

# Bay Area OLOC



Old Lesbians Organizing for Change  
Newsletter – January, 2026

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

## COME TO OUR WOMEN'S VALENTINES DANCE!

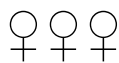
**BRING YOUR SWEETHEART or YOUR SWEET HEART**

**Saturday, February 14, 2026 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Berkeley Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Hall  
1924 Cedar St at Bonita**

You are invited to a women's Valentines dance. We'll be swinging to tunes spun by DJ Gloria – a veteran of many years. "I play music to bring smiles and joy. Memories are precious.... In these times music is healing and so are the stories I tell." This event is open to all women on a donation basis; contributions gratefully accepted. OLOC will provide light refreshments and you're welcome to bring a snack or drinks. Our dances have been getting rave reviews, and if you haven't attended an OLOC event before, this is a great way to get to know us. Many first timers are amazed to see old friends. If you have a friend who likes to dance, bring her along!

**(Be sure to let everyone know women of all ages are welcome!)**



## Pat Parker's Poetry Celebrated On-Line

Radical African American Lesbian poet, Pat Parker was the subject of an on-line tribute by the journal Sinister Wisdom last October. A recording of the program can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKxGxFSNKYw>. (There is a short clip of Parker reading her work at the beginning of the recording, followed by about nine minutes of announcements.)



Parker's work is uncompromising and speaks to the oppression of women, African Americans, and Lesbians. A recording of her performance of her poem "Where Will You Be?" is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-fP71SQCAE>. This was recorded at the Third World

Conference sponsored Kick-Off Rally for the 14th October 1979 National March On Washington for LGBTQ Rights.

Poets.org gives biographical information for Parker. “In the late 1960s, Parker began to identify as a lesbian, and she became actively involved in the civil rights, women’s rights, and gay rights movements, occasionally reading her poetry at events. Along with the poet [Judy Grahn](#) and others, she developed a community around lesbian poetry readings on the West Coast. Parker said of this community, ‘It was like pioneering.... We were talking to women about women, and, at the same time, letting women know that the experiences they were having were shared by other people.’

“Parker was the author of five poetry collections: *Jonestown and Other Madness* (Firebrand Books, 1985); *Movement in Black* (Diana Press, 1978); *Woman Slaughter* (Diana Press, 1978); *Pit Stop* (Women’s Press Collective, 1975); and *Child of Myself* (Women’s Press Collective, 1972). Parker is known for her unflinching honesty in addressing issues about sex, race, motherhood, alcoholism, and violence. [Audre Lorde](#) called Parker’s poetry ‘clean and sharp without ever being neat.’

“Parker directed the Feminist Women’s Health Center in Oakland, founded the Black Women’s Revolutionary Council and the Women’s Press Collective, and testified before the United Nations on the status of women. She died of breast cancer in June of 1989.” Parker is honored around the country and around the world. She was 45 at the time of her death.

## Penny Rosenwasser

***Bay Area OLOC is committed to transforming our practices toward more racial diversity and inclusion. The Newsletter will be featuring stories about both women of color and white women committed to this goal.***

Penny Rosenwasser teaches an Anti-Semitism/Anti-Arabism class with a Palestinian colleague at the City College of San Francisco and belongs to Kehilla Synagogue. Transplanted to the East Bay from Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C., Penny is also a member of the European American Collaborative for Challenging Whiteness and works as an event organizer and fundraiser. A former performing folk musician, KPFA radio host/producer, women’s music networker, festival organizer, and diversity workshop leader, she’s been active on issues ranging from ending nuclear power and weapons, to feminism and queer liberation, to peace and racial justice, especially focusing on Israel-Palestine, including leading four women’s peace delegations to that region. Penny speaks and leads workshops about antisemitism and the intersections with white nationalism and white supremacy, as well as giving talks about her books, including *Hope into Practice*, Jewish women choosing justice despite our fears.

