

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

The Reporter

A quarterly
publication of OLOC

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Vol 25 #2

OH, WHAT A NIGHT!

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

Combine a variety of sparkling Lesbian poetry, music, wit, and consciousness with a beautiful, colorful, and spirited audience of “Women Sweet on Women,” and you have a night to remember. And we will long remember the night of April 25th, when, with active OLOC support, ZAMI NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging), in the person of Mary Anne Adams and her cohorts, produced such a night at the idyllic Agnes Scott Women’s College in Decatur GA, where the Women’s Studies department co-sponsored the event and provided the recital hall.

Theresa Davis, Deidre McCalla, Gaye Adegbalola and her band, The Wild Rutz (Tanya Cotton, Gloria Jackson, and Marta Fuentes), emcee Trey Anthony, and I faced a packed house of more than 200 Lesbians for “Women Sweet on Women II: An Evening of Music, Words, & Song.” The excitement, the pure joy of connecting with so many happy Lesbians in one of those rare Lesbian-centered community events, charged every Lesbian battery in the house and put a smile on every Lesbian face. It was a fundraiser for next year’s ZAMI NOBLA/OLOC National Gathering to be held in October 2016, a first-of-its-kind celebration co-produced by the two groups.



Gaye (left) and Wild Rutz

Four days before and after the show, the OLOC Steering Committee convened, as we do twice a year, to conduct OLOC

business. This time we checked into the airport Holiday Inn North where the next Gathering will be held, and were joined by our three provisional members: Ali Marrero-Calderon (1948) of Oakland CA and Bayamón, Puerto Rico; Mary Anne Adams (1954) of Atlanta GA; and Paj Wadley-Bailey (1939) of Montpelier VT.

We love ZAMI NOBLA and have become increasingly impressed with and excited about working with them as partners, and we love the Lesbians we met in Atlanta. We welcome this new phase of our beloved OLOC and look forward to organizing for the changes that will be generated by this new collaboration.

Correction: In the March issue, Eunice Samuels was mistakenly reported to have died. We’re happy to say she’s alive and well in NYC. See p. 5.

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“This was epic. It was great to be out with old friends and new. THIS is exactly the community I have longed for in Atlanta. Thank you, Mary Anne Adams and all of the visionaries at ZAMI NOBLA and OLOC for bridging the gap and making this happen. Let’s do it again and again.”
—Robin G. White

The OLOC Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

- ◆ www.oloc.org
- ◆ e-mail: info@oloc.org
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This Newsletter Brought to You By:

Co-Editors: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

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Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, Jan Griesinger, 1942, and Sally Tatnall, 1937.

Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.

Mailing crew and all writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue: Aug 1, 2015.

Limit submissions to 300 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to OLOC at info@oloc.org or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens OH 45701.

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Pat Cull, 1942, Oakland CA, pat@oloc.org, 415-637-5002

Membership Statement

(as of April 26, 2015)

OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians. We are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Lesbian voice as well as increasing Lesbian visibility in a world that stifles it. National OLOC supports the right of all people to be treated fairly and respectfully and with equal justice under the law. National OLOC is an ally to all who struggle for justice. In the LGBTQIA* community, we are the L. Therefore, National OLOC welcomes as members only those women who have reached their 60th year and who are Old Lesbians.

* Lesbian Gay Bisexual Bulldagger Transgender Transsexual Two-Spirit Queer Questioning Intersex Asexual and Ally

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation, the Horizons Foundation (for the Bay Area), and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Thank you.

Report on Creating Change 2015

By Sally Tatnall, 1937, and Ruth Debra, 1944

Four thousand LGBTQ people were in attendance at this year's annual Task Force conference. There were 22 all-day intensives and 337 workshops, but only four offered any Lesbian content (three were on "femme" and OLOC did one on "Ageism and Feminism," which was the only workshop with *feminism* in the title.) The lack of space for Lesbians has been argued before, and there is no indication of change in that area.

