



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 #3

Introducing New Steering Committee Members!



Patti Kardia, 1959: I began organizing events for Lesbians at the University of Michigan (U-M) as an undergraduate when I joined the Human Sexuality Office as a work-study student. Since that first Lesbian tea, I have organized a conference for Lesbian moms, several Pride

celebrations, and numerous workshops and panels. I taught the first Lesbian studies class as an adjunct at

both U-M and Indiana University, published essays on homophobia education as part of multicultural education, edited a collection of essays on heterosexism and militarism for the American Friends Service Committee, organized two guerrilla stenciling actions, served on numerous task forces/committees/actions, and have done LOTS of administrative work. I am on the Finance and Fundraising Committee and help with OLOC administrative and technical updates, especially for the upcoming Gathering. I have a particular interest in developing intentional community with other Lesbians.



Juanita Malouf, 1953: I am a Spanish/Lebanese radical feminist Lesbian separatist. Born in North Africa, I have dual citizenship, France/USA. My work was as a licensed Electrical Contractor. I also hold degrees in Computer Information Systems and Network Design and Administration. I completed

a BA in Linguistics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. I spent most of life working for survival and health insurance, either in the field or as a Software Engineer, leaving little time for Lesbian politics. I focus now on poetry, Lesbian writings, and OLOC.

gypsy: I was born in 1952 and found out I was a Lesbian at 25. I was on the March on Washington organizing board in 1993. I was a part of NIA, a Black women's organization in Oakland [California], during the mid-1990s. I was part of a Black women's organization in Atlanta, and I don't remember the name of it. I was part of a Black women's organization in Houston in the early 2010s named Ujima.



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.

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

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

Editor: Sheryl, 1954.

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Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Spanish translation: Google Translate via Sheryl, 1954.

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

English Proofreader and Copy-editor:
Nancy Krody, 1939.

Design/Layout: Connie Rose, 1948.

All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is November 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, and
we reserve the right to decide which contributions to
publish. Send articles to reporter@oloc.org
or PO Box 100129, Cranston, RI 02910.

We have **English and Spanish editions** of the
Reporter in both electronic and print formats.

If you receive print, we assume you want
English. If you prefer Spanish or want both,
let us know by phoning 888-706-7506 (toll-
free) or emailing info@oloc.org.



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

www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC

- **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.

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Steering Committee

- 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.

- 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.

-
- **Discussion Etiquette:** For all OLOC
• communications and events, you are responsible
• for your own contribution which means using
• “I” whenever possible. Each OLOC affiliate
• is responsible for creating an inclusive and
• welcoming environment through their words and
• actions, so please use respectful and considerate
• language at all times which includes not using
• racial, ethnic, or any slurs regarding others.
• OLOC does support civil disagreements between
• participants and promotes reflective listening. And
• please note, individual opinions do not necessarily
• reflect the beliefs or attitudes of OLOC as a whole.

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DONATE



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

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

Affiliate Contributions

Lesbian Community Housing

By Patti Kardia, 1959

One of the most significant concerns for Lesbian elders is safe, affordable housing. Half of old same-sex couples experience discrimination when applying for housing. Old Lesbian couples experience higher rates of poverty (9.1%) than old heterosexual couples (4.6%). Since women in 2000 were still earning just 76% of men's wages, financial considerations profoundly influence a woman's housing choices throughout life, and particularly at retirement age. This essay briefly explores options for Lesbian community housing.

Co-living is a form of communal living in which residents get private space with shared common areas, and it can be quite attractive for its affordability, flexibility, included amenities, and sense of community. This is a more affordable option than co-housing and may be an option for a solo Lesbian or a Lesbian couple who wants to build community by offering a home-share, or a small group of women purchasing a house together to share.

In *cooperative communities* for seniors, members collectively own and control the developments in which they live. Residents buy membership in the cooperative, which owns the land, building, and any common areas while keeping access to private spaces. This model might work for a group of women who want to purchase a larger home or small apartment building in which the ownership is held by the cooperative and not by the individuals.

Unlike collectively-owned cooperatives, *co-housing communities* include privately-owned homes and collectively-owned common spaces and grounds.

