

# Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



## Boston Gathering Coming Up

Save July 18 or 19–22, 2012, for our National OLOC Gathering.

✓ **Confirmed:** We are thrilled that Ferron, poet and songwriter extraordinaire, will be at Gathering to play and sing for us. Ferron has been a crowd-pleaser for decades and a vital part of the womyn's music story.

✓ **Confirmed:** Vera Martin, an OLOC founder and a co-director *emerita*, will give a keynote speech. We will keep you updated when other keynoters have accepted invitations to speak, so stay tuned for further developments.

✓ **Confirmed:** Carolyn Gage, the brilliant, popular, award-winning playwright and performer will present her Lesbian Tent Revival, which has drawn crowds at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for many years.

✓ **Confirmed:** We will hold an all-day free workshop on July 18th for any of you who want to attend. It will focus on developing OLOC's action plan for addressing racism, classism and other oppressions.

So, please come to the Gathering and plan for an adventure filled with the excitement of new ideas and new friends, fun and festivities.

The Steering Committee will keep you busy with three full days of workshops, caucuses, keynote speakers, a fishbowl, a live and a silent auction, a book signing by OLOC authors, and—to kick off the proceedings—a reception featuring an old-fashioned sing-along with Judy Ross on piano.

You can look forward to a talent show (so bring some of that), a Memorial, the second presentation of the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award, and a dance.

The Boston/Woburn Hilton Hotel in Woburn, MA, will host The Gathering and provide complimentary breakfasts, free parking, and wireless Internet, as well as a clubby, comfortable Hospitality Room to serve as social central for snacking, gaming (dominoes, anyone?), chatting, reading, and relaxing. We are thrilled to have this attractive space where we can hang out.

The theme of the 2012 National Gathering is "Bridges to Justice: 21st Century Activism". As part of our commitment to justice, we will provide the full day workshop on July 18th (see above). A look at our vision statement (see p. 5) will tell you more about our priorities. Here's one crucial sentence: "OLOC will use its power and resources to advance the just world we all envision."

We encourage you to think about presenting workshops that relate to strategies for political action during these active times and the ways in which oppressions intersect. Of course we are interested in other topics, too.

The hotel has already set up a website specifically for our Gathering, so it is not too early to reserve your rooms. Think about coming early for the workshop and maybe adding a few days before or after to see some of the many exciting and interesting places in the area. <http://tinyurl.com/7nzpo5a>

**By Alix Dobkin, 1940**

**The Reporter ...** A quarterly publication of OLOC  
December 2011 VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4

OLOC is a nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

### Report from Puget Sound OLOC

*Gloria Stancich, 1935, Mary Henry, 1939*

We find ourselves riding the wave of energy and excitement created here in the Northwest by the 2011 NW OLOC Regional Gathering. Many new connections and friendships have come from the experience. Our self-confidence has also been boosted immeasurably by the great reviews and supportive reports from the more than 210+ Old Lesbians who attended that event (roughly 75% of whom were from the Pacific Northwest). To see some of the wonderful pictures from the Gathering, go to our website at [www.psoloc.org](http://www.psoloc.org), and click on "slide show" in the first paragraph of the Home Page. One picture is a sampling of the group of Lesbians over age 75 who were honored on the first evening. Look through the rest and enjoy! If you have pictures from the Gathering you are willing to share, click on the link on the website.

We had conversations with chapter leaders from around the country at the Gathering, and out of that came the idea of a leadership e-mail list to connect chapter leaders, the National Steering Committee, and others interested in discussing and helping shape OLOC policies, sharing ideas for actions, and finding ways for us all to support one another as this great organization continues to grow in both size and influence. Some chapters and individuals have already joined this list. To learn more, or for help in signing on, e-mail [Mary@psoloc.org](mailto:Mary@psoloc.org). This is a Gmail list and not to be confused with the wonderful NationalOLOC Yahoo group where we can all post and share our lives, concerns, the state of the union and the world, the weather, and how to survive another La Ninã winter! We wish you all a happy and peaceful year

### Bay Area Retreat

The Bay Area Chapter held a retreat in September 2011 at Westminster Retreat in Alamo. The program began with a check-in question: "In what ways do you feel different or unusual in comparison with others here?"

