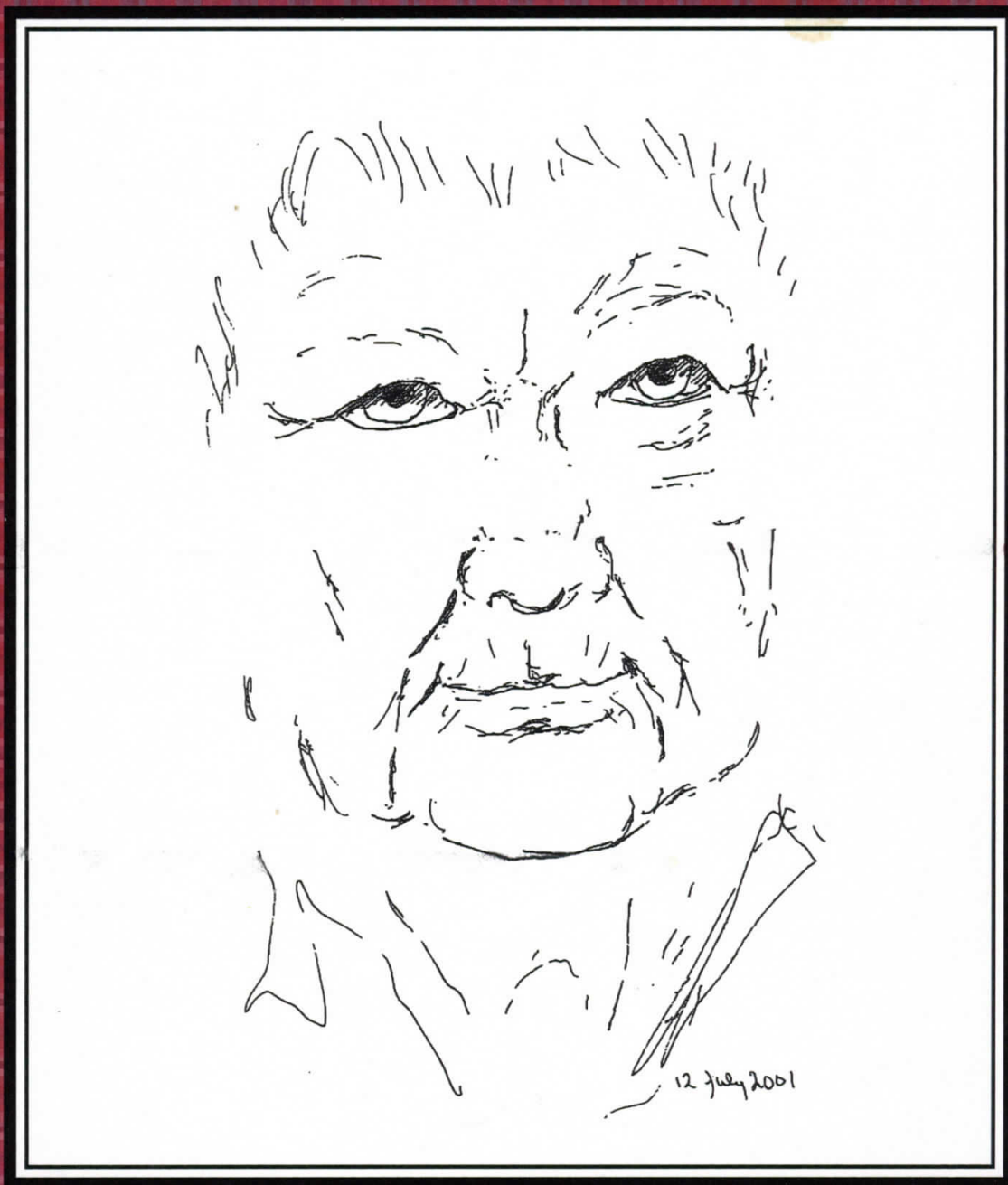


CELEBRATING OUR LESBIAN LEGACIES



**An Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project Symposium
October 10-13, 2013 Houston, Texas**

HEALTH FAIR

FALL 2013



SATURDAY, NOV. 2, 2013

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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Welcome...

I'm so glad you're here. I know many of you personally already and I hope by the end of the weekend, I can count you all as friends.

When we started planning this event almost 18 months ago, it seemed so far off, as though we had all the time in the world to pull it together. Talk about delusional! The closer it got, the faster time seemed to speed by. And, of course, the closer it got, more and more details arose – some small, and some not-so-small. There were times I thought I'd meet myself getting up for the next morning when I headed to bed at night!

Now, the event is here, and I'm excited. I hope you are, too, because you are the reason it's happening. As we begin this adventure, I'd like to share three quotes with you. They all speak to me, and to what I think this weekend is all about.

- Mark Twain said, "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born, and the day you find out why."
- Mary Anne Evans, best known by her pen name, George Eliot, said, "It is never too late to be what you might have been."
- Mae Jemison, NASA astronaut and the first black woman to travel in space said, "It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live."

For me, it wasn't a specific day – but the day I decided to start working on documenting the stories of women like myself was huge. I embarked on this adventure when I was 67. I'd had a good life up until then, but doing herstory work has made it so much richer. Meeting hundreds of women, sharing their stories, helping them know that their experiences, thoughts and feelings are important, their stories a gift to all of us, and all of those yet to come.

Many of you have heard me say over and over, but I'll take advantage of the situation and repeat myself, I am truly humbled by the honor you've given me by sharing your stories, your friendships, and by your attending this event. I can't imagine a more meaningful way to have spent the past 16 years than with my sugar, Charlotte, and all of you. What a ride!

Arden

What To Expect This Weekend

Our goal this weekend is to provide a yin and yang mix of opportunities. *Yin and yang are actually complementary, not opposing, forces, interacting to form a whole greater than either separate part; in effect, a dynamic system.*

Celebrating Our Lesbian Legacies offers a mix of panels and speakers where you are the audience... but hopefully not a silent audience! Panels and speakers will focus on how lesbians of the OLOHP generations have, in so many ways, created a unique legacy. The symposium also includes several focused discussion groups, where you'll be the ones sharing your thoughts and experiences, adding to the wealth of our lesbian legacies in the archive at Smith College. And don't forget to add into the mix: time to talk with old friends and make new friends, enjoy some great entertainment, two impressive documentaries, and a fun dance where we'll be joined by a contingent of Houston women—all of this in a comfortable, welcoming venue, with lots of good food. You're in for a memorable weekend.

Cover: This is a self-sketch done by Arminta 'Skip' Neal. She shared her story with the OLOHP in 2001.



Here is the quick schedule. Look in your registration packet for a more detailed version.
Keep in mind when looking at this version that things may have had to be changed!

Thursday, October 10

- 3 pm Registration begins, remains open until 7 pm
Dinner on Your Own
- 7-9 pm Welcoming Program featuring Nancy Ford (see page 20)

Friday, October 11

- 9 am Keynote speaker: Lillian Faderman
- 10:15 Panel: Lesbian Books, Bookstores, Authors, Publishers, etc.
- 11:45 Buffet Lunch
- 1 pm Panel: All Things Women's Music: Performers, Concerts, Festivals, etc.
- 2:45-4 pm Focused Discussion Groups
Dinner on Your Own
- 6-7 pm Social Hour with Cash Bar
- 7-8 pm Performance: The Therapy Sisters
- 8-11 pm Dance with a DJ, Open to the Community
cash bar, light snacks provided

