

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

The Reporter

A quarterly publication
of OLOC

September 2019
Vol 29 #3

The 2019 OLOC National Gathering

by Alix Dobkin, 1940

The 2019 OLOC National Gathering was the greatest I can remember! And not just because I had such a fine time during my concert, but mostly because of the entire event, not to mention seeing our dear Susan Wiseheart again (yay)!

Bringing new dimensions of color and depth to this normally animated cohort, the Puerto Rican contingent pumped up the animation even further.



Photo by Kristi Hildebrand

And from the balcony outside our room, the sight of happy Old Lesbians enjoying each other and their custom-made breakfasts every morning filled me with joy.

Wednesday afternoon, we registered arriving attendees in the lobby while the Old Lesbians of Color did their work in the ballroom.



Photo by Retts Scanzillo

Wednesday night, Carol Anne Douglas, 1946, winner of the 2017 Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award, presented this year's Award to Ruthie Berman, 1934 (on left in photo).

Then we saw five minutes of *Every Room in the House*, a film about Ruthie and Connie Kurtz, 1936–2018, her co-winner.

The workshops provided for a variety of interests and passions and enjoyed good attendance and good receptions.

In the ever-popular, always welcoming Hospitality Room, we were entertained and educated with readings by some of our most accomplished and noteworthy OLOC authors, such as Carole Anne. They also offered the workshops "Playwriting" with Terry Baum, 1946, and "Writing with All Our Senses" with Elana Dykewomon, 1949.



Photo by Mew Miller

Following my concert on Thursday night, we were lifted from our seats compliments of María Cora (center in photo) and Azúcar con Aché's irresistible Latin/Salsa musica. A wild mob of Lesbians dancing to brilliant live music from an accomplished ensemble of their peers inspires a Lesbian energy exchange that creates the highest level of vibration possible on this planet at this time.

Friday night, Karen Williams wove the Gathering theme, *Resist and Persist*, into her pitch-perfect keynote, and on Saturday night, DJ Jamie furnished us with more high-energy music, a great ending to a great Gathering!

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

Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, Sally Tatnall, 1937, and Jan Griesinger, 1942. Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940. All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2019. Limit general contributions to 300 words. Contact us for the style guide (revised November 2018). We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org.

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

Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

- Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY, alix@oloc.org, 845-679-7586
Sally Tatnall, 1937, Lyndhurst, OH, sally@oloc.org, 440-868-5021

Co-Director Emerita:

- Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH, jan@oloc.org, 740-592-1255

Steering Committee Members:

- Ruth Debra, 1944, Operations Coordinator, Palm Springs, CA, ruth@oloc.org, 760-318-6794

- Bonnie Wagner, 1942, Woodstock, NY, bonnie@oloc.org, 845-679-7710 or 845-417-1481

- Alí Marrero-Calderón, 1948, Oakland, CA, and Bayamon, Puerto Rico, ali@oloc.org, 510-365-6745

- María Cora, 1953, San Lorenzo, CA, maria@oloc.org, 510-366-8630

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

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

OLOC Support: Anyone who wants us to succeed in our work is welcome as a supporter.

Introducing OLOC's Newest Steering Committee Member!

María Cora was born in 1953 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, grew up in Puerto Rico, and has been living in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1981. She is a Black Puerto Rican vocalist, writer, and feminist social change activist. Her focus has been the empowerment of women and People of Color. She has served in diverse leadership roles at the Lesbian Health and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco, the Aqua Foundation for Women, and the Office of Women's Health of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

She is a founding dyke of Lesbian of Color organizations that include the NIA Collective, Mujerío, and Ellas en Acción. It has been her pleasure to be the lead vocalist of women's ensembles such as Orquesta Sabrosita, Azúcar y Crema, and Different Touch, and for the past 10 years, Azúcar Con Aché. María currently coordinates 13 older adult choirs at the Community Music Center in San Francisco. As the newest member of the OLOC Steering Committee, she looks forward to bringing attention to the realities of older Lesbians of Color and helping to strengthen OLOC as a crucial national Lesbian organization.

Photo by Kristi Hildebrand



María Cora at the National Gathering

OLOC works for change by supporting:

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

It is with regret that the Steering Committee has accepted the resignation of Jan Griesinger, 1942, our former long-time Co-Director. There will be more about Jan in the December issue.





