

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 42st Issue!

July 2016

What's Going On?

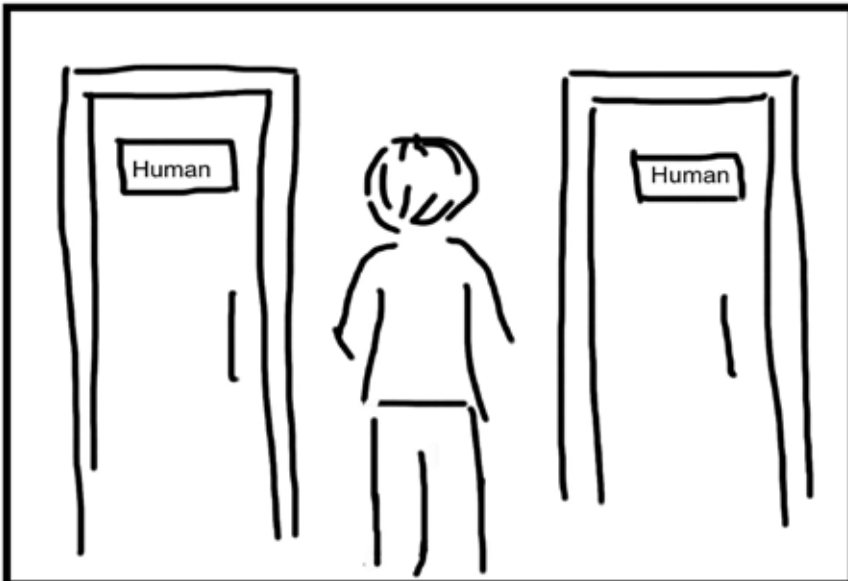
Good question...but rather vague, don't you think? In fact, the question might be about several things. Given this current state of politics in our country, we might be shaking our heads in disgust and disbelief, asking, "What the #%^\$ is going on?" Can we really be living in a time when millions of people allow, or participate in, xenophobic, racist, and bigoted rhetoric that brings to mind pre-World War II Europe?

Or we might be asking "What is Going On?" as we read and hear about the various states and cities trying to pass legislation that would result in people like Laverne Cox who has identified as a woman, and lived and dressed as a woman for years, but was born a man, to have only two options: never go into a group bathroom in public, ever, or use the men's room. And the other way around, the proposed laws would say that Chas Bono should be using the women's room when he is in public. How stupid can they get?



Many of us are also asking "What's Going On?" as day after day, week after week, we learn of mass shootings, only to have each horrific event fade away with nothing having been done to try to keep the next one from taking place.

Or some of us might just be wondering what PS OLOC women have been up to of late, or about any plans for things coming up soon. Check out this issue of the *PS OLOC miniNEWS* and you'll find out just that. And if you have an answer to any of the other questions, please share!



The World of Netty Quette
created by Deirdre!



Baby moose born in June at NWT

A NWT Adventure Wednesday, Aug. 3, 10 am

We're hoping a trip out to Northwest Trek in Eatonville will tempt some of you away from your summer routine. Whether you've been there before, or this will be your first visit, this is a chance for you to go with some PS OLOC friends. Plans are set for Wednesday, August 3, leaving Tacoma at about 10 am. If by chance that is one of our rare rainy August days, we'll regroup and try for the following Wednesday instead, August 10.

Let Mary&Margaret know if you plan to join the group so we can coordinate carpools. Eatonville is about an hour's drive from Tacoma. Tix for Pierce County seniors are \$17.95. It's a few dollars more for others. The site is relatively accessible and has a tram.



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 to access those groups can be found towards the back of this newsletter. We didn't get as many of the details in on when and where this time, so you'll need to do some detective work.



Seattle PS OLOC:

- The Seattle Dinner Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Location varies, but they always try to meet at 6:30. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Aganita.

August 18th Seattle dinner: Watercress Vietnamese Bistro, 5041 Rainier Ave. S., 6:30 PM.



