

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

Women Sweet on Women in Atlanta, April 25th

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

For decades, Atlanta has been a magnet for Lesbians, gays, and every kind of southern outsider, and whenever I've toured the south-east it's always been a treat for me to visit this particularly vibrant community in what most of us consider the gay capital of the south.

When I performed in Atlanta for the first time in 1978, some of the local gals kindly showed me around—by which I mean the neighborhood of Little 5 Points, where Lesbian, gay, and counter culture flourished. They introduced me to one of my favorite bookstores, Charis Books & More. I was also escorted to the ALFA house (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Association). These women showed me what the South's reputation for hospitality meant without the traditional racism upon which "southern hospitality" was founded. Atlanta was awesome!

This is why OLOC chose Atlanta for our 2016 National Gathering and it is why the next few Steering Committee meetings will be held in this historic gay/Lesbian Mecca of the South.

As part of their popular "Women Sweet on Women" series, our Gathering partners, ZAMI NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging), will produce a concert at Agnes Scott College on April 25, 2015.

Headlining the event will be Gaye Adegbalola and her band, The Wild Rutz, with Gloria Jackson, Tanyah Dadze Cotton, and Marta Fuentes. Their original a capella blues with percussion and occasional guitar is sure to get everyone up and moving. For my part,

The Reporter

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I plan to croon a selection of tunes documenting my 41 years as a Lesbian artist in the women's community.

The OLOC Steering Committee is terrifically excited about our April concert, and we are thrilled to be working with ZAMI NOBLA to produce our 26th OLOC National Gathering. So stay tuned for more information, and plan on joining us if you can.



We Who Believe in Freedom*

By Ruthie Berman, 1934

I'm 81 and have been marching, writing, doing for justice ever since I was a little kid. I walked across the Brooklyn Bridge for Civil Rights and on and on from that to abortion rights, LGBT rights, and just last week we did a die-in for "Black Lives Matter" in front of Target in West Palm Beach. It got no press but was very moving and appreciated by the cars passing, not by loud horns but by slowing down.

Now, with all the marching, demonstrations, and writing across the country, what can we now do to make Black Lives Matter? I am ready for the next step.

*(Sweet Honey in the Rock does a wonderful song.)

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

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

Mary Morgan, Jan Griesinger's long-time partner, died on January 30. See pg 5 and next issue for more.

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

- ♦ www.oloc.org
- ♦ e-mail: info@oloc.org
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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.

Mailing crew and all writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue: May 1, 2015. Limit submissions to 300 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to OLOC at info@oloc.org or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens OH 45701.

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

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

Pat Cull, 1942, Oakland, CA, pat@oloc.org, 415-637-5002

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

Member Opinions about OLOC Membership

Thanks to all of you who responded to the request for input. Our members have widely differing opinions that we will think about and discuss at our April meeting. As we hope was very clear, this is not a vote. It is an opinion poll so that both the Steering Committee and all of you will have an idea of where the membership stands. OLOC is a consensus organization, not a majority-rules group.

The response was large. It was a little over 35 percent (we sent to 641 and received 227 responses), which is nearly unheard of in polling projects like this. Usually the pollsters are thrilled if it's 5% to 10%. Many of you wrote eloquent comments, too, all of which the Steering Committee read. There were a total of 98 comments. They ranged from just thanking us for asking to a phrase to a full page or more.

The results are that, as of February 1st, 104 (46%) of our responding members prefer that membership be open to female-born Old Lesbians and 123 (54%) prefer that membership be open to self-identified Old Lesbians.

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.

Membership Statement (as of Sept 2013)

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. National OLOC supports the right of all people to be treated fairly and respectfully and with equal justice under the law. National OLOC is an ally to all who struggle for justice. In the LGBTQIA* community, we are the L. Therefore, National OLOC welcomes as members only those women who have reached their 60th year and who are Old Lesbians.

*Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Transsexual Two-Spirit Queer Questioning Intersex Asexual and Ally.

Herstory of OLOC Statement on Anti-Racism and Anti-Classism

From its beginning, OLOC's vision included working for justice and the empowerment of Old Lesbians by confronting and eliminating the effects of sexism and ageism.

