



Old Lesbians' Home Movies Zoom – Follow-Up Report

OLOC Zoom Event - Thursday, January 26, 2023

On January 26, 2023, OLOC's zoom committee and Lesbian Home Movie Project (LHMP) presented "Old Lesbians' Home Movies." Introduced by Mev Miller, Rose Norman, and Sharon Thompson, the program opened with clips from LHMP's earliest collections and featured appearances by videographers Corky Culver, Shirley Lasseter, Emily Greene, Janet Prolman, and Terry Grant and her partner in videography and life, Sue Emmert. (Susan Wiseheart had planned to participate but a power outage prevented her.) Most presenters are OLOC members.



Corky Culver



Shirley Lasseter



Emily Greene



Janet Prolman



Sue Emmert / Terry Grant

Each talked about how she came to shoot her collection and set the scene for her clips. These included monologues, interviews, PRIDE footage, concerts, and gay games including wheelchair tennis and ballroom. Captions were available and Corky Culver provided the text of the rap she delivered in one of her clips. (See below.)

In closing, Sharon Thompson warned that the window is closing for finding more footage like LHMP's first and earliest collection shot by Ruth Storm (1888-1981). Time is also growing short, she said, for documenting footage from communities like the Pagoda, the lesbian residential community and cultural center in St. Augustine, Florida, where Emily Greene shot the dozens of extraordinary videos which Rose Norman has consulted as part of her research for a history of the community. Sharon asked the nearly 100 zoom participants to help in the search for more lesbian and lesbian-related analogue footage -- that is, footage shot on mediums like 16mm, 8mm, Super 8, or videotape. "If you send LHMP your film and tape," Thompson said. "LHMP will return digital versions to you at no charge so you can still watch the footage with friends while LHMP preserves it for future generations." Donors share rights with LHMP during their lifetimes. The only requirement is to help LHMP document the footage if possible.



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During the lively closing discussion, several participants talked about personal and family collections.

Sharon's direct email is sharonthompson12@gmail.com. Many clips and more info about the project are streaming at www.lesbianhomemovieproject.org.

Corky Culver, Croning Rap, On her 50th Birthday, 1989

I've often thought that the thing to do when we see approaching old age is to turn back and run. I've changed my mind about this. I say come around, join us. I think this kind of ceremony is a neat seductive thing to lure us into this maturity that's coming on. What we really want to do is to encourage the ultimate in wild life. We think that old age has been sold a bill of goods and there has been a terrible reversal in what it should stand for. It stood for growing conservativeness, fear, and insecurity, thinking I've got to do everything for security. I shouldn't kick up my heels anymore, shouldn't eat ice cream, a patriarchal reversal. Of course only the patriarchy can do this because the one thing they want to smash is the matriarchy and the old woman. The old woman is the matriarchy and the old woman set free is a wild old woman, and a musical old woman, and a dancing old woman. So the return of the matriarchy is the return of the old woman. And what we do is build on our wildness yearly until it increases in quantum leaps until we just wildly jump off the planet. That the natural plan, that's the plan.



*Chenoweth Hall (1908-1999),
Ruth Storm Collection*