

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



OLOC Creates The Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award



Del Martin (on right) with Phyllis
Photo: GroundSpark

OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, announces The Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award, created to honor Del Martin, activist, pathfinder, and OLOC member who died at age 87 on August 27, 2008, in San Francisco, the city of her birth. It will be awarded to a Lesbian 60 years or older whose life and work has and will continue to impact the lives of Old Lesbians.

Back in the days when wearing at least 3 pieces of "ladies clothing" could keep women out of jail and virtually every Lesbian lived in the closet, Del co-founded the Daughters of Bilitis, the first US Lesbian organization. Her groundbreaking writing and activism on behalf of women in the face of patriarchy's deepest erasure embodied many great strengths of our tradition. With her lifetime partner Phyllis Lyon, Del Martin advanced Lesbian visibility and pride and forged an enduring image that has and will continue to inspire generations of Lesbians around the globe.

OLOC is finalizing the details on The Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award and will be seeking nominations in the coming months.

Gaye A Hit at Gathering

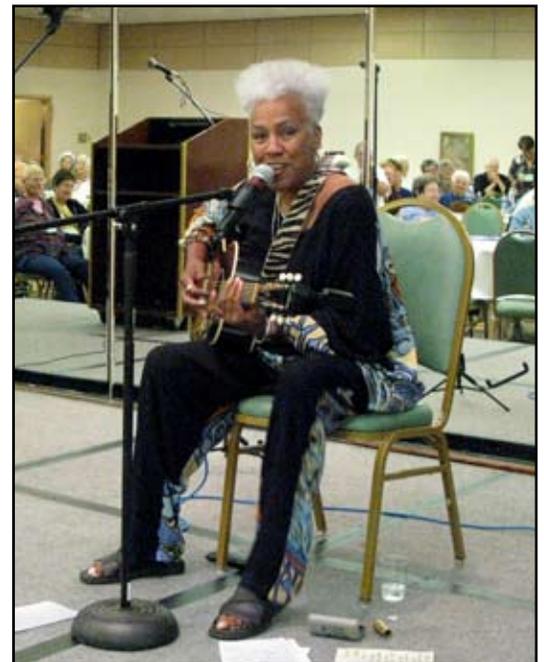
Gaye Adegbalola's concert, keynote speech and workshop were well received by the OLOC crowd and her enthusiastic presence during the several days of the event was noted and appreciated by all.

Our keynoters did their homework and were extraordinarily responsive to our legacy and what OLOC has already accomplished. They participated in our workshops and activities following or preceding their own contributions. Gaye Adegbalola belted out queer blues and offered a stellar workshop on creativity more than worthy of this Bay area gal's latest crush." *Marcia Perlstein, 63*

From Gaye's CD *Gaye Without Shame*: (Gaye said these things at her keynote speech, too.)

I have known oppression all my life: as a black in the segregated south, as a poor person, as a woman, as a single

...article continued on page 2



Gaye @ Gathering; photo C. Cade

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parent, as a lesbian. By far, the most severe has been the oppression of color. My ancestors were raped from Africa, families separated and sold, my language and culture stolen. My name stolen. My first identity is shaped by my blackness. Yet, many of the struggles and indignities I have faced as a lesbian are similar to those I've faced in my struggle for black civil rights...

My flat nose and nappy head was called ugly. And, simply put, from day one, our queer physical images and gender identities have been stereotyped and ostracized. Until I embraced the beauty of my blackness, I could not throw off the cloak of inferiority. Until I embraced the beauty of my queerness, I could not throw off this particular cloak of inferiority. I have no shame. I can look my adversaries in the eye and be proud of my own self worth and dignity. ... If all of us had the courage to step forward, families would change, legislation would change, society would change."

Gaye Adegbalola, 64

Memorial

Del Martin

By Natalie Zarchin, 86

Yesterday (Oct 1, 2008) I went to a memorial at SF City Hall for Del Martin that was a magnificent tribute to her life and achievements. The place was packed to the rafters; the speeches were wonderful and very moving.