All three kinds of housing share many of the same values and structures: democratic governance, shared meals and labor, a focus on community, an educated membership, balancing privacy and community, and shared responsibility.

Please join the Facebook group (<https://facebook.com/groups/lezcohouse/>) I co-manage, and attend the upcoming Gathering workshop to continue to explore these and other options.

A Rad Fem was Born

By Juanita Malouf, 1953

A rad fem was born in Morocco. Later, at 17 years, she built a cabin on 800 acres of Alpine meadows, mountain



lions, snakes, and ladybugs, not to mention the California frogs in the swamp.

Yep, I built a cabin at 17. Worked construction, electronics, Bay Bridges, computers, computer languages, linguistics.

When I was 19, my lover had come from Paris and the great feminist movement and riots of 1968 with Monique Wittig.

My dream at a young age was to be radical. Tried to join the Free University in Menlo Park [California] until my father intercepted my mail. He told me he would lose his Pentagon security clearance, and proceeded to show me redacted files, proving he was special. He loved to make up crap, but, hey, what are secret agents for? Loved my dad to the end and still.

I never lost my young Lesbian identity, from my first love, a filmmaker from Venice, California, to the very wealthy world of Lesbians I was to enter.

My favorite times were dancing and dating in bars: "B" Street, Peg's Place, Scott's, Amelia's, the White Horse, the Savoy, the dive Daybreak, and another little dive in Sunnyvale, sorta chic, even back then.

When we got into our 30s, I had a gang of softball and golf buddies which later turned into surfing and rock climbing buddies.

Now I'm pretty isolated—old friends staying home more since COVID-19. Others are sick, perhaps dying; many others already dead.

Today I'm letting the good times roll amidst the apocalypse. Regardless, my future is always radical Lesbian feminist.

“Love, Laughter, RESILIENCE” “Amor, Risa, RESISTENCIA”

November 15–19

DRAFT Schedule of Events (subject to change)

The Gathering welcomes
Old Lesbians who have reached their 55th year
(and their partners or caregivers)

WEDNESDAY, November 15, 2023

9:00 AM—4:00 PM	Pre-Gathering Events with lunch provided by OLOC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesbians of Color Day with María Luisa “Papusa” Molina, Ph.D. White Lesbians Examine Unconscious Racism with Facilitator TBD Planning for Thursday’s Plenary
4:00—4:30 PM	
4:45—7:15 PM	Dinner on your own
7:30—9:00 PM	OPENING of the Gathering Blessing; Welcome from the Steering Committee; Presentation of the Del Martin-Phyllis Lyon Old Lesbian Pride Award
9:15—10:15 PM	Mentoring Hour for First Timers to the Gathering

THURSDAY, November 16, 2023

9:00—10:30 AM	Plenary: Inter-Cultural Presentation & Discussion from Wed events
10:45 AM—12:15 PM	<i>Workshops A</i>
12:30—2:15 PM	Lunch on your own
2:30—4:00 PM	<i>Workshops B</i>
4:15—5:45 PM	Chapter Coordinators/New Chapters Workshop Caucuses/Choir Practice/Chapter Mtgs/Free time
6:00—7:15 PM	Dinner provided by OLOC, Cash Bar
7:30—9:00 PM	Talent Show

FRIDAY, November 17, 2023

9:00—10:30 AM	<i>Workshops C</i>
10:45—11:45 AM	Memorial Slideshow
12:00—2:00 PM	Lunch on your own
2:15—3:30 PM	Film: <i>Nelly & Nadine</i>
3:45—5:45 PM	Caucuses/Choir Practice/Chapter Mtgs/Free time
6:00—7:15 PM	Dinner provided by OLOC, Cash Bar
7:30—9:00 PM	Keynote: Bettina Aptheker