On Saturday afternoon we focused on how we feel about cognitive disabilities. Later we offered a collage workshop, a grief group, and a group on how it was to be a Lesbian mother raising children. Saturday evening we had our usual evening salon where those who wanted to presented their creative interests (music, writing, art, etc.).

On Sunday morning Ginny Garrett and Jan Couvillon led a session that might be called "Assertiveness in Old Age." That was followed by a go-around about our feelings, especially our fears, in response to the current political situation in the United States and the world. Sunday afternoon Ida Red directed us in dramatizing our stories.

### Chapters & OLOC Approved Research

To find out about OLOC chapters, presently in Minnesota, California, New York, Ohio, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado, look here: [www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php](http://www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php)

Doing or wondering about participating in research? Check in with our Research Gatekeeper Sharon Raphael or view our guidelines here: [www.oloc.org/researchrules.php](http://www.oloc.org/researchrules.php). For chapter or research information in print, phone 1-888-706-7506 and leave your name and address.

### Bay Area Study Group Formed

A study group has formed to explore ways that women with needs might be assisted in Bay Area OLOC. We recently had our initial meeting (with one person absent) and have decided to create an anonymous questionnaire. Based on the response we gather from the questionnaire, we hope to have a clearer idea about issues that we haven't addressed before.

### **"I Didn't Go to Tacoma" Party**

*By Joan Emerson, 1935*

Marge Nelson came up with the idea of having a potluck for those who did not go to the Regional Gathering in Tacoma. Thirteen of us met in the Coleridge community room on Sunday, July 31. At the end we became serious and talked about our fears in response to the political situation. Now we plan to schedule such an event each time our friends fly away for an OLOC gathering.

**OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation and the Carpenter Foundation**

### **Bay Area OLOC History and Archives**

Lynn Brown is the Bay Area (CA) chapter archivist. The chapter has memorabilia from OLOC that Lynn is placing in scrapbooks that are brought to chapter events. "Eventually our papers will be placed in archives for others to learn how our fabulous history and support have occurred. The history is really interesting and it's no small accomplishment how the ideas Bay Area OLOC has harbored have grown and been refined over the years."

#### **Mission Statement for OLOC**

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change is a national organization for Old Lesbians age 60 and over and will:

- Promote Old Lesbian Pride.
- Educate, support and empower Old Lesbians.
- Challenge ageism in our society and educate the general public about the effects of ageism and oppression.
- Celebrate our strengths, our talents, our experiences, and document our lives.
- Convene National Gatherings of Old Lesbians.
- Encourage, establish, and support local chapters and regional events

### **Regional Gathering in Tacoma**

*By Tita Caldwell, 1931*

I was fortunate to attend this year's Regional OLOC Gathering in Tacoma, WA. I was happy to serve, along with Ruth Debra, as liaison between National OLOC and the Pacific Northwest OLOC, particularly because I had the chance to get to know the Gang of Four. Acting as liaison involved long talks around Mary and Margaret's dining room table, hearing about the various Old Lesbians, as well as our visions and values. Their hospitality was marvelous, both in their home and in organizing rides to and from the Gathering.

This was my third OLOC Gathering, and it certainly lived up to my expectations. It was well organized, and the entertainment, keynote speakers, and workshops were enjoyable and stimulating. The hospitality room, where Ruth and Sherry presided, was a big hit.

One change from former Gatherings I've attended was that in Tacoma Lesbians who defined themselves as old were welcomed even if they were under 60. National OLOC supports our traditional age limit of 60, and I wasn't sure how I would feel about this change, but actually the main thing I noticed was the large number of women older than I am; more than 30 women were over the age of 75. This was a rare treat.

