



An International
Community of
Lesbian Elders

The Reporter

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

JUNE
2024

Vol 34 #2

One Woman—Many Oppressions

By Rev/Elder Carolyn J. Mobley-Bowie, 1948

It seems to me that every woman born into a patriarchal society comes into her world with one strike against her. If we add to that, the factors of minority status based on race (and/or skin color), sexual orientation, education (or the lack of it), economic standing (or the lack of it), and varying degrees of physical and mental ability, one can quickly see how one person might face multiple forms of oppression during a lifetime. I was born in the segregated American South into a deeply religious family. My birth certificate stated two aspects of my being, which would prove to be strikes against me in American society: I was female and Negro (of African descent). By the time I reached the first grade, I had clearly received the message from my family and larger community that there were certain things I was not allowed to do



Carolyn J. Mobley-Bowie,
1948

because I was a girl. One of those things was liking other girls more than boys.

I was told, in plain English, that girls are not supposed to climb trees, or play with trucks instead of dolls, or wear pants all the time. One day, my mother told me to stop telling people I would marry a woman when I grew up, because, “You will marry a man when you grow up, just like all girls do.” These seemingly arbitrary rules were surely intended to restrict my choices in life. I had to resist these oppressions while appearing to conform to them.

I really believed the basic truth

I was taught—that God made me, loves me, and knows me completely. So, I used my faith to help me live this truth, celebrating my color, my gender, and my sexual orientation.



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

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**The OLOC Reporter is published by
Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:
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This newsletter is brought to you by:

Editor: Sheryl, 1954.

Content review: Sally Tatnall, 1937; Alí Marrero-Calderón, 1948; and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Spanish translation: Google Translate via Sheryl, 1954.

English Proofreader and Copy-editor:

Nancy Krody, 1939.

Spanish Proofreader and Copy-editor:

María Cora, 1953.

Design/Layout: Connie Rose, 1948.

All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is August 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*”). If anonymous, send to sheryl@oloc.org.

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 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.

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Please consider including OLOC in your will if you have, or plan to create, one. Bequests help keep us going. Thank you!

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!



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.

**For a Spanish list of the buttons on pages 1, 6, and 8,
write Sheryl@oloc.org in Spanish or English.**

Old Lesbians Write About The 'Isms'

We Get Mail!

By Anonymous, 1954

I want to send a "thank you" to Bonnie Wagner for her article about her experiences with antisemitism and being Jewish ["Antisemitism: My Experience," *March Reporter*]. I related, especially about how painful the events in Gaza are.

Do Jews Have Horns?

By Merrill Mushroom, 1941

Bonnie Wagner's experiences of antisemitism could have been my own experiences, except hers were in the Midwest and mine were in the southeast.

Although I'd had many encounters with both overt and covert displays of antisemitism, I was completely confused when a woman in my college dorm went through my hair looking for my horns. When I asked my "big sister" (one of the other four Jewish women in the dorm) what was going on, she laughed and replied, "Oh, didn't you know? The shiksas (gentile girls) think we have horns," but she couldn't tell me why.

When I asked my mother (who was my source for information on all things Jewish), she told me it was because Michelangelo's statue of Moses had horns, but she didn't know why that was the case. As I investigated further, I found many other artists' renditions of Moses with horns, and I learned what is the most commonly accepted reason: a mistaken translation by St. Jerome of the Hebrew text describing Moses's appearance when he came down from Mt. Sinai after receiving the 10 Commandments (Exodus 34:29).

Hebrew is written without vowels. Moses is described by the letters q-r-n, or "qaran" when the proper vowel is added. "Qaran" means "radiant" or "shining," to describe Moses's countenance after being with God. St. Jerome mistakenly spelled it with an "e"—"qeren," which means "horned" or "projecting outward." Of course, antisemites delight in using this error to equate Jews with the devil.

My vocabulary increased. I learned that "holiday," as in "music" and "vacation," really was a synonym for "christmas," and people constantly asked me in December if I had my tree up yet. I learned that I could get cheap goods "from the hymies," and I should be careful not to let anyone "Jew me down." The farmer whose barn was hit by "Jewish lightning" had burned it down himself to collect the insurance. Of course, meetings and events constantly were (and

are) scheduled on Yom Kippur or Rosh Hashana without a second thought (ahem—they ARE called "High Holy Days"), and, somehow, many gentiles seem to think that all Jews are privileged, white, educated, and wealthy. In fact, Jews come in all sizes, shapes, skin tones, income and education levels, and countries of origin. Our politics also differ among ourselves, but we share a common oppression. Antisemitism affects ALL Jews (but not ONLY Jews). In this, there is no discrimination.