SATURDAY, November 18, 2023

9:00—10:30 AM	Plenary: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
10:30—11:45 AM	Caucuses/Choir Practice/Chapter Mtgs/Free time
Noon—1:45 PM	Lunch provided by OLOC
2:00—3:30 PM	<i>Workshops D</i>
3:45—5:15 PM	<i>Workshops E</i> or Caucuses/Choir Practice/Chapter Mtgs/Free time
5:15—7:15 PM	Dinner on your own
7:30—8:30 PM	Comic: Karen Williams
8:45—11:00 PM	Dance, Cash bar

SUNDAY, November 19, 2023

9:00 AM—Noon	Closing performance, Share, and Blessing
Noon—4:00 PM	Heard Museum Tour on your own, https://heard.org/

(Evening events are open to women of any age with registration & fee)

International Gathering News

Important! *The deadline for early registration—the lowest cost—(<https://oloc.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/12190>) has been extended to September 15, and for workshop applications (<https://tinyurl.com/yvetddk2>) to September 30. This gives you more time to save money and to propose a workshop you would like to offer!*

If you can't see the Gathering forms on the website but are planning to attend and interested in doing a workshop or volunteering to help, contact info@oloc.org or call our toll-free number at 888-706-7506. We will send you the **print forms**.

Yes! Yes! Yes! *This year we'll have the first face-to-face Gathering since the pandemic started!* In honor of Indigenous People's Month, in Tempe, Arizona, November 15–19, the theme will be *Love, Laughter, and Resilience*. We need your talents! There will be a **Talent Show** on Thursday. Come and show off what you got! Sign up when you register. We're inviting you! So—bring it!

Vendors wanted. Do you have something you want to share with other Old Lesbians? It might be artwork, books, housewares, jewelry, clothing, musical instruments, services, and so forth. Sign up for a vendor booth at the Gathering. (There will be six-foot-long tables available in the Conference Center lobby. Note: The Conference Center will be locked overnight, but there is no way to secure individual tables.) If you are interested, email patti@oloc.org with a description of what you want to share and your contact information.

There's Something New at oloc.org!

Our website has been redesigned. A lot of the original features are still there but with an exciting new look. The top menu has been consolidated to fit on one line on most screens.

There are two new features: We've added a photo gallery called "This Is What an Old Lesbian Looks Like." You're welcome to send photos of yourself and other affiliates. There is also an affiliates portal, where the Zoom archives are. It's password protected to maintain the privacy of those who participate in the Zooms. The password has been emailed to all affiliates. More information will be added in the future.

The "Resources" page has had a total makeover. "Additional Resources" still has the list of great websites to help you navigate aging.

If you need assistance with:

Accessibility: On the right-hand side, about halfway down the page, is a small blue circle icon with a

human figure in it. That's the accessibility button. Click on it to find multiple ways to adjust the site to make it easier for you to read the text or see the images. Don't be afraid to click on the options to see how they work. A reset button in the pop-up box changes the settings back.

The site: There's a website *help* button that pops up in the lower-left corner when you scroll down. You can email the webweaver to ask for help.

Searching: The search option is in the header if you're looking for something specific.

Navigation: The site map is in the footer to help you navigate the pages.

The site can be viewed in English or Spanish. That option is located in the header at the top on the right-hand side.

Visit our new site at oloc.org and check out all the innovative features! We hope you enjoy it!

Old Lesbians Write About The ‘Isms’

Classism Keeps America Running

By Pat Gowens, 1944

Wars on the poor depend on classism, sexism, and racism. However, classism against all races is the mostly hidden foundation of these wars. Our country promotes stereotypes and hatred against poor people to keep classism alive.

Since the founding of our country, poor White, Black, and Brown populations have kept our country and people alive. The poor do essential work for sub-poverty wages. Poor families do the farm work to feed humans and animals. Poor women prepare and serve the food for millions of fast food shops, restaurants, and hotels. Poor women do the care giving work for children and elders. Mostly poor women labor in millions of supermarkets, department stores, call centers, and offices.

Poor women and some men do the cleaning at millions of nursing homes and hospitals. Poor adults do most of the work in our remaining US factories. Poor women do the majority of aid work and food work in schools.

My Experience at the National Women’s Music Festival from a Black Lesbian Perspective

By gypsy, 1952

After I purchased the registration, hotel room, and flight, I thought to myself: “Never thought I’d set foot in Wisconsin and now I’m headed there.”