Photo by Bernice Miller

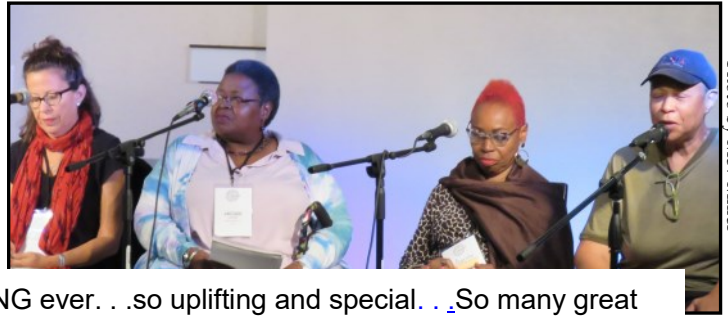


Photo by Mew Miller

Best GATHERING ever. . .so uplifting and special. . . So many great Old dykes. I had a blast and learned so much. LOC [Lesbians of Color] panel was outrageous; I was so moved and impressed. All the entertainment rocked. . .different and great. It was hard to get back to the unreal world. Love you all. Let's keep the energy going.
Retts Scauzillo, 1953



Karen Williams gave Friday night's keynote address.

Photo by Mew Miller

I only wished it had gone on and on. I felt cared for; I truly did. I'll start working on raising money for Puerto Rican Lesbians and encouraging other women in Minnesota to join us in Phoenix in 2021.
Mary Jean Mulherin, 1951



Photos by Kristi Hildebrand

Coming back from the 2019 OLOC Gathering let me think about all the beautiful experiences I had in Columbus, Ohio. Meeting all those powerful Old Lesbian women was something else!
Sandra Garcia, 1957



Old Lesbians Resist and Persist



Photo by Kristi Hildebrand

Boricua (*Borikén*) was an early name for the Island of Puerto Rico.

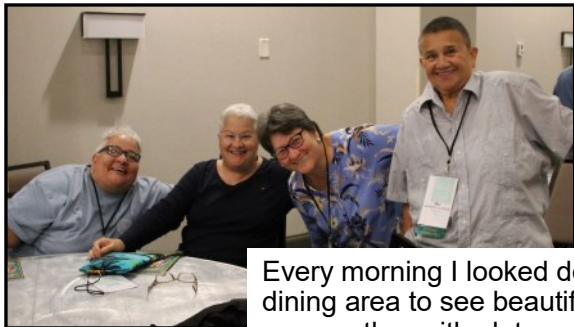


Photo by Kristi Hildebrand

Every morning I looked down from my second floor room on the dining area to see beautiful women clustered at tables, greeting one another with plates of breakfast in one hand and their arms around each other with the other. I heard laughter billowing up to my ears inviting me to join them. I made so many friends, besides seeing old friends. I love you all. Janis Sommers, 1951.
[Editor: The rest of Janis's report will be in the Sept. E-News.]

Thanks to everyone for making my first Gathering one of the best adventures of my Lesbian life! Laurie, 1941



Photo by Mew Miller

Get OLOC merchandise here!
t-shirts tanks sweatshirts
buttons and pins

Check out the beautiful shopping webpage at oloc.org/shop/.



Hibernation to Old Lesbian Nation

By Mev Miller, 1955

I've waited many years to be old enough to attend an OLOC Gathering. When I moved to Rhode Island in 2002, there wasn't an easy way to become connected to Lesbian community; my Lesbian activism and connection to community went into hibernation.

When I turned 60, I joined OLOC. At 62, I realized I knew enough Old Lesbians in Rhode Island to initiate an OLOC-Rhode Island Chapter. And this year, I finally attended a Gathering. I was concerned that my hunger for Lesbian space and high expectations might be disappointing.

I discovered that what I wanted and needed was all here—and not at all disappointing. From the second I went to the registration table and put on my name tag, I knew I was about to experience exhilaration. I started breathing Lesbian air and became intoxicated. I reconnected with many Lesbians from around the country that I hadn't seen for nearly 20+ years. I finally met many Lesbians I'd come to know through emails, the Yahoo group,

and Chapter Coordinator phone calls. I was introduced to many other Lesbians from around the country. And the radical conversations and political disagreements that involved me in the 1980s and 1990s were evolving: How white Lesbians must work against racism and become allies to Lesbians of Color, Lesbian invisibility and the need for Lesbian-centered spaces, butch-femme controversies, women born women and tensions with transwomen, how to interact with Lesbians with disabilities, open talk about Lesbian sexuality, radical feminist responses to patriarchy and hierarchy, and so much more. I was happy. And I loved every minute of it!

