

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



And the Winner Is! By Susan Wiseheart, 1941

The winner for the first Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award is really two winners, Carmah Lawler, 1929, and Kathy Glass, 1932. This amazing and outstanding couple was nominated by their entire Northern Colorado OLOC Chapter of 45 Old Lesbians. Carmah & Cathy have been at the center of every



LGBT struggle for our rights in the state of Colorado for the past several decades. They have done so much valuable work in many areas that we will have to write a longer story in the next issue to tell you all about it. Meanwhile, OLOC congratulates Carmah and Kathy for being chosen from a field of amazing Old Lesbians.

Cleveland Cabaret and Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon Movie Lead Off Old Lesbian Pride: Sharpening the Radical Edge By Jennice Thomas, 1940

The 2010 National Gathering of OLOC will get off to an exciting start on Wednesday evening, July 14, at 7 pm with a Cleveland Cabaret (entertainment provided by local Old Lesbians) followed by a video, *No Secret Anymore: The Life and Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon* by JEB (Joan E Biren). This summer's Gathering will feature nationally known speakers: Vera Martin, 1923; Margaret Cruikshank, 1940; Marilyn "Jezz" Jesmain, 1931; and Sheila Ortiz Taylor, 1939. We will also enjoy a variety of workshops on timely topics; a Dinner Dance with exciting entertainment including songs by Alix Dobkin, 1940; a Talent Show; a Memorial Service; presentation of the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award; a showing of

the movie *Hannah Free**; and, most importantly, opportunities to meet or reconnect with Old Lesbians from across the nation and around the world. Get your registration in as soon as possible so you can take advantage of the reduced fee for early registration prior to June 10, 2010.

Registration for the 5-day Gathering will begin at 3 pm on July 14 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cleveland South (formerly the Skyline Hotel), located only minutes from the Cleveland airport. The hotel offers free shuttle service from the airport and, if you're driving, free parking. The hotel has indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a hot tub, so you can take a refreshing plunge

...article continued on page 2

* DVD available June 1, 2010, at Wolfe Video. Use this link to order *Hannah Free* and OLOC will get some money back. www.wolfevideo.com/products.asp?R=1344&id=1532.

The Reporter ... A quarterly publication of OLOC
May-June 2010 VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

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

2010 Gathering, concluded...

whenever your energy needs recharging. The hotel will also provide free breakfast every morning. You must call the Skyline/Crowne Plaza (transition taking place in May) at 216-524-0700 (local) or 877-902-5463 to make your own reservation. The new Crowne Plaza number may also be in service at 877-227-6963. Be sure to tell them that you're with OLOC for the \$89/night (plus tax) rate. This price is the same no matter how many are in the room. For more information about the hotel, you can go to the following website, but **you must register by phone** for the special OLOC rate. www.skylinehotelindependence.com/About_Us.html

Note that if the transition to the Crowne Plaza has been completed, the above URL will direct you to the new website, or try www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/clerr.

If it's true, as I believe, that we keep getting better as we get older, it's also true that our Gatherings seem to get better with every passing year. So, whether you've been attending Gatherings for years or if, like me, this is your first one, the 2010 Gathering in Cleveland is one you definitely don't want to miss.

Workshop List as of May 8, 2010

The list may change before the Gathering itself. Here is what we have now:

Lesbians in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement: Individuals speaking from their experiences: Alix Dobkin, Cathy Cade, Sharon Raphael, and Mary Ostendorf so far.

Lesbian Widows: How We Can Survive and How Friends Can Support Us: Carol Anne Douglas

Acting Out: Elemental Radicalism for Lesbians: Sonia Johnson

What Every Activist Needs to Know: Chris Roerden

Tips for Brain Health: Joan Margaret

Honing the Decision-Making Edge: Smoother, Easier Consensus: Deirdre Knowles

Advanced Planning for Your Funeral, Cremation, etc.: Linda Betzer

Lesbian Grandmothers: Time to Gather: Alice Fisher

Herbal Medicine for Ourselves in the Second Half of Life: Billie Potts

Women and Evolution: Jezz Jesmain

Our Legacy to the New Queer Movement and Our Part in It: Antonieta Gimeno

Belly Dance for Fun and Fitness: Susan Wiseheart

Strategies for Challenging Ageism: Mina Meyer and Sharon Raphael

Reunion/Storytelling from Past Festivals: Christine Pattee

How We Feel about Our Physical Changes: Peg Cruikshank

Stroppy Lesbians on the Edge: Lavender

Breaking Down Barriers: Carren Strock

Coming to the Gathering? Help with the Silent Auction.