Saturday, October 12

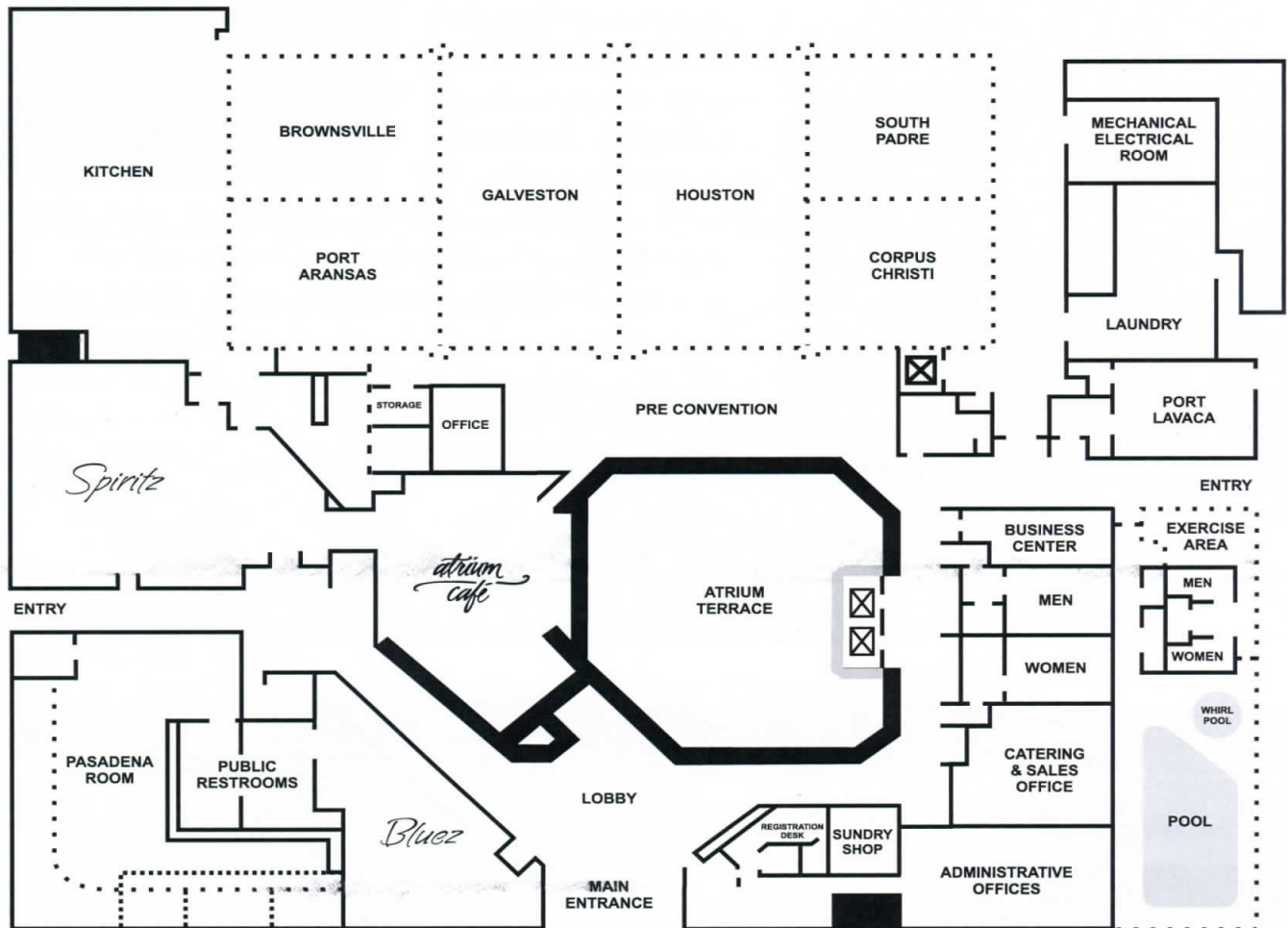
- 9 am Focused Discussion Groups
- 10:30 Panel: Birds of a Feather: Lesbian Community
- Noon Buffet Lunch
- 1:15 pm Panel: Politics, Feminism and Social Movements
- 2:30-3:45 Focused Discussion Groups
- 3:45-5:30 Unscheduled
- 5:30 Social Hour with Cash Bar
- 6:30 pm Banquet Dinner
- 8 pm Performance: Jamie Anderson

Sunday, October 13

- 9:30 am Panel: Preserving Your Stories and Your Stuff
- 11 am Speaker: Houston Mayor Annise Parker
- Noon Buffet Lunch
- 1:15 pm Modified Open Microphone
- 2:30 pm Panel: The OLOHP, Where We Go From Here
- 3:45-5 Discussion Groups
- 5:30 pm Light Buffet Dinner
- 6:30 pm Documentary Films
In Every Room of the House, Connie Kurtz and Ruthie Berman
The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen, film by Jennifer Abod
- 8:45 pm Closing Remarks

Where Will Everything Happen?

When you enter the hotel at the front door, you'll notice a sunken area (labeled Atrium Terrace on the map below) straight ahead. Follow the hallway to your right to the other side of the Atrium and you'll find the large meeting spaces. The rooms are labeled. All our speakers, panels, and meals will take place in the two central sections named Galveston and Houston. We will also have use of South Padre and Corpus Christi throughout our Celebration. Another group will be using Brownsville and Port Aransas on Friday morning, after which those two spaces are ours as well. We'll be opening the air walls to combine some of the spaces for the dance on Friday evening.

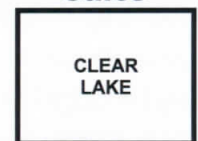


For our focused discussion groups, we'll also have use of Port Lavaca, the small room on right side of the map, and four smaller meeting rooms located on the second floor, directly above the larger meeting space. Those rooms are labeled Baytown, Deer Park, Pearland, and Friends Wood. Clear Lake, the fifth room in that line-up, will be the site of our hospitality room where you can find especially friendly faces, a bite to eat if your sugar gets low, or you just want a snack, a place to sit and chat, and information about the Houston area.

Second Floor Meeting Rooms



Hospitality Suite



Keynote Speaker

Lillian Faderman

Friday morning

Lillian Faderman is an internationally-known scholar of lesbian history and literature, as well as ethnic history and literature. Her work has been translated into numerous languages. Among her many honors are six Lambda Literary Awards, two American Library Association Awards, and several lifetime achievement awards for scholarship, including Yale University's James Brudner Award, the Monette/Horwitz Award, the Publishing Triangle Award, the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives Culture Hero Award, and the American Association of University Women's Distinguished Senior Scholar Award. The New York Times named two of her books, *Surpassing The Love Of Men* and *Odd Girls And Twilight Lovers*, on its Notable Books of the Year list.



Both Lillian and her partner, Phyllis Irwin, have shared their herstories with the OLOHP.

Some of Lillian Faderman's works...

- *Gay L. A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, And Lipstick Lesbians*
- *Naked in the Promised Land: A Memoir*
- *To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done For America - A History*
- *Chloe Plus Olivia: An Anthology of Lesbian Literature from the 17th Century to the Present*
- *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America*
- *Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present*

Sunday Speaker

Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker

Sunday, mid-day



Mayor Annise Parker, a second generation native Houstonian, is the first openly gay mayor of a major city in the United States. (Houston is the country's fourth largest city.) As an open lesbian, Annise Parker was elected to public office six times before she was elected, and re-elected, mayor. She is Houston's 61st Mayor and one of only two women to hold the City's highest elected office. Annise has spent many years in service to the people of Houston, with six years as a City Council member and six years as City Comptroller.

In the private sector, she spent 20 years working in the oil and gas industry, including 18 years with Mosbacher Energy Company. Annise also co-owned a retail bookstore for 10 years. She will be accompanied to our celebrations by her spouse, Kathy Hubbard, who also happens to be the tax accountant for the OLOHP.

Featured Performers

Jamie Anderson Saturday Evening

Singer-songwriter-parking lot attendant Jamie Anderson has played her unique original songs in hundreds of venues in four countries, including forty-seven U.S. states and three Canadian provinces. She's folk without the Birkenstocks, country without the big hair, pop without the meat dress, and jazz without the weird chords.

Laughter is a big part of Jamie's live performance. Her offbeat song intros and stories help keep the performance fun, but don't be surprised when she delves into more serious issues.

Her ten recordings include the 2013 release *Dare*. Jamie's music has been featured on *Good Morning America*, the *Dr. Demento* radio show, NPR's *Car Talk*, and stations all over the world. She loves being a musician, so she doesn't really park cars, but her mama said she should have something to fall back on.

