Rhode Island Chapter

By Mev Miller, 1955

The Rhode Island Chapter continues to meet monthly by Zoom. Recently, we have been reading these articles for discussion:

- Dear White People: 10 Ways You Can Show Up for Your Black Friends and Colleagues by ur posts are delivered instantly via eSunshine Muse, published in Colorlines (www.colorlines.com)
- Combahee River Collective statement (CombaheeRiverCollective.weebly.com/the-combahee-river-collective-statement.html)
- Audre Lorde's "Age, Race, Class, and Sex" from *Sister Outsider: Essays*, 1984 (www.colorado.edu/odece/sites/default/files/attached-files/rba09-sb4converted_8.pdf)



Rhode Island Zoomers, left to right from the top: Nancy, Mev, Sally, Dee, Joan, Mariellen, Elda, Betty, Deb, Thea

PASSINGS

Ida VSW Red, 1933–2020, Mill Valley, California

Josephine "Joie" Deall, 1935–2020, Provincetown, Massachusetts

Diana Russell, 1938–2020, Berkeley, California.

See the E-News for more about these Lesbians.

OLOC's Discussion Forum is Looking for You!

All members of National OLOC with internet access are encouraged to join our online group, which currently has 148 members.

To join, you need an email address and a password. Once you are signed up, you can post messages and make changes to your personal settings. Your posts are delivered instantly via email or you can get them as a digest or summary; you can also view them on the group website. This is a private group—not on the public list of groups.

To sign up, go to groups.io/g/NationalOLOC. Once there, scroll down the page and click on +Apply For Membership In This Group.

New members have to be approved; a message will be sent automatically to Susan so she can check your membership status and okay the request. 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. We look forward to seeing you there soon and hearing about what is on your mind!

Problems? Contact susan@oloc.org.

Another Lesbian Email Discussion Group

Golden Friends is a small Lesbian-only email group. Members range in age from 50 to 80+, some single, some not, and they live all over the USA, Canada, and beyond. Anything is open for conversation, but they do not attack, criticize, or argue. Everyone has a right to her own opinions and beliefs. This group is for Lesbian women to share from their common experience growing up and living as female and as Lesbian.

They enjoy having fun, meeting on Zoom every two weeks, emailing, and sharing jokes and humorous stories, as well as discussing serious issues. For more information, please contact Rand, 1944 (OLOC member), at shadowood@windstream.net. (This is a private group not affiliated with OLOC and by coincidence has OLOC members in the group.)



OLD-ER

By Kitty Tsui, 1952



I went to my first OLOC Gathering in 2014 in Oakland, California. Elana Dykewomon, 1949, had asked me to participate in a poetry reading, a great event!

Later that weekend, talking with photographer Cathy Cade, 1942, I was asked to contribute “a few words” for a video for OLOC. No stranger

to being interviewed, the first question threw me: “How did I see myself as an old person?”

I didn’t know how I answered until I saw the video. “I don’t see myself as old.” Silence. . . “Perhaps I am old-ER; I’m old-ER,” I stammered.

What is it about getting old? Physical pain, body slowing. Society’s stereotypes and prejudices. Regrets and disappointments. After years of stagnation, a bucket list “to do.” Decision to settle into a sofa or emerge as an elder?

I am old. This year I will be 68. I have out-lived friends and colleagues, buried my beloved grandmother. I don’t know when it was that I began to accept and celebrate my age. Or when I could say it aloud: “I am an elder.”

I am 67, an Old Dyke! At 64, I met my life partner, Ellen Gierson, 1950. At 67, I completed my fifth book, *Battle Cry: Poems of Love and Resistance*. My *Breathless: Erotica* won the Firecracker Alternative Book Award. I have been honored with accolades and awards. I am the first Asian American author to be featured in a documentary, *Nice Chinese Girls Don’t*.

I want to be remembered as one who loved women, savored good food, and cherished her friends. And all who knew me knew I loved my rescue dogs to the moon.

Life is a gift. Use it well.

Members: Are you in National OLOC’s online group? It is a great place to converse with other members. To subscribe, go to groups.io/g/nationalOLOC. If you have any problems, contact susan@oloc.org.