Bring items worth \$25.00 or more for the auction. Send a brief description of the item(s) ahead of time if you can. If you need to ship your item(s), inquire at the OLOC post office box (written) or info@oloc.org (electronic) about the best method. Electronic preferred for the descriptions, but if no access, send to the OLOC P.O. box. Thank you so much in advance. The last auction included some spectacular and generous donations. **Also:** Bring an excellent book (or a few) for the free book exchange.

Joyce Pierson Receives Award

The SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) Advocacy Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues was presented to OLOC member Joyce Pierson (1933) at the annual Creating Change Conference (see report on the conference on page 6). Joyce has been involved in Area Agencies on Aging for many years. She joined the staff at the National Center for Lesbian Rights in 2000 to develop their Elder Law Project and did that work until 2009. Joyce's partner Kate Rosenblatt, who died in 2009 and was featured in the last *OLOC Reporter*, was a co-founder of OLOC.



Joyce Pierson

St. Louis OLOCer Helps Others

Sue Pratt, 1936, St. Louis OLOC member, was quoted in a nationally distributed Associated Press newspaper story titled "Gay Seniors Come Out Late, Start Second Life." She says, "I didn't want to have a secret. It doesn't matter if I lose every friend that I have, this is what I have to do." Unfortunately, there was no mention of OLOC in the article although Sue had mentioned us in her interview. Sue is now very helpful to women who come out late in life and, since she also had a struggle with her Baptist background, she is helpful to people with religious struggles.

Women Helping Women *By Jan Marotta, 1940*

Some of us in the Hudson Valley Chapter have joined with other women in the community to form a group of "helpers." We help each other out using whatever talents we have to offer, such as pet-sitting, plant-watering, house-checking, small repairs, yard work, painting projects, hosting potlucks and discussion groups, accompanying someone to an important medical or other type appointment, helping fill out forms, etc.

The networking is self-directed, no charge, by word of mouth, by e-mail and phone, and it is on the 'honor system'. Someone puts the word out to the group of "helpers" and anyone who can help responds. Some of us also extend this good will to general volunteering in the community to help seniors and others. A couple of us are certified Ombudswomen, working as volunteer advocates in nursing homes, rehab centers, and Assisted Living Facilities. Others may work in soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers, our LGBTQ Center in Kingston doing Medicaid and Food Stamp applications for walk-ins, and other jobs as needed.

The goal is to create a simple, direct, and no-charge/no-paperwork service that directly helps LGBTQ people and others. We encourage women to consider such self-directed programs in their own areas and reach out where they can. A lot of good can be done, and many new friendships and connections are made. This is a resource option for many of us and has been very useful. There is no formal organization or head person; it begins with getting a group of friends together, talking out who wishes to participate, and then building a list of 'talents', and sharing the information with others. Contacts are one-on-one, there are no obligations, and everything is done on a volunteer basis.

Virginia (Ginny) Borders, 1924–2010

By Mina Meyer, 1940

Born in Illinois, Ginny came to California after college with her partner Corrine Crogen. They were together for nearly 50 years until Corrine's death in the early 1990s. Ginny was active in two Long Beach Lesbian organizations: OLOC, where she never missed a meeting, and Women Of Forty Plus. She often hosted events at her home for each of these groups for up to 60 women. Last year she made her first trip out of the U.S., flying with friends to New Zealand for a two-week vacation. Ginny had a wicked sense of humor, and she will be missed.



Midge Costanza, 1932–2010

By Ginny Foat, 1941

Midge Costanza, born November 28, 1932, left this world at about 2 pm on March 23, 2010. I went to see her in the hospital on the 19th. There was not much doubt when I left that it would be the last time I would say goodbye to this incredible woman. I always had referred to her as the energizer bunny. After two bouts with colon cancer, she had prepared herself and was ready to fight this third occurrence. Unfortunately, her body had a different idea. We all owe Midge a great deal of gratitude for the battles she fought on behalf of all of us. She spent the weekend at my house several months ago and we had the opportunity to talk about her life in the White House and all that she has done since she left. We laughed about how Jimmy Carter was upset when she set up the first meeting in the White House for the Gay and Lesbian community without asking him. She brought me a copy of the memo on White House stationery that she had sent to President Carter detailing all of the "demands" of the GLBT community. As I looked through that memo tonight, I was saddened to see so many of the items listed are still not fulfilled GLBT rights. But she has now left that chore to us.



Correction:

Susan incorrectly wrote Sandy Duplaix instead of Sally Duplaix in Deedy Breed's memorial last issue. Sally and Deedy were partners for nearly two decades. So sorry, Sally. Here is a little photo of Sally and Deedy.



Zana, 1947, from Tucson AZ, writes

I enjoy receiving the birthday cards that make me feel I too am a part of the OLOC family. . .The scent-free request for the Gathering published in a recent newsletter is the best scent-free advice I've ever seen! I hope anyone planning other events will use this wording as a model.