## **ELDER LESBIANS OF COLOR GATHERINGS ARE CONTINUING!**

**Next get-together will be on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Kehilla Community Synagogue  
1300 Grand Avenue in Oakland, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm**

Michiko Bailey-Thorne, a member of both OLOC's national Steering Committee and Bay Area OLOC's Organizing Committee, reports that: "The Lesbians of Color meet up on January 18, 2026 was a good group! We had good discussions and a nice time hanging with each other. We talked about all that BA OLOC offers its members. I'm excited that some were interested in Game Day, our Dance, and the Retreat. We set up our next social meeting for April 19th at Kehilla." This will be the third Bay Area OLOC Lesbians of Color get together. If you are an elder Lesbian of Color, or know such a woman who might be interested in these get-togethers, please email contact information to Michiko at [hogsboss@gmail.com](mailto:hogsboss@gmail.com) or text her at 510 325-4374.

**Marion Abdullah, long term OLOC activist is in Willow Pass Health Care Facility in Concord following a series of challenges.** Starting with broken bones in her foot, Marion has had heart problems, asthma, and a variety of issues which have sent her to Kaiser hospital and back to rehab. Already disabled and in her 90's, Marion has long been a mentor and example of indomitable determination to overcome and make a more positive world. She would appreciate calls, cards, and visits. You can reach her at 510 223-9034. Willow Pass Health Care Facility is at 3318 Willow Pass Rd., Concord 94519.



## **A Bay Area OLOC anti-racism working group for white women is open to additional participants:**

At our September retreat, there was interest in working on anti-racism. A group of white women from the retreat has been meeting monthly on Zoom. The meetings are facilitated, with links to suggested readings. We share our personal histories and consider what our "next steps" could be. The group (currently 8-10) is open to adding a few more participants. **Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 22, 2026 at 6:30 pm by Zoom.** If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Laura Tow at [msslaura@earthlink.net](mailto:msslaura@earthlink.net) or (925) 980-3842 cell/text. Depending on the level of interest, a second group may be formed.

## **HELP US KEEP THE GAMES EVENTS COMING!**

Ardent game-players have met several times since our May retreat, playing games of all types including dominos, cards, Scrabble, and a variety of active participation roles. The group needs help with communications – such as sending notices, responding to emails, and updating our contact list – to continue. Dates and venues are determined on an ad hoc basis, so if you enjoy playing games and want to be informed of up-coming sessions, contact Karen Orlando at [korlando1007@gmail.com](mailto:korlando1007@gmail.com) or text her at (510) 725-7041 for information and notices. If you are already on their list, be sure to RSVP and offer to help set up, bring games and snacks, or clean up. Let's keep this going!

## **SPRING RETREAT AT ENCHANTED HILLS May 15 – 17, 2026**

Planning is underway for our Spring Retreat: 2 nights / 3 days at Enchanted Hills Camp in the Napa Valley – all welcome on an ability-to-pay basis. Registration information will be sent out in April. Participants at previous retreats will notice some logistical changes due to camp policies and increased cost.

### **HELP US FIND A NEW RETREAT LOCATION**

The cost of our twice-yearly Napa retreats has been going up dramatically; we are currently looking for leads to other locations. Do you know of any?? **Here are our major requirements:**

- Within 90 minutes' drive from the East Bay
- Indoor sleeping accommodations
- Central meeting room for 30-50
- Meals provided with vegetarian options
- Completely accessible for disabled participants.

Please pass on any leads to Pat Cull, (415) 637-5002, [patcull70@gmail.com](mailto:patcull70@gmail.com) .

### **Bay Area OLOC Declutterers Support**

At our September retreat, some women expressed interest in decluttering support. A few OLOC members have been meeting for quite some time around this issue. We welcome new members who want to share strategies and celebrate successes. We meet once a month, mostly in the east bay, but also, occasionally, in San Francisco. Some members come by zoom if they are unable to make it to our face-to-face meetings. If you'd like to have more information and/or check out our group, please contact Sharon, [laborforart@gmail.com](mailto:laborforart@gmail.com) .