At the 2010 National Gathering, OLOC resolved to bring race and class to the forefront of our political analysis. We want to understand how these oppressions intersect, connect, and affect Old Lesbians so we can more effectively advocate for change and bring about a just society.



Chapter News



A Grand Second Anniversary Birthday Party for Pioneer Valley OLOC

By Emily Greene, 1946

Our gracious hostesses, Judith and Carol, invited everyone to come to their home in Huntington, MA, for a delicious potluck celebration. Festivities started at noon on Oct. 26, 2014, and went most of the afternoon. The array of delicious dishes, including a gorgeous red velvet birthday cake, kept everyone's tummy full and satisfied. More than 17 women came, at varying times. We played Bananagrams, made music with a marimba, had wonderful conversations, and renewed our feelings of wanting more social events to get to know each other better. We are all so grateful for the opportunity our OLOC group gives us to get together and spend time with Old Lesbians.

We are an active and engaged group that enjoys: Lesbian movies once a month, compliments of Roberta; picnics in the good weather times; and our monthly meetings with many interesting topics, such as art, tiny houses, spirituality, vision boards, looking at our legal documents for living wills, and what living in community means to each of us.

We had our first 2015 planning meeting in January, where we decided the topics we want for the new year. Our thanks go to the National OLOC group for all their guidance and help.



Demonstrating against Police Brutality

By Carol Anne Douglas, 1946

The Metro DC chapter of OLOC has participated in demonstrations against police brutality. In November, two of us went to a downtown Washington demonstration organized to protest the Missouri grand jury's verdict on the death of Michael Brown. On Dec 13, 15 members of our chapter marched in the protest against police brutality organized by the National Action Network. Speakers and signs protested the deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice, and other instances of brutality. We carried a sign saying "Old Lesbians Against Racism."

New Mexico OLOC Group Dance



Lhyv Oakwomon &
Elizabeth Berrey

To find out about OLOC chapters and groups, presently in Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Utah, Vermont, Washington State, and Washington DC, look at www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php. Or call us at 888-706-7506.



Book Review: *Strong Enough to Bend* by Judith K. Witherow (OLOC member)

(Twin Spirits Press, 2014. \$14.95 P.O. Box 1353, Clifton, MD 20735)

Reviewed by Carol Anne Douglas, 1946

Judith Witherow bends. She does not break, even under a load that would break almost anyone else. She also writes powerful prose and poetry.

As a Native American disabled Lesbian, Witherow faces many challenges, more because she was born dirt poor and grew up without plumbing or electricity and because white people burned down the family's home more than once.

Judith has lived through male violence and women's classism. She has seen it all, and she tells it all. She tells of her love for her sweet partner and of the work it took to raise three boys of color to be kind men who treat women well.

She has also lived through devastating illnesses—multiple sclerosis, lupus, and serious heart disease—and dealt with a medical establishment that often failed to listen to her.

Despite all obstacles, she has lived with grace and kindness. She is the pillar of her family. She has faced bullets while picketing the White House for the Equal Rights Amendment. She and her partner have kept men from abusing her relatives and friends.

As she says, she couldn't come out of the closet because her family home didn't have closets.

To read her story is to experience an America that white, middle-class people don't know. Her life is a love story to the world and a wake-up call.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation, the Horizons Foundation (for the Bay Area), and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Thank you.

OLOC 2014 Financial Report

We spent more than we received as income in 2014, due to the high costs of the National Gathering. Some of the loss was covered by funds we received in 2013 for the event and some we transferred from a savings account from a year or two ago when we had more income than expenses.

OLOC welcomes donations of mutual funds or stock. You can get a tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes if you are financially privileged to do so. We have an account ready to accept such donations—just let us know by phone or e-mail. Other possibilities for donations include bequests or designating OLOC as your life insurance, retirement plan, or IRA beneficiary. In addition, we welcome cash, checks, money orders, and credit card and PayPal donations at all times.