Let's Get Political

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

Patriarchy: A form of community in which the father is the supreme authority of the family, clan, or tribe (*Random House College Dictionary*).

Related terms: aggressive behavior, colonialism, discrimination, male norms, phallocentrism, religion, sexism, violence (*The Women's Thesaurus* by Mary Ellen S. Clark).

Patriarchy diminishes women and all we do, what we think, how we behave, and how we need to live. Our lives are not ours to control. "Women don't know enough about how the world works. They are not smart enough to be in control of their own lives," say the men.

Women discovered this in the 1960s/1970s. Feminism came alive, and we went to work. We were about getting rid of what was patriarchal. What happened? On the way to becoming fully active citizens, we forgot the many ways patriarchy gets into our blood. Ti-Grace Atkinson said, "Feminism is the theory; Lesbianism is the practice." I say, "Patriarchy is the theory; hierarchy is the practice."

We have fallen into the identity maze of hierarchy and proudly defend the ways in which we identify. Patriarchy is no longer a good judge of what is wrong. We need to stop talking about what is patriarchal and look at how hierarchy controls who we are, what we think, and what we value. It is easy to say something is sexist, racist, or classist, but where do each of us rank in race and sex and class? If white, you rank high in race; if woman, you rank low in sex; if middle class or owning class, you are at the top of the game.

From birth, we are taught what to believe in, what to value, and how to behave as a consequence. I will be writing more about hierarchy in upcoming E-News issues. I hope you will take this journey with me.

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 events designed to educate OLOC affiliates/supporters further 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

Old Lesbians: Film with director Q&A and discussion
Monday, June 3, 6:30 P.M. ET

Who Was Bolivia's Adela Zamudio? A Bilingual Discussion • Thursday, July 25, 4:00 P.M. ET

Ongoing Series

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—Topic: TBA

Tuesday, June 18, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: Anti-Racism Discussion

Friday, June 28, 4:00 P.M. ET

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—Topic: TBD

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

End White Dominance—Topic: TBD

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

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—Topic: TBD

Tuesday, August 20, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—Topic: TBD

Friday, August 23, 4:00 P.M. ET

Open Houses

I've Always Been a Tomboy!

Tuesday, June 25, 4:00 P.M. ET

Virtual Summer Picnic

Sunday, July 14, 3:00 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*).

Passings

Shaba Barnes, 1935–2024,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Donna Douglas, 1938–2024,
Gig Harbor, Washington

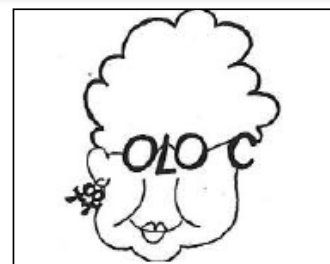
Abigail Grafton, 1940–2024,
Berkeley, California

Nina Balsam, 1951–2022,
St. Louis, Missouri

Diane F. Germain, 1942–2024,
San Diego, California

Ella Matthes, 1942–2024,
Manhattan Beach, California

See the E-News for more about these Lesbians.



By Diane F. Germain

Old Lesbians Participate in Zoom Events

Is It Possible to Have Another Way to Live in Community?

By Emily Greene, 1946

This was the question churning in my head in the late 1960s and the 1970s. Was it possible for Lesbians to live in a community where we lived in close proximity, had goals we wanted to work on together, and where we wanted to see everyone thrive? After realizing I did not want to stay in my heterosexual relationship, by mid-1974, I ended up in Florida, going to nursing school and trying to pull my life back together. I'd had one Lesbian relationship in college, thinking she would be the one love of my life, but it wasn't to be.

That's when I ran into the Pagoda, a Lesbian community by the sea in St. Augustine, Florida. I was in a second Lesbian relationship and just out of nursing school when Wiggy and I saw their ad.



Early Lesbians in 1980 on the steps of the Center Building at Pagoda. Bottom L to R: Morgana, Leslie, Jean, Elethia, and Emily (in turquoise sweatshirt). Top: Lavender, Barbara Lieu and Dean.

