

Timeline: Our Own Place

(from *The Newsletter* Monthly OOP Calendar, and selected issues)

1984

1984, “‘Our Place’ as a concept was born in 1984 in response to the need for a lesbian space in the Triangle area.” (Laurel Ferejohn, writing in *The Newsletter*, Vol. 8, no. 2, August 1989, p. 3)

1989

June 11, 1989, twenty women attend a meeting about the Our Own Place and set up nine committees to get the project going, including a space search committee. As of that date, 22 women had purchased memberships at \$52/year, and the organization had \$6,000 on hand. The planning committee estimate that “a minimum of 450 women could sustain Our Own Place financially. They also estimate that there are 14,000 lesbians in the Triangle!” (Laurel Ferejohn, writing in *The Newsletter*, Vol. 8, no. 2, August 1989, p. 3)

September 23, 1989, lesbian film night

October 16, 1989, “Our Own Place signed a lease on a lovely Watts St., Durham house. Plans are underway to make it handicapped accessible with the building of a ramp, etc., and soon we will have the place up and running.” (*The Newsletter*, vol. 9, no. 2, November 1989, p. 3)

November 15, 1989, first membership meeting attended by 50 people, including over 30 members (membership now at 68). Elected board of directors at the new location on Watts St. includes Mandy Carter, Jill Duvall, Laurel Ferejohn, Patty Michaels, Judith Powell, Kim Saffran, and Judy Winston (*The Newsletter*, vol. 9., no. 4, December 1989).

1990

January 20, 1990, membership meeting includes discussion of racism, as well as “alcohol, tobacco, men, use of space, leadership, visibility, and connections to other institutions” (*The Newsletter*, vol. 9, no. 9, p. 3)

February 2 and 16, 1990, Women’s happy hour, 6-9 pm

February 3, 1990, monthly potluck/discussion, focused on the topic “Our Own Place progress”

February 9 and 23, 1990, Women’s coffee house (chem-free)

March 3, 1990, monthly potluck/discussion on the topic of *The Newsletter*

March 10, 1990, Grand Opening Gala, featuring storyteller Louise Kessel, singer Loli Oates, Roxanne Seagraves telling erotic stories, and Triangle musicians Tracy Drach, the band Trillium, and Asheville’s Ellen Hines. They also had a pool, a raffle, and t-shirts and caps for sale. (Sarah Lauren Palmer writing in *The Newsletter*, vol. 9, no 15, May 1990 p. 2)

June 30, 1990, Our Own Place co-sponsors ’90 Post-Pride Party in Chapel Hill

June 1990, OOP announces third Saturdays, Lesbians of Color potlucks (two have been held so far). [Mandy Carter organized these]

1990 (continued)

June 7, 1990, Paula Craige, polarity workshop at OOP

July 13, 1990, membership meeting is well attended. "We now have a work exchange plan and a flexible payment plan as alternative membership exchanges." (Laurel Ferejohn writing in *The Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 1, October 1990, p. 7). At this meeting, members reached consensus to keep the space women only, but allowing boys 12 and under to attend events marked "children welcome"

October 1, 1990. *Newsletter* announces that "Lucy Harris is beginning as full-time OOP executive director. Lucy will spearhead fundraising and programming, with support from the board of directors." (Laurel Ferejohn writing in *The Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 1, October 1990, p. 7)

November 11, 1990, first meeting of BLAST (Bisexual, Lesbian, and Straight women Together), a discussion group to meet monthly. (Anna writing in *The Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 3, November 1990, p. 7.)

November 30, 1990, last membership meeting of the year. Membership now stands at 100 and Lucy Harris wants to triple it by December 15 (various incentives announced). (Lucy Harris writing in *The Newsletter*, vol. 10, no. 3, November 1990, p. 6.)

