

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 38th Issue!

November 2015

We started out putting together this issue of the PS OLOC miniNEWS thinking that there wasn't all that much to share with you, but, obviously, that didn't turn out to be true!

Two Options to Get Your Turkey On Thursday, Nov. 26, afternoon

Looking for a welcoming place to share Thanksgiving with friends? Look no further. You have options! One is a TGiving gathering in Olalla, the other a Friendsgiving gathering in University Place.

First, Olalla. Kathy K. once again invites PS OLOC women to share the bounty of the season at her home in Olalla – think north of Gig Harbor but south of the Southworth ferry dock. The event will be potluck with PS OLOC contributing the turkey and/or ham. KK says she can accommodate about 24 women and the plans are to sit down to eat by 2 pm. Please arrive a bit earlier. Kathy needs to know you plan to be there, and you may need to know how to get to her home, so give

her a call or drop her an email fairly soon. 253-857-4849
kjknowles@centurytel.net

Second, University Place. Not a competition! But in case you'd rather not drive up to Olalla, Mary and Margaret invite you to what they refer to a Friendsgiving dinner with them and their family. It's informal (very!) and, as is the case in most events at their home, will segue from enjoying an oh-so-tasty dinner to a few hands of cards or a game or two. You won't need to bring anything but your appetite and a willingness to relax and enjoy the company and the day. It will be helpful to know if you plan to be there, so be sure to let M&M know.
mandm@thewiredcity.net 253-565-0829



House Concert Zoe Lewis Saturday, Dec. 5, 6:30

For a great evening filled with music, friends, and tasty tidbits, be sure you are on the list to hear Zoe Lewis in concert in a warm, comfy house setting.

About a dozen of us saw Zoe perform last summer in Madison and we all loved her. If you aren't familiar with Zoe's style, check her out on Youtube or on her website: zoelewis.com

Four PS OLOC women, M&M, JS&C, began dangling their little toes in the producing house concerts waters last May. By August, they were in it up to their ankles. Now they're knee deep and loving every minute of it. PS OLOC loves the events too, so they've officially become a sponsor.



You do need to reserve a seat...they are approaching SRO already. Tix and more info: caseyhannan@hotmail.com or call Casey: 425-301-3294

Looking Ahead: mark your calendars. We have Ann Reed coming to sing for us all next May 14!

Last minute decisions? Don't let the fact that you didn't speak up to go to one of these events early enough stop you...if you find you'd like to go at the last minute, call. They may be able to fit you in.

QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council) Check In

No room to be wordy about what your QC3 has been up to of late. Suffice it to say they all spent another 5 hours meeting in early October, and have exchanged a whole passel of emails since then. They continue to work to plan events, coordinate and participate in events put on by other like-minded groups, and more. They won't do their usual 5 hour meeting in December. Instead, they'll retreat and meet for a couple of days! More power to them.



Be Grateful For...

The opportunity to learn something new every day.

An Upcoming Event Without a Set Date Yet!

We'd say, "Watch this space for further developments," but we want you to watch for the date to be announced via the Yahoo list as well. If you'd like to X off our three possible dates, all Saturdays, we're looking at January 9, 16, or 23.

What are we holding those dates for? We plan to show a video called *Light of Change: a concert with Carrie Newcomer, Bernice Johnson Reagon and Holly Near*. It can be succinctly described: "Interwoven with the 19 songs performed during the concert are conversations

with the artists, recorded six months later, in which they reflect on their creative process and the significance of music to bring people together for common purpose."

These three song writer/performer/peace and justice activists are each powerful, dynamic women. Put them together and you would have to be quite the curmudgeon not to be inspired. The musical

parts of the video were filmed at *Dream On Sisters*, an event that celebrated the dreams of a rich mix of almost 4000 attendees of all ages, races, ethnicities and perspectives from around the world. That said, the film has no strong religious content and it should serve as an excellent jump-off point for some small group work PS OLOC has been talking about doing.

We all owe Donna & Gloria a thanks for having found a copy of the film at the National Women's Music Festival last year and sharing it with us!



Recurring PS OLOC Area Events

Here are the highlights for what is going on in the various geographic areas within PS OLOC. We encourage you to join the separate Yahoo groups – info on how is on the last page of this newsletter.

Seattle area:

- The Dinner Group meets on the 3rd Thursday. Location varies, but they always try to meet at 6:30. For November 8, they're checking out Taste of India, 5517 Roosevelt Way NE. Reservations are under the name Connie, but please RSVP to Aganita. Place TBD for December 17.
- The last Book Group for the year will meet on Dec. 27, from 3-5 pm, at Couth Buzzard Books. Some of the women will meet to share a meal before or after. They will be discussing *To Believe in Women* by Lillian Faderman. They'll also talk about plans for 2016. Send suggestions to Deirdre.

