### PUGET SOUND OLOC

# 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 41st Issue! May 2016



## Next All-PS OLOC Adventure Opportunity Northwest Trek, Wednesday, August 3, 10 am

Two years back, an opportunity came up for a group of us to venture off to Port Townsend and take a three-hour Puffin cruise. We've been looking for something similar to put on our schedules. Finding one that was accessible, affordable and had broad appeal was interesting in itself! We are hoping a trip out to Northwest Trek in Eatonville will be the ticket. It's one of those places many of us, even those who have lived locally for decades, have heard about and said we'd like to do some day. Well, here is a chance for you to do it with friends. Plans are to go on Wednesday, August 3 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.

Ideally, we'll all let the QC3 know if we plan to join the group so we can coordinate some carpools. Eatonville is about an hour's drive from Tacoma. NW Trek encompasses more than 400 acres of forests and meadows, and is home to a wide array of animals native to the Pacific Northwest. There are up-close exhibits and a visitor center, and a tram will take you on a grand tour. Tix for Pierce County seniors are \$17.95. Its a few dollars more for others.

To be counted in and kept in the loop as plans develop, email info@psoloc.org.

Why list the House Concerts in PS OLOC and TLC newsletters? Simple: Because they are as much about building community and supporting our artists as they are about the music!

## House Concert: Ann Reed Saturday, May 14, 6:30 pm

Almost Sold Out... Act Now!

You're gonna love this one! Ann has it all: a rich alto voice, songwriting and guitar skills, and a deep connection with her audience... we are incredibly lucky to have her join us in a house concert on Saturday, May 14, in Tacoma. Hosted by Pawprint Productions (Jolly, Casey, Mary & Margaret), and sponsored by PS OLOC and TLC, tickets for this one are bound to sell out quickly. Not only will you get a great concert, but a fun social hour where you can chat with Ann and nosh on some great eats! Call Casey at 253-219-4662.

## 'Tis the Season... Pride Season, That Is!

We're fortunate to have several options to celebrate our community locally, each with a distinctly different feel. Here is a bit about some of the events:

### Seattle Pride: June 11 & 26

Undoubtedly, there is a very interesting story behind this, but the Pride Festival and the Pride Parade are on different weekends. First, the Volunteer Park Pride Fest happens on June 11 from noon to 7 pm. Then, on June 26, starting at 11 am, the Seattle Pride Parade happens along 4th Avenue in downtown Seattle. www.seattlepride.org



### Capital City Pride: June 17-19

The festival itself is a full two-day affair, and is now held at Heritage Park in downtown Olympia. The parade starts at the Capitol at noon on Sunday, makes its way along Capitol Ave., then turns onto 5th. www.capitalcitypride.net/

### Tacoma Pride Fest, July 9

Tacoma may not have a parade, but it has lots of events, including a city flag raising, festival, block party, multi-day film fest and fund-raising event for Oasis. www.tacomapride.org

## **Opportunities! Opportunities!**

### **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 towards the back of this newsletter.

### **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. Here are their next few locations:

May 19 – Spiro's Pizza and Pasta, 18411 Aurora Ave. N., Seattle/Shoreline, 98133 June 16 & July 21 – Locations to be announced

• 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 and tea drinks... also smoothies. Upcoming schedule:

May 24 – *China Dolls* by Lisa See

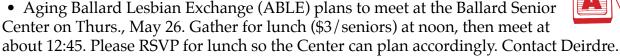
June 28 – Come prepared to read and discuss poetry and poets that inspire you. Future books have not been decided yet.



#### **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. Their latest meeting included a stimulating discussion on several topics and a guest, Rita Golden Gelman. Rita, 78 years old, doesn't have a permanent home – instead, she travels the world, trusting in the hospitality of others. In addition to many children's books, she also wrote *Tales of a Female Nomad*, and did a TED talk.

### **ABLE:**





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

• The Westies will hold a potluck at Gloria & Donna's on May 18. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather so that the event can happen outdoors. Plan on starting at noon. Help them out by letting them know you plan to be there – contact Gloria to RSVP by May 15, and to get directions. At, or before, that May 18 event, they'll decide what's next... to keep in the know, join the Westies Yahoo group or keep in touch with Kathy Knowles: 253-857-4849 or kjknowles@centurytel.net

### **South Sound:**

• South Sound Lunch Bunch meets in the Tacoma area on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:30. Locations vary, and occasionally they need to switch up the dates. You can keep in the know by... you guessed it... joining the South Sound yahoo group! On Aug. 9, the event will be a picnic BBQ at Dockton Park on Maury Island, connected by an isthmus to Vashon Island. Details to follow – save that date!