The Task Force has paid a lot of attention to anti-racist work, which is good. The breakout groups were more effective this year, as some were not only racially divided but also showed experience with Racial Justice.

The all-day Elder Institute was the best one to date: Lots of sharing and lots of herstories. Ruth participated in a panel on activism.

The LGBT history workshop was excellent, although there was not much of what Lesbians have done. The presenter started with the 1800s when the terms "homo-" and "heterosexual" were invented. The link to see the power point is www.warrenblumenfeld.com.

The People of Color workshop focused on solidarity. Women of Color especially talked very openly about prejudices they learned and how they are unlearning them now.

A workshop on African American elders emphasized the intersections of oppressions that we all need to be aware of. It also focused on how LGBT organizations need to interact with elders-of-color organizations.

In the femme caucus, in response to what Sally said about what "femme" means to her, a young woman said, "Oh, that must be a generation gap because that is not what 'femme' means to me." Ageism in action!

What's in a Name?

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

Mary Morgan, in her last three months of life, was in a hospital and in a care facility. She was often called Honey, Sweetie, Dearie, Sweet Pea, Sweets, Sweetheart, Moms, Rosie. Most often she was called "Miss Mary." Yes, almost all were women staff who used these words, and I know they felt they were being warm and friendly.

Interestingly, the hospital had a note on its room info board that read: "What would you like us to call you?" Her answer written there was "Mary." Somehow that didn't work for the staff. They were honoring an old woman, age 89, by using all the words above instead of her name. What does this say about our politics, our values?



Chapter News

We are looking for volunteer coordinators to revive chapters and groups that have disappeared or to start new chapters and groups. If you are interested, please contact OLOC at info@oloc.org or 888-706-7506.

Bay Area OLOC's Successful Transitions

By Susan Chacin, 1945

The San Francisco Bay Area chapter has managed a number of challenging transitions this year.

The national Gathering took a lot of local organizing, and we are proud to have contributed to its diversity and energy. Moreover, rather than draining our chapter, the Gathering seems to have helped us “power up.” Local women who attended got a chance to see what OLOC is all about, and connections with others were strengthened. So far, I haven't heard of any Gathering organizers who have burned out after the two years of planning, and we have gained a number of new members.

At the same time, our chapter has gone through an intense period of reorganization. The chapter's leadership, previously a five-member steering committee, has morphed into a Coordinating Council of representatives of working committees. This structure shares tasks among more members and is still a work in progress—more people involved means a need for more communication. However, the pace of our chapter's activities is unabated. Since the Gathering, we have held a picnic, two day-long meetings, and two overnight retreats. A game day is planned for June, and the annual summer picnic has become an important way to get to meet new women and for them to get to know OLOC.

The most recent of the Bay Area chapter's transitions is to a new retreat center. The nearby facility we had used for years was sold and unavailable. Thanks to a diligent search, an affordable camp was found in Napa Valley. Although it is farther away, carpools and maps were mobilized and about 32 members attended our first retreat there April 25–26.

If you live nearby, are visiting, or have a friend in our area, be sure to get in touch with Bay Area OLOC!

California Political Action Committee (PAC)

The San Francisco Bay Area Political Action Committee participated in an action supporting the national “Fight for \$15” low-wage workers' campaign.

Low-wage workers are overwhelmingly women and people of color.

The PAC aspires to play two roles: We are organizing so OLOC is present at important events on the “street,” and we plan to bring pressing issues to the attention of OLOC members.

At this time we see our priorities as:

- 1) protecting senior programs such as Social Security and Medicare,
- 2) standing in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, particularly as expressed by Black women, and
- 3) taking action against climate change.



Central Ohio OLOC at Columbus Pride on Saturday, June 21, 2014

The next national OLOC Steering Committee meeting will be held in Atlanta November 5–8, 2015. If you have a topic you want the Steering Committee to address, let them know two weeks ahead of time by e-mail to info@oloc.org, a note to the PO Box in Ohio, or a phone call to 888-706-7506.