Am I OLOC? Yes and No By Patricia Voelker, 1940

I am old, a Lesbian, and would love to see social and political change, yet OLOC doesn't feel like a fit for me. I'm wondering why? I have been politically active throughout my life. Before age 39 I campaigned for specific candidates, local and national, spoke out for racial justice & equality, but, here's the problem, gay issues were not even on my radar.

When I came out to myself at age 39, I was so excited to realize why I'd felt different all my life that I wanted only to be Lesbian. Essentially, I walked away from the heterosexual world in which I'd been raised, except for my family members.

But I'm not only Lesbian. After years of being out and active in the gay community, I'm now in settings where I am again in the gay minority. I identify myself as Lesbian and keep gay rights issues visible wherever I go. I have straight allies and have kept a small group of gay friends, but I'm feeling more and more lost. As my 70th birthday approaches, am I an Old Lesbian or just old?

I still want to rejoin to support you but note that word "you"! What am I missing that it feels outside of me and my life? Anyone who wants to share some insight, please e-mail me. I am floundering, and being old makes one off-balance enough!

AmaSpirit@aol.com

Two Steering Committee Members Respond:

Hi Patricia,

I have certainly had those doubts and felt like that for a long time. Sometimes I felt that I shouldn't call myself a Lesbian, because I was single for so long, and I was caught up in other communities and politics.

My life has really changed since I found OLOC. Most of the time I feel as if I've come home and that I have a right to be here. These women in their 70s and 80s are the ones I was looking for when I came out at age 45.

Tita Caldwell, 1931

We encourage you to come to the Gathering in July if possible. There will be a wide variety of out Old Lesbians there, and you are bound to connect with some of them. You can also be part of OLOC by reading the newsletter and the Website and participating in the online forum. And, know that every one of us is active in other areas of activity besides being Lesbian, including, for many of us, being grandmothers.

Alix Dobkin, 1940

The OLOC Reporter

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: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941, Co-Editors; Malinda McCain, 1940, and Nancy Krody, 1939, Proofreaders and Copy-editors; Mina Meyer, 1940, and Jan Griesinger, 1942, Content Review; Margaret Purcell, 1951, Design/Layout; All of the writers and the mailing crew.

Let your voice be heard.

Deadlines for the next two issues: August 10, 2010, for an early September, 2010, publication date. November 1, 2010, for a December 1, 2010, publication date.

Limit submissions to 500 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.

OLOC Attends Creating Change Conference 2010

By Shaba Barnes, 1935, Ruth Debra, 1944, Vera Martin, 1923 and Jan Griesinger, 1942

The National Gay/Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) sponsors an annual conference for community activists. *Creating Change: Live Large, Think Big* was held February 3–7, 2010, in Dallas and attended by 2,000 activists of all ages from across the U.S. Thanks in large part to a grant from the Arcus Foundation, four of them were OLOC. Here are some of their comments.

Shaba Barnes: Many gay and lesbian organizations at Creating Change, where every alternative lifestyle you can imagine is represented and highlighted, often neglect to deal

with ageism. Ageism is an “ism,” a form of discrimination that is generally accepted and practiced in our society. So many people are still confusing it with the word “aging.” I went to the conference intending to enjoy myself and not get stressed by the ageist attitudes and comments of others, but that was not the case. At one workshop I attended there were so

many ageist comments I could not keep count of them. We had a meeting with Sue Hyde, Co-Director of the Conference, and told her we felt that the staff of Creating Change and the NGLTF would benefit from some OLOC training on ageism. She agreed, and then we discussed ways to make it possible in the coming months.

The need is still there to teach staff and leaders of other organizations how to eliminate ageist attitudes and comments. I came home with a new determination to be more engaged and active locally with allies and others who interact with Old Lesbians.

Ruth Debra: I was extremely impressed by the energy of our LGBT movement. I learned

about aspects of it of which I knew nothing (the Vogue and Ballroom movements, for example). I think we taught a lot about OLOC and ageism, especially internalized ageism, which was certainly obvious in particular in the gay male community. I think we contribute quite a lot to Old Lesbian pride and visibility. There is always something of a shock and frequently an uncomfortable giggle when we tell people who we are, so we need to keep talking about ageism.

Vera Martin: I attended many of the workshops dealing with the young, the old, and the community at large.

I shared experience in each instance and did the best I could to explain the difference between aging and ageism. I find that to be much-needed information. The presence of OLOC was noted, accepted favorably, and, I felt, reassuring to those coming behind us. We need to continue pursuing Creating Change to give us a voice

during a plenary session. We need to point out over and over again that OLOC is the only organization that is for the Old Lesbian community.