- The Seattle Book Group meets on fourth Tuesday from 1-3 at Couth Buzzard, 8310 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103. Some people arrive there at 12:30 and eat together. Couth Buzzard has sandwiches and other eats, plus a variety of coffee, teas and smoothies. For more info, check with Aganita.

Aug 23: Book is Witches of America. by Alex Mar.



ALISS:

- Aging Lesbians in South Seattle (ALISS) meets the first Thursday of the month and may also add other activities. Those are announced on the ALISS Yahoo list.



ABLE:

- For info on when and where ABLE, Aging Ballard Lesbian Exchange, plans to meet, contact Deirdre.

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

- To keep in-the-know about what the Westies are up to, join the Westies Yahoo group or keep in touch with Kathy Knowles: 253-857-4849 or kjknowles@centurytel.net They try to schedule something twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays, midday.

South Sound:

- South Sound Lunch Bunch meets in the Tacoma area on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:30..... EXCEPT for August! On August 9, the Lunch Bunch will venture across the water to Vashon where they'll hold a potluck picnic at Docton Park, right on the water's edge on Quartermaster Harbor. They'll have a covered pavilion, tables, and flushies near by. There is also accessible parking and a sidewalk to get you to the pavilion. PS OLOC will be providing drinks and a meat. Bring along a side dish and if you find picnic table benches next to impossible, bring along a chair. Hazel is organizing this one and she'll need to know if you plan to be there. For those coming from off-island, as Vashon resident's say, try to carpool to minimize ferry costs. Hazel has written up detailed directions on how to locate the park. If you don't find them posted on the PS OLOC Yahoo list, drop her a note at grammawild@gmail.com.

The September 13 lunch location will be the Red Lobster near 72nd and I-5 in Tacoma. On October 11, they'll try out Rock the Dock, on 535 Dock Street in downtown Tacoma. Both will be at 11:30, as usual.

Coming Out Women:



- CO Women meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. This confidential support group is for women of all ages who are dealing with coming out issues. CO Women meets at the library in University Place. For more info, go to www.comingoutwomen.org or email: kathyprez@comcast.net.

**House Concert: Tret Fure
Saturday, August 6, 6:30 pm**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. We say the same thing every time we tell you about the next concert: *You'll love this concert.* But we really do mean it! It's not just hyperbole. Most of you know Tret... and for some of you, it may be love at first sight. As long as we can remember, Tret has been an important figure in what is collectively called



"Women's Music," a genre that empowered women, especially lesbians, to share their passion and talents with us all. Tret will sing to us, and chat with us all, on Saturday, August 6, in Tacoma. Hosted by Paw Print Productions (Jolly, Casey, Mary & Margaret), and sponsored by PS OLOC and TLC, tickets for this one have sold quickly, but there are a few left. Remember, not only will you get a great concert, but a fun social hour where you can chat with Tret and other concert-goers, and nosh on some great eats! Call Casey at 253-219-4662. (Look on page 6 for future concerts.)

Need contact info for the QC3? Check the last page of each issue of the PS OLOC miniNEWS.

What about those of you who don't have good access to the internet to follow the links that appear in most issues of the miniNEWS? If you have email, drop a note to, or call, M&M... they'll do their best to help you out, or find someone who can.



**Our Annual Ice Cream Social
Saturday, September 3, noon on**

Gloria and Donna have graciously invited us all to descend upon their space in Gig Harbor for another episode of what has become our yearly ice cream social. As with almost everything PS OLOC, the event will be heavy on the social part of Ice Cream Social. Of course that doesn't mean we'll deny ourselves a few scoops of this, a drizzle of that, topped with a dollop of whipped cream and a cherry!

This time around, the event is strictly an ice cream social. PS OLOC will provide a selection of ice creams, and you are to bring along something to go along with or on the ice cream. If the past is any indicator, we know you'll all be pretty inventive...after all, doesn't pie, or cake, go with ice cream?

Let G&D know you plan to be there. They'll need to know how much ice cream to buy and how many spoons to round up. And if you have a lawn chair handy, bring it along.



