

# PS OLOC miniNEWS

Connecting old lesbians throughout the Puget Sound area to form community and encourage participation in activities and causes that work to improve our lives and increase our visibility.

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Issue!

January 2015

**"I don't want to simplify when I write. I want people there with their warts on. I want you to love them even when you hate them."**

**Dorothy Allison**

That quote says a lot about Dorothy Allison and what you can expect at this PS OLOC event. Dorothy describes herself as "a feminist and a working class storyteller who writes to change the world." She's an accomplished writer and speaker who frankly tackles gender, class, violence, and sexual orientation.

Dorothy Allison gave a presentation at the OLOC Gathering in Oakland this past summer, and since it was taped, and since PS OLOC obtained a copy, you'll have a chance to experience it for yourself. And an experience it was. Throughout the rest of the Gathering, women talked about what Dorothy said, and how she said it.

Anyone who has read much of her writing, or heard her speak before, probably can already guess that Dorothy pulled no punches when she spoke – it seems no one left the room unaffected by what they had just experienced. And make no mistakes: it isn't just hearing her words – listening and seeing Dorothy Allison speak her truths is a consequential occurrence.

For anyone who doesn't know her work, you may want to check out *Bastard Out of North Carolina*, *Trash: Short Stories*, or *Skin: Sex, Class and Literature*.

An essential part of this event will be the opportunity to talk about the video, so please plan to stay a while after it's over. Some of the group is already planning on moving the discussion over to a nearby restaurant when the library ushers us out at 5.

If you'd like more information about this event, please contact Mary at [mshen1@mac.com](mailto:mshen1@mac.com) or 253-565-0829.



**PS OLOC Event**  
**D.Allison video/discussion**  
**Saturday, January 24, 2015**  
**2:30 PM to 5:00 PM**  
**Federal Way Regional Library**  
**34200 1st Way S.**  
**Federal Way, WA 98003**

*"Women lose their lives not knowing they can do something different... I claimed myself and remade my life. Only when I knew I belonged to myself completely did I become capable of giving myself to another, of finding joy in desire, pleasure in our love, power in this body no one else owns."*

Contact Information for PS OLOC QC3 Members is on Page 6

## QCCC Checking In

In order to practice what we preach, we would like to make sure that our members understand that our QCCC meetings are open to all.

The schedule for these meetings is now every other month on the first Tuesday. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, starting at 10 am. This will be at the Valley View library, near Sea-Tac.



We have also set a "schedule" for *miniNEWS* publication. The plan is for six issues a year, in the alternate months from the QC3 meetings, so March, May, July, etc. If you have articles you would like to submit, or suggestions, please send them, as early as possible, to Gloria and Kathy P. Kathy is learning the ropes from Gloria, who has ably served the vital role of *PS OLOC miniNEWS* Editor for several years.

## Things PS OLOC Is Involved In

### PS OLOC West PLANS and EXPANDS by Kathy Prezbindowski

The "West of the Narrows Bridge" branch of PS OLOC gathered for lunch last Wednesday. Ten women enjoyed pizza and salads @ Gig Harbor's Blue Cannon. Along with savoring delicious fare, the group announced new Coordinators, Meg and Linda. They will be sending a summary of each one of our monthly meetings, as well as notices about upcoming events, to women on the [SouthPSOLOC@yahoo.com](mailto:SouthPSOLOC@yahoo.com) list. (See how to subscribe on last page.)

#### Suggestions for ongoing events of this thriving group include:

- Gig Harbor recliner movies (adult-only theater)
- Lesbian videos (like Cloudburst) @ women's homes: first one already scheduled!
- PS OLOC events: Dorothy Allison video Jan. 24
- Cards & Games sessions
- "The Art of Conversation"
- South Lunch Bunch, 1/13 and 2/10, 11:30 am
- Book club & discussion group
  - Network with PS OLOC-Seattle book club
  - Women veterans and health insurance
  - Finding local services: handy-persons, carpenters, cleaners, attorneys, health care providers

- Connect with Meetup' South Sound Lesbians (SSL) and Kitsap LGBT group: coffee and more.
- On occasion, alter the meeting day for women with standing conflicts. Note to Pokey: hope to see you Thursday in February!



Ideas for outreach to let other women find the PS OLOC West group, and for our own networking, include reaching out to the Peninsula UU Church, the Sno-Isle group, posting meetings in local newspapers that offer that service, using Facebook, submitting articles to the PS OLOC miniNEWS, and more. Share your ideas with Meg & Linda.

The next West event is set for Thursday, Feb. 5, 12:30-3:30. It will be a movie and discussion @ Kathy Knowles' home (Olalla). Bring munchies, finger foods, small sandwiches and something to drink. Gloria has the list of PS OLOC videos that she'll share. Contact Meg & Linda at [d.darlene81@yahoo.com](mailto:d.darlene81@yahoo.com) or Kathy Knowles at [smudge2@centurytel.net](mailto:smudge2@centurytel.net) 253-857-4849. She will email directions.