Jan Griesinger: Shaba and I were involved on the planning team for the day-long pre-event intensive “Old and Fearless: Aging, Ageism, and the LGBT Community.” It is the first time “ageism” was used to describe any major event at Creating Change. All four of us who attended from OLOC were involved in this day-long event. We were very outspoken, talked with many people, and were thanked by a number for raising their consciousness on ageism.

...article concluded on the next page



Standing: Ruth and Jan Seated: Vera and Shaba

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Arcus Foundation, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and Mary's Pence.

Creating Change, concluded...

The biggest evidence of our presence was at the Arcus Foundation (our biggest funder) breakfast when Executive Director Urvashi Vaid, mentioned Vera, then me, and then OLOC; in fact, we were the only organization she mentioned by name.

OLOC makes an impact at the event by being present, wearing our T-shirts, and talking formally and informally. Because we are never seen on the platform, we have no way of reaching the whole audience and, despite requests to appear on the platform, it hasn't happened yet. Nevertheless, we want old proud folks visible at every meeting of the largest national LGBT activists' conference, so we keep attending.

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

Sex & Gender in the City: From Lesbian Feminists in the 70s to LGBTQs Today *By Jackie Slivko, 1950*

Lesbians of the 70s and 80s and LBTQQIs (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Queer Gender, and Intersex) of the 21st Century met recently in Boston to explore how these two dynamic and independent-minded generations view each other across a chasm of stereotypes and misunderstandings. They looked at how each group experienced revolutionary shifts in consciousness, created significant social change, and confronted issues of identity and oppression.

- Lesbian feminists created and supported a vital Lesbian social and political scene in the 70s and 80s, championed feminism, linked their struggle to those for racial and economic justice, began the movement to stop violence against women, published *Our Bodies Ourselves*, which launched the worldwide women's health movement, and continue to be politically active in the 21st century.
- Younger LBTQQIs today question the notion of gender itself with their "don't assume anything" stance and focus on issues including identity politics, genderqueer and trans identity, bisexuality, class, race, and aging & disability activism. They work to make schools and other institutions safe for all people and participate in global social and economic justice movements.

The day focused on bridging this generational gap, seeking to understand why issues of inclusion, gender, and ideology are so polarizing, and identifying points of potential collaboration. Held at Wheelock College on March 20 and hosted by Stonewall Communities Lifelong Learning Institute, a number of generous sponsors provided food throughout the day.

The day included viewing of a movie trailer about a 70s event, an overview of Lesbian Feminism of the 70s and 80s, a panel on Identities and Community Discords, a poetry slam and presentations by a transgender activist, and a panel featuring a transmasculine feminist, two out high school students and a queer femme-identified trans-feminist, followed by several breakout sessions.

For a more detailed report on the conference itself and on the breakout session "Aging and disability activism: New frontiers of political struggle," request a copy from info@oloc.org or from our post office box.

Moment of Fame Project By Joy Griffith, 1935

The *Old Lesbians and Their Brief Moment of Fame* project (a book of many stories of Old Lesbian's self-described moments of fame) is extended into September 2010, as we need more submissions. To find out more, contact Joy Griffith at joydg2002@yahoo.com 781-749-1978 or 617-680-0995 or 781-229-9028. Please phone us at any time should you have any questions.

Photos Needed

We invite anyone who takes pictures at the Gathering to share them with OLOC for our use. Send them, if possible, by e-mail to info@oloc.org, or, if not possible, by mail to the OLOC post office box.

We love electronic photos about OLOC events and of OLOC Lesbians. We need permission from everyone in the photo for us to use it online, in *The Reporter*, or in other places. So, photographers, when you send us things, include the names, and contact us for what kind of permission we need.

Volunteer Photo Keeper Needed

Do you just love looking at photos of Old Lesbians? Do you have the skills, equipment, and the desire to be the keeper of OLOC photos?

We would much appreciate some help. Our work is mostly done electronically. It would involve obtaining photo permissions, receiving photos, communicating with photographers, keeping backups, providing photos to *The Reporter* and Website staffs, and to other places such as project workers and outside publications. It could also involve doing photography yourself. Photo-editing skill and experience would be a big plus. If you want to know more, contact susan@oloc.org.

Wolfe Video

OLOC is now an affiliate of Wolfe Video. You can order *Hannah Free* or any other Wolfe Video using our link and we will receive cash from Wolfe to support our work. www.wolfevideo.com/default.asp?R=1344 will take you to their site. Once there, you can move around, order what you want, and OLOC will receive some money. The specific OLOC link for *Hannah Free* is www.wolfevideo.com/products.asp?R=1344&id=1532.

