



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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I Don't Hate Men— They are Simply Irrelevant to My Life

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

When people ask me why I hate men, I just answer the above. And when I think about it, it is true.

Almost all my friends are women; I live with women; and I am in groups and organizations that are all women. And of those women, most are Lesbians.

I think the idea of being able to do without men must mean I hate them, but it is not the case. Whenever I need something, I look to women for support. When I write, I write about women. Because our herstory has mostly been erased, I study what women have done. So much of what we depend on was created by women. And in many cases some man took credit for it. Did you know the cotton gin was created by Eli's wife?

Women are amazing writers, poets, playwrights, and movie directors. With so much to do, I don't have time to pay attention to what men are doing. And I dare say that is true for many, many women. And not all of them are Lesbians. Straight married women have shown me how useless men can be.

When I need something repaired, I call our home warranty company. Sometimes they send a woman,



and I am always glad to see the sisters working. When they send a man, it does not make any difference which man, just as long as he is a repairman. So even when a function is provided by a man, who he is is still irrelevant.

Yes, I have sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons, but they all live their lives, and I live mine. I do not need them for support. I love them but know they are not on my team. They benefit from our sexist society much more than I ever will.

Women are trained from birth to be in response to men, to respond to what they say, what they think, and what they do. Feminism has taught me that I am safer, smarter, more creative, and more constructive when I am on my own path.

With female ancestors such as Queen Elizabeth the first, Natalie Barney, June Jordan, Mary Baker Eddy, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Audre Lorde, Georgia O'Keefe, Harriet Tubman, and Sacajawea, why would I need a man?

These are the people I learn from. How did they survive and triumph? These are the skills I need, and they cannot come from any man who has been lifted up since birth.

[Reprinted from the July 2021 OLOC E-News.]

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.

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All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is November 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 and say “anonymous.”

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.

Groups

Affiliates: Are you part of National OLOC’s email forum? It is a great place to have vibrant discussions with other affiliates.

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

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

Passings

Cristina Vegas, 1945–2024,
Long Beach, California

Shay Youngblood, 1959–2024,
Atlanta, Georgia

Bernice Johnson Reagon, 1942–2024,
Washington, DC

See the E-News for more about these Lesbians.

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!

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.

Newsflash! IT'S HERE! The 2025 Gathering Announcement!

Remember Columbus?

We had such a great time,
we're going back!!!



**Yup, OLOC's next National Gathering will be held
August 20–24, 2025,
at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbus, Ohio!**

*P.S. It is NEXT year! MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!
Much more information will be coming.*

**DANCING • ENTERTAINMENT • FILMS • WORKSHOPS • PLENARIES • HUGS • AND LOTS OF
OLD LESBIANS!!**

New Grant Announcement!

OLOC is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation of Radnor, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$22,000. This grant is unrestricted (we can use it where it is most needed) to support our work on behalf of Old Lesbians. That is YOU!

We are grateful to the Carpenter Foundation for its long-term support and encourage you to consider how you, too, can contribute to furthering OLOC's work. One of the factors that grantmakers weigh in their funding decisions is manifestation of community support: if the organization's community supports it, that lets foundations know the group is worthy of its support, as well!

Although OLOC does not meet the usual funding criteria for this Foundation, we regularly receive support from it because of a personal connection

between an OLOCian and a Board member. It continues to provide these gifts despite the OLOCian's death. Such relationships are critical to ensuring that OLOC receives the support it needs to carry on its work, and who better to grow and nurture these relationships than YOU, who are reading this newsletter because you care about OLOC and Old Lesbians?

If you would like to know more about the numerous ways you can show your support—a regular monthly, quarterly, or annual deduction from your account; a one-time gift; a pledge of stock or other planned contribution from your estate; or other ideas—please write Patti K. at patti@oloc.org. OLOC deeply appreciates all contributions from everyone, whether time, money, work, whatever—we salute those of you who show up. Thank you!

