



An International
Community of
Lesbian Elders

The Reporter

A quarterly publication of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:
An International Community of Lesbian Elders

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2023

Vol 33 #1

New Mission and Vision Statements

By Sally Tatnall, 1937, Steering Committee Co-Director

Many of our affiliates are aware of the strategic planning process OLOC began in 2020. The main purpose for doing this was to adapt the culture of OLOC to be more welcoming and diverse, as well as to consider the needs of Old Lesbians in the 21st century.

OLOC was formed in 1989 to recognize ageism and how the aged are treated in the American culture. Celebrating the “OLD” is a part of our mission. Over the past decades, our affiliates have become aware of how ageism is a product of white culture in America, and while it is still important to fight ageism, it is also important to honor and recognize the position of elders in other cultures.

The word “OLD” has also been difficult for OLOC at times because so many Lesbians over 55 do not want to identify as OLD and do not want to support OLOC for that reason. At the same time, there are a great number of OLOC affiliates who will fight to retain the word OLD. We work to balance both positions.

We adapted our logo to include Lesbian Elders by adding a tag line.



Steering Committee Co-Directors: L-R:
Michiko Bailey Thorne, 1953; Sally Tatnall, 1937;
and Alí Marrero-Calderón, 1948

In the Steering Committee’s desire to more adequately describe OLOC’s work, we have created new mission and vision statements as follows:

Mission

OLOC represents Lesbian Elders in a spirit of inclusiveness to promote Lesbian visibility. We come together to preserve our herstory, to confront social injustice, and to give and receive support for our later years.

Vision

OLOC is an inclusive, multicultural rainbow of Lesbian Elders working in community for social justice, maintaining a Lesbian focus.

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

An International Community of Lesbian Elders

PO BOX 100129 • Cranston, RI 02910
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www.oloc.org

We have English and Spanish editions of the *Reporter* in both electronic and print formats. If you receive print, right now we assume English. If you prefer Spanish or want one of each, let us know by phoning 888-706-7506 (toll-free) or emailing info@oloc.org.

**The OLOC *Reporter* is published by
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This newsletter is brought to you by:

Editor: Sheryl, 1954.

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Spanish Proofreader and Copy-editor: María Cora, 1953.

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Design/Layout: Connie Rose, 1948.

All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2023.

Limit contributions to 300 words. For memorials we only print announcements. Life stories appear in the E-News. For *Reporter*, just send in name, location, and birth and death years of the Lesbian who died.

We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to reporter@oloc.org or PO Box 100129, Cranston, RI 02910.

To join OLOC online, go to <https://oloc.charityproud.org/Membership/Signup>.

To join by mail, download the form in PDF at <https://oloc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FORM-Affiliate-May2022-EN.pdf> (English) or <https://oloc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FORM-Afiliada-5-16-22-SP.pdf> (Spanish).

Print it out and send it in!

Who We Are: OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians and our supporters. 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's Steering Committee welcomes feedback and suggestions from affiliates by way of mail, phone, or email. Please let us know if you would like a response.

Steering Committee Meetings

The National Steering Committee meets regularly by Zoom—most often on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. ET. If there are topics you want the Committee to address, contact them by email at info@oloc.org; a note to the PO Box in Cranston, Rhode Island; or a phone call to 888-706-7506 (toll-free). Be sure to say if you want a response.

The Steering Committee welcomes OLOC affiliates as guests at its meetings. Contact info@oloc.org for details.

The next in-person meeting is April 27–29 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe, site of the next National Gathering.

Steering Committee Co-Directors

Contact List:

Sally Tatnall, 1937, Lyndhurst, OH, sally@oloc.org, 216-406-7208

Alí Marrero-Calderón, 1948, Bayamón, Puerto Rico, ali@oloc.org, 510-365-6745

Michiko Bailey Thorne, 1953, Oakland, CA, michiko@oloc.org, 510-325-4374



Affiliates: Are you part of National OLOC's online forum? It is a great place to have engaging discussions with other affiliates.

