

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

News from the Steering Committee

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

The OLOC Steering Committee held its semiannual meeting October 22–25 at the Atlanta Holiday Inn Airport North. That is where, as you probably already know, OLOC and Atlanta-based ZAMI NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging) as well as the Atlanta OLOC Chapter will co-produce the 10th National OLOC Gathering, October 5–9, 2016.

OLOC, ZAMI NOBLA, and the Atlanta OLOC Chapter will co-produce the 10th National OLOC Gathering, October 5–9, 2016.

First on the agenda was the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between OLOC, ZAMI NOBLA, and Atlanta OLOC that we finalized at the meeting. We modified the Membership and Mission Statements, agreed on modifications to our brochure, examined the budget, talked about the fund-raising letter, and did lots more business. Ten local Old Lesbians joined us and we began getting acquainted and setting the framework for our new partnership.

On Sunday we brunchd at Twisted Soul restaurant with other Atlanta Lesbians and then saw the small but impressive ZAMI NOBLA office in downtown Atlanta that OLOC will share until the end of 2016.

We welcomed three new Steering Committee members who had served as provisional members for this and the previous meeting: Ali Marrero-Calderon (1948), Paj Wadley-

The Reporter

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Bailey (1939), and Mary Anne Adams (1954). Mary Anne later withdrew from the SC but will continue to work with us and ZAMI NOBLA to produce next year's Gathering.

We left after four days, convinced Atlanta is the right location in which to celebrate our Tenth National Gathering.

Black Lives Matter

OLOC fully supports the movement called Black Lives Matter as it moves forward in the challenging work of creating change in the criminal justice system. In the words of one of the three (queer/Lesbian) founders, Alicia Garza, "Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise;" Black Lives Matter is "an affirmation of Black folks' contributions to this society, our humanity and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression." The term "Black Lives Matter" started as #BlackLivesMatter in reaction to the killing of Trayvon Martin, a teenager in Florida who was shot by a volunteer community security guard who was later acquitted of Martin's murder. It grew into a movement, and the name is part and parcel of that specific and particular movement.

Because OLOC works against the erasure and oppression of women, we also fully support a second movement, Black Women's Lives Matter, which is calling attention to the reality that Black women lose their lives and freedom in the criminal justice system as well as men, and it is often underreported. Right now this group is working to bring about justice for Marissa Alexander, who was imprisoned for shooting a legally owned gun into the air to frighten away her abusive

(Continued on page 2)

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: Feb 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.

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

husband, who was threatening to commit violence against her again.

For more information on both of these movements, contact susan@oloc.org for suggestions of things to read. OLOC members involved in the Black Lives Matter and Black Women's Lives Matter movements are invited to send us stories of what you have been doing.

Athens Celebrates Artful Aging

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

The final event of a ten-week creative writing residency, sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council and its new Artful Aging Ohio initiative, was held at a nursing home. Participants had been reading and writing, considering how to move forward and remain vital as we age. As part of the proceedings, I read a poem that I had found years ago in a publication from the Older Feminist Network. The poem was "Nothing to Lose," written by Astra. Before I read it, I gave my name and age, and used the word ageism. I brought literature on ageism and offered to do workshops on the topic. After reading the poem, I did a chant and asked the audience to participate:

"We're here,
we're old,
we're fabulous,
don't mess with us."

And the 40 or so attending, mostly old women, did join in. After the event, many in the audience said they liked the poem and the chant. They also asked for copies of the information on aging (a half page written by Mary Morgan explaining/describing what ageism is).



OLOC is a Wolfe Video affiliate. Use this link to order from Wolfe, and OLOC will receive cash to support our work:

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Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.

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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.



Chapter News

Champlain Valley Region Chapter Highlights Lesbian Pride

By Madeleine Winterfalcon, 1950

In view of recent Lesbian Identity Theft, the Champlain Valley Region OLOC Chapter in Burlington, Vermont, felt it was important to affirm the word *Lesbian* in our local Pride Parade.