Old Lesbians Zoom

Zoom Events

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

The Life and Work of Barbara Jordan

Thursday, September 26, 4:00 P.M. ET

October:

Film about a Chicana butch Lesbian (tentative)
Spirituality of the Crone (tentative; might be an Open House)

November:

Old Lesbian Experiences in the Military
(tentative)

Ongoing Series

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—

Topic: TBA

Tuesday, September 17, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—**Topic: Imperialism and How It Ties Into White Dominance and Other Isms**

Friday, September 27, 4:00 P.M. ET

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—

Topic: TBD

Tuesday, October 15, 3:00 P.M. ET

End White Dominance—**Topic: TBD**

Friday, October 25, 4:00 P.M. ET

Confronting Sexism: Fighting for Our Lives—

Topic: TBD

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

End White Dominance—**Topic: TBD**

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

Open House

Discussion on Death and Dying

Monday, September 16, 4:00 P.M. ET

Support and Discussion Groups

- Lesbians of Color Discussion
- Lesbian Widows Support (waiting list: email olocccZoom@gmail.com)
- Caregivers Support
- ASL Chat (suspended indefinitely)
- Radical Lesbian Feminist Discussion (waiting list: email olocccZoom@gmail.com)



Needed for new groups: Co-facilitators and those with Zoom tech skills. Interested? Contact olocccZoom@gmail.com.

Check out the full schedule at <https://oloc.org/zoom/>. To get monthly Zoom announcements: email info@oloc.org. You can see videos of past events in the **affiliate 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*).

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)

Old Lesbians Write About The ‘Isms’

We Get Mail!:

Socially Acceptable Prejudices

By Z, 1951

I greatly appreciated Patti Kardia’s article on ageism [“Fighting for Our Lives: Ageism,” June *Reporter*]. However, I cannot share her (and the American Psychological Association’s) optimism that ageism is the last acceptable prejudice.

My immediate response was, “Try being a fat woman for a while!” Certainly, fatophobia is a socially acceptable form of stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination. It’s a widely accepted truism that it’s bad to be fat; that if you are fat, it’s your own fault (you are lazy, gluttonous, weak-willed, etc.) and that the world has no responsibility to be a place that is accessible or welcoming to you. If this is the first time you have heard of this, here is a site with a bibliography: <https://widener.libguides.com/sizeism/books>. Even a quick google will open up some new ideas for you.

But as I thought about it some more, the issues got bigger. There are so many kinds of oppression that are socially acceptable, depending on where you are and what your social circle is like. For instance:

- I can never forget the image of then-candidate Trump making fun of a reporter who had cerebral palsy on national television.
- The prevalence of anti-immigrant tropes in the popular culture and the increase in anti-immigrant laws from both “sides of the aisle.”
- And of course, it never seems that racism is going out of fashion.
- Let us also not forget homophobia, or Lesbophobia, which constantly rears its ugly head, no matter how much it is covered over.
- Etc., etc., etc.

Reflections on Racial Justice, May/June 2021

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

What do we mean when we speak of “racial justice”? I believe that most people understand “justice” to mean fair and equal treatment.

Today, May 25, 2021, marks the one-year anniversary of the death of George Floyd at the hands of one police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1921 race riots and massacre of one all-Black community—Rosewood—in Tulsa, Oklahoma. What does racial justice look like in these two cases; one event focused on a single man a year ago, which has made us look at ourselves with old questions? The other event was 100 years ago and that community is still looking for racial justice for a new generation of Black people.

America wants to pat itself on the back in the murder of George Floyd, because his killer was found guilty. There can be no justice for Mr. Floyd, because his life is over. But what about justice for his family/community/state/country?

And what of the 1921 African American residents of Tulsa? Their attackers were never even charged with a crime. Can justice rise from these ashes? Can reconciliation and a path toward healing be found?



Carolyn J. Mobley-Bowie,
1948

How could repairs be made to those who were injured? What might racial justice look like? We must be willing to examine our own history and learn hard lessons from the history of oppressed peoples all over the world.

It seems that the first step toward justice must be the simple admission that harm has been done, that life has been taken away. The next step must be to identify who

is responsible and make sure that responsibility is accepted. Then the responsible party must be held accountable.

It may be too late for simple justice when it comes to matters of race; now we need a much deeper reckoning.

[Please contact Sheryl@oloc.org if you would like to receive the full article of which this is an excerpt.]

For Movie Buffs!

