

PS OLOC miniNEWS

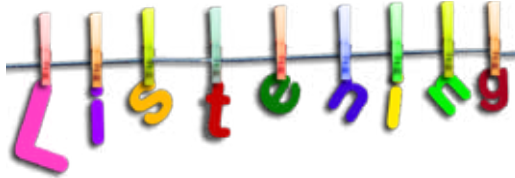
Connecting old lesbians throughout the Puget Sound area to form community and encourage participation in activities and causes that work to improve our lives and increase our visibility.

Our 35th Issue!

May 2015

Upcoming Event in Wenatchee and Chelan

Life is so interesting! Over the past few years, a few sisters from eastern Washington who get our miniNEWS and posts have contacted us, expressing their feeling of loss at not having a community and some of the opportunities they read about. That motivated us to think about doing some sort of event in eastern Washington and we came up with a plan which we are about to execute on May 16 in Wenatchee. Throughout the process of planning this upcoming event, we've kept our focus as clear as we could. We took time to define why we were planning the event. We all agreed that what we wanted was to:



- reconnect with eastern Washington women we have already met
- meet new women and build new connections
- listen and learn about their lives and experiences in eastern Washington
- share some information on how we have built our community in western Washington
- offer support and encouragement to efforts to form an eastern Washington group

Well, that's still the plan! We've reached out every which way we could think of and had lots of positive feedback. One comment, however, made us stop and make sure we were approaching this event in the right spirit. It was suggested that the name we'd given the event ATM, Across the Mountains, might have conveyed that we were coming to enlighten, or show them how to build community. As it should have, it made us stop and double check ourselves.

After a bit of critical self-examination, we all agreed that while we hope our efforts to reach out are taken at face value, PS OLOC doesn't hold itself up as the answer... it is, however, very proud of what it's accomplished. We wish there had been someone to talk with to get advice when we were starting out.

We encourage everyone interested to participate in the outreach project and keep an open mind. We aren't driving over to teach, or preach. We want to listen, learn and share!

If you'd like more information on the event, let us know and we'll send you a flyer. Otherwise, the basics are that we will be meeting at the Comfort Inn in downtown Wenatchee, on Saturday, May 16. We have the meeting room from 11-4, but we may try to meet somewhere nearby for lunch first. Please let us know you'd like to attend so we can keep you posted as plans are finalized.

And look to the right to see what else where doing in the area!

Put on Your Water Wings!

As long as we were driving over and spending the night, a bunch of us hatched a plan to go a day early and ride the Lady of the Lake on Lake Chelan. Some of us have done it before – for others, it's something they've always wanted to do. And, believe it or not, a few of our group had never heard of Lake Chelan and the boat trip!



Right now, it looks like at least eight of us will be going. Women are arranging for their own tix on the boat and finding a motel for Thursday and Friday nights. So far, it looks like everyone is staying at the Apple Inn, but there are lots of options. To reserve your space on the boat, you need to call 888-682-4584. It's \$40.50 for the round-trip all day excursion. They advise getting your tix at least two weeks in advance. The boat leaves the dock at 8:30 am and gets back at 6 pm.

We all plan to drive to Wenatchee Saturday morning. Hope you'll join us! Let us know and we'll watch for you.

It Was A Most Excellent Undertaking! by Kathy P

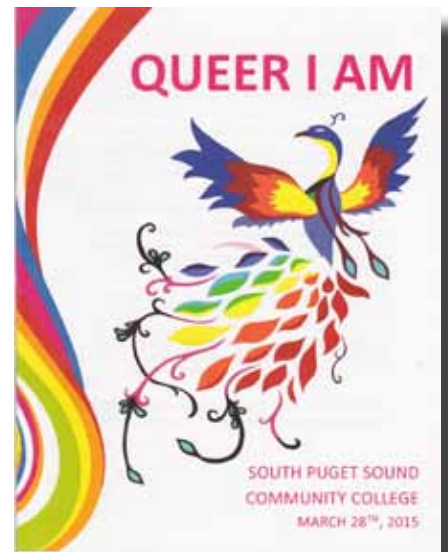
PS OLOC women recently presented "Our Stories, Our Voices: Insights into Lives of Lesbians 70 and Older" on a college campus in Olympia, WA. QUEER I AM was a daylong summit designed to develop a sense of belonging and pride in queer culture and community.

