

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



OLOC is proud and pleased to announce the winner of this year's Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award, Joy Griffith of Hingham, MA, who was instrumental in producing the wonderful Golden Threads events in Provincetown. She will be featured in the next issue of *The Reporter*, with more details about her life. Meanwhile, congratulations, Joy!



Joy Griffith and Nicky

See pages 2-3 for information about Daylong Intensive on Activism for Racial and Class Justice.

Gathering, Gathering, Gathering, Gathering *By Alix Dobkin, 1940*

OLOC is thrilled that Barbara Smith and Charlotte Bunch have accepted our invitations to deliver keynote speeches at the National Gathering in July. Barbara Smith was among the first to define an African American women's literary tradition and to build Black women's studies and Black feminism in the United States. She co-founded the Cohambee River Collective, was director and publisher of *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press*, and has edited three major collections about Black women: *Conditions: Five*, *The Black Women's Issue* (with Lorraine Bethel, 1979);



Barbara Smith

All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies (with Gloria T. Hull and Patricia Bell Scott, 1982); and *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*, 1983. She is currently serving her second term as an Albany, NY, Common Council member.

Charlotte Bunch is Founding Director and Senior Scholar at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University and has been an activist, author, and organizer in the feminist, Lesbian, and human rights movements for over four decades.



Charlotte Bunch

Continued on pg 2

The Reporter — A quarterly publication of OLOC

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

Vol 22, Issue 2

May/June 2012

A Distinguished Professor in Women's and Gender Studies, she was a founder of Washington, DC, Women's Liberation, The Furies, and of *Quest: A Feminist Quarterly*; has edited nine anthologies; and has written two books, *Passionate Politics: Feminist Theory in Action* and *Demanding Accountability: The Global Campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women's Human Rights*.

Other highlights of the weekend include our official opening celebration on Thursday night with an address by E. Denise Simmons, vice mayor of Cambridge, MA, and then the presentation of our 2nd Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award to Joy Griffith, followed by *Celebrating the Life of Del Martin*, a film by award-winning filmmaker Debra Chasnoff about the Del Martin memorial held in San Francisco.

To close the evening, Judy Ross will lead us in a community sing-along featuring old favorites and Broadway show tunes.

Friday, Barbara Smith will deliver a keynote address, and in the evening a Talent Show and dance will be open to women of all ages. In fact, all our evening programs plus Sunday afternoon's Lesbian Tent Revival are open to women of any age.

Saturday we will witness a Fishbowl on Ageism and will be treated to a keynote address from Vera Martin. The useful and valuable silent auction items—which we hope you are planning to bring with you—will be displayed for viewing and bidding. The auction will close just before Ferron entertains and enlightens us.



Judy Ross

Sunday morning, following a brief memorial program, an authors' book signing and live auction will be offered. On Sunday afternoon Charlotte Bunch will deliver a keynote address, and Sister Carolyn Gage will share her "Lesbian Tent Revival and the Sisterhood of the Sacred Synapse." Our weekend closes in the evening with two films. The first, *Left on Pearl*, about Lesbian activism in the 70s in Cambridge, documents the establishment of the longest continually operating women's center in the U.S. and sparked the development of many other feminist and community organizations in the Boston area and nationally. The second film, *Passionate Politics*, is about keynoter Charlotte Bunch's life and work.

After and between daily plenary sessions, workshops, and caucuses, our elegant, clubby Hospitality Room will provide a comfortable space in which you will be invited to relax, chat with other Old Lesbians, play games, snack, and gather your wits for the next round of activity.

So register now and prepare for a unique and exciting weekend that will keep you busy, illuminated, and entertained in comfort in the company of Old Lesbians from all over North America, Australia, Japan, and maybe others.

Daylong Intensive on Activism for Racial and Class Justice

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

OLOC wants to add the voices of Old Lesbians to alliances that are the hallmark of 21st century progressive movements. To contribute more fully to the actions and activism that will help snatch our future away from the regressive, racist, classist, woman-hating forces we thought we'd left behind in

Continued on pg 3

the last century, the OLOC Steering Committee plans to weave Building Bridges to Justice throughout our days and nights together in July.