Four Films for Old Lesbians

By Susan Chacin, 1945

My partner, Ginny, and I enjoy movies during Pride. Some flicks aren't satisfying; we usually sit through a few duds. But, this year, four stood out:

♀ Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) showed a documentary that EVERY Old Lesbian should watch. *Finding Her Beat* chronicles an all-women's Taiko concert in Minneapolis that brought together an unprecedented international set of performers. Lesbians and all the Superwomen Taiko drummer stars moved us to tears. Available on Netflix and Tubi.

Frameline 48, the San Francisco LGBTQ+ Film Festival, presented three fabulous pictures:

♀ *All Shall Be Well* is a feature focusing on family drama and bias around end-of-life issues with a Lesbian couple in Hong Kong (in Chinese with subtitles).

♀ *If I Die It Will Be of Joy* is a documentary about LGBTQ+ anti-ageism activism in France that shows how prevalent prejudice and misconceptions around Lesbian and gay elders are in that society, as in ours (in French with subtitles).

♀ *Sally!* documents the life of Sally Gearhart. Its premiere was sold out at Frameline, so we traveled to Sebastopol for its second screening. Interviews with Sally's land partners, lovers, colleagues, students, and sister activists reveal the complexities of her leadership and legacy. Gearhart was written out of the *Milk* feature film, and this movie shows how vital her partnership with Harvey was in defeating Proposition 6, the initiative that would have mandated the firing of Lesbian and gay teachers and supporters in California schools. It portrays the joys and tribulations of a women's land collective near the theater where we saw the movie! Lots of Sally's neighbors and friends (and lovers?) attended, and it was a joy to watch in a vibrant group of Old Lesbians (distribution TBA).

Old Lesbians Documentary and the OLOHP

By Margaret Purcell, 1951, OLOHP Manager

Some of you may have heard about the documentary, but for those who don't know about it:

Thanks to the efforts of a young documentarian, Meghan McDonough, you can view *Old Lesbians*, which is based on the work of the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP). Meghan's journey in making this film started in 2022 when she reached out to Arden Eversmeyer, the founder of OLOHP. Meghan expressed interest in doing a film about the Project and was able to meet with Arden. (Arden died shortly thereafter.)

With the film now completed and being shown in various venues, the filmmaker has entered into an arrangement with *The Guardian* so that anyone can stream the documentary. You can access it through www.theguardian.com (enter "Old Lesbians" in the search box) or tinyurl.com/5n83tett.

When asked about herself and the making of the documentary, Meghan said:

Ten years out as a queer woman, I am still seeking real representation of my community. I was moved when I learned about OLOHP and reached out to Arden. When we spoke, she emphasized that these are entire life stories in a woman's own words. Each interviewee has a chance to add in or take out parts of her own life. At the end, she gets a bound copy. I had a chance to visit the archive at the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College. [I] witnessed firsthand the love and care baked into each herstory—pages of research about how to prepare for an oral history and make interviewees comfortable; meticulous documentation of names, dates, and locations at the beginning of each recording; scanned photos; and more. It's a master class on how to write the world we want to read.

You can learn more about the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project at www.olohp.org. To find out more about Meghan and the film, head to: www.meghanemcdonough.com/.



Chapter News

OLOC Chapters as of September 1, 2024, are: San Francisco Bay Area, California; Colorado; Western Mass, Massachusetts; Hudson Valley, New York; Central Ohio; Rhode Island; Vermont; Puget Sound Area, Washington; and Online At-Large (virtual).

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

Western Mass Chapter

By Emily Greene, 1946

This new year is flying by and we had two times to march in the Valley pride parades. In **May**, Roberta signed us up to march in the Northampton parade, which is now up on its feet from the pandemic with 1,800 participating (see photo).



L to R: Roberta Pato, 1946, and JR, 1943.

Then, in **June**, we marched in my town, Greenfield, for the 5th Annual Pride Day parade, the biggest ever, with about 500 marching. For **July**, we all did our own thing, but, in **August**, we met to have lunch and discuss where our OLOC group is going. Although we are a small group at the moment, we are hoping for more to come and talk about what they want. So much is going on in the world and many of us are involved in community projects, but we will carry on in the fall. Thanks for National OLOC and the articles and groups you foster to carry on.