## **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, contact Kathy P. or go to www.comingoutwomen.org or email: kathyprez@comcast.net

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### A Bit of This and That

## QCCC (Queer Crone Coordinating Council) Check In



You'd think these women would run out of "business." But somehow, each QC3 meeting manages to be filled to the brim with stuff to talk about and work on, often overflowing into the next meeting.

The recent April meeting was no exception. One of the many things discussed was the suggestion that we provide more detail, via the miniNEWS, about what it is that keeps them all so busy.

Despite Ellen's carefully constructed agenda, it only took minutes for the group to add a a new item they felt strongly about. Prompted by a member having a health crisis, the QC3 wanted to come up with a plan. First, we'll let you know the woman is okay now. But she lives alone and doesn't talk with any person on a daily basis who might wonder if they didn't hear from her. By sheer luck, another PS OLOCer went to check on her when she missed an appointment and didn't answer her phone, but her particular health crisis left her unable to answer questions. And... she didn't have her health or other emergency information where anyone could find it.

Fast forward 6 weeks, and skip over an untold number of phone calls trying to track down the information the hospital needed, and she's just getting to go back home now.

So what did the QC3 come up with? To start with, we're encouraging everyone – living alone or not – to make use of a form like the File of Life. It's a straightforward form and can be kept in a pouch with a magnet that easily attaches to your refrigerator, one of the first places they look. Gloria managed to nab a dozen or so of these and shared them at a

FILE	OF LIFE
Review A	FORMATION UP TO DATE !! At Least Every Six Months ! A REVIEWED AS OF MO. YR.
Name:	Sex:
Address:	
Doctor:	Phone #:
Preferred Hospital:	
EME	RGENCY CONTACTS
Name:	Phone #:
Address:	
Friday Grades	

South Sound lunch event. Since we hope everyone decides to make use of something like this, we're checking on getting more and will keep you posted.

In the meantime, we have a downloaded form that we're attaching as we send out this issue of the *miniNEWS*. If needed, let us know and we'll print and mail it to you.

Next, we all need a mini version of that same info on our persons. We have a form that folds and easily fits into your wallet. It will be attached to this *miniNEWS* as well.

But that's forms...they are important forms, but just forms. We'd love to figure out a way we can all buddy up, making sure PS OLOC women who are alone have someone checking on them daily. We're trying to figure out how we might help that work, but for now, if you know

someone living alone, talk to her about this. Bad things can happen to healthy people, so don't limit who you think this might apply to. Contact can be as simple as a text, email, or phone call each day.

The QC3 will continue to work on this one, but we need ideas from you.

Now, we did actually make it to the rest of agenda. We're working on wording for an agreement between PS OLOC, the mothership, and newly allied groups, like ALISS and ABLE. We don't foresee a problem, but are trying to act on the "better safe than sorry" side of things. We simply need some basic guidelines on how we'll relate to each other.

We continue to be dismayed by the move away from use of the word "senior"... first the word "old" became verboten, and now places are dropping the term senior in favor of nonspecific terms like generations. We can't hold back the tide, but we can express our disfavor, and draw attention to it.

We worked on the logistics of setting up the Angela Bowen film event, and options for a next event (Northwest Trek) and possible dates.

There was discussion about the make up of the QC3 itself, and how to encourage more participation in leadership, or on a committee.

This is a sampling of what keeps the QC3 busy... you'll find more details about some of the rest of what they're working on elsewhere, in this and in every issue.

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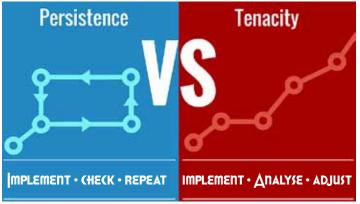
### More Stuff You May Want To Know

# The Magician Technician and the April 30th Events (reported by Gloria)

Two important stories of woman-nurture and love were going to be told, and many PS OLOC women were worried about how they could participate in both, scheduled for the same day at contiguous times in two different venues in the Emerald City. Enter our Techie Wiz, Deirdre, and voila! Tous les deux ensemble. These events, one live-streamed and the other on DVD, were brought together and shown at The Bridge conference room in The Cove Retirement Center near Greenlake, on April 30th. (The room is free to non-profit organizations of seniors).

The Findhorn premier live film stream and discussion, "New Story for Humanity" and the documentary by filmmaker Jennifer Abod, *The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen*, were shown in a marathon event starting at 11 AM and ending at 4:30 PM. Participants left tired (and... for those who forgot to bring lunch or snacks... hungry!), but with plenty of food for thought and further discussions another day.