Anyone needing directions to G&D's home can contract them directly. While you're checking with them, be sure to get parking advice, since it can be a bit tricky. Carpooling is a good thing, both to ease the parking and for those coming across the Tacoma Narrows, to save a few bucks on the bridge toll.

Women's Equality Day Aug. 26

Did you know it took a 72 year long non-violent political campaign to get to 8-26-1920, the day the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed, granting women the right to vote? Fifty-one years later, that anniversary was declared Women's Equality Day. Something to celebrate? Yup! But let's not stop there. A new group, the Women's History Alliance, is forming with one goal: to have Aug. 26 declared the first national holiday honoring women and to make this happen by 2020, the 100 year anniversary of the 19th Amendment. First step: sign the petition at Change.org and get others to do the same! <http://tinyurl.com/z4u5jlz>.



Who is Welcome?

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.

QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council) Check In

Instead of telling you all what we spent our time doing at the last QC3 meeting, we're opting to use this space to let Ellen and Deirdre share a report on their recent experiences as traveling QC3 members.



OLOC Chapter Representatives Connect

In early June, Deirdre Knowles and I flew to St. Louis to attend the 1st ever Chapter Coordinators meeting of OLOC. The costs of this event were covered by a bequest from OLOC member Dottie Fowler made specifically to assist chapters — Puget Sound being one of fifteen.

Thursday evening was a meet and greet, including introductions to the Steering Committee and employee Susan Wiseheart. However, considerable time then and on Friday, went to an “autopsy” of the cancellation of the October 2016 Atlanta Gathering; why did it happen and where do we stand on the transgender issue? The official sticking point: Atlanta wanted to specifically welcome trans lesbians (born male) and cis lesbians (born female). The OLOC Steering Committee Directors preferred OLOC be for female-born lesbians, supported only a general “for all old lesbians” statement. It was clear feelings ran the gamut from non-discrimination to “we have the right to invite who we want to the party, let them form their own group.” On Friday afternoon, Jona, who would be our trainer on anti-racism, spoke to gender, misogyny and sexism, including how we internalize these issues and then express them externally. For the anti-racism training we did full

and small group work around white privilege and supremacy. My main take-away was the need to recognize we are all brought up with racial biases we may not even recognize, and need to make the choice to actively work to overcome our early training.

Sunday we finally got to the relationship of chapters to OLOC. They are autonomous, but only 30% of 600 or so OLOC women belong to a chapter — we need to develop more chapters, maybe an on-line chapter, but also keep using non-electronic means of communication. Coordinators now have a Yahoo group, along with the periodic conference calls. Could coordinators act like a senate vis-a-vis the Steering Committee, talking to each other once a month, putting discussions in *The Reporter*?

Panels discussing various topics had been envisioned. Deirdre came to the rescue in organizing a few small group discussions on topics. I intended to go to the one on ageism but there were no other takers. I moved to classism, but heard nothing constructive. The final wrap up was to ask the coordinators their opinions on what to do for the next Gathering. Ideas: To cut costs they might make it less professional and more about sharing our stories, pick cities that are airline hubs, perhaps piggy

back with other events like the NWMF. The time of year should be consistent, and the next one should occur in the south, perhaps Miami.

I hope there will be more coordinator get-togethers, especially as this one seemed a bit derailed by the Atlanta cancellation and transgender discussion. I wanted to hear what other chapters were doing; how we might learn from each other about what works and what doesn't. There was time for only a single idea from each chapter. Ours was the OLOHP DVD creation. Some others were volunteering to answer phones during NPR fundraising (gets name out), doing Adopt-A-Road clean ups (again, name publicized), movie nights, advertised discussion topics, meet-ups, participating in demonstrations as a group.

submitted by Ellen K.

Next QC3 Meeting?

The PS OLOC leadership team, a.k.a. the Queer Crone Coordinating Council, will meet on Tuesday, August 2, from 10 to 3, in the meeting room in the University Place library. It's a brown-bag lunch meeting, but there are several options nearby. If you'd like to sit in, or suggest something for their agenda, please contact Ellen.

