

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

OLOC: Courage for the Changes of Age

By Susan Chacin, 1945

People often cringe at the idea or even the WORD “old.” They dispute me when I claim the term. At 70, I’m clear that I’m old. For years, I’ve been organizing for women’s rights, LGBTQ liberation, and peace and economic justice, and fighting racism. Our culture’s denial of the gifts and beauty of age is the oppression of AGEISM.

To be old does not mean we are sad or ugly. OLOC presents an alternative and overturns stereotypes of aging.

Our generations have been breaking ground most of our lives. Some were dykes before the Stonewall riots. Others came out in the Lesbian-feminist wave that struck around 1970. Still others found our identities later in life. But we are women who put our bodies on the line for civil rights, pioneered abortion rights and women’s music, took rape and domestic violence out of the closet, brought women into trades historically closed to them, and created feminist art and literature.

OLOC is a sisterhood that understands the intersection of sexism, ageism, and homophobia. Important features of OLOC include:

A rich fund of experience. Women bring unique resources to OLOC. When we check in at meetings, I am amazed at the wealth of activity.

Courage and the pursuit of well-being. Members of OLOC know it takes courage to deal with changes in our bodies and minds, and the losses that come with age.

The Reporter

A quarterly
publication of OLOC

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

We provide mutual support and practical suggestions for dealing with the medical, mental health, housing, and social services systems. We do not deny the challenges of age, but facing them together gives us strength.

Political understanding and diversity. OLOC members share a critical understanding of life in today’s world, and OLOC is a place where progressive values are accepted. OLOC takes pride in advocating for equality and justice.

Excerpted from a longer article that appeared in the (San Francisco) Bay Area Times, June 2015.



Bay Area demonstration — See article on pg 6.

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

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This Newsletter Brought to You By:

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Mailing crew and all writers and photographers.

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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.

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Membership Statement

(as of April 26, 2015)

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. OLOC challenges oppression in all of its forms, including ageism, ableism, racism, anti-Semitism, classism, sexism and transphobia. 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. We welcome all people as supporters.

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

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

Million Moms March for Black Lives

By Pat Gowens, 1944 (Director of Welfare Warriors, fighting for the lives of mothers and children in poverty since 1986)

On Mothers Day Weekend, this Old Lesbian joined the Million Moms March (which took over Washington, DC's Federal Square), met with White House staff, lobbied Congresspeople, and marched on the Justice Department. We Mothers converged on DC to demand an end to police and vigilante murders of our unarmed children.

Maria Hamilton of Milwaukee's Mothers for Justice organized the march. Maria's son Dontre Hamilton was murdered in a downtown Milwaukee park on a sunny April afternoon, shot 14 times by police officer Christopher Manney.

In DC's John Marshal Park, we heard mothers from as far away as Nigeria describe the heartbreaking, outrageous killings of their children by US criminals called cops. Mom after mom told the same story—no prosecution of the killer cop who took her son's life. No day in court for the killer.

About 1,000 moms and supporters marched to the Justice Department. The mothers of police-murdered children led the march and each received a bouquet of flowers at the Injustice Department. They demanded the de-militarization of police departments; Justice Department surveys of racial-profiling patterns and practices of all US police departments; Civilian Oversight Committees for local police departments as a condition of federal aid; mandatory training for all police in de-escalation procedures, use of weapons only as a last resort, and communication skills; and meaningful independent investigation and prosecution of all officer-involved deaths.

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 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.

OLOC maintains a video library and will lend items to members.

For a complete list of items available, check the website:

www.oloc.org/resources/library.php



Chapter News

Puget Sound Chapter

By Kathy Prezbindowski, 1943

Jana LaGasa, along with Gloria Stancich, Mary Henry, and Margaret Purcell, founded the dynamic Puget Sound chapter of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (www.psoloc.org). PS OLOC welcomes “any LGBT woman who considers herself old,” and we *celebrate* our age. The nine-woman board, QCCC (Queer Crones Coordinating Council), holds an annual four-day planning retreat. We offer films with discussions and the monthly South Sound Lunch Bunch. Many have worked on the 2012 Ref 74 Marriage Equality campaign. We walk or scoot in Olympia and Seattle Pride Parades and support events of PS OLOC offshoots in Seattle/North—book club, dinners, and housing—and West (west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge)—twice-monthly events and Thanksgiving dinner.

