

# 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 34<sup>th</sup> Issue!

March 2015

## Queer I Am

Saturday, March 28, Olympia

PS OLOC will be presenting a workshop at the *Queer I Am: A LGBTQ Student + Leadership Summit*. The event aims to "create a liberating space that engages Queer individuals and their many communities to develop their sense of belonging and pride in Queer culture and community. ... a collaborative project of colleges, community organizations, educators, and organizers. We are proud to invite you to join us in a grassroots summit by the people for the people!"

They may be sold out, but give it a try to see if they have added more spaces. You can access the full schedule along with info about the speakers and afternoon workshops.

Our part will focus on our Herstory work, readings, and sharing what it is that PS OLOC is all about. For more info:

<http://tinyurl.com/ntjf5bw>

## ATM? A New Meaning: Across The Mountains

You might be asking, "What is PS OLOC up to now?" The QC3 is planning a PS OLOC event to take place over in Wenatchee... yes, we know that's not quite on the Puget Sound, but conformity has never been our thing – why start now.

This is what's brewing: On May 16, we will host a half-day event in Wenatchee. We wanted to offer something for women from central and eastern Washington, and at the same time, introduce ourselves to those who don't know us. The event will be from about 11-4 and details will come later. For now, plan on a meet-and-greet, discussion, short presentation, and more.

As it happens, what was to be a rather simple plan has grown! A number of us are planning to go over early and do the all-day Lady of the Lake boat trip on Lake Chelan. We'll head over Thursday, spend the night, cruise Friday, spend the

night and show up ready for the originally planned event on Saturday.

If you'd like in on any or all of this, we'd be glad for you to join in. Women are getting their own boat tix and housing. Tix: call 888-682-4584. More info: [ladyofthelake.com](http://ladyofthelake.com). The full trip goes from Chelan itself. For a slightly shorter trip, you can come and go from Fields Point.

Once in Stehekin, you can walk around, pick up a pastry or a snack, or for \$9/person, take an accessible bus tour to see Rainbow Falls.

Both Chelan and Wenatchee have quite a few affordable places to stay. If you need help with that, contact us.

Hopefully women will both carpool and share housing to keep costs down.

More details will follow, but mark your calendars, get your tix, and reserve a room!



**Warning: This is a jam-packed issue of the miniNEWS! Open with caution.**



## An Uncommon Glyph...? by Margaret

Remember those mix-and-match jokes we thought were so funny when we were kids? "What do you get when you cross a cow with a trampoline? A milkshake!" Well, here is a new one for me. "What do you get when you mix an exclamation mark with a question mark?" An interrobang. I've thought for years there should be a symbol. It never occurred to see if one already existed. (I was delighted to use it twice on this page!)

Contact Information for PS OLOC QC3 Members is the last page.

### It Doesn't Hurt, It is Not Difficult, and It Won't Cost You a Dime

As Bob Dylan would remind us all, "The times, they are a changin'." Last fall, the PS OLOC miniNEWS got a new look, and now we are about to change how it is distributed.

What we've been doing up until now is sending the miniNEWS issues out three ways. It's comes to you 1) via the PS OLOC Yahoo group, or 2) directly mailed to you at a personal email address, or 3) printed and snail mailed to you. 1) was, and is, the ideal! 2) was our accommodation to those who didn't like Yahoo. And 3) was reserved for the handful of women who didn't have email.

It only takes a few minutes for us to post the miniNEWS to the Yahoo group, but it takes us much longer to email directly. That requires us to keep email addresses updated, and then to send out a series of group emails, spreading those postings out over a few hours. The groups for group emails must be kept relatively small (in numbers of addresses) and be sent out infrequently, or they will be considered spam and blocked by many mail programs.

We need everyone who enjoys receiving the PS OLOC miniNEWS to join the Yahoo group!



Starting in May, our goal is for the distribution to be almost exclusively via Yahoo. We really don't want to lose any of you as readers, so we're devoting space in this miniNEWS as well.

Joining the Yahoo group doesn't hurt, really. And it isn't hard. And it's free. You do not need a Yahoo email address to join the group. What you do need is a Yahoo account – that's simply establishing a user name and a password. Nothing else is required. You will even have options, like getting only special announcements, such as an issue of the miniNEWS.

If you aren't part of the PS OLOC Yahoo group already, and you do have a Yahoo ID, send an email to [psoloc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:psoloc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). That will let us know and we'll approve you, send you an email invite, you accept, and it's a done deal. If you aren't a part of the PS OLOC Yahoo group and you don't have a Yahoo ID, go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), set up an account, then email us as above.