I carry with me a renewed sense of connections to Lesbian community among Old Lesbians who share many similar perspectives. I am out of hibernation and



Thoughts on Lesbian Erasure

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

Female Erasure: What You Need to Know about Gender Politics' War on Women, the Female Sex and Human Rights, 2016, edited by Ruth Barrett, includes articles by a number of women, including "The Erasure of Lesbians" by OLOC Steering Committee Co-Directors Alix Dobkin, 1940, and Sally Tatnall, 1937. Some good lines from their work are:

"Lesbians took on leadership in creating women's culture, theory, feminist bookstores, rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, abortion clinics, and access for deaf and hard-of-hearing through sign language at entertainment and meetings. Women's land groups were formed, women challenged male religion, women became lawyers and doctors and ran for office. Many of these women were Lesbians. Unfortunately straight women were being accused of being Lesbian and

pressure to eliminate Lesbian involvement was the result. However, Lesbians had been engaged. We had the energy, the theory, the brains, and the passion for women's liberation like no other. Women's liberation then became a slur."

"Lesbians being ignored are [sic] nothing new, and in spite of many complaints by Lesbians to community leaders over many years, we see no improvement or intention to improve. The latest absurdity is the decision at Mount Holyoke College (once an upper-crust college for women) to stop producing *The Vagina Monologues* (by Eve Ensler) because all women don't have vaginas." However, the last chapter has not been written, and we trust that if anyone can reclaim our female core and re-ground our female-based culture, it would be an army of ex-lovers who cannot fail, and that would be us!"

A feminist revolution is happening in Puerto Rico, led by women who are reforming and rebuilding the island from the bottom up for all women and girls. You can read about this glorious revolt at www.shondaland.com/live/a28653844/puerto-rico-protests-feminist-revolution/. The next issue of the *Reporter* will have more information.



Honoring Native American Residents

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

For years it has been called “Columbus Day” honoring someone made prominent in US history. It would be in the name of justice to re-name it Native American Day. They are the ones who lived on this land. They are the ones who got removed from this land against their will. Why are we honoring the one who arranged for this to happen?

[Editor: Jan says that although there is no easy system for change, what she has done is send a letter to her mayor and her county commission. Please send in your ideas and what your community is doing.]

More on Native Heritage of New Mexico

We received a request from Elizabeth Berrey, 1945, to correct the information on “Native Heritage of New Mexico” in the June *Reporter*. This is what she would like to replace the last paragraph with:

“Visitors are welcome, but please remember that you are visiting peoples’ neighborhoods and homes. It is important to honor this and be respectful in your visit. Also, make sure to check ahead of your visit, as some communities are only open on certain feast days, while others, which may be open almost every day of the year, may close unexpectedly for religious or other cultural observations.”

Passings

Sue Wise, 1940–2019, Lyons, Colorado

Marj Rust, 1929–2019, Coal Creek Canyon, Colorado

Celeste Newbrough, 1938–2017, Berkeley, California

Cat Heron Steele, 1942–2019, Santa Cruz, California

Rev. Dr. Dorothy May Emerson, 1943–2019, Woburn, Massachusetts

Nancy Breeze, 1932-2019, Longwood, Florida

Foxx Silveira, 1940-2019, Santa Fe, New Mexico

See E-News for more about these Lesbians.

Update on Susan’s Injury

OLOC’s Administrator, Susan Wiseheart, 1941, took a fall on March 2 and broke her hip badly. She has had three surgeries and is now resting and recuperating while she awaits her fourth and final surgery. Here is an update in her own words [excerpted]:

“My last hip surgery is scheduled for September 26, much later than I hoped. I am now in wait mode. I am on a regular course of pain pills that mostly keeps it at bay and recently got rid of the uncomfortable rental bed at Denslow’s *[Editor: neighbor at whose home Susan is recuperating]* and bought an inexpensive recliner, which seems to be better for sleeping most nights. I do my rounds of therapy exercises. I very much appreciate the cards, concern, communications, and donations from so many of you. Thank you.”

If you want to communicate, her address is HC 73 Box 169C, Drury, MO 65638. Get well soon, Susan!



Photo by Kristi Hildebrand

Susan attended the National Gathering, where everyone was delighted to see her, and she them.