Mayor Newsom's best remark was, "A life worth living is a life worth living out loud". ... They had special seating for all the OLOC members and other Old Dykes. It was a tremendous state-like recognition of her accomplishments that changed all our lives.

Correction

The June 2008 issue was incorrectly labeled Vol. 19 #1. It was really Vol. 18 #2.

OLOC Regional Gathering

The 2009 OLOC Regional Gathering will be held Friday, July 17 - Sunday, July 19 in Columbia, South Carolina. It is for Lesbians 60 years old and older wherever you live. It will be held at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Columbia. Workshops, speakers, meet and greet other Old Lesbians, sing, dance, and get to know each other. Talk about forming local chapters.

Ageism in Action

Study Indicates Age Discrimination Among Elderly Trauma Patients

Studies show that seniors in good health have essentially the same odds of recovery as younger trauma patients, as long as they get the same treatment. However, new research from Johns Hopkins University finds that many elderly trauma patients never make it to the best medical centers. Doctors analyzed 10 years' worth of ambulance data from Maryland and found evidence of unconscious age bias by emergency medical staff. Fully half of patients over 65 were not treated at designated trauma centers, compared to 18 percent of younger patients. Researchers found that the odds of being transported to a top trauma center dropped first at age 50 and then declined further when the patient was 70 or older.

Story by ABC News, Wednesday, August 20, 2008 Source: http://www.ktka.com/news/2008/aug/20/study_indicates_age_discrimination_among_elderly_t

Planning Research?

Sharon Raphael, OLOC Research Gatekeeper, will check all research requests. Contact her before doing or participating in research about Old Lesbians. Write to her care of the OLOC post office box or email her at: smraphael@aol.com

Nothing About Us Without Us.

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, 71

I've been writing here for about seven years. The initial intent was to take a look at medical or health recommendations from a feminist perspective. I seem to keep repeating, "beware, young women, they're fooling you –trust them not" and the alternative "trust yourself."

I don't have any stock answer(s) about how one does that, particularly in the midst of such a barrage of "information" which seems to be divided into that which promises to make your life richer, better, longer, and happier and that which seems designed to scare you to death. We create the "disease" and then offer the "cure."

The biggest issue in "health care" is seen as how to pay for it. Those who challenge its content and underlying concepts (infrastructure, if you will) are in a sadly small minority. Too few are asking why do we breathe dirty air, drink dirty water, eat contaminated, radiated, genetically modified, or artificially enhanced food, and why do we find it necessary to protect ourselves from nature? Does that do us more harm than good?

That's the bottom line for any prescription, whether it's a medication, some sort of mechanical intervention or replacement, or the removal of a body part. The weighing of the "good" versus the "harm" as well as whom we choose to trust as our information source is highly individualized.

Next OLOC National Gathering ↩
will be held in the summer
2010 in Cleveland, Ohio

OLOC Receives Grants

Arcus Foundation Grant to OLOC

For the first time, OLOC has received a grant from the Arcus Foundation and one of our most sizable grants ever – \$15,000. The grant will be allocated to:

- 1) Establishing a field organizing program in the Southwest US starting January 1 with Ruth Debra of Palm Springs being the field organizer. OLOC will explore establishing chapters in AZ, NM, and southern California.
- 2) Paying partial expenses to make sure OLOC members are present and visible at national and regional events, such as conferences of the American Society on Aging, Creating Change (National Gay/Lesbian Task Force), and SAGE's (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) recently completed conference on LGBT Aging.
- 3) Assisting OLOC with increased expenses for administration and outreach as we expand.

Carpenter Foundation Grant to OLOC

OLOC is very pleased to have received a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for the 3rd year in a row. This year's grant of \$11,000 assisted with expenses for the 2008 National OLOC Gathering and for our ongoing field organizing program to start new chapters and promote regional events.