When Jamie isn't touring, she's taught music classes at Duke University, arts centers, festivals, and her studio. Jamie's also an author. Her memoir, *Drive All Night*, will be out in 2014 with Bella Books and she is currently working on a book about women's music of the '70s and '80s.



Therapy Sisters Friday Evening

The Therapy Sisters came together in 1987 as a musical self-help effort that has since turned into an addiction. They've played coast to coast in clubs and coffeehouses and even did a gig at a peace festival in East Germany the year the wall came down. They have nine recordings and 400,000 miles on two vans, and have settled into performing steadily in central Texas, with occasional forays to New England and south of the border. They play because it makes them feel good and we hear that feeling is contagious! Members of the Therapy

Sisters include Lisa Rogers on guitars & uke; Maurine McLean on bass; Purly Gates on harmonica, accordion & guitar; and SJ Williams on drums.

Focused Discussion Groups? What's That All About?

Good question! From the beginning, one of our priorities in shaping this symposium was to be sure we built in opportunities for you to share your diverse experiences and your thoughts. In short, we didn't want to let you off easy by allowing you to limit yourself to listening – unless, of course, that's what you want to do.

You'll see on the schedule several time blocks set aside for focused discussion groups, but the topics aren't listed. That's because our hope is for these groups to reflect what you want to talk about. We asked for suggestions to get us started and have accumulated quite a list of topics that we'd love to have you participate in. But the list isn't limited to just those – if you don't see a topic you'd like to talk about listed, speak up and we'll see if others would like to join you. We've listed a broad sampling on the following page, and we'll share a more complete list in your packets, and at the Thursday evening program.

Discussions will be limited to 10 people/session, but 9 or 10 discussion groups will happen simultaneously. That does mean you'll have to make some choices, but hopefully, you'll have an opportunity to take part in the topics that interest you most. Based on demand, some topics will be repeated so that everyone will have a chance to

speaking to it. If you'd like to sit in and listen, but not participate, we'll have space nearby for you to sit.

In order to schedule the discussions in this rather free-form manner, we'll need your help. On Thursday evening, you'll be asked to sign up for the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning discussion groups, selecting from the pre-determined list of topics. By lunch time Saturday, we hope to have new topics that you've suggested added to our list, and we'll all sign up for the Saturday afternoon sessions. Sunday, at lunch, we'll sign up for the last sessions to be held later that afternoon.

Now, while we're trying to be as flexible as possible in determining topics, the discussions themselves will be structured. There will be a leader whose job it is to keep the discussion as closely to the topic as possible, and will make sure everyone has a chance to contribute.

Focused discussions will be audio recorded and later transcribed to be added to the OLOHP archives at Smith College. To help insure everyone feels they can speak freely, transcribers will only identify women by their first name and age.

We hope everyone will participate. This is another chance for you to make sure your experiences and opinions are recorded in your own words.



Focused Discussion Groups



Deirdre Knowles has stepped up to shape and organize our Focused Discussion Groups and she'll be your go-to woman!

Deirdre is a member of the Queer Crone Coordinating Council (QCCC) of the Puget Sound Chapter of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change/Community (OLOC) and has over forty years experience facilitating discussion groups. She is a psychotherapist with a practice near Seattle, Washington and devotes an incredible amount of her time and talent to working with the La Leche League as they reorganize on a national level.

Some of the Proposed Focused Group Discussion Topics

Gym Teachers – What's Not to Love?

Did you have crushes on your gym teachers? Or were you the gym teacher the young girls all mooned over? How was each handled?

On My Honor! Girl Scouting

For many of us, Girl Scouting played an important role in our personal growth, and many of us went on to work for, or with the Girl Scouts.

Separatism

Did you have experiences with living as a separatist? Or feelings about the subject? Or do you still live a woman-only life as much as possible?

Your Professional and Volunteer Life

Share the good, the bad and the ugly of how being a lesbian impacted on your working life, and your volunteer efforts.

Coming Out of a Traditional Marriage

Help us document the story so many lesbians of our generations have in common, having opted for marriage to a man earlier in their lives.

Sexuality and Spirituality

What strategies and insights do you have for reconciling your spiritual and your lesbian life?

Lesbian? Dyke? Gay? Butch? Fem?

Share your thoughts on what words you use to describe yourself, and why.

Addictions in the Lesbian Community

Alcohol, drugs, or food: addictions have played a role in our community.

Lesbians and the Military

Did you, or someone close to you, experience life in the military as a lesbian? Share your stories.

Kiss and Tell

Remember the first time you kissed a girl, or a woman, and knew it meant something special?

The T Word: Transgender

Discuss how welcoming, or excluding, transgender individuals has impacted the lesbian community, and how the issue has changed... or not.

Loss in a Less Than Accepting World

Loss of someone you love deeply is hard for anyone, but it can be much more difficult when society doesn't recognize your relationship.

No (Wo)man is an Island

Who, or what, helped you understand and accept your lesbian nature?

Modified Open Mic

You all are such interesting women! Several attending have asked if there would be time for them to say a few words to those gathered at this event, so we've added a time block that we are calling a Modified Open Mic. "Open," in that you're welcome to make an announcement, or share something about a project you're working with, but "modified," in that we've already allotted some of the time slot to women, like Elana Dykewomon, who wants to share a reading from her latest book project. Ruth Debra will tell us about the 2014 OLOC National Gathering being planned for the San Francisco area next July.



If you'd like a turn at the microphone, please let Arden know.

Speaking of Microphones

One of the goals in hosting this conference is to add even more information to the collection of herstories already documented by the OLOHP. Because we wanted to be sure all of us could participate fully, we aren't actually doing any herstory interviews during this event. Instead, we are recording as much of what goes on as possible. As time allows, we plan to transcribe those recordings to add to the archives at Smith College. We've also had someone volunteer to video record the keynote presentation by Lillian Faderman and the remarks by Mayor Annise Parker. Because the recordings will contain various voices, most of what is said will only be attributed to "a speaker" or "speaker B, said..." but the essence will be there. If all goes according to plan, we should be able to offer transcripts of some of the panels as well.



While we pride ourselves at our progress towards adopting all sorts of new technologies and integrating them into the OLOHP, we aren't quite as proficient in all things geeky as we'd like to be. So, we're pushing our boundaries a bit this weekend by incorporating Skype into the programming mix.

When we started to shape our panels, we knew without a doubt there had to be one on lesbian literature, and Carol Seajay's name was first on our list for who to ask to moderate that panel. Carol quickly agreed and began working on it, but as with the best laid plans, Carol Seajay will Skype in on the panel on women's literature and Nelda Majors will do likewise for the panel on lesbian community. We're also planning to connect with Angela Bowen and Jennifer Abod in conjunction with showing the documentary *The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen* on Sunday evening.

We'll do our best to make sure all of you can hear and see our Skypers, and to make sure our Skypers will be able to hear and see what is going on here in Houston, but keep in mind that this is new to us.

Women's Music

Jamie Anderson, Bonnie Morris, JD Doyle

How truly amazing it was to watch, and be a part of, the development of a whole new genre of music, dubbed Women's Music. Truly amazing. While initial efforts may have started out to address the concerns of all women, straight and otherwise, who were having to fight for the chance to be a part of the music industry, it was the lesbians who stepped up and really did something about the situation. They formed their own recording companies. They actively sought, nurtured and encouraged women artists involved in almost every style of music, rock, folk, classical, jazz, blues and more.

The newly emerged genre pushed boundaries in every direction. They employed women sound engineers and technicians, and developed their own distribution networks. Women's music concerts became common and women's music festivals began to spring up. While straight women also contributed to this growing tidal wave, it was the lesbians who gave it its power and direction.

————— 0207P —————

Jamie Anderson's bio and picture appear on page 5.

————— 0207P —————

Bonnie Morris is a women's history professor and a nationally known expert on women's music festivals. She is the author of ten books on women's history and lesbian culture, three of which (*Eden Built By Eves*, *Girl Reel*, and *Revenge of the Women's Studies Professor*) were finalists for the Lambda Literary Award. At George Washington University, where she teaches courses ranging from lesbian history to women's sports, students have nominated Dr. Morris for "Professor of the Year" for three consecutive years. Website: www.bonniejmorris.com.