To subscribe, go to
<https://groups.io/g/nationalOLOC>.
If you have any problems, contact
susan@oloc.org.

OLOC Seeking Nominations for Martin–Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award

The Martin–Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award will be presented at the 2023 OLOC National Gathering in Tempe, Arizona (near Phoenix).

We are currently seeking nominations.

Del Martin, 1921–2008 (left in the photo), and Phyllis Lyon, 1924–2020, were activists, pathfinders, and OLOC affiliates. They were married in 2008 after 55 years together.

The \$500 Award will be presented to a Lesbian 70 years or older whose life and work have impacted and will continue to impact the well-being of Old Lesbians. OLOC will pay the registration fee, travel (US only), and lodging—excluding meals not covered by registration—for the winner and her partner or caregiver, if any, to attend the Gathering, which will be held November 15–19, 2023.



Del and Phyllis were both out, proud, and unapologetic when few were. They forged an enduring image that continues to inspire generations of Lesbians around the globe.

Guidelines for Nominations:

1. Nominations should describe the outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements of the nominee in 500 words or less. Send by email to info@oloc.org (preferred) or regular mail to PO Box 100129, Cranston, RI 02910.
2. **Nominations must be postmarked by April 1 or received by April 7 if emailed.**
3. The Award will be given to an Old Lesbian 70 or older at OLOC's 2023 National Gathering.
4. Nominations are worldwide and for an Old Lesbian in any field of endeavor.
5. Nominee's life and work must positively impact the lives of Old Lesbians.
6. Nominees must be alive at the time of nomination.
7. Only OLOC affiliates/supporters may make nominations.
8. Those who have been nominated before (except winners) may be nominated again. (Past winners are Kathy Glass and Carmah Lawler, Joy D. Griffith, Arden Eversmeyer, Joan Emerson, Carol Anne Douglas, and Elana Dykewomon.)



**To find OLOC on
Facebook, go to**

www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC

DONATE



<https://oloc.charityproud.org/Donate>

Introducing New Series

OLOC is looking to further educate our members and supporters on the various “isms” (oppressions) in society.

The more we understand all of the oppressions that face us, the better we become at working to end them. We will explain what we are looking for if you are interested in knowing more, and you have much leeway in how you approach the topics. You may have personal experience with or other expertise in an issue, or you might like to do research and share what you learn. Articles in the series will be identified with “The Isms” at the beginning of the headline.

If you don’t like to, or think you can’t, write, you may do it verbally and we can get it transcribed. We do not care about writing skills. This is ongoing and not needed immediately. However, to ensure we meet our goal of addressing an oppression in every edition of both newsletters, we need to plan, so please let us know of your interest now.

These are some of the oppressions we have in mind. If you want (us) to cover any others, please write either address at the end of this article. We do have commitments for some of these already, so ask before you start writing!

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| ▶ Ableism | ▶ Classism | ▶ Racism |
| ▶ Ageism (toward both old and young) | ▶ Colonialism | ▶ Sexism |
| ▶ Anti-Semitism | ▶ Imperialism | ▶ Sizeism |
| ▶ Capitalism | ▶ Lesbophobia/
Homophobia | ▶ Speciesism |

The details:

E-News (monthly email PDF)

600-word limit.

Deadline is the fifth of each month for that month’s issue.

E-News@oloc.org.

Reporter (quarterly print and PDF, what you are reading now)

300-word limit.

Deadlines are May 1, August 1, November 1, and February 1. Issues are published in June, September, December, and March.

Reporter@oloc.org.

Thank you.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting new project!

2022 Zoom Report

Program Attendance & Impact

In 2022, OLOC held the following events on Zoom:

10 Panels and Presentations

- 1,594 registered
- 1,012 attended (63%)

Most Popular:

1. *National Gathering*
2. *Landykes Part 2*
3. *Audre Lorde Film*

7 Open Houses

- 351 registered
- 210 attended (60%)

Most Popular:

1. *My Favorite Lesbian Book*
2. *Tie—Coming Out Stories and Women’s Liberation Activism*

Support/Discussion Groups

We do not keep detailed track of registrations or attendance.