PS OLOC presented the 2011 Regional OLOC Gathering with 200+ attendees. Many worked on the October 2013 Old Lesbians Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP) Lesbian Legacies gathering in Houston and have attended national OLOC Gatherings. We spread the word via PS OLOC *miniNEWS* as well as Yahoo group e-mail lists.

The Puget Sound chapter of OLOC is a vital activist organization. PS OLOC and Tacoma Lesbian Concern (TLC) co-sponsor Coming Out Women (comingoutwomen.org), held in Tacoma since February 2, 2011.

C.O.Women (a bovine bow to *Lesbian Connection*—LC or Elsie!) is a support group similar to the Tuesday Night Group in Cincinnati (1986–present). Women range from 18 to their 70s, with the median age close to 55. Our goals are authenticity, wholeness, and empowerment (AWE) of LGBT women. We get the message out via meetup.com/South-Sound-Lesbians, a most effective vehicle for networking Lesbians: more than 1,200 women and 100+ groups.

Pioneer Valley OLOC Pride Day 2015

By Emily Greene, 1946

On May 2, 2015, Northampton, Massachusetts celebrated its 31st Pride Day March.

Approximately 20,000 were in attendance, marching or lining the sides of the route to the Fairgrounds. In preparation for the March, Carol repainted our signs and Maureen provided balloons for 85-year-old MaryLou. Wraye, Roberta, and Jean sponsored Terry Baum’s play, “Hick: A Love Story,” at Smith College.

The Parade area was filled with excitement and many cheers as we walked the mile route. MaryLou sat on the back seat of her car with balloons flying. Following MaryLou’s car, PV OLOCers held up the letters O-L-O-C, and some OLOC women passed out small OLOC flyers. The Offbeat Womyn’s Drumming Ensemble greeted us at the Fairgrounds.

There were 119 who attended the Sunday performance of Terry’s play. Terry played Hick, and PV OLOC members participated, Pat playing Eleanor Roosevelt and Tryna doing “on stage directions.” Behind-the-scenes thanks also go to Kasen, Garine, and Jendi. Terry Baum produced her play from the 2,336 letters Eleanor wrote to Lorena Hickok over a 30-year period. How grateful we are that Lorena Hickok saved these letters and agreed to have them released 10 years after her death.

Free Home-Delivered Books in the Pioneer Valley!

OLOC supporter Jean Savarese tells us about Out Books on Wheels (OutBooksOnWheels.org), which provides free, home-delivered LGBT books for Old Lesbians in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts.

You can access the list of available books on the website, choose the ones you want, and contact them by e-mail or phone to set up a delivery appointment. They have print, large-print, and audio books from which to select. Books are delivered to homes and institutions, including hospitals and senior centers, but only in the Pioneer Valley.

They also bring books for borrowing every second Sunday to the Lilly Library in Florence, Massachusetts. For more information, contact jsavarese@outbooksonwheels.org or info@outbooksonwheels.org, or call 413-588-4019.



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

By Susan Chacin, 1945

Bay Area OLOC holds three day-long meetings, two overnight retreats, and a picnic every year. Events are open on an ability-to-pay basis, and we embrace class and ethnic diversity. Wheelchairs are accommodated; we always use a sound system, and we are largely fragrance-free. A number of support groups have organized out of OLOC, offering members a more intimate solidarity for the process of aging. Retreats feature an "open mic," and members lead workshops ranging from creativity to grief and loss, sex and intimacy, to meditation, and there is plenty of time for skinny-dipping, conversations, and naps. OLOC's picnic this year was held at Live Oak Park in Berkeley.