December 6, 1990 Ferron concert. Membership is still \$52/year or 20 hours work exchange

1991

January 26-27, 1991, JoAnn Loulan

February 1, 1991, Happy Hour, ADA performs at 8 pm

February 3, 10, 17, 24, 1991, guided meditation 5-6 pm (using Margo Adair's *Working Inside Out*, facilitator, Elizabeth Freeman), Lesbian Support Group, 7 pm

February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27, 1991, Lesbian Lunch, 12-1:30

February 6, 1991, Massage to Share with Friends, 7:30-9:30 pm (\$5 members, \$7 non-members)

February 7, 14, 21, 28, 1991, Lesbian AA, 8 pm

February 8, 1991, Coffee house, 6-10 pm. Pizza and Game Night

February 9, 1991, ASL class 10-12 noon. Newsletter Valentine's Dance

February 10, 1991, Newsletter collating 6 pm

1991 (continued)

February 11, 1991, Women Creating Sacred Space 7-8:30 OOP board meeting, 8 pm February 12, 1991, Book Discussion Group, first meeting 7:30 pm February 15, 1991, Happy Hour, 6-10 pm, video night (bring your favorite)

February 16, 1991, ASL 10-12 noon Pastabilities, 5 pm (learn how to make various pastas, \$15 OOP members, \$20 nonmembers)

February 17, 1991, BLAST 5-7 pm, Lesbian Support Group, 7 pm

February 22, 1991, membership meeting, 6:30 pm

February 23, 1991, ASL 10-12 noon

February 24, 1991, Newsletter collating 6 pm

February 25, 1991, Women Creating Sacred Space 7-8:30 pm, OOP board meeting 8 pm

February 26, 1991, Book Discussion Group, 7:30 pm

February 27, 1991, Career Counseling Workshop, 6:30-8:30 pm (\$2 members, \$4 non-members)

March 9, 1991, Dykes to Watch Out For: The Slide Show, with Alison Bechdel, to be held at Community Church, Chapel Hill, tickets available at Our Own Place

June 1991, non-profit, tax-exempt status granted (501c3). Also that month OOP sponsored Post Pride Party '91

January 1992 Louise Kessel and friends, storytelling at OOP

September 1991, new OOP board elected

November 1991, retreat for OOP board

1992

January 1992 *Newsletter* story, from the OOP board, reports on the period November 1989-November 1991. It says that only three of eight OOP board members remain and that, by mid-February 1991, they had to terminate Lucy Harris's contract because finances were too low, even though Lucy had organized a lot of money-making events (Ferron, JoAnn Loulan, Two Nice Girls, Alison Bechdel, a dance) and created many workshops and classes at OOP that brought in members. Membership is at 163 after two years.

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1992, Lesbian AA, 8 pm

January 3, 17, 31, 1992, Happy Hour, 6:30-10 pm (BYO)

January 7, 1992, Independent Readers Forum

January 10 & 24, 1992, Coffee House (Chem-free), 6:30-10 pm

January 12, 1992, "Women Over 40," test meeting of new social group, 4 pm

January 19, 1992, Horticulture & Gardening Slide Show & Workshop, 6:30-9 pm

January 21, 1992, Lesbian Health Night, Safer Sex Workshop, 7 pm

January 25, 1992, Stories for Women About Women, with Louise Kessel, Toni Constant, Roxanne Seagraves, and Janet Hurley

January 28, 1992, Exploring Importance of Friendship Workshop, 6-7:30

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 1992, Exploring Friendship Workshop, 6-7:30

March 4, 11, 18, 25, 1992, Incest Survivors, 8 pm

March 5, 12, 19, 26, 1992, Lesbian AA, 8 pm

March 6 & 20, 1992, Happy Hour, 6:30-10 (BYO)

March 8, 1992, Women Over 40 social group, 4 pm

March 12, 1992, Fundraising Committee, 6:45-7:30

March 13, 1992, Coffeehouse (chem-free) 6:30-10 pm, Membership meeting 7:30

March 15, 1992, Bisexual women's group, 5-6:30, Drumming, 7 pm

March 16, 1992, Board meeting, 7 pm

March 17, 1992, Lesbian Health Night, 7:30

March 26, 1992, Fundraising Committee, 6:45-7:30

March 27, 1992, Coffeehouse (chem-free) 6:30-10 pm

March 29, 1992, Women Over 40 social group 4 pm

March 31, 1992, Women's Land Meeting, 7:30 pm

1992 (continued)

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 1992, Incest Survivors, 8 pm

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1992, Lesbian AA, 8 pm

April 3, 1992, Jazz Trio (Lou Sawyer, Pat Polanski, Gayle Kenny), 8-10 pm (donation at door)