**The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) offers action opportunities and supportive information in these turbulent times.**

If you would like to connect to a senior activist group, CARA is a good choice. Because it's part of the AFL-CIO labor movement, it's much more diverse than many senior groups. Bay Area OLOC belongs to CARA, an affiliate of the national Alliance for Retired Americans, ARA. CARA is much more progressive than AARP, and OLOC members are welcome to get on CARA's email list to find out about candidate forums, support for senior safety and health, legislation, and senior voter outreach. CARA is gearing up for the mid-term elections and will offer automatic dialing phone banks to talk about candidates' positions on our issues. Go to their website, <https://californiaalliance.org/> or contact Susan Chacin, [susanchnew@gmail.com](mailto:susanchnew@gmail.com), 510 332-8569, for more information.

## **Join National OLOC for Access to More Old Lesbian Resources!**

National OLOC offers a wonderful assortment of support groups, Zoom events, and other resources. Joining is easy, and dues are on an ability-to-pay basis. Members of national OLOC are termed "affiliates," and you have to be connected as an affiliate to receive notices and links to their events. The website to gain access to all this is [www.OLOC.org](http://www.OLOC.org)

## **Bay Area OLOC thrives thanks to our Organizing Committee:**

A small Organizing Committee meets monthly on Zoom to keep Bay Area OLOC running. Current members include: Pat Cull, Laura Tow, Ginny Garrett, Jeannine Toussaint, Jan Herzog, Susan Chacin, and Michiko Bailey Thorne. Michiko is also co-chair of OLOC's national Steering Committee.

## **Bay Area Newsletter:**

The newsletter comes out when we have events to announce. Susan Chacin is the editor, and she is actively recruiting help now that she's turned 80! Laura Tow and Ginny Garrett help proof and edit the newsletter.

**You are invited to send** articles, poems, and other items for the newsletter to: [susanchnew@gmail.com](mailto:susanchnew@gmail.com). (Please put OLOC NEWSLETTER in the subject line.) The newsletter and an occasional Bulletin come out periodically to announce upcoming events.

**Carly Rivers passed away the night of January 26-27.** Born on December 9, 1941, Carly was a dancer and a long term member of Mothertongue Feminist Theater Collective. Carly had been declining for a long time with Alzheimer's and was in hospice care for the last week of her life. Carly's wife, Andre Rivers has been intimately involved with Carly's care and provided her loving support to the end.

**We honor the memory and involvement of Renee Nicole Maklin Good** and send our condolences to her widow, Becca Good, and their three children.



**Do you know someone who could use a call, a card, or a visit?**

Send us her contact information if she is agreeable and we will share it in our next mailing. We all need each other’s support during these trying times, and sometimes it can really help to hear from another Old Lesbian.

**Most women on our mailing list receive the newsletter by email.** A number have asked to also receive it by “snail mail.” If you are getting the newsletter in the mail and don’t need a paper copy, let Pat Cull know. If you don’t get it by mail but would like a paper copy, let Pat know that too. If we have your email, you’ll get the newsletter by email unless you tell us otherwise. Contact Pat at: [patcull70@gmail.com](mailto:patcull70@gmail.com)

***Save the date for our Annual Outdoor Potluck in Berkeley –  
Sunday, July 26, 2026:***

## **BAY AREA OLOC'S COMMITMENT**

### **We acknowledge**

that we are on the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone people, the original stewards of this land. For thousands of years, they have cared for this place we now call the East Bay, maintaining a deep relationship with the land, water, and all living beings.

### **We honor**

their enduring presence and resilience despite colonization, displacement, and erasure, and we recognize our responsibility to learn from and support Indigenous communities today. May this acknowledgment be a commitment to respect, reciprocity, and continued action.

### **Diversity is the practice**

of including and involving lesbians from a range of different social, ethnic, and racial backgrounds; different ages; class structures; cultural backgrounds; geographies; physical abilities and disabilities; and religions. We are committed to an environment where all lesbians are nurtured and cared for and will not be harmed or disregarded.

### **Please know**

that all lesbians who are here are supposed to be here. In every space, take notice of who is present, who is leading, who is speaking, and whose voices, perspectives, and lived experiences are being reflected or not reflected. For all OLOC communications and events, we are committed to relating within our differences while holding respect and regard for each lesbian's humanity.