It was a little scary, as I'd not been into the women's movement, but it was the best risk that I'd ever taken, and as I walked on the sandy street between eight tiny cottages, Lavender greeted us with her southern charm, saying, "Let me show you where you will be staying."

Here was a group of Lesbians wanting to work together and living in cottages just a short walk to the ocean. When we found out there was a cottage for sale, we found a way to buy it, and, in 1979, we moved to our tiny cottage, the Amelia, and started helping clean cottages

and doing set-up for concerts and plays. When, in 1980, I had an emotional breakdown, I saw the best gift—being supportive—this community gave to me by intervening and pushing me to do therapy. This was my Pagoda story I wanted all to see [when I spoke] at the program for National OLOC [April 11, "The Pagoda and Lesbian Community" Zoom event].

Fighting for Our Lives: Ageism

By Patti Kardia, 1959

For OLOC's Zoom exploration of ageism on April 16, the presentation by Emelle Sonh and Sally Goldin was inspiring and included many stories of the ageism they have experienced. One of the most helpful suggestions was that we challenge negative messages about getting old with positive affirmations.

According to the World Health Organization, ageism refers to the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel), and discrimination (how we act) toward others or oneself based on age. It is embedded in our social institutions, interactions, and hearts and minds. According to the American Psychological Association, ageism is the last socially acceptable prejudice. For instance, many Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs, which generally prohibit discriminatory language or behavior, omit age as a category.

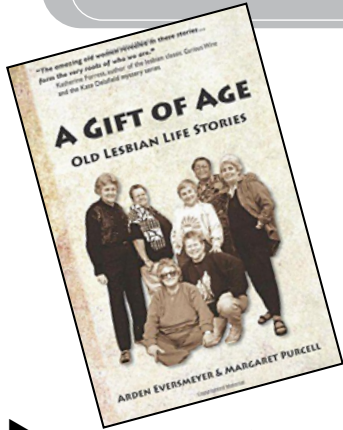
According to Mary M. Morgan, 1925–2015, writing for OLOC in 2005, "although ageism affects men,

women experience it more acutely precisely because our physical beauty, our sex appeal, our childbearing ability, and our capacity to serve others are alleged to be our greatest assets. The damage is especially great for women who are already marginalized by racism, poverty," and disability.

Until I lost my job at age 55 and had to promise not to sue for age discrimination, I didn't understand the severity. Researchers found that about two-thirds of people in their early 50s who were working in a long-term full-time job lost their jobs before age 65, often being denied retirement benefits and with significantly decreased earning potential.

What can we do? Suggestions included: learn about ageism. We can also acknowledge and challenge ageism when it comes up, and there are lots of online resources, including <https://changingthenarrativeco.org>. Remember, O-L-D is not a four-letter word! And, of course, support OLOC and our work to challenge ageism.

From the Editor's Bookshelf: Old Lesbians (What Else!?)



What books about Old Lesbians do you know about?

Are there any that should be added to this list?

What about fiction books with positive Old Lesbian characters?
(We can start with *A Light on Altered Land* by Becky Bohan and *Sunbeams and Raindrops* by Dorothy Rice Bennett, although the latter is not on the Editor's bookshelf.)

Which are your favorites? Which did you not like too much, and why?

Reviews are more than welcome, too!

- ▶ *Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism* by Barbara MacDonald with Cynthia Rich
- ▶ *Over the Hill: Reflections on Ageism between Women* by Baba Copper
- ▶ *Old Lesbians and Their Brief Moments of Fame* edited by Joy D. Griffith, Karen Gibson, and J. Ross
- ▶ *Without Apology: Old Lesbian Life Stories* by Arden Eversmeyer and Margaret Purcell
- ▶ *A Gift of Age: Old Lesbian Life Stories* by Arden Eversmeyer and Margaret Purcell
- ▶ *Sinister Wisdom 78/79 Old Lesbians/Dykes II*
- ▶ *Whistling Women: A Study of the Lives of Older Lesbians* by Cheryl Claassen, Ph.D.
- ▶ *Lives of Lesbian Elders: Looking Back, Looking Forward* by D. Merilee Clunis, Ph.D.; Karen I. Fredriksen-Goldsen, Ph.D.; Pat A. Freeman, Ph.D.; and Nancy Nystrom, Ph.D.