PS OLOC Presents Dramatic Readings of Old Lesbians' Oral Herstories

By Kathy Prezbindowski, Ph.D., 1943

Puget Sound OLOC women recently presented "Our Stories, Our Voices: Insights into Lives of Lesbians 70 and Older" at QUEER I AM on a college campus in Olympia WA. QIA was a daylong summit designed to develop a sense of belonging and pride in queer culture and community.

Our five presenters, aged 82 to 62, alternated between a narrated description of the OLOHP (Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project) and dramatic readings of Old Lesbians' own words from the Project, accompanied by their projected photos.

The now-400 life stories run the gamut from heartbreaking to humorous. They include horrible experiences (electroconvulsive shock treatments), as well as wit: "When I discovered women, I felt no guilt. The nuns never said it was a mortal sin to kiss a GIRL for more than a minute."

There is the misinformation: My dad asks, "Whatcha reading?" I said, "Well—(gulp)—*The Well of Loneliness*." All my father said was, "Oh, yes, I think I read that in abnormal psychology." Well, you can imagine what my stomach did. The isolation and frustration: "I don't know how somebody could live and be as old as I am, be gay my whole life, and not know. I never knew there was a place for women to go....If straight people knew how we have to feel because we happen to be this way....Too many of them still believe that being gay is our choice. Well, I got news."



Deidre and Bonnie

Twenty audience members stayed for the entire 75 minutes, engaging in questions and offering positive comments. As PS OLOC/OLOHP presenters, we, too, celebrate the life-changing experience of the Project. Reflecting on the women who spoke the words originally, their great challenges, and their spectrum of emotions echoed in our own voices, we recognize how precious the Herstories are to us.

Survey Results Available

The comments from members of OLOC about preferences for the membership qualifications for national OLOC are now posted anonymously on oloc.org under About OLOC on the menu bar.

Again, the statistics are: We sent to 641 Old Lesbians who were members as of December 31, 2014. We had 225 responses by February 1, 2015: Of those responding members, 101 (45%) preferred that membership be open to female-born Old Lesbians and 124 (55%) preferred that membership be open to self-identified Old Lesbians.

Research on Experiences of Old Lesbians with Home Care Workers

If you currently receive home care services or have done so in the past ten years, are Lesbian and 65 years of age or older, and are interested in sharing your experiences in a research study on this topic, please contact Dr. Sandy Butler from the University of Maine School of Social Work at 844-641-2382 (toll free) or sbutler@maine.edu for more information. Research involves one telephone interview (lasting 30 to 45 minutes) for which study participants will receive \$25. Recruitment of study participants will continue through December 31, 2015.

This study has been approved by OLOC's Research Gatekeeper, Sharon Raphael.

To find out about OLOC chapters and groups, presently in Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Utah, Vermont, Washington State, and Washington DC, look at www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php. Or call us at 888-706-7506.



Memorials

Correction

We apologize for our mistaken piece in the March Memorial announcing that Eunice Samuels had died. She hasn't, and we're glad. An NYC member informed us at once when she read the March *Reporter*. Sorry, Eunice!

Mary Morgan, 1925–2015

Mary helped start the Ohio chapter of OLOC and attended many demonstrations under the OLOC banner. She received her BS from the University of Dayton in 1954. She taught at The Miami Valley School and the Dayton Public Schools, and became Education Director of a five-county Head Start region. In 1967 she was awarded a Fellowship from Columbia University, New York City, where she earned an MS in 1968. She was the first woman to run for the Dayton City Commission in 1969.



In 1979 she co-founded the Susan B. Anthony Memorial UnRest Home Womyn's Land Trust, a feminist education center, with her life friend Jan Griesinger. In the 1980s she was the first woman to be a candidate for the board of the Ohio University Credit Union. She received an award in Athens County in 2003 for 50 years of activism in the American Civil Liberties Union. She also received the Social Justice Lifetime Service Award from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Yellow Springs in 2007.

The Mayor of Dayton, Ohio, proclaimed 9/20/09 Mary Morgan Day "For the rights of women by opening the door for women candidates in the Miami Valley and working tirelessly for social justice." She also received the Cathy Bantz "Making Democracy Work" award in 2010 from the League of Women Voters, and she was a Leadership Award winner of the Greene County Council on Aging in 2011.