Bonnie Morris

————— 0207P —————



JD Doyle

JD Doyle is the producer of the monthly radio show *Queer Music Heritage*, heard as a part of Queer Voices on Houston's KPFT-FM. *QMH* takes a music history/entertainment documentary approach to the sharing and preserving of our culture's music. Shows of the past 14 years are archived, along with photos, album covers and miscellaneous at www.QueerMusicHeritage.com. The site also features an extensive "Women's Music Wing." In addition, JD also founded the show *OutRadio* to give exposure to mostly new LGBT recordings. A recent addition to his site is *QMH101*, a lesson created for use in University courses on LGBT studies, where this information up to now has been essentially missing. In 2012, the Committee on LGBT History presented him with the Allan Bérubé Prize, which recognizes Outstanding work in public community-based LGBT History.

Women's Literature

Pokey Anderson, Elana Dykewomon, Jeanne Arnold, and Carol Seajay

Women's bookstores and lesbian literature represent another natural outgrowth of the rising energy of these times. Hundreds of lesbian authors wrote thousands of books reflecting their own experiences, thoughts, and ideas. Dozens of "women's bookstores" were formed, almost always run by lesbians and predominantly frequented by lesbians. These bookstores often became the hub of lesbian communities, offering not just books and magazines, but a safe space to gather and connect. Again, some straight women made significant contributions in this field, but if it wasn't for the lesbians, would it have happened?

OLOHP



Elana Dykewomon has published seven award-winning books foregrounding lesbian heroism, including the classics *Riverfinger Women*, *Beyond the Pale* and 2009's *Risk*. A former editor of the international lesbian feminist journal *Sinister Wisdom*, she's also a long-time social justice activist, editor and teacher, who is now helping to organize the 2014 Old Lesbians Organizing for Change Gathering. She lives happily in Oakland, California, stirring up trouble whenever she can. See: www.dykewomon.org

OLOHP

Pokey Anderson managed Inklings, a lesbian-feminist bookshop, which was open from 1988-98. Having hosted a lesbian radio show (*Breakthrough*), worked on a lesbian newspaper (*Pointblank Times*), and produced concerts for women (Hazelwitch Productions), Pokey felt a bookstore would be one more building block for the community. Pokey's business partner at Inklings, Annise Parker, is now Mayor of Houston.

In 1975, Pokey co-founded the Houston Gay (now GLBT) Political Caucus. In 1976, she ran for public office in Houston as an out lesbian; it was a time when only three openly lesbian/gay people held elective office in the US. In 1977, she was in the first delegation of openly lesbian/gay people ever invited to meet at the White House.

Pokey wrote the first published piece based on some of the oral histories collected by Arden, which appeared in *OutSmart Magazine*. More recently, she helped with the final edit of the two books published by OLOHP.

Pokey has also done other book research, advocated for election transparency, and co-anchored *The Monitor*, a world public affairs show on KPFT radio.





Jeanne Arnold

Jeanne Arnold, 1931, and Barbara Lindquist, 1930-2013, partnered in life and in Mother Courage Bookstore (1978-1984) and Mother Courage Press (1981-2002) in Racine, WI, not exactly the hotbed of feminism. The press began with the first book for child abuse therapy using Barbara's drawings of girls and boys. It was written by psychologist Phyllis Sweet and designed and marketed by Jeanne. The 26 titles included books on abuse and prevention of abuse, women's adventures, fiction, biography, *Amy Asks a Question: Grandma, What's a Lesbian* by Jeanne, three by Barbara as B. L. Holmes, and Barbara's memoir, *The Bean Queen*. Jeanne is proud of their courageous commitment in 1974 when both were married with children, and of their conquering society's homophobia that could have robbed them of their 39-year relationship.

0207P



Carol Seajay believes in lesbians and in books and believes that both are better together. She read her first lesbian book in 1965 at the age of 15 (*We, Too, Must Love* by Ann Aldrich) and, "only" five years later found one that she thought ended happily (*The Price of Salt*) though the lesbians had to lose a child to stay together. Carol started reading *The Ladder* at 17, published Women's Liberation newsletters and wrote for *The Kalamazoo Woman* in the early 70s.

In 1974, she joined the ICI-A Woman's Place Bookstore Collective and started San Francisco's iconic Old Wives' Tales bookstore in 1976, working there until 1983. In 1976, Carol launched *Feminist Bookstore News*, the magazine of record for lesbian literature during those years. She kept it going, globally, until 2000. During those years, Carol also published five *Feminist Bookstore Holiday Catalogs*. In 2003, she launched *Books To Watch Out For*, an electronic newsletter of book news and reviews for the gay community that she kept afloat into 2007. Back issues of *BTWOF* are available online at <http://btwof-tle.com/>. Someday (soon?) *FBN* will also be available online. Carol now does bookkeeping to support her book habit – and herself, but what's the difference? She occasionally blogs about books at btwof-tle.com. She'd happily return to reviewing and promoting lesbian literature if someone would A) invent a pension fund for aging lesbian book workers, or B) decide to make sure she'll inherit enough to give up the bookkeeping, or C) find some other way to fund it.



Carol Seajay

Birds of a Feather

Edie Daly, Pelican Lee, Susan Post, Nelda Majors, Margaret Thibodeaux, and Marion Coleman

In response to all that was happening in the 60s, 70s, and 80s, came a swell of women-only groups and organizations, groups that were not just limited to metropolitan areas; they also sprang up in small, tightly knit towns all across the country. Women, especially lesbians, saw the value in forming these strong connections – connections that weren't based on jobs, or church affiliation, but on shared experiences and concerns. Along with that same energy came a movement of women wanting to live together, with little or no influence, or presence, of men. Women-only communes formed. Women banded together to secure rural land where only they were allowed to build and live. Lesbians formed residential communities in the midst of larger, straight communities. The various forms of community that emerged and became central to building lesbian community, supported the adage: *birds of a feather do flock together*.

————— O L O G A P —————



Edie Daly

Edie Daly (1937), a retired intensive care nurse, became an activist by coming out in 1974. In 1981, she moved back to Florida, opened a women's bookstore, and co-founded the Women's Energy Bank (WEB), which held monthly Salons for 24 years and has published *Womyn's Words* for over 30 years. She is also a member of OLOC, Women in Black (advocating peaceful conflict resolution around the world), and SONG (Southerners on New Ground - a multi-issue justice movement). Her activism took her to Bosnia in 1992, and in 1995, on the Peace Train across Europe and Asia, for the Fourth World Conference on Women. One weekend a month since 2001, she facilitates

workshops at Coleman Federal Prison, empowering women to lead non-violent lives through affirmation, trust-building, and cooperation. Edie and her partner Jackie Mirkin, together for 16 years, were married in California in 2008. Their herstories are included in *Without Apology*.

————— O L O G A P —————

Susan Post (66) is a Feminist Bookstore owner who believes that words matter, that Lesbian Literature is important, and that Women's Community is vital to our survival. Since 1975, she has been happily doing it all at BookWoman in Austin, Texas, with the help of many incredibly dedicated women, especially her partner Dana.

BookWoman is one of 11 remaining Feminist bookstores in the U.S.A. Support Your Local Feminist Bookstore, She Supports You!



Susan Post

Panel Descriptions and Presenters: Birds of a Feather, continued...

Pelican was a pioneer of the lesbian land movement. She left Berkeley, California, at age 25 in 1972, vowing to find a way to live on land in community with lesbians. In 1974, she arrived at Cabbage Lane in southern Oregon, one of the first lesbian land communities in an area where a larger community of lesbians living on the land developed. That community birthed the idea of a new open women's land, which became Owl Farm. Pelican was one of the 17 women and 5 goats that moved there when the land was bought in 1976. She moved to New Mexico in 1978, to Arf Women's Land. She was one of the founders in 1995 of West Wind, another lesbian land in New Mexico. She has published *Owl Farm Stories* and *Circle Songs from Lesbian Lands*. Her articles and stories have been published in feminist, lesbian, and alternative magazines and journals.