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice Grants

OLOC is honored to have received 3 different grants in 2008 from Astraea. A \$6,000 grant was allocated for the 2008 national gathering, field organizing, and the OLOC regional event scheduled for July 2009. A grant of \$3,000 from the Heller-Bernard Fund is undesignated and can be used for current needs. \$1817 was received specifically for 2 OLOC women to attend a conference of the National Black Justice Coalition (LGBT advocacy organization).

Tita's Chat with the Housekeepers – The Hacienda Hotel, Los Angeles, 2008

By Pacifica, 67 with help from Tita Caldwell, 76

Tita, Natalie (Zarchin) and Pacifica became roomies for the OLOC Gathering 2008. After 2 days, they noted that the sheets as well as all the towels were being changed every day. They thought of the people power, the carbon footprint, and the water moving through that very building and they agreed that they could make a change, even for the little time they would be there; after all, the truth is that old women are the keepers of the elements.

Pacifica called housekeeping and explained that they didn't want the sheets and towels to be changed every day, please. She added that they appreciated the housekeepers coming in to straighten the beds, and that they wanted to conserve water and energy wherever and whenever they could.

Both Tita and Pacifica, being bilingual, had been enjoying the occasional chat in Spanish with the staff. The opportunity to converse with Spanish speakers from other parts of the world and different cultures is very appealing. The Hacienda Hotel, founded some 30 years ago by Spanish speaking people with roots in Mexico, is a center of international visitors as well as staff.

One day when Tita and Natalie came to the room, two housekeepers were there just finishing up. One of the women was from Guatemala, as is Tita. They chatted a bit and soon the question of who we were came up. Were we social workers? Tita said, "No, we are Lesbians. We are Old Lesbians." The housekeepers were surprised and curious and still wanted to know just what we did, meaning what type of work. Tita answered that we did many things, but what we had in common was that we were a diverse group of Lesbians all over 60.

Then the Guatemalan woman shyly asked if Natalie was Tita's wife. "No," Tita translated for Natalie, laughing. "She's not my wife, she's my

friend." Then the housekeeper asked if the other woman (referring to Pacifica, who was not in the room) was her wife. Again, Tita answered, "No, she's not my wife, but she did just get married and her wife isn't here." Tita added, "I have a girlfriend who isn't here, and Natalie also has a girlfriend who isn't here." They were all smiling and having a good time sharing.

This exchange seemed to encourage the housekeepers' trust enough for them to say that it was better for them if instead of calling the office, we would speak directly to staff individually about what was wanted in regard to the sheets and towels, because otherwise the office would give them extra work. They were a little nervous about saying that, but Tita assured them not to worry because she was on the side of the workers. Everybody was still smiling when they left.

Tita said later that what really pleased her about this interaction was that the women already knew that Lesbians could get married since they asked if Natalie was her wife.

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: Susan Wiseheart, Editor; Ruth Debra, Malinda McCain & Susan Howe, Proofreaders; Mina Meyer and Jan Griesinger, Content Review; Margaret Purcell, Design/Layout; all of the writers and the mailing crew.

Let your voice be heard.

Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2009.
Submission guidelines: copy due by Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1 and Nov 1. Limit submissions to 500 words.
Articles may be edited for clarity and length.

Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org
or OLOC, PO Box 5853, Athens, OH 45701

More Individual Old Lesbians Comment About the National Gathering

I want to thank you for doing an incredible job organizing the 2008 gathering. I think it's the best-organized conference I've ever been to.

The gathering was so wonderful for me that I've had a hard time being back. Someone said to me today "Ah, you've seen the Promised Land" and that's how it feels.

You did a wonderful job of getting us all together; it felt like home.

As an organizer, I noticed the skillful ways you coordinated everything, the many special touches, the thoughtfulness, the wonderful ways you blended politics, music, speakers, workshops, humor, fun, food, large and small groups, the hospitality room, the gorgeous T-shirts, the memorial program, arranging for financial assistance, etc., etc.

It was interesting, informative, and invigorating. I'm going to send out 20 fliers and a letter telling 20 friends how OLOC is the good news that they need.