11 End White Dominance Events

- 517 registered
- 322 attended (62%)

Most Popular:

1. *Anti-Semitism*
2. *Women of Color Suffragists*
3. *Asian Pacific Islanders*

555 unduplicated individuals attended at least one Zoom event.

(continued on page 6)

Lesbians Write About The 'Isms'

The Isms: Fight against Internalized Ageism

By Mary Jean Mulherin, 1951

Nearly six months after arriving at my new home in New Mexico, I am reflecting on what I needed to “let go” of in order to make a move of a distance of 1,200 miles. I had to face my own internal ageism, which told me I was “too old” to make a move of this magnitude.

First, I searched online for an affordable apartment in Albuquerque and located one in an energy efficient Section 42 building on the edge of downtown. While I'd been informed that it would take a year for my name to come up on the list for an apartment, in fact, it only took three months, and I used that time to sort, toss, and give away many possessions. I was soon on the road after loading up my small car with six tubs filled with what I thought was essential for the journey: camp cot, clothes, kitchenware, linens, music, radio, rugs, and a few good books.

Apartment secured, I was soon gifted with a desk, mattress, couch, armchair, and two end tables; bought a large round table with four chairs and a bed frame; and acquired other needed things at thrift stores. I joined a puppet performance group at the art center a few blocks from my apartment where all three women in the troupe are Lesbians. I also attend Lesbian Meetup and ORCA (Old Rainbow Community of Albuquerque) events.

I returned to Minnesota in the fall. After listing my condo with a realtor, I once again filled my car to the brim, this time taking artwork, the rest of my books, clothes, and personal papers.

I looked “I'm too old” in the eye and answered with action. “The heart is a muscle the size of a fist.” Fight back against your own internalized ageism.

Colorism: It Happens in 'White' Families, Too...

By Emeé, 1962

“You are very lucky that you are white,” Mother used to say. “You have no idea what others go through.” I cannot know what it is like to be a Black or Brown person living in the USA, but I have an inkling, based upon my experience growing up in Mother's world. She told me that I was an ugly baby with olive skin and an “awful” head of black hair that ran down my neck when I was born, and she kept me hidden, out of shame. She was angry about it.

Mother created a different “class” for me within our middle class family, keeping me separate from her other children, who both had lighter skin and blonde hair when they were young, a stark contrast to my jet black mane. She enrolled me in public school where I was often the only ‘white’ kid in the class, while my sibling went to private school. We were not allowed to pursue the same interests, and we had distinctly separate sets of friends. When she was angry, I was the target of her wrath. After years of therapy, I realized that Mother was mentally ill, and I stopped caring about why she had made it so hard for me as a child. As a light-skinned person who presents as “white,” I have this luxury; I simply walked away from the woman—and the little world—that made my childhood miserable, into a welcoming world.

Later, Father and I got DNA tests. Dad and I share Iranian Jewish, European Moroccan, and Brazilian DNA, and I carry a significant amount of African American blood that comes from my mother's side of the family. So Mother's behavior may have been because of race-based self-hatred ... or not...

Zoom Events

OLOC's Zoom Crew and other planning committees have been developing many engaging events to keep us all connected since the pandemic began. The Zoom Crew is organizing and implementing four types of events: special panels/presentations, ongoing series, open house informal get-togethers, and support/discussion groups. The End White Dominance Planning Committee is coordinating and facilitating a monthly series of events designed to further educate OLOC affiliates and supporters about systemic racism and what we can do to interrupt it. The newest Planning Committee has created *Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives*, a series that will focus on the oppression of women and how it affects us as individuals and as a group.

Special Panels and Presentations

We're Not Just Whistling Dixie: Southern Lesbian Feminists. Thursday, March 30, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET

Ongoing Series

NEW! *Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—Topic: How Has Male Supremacy Affected Your Life and the World?*

Tuesday, March 21, 3:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Women's Herstory Month—Topic: Celebrating Women of Color

Friday, March 24, 4:00–6:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Doing the Work
Friday, April 28, 4:00–6:00 P.M. ET

Open Houses

Nothing scheduled at this time but check again next issue!