Pelican Lee

Margaret, a resident of Houston, is a retired special education school administrator and retired history teacher. Retiring afforded Margaret the opportunity to devote much of her time and talent to working as a disability advocate. She is very involved in AssistHers, an organization dedicated to helping lesbians live as normally as possible while coping with life threatening illnesses, and in the Kindred Spirits Foundation, Inc., dedicated to supporting groups that serve women by providing funding to organizations that work to increase health and wellness among underserved women, especially lesbians. Margaret currently serves as President of LOAF, Lesbians Over Age Fifty, a social and networking group that brings together lesbians over age 50 and their partners.



Margaret Thibodeaux



Marion Coleman

Whomever first said, "If you want something done, ask a busy person," must have known Marion. She was the owner/operator of House of Coleman, a highly-regarded printing business in Houston. She founded the popular nightclub, Kindred Spirits. Marion has been recognized for her outstanding contribution to dozens of organizations and causes in our community. Just a sampling of the Board work on her resume includes: the Montrose Clinic, the Houston Council on Human Relations, Log Cabin Republicans, founder of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, the Diana Foundation, Kindred Spirits Foundation, and the Houston Business Alliance. We'd list all her awards and recognitions, but it would fill several pages of this program book!

Panel Descriptions and Presenters: Birds of a Feather, continued



Nelda Majors

Born and raised in Houston, Nelda began playing fast-pitch softball in 1950 when she was eleven years old and didn't stop playing seriously for several decades. She was named to the American Softball Association All-Regional Team and the Texas All-State Team in 14 different years, and more than ten times to various Invitational Softball Tournaments throughout the country. Nelda's greatest softball honor came when she was named to the ASA All-American Team and was asked to play in the ASA World All-Star Game, both in 1965.

Most of her career was spent in the field of physical therapy, first as a practitioner in a hospital, then going on to have her own clinics providing services to hospitals in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Nelda met Karen, the love of her life, when they were just starting college and have now been together more than 55 years. Together, Nelda and Karen were asked by the United for Marriage Coalition to speak at a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court in March 2013 when the Defense of Marriage Act and Prop 8 were being argued before the Court.

Panel Descriptions and Presenters: Politics, Feminism, Social Movements

Politics, Feminism and Social Movements

Gloria Stancich, Pat Gandy, Kathy Glass, Carmah Lawler, Connie Kurtz, Ruthie Berman

The politics of the times both acted upon lesbians and was impacted by them. Women's music, women's land/living, and women's bookstores/literature were all intertwined with the politics of the times. The Women's Movement, the Second Wave of Feminism, and the LGBT Rights Movement, along with consciousness raising, and work that challenged a variety of isms, were all facets contributing to a new paradigm of what life could be like for lesbians.

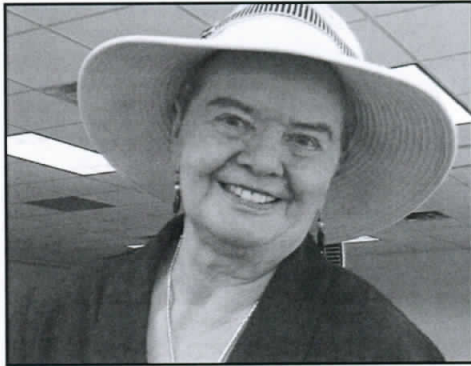


Gloria Stancich

A resident of Gig Harbor, Washington, Gloria has often been referred to as 'the oldest living homosexual in Pierce County, Washington.' She's also sometimes referred to as 'mentor of the 'hood.' Her bona fides include decades of involvement and leadership in organizations and efforts ranging from carpet-bagging as a field organizer in Oklahoma during the ERA countdown campaign in 1972, to serving on the board of Women of Vision, a Tacoma-based NGO working internationally for the empowerment of women, to serving as editor and project manager for the Pierce County LGBT Oral History Project. Gloria is a long-time member and supporter of OLOC and is the keystone to the leadership of the Puget Sound chapter.

Panel Descriptions and Presenters: Politics, Feminism, Social Movements

Pat Gandy was born in 1931 in Marlin Falls, Texas, and began political participation in 1952 as a delegate to the State Democratic convention. She became more active in politics when she came out at age 55 in 1986. She has served on the board of the Houston Lesbian Gay Political Caucus, holding just about every position. She has also been a precinct committee person and served as State Democratic Committee woman in Senate District 6. While on the Texas SDEC, she served as Co-Chair of the Nominations committee and as a member of Governor Ann Richards Inaugural committee.



Pat Gandy

In the early 90's, Pat convinced the *Texas Observer* (a state wide political magazine) to run articles by lesbians and gay men about their issues, dedicating a whole issue to the project. This was the first state wide magazine to recognize the GLBT community with such articles.

In 1961 Pat was the first woman to run for a municipal office in Harris County. Fortunately, or unfortunately, she lost to a male incumbent by a vote of 610-603.

————— 0207P —————

Ruthie Berman & Connie Kurtz

Ruthie Berman declares herself the wife of Connie Kurtz, retired from her work as a counselor – but NOT as a retired political activist. Connie declares herself the wife of Ruth Berman, with their friendship and partnership spanning 56 years. Ruthie and Connie were the NY NOW Lesbian Rights chairs and workshop facilitators for their counseling center. Together, they were successful litigants, with two other couples, winning domestic partner rights for all NYC employees. The documentary *Ruthie and Connie..Every Room In the House* profiles their life and they speak and screen the film all over the country.

Ruthie and Connie left the “center of the universe,” Brooklyn, NY, eleven years ago to live in the “undeveloped state” of Florida. Ruthie is a member of the LGBT task force at the Palm Beach Area Agency on Aging, making sure LGBT elders are treated fairly in all health services. She is also a member of the Century Village Democratic club, and the ACLU chapter in West Palm Beach. Connie is a student, a teacher, an artist, an activist and a lesbian. Together, they are grand, and great-grandmothers, to 46!



Panel Descriptions and Presenters: Politics, continued...

Kathy, born in 1932 and Carmah, born in 1929, both hold Masters' degrees in Social Work. Both "only children" in their families, they realized they were "different" and were eager to move far away. They met in the mid 50s in Denver before Kathy moved to Vancouver, B.C., to pursue her career. Carmah continued to work at Denver Child Welfare until the early 70s, and then became a School Social Worker. When Kathy returned from Canada in 1978, she moved in with Carmah and also worked in the same school district.

K&C held membership in their professional organizations and joined the Colorado League of Women Voters in the 80s. They learned lobbying skills and specialized in children's issues and in Equality issues. They always had gay friends, but could never "come out" as long as they were employed. K&C retired about the same time that Amendment 2 passed in Colorado and realized they had to support gay and lesbian issues. They "came out" to the League of Women Voters and the Democratic Party and helped establish the GLBT Democratic Caucus. K&C are still active in those groups, as well as the Gay Center in Denver which serves all ages, youth to seniors. Together, they joined OLOC in northern Colorado more than twenty years ago.

Kathy and Carmah have both shared their herstories with the Project in 2001, and, at the time, both signed conditional contracts, limiting the use of their stories. Since then, they have burst out of closet, updated their stories in 2009, and signed new, unconditional contracts.



**Kathy Glass &
Carmah Lawler**



Be who YOU are
and say what YOU feel
because those who mind don't matter
and those who matter don't mind.

-Dr. Seuss

**Preserving
Stories and Stuff**

**Mary Henry, Brian Riedel, Sue Weinheimer, and
Marcia Perlstein**

Every person is a historian. And even though you may not have been trained, or get paid to do it, every person is to some degree an archivist. Preserving our stories, and our stuff, is something we need to devote some of our energies to, for ourselves, for the people we love and who love us, for our community, for our society, and for humanity. Many of us are already working on preserving – others of us don't know where to start. Women have been systematically written out of history for centuries, and when they aren't written out altogether, their accomplishments have been understated. So take control. Tell your own story, in your own words, and if you have stuff you'd like to pass along, or donate to an archive, find out how and do it.