“One of the good elements of old age is that we no longer have to prove anything, to ourselves or to anyone else. We are what we are.” May Sarton (Lesbian poet and novelist)



← **MORE LESBIAN PRIDE!**

 To find OLOC on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC

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)

Chapter News

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

Western Mass Chapter

By Emily Greene, 1946

It's been the strangest winter yet, with only two snowstorms together equaling 10 inches. Now we are seeing temps in the 70s, and beautiful green leaves are decorating our trees. Hiking is a joy.

In **February**, we had an in-person game time. Our favorite was the Rainbow Quest game where a person chooses a card with a question on it. We decided to have each of us answer the



L to R: Bonnie, 1960; Roberta, 1946; JR, 1943; and Jane, 1942.

Central Ohio

By Pam Jackson, 1941

Central Ohio OLOC is booming these days. We have added seven affiliates to our membership. Rose Rhodes is designing a web page for our local Chapter. After much soul searching, SuBAMUH [women's land] has returned to its original mission and we are supporting them June 15 by giving two workshops on the grounds. The workshops will be on developing your own grief support groups and new strategies in AA for women.

Pam and Ruth have been involved in a county-wide organization, Age Friendly. Its mission is to make it more comfortable for old folks to continue

question, and we learned a lot about each other, where we came from, and who we are—something we've always enjoyed doing. See the photo.

JR, 1945, steadfastly holds our relaxed check-in each month, and, in **March**, others gathered to do a visioning board [each person brings magazines and cuts out photos of her vision for our OLOC Chapter].

In **April**, Jean Frances, 1943, did a wonderful job of organizing getting Terry Baum, 1946, to come online and present her one-woman play about Ida B. Wells. Ida was a Black woman from Mississippi who was an editor and anti-lynching activist, and who attended Rust College until 1878. In 1883, while taking a train, she was asked to leave her train car and go back where the Afro-Americans were expected to sit. She refused. She was an incredibly strong Southern Black woman. We are grateful to Jean for setting this up.

Now we are looking forward to Pride Day marches.

to live comfortably in their own community as they age. We were lucky to get to see the film that was produced by Anita Kwan and narrated by Christine Happel, whose idea it was. Age Friendly operates out of the College of Social Work at Ohio State University. We had two other speakers who, through visual productions, are reframing the word "old" here and in Germany. Rosiel's picture] is on the side of a building in Germany. So you can see we have been busy and productive!

(Chapter News continues on page 8)

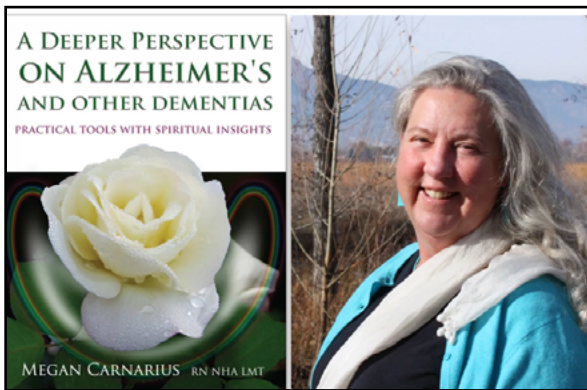
Want to start an OLOC Chapter?
Contact info@oloc.org
for information.

Chapter News (continued)

Colorado Chapter

By Elisabeth Borden, 1950

The Colorado Chapter had a bit of a snowy winter for two meetings in a row. We had to cancel our **February** meeting due to blizzard-like conditions. The weather cooperated for our **March** meeting, where we welcomed an extraordinary speaker on memory and cognitive changes. Megan Carnarius is a nationally recognized caregiver and speaker on Alzheimer's and dementia who responded to our request to speak to us on "Memory and Cognitive Changes as We Age: Concerns and Staying Sharp."



Her presentation style is wonderfully engaging, and the content was very rich. She put together a slide program and also provided a detailed handout that we are happy to share with OLOC. [Editor: request it from Sheryl@oloc.org.] Megan has also authored a truly helpful book: *A Deeper Perspective on Alzheimer's and Other Dementias: Practical Tools with Spiritual Insights* (available from Amazon, as well as other more friendly sources). This meeting was very well attended, and a lively discussion with Megan followed her presentation.

Many people were out of town in **April**, so we hosted a smaller gathering, welcoming two new members and having extended time for personal sharing and conversation.

For our **May** meeting, we hosted an excellent presenter on the topic of "Gender Expression, Gender Identity, and Pronouns." Because some of our members have expressed frustration, difficulty, and/or reluctance to fully embrace different gender expressions and pronouns, we expected to have a robust discussion during that meeting.