Colorado Chapter

By Elisabeth Borden, 1950

May: Our May program (following an excellent potluck lunch) was on “Gender Identity, Gender

Expression, and Pronouns.” Our speaker was Michael Chifalo, the LGBTQ+ Program Specialist of the Boulder County Area on Aging. The program drew 22 attendees. As expected, there was extended discussion, with many questions and expression of personal challenges to some aspects of gender expressions and language. We have his slide presentation available to share [contact sheryl@oloc.org to receive a copy]. He also provided these other resources: <https://pronouns.org/>, <https://glaad.org/transgender/transfaq/>, and <https://nursejournal.org/articles/nursing-care-lgbtq-patients/>.

Two of our members had read and recommended the book: *Who’s Afraid of Gender?* by Judith Butler.

June: Our June meeting was our annual Weenie Roast, hosted by Sue O. and Sue H. at Sue O.’s beautiful home in the Boulder foothills. Besides sharing a delicious array of foods, there was much lively conversation and sharing by the 18 who attended. [Chapter] Steering Committee members



From far left, clockwise: Carol, 1939; Sara, 1937; Suzanne, 1938; Sky, 1948; Janet, 1950; Carmen; Kim; Sue B., 1955; Beth; and Linda, 1949. Photo by Sue O., 1943.

Chapter News (continued)

Colorado Chapter (continued)

facilitated a vibrant discussion where people shared why they attend OLOC and what programs they would like to see in future meetings. Most said their main interest in OLOC was in being around other Lesbians, camaraderie, and being with like-minded individuals. Future program ideas included: Lesbian comedy videos, brain changes, women of WWII, and sharing our own stories with each other. Attendees were encouraged to join National OLOC, and a printed copy of *The Reporter* was shared.

July: At our July meeting, we watched The documentary *Old Lesbians: Reclaiming Old Age and Queerness* and had a robust discussion. We also reviewed planned programs for August (Laughing Yoga) and September (get-out-the-vote postcard writing) and spent quite a bit of time explaining Laughing Yoga and the postcard writing program. The potluck food was particularly good and two new members joined.

Hudson Valley (New York)

By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

The Hudson Valley OLOC Chapter is alive and meeting at the LGBT Center in Kingston every third Thursday of the month. Some history: Our Chapter was started by Alix Dobkin, so it will always be a tribute to her and in her memory that we meet. Alix passed it [the Coordinator role] on to Bonnie Wagner when she joined the Steering Committee, and Bonnie passed it on to me when she did the same. We regularly get around 10 Old Lesbians attending, and afterwards we usually go out for dinner.

We like to start each meeting showing a video. We have shown the Buzz Reel, the video on Jan Griesinger, and *Cupping the Flame of Women's Culture*, which is about the Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club [Oakland, California, 1996–2015]. The Old Lesbians really enjoy this.

We are trying to schedule another Death Café, as the first one was a big success. We have had

a discussion on the symptoms of dementia; some women have spouses who have dementia and some are experiencing the beginnings.



L to R: Ginny Apuzzo, Ellen Scribnick, Reeni Goldin, Marge Burns, Bonnie Wagner, and Retts Scauzillo.

Saturday, **June 1**, we marched in the Pride March in New Paltz. We held our brand-new banner and marched proudly as one of the only Lesbian organizations marching. We are trying to keep the “L” in LGBTQ relevant but it’s not easy. In **July**, Bonnie led a discussion on aging using a CR format. We continued that discussion in **August**. We discussed the National Gathering; nobody from our Chapter participated last year. They all did participate in the Zoom Gathering (2022). They seem interested if they could drive to the Gathering, so if it does happen in Columbus, we may have some representation.

As a spin-off from our Chapter meetings, we have organized a monthly pop-up social. At least 35 Lesbians attended the one in July and it is wonderful.

(Chapter News continues on page 9)

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

Chapter News (continued)

Rhode Island Chapter

By Nancy, 1953, and Sally, 1950

“Getting Out the Vote” is one of the issues that OLOC-Rhode Island has taken on this year. As we did in 2020, several affiliates are engaging in Vote Forward’s letter-writing campaign while others are staffing our voter registration table at various events.

Vote Forward’s goal is to encourage citizens to vote. A nonpartisan organization, the letter-writing campaign is aimed at lapsed voters and voters in traditionally underrepresented groups. In 2020, we sent 600 letters to multiple states. Our goal in 2024 is to exceed that number! Our recent kickoff event included an ice cream social, a great way to share ideas and enthusiasm.