I would like to thank the Old Lesbians who took charge and agreed to organize and produce the 2011 Regional Gathering in Tacoma. The Gang of Four (Gloria Stancich, 1933, Mary Henry, 1939, Deirdre Knowles, 1947, and Margaret Purcell, 1951) did an awesome job, each one contributing her special skill and experience. They had close to 30 volunteers, and with their help, they put on another unforgettable OLOC Gathering.

### In Need of Friendly Support?

We have OLOC volunteers willing to reach out and call you or write to you if you would like support or are feeling a bit lonely. Just let us know and we would look forward to being in touch with you.

### 60+ Age Limit By *Alix Dobkin, 1940*

The Steering Committee and the National OLOC Yahoo group are currently discussing the 60+ year age limit. Some who believe that OLOC should be open to any self-identified Old Lesbian question it, whereas others hold that changing the age limit would dilute and weaken our mission. Each point of view reflects concern for the health and well-being of OLOC and how we can function best in a social/political context of breathtaking changes. If you've thought about it and have a constructive suggestion, we'd be happy to know about it. Send your ideas to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or to the post office box.

### Ageism through the Decades

We would like to run a series of articles in *The Reporter* by Lesbians in your 80s and 90s about your experiences with the changing face of ageism. How did it differ in each decade? Send your account to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or to the post office box.

### New Group in the East

A new group has formed in eastern Connecticut called Community of Old Lesbians (CoOL). Contact Christine Pattee at 860-742-6511 or [c2pattee@aol.com](mailto:c2pattee@aol.com)

**Available From OLOC:**  
OLOC T-Shirts • Denim Shirts • Sweatshirts  
Cloisonné Lapel Pins • Buttons • And More!  
e-mail, phone, write or go to [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org)

### Civil Rights Activists By *Jan Griesinger, 1942*

OLOC proposes to honor Lesbians who actively participated in the civil rights movement of the 1950s or 1960s. (We are not saying Lesbians who were out in that era but simply "Lesbians.") We are seeking nominations of Lesbians who played a substantive role in local or national movements organizing for civil rights.

Nominate yourself or another, give details as to what the involvement was, and contribute \$50-\$100 toward a plaque that will become part of the 2012 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bayard Rustin. Rustin was an African American gay man who played a central role in the movement. The 2012 celebration is being sponsored by the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) and organized by OLOC member Mandy Carter. Most of the funds raised from donations for the plaques will go to the NBJC. If funds are limited, let us know, and we may be able to raise them for a particular nominee. Nominations can be sent to OLOC's e-mail or mailing address and are needed by March 1, 2012.

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

- [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org). E-mail: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org)
- Post Office Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701; 888-706-7506

This Newsletter Brought to You By:

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

Proofreaders and Copy-editors: Malinda McCain, 1940; and Nancy Krody, 1939

Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940; and Jan Griesinger, 1942

Design/Layout: Margaret~ Purcell, 1951

The mailing crew and all of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 1, 2012. Submission guidelines: copy due by Jan.1, May 1, Aug.1, and Nov. 1. Limit submissions to 300 words. Contact us for a style guide. We may edit articles for clarity and length. Send articles to OLOC: [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.

### Steering Committee Adopts New Vision Statement

After a year of many drafts, the OLOC National Steering Committee adopted its first-ever Vision Statement. It is included in a five-page statement about anti-racism and anti-classism.

The project arose from an ad hoc meeting at the 2010 National Gathering in Cleveland.

To see the entire statement about anti-racism and anti-classism, send a request to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or to the post office box or go to [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org), where it is posted. We want everyone to read it and give us feedback, ideas, suggestions, and thoughts.

#### OLOC Vision Statement

OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian activists from many backgrounds. OLOC's priorities will be to challenge and oppose ageism, racism, classism, sexism, and ableism. OLOC will collaborate with other organizations doing the work of social justice. OLOC will use its power and resources to advance the just world we all envision. OLOC will seek leadership from Old Lesbians of Color and Old Lesbians of a variety of class backgrounds in these efforts to address multiple oppressions, including as advisors to and members of the Steering Committee.

