

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



OLOC Endorses Universal Health Care

At its March meeting in Long Beach CA the OLOC Steering Committee agreed to put OLOC on record in support of single payer, universal health care. We have joined the national Healthcare-NOW coalition. You can get more info on them at 339 Lafayette St., New York NY 10012. 1-800-453-1305. www.healthcare-now.org. We want to encourage OLOC members to support House Resolution 676, the US National Health Insurance Act introduced by Rep. John Conyers from Michigan. Ask groups you work with to do the same. This program is sometimes called "Improved Medicare for All" to stress that it is not a new idea in American medicine. You may also want to order an excellent free booklet entitled "Single Payer Health Care for All" from the Northwest Connecticut Older Women's League, PO Box 153, Lakeville CT 06039

Major Grants Received

OLOC is the recipient of \$14,250 from the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. This generous grant was made as advised by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. It is primarily to enhance OLOC's outreach through field organizing, starting new OLOC chapters across the country, and upgrading our presence on the web. OLOC is very honored by the Carpenter Foundation's willingness to make this outreach possible by working through Astraea.

Astraea has also sent us a donor advised grant of \$7,500 from the Heller Bernard Fund as advised by Diane Bernard. This is a 3 year award of \$2,500 per year.

OLOCs First Ever Video Library

OLOC is establishing a video lending library. Currently we have available, for OLOC members to borrow from the OLOC national office, both the VHS and DVD of *Project Visibility*, a 20 minute documentary which brings awareness and a face to the issues of LGBT aging. Courageous LGBT elders speak about their lives, their strengths, wishes and concerns. Professionals in the field of aging are also featured and provide a needed viewpoint on this issue. It was produced by the Boulder County Aging Services Division in Colorado and is useful as a training video for local providers of services to elders. It is available in VHS or DVD. The charge will be \$10 to cover postage. Send money to OLOC, POB 5853, Athens, OH 45701. More information on *Project Visibility* is available on the OLOC web site, oloc.org under 'Resources.'

Mark Your Calendars Now!

**2008 OLOC
National Gathering
*California Dreaming of
a Better World for
Every Old Lesbian***

**July 30th-August 3rd, 2008
in Southern California
(near the LA airport).**

Save the dates!

The Reporter... A quarterly publication of OLOC
June 2007 VOLUME 17 ISSUE 2

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

Regional Get-Together

By Sally Tatnall, 69

In keeping with National OLOC's goal of "leaving no old lesbian behind", field organizers are working to support the start-up of local chapters as well as reaching out to old lesbians everywhere.

To encourage more development, the DC/OLOC chapter is organizing a Regional Get-together September 7, 8, & 9th 2007. The goals of the get-together are:

- **Fri evening 7:00 p.m.:** Present National OLOC mission and new goals.
What do women want from National OLOC to help reach the goals?
What do women want from the web site and the Reporter?
- **Sat. 10:00 a.m.:** Small groups to share stories and our desires as we age.
Small groups to generate ideas for reaching all old lesbians.
Regional and local organizing. What will work?
- **Sat evening:** Banquet and dance.
- **Sun a.m.:** Small group discussions on being proud of being old.
- **Whole group:** Next steps for organizing.

Location for the event is Best Western Hotel Capital Beltway, 5910 Princess Garden Parkway, Lanham, MD 20706. The general hotel phone number is (301) 459-1000. For reservations, call 1-800-866-4458. The cost of hotel is \$99 per night and rooms sleep up to 4, if beds are shared. Let us know if you need a roommate.

Registration for the regional get-together is \$95. This includes continental breakfasts Saturday and Sunday, Saturday lunch and banquet dinner and a Sunday brunch.

For more information, email Olivia Cammack at ocammack@aol.com or call her at (301) 608-0055. Her fax number is (301) 608-2226. To register send check to:

OLOC/DC, c/o Olivia Cammack
The Law Office of Olivia D. Commack, P. A.
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 312
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

LGBT Aging Roundtable

Olivia Cammack and Jan Griesinger represented OLOC at the national LGBT Aging Roundtable convened by the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force February 10, 2007, in Washington DC. 30 people attended representing a variety of programs and organizations across the country. Key issues were housing and health care, long noted as the 2 primary issues among our OLOC constituency. In addition we shared strategies for impacting mainstream senior organizations and the LGBT community. Several people offered their help to work with us to establish local OLOC groups.