### Seattle PS OLOC

This Seattle PS OLOC book club continues to meet the first Tuesday of each month. The first book for 2015 was *Folly* by Laurie R. King. The nine of us who were present had a lively discussion, which continued until our meeting place closed for the evening. On Feb. 3, we will be discussing *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Toilan, "a true story of two families, one Arab, one Jewish; an unlikely friendship that encompasses the entire modern history of Israelis and Palestinians and that holds in its framework a hope for true peace and reconciliation for the region." If you are

interested in seeing the list for the entire year, contact Aganita. The group meets at The Couth Buzzard Bookstore (8310 Greenwood Avenue North, Seattle) at 7 PM.

#### Want the Latest News?

Sign up for the various Yahoo groups. Learn how to on the last page of the miniNEWS.

Seattle PS OLOC diners get together on the third Thursday of the month. Locations vary. The January 15<sup>th</sup> dinner will be at RAZZiS Pizzeria at 8523 Greenwood Ave. N. Seattle WA 98103. In February (Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>) we will be eating at Spiro's in

Shoreline. (1841 Aurora Ave. N., Shoreline, WA 98133) The dinners begin at 6:30 PM.

Also in February, we plan a showing of the film *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, based on the novel by Jeanette Winter-son. The date and location will be announced later.

### South Lunch Bunches Second Tuesdays, Tacoma

South Sounders, and friends, continue to meet monthly for lunch in the Tacoma area. Unless there is something atypical happening, it's always the second Tuesday at 11:30.



## Things PS OLOC Is Involved In

### Intergenerational Connections by Anne Henry

I was asked, "Will you tell us a bit about the intergenerational work you are doing and why it is important for old lesbians to be engaging with LGBTQ folks from other age groups?" Here is my response:

Moving to Seattle 2 years ago from Ohio, I was able to enjoy a wider community of LGBTQ people and have many different experiences I didn't have in the midwest. One of the best decisions was to join PS OLOC and become a member of the QC3.

While working in Ohio, I had professional contact with LGBTQ teens. It was a great experience and I believe that I learned so much from them. Through PS OLOC, I was asked if I was interested in attending the intergenerational focus group being set up by the LGBT Allyship organization. I attended the focus group for elder LGBTQ people. The purpose was to create an intergenerational LGBTQ conference and to host intergenerational dialogues.

Allyship asked for a speaker to represent the elders at the conference, and I was asked by PS OLOC to step up. I was on a panel at the conference that spoke about LGBTQ experience as elders in the community. Representa-

tives from Seattle and state governments, as well as other organizations, were also part of the panel. After the conference, I was asked to consider being a part of LGBTQ Allyship, the organization leading the focus groups, conference and dialogues.

Why do I do this work? For me, creating intergenerational connections between young and elder LGBTQ people is critical for our shared future. At both ends of the life spectrum, each group has its own challenges and competencies. To me, they are complementary. We need each other. As elders, our life experience over decades offers options for sharing the issues our young face. Young LGBTQ people have energy, and perhaps a fresh perspective on our experiences, and perhaps new possibilities to approach life.

Shared activism offers empowerment for both groups and brings a greater impact to the challenges taken together. As well, there is empathy and yes youthful passion for causes and elder experience in activism. To me it's a powerful combination for our shared future.



### The Three R's Column by Ellen K

Environment WA jumped on the ban plastic bags (those with handles) bandwagon a few years ago, and has had success in some of our major cities. Just a couple of weeks ago, there was an e-mail petition from the Mayor of Redmond (on [Change.org](http://Change.org)) promoting cloth or paper over plastic. Trees are a renewable resource, fossil fuels to make plastic are not. Paper bags can be composted (best choice) or recycled for new bag creation. Some plastic can be recycled, but not effectively. It takes great energy expenditure and is costly, while there just isn't much of a market for it. Not to mention what ends up littering the landscape and the oceans, suffocating children and being ingested by animals.

I stuck my toe in the water months ago, talking to friends about a plastic bag ban on Vashon, which certainly should be a receptive community. Several said they need those plastic bags for garbage and used kitty litter. I use them too, but I know I could make do with fewer. When essential, use the light green plastic produce bags (found at our Thriftway) which say "Made of 100% Post Industrial Recycled Resin." OK, my first New Year's resolution: **In 2015, I'll stop talking and act on this.**



### M&M's Resolution

Big groups are great! But we've found they can be a hard place to have a meaningful conversation. So our resolution for 2015 is to make a concerted effort to get together in smaller groups as well. We don't plan to skip the big groups, just add to them. And the way we see it, telling everyone this is our resolution will put more pressure on us to keep it!