End White Dominance: Women's Herstory Month— Celebrating Women of Color

At the March 24 End White Dominance session, we will be celebrating Women's Herstory Month and International Women's Day (March 8). We are asking OLOC affiliates to choose a Woman of Color whom they would like to celebrate and share a short presentation about her.

To sign up for your Woman of Color choice, please contact Patty O'Donnell at pattytothepines@gmail.com.

Support/Discussion Groups

Ongoing groups include:

- Lesbians of Color Discussion
- Lesbian Widows Support
- Caregivers Support
- ASL Chat
- Radical Lesbian Feminist Discussion



Check out the full schedule at <https://oloc.org/zoom-schedule/>. You can see videos of the past Zoom Crew events, with resources such as reading lists, transcripts, and participant reports, at <https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2022/>, <https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2021/> and <https://oloc.org/past-zooms-2020/>.

If you would like to receive notices about OLOC Zoom events (including registration information), send an email to mev@oloc.org with the subject heading "Zoom events" and message body, "Please add me to the Zoom event email notifications."

Questions? Please contact zoom@OLOC-Chapters.groups.io (Zoom Crew events), susan@oloc.org (End White Dominance programs), or renagm@aol.com (Confronting Sexism: Fighting for our Lives series).

OLOC 2022 Zoom Report: Program

Attendance and Impact (continued from P-4)

The impact of the events has been tremendous:

Reduced isolation • Meaningful communication and friendships • Reconnection with our Lesbian herstory • Acquisition of new technical skills (use of Zoom) • Increased awareness on topics such as ageism, white dominance, activisms, death and dying, writing obituaries, Lesbian herstory, and other issues critical to Old Lesbians.

Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, facilitated, did the tech end, or otherwise made these programs possible. We couldn't have done it without you (as clichéd as that sounds)! Watch these pages for continuing listings of upcoming exciting, enlightening, entertaining, experiential, educational, and elucidating events in 2023!

New Zoom Series: Confronting Sexism: Fighting for our Lives.

Second-wave feminists created the word “sexism” and its meaning: that women are constrained and harmed by a political system of male domination and supremacy. This revolutionary political framework for understanding women’s lives arose from women sharing personal experiences of rape, of sexual harassment, of battering, and of sexual abuse of children. Consciousness-raising engendered a powerful movement that brought about social change.

So here we are 50 plus years after the women’s liberation movement brought about revolutionary political theory, knowledge, and social change, and yet sexism continues.

Worst, an enormous backlash has struck, and, as the loss of reproductive rights, new levels of violence, and growing attacks on women’s dignity illustrate, women and Lesbians across the spectrum of our differences are experiencing assaults against feminism and our lives. The movement that won so much, but had much more to do, has faded and stalled, with dire consequences for women, the earth, and humanity.



The personal is the political. This new monthly OLOC Zoom series will discuss various facets of sexism. Each session will open with a brief framework to guide the conversation and emphasize sharing personal experiences and reflections.

The “Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives” series will be held on the third Tuesday of each month from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. ET. The planning group hopes to develop and deepen the understanding of sexual politics and to foster our bonding as Lesbian women.

Please watch for your monthly Zoom event email invitation and join us!

Rena Grasso, 1944 • Reeni Goldin, 1948
Sally Tatnall, 1937 • Patty O’Donnell, 1956

What I Heard Discussed at Various Gathering Break-out Sessions

By Henri Bensussen, 1937

This is a short list of things I heard at break-out sessions [at OLOC’s Zoom Gathering in October 2022]. Within our society, there is a lack of acknowledgment of Lesbians and of knowledge about Lesbian and feminist history. By participating in OLOC, we build solidarity and recognize our own intelligence. Be a proud Lesbian without apology. Celebrate our strength and spirituality by maintaining our Lesbian identity. Being too “political” is not fun.