Welcome Aboard!

Susan Wiseheart, age 66, long-time, well-respected, Missouri Lesbian from the Ozarks, is OLOC's new Administrative Assistant. She lives at Hawk Hill Community Land Trust with other Lesbians. She attended OLOC's National Gathering in 2004. She has been active for many years in Lesbian and women's organizations, efforts to challenge racism and white privilege, and watershed education work.

OLOC provides Old Lesbians with the chance to meet like-minded women in our common struggle to confront ageism, to share mutual interests, and to experience the joy and warmth of playing and working together.

THE MEDICAL CORNER

*Dr. Jean
Eckerly, 69*

In my last article I commented that we have "created" a number of new diseases, and I received a comment from someone who had been diagnosed with one of

these diseases and was benefiting from treatment. There is no doubt that many of us suffer from some symptoms that can be relieved by pharmaceuticals. The operative word is symptom(s). My argument is simply that these symptoms result from something, and quite frequently the something is a deficiency of something. However, we are never deficient in a specific pharmaceutical agent.

The paradigm in "medicine" has shifted over the last sixty plus years from one of searching for the cause of a particular symptom or group of symptoms to one of searching for a pharmaceutical agent (or agents) that can intervene in these symptoms. Abram Hoffer, a pioneer in physiologic causes of mental illness said, "drugs make well people sick, how can they make sick people well?" This is not to say that intervention with a drug is NEVER beneficial, but it is to say that using that model has spread like a wild grass fire to the almost total exclusion of other known facts. My own personal story about this (as a treating physician) has to do with the treatment of delirium tremens (shakes and hallucinations from the abrupt withdrawal of alcohol from an addict). This condition is caused by a lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine), which is exactly what we used to treat the condition. With the introduction of valium, the treatment changed over a very few years to the use of that drug. The symptoms were relieved (the patient became very tranquil), but the basic deficiency was never treated. The continued deficiency

led to further deterioration of the brain and nervous system.

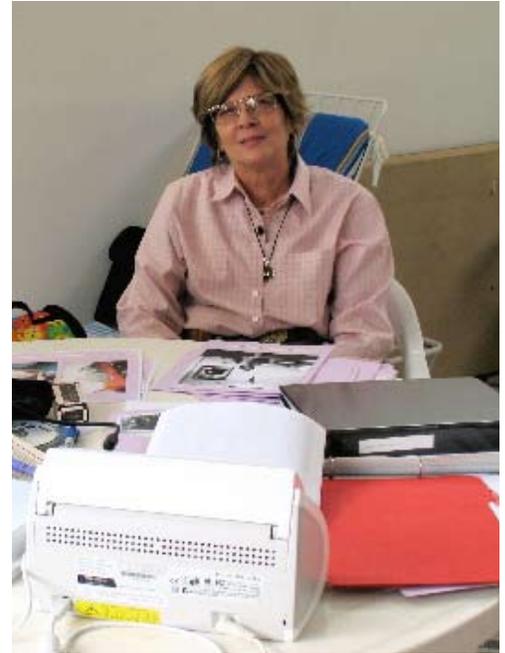
Pharmaceuticals are powerful, and while they are effective in the intervention of symptom display, they do not remedy deficiencies in nutrients in our bodies. Furthermore, they all have "side effects". This is an interesting term. In general a drug will interfere with a basic chemical reaction in your body. This reaction usually has a number of different outcomes down the line. All of those outcomes will be affected by the drug, so none of those effects should be unexpected. The strategy in developing drugs is to try and maximize the one effect that is being targeted, and to minimize all other effects. That is why I have dubbed it the WMD strategy. You look for what you want to see and ignore the rest. So when Vioxx has some nasty outcomes, or persons on certain tranquilizers (SSRI's) commit suicide, etc., these do not really come as a shock to the pharmaceutical companies. These are simply other effects of the drug which were completely predictable. You hear them being recited rapidly as the background music gets louder during those commercials.