INCOME

Individual donations	\$35,227
Grants	15,750
National Gathering (NG)	87,057
NG financial assistance	17,277
Bay Area grant	1,500
Sales, T-shirts	3,026
Chapter dues	1,029
Miscellaneous	1,411
Total	<u>\$162,277</u>

EXPENDITURES

Outreach/education	\$17,753
Oral Herstory	3,931
Co-Directors	5,600
Administrative coordinator	11,325
National Gathering	114,438
NG financial assistance, disability	23,742
Steering Committee meetings	13,484
Supplies, office	2,543
Bay Area grant	1,500
T-shirts	3,901
Miscellaneous	1,575
Total	<u>\$199,792</u>

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

Go to www.oloc.org
and click on OLOC Market.



Memorials

Yvonne Johnson, 1944–2014

By Eleanor Edie Barrett, 1945

Yvonne Johnson was an OLOC member who attended several Gatherings. Born in Springfield, MA, during World War II, Yvonne joined a strong and wonderful extended family headed up by her maternal grandmother. When they would visit her dad's family in the South, Yvonne, naively, thought her dad mean because he would not let them stop for food or the bathroom after they reached the South [editor: where most places were for whites only]. She later went to Hampton Institute in Virginia, where she participated in the Civil Rights struggle. The students cleverly decided they would take their business to another town rather than sit in at the local Woolworth's. That worked swiftly and completely to integrate the town.

Later, she got her first professional job with Aetna Life in West Hartford, CT, as a Cobol programmer. She loved Aetna but moved on to jobs in California, working for Capital Records, among others. In early 1982, she moved from the San Francisco Bay area back to L.A. to work for Lockheed Martin.

She was an observer of people. She watched them and was fascinated to know what made them tick. She was a consistently loving presence in many lives.



Eunice Samuels, 1926–2013(?)

Longtime OLOC member Eunice Samuels died sometime in the past year or two. She was born in 1926 and probably died in 2013, but we are not sure about that. She was a member of OLOC since 1995.

We just heard about it and would like to have more information about her in an upcoming *Reporter*. If anyone can tell us more, please send us any information you have.



Daña Alder, 1948–2014

Daña Alder, 66, of Madison, WI, an OLOC member since 2010 (when she attended the Cleveland Gathering), died on December 22, 2014.



She was born Barbra Griffith Maynor on January 5, 1948, in Mullens, WV. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations from Kent State in 1969. In the mid-1970s, Daña moved to Louisville, KY, where she was radicalized by feminism and Lesbianism. She worked in publishing and as an EMT and a grant writer. She was a member of the Louisville Lesbian Feminist Union and the Lesbian Nation Planning Committee, and President of Mother's Brew, a Lesbian cultural center. In the mid-1980s she moved to Madison, WI, where she joined the Re-formed Congregation of the Goddess and worked for the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor, and Human Relations.

Daña performed in the play *Another Round*, billed as a "Shot of Lesbian Drama with a Splash of Comedy." She sang in Madison's feminist choir and emceed "The Lesbian Variety Show." She was a worker at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival and media coordinator for the National Festival. At a Winter Solstice ritual shortly before she died, Daña talked about the richness of her life and her gratitude for it all.

Mary Morgan, 1925–2015

An early member of the Central Ohio Chapter of OLOC, Mary was a writer of excellent pieces about ageism and the long-time partner (though she didn't really like the word) of Jan Griesinger, recently co-director and still national Steering Committee member of OLOC. We will have a more detailed account of Mary's life in the next issue.



A Poem by Chrystos

Chrystos, 1946, was one of the keynote speakers at the 2014 Gathering in Oakland. Her agent has given us permission to print this poem of hers. It is unusual for us to include poems in *The Reporter*, but this one is so much about issues OLOC is concerned about right now, today, we think it is appropriate to make an exception. Chrystos has many poetry books you can read to investigate her work.