Attention Stroke Survivors

Peg Cruikshank, 1940, would like to hear from Old Lesbians who have survived strokes. Her email address is pc26@twc.com.

Study on Cancer and Cancer Care

The Out with Cancer study would like to hear about your experiences of cancer and cancer care. This international study—the world’s largest—is being run by Western Sydney University (Australia) with six partner organizations.



If you are an Old Lesbian and have ever had cancer or medical intervention to reduce cancer risk, they would like to hear from you. They would also like to hear from your partner(s), family members, and friends who supported you during cancer, as well as from Old Lesbians and other LGBTQI+ people who have ever cared for someone with cancer.

Our communities are described as an *invisible diversity* in cancer care and often have unique needs during and after cancer. The researchers would like to hear how this was for you, including about your wellbeing, social support, relationships, and experiences with the healthcare system. They will use this information to develop better information and support for LGBTQI+ people with cancer and their carers [caregivers].

To take part, go to westernsydney.edu.au/outwithcancer. You can either complete the confidential online survey, sign up to be interviewed, or both. If you take part in an interview, you also have the option of a further photo-interview, using photos taken by you to guide the discussion. Participation is open through December 2020.

If you would like to speak to one of the researchers, please email outwithcancer@westernsydney.edu.au. Social media information is at facebook.com/OutwithCancer1/posts/911332325979188 and twitter.com/OutWithCancer1/status/1268437331523989505?s=20.

OLOC’s participation in this study has been approved by Sharon Raphael, 1941, OLOC’s Research Gatekeeper.



A Message from an Australian Lezzy to North American Lesbians

By Lavender, 1945

I am aware of the terrible time people in the US are having with your country currently riven with pain, violence, conflicts, and the monumental impacts of the pandemic. I send you my sisterly wishes for health, peace, good governance, safety, and supportive Lesbian communities.

In Australia, in less than 12 months, we've suffered severe drought (mostly continuing), horrendous bushfires (even one-half mile from my home last November), floods, the pandemic, with continuing violence and discrimination against our Indigenous peoples—all compounded by right-wing governments urged on by politicians and shock jocks' racist and ill-informed commentary.

Our native animals and plants have suffered as never before, with some species and even whole ecosystems under threat of extinction. These creatures and plants do not have voices of their own, yet their survival is crucial to human existence.

While this week's (June 10) Australian rallies were initially motivated through solidarity concerning the murder of George Floyd, the issue of the deaths of Aboriginal people in custody has rightfully become upfront and centre. The common thread of racist violence against Black people is the most horrendous and shameful scar on European cultures, historically and in the present.

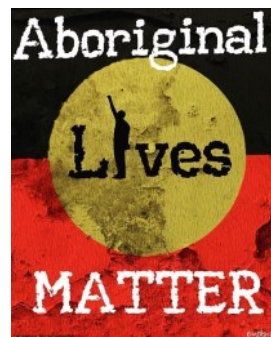
I'm asking sisters in North America, as a matter of solidarity, to inform themselves about the matters I've raised. In understanding the Australian horrors impacting our Indigenous people, you may well come to think about the relevance or not of "American Exceptionalism" and that you share with others the work to change the pervasive patriarchal oppression of nonwhite people.

I feel confident that understanding how these impact other groups of people, we'll recognise and act on the importance of making positive changes. I know that Lesbians have been at the forefront of social change for eons, and today, even if we deploy different strategies, we're still there, upfront and positive.

Jean and Ardy Protest Safely During the Pandemic

By Jean Taylor, 1944

There was still so much going on with the COVID-19 PANdemic when we heard about the proposed Aboriginal Lives Matter/Black Lives Matter rally organised by Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance on June 6 in Melbourne [Australia]



with an estimated 30,000 plus people expected to attend, with no chance of social distancing. Ardy Tibby, 1941, and I agreed we wouldn't be going because it was far too dangerous for us Old Lesbians over 70 to be in such a crowded place. But we were at a bit of a loss as to what to do to show solidarity till an email arrived from a friend with an "Aboriginal Lives Matter" poster attached and a suggestion that we hold our own mini-rally.