The marketing strategy is to make one believe that the risks are minimal compared to the benefits. It is in the realm of so called prevention that this strategy is even more insidious and gravely detrimental. Cholesterol and heart disease is the biggest and most profitable. Diabetes is now moving up.

I am at my 45th anniversary of obtaining my medical degree. It seems possible that we may develop some sort of universal health care system in this country. The shame of it is that if we do not look at the basic paradigm of our system, we will simply have shifted the method of payment. As my mother used to say, "you can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear".



Lots of help didn't make it less work, but sure made it more fun! Pictured left to right, working in Houston, TX: Arden Eversmeyer, Janis Ives and Ellen Goodman.



Barb Hunt spent hours prepping Herstories to run through the scanner.

Have Scanner, And Traveled! By Mary Henry, 69 and Margaret Purcell, 55

As the Arden Eversmeyer Oral Herstory Project grows (there are now more than 90 stories), we've become more aware of how important it is that these valuable pieces of history be protected. To that end, we traveled to Texas with a high speed scanner in hand. Once there, we spent a couple of weeks with Arden and her partner, Charlotte, in Houston. We went with a goal of scanning all the completed Herstories. With the invaluable help of several other local Texas women, the goal was reached and then some! Having so much help enabled the crew to begin scanning other OLOC materials stored in the archives in Houston. We'd like to especially thank Janis, Barb, and Ellen for helping everyone tackle what had seemed like an insurmountable task with ease and lots of laughter.

Oral Herstory Project

Arden Eversmeyer, Project Coordinator, has sent us this update. There are now 93 life stories in the collection. The oldest woman was born in 1916, with two born in 1917. 8 of the women are African American, 4 are ex-nuns, 9 are Jewish, 6 were in the military, 12 are from working class backgrounds, 54 have college degrees. We wish the information that has been collected were easily available to the public though not all the women are out. It is available in Houston, TX for scholarly research. OLOC hopes to excerpt the stories for an anthology.

The OLOC Reporter

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

- www.oloc.org
- Email: info@oloc.org
- Post Office Box 5853 Athens, OH 45701

This Newsletter Brought to You By: Jan Griesinger, Margaret Purcell, Susan Wiseheart, and all of the writers plus the mailing crew.

Let your voice be heard.

Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2007.
Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org
or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701

Regional OLOC Group Contact List

OLOC would love to have regional groups form all over the country! If you're interested in helping form a group, email us at info@oloc.org or write or call Jan or Sally. (see below)

New York	Kostya B. Sudice	718-638-1361	kostya@oloc.org
SouthEast	Olivia Cammack	301-920-2043	ocammack@aol.com
Ohio	Sally Tatnall	216-932-0977	sally@oloc.org
Minnesota	Annalee Stewart	612-724-6541	annalee@oloc.org
St. Louis	Charlotte Ellis	314-962-2188	charlotte@oloc.org
Northern Colorado	Cindy Bear	303-258-9424	cindy@oloc.org
Southern California	Mina Meyer	562-420-3555	mina@oloc.org
San Francisco Bay Area	Joan Emerson	415-388-5001	40 Camino Alto #12209 Mill Valley, CA 94941
Portland, OR	Mary Beth Brindley	503-286-3575	mary_beth@oloc.org
Puget Sound Area/WA	Mary Henry	253-565-0829	mary@oloc.org

Upcoming Events

Golden Threads The 21st annual Golden Threads celebration for older lesbians, June 21-24, 2007, in Provincetown MA. Featured performer is Jamie Anderson. Barbara Love will host a pioneer feminist reunion. Contact Golden Threads, c/o Judy Ross, 1 Nevada Rd. Burlington MA 01803; 781-229-9028. www.GoldenThreadsPtown.org

Feminist Hullabaloo, June 22-24 in Santa Fe NM. Contact Jade Deforest, PO Box 84, Ojo Caliente, NM 87549. 505-583-12470. www.feministhullabaloo.com

National Women's Music Festival, July 5-8 Bloomington IL. PO Box 1427, Indianapolis IN 46206. 317-713-1144. www.WIAonline.org

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, August 7-12 Hart, MI, WWT-MC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458. 231-757-4766. www.michfest.com

Bold Old(er) Lesbians & Dykes West Coast Conference, September 6-9, Vancouver BC, Canada. 604-253-7189. www.sound-sandfuries.com

OLOC Regional Get-Together in September 7, 8 & 9 in Lanham MD (near Washington D.C.) Olivia Cammack ocammack@aol.com, phone: (301) 608-0055 (also see article in this issue)

OLOC National Gathering, "California Dreaming of a Better World for Every Old Lesbian", will be held July 30th-August 3rd, 2008, in Southern California. Save the dates!