New Mexico OLOC Chapter

By Theresa Watson, 1950

Our Chapter was busy this spring. In May, a group of us travelled to Canyon de Chelly in Arizona where a Navajo guide led us to view petroglyphs, cliff dwellings, and spectacular scenery. We also sponsored a well-attended and successful Spring Fling dance. Two of our members were interviewed on a local radio station's Women's Focus program, giving OLOC NM publicity. June was Albuquerque's Gay Pride Festival, and OLOC NM set up a table on the parade route. Also, we were elated to find out Alix Dobkin had accepted our request for a concert to be held Nov 14 in Albuquerque.

Our monthly programs continue to be interesting and involve our members in thoughtful participation. These included sharing a memorial service for a friend who had passed away. We also celebrated the importance of nature in our lives by reading poems and telling stories about the meaning of the summer solstice. Our third program concerned aging with disabilities and the challenges it poses.

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

Central Ohio OLOC Works to Make Retirement Communities More Welcoming to LGBT Seniors

By Debbie Ratliff, 1949

Our Central Ohio Chapter of OLOC has spent this year working to educate retirement communities to be more welcoming to LGBT seniors. It is important that these facilities offer equal treatment to LGBT seniors. We made the decision to start small and focus on a facility that one of our members was familiar with. The first step was for a member to arrive for an unscheduled tour. This visit went well and there was not even a blink of an eye when she mentioned she was looking for herself and her partner.

The next step was to make an appointment with the Staff Development Director who is in charge of training. Several of us attended the meeting with the Director and her assistant. We explained that we had a training program to present to management staff and/or residents. We explained how this training would benefit both residents and staff. Residents would be assured a safe and comfortable home. The retirement community would be able to serve a larger population and be able to list itself as having inclusivity training. New advertising venues such as Pride Parade and Lavender Listings would be available. Initially, we were met with extreme enthusiasm, but when the program was explained to the Administrator, he vetoed the training.

We are now investigating other avenues. Now that the Supreme Court has ruled our marriages legal, we have stronger support for our Sensitivity Training program.

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



How Much Do I Love Thee?

By Arden Eversmeyer, 1931, and Margaret Purcell, 1951

How much do I love thee? Let PS OLOC count the ways. No doubt about it: Puget Sound OLOC loves the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP). The local women contribute an amazing—unequalled—amount of time and talent to the OLOHP. How much? Let us share some numbers.

Thirty-nine Puget Sound women have shared their own stories already! But they don't just share, they also interview. Collectively, they have now conducted 55 interviews, 41 in the Pacific Northwest and 14 others when they were traveling outside their own area. And they have also earned assists on another 21 interviews, working with me (Arden) or another interviewer on stories done in other areas as well.

If your chapter of OLOC would like to get in on the fun and play a part in the OLOHP, contact us. We'd be glad to give you some ideas on how you can help: Contact arden1931@gmail.com or mandm@thewiredcity.net.

OLOC chapters and groups, as of July 27, 2015, are 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; Central Ohio and Cleveland, Ohio; Salt Lake City, Utah; Vermont; and Puget Sound Area, Washington.

OLOC would love to have more groups/chapters across the US. Please let us 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

To those who receive *The Reporter* in print: After much positive feedback about the last online issue, we thought we would remind you of reasons to receive *The Reporter* by e-mail in PDF (Portable Document Format, which requires a current version of the free Adobe Reader to read). It comes in full color. You receive it sooner than print. It costs us less to send. Note that you can print it out yourself (or just part of it) if you want a print copy. We will continue to send print to those who prefer it, but why not give the e-mail version a try? Just let Susan know (susan@oloc.org) if you want to do that. You can have both for a couple of issues to compare, if you wish.

OLOC was one of many organizations signing on to the International Lesbian and Gay Association's Civil Society Joint Statement on Sexual Orientation, Gender-Identity Expression, and Intersex Status at the 29th UN Human Rights Council in June. To see the entire statement, look on oloc.org or request a PDF or print copy from Susan by e-mail (susan@oloc.org) or phone (888-706-7506).