Thursday's intensive on July 19th prioritizes this theme. To help us plan how OLOC can be better allies and activists in the areas of race and class, we have scheduled a daylong anti-oppression intensive. Here is what Mandy and Lisa have to say about it:

"Join us for a daylong institute on racial justice! This session will be about racial and class justice organizing and building inclusive social justice organizations! Together we will deepen our understanding around the thinking/frameworks/lessons learned that ground us in racial and class justice work. We will also focus on the day-to-day practices of being inclusive in our organizing by sharing tools, strategies, and our collective experiences doing racial and class justice work.

Most importantly, we want to hear from you how OLOC can continue on a path of being more inclusive in its work, mission, and organizational structure." Facilitators: Mandy Carter, Mandy Carter Consulting, and Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz, *intersecciones/intersecciones consulting.*

If you plan to attend (open to Lesbians 60 or older), please let us know by June 1, 2012. There is a place on the registration form to check. You will need to come one night early (Wednesday the 18th) to be onsite Thursday morning. Local Lesbians can of course commute. The session itself is free, but you

will be on your own for the extra night at the hotel and for your meals. The event will take place in both the morning and afternoon of the 19th, with the full Gathering opening in the evening.

"What I really feel is radical is trying to make coalitions with people who are different from you. I feel it is radical to be dealing with race and sex and class and sexual identity all at one time. I think that is really radical because it has never been done before."

Barbara Smith as cited in Hill Collins, 2000, from Wikipedia.

Just in from Workshop Coordinator
By Sally Tatnall, 1937

Here's a peek at some of the workshops. Ferron will be doing a talking circle, and Carolyn Gage will do a workshop on interrupting racism. For the active Lesbians we have circle dancing with Evi Beck. There will be Lesbians from Japan who will fill us in on feminism in Japan, and Suzanne Bellamy from Australia will lead a workshop about the international squeeze on women. Other interests include poetry as activism, Lesbian grandmothers, spirituality and justice, and home movies. Mandy Carter will have a workshop on the coming celebration of the life of Bayard Rustin. And there's more. Come to the gathering and have a wonderful and enlightened time.

You may have heard a rumor or seen an early flier with Byllye Avery listed as one of the keynote speakers. We regret to say that Byllye cannot attend after all, but she hopes to come at some future time.



Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz



Mandy Carter

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

Steering Committee
By Alix Dobkin, 1940

Many of our members have requested Boston as a National Gathering site because they want to take advantage of the area's unique cultural and historical attractions, not to mention its notable local feminist history and strong Lesbian community. Thus, in mid-April the Steering Committee met at the Boston Woburn Hilton Hotel where we planned for and visualized hundreds of you filling the rooms, milling about the lobby, and chatting in the cozy conversation places in July.

Midway through the four-day marathon, we emerged from our meeting room for the short drive to Sue Reamer's perfect space where she hosted an inspirational afternoon of songs, stories, and delicious snacks. Around fifty local Lesbians showed us an enthusiastic welcome in return for information about the Gathering. Back at the Hilton the following day, many of them made their way to the clubby comfort of what will serve as our Hospitality Room. World-class volunteers Pnina Tobin (CA), 1942, and Judy Benson (OH), 1946, are organizing local volunteer teams and disability services for the Gathering and instructed the circle of Lesbians. We look forward to working with these women and are confident that they will keep our gears in motion and our July event running smoothly.

New Chapters and Groups

Utah, New Mexico, and Maine all have new chapters or groups forming and there is an OLOC gathering in Chicago in June.

OLOC Event in Chicago

Chicago-area Lesbians over 60 are invited to an OLOC gathering the evening of Wednesday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Affinity Community Services at their office, 1424 W. 53rd St. #306 (at 53rd and Blackstone). For further information, contact Jan Griesinger at jan@oloc.org or 740-448-6424.

