

## Companion Guide Handout for Audiences of the DVD: *Our Stories, Our Voices: The OLOHP Project*

The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project is the brainchild of Arden Eversmeyer. The idea was first proposed in 1996 and by 1998, the first interview was conducted. Arden, born in 1931, wanted to ensure that the stories of her contemporaries would not be lost, and that they would be told in their own voices. The OLOHP strives to gather and preserve the unique life stories of lesbians 70 and older.



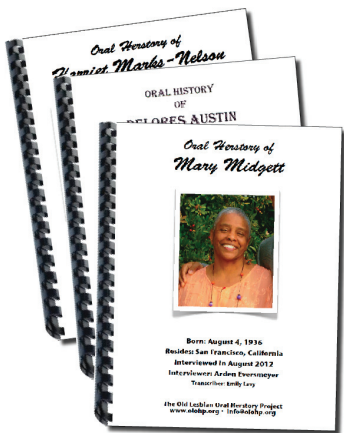
### OLOHP & PS OLOC & OLOC

The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project is known as the **OLOHP**.

**PS OLOC** is the Puget Sound chapter of OLOC.

**OLOC** is Old Lesbians Organizing for Change.

The OLOHP, PS OLOC, and OLOC each work to improve the lives of old lesbians, often in ways that overlap. Many of the women of PS OLOC are engaged in the work of the OLOHP, conducting interviews, transcribing, printing, helping assemble the finalized Herstories, and much more.



As of January 2016, more than 450 old lesbians have been interviewed for the Project. Stories have come from all across the United States as well as several from other countries. Interviewers are old lesbians themselves. Each interviewee receives (at no cost) a bound copy of her own Herstory. Another copy is being archived at Smith College in Northampton, MA.

To share the Herstories, women of PS OLOC have been presenting excerpts of Old Lesbian Herstories to audiences in live dramatic readings. To allow for broader viewing of the Herstories, PS OLOC undertook producing the DVD, *Our Stories, Our Voices: The OLOHP Project*. The DVD was produced in collaboration with Dr. David Coon, Associate Professor of Media Studies at the University of Washington Tacoma. The Pride Foundation ([www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org)) contributed financial support. A Companion Guide, related discussion questions, and suggested action plans are available to assist facilitators in presentation of the DVD.

### A note from Marcia, an interviewer for the Project:

*The OLOHP means the world to me. I have had the opportunity to listen to lesbians older than I who have had challenges and celebrations; lives in and out of the closet; found camaraderie and confidence and validation for being who they are. Through the OLOHP they have been able to rise above invisibility and have their voices not merely heard but archived for generations to come and who otherwise would hardly remember or may not even know how it was.*



DVD-Companion Guide

## Our Stories, Our Voices

The Old Lesbian  
Oral Herstory Project

Produced by the Women of Puget Sound  
Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



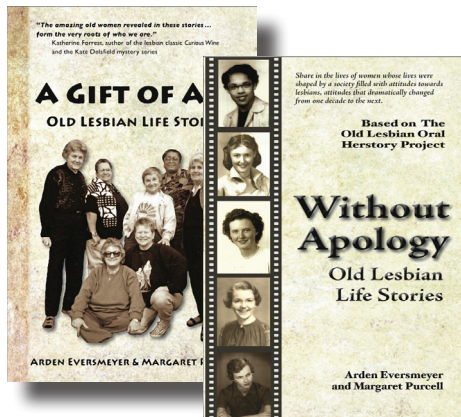
[www.olohp.org](http://www.olohp.org)  
[www.psoloc.org](http://www.psoloc.org)

## The OLOHP Thanks All Who Have Shared Their Stories

Women sharing their stories with the OLOHP have all signed contracts with the Project. Excerpts used in this DVD, and in any other presentation or publications, are taken only from transcripts for which the Project has contracts allowing use of parts of these interviews in this manner. If anyone sharing her story with the OLOHP has any reservations about how her story will be used, she is encouraged to sign a conditional contract that denotes restrictions that will be honored.

*Telling our stories reminds us of the fullness of our lives; reading (or hearing readings of) herstories nourishes us—reminds us that we are not alone. In that moment of shared stories – we gain strength for the work ahead of us.*

Fai C., interviewed in 2015



## A Gift of Age and Without Apology

Some of the hundreds of Herstories in the OLOHP collection can be accessed by the public via our two books. Each features a variety of stories from women who have participated in the Project. They are *The Gift of Age: Old Lesbian Life Stories* (2009) and *Without Apology: Old Lesbian Life Stories* (2012). Authors are Arden Eversmeyer, OLOHP Director and Margaret Purcell, OLOHP Project Manager and Board President. For a great price, order copies of the books directly from [www.olohp.org](http://www.olohp.org)

## How You Can Help

**Share your own story:** the Project continues to seek out lesbians 70 or older

**Refer us to a friend:** If you know someone you feel might be willing to share her story, reach out to her

**Spread the word:** Give a presentation about the Project in your social group or organization

**Volunteer:** We may need a lesbian in her 60s or older to be an interviewer in your area. We also often need transcribers and reviewers.

**Buy our books and DVD:** Purchase and donate copies to your local library, LGBTQ center, schools, senior centers, senior housing, and similar places.

**Buy our DVD. Show it and share it lots of places!**

**The OLOHP Insider**, a quarterly digital newsletter, is distributed directly via email as a PDF. Issues can also be accessed at our website. *The Insider* is filled with articles by interviewers, insights into how the Project works, and excerpts. Send a request to be added to the mailing list to [info@olohp.org](mailto:info@olohp.org), or sign up online.



**DONATE!** Money doesn't just make the world go around, it helps us keep going. The OLOHP is blessed with dozens of women who donate their time and talent, and often their expenses. While we have a few volunteer transcribers, our largest budget expense is transcribing. Including the cost of the transcribing, the average cost of one completed Herstory is \$750. This *does not* factor in the thousands of hours, mounds of supplies and the use of computers, scanners and other equipment, all provided gratis to the Project by interviewers and other volunteers. Donations can be made directly (address below), or via the website. The OLOHP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax-deductible.

**The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project**  
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