We set ourselves up on the corner of our street. It was extremely gratifying, as we held up our signs, to hear the toots from cars and the dings from trams, see the thumbs up and the waves and smiles from bike riders as traffic passed us both ways, to see so much positive support for Aboriginal and Islander people. We were satisfied we'd got the message, "Aboriginal Lives Matter," out there to a mainly receptive audience.

We stayed holding our signs and maintaining social distancing for an hour, and afterwards, Ardy and I agreed that this was the best way, the most politically astute way, the most socially safe way we could have shown solidarity with the Aboriginal Lives Matter movement.

All I can do, ultimately, is take responsibility for my own small part in the world and work with other like-minded Lesbians and feminists in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and maybe together we can make small positive incremental changes to our lives and our communities on a daily basis.



Racism and First Nations

By Jean Taylor, 1944

While we are talking about racism awareness in ourselves and others, let's get back to the basics of racism towards First Nations people. They were massacred and driven off their lands when invaders from Europe arrived over 500 years ago in North America and over 250 years ago in Australia. Institutionalised racism, as perpetrated against Indigenous people of both the US and Australia by the dominant invading English-speaking culture, is the basic primary racism, and indeed the constitutional bedrock of our nations, from which all else follows.

It seems to me that we non-Aboriginal people in Australia and non-Native American Indian people in the US didn't address in ourselves and in our societies the terrible, cruel, murderous, and inhuman injustices that were done and continue to be done against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Native American Indians in our respective countries. Therefore, it is not surprising that the "blackbirding" (coercion of people through deception/kidnapping to work as unpaid/poorly paid labourers in countries distant to their native land) of South Pacific Islander people, also known as Kanakas, and the slavery of African Americans were allowed to flourish for the benefit of the invaders.

Nor was it acknowledged that the invaders have financially profited enormously from stealing Indigenous people's lands and the decimation of their culture and language. To this day, sovereignty, land rights, self-determination, and financial restitution for First Nations people in both countries are not prioritised as an essential way of acknowledging their basic human rights as Indigenous people.

It is only by acknowledging the dehumanising and colonising damage the invading cultures perpetrated on the Indigenous people in many countries round the world, but in particular in our own back yards, that we can begin to address the racism inherent in our laws, our institutions, and ourselves.

Anti-racist Actions You Can Take Right Now

These come from the **Ultraviolet** website (act.weareultraviolet.org/):

Write a letter to the editor of the Louisville, Kentucky, newspaper on behalf of Breonna Taylor. (act.weareultraviolet.org/sign/Editor_Breonna/?t=2&akid=50111%2E303314%2EjF7Y2H) It has been more than five months since three plainclothes police officers shot and killed Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, in her own home. Breonna was shot at least eight times and then left without medical attention that could have saved her life. To date, only one officer has been fired from his job, and none of the officers have been charged with her murder. By writing a letter to *Louisville Courier Journal* Editor Richard A. Green demanding more investigative reporting on Mayor Greg Fischer, the Louisville Metro Police Department, and Breonna's murder, you will be taking action and demanding accountability.

Watch and share *Bedlam* on PBS. (pbs.org/video/jails-mental-illness-bedlam-zc0chc/) The documentary *Bedlam*, which features Black Lives Matter's co-founder Patrisse Cullors and her family, provides compelling stories and data on why we need to divest from prisons and instead invest in education, mental health services, and housing.

Share a Black feminist's Instagram post Black feminist theorist, speaker, and writer Wagatwe Wanjuki published a succinct and poignant social media post tying the #BlackLivesMatter movement with the #MeToo movement (www.instagram.com/p/CB3HuoQAGwT/). "I identify as an antirape feminist because I believe in ending sexual violence, which means ending all violence," she wrote.



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shopping webpage at oloc.org/shop/.





Successful Aging: The Pandemic Has Robbed Me of My Life's Purpose.

This article by Helen Dennis is an interesting look at ways in which old people can find purpose in our lives during the pandemic. The author states that, despite physical and social isolation, job and financial losses, and fears of the virus, finding a sense of purpose is essential to give us a reason to carry on and to maintain our health and well-being.