Next Steering Committee Meeting

The next National Steering Committee in-person meeting will be October 24–26, 2019, in Phoenix, Arizona. The Committee also meets regularly by conference call between the semiannual in-person meetings. If there are topics you want the Steering Committee to address, contact them by email at info@oloc.org, a note to OLOC at PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498, or a phone call to 888-706-7506.

Be sure to say if you want a response.



Two Views of Radical Feminism by the Sea Conference

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

You may not have heard about this, but it was a wonderful conference in April in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Attendees were vetted to prohibit any transgender interruption. I had the privilege of attending.

First we heard from someone raised in the hills of West Virginia and how she survived to become a radical feminist. The young women there heard about the herstory of radical feminism from two other presenters. They loved hearing from the elder Lesbians and showed great respect. The discrediting of elders so popular these days was not present. We learned how to start a consciousness-raising group and how to incorporate as a religion in order to have women-only space.

There was a presentation on doing anti-racism work as an activist. We talked about the pros and cons of working with right-wing organizations and how important it is to have a solid feminist base when doing any of this work.

In a presentation on the very long herstory of women's spirituality and power, we heard about feminism on campus and how isolated young Lesbians feel among the queer and gay women. A button that said "Lesbian not queer" was popular. I gave a presentation on "Hierarchy/Patriarchy, Toward a Theory of Solidarity," which I plan on giving at the OLOC Gathering.

I felt so energized. It is a rare time to spend talking about radical feminism for days. I am concerned about the lack of radical feminist theory today. We were so good at it in the 1970s and 1980s. It is a glaring absence. The facilitators plan to do the workshop again next year and I look forward to again being with smart Lesbians who are not afraid to think.

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

By Rena Grasso, 1944

A sense of urgency and hope brought me to the Radfem gathering By the Sea (Delaware, April 2019). Attacks on women's hard-won gains are intensifying. Fortunately, signs of a resurgent women's movement have emerged (#MeToo and others). I was excited to connect with radical feminists to advance this movement.

Instead, I experienced the consequences of decades-long backlash. The conference literally opened with an injunction: no debate about radical feminism was to be tolerated. What followed made me long for discussion: radical feminism without commitment to and vision of political transformation. I left bewildered, wondering what this collective meant by radical feminism.

Organization was both cause and symptom of this political confusion and stasis. Workshops divided the audience in rows before the privileged (the speakers). Time disallowed discussion, and I heard many provocative or disputable statements that required challenge or, minimally, discussion, but it was not to be.

Worse, as I learned by experience, disagreement was not permitted. I did not agree with what one of the presenters had to say, and I pushed back. That's when I learned the policy. An organizer grabbed the mic, silencing me, informing us that disagreement with presenters was not permitted.

Such authoritarian structure and policy would have been unimaginable in the 1960s and 1970s. Women had awakened to how formats silenced their voices. Feminist process was intentional behavior to resist replication of patriarchal structures of control and suppression, a process inseparable from empowering women and feminist transformation.

I write to call out this regression. Conversation is the medium that generates bonding—the sisterhood that pursues clear thinking and nurtures the courage to undertake the bold actions our time implores of us.

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



Chapter and Regional News

Hudson Valley, New York OLOC The Summer of Love—Peace and Protest By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

The summer of 2019 was a busy and active one for the Hudson Valley Chapter. In addition to our pop-up social at the R&R Lounge in Woodstock, which happens once a month and is a place for OLOC members and all women to come and socialize, we were busy producing events and marching in Pride Marches.

Our Chapter marched in our local Hudson Valley Pride March on Sunday, June 2. Fifteen members marched and chanted along with the rest of the community. We are the L in LGBTQ and we are proud to represent Lesbians and Old Lesbians at events in our community. OLOC members also marched in NYC Gay Pride, marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in NYC in 1969.

We attended a protest on July 15 at City Hall in Kingston, where we wore our “This is what an Old Lesbian looks like” t-shirts and were counted among the more than 100 other protesters appalled at this country’s treatment of immigrants and refugees trying to enter our country to find a better life.

Our LGBTQ Center hosted an intergenerational event. OLOC members attended and were pleased with it.

Bonnie [Wagner, 1942] and I hosted a Salon night. Amanda Aikman, a Lesbian playwright from Everett, Washington, wrote a play called *Risk-Benefit*. Amanda is a member of the Puget Sound OLOC chapter. The reading was a lot of fun and Hudson Valley Chapter women attended and gave very intelligent and useful feedback.