I was told that it was inside, as opposed to other [outdoor] women’s festivals. I wouldn’t be trampling through the woods or mud. I’d have a conventional mattress.

I read the title listing of workshops online, and some seemed interesting. Most of the names of the musicians I never heard of before. I wasn’t interested in “a girl and a guitar” efforts. I’d heard of Holly Near and what little I’d heard of her music simply didn’t interest my inner ear.

The hotel’s food was bland and overpriced. The Marriott showed patches of disrepair, non-attention to DIY [do it yourself, maintenance]. My mattress was soft.

I greeted the women in the hallways, went to the vendor area, and spent \$\$\$.

I only went to the main stage to listen to music, enjoying B. Steadwell and some of Melba’s Kitchen’s efforts. The rest of the music was just as bland as the food.

I very much enjoyed the writers’ workshop given by Alex Thompson and the workshop on co-housing [co-

Poor people do all this crucial work for usually no benefits! Farm workers are even exempt from minimum wage in some states! This system is seen as the norm due to classism.

Half of American jobs pay sub-poverty wages, so poor people rarely escape poverty. They often need food stamps to feed their children. On December 29, 2022, Congress slashed \$95 per person per month from 300 MILLION households.

The nearly \$1.7 TRILLION left in that Bill went to wealthy Americans to manufacture and sell weapons for warfare, and to mass murderers.

Classism is the hidden mechanism keeping our country running. Poor people are easy targets used to enrich the non-poor. Take from the poor and give to the rich as the December 29 bill did. Thousands of rich lobbyists keep the wars on the poor alive by funding Congress to refuse to raise wages and end sales of weapons.

facilitated by OLOC affiliate Patti Kardia, 1959]. What Alex offered did penetrate my inner ear. The workshop on micro-aggressions was okay and two other workshops — won’t name them — needed better facilitating.

I’m told that this was the 47th year of this festival and I counted seven Black and Brown women (non-performers) out of a count exceeding 600. This festival is not aimed at Women of Color. Then again, they all seemed pleased with themselves. If the music changed, maybe more Women of Color might attend.

On the last day, I was asked how I liked the festival, and I told them it was alright and that I wouldn’t be coming back.

Editor: Do you want to see the “isms” series continue in 2024? We are considering stopping it at the end of 2023 because of the difficulty finding writers. If you are willing to step up and contribute to this important oppression education work, please write and let us know. If we don’t see enough interest by September 30, we will probably drop the series when the year ends.

Affiliate Contributions

What's Your Love Language?

By Patti Kardia, 1959

I've been researching and reviewing a variety of tools that I've found helpful in my relationships over the years, in preparation for a singles workshop. *The 5 Love Languages* by G. Chapman is one that I'll be including. I have found this approach beneficial, and thought I'd share some information with OLOCians—either single or partnered.

You can complete the online quiz here,

<https://5lovelanguages.com/>; the book is likely available from your local library, and there are a number of free resources online as well. Chapman describes the individual ways we each feel loved, supported, and appreciated (by our partner or others) as our “love language.” The five “universal” languages Chapman describes are: 1) words of affirmation, 2) quality time, 3) physical touch, 4) receiving gifts, and 5) acts of service.

My friend, for instance, really feels loved when her partner is physically affectionate, reaching out for her hand when they're driving, arm around her shoulder at the movies, and so forth. Another friend really appreciates the thoughtful little gifts given by her wife to show that she's thinking of her. I have been reminded that appreciative words help me feel cared for. Wanting to spend quality time together, without the distraction of screens or others, can promote closeness in many relationships.

I hope to include a number of other tools in my workshop, as well, but knowing your love language and sharing it with your beloved increases the chances that both of you can feel more cared for in your relationship. Figuring out how to feel and stay connected with those closest to you is worth investing a bit of time and practice, and I highly recommend learning more about the five love languages.