OLOC Receives Major Donation

Mickie Gieski and Roberta Clegg (pictured) of Valdosta, Georgia, found out about OLOC through *Lesbian Connection*. They attended the 2004 National Gathering in Houston and have been part of the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. OLOC is honored to have received a \$10,000 donation from Mickie in Roberta's memory. All OLOC friends are invited to make a donation to OLOC in honor or memory of a fine woman and/or put OLOC in your will. OLOC Treasurer Jan Griesinger would be glad to help you with this project.



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

woflevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344

Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.



Following are some responses we received to our request for your experiences with the consensus decision-making process. Others will be printed in succeeding issues.

Consensus

By rainbow williams, 1934

My experience is that consensus decision-making tends to empower those who have the time to spend or who are being paid by the hour to attend. Some participants were just grateful for a place to speak their truth, whether they actually told it or not.

I lived 30 years at Pagoda [Lesbian community in Florida], and emotional manipulation ruled the roost. We called it consensus, but it was not the Quaker version I had experienced [while living] in Orlando. Anything can be abused. The Quaker version in Winter Park was also manipulated.

As a member of a twelve-step program for 25 years, I introduced sitting in a circle and learned to value co-counseling. Consciousness raising is very dear to me. Going around the circle and equally sharing seems a fair, feminist way. Let's discuss what is best and seek the perfect system.

LET'S KEEP TRYING!

Consensus

By Paula Mariedaughter, 1945

Feminists are not the first to use consensus decision-making. It has a long history of being used in groups that value the voices, concerns, and needs of every member of the community. Each of us willingly consents to a group decision. "Majority-rule" decision-making often leaves a disgruntled few—the minority—feeling that their concerns do not matter.

Learning new skills and operating on the assumption that every voice matters can be challenging. I remember one of my first major encounters with the process in the 1970s when I was part of the planning group for the Midwest Wimmin's Festival held in Lake of the Ozarks State Park. I was one of the two women leading a goddess ritual that had been announced for a particular time and was open to all women and girls in camp.

Several of the girls arrived after we had created the circle and brought everyone into the sacred space. We did not allow them to participate because they had arrived late.

The girls felt left out and took their grievances to the planning group. A special meeting was called to discuss this situation. We listened carefully to the telling of the girls' experience. We described the effort to bring each participant into the circle to build energy for the ritual.

What followed was a conversation of creative suggestions about how to include everyone who wanted to participate in the circle. No one talked "blame" or "shame." We agreed on a mechanism to allow the circle to be opened temporarily to include latecomers. I left proud of all of us. I was proud of the girls for trusting that we would take their concerns seriously. I was proud that we had created a means for resolving issues and that we had used consensus decision-making to strengthen the bonds of our community.

Forty years later I am still proud of us.

OLOC Demonstrations

At the 2014 National Gathering in Oakland, a large group of attendees demonstrated in honor of Tita Caldwell, 1931–2012, former National OLOC Steering Committee member and Bay Area OLOC member, who helped establish the Wild Old Women (WOW) of San Francisco. Tita and other WOW members joined the Occupy Movement and showed up regularly at their local Bank of America to protest the financial shenanigans that caused so many residents of the area to lose their homes to foreclosure. This protest took place at the Oakland Bank of America closest to the hotel in which we met.

OLOC regularly attends events in cities in which we hold Gatherings. Others have been with Code Pink to protest the war in Iraq (Los Angeles area), to show solidarity with the need for immigration reform (Puget Sound), and, though not at the time of a Gathering, to be part of the current Black Lives Matter movement in several cities.

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



Festival Report: Standing Ovation

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

Women In the Arts pulled out all the stops for their July 4th weekend anniversary.