Laura Ann Moore, 1945–2015

Laura Ann Moore was too ill for most of her OLOC membership to be very active, but she did attend part of the St. Louis Regional Gathering in 2013, and she was strongly supportive of OLOC and our work.



Laura Ann was a well-known Lesbian in the St. Louis community since the early days of Women's Liberation. She taught women car repair and, along with it, Lesbian Liberation theory and class awareness. She was a fierce social justice activist who started or worked on many organizations and actions that helped, as one of her friends wrote after her death, "all marginalized people, poor, homeless, working-class, differently-abled, black, gay, or otherwise disenfranchised. These were her people, and when she was on your side, you didn't have a pit bull on a leash, you had an entire pack of pit bulls running in front of you clearing the way." Laura Ann loved her partner of 26 years, Marlene, with deep joy that was inspiring to watch and be around. The St. Louis community and her many friends elsewhere will mourn her loss forever.

OLOC Regrets Chicago Affinity's Loss of Robbie Smith

OLOC is sad to announce Affinity Community Services' loss of Barbara (Robbie) Smith, who died in February 2015. Robbie was a Board member, financial manager, and founding member of the Affinity Trailblazers. Affinity is a social justice organization that works with and on behalf of LGBTQ communities, queer youth, and allies. www.affinity95.org



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



Consensus Decisions

We are interested in our readers' experiences with using consensus-decision-making. Some of our members believe it is a classist process (examples: It takes too much time, which poverty and working-class people can't afford; it allows women of the dominant culture to hold the meetings hostage). Others think it is an excellent way to reach a decision that feels right to the most people in a group. Since OLOC has had consensus-decision-making at the national Steering Committee level since the beginning, we wonder what you think. Is it a feminist process that is valuable to any group? Is it only for the middle class? Does it work for you if you are of poverty or working-class background? What are your thoughts? As usual, send your responses to us at info@oloc.org or by mail to the Ohio post office box. Thanks.



Mary Anne

Mission Statement for OLOC

We are committed to:

- ◆ addressing what it means to be Old and to be Lesbian
- ◆ finding ways to gather Old Lesbians for ongoing support
- ◆ working against all oppressions that affect Old Lesbians
- ◆ standing in solidarity with allies for racial, economic, and social justice

Meet Your Steering Committee

Sally Tatnall (1937) has been a member of OLOC since 1998 and a member of the Steering Committee since 2004, and began as co-director of the SC this year. She is a life-long activist working to combat racism, sexism, and classism.



She is involved with many local anti-racism projects. Sista Sinema, a local group showing films featuring Lesbians of color, is one of the projects she supports. She co-chairs her local OLOC group, works at a local abortion clinic

she helped start in the 1970s, and attends activities for Lesbians over 50, where she raises feminist issues because some Lesbians are not feminists. She works to preserve women-only space for women-born-women and has lived to see too many of the organizations she started in the 1970s disappear. Her vision for the future includes hundreds of OLOC cells nationwide fomenting revolution.

OLOC's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or e-mail.

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Coming to An End

By Susan Wiseheart, 1941

As an Old Lesbian who has attended 39 of 39 Michigan Festivals with number 40 coming up soon, I am feeling profoundly affected by the announcement in April that this August will be the last one. There are scads of Old Lesbians feeling the same sadness and loss that I am, even as we agree that it is a cause for huge celebration that it happened to begin with and that it had such an enormous positive effect on our lives and culture. There will undoubtedly be huge attendance this year because it is the last, which has its ups and downs, but it will be both joyous and mournful, and it will be amazing. It is hard to take in that it will no longer happen after this summer. Whatever arises, it will not be Michigan, and we will miss it immensely.