Some of the ways she recommends to do this include taking some clues from your past that may give you some direction, contributing to the well-being of others, growing and giving, connecting with others, being and feeling fit, and being grateful. She believes that if you stay safe and well and continue to be curious, learn, grow, and stay connected, you will find your new purpose.

The full article is at www.dailynews.com/2020/06/27/successful-aging-the-pandemic-has-robbed-me-of-my-lifes-purpose/.

Old Lesbian Writings about the Pandemic

Virus Time: (A Collection of Writings by Older Lesbians) is a booklet composed of powerful journal-like essays, poetic prose, and poetry—some irreverent—by 20 Old Lesbians who share their thoughts, experiences, and stories of living during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was produced by the Boston OLOC Planning Committee Editorial Team: Alice Fisher, 1941; Sarah Pearlman, 1935; and Sue Reamer, 1942. By sending an email request to Sue Reamer at sbreamer@comcast.net, you can order your free e-copy (e-file). You can then either read the booklet on your computer or other device, or you can print it out.

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Those who have already read it love it!

I'm Over 60. Stop Talking about Coronavirus "Culling" Me.

CNN ran this opinion piece by a male named Ed Adler about ageism and COVID-19. Many of us already know what is going on with this. We in our 60s and older are among those at greatest risk for severe effects of the virus, and some young people seem to be taking advantage of the situation to promote the idea that we could (and some believe should) just die.

One example that was cited quoted a city official in Antioch, California, who said COVID-19 should be allowed to run its course, even if old and homeless people die. The official said the country should adopt a "herd mentality" that "allows the sick, the old, the injured to meet its natural course in nature."

Another example given is people who suggest the physically weak should be willing to sacrifice ourselves for the future of the economy. Dr. Oz, just one of these people, was quoted as saying that school reopenings were an "appetizing opportunity" because they "may only cost us 2% to 3% in terms of total mortality."

It is important that Old Lesbians know this is going on so we can strategize how to fight back and show young people that our lives are worthwhile, we are wise and have much to offer them, and we are not willing to sacrifice ourselves for their comfort.

The full article is at www.cnn.com/2020/06/12/opinions/insensitive-coronavirus-comments-most-vulnerable-people-adler/.

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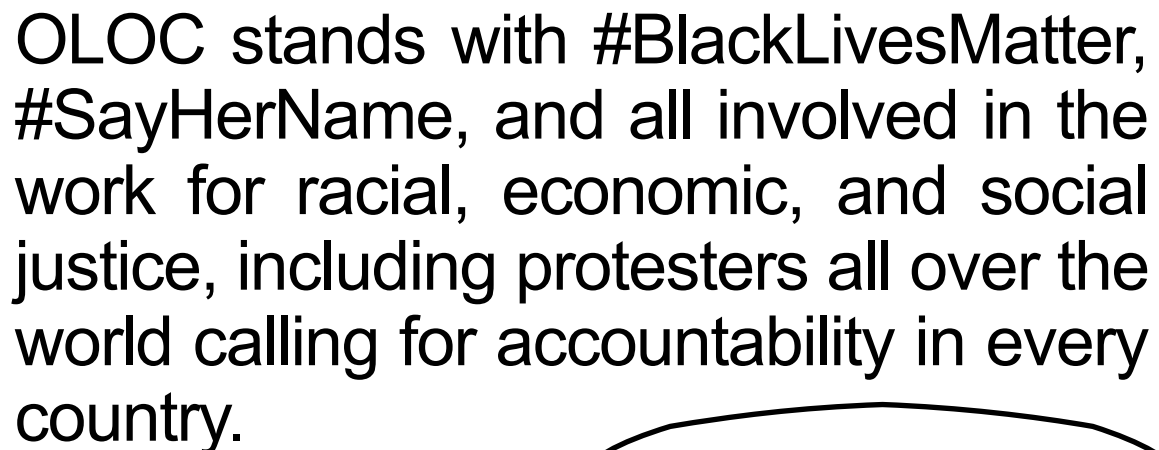
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