Some Hudson Valley members attended the National Women’s Music Festival in Middleton, Wisconsin. What a great event for OLOC members! A large number of dykes there were OLOC age. Bonnie and Ruth (Steering Committee members) did an OLOC workshop, which is always very popular. I stage-manage the Spotlight stage.



Colorado Chapter

By Katherine Wood, 1954

Colorado OLOC had its annual weenie roast in the mountains in June, where sisters gathered in the beauty and shared summer stories at the lovely home of Sue Olmsted, 1943. Several guests joined us. In July, we met at a restaurant for good Italian food and Part Two of a life story program led by Sami Maroney, 1944. (Sami did Part One several years ago.) Again, we had guests at the meeting—three this time. In August, we met at an area senior center for a potluck. We invited Lesbians of all ages to join us for an across-the-generations gathering, our first and hopefully annual. Afterwards, we said goodbye to two long-time members, Sue Wise, 1940–2019, and Marj Rust, 1929–2019, with our special “We will remember her” memorial service.

Right now we are raising money for our LGBT Denver Center’s annual holiday party for teens who participate in Rainbow Alley [Editor: a teen group at the Center]. We have also been helping out our sisters with health challenges and attending area activities together. Plans are underway for our first Colorado OLOC Gathering in Manitou Springs, Colorado, in October. Also, several of our members attended the National Gathering in Columbus, Ohio.

New Mexico Chapter

By Susan Buchler, 1946

These were New Mexico OLOC events for May, June, and July 2019.

May 18, 2019: This was our third program by poet Mary Oishi in which she read from her upcoming memoir, *The Little Jap That Lillie Raised*, the story of her early life as a Japanese American Lesbian raised by extreme fundamentalist members of the KKK. Mary Oishi has been out since 1982. She is also a published author and is one of twelve US poets whose work was translated into Spanish for a project funded by the Mexico Secretariat of Culture. Her poem was read at International Women’s Day in 2019. Her poetry and prose have been widely published. After her reading, Mary provided a format for each of us to write an auto-biographical poem in one of two formats, which some shared and others did not.

June 15, 2019, Playing with Clay: The June program began with a potluck hosted by M. Hari Sheppard, 1950, and Susan Buchler, 1946, outdoors in their back yard. The program consisted of modeling with clay. Some made New Mexico sun faces, but there was

(Continued on page 8)



More Chapter and Regional News

Continued from page 7

a variety of other kinds of faces and figures as well. Hari supervised how we rolled, cut, stretched, and decorated our creations. She also had located a venue where they could be easily and affordably fired and then painted if desired.

July 20, 2019, Political forum— The July program was an eagerly awaited return of some of the New Mexico women political candidates who spoke to our OLOC group last year before the 2018 election. The large room was filled almost to capacity. As well as our own members, many Lesbians from the community attended. Most notably on the program was Deb Haaland from Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, the first Native American woman to be elected to Congress, as well as five other elected officials.

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

Want to start an OLOC chapter or group in your area? Contact bonnie@oloc.org if you are east of the Mississippi and ruth@oloc.org if you are west of the Mississippi. See the Steering Committee list on page 2 for phone numbers.

OLOC Mission Statement

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

OLOC Vision Statement

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

Pioneer Valley OLOC Spring and Summer Report

By Emily Greene, 1946

Spring has brought out the dykes in the Valley as we celebrated Pride Day and Stonewall 50 in both Northampton [NoHo] and Greenfield. The NoHo march is always spectacular, with thousands marching, and a showing of our OLOC group. Greenfield planned and had a wonderful 4th-year march and rally June 15 with over a thousand Lesbians participating and a great rally with our newly elected Lesbian State Senator, Jo Comerford, giving an inspiring speech.

July's meeting was absolutely fun and a chance to get to know each other, as we each brought in several pictures from our early years and took turns telling a story or two about our early lives. We enjoyed it so much, we've decided to add that to our activities at our 4th Mini Michfest camping trip at Prospect Lake again on the New York border.

In August, we all gathered for a week of camping together to re-create Michigan [Womyn's Music Festival] with morning sermons from Sister Carolyn Gage, sharing some meals together—like Wraye and Sheryl's famous Nutloaf dinner—swimming, kayaking, and hiking together. This year, we shared more stories about our lives with more pictures.