Anti-Racism Information

Effects of Hierarchies

“Given the ethnic and racial hierarchies of American life, there are those who dish it out and those who have to take it. Some get to dish it out without ever having to take it, some take it from those above and dish it out to those below, and some find themselves in the position of always having to take it. Such a position is, psychologically and emotionally speaking, almost unbearable. Rage and despair accumulate with no place to go.”
—Elizabeth Stone

Who is Incarcerated?

“All people make mistakes. All of us are sinners. All of us are criminals. All of us violate the law at some point in our lives. In fact, if the worst thing you have ever done is speed ten miles over the speed limit on the freeway, you have put yourself and others at more risk of harm than someone smoking marijuana in the privacy of his or her living room. Yet there are people in the United States serving life sentences for first-time drug offenses, something virtually unheard of anywhere else in the world.”

—Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow (about mass incarceration in the United States and the racism behind it)*

Ageism in Action

Marie Osmond and NutriSystem, Dual Honors

By Margaret Purcell, 1951

Way to go, NutriSystem. In an extended ad running on television, Marie Osmond explains that while her mother had nagged her about her weight for years, she only took it seriously when her mom said, “You don’t want to end up like me.” Hmm... was Olive Osmond heavy? A minute or two on the Internet and you can find a picture of Olive that had to be taken very late in life—she was somewhat big...and old. So what message does that send?

In case you weren’t sure, one of the next speakers in the same ad talks about turning 40 and realizing she had to do something about her weight—because how she looked at 40 was as good as it’s going to get.

Boo. Hiss.

Patriarchy and Feminism

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

Patriarchy is a form of community in which the father is the supreme authority in the family, clan, or tribe. Patriarchy uses “hierarchy” to establish some people as “superior,” which leads to setting up laws and institutions to further the “superior” group and limit the “inferior” groups.

Under patriarchy it is O.K. to kill “inferior” people and to let the “inferiors starve,” go without shelter, have no access to health-care, and get no education. Under patriarchy it is O.K. to rape women, keep women from adequate reproductive choice, beat women, force women to have children they cannot afford, keep women from rights given to men, and, most of all, treat women as though they are truly inferior, stupid, silly, and good only for supporting male authority. Under patriarchy it is also O.K. to rape children, force them into bondage, and sell them. In essence it is O.K. to have slaves in patriarchy.

In case you, the reader, think I am talking about another country, stop right there. This is happening all over the world and in America right now. Women and children are killed every day just because they are seen as inferior.

What is feminism’s role in patriarchy?

Feminism works to end patriarchy and seeks to end hierarchy, to build laws and institutions that support all people, to end the rape of women and children, to end wars, and to create a world where everyone is fed, sheltered, educated, and healthy. Men would understand that women work for the good of the species. Lesbians would be honored for their amazing and critical contributions to feminism. Does this sound like an ideal world? Well, it is the world I want and I will not settle until I get it.

OLOC Vision Statement

OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian feminist activists from many backgrounds working for justice and the well-being of all Old Lesbians.



Green Burials

By an Anonymous OLOC member, 1954

Following up on the Home Funerals article in the *March Reporter*, green burials are another way in which you can die in harmony with the values with which you live. In a green burial, people are buried in biodegradable containers, without embalming fluid, and are returned to the earth to compost into soil nutrients, sometimes memorialized with a tree.

Annually, the U.S. buries (conservatively) 1.5 million gallons of embalming fluid, which contains formaldehyde, a suspected carcinogen linked to nasal and lung cancer in mortuary workers. Also buried with these embalmed bodies every year: 100,000+ tons of steel; 30,000,000 board feet of hardwood timber; uncounted tons of plastic, vinyl, and fiberglass; 2,700 tons of copper and bronze; and 1,636,000 tons of reinforced concrete.

Cremation isn't much better: It takes fuel—wood, gas, or electricity—unwise, given global climate change; creates mercury and carbon emissions from burning synthetic materials and body implants; and suffers from no meaningful or enforceable environmental standards.

The number of green cemeteries is limited and growing slowly. The ideal is to convert existing cemeteries (rather than pristine land that should stay no-impact) to become sustainable.