Westies (Olalla, Gig Harbor, Longbranch, Shelton, etc.):

- West women try to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, generally at 12:30. Activity varies from discussions, films in private spaces, movies at theaters picnics, games, etc., so locations vary a bit, too.

South Sound:

- SS Lunch Bunch meets in the Tacoma area on the 2nd Tuesday, at 11:30. On Nov. 10. they'll meet at the Sizzler on South Tacoma Way in Tacoma, and at the Red Lobster (I-5 & 72nd) in Tacoma on Dec. 8.

Coming Out Women

- CO Women meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. An additional night has been added to help with women's work schedules: they also meet on the last Thursday... however, that Thursday in November and December falls on holidays, so those meetings won't happen. CO Women is a support group for women of all ages dealing with coming out issues. CO Women meets at the library in University Place. For more info, contact Kathy P. or go to www.comingoutwomen.org

Since you never know what might happen to derail even the best made plans, we suggest you check close to the date of an event to make sure it's still on track.



Riddle Me This...

What do you get when you combine 200 volunteers, 25 non-profit organizations, 1012 gallons of coffee, 50 pizzas, 250 burritos, more bagels, pastries, yogurts and other snacks than you can count, all in two large rooms plus hallways, then stir constantly for 48 hours?



The answer? GiveCamp: A marathon weekend where tech folks from a variety of sources come together to donate their time to non-profit organizations to accomplish technical projects at no cost to the non-profits. Twenty-five widely varying tech projects were all accomplished in a weekend! Truly amazing.

One of those projects was the building of a new website for PS OLOC. Yes, we got the new website, and much more! We also got a new logo, a new Facebook presence, and a plan for keeping them updated that we hope will be both easy to carry out and useful for Puget Sound Old Lesbians!

There are plans to add more content, but when you have a few minutes, go to www.psoloc.org and take a look. Poke around, see what's there already, and send us suggestions on what to add.

Take a moment to join our new Facebook group, too, by going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1681970195359851/>

More About GiveCamp

Spread throughout this issue of the miniNEWS, you'll find a couple of articles about aspects of the recent PS OLOC Give-Camp experience.

If you think GiveCamp might be helpful to another group you are involved with, these events are held yearly in Seattle, but also happen across the country. For more info about GiveCamp in general, go to givecamp.org

About Seattle GiveCamp, go to www.seattlegivecamp.org/

Be Grateful For...

Hyperlinks in the PS OLOC miniNEWS!

Want the Latest News?

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

Feel the Excitement... A PS OLOC/OLOHP Collaboration!


Most of you are at least somewhat familiar with the OLOHP, the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. Now PS OLOC and the OLOHP are banding together for something really exciting... we are making a DVD about the Project using our locally-developed format of sharing dramatic readings of excerpts taken directly from interviews. We've been fortunate (thanks to Kathy P) to make connections within UDub Tacoma and they'll do the filming, editing and such for us. We have a script ready, readers waiting in the wings, and a determination to make something remarkable. We could go on ad nauseum about this, but we'll leave it at that. If all goes according to plan, very early in 2016 we'll have a shiny new tool for helping spread the word about the incredibly important work of the OLOHP, compliments of PS OLOC.



Something you may not know is that there are more Herstory interviewers, transcribers and general helpers in our immediate area than anywhere else. Collectively, local women have done more than 50 interviews and worked on various aspects of even more. Bragging is certainly in order.

For samples of the types of quotes we use in the dramatic readings, watch for the yellow boxes spread throughout this newsletter.

It was wonderful to realize I wasn't the only one in the world, that there wasn't something wrong with me.

 If there is a question as to who to contact about an event, you can always email info@psoloc.org.

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.

Audre Lord said...

What's the worst that could happen to me if I tell this truth? Unlike women in other countries, our breaking silence is unlikely to have us jailed, "disappeared" or run off the road at night. Our speaking out will irritate some people, get us called bitchy or hypersensitive and disrupt some dinner parties. And then our speaking out will permit other women to speak, until laws are changed and lives are saved and the world is altered forever.

Being disruptive can be a good thing, and in some respects, it is our obligation. PS OLOC has long expressed their unhappiness with some of national OLOC's policies and practices, but when they made a clear statement as to who was welcome to become members, and by default, who was not, they'd taken it further than we can accept. After talking with many of you, the QC3 wrote a letter to the national Steering Committee. We asked several things, but first and foremost we requested they rescind their new membership statement (below right).