The result was 800 women, mostly Lesbians and mostly Old, celebrating who we are and what we've done. Joyful doesn't even begin to describe it! Lesbians who hacked and then navigated an unimaginable path to our culture and community packed the house for the 40th National Women's Music Festival near Madison, Wisconsin. Gray heads abounded just like they do at OLOC National Gatherings. Clearly, we share a unique feminist constituency connected for four decades by means of a culture that we created.

Our leading troubadours delivered the goods and then some! Margie Adam and Ruth Barrett bestowed inspirational, well-received keynotes, and heavy hitters Holly Near, Linda Tillery, Mary Watkins, and Cris Williamson did not disappoint. Toni Armstrong Jr. supplemented the Festival music program with two panels and games for women's music veterans: "Name That Face" and "Name That Tune."

Days were filled with Spotlight Stage performances, workshops, and shopping at vendors' booths (where Ruth Debra, Sherry Fulton, and Bonnie Wagner sold OLOC t-shirts and more). We also enjoyed a splendid exhibit of Irene Young's photos, documenting 40 years of women's music.

On Saturday morning, Lesbians—drawn from their rooms—ringed every balcony overlooking the atrium to cheer and sing along with hundreds of women jamming the ground-floor lobby below for a flash-mob song of Sue Fink and Joelyn Grippo's "Leaping Lesbians." Picture it: all ten floors of Old Dykes peering down and singing.

Entertainers included Jamie Anderson, Sandra Valls, C.C. Carter, Zoe Lewis, Alix Dobkin, Tret Fure, Nedra Johnson, June and Jean Millington, Jori Costello, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Sistah Ngoma, Tori Trujillo, Kara Barnard, Rachel Alexander, Alix Olson, Melanie DeMore, Big Bad Gina, and Laura Love. Miriam Davidson led the Festival Chorus. A big thanks to all and to NWMF founder Kristin Lems.

Disability Awareness: An Introduction, Part 1

By an Anonymous OLOC member, 1954

Disability is an issue that is often ignored in our society and its various subcultures. Disabled people share a commonality of struggle with other oppressed groups for full rights and participation. Disability is a civil-rights issue.

Oppressive attitudes are more of an obstacle than physical barriers. Attitudes are important because they help shape and direct actions. Oppressive attitudes include assumptions, myths, and stereotypes: all disabled people use wheelchairs (all disabilities are obvious); people with specific disabilities can't do specific things; disabled people are helpless or they are superhuman; and the person and the disability are the same. These attitudes are harmful because they assume certain things with no consideration of individual abilities, interests, and differences.

It is important that these myths be cleared up. Many non-disabled people are very likely temporarily able-bodied, and they may benefit from access and attitudinal change. No one is immune. In fact, more and more people are becoming disabled or being born disabled because of, for example, medical technology, increased toxins in the environment, viruses, and bacteria. We all benefit from an accessible environment: no one is left out and we can all participate in society equally.

Language has a great deal of effect on attitudes. Terms such as "birth defects," "invalid," "afflicted," "confined to a wheelchair," "deaf and dumb," "emotionally disturbed," and "crazy" correlate with the attitudes that society has of disabled people. Such phraseology serves to reinforce the attitudes of guilt, pity, and fear that are often associated with disability. Language such as "turn a deaf ear," "blind to the truth," and "paralyzed with fear" is offensive.

As a result of others' ignorance, stereotyping, and lack of exposure, disabled people are often isolated from the abled population and confronted with overwhelming attitudinal barriers in every aspect of their lives.

Excerpted from a longer article by the same author in 1983 (the more things change, the more they stay the same). Part 2, "Creating Access: A Beginning," will appear in a future issue.



From: Detour-Spotting for White Anti-Racists

By Jona Olsson, 1947

No white person has ever lived in a non-racist North America.

For white people living in North America, learning to be anti-racist is a re-education process. We must unlearn our thorough racist conditioning to re-educate and re-condition ourselves as anti-racists.

Common detour from our anti-racist journey:

The Rugged Individual and The Bootstrap Theory:

"America is the land of opportunity, built by rugged individuals, where anyone with grit can succeed if they just pull up hard enough on their bootstraps."