## Things PS OLOC Members Hope You'll Find Interesting

### Links, Links, and More Links

Several interesting sites and references to articles were brought to our attention over this past two months, ones we'd like to make sure you have access to as well. If you are reading this as a digital file, you should be able to simply click on the URLs and be whisked off automatically. For those relegated to typing in links, we've converted the long ones into Tiny URLs. They take you to that same place, but are much shorter and have fewer odd characters that confuse the issue. And if you doubt the value of a Tiny URL, this might convince you:

**original URL, 219 characters long:** [http://theseattlelesbian.com/seattle-nurse-practitioner-proposes-new-health-care-model-for-lesbian-patients/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+theseattlelesbian%2FCBSX+%28The+Seattle+Lesbian%29](http://theseattlelesbian.com/seattle-nurse-practitioner-proposes-new-health-care-model-for-lesbian-patients/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+theseattlelesbian%2FCBSX+%28The+Seattle+Lesbian%29) **same address as a Tiny URL, 26 characters:** <http://tinyurl.com/pz2ubnp>



First up is an intriguing blog entry called *Edward Nicholas* by Susan E. Johnson, who lives in the Puget Sound area. It offers insights into her experiences as a female child with a strong male alter ego. You can find that blog entry at <http://tinyurl.com/osahcgr>

At <http://tinyurl.com/nfnopk4>, you'll find several articles about isolation and seniors. The website is *A Place For Mom*, which we are not advocating for, one way or the other – but the articles made some good points. Did you know that LGBT seniors are twice as likely to live alone? This is according to SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders) who speculates the increased isolation is because we are more likely to be single, less likely to have children, and more likely to be estranged from our biological families. All the more reason to be involved in groups like PS OLOC and TLC!

Another blog entry we recommend is *Hush My Mouth: the sounds of silence* posted on *viewfromadyke*, the blog of Tina G, from Indianola. In *Hush My Mouth*, Tina shares some interesting thoughts about her experiences at the Oakland OLOC Gathering. That article can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/o6euba7> While there, you may also want to read her newest posting about going to the recent anniversary celebration at the Wild Rose in Seattle, *Happy New Year: Hell No, Auld Acquaintance Should Not Be Forgotten!*

*The Seattle Lesbian* website ran an article titled *Seattle Nurse Practitioner Proposes New Health Care Model for Lesbian Patients*. It profiled a nurse in the Seattle area who is proposing a new model of healthcare that would build a better, more open, relationship between lesbians and their care providers. You can find that article at <http://tinyurl.com/pz2ubnp>

### From Mary and Margaret... *She's Beautiful* Tuesday, Jan. 27

As part of the Tuesday Film Series at the Grand in downtown Tacoma, they are showing *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*. The film takes a candid look at the "outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. *She's Beautiful* takes us from the founding of NOW, with ladies in hats and gloves, to the emergence of the more radical factions of women's liberation; from intellectuals like Kate Millett to the street theatrics of WITCH (Women's International Conspiracy from Hell!). It does not shy away from the controversies over race, sexual preference and leadership that arose in the women's movement, and brilliantly captures the spirit of the time – thrilling, scandalous, and often hilarious."

*She's Beautiful* is showing at the The Grand in Tacoma on Tuesday, Jan. 27. The Grand hasn't announced the times yet, but assuming it's done like their other Tuesday films, they'll probably show it twice: once around 2 pm, and again in early evening. **The film will also show on Friday, Jan. 16 at the Landmark Seven Gables in Seattle.**

For more about the film, and to view the trailer, go to [www.shesbeautifulwhenshesangry.com/](http://www.shesbeautifulwhenshesangry.com/)

**SHE'S BEAUTIFUL  
WHEN SHE'S  
ANGRY**

### Coming Out Women – First and Third Wednesdays

C.O. Women continues to welcome women at any point in the life-long process of coming out. This free support/networking group is co-sponsored by TLC and PS OLOC and meets @ the University Place Library (between 35th and 37th on the east side of Bridgeport Way), 6:30-8:30 pm, first and third Wednesdays. Contact Kathy: 253-268-0098 [kathy prez@comcast.net](mailto:kathy prez@comcast.net) [www.comingoutwomen.org](http://www.comingoutwomen.org)



*Here is an article Kathy Prez has written for both the TLC News and the PS OLOC miniNEWS...*

The 4th anniversary for Coming Out Women is 2/2/15. Early on, the greatest challenge to women searching for our group was FINDING us. We started @ the Greener Bean in Fircrest → The Pine Cone → Zula's church in south Lakewood → (since mid2012) University Place Library's small meeting room. Now we're bursting at the seams. (See WHY below).

UPL's large meeting room holds 86 – we'd be good there forever, but the space is booked every Wednesday night ad infinitum. UPL says there is more space in that huge building, so we're working on getting it.