In the meantime, our Steering Committee is busy planning the second half of the year's programs. Janet and Sue fortified us during our **April** meeting with some excellent local pizza.



Chapter Steering Committee, from left to right: Connie Romano, 1946; Janet Gilmore, 1948; Sue Bracken, 1955, and Elisabeth Borden, 1950. Photographer: Sara Beery, 1937, Steering Committee Member Emerita.



Chapter News (continued)

At-Large Chapter

By Janis Sommers, 1951

The At-Large Chapter celebrated its first anniversary in **February** and continues to meet via Zoom on the third Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. ET. It remains an open Chapter, meaning you are welcome to attend or join us even if you are in another Chapter. The Chapter recently established a [group at] Groups.io and already has a book [sub-] group starting. Re-reading or reading for the first time Rita Mae Brown's *Rubyfruit Jungle* is a joyous walk down memory lane. It was the topic of our monthly Zoom gathering on Monday, **May 20**.

If you'd like to join us, please email janis02642@gmail.com. All who join us in At-Large Chapter gatherings must be current affiliates of National OLOC and have donated to National OLOC if they are able. The At-Large Chapter does not

collect dues, but we welcome \$5 (or more) annual contributions from our Chapter Goddesses to maintain our Groups.io subscription.

Our International At-Large Chapter has disbanded for now, but the Groups.io [group] makes it possible for OLOC Lesbians from around the world to chat day or night. Someone is always awake. Several of our Goddesses are attending festivals and local Lesbian events and will be marketing for OLOC with the newest brochures. We are everywhere, indeed! Zoom attendance at our gatherings is about one-third of our membership list. We are very happy to see one another each month for socialization with other brilliant Old Dykes.

This is Button; she attends every month.



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

By Susan Chacin, 1945

San Francisco Bay Area OLOC is sponsoring both in-person and online activities since the pandemic. A Zoom check-in with 12–16 participants meets weekly, and we held a virtual “End of the Year Tea and Cookies” in **December**. Our first all-day in-person get-together for a long time was **January 21**. After a check-in circle and pizza lunch, we had a hybrid Zoom presentation and discussions on “Responding to War and Crimes in the Middle East.” Despite the stressful topic, women were grateful to learn more about the conflict's roots and to have space to voice their reactions to both Hamas's criminal attack on October 7, and Israel's massive military response.

A Valentine's dance with DJ Gloria Jones on **February 11** managed to attract a good crowd despite competing with our hometown San Francisco 49ers playing in the Super Bowl.

Our next event is an all-day gathering in Petaluma on **June 2**. Several members have relocated from

San Francisco or the East Bay to the “North Bay” (Sonoma and Solano Counties). This will be our first gathering in their neighborhood. After checking in and lunch, we'll interview the film director and view a documentary on the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project.

Coming up is our annual participation in the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project free film festival as a community partner, with [National Steering Committee member] Michiko Bailey Thorne as OLOC's spokesperson. Local screenings are **June 14–16** with online access (open to Lesbians everywhere!). More information can be found at <https://qwocmap.org/festival>. Our annual picnic is **July 21** in Berkeley, and an in-person retreat is scheduled for **September 13–15** at Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa Valley.

Bay Area OLOC sends greetings to the fabulous women we met at the Tempe, Arizona, National Gathering. We're still aglow with the strides National OLOC is making!

Affiliate Contribution

Eclipse

By Tina Minkowitz, 1958

Diana Signe Kline, 1955, and I drove an hour north [of where we live in New York] to the grounds of an outdoor museum that had sold tickets to park and spend the day there. It was not crowded, and we found a great spot, peaceful and low-key.

We had our [special eclipse] glasses on up until totality and also special camera filters and apps (inexpensive, for the phone cameras). I took the glasses off to look at the totally eclipsed sun; it was a profound thing to witness. I took photos also and am sharing the one that best captures what it was to see.

In the photo, you can see a spike at the bottom left of the eclipse. That is not a solar flare, I have learned; it is a prominence, which is a longer lasting structure (days or weeks).

The song coming into my head afterward was Cris Williamson's "Light and the Eye." Gratitude for light and vision and all the sun gives us.



International News

Organising for Change Conference

From the FiLiA newsletter.

Thanks to Sally for sending in.