Twin Cities (Minnesota) OLOC

By Kathleen Hagen, 1940

We haven't met since October because several of our members went away for the winter, but we've been active anyway. OLOC participated as a sponsor in a survey by the Minnesota Department of Human Services to gather information about the needs of aging GLBT persons. Two of our members have been active in the Occupy Minnesota demonstrations. Many of the gay senior groups are sharing a booth at the Pride festival this summer, and OLOC will be there. One OLOC member was able to make it to the Capitol for our Lobby Day protesting the Marriage Protection Amendment being proposed as a referendum this year. She was visible with an OLOC banner! Two of our members have already made plans to attend the National Gathering this summer and to present a workshop. We had our first meeting this spring on April 27 and pulled things together for an active summer and fall.

OLOC T-Shirts Denim Shirts Sweatshirts Cloisonné Lapel Pins Buttons And More!
e-mail, phone, write, or go to www.oloc.org and click on OLOC Market.

OLOC? In Utah?

By Sue Morrow, 1942

Utah may seem like an unlikely place for a new and vibrant OLOC chapter, but we are just that: unlikely, new, and vibrant. After months of meeting and planning, a group of Old Lesbians and some mature but not-quite-old sisters hosted a kickoff weekend, complete with Alix Dobkin. She facilitated an all-day workshop on "Older Lesbians Exploring Ideas and Taking Action to Create the Communities We Want to Live In." It was an indescribable day filled with laughter, feminist Lesbian energy, and dreams for our future.

On April 15, we held the first meeting of OLOC-Utah, with 23 women attending. The wisdom, talent, and energy in this group are amazing! Three of us volunteered to be "leaders," for lack of a better title to be decided later. Taking our activism seriously, we decided to march in the June Pride Parade. Utah's Pride weekend would put many larger communities to shame, and did you know that *The Advocate* named Salt Lake City "the gayest city in the US"? For information, contact Sue at sue@oloc.org.

To find out about OLOC chapters presently in Minnesota, California, New York, Ohio, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico, go to www.oloc.org/about/chapters.php.

News from St. Louis, Missouri

Charlotte Ellis, 1943

The St. Louis group had an interesting program with Marilyn McCormick, long-term-care ombudsman (woman) for our area, speaking about the rights of those in long-term care. We invited younger women to

attend as we thought some might be dealing with this issue with their parents.

BJ McGough and Karen Hagrup have been very active in the campaign to reelect Obama and were invited to attend an event at the White House. Karen is neighborhood team leader for her part of the city.

Charlotte Ellis serves on the board of SAGE Metro St. Louis and attended a Sagenet training held here in St. Louis.

We regularly have about eight attending our meetings, and lately we have had some very lively discussions.

East Bay, California, OLOC Activists

By Pat Cull, 1942

A group of eight OLOC members from the East Bay met to talk about where we might want to put our energy in terms of political action. Simi Litvak had the idea for the meeting, inspired by the Wild Old Women of Coleridge in San Francisco. Some of the women at the meeting were interested in the home-foreclosure crisis. Others were interested in activism around making sure Social Security and Medicare don't get cut. Other ideas from OLOC members at the meeting were to put pressure on Chevron in Richmond about their huge profits and also to somehow put pressure on the medical profession to be more responsible.

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH, jan@oloc.org

740-448-6424

Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY, alix@oloc.org

845-679-7586

Steering Committee Members:

Tita Caldwell, 1931, San Francisco, CA,

Tita@oloc.org 415-970-0694

Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA, ruth@oloc.org

760-318-6794

Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH,

tatnalls@yahoo.com 216-862-0598.