Opportunity to Participate in Social Justice Research

OLOC's research gatekeeper, Sharon Raphael, thinks this project is of great importance, as the purpose is to gather the widest possible array of individuals in the LGBT community to fill out a questionnaire that will elicit information about social justice and inequality for LGBT persons of color, including Old Lesbians. Anyone of any color can fill out the form. To fill out the questionnaire, go to the link at: SocialJusticeSexuality.com.

Conference of Interest to Old Lesbians

BOLDfest 2010 will be held September 9–12 at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver. This year's theme is *Women in Motion: A Celebration of Women Who've Moved Us, Changed Us, Made a Difference*. BOLD (which stands for Bold, Old(er) Lesbians & Dykes) sponsors BOLDfest, a dynamic, educational, sometimes controversial, always entertaining, North American event that attracts lesbians and dykes from across Canada and the U.S. for a weekend of learning, laughing, loving, and much more. Get detailed information and keep in touch at www.soundsandfuries.com/bold.

Now Available

Sinister Wisdom Journal 78/79 "Old Lesbians/Dykes II" \$10.00 each plus \$3.00 s/h for the first copy, 50 cents for each additional copy. Make checks payable to Sinister Wisdom, Inc. and mail to: Sinister Wisdom, P. O. Box 3252, Berkeley, CA 94703.



Ageism Consciousness Raising

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

One of the ways ageism affects us is our felt need to apologize for being who we are. When many of us came out as Lesbians, we felt strongly that we had no need to apologize so we quit doing that. But I do hear frequent apologies for being old.

- I'm sorry I'm not as quick as I used to be.
- I'm sorry I don't hear as well as I used to.
- I'm sorry I don't remember your name.
- I'm sorry I can't lift things that heavy anymore.
- I'm sorry my vision is not so good.

It is likely that when these things happen we may feel individually "sorry" that our lives have changed, but it seems often we say it to others as a form of apology.

One key example is our fear of "being a burden." We apologize for needing to ask for help, as though each individual in this world is self-sufficient. This is not true for anyone anytime, though the "rugged individualists" want to pretend it is.

This getting old thing can be tough, but since every person is getting older at the same rate "one day at a time" and since getting old is, of course, totally natural if we are lucky, we need to stop apologizing.

Overheard Conversation

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

Yesterday I overheard two young female college students talking. It went like this:

#1 "See you tomorrow."

#2 "What's tomorrow?"

#1 gave an answer I didn't hear in detail
(doesn't really matter what she said).

#2 "Oh, sorry, I just blanked out."

Imagine the same conversation between two old people: #2 who "blanked out" would feel bad, doubt her memory, worry she is going into dementia. #1 might feel the same about #2.

Imagine this conversation between a young and old person when the old person is #2; the old person would feel bad as above. The young person would likely believe the old one is losing it due to her age.

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(e-mail, phone, write or check
www.oloc.org)

OLOC 2009 Financial report	
INCOME	
Individual donations	19,484
Grants	49,000
Local OLOC chapters	950
Sales, T-shirts	1,152
Grant for Bay Area OLOC	2,948
SE Regional gathering	9,568
Financial assistance for 2010 National gathering	1,112
Misc.	1,439
Total	85,653
EXPENSES	
Administration	
Rent	1,594
Supplies, equipment	3,360
Admin. Coordinator	14,509
Steering Committee meetings	15,135
Grant for Bay area OLOC	2,948
Outreach/education	
Newsletter	4,201
Delegates to confs	4,535
Advertising	700
Field Organizing	4,927
Oral Herstory	9,198
Stipends Co-Directors	4,800
Sales, T-shirts	1,103
SE Regional gathering	9,832
Misc	987
Total	77,829

Hudson Valley OLOC on PBS

By Alix Dobkin, 1940

In February several chapter members took a trip to Albany to answer phones during WAMC's fund-raising drive. Bonnie Wagner, Reeni Golden, Purnima Schachter, Virginia Moore, and I worked for the better part of four hours to get OLOC's name on the air. WAMC, our wonderful local PBS Station, is heard in seven states. Another member, Suzanne McHugh, listening on her computer, called from Florida to make a pledge! Purnima and I both talked to her, and OLOC got another plug when her pledge was read over the air! Alan Chartok, the CEO who conducted the on-air live fundraising in the room with all the phones, even encouraged "Old Lesbians" to call and make a pledge. We were all excited and energized . . . and well fed, too, because WAMC feeds their volunteers well.