Reality Check and Consequence:

The "rugged individual" and the "bootstrap theory" are two of the crown jewels of US social propaganda. They have allowed generation after generation to say, "If you succeed, you did that, but if you fail, or if you're poor, that's your fault." Belief in this propaganda is founded in a total denial of the impact of either oppression or privilege on any person's chance for success. . .

People of color are just as racist as white people.

Let's first define racism:

Racism equals Racial Prejudice (white people and people of color have this) plus Systemic, Institutional Power (white people have this).

To say People of Color can be racist denies the power imbalance inherent in racism. Certainly, people of color can be and are prejudiced against white people. That was a part of their societal conditioning. A person of color can act on his/her prejudices to insult, even hurt, a white person. But there is a difference between being hurt and being oppressed. People of color, as a social group, do not have the societal, institutional power to oppress white people as a group. An individual person of color abusing a white person, while clearly wrong (no person should be insulted, hurt, etc.), is acting out of a personal racial prejudice, not racism.

Sorry, Deidre McCalla, for putting an extra "r" in your name in the June 2015 *Reporter*. We know it happens enough that you are used to it, but undoubtedly do not like it. One of our reviewers caught it but then it never got fixed. We did manage to get it right in the e-mail version before it went out, though.

Discussion Topic for December 2015 **Reporter: Let's Talk.**

By Sharon Gerstein, 1936, OLOC member from Long Beach, California

"I am white and I know how unaware I can be/am of taking for granted the privilege I have just because of being white and the fact that this privilege is carried on the backs of people of color." (See Peggy McIntosh on white privilege at amptoons.com/blog/files/mcintosh.html.)

Sharon is interested in discussing how this reality impacts OLOC and its chapters and membership; anyone with thoughts on this issue, please send them to National OLOC.

Another Example of Ageism

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

Numerous times over several years I have checked and continue to find ageist birthday cards at a local drugstore. I have asked many times that whoever orders the cards be told about it and not order any more ageist cards. Recently, the staff said they get the cards from a company and asked that I send a letter to the company to discontinue their ageist cards. I did this but received no reply.

The rainbow williams Archive

Visit rainbow's archive in her home in St. Augustine, Florida, either in person or online (a brief tour): www.youtube.com/watch?v=6my5UAHiFpk. Discover over 150 items by more than 20 artists as well as research files on many subjects.

Contact rainbow for details at rainbowwilliams1934@gmail.com. As rainbow says: "y'all come!"

**OLOC T-Shirts Denim Shirts
Sweatshirts Cloisonné Lapel Pins
Buttons And More!**
Go to www.oloc.org/market/market.html.



Memorials

Ruth and her partner, Shevy Healy, were among OLOC's founders. Ruth died at home in The Pueblo Women's Community in Apache Junction, Arizona, on July 5.



Ruth held many jobs and became highly skilled in woodworking, jewelry-making, leatherwork, carpentry, music, sewing, fashion design, quilt-making, cooking, and more. She worked in human relations for 24 years at the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center and taught crafts classes.

After Shevy died in 2001, Ruth eventually met and married Jean Parsons.

Natalie was one of the primary organizers and leaders in the early days of OLOC. She was on the Bay Area OLOC Steering Committee for many years and attended just about every (Lesbian cultural event until the months of her life.



Oakland. She worked with a shelter for battered women and as an accountant for Operation Concern (a San Francisco counseling center), ran a group called Slightly Older Lesbians (over 30), and belonged to Women at the Helm, a Lesbian sailing club. She was also co-facilitator of a women's group at the Pacific Center, the Oakland/Berkeley LGBT center. She was named a California Senior Leader by the University of California Public Health Program.

Natalie was quite an accomplished artist, working with clay for many years. Her home was full of her art. She had ceramic shows at the women's Art Center and continued her work at the Richmond Art Center. She also loved to garden.

She served on a panel at the 2014 National Gathering in Oakland, where she had these words for OLOC: “It keeps me involved in a lot of ways, like working against class, race, other political issues, and the support I get from being with all these women.”