### Write for *Lesbian Connection* by December 25th

*Lesbian Connection* is having a special issue "Our Elders—Ways to Stay Connected, Successes and Suggestions." Material is due December 25, 2011. OLOC would love to have you write up personal stories, things from your chapters, tales of Gatherings, usefulness of *Reporter* and e-blast, all to show how OLOC keeps us connected. E-mail them at [elsiepub@aol.com](mailto:elsiepub@aol.com) (please include your name and where you receive LC).

### Facebook and Yahoo Group

OLOC is on Facebook. We could use more likes and more action. To visit us on Facebook, go to <http://tinyurl.com/87tcrsy>. Also, don't forget we have a National OLOC Yahoo group with over 100 members. If you want to join for conversation and information-sharing, just let Susan know at [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org).

### Word Change from "Subscribers" to "Members"

To make things less confusing, we now refer to all age 60 or older Lesbians on our current mailing list as members of OLOC. In the past, we have called you subscribers. Nothing else changes. Supporters are still under age 60. If a household has both a member and a supporter, we are happy to continue to send just one *Reporter* to the household if that is what you prefer. Prices of membership are identical to what prices for a subscription to *The Reporter* were in the past. See the form in the back of this issue if it is time for you to renew. As always, if you are experiencing financial limitations, we are happy to keep your membership active. Just let us know.

### We Want Feedback

The Steering Committee is happy and grateful to receive input from OLOC members and supporters about what OLOC is doing, both praise and helpful suggestions. E-mail your thoughts to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or mail them to the post office box.



OLOC is an affiliate of Wolfe Video. Use this link to order from Wolfe, and OLOC will receive cash to support our work. Wolfe Video is Lesbian-owned-and-operated.

[www.wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344](http://www.wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344)

**Memorial Plaque & Slide Show** The OLOC Memorial Plaque will be displayed at the 2012 Gathering at the Boston/Woburn Hilton in July. If you want to add the name of an Old Lesbian who died recently or in the past, send her name, year of birth, and year of death to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or the P. O. box. Unless you tell us not to, she will also be included in the Memorial Slide Show that will be part of the ceremony at the Gathering. Include a donation (we suggest \$20 but more if you can, less if you can't). Send an online photo with the same information to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org). (For those of you without computer access, please find a friend to send the photo.)

**OLOC Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award Seeks Nominations** Nominees must be 70 years of age or older. Nominations can be made by OLOC members. You should describe the outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements of the nominee and show how she has benefited the lives of Lesbians. The award will be presented at the OLOC National Gathering in Boston, July 2012. The deadline for nominations is April 8, 2012. Send your nominations with the full contact information for yourself and your nominee to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org).

**A Fragrance-Free Event** As usual, we request that you come free-of-fragrance (clothing, body-care products, no perfumes or colognes) to protect the health of the chemically injured among us.

**Ideas for the Auction** We will hold an auction at the National Gathering. If you have a condo, cabin, or other dwelling that you do not use at some times of the year, perhaps you would put use of it up for auction. Of course, we would make sure that only OLOC members could bid on and use it, and you could specify when it would be available.

**Requesting Workshop Proposals** If you have an interest in presenting a 90-minute workshop at the National Gathering, please send an outline of what it would include. List details of materials or equipment you may need. Include all contact information of presenter/presenters with (for each) a short bio and a high-resolution photo. Proposals are due by April 1, 2012, and you will be informed by the end of April whether or not your proposal was accepted. Preference will be given to workshops relating to our theme: "Bridges to Justice: 21st Century Activism." Send to [info@oloc.org](mailto:info@oloc.org) or to the post office box, attn. Sally. Questions? Phone 888-706-7506.

**Photographers Notice** We really love receiving photos of Gatherings. We have a Tip Sheet for photographers that you can request in advance or pick up at registration. We ask that you identify all subjects in every photo you send to us. We will also ask that everyone who is okay with her image being used by OLOC in *The Reporter*, on the website, or in other publications sign a photo release at registration.

## Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

### Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH  
Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY

[jan@oloc.org](mailto:jan@oloc.org)  
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740-448-6424  
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### Steering Committee Members:

Tita Caldwell, 1931, San Francisco, CA  
Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA  
Mina Meyer, 1940, Long Beach, CA  
Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH

[Tita@oloc.org](mailto:Tita@oloc.org)  
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415-970-0694  
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### Mandy Carter Receives New Award

Mandy Carter, 1948, was presented with this year's Frank Porter Graham Award by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union Legal Foundation. Graham was president of the University of North Carolina and a U.S. Senator. The award is for those who advance civil liberties in North Carolina.

Mandy is one of the country's leading African-American Lesbian social-justice activists. She has organized for social justice, racial equality, and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) equality for more than four decades. In 2005 Carter was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize as a part of the "1,000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize" to celebrate the often invisible peace work of thousands of women around the world.



### Ageism on a Postage Stamp

Sharon Raphael, 1941, OLOC member and research gatekeeper, recently wrote to The Victory Fund, which pushed for a United States Postal Service stamp of Harvey Milk. There is going to be a stamp, but Sharon detected internalized ageism in the picture of Harvey that was chosen, one depicting him at a much younger age than when he was most active and successful. She wrote to point it out in hopes that the members of the Fund will take a look at ageism in the community. A quote from her letter: "The actual picture they showed was not only a younger man but his hair looked dyed and the face artificially perfect. It was just wrong and not how we remember Harvey." If you want to see the suggested stamp photo and the one Sharon likes better, send an e-mail to [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org) or a note to the post office box.

### The Saga Continues By Virginia Mollenkott, 1932

Our senior community publishes a monthly magazine written by residents (at an assisted-living facility) and edited by staff. The September 2011 issue contained a poem in which a resident expressed his sorrow that "gay people continue to be so aggressive." Immediately I phoned the editor, asking for an apology for publishing an irrational slur. Subsequently, I learned that ten heterosexual couples had sent a protest letter and that many other residents had made phone calls similar to mine. As of yesterday, the October issue contains a specific apology in which the editor claims not to have read the poem carefully enough to have noticed the slur. I feel sure she will read more carefully in the future, and I am encouraged to know that so many residents are justice-oriented enough to have voiced their objections.

### New Book about Karin Boye

*Karin Boye and the People Around Her*, a book about a famous Swedish Lesbian, Karin Boye, who died in 1941, has been written by Pia-Kristina Garde (Svenhard), 1951. The book is in Swedish and is receiving good reviews. Go here to listen to Pia-Kristina talk about it in English. <http://tinyurl.com/6nqrp9c>

### Margaret Mann's Book is Out

*A Dramatically Different Direction* is a poignant, funny and heartrending autobiographical commentary on disability by OLOC member Margaret Mann, a 66-year-old, biracial Lesbian Buddhist in a wheelchair. In 1997 a small blood vessel in Margaret's spinal cord burst and launched her on a journey she never could have imagined. This is her story. The book is available from <http://tinyurl.com/7tfadd9> or from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

### Lesbian Public School Teachers:

**"I'm a marcher."**

**By Donna Cassyd, 1940**

I interviewed 22 teachers for my dissertation about Lesbian teachers. Ten were retired, like me, and twelve were currently teaching. Six of the ten retired teachers were out, and eight of the twelve working teachers were out. However, four in both groups were closeted, indicating that Lesbian teachers still face barriers to being their authentic selves in the classroom.

Most of the teachers say the pace of change has been too slow and express a need for vigilance in the face of those who continue to question their place in the schools.

Here are some comments by the retired teachers:

- Coming out was the hardest thing to do. But my principal said, "You're welcome here." I was in seventh heaven. I had come out to my district. I had come out to all my friends and colleagues and administrators. And here I was, a counselor in an East L.A. middle school.
- Some people work in more conservative communities. That would be pretty frightening because your job is on the line. Even though they say they can't fire you, there's ways of really getting people, and we all understand that. So I support those who are closeted.