US Lesbianism 1970–1985: A Critical Appreciation of a Vanishing World

Colorado State University Libraries are excited to announce the availability of its Friedman Feminist Press Research Grant presentation by scholar Shane Snowdon. Her presentation is titled “US Lesbianism 1970–1985: A Critical Appreciation of a Vanishing World.”

The research draws on rare materials in the Libraries' Friedman Feminist Press Collection and evaluates

The OLOC Forum is Back!

The Steering Committee understands that many of you were confused and upset by having the list shut down without notice or explanation.

The Steering Committee has agreed to the following forum guidelines.

OLOC Forum Guidelines

1. Postings about events, resources, culture, and a variety of ideas are encouraged. This is a place for discussion, where respectful disagreement and arguments are welcome.
2. If you write about a member of the OLOC forum, keep it positive. It is never okay to put down another OLOC Lesbian.
3. If you are concerned that a list member has been negative toward another member, please forward the posting to forum@oloc.org.
4. The forum@oloc.org post will go to a moderator, who will be a member of the list. If a moderator agrees that a posting was not within these guidelines, the negative poster will be emailed and warned that a second negative posting will result in being unable to post for a month. A third negative posting will result in being unable to post for three months. A fourth negative posting will result in being unable to post to the list. (OLOC members who are unable to post can still read forum postings.)



Supporter/affiliate: Are you in National OLOC's online forum? It is a great place to have discussions with other affiliates.

To subscribe, go to
<https://groups.io/g/nationalOLOC>.

If you have any problems, contact
susan@oloc.org.

how the Lesbian community contributed to feminism, queer theory, social justice, and personal empowerment. The recording is available at: <https://archives.mountainscholar.org/digital/collection/p17393coll71/id/3785/rec/1>.

The Libraries have been delighted by the high interest in this important research topic and encourage sharing the recording with others who may be interested. It is closed captioned, and there is a transcript.

Zoom Events

OLOC's Zoom Crew and other planning committees have been developing many engaging events to keep us all connected. The Zoom Crew organizes and implements special panels/presentations, open house informal get-togethers, and support/discussion groups. The *End White Dominance* Planning Committee coordinates and facilitates a monthly series of events designed to further educate OLOC affiliates/supporters about systemic racism and what we can do to interrupt it. The *Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives* series focuses on the oppression of women and how it affects us as individuals and as a group.

Coming Events:

Special Panels and Presentations

Holly Near: *Because of a Song* documentary and website • Tuesday, September 26, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET, 3:00 CT, 2:00 MT, 1:00 PT

The Crone: Spiritual and Secular Understandings Tuesday, October 24, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET, 3:00 CT, 2:00 MT, 1:00 PT

Ongoing Series

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—
Topic: To Be Announced

Tuesday, September 19, 3:00–4:30 P.M. ET, 2:00 CT, 1:00 MT, 12:00 PT

End White Dominance—**Topic: To Be Announced**

Friday, September 22, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET, 3:00 CT, 2:00 MT, 1:00 PT

Open Houses

Sports Dykes

Thursday, September 7, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET, 3:00 CT, 2:00 MT, 1:00 PT

Living Single

Monday, October 9, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET, 3:00 CT, 2:00 MT, 1:00 PT

Generations in OLOC: Understanding Who We Are

Friday, November 3, 4:00–5:30 P.M. ET, 3:00 CT, 2:00 MT, 1:00 PT

Support/Discussion Groups

Ongoing groups include:

- Lesbians of Color Discussion (see below)
- Lesbian Widows Support
- Caregivers Support
- ASL Chat
- Radical Lesbian Feminist Discussion

Check out the full schedule at <https://oloc.org/zoom/>. You can see videos of the past Zoom Crew events in the affiliates portal, with resources such as reading lists, transcripts, and viewer reports. Questions? Please contact zoom@OLOC-Chapters.groups.io (Zoom Crew events), susan@oloc.org (End White Dominance), or renagm@aol.com (Confronting Sexism).