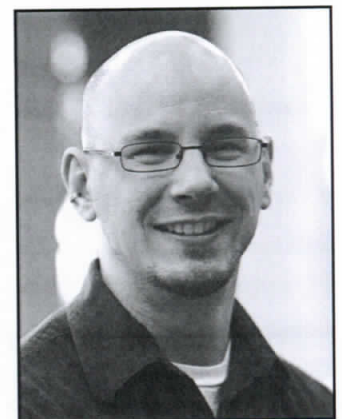
Mary Henry

Mary Henry was born and raised in Frankfort, Kentucky. Graduating with degrees in Biology/Natural Science and Micro Anatomy from the University of Louisville and its School of Medicine, Mary taught at the secondary and junior college levels and worked as a technician in the medical research field. After her daughters were grown, Mary started a greenhouse operation and a retail garden center with the woman who was to become her life partner. She divorced and immigrated to Minnesota with her partner, Margaret Purcell, where she continued her education and worked as a technical horticulture writer for a large garden center. In 2002, an admired friend, Annalee Stewart, recruited her to help with the OLOC National

Gathering held in Minneapolis that year. She went on to serve on the OLOC Steering Committee for 5 years. While involved with OLOC, she met Arden, and fell in love with the Herstory Project. She is part of the leadership of Puget Sound OLOC as well. For the past few years, most of Mary's "free-time," has been spent building and nurturing her local lesbian community, tending her garden and her chickens, and working on the Project.

————— O L O C P —————

Brian is a professor in the practice of humanities and Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University. Portions of his doctoral work on LGBT activism in Greece have been published in the Journal of Mediterranean Studies. His current research interests include the preservation of Houston's LGBT history, including work with the Houston Area Rainbow Collective History (Houston ARCH), a consortium of individuals, community organizations, cultural institutions, and universities that collaborate to make Houston's LGBT history digitally available.



Brian Riedel

Panel Descriptions and Presenters: Preserving Our Stories and Stuff

Born in 1933 in Oregon, Sue and her family left there for California during her middle school years. Known to all her friends as Sue Who, she spent several decades teaching in Southern California. When she later moved to the Seattle area, where she still resides, Sue held a variety of jobs with the city, but she was an educator at heart, and always made her way back. Since retiring from full time work, Sue has devoted much of her time to teaching non-violent communication at a local men's prison. Sue is part of the Puget Sound OLOC leadership team.



Sue Weinheimer

— OLOHP —



Marcia Perlstein

Marcia is a long time member of OLOHP and OLOC; a card carrying fan of everything creative including her own fits and starts at accessing her muse. Along with that, she is a psychotherapist who helps folks utilize their strengths, empowering themselves to face past and present challenges. She is an interviewer for OLOHP; an ardent fan of Arden, Margaret and Mary; a host for 91.9 KPTZ radio Port Townsend (www.kptz.org), hosting both *Treasures and Pleasures* and *Under the Rainbow*. She married her partner, writer Nyla Dartt, almost two years ago after 28 years as coupled outlaws.



Marcia was not able to travel. She'll either contribute via a video message, or connect with Skype.



— OLOHP —



**If you want to touch the past,
touch a rock.**

**If you want to touch the present,
touch a flower.**

**If you want to touch the future,
touch a life.**

~Author Unknown



Panel Descriptions and Presenters: OLOHP, Where From Here

The OLOHP, Where We Go From Here

Arden Eversmeyer, Margaret Purcell, Gloria Stancich, Christine Pattee, Mary Henry, and Ruth Debra

Periodically, we stop to evaluate where we are. Is the OLOHP still relevant? Has the Project accomplished what it set out to do? Is there more to do? Should the focus remain the same? And if we're going to keep on moving forward, how will we get there? Who will do the work and how will it be financed? The OLOHP needs your ideas and your feedback.



**Arden
Eversmeyer**

Aware that it has influenced almost every major decision she has made in her life, Arden describes herself first, and foremost, as a life-long lesbian. Arden, a Houston resident, worked as a secondary school counselor before retiring, then spent several more decades giving of her time and talents by serving as a docent at the Houston Zoological Gardens and acting as the Mayor's appointee to the Area Agency on Aging. Arden spearheaded the formation of LOAF, Lesbians Over Age Fifty, to insure a safe social environment for mid-life and old lesbians. In 1998, Arden began collecting oral history interviews, an effort that grew into the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, OLOHP.

Margaret spent much of her adult life waiting for something important to happen. And in 1977, it did, when she met Mary. Her life has been exciting, educational, entertaining, and edifying ever since. During the decade she and Mary lived in Minnesota, Margaret came to understand the incredible value of lesbian community. So much so, that when they decided to move for their retirement years, community was one of the top considerations. In 2002, she tagged along with Mary to a meeting, where she met Arden, and to hear Mary tell it, "that's all she wrote!" Margaret now devotes any time she isn't out playing with friends, or traveling with Mary, to the OLOHP.



**Margaret
Purcell**



Christine Pattee

Based out of Connecticut, Christine has led a full and exciting life in the women's community in the Northeast. Among her many accomplishments, Christine initiated Connecticut's first statewide gay rights lobby in 1975, produced the *Women's Music for Everyone* concert series in Hartford, CT in 1982, and started *NEWMR*, the *New England Women's Music Retreat*. Christine is a retired professional health planner and researcher. After having been interviewed by Arden in 2011 for the OLOHP, Christine contracted a severe case of the the OLOHP bug. Since training as an interviewer that short time ago, Christine has conducted 29 interviews. In addition to doing the interview itself, Christine does the scanning and layout work on each woman's supporting documents, saving the OLOHP hours and hours of work, and many dollars. Her connections and history in the Women's Movement in the northeast has helped add many of the stories that were missing in the OLOHP.

See Gloria Stancich's bio and photo on page 14 and Mary Henry's on page 17.



Ruth Debra

Ruth defines herself as a radical Old (b.1944) feminist living in Palm Springs with her spouse, Sherry Fulton. Ruth has served on the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including Pride Centers, the National Organization for Women (NOW), Twin Cities and Palm Springs Pride and Bodhi Tree Pet Care. She is very active in politics and has served as Chair of Desert Stonewall Democrats and has worked on campaigns for years. Ruth is on the National Steering Committee for OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) and serves as Program Coordinator and the liaison from OLOC to the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project. She volunteers

with Equality California and has been active in the marriage equality movement. A founder of Desert Women for Equality, Ruth also volunteers with the "We Care" free mammogram program. She was involved in the Civil Rights and Peace and Justice movements. Disappointed in the way women were treated in these arenas, Ruth became active in the Women's and Lesbian Rights movements. She finished her undergrad degree in Texas where she was the co-founder of a shelter for battered women and a Rape Crisis and Suicide hotline.

Visibility of LGBT people has always been a primary concern and she has worked both in business and volunteerism to promote visibility, working and volunteering with a variety of organizations. Career and academics always were less important to her than what was happening in the world but she says she "somehow found time to raise one biological daughter, five step and foster children and run several businesses." And no, she doesn't have any plans to retire.

Trouble Hearing?

For those of us with hearing difficulties, we've arranged for CART during our panels and speakers. Often called live captioning, we'll have a CART provider in the room who will listen and enter what is being said into her computer, and it will be projected onto a large screen allowing everyone to read along and participate.

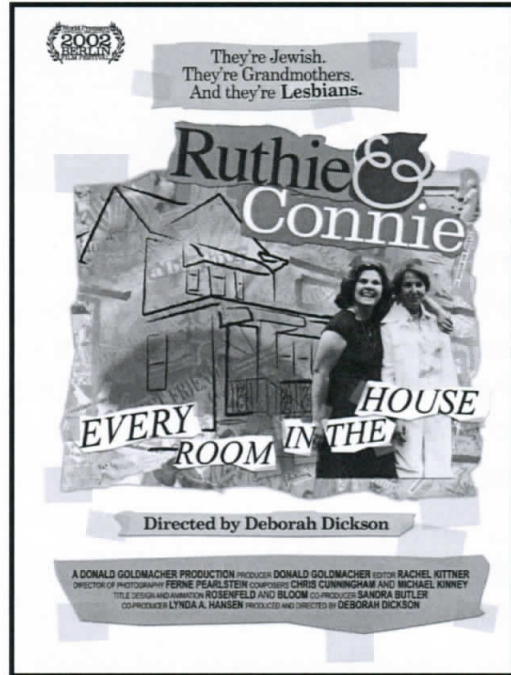
The woman who will be doing this for us came highly recommended and we know it will be a great help for many of us. That said, please be sure to allow for some errors. For instance, if our CART provider isn't familiar with Holyoke College, she may type what she hears, Holy Oak. Then there are accents to deal with, and phrases like *he didn't know 'come here' from 'sic 'em,* which may be a colloquialism in some circles, but a foreign language in others! Now factor in that the average person speaks approximately twice as fast as a skilled typist can type. Even with its limitations, we find CART to be extremely helpful.