Thanks to Deirdre, her back-up, Ellen, and Collene, for working to find a way to get these two fine events together. *The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen* is now available for small group showings and discussion. Contact Gloria or Deirdre to schedule.



Editorial Comment: Reading Gloria's write up above pointed out one of the best traits our group seems to possess... we aren't just stubborn. And really, persistence isn't the right term either... tenacious seems a much better descriptor. We don't just try, and try again. Instead, we wonder, we ponder, we plan and we succeed. What an amazing group we are!

### **Umbrellas**

PS OLOC started out thinking rather small, like one of those fun little umbrellas in a fruity drink. But look at us now. We've been going for about nine years, and we seem to have expanded from that cocktail-size umbrella to one that covers the table on your patio!

So who is under, or at least partially under, that ever-expanding umbrella? There are the South Sound women who keep on keepin' on as they have from day one. That core group has been big on building community, exercising their activism muscles, and more.

Out of that initial group rose the QC3 – growing, changing, and continuing to meet regularly, year after year.

Then the Seattle group formed to do things with dinners, book groups, housing, end of life issues and more. Not to be left out, a group coalesced across the Tacoma Bridge, the Westies, and they keep themselves active with movies, discussions, games, picnics and such.

Not done yet.

Before long, PS OLOC
agreed to co-sponsor a coming out support
group which Kathy Prez has run for over five
years now.

A year or so ago, a group of like-minded women formed a group in South Seattle called ALISS, and another in Ballard, called ABLE. Each formed organically to fill a geographic niche, has local leadership, and approaches things their own way. That said, they seem to be fitting under, and filling out, the PS OLOC umbrella as well.

Each of these groups brings something distinctive to the table. And then there are some overlaps, like the subgroup, drawing from everywhere, informally known as OLOHP.pss... the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, Puget Sound Style.

While each group under the umbrealla has a bit of a different focus, we all are working for the same thing: to improve the lives of old lesbians. It's amazing to see how many ways we can do just that. And if need be, we can always look for a bigger umbrella!

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### And Even More Stuff!

## Housing Committee of PSOLOC submitted by Ruth V.

Who we are: several women who, around our busy lives, are working on improving the housing situation for old lesbians.

Our focus: we have two primary areas, one is the research and dissemination of information about existing housing options available and the second is exploring the creation of housing. Both are for our target population of old, and getting old, lesbians.

We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 1 pm, in Ballard. We all take on pieces of projects and come together to share our efforts and refine our work.

Email ruth@ivylawgroup.com New members are welcome!

Looking for contact info? Go to the last page. We list phone and email for all the QC3.

### Deirdre & Ellen Are Heading to St. Louis

"What's in St. Louis?" you ask. OLOC National is doing a three-day event for representatives of OLOC chapters. We'd like to think PS OLOC



can take at least partial credit for making this event happen, even though we know women from other chapters, and some of the Steering Committee members were pushing for the same thing as well. Deirdre and Ellen head off to St. Louis in early June and they're going with a fairly lengthy list of questions they'd like to raise, topics they'd like discussed, and information they'd like to share. Our chapter has long advocated... or as some may say, agitated... for more support and better lines of communication between National OLOC and chapters, and between the chapters themselves. We've enjoyed the relative autonomy that has been the status quo since our chapter formed, but we've also felt like we, as a chapter, have little or no influence on how the organization as a whole operates and on the work they do. We want this to be a two way street: what we do reflects on them, and what they do reflects on us. Here's hoping for a productive three days!

## PSARA Report submitted by Aganita

On April 28th, several PS OLOC members attended a Lunch and Learn at the West Seattle Senior Center. PS OLOC was part of a coalition of senior, health care advocacy, and community-based organizations that sponsored the event. Robby Stern, President of Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA) and Chair of Social Security Works Washington led a multi-generational discussion about the status of Social Security and Medicare now and for the next fifty years. We had a table with PS OLOC cards and brochures, and a number of people took information, often saying it was for a relative who was gay. There were 75 people in attendance at the lunch, and many stayed for the speech. This is well above the usual attendance for lunches at the Center.

We have an opportunity for our group or several sub-groups to have informative social security/Medicare workshops just for us. All we have to do is to work out the dates.

Several PS OLOC women participated including Ellen, who you see here in the photo.



What can you do if you 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.

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### A Bit of This and a Dash of That

## Jolly & Casey say Save the Date... August 6, Tret Fure House Concert

Jolly Sue & Casey, teamed with M&M, will be hosting yet another sure-to-be-great house concert. This one is the incredible Tret Fure and it's set to happen the evening of Saturday, August 6. 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!