The five presenters, aged 82 to 62, alternated between a narrated description of the OLOHP (Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project) and dramatic readings of old lesbians' own words from the Project accompanied by their projected photos. Readings ranged from six-min excerpts (from a current author-activist and a woman who--after decades--determined her "transgendered" identity) to 20-second "popcorn" such as this: "I walked into this party and I had never seen so many lesbians all in one place. They were sitting on each other's laps, kissing each other. My first reaction was, "Aahhh." And then it was, "THIS is where I belong."

The now-400 life stories run the gamut from heartbreaking to humorous. They include horrible experiences (electroconvulsive shock treatments), as well as wit: "When I discovered women, I felt no guilt. The nuns never said it was a mortal sin to kiss a GIRL for more than a minute."

There is the misinformation: My dad asks, "Whatcha reading?" I said, "Well--(gulp)--*The Well of Loneliness*." All my father said was, "Oh, yes, I think I read that in abnormal psychology." Well, you can imagine what my stomach did." The isolation and frustration: "I don't know how somebody could live and be as old as I am, be gay my whole life, and not know. I never knew there was a place for women to go....If straight people knew how we have to feel because we happen to be this way....Too many of them still believe that being gay is our choice. Well, I got news."

Twenty audience members stayed for the entire 75 min, engaging in questions and positive comments. The presenters ourselves celebrate the experience of voicing these precious Herstories.



QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council) Check In

Your QC3 has been busy, as usual. They met a few weeks ago and talked, laughed, shared the contents of their bag lunches, and more. Mostly, they talked.

If you've ever wondered what they could possibly be doing meeting after meeting, we'll give you the general idea. They do, indeed, deal with the basic meeting mechanics of agendas, reviewing the last set of minutes, hearing a financial report, getting committee reports, talking over old business and bringing up new business. It rarely stays that neatly organized, but by meeting's end, they've hit all the high points.

At the most recent meeting, work revolved around planning for future events, determining how to best share our growing collection of DVDS, talking over opportunities to do more events like the recent Queer I Am presentation, our ongoing work on Herstories, and more.

We block five hours out for meetings that are set for every other month and we've yet to truly get "done" at a meeting. There are always things held over. Bottom line is that your QC3 stays busy, and productive. We meet again on June 2, from 10-3. It's brown-bag and held 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.

Things PS OLOC Is Involved In

Update from PS OLOC-West

May 7: Cloudburst

May 21: Cards/Games

June 4: BBQ (if weather allows)

June 18: Cards/Games



The West group continues to meet twice monthly, on first and third Thursdays at 12:30 PM. Recent events included lunch at China Sun Buffet in Port Orchard and Blue Cannon Pizza in Gig Harbor. Fifteen women, from Longbranch to Gig Harbor, Belfair to Puyallup, gathered mid-March at Kathy Knowles's farm. Women viewed and discussed the film *Lesbiana* after a meet-greet-and-brown bag.

May and June events will all be held at Kathy K's farm in Olalla, just 5 minutes north of the Purdy Road exit from I-16. Easy, easy directions... call her. May 7 will feature the film *Cloudburst* on Kathy's large-screen TV, while May 21 is a Cards & Games/brown bag afternoon. Bring a favorite board/card game if you like. We're hoping for sunny weather for a June 4 BBQ. Bring your own meat/protein plus a salad, side or dessert to share. June 18 offers another chance for Cards & Games & (guess what?) brown bag. Kathy K will provide drinks at all events.

Contact coordinators Meg and Linda at d.darlene81@me.com or Kathy Knowles at (253) 857-4849.

South Lunch Bunches Second Tuesdays, Tacoma



To stay in the know on where the South Sounders will be convening for their monthly lunch in the Tacoma area, join the Sound Sound Yahoo group. (Details on how are on the last page of this newsletter.)