Puget Sound, Washington, OLOC Report
By Gloria Stancich, 1935, and Mary Henry, 1939

We've had a busy winter here in the Pacific Northwest. Our leadership team of dedicated and talented women has expanded from four members to eight. We can now bring Old Lesbian visibility and expertise to work with many groups who share our goals and objectives. We:

- Signed on as co-sponsor of the WA State Marriage Equality effort. (Law passed—now we must defend it)!
- Organized a PS North subgroup.
- Expanded our coalition representation on five new groups. Responded to several requests from isolated Old Lesbians looking for community and resources.
- Participated in organizing and presenting a Care Congress event. Were represented on the organizing committee of a highly successful International Women's Day event in Seattle and co-sponsored an IWD event in Tacoma.
- Celebrated the 5th anniversary of our chapter.
- Made connections with 40 other groups.
- Encouraged Old Lesbians to attend the National Gathering in Boston.
- Worked to finish several Old Lesbian herstories and prepared to do more.

Next will be Pride events, picnics, and more planning.

Report from Northern Colorado OLOC
By Cindy Bear, 1947

Northern Colorado OLOC continues to grow, with nearly 70 members this year. We now average 30 to 40 Old Lesbians at each monthly meeting. If we can, we show films pertaining to LGBT and/or women's issues. Soon we plan to show *Miss Representation*.

At every meeting we collect money to give to a charitable organization that supports women in need, GLBT issues, GLBT youth, etc. The amount a group might receive in a quarter is between \$400 and \$500. Also, we collect food for local food banks and aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Each donation is delivered clearly stating that it is from the Old Lesbians of Northern Colorado OLOC.

In the past year and a half we lost Anna Husband, our oldest member, at 98; DJ Furnish, one of our chapter founders, at 89; and Kathy McLeod, a longtime member who lived too far away to attend for many years.

Last month our speaker was Justice Monica Marquez, the first openly Lesbian Colorado State Supreme Court Justice.

"I have reached the age when everything reminds me of something."

—William O'Shaunnessy

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

- www.oloc.org. E-mail: 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: Nancy Krody, 1939, and Ilze Mueller, 1935. Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942.

Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.

The mailing crew and all of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is Aug. 8, 2012. 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 or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701.

The Reporter: Goodbye Margaret,
Hello Malinda

For many years, OLOC's designer, Margaret Purcell, has been designing and laying out *The Reporter* (along with creating our ads and handling every graphic chore OLOC has put in front of her). Margaret's work has defined OLOC's "look" with details and small touches normally passing unnoticed but that enhance the face we put out to the world. Margaret is taking time off from National OLOC chores and will be advising our new layout artist, Malinda McCain, for this issue. We will miss Margaret and are grateful for her outstanding work and the attractive presence she leaves for us. We appreciate her generous offer to guide us through the transition. At the same time we welcome and look forward to working with Malinda, who is stepping in this issue to lay out *The Reporter*. Malinda is a longtime OLOC member with the skills and desire to take on *The Reporter*. The process will be over by the time you read this, so thank you, Malinda!

OLOC Receives New Grant

OLOC is pleased to report that we received a \$5,000 grant from the Rainbow Endowment started by Martina Navratilova. We can use these funds at our discretion, and they certainly will be used to assist low-income women in attending our national gathering this summer.

Song Workshop for the National Gathering

We would like to have a workshop or a caucus for those who love to sing women's music in harmony, but we need someone to lead it and bring a couple of pieces of music in 2- or 4-part harmony. The group could then perform in our talent show. Let us know ASAP if you'd be willing to lead this.

OLOC to Honor Lesbian Civil Rights Activists

We are collecting information to honor Lesbians who were active in the 1950s and 1960s Civil Rights Movement. We are not saying Lesbians who were out in that era but simply "Lesbians."

The project arose out of current celebrations in 2012 honoring Bayard Rustin, an African-American gay man, on what would have been his 100th birthday. There will be a commemorative march on Washington in 2013 because Rustin was the key figure in organizing the one held fifty years ago. Mandy Carter, one of our members, has been working hard on that project with the National Black Justice Coalition.

If you were one of those Lesbians or if you know of Lesbians we will want to include, please send us the information. We would like to know how to reach each one and also some details about how the work took place back then.

Feminist Publication Seeks Articles on
Old Age

Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Discussion and Activism is looking for contributions for upcoming issues. The deadline for Issue #55, "On Age and Aging," is August 1, 2012. It would be great if several OLOC members contribute to the discussion on age and aging (and ageism!).