Fewer disagreements and more acceptance are needed, along with in-person experience and encouragement. Common goals should be more clearly stated. We need to recognize those coming up in age. We’re used to taking care of others rather than ourselves. What about a widows group?

Regarding the trans movement: social media “outlaws” Lesbianism, which is stigmatized. OLOC should focus on feminist analysis. We have been marginalized by mainstream media, silencing, and witch hunts. We should try to be more seen, to support young Lesbians, by, e.g., being a presence at Gay Pride events.

How can we be more inclusive? Focus on Lesbians as our identity first, before focusing on how we differ; don’t redefine our Lesbian culture. Racism: steps must be taken to examine how white privilege feeds racism (and capitalism). What personal steps can we take; what can OLOC do? Class/size issues/disability/spirituality/religion: racism is expressed in all these issues, thus the term “intersectionality.”

Here’s my personal opinion, after doing a lot of reading on the subject: OLOC’s program via Zoom on white privilege/racism [End White Dominance] would be more effective if co-hosted by white and Black Lesbians, not white alone. Reading is fine, but panel discussions offer more. Videos that play out scenes that are followed by discussions would be good. Confronting racism and “intersectionality” using more dramatic methods should be a prime focus of the 2023 Gathering, if we are really serious about it.

Remembering Jan Griesinger, 1942–2022



Jan was a long-time Steering Committee (SC) member and Co-Director of OLOC. She joined the SC in 2000 as an intern at age 58 and resigned in 2019 because of her health. Her contributions to OLOC over those many years were innumerable, and we all mourn her loss. Below are stories from some of us who knew her. There were more in the January E-News.

Jan Griesinger, ¡Presente!



From Sally Tatnall, 1937:

I first heard about Jan Griesinger in the 1970s. She and her partner, Mary Morgan, were making feminist waves in Ohio [where I live].

When I finally met her it was at a landykes meeting at SuBAMUH [Susan B. Anthony Memorial Unrest Home, Jan's land]. I was so impressed by the many skills the Lesbians had. There we all were, camping outdoors, swimming in the natural pond, eating great food, and having great discussions about living on the land and ending patriarchy. It felt so real and empowering. I remember at one visit Jan and I sat in the hot tub and just laughed and railed against the patriarchy. This was a rare moment in my life.

Jan was a gardener, a peace activist, a Lesbian promoter, an active challenger of racism. And she never faulted. It was because of Jan that I became an OLOC Steering Committee (SC) member.

In those early days, the SC had in-person meetings twice a year in the city that would host the [next] National Gathering. We drove together when the city was close enough. We talked about growing up; Jan was aware of her upper-class status. I think that was another way in which I loved her. As a poor working-class girl, I never felt her class dominance. This is a tribute to her deep understanding of how oppression works, as well as how unconscious it can be in personal relationships. Her knowledge and challenging of injustice was monumental.

I visited her at SuBAMUH, and later in the assisted living apartment, or called her. Jan loved to walk and walked at every in-person SC meeting. It hurt me to see the many ways she was no longer able to do the things she loved. I miss and remember Jan Griesinger. She was a force to be reckoned with.

From: Alí Marrero-Calderón, 1948:

I first met Jan Greisinger in 2014 at the OLOC Gathering in Oakland, California. My first impression of her was that Jan was a privileged white woman. Jan was strong, opinionated ... and she didn't take crap from anyone. As a National Steering Committee affiliate, Jan led OLOC to the strong National Lesbian organization that it is today. After Hurricane Maria [in September 2017 in Puerto Rico, where I now live], there was a fundraiser honoring Jan in Athens, Ohio, and the film of Jan's life was shown. I was impressed and became emotional and I told her this, and she said to me, in her style, waving it off, "It's just my life." And I think now: a life well lived.



From: Pam Jackson, 1941:

Jan was the spark plug for our Central Ohio Chapter.

