



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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Vol 34 #1

Antisemitism: My Experience

By Bonnie Wagner, 1942

I grew up in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, in a family that was culturally Jewish and not religious. We identified very strongly with the accomplishments of Jewish men and women, and my parents always proudly pointed out that they were Jewish.

While growing up, my parents constantly reminded us about the atrocities of Nazi Germany, with an emphasis on the large number of people in my father's family who were killed in the camps. I also met relatives who escaped Nazi Germany but bore the tattoo numbers on their arms from their incarceration in the camps.

While I was living in the Midwest after college graduation, I was constantly exposed to antisemitism. I was referred to as the "Jew upstairs" in my garden apartment. I taught in a school where, when I asked students their plans for employment, several stated that they wanted to be farmers and to go after the rich Jews who were killing the farmers. I had never heard anyone speak this way before. When I said that I was Jewish, the class was aghast. They had never [knowingly] seen a Jew before. When my students told their families, parents came to school and touched my head to see if I had horns. I was startled and horrified.

Later on, when I was working in the battered women's movement, the first conference on Lesbian Battering was held on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. As a result, we formed a Jewish support group to deal with this insensitivity.

Photo by Retts Scauzillo.



Bonnie Wagner, 1942

When I started to work in a school in the Hudson Valley [New York], I was constantly barraged with Christmas decorations, songs, and [greetings of] "Merry Christmas." I spoke with faculty, and we brought in a menorah to celebrate Chanukah and lobbied to include Chanukah songs in the winter concert.

We were an anti-Zionist family and my parents abhorred any "imperialism" coming from Israel. We supported the rights of Palestinians to live in peace in Israel. When the Hamas attacks happened in Israel, I was horrified for the Jews and the Palestinians who were

killed. It was during this time that I started to experience hateful antisemitic remarks about Israel and the Jews. Many of my Lesbian friends put aside their Jewishness in light of their support for the Palestinians, ignoring their own Jewish background. It has been a real struggle for me to balance my Jewishness, [support for] Israel, and my ongoing involvement with pacifism.

The antisemitic actions at the Ivy League schools are horrible, and, closer to home, there was a recent attack on a synagogue in Albany. Our local synagogue has police protection for events. This is Woodstock, New York—unbelievable!

The Gaza events have been personally painful in that my Lesbian/Jewish friends have different feelings about the Jews and the role of Israel in Gaza. This division has been personally difficult and painful.

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

An International Community of Lesbian Elders

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This newsletter is brought to you by:

Editor: Sheryl, 1954.

Content review: Sally Tatnall, 1937, and
Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

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

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All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2024. Limit
contributions to 300 words. For memorials we print
only announcements. Life stories appear in the E-News.
For the *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 (indicate “for
the *Reporter*”).

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](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](https://files.constantcontact.com/e3e24b82801/0270ec22-fabb-4522-ac0a-66e1916a14cc.pdf) (Spanish).

Print it out, complete it, 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.

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; 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.

Steering Committee Contact List

- ▶ Sally Tatnall, 1937, Co-Director,
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, Co-Director,
Oakland, CA, michiko@oloc.org,
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- ▶ gypsy, 1952, Houston, TX, gypsy@oloc.org,
281-571-9393
- ▶ Patti Kardia, 1959, Harrison, MI,
patti@oloc.org, 734-395-5311

Groups

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.

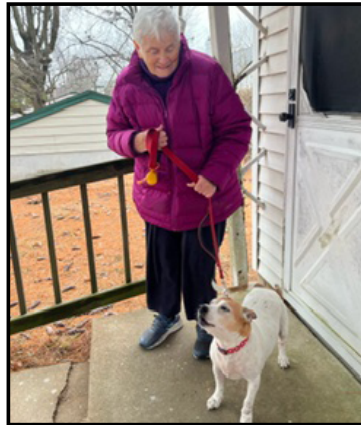
Mission: OLOC represents Lesbian Elders in a spirit of inclusiveness to promote
Lesbian visibility. We come together to preserve our herstory, to confront social injustice,
and to give and receive support for our later years.

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

Old Lesbians And Their Pets

By Charlotte Ellis, 1943

We've all heard the old jokes about Lesbian cat ladies or Lesbians with a whole pack of dogs, but it is true that lots of Lesbians have and love pets. Some even have more unusual pets such as rabbits, birds, mice, and even snakes.