We'll remind you in the next issue as well, but that'll be it. Come May, we're making our move: 98+% sent via Yahoo group email and less than 2% sent via snail mail.

### QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council) Check In

Question: What are the women of the QC3 up to these days?

- A) Planning for the *Queer I Am* event
- B) Working on details for the May event over in Wenatchee
- C) Watching for opportunities for PS OLOC women to get together, in work and in play
- D) Making sure we are represented at various meetings and organizations that take actions that affect all of us
- E) Planning for and working on the miniNEWS
- F) Looking way ahead and doing preliminary work on a big event for March 2016 (see the sneak-peek on page 5)
- G) Staying in touch with OLOC national, letting them know what we're doing here

If you know the QC3 women, you probably added and circled another possible answer yourself. H) All the above, and then some!

The QC3 meets again on April 7, 10-3, brown-bag, at the Valley View Library in Seatac. You're welcome to sit in!



### Who is Welcome in PS OLOC?

How about this: If you can say aloud, or at least to yourself, that you are a lesbian, and that you are old, then You Are Welcome! Best yet, here in PS OLOC, we don't define either *lesbian* or *old*! We've each come to recognize facets of ourselves at different stages in our lives. If you see yourself as an old lesbian, you're welcome to be a part of any and all that we do.

### PS OLOC West Women: 1st&3rd!

Sounds like we're talking about constitutional amendments, doesn't it. But let's see... the first amendment does mention freedom to assemble, and we do tend to assemble as often as possible. But the third says the government can't force us to quarter troops in our homes... not sure how that would relate, but none the less, the Westies have claimed the 1st and 3rd.



OLOCers living across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and others willing to travel over that way, have been busy. On the first Thursday each month, they meet to share a lunch, accompanied with an ample-serving of talk. Location changes monthly as they explore all their options.

On the third Thursday, they're gathering at Kathy K's home in Olalla. On that occasion, they do a brown-bag lunch and watch a film and / or play some cards and games. This month, on March 19 (soon!), they're watching *Lesbiana: A Parallel Revolution*. It's a short film, so there will be time to play as well.

The best way to keep up with this busy group is to join their email group... see the last page to find out how. If you just want more info about the group, or directions to an event, reach out: Meg&Linda at [d.darlene81@yahoo.com](mailto:d.darlene81@yahoo.com) or Kathy K. at [Kjknowles@centurytel.net](mailto:Kjknowles@centurytel.net), 253-857-4849.

### South Lunch Bunches Second Tuesdays, Tacoma

South Sounders continue to meet monthly for lunch in the Tacoma area. Unless there is something strange happening, it's always the second Tuesday at 11:30. Marilyn V. finds locations for us and makes the arrangements ... Yea, Marilyn! These lunches are a great way to meet new folks, and catch up with others that you haven't seen in a while. And they'll let anyone come: you won't even be carded to see if you live South!

In April, they'll be convening at the Homestead Restaurant (aka the barn) on South Tacoma Way. And if we're not mistaken, the time after that they're gonna give Elmer's a go. Get on their list (last page!) to keep updated and get reminders.



### Seattle PS OLOC

Seattle PS OLOC women continue to get together several times each month. They do their best to meet for dinner one evening, and they have their ongoing book group. Dinner locations vary, but they try to keep it on the third Thursday. The book group meets at The Couth Buzzard Bookstore (8310 Greenwood Avenue North, Seattle ) at 7 pm.

To stay up on dates, times and places for all their events, you need to be on their email list. Contact Aganita (info on the last page) and she'll hook you up and fill you in on what is planned next. For now, we'll tell you about dinner and a film coming up in a few days...

#### Thursday, March 19

Dinner is at Flying Squirrel Pizza at 5:30. This is a bit earlier than the usual dinner time, but we want to be sure to have time to make it to the film afterward. Flying Squirrel, which serves pizza as well as a variety of salads, is at 4920 S. Genesee St in Seattle – cross street is 50th Ave. S. If you plan to join the dinner, RSVP to Aganita, please.

Film: The documentary *I Am a Girl* will be shown at the Meridian 16, on 7th Ave, in Seattle. We encourage you to buy your tix ahead of time online, at <https://gathr.us/screening/10759>. The film starts at 7:30.