On 13 April, some **FiLiA** volunteers attended the London Lesbian Collective Organising for Change Conference. The sun was shining, and the Lesbians were out! We hadn't realised it was 50 years since the first Lesbian conference in Canterbury University. Some of the women there are now able to claim the milestone of having been at both. The workshops were a fantastic mix of politics, history, web-weaving, and well-being. It was great to be in a Lesbian space; thanks to the organisers Sam and Miranda and the volunteers for an inspiring day.



Around **150 women attended**. There was a review of the current situation—resistance by feminists, a lack of debate around adding “sex” to the Hate Crime Act, issues with proposed misogyny laws—and a walk-through of ‘**A Woman’s Guide to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021**’ created by Murray Blackburn Mackenzie.



There was plenty of time for questions and a few mentions of appreciation for **J.K. Rowling’s welcome intervention** on April 1. The conversations continued in the bar for hours after. The meeting was pulled together within a week and reflects the ongoing desire for women to find space to gather and organise around the many challenges to our freedoms. There were no protestors, which is as it should be. Our aim is to see how things progress for women under the Act and to host a further meeting in Glasgow in the future.

Silencing Scottish Women

In response to **The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021**, FiLiA hosted Susan Smith (**For Women Scotland**), Joanna Cherry (**Member of Parliament**), and Lucy Hunter Blackburn (**Murray Blackburn Mackenzie**) for an evening of discussion on the impact of the Hate Crime Act on Women’s speech and rights.

Sexism Works in the Strangest Ways...

Excerpted from <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/30/africa/morocco-ancient-humans-paleo-diet-scn/index.html>.

By Katie Hunt, CNN

What did people in the Stone Age eat before the advent of farming around 10,000 years ago? A long-held stereotype—one that’s influenced modern fad diets—is that ancient humans hunted large animals and chowed down on mammoth steak.

But new research on a Paleolithic group called the Iberomaurusians, hunter-gatherers who buried their dead in Taforalt cave in what’s now Morocco, 13,000–15,000 years ago, is adding to a growing body of evidence that challenges the notion, according to a study published recently in **Nature Ecology & Evolution**.

Scientists analyzed chemical signatures preserved in bones and teeth belonging to at least seven different Iberomaurusians and found that plants, not meat, were their primary source of dietary protein.

“Our analysis showed that these hunter-gatherer groups included an important amount of plant matter, wild plants, which changed our understanding of the diet of pre-agricultural populations,” said the lead study author. The finding was similar to that seen in early farmers from the Levant, the present-day Eastern Mediterranean countries, where plant domestication and farming were first documented.

The work undermines the idea that a Stone Age diet was meat heavy—a rigid assumption perpetuated by present-day dietary trends such as the Paleo diet. But the stereotype likely has its roots in past research, and there are a few possible reasons why.

Evidence for meat-eating, in the form of butchered animal bones, is often more “archaeologically visible” than the evidence for plant eating, said one research scientist. Another is “the perception that hunting was a key behavioral innovation that occurred early in our evolutionary history—rooted in part in early hunter-gatherer **studies carried out by male scholars** that primarily focused on big game hunting by men and **did not document, discounted, or downplayed the important dietary role of women** gathering smaller game and plant resources,” said the scientist.

OLOC, Inc.

Profit and Loss • January–December 2023

INCOME	TOTAL
Chapter dues.....	1,875.00
Contributions.....	44,647.93
Bequests	352,812.20
Gathering (registration, donations, raffle)	44,037.48
Fiscal Sponsorship - Phyllis Lyon Film	1,000.00
Sales of Gathering SWAG (T-shirts, etc.)	473.00
Sales of OLOC SWAG (T-shirts, etc.)	60.00
Total Income	444,905.61
GROSS PROFIT	\$444,905.61
EXPENSES	TOTAL
Admin Coordinator	18,529.70
Advertising and promotion	2,532.66
Contract services	7,120.00
Education	
E-News	13,146.90
Reporter.....	18,610.83
Website	9,066.87
Insurance	2,334.00
International Gathering Expense.....	112,708.86
Licenses and permits.....	100.00
Miscellaneous operating expenses	224.88
Office expenses	15,745.46
Steering Committee	15,321.84
Storage costs	1,187.76
Total Expenses	\$216,629.76
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$228,275.85
Other Income	
Investment income	5,155.39
Unrealized gain/loss on investment	64,867.78
Total Other Income	\$70,023.17
NET OTHER INCOME	\$70,023.17
NET INCOME	\$298,299.02

OLOC
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Cranston, RI 02910

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