Bay Area OLOC presence at International Women's Day Event

By Natalie Zarchin, 1922

There weren't a lot of us present at this event and we only had a brief discussion, mostly with a younger woman (age 52 I think) who was concerned about medical problems she was dealing with and worried about aging well. I think she felt much better after speaking with the old women in the group. Earlier I had a discussion with a Latina woman who felt that not using the word "elder" was discriminating against her culture which uses it to respect and honor old people. She said that attitude would keep her from joining OLOC. Later in the evening, I went to another party and kept running into women who can't wait to turn 60 so they can join OLOC.

Puget Sound Chapter Reaches Out

By Gloria Stancich, 1935

A spring gathering at the Bellevue Regional Library was everything we had hoped it would be: sunny weather, a very comfortable and well-equipped meeting room, a nice mix of old and new faces, a tasty and varied spread of food, and the presentation of a well-received video on the local (with national background) custody struggle of Lesbian mothers in the 1970s. The video, *Mom's Apple Pie: The Heart of the Lesbian Mothers' Custody Movement of the 1970s* (released in 2006) was presented by Shad Reinstein, one of the directors of the project. Puget Sound OLOC has purchased a copy of the video and it will be available for members to borrow from our Resource Library.

Sandwiched between the potluck and the video presentation, we spent an hour getting to know some of the women who were attending their first meeting. We discussed the projects we'll pursue with our recent Pride Foundation Grant monies. We recruited for the QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council), and I am happy to report that two women have stepped forward to join the Council, both women from north King County.

The Puget Sound leadership took time this winter to spend a long weekend in retreat. Away from their usual haunts, the group was able to spend focused time on strengthening relationships, evaluating our progress and strategic planning for taking the local chapter forward. It was an amazingly productive, must-do-again event.



At the retreat, Mary Henry and Gloria Stancich checked emails and bonded in their pj's before the others were up.

Gathering Stories, Gathering Speed *By Arden Eversmeyer, 1931, and Margaret Purcell, 1951*

2009 was an incredibly busy year for the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP) and 2010 is shaping up to be even busier. We've not only found ourselves gathering lots more stories, we've also found ourselves gathering speed. We must not have thought we had enough to keep us busy, getting interviews and processing them, helping develop a Website, or bringing the first book to fruition, so we've added a newsletter.

The inaugural issue of the *OLOHP Insider* offered an overview of the project as well as excerpts from three interviews. Our plan is for six issues each year and we've just sent out the third issue. The primary mode of distribution for the newsletter is via e-mail. That enables us to include lots of color and keep down the costs. We began sending it out in late December and we've had dozens of "warm-fuzzy" responses. OLOC sent out copies of the first issue of the *OLOHP Insider* to its e-mail list. If that is the only copy you received, you'll need to let us know you'd like to continue to get issues as they are released.

To be added to the *Insider* e-mail list, please send a request to info@olohp.org. We've worked out a way to print some paper copies for traditional mail, so if you don't have access to e-mail and would like to get a copy, please send a written request.

The search continues to find Old Lesbians interested in sharing their stories with the Project. If you, or someone you know, might be willing, and you (or they) are 70 years of age or older, please e-mail us or write to the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. OLOHP, PO Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098.

Chapters and Research

We have chapters all over the country and field organizers to help you start a new chapter. We also have a Research Gatekeeper to help those doing or participating in research about Old Lesbians. We will not send out information about research without first approving the research. For further information, call 888-706-7506 or e-mail info@oloc.org to ask for the contact list, for a contact for a particular place, for the field organizer contact information, or for the contact information for the Research Gatekeeper. All of this information is on our website, too: www.oloc.org.

A Charitable IRA rollover can be used to make an outright gift to OLOC that excludes that income from taxes. If you have an IRA and you are taking the income out of it that is required after age 70^{1/2}, consider using it as a gift to OLOC. Contact Jan for more information: jan@oloc.org or call 740-448-6424

Grant Awarded to Benefit Aging LGBT Members

Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius and the Administration on Aging have awarded SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) a three-year, \$900,000 grant to create the nation's only national resource center on LGBT aging. The National Technical Assistance Resource Center for LGBT Elders will assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and supports for older LGBT people. The Resource Center will provide training to service providers for the aging and LGBT agencies nationwide and will offer critically important educational tools to LGBT older people. "Agencies that provide services to older individuals may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the needs of this underserved population," said Secretary Sebelius. "The Resource Center will provide information, assistance, and resources for both mainstream aging organizations and LGBT organizations and will provide assistance to LGBT individuals as they plan for future long-term care needs."

