

Bay Area OLOC

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



WOMEN'S VALENTINES DANCE

SHAKE – RATTLE - 'n ROLL!

Sunday, February 12, 2023 – 2:30 to 5:00

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 1606 Bonita Ave,
Berkeley, corner of Cedar

You are warmly invited to a women's Valentines dance! Here are the details:

- The music will be an “oldies but goodies” mix CD prepared by Judy Grayboyes.
- Masks are recommended but not required.
- Women of all ages are welcome.
- Light refreshments will be provided.
- Donations are gratefully accepted.

Please spread the word!



**Bay Area OLOC is sponsoring a two night retreat in the Napa Valley on
May 19 – 21, 2023**

Enchanted Hills Camp is reopening and we have reserved space for Friday evening through mid-day Sunday. Meals and sleeping arrangements will be provided. Lesbians 60 and over, their partners and care providers are welcome. Fees will be on an ability-to-pay basis. Stay in touch for reservation and carpool information.

Bay Area OLOC Mourns Joan Emerson



Joan Emerson, 1935, died of natural causes on January 9th. She is survived by her partner of 12 years, Jan Couvillon whom she married on June 2, 2017, and by two brothers, Bob Emerson of Los Angeles and Lee Emerson of Vermont.

Joan was a decisive factor in Bay Area OLOC becoming the large, active chapter it is. In 1996, at age 61, she attended the OLOC National Gathering in Minneapolis. Arriving only “to explore the Lesbian world,” within 24 hours she had enthusiastically joined the Old Lesbian community. Impressed by the self-acceptance OLOC women had in being women, old, and Lesbian, she offered to revitalize the San Francisco chapter. With the help of Old Lesbians who had participated in OLOC’s founding, Joan was at the center of organizing day-long meetings, raising funds, and holding twice yearly overnight retreats from 1996 to 2013.

Born in Washington, DC, in 1935, where her father was a lawyer for the New Deal, she graduated from Reed College and earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. She was drawn to the innovative micro sociology being developed by Erving Goffman and Harold Garfinkel, examining humor in doctor-patient interactions. She taught sociology at Carleton College and the State University of New York, Buffalo. Her brother Bob says Joan’s biggest regret was watching the women’s movement and the civil rights movement from the sidelines. She left the field of sociology and at age 55 began training to work as a psychotherapist with children.

Joan lived in San Francisco for 34 years, partnered for some time with Dottie Fowler, also active in OLOC, and vacationing together with Lesbian friends at Discovery Bay Washington. Joan moved to The Redwoods, a senior housing complex in Marin County, after Dottie’s death. Always sensitive to other’s needs, Joan organized and carried out an orientation program for new residents at the Redwoods and taught collage classes there. She loved swimming, good food, creative writing, and collage.

Joan received OLOC’s Martin-Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award in 2014 at the national Gathering in Oakland. Stepping back from her duties on Bay Area’s steering committee after 17 arduous years, she continued to participate as frequently as she could with Jan’s help.

A memorial for Joan will be held on March 7th from 2:00 – 4:00 at The Redwoods.