### Gathr Films... Is That a typo?

No. It really is Gathr. In the article above, to get tix to the film, you go to [Gathr.us](https://gathr.us)

So what's Gathr? There are so many worthy niche films that never get booked at a theater. Gathr works to set dates/times/places for showings of these films. Once the details are set, word goes out. IF enough people "buy" tickets, the showing happens. Reaching that threshold number of tix is called tipping. No one is charged for their tix until the film tips. If tix sales don't reach the minimum, the showing is canceled. It's an intriguing process, and they offer some amazing films. Not many show here, but you can actually work with them to try to get a showing where you want it. You can also click on a film that interests you and they'll notify you when a showing is listed in your area.



# GETTING TO KNOW MARILYN

Kathy P. not only suggested running a series of articles based on interviewing various people in the PS OLOC community, but she took on doing the interview and writing it up! Yea! Here is Kathy's first contribution in this series, helping us all get to know Marilyn Vogler.

At [a]most fifty  
I am tired of whittling my voice to fit incongruous spaces  
and impatient with softening the edges of what I say.  
At [a]most fifty  
I am [almost] ready to risk revolution -  
I am well into my life  
and my words are too many to write without passion.

Marilyn Vogler earned her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Technical Communication in the Department of Humanities within a largely engineering institution, Michigan Technological University. (For many years after, Dr. Vogler worked as Assistant Dean of the graduate school. Later, she transferred into the International Programs office where she stayed until retirement.) Marilyn's dissertation is both introspective and telescopic into patriarchal academia as she explores the experience of women writing their dissertations.

Marilyn writes that "both the community and the language in which dissertations are generally written are gendered masculine. Negotiating a voice that is acceptable in a dissertation while maintaining fidelity to a sense of who one is seems more problematic as one's distance from the center of the dominant culture increases." She explores this within an academic community in which under-representation (particularly of women) remains a serious issue.

Dr. Vogler addressed her topic from parallel perspectives. She drew from others' experiences via conversations with fifteen women in, or beyond, the process; friends' anecdotes;

and published accounts. Simultaneously, she approached the topic autobiographically as she worked with her committee to find ways to alter the process yet still do a dissertation.

Paging through her "final product" makes clear the variety of voices possible within a dissertation: essay and poetry (an example of her own above, and others') as well as analytical components; varied visual qualities of text (a definite challenge to electronic formatting in 1998!), and experimentation with non-visual interpretations (such as comparison of sections of her work to a passacaglia or rondo).

Dr. Vogler points out that a woman "need not reconstitute herself through the (typical) academic language, form and process, in order to be initiated into the community of scholars." She encourages "flexibility if the academic community is to become diverse." Marilyn demonstrates this thesis powerfully in her ground-breaking dissertation, *Becoming Most Fully Ourselves: Gender, Voice and Ritual in Dissertations*.

P.S. I asked Marilyn, "Have you seen any hope since?" Her response: GROAN...NO.

## January D. Allison Event Report

What a bonus: women attending the January event got to witness (via video) a presentation by Dorothy Allison that challenged most everyone's mind. And, for the same low, low price of \$0, they got to witness – and for some, participate in – a demonstration of one of the premises in Dorothy's speech: that we, as lesbians, seldom take "That won't work" as an answer. Instead, we figure out how to make it work. Need to show the video but your equipment isn't up to the task? Try out-thinking it. Problem with the computer? Someone lent us her own. Problem with the sound? We've solved bigger challenges than that! No batteries? Wait a few minutes, I'll go get some!



### National Women's History Month by Kathy P

March is National Women's History Month. Growing out of a small-town school event in California, Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. The U.S. has observed it annually throughout March since 1987.

2015 is the NWHP's (National Women's History Project) 35th Anniversary. In celebration of this anniversary, nine women were chosen as Honorees who have contributed in very special ways to the work of "writing women back into history."

In 2014, Arden Eversmeyer (of the OLOHP) was named as an NWHP honoree for her work in preserving herstories



of lesbians born in the first half of the 20th century. The 2015 NWHP theme, *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*, pays tribute to the significance of recognizing and sharing women's stories.

A celebratory idea: On the occasion of her 75th birthday in March of 2014, Diane Ste. Marie "called upon" invited guests to concelebrate with her at her gathering at University

Friends Meeting House in Seattle. In advance, she requested that seven friends and family members represent seven significant persons, living or deceased, whom she wished to honor. Among those were Champlain, Donald Duck (Diane's grandkids and friends were there) and others. Her final "guest" was Arden Eversmeyer (just honored by NWMP as founder of the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project) and "acted" by Kathy P). During the event, family and friends got to peruse Diane's own finished product: her OLOHP herstory from interview to transcription to bound-with-documentation book.

Visit [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org) for tons of great info.

Contact Information for PS OLOC QC3 Members is on the last page.