New Book a Great Resource

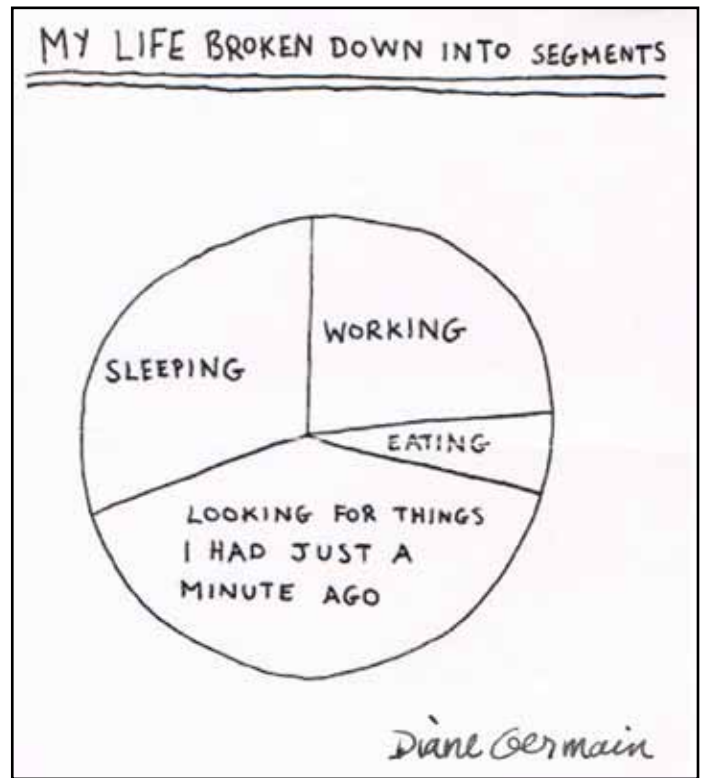
By Joan P. Emerson, 1935

Suzanne Dibble (RN, DNSc), a member of San Francisco Bay Area OLOC, has edited a book with Patricia Robertson (MD) entitled *Lesbian Health 101*. This is a book for clinicians but is worth reading by anyone interested in the subject. Occasionally you will meet a technical term that you don't understand, but you still will get the gist without feeling deprived. Interesting research is cited on almost every page. For me one of the most telling facts was that research does not support the assumption that child sexual abuse causes women to become Lesbians. When you are finished, you feel you know everything currently known about Lesbian health and are left with a set of fascinating questions. Each of the 31 chapters is written by a different woman or group of collaborators, yet the style has an impressive continuity. The authors emphasize the additional stresses on health for Lesbians due to homophobia, fear of homophobia, or internalized homophobia, and they encourage clinicians to indicate their acceptance of Lesbians and to open a dialogue with patients. Suzanne Dibble hopes you will present this book to your doctor! You can buy it for \$39.95 plus s/h at www.lesbianhealth.org.

Thanks to Mary's Pence

OLOC has received its first-ever grant from Mary's Pence. OLOC's \$2,000 grant is to be used for field organizing, which includes work with chapters, partnering with LGBT aging organizations, anti-ageism activism, and support for Old Lesbians. Our thanks to OLOC member Billie Luisi-Potts for her assistance in obtaining this grant.

Funding decisions at Mary's Pence are rooted in a Catholic tradition of social justice together with feminist values where all are welcome at the table. Mary's Pence funds projects that increase the economic security of women and increase women's voice in their communities. More information at www.maryspence.org.



Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH

jan@oloc.org

740-448-6424

Mina Meyer, 1940, Long Beach, CA

mina@oloc.org

562-420-3555

Steering Committee Members:

Myra Brahms, 1942, New York City, NY

myra@oloc.org

212-628-6797

Tita Caldwell, 1931, San Francisco, CA

Tita@oloc.org

415-970-0694

Ruth Debra, 1944, Palm Springs, CA

ruth@oloc.org

760-318-6794

Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY

alix@oloc.org

845-679-7586

Carole Stoneking, 1937, Columbia, SC

Carole@oloc.org

803-748-9490

Sally Tatnall, 1937, Cleveland Heights, OH

tatnalls@yahoo.com

216-862-0598

2010 Gathering Schedule

Our tentative schedule can help you envision the excitement built into each day's activities. Schedule as of May 1, 2010 (note that there may be changes between now and the Gathering itself):

Wednesday July 14

- 3:00 arrive and register
- 7:00 welcome, introductions, Cleveland Cabaret entertainment and video of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon directed by JEB (Joan E. Biren)

Thursday July 15

- 9:00 Margaret Cruikshank, keynote speaker
- 10:30 workshops session 1
- 12:00 lunch provided –Vera Martin, keynote speaker
- 1:30 workshops session 2
- 3:30 What Should OLOC Be Doing to Challenge Racism? (women of color and white women meet separately)
- 4:15 fishbowl – several from each group share views/concerns
- 5:00 singles social hour
- 7:15 speakouts
- 7:30 talent show

