

Bay Area OLOC



Old Lesbians Organizing for Change Newsletter – July, 2023

This group of old dykes is about empowerment and visibility, moving into the next phase of our lives with panache and activism, talking about taboo and difficult topics including our inevitable deaths, long-term planning, community and connection. Open to old lesbians 60 and over.

COME TO OUR ANNUAL PICNIC!!

Sunday, July 23, 12:00 – 4:00 Live Oak Park, Berkeley

On July 23rd, Bay Area OLOC will be picnicking at Live Oak Park in Berkeley, Picnic Area 2, 12:00-4:00. We invite all lesbians 60 and over—plus partners and caregivers of any age—to this annual event. It is a great way to meet new friends and connect with women you haven't seen for a while. We've resumed picnics after the worst of the pandemic, and those attending have raved about getting hugs and seeing actual live Old Lesbians in the flesh!

Most of us have been vaccinated and boosted and many have had Covid. If you have immunity, you're welcome to wear a mask or not. We ask that you wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated or recovered from Covid. Some women can't get vaccinated for health reasons or are immune compromised, so we don't make assumptions about mask wearers.

We rely on those attending to either bring food to share or bring food of your own. There will not be grilling in the picnic area due to some of us being sensitive to smoke. OLOC will supply paper plates, cups, and utensils. Our experience is that there are always vegetarian and gluten-free contributions among the pot-luck dishes.

The site has water and ample seating. Disabled women are allowed to use the accessible indoor restroom at the Berkeley Art Center right by our area. Able-bodied women are asked to use the park's public restroom across the street. The wooded, shady site is accessible to wheelchairs and scooters and is served by paratransit. Parking is on the street and the SF Mime Troupe is also performing in the park that day, so carpool and/or arrive early! For a ride from North Berkeley BART or to participate in a carpool, call Ginny Garrett ahead of time at 510 495-4285. **Our site is Picnic Area 2, between Oxford and Walnut** at the Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut Street.

Hope to see you there!

Everyone is Welcome at OLOC's 2023 National Gathering

"Love, Laughter & Resilience"

November 15 – 19, 2023 in Tempe, Arizona

National OLOC, of which Bay Area OLOC is a chapter, is holding its international Gathering this year in Tempe, near Phoenix, Arizona. Gatherings are the most exciting, ambitious events that OLOC sponsors. National and local financial support is available so every Old Lesbian (55 and over) who wants to attend is welcome to participate.

The Gathering will feature:

- **Lesbians of Color Day** on 11/15, facilitated by Dr. Maria Luisa "Papusa" Molina;
- A concurrent day for White Lesbians to examine unconscious racism on 11/15;
- Presentation of the Del Martin-Phyllis Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award to **Linda Wilson**, Production & Stage Manager, National Women's Music Festival since 1987;
- Keynote Friday evening speaker **Bettina Aptheker** on 11/17;
- A Laugh Fest with comic **Karen Williams** on Saturday 11/18; and
- A full program including workshops, films, caucuses, the memorial slide show, a Gathering choir practice & performance, and dancing!

Early registration for the Gathering ends on August 1st, with fees increasing after that. Financial assistance to help pay for travel and hotel is available from National OLOC. Bay Area OLOC is fortunate to be able to offer members financial assistance by paying for registration (\$350). Contact Pat Cull by August 15 at (415) 637-5002 or by email at patcull70@gmail.com to ask for Bay Area OLOC registration support. If you are asking for Bay Area OLOC support, send in your Gathering registration indicating that Bay Area will pay National OLOC directly. Go to www.oloc.org for more information about the Gathering and how to apply for their financial assistance.

Bay Area OLOC's first retreat since 2019 was a huge success!

(But we have had to cancel the retreat that was planned for this fall...)

Bay Area OLOC held our first retreat since fall of 2019 from Friday May 19 through Sunday, May 21. It was attended by about 45 women, many of whom were participating in an OLOC event for the first time. For old timers, it marked a return to a Bay Area OLOC tradition stretching back a long way. Until the pandemic, spring and fall retreats were welcome get-togethers for many years.