US Women and Cuba Collaboration By Kathy Prezbindowski with Luna Vazquez

At our June 14 Lunch Bunch, PS OLOC welcomed Cuban lesbian organizer, health care worker and educator, Isel Calzadilla Acosta. Isel founded "Las Isabelas" in 2003 — the first lesbian organization in Cuba. Ms. Calzadilla Acosta was hosted on her speaking tour to Seattle and other west coast cities by the US Women and Cuba Collaboration. Seattleite Moon ("Luna") Vazquez from the Collaboration accompanied Isel on the five-week U.S. tour. In addition, several Seattle women from Dyke Community Activists were present at Lunch Bunch.

I interviewed Luna about her engagement in this work. A nontraditional trade worker – carpenter and electrician – she is daughter to

about the impact of the U.S. embargo of Cuba, its economic oppression of Cuba, and work to repeal it.

She emphasizes that the groups' gatherings are two-way interactions. It's not a U.S.-women-teach-Cuba thing. From the start, goals have been to learn from the example of Cuban women and the Cuban Revolution about women's rights and racial and economic justice to build a more progressive, anti-racist women's movement in the US. She speaks of the amazing strength, sovereignty and autonomy of Cuban women.

Asked what Moon believes is the foundation of the positive attitude towards LGBTQs and reduction of homophobia in Cuba, she states



Puerto Rican parents. Her father role-modeled political activism — even from 1968 Chicago. Following her first trip to Cuba in 2001, Moon has returned to Cuba “about a dozen times — taking part in workshops and one-on-one conversations.” For these 15 years Moon has studied the culture and worked to increase interactions between the lesbians of the two nations via U.S. Women and Cuba, and its project Lesbians & Allies — co-founded by Moon.

The mission of the U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration (www.womenandcuba.org) is to build a strong US women's movement dedicated to ending the US government blockade against Cuba and to creating mutually beneficial U.S.-Cuba relations. Moon is writing a fact sheet

that — at the heart of it — is the education model that was responsible for exploding the literacy rate of Cuba- up to 98 to 99% — the highest in the world. On June 14, discussing the downtrend in homophobia in Cuba, Isel Calzadilla Acosta had pointed out that “Pride” events in Cuba are less celebratory and more educational in nature — in order to be inclusive and less offensive.

Luna Vazquez will share more with PS OLOC in upcoming issues of *miniNEWS* and on www.psoloc.org: about Isel Calzadilla Acosta's work with the Cuban National Center for Sex Education — <http://www.cenesex.sld.cu>, U.S. Woman and Cuba, Lesbians and Allies, and how PS OLOC women might collaborate.

Jolly & Casey say Save the Dates...

More than the Tret Fure House Concert

Jolly Sue & Casey, working with M&M, will not only be hosting Tret on August 3, others are lined up as well. You won't want to miss any!

Drum roll, please.....

Lucie Blue Tremblay will join us on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 3 pm!

Deidre McCalla will be here Saturday, Oct. 22, at 6 pm!

& Zoe Lewis will wrap up 2016 for us with a repeat performance on Saturday, Nov. 12, 6 pm!



Don't worry... we're already working on lining up some artists for 2017.

To reserve your seat, or to get on their mailing list: caseyhannan@hotmail.com or call a 253 219-4662. The house concerts have been magical – don't miss out!

It Bears Repeating

Nudge #1: A little while back, we encouraged you all to make sure you had a File of Life, or something similar, readily available in case of an emergency. Just in case you didn't take our advice to heart, we're gonna repeat it! Please, make sure you have emergency info on your fridge, and/or in your purse/billfold. If you don't have access to the forms, email us at info@psoloc.org and we'll send copies to you that you can print and fill out.



Nudge #2: If you live alone, have someone you check with daily. If you know someone who lives alone, check on them daily. We're using an image of a phone to suggest that a quick phone call will do, but so would an email, or a text.