Charlotte and Luna

Having a pet has lots of advantages. They give us structure in our lives and a reason to get up in the morning. They keep us from being lonely, especially for those of us who live alone. They give us unconditional love. They don't judge or criticize. They make us feel cherished. In return, they rely on us for care and affection.

A pet may give us a reason to exercise, especially if we have a dog who needs walking. Exercise is good for our health and especially for our hearts. Pets can be a calming influence and stress reliever. The simple act of petting a dog releases oxytocin, the feel-good hormone.

The companionship of an animal can be a lifeline during periods of isolation or life transitions. They are steadfast and provide emotional support when we need it most. I know how nice it was to have a dog during the isolation period of COVID-19.

Sometimes just playing with your pet and watching it [sic] do funny things can make you happy. I love seeing my Luna do tricks.

As an Old Lesbian, when my last dog passed away, I decided to adopt a senior dog who was 10. This is a great solution for those of us Old Lesbians who are slowing down a bit. Senior dogs are usually calmer, and you don't have to train them as you would a puppy.

My Luna is such a joy. I hope all Old Lesbians who love animals are able to experience the joy that having a pet can bring.



Susan and Pussycat



Diana



Imani, Arden, and Liz



Bailey and Michiko



Carol



Joy



Willie, Emee, and Mooshi



River and Sandy

Old Lesbians Write About The ‘Isms’

Honoring Our Indigenous Sisters

Adapted from information sent in by
Elizabeth Berrey, 1945.

Following up post-Gathering (Tempe, Arizona, November 2023), it is important to continue learning about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW).

Get involved. Check out these sites and see what YOU can do in your community. Do you know who the Indigenous tribes/pueblos/nations are in your region? In Tempe, they are Gila River Indian Community, Tohono O’odham Nation (also known as the Pima), and the Piipaash (also known as the Maricopa). Even if there are no reservations in your area, there are many “Urban Indians.” Do you know any? Are you aligned with them? What are you doing to be—at a minimum—an ally of the original peoples of Turtle Island and the “Americas”? Can you up your commitment and be an accomplice for justice?

<https://www.wernative.org/articles/what-is-the-mmiw-movement>

MMIW is a movement that advocates for the end of violence against Native women. It also seeks to draw attention to the high rates of disappearances and murders of Native people, particularly women and girls.

<https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw>

Native Hope assists in the efforts of individuals and organizations on the frontlines by providing opportunities to raise awareness. Through a platform, tools, and resources, Native Hope aspires to assist in bringing MMIW awareness to the forefront.

<https://mmiwusa.org/>

MMIWUSA’s mission is to combat the widespread issue of violence against Native people which leads to our people going missing and getting murdered. MMIWUSA aims to serve Indigenous families who are affected by violence and poverty.

<https://www.niwrc.org/resources/toolkit/mmiw-toolkit-families-and-communities>

The Toolkit is designed to assist families, communities, and advocacy organizations in understanding and responding to a case of a missing or murdered Native woman.

Books to learn more:

An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2014).

Sisters in Spirit: Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists by Sally Roesch Wagner (2001).

Why I Don’t Use the Words “Gal” or “Gals”

By Susan Wiseheart, 1941

These words are patronizing, condescending, and demeaning. In a thesaurus, most of the synonyms are words such as *bimbo*, *floozy*, *broad*, *babe*, *chick*, and *skirt*.

I do not use them these days, and I shudder or cringe when I hear them. They have become offensive to me. They reek with negative connotations.

The term *gal* has an unhappy past. It was used by enslavers and their henchmen (and women) to refer to female enslaved people. The point was to lessen the women’s human dignity and to keep them “in their place” and remind them that the so-called “owners” were supposedly superior and had total

control over them. It was a sneer and derisive.

Beginning in the last decade of the 1700s, it was a shortened way of saying girl, which soon came to indicate the so-called inferiority of the ones at whom it was aimed.

To me, there is not one single reason to defend or continue to use it ever again to refer to women. It is part and parcel of one of the terrible stories of this country. There is no need to keep it alive. There are alternatives.