Old Lesbians in the News

Charlotte Ellis, 65

Charlotte organized the St. Louis chapter of OLOC and was recently elected to the board of the new SAGE Metro St. Louis, the 9th SAGE organization to form. She hopes to influence the well-being of Old Lesbians in the St. Louis area with her membership on this board. In the press release announcing the new organization, she is quoted as saying that she believes "that SAGE will be of service to my friends and me. I think it is important work to serve the elder LGBT Community." In September, SAGE Metro St. Louis held a coffee to introduce SAGE to St. Louis. Most of the attendees were OLOC women. They are working on a survey of needs assessment. Grief support and senior housing seem to be the things that are coming up most frequently.

Susan Chacin, 63

Susan created a wonderful radio show full of the voices of OLOC members from the Bay Area chapter that aired on KPFA radio on June 23, 2008. If you have Internet access, here is the link to the show (below). It is fantastic and we thank Cathy Cade, another OLOCer, for alerting us. We have a copy on CD in the OLOC Media

Lending Library if you don't have Internet access and want to hear it. The URL is: <http://www.kpfa.org/archives/index.php?arch=26972>

Blatant Outreach A Success By Jan Griesinger, 66

As I was walking out of a Columbus restaurant behind the rest of the Steering Committee, wearing my big logo OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE T-shirt, I noticed two women sitting at a table, one of them looking at us and smiling. I ran out and got one of our big cards, ran back in and placed it on her table along with my business card. I didn't say anything, just dropped it and ran. It's the first time I have really gone up to a total stranger and done such a thing.

Lo and behold, she called me not long after, asking why I had left the stuff on her table. I explained that a bunch of us were in town and were being very bold, that I saw her smile and that we were hoping anyone who looked friendly could help us reach out to Old Lesbians. She ended up coming out to me of course, said she was only in her early fifties but then offered to help us do outreach!

Steering Committee News: The OLOC SC Retreats and Meets in Ohio

By *Alix Dobkin, 68*

The OLOC Steering Committee commenced its 2008 autumn meeting on Thursday, October 23rd in a Columbus, Ohio Ramada Inn. Pat Dewees, from Athens, Ohio led Jan, Mina, Sally, Ruth, Myra, and me plus Susan, our trusty Administrative Coordinator, through three sessions to review and clarify our goals, expectations, and priorities for future OLOC growth. Consciousness-raising focused on anti-Semitism and its various expressions, both subtle and in unmistakable stereotypes such as "Jewish bankers" or phrases like "Jew down."

The next day we tackled regular Steering Committee business. The agenda summarized the dense marathon awaiting us. In addition to existing priorities like *The Reporter*, approving a contract with Arden regarding The Oral Herstory Project, formulating fund raising strategies, and renewing Susan's contract with very big praise and a very small raise, we assessed the 2008 Gathering, reading evaluations and suggesting improvements for our next National Gathering in Cleveland, Ohio in July 2010.

During one brainstorming session, Ruth uttered the phrase "Old Lesbian Pride," which from her lips proceeded directly onto our Mission Statement and became the theme for the 2010 Gathering. Soon after that, we established The Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award, to be presented at our Gatherings. On the phone, Phyllis Lyon was delighted at the news and confirmed that OLOC is the first organization to honor Del by naming an award for her. Ideas were considered to make the website more accessible and inclusive; then we met with Darlene Duncan, our new oloc.org web keeper.

We took a critical look at the relationship between national OLOC and local chapters and their representation on the SC, and brainstormed ways to further develop our

field organizing program and generate more chapters.

Attention was paid to our collaborative efforts with other organizations and participation in conferences and festivals to get the word out about OLOC.

Jan presented and explained the budget and finances, which we examined, questioned, and accepted. A list of socially responsible investment screens was distributed for consideration at a later date since, thanks to mutant capitalism and its offspring, our dwindling assets will stay put for now.

The makeup of the SC and the process of becoming and remaining a member was examined, evaluated, and refined. Many other details and aspects involved with keeping OLOC on track and healthy were addressed, tasks were doled out and accepted, and everyone seemed satisfied at the amount of work accomplished in five days.