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T MEET

IF THERE ARE NO THIRD WORLD WOMEN HERE

My mouth cracks in familiar shock my eyes flee
to the other faces where my rage desperation fear pain ricochet
a thin red scream How can you miss our brown & golden
in this sea of pink We're not as many as you
But we're here You're the ones who called a community
meeting & didn't contact the Black Lesbians or G.A.L.A. or
Gay American Indians or the Disabled Women's Coalition or
Gay Asians or anyone I know
You're the ones who don't print your signs in Spanish or Chinese
or any way but how you talk You're the ones standing three
feet away from a Black woman saying
There are no Third World women here
Do you think we are Martians
All of those workshops on racism won't help you open your eyes & see
how you don't even see us
How can we come to your meetings if we are invisible
Don't look at me with guilt Don't apologize Don't struggle
with the problem of racism like algebra
Don't write a paper on it for me to read or hold a meeting in
which you discuss what to do to get us to come to your
time & your place
We're not your problems to understand & trivialize
We don't line up in your filing cabinets under "R" for rights
Don't make the racist assumption that the issue of racism
between us
is yours at me
Bitter boiling I can't see you
Not Vanishing, 1988

OLOC works for change by supporting:

- ♦ comprehensive immigration reform
- ♦ elimination of violence against women
- ♦ enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- ♦ all efforts to challenge/overturn racism, classism, sexism, ableism, and ageism
- ♦ an end to corporate "personhood"
- ♦ an end to any curtailment of voting rights

Mission Statement for OLOC

We are committed to:

- ♦ addressing what it means to be Old and to be Lesbian
- ♦ finding ways to gather Old Lesbians for ongoing support
- ♦ working against all oppressions that affect Old Lesbians
- ♦ standing in solidarity with allies for racial, economic, and social justice



OLOC Salutes Facing Race

Saundra Tignor and Pat Cull represented OLOC at Facing Race, a Conference on Social Justice, in Dallas on Nov. 13–15. Ruth Debra attended at her own expense because she loves this conference. Over 1600 people associated with service, community, or political organizations that focus on racial justice attended, and nearly every speaker included LGBT concerns along with other justice issues, but there was no mention of old people, much less Old Lesbians. Perhaps in the future OLOC could sponsor a workshop on age bias.

The opening session on Thursday morning featured a panel discussion. Benjamin L. Zelenko, the former General Counsel to the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, led a discussion on the climate and events of Mississippi in the 1960s, including the murders of freedom fighters and the church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, which took the lives of four young girls.

The afternoon session featured a bus tour to a number of local venues supporting People of Color, which offered participants the opportunity to meet the people in Dallas who are active in making sure that issues of social justice remain visible to all.

The Friday plenary titled "Youth Led Racial Justice" offered insight into how young people are reacting to racial injustices, including ideas for the future. Next, attendees were treated to a highlight of the conference: a concert of social justice song was performed by Dr. Bernice Reagon, founder of "Sweet Honey in the Rock," and her daughter and granddaughter, Toshi and Tashawn. All three women are talented musicians and activists for social justice.

The workshops attended by Saundra included "After the Black President" and "How Can White People Get More Whites Showing Up for Racial Justice?" Pat attended a workshop on media coverage of race titled "The Race Conversation Forward."

Intersection of Oppressions

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

Let us look at an old person on Social Security. Based on earnings during the working lifetime, the monthly allotment is set.

Now let this be an old woman. Her monthly check will generally be less than a man's because she does not make the same kind of salary that men make and, therefore, will not have as much deducted for her future.

Now let this woman be black. If she was working where wages were deducted for Social Security, they will probably be much lower than her white counterpart's. Chances are high she did not get Social Security deducted and is still working.

If this woman is also disabled, depending on the disability onset, there are probably few earned wage deductions. She may be getting Social Security disability, which, most likely, puts her in a poverty category for some time.

Adding early life poor or working-class background, she has additional challenges. Education may have been compromised. Health and dental care may have been nil. All of these aspects influence the kind of work available to her. Chances of Social Security being adequate are highly unlikely.

All this because she was kept from opportunities that some take for granted and even expect.

Why Capitalize Old Lesbians?

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

We capitalize the "L" in "Lesbian" because we are a people with certain common traditions, a unique culture and values, like Jews or Roma, for example.

We capitalize the "O" in "Old" when it prefaces "Lesbian" because "Old Lesbian" is a particular designation with a unique position in relation to our community—which is recognized with capitalization and becomes a reminder of who we are.