Oh, and how can I forget our campfires! Last year, several women traveled to New York to join the New York OLOC group [Hudson Valley Chapter] for a picnic. Several women were looking forward to going to the National Gathering, and once again we are so grateful for the support from our National OLOC.



Pioneer Valley Chapter at Greenfield Pride March



Long Beach Chapter Honors Former Coordinator

By Sharon Raphael, 1941

Pat Lamis, 1947 (on right in photo), received an award/trophy on July 27 for the four-and-a-half years she spent as the Long Beach, California, OLOC Chapter Coordinator. During that time, she brought in guest speakers, enlarged the membership, and continued OLOC's participation in our very large Long Beach Gay Pride Parade, where we drive cars with OLOC signs and OLOC passengers waving at thousands of people who are waving back and shouting positive cheers along the route. Pat also represented OLOC at many events in the Los Angeles area, such as the Dyke Marches in Los Angeles and Long Beach. She is a well-known figure in movement and LGBT social circles in Southern California.

Pat also donated her own money when she became very ill before she was Coordinator to keep the coffers of our local treasury afloat. We used the donation to rent convertibles for the parade and in the future plan to support members traveling to National Gatherings.



Although she has stepped down as Chapter Coordinator, Pat plans to continue as an active member of OLOC. She will also continue her involvement with the Gray Panthers and Senior Services at the LGBTQ Center in Long Beach. Pat founded the famous Womynz Brunch Bunch newsletter, which was sent to 5,000 Lesbians, and Women on Wednesdays, and was involved early in the creation of Women Over Forty, a popular organization in Long Beach. She was also active in a group called LEZ Chat.

Long Beach OLOC still has as Secretary and contact person Sharon Raphael (smraphael@aol.com) and Treasurer Jenny Wrenn.

The Chapter is considering changing its name to the Greater LA Area OLOC and expanding meeting locations to include proper Los Angeles as well as Long Beach, which has always included Orange County.

Pioneer Valley Member honored by Massachusetts Commission on Status of Women

OLOC Pioneer Valley's (Massachusetts) own Mary McClintock, 1957, was honored by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as an Unsung Heroine.

The purpose of the Commission is to advance women and girls toward full equity in all areas of life and to promote rights and opportunities for all women and girls. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights, and the full enjoyment of life for all women and girls throughout their lives. Each June, Massachusetts celebrates female Commonwealth community leaders.

Freelance writer and progressive activist Mary McClintock joined Community Action Pioneer Valley as Community Collaboration Coordinator in 2017. Mary has always been a community builder. She helped start Greenfield's Free Harvest Supper of Locally Grown Food and Greenfield's Weekly Peace Vigil, wrote a *Greenfield Recorder* local food column for ten years, was interim director of the Franklin County Community Meals Program, and organizes events for local Lesbians. She chairs Conway's Planning Board and helped start Conway's Pre-Town Meeting Dessert Potluck and Discussion.



Mary's work has affected thousands in her region. Recently she advocated for individuals experiencing homelessness in Greenfield, helping them find services and shelter, while working with homeless individuals, service providers, and civic leaders to identify steps to solve the challenge of homelessness. Mary believes deeply that we are all in this together, and she works daily to bring people together for the greater good of our communities.

Mary McClintock lives in Conway, Massachusetts, and was recommended by Natalie M. Blasi, Massachusetts State Representative.

Congratulations, Mary! What a well-deserved honor!

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



New Movie in OLOC's Media Library!

A Great Ride Willits, Santa Rosa, and Vallejo, California Old Lesbians talk of their communities. It could be any of us. They all seem very familiar and if they are not our friends, they oughta be. Lesbian land, a retirement village, and small city organizing are included in the film. The two most well-known dykes are Sally Miller Gearhart and Brenda Crawford. "I loved this movie so much," Susan Wiseheart. Closed captioned. 33 min. 2018 DVD only.

The complete newly updated list of all our movies is available at oloc.org/media-library/. There is no charge for borrowing the films, but we do ask for a donation of \$5 or more per item for postage. Check with Susan for possible reduced rates if you want to borrow more than one at a time. We also ask that you keep films for no longer than two weeks and order as far ahead as you can so that we can be sure to get them to you when you need them.

Members: Are you in National OLOC's Yahoo group? It is a great place to converse with other members. The list does not have a lot of traffic, so it won't fill up your inbox. You can get it as individual comments or in a digest format. To subscribe, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/NationalOLOC/. If you have any problems, contact susan@oloc.org.