Standard caskets are designed to resist decomposition, whereas biodegradable containers encourage decomposition. Such containers include recycled paper and cardboard coffins; woven fiber caskets (such as willow, bamboo, and sea grass); and shrouds (cotton, silk, and hemp). Even if you are buried in a conventional cemetery, you'll lessen your ecological footprint.



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wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344

Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.

Basic Steps for Green Burial

- Fill out a Natural Funeral Planning Worksheet.
- Avoid synthetic/non-natural materials in your container and clothing.
- Insist that no medical waste be buried with your body.
- Choose products designed to enhance breakdown in the soil web.
- Favor items from recycled and waste material.

Natural burial offers win/win scenarios for individuals, communities, herstoric cemeteries, and our wildlife friends!

Source: www.beatree.com/

Plan Ahead If You Have the Courage

Shewolf, 1932

(In her early 80s, Shewolf has been thinking about and researching the possibility of moving out of her house and into a facility for old people, a home for her "last or next to last decade on this earth." She lives in Florida.)

Don't wait until you are older and less able to get around when you search for a new home. You can do a much better job of seeing and/or getting the feel of places and communities the more able you are. Don't wait too long.

Remember, too, that what you wanted or needed last year may not be the same as what you want and need in the years to come. Think about that carefully.

Can you really stay in your home 'til the end? Will you be able to take care of it and yourself five or ten years from now like you can today? Do you want to burden—possibly for years—your friends, relatives, and/or children with your care later in life?

It would be nice to be able to be totally mobile and self-sufficient until we pass over, but will we, really? Think about that for a few minutes, and plan ahead if you have the courage.

If you are a member of national OLOC who wants to be on OLOC's national Yahoo e-mail list, subscribe at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/NationalOLOC/. If you have any problems, contact susan@oloc.org.



Donating Your Materials to Lesbian/Feminist/Womyn's Archives

By an Anonymous OLOC member, 1954

As mentioned in the *March Reporter*, Lesbian archives are an important resource to consider when making end-of-life plans. Too much of our Lesbian herstory has disappeared. According to the Lesbian Herstory Archives in NY, Lesbian archives preserve records of Lesbian lives so future generations will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives. Gathering and preserving these materials uncovers our previously denied herstory.

Memorabilia wanted includes magazines/journals, newspapers/clippings, books, bibliographies, photos, tapes, films, diaries, oral herstories, poetry/prose, auto/biographies, posters, letters, scrapbooks, artwork, manuscripts, flyers, organizational/private papers, and clothing, such as softball uniforms.

A state-by-state list of some co-sexual archives is at www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lavender-legacies-guide

Help preserve our legacy so Lillian Faderman's words when she came to her Lesbianism will never be repeated: "We had no past—or, if we did, no one knew or could tell me about it."

OLOC Website Homepage Re-Designed

Have you seen it? The OLOC website homepage www.oloc.org has been re-designed! The most exciting new feature is an almost seven-minute video compilation from the Oakland Gathering in 2014. Are you in it? www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dz59SrFxnE&feature=youtu.be

The video is also on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC. The video is a wonderful expression of the positive views of being old and the joy we find in coming together. Please share it with other Old Lesbians, especially those who are not currently OLOC members, and ask them to consider joining. If they cannot afford to pay, they can still join.

OLOC maintains a video library and will lend items to members. For a complete list of items available, check the website: www.oloc.org

U.S. Lesbian/feminist/womyn's Archives We Have Been Able to Find

Bay Area Lesbian History Archives Project (information); 510-229-7578
6536 Telegraph Avenue, Suite A-102,
Oakland CA 94609; balhap8@gmail.com;
labryshealthcarecircle.com/ace/balhap.html

June Mazer Lesbian Archives
626 North Robertson Boulevard, West
Hollywood CA 90069
Mailing address: P.O. Box 691866, West
Hollywood CA 90069-8866;
310-659-2478; mazerarchives@earthlink.net;
www.mazerlesbianarchives.org/

Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America
3 James Street, Cambridge MA 02138;
617-495-8647; slref@radcliffe.harvard.edu;
www.radcliffe.edu/schles/