The next OLOC National Steering Committee meeting will be held April 23–26, 2015, in Atlanta, Georgia.



Meet Your Steering Committee

Bonnie Wagner (1942) has been a member of OLOC since 2011 and on the Steering Committee since 2013.

Bonnie has been active in the women's movement since the 1970s. She has worked with battered women since 1978 and has been involved with the LGBTQ Center in Kingston, NY, where she served as vice president of the Board of Directors and volunteered on the pride committee as well as other events at the Center. She is currently focusing on Lesbian rights and the visibility of Old Lesbians in the world. She has participated in the demonstrations against racism sparked by incidents of the police killing of Black people.

She is an enthusiastic supporter of OLOC activities and would love to see a chapter of OLOC in every state and community. She believes that women-born-women are the Lesbian feminist core of OLOC.

Pat Cull (1942) has been a member of OLOC since 2004 and a member of the Steering Committee since 2013.

Asked about the kinds of activism she does, Pat explains that being on the Bay Area's Coordinating Committee and on the National OLOC Steering Committee, the lion's share of her energy for the past several years has gone into OLOC.

She goes to demonstrations whenever possible, and she brings good organizing skills to OLOC. She also brings the point of view of a working class, born-Lesbian who has never been involved with men. For the future, she sees OLOC becoming a broader-based organization with more racial diversity and less focus on Lesbian purity.



Photo by Sandy Morris

Ageism in Action

Two items submitted by Margaret Purcell, 1951

What Could You Possibly Teach Us?

Franks Red Hot (Sauce) has been running a commercial on television. Two young women are shooting a dance video and they have an exchange with an old woman, Ethyl. She states she could teach them how to spice up (referring to the hot sauce) their dance. To which they reply, "What could you possibly teach us?" Of course, Ethyl goes on to teach them a dance move, twerking.

Rare Condition Makes 29-Year-Old Woman Look 80 after Childbirth

A recent article tells of a woman in China with a medical condition that makes women appear to be much older than their actual ages. Apparently, the woman avoids looking at herself in the mirror, she isolates herself, and her son is embarrassed to admit she is his mother. And, of course, because looking 80 is, literally, a fate worse than death, she has twice tried to commit suicide.

Journal of Lesbian Studies

The January 2015 *Journal of Lesbian Studies* (www.tandfonline.com/toc/wjls20/current#.VLcnMnu99tc) is a Special Issue on "Old Lesbians: Exploring Community, Relationships, Friendships, and Well Being." OLOC members Sharon Raphael and Margaret Cruikshank edited the issue and wrote the introduction. Several other OLOC members wrote articles.

New Femspec Publication Announced

OLOC member Batya Weinbaum, Editor-in-Chief of *Femspec*, is pleased to announce the March publication of its second Great Age issue, Vol. 5. The issue contains interviews with Marge Piercy and Ursula LeGuin; an article on Malkah in *He, She and It*; coverage of recent Femspec salons at OLOC and NWSA; criticism of Butler's *Parable Series*; *Look Me in the Eye: Old Women Aging and Ageism* by Cynthia Rich and Barbara McDonald, among other items.



Plan Ahead If You Have the Courage

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.)

If you are in your late 60s to early 70s and in reasonably good mobile health, now is the time to be researching where you will be spending your last two decades or so.

Don't wait until you are having lots of trouble moving the old body and expect to learn about places from the Internet and from reading.

Seeing places gives you a lot more and different information than just reading or Internet checking. The real thing is often *not* what the ads say it is; the "feeling" of a place is quite different than the "reading" about it makes it seem.

When it comes to where you will live and with what kind of community, you really need to "see and experience it" for yourself first hand. This I can vouch for personally. Also, don't take ANYONE'S word for what a place is like until you go there yourself. Your needs, desires, wishes, and opinions are NOT the same as anyone else's when it comes to what YOU like and don't like or need and don't need.

Main Drawback

"I would need to move away from most of my friends...(but) I would still have a few good friends nearby and would certainly make new ones in these places with all the social activities available...."

The Research

Finding the websites alone takes a lot of time. I have literally put in over 200 hours gathering my information on this topic.