What's Good about Living in a Retirement Home

By Diane Ste. Marie, 1939

I go out my door and always meet someone interesting. Even if it's late at night and I'm taking a break, I am surprised to find just the right person I need to talk to.

My retirement home is convenient to classes at Pacific Northwest Ballet for adults and teens. I always wanted to be a ballerina, but my mom was raised fundamentalist, so dancing was verboten! It turns out that you can learn ballet at 79. I now have very strong core muscles and get to hang out with younger people. It's fun.

There are some out Lesbians and gay men at my home. My space is nice, and I've taken a burden off my kids, who won't have to close my house with everything in it when I die. I'm not dependent for care on my kids or friends. Even though the food is only so-so, I enjoy the dining room staff.

It's not only saying I'm old, but there's living with it. So it's good I'm with a bunch of other folk experiencing the same thing. We are all facing the same challenges of health and physical and mental changes, which point toward needing more support in the future.

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

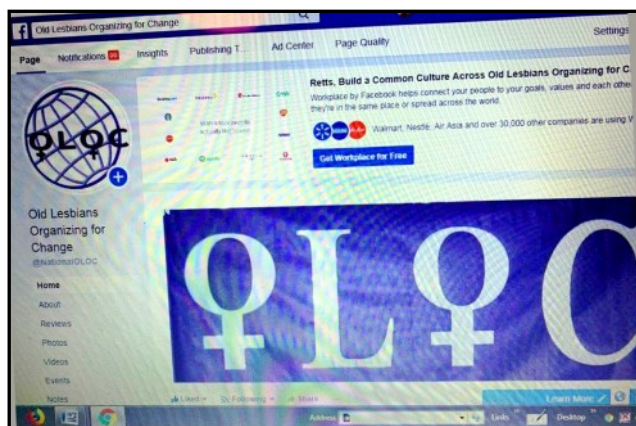
What the Tech-Savvy Old Dyke Needs to Know about Facebook. . .

. . .but was afraid to ask. Here are the do's and don'ts:

You must have a Facebook page to access the Old Lesbians National Facebook page.

There are other Old Lesbians pages, as different chapters have their own pages, so don't be fooled. The National OLOC page looks like the photo.

1. Sign on to your Facebook page, and at the top where it has the little magnifying glass, type in *Old Lesbians Organizing for Change*. Do not type in OLOC.
2. Once on the page, you can read the posts and make comments, but you cannot post. Only the administrators can do that.
3. You can leave a recommendation and review (please be kind); just click on Reviews. If there is anything else you would like to know, you can email Retts and she will try to assist (rettsie@gmail.com).





Old Lesbians Organizing for Change OLOC Supporter Form

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

Name: _____

Street/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State or province: _____ Zip or postal: _____

Out of United States? Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

New to OLOC? Yes No

I am a supporter.

I am a supporter and member.

I am not sending money at this time.

I am sending _____ for support (suggested donation is \$35 to \$100 per year).

Your demographic information (not ever used with names attached) will help us with grant eligibility and maintaining our diversity. We never give out names of supporters to anyone outside OLOC.

Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Race and Ethnicity: _____

Any disability? If so, describe. Grantmakers sometime request this information. _____

I would like to receive the quarterly *Reporter* as print copy electronic both neither.

I would like to receive the monthly E-News by email (see my email address above). Yes No

Skills I could donate to OLOC: _____

I already belong to the following OLOC chapter or group: _____

I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and could help work toward establishing one. Yes No

I found out about OLOC from: _____

If you have a different address during different seasons of the year, please give us details as the post office will not forward your newsletters and OLOC will have to pay to have them returned to us.

To make a payment:

By check: Make check out to OLOC. Send to POB 834, Woodstock, NY 12498.

By PayPal: Use the Donate button at oloc.org on right side near top of the page.

By credit card through PayPal: Use the Donate button at oloc.org on right side near top of the page.

If you want to pay with a credit card but not go through PayPal: Send a message to Ruth Debra at ruth@oloc.org or phone her at 760-318-6794. If you get a recording, give her a way to contact you.

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

OLOC
PO Box 834
Woodstock, NY 12498

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Time to Renew? Check
your label* →

If it says 2019.09 (meaning
September 2019) or earlier,
your membership or support
has ended and it is time
to renew.

**See inside for reports and
photos from
the August
National Gathering!**