The signs we carried read:

"Old Time Lesbian Feminist"

"Lesbian by Choice, Gender Abolitionist by Logic"

"Affirming Lesbian Pride"

"Lesbian"

"Lesbian Feminist"

"Don't Be Afraid, Join Us"



Champlain Valley OLOC in Burlington VT

St. Louis Chapter

By Charlotte Ellis, 1943

Our chapter received some recognition for our participation in a 50th Birthday of Medicare party. Jeannette Mott Oxford, a longtime Missouri activist, asked if OLOC wanted to be on the committee with several other organizations. I told her our chapter would not be meeting, but I would be glad to be on the committee. So we were listed in the program as one of the sponsoring organizations. Three of our OLOC members were there, and we were asked to stand up.

Several of us also attended a free sneak preview of the movie *Freeheld* because OLOC members received invitations.

Hopefully, one of these days we will start meeting regularly again.

New Mexico Chapter

By Paula Fisher, 1951

Three of the topics at recent meetings that brought many women out for stimulating, heartfelt conversations were "Aging and Disabilities," "Intentional Communities," and "Sex and the Aging Lesbian." Our monthly Breakfast Club also brings many women together for lively, fun conversations.

We maintained a table at the New Mexico Conference on Aging in August and made connections with Old Lesbians who had not previously heard about us!

National OLOC referred us to a woman living in a nursing home here in Albuquerque. We made contact with her and several of our chapter members are visiting her on a regular basis. One of our goals this year is to reach out to Lesbians in assisted living and nursing homes. Several of our attempts to work with facility administration have not been fruitful. Any referrals are appreciated!

Central Ohio Chapter Educates About Ageism

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

In October, the Central Ohio OLOC chapter was invited to speak at Ohio University Women's Center. We spoke about our work to encourage facilities for old people to train their staff to be more welcoming to LGBT people.

We also helped members in our audience to understand ageism. We gave them each an ageist birthday card and asked them to tell us what they saw on the card about ageism. This helped them to see the problem visually and encouraged them to speak about it. Members of the audience spoke about their own mothers and grandmothers and how they were choosing to deal with aging. One young woman said she had seen an ad for a drug that urged women in their twenties to take it to avoid aging.

**OLOC T-Shirts Denim Shirts
Sweatshirts Cloisonné Lapel Pins
Buttons And More!**

Go to www.oloc.org/market/market.html.



Alix Dobkin Performs Concert for Hudson Valley OLOC

By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

On Sunday afternoon, September 27, OLOC of the Hudson Valley proudly produced Lesbian icon and womyn's music pioneer Alix Dobkin at the LGBTQ Center of the Hudson Valley in Kingston, New York. Alix also happens to be Co-Director of National OLOC. Her concert was billed as "Just Alix," but, in keeping with her folk roots and to honor her now "Grandma Alix" status, her two grandsons, Lucca and Marly Lofaro, joined her on a family song. They both sang and Lucca played guitar to *Inch by Inch*. The audience loved it, and most sang along.

But, of course, Alix also performed many of her Lesbian favorites, to the delight of the mostly Old Lesbian audience. Her daughter Adrian Hood and son-in-law Chris Lofaro were also present, along with her niece Allison Dobkin. Chris mixed sound for the event. I think it's always interesting and amazing when two worlds collide and it ends up being a wonderful collision of family and friends.

After the concert, all the womyn were invited back to Bonnie Wagner's and my home (Bonnie is on the National OLOC Steering Committee) for a community get-together with food and some adult beverages. Many came, and we partied until the wee hours (about 9 pm!) when most of the partygoers left. It was a great way to usher in the autumn.

OLOC Chapters

OLOC chapters and groups as of July 27, 2015, are Atlanta, Georgia; 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; Boston and Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Cleveland and Central Ohio; Salt Lake City, Utah; Champlain Valley 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.