She told me once she loved to sing and dance but neither partner she had did. Our Chapter visited nursing homes to sing all the old favorites with Jan in the lead. At meetings, Jan liked to end with the song "Make New

Friends" or "The More We Get Together." At our potlucks her deviled eggs were the best.

Many of us will remember her cry of "We are uppity women." Jan really kept us on track regarding our mission. She will always be in our hearts.

Chapter News

Western Mass Chapter: Surviving Winter in New England

By Emily Greene, 1946

Interesting that it has been a mild winter for us, until the next two days [February 3–4] when it will not get out of the teens. My Southern bones are shivering getting ready to walk my dogs [that is us in the photo] in temperatures around 16 degrees ... although I know so far we are lucky compared to the mid-west, south, and California.



In **December**, our wonderful Roberta, 1946, delighted us with online comedy skits, which we all enjoyed. That brought us into the new year 2023, when we looked at what we want to do as a group of Old Lesbians. We heard the news that Connie Barrett, 1945, is taking on many things with National OLOC and will need to step down from being our Chapter Coordinator. We so appreciate the work she and others in our group have done to keep our gang rolling. We have sent out a survey for those who have not been able to join us online, so that hopefully we will meet the needs of the majority.

One thing I want to highlight is JR's, 1943, dedicated work to have a "check-in" in between our regular meetings. There are also ideas being considered to have another mini-Michfest during Women's Week in October on Cape Cod. This January, I joined Sharon Thompson, 1942, and seven others to share our lives—that we have captured on film—for National OLOC. It was so heartwarming to see the ways OLOCians have saved their experiences.

So we hope all of you are staying warm and we'll share more next time. Thanks, National OLOC, for

being a lifeline for Old Lesbians. Our sadness goes out to all who have lost their lives to shootings and police violence, in just this January 2023.

Rhode Island Chapter

By Nancy H., 1953

At our **November** meeting we began using Zoom again. The weather here in New England is not conducive to outside meetings and not many of our members have a big enough space for us to gather indoors.

Our discussion topic, "Being Out in Your Neighborhood," was facilitated by Thea, 1954. We discussed if, when, and how folks came out in their neighborhoods. We also explored how it felt if one was not out and, if you're out, how you express it. It was great fun and an interesting discussion.

In **December**, we gathered to celebrate the Winter Solstice. We were back indoors at Deb's, 1952, house to share food, music, and stories about the light and the darkest day of the year. Kate, 1944, facilitated the discussion and had some wonderful stories. One of my favorites was about the indigenous Sami people of Lapland, a wintry region in northern Finland, and Amanita Muscaria, one of the most recognized mushrooms, with its striking red and white colors and visits by shamans. You can imagine where Santa and flying reindeer might have originated. All in all, it was a very informative and enjoyable meeting.



Our **January** and **February** meetings were on Zoom, as **March** will be, because winter is now with us.

New Mexico Chapter

By Susan Buchler, 1946

November 2022: We had a great time painting and gluing and creating gourds for ornaments and decorative bottles with lights inside while we chatted with each other and in general “caught up.” Paula Fisher, 1951, provided all the required supplies and guidance. Thank you, Paula!



Mary Jean Mulherin, 1951;
Pat Pedersen, 1943;
Joanne Magalis, 1942

December 2022: This was our holiday carry-in snack potluck and gathering. We also collected warm winter clothing items that we donated to two women’s shelters, Barrett House and Crossroads for Women.

Carole Eagleheart, 1944, presented a memorial, reading obituaries and lighting a candle for those we know of who left us recently. Then she played a beautiful movie compiled of photos from



New Mexico OLOC 2022
memorial movie

previous years of New Mexico OLOC and the photos of women who have left us. It was quite moving. We shared food and remembrances of the women and the music that has been the background of our lives.

January 2023: This is traditionally the gathering where we select the programs to be presented in the coming year. Due to COVID-19 contracted by the presenter, we had no choice but to cancel our meeting. Already scheduled were programs for February and March, and we’ll meet in April to decide the rest of the year’s events.