Calling All Lesbians of Color

Did you know that OLOC has a discussion group for Lesbians of Color? It meets via Zoom every third Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. ET. For September, October, and November, the dates are September 20, October 18, and November 15. Contact gypsy at tnasus@hotmail.com with questions. The registration link is in the twice-monthly invitation sent—only to affiliates who indicate they are Lesbians of Color when sending in their “membership” form—at the beginning of each month and again the day before the meeting (a reminder). You can register up to and even after the meeting starts.

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/2023/05/FORM-Affiliate-Fillable_8-25-22-EN.pdf (English) or <https://files.constantcontact.com/e3e24b82801/0270ec22-fabb-4522-ac0a-66e1916a14cc.pdf> (Spanish).

Print it out, complete it, and send it in!



Chapter News

OLOC Chapters as of September 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); Online At-Large (virtual); and Online At-Large International (virtual).

Western Mass Chapter

By Emily Greene, 1946

Spring has merged into summer. May brought us the first Pride Day March of the year, on **May 6** in Northampton, where thousands marched, including JR, 1943, and Roberta Pato, 1946. Roberta said, “When OLOC appeared during the march, there were many cheers of appreciation. It was quite remarkable!”

The journey to Laura Kaye’s, 1945, town on **May 7** was an inspiring adventure, with nine walking and one in a wheelchair [scooter] to a beautiful small lake in Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary. See the photo below of 10 happy campers!! We were joined by about seven–eight more OLOCers to have ice cream at the Northfield Pavilion.

On **June 10**, Greenfield, Massachusetts, held its 6th



L to R: Nan “Fletcher” Davies, 1948; Edie Daly, 1937; Grace Edwards, 1948; JR (Judy Raphael), 1943; Bonnie Gruszacki, 1960; Laura Kaye, 1945; Roberta Pato, 1946; Peggy Kocoras, 1948; Vicky Riggs Selleck, 1956; Anne Perkins, 1943.

Franklin County Pride Day March and event with an amazing 500 or more coming to this small Western Massachusetts town. For the first time ever, our OLOC marchers made it to the front page of our local newspaper (<https://www.recorder.com/-Love-will-win--LGBTQ-community-allies-push-for-acceptance->

[at-annual-parade-rally-51270211](#), photo below), much to our surprise. The mile-long march had over 60 groups marching through town, lined with people on the sides of the street, cheering us on.



Greenfield Pride – L To R: Roberta Pato, 1946; (partly hidden by Cathy Black, 1952); Emily Greene, 1946; Peggy Kocoras, 1948; Jayne Rubinstein, 1956.

This was followed by an afternoon of speakers. One of them, Jo Comerford, our out Lesbian state Senator, mentioned our new and first openly Lesbian governor, Maura Healey, which brought on loud cheers of pride. Our federal representative, Jim McGovern, stated that, “Love will win.”

Mary McClintock, 1957, an OLOC member, stated that she marched with a group called Lesbian Visibility, so the young Lesbians could see us and find community. Lesbians traveled from all over rural Franklin County to march proudly. A big thank-you goes out to Bella Lavavi who took the great photo of us and also wrote the article in the *Greenfield Recorder*.

Chapter News (continued)

New Mexico Chapter

By Susan Buchler, 1946

May 20, 2023: Today the women of Lesbian Earth joined us for a presentation by a panel of guests who addressed ways they are actively working to preserve rights for women and how we can help.

Dr. Sylvia Ramos Cruz, New Mexico Chair of the Equal Means Equal campaign and a respected historian, provided context, history, and resources to contact for further information and involvement in getting the ratified constitutional amendment into our Constitution as the 28th Amendment. Strategies were discussed.

Janelle Anyanonu, a recently elected legislator from Albuquerque, addressed ways the New Mexico legislature can work and is working to protect women's rights. Janelle educated the group on the struggles and successes of a new state representative.

Kristin "Raven" Green is a local activist who explained what the City Council does and some of the reasons she is running for office.

This was the last scheduled meeting of New Mexico OLOC in its original form.

June 2023: We canceled our regular June meeting and gathered to watch the Pride Parade on June 10 with our OLOC banner displayed. We also scheduled lunch the following Saturday at a local restaurant. This was sparsely attended. A showing of *Iron Jawed Angels* in conjunction with women from Lesbian Earth was attended by 11 women.