Our first event was at the Providence Pride Flea in early **June**. A great success, the evening resulted in 24 registrations, along with multiple confirmations and updates of registration status and what felt like a million conversations and questions answered. It also proved to be a good opportunity to introduce OLOC to Old Lesbians and other members of the local community.

This was such a success that we were invited to participate in the Providence Summer Flea, a local tourist attraction which allows us exposure to people from all over the state, as well as from other states and countries.

New Film on OLOC’s YouTube Channel

No Need to Repent: The Ballad of Rev. Jan Griesinger is a Jan-authorized film made about one of OLOC’s former Co-Directors. It is an inspiring and moving look at her longtime community activist life. It’s fun to see her at various ages. Jan, 1942–2022, was a long-time Steering Committee (SC) member. She joined the SC in 2000 as an intern (when we had those) and resigned in 2019 because of her health. Her contributions to OLOC over those many years were innumerable, and we continue to mourn her loss. The film is 27 minutes long and captioned, with a transcript. It is now on the OLOC YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhIIA5twyv4>. We hope you enjoy it!



L to R: Sally, 1950; Donnie; and Martha, 1964.

July 7 was our first Summer Flea. These Sunday events have a slower pace and allow for more conversation. We were pleased to register five voters and answer a lot of questions. Our banner got a lot of attention. Several women (of all ages) stopped to chat about OLOC and were pleased to learn about the organization. A favorite response was, “My mother needs to know about you!” Younger Lesbians thanked us for being there. We took part in two more Fleas this summer and are planning to table at several other local events by early **October**.



More on July Zoom Presenter Lynette Yetter

By Susan Wiseheart, 1941

For those who attended the OLOC Zoom on July 25 with Lynette Yetter and for those who were unable to make it, here is her website: <http://lynettesyetter.com/>. She gave a great presentation about the most famous of Bolivian poets and writers, Adela Zamudio, reading from her work in both Spanish and English. It will soon be on the [affiliate portal](#) if it is not there already. At her website, you can look for more on Lynette’s music, art, writing, and all else. If you live in Portland, Oregon, or La Paz, Bolivia, watch for possible in-person readings, too.

OLOC Has a Book Club!

All OLOC affiliates are welcome to join the At-Large Chapter in our Lesbian Book Club at 7:00 P.M. ET (6:00 CT, 5:00 MT, 4:00 PT) on the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Here's the Zoom link for the next several months: <https://zoom.us/j/97415912533?pwd=T7j0QHTnporyosj4tdR0P-N9Tcv66qO.1>. We'll try to post a reminder on the At-Large and National OLOC groups.io email forums before each meeting.

Here are the books through November:

- September 9: June Arnold (the Carpenter), *The Cook and the Carpenter*. Susan Lowney, facilitator.
- October 14: Adrienne Rich, Selections from *The Dream of a Common Language* and *On Lies, Secrets and Silence* essay. Nina Zazorin, facilitator.
- November 11: Emma Donoghue, *Learned by Heart*. Charlotte Ellis, facilitator.



Adrienne Rich

Many of the books we'll be reading can be gotten from your local library or one of the library apps including Hoopla, <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>, and Libby, <https://libbyapp.com/>. If possible, it's WONDERFUL to support feminist bookstores, too. Here's a list: <https://oloc.org/feminist-bookstores/>.

You could also check used bookstores online (which list their editions when searching on Amazon). Please reach out to patti@oloc.org if you need help. Christine Pattee is coordinating the book club. And if you want to join the At-Large Chapter—of which the book club is a part—which meets on Zoom on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. ET and is open to all OLOC affiliates—contact ruthdebra@icloud.com.

Old Lesbians and Our Festivals

News from The Land

By Batya Weinbaum, 1952

I am packing to go to three women-born-women's festivals on The Land in Walkerville, Michigan, the site where the Michigan Women's Music Festival is still enshrined in our memories since 1982. Although that festival swelled to thousands of participants each year—3,000 to over 10,000 in the last festival of 2015, and in various 10th anniversary years—these will be smaller, 90–700, due to land preservation rules agreed to by the non-profit corporation in charge of the venue. Still, many of the joys and hardships remain the same, such as the joy of creating physical and spiritual communities with women, and the hardship of enduring extreme heat in the day, cold at night, and



Unknown "Welcome home" greeter to The Land.

torrential rain.