We've heard a few resistant comments about all of this, but wouldn't you rather feel a bit silly about doing this, checking or being checked on, than have something horrible happen, only to have it be much worse 'cause no knew it had happened?



They're Called Links With Good Reason

Aganita shared a link to an interview she found interesting, and, as those things often do, following the one link lead to more! Her link was to the full transcript of an interview with Joan Biren conducted as part of the *Voices of Feminism Oral History Project*, an endeavor undertaken at Smith College in Northampton.



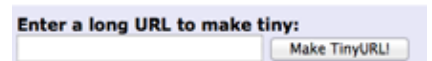
That one link lead us to a page entitled *The Power of Women's Voices*, which shares a synopsis and images from three of the longer interviews conducted for the *Voices of Feminism* project. Head to <http://tinyurl.com/jqmsml9> and you find yourself drawn into three lives:

- Joan E. Biren (JEB), Filmmaker, photographer, lesbian activist
- Loretta Ross, Reproductive rights and civil rights activist
- Carmen Vázquez, Lesbian activist

Links can have serious consequences, especially for those of us who suffer from chronic curiosity. You go to check out one thing, and before you know, it's three hours later and you haven't checked a single thing off your to-do list!

Some Good Things Really Are Free!

Yes, sometimes you get what you paid for, as the saying goes, and you learn the hard way that buying cheaper may be a bad decision. Problem is, if we buy into that way of thinking 100%, then you miss out on some really good cheap, or even free, things. For instance, you may have noticed a couple of Tiny URLs in this newsletter. The folks that created this service offer **TinyURL.com** it for free...you enter any long URL that would be hard to make fit into a newsletter, or is too long to type it accurately, and they turn it into a much shorter URL that takes you to the same place... they do it in seconds, and it's free. You don't even have to sign up! Simply go to tinyurl.com and paste the long URL you'd like shortened into the box, and click the Make TinyURL! button. Almost immediately, the screen will present you with the new URL. Copy-paste the short version into your newsletter, or email, and you're good to go. And don't worry... tiny URLs won't expire.



Scams: If it Involves Buying a Cash Card...

If you get a phone call from someone purporting to be calling about money you owe the IRS, or your failure to report to jury duty, just hang up. Both the court system and the IRS do their business in writing, not via a phone call. Scammers are busily targeting old(er) folks this summer. They often say they're the police and they are about to send out deputies to arrest you for non-payment of taxes, or fines for not showing up for jury duty. They may even offer you a name and phone number you can call to confirm they are legit. Call the number they provided and of course someone will answer saying they're the police / sheriff! And of course they will connect you with Sergeant Jerk. But if you open the phone book and call the real police / sheriff's office, they'll confirm you're being scammed.

Another red flag in case still you aren't sure? Scammers may suggest you go someplace like Lowe's and purchase a couple of \$500 Visa Cash Cards, then call them back and give them all the identifying numbers to prove you did so. You better believe by the time you've hung up, the cards have been spent! And with cash cards, you have no recourse. Your bank can't help you.

It's a shame we have to be so skeptical, but that's the world in which we now live.

Gloria and Donna want you to know...

Olivia is Offering a Writer's Cruise

G&D are excited! Olivia is doing a cruise, out of Seattle, heading to Alaska, that they're calling a Writer's Cruise. It will feature lesbian feminist author Dorothy Allison and retired Colonel Dr. Grethe Cammermeyer who was instrumental in the campaign to allow openly lesbian women (and gay men) to serve in the military.

Dates are June 25 - July 2, 2017. Call and talk to them about it if you'd like. It happens on one of the smaller, more easily navigated Holland America ships, the Amsterdam. G&D have done several cruises and may be able to answer your questions. It looks like it will be a popular cruise – the least expensive rooms are sold out as are the most expensive ones. To book, or to find out more from Olivia directly, go to <http://tinyurl.com/javcjox>



Keep Up With PS OLOC Events via Yahoo

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

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

SouthPSOLOC@yahoogroups.com

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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.

PS OLOC info@psoloc.org