Age does not protect you from love, but love to some extent protects you from age.

Jeanne Moreau

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

Announcements!

OLOC Recommended Research

Are you age 60 or older and a Lesbian?

If so, then you are invited to participate in a study of well-being. The study consists of online questions. Participation in the study is voluntary and no identifying information will be collected.

I hope to gain more information about the psychological well-being of older lesbians to help researchers and clinicians better understand and assist this group.

To participate, please go to:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KyBhazBb1fhePQHGHgghJYHQ_3d_3d

For more information, please contact Amanda Ross at adr21@uakron.edu.

Holiday Gift Exchange Idea

If you exchange holiday gifts with family or friends, consider agreeing on a charitable donation to OLOC or another nonprofit of your choice rather than a gift item.

Consciousness Raising on Ageism

At the 2008 OLOC national gathering we held a CR session that has been edited for use with OLOC groups and the general public. Several Old Lesbians share their experiences with ageism and reflect on its effect throughout society. It is available for loan or purchase from OLOC - use our contact phone, email, mailing address. One copy is free to OLOC chapters. Individual OLOCers can purchase one for \$5.

OLOC Media Lending Library, A New Name

The Video library now includes CDs, so we have changed its name. Latest additions include radio shows by and/or about OLOC or OLOC Lesbians plus DVDs and CDs about the Gathering in Los Angeles in the summer of 2008. You can see the list on the website oloc.org under Resources; get an email copy by contacting susan@oloc.org or a print copy in the mail by sending an s.a.s.e. to Susan Wiseheart, HC 73 Box 169 C, Drury MO 65638.

*Sinister Wisdom wants writing and/or photos for its upcoming **Old Dykes/ Lesbians II** issue. Material is due by 3/1/09 to: Sinister Wisdom, POB 1180, Sebastopol, CA 95473 or fran@sonic.net.*

OLOC Needs Volunteers

- Editor for OLOC Reporter: Collect, edit and select submissions. Requires editing and computer/email skills.
- Edit OLOC Photos: Collect, file and select photos received from OLOC Lesbians and others, work with newsletter and website editors. Requires computer, photo and email skills.
- OLOC Outreach Coordinator: Publicize OLOC in women's, LGBT, and aging publications. Coordinate paid ads when we have money for them. Create and send press releases and notices to list serves.

Contact susan@oloc.org or write to the PO Box if you are interested.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Arcus Foundation, and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Chapter and Regional News

Chapter Contact List

Help form an OLOC chapter in one of our six regions. Contact susan@oloc.org or write to the OLOC address in Ohio.

South West	Northern CO	Cindy Bear, 61	303-258-9424	cindy@oloc.org
	Southern CA	Mina Meyer, 68	562-420-3555	mina@oloc.org
	Coachella Valley/ Palm Springs, CA	Ruth Debra, 64	760-318-6794	ruth@oloc.org
	San Francisco Bay 40 Camino Alto #12209 Mill Valley, CA 94941	Joan Emerson, 73	415-388-5001	
North West	Portland, OR	Mary Beth Brindley, 69	503-286-357	marybeth@oloc.org
	Puget Sound/WA	Mary Henry, 69	253-565-0829	mary@oloc.org
South East	(no chapters yet)	Carole Stoneking, 71	803-748-9490	stonekg@aol.com
North East	New York City	Myra Brahms, 66	212-535-9633	myra@oloc.org
	Hudson Valley NY	Alix Dobkin, 68	845-679-7586	alix@oloc.org
So. Central	St. Louis, MO	Charlotte Ellis, 65	314-962-2188	charlotte@oloc.org
North Central	Cleveland, OH	Judy Benson, 61	216-227-1243	judb@cox.net
	OH except Cleveland	Sally Tatnall, 71	216-932-0977	tatnalls@yahoo.com

Puget Sound Chapter *By Gloria Stancich, 73*

OLOC is alive and well in the Pacific Northwest! WA OLOC will celebrate its 2nd anniversary in January 2009 with a meeting at our birthplace (Wheelock Library in Tacoma) and dinner out afterwards.