Join us in creating a radical feminist culture of resistance! For a list of topics for future issues, go to our website: www.rainandthunder.org

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

Book Review: *At the Dark End of the Street*
By Jan Griesinger, 1942

I would highly recommend a new book by Danielle L. McGuire: *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power*. McGuire's discussion of the many cases from the 1940s to the 1970s of black women being raped by white men who were never held accountable for their crimes establishes the role that black women have held in the fight for civil rights. Her discussion also demonstrates that black women were the first to make rape and sexual assault a political issue that was later taken up by the women's movement in the 70s. "Only by understanding the long and relatively hidden history of sexualized violence in Montgomery, Alabama, and African Americans' efforts to protect black womanhood can we see that the Montgomery bus boycott was more than a movement for civil rights. It was also a women's movement for dignity, respect, and bodily integrity."

Mission Statement for OLOC

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

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 every oppression that affects Old Lesbians
- standing in solidarity with allies for racial, economic, and social justice

OLOHP Archives Find a Home
By Edie Daly, 1937

The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project has entered into an agreement with Smith College to house its archives in the Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History at Smith College in Northampton, MA. Smith's interest and willingness to house, protect, and shepherd the valuable information in the OLOHP will ensure its future. Smith College is one of the top sources for research in women's history in the country, with an excellent international reputation. We encourage you to visit their website, www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/ssc/.

Opportunity for OLOC Members
to Attend an OLOHP Reading

If you are driving to Woburn for the National Gathering in July, you will have an excellent opportunity to visit the OLOHP Archives in their new home. Jackie Mirkin jmirkin@tampabay.rr.com and Edie Daly EDFeather@gmail.com, members of OLOHP, have planned a pre-National Gathering event on Wednesday, July 18th, 2012, at 10 am. You are invited to attend a reading from the "Old Lesbian Oral Herstories" at the Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, 7 Neilson Drive, Northampton, MA. You will also meet local Old Lesbians who are interested in forming a new OLOC chapter in the Pioneer Valley, Five College Area. So plan a lunch stop near Northampton and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the Old Lesbians who have contributed to this exciting herstory project.

A Personal Response to the 60+ Age Limit.
By *Chris R., 1935*

After a lifetime of accommodating the whims and antics of others (including my own dear grandchildren), my observation is that OLOC offers the one environment that preserves the spirit of freedom and comfort that we old women experience in each other's company. So I'd like to reframe the issue from one of "Should we exclude younger women" to one of "Let's reward Lesbians who've survived the first 60 years of life by awarding ourselves the privilege of OLOC membership."

Old Lesbians, Vegetables, and Food Stamps

By *Louise Luczak, 1950*

As a low-income Old Lesbian, I participate in the EBT program (food stamps) here in Ohio. Last year I learned I could buy vegetable seeds with my EBT card. I assumed this was true only for my state but soon read that it applies to all fifty. Food stamps can also be used for culinary herbs, vegetable plants, and fruit plants as well!

Expensive organic produce isn't on my shopping list. This great benefit allows me to grow healthier organic veggies. It also extends the value of my EBT card.

From what I read, there is some discrepancy as to which stores accept EBT payment or even if they have to legally. Not all stores that sell food plants or seeds participate in this program. I haven't checked, but maybe the county extension service, office on aging, or community gardening programs can provide lists of participating retailers.

I found that small neighborhood garden centers and farmer's markets in depressed

city areas, where food stamps are widely used, take advantage of this form of currency. I easily located these retailers. They're close to where I live, and all displayed homemade cardboard signs advertising this wonderful option. I was even able to buy organic, open-pollinated heirloom vegetable plants and seeds from them.

Keep in mind that gardening tools and materials, such as soil, cannot be purchased with an EBT card. Nor can flower seeds and ornamental plants. Interestingly, if there are Old Lesbians in Alaska reading this who hunt or fish, you can buy supplies to do so with your EBT card.

I know I won't live to see the tiny apple tree I planted last year reach full maturity. But what a wonderful legacy an Old Lesbian gardener can leave to a young one!