Language is what both forms and describes concepts everywhere. English is stuffed with vocabulary that contributes to racism, from outright name-calling to more subtle misnomers. Once we discover we are using words that carry over from the bad old days into the not so easy days of now, it is time to find new ones and skip the old racist ones always.

Old Lesbians Zoom

Zoom Events

OLOC's planning committees continue to develop 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 series of monthly events designed to further educate OLOC affiliates/monthly 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.

Special Panels and Presentations

Gentleman Jack/Anne Lister

Monday, March 11, 4:00 P.M. ET

Lesbian Connection [LC]: A National Dialogue

Tuesday, May 21, 3:00 P.M. ET **NEW DATE**

Ongoing Series

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—

Topic: Women's Herstory Month and Sexism

Tuesday, March 19, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Women's Herstory Month/International Women's Day: Lesbians of Color

Friday, March 22, 4:00 P.M. ET

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—

Topic: TBD

Tuesday, April 16, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: TBD

Friday, April 26, 4:00 P.M. ET

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—

Topic: TBD

Tuesday, May 21, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: TBD

Friday, May 24, 4:00 P.M. ET

Open House

“What Did You Say?”: Old Lesbians Coping with Hearing Loss

Tuesday, March 28, 4:00 P.M. ET

Support and Discussion Groups

Ongoing Groups:

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

New Planners Needed for Sexism Series

The planning group of the *Confronting Sexism* Zooms needs new members to sustain the series. We would love to have women join us to continue to plan and host this year-long program. Please contact Reeni at goreeni@aol.com if interested. It would be a shame for this important and meaningful series to end.

Death and Dying Support Group Open for New Members

We are a group of four to six OLOC members who have been hosting a Zoom discussion and support group on Death and Dying for the last two years. We meet twice a month on the first and third Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. PT. We are looking for two more OLOC members to join our group. We are a democratic group of Old Lesbians, and we talk about anything people want to talk about around aging, death and dying, health issues, community, and preparing for the future. It's a close group that is very supportive and caring. If you're interested in joining, please email lisadettmer@gmail.com. P-5

Supporting and Honoring Old Lesbians

New Old Lesbians Network Has Started

Lesbians Embracing Aging of Coachella Valley (LEA) [California], a new network supporting Old Lesbians, had its first meeting on Wednesday, January 31, via Zoom. Forty-three women attended, sharing their issues, challenges, concerns, and surprises with the aging process. The mission of LEA is to encourage and assist Lesbian-identified women with healthy aging by creating support networks for socialization, information, and healthcare. We hope that eventually we'll have programs and services via Zoom to address the needs of aging Lesbians as we gather to help one another.

While our focus is Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, Lesbians from outside the Coachella Valley are most welcome to participate as well. Some of

our topics will include: staying in the residence of our choice as we grow older, caring for ourselves and our home, socializing in meaningful ways, and identifying the issues we discover as we age. LEA will work in three primary areas: determining agencies and support services that are sensitive to Lesbian needs; developing a volunteer network to provide services such as transportation to medical appointments, medical advocacy, handywoman services, and safety networks; and [creating] meaningful social connections.

The LEA team—Kelly Watson, 1952; Lauren Nile; Barbara Tyler; Rita Gonzales; Kate Ullman, 1938; and Ronni Sanlo, 1947—invite you to join us! Please contact us at LEAofCoachellaValley@gmail.com for the Zoom link, to join our email list, to find out when the next meeting is, or to make comments or ask questions. All Lesbians are welcome. And it's FREE!



Photo by Morgan Lieberman.

Photographer Seeks Old Lesbian Couples for Book Project

My name is Morgan Lieberman, and I am a Lesbian Jewish documentary photographer from Los Angeles, California. I frequently work for *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and I have been published in *TIME*, *National Geographic*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and several other national outlets around the country.

For the next five to ten years, I will be documenting senior Lesbian couples (62 years and older) across all 50 states for a new book project. Considering the widespread stigma of aging and how often older generations feel hidden in society and mainstream media representations, this project will give visibility specifically to women in beautiful, loving partnerships.

I am looking to document all types of couples, with

the motivation to connect with Women of Color, women in religious communities, and cultural environments where Lesbian couples have faced backlash. My goal is to photograph one to three couples per state and I would like to spend around four days in each state.