OLOC in Pride Parades & Dyke March

Long Beach - Southern Cal OLOC will participate in the Long Beach pride parade, riding in 4 convertibles decorated with OLOC banners.

Bay Area OLOC sisters will participate in the 15th annual Dyke March on June 23. There will be a senior/disabled cable car and also a senior/disabled viewing stand.

Ohio OLOC will march in 3 pride parades - Dayton June 2, Cleveland June 16 and Columbus June 23 with our Ohio OLOC banner and a new old woman puppet modeled on the one developed by the Old Woman's Project in San Diego.

Feminist Hullabaloo June 22-24, 2007 Santa Fe, NM

This is a don't miss event, bringing together a diverse and exciting group of presenters, many of them Old or Nearly Old Lesbians, including Shaba Barnes, Alix Dobkin, Margie Adam, Sally Gearhart, Fran Day, Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz from OLOC. At least 13 other fascinating feminists will be there to charge us up with words, music and ceremony. And, it's a Scent-Free Event, which those of us with chemical sensitivities will surely appreciate. The production group is dedicated to the well-being and survival of all female beings. That certainly means old lesbians.

www.feministhullabaloo.com
Shaba Barnes at 505 856-1290

Amazing Collection of Music By Women by Susan Wiseheart, 66

At my local library in Douglas, County, Missouri, population 13,000, one of the neighborhood Lesbians found a five CD set called *Respect: A Century of Women in Music*. Each disk includes at least 18 and as many as 27 of the top notch popular music artists of the time period from 1900 to 1994 in different categories. For a wonderful nostalgic listen to the songs of our childhoods on up to the 1990s, it's a marvelous listen. Urge your local library to order it for you. It comes with a terrific booklet of information and some postcards of outstanding paintings. Rhino Entertainment Company.

Still by Jan Griesinger, 64

I am trying to begin an analysis of the word "still" when it comes to old people in general and lesbians in particular. I think it reflects an assumption that has ageism implicit in it.

Oh, I'm glad to see you're

- still doing well
- still working
- still out and about
- still active
- still playing tennis

Wow, you are

- still gardening?
- still mowing your own lawn?
- still going to an exercise class?
- still eating spicy foods?
- still taking classes

I know it isn't "meant that way" regarding ageism, but it reflects a sort of shock that old people haven't just retired to their rocking chair or died. It is often meant as an expression of joy – "glad to see you are still among us."

A related example is the assumption that our relationships won't work out "glad to see you two are still together" While this is probably also an expression of joy, the use of "still" reflects something behind the phrase.

I would love to begin a dialogue about your experiences with the word "still." What do you hear? What do you sense it means? The next newsletter deadline is August 1.

Online Newsletters

A PDF (portable document file) of the previous issue of *The Reporter* (not the current issue) will be available from oloc.org to download each month. An archive is started; older issues will be added to the archive as time allows, with a goal of also creating a basic index of articles. At Press Time, the last two issues of 2006 are available.

New Books

Fierce With Reality: An Anthology of Literature on Aging. Edited by Margaret Cruikshank. She is also the author of "Learning to be Old: Gender, Culture, and Aging" and is an affiliate scholar at the University of Maine at Orono Center on Aging.

The book is a multicultural collection of poetry, political analysis, personal narrative, folktales, and humor. It can be ordered from Just Write Books 47 Main St. #3, Topsham ME 04086. (www.jstwrite.com) for \$24.95 plus \$4 shipping and handling.

Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975 edited by Barbara J. Love. This documents key grassroots feminists who ignited the second wave of the women's movement and includes a number of OLOC women. Because it is 616 pages and very expensive (\$80), you might consider asking your local library to purchase it as a reference book. University of Chicago Press <http://www.press.uillinois.edu>.

Whistling Women: A Study of the Lives of Older Lesbians by Cheryl Claasen, Haworth Press, 2005. How 44 lesbians between ages 62 and 82 survived the 20th century. It explores memories and details about a diversity of perspectives from growing up during the Depression and WW II to retirement and old age at the height of the gay liberation movement. (These notes were excerpted from *Sinister Wisdom*, Issue 71.)

Great Websites

by Susan Wiseheart, 66

Rainbow Williams sent out news about a new online literary magazine for "older women", called ***Persimmon Tree***, so I took a look. Sure enough, they are Old and many of them are Lesbians. I really enjoyed the first issue, especially the fiction piece by E.M. Broner, in which the protagonist is an Old Lesbian. Subscriptions are free. <http://www.persimmontree.org>

Longstanding Lesbian magazine ***Sinister Wisdom*** is still going strong with more than 70 issues published. If you haven't seen it for a while, you will find much of interest to Old Lesbians. To find out more: <http://sinisterwisdom.org>

And, of course, OLOC! <http://www.oloc.org>.

Pat Bond Memorial Old Dyke Awards

On October 27, there will be an event at the First Unitarian Church in Oakland to give out the Pat Bond Memorial Old Dyke awards. Nominations are being accepted until July 15. Information available at committee@patbondaward.com or 415-392-6257, ext. 312.

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, Athens OH

jan@oloc.org

(740) 448-6424

Mina Meyer, Long Beach CA

mina@oloc.org

(562) 420-3555

Steering Committee Members:

Sally Tatnall, Cleveland Heights OH

sally@oloc.org

(216) 932-0977

Alix Dobkin, Woodstock, NY

alix@oloc.org

(845) 679-7586

Kostya Brandice Sudice

kostya@oloc.org

New Leaf Outreach to Elders

New Leaf is a San Francisco organization proudly serving the LGBT communities for more than 30 years. You can find them at www.newleafservices.org. Activities Manager of the Outreach to Elders project, Jan Couvillon, is an OLOC member. Some of their women's activities include:

- Reading and Talking Women, potluck, discussion
- Women Writers
- Second Sunday social group
- Saturday Game party
- Quilting
- New Women's Gentle Yoga group
- Guided Meditation group
- Alzheimer's LGBT Caregivers support group
- Coming Out support group

In Memorium

Nancy Palmer

Nancy Palmer, long time Sanibel, FL resident died at home at the age of 90 early on March 31st with her dogs and familiar faces near her. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease as well as from other medical problems for many months.

Nancy was active in the early days of the women's movement. She was part of its first big march in NYC. She loved marching with other activists, be it for women's rights or for other causes. She still had a collection of buttons from ERA, gay rights, reproductive choice, and AIDS marches in Washington.

She is survived by her life partner of 48 years, LeClair Bissell, also of Sanibel, and five elderly female Chihuahuas.

Nancy was a member of OLOC from its beginning. She attended one or two Gatherings in Minneapolis in the early days, before her health became frail. She and LeClair have been generous contributors to OLOC.

In Memorium

Barbara Gittings

Gay rights pioneer Barbara Gittings has died at the age of 75 from a lengthy and brave battle with breast cancer

Gittings first came to the public spotlight in 1965 when she and a handful of gay men and lesbians held demonstrations outside the White House and Independence Hall seeking equal rights for homosexuals. These were the first such demonstrations in American history and began an era of gays coming out of the closet.

Gittings involvement in the gay rights movement started in the late 1950s when she helped organize the New York City chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis (D.O.B.). It was there she met her life partner Kay Lahusen, who has been by her side for 46 years.

Gittings other accomplishments include heading the American Library Association's Gay Task Force. In 2003 The American Library Association presented Gittings with its highest honor, a lifetime membership. She was an active cornerstone in the campaign that led to the American Psychiatric Association dropping its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973.

Gittings was an early community journalist. She edited the D.O.B. publication *The Ladder* from 1963-66 and worked with Lahusen on her 1973 book *The Gay Crusaders*.