Our suggestion is to find two or three Old Lesbians to meet and discuss this and send National OLOC your ideas and information on what you'd like to do, when, how, and what the cost would be. We will gladly work with you to make it happen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Research on Experiences of Old Lesbians with Home Care Workers Extended

If you currently receive home care services or have done so in the past five years, are Lesbian and 65 years of age or older, and are interested in sharing your experiences in a research study on this topic, please contact Dr. Sandy Butler from the University of Maine School of Social Work at 844-641-2382 (toll free) or sbutler@maine.edu for more information. Research involves one telephone interview (lasting 30 to 45 minutes) for which participants will receive \$25. Recruitment of study participants will continue through March 31, 2016.

(This study has been approved by OLOC Research Gatekeeper Sharon Raphael.)

Donations to OLOC

OLOC is very grateful to have received a donation from Ronni Sanlo in honor of Ruth Silver (pictured). If you are interested in making a donation to OLOC in honor of a friend or including OLOC in your will, please contact Jan Griesinger, OLOC Treasurer, at Jan@oloc.org.



Silver Threads

Lesbians 50 and older (and their younger friends) are invited to a Silver Threads celebration January 14–18, 2016, at the Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach, Florida. Entertainment will include Mele Piano M'am and DJ LucyBlu. More information at www.SilverThreadsCelebration.org.

Next SC meeting

March 10–15, 2016, Atlanta, GA

If you have a topic you want the Steering Committee to address, let them know 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.



Responses we received to our request for your experiences with the consensus decision-making process:

Is Consensus Classist?

By d. maria (pronounced Mariah), 1939

I have worked with three grassroots organizations using consensus decision-making principles since 1980. All three have used intimidation, from time to time, to win. All have tried to squeeze the principles of competition into the consensus format, leading to intimidation, pre-meeting vote gathering, consensus minus one or two (depending on how many are likely to block consensus), or blocking just to win, etc.

Truth is, in spite of our (feminist or liberal) ideals against hierarchy, we've been raised in a competitive, classist/racist, and patriarchal society. In the mostly white male organization I worked for, white men always won by intimidating any women dissenters. In the two all-women organizations, "founders" still have more power. Consensus has become more casual, with "founders" taking a few breaths, during which time dissenters might speak up, and then assuming consensus. One of them even uses proxies.

With these experiences, I would have to say that consensus decision-making principles, could, and usually do, in practice, favor the dominant group. However, I do not believe it is the nature of consensus decision-making that causes this to happen. I believe the problem is us: how we have learned to be powerful within the dominant society, and our internalized self-oppressions. Learning about how others have transformed their practice by taking training from professionals in the Quaker tradition can produce really good results. I also think work on our own oppressions, including internalized ones, is probably the best solution.

In short, I don't think consensus is classist. I think we are. Sorry.

Consensus

By Conni Johnson, 1950

Consensus decision-making is highly valued by me. I am a person who is/thinks different/ly; I'm often on the side of the other, on the losing side of the majority-rules decisions. With consensus, at least I get to be heard and to speak for myself, and women get a chance to consider what I have said.

I am a very firm supporter of consensus decision-making—as long as everyone is following the process, understands how it works, and commits to participating in good faith, honesty, and true Sisterhood. True consensus process does require time, energy, and commitment. It requires that one respect oneself, each of the others in the process, and the entire group as you join together in this process.

If some of the women involved abdicate their responsibility to state their honest feelings and thoughts and fall back to an "I'll just go along with whatever you all decide" position, there is bound to be resentment and hard feelings. By the same token, if a cadre of women make a pact to stick together on their position regardless of what any other woman says, the process grinds to a halt and crumbles.

Each woman must speak her truth, and each woman must listen with an open heart, ready to hear and to learn.

I was born into a family that eventually achieved upper middle class status. I have lived much of my life below the poverty level.

Discussion Series Proposed

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

The Steering Committee would like to begin a series of dialogues about political issues in which we are interested. For the March 2016 issue of *The Reporter* we want to know your thoughts about class and classism. There will be a different topic in each issue of *The Reporter*.