If you feel CART would be helpful to you, be sure to look for the seating area that will give you the best view of the screen.



Documentaries

We are very fortunate to be able to screen two documentaries at our event. Ruthie and Connie will be on hand to talk with us regarding their documentary, and if we can get a good connection, we hope to Skype with Jennifer Abod and Angela Bowen, maker and subject of the Angela Bowen film. The documentaries will be shown on Sunday evening.



Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House

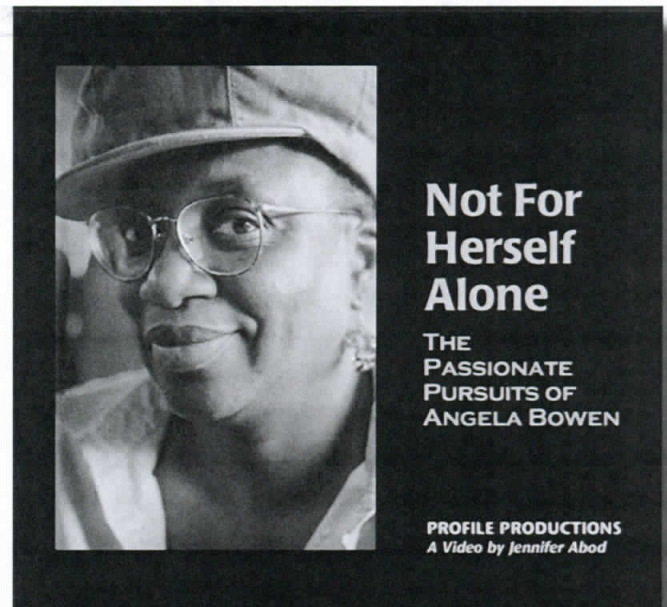
Acclaim came in a flash for this LGBT documentary about two Jewish lesbian icons and the price they paid to be themselves. Directed by highly acclaimed filmmaker Deborah Dickson, a three-time Academy Award nominee, *Ruthie & Connie* is a coming out story about love, friendship, passion, politics — and a cry for justice that resulted in a landmark LGBT civil lawsuit for domestic partnership benefits. A vérité documentary without talking heads or narration, this unconventional valentine spans five decades of shared pain and laughter — and a lifetime of hard-earned wisdom.

The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen

Stories exploring the complexity of black women's lives are rarely told; black feminists are seldom heard or seen; and black lesbians are practically invisible. We seldom see how the intersections of race, class, gender, age and sexuality manifest in one woman's life. How did Angela Bowen keep her passions alive, even in the face of poverty and bigotry?

The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen is a feature length documentary that shares Bowen's candid and compelling life stories. The film portrays all of Bowen's "lives" and families, her role models, the dance and university students she mentored, and the LGBT activists and scholars she influenced. Jennifer Abod is an award winning broadcaster, documentary producer and director.

We'll do our best to get a Skype connection with Angela and Jennifer after the film is shown.



Thursday Evening: Nancy Ford

Nancy Ford will be a part of our opening night program on Thursday evening. She has performed in Houston and throughout the U.S. as an out comedian and musician since the early 1980s, working with Kate Clinton, Jason Stuart, Tret Fure and Chris Williamson, Bob Smith, Janis Ian, Judy Tenuta, Michele Balan, Lady Bunny, Roxie Starr, Zrazy, Patrice Pike, Jamie Anderson, Zoe Lewis, Janene Garofalo, and God-knows-how-many-other top-tier LGBT entertainers. Her solo show, *The Dyke Show With Nancy Ford*, is straight up, all-original LGBT comedy and history. It's personal. It's political. It's transgenerational. It's womyn's music—just not the kind you're used to. Her long running comedy column, *What A World*, has been published in the LGBT media since 1988, possibly a record for that genre. She is honored to emcee Thursday's opening night festivities for OLOHP's *Celebrating Our Lesbian Legacies* conference. To learn more, visit www.thatnancyford.com.



Friday: Dust Off Those Dancing Shoes

We hope you'll all get up and dance about 8 pm Friday evening, right after the Therapy Sisters wrap up. We'll have a great DJ and lots of women from the local community will be joining us. Even if you aren't much of a dancer, there will be lots of room for you to sit with friends and chat, and we can guarantee the people-watching will be fun. There will be a cash bar and we'll be providing light snacks.

A Raffle You Won't Want to Miss

Our host committee did an amazing job garnering a wide array of items for the raffle. Tickets will be available most of the weekend but don't wait too late! Look in your packet for more details.



How Cheeky!

The women here at our event from Washington's Puget Sound OLOC chapter have been on a quest to take as many photos of old lesbians kissing on the cheek as possible. We'd love for every one of you to join in! Just think of all the possible permutations... you kiss her, then she kisses you, or you kissing the friend who you sat with at lunch, or both of you kissing her....

We will have the Cheeky photo setup throughout the dance. Don't miss your chance to get in on this fun project. No cost to you unless you'd like to order a copy.



More Very Important Stuff!



Hospitality Suite

Head on up to the second floor to the room called Clear Lake. That's where you'll find the Hospitality Suite for our event. There will be a schedule in your packet to let you know when the HS will be open, but basically, that will be most of the time there isn't a panel, speaker or meal happening.

What can you expect to find in the Hospitality Suite? Friendly faces, a comfy place to take a break, coffee, tea, water, yogurt, crackers, nuts, and a few other snacks, some T-shirts for sale, information about local restaurants and other local attractions, a first aid kit, and more.

Buffet Meals

To accommodate various food preferences and requirements as well as keep our costs down, our shared meals will all be buffet. For those of you who listed your special dietary needs such as vegetarian or gluten free, we notified the catering staff so they can provide suitable options for all of us.

If carrying your plate is difficult, just look around... a volunteer or hotel staff member will be there. And if they're all busy, we're sure the women in line behind you will be glad to help.



Hatch/Hatchlings

Over the weekend, you may notice a few young folk helping out. And, if you don't see them, it's because they've been helping behind the scenes. They are from the Hatch program in Houston. Formed in 1987, Hatch's mission is dedicated to empowering lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning youth and their allies, ages 13-20, to become positive contributors to society by providing a safe social environment for LGBTIQA youth, offering role models and peer support, and sponsoring educational and community outreach opportunities.

If you have a chance, stop and chat with them. Let them know that when they get the support they need, it does get better! We're all living proof that they can lead amazing lives.



In Case of Emergency

Among the amazing women attending the symposium are medical professionals and others that can be of assistance should you need help. If you do need help, please don't hesitate to ask anyone near you, a volunteer or any hotel staff for help. For small boo-boos, headaches and such, there is a first aid kit in the Hospitality Room.

For all the stuff we missed...

There will be questions we didn't foresee and answer ahead of time, and maybe even a few new challenges that none of us even dreamed about. Look for a volunteer or one of the organizers and if we don't have an answer, we'll do our best to make up one on the spot!

And now, a word about our advertisers... Let them know you appreciate them! Call, email, drop by, whatever works for you...

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**The Golden
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The Golden Crown Literary Society (GCLS) is an educational organization whose mission is for the enjoyment, discussion, and enhancement of lesbian literature and creative non-fiction. Our goals are to support and strengthen quality lesbian writing by providing places for readers and writers to interact; to encourage and assist new writers and established authors to develop their craft; and to recognize and promote lesbian work.