The three festivals are Amazon Spirit Week, Big Mouth Girl, and RISE (Reigniting Intergenerational Sisterhood Everywhere).

These events are established and run by courageous event organizers, who have to pay out thousands of dollars each to rent the venue for the events, each of which lasts five days.

I write in to bring attention to the falsity of the often-bemoaned lamentation, declaring women's spaces to be a thing of the past that we have lost.

Goddess hopes to see you there in the future, and that you bring friends. (I will be in the Transformational Arts booth, reading cards and palms.)

Recruiting at the Festival

By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

Bonnie (Wagner) and I attended the National Women's Music Festival in June. We both had hoped for OLOC representation. Michiko and Patti K. were there and announced on Whoa, the app for the festival, that there would be an OLOC meet-and-greet at the bar area. Bonnie and Ruth (Debra) went

and said it was so noisy they could not hear most of the conversation. A better way would have been to either hold a workshop or discussion and plan it in advance so it could be listed in the program book. This would have led, in my opinion, to an increase in membership in OLOC. There were Old Lesbians who were interested but could not hear at all. I have said a million times there are 800+ Lesbians at the festival; most of them are OLD.

Old Lesbians, Tell Your Stories!

News from The Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory Project

By Kate Ellison, 1949



We Are Recruiting!

We collect, archive, and celebrate oral and written stories of unsung Southern Lesbian feminist activists during the second half of the twentieth century. We are proud of our contributions to Lesbian culture, strengthened by our collective voices.

Many of us recognized that the Lesbian feminist voices of southern Lesbians had been omitted or marginalized in mainstream literature of the LGBTQ movement as well as from feminist history. We are the antidote to this omission. We worked with Duke University to set up archives, did interviews all over the South, and eventually collaborated with Julie Enszer to publish six issues of *Sinister Wisdom* full of all our stories. Now we maintain our website (<https://slfaherstoryproject.org/>) and update it monthly. We are still gathering more Southern Lesbian stories, interviewing, writing, editing, tracking, and networking.

We are always ready to welcome new collaborators! If you would like to join the SLFAHP group, email us at SLFAHerstoryProject@gmail.com.

Who Is Your Shero?

You are invited to participate:

Who inspired you to Lesbian feminism?

If you are in the Southeast (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Virginia, West Virginia, or Missouri) send us the name of your most significant Shero with a brief reason why she inspires you.

Both she and you can remain anonymous if you want (just say so) since we will publish these on our SLFAHP [website](#).

Send submissions (a few sentences) today to: slfainspired@gmail.com. Here's an example:

Rose Norman got her inspiration from Nancy Finley. "At the time, Nancy Finley was the chair of the Sociology Department at my university. She said, 'Let's see who might be interested in starting a women's studies program.' She made feminism seductive, and she opened my eyes to structural causes of oppression. She walks the talk in all aspects of her life."

Do You Know about Alderson Women's Prison?

Would anyone who knows details about Alderson Women's Prison [in West Virginia] from or around 1980 please get in touch with Carol Anne Douglas (caroldouglas12@gmail.com)? She is writing a novel set in that time period. One of her characters is a woman who is sent to Alderson for refusing to testify before a grand jury. The character wasn't in the Pentagon's Women's Action but was in the prison earlier that year, but the prison's conditions were probably pretty much the same. Also, Carol Anne would like to hear from you if you know much about the grand jury process. Please put "Alderson" in the subject line.

Attention Tomboys!

By Sarah Pearlman, 1935

Wanted: Stories, poetry, and plays for our forthcoming booklet on Old Lesbians and their growing-up identity and experience as "tomboys" (to be produced by the Boston OLOC Editing Committee). Examples or suggestions include: your definition of a "tomboy," what you were like as a tomboy, parents' reactions, socialization or "social rules" during the time you were growing up, and the effect of approaching or entering adolescence. Please, no more than three pages (approximately 1,050 words) and include a bio of no more than 135 words plus a title. Send by email attachment to Sarah Pearlman at spearlman@hartford.edu. For additional information, or to request an extension, email Sarah (email address above). Deadline: October 4, 2024.



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