The lunch is always the second Tuesday at 11:30. Marilyn V. finds locations for us and makes the arrangements ... Yea, Marilyn! For May, the group will eat at Elmer's at 74th and Hosmer. That's only a block or two off of I-5.

These lunches are a great way to meet new folks, and catch up with others that you haven't seen in a while. Get on their list (last page!) to keep updated and get reminders.

Seattle PS OLOC

Thanks in good part to Aganita who reaches out to find places for events and send out notices, the Seattle PS OLOC group continues to be active.

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.

Here is a roundup of what is scheduled.

**Dinners: May 21, 6:30, Flying Squirrel
June 18, 6:30, Spiro's**

PS OLOC North continues to have dinners on third Thursday nights, but with some adjustments. Rather than try a lot of new restaurants and cuisines, we have decided to stick with a couple places that have completely separate rooms, one in the north end (Spiro's) and one in the south end (Flying Squirrel).

To further facilitate good conversation with one another, we will try mixing it up with several smaller tables, where everyone can hear each other, maybe with random table assignments and some moving about.



We will meet May 21st at 6:30 PM at The Flying Squirrel Pizza Co., 4920 S. Genesee St., Seattle 98118. Our June dinner will be June 18th at 6:30 PM at Spiro's Pizza and Pasta, 18411 Aurora Ave. N., Seattle 98133.

Book Group: May 5, 7 pm and June 2, 7 pm

The Seattle area PS OLOC Book Club will meet at Couth Buzzard Books, 3310 Greenwood Ave. N. on first Tuesday evenings at 7 PM.

The book for May 5th is Ursula Le Guin's *Left Hand of Darkness*. Science fiction and fantasy lovers are also invited to talk about a favorite book in that genre that they would recommend.

The book for June 2nd is *The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide* by Meizhu Lui, Barbara Robles and others.



Kathy P. suggested running a series of articles based on interviews of PS OLOC women –and she took it on, and she's writing it up! Yea! Here is Kathy's write up from her conversation with JoAnn Fritsche.

GETTING TO KNOW JOANN F

JoAnn Fritsche states, "My mother was the first feminist influence in my life. My dad died when I was seven. Mother sold silver and china for women's hope chests, was a carpenter, and worked as an LPN. And she drove around trying to sell insurance. Once, along a hot, dusty road, a guy in a truck yelled at her, 'Go home and do your damn dirty dishes.' She didn't."

Wrapping up her Ph.D. in English from Case Western Reserve, JoAnn was earning \$200/month as a teaching fellow. Reading an ad in the Cleveland Plain Dealer under "Male Help Wanted," she called, said she was interested in the position. Dead silence. "You're a woman? Are you married? How old are you?" The next day her (male) interviewer queried, "You're a nice lookin' woman – why do you wanna have this job?" Her reply: "For the same reason any man would want to have it." The job was to fly around four states and trouble-shoot insurance, stocks and bond issues. Salary \$18,000. This was 1972. Big bucks.

The interviewer: "The only thing wrong with you is you're a woman," preceded by reasons why she'd not want the job. JoAnn knew about Title VII, sexist advertising, and made a beeline to the EEOC office. After a short while with JoAnn, the EEOC officer stated, "You should be an investigator!" She filed a claim for six months of lost work time; the company paid up \$8,000.

JoAnn knew that day what she's celebrated since: being an advocate is a perfect fit. Fourteen years as Director of Equal Opportunity at U. Maine Orono preceded directorships of multi-million dollar capital campaigns and senior Development positions. Effects of M.S. led JoAnn to become Executive Director of the WA Coalition of Citizens with disAbilities – and now a volunteer advocate.

Dr. JoAnn Fritsche:

A model of professional advocacy.

Talk, Talk, Talk by Anne Henry

Some time ago, Seattle PSOLOC women met and talked about some things they would like to do. Top of the list – engage in conversation. Who knew?

As an outcome of a meal, Elizabeth Patrick and I decided that we would develop a regular opportunity for conversation in Seattle. We have identified a great site that offers free, safe parking in an accessible building – they even have an elevator – as well there is comfortable space, a kitchen, we can make coffee and tea and share a simple dessert or other light fare. But the best thing being served is good conversation.