Lahusen asks that donations be made in Barbara's memory to Lambda Legal Defense Fund.

Tell the people you love that you love them at every opportunity. Remember, life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

By The Bay With The Steering Committee *By Alix Dobkin, 66*

On the freezing morning of March 22nd 2007 I parked my car at the Albany (NY) airport long-term parking lot and stepped into a pile of snow which then trickled into my sock. Only hours later I shed my socks along with scarf and jacket in Long Beach California where the OLOC Steering Committee convened its bi-annual meeting.

Early the following morning, by the shores of the San Pedro Bay, Jan Griesinger, Mina Meyer, Sally Tatnall, Mary Henry, Kostya Branwen Sudice, and I gathered in a conference room at the Seaport Marina Hotel. Margaret Purcell, taking minutes, and Lanna Rodgers, visiting from Tacoma, were welcomed, before warm greetings, consciousness-raising, signing-up for Facilitator, Timekeeper, and "Vibe-watcher" commenced the proceedings.

Building membership through local groups and promoting regional activity is a priority that led to clarifying the job description and remuneration for Sally, our Field Organizer who will prepare a packet for local groups to use. This is a new position that must be invented and developed from scratch. Alix (I) will work with Sally helping to initiate activity in the Northeast and, whenever possible, help Kostya support a NYC chapter working with African American Lesbians and groups in NYC to organize anti-racism panel/discussions and programs.

After agreeing to fill the vacancy left by Shaba's resignation, Mina will serve as Co-Director with Jan. Mary will be resigning from the SC and Board of Directors, but will remain as web mistress, for which we are grateful.

We were glad to learn that Shaba will be working with us as a Project Director. She was formally recognized as the Director of the OLOC Memorial Project, & will work on the memorial page of the website. However, we missed her presence on the SC, prompting a discussion about the absence of women of color in OLOC in general and on the SC in particular, an ongoing challenge requiring a long-term approach.

Writings of anti-racist work, theory, and strategies previously distributed to SC members were mulled over, and we brainstormed ways to promote diversity at our table and in our ranks, resolving to continue to think of and explore steps the SC and OLOC might take to increase our racial

diversity and do anti-racism work. If anyone wants a copy of the writings, send Alix Dobkin an SASE, with postage for two ounces attached, to: POB 761, Woodstock NY 12498.

A printer will be purchased for the new New York City chapter.

We talked about recognizing special ex-SC or otherwise outstanding OLOC members, and agreed to honor Annalee Stewart and Shaba Barnes with Emerita status.

Sharon Raphael, Mina's partner, agreed to be gatekeeper through whom all research requests will flow.

Susan Wiseheart, 65, long-time, well-respected Missouri Lesbian from the Ozarks will assume

OLOC Mission Statement

OLOC, Inc. is the national organization of lesbians of all races, age 60 and over, and will:

- Support, respect and empower Old Lesbians.
- Recognize and challenge ageism in our lives and in society.
- Celebrate our strengths, our talents, our experiences, and document our lives.
- Convene national gatherings for Old Lesbians.
- Encourage, establish, and support local groups and regional events.
- Provide educational materials and consciousness raising about ageism.

administrative duties and be asked to edit the newsletter, which also came under discussion regarding deadlines, subscriptions, process, and so forth.

Congratulations and welcome to Kostya, who accepted our invitation to be a full member of the SC. Ruth Debra, who was unable to attend this meeting, will continue as a Provisional member. After a discussion of local representation and criteria, such as the length of time a candidate should have been a member of OLOC, we all agreed to be on the lookout for new SC members, women of color in particular.

Following a detailed logistical report by Mina (with help from Sharon), many hours were devoted to the site and theme of our next Gathering: July 30th-August 3rd, 2008. The Theme of "California Dreaming of a Better World for Every Old Lesbian" was chosen with a subtitle to indicate inclusiveness. We decided to have 2 keynote speakers and will investigate fees and possibilities for them and entertainment. We will solicit program ideas in this newsletter.