IMPORTANT FOR ALL OLOC INTERACTIONS

In all OLOC communications and events, you are responsible for your own contribution. Please use respectful and considerate language at all times. OLOC supports civil discourse and reflective listening. Individual opinions do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or attitudes of OLOC as a whole.

Hudson Valley Chapter: Going Strong Despite COVID-19

By Retts, 1953

Hudson Valley OLOC began meeting in person on **September 22, 2022**. We met again on **October 20, 2022**, at the LGBTQ Center of the Hudson Valley for a special event: A Death Café, presented by Circle of Friends for the Dying (CFD).

The mission of CFD is “to bring compassionate, competent, end-of-life care to the dying and their families by providing a home and a circle of support. CFD will create and oversee a safe and comfortable residence for terminally ill people in need of a home and primary caregiver during their final months.”

Please note: Since a Circle of Friends death café is not a bereavement support or grief counseling setting, the format may not work for people who, for whatever reason, are not able to discuss death comfortably and openly. There are other resources for these people.

This was a wonderful event attended by 15 OLOC members. Jo Scari, the presenter, was wonderful, and she opened up the event to questions. Women asked very good and interesting questions, and Jo was very pleased with the night. It was not depressing or somber but, rather, upbeat, and, at times, funny. Some women shared their already-made plans about what they want when they die. Jo asked, “We plan vacations and weddings, so why not our funerals?” She also encouraged us all to write our own obituary.

We are committed to a Part Two, but unfortunately there was bad weather in November and then we did not meet in December or January, also due to weather. It’s hard for members to drive at night. We will aim for April 2023. We will meet again on March 16 for another special event. Stay tuned.

Affiliate Contributions

Road Trip With a Stop at Alapine Lesbian Village

By Patty O'Donnell, 1956

My spouse, Jo Ann, and I took our first long driving trip since retiring three years ago, which covered no major traveling during the two years of COVID-19. We were headed down to Sarasota, Florida, from our home in Michigan to visit Jo Ann's family. On the way there, we scheduled a two-night stop at Alapine [a very rural Lesbian neighborhood] in northeast Alabama.

We found ourselves on roads that kept climbing the mountain, losing fog lines and shoulders. Turning left, then right, then left again and wondering if that last turn should have been a right. What fun, after using the interstate and four-lane highway systems for nearly two days, to arrive at the bank of mailboxes, trash bins, recycling bins, and the gate at Alapine. Surrounded by woods, we were escorted to Alapine's Community Building,



which is a home converted into a fully equipped gathering space for meetings, celebrations, and solace; an extensive mixed-media library; and two private rooms for short-term guests. The residents of Alapine were so welcoming, and they hosted a dessert potluck where we exchanged stories of personal paths and lots of laughter and solved some of the world's problems.

Passings

Barbara Love, 1937–2022,
New York, New York

Jan Griesinger, 1942–2022,
Athens, Ohio

Sadé Heart of the Hawk Ali, 1947–2022,
North Haven, Connecticut

Kathleen Joan DeBold, 1955–2022,
Burtonsville, Maryland

Martha Ficklen, 1937–2023,
St. Louis, Missouri

Joan Emerson, 1935–2023,
Mill Valley, California

Barbara Kannapell, 1937–2021,
Washington, DC

See the E-News for more about these Lesbians.

Provincetown Booklet Now Available!

By Sarah Pearlman, 1935

Wimmin Town is a wonderful collection of stories, poems, and a play by Old Lesbians about their experiences in Provincetown. The print booklet is available for \$11.00, and a digital copy is free. Boston OLOC members who contributed to the booklet are Gloria Charles, 1950; Jyl Lynn Felman, Jean Stewart, Kalyani Devajyoti, and me. For information on how to obtain a copy, email Sarah Pearlman at spearlman@hartford.edu.

OLOC Chapters as of March 1, 2023, are Arizona (meeting in greater Phoenix); San Francisco Bay Area, California; Colorado; WMass, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Central Ohio; Rhode Island; Vermont; Puget Sound Area, Washington; Tri-State (West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky); and Online At-Large (virtual).

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