During the past 3 months, a bunch of us attended the OLOC Gathering in LA (at least 2 were workshop presenters); several of us went to the annual Pacific Women's Circle Association camp on Vancouver Island; we gathered at a potluck at Marcia and Nyla's home on Discovery Bay and then again at DBR a few weeks later. The OLOC team carried the WA-OLOC banner in the Pierce County AIDS Walk in September, and we held our 2nd annual 7-day retreat at Pacific Beach on the north coast of Washington in October. The retreat turned out to be regional (a Portland, OR chapter member joined us for the entire week) and international, as a new member from Vancouver, BC also joined us for the week and taught us the joys (and pitfalls) of geo-caching. Our email list (about 70 women) has been buzzing with political information and discussions as well as issues on health and housing relating to Old Lesbians. For any readers who would like to join us, please write to mary@oloc.org or gloria@oloc.org and let us know!



*The Pierce County Aids Walk September 6, 2008 in front of Tacoma's old Union Station.... now the Federal Court House
L to R: Gloria Stancich, 73; Donna Douglass, 69; and Joanne Fritsche, 69. Photo by Russell Barber*

Bay Area Chapter: Ageism is the Hatred of the Old, in Our Case Old Women.

By Simi Litvak, 66

Notes from the Introduction by Marge Nelson Ageism invades every aspect of our being. A recent NPR program on the subject stated that we're getting older but we don't want to be old.

Ageism Has Led to Many Myths About Growing Old.

We have believed that we inevitably lose our memories as we age. But forgetting is a natural function of memory. If we remembered everything, we couldn't function. Children forget, too. Only 2% of the population gets Alzheimer's. Ageism comes in here. Society expects very little of old women, so we do less. We also may become satisfied with who we are and not want to bother with learning new ways. Yet the brain needs to be stimulated and can actually grow. But we have to work on memory. There are lots of techniques for increasing memory. For example, we can practice remembering phone numbers after we look them up.

Illness has been portrayed as inevitable with aging. How we define illness is key. Margaret Cruikshank (Peg), an Old Lesbian, has written a fine book, *Learning to Be Old*, in which she maintains that the one acceptable role for old women is sickness. When we are sick, people get excited and we get attention. We are major consumers of the medical industrial complex. But as a patient we are prey to Big Pharma and plastic surgery.

Ageism involves our attitude towards death and dying. Ageism is the belief that you are over the hill at 50 or 60.

Ageism is subtle. For example, a T-Shirt with the slogan: "Over the hill? What hill?" can be taken positively or negatively. (The negative implication is that we are so old that we can't even see the hill.)

Key here is acceptance. OLOC aims to put out a positive image of old women, especially Old Lesbians. (Part one of a three-part series about the Bay Area OLOC Retreat discussion on Ageism, May 2008 – from the Bay Area Chapter Newsletter.)

Colorado Chapter

By Cindy T. Bear, 61

In 2008 we sponsored and/or participated in Boulder Pride Block Party, supported Rainbow Alley GLBTQ Youth as part of The GLBTQ Center in Denver, held discussions about current GLBTQ topics in the news and discussed with our members ways to make a difference and/or volunteer in political elections. 25-30 women have been attending our gatherings.

Correction from last issue:

Member Sally West, who is involved with cooperative housing and the project [goldengirlhomes](http://goldengirlhomes.us) asked us to let you know the correct websites to reach her and the project: goldengirlhomes.us or www.riverridge.info



Califia Alumnae Diane Germain and Jan Hines of California at Balboa Park Christmas on the Prado celebration in San Diego 2007. Photo: Jon Lee

Contact List for Current Steering Committee Members

Co-Directors:

Jan Griesinger, 66, Athens OH	jan@oloc.org	(740) 448-6424
Mina Meyer, 68, Long Beach CA	mina@oloc.org	(562) 420-3555

Steering Committee Members:

Sally Tatnall, 70, Cleveland Heights OH	sally@oloc.org	(216) 932-0977
Alix Dobkin, 67, Woodstock, NY	alix@oloc.org	(845) 679-7586
Ruth Debra, 64, Palm Springs CA	ruth@oloc.org	(760) 318-6794
Myra Brahms, 66, New York City	myra@oloc.org	(212) 535-9633

OLOC Lesbians Out and About!