Late Saturday afternoon, the OLOC-So. Calif. chapter treated us to a tasty, inviting potluck with 37 lively old Lesbians from the area in attendance. OLOC "Founding" member, Rosemary Hathaway shared her story as well as a DVD by our videographer, Cristina Vegas, of the first OLOC meeting in 1989. We remarked on how young everyone in the video looked and told stories of those days of our youth.

After these and a number of other brainstorming and policy sessions, we concluded Sunday evening feeling happy to have completed our agenda, satisfied with the weekend's work, and positive about our positive interactions throughout. Jan led us in a song, we adjourned, and departed for home and for me, a few more weeks of winter weather.

OLOC in Her Will

Pam Jackson from the Ohio OLOC Chapter has just let us know that she is putting OLOC in her will. Please consider doing the same. Contact the OLOC office if you would like assistance.

Calling All Old Lesbians *By Suzanne McHugh*

In your day, you registered voters in the South, protested the war in Viet Nam, burned your bra for feminism, paced outside the barricade at the Stonewall bar in the village, and marched in every Pride Parade. If the cause dealt with social justice, peace, or human rights, you were there on the picket line. Although the fire often still burns brightly in your belly, you may not be able to carry the torch as high or march as long as you used to. But your age does not have to dictate your activism. Maybe it is time for you to take a more active role in your own human rights. That's where the Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) comes in. I can hear some of you muttering now, "Why did she write 'old'? Wouldn't 'older' be a more respectful term, or perhaps 'elder'? I just can't believe she is using the O word."

Well, believe it. These women are OLD (you have to be at least 60 to join) and proud of it. Just as we have taken back the terms lesbian, dyke, and queer (and other slang terms often used to impugn us) and now use them to describe ourselves with pride, OLOC has chosen to take back the term "old." In our society, old has become a term of insult and shame. Old people (and especially women and lesbians) are ignored, trivialized, expendable and invisible. OLOC's mission is to change that. By adopting the term old, OLOC directly challenges the stereotype, empowering personal change and arming lesbians to change themselves, each other, and the world.

OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Application

Lesbians 60 and over: We urge you to subscribe to *The Reporter* as an expression of your commitment to be with old Lesbians in your own area, working to confront ageism. If no such group exists, become an OLOC Contact Woman and work with a mentor to start a local group. If you are not yet 60, we welcome you as a Supporter. By giving OLOC your generous financial contribution you can show your commitment and support for challenging ageism.

Please check all that apply:

_____ I am (we are) 60 or over and wish to subscribe (or renew) my (our) current subscription to *The Reporter*.
\$25 to \$50 for a one-year subscription.

_____ I (we) want to receive *The Reporter* but I (we) can contribute only \$ _____

_____ I (we) want to become an OLOC Contact Woman and work with a mentor to organize a local group.

_____ I am (we are) not yet 60 but want to Support OLOC. Enclosed is \$30 to \$60 for a one-year subscription to *The Reporter*.

_____ I (we) want to keep OLOC alive and strong. Please accept my (our) tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____ or my (our) pledge of \$ _____ / month.

_____ I (we) want to purchase the *Travel Directory*. Enclosed is \$3 for costs.

_____ I (we) want my (our) names to be included in the *Travel Directory*.

_____ I (we) would like to give a \$25 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below.

_____ Please send a sample of *The Reporter* to the name(s) listed below.

OLOC Endowment

An additional way to help OLOC grow is through the OLOC Endowment. It was created to receive bequests from OLOC Subscribers and Supporters. The bequest can be an outright gift listed in a will or a percentage of assets. If you are interested and would like additional information, please send for a copy of the OLOC Endowment Fund Brochure.

Date of birth enables us to keep accurate Subscriber/Supporter records for grants and other purposes. Your Ethnicity and disability status is requested as part of our ongoing awareness of and commitment to diversity. **OLOC's mailing lists are for OLOC's use only and not available to any other persons or organizations.**

Name(s) _____ Date(s) of Birth _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Ethnicity _____ Disability _____

OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE
OLOC • P.O. Box 5853 • Athens, OH 45701
www.oloc.org • email: info@oloc.org

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PO Box 5853
Athens, OH 45701

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2008 National Gathering
July 30 - August 3
Southern California