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## Music Lovers, Far and Near:

# Far: National Women's Music Festival Near: Vancouver Folk Music Festival

Two HUGE music events again this summer. First is the National Womens' Music Festival held near Madison, Wisconsin, June 30 - July 3. Pre-dating MichFest by a year, this will be the 41<sup>st</sup> year for National. For details, go to www.wiaonline.org

Much closer to home but far enough to be a big adventure: The Vancouver Folk Music Festival, July 15-17, on Jericho Beach in Vancouver, BC. This year: 60 acts, from 18 countries, on seven stages. http://thefestival.bc.ca/

### Deirdre Says...

There is an LGBT group starting at the Renton Senior Center on the last Wednesday of the month--next meeting May 25th. The meeting starts at 10 am until about 11:30, when those who wish head to the dining room for lunch (\$3 for seniors). This group isn't affiliated with PS OLOC, but we'd like to have a good representation! Contact Deirdre for info.

RENTON

### Well-Written, Thought-Provoking

Someone recently shared a link on our Yahoo group for an article entitled What to do when you're not the hero any more. The author explores the significance, to men and woman from all cultures, of media slowly beginning to portray heroes that are... gasp... not white men. Every word in the article may not resonate, but there are some gems, like this thought: Stories are mirrors, but they are also windows. They let you see yourself transfigured, but they also let you live lives you haven't had the chance to imagine, as many other lives as there are stories yet to be told, without once leaving your chair.

Article at http://tinyurl.com/npphbyv

## Pat McIntyre reminds us... WomynRock July 9, Oct. 29, Dec. 10

WomynRock was founded in 2007 by Pat McIntyre as a way for "seasoned lesbians" to meet each other to dance and raise funds for non-profits that serve older LGBT. Since that time, Pat and DJ Traci have been serving the women of South Sound and raising funds for non-profits and initiatives that support older LGBT adults.

In 2016, the WomynRock event returned to Tacoma. All monies from the suggested cover donation and "chance to win" tickets goes toward support organizations like Tacoma Older LGBT and other initiatives that support the older LGBT adult.

Location: Gloria's Bar & Grill, 82nd & Pacific Ave., 5-9 pm, cover \$6.

You don't have to dance to have fun at WomynRock" www.facebook.com/WomynRock2

## **Squeezing in a Last Few Tidbits**

## Confessions of a Lurker by Margaret

In the past 20 years, the word lurker has taken on a new meaning. It can now be used to describe a user of an Internet message board or chat room (like a Yahoo group) who does not participate. That's me when it comes to the National OLOC Yahoo group – I'm a lurker. I don't read it often, but occasionally something catches my eye. I was both impressed this week and dismayed.

First, what impressed me. Someone's post said they were interested in "keeping OLOC WBW (woman born women) only." Others quickly weighed in, agreeing with the sentiment, including an SC member or two. But shortly after, Susan (who dearly loves OLOC, has strong feelings on the matter and is the SC's support person) spoke up pointing out that OLOC isn't, and hasn't been,

WBW only for a while, so "keep it" is no longer possible.

But then I practically got whiplash. There had been a thread of posts pointing out that women 40 and older will be able to attend the upcoming gathering in Atlanta because it's a joint conference with ZAMI NOBLA, an African America lesbian organization that welcomes lesbians 40 and older. OLOC has discussed changing their age limits a number of times, but has held strongly to the 60 age limit.

Now, what made me do a double take was this post: *Black Lesbians don't have the same life expectancy as White Lesbians and this might be a reason that "Old" is defined differently by different Lesbians.* 

I sure do hope some posts discuss that statement! If I weren't too busy lurking,

I would have asked, "Are you listening to what you're saying?" I don't think so!

Using that logic, OLOC would then welcome a lesbian in her thirties with a lifethreatening illness, wouldn't they? Research has also shown if you're LGBT and live where people are hostile, your life expectancy is 12 years less than those living in accepting areas. Applying the earlier logic, if you live in the Bible Belt, or rural Idaho, you should be welcomed to OLOC at 48... right?

It's difficult enough when you pick an arbitrary age to define "old" to begin with, as OLOC did 25 years ago, and then stick to it, no matter what. But throwing life expectancy of one specific subgroup based on race into the mix – wow. I think I'll go back to ignoring the posts for a while!

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### Margaret & Mary

mandm@thewiredcity.net 253-565-0829

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

## 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 SouthPSOLOC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

### For all PS OLOC

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

### For ALISS

aliss@yahoogroups.com allis-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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