Your article should be less than 300 words and you can send it to Jennice (jenn-gt@hotmail.com) with a cc to susan@wiseheart.com.

Don't forget that if you now receive *The Reporter* in print and want to switch to electronic, please let us know at susan@oloc.org. It arrives sooner, is in full color, you can make it as big as you want to so it's easier to see and read, and it costs us less.

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



Applauding OLOC

By Diane Ste. Marie, 1939

Ever since the Pacific Northwest Regional OLOC Gathering a few years back (2011), my life as an Old Lesbian has gotten richer and richer with all the opportunities of meeting Old Lesbians and supporters, so many things to do and women to do them with; opportunities to stretch my thinking and especially building supportive relationships. In my younger years, I may have hung out in crowded, dim, noisy bars hoping someone would not only notice me but would want something a little more. Then, as a single Lesbian, connections/friendships seemed to constantly elude me or to be of short duration. How much nicer and easier to meet Old Lesbians in the daylight, for us to have matured, grown, gained comfort in sharing friends, and, especially today, the possibility and safety of being out and open in public in ways not possible when we were young. I say this is a great time to be an Old Lesbian! And a great time to be supported through networks like OLOC, Puget Sound OLOC, and Over 40s (the groups I mainly know about).

Thank you everyone. I am deeply grateful.

Minding Our Language

By Debbie Cameron

Movements in the 1960s and 1970s talked about “isms” like racism, sexism, heterosexism. Their 21st century counterparts talk about “phobias” like homo-phobia, femme-phobia. “Is” words and “phobia” words name essentially the same phenomenon: the unjust treatment of one social group by others. But they frame that phenomenon in very different ways.

The language of “phobia” personalizes the political by concentrating on the feelings an action expresses rather than the interests it serves. From a radical feminist perspective it is crucial to hold onto the understanding that oppression is only sometimes about hate, but it is always about power—about the structures and systems that serve collective political interests. “Phobia” pathologizes prejudice, representing it by implication as the irrational response of some individuals rather than the product of a system that benefits some groups at the expense of others. And once you stop asking who benefits from oppression or whose interests it serves, you can easily slip into a discourse reminiscent of Margaret Thatcher’s dictum that “there is no such thing as society.” There are no material structures of inequality, only personal feelings and individual identities.

—From *Rain and Thunder*, Summer 2015

Ageism

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

This is fine material from a feminist publication that, sadly, no longer exists—*off our backs*. The September/October 2005 issue, “Women and Age,” includes fine work by OLOC members Carol Anne Douglas, who was a member of the collective that produced it, and former OLOC Co-Director Mina Meyer. Douglas reviewed Margaret Cruikshank’s book, *Learning to be Old: Gender, Culture, and Aging*. (Cruikshank was a keynote speaker at OLOC’s 2008 National Gathering):

“Hatred of old people is spreading virulently. The media is full of warnings about a ‘tsunami’ of old people who will supposedly overwhelm society with the cost of supporting them, particularly their medical care. (Is it their fault medical costs skyrocket every year? Haven’t old people paid taxes and Social Security their whole lives?)”

It’s amazing that this was said 10 years ago and it still seems to be true.

From the same publication, a quote that isn’t attributed to anyone: “Would a twenty-something woman say she had a twenty-something moment if she misplaced her car keys?”

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



Plan Ahead If You Have the Courage

By Shewolf, 1932

(In her early 80s, Shewolf has been thinking about and researching the possibility of moving out of her house and into a facility for old people, a home for her "last or next to last decade on this earth." She lives in Florida.)

One of the major concerns when seeking this kind of place is the available medical and healing help one may need at this time. Finding places is not hard but finding them with or near good medical and natural healing sources is tricky. You want to have ways of getting to what you want and need quickly when you need it and still be able to live comfortably during the "before and after" attentions (surgery, treatments, healing attention, diagnoses, doctors and healers, physical therapy, etc.). Sometimes the aftercare becomes more important than the major events, particularly when you pass the 70-year mark in your life. Healing takes a lot longer than it used to when you were younger.