Sharon Deevey Named in Who's Who

Sharon Deevey, 1944, is named in the inaugural edition of "Who's Who in LGBT Columbus (Ohio)." She serves on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and is active in several senior centers where she dances and writes poetry.

She also visited J.C. Penney to offer her praise for the new CEO who had hired Ellen DeGeneres to represent Penney's and then boldly stood up to backlash from homophobic critics.



OLOC Vision Statement

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

Creating Change, Baltimore, MD, 2012

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

Creating Change, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was attended by 2700 LGBT activists and some allies. The keynote speaker was Benjamin Jealous, CEO of the NAACP. The Susan Hyde Award for longevity was given to Joan E. Biren (JEB) for her work on a film about Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon and for her work with the Furies, an early Lesbian/feminist group.

OLOC held a workshop "OLDER AND BOLDER: The Joys and Challenges of Growing Old and Challenging Ageism," which was attended by about 25 people of all ages. Vera Martin, OLOC co-founder, Ruth Debra, and I presented our ideas and circulated some ads and birthday cards with messages offensive to old people.

Vera Martin noted that "a woman of color and a white woman got into a dialogue on race that got quite heated and was one of the most honest discussions on race I've witnessed in quite a while." Vera also said the conference "is still riddled with obvious ageism within its structure each year. We need more interaction with the planners . . . to improve this."

Ruth reported: "I attended two of the pre-conference institutes. The first was Racial Justice, the third and by far the best one I've ever attended. One of the most important messages I got was 'patience and keep networking with other more diverse organizations. Change doesn't happen overnight.'"



OLOC is a Wolfe Video affiliate. 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

OLOC held a "Lesbians 60 and over" caucus. We also attended workshops on racism, disability, immigration, etc. We were incredibly moved by the video on the life of Bayard Rustin, the inspirational/organizational leader in the civil rights movement and planner of the 1963 March on Washington. This year is the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Next year's Creating Change will be January 23–27, 2013, in Atlanta, and registration is free for those over age 65.

Japan Visit

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

I was invited by a longtime friend who teaches there to speak in Japan in December 2011, at Tsuru University's Gender Studies program. The topic was The Women's Liberation Movement: Past, Present, and Future. Of course, OLOC was mentioned and featured in a few photos with our banners. I mentioned that we did not yet have any members in Japan. It seems that coming out in Japan is much harder than it is here, and few feel able to do it. There was controversy at the university when my host publicized my talk as being given by a "Lesbian activist."

My host did introduce me to an Old Lesbian whose organization shares a small office with two other groups in Tokyo. This organization is very small and mostly seems to be about discussion, hiking, and informal things. She said a Lesbian pastor and her partner came out and opposed anti-LGBT laws. We also saw the Hiroshima Panels in the Maruki Museum, a powerful display of art done by folks who visited Hiroshima within a few days after the U.S. bombed the city.

At least two Old Lesbians from Japan will attend the upcoming National Gathering and will lead a workshop.

Tita Caldwell Receives California Senior Leaders Award

OLOC Steering Committee member Tita Caldwell received an award from the California Senior Leadership Alliance. The award was "In Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to Healthy Aging, Community Building, and Social Justice." She received the award for fighting homophobia and ageism, and was nominated by Natalie Zarchin, who, along with Joan Emerson, received the award last time. Tita said, "The participants were the most diverse group I've ever met, and it was really wonderful. There were fewer whites than people of color, more women than men." She brought home a \$500 check for Bay Area OLOC.

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, ageism

Phyllis Bere Honored

Phyllis Bere, 1938, from Medinah, IL, was honored as one of the founders of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971 at its 40th anniversary celebration in Washington DC in July 2011.

Rally for Marriage Equality

Judy Benson, Cleveland OLOC activist, was featured on a YouTube video speaking at the rally for Marriage Equality there. To see the video and another about the entire event that briefly shows the OLOC contingent complete with banner, go here: tinyurl.com/dxqggp6 and tinyurl.com/dyjfkbn

Way to go, Judy, and the rest of the OLOCers.