Talking will be primarily focused around our experience of aging and all of its permutations and combinations. There's a lot of ground to cover. This is what it might look like:

- Gather as a group and enjoy light refreshments.
- Do a brief check-in with those in attendance.
- The conversation would be a predetermined topic or something compelling from the "check-in".
- Ideal conversation groups would be 10-12 women.
- If there are more than 10-12 we'll create two groups that will share the same topic.
- Each group would talk for about an hour and then we would convene as a whole to share thoughts about those conversations for about 30 minutes and then leave happily, anxious to come back again.

It is a work in progress and when things are firm as far as space and times we'll come back and formally say this is what is available to you. So for now, are you interested? Sound fun? Let me know. Its exciting and I look forward to having time together.

Anne juliainanne@gmail.com

Story Telling in 2016

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."

In the last issue, we said the seed of an idea has been planted, it has sprouted, and we were carefully tending the seedling that, if all went well, would mature into the next **big** PS OLOC



event, tentatively scheduled for March 2016. The working title of the event is: *The Shortest Distance Between (Two) People is a Story*. We're working to put together a full day conference focusing on sharing our stories with each other, our families, our community, and more.

Well, it seems to be slowly putting on a few leaves, but it's still got quite a ways to go! At the last QC3 meeting, a committee was formed. Those women are now exploring options for a location to hold our event. Our two target dates are the Saturday before and after International Women's Day, March 5 or March 12, 2016. As soon as we secure a place on a specific date, we'll let you know. Then the committee buckles down on shaping various elements of the program for the day, including arranging for a keynote speaker.

As we mentioned before, we sure could use 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. Contact Aganita to offer your thoughts or assistance.

A Few Good Women

The housing committee of PS OLOC for the King County area met and worked to identify housing resources to meet the housing needs of lower income elder lesbians. A list is in place but next steps are important to continue the work and be able to move out to Pierce County. The committee meets monthly and would arrange to have place and time work for everyone on the committee. Certainly meetings could be held in conjunction with other PS OLOC activities. The committee's work is important to all of us. We want all lesbians to enjoy safe, affordable housing and just need some more hands to continue this important work. Please connect with Anne if you would join us.



Update on the "Yahoo Situation"

If you're reading this issue of the miniNEWS, you most likely are signed up to receive it via our Yahoo group, or you're one of the small group that doesn't have access to a computer and you get a print copy. As we explained in the last two issues, we needed to simplify how we sent the newsletter out, so we eliminated the option of getting the newsletter as an attachment to a direct email. We lost quite a few names with this change, and hope some of them will miss us and let us know.



If you have friends who you think would like to get the miniNEWS, please urge them to sign up. If they are worried about getting too many other posts to the Yahoo group, they can set a preference to only receive special notices, which is how we'll classify the newsletters.

Want to know how you set that preference? When you are signed into your Yahoo group account, on the left, you'll see Manage My Groups. Click on it and a list of the groups to which you belong will appear. For each group, you'll have choices under Mail Subscription. The choices are Individual Emails, Special Notices, or Daily Digests. Simple as that.

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

M&M Want You to Know...

Women's Music House Concerts Summer Osborne, May 23, evening

Mary and Margaret are blaming their friends for this one! They love women's music and have talked for years about hosting a house concert or two. When Summer Osborne contacted them asking if they'd set something up, they jumped at the chance. Only problem is, as big as their home feels when it comes to a potluck or a party, it isn't the best for music. So they've enlisted Jolly Sue and Casey. With the support of TLC, the first house concert will happen Saturday, May 23. We really hope to see quite a few PS OLOC women there. Details can be found in the flyer we are sending along with this miniNEWS. Need a testimonial? Check with Hazel!



Pat McIntyre Says...