As a chapter, we haven't received any direct response to our letter, but OLOC did post revised mission, vision, membership statements to their

Yahoo list. It appears the membership statement has been replaced by something much less confrontational. It's unlikely we were the only people unhappy with what we perceived to be an attempt to exclude folks without coming right out and saying so.

There are other discussions we'd like to have with OLOC in the future. It's encouraging to know they aren't so entrenched that they don't welcome, and give weight to, the concerns of all the women working hard in PS OLOC, and many other chapters.

For more than 20 years, OLOC has worked to affect changes to what they perceive to be wrongs – and so do we. Until this revised membership statement was issued, it had been feeling much like some of us felt as children when we were told, "Do as I say, not as I do." OLOC is a big organization that represents us all – as long as we are all working toward the same goals, shouldn't there be room to do that work in our own unique ways, bringing our own skills to the table? We will keep working to make sure our voices are heard.

To quote Alice Walker: *The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.*



Then	Now
<p>May 2015 Membership Statement</p> <p>OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians. We are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Lesbian voice as well as increasing Lesbian visibility in a world that stifles it. OLOC challenges oppression in all of its forms, including ageism, ableism, racism, anti-Semitism, classism, sexism and transphobia. National OLOC is an ally to all who struggle for justice. In the LGBTQIA* community, we are the L. Therefore, National OLOC welcomes as members only those women who have reached their 60th year and who are Old Lesbians. We welcome all people as supporters.</p> <p>*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Bulldagger, Transgender, Transsexual, Two-Spirit, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Ally.</p>	<p>October 2015 Membership Statement</p> <p>National OLOC welcomes as members Old Lesbians who have reached their 60th year.</p> <p><i>Note: As of the publication of this issue of the PS OLOC miniNEWS, the statement on the right still appears on the OLOC website. We'll continue to be hopeful and watch for CHANGE.</i></p>

I just always assumed my family knew and this is just probably from basic cowardice. That was just making it easy on myself, I'm sure. I thought they might wonder, over a period of 20, 30, 40 years, why I never had a fellow. But if so, they never questioned it.

Safe Place Initiative by Ellen K.

SPI is a program started in Seattle, under the direction of Seattle Police Officer James Ritter (gay), last May, after a reported rise in crimes against the LGBTQ community. Over 600 businesses now participate. As of September, the King County Sheriff's Office is partnering with the SPD to spread this program throughout the County, and it started on Vashon Sept. 30, as a pilot for rural communities. The idea is that participating business and institutions place "Safe Place" decals in their windows and agree to shelter anybody who feels threatened or harassed, and to call 911 for help. While there may appear to be little need in rural communities, especially Vashon, the 50% under- or non-reporting of harrasement is where the concerns lie.



Ritter and KC Captain Michelle Bennett (lesbian), along with a representative from the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Dept. of Justice, came over, gave a talk at the schools, then met with any business that requested to be a participant, and finally held an evening public meeting. If nothing else, the stickers send a message, and educate the public about LGBTQ issues (one business owner didn't know the acronym). The program could be taken to any King County community that requests it, and I'm sure could also be initiated in other cities and counties.

Be Grateful For...

People who are willing and able to teach and share what they know.

Give Camp Part 1, by Kathy P

Mary Henry, Deirdre Knowles and myself, (bringing 216 years' worth of old lesbians) attended camp this year. It happened Oct. 2-4 @ Microsoft in Redmond. Of the 60 non-profit applicants for 2015, 25 organizations were invited to participate. A number of them were repeats from previous years. (Translation: we are welcome to apply again for 2016!) Seattle GiveCamp is the local chapter of a nationwide chain of 100% philanthropic software programming events. The first GiveCamp started in 2007 and has gained momentum across the country.



We arrived at Camp with the majority of what we envisioned as content for the website, written by myself, and laid out in a site map by Margaret. M&M provided photos for the site, too. The weekend offered (a) classes in WordPress, use of sliders, social media and Google grants; (b) development and completion of projects for non-profits, (c) networking and learning for all re digital techniques, and (d) amazing camaraderie!

A fascinating array of projects were tackled, all in one exhausting but energizing weekend.

I'd go to the movies with my little neighbor girls. We always saw every movie four or five times. And these little girls are sitting there saying, "Oh, I wish I could kiss Gordon McCray." And I'm sitting there thinking, "Oh, I wish I could kiss Doris Day."