Over the course of the last year, I have photographed and interviewed 27 couples in seven states. With each couple, I usually spend 2–2.5 hours with them in their home, capturing an environment that is most comfortable for them and most organic. Besides the main priority of portraiture, I photograph sentimental objects, old photos, and any other details that help give context to the relationship.

I end the session with a video interview that will be utilized for the written portion of the book and potentially for a short documentary film down the road! I hope eventually to showcase the project in museums, galleries, and pop-up events to raise awareness and celebrate this special, resilient community of people.

For more information, check out <https://www.thechromaticsheep.com> or contact thechromaticsheep@gmail.com or (310) 729-7627. Thank you for taking an interest!

Learning Our Herstory

History of National Women's History Month

By Molly Murphy MacGregor, former Executive Director and Cofounder, National Women's History Project, now an **Old Lesbian!**

Excerpted from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20140929162128/http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php>

As recently as the 1970s, women's history was virtually unknown in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978.

The week of March 8, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal point. Local activities met with enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs.

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, a member of our group, was invited to participate in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, which was chaired by noted historian Gerda Lerner and

attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When the participants learned about the success of the Sonoma County celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own communities. They also agreed to support an effort to secure a "National Women's History Week."

The first steps came in February 1980 when President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8 as National Women's History Week.

As word spread rapidly, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. States developed and distributed curriculum materials. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week.

By 1986, 14 states had declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity.



Our History Will NOT Be Hidden!

By Ronni Sanlo, 1947

Our history will NOT be hidden, not with us two Old Lesbians and our awesome guests on guard! Our free podcast *LGBTQ History Alive! with Ronni and Kelly* began on January 1.

Ronni Sanlo, Ed.D., is a retired UCLA professor and LGBTQ Center director, founder of the award-winning Lavender Graduation, and editor of the four-volume *This Day in LGBTQ History*. Kelly Watson, Ph.D., DDS, is a retired recovery center director and business professional, and still and always involved with 12-step recovery.

To listen in and to get the full schedule when it is posted, go to *LGBTQ History Alive!* (<https://ronnisanlo.com/lgbtqhistoryalive/>) or wherever you get your podcasts. Podcasts are audio only. We're publishing a book that will have the entire interview of each guest, which should be available this spring.

Selected highlights for 2024 include:

- ◆ March 4: Lesléa Newman, author of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and many other books
- ◆ March 18: Col. Grethe Cammermeyer
- ◆ April 8: Robin Tyler, comic and activist
- ◆ April 29: OLOC affiliate Bonnie Morris, author and historian
- ◆ July 15: Lillian Faderman, author and historian
- ◆ July 29: Dr. Judy Grahn, Professor/poet, author of *Another Mother Tongue*
- ◆ August 12: OLOC affiliate Karen Williams, comedian and educator
- ◆ November 18: OLOC affiliate Ruthie Berman, LGBTQ Elders activist

Chapter News

OLOC Chapters as of March 1, 2024, are Arizona (meeting in greater Phoenix); San Francisco Bay Area, California; Colorado; WMass, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; 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

Many wishes for this New Year, 2024, that we are entering, especially for peace and non-violence in the world. Judith Raphael (JR), 1943, continues to host our monthly check-in. We did not have a **November** meeting due to the holidays.

On **December** 17, we had a wonderful in-person potluck that 10 members attended. See the photo. Roberta, 1946, once again was our host in her apartment building community room and everyone was thrilled to be there and to share the stories of what's been going on in each of our lives. The big surprise was treating Roberta to a delicious carrot birthday cake as she turned 77 on December 25. We say our special birthday song, not the traditional one.



From bottom left clockwise: Grace, Roberta, Mary, KD, Laura, Bonnie, Anne, JR, Cecelia.

New Mexico Chapter

By Susan Buchler, 1946

Lesbian Earth sponsored a project that had been originated by the New Mexico OLOC group. There were only five New Mexico OLOC members represented at this holiday potluck with Lesbian Earth. Lesbian Earth has been able to gather greater numbers, including younger Lesbians, for social events of all kinds, using social media as OLOC

We opened the new year with a Zoom meeting on **January** 14 and a call to our Western Mass OLOC list serve to come, share how you are, what you've been doing, and what you would like to do. After after an hour we came up with a list of possible events a mile long. It was clear we all enjoyed hearing what each other was doing and how we survived the holidays. One member has a new cat.