Friday July 16

- 9:00 fishbowl "Ageism: The Personal and the Political" (speakers will be Lesbians in their 70s and 80s)
- 10:30 small groups by decade discussing the above
- 2:00 caucuses
- 3:30 workshops session 3
- 7:00 Jezz (Marilyn) Jesmain, keynote speaker
- 8:00 memorial service

Saturday July 17

- 9:00 Sheila Ortiz Taylor, keynote speaker
- 10:30 workshops session 4
- 1:30 various activities still being planned
- 3:00 free time
- 5:30 dinner, Del Martin award, Alix Dobkin, dance

Sunday July 18

- 9:00 video *Hannah Free* and discussion with the producer
- 11:30 closing plenary – speak out
 - what did you like best about the gathering?
 - what can you do to challenge ageism when you go home?
- 12:30 adjourn

Comments from Participants in the 2008 Gathering:

"It was a profoundly nourishing event for me. I noticed the skillful ways you blended politics, music, speakers, workshops, humor, fun, food, large and small groups, the hospitality room, the memorial program, arranging for financial assistance."

"It's the best organized conference I've ever been to."

"This is my third gathering—all have been great—they always make me think and rethink a lot of issues. I'm always blown away by the stories of activists."

"Thank you for the financial help. And for providing an atmosphere that helped make me feel welcomed, loved, and that what I felt mattered"

"I was impressed by how much could be done in one space in such a short time."

2010 National Gathering Registration Form

July 14-18, 2010 CLEVELAND, OHIO

*Younger partners
and female caregivers
of Old Lesbians
may also attend if
registered.*

See a more detailed reservation packet at oloc.org or phone 705-7506 for more details. Hotel information is on page one.

Step 1: Tell Us About You

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Age as of 7/14/2010 _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

May we add you to a contact list that all attending will receive? _____

Do you need any specific services such as electric scooter, ASL interpreter, to assist with disabilities?

Check here if bringing a female attendant.
Someone will contact you with details.

Food Preferences:

meals with meat vegetarian

vegan fish

other _____

Emergency Contact (if you become ill or need help)

Name _____

Phone _____

Step 2: Registration Fee

Registration Fee covers: Registration Fee covers programs, entertainment, daily breakfast, Friday lunch & dinner/dance Saturday night. It does not cover housing, parking, transportation or meals other than those listed above.

Registration fee if postmarked by May 15, 2010: \$225

Registration fee if postmarked between May 16 and June 10, 2010: \$250

Registration fee if postmarked June 11, 2010 or after: \$275

Step 3: Payment

Registration Fee (see schedule above) _____

OLOC Newsletter Subscription or Renewal _____
(\$25 to \$50)

Contribution to help
low income Lesbians to attend _____

TOTAL _____

**No refunds
after
June 30th.**

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

*Please include your PayPal
Transaction Number*

PP# _____

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 affect the health of all of us, some more severely than others, plus they degrade the environment and the water tables. 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.

If you want to receive *The Reporter*, please let us know even if you can't contribute.

OLOC Subscriber/Supporter Form

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 Lesbian and work with a mentor to start a local chapter. If you are not yet 60, we welcome you as a Supporter. By giving OLOC your generous financial contribution you can show your commitment to and support for challenging ageism.

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) 60 or over and wish to subscribe or renew my (our) current subscription to <i>The Reporter</i> . \$25 to \$50 for a one-year subscription. | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm (we're) already listed in the <i>TD</i> and the contact information is correct. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to receive <i>The Reporter</i> but I (we) can contribute only \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to be added to the <i>Travel Directory</i> listings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am (we are) not yet 60 but want to Support OLOC. Enclosed is \$30 to \$60 for a one-year subscription to <i>The Reporter</i> . | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to purchase the <i>Travel Directory</i> . Enclosed is \$5 for costs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to keep OLOC alive and strong. Please accept my (our) tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ or my (our) pledge of \$_____ / month. | <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) want to receive an electronic copy of the <i>Travel Directory</i> (PDF) instead of a paper copy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I (we) would like to give a \$25 gift subscription to the name(s) listed below. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send a sample of <i>The Reporter</i> to the name(s) listed below. | |

Travel Directory

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. A copy of the OLOC Endowment brochure is available by calling 888-706-7506 or by e-mailing info@oloc.org.

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 and not available to any other persons or organizations.

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 _____ or a PDF via e-mail _____

Skills you can offer OLOC: _____



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time to Renew?

If your label says 2010.06 (meaning 2010 June) or earlier, your subscription has ended and it is time to renew. Note that this issue is out a bit early so we can let you know about the summer Gathering news.

All Roads Lead to Cleveland! OLOC National Gathering July 14-18, 2010