Gloria and Pokey are In Good Company

When it comes to talking about Lillian Faderman's long-awaited book *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle*, Gloria and Pokey aren't the only ones singing its praises. Glowing Reviews have appeared in the straight, and not-so-straight press, including in the *New York Times*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Slate.com* and many, many more. Even the *Economist* says it is "the most comprehensive history to date of America's gay-rights movement."

If you are a library user, get your name on the list to check it out. The book can be purchased at almost every book outlet including Amazon.com who has it priced at \$22 and change right now. Once your hands are on it, you'll see why you can consider simply holding the book a form of exercise, coming in at more than 800 pages. Or try the weightless e-version for \$16.99.

Hats off to Lillian for this monumental labor of love for our community.



Organizations Working to Change Lives

Give Camp Part 2, by Kathy P

Friday evening we were introduced to all 25 not-for-profits and by Sunday afternoon, we witnessed presentation of completed projects.

The diversity of organizations, and their proposed projects, was remarkable. Here are some examples.

- A local foundation works to help hearing-impaired children in Vietnam.
- TBVoicesproject.org offers support by e-sharing stories of persons globally who are affected by tuberculosis
- East African Community Services aids immigrants settling in this area.
- Boyer's Children's Clinic works to improve quality of life for children with neuromuscular disorders.
- Facing Homelessness matches donors with talents of "those living outside," such as (homeless) artists who contribute their works to donors.
- La Leche League, working to set up a user-friendly Datapalooza
- Rotary First Harvest connects farmers and truckers to food coops, creating online gift cards and thank-you's for donors of 30 pounds of produce per \$1 gifted.
- Seavuria group worked to install MS Office on 144 "naked" recycled MacBooks which would then be donated by Seattle kids to counterparts in Kenya.
- Page Ahead Literacy Program provides kids with 10 books each to prevent the "summer slide" in reading levels of kids with no summer access to books.
- People United for Pups (PUP) facilitates virtual adoption/support for dogs.

And PS OLOC, a group of active, bright, engaged old lesbians in the Puget Sound area. They work to create an open, concise, mobile-friendly, BEAUTIFUL site!

Doesn't everybody fall in love with her gym teacher? Noel Scanlon was her name. A beautiful Irish lady. I discovered who I was at that time. I was different. But I found people like myself. I found other "lesbians." There was Lily, who was with Maxine, and Jane, who was with Elizabeth. I thought, "That's my life."

I met Laurie at the women's center in Shasta in Redding. And I left my husband. We were staying in this trailer park. We were walking around there one evening. We hadn't slept together for awhile. I just couldn't do it anymore. He said, "I need a woman." (Pause)

And I said, "I do too."

Pat McIntyre reminds us...

Pat stays busy nurturing and leading a group effort called Tacoma Older LGBT. www.tacomolderlgbt.org TOL is a non-profit LGBT organization in Tacoma and Pierce County "specifically geared to advocating for, serving, supporting, and working with older LGBT adults in Tacoma, Pierce County and surrounding areas." Visit their website and you'll get the dates and times for a couple of ongoing events they host including happy hours, walks, a grief group and more.



Be sure to check for their next Womyn Rock dance scheduled for Dec. 12, in Olympia. www.facebook.com/WomynRock2

And The Rainbow Center Says... Join in a variety of activities!

While you're on the internet, or if you stop by, check out what The Rainbow Center is up to, including the monthly 50+ Lunch Bunch, a social and educational opportunity for LGBTQ individuals 50 and older that meets the 3rd Friday of every month, 11 am - 1 pm.

You can get details on RC events by contacting Laura Brewer. She can give you the lowdown on parking and any other details you might need.

The Rainbow Center
2215 Pacific Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98402
Ph: 253-383-2318 Fax: 253-383-2978
laura.brewer@rainbowcntr.org

Gloria and Donna Remind You...

Revels, Sunday, Dec. 20, matinee

If you're one of the 30 plus women going with Gloria and Donna to the Christmas Revels in Tacoma on Dec. 20, be sure to figure in some extra time to get safely parked and into the theater so you won't miss a single minute. If you'd like to join them, check with Broadway Center to see if any seats are still available, then let G&D know to watch for you. They usually get together with friends for lunch before the show, and you won't want to miss that either.



This year, the Revels theme is a Nordic Celebration and it's sure to be filled with music, dance, costumes and story.