### Now What are They Up To?

The seed has been planted, it has sprouted, and we are carefully tending a seedling that, if all goes well, will mature into the next **big** PS OLOC event, tentatively scheduled for March 2016. And, by the way, Aganita gets the credit (or the blame!) for planting the seed for this idea.

So what is this big idea? The working title is *The Shortest Distance Between (Two) People is a Story*. Plans are still in the very early stages, so please don't take this as the gospel. We're working on a one-day regional conference that will focus on various aspects of sharing personal stories of our lives, families, and experiences, explore ways to share with each other, and investigate avenues for preserving our stories for the future.

We'd like to do the event in conjunction with International Women's Day, but the exact date has not been selected. To be on the safe side, why not go ahead and save both: Saturday, March 5 & March 12, 2016. (IWD is actually on Tuesday, March 8.)

Now, how about some volunteers? It's early enough in the planning that we're not hopelessly stuck in our ways, so now would be the perfect time to jump in.

Why story telling? A teacher once said to his 3rd grade students, "Do you want me to read you a story or tell you a story?" "Oh tell us a story," they exclaimed, "because then we can see into your eyes."



## The Three R's Column by Ellen K...Not!

As my mother would say, Ellen is off gallivanting! So I'll offer this short piece to hold her space for a "green issue" in each newsletter. *Margaret*

One of the best ways to recycle is to find someone who can use what you no longer need. If it's available in your area, try Freecycle.org. It is an organized online way for you to post items you'd like to see go to a new home or to watch for something you need.

There is a Freecycle group in Tacoma that serves it and the surrounding area, as well as groups in Olympia and Seattle. Navigate to Freecycle.org and enter the city you'd like to search. If a group exists, click on its link and you'll be able to read postings. To go any further, you'll need to join their Yahoo group.

How it works once you've joined, is that you set how you want the Yahoo group to work. Do you want an email each time someone posts? Not likely, but maybe a daily digest. Or would you

rather go look at listings when you are interested? In that case, set your account to "no emails" and go check the site when you have something to post. When you post, other members can opt to say "I want that" or ask a question. They don't know where you live or even your email address. Freecycle forwards their message to you and it's up to you whether to reply or not. You may get 10 emails from people wanting your item – or none; who gets it is up to you. They come pick it up once you've provided them with your info. You'll get the hang of it quickly.

We've moved on stacks of old magazines (to a school teacher), a storm door we replaced, old nursery pots, an outdated computer printer, 4 chairs, a 35mm camera, a washing machine, empty moving boxes, and lots, lots more.

## International Women's Day 2015 by Kathy P

Around the world, International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. *Make It Happen* is the 2015 theme, encouraging effective action for advancing and recognizing women.

On March 8, 1857, garment workers in New York City marched and picketed, demanding improved working conditions, a ten hour day, and equal rights for women. Their ranks were broken up by the police. Fifty-one years later, March 8, 1908, their sisters in the needle trades in New York marched again, honoring the 1857 march, demanding the vote, and an end to sweatshops and child labor. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8.

IWD is now an official holiday in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China (for women only), Cuba, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar (for women only),



Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal (for women only), Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Zambia.

In 2015, International Women's Day highlights the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic road map signed by 189 governments in 1995 that sets the agenda for realizing women's rights. To this end, the theme of this year's International Women's Day is the clarion call of UN Women's Beijing+20 campaign, *Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture It!* We celebrate the many achievements that have come since then and galvanize action to address the gaps that still remain in making gender equality a reality. The Beijing Platform for Action focuses on 12 critical areas of concern, and envisions a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an education, having an income, and living in societies free from violence and discrimination.

Websites: <http://www.unwomen.org/>  
[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)



### "What is a Virtual Village?" by Anne H.

We're hearing the term Virtual Village more and more often, so we asked Anne, "what does that mean?" She shared this great description done by the Village to Village Network.

- They are a grassroots effort to address the current and unfolding challenges of an older America.
- The VV concept arose out of community members' desire to reside in their own homes while being able to access services that address their changing lifestyles as they aged.
- At its core, the Village Movement is consumer- and customer-driven.
- It connects members to vetted, discounted providers and volunteers for any service they might want or need.
- It offers members healthy living: exercise classes, yoga, tai chi, informal lunches, and discounted home care providers.
- It organizes stimulating programs, seminars, and trips with the VV community to support connectedness and friendships.

There are no villages that are exactly the same. Each determines its needs and services. Users also pay a varying amount to the village to receive the services. Fees are used to provide administrative services and build the infrastructure of the village.