When Celia, a retired elementary school teacher, started teaching, she went right to the principal's office and said, "I'm a Lesbian. Just so I'm telling you right now." Asked about her community involvement, she said, "I'm a marcher."

Betty was one of the earliest teachers to enter the workplace. She had to take a test in college, required of all female physical education majors, designed to identify and eliminate those with homosexual tendencies. She remembers "a young lady who failed the test and just disappeared."

### Health Care

Keep up the pressure on lawmakers and others in government at all levels to institute single-payer health care in the United States.

### Lesbian Photos

**By Cathy Cade, 1942**

The New York opening of the photo exhibit "Lesbians Seeing Lesbians: Building Community in Early Feminist Photography" by Tee Corrine, Cathy Cade, and JEB, went very well. You can still see the images with captions at [www.leslielohman.org](http://www.leslielohman.org): click on "exhibit history" and scroll down to find it. If you click on an image it gets bigger.



**Photographer and OLOC member, Cathy Cade**



**Book Review:*****When We Were Outlaws*, Jeanne Cordova, Spinsters Ink, 436 pages  
By Jennice Thomas, 1940**

This is a memoir that reads like a novel, a real can't-put-the-book-down page-turner. Cordova sweeps us back to places and times when the world we live in now was beginning. The place is Los Angeles, the time is 1975, and Cordova is on the front lines organizing the first national Lesbian conference and creating *The Lesbian Tide*, the first national magazine with Lesbian in its title. She takes us to some of the first women's music festivals, gay pride parades, and Lesbian/Feminist centers.

But this is also a personal love story where non-monogamy, the politically correct theory of the times, crumbles when it confronts a passionate love affair.

Haunted by her memories of an abusive, homophobic father, Cordova also deals with betrayal by her gay "godfather" when Morris Kight ousts her from the board of the Gay Community Services Center in L.A., an action that sparks a divisive strike by Lesbian feminists against the first well-funded gay organization in Los Angeles.

*When We Were Outlaws* will speak to activists who served on every front during those turbulent times when the revolution to make the world a little friendlier and safer for Lesbians and gays was in full swing. It will also serve to remind those of us who were only timidly emerging from our closets of just how far we've come.

**Louise Griffin, 1937–2011**

Louise Griffin of Something Special in Miami died recently. Our sympathies to her long-time partner Maryanne Powers. Louise was an ardent and fierce supporter of Everything Lesbian.

**Spousal Impoverishment**

News from SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced several actions it will take to improve the health and well-being of LGBT people. For LGBT older adults, the most significant announcement was that HHS will instruct the States that they are empowered to treat same-sex partners the same as married heterosexual couples when it comes to protection from "spousal impoverishment" under Medicaid.

Until now, LGBT older couples have not been eligible for the exemptions that apply to married heterosexual couples, which are there to protect a healthy spouse from having to give up retirement savings and the family home to qualify a spouse for long-term care. States now have the ability to correct this inequity. However, the federal government is not forcing States to take corrective actions but instead telling States they have the legal power to do so.

We are now seeking personal stories of LGBT older couples in which one person is in need of, or almost in need of, long-term care, will need Medicaid coverage at some point, and owns a home or retirement savings that could be jeopardized without spousal-impoverishment protection. Couples must be comfortable going public with their story, and willing to be potentially interviewed by reporters.

If you know of any LGBT older couples who fit this criteria, please contact Sage: [jevans@sageusa.org](mailto:jevans@sageusa.org) or 212-741-2247. Thank you for your help.

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**Did you know** that 70% of anti-LGBT murder victims are people of color? Go to [colorlines.com](http://colorlines.com) for more about this and for other stories of interest. You will have to enter the subject "anti-LGBT murder victims" in the search field.

## Letters to the Editor



Dear OLOC,

I'm writing to share my thoughts on car insurance. I recently called our Lesbian Allstate Insurance agent to get some answers. I found that, yes, folks over 65 do get a premium increase and again at 75 and again at 85. The two reasons given for these increases: (1) to cover the increase in claims and (2) to encourage the older driver or her family to reconsider continuing to drive in advancing age.