OLOC Protest Participation

By Jackie Grover, 1943

Recently I, along with several others in my Long Beach OLOC Chapter, took an active role in a strike against the foreclosure practices of a local Bank of America. Knowing some strikers have been maced for protesting, I was fearful this could happen to us. I knew the police would see us as less of a threat if we did not block traffic nor carry a protest sign attached to a stick.

With my third-grade drawing ability, I needed a friend's help to produce a good protest sign. She listened to my ideas, started taking notes, and came up with a good, pithy sign. When I commented on her using our logo, she replied: "I figured it was ok to use 'cause I found it on Google!"

Once the four of us got to the protest site we met up with other OLOC members, other GLBT folk, and the organizers from moveon.org. It turned out they knew nothing about us! We were happy to explain to Move On what OLOC is and what we stood for, while they taught us catchy chants and rhythmic melodies.

For me, the whole experience turned out very well. Each group was very respectful of the others. I think the much younger Move On people saw another side to being an "active" senior citizen, and we made some new friends. Yes, the police were there, but they were very low key. What was the highlight for me? Seeing drivers give us a thumbs-up and hearing them honk continuously as they drove by was its own kind of thrill. Yes, I would do this again—after a brief nap!

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation, the Carpenter Foundation, and Rainbow Endowment.

Two Novels Published

Spinster's Inc. has just published two of Sheila Ortiz-Taylor's novels. One is a reprint of her classic, *Faultline*, beloved of Lesbians familiar with it and with famous Lesbian characters. The other, a new one called *Homestead*, is about the life of a woman in Florida. No out Lesbians in it, but a fascinating story of the homesteading life and women's place in it.

Conference Theme Announced

BOLDFest will be held September 6–9 at the Coast Plaza Hotel, Vancouver. Our conference theme this year is BOLD Voices—Women speaking out on topics of special interest/concern to old(er) Lesbians. ALL Lesbians & Dykes welcome—whatever your age! See www.boldfest.com to register online or by mail. Check last year's program online to get a taste of what BOLDfest is all about!



Sandra Tignor at an Occupy event

Memorials

Dr. Susan M. Kuhner, 1947–2012

She graduated from the University of Portland with a PhD in psychology. She set up a private practice and eventually founded the Kuhner Institute of Multiple Personalities. She was a leader in the Los Angeles women's and gay movements in the 70s & 80s. Along with OLOC, she was also involved in the Los Angeles Women's Building, SCWU San Fernando Valley Chapter, and the Gay & Lesbian Center in Hollywood. She loved the music of Holly Near, Margie Adam, Chris Williamson, and Meg Christian.

Ann Marevis, 1934–2011

By Emily Greene, 1946

Ann was a beloved member of Alapine Community for 13 years and was able to spend her last month and a half with her daughter Nadia, son-in-law Harry, and and beloved grandchildren Sophia and Jonah at her side

along with all her community members. Also important to her were her five cats. She was a strong advocate for animal rights, a vegan, a willing volunteer for any community project that we came up with. She will be missed dearly by all of us.

Ocean Breeze, 1942–2011

By Linda Jupiter, 1944

"Ocean Breeze" (Jeanne M. Bullard) was born in Kingman, Arizona. There she learned to live and work in the outdoors as a rancher. She spent influential years living with her grandmother on the Hualapai Reservation where she learned the traditional ways of her Native American culture, was a member of the Peyote Church, and taught the ways of the Sweat Lodge, Pipe Ceremony, Prayer, and Enlightenment to many.

OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

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

Options	<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.
----------------	---

To pay using a PayPal account or a credit card, go to www.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.

OLOC • P.O. Box 5853 • Athens, OH 45701
www.oloc.org • e-mail: info@oloc.org • toll free 888-706-7506

OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE PRESENTS NATIONAL GATHERING 2012

July 19–22, 2012 Bridges to Justice: 21st Century Activism

Speakers, workshops, entertainment, dinner, dance, silent and live auctions, sing-along, keynote speakers, talent show, hospitality room with games and food.