Women at the retreat were enthusiastic about the chance to socialize, meeting new and old friends. The Saturday evening Salon, emceed by Molly Martin, showcased poetry, visual art, music, prose, and an original skit. Following the Salon, a bunch of women played cards and dominos. The facility provided a female lifeguard for many lesbians to skinny dip and play ball in the water. The bath house has been completely rebuilt and a shuttle carried women to the pool down the steep drive. The food was plentiful with vegetarian and gluten-free options at every meal.



(Sunshine performs at the Salon, picture by Ginny Garrett.)

Our location, Enchanted Hills Camp, has been undergoing extensive renovation and rebuilding since fires devastated the Napa region and their operations had also been interrupted by the pandemic. Plans are underway for more construction and that is the reason that our plans to return in fall 2023 have had to be cancelled. Enchanted Hills serves blind children and adults over the summer, so the important project of “undergrounding” their electrical lines to protect them from wind and fire means that the camp will be closed in the fall. Bay Area OLOC has reserved weekends in spring, and fall, 2024 for our retreats.

New Zoom Group Proposed for Immunocompromised Women

- Are You SEVERELY IMMUNOCOMPROMISED?
- Has the Covid pandemic left you in a box of isolation and loneliness?
- Do you feel deep despair?
- Do you feel like no one understands the challenges facing those who are immunocompromised?
- Do you feel angry the world is moving on even though Covid is still rampant (according to CDC hospitalization data)?
- Do you feel hurt that loved ones in your life are leaving you behind or that your community doesn't even care enough to put on a mask to protect the immunocompromised?

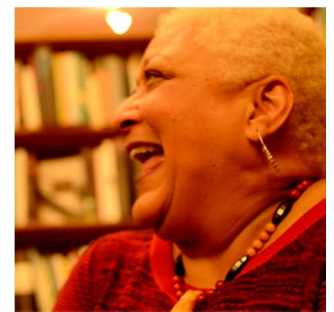
If you answered yes to any of these questions, would you be interested in meeting by Zoom or phone with other immunocompromised Old Lesbians? If so, please email Sue Greene at Lompocsue@yahoo.com

North Bay OLOC Cluster?

Bay Area OLOC veteran Simi Litvak has volunteered to serve as a contact person for OLOC members living in the North Bay. Simi and her partner Pnina Tobin recently moved to Rohnert Park and would like to be in touch and possibly get together with other Old Lesbians living in the region. Contact Simi at (510) 838-5203 or similitvak@comcast.net.

Bay Area OLOC was featured as a community partner again this year at the free film festival sponsored by the **Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) in June**. Thanks to Windsor Young, our banner and brochures were proudly displayed at the festival venue in the Presidio.

QWOCMAP's director, Madeleine Lim's documentary celebrating the life, activism, and writing of OLOC luminary Jewelle Gomez premiered at the festival last year. This year, "Jewelle: A Just Vision" was screened at San Francisco's LGBTQ festival Frameline. You can watch a recording of Jewelle on YouTube. Search for: Jewelle Gomez "The Gilda Stories" at the San Francisco Public Library.



National OLOC offers a variety of Zoom programs and support groups – Join now to stay up-to-date!

The **national OLOC website** offers a wealth of resources and material of interest to Old Lesbians. There are recordings and links to Zoom programs going back to 2020, and links to support meetings for such groups as widows, caregivers, and Lesbians who are fluent in American Sign Language among others. A series of presentations on ending White dominance has had a number of sessions and is ongoing.

If you sign up with national OLOC, you will receive notices of up-coming Zoom events. The email notices are the only way to register and get access to online events, and these events are restricted to Lesbians. Everyone is asked not to post notices of OLOC Zoom events on social media so the events stay safer. There is a downloadable form for joining, and a link to join online. You decide how much you are willing and able to pay for joining – if money is an issue you can join for free. **If you are not signed up yet, do it now!**

National OLOC has recently adopted the term "affiliate" for women who join the organization. In the national OLOC world, "affiliate" equals "member." Locally, Bay Area OLOC refers to everyone on our mailing list as "members" but you won't receive notices of national events unless you sign up at www.OLOC.org