I took a "Mature Driver Test" online and got a certificate to hand over to Allstate for a \$40 annual discount (about 2.5%). My insurance agent couldn't calculate exactly how much my costs have gone up due to age and how much was just the annual general insurance increases, but she said it was a pittance compared to the male 18-25 age group cost of insurance.

Rita Kresha, 1934

Dear OLOC,

I agree that insurance companies shouldn't be jumping our rates because of our age. I don't agree with justifying our protest by saying "isn't the accident rate higher for 16-25 year olds?" I feel it's important to avoid phrasing that implies our problems come from competition with other disadvantaged/exploited groups. We need to aim at the companies, not the young people.

I read recently that the companies' justification is based on accidents per mile driven and ours look worse because we drive less and are more often in the fender-bender zones of business districts. By number of drivers and registered cars, our records are better than average.

Polly Taylor, 1929

Dear OLOC,

Are You Fed Up Yet?

I am fed up reading *AARP The Magazine* and *AARP Bulletin* and other similar publications. Let's stop reading about Medicare and Social Security going away; obviously, both cannot. These publications make seniors appear weak, vulnerable and easily led. Let's have more articles about Lesbians, senior housing, working together helping each other out with our skill sets to mold our own destiny. Send in articles, comments, letters to the AARP editor that demonstrate WE are still a very viable group of people. Women, start fighting back with what IS working and HOW best to protect ourselves in an uncertain world. Share ideas and what you think. And please infuse some positives to offset some of these negatives. [aarp.org/pride](http://aarp.org/pride)

Jan Marotta, 1940

Dear OLOC,

I sincerely thank you for the birthday card. How very, very beautiful.

Makes me glad to be a woman and, better, glad to be an old woman. I appreciate the reaffirmations you give, the joy you give.

Very sincerely,  
Gaye Adegbalola, 1944  
[www.adegbalola.com](http://www.adegbalola.com)

**We're Listening...**

OLOC wants to hear from you! Send Letters to the Editor to [susan@oloc.org](mailto:susan@oloc.org).



## OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

**We want everyone who wants *The Reporter* to receive it. Please check all that apply:**

<b>Options</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) not sending money at this time, but we want to receive <i>The Reporter</i> for another year. <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) at least 60 years old and want to be an OLOC member (be OLOC members). I (we) understand that I (we) will receive four issues of <i>The Reporter</i> for each year of membership. \$25 –\$50 for a one–year membership. <input type="checkbox"/> My partner is not yet 60 but is a supporter. Her information is below. <input type="checkbox"/> Send one copy of <i>The Reporter</i> to both of us. <input type="checkbox"/> Send us each a copy of <i>The Reporter</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to receive <i>The Reporter</i> but I (we) can contribute only \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) supporters of OLOC under the age of 60. I (we) would like to receive four issues of <i>The Reporter</i> . \$30 - \$60.
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**To pay using a PayPal account or a credit card, go to [oloc.org](http://oloc.org) and click the Donate button. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use a credit card here. If a couple is paying, please include both names in the comments section.**

We very much appreciate you giving us your full date of birth, ethnicity/race and disability status. We use statistics from the information when applying for grants and to monitor our diversity. The statistics will never be attached to any names. Only OLOC uses our mailing list. We do not share it.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnicity** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ethnicity** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disability** \_\_\_\_\_ **Disability** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Out of United States? If so, additional address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**New Subscription**  **or Renewal**  **May we send you an occasional e-mail?** Yes  No

**I prefer:**  a print copy via U.S. Mail  a PDF via e-mail **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "OLOC"**

**Skills you can offer OLOC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and could help work toward establishing one.**

**I found out about OLOC from** \_\_\_\_\_

*Winter and Summer addresses: It does cost us money if we don't have your correct address. Let us know which address to use for March, June, September and December.*

12.2017

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Registration materials will be included in the next issue of *The Reporter*, due out in early February.

**The next issue of *The Reporter* will be out in February instead of March, so the deadline for content is earlier than usual. Copy is due by January 1, 2012.**