WHY. The word about C.O.Women is OUT as never before via SSL (South Sound Lesbians). In November, associate facilitator, Jill Falkowitz, became an organizer on the SSL meetup site, enabling her to post the C.O.Women meetings via SSL. Our numbers are soaring. Yes, C.O.Women's own Meetup site has drawn some women over the past two years, but nothing like the SSL response.

In 2015 we anticipate new features of C.O.Women to address important issues and to make the Group accessible to women who live too far away, work/have classes on Wednesdays, or simply can't get to a meeting. These are:

- (1) WWW (WISE WOMEN'S WORDS)\*: There are SOOOO many valuable insights shared at Group. I jot down some of these and then email a synopsis after each meeting. Confidentiality is paramount: We omit info that could identify women; no names; fictitious initials if needed to clarify conversation. I'll seek feedback from meeting attendees as we hone this process.
- (2) Encourage women to network: by signing up on TLC and PSOLOC yahoo lists; checking out and trying SSL events; joining TLC (\$20/year/woman) to take part in a variety of events and

receive the bimonthly TLC Newsletter. Group newcomers receive the next edition of this newsletter by email.

- (3) Continue to post a welcome to each new SSL/COW contact. Meeting attendees post thoughts after meetings re the value of the meeting (which can draw newcomers).
- (4) Request ideas for themes or topics for portions of Group meetings. Examples:
  - coming out @ work issues
  - fear of rejection from friends, families, co-workers
  - weighing pro's and con's of coming out in each situation
  - dealing with "being assumed to be heterosexual"
  - how did/do I feel about myself as an LBGT woman (five years ago/today)?
  - consider one more way I'd like to be authentically ME
- (5) Arrange, announce, and attend dinners and other C.O.Women Outings each month (such as our first one, Pomodoro, 12/27/14). Invite a friend or partner to meetings or outings. (Post Outings on SSL and in TLC News.)
- (6) Expand [www.comingoutwomen.org](http://www.comingoutwomen.org) website.
  - Post mini-versions of women's coming out stories that demonstrate the wide range of experiences, yet our commonalities.
  - Remind women everywhere that coming out is truly a lifelong process and that none of us is alone on this journey.
  - Provide an email address so women (anywhere) can e-submit their own stories to be shared on the site. I will read and edit submissions. (Seeking help with this website mechanism.)

**\*Or WWW (WISE WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY'S WORDS)**

### Did You Know?

For a long time, PS OLOC, along with others, agitated for more communications between OLOC and the chapters. Chapters needed to connect with each other, too. To address some of those concerns, OLOC started a conference call with at least one SC member and reps from various chapters. Others have gotten in on the calls in the past, but we've settled on Deirdre as our rep for now. Next target for exercising our agitating muscles: Making the calls more workable for those with hearing issues!



### QCCC Contact List

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### You're Never Too Old To Geek Out! by Margaret

For the past decade, when friends asked a computer question, I'd say, "ask Mary - she's the family geek - I'm a user." No more.

A month or so ago, Mary gave up on an external hard drive that stopped booting up. It had photos and files she hated to lose, but we didn't know what to do. While at Costco, we picked up an unbelievably affordable 2T travel drive, thinking she'd have to settle for a fresh start. That's when I made my move.

Following several likely Google leads, I found out that, given how the old hard drive had behaved, the data was, most likely, still there. I tested the device with a different power cord, then a different USB cord, and then on a different computer. No go.

The next most likely answer was that the mechanism that boot-ed the drive was faulty. Fixing or replacing that was beyond me, but I found out how to take the thing apart, extract the part with all the actual data. Then I ordered a \$25 device that would read it. Voila! There were all of Mary's missing photos and files.

High from that success, we took on opening up an old Mac Mini to replace the PRAM battery. When booted back up, it worked, but now the fan ran constantly. Totally annoying. Back to Google and I found out the most likely cause was failure to reconnect a sensor when changing out the battery. We cracked it open again, and there the sensor was, unplugged.

As I type, the computer is running, quiet as can be, and Mary has access to all her lost files. Guess we're going to have to start asking, "With which geek do you wish to speak to?"



### Keepin' Up With PS OLOC Events

Each group has two addresses listed here. If you belong to the group, use the first address to post. If you are new, send your initial query to the second address, the one with "subscribe" in its address. Ideally, provide a bit of info about yourself in the request to subscribe, like a name and where you live. That helps keep out spammers.

It's one of the least expensive subscriptions you'll ever have – and no renewal notices!

**For all PS OLOC**

[psoloc@yahoogroups.com](mailto:psoloc@yahoogroups.com)  
[psoloc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:psoloc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**For the South Sound Lunch Bunch and the Westies (Gig Harbor, Olalla, Longbranch, etc.):**

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