Sidney Abbott is best known as the co-author with Barbara Love of *Sappho Was a Right-on Woman*, the first



nonfiction book to depict Lesbians in a positive light. As a member of the Lavender Menace, she was one of the first to speak out for the rights of Lesbians to other NOW members. She was on the founding board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and also founded the Women's Rights are Human Rights nonprofit.

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



**Degania Golove,
1929–2015**

Former OLOC member
Degania Golove died on July 17.

Degania was a longtime volunteer, board member, and coordinator of the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives in West Hollywood, California. She first learned about the Archives after hearing a radio interview with Bunny MacCulloch. She worked with Bunny in the Archives' early years in Southern California (following its move from Oakland, where it was founded as the West Coast Lesbian Collections) and continued after Bunny died in 1989. (Bunny was June Mazer's lover, coordinating the Archives after June's death in 1987.)

Degania was proud to be a Lesbian and a Jewish woman. She became a scholar on Jewish Lesbian and feminist women's history. She also researched the history of LGBT studies in education. She was part of a campaign in West Hollywood to make Lesbians more visible and was featured on a poster promoting Lesbian Visibility. Degania received a Women in Leadership Award from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce in 1997 to honor her community and activist work. She was a mentor to others all her life, from friends to Archives volunteers to family members and caretakers. She had three sons and one daughter and was also a grandmother.



**Ronnie Gilbert,
1926–2015**

Ronnie Gilbert attended the 2014 OLOC Gathering in Oakland and would have been involved with OLOC and performed at a Gathering had her health allowed. She was a life-long advocate for social justice and is best known for her work with the Weavers, a folk song quartet who helped propel folk music to wide popularity and establish its power as an agent of social change.

Her parents were working-class immigrants, and her mother—a garment worker, union activist, and member of the Communist Party—was also interested in the arts and introduced her daughter to Paul Robeson, who sang at a union rally. Ronnie remembered that event as the beginning of her life as a singer with a social conscience.

After the Weavers were targeted by anti-Communists during the McCarthy era and prevented from performing, Ronnie established an acting career in the theater. Later she earned an MA in psychology and worked as a therapist.

During the brief period in 2004 in San Francisco when the mayor opened City Hall to same-sex marriages, she married Donna Korones, her partner and business manager for many years.



Jeanne Arnold, 1931, and Barbara Lindquist, 1930–2013, Honored This Year in Racine, Wisconsin

In March 2015, the Racine, Wisconsin, library honored Jeanne Arnold and the late Barbara Lindquist, founders of Racine's Mother Courage Bookstore and Art Gallery and the Mother Courage Press. Arnold is a Lesbian feminist author and journalist. Lindquist was a Lesbian feminist author. In 1978, the two women established the bookstore to promote feminism and establish a gathering place for women.

From Jeanne Arnold: "We were together for 39 years, with six teenage children between the two of us. We lived through chaotic times, but opened Mother Courage Bookstore and then published Mother Courage Press books, starting with a child abuse therapy book. I continued working as a hospital public relations director to support us through our feminist/Lesbian mission. We met as religious education teachers in our Unitarian-Universalist church. She died with courage and high spirits, saying she lived a good life and had many accomplishments as an artist, luthier [maker of stringed instruments], musician, author, women's spirituality leader, traveler, and more. We both lived a full life together."



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.

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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 _____

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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 _____

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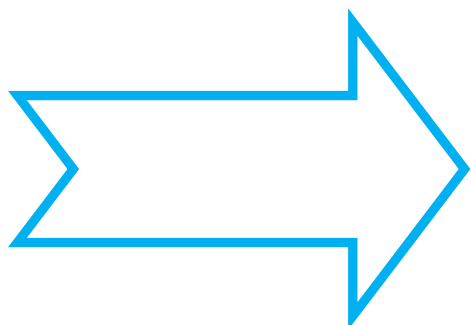
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