G&D: drummingwater@comcast.net
253-851-9864

or: www.broadwaycenter.org

M&M Suggest... Get Involved in TLC

If you don't already belong to TLC, Tacoma Lesbian Concern, M&M suggest you drop them an email and they'll send you a copy of their current newsletter. Various members of TLC host various events! How about that. While most of the members are from Tacoma and the nearby communities, there are women who regularly drive down to join in the fun. If you need a personal testimonial, just ask Gloria, Deirdre, Aganita, Kathy P, Ellen, Hazel, Jolly Sue, Casey, Betty, Louise, Kathy K... We could go on, but you probably get the point.

Try it!

mandm@thewiredcity.net 253-565-0829

Be Grateful For...

All our friends in PS OLOC, women we can call on when we're in need, or when we simply want to connect.

Could I Be Gay...

Could I be gay after all these years? For these women, the answer was yes. Long as it may be, that is the title of an article featured at Upworthy.com, then posted and reposted to Facebook a bunch of times. Take a few minutes to go read it yourself (<http://tinyurl.com/qy7z22h>) and you'll quickly notice the authors talked with our very own Kathy Prez about the Coming Out Women group she runs here, sponsored by TLC and PS OLOC.



The article came out just as Kathy was leaving on a trip but she's taking time out to reply to a flurry of inquiries from women from all over the country asking her to help them connect with some helpful resources. Quite a coup for Kathy, and a confirmation of something we already knew, that hers is a valuable, much-needed group and we're lucky to have Kathy take this on for our community.

Margaret Wants to Share a Fave

This may be news to some, and old news to others. It isn't often you can fall in love with a magazine...it actually sounds like something that might land you in a psych ward. But there it is. Margaret is in love with *Cook's Illustrated*. And here is why.

This magazine, along with the PBS TV version, *America's Test Kitchen*, actually provides you with down-to-earth information usable by on home cooks. Nothing fancy. Nothing exotic. Lots of basic ingredients, well-explained directions and in the case of the magazine, incredibly handsome and informative cover art.



Best of all, both the magazine and the PBS show always include great info on things like the different cuts of meat, tips from other cooks, comparisons of kitchen tools such as peelers, knives, and pans, or ingredients like types of soy sauce and baking chocolate. And it has none of that totally useless advice like "be sure to buy a good olive oil." How about you tell me how to tell what is a "good" olive oil, huh?



BOOK NOTE by Ellen

For all you fans of women's athletics, and especially the Seattle Storm: On Sept. 26, Ginny Gilder spoke at the Vashon branch of the King County Library. She won a silver medal in rowing for the U.S. in the 1984 Olympics, and recently wrote the book, *Course Correction: A Story of Rowing and Resilience in the Wake of Title IX*. I found the talk really interesting. "Course correction" ties in not only to rowing, but to a course correction in Ginny's life when she fell in love with (and has since married) a woman. She participated in a now famous Title IX protest against the lack of training facilities for women, and has gone on to become co-owner of the Seattle Storm basketball team. I think if the KC Library system has an author talk, other branches can request the same. Those of you in other counties might want to see if you can do so, OR should we see if she would speak at a PS-OLOC event? Let me know what you think.



Give Camp, Part 3, By Kathy P

From my perspective, the greatest GiveCamp gift was being in the midst of perhaps 200 volunteers working the room. Professionals and students were exuberant in sharing their digital knowledge with each other and the non-profits: from logo design to front end-, middle- and back-end people, to marketing and project management. Four full-time and three part-time gifted volunteers worked with us from Friday to Sunday evenings... Saturday 'til well past midnight. Meals and snacks were even included.

Paul Litwin and his wife coordinate this annual event, along with "Microsoft Mike" Roshak. They were helpful, encouraging during the application process, and supportive throughout the weekend. We are most thankful – and are letting GiveCamp know that!

Now, if you want tech details, you'll need to ask Mary or Deirdre for those details!

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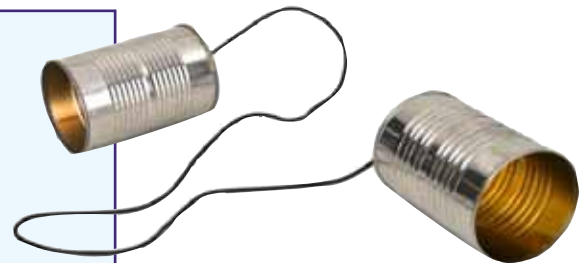
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253-565-0829

Sue W

srweinheimer@yahoo.com
425-503-4646



PS OLOC has been slowly growing a select collection of DVDs of films of interest to our group. They're available to show in groups, or to borrow. Contact Gloria for details.

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 the Seattle metro area:

SeattlePSOLOC@yahoogroups.com
SeattlePSOLOC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

psoloc.org • info@psoloc.org

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

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