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

wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344

Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.

Anita Hill on Sexual Harassment

By Felon Evans, 1952

I just got back from seeing the new Freida Mock documentary "Anita: Speaking Truth to Power" about Anita Hill's breaking the barrier on speaking out about sexual harassment, and what it means now in looking back on it. Anita Hill took questions afterwards and these are a few important points she wanted to make:

1. The Senate judiciary committee was all white and all male in 1991. There are women now, but it's still all white. And no one talks about that.
2. There are some men who really hate women. Really, really hate women.
3. As a nation we talk about sexual harassment, and we want to help women, but we're loathe to say that men need to have consequences for their actions. They need to pay the consequences for their behavior.
4. We still have a long way to go in terms of gender equity.
5. She would never advise every woman to come out and report sexual harassment, not until we have processes that will ensure they are treated fairly. And we don't have that fixed yet.

No One is "a" Lesbian

By Joanne Steele, 1940

Being somewhat sensitive to language, I take an interest in Rosalie Demaggio's work on sexist language. There's *oppression* that sexist language results from and supports. So, don't piss me off any more by saying that you are "a" Lesbian. Do you notice that no one ever says, "I am 'an' Italian," or "I am 'a' black," or "I am 'a' gay." That is *oppression*, sister, to say that you are "a" Lesbian. You have isolated yourself and assured every heterosexual with the comforting thought, "Oh, thank god, she's the only one." How can we be everywhere and you be the only one? As Flo Kennedy often said, "Oppression never made anyone pretty." That's not "a" pretty.



Home Funerals

You may already know that funerals in the U.S. are an \$11 billion annual industry, but did you know that in most states you can legally have a home funeral or conduct one for someone else?

According to the National Home Funeral Alliance, a home funeral happens when someone is cared for at home or in sacred space after death, giving loved ones and friends time to gather and participate in:

- Planning and carrying out after-death rituals or ceremonies
- Preparing the body for burial or cremation by bathing, dressing, and laying out for visitation
- Keeping the body cool with noninvasive techniques, such as dry ice (no embalming)
- Filing the death certificate and obtaining transport and burial permits
- Transporting the deceased to the place of burial or cremation
- Facilitating the final disposition, such as digging the grave in a natural burial
- Hiring professionals for specific products or services

The emphasis is on minimal, noninvasive, and environmentally friendly care of the body. Support and assistance to carry out after-death care may come from home funeral educators or guides, but their goal is to facilitate maximum involvement of loved ones and their social network in the funeral process.

A list of some of these guides is at www.homefuneralalliance.org/page-1754182, including one in Massachusetts, according to an article in the Nov/Dec 2014 *Lesbian Connection*. Home funerals allow us to die in harmony with the same values with which we lived, for those who are concerned about the environment and avoiding the impersonal commercialization of the funeral industry.

Having loved ones visit the deceased at home is comforting and familiar. People can say goodbye and sit as long as they like and decorate the casket if they wish. Survivors report they find it very healing and peaceful. Something to consider!

OLOC maintains a video library and will lend items to members. For a complete list of items available, check the website: www.oloc.org

Materials for Lesbian Archives

For you writers and activists and anyone else with papers, photos, and other memorabilia that could be of interest to those looking into Lesbian life in our times, you might consider finding a good Lesbian archive for all your materials. You should establish clearly which archive you designate.

This is something to plan for, as we make the many end-of-life decisions that are necessary. We are planning an article on Lesbian archives for our next issue, which will include information on where to find them.

Media Library Receives Donation

Within two hours of receiving the e-mail version of the December *Reporter* with a story asking for donations to buy the closed-captioned version of *Lesbiana*, one of our members wrote and said she would pay the total cost of \$100.00. She ordered it and we now have it in the Media Library. Thank you, anonymous! Two of our members who are deaf have now seen this version. We have the right to show it whenever and wherever we wish. Unlike most of our commercial films, it is not for home use only.



Members of Pioneer Valley OLOC at their second anniversary birthday party

***Do not regret growing old.
It is a privilege denied to many.***
Author unknown



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 _____

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?

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