Women Keep On Rockin' in Olympia

PS OLOCer Pat M. regularly organizes dancing opportunities for the community. They happen down in Olympia. The next one is set for May 23. To know when others are scheduled, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WomynRock2

Film: *Limited Partnership*

This documentary follow two legally-married men who, when one was denied a green card, had to resort to filing the first federal lawsuit seeking equal treatment from Immigration and Naturalization for their marriage. Check Google for location of film showings in Seattle, May 16 and on Vashon, May 26
<http://www.limitedpartnershipmovie.com/>



Pokey Shared With Us

Lillian Faderman's Book Gets Closer

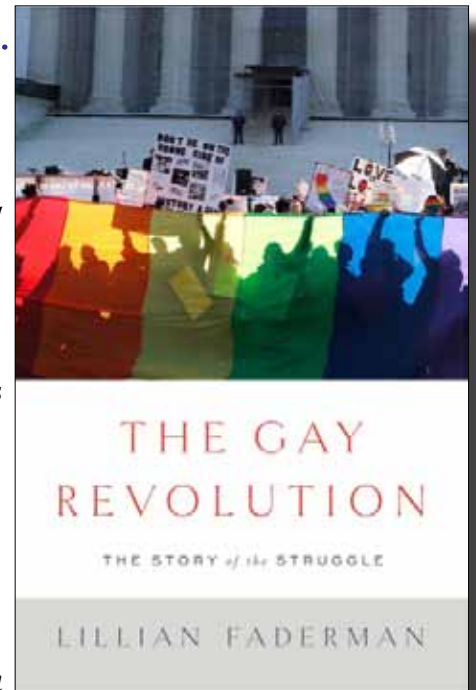
After a long delay, they have finally set a publication date of September 8, 2015 for Lillian Faderman's much anticipated book *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle*.

From the promotional blurbs about the book: *The sweeping story of the modern struggle for gay, lesbian, and trans rights—from the 1950s to the present—based on amazing interviews with politicians, military figures, legal activists, and members of the entire LGBT community who face these challenges every day.*

The fight for gay, lesbian, and trans civil rights—the years of outrageous injustice, the early battles, the heart-breaking defeats, and the victories beyond the dreams of the gay rights pioneers—is the most important civil rights issue of the present day. Based on rigorous research and more than 150 interviews, The Gay Revolution tells this unfinished story not through dry facts but through dramatic accounts of passionate struggles, with all the sweep, depth, and intricacies only an award-winning activist, scholar, and novelist like Lillian Faderman can evoke.

The Gay Revolution begins in the 1950s, when law classified gays and lesbians as criminals, the psychiatric profession saw them as mentally ill, the churches saw them as sinners, and society victimized them with irrational hatred. Against this dark backdrop, a few brave people began to fight back, paving the way for the revolutionary changes of the 1960s and beyond. Faderman discusses the protests in the 1960s; the counter reaction of the 1970s and early eighties; the decimated but united community during the AIDS epidemic; and the current hurdles for the right to marriage equality.

*In the words of the eyewitnesses who were there through the most critical events, **The Gay Revolution** paints a nuanced portrait of the LGBT civil rights movement. A defining account, this is the most complete and authoritative book of its kind.*



All About Allyship by Anne Henry

I joined the board of LGBTQ Allyship last month and had questions about the organization and just how it applies to PS OLOC. Allyship, like PS OLOC and the Old Lesbians Oral Herstory Project, uses sharing of personal stories to talk about the things that most matter. NOTE: It's not just youth!



LGBTQ Allyship strives to strengthen the voices of the most vulnerable in the community, engage allies (both LGBTQ and heterosexual) in social justice activism, and align our organizing with other movements, such as the labor/economic justice, immigrant rights, youth and senior rights, people of color and women's rights movements.

Allyship Mission Statement

We are LGBTQ and Allies who believe that all oppressions are interconnected and that a world free of oppression is possible. We seek to work in solidarity with marginalized communities to understand the interconnectedness of oppression and to support the systematic liberation of all people.

Allyship Programs

LGBTQ Allyship believes that in order to build strong communities we must have strong leaders. We are building a leadership institute to train 10 individuals in civic engagement skills, anti-oppression values and deeply rooted in allyship theory of change. Leaders will become familiar with public speaking, event planning, story-collecting for advocacy, community-led resource gathering, mobilization and community organizing skills.

Allyship has been advocating for economic equity, affordable housing, reduction of LGBTQ youth homelessness, and health care in the LGBTQ community for the last 1½ years through our LGBTQ Intergenerational Project and the Gatherings.