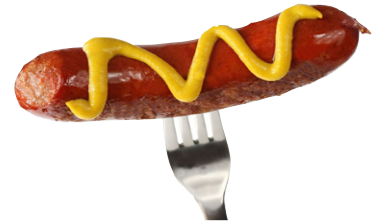
Aging lesbians may fear losing their independence and feeling less able to protect and advocate for themselves. They might fear retribution if they are out, appear to offend or seem too demanding of those who support them. As a result, they often go back in the closet if they don't have a strong support system.

PS OLOC could create its own lesbian VVs. Villages would be defined geographically and be structured to use PS OLOC member volunteers to help lesbians in need who reside within the geographical area of the village.

VV services could be tailored to the unique needs of older lesbians. Members involved in these virtual villages might need assistance or be volunteers who provide services or perhaps both. Providers include LGBTQ allies as well as lesbian volunteers. Vendors would be LGBTQ friendly businesses. Lesbians receiving services would enjoy a strong, supportive relationship with PS OLOC members and its activities. A win for everyone! Interested? Let Anne Henry know at [juliainanne@gmail.com](mailto:juliainanne@gmail.com)

### Mel and Jeri Say...

Tamarack (social group) is having a Hot Dog Roast at Coulon Park in Renton on March 22, starting at 11 am. We need to know how many people will show up so we don't over buy on the DOGS. Bring what you want to drink and a dish to share.



We're bringing macaroni salad. Hot dogs and buns will be provided by Diane, and we will have all the goodies you put on them.

We will have the covered area we had last year with an open fire pit.

Please RSVP - ASAP.

Thanks, Mel

[tbearmj@msn.com](mailto:tbearmj@msn.com)

425-254-8246

### Want the Latest News?

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

### The Rainbow Center Wants You to Know...

The RC in downtown Tacoma wants you to know they will be co-hosting with Tacoma Older LGBT (Pre-Sage Tacoma) a recurring event for seniors called the Silver Sipping Social Hour. The first event will be on Friday, March 20, 11-1, at the Rainbow Center located at 2215 Pacific Ave. Anyone identifying as LGBTQ and 50+ is welcome. This will be a brown bag event (bring your own lunch) and the RC will have beverages and snacks. It's an opportunity to socialize and to help organize this effort as it moves forward. For more info, call or email Laura at the RC: [laura.brewer@rainbowcntr.org](mailto:laura.brewer@rainbowcntr.org) 253-383-2318

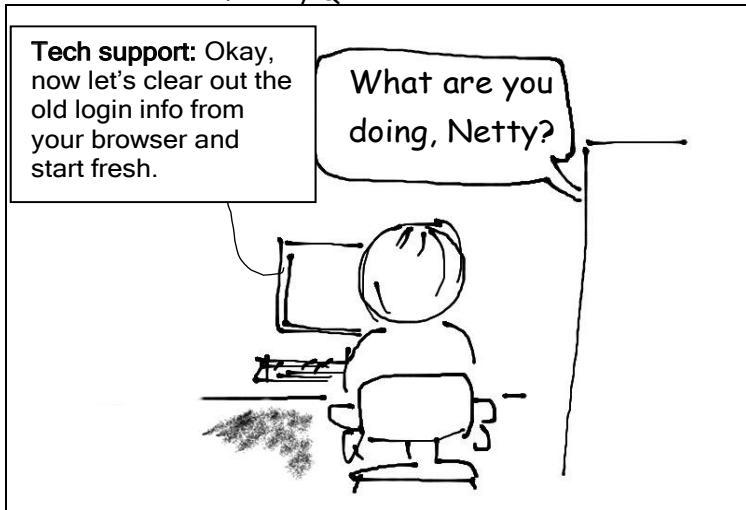


## Squeezing in a Last Few Tidbits

How about that? A PS OLOCer is trying her hand at cartooning! Way to go, Deirdre.

The Adventures of Netty Quette

By Deirdre



### QCCC Contact List

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### Geek Corner: What is a QR-Code and Why Care?

QR (Quick Response) codes are an alternative to barcodes that we see on many items that we buy. One advantage to a QR code is that it can store more info in it than a barcode. But the biggest advantage is that almost every smart phone can read a QR code – no separate scanner needed. When might you use one? When you pull into the cell phone lot at the airport to wait for someone, you can aim your phone at one of the signs in the lot and it automatically connects you to a website where you can find out if the plane you are waiting for is on time! QR codes are being added to products, theater tix, business cards, advertisements in magazines, and much more.



### 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 your name and where you live. It's **the** least expensive subscription 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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