SAGE Conference Report, OLOC Goes to Brooklyn *By Alix Dobkin, 68*

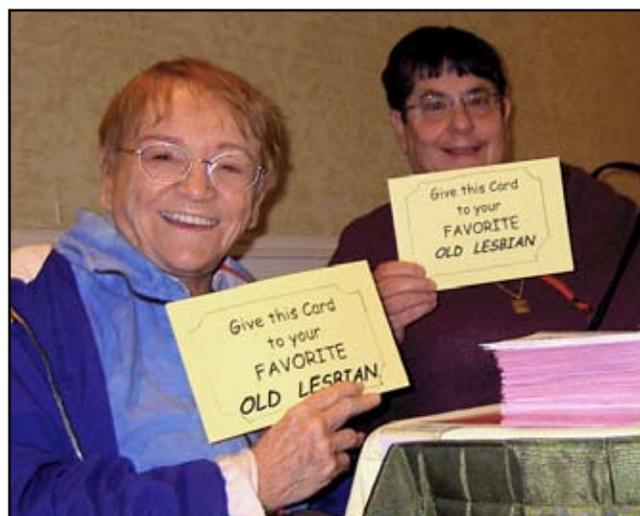
OLOC was present at The Fourth Annual SAGE conference, *It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World*, 11-14 October, 2008, co-sponsored by AARP. Representing OLOC were Myra Brahms and Eunice Samuels from the NYC Chapter, Sharon Raphael and Mina Meyer from our Long Beach, CA Chapter, and me, Alix Dobkin, from Woodstock, NY and the Hudson Valley Chapter.

On Monday I was pleased to see that OLOC had the best spot in the place for our table and Myra brought the Chapter OLOC banner, which looked good wrapped around the table legs. Most of Monday I spent planted at the table next to, at various times, Ellen Ensig-Brodsky, Myra, Eunice, & Marlene Feingold from the NYC Chapter. We handed out "GIVE THIS TO YOUR FAVORITE OLD LESBIAN" cards containing our mission and contact info and talked to a million friendly, interested people. Many contacts were made and business cards exchanged.

The one workshop I managed to attend was ours: *Old Lesbians Challenging Ageism: Taking Our Power*. We talked about OLOC history punctuated with personal stories and takes on OLOC in our lives. Mina explained who we are and why we insist on identifying as "old"; Sharon described her duties as Research Gatekeeper and the theme: "nothing about us without us"; Eunice talked about "overcoming ageist thinking" and real needs of real Old Lesbians; Myra told of OLOC's mission & goals; and I discussed visibility & working with my local Community Center to collaborate, not duplicate, the work of other groups like SAGE.

We were followed by a lively back & forth session with the 30 or so who attended, including Peg Cruikshank, whose new edition of *Learning To Be Old: Gender, Culture, Aging* is due out in the spring. When Myra wrapped up the 90-minute session I was glad that she forcefully emphasized that Old Lesbians are invisible, even within SAGE leadership.

I believe we made a positive presence for Old Lesbians and spread the word about OLOC in a pretty big and helpful way. Not only did we educate the larger LGBTQ community about Lesbian invisibility, but we also interacted with many main-stream providers, academics, individuals and groups associated with AARP and besides cards gave them something to think about and take home.



Marlene Feingold, a former Steering Committee member, and Sharon Raphael, OLOC Research Gatekeeper, at SAGE.

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 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 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 \$5 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.

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

**Also Available:
OLOC Wear and
Cloisonné OLOC Lapel Pins, Buttons
(email, check OLOC.org or write for details)**

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 _____ **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) _____ / _____

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I prefer: a print copy via U.S. Mail _____ **or a PDF via email** _____

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