The Gatherings are bi-monthly forums held in south Seattle. The forums include community leaders and experts presenting knowledge followed

by a community discussion and avenues for advocacy around issues regarding community safety, affordable housing, economic equity and culturally competent social services. We have been building trust through story sharing, creating space to talk about issues that matter to LGBTQ communities and strengthening a sense of shared LGBTQ history.

Using the Gathering discussions, experiences from community members around disparities that diverse low-income LGBTQ communities experience can be shared to empower advocacy efforts. Allyship leaders, working with broader social justice organizations, advocate at the city, county and state level to include the voices of LGBTQ individuals around issues regarding affordable housing, community safety, health care, economic equity and culturally competent social services.

2015:

WERQ (Work, Economics and Resources for Queer Youth) Winter Institute for LGBTQ Homeless youth organized a queer and trans* youth-led action on April 10th, mobilizing youth to take back space on Capitol Hill and educate public on homophobia and transphobia.

2014:

Allyship's first LGBTQ Intergenerational Conference. Almost 200 attendees registered, and through our efforts, the City of Seattle declared September 28th as LGBTQ Intergenerational Day. PSOLOC members participated in the meetings to plan the dialogues and spoke on a panel at the conference.

2013:

Allyship coordinated two advocacy days in Olympia, Washington with over 300 advocates participating, we helped pass Medicaid Expansion, the expansion of foster care until age 21, and the extension of the Becca bill, which supports self-determination and safety for young people.

White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA)

Once every ten years, The White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) happens. The importance of this event is that it sets national aging policy for the next decade. In 2015 it will be held in July.

They go into the conference with the major topics/themes set: Retirement Security, Healthy Aging, Long-Term Services & Support, Elder Justice. Various organizations and interest groups work hard to make sure they are represented. SAGE has embarked on an effort to get input from as many older LGBT people as possible so that our needs are addressed in the development of Federal aging policy. You can participate at: <http://tinyurl.com/oo7lsrb> Additional areas of concern for our communities that SAGE will address on our behalf are: nondiscrimination protection, cultural competency in services, and insisting our voices and concerns are sought and heard.

Going Green by Ellen K

Green Revolution: Not a topic I would usually get into in my Going Green column, and not one I know much about, frankly. It's spring, though, and I wanted to share a bit of what I learned while visiting a couple of organic farms in Cuba in early March.

Beautiful vegetables, green against the red soil (including ones like cabbage, which I don't think of as tropical staples, but appeared in every salad). All grown organically because there is no money to import or produce chemical fertilizers. A diversity of plants means a diversity of pests; less of a problem than many of a few kinds, that "gang up" on certain species.

Each farm bed contained at least one corn stalk and some marigolds as part of the pest containment plan. Mixed plantings, like beets and peppers or beets and cauliflower, help. Boards (maybe 1'x2'), painted white, blue and yellow, acted as signboards to attract pollinators. Where the irrigation pipes go into the beds, what look like small white plastic boxes clamped over the pipes reduce the tension of the flowing water and allow for better penetration – I'm not an engineer, either, so don't ask me how this works.



Soil amendments are produced right on the farm, in long raised beds under a roof for shade, where livestock manure and worms (20,000 per sq. meter) are mixed. The soil humidity is kept at 80%, and the pH even. I'm sure I was told, but have forgotten, how long it takes to achieve the desired results, but I don't think it's long because the manure is already a partially digested product, which veggie waste is not.



Women's Music Loving Travelers:

NWFM: Middleton Wisconsin, July 2-5, 2015
<http://www.wiaonline.org/>

And this is likely to be the last MichFest...

MichFest: Michigan, Aug. 4-9
<http://michfest.com/>

For two well-written and reasoned perspectives on the announced end of a lesbian institution, go to
<http://tinyurl.com/nbchxfw> for an article in *The Advocate*
<http://tinyurl.com/ptbb3p6> for an article in *Curve*

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. It's **the** least expensive subscription you'll ever have – and no renewal notices!

For all PS OLOC

psoloc@yahoogroups.com
psoloc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

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For the Seattle metro area:

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