July 2023: As Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, OLOC New Mexico was not growing; therefore, we have begun working



L to R: Janelle Anyanonu, 28; Raven Green, 50; Sylvia Cruz Ramos; and Hari Sheppard, 1950

Passings

Patricia (Pat) Lamis, 1947–2023,
Long Beach, California

Minnie Bruce Pratt, 1946–2023, Centreville,
Alabama, and Syracuse, New York

Lilli Vincenz, 1937–2023,
Arlington, Virginia

Cynthia S. Long, 1948–2023,
Arvada, Colorado

Susan Love, 1948–2023,
Los Angeles, California

See the E-News for more about these Lesbians.

in conjunction with Lesbian Earth. This new group has a website (<https://lesbianearth.com>), a newsletter, and many activities that appeal to different LGBTQs; by joining, we can promote our group by appealing to more and varying LGBTQs, including younger Lesbians and the large influx of Lesbians moving to New Mexico because of the current political atmosphere.

We will remain New Mexico OLOC, but our way forward will be with Lesbian Earth.

(Chapter News continues on page 11)

Want to start an OLOC Chapter in your area? Contact info@oloc.org for information.



Chapter News (continued)

At-Large and Boundary-free Chapter

By Janis Sommers, 1951

The At-Large Chapter of OLOC is a wonderful open group GROWING IN SIZE because we are Warriors and Goddesses and learning from each other every month. We are from everywhere and have an email list of 100+ Old Lesbian activists. We meet the third Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. ET. To join us, contact janis02642@gmail.com.

Now, more good news! We've started the OLOC At-Large International Zoom Sister Chapter (open to all OLOC affiliates) to gather with international affiliates. It meets the second Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M. ET. To find out more, email Mary Jean Mulherin at mjmulherin@yahoo.com.

Colorado Chapter

By Elisabeth Borden, 1950

The Colorado Chapter has had to transform itself since our long-time Chapter Coordinator, Katherine Wood, 1954, turned over most of her responsibilities a few months ago. For years, Katherine filled so many of the roles required for Chapter leadership, we had to fill her shoes with six people. We are incredibly grateful to her.

We were not able to submit articles during our transition, so here is some catch-up:

In **March**, we had a fabulous program, "Lesbian Books: Old and New and Where to Find and Buy," presented by Louise Knapp, former owner of Word is Out Books, and Mary Klages, a CU [Colorado University] professor who teaches a course on LGBTQIA+ literature. Louise prepared an information sheet that we are happy to share.

In **April**, a few of us viewed the exhibit, "The Sand Creek Massacre: The Betrayal that Changed Cheyenne and Arapaho People Forever," at History Colorado Center. We want to learn about Indigenous peoples in our state and this was a first step.

In **May**, we focused on the passing of our long-time dear member, Cindy Long, 1948, remembering her and caring for her wife, Connie Romano, 1946, and for each other.



*Front row L to R: Connie, 1946; Katherine, 1954; Janet, 1948; Jennifer, 1954; Roberta, 1943
Back row L to R: Sue, 1943; Sara, 1937; Suzanne, 1938; Sue, 1955; Marge, 1944; Ellen, 1951; Nancy, 1953; Liz, 1947; Debbie, 1951; Linda, 1949; Sue, 1941.*

In **June**, Sue Olmstead, 1943, and Sue Hirschfeld, 1941, hosted us at Sue O.'s mountain home for a weenie roast. We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon with good friends and good food (photo above).



L to R: Janet, 1948; Sue, 1955; Elisabeth, 1950.

Also in June, three of us walked in the Boulder Pridefest March with our Colorado OLOC banner.

In **July**, we shared a potluck and then watched the 2004 film *Laughing Matters*, featuring four Lesbian comics: Marga Gomez, Karen Williams, Kate Clinton, and Suzanne Westenhoefer. We had a fun discussion about how Lesbian comedy has changed since 2004.

In **August**, we brainstormed ways to increase the visibility of Colorado OLOC and attract new members.

OLOC

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Time to renew?

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Email readers: Watch for electronic reminders.