Many of the facilities I've looked at have lots of services if you have the funds, but there are not as many around if you are limited in your monthly income. The challenge is to find a place where you have most of what you need and can manage to fund it in an atmosphere of what you want. I have found several great places. Some of them I may even be able to afford. *(So far her top candidates are within a day of where she now lives.)*

(Alice Smyth, 1929, would like to add: "Don't wait too long is crucial [advice] for finding a good place to end up. I'm at Linden Ponds in Massachusetts, one of 16 Erickson communities dotted about the US. In order to afford the entrance fee, you may need a home to sell. Monthly fees cover a lot, so may not be more than you're spending now. It's gay-friendly, with a diversity program and an equality group. We have fun, with about 160 groups and programs: writing memoirs, playing the recorder, nature walks, bridge, scrabble, trips to Boston—tons of stuff. There is a nursing home. So check it out before the rigors of moving seem too hard.")

A Lesbian National Treasure (from *Maize, a Lesbian Country Magazine*, Spring 2015)

Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor under FDR, was also a Lesbian whose partner contributed to Perkins's being able to leave us her amazing legacy. Frances was the first woman to occupy a Cabinet position, and she has rightly been referred to as the "woman behind the New Deal." Her achievements include the banning of child labor, the minimum wage, the forty-hour workweek, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, employer-provided health insurance, new work programs to create jobs, welfare, and Social Security. The only item on her reform agenda that she failed to secure was universal health insurance. The American Medical Association had as influential a lobby then as now.

—Carolyn Gage, from *Robin Blythe-niCathain*



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 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



Creating Access: A Beginning, Part 2

By an Anonymous OLOC Member, 1954

It is the responsibility of TABs (temporarily able-bodied people) to deal with disability as an issue, to educate yourselves, and to stop your oppressive behavior, which includes either staring at or ignoring disabled people. You need to become sensitive. Access is not a luxury. We can find creative ways to meet our community's needs, but if money has to be spent, it should be spent. Access means creating an environment in which everyone has the opportunity to participate. It means, in the ideal, that no one is left out.

Limited access is not access. It is important to understand what you are doing. Awareness is a priority. Communicate with disabled people and find out what is needed. Ask questions; don't make assumptions or think you know. Learn how you can be an advocate for people with disabilities. Speak up when you are in a situation where people are being left out. Consider how that situation could be made more accessible.

Do outreach to disabled people and find out how they can be included in your activities. Assistance with mobility, providing interpreters, and making available Braille/taped/large-print materials can make a difference. Publicity should include access information. Interrupt offensive language and insensitive jokes. If you are confronted with a charge of being oppressive, do not get defensive. You need to get beyond that for change to happen.

Wheelchair users need room to zoom. Blind people need to have nonverbal behavior described. Interpreters can only interpret one person talking at a time. Physical access alone is not enough to ensure full inclusion. You need to examine your attitudes and commit yourselves to change them. Many disabilities are hidden.

Being disabled is a challenge, not a tragedy. Let's work together to create a community in which everyone has an equal opportunity to participate.

Excerpted from a longer article written in 1983 by the author, who has a disability. Part 1, "Disability Awareness: An Introduction," appeared in the September issue of the Reporter.

Hunger and Poverty Among Baby Boomers

A report from Feeding America, once known as America's Second Harvest, finds that more than eight million baby boomers between the ages of 50 and 64 are turning to food assistance to make ends meet.

According to the report, 62 percent of the 13 million adults age 50 and older served by Feeding America's food banks are "pre-seniors" under the age of 64, with the majority of them not yet eligible for federal support programs such as Social Security and Medicare. Based on data collected from Feeding America clients, the study found that, among those surveyed, "pre-seniors" are more likely than older seniors to live in a household experiencing food insecurity (86 percent) or poverty (72 percent), report poor health (59 percent), have unpaid medical bills (58 percent), receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (55 percent), or experience housing instability, such as having to move in with friends or family (18 percent), or having faced foreclosure or eviction within the past five years (15 percent). In addition, the report found that nearly two-thirds of "pre-senior" survey respondents had not been employed in the past year, and that 73 percent of those individuals cited being disabled or in poor health as the reason for their unemployment.

