

# Durham to host OLOC conference for senior lesbians

**August event marks first time Old Lesbians Organizing for Change comes to south**

DURHAM — Slated for Aug. 16-20 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham, "Leave No Old Lesbian Behind: Celebrating the Lives and Embracing the Connections of Old Lesbians" will attract senior lesbians from throughout the nation as they come together to network, share stories and discuss ways to overcome the challenges they face.

Founded in 1989, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) is a national organization of regional groups for lesbians 60 and over.

Their statement of purpose from the group's website reads as follows:

"We are committed to empowering old lesbians in the common struggle to confront ageism within our own and the larger community; explore who we are and name our oppression; analyze our experience of ageism by sharing our individual stories; develop and disseminate educational material; facilitate formation of new groups and stimulate existing groups to confront ageism and make our presence a visible force in the women's movement and in the lesbian community."

Mandy Carter, the founder of Southerners On New Ground (SONG) and a nationally known gay, lesbian and human rights activist,

will be speaking at the event. She was also a key part in the organization's decision to hold the event in North Carolina.

"I know a couple of their members that are active with SONG," says Carter. When they pointed out that SONG was headquartered in Durham and the ease and amenities of the Sheraton Imperial to the board of OLOC, they felt it was a perfect fit."

Carter will be speaking at the event along with another nationally known lesbian rights figure, Suzanne Pharr.

"We" be talking about what it means to be getting old in American society and what it means to be gay in America, along with practical, medical and financial security issues — that kind of thing."

Membership in OLOC is limited to women who are 60 and over, or about to turn 60.

Carter is only 57, but feels confident she's capable of addressing senior lesbian issues.

"I've been working with human rights issues for over 37 years," she says. "And I have to admit I'm excited about the fact that I am coming up on 60. 'If ever there was a moment, a cultural bump for those of us about to turn that age — the LGBT baby boomers — this is it. There's a huge pool of us and this is going to have a major impact on the grey and gay movement."

To register for the event, visit the group's website at [www.oloc.org](http://www.oloc.org) or call 740-448-6424.

## Schedule of Events

All events take place at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center

### Wednesday, Aug. 16

Free Special Pre-OLOC Gathering Event

7-9 p.m.

Lesbian Intergenerational Dialogue with OLOC

For the first time, OLOC will hold a free special event for local women the

night before the Aug. 17-20 gathering begins, uniting OLOC steering committee members and local lesbians/women of all ages in dialogue to talk about how ageism affects lesbians, whatever their age.

### Thursday, Aug. 17

12-6 p.m. — Registration

1-5 p.m. — Oral history training workshop

6-8:30 p.m. — Welcome, reception, getting acquainted

### Friday, Aug. 18

8:30-9 a.m. — OLOC national gathering Opening Ceremony

9-10:30 a.m. — Keynote Speakers Mandy Carter, Suzanne Pharr and Fish Bowl.

Topic: "Race and Class: Bringing Us Together or Keeping us Apart"

10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. — Discussion groups, lunch, workshop sessions, dinner

7-9 p.m. — Lesbian Lives Aloud Performance  
**Saturday, August 19**

8:30-9 a.m. — Reconvene, announcements, singing

9-10 a.m. — Regional OLOC Reports

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — Workshops, lunch

1:30-3 p.m. — Panel on ageism/lesbophobia

3-4 p.m. — Consultation on planned giving

3-5 p.m. — Legal clinic on elder law and your rights

3-6 p.m. — Films in hospitality suite

6:30 p.m. — OLOC

Banquet

8 p.m. — Alix Dobkin

Concert

9 p.m. — Dance

Banquet Honorees:

Catherine Nicholson,

Ladyslipper Music,

Astraea Lesbian

Foundation, Phyllis Lyon

and Del Martin

### Sunday, Aug. 20

8:30-9 a.m. —

Reconvene, announce-

ments, singing

9-10:15 a.m. —

Workshops

10:30-11:30 a.m. — OLOC memorial plaques service

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Closing brunch

1:30-3 p.m. — Free special post-OLOC gathering event: GRIOT Circle Workshop by founder Regina



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