At times it's been hard to keep our group going, but it is such a gift to all. Thanks to National and to Sheryl, who does an incredible job of editing and sending us the E-News and *Reporter*.

had never done, and this larger gathering proves it was a good decision [to merge]. [We] complet[ed] the New Mexico OLOC goal of gathering for a holiday social potluck and to collect warm clothing items for two women's shelters, Barrett House and Crossroads. This potluck was successful. There was a wide variety of dishes and desserts, and we collected a large quantity of clean, new, and warm clothing. In this photo there are five former members of New Mexico OLOC.



New Mexico Chapter members: Back row: Susan Buchler, 1946, in blue shirt behind table. Middle row: Carole Eagleheart, 1944, second from right in red shirt; Mary Oishi, 1956, far right. Front row: Courtney McBride, 1948, third from left; Pat Pedersen, 1943, far right.

(Chapter News continues on page 9)

Chapter News (continued)

Colorado Chapter

By Elisabeth Borden, 1950

Katherine Wood, 1954, our wonderful Chapter Coordinator Emeritus, presented at our **November** meeting. For some time, Katherine has been writing a series in OLOC's E-News called "Discoveries, for Lesbians Who Wish to Examine Their Beliefs about Race." Her recent articles focused on reparations, so we asked her to present some of her information about reparations, including the conditions for full reparation, and what has been done in the US and within states and cities. Much more to learn.

Sue Bracken, 1955; Janet Gilmore, 1948; Sara Beery, 1937; and Elisabeth Borden, 1950, attended the Gathering in Tempe and all of us had fun, had good experiences in workshops, and loved meeting women from all over. Three of us are Co-Coordinator of our Chapter, and we were delighted to meet with other Chapter Coordinators and learn what is happening in other areas. Two breakfasts with Chapter Coordinators followed.

In **December**, we had our annual holiday luncheon, a time for celebration of each other and good food. As part of the luncheon, we completed a Lesbian trivia quiz and gave away eight OLOC shirts, donated by one of our members. We were

pleased to be joined by Patti Kardia, 1959, from Michigan and a member of National OLOC's Steering Committee. We met Patti at the Gathering and when she told us she would be visiting Denver, we invited her to our party. Patti spoke briefly about some of National's goals and answered questions from our members.



From L foreground clockwise: Janet, Beth, Kim, Carmen, Sue B., Lori, Sue O., "D," guest, Patti, Suzanne, Roberta, Sara, Brangwyn.

Our **January** meeting was held on a frigid, snowy day and nearly canceled, but six brave souls were present, including two new members attending for their first time. Our program covered the new mission statement and focus of National OLOC. Sue Bracken, 1955, provided a tour of National OLOC's website, highlighting resources available on the site.

(Chapter News continues on page 10)

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

Passing

Amber Hollibaugh, 1946–2023,
Brooklyn, New York

See the E-News for more about this Lesbian.



OLOC SHIRTS FOR SALE

Selection varies but there's a range of designs, colors (four), and sizes (S-3X).

- Crew- and v-neck t-shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Denim shirts
- Embroidered shirts
- English and Spanish!

<https://www.goldenrod.com/product-category/old-lesbians-organizing-for-change/>

DONATE



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

Chapter News (continued)

Hudson Valley Chapter *Finding a Way to Keep Going*

By Retts, 1953

I feel as if we have hit a real low in our Chapter. I was happy we were able to meet at the LGBTQ Center of Kingston after the pandemic and the Center [re-]opened. However, only a small group of Old Lesbians [have] showed up at the meetings. I showed the Buzz Reel and other videos, hoping it would give them background information on OLOC.

But I realized it was difficult to maintain for a few reasons. First of all, we were meeting at 5:00–7:00 P.M. and after dinner at the nearby diner. I thought this would add a social component to the meetings. It seemed to work, but then soon Lesbians were just coming to the diner. Then it became too dark and too cold, and most Old Lesbians do not drive in the dark or winter weather. So I postponed our meetings until March when it will be lighter and the weather will be better.