Funded by AARP, the report also found that a majority of Feeding America clients age 50 and older have to choose between paying for food or medical care (63 percent), utilities (60 percent), or transportation (58 percent). Strategies that older adults employ to make ends meet include buying the cheapest food available, even if it is unhealthy (77 percent); visiting a charitable feeding program on a regular basis (64 percent); receiving help from friends and family (46 percent); and diluting their food or drink (38 percent).

The full report, *Baby Boomers and Beyond: Facing Hunger after Fifty*, can be found at FeedingAmerica.org/SolveSeniorHunger.



Memorials

Maryline “Whitie” White 1921–2015

Maryline loved OLOC and made sure to keep her membership up to date. She was interviewed by the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP) in 2011 and hoped to attend a Gathering. She was born in Dayton, Ohio, and moved with her family to the Detroit area when she was about five years old.

She attended Denison University for a year, became impatient to begin working, and secured her first job in journalism as a “copyboy” at the *Pontiac Press*. Her first writing assignment was a story about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Her wish to serve during the war led to a Red Cross assignment to drive a truck delivering food and conversation to American GIs in Patton’s Third Army. Returning to New York, she began a 20-year career at Young & Rubicam, an international advertising agency.

She met and fell in love with Louise Shangle. Together, they founded and successfully sold an inn and a restaurant, traveled the western US in their Airstream trailer, and raised and showed Scottish terriers. They eventually settled in Goose Rocks Beach, Maine, where Maryline returned to journalism and received three Associated Press awards. She retired in 1984 to immerse herself in local politics, as well as environmental work to save marshes, green spaces, and wetlands in southern Maine.

After Louise’s death in 1999, Maryline moved to Ashland, Oregon, joined committees at her Mountain Meadows community, and participated in a women’s writers group to help her work on her memoirs.



Judith Ann Fine 1944–2014

Judith was interviewed by the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP) in 2010 as part of her training to become an OLOHP interviewer but her health made it impossible for her to follow through.

She was born in New York City and spent her formative years in Erie, Pennsylvania. She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Villa Maria College in 1968 and a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing from New York University in 1973.

After two years of teaching nursing at Bronx Community College, Judith and her partner Margret Funk moved to Western Massachusetts, where Judith held many positions at Baystate Medical Center. Judith was also a founding member and a powerful voice on the hospital’s Nursing Ethics Committee.

Judith and Maggie settled in Agawam, Massachusetts, until Maggie’s passing in 2001. After Maggie’s death, Judith moved to Amherst, and finally Leeds. Judith concluded her career in the Pioneer Valley at Cooley Dickinson Hospital where she was a nursing home consultant and a psychotherapist at the outpatient clinic.



Alta Fly 1930–2015

Alta was a member of OLOC for many years. She focused her life around art and was active in her community. We have a video about her life in our Media Library. Let us know if you want to borrow it.



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

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



**Pat Patton
1940–2015**

Pat (Patsy) Patton, OLOC member, died unexpectedly on October 26, leaving behind grief and sorrow in many communities, including OLOC, Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Midwest Wimmin's Festival, Out in the Ozarks, Hawk Hill Community Land Trust, Landykes, and more. Look in the next issue for a longer story.



**OLOC's Media Library List Has
Been Revised!**

By an Anonymous OLOC Member, 1954

Did you know OLOC maintains a Media Library of more than 60 movies, plus OLOC Herstory DVDs/CDs from the Gatherings, as well as the Arden Eversmeyer DVD Collection and OLOC Radio, Audio, and Music CDs? And that you can rent them to watch or listen for free? We ask for a small donation for postage. The Media Library list has been revised to reflect new DVDs we recently obtained:

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today—animal agriculture.