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Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.

"Pooh!" he whispered.

"Yes, Piglet?"

"Nothing," said Piglet.

"I just wanted to be sure of you."

Hope you have a great conference.

Margaret and Mary

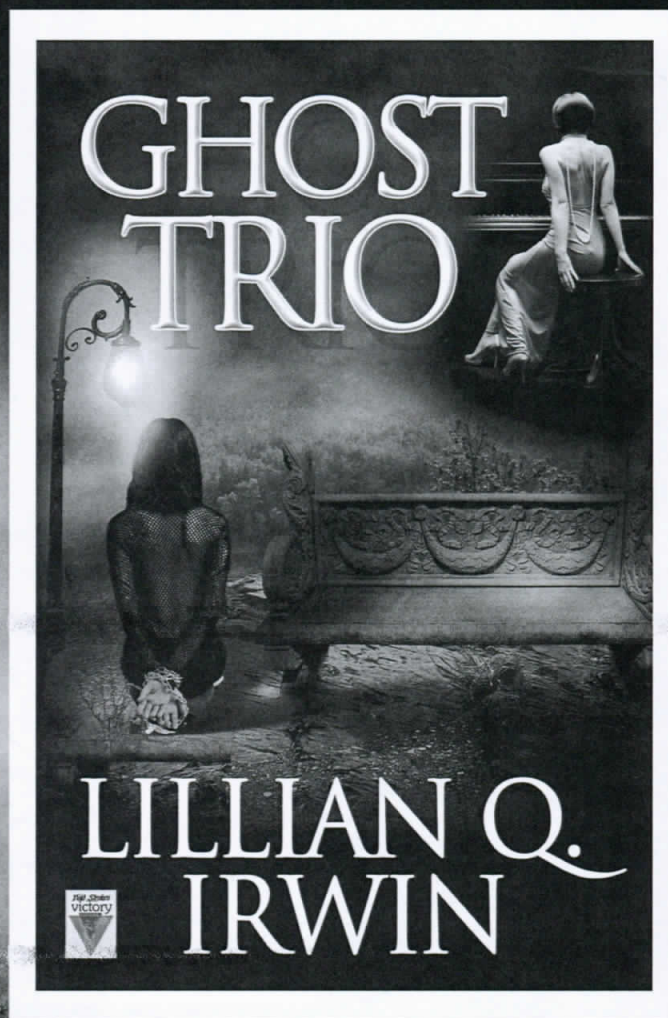
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We are grateful
for the women
who paved the way.

Thank you!

Patricia Brown
&
Kathleen Baker

Thank You

Thanks go to Toke Hoppenbrouwers for her donation of complimentary copies of her book, *Autumn Sea*, to everyone attending our event. Toke hopes you'll enjoy the book, and when you're done, post a review on book selling sites such as Amazon.com – it's really easy to do and a great selling tool.



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**OLD LESBIANS
ORGANIZING OUR COMMUNITY –
ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE**

**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.**

Bonnie Raitt sings, "Let's give them something to talk about...", and the women of PS OLOC seem to manage that nicely. But now we've also got something to crow about! PS OLOC has a leadership team of nine women known as the Queer Crone Coordinating Council, or the QC3 for short. We're proud to say PS OLOC works hard to contribute to the OLOHP, and all nine members of the QC3 are here in Houston for this event. Let's hear it for PS OLOC!



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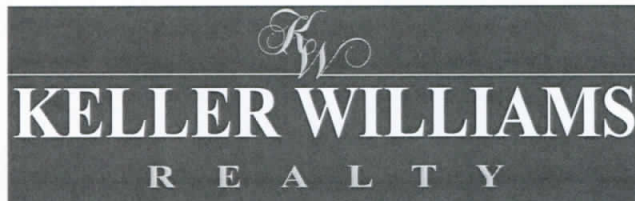
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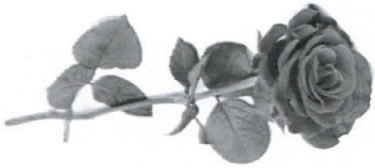
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We cordially invite you to peruse our website and then call or contact us online to schedule a free consultation to further discuss how we can best meet your needs.

In grateful appreciation to the Host Committee and the many volunteers whose many hours of service made this conference possible. We love you.



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(Arden and Charlotte)*



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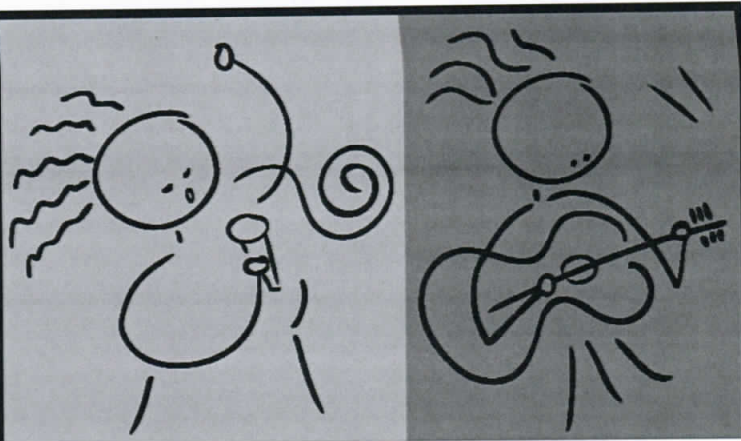
Rocky Mountain Greetings

to the attendees of the Old Lesbian
Oral Herstory Project symposium
from 74 old lesbian members of

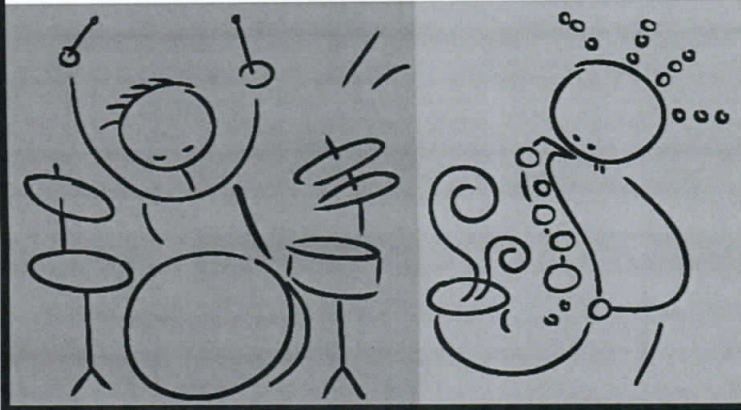
Northern Colorado OLOC

including many who have shared
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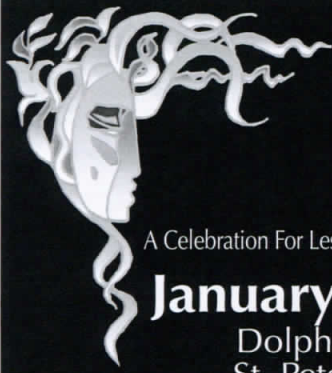
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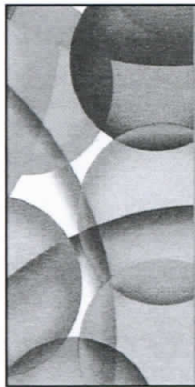


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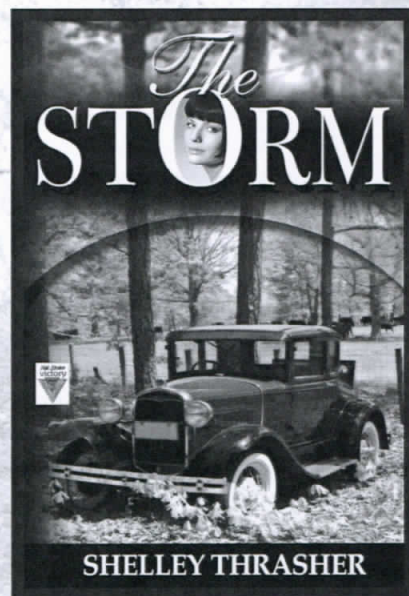


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