The Sophia Smith Collection Women's History Archives at Smith College (home of OLOC and OLOHP papers)
7 Neilson Drive, Northampton MA 01063
413-585-2910; nyoung@smith.edu;
www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/archives

Woman, Earth, and Spirit
P.O. Box 130, Serafina NM 87569
575-421-2533; JaeHaggard@gmail.com;
www.lesbian-landykelibraryarchives.org/

Lesbian Herstory Archives
484 14th Street, Brooklyn NY 11215
718-768-DYKE
lesbianherstoryarchives@gmail.com;
www.lesbianherstoryarchives.org/

Ohio Lesbian Archives
P.O. Box 20075, Cincinnati OH 45220
513-256-7695; OLArchives@gmail.com;
ohiolesbianarchives.wordpress.com/

We have also heard of a Lesbian archives in Sonoma County CA but have not been able to determine if it is operating yet.

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Worthy Quotations from Some Noteworthy Women

One of the benefits of being a mature, well-educated woman is that you are not afraid of expletives. And you have no fear to put a fool in his place. That's the power of language and experience. You learn a lot from Shakespeare. —*Dame Judi Dench (1934)*

Time and trouble will tame an advanced young woman. An advanced old woman is uncontrollable by any earthly force. —*Dorothy Sayers, essayist and mystery writer (1892–1957)*

I became a Lesbian because of women, because women are beautiful, strong, and compassionate. —*Rita Mae Brown (1944)*

When one is too old for love, one finds great comfort in good dinners. —*Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960)*

The color of your skin, your gender, your sexual orientation, and your wealth matter greatly to the pursuit and attainment of success in America. The complexities of race, class, gender, and where you sit on the economic ladder create differences among us, differences that place us on one side or the other of privilege and power. To say otherwise, to say, *We are just like everybody else*, has no meaning in a progressive context. The phrase, as used by queers in pursuit of mainstream “respectability,” has enormous class and race bias attached to it. *Which everybody else?*

—*Carmen Vazquez (1949)*



Alix

OLOC works for change by supporting:

- ◆ comprehensive immigration reform
- ◆ elimination of violence against women
- ◆ enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- ◆ all efforts to challenge/overturn racism, classism, sexism, ableism, and ageism
- ◆ an end to corporate “personhood”
- ◆ an end to any curtailment of voting rights

Must-Read Book

This Bridge Called My Back Reissued

Cherríe Moraga, co-editor of *This Bridge Called My Back*, is proud to announce that the updated and expanded fourth edition of the foundational text of women of color feminism was published in March.

Originally released in 1981, *This Bridge Called My Back* is a testimony to women of color feminism as it emerged in the last quarter of the 20th century. Through personal essays, criticism, interviews, testimonials, poetry, and visual art, the collection explores, as she writes, “the complex confluence of identities – race, class, gender, and sexuality – systemic to women of color oppression and liberation.”

Reissued nearly 35 years after its inception, the fourth edition contains an extensive new introduction by Ms. Moraga, along with a previously unpublished statement by her late co-editor Gloria Anzaldúa. It also includes visual artists whose work was produced during the same period as *Bridge*, including Betye Saar, Ana Mendieta, and Yolanda López.

Bridge continues to reflect an evolving definition of feminism, one that can effectively adapt to, and help inform an understanding of the changing economic and social conditions of women of color in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Chrystos, a keynote speaker at the Oakland Gathering in 2014, has several pieces in the book. It can be purchased in either hardcover or paperback from the feminist bookstores at www.oloc.org/resources/bookstores.php or from the publisher at www.sunypress.edu/p-6102-this-bridge-called-my-back-four.aspx (this link also includes the table of contents).



OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

We welcome everyone as either a member or a supporter, whether or not you can send money now. To be a member, you must be in your 60th year or older and be a Lesbian. To be a supporter, you may be anyone else. As either a member or a supporter, you will receive four issues of the OLOC Reporter before you have to renew. Couples may both use the form below.

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