Lesbians 60 or over (and female partners/female caregivers of any age) are invited.

Second Early Registration deadline is June 15. Registration form next page.

THE HOTEL: Hilton Boston/Woburn | 2 Forbes Road | Woburn, MA 01801

The Hilton Boston/Woburn is our hotel for the Gathering. It is in a Boston suburb. An express bus is available from Logan Airport to Anderson Station, and the hotel provides van service from the station. The hotel is lovely. Rooms are \$109 per night and include two free breakfasts per day and complimentary Wi-Fi service. You can have either one king-size bed or two double beds and as many occupants as you want per room, but if more than two, you will have to figure out about the breakfast. There's an indoor pool and many small areas for Old Lesbians to gather. You can reserve your room online at tinyurl.com/7nzpo5a or by calling Anne Marie, the sales manager, at 781-932-0999 ext. 7900. Please inform her that you are with the OLOC block of rooms to confirm the rate, which is remarkably inexpensive for this area.

To see more details about the hotel, here is their website, but do not use the link below for registration or you won't receive the special rates for OLOC. tinyurl.com/yqp62r

Gathering Reminders

If you plan to attend the July 19 intensive, Activism for Race and Class Justice, please arrive Wednesday evening 7/18 unless you live locally, in which case, it begins at 9:00 am. Gathering registration will be available that evening. The intensive will be from 9:00 am–5:00 pm on the 19th.

For all others, the event begins Thursday at 7:30 pm and ends Sunday at 9 pm. Registration will be open from 3:00–9:00 pm on Thursday, July 19, for those not attending the intensive.

Be Kind to Yourself and Your Sisters

We request that you make every effort to help us create a space that is free of the chemicals used to make scented products. They adversely affect the health of all of us, some more severely than others, plus they degrade the environment. Please come with fragrance-free body-care products and clothing and, if you normally use cologne, essential oils, or perfume, we ask you not to use these during the Gathering. Thank you.

OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE PRESENTS
 NATIONAL GATHERING 2012
 July 19–22, 2012 — Bridges to Justice: 21st Century Activism

Speakers, workshops, entertainment, dinner, dance, silent and live auctions, sing-along, keynote speakers, talent show, hospitality room with games and food.

Lesbians 60 or over (and female partners/female caregivers of any age) are invited.

2012 National Gathering Registration Form
 Boston/Woburn, MA, July 19–22, 2012

Step 1: Tell us about you.

Name _____

Date of Birth ___/___/_____ Age as of 7/18/2012 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

- Add me to a contact list that all attending will receive.
 I prefer my contact list electronically. I prefer my contact list in print.

I plan to attend the Daylong Intensive on Activism for Racial and Class Justice on July 19th.

Do you need any specific services to assist with disabilities?

Emergency contact (if you become ill or need help)

Name _____ Phone _____

Food preferences: meals with meat fish vegetarian vegan

other _____

Online Registration
 now available:
regonline.com/oloc2012
 Note that you still must
 register separately
 with the hotel
 for your lodging.

Everyone attending
 needs to register!

Step 2: Registration fee covers programs, entertainment, Friday lunch & Saturday night dinner. It does not cover housing, transportation, or meals other than those listed above.

REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED MAY 16–JUNE 15 \$275.00

REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED JUNE 16 or later \$300.00

STEP 3: PAYMENT:

Registration fee (see schedule above) \$ _____

OLOC Membership (includes newsletter) (\$25–50) \$ _____

Contribution for financial assistance \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



(Mail a check and this form to OLOC PO Box 5853, Athens OH 45701 or use PayPal at oloc.org.)

OLOC
PO Box 5853
Athens, OH 45701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATHENS, OH
PERMIT NO. 82

Time to Renew?
If your label says 2012.06
(meaning 2012 June) or earlier,
your subscription has ended and
it is time to renew.

We hope to see you there!

OLOC National Gathering July 19–22, 2012
Boston/Woburn, Massachusetts