Fabled Asp is based on a San Francisco Public Library exhibition that chronicled the accomplishments of Lesbian activists with disabilities whose innovations have been largely omitted, obscured, or misappropriated.

Iron Jawed Angels, starring Hilary Swank, gives a “fresh and contemporary look” at how Alice Paul and her friends put their lives at risk to help US womyn win the right to vote.

MAKERS: Women Who Make America tells the story of the most sweeping social revolution in American herstory, as womyn have asserted our rights to political power, economic opportunity, and personal autonomy.

Showing Up in the 20th Century: The Life and Times of Mary M. Morgan is about an Old Lesbian who worked for civil liberties, peace, social justice, and Womyn's Liberation. She died this year, but her legacy lives on.

Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders reveals the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi in the 1950s/1960s from the viewpoint of the womyn who were its leaders.

Women on the Land: Creating Conscious Community features the efforts of womyn on the Northern California Mendocino coast to care for their environment.

Cloudburst (new to the list, not the Library) is an Old Lesbian love story and road trip that is both touching and amusing.

Additional information about our Media Library can be found at www.oloc.org/resources/library.php.

***Sinister Wisdom 98* “Landykes of
the South”**

Review by rainbow williams, 1934

If I can just stop drooling over this harvest long enough to tell y'all about it. I found photos of cute gals, like Corky, Dore, Blue, and Bonnie, and stories by Merrill, Dragon, Rose, Kate, and Shewolf. All of us have seen so much change and growth, and still we stand; we continue.

Two hundred pages of stories, photos, maps, drawings—the blood, sweat, and tears that built this herstory. This is the first telling. It's awesome. www.sinisterwisdom.org

Leaping Lesbian—Lizards!!?

Yes, there is a hybrid species of lizard out of New Mexico that is known as the Leaping Lesbian Lizard. It is one of a number of reptiles that is known to be parthenogenic. This means that this particular species of lizard uses asexual reproduction, so the development and growth of the reptile's embryos occurs without any fertilization. If a male is born out of the hybridization process, it is sterile and does not live long. One of the biggest reasons why this species has been dubbed the Leaping Lesbian Lizard is the fact that, although they reproduce asexually, the females still engage in mating behaviors. This mating activity actually allows for the stimulation needed to bring about ovulation. Without this mating behavior and stimulation, the lizards would be unable to lay their eggs.



OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

We welcome everyone as either a member or a supporter, whether or not you can send money now. To be a member, you must be in your 60th year or older and be a Lesbian. To be a supporter, you may be anyone else. As either a member or a supporter, you will receive four issues of the OLOC Reporter before you have to renew. Couples may both use the form below.

Name #1 _____

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)

I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter and receive 4 issues of *The Reporter*. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year. Amount _____

Prefer (circle one) print copy / electronic / both

Name #2 _____

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)

I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter and receive 4 issues of *The Reporter*. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30-\$60 for one year. Amount _____

Prefer (circle one) print copy / electronic / both

Please include demographics (date of birth, ethnicity, disability status) below to help us in achieving grants and diversity. No names will be associated with any of the information.

Date of birth _____

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Address _____

City _____ State or province _____

Zip or postal _____

Out of United States? Country _____

Preferred telephone _____

E-mail _____

New to OLOC? Yes ☐ No ☐

Okay to send occasional E-News by e-mail?
Yes ☐ No ☐

Date of birth _____

Ethnicity _____

Disability status _____

Address _____

City _____ State or province _____

Zip or postal _____

Out of United States? Country _____

Preferred telephone _____

E-mail _____

New to OLOC? Yes ☐ No ☐

Okay to send occasional E-News by e-mail?
Yes ☐ No ☐

To pay with a credit card or a PayPal account, go to www.oloc.org and click Donate. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use a credit card there. If a couple is paying, please include both names in the comments section. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "OLOC."

Skills I can offer OLOC: _____

I already belong to the following OLOC group: _____

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

I found out about OLOC from _____

Skills I can offer OLOC: _____

I already belong to the following OLOC group: _____

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

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

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