Reeni Goldin, an affiliate of National OLOC and a member of our Chapter, proposed we work on a Regional Gathering. I think it's a good idea for many reasons, but most of all it would give our Chapter a purpose, and it would allow the members to experience an OLOC Gathering, since most could not travel to Arizona. So when we convene in March, that will be our number one focus: to put together a proposal to share with the other Chapters in our region. I think this will be a start of a wonderful collaboration and the first step in producing a Northeast Regional Gathering.

Rhode Island Chapter

By Nancy, 1953

Over the last few months, OLOC Rhode Island has been meeting on a regular basis in person/indoors, which is new for us, especially in the cooler months.

We decided that we wanted to be active in policy initiatives, but no one has the energy to take on new issues. We will be getting updates from members

who are already involved in many organizations and issues and will be adding our energy to those. We also decided that we wanted to be a social/support place for our members.

To that end, at our **December** meeting, we hung out, ate really good food, and sang Lesbian holiday carols. Mev Miller made copies of lyrics, and we all sang along. We also had a great celebration of November birthdays with chocolate cake and fresh strawberries.



On **January 21**, we enjoyed an informative afternoon in Cranston with Dr. Kelly McGarry and intern Zain Alfanek discussing “Older Lesbians and Their Health.” We are grateful for the knowledge and resources they shared and for the 48 participants from around the state who brought their enthusiasm and questions. The event was co-sponsored with Pride in Aging and Wanderground Lesbian Library Archive. We look forward to co-sponsoring additional events in the future. Some of the participants made suggestions for future events. A big thank-you to OLOC Rhode Island members Cathy, 1946; Sally, 1950; and Mev, 1955, (below) for organizing this event.



We are beginning to talk with the Village Common of Rhode Island (a non-profit, volunteer-driven membership organization that aims to support older adults who wish to age in their home via a network of local villages—communities of mutual support) around the idea of a Lesbian village. As these villages are usually geographical in scope, it is taking some outside-the-box thinking to come up with how this might materialize. Stay tuned. **P-10**

Affiliate Contributions

OLOC is Seeking YOUR Stories and Articles

These topics are suggestions for articles we would like to publish in either or both of OLOC's two newsletters, the E-News and the *Reporter*. Most are based on YOUR requests.

- ▼ Acupuncture
- ▼ Chiropractic
- ▼ Yoga
- ▼ Reiki, other bodywork
- ▼ Fall prevention/improving balance
- ▼ Exercise for strengthening various body parts
- ▼ Homeopathy
- ▼ Herbs
- ▼ Food as medicine
- ▼ Mental health
- ▼ Websites and publications of interest to Old Lesbians

- ▼ Finding (Old) Lesbian community where you live
- ▼ Lesbians living on the land or in Lesbian-specific community
- ▼ Elder law and news about legal rulings that impact elders
- ▼ Financial planning for Old Lesbians with and without resources
- ▼ Couples aging together

We are looking for stories that educate about these issues with information and/or personal experience, but you can take any approach that works. If anything on this list inspires you with some other idea(s), that works, too! Please contact Sheryl@oloc.org to let us know of your ideas/interest or if you have any questions. There are monthly and quarterly deadlines and 300- and 600-word limits, so you have several options. Writing skills are unimportant. Stories can be anonymous if requested. We can also translate into English and transcribe into print if you wish to send a verbal version. Thank you for considering contributing to YOUR newsletters!

Dykwriters Conference

The 2024 Dykwriters, the Southeast Lesbian Writers Conference, will meet in south Georgia, April 17–21. The registration of \$200 for this intimate gathering covers workshops, readings, variety show, three meals a day, snacks, and, if desired, bunk space in primitive cabins.

All Lesbian writers, from beginners to published authors, are welcome. To attend the conference, you must be a member of Dykwriters **by March 15**.

Email Rand at shadowood@windstream.net if you have questions or email dykwriteradmissions@gmail.com to join.



Dialogue Etiquette: For all OLOC communications and events, you are responsible for your own contribution which means using “I” whenever possible. Each OLOC affiliate and supporter is to do your part in creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all through your words and actions. Please use respectful and considerate language at all times, which includes not using racial, ethnic, or any other slurs. OLOC supports civil disagreements between participants and promotes reflective listening. Please note that individual opinions do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or attitudes of OLOC as a whole. (02/11/24)

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