April 4, 11, 18, 25, 1992, Women's Book Exchange, noon-4 pm

April 6 & 20, 1992, Women Writers' Group, 7:30-9:30 pm

April 7 & 14, 1992, Exploring Friendship Workshop, 6-7:30

April 8 & 22, 1992, Group (topic unspecified) 4:20-5:50

April 9, 1992, Fundraising Committee, 6:45-7:30

April 10 & 24, 1992, Coffee House (chem-free), 6:30-10 pm, Program Committee, 6:45

April 12, 1992, Women Over 40 Meeting, 4 pm

April 13, 1992, Board Meeting, 7 pm

April 14, 1992, Women's Land Meeting, 7:30 pm

April 17, 1992, Video Slumber Party, 6:30-?

April 19, 1992, Bisexual Women's Support Group, 5-6:30, Full Circle Farm visit planned to discuss community development (story by Jane Kniffin in May 1992 *Newsletter*)

April 21, 1992, Lesbian Health Night, 7:30 pm,
Newsletter Coordinators meeting 7:30 pm

April 23, 1992, Fundraising Committee, 6:45-7:30

April 25, 1992, Tracy Drach (local) and Jaime Morton (from Massachusetts) in concert, 8 pm.
(\$4-8)

May 30, 1992, Full Circle Farm visit planned to discuss community development (story by Jane Kniffin in May 1992 *Newsletter*)

July 2 & 16, 1992, Fundraising Committee, 6:45-7:30 pm

July 3, 17, and 31, 1992, Coffee House (chem-free), 6:30-10 pm

July 4, 11, 18, 25, 1992, Women's Book Exchange, noon-4 pm

July 6 & 20, 1992, Lesbian Writers' Group, 7:30-9:30

July 10 & 24, 1992, Happy Hour (BYO), 6:30-10 pm

1992 (continued)

July 12, 1992, Women Over 40, 4 pm

July 19, 1992, Bisexual Support Group, 5-6:30 pm

July 26, 1992, Newsletter Collating, 5:45 pm

September 11, 1992, Membership meeting, followed by pizza party, 7 pm

September 12, 1992, Pictionary/Games Night, 6:30

September 14, 1992, Board Meeting, 7 pm

September 18, 1992, Video Night (members \$2, non-members \$5):
6:30 pm K.D. Lang *Harvest of Seven Years*
7:30 pm *The Children's Hour* (1961)
9:30 pm *Fried Green Tomatoes*

September 20, 1992, Bisexual Support Group potluck fundraiser for OOP, 5-7 pm

September 25, 1992, Booth preparation for Centerfest & "Audiophile Phriday" (bring your favorite cassette)

September 26 & 27, 1992, Centerfest (downtown Durham)

October 2, 1992, potluck and pricing for yard sale

October 3, 1992, yard sale (rain date, Oct 17), 8 am to 1 pm

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 1992, Women's Book Exchange, noon-4 pm

October 5 & 19, 1992, Lesbian Writers Group, 7:30-9:30

October 9, 1992, hors d'oeuvres potluck, 6:30-10 pm

October 10, 1992, Drum workshop with New York percussionist Robin Burroughs, 7-9 pm

October 11, 1992, Kids' Day (crafts, games, snacks, etc., ages 3-8), noon-4 pm

October 15, 1992, Lesbian Parents and Friends, 7:15-9:30 pm

October 16, 1992, Jigsaw Puzzles and Schmoozing, 6:30-10 pm

October 17, 1992, Karaoke Night, 8-11 pm (BYO) (\$4-8)

October 23, 1992, Learn Origami, 6:30-10 pm

1992 (continued)

October 24, 1992, All Hallowe'en, 10 am-noon

October 25, 1992, Newsletter collating, 5:45

October 27, 1992, Lesbian Health Nite, 7:30 pm (meet members of Gay and Lesbian Health Project)

October 30, 1992, Halloween Dance at UU, 9pm-1 am (OOP members \$5, non-members \$8)

November 2 & 16, 1992, Lesbian Writers Group

November 6, 1992, Post-Election Ice Cream Social, 6:30-10 pm [presidential election, Clinton]

November 7, 17, 21, 28, 1992, Women's Book Exchange, noon-4 pm

November 7, 1992, Planning meeting for December events, 6 pm., South of the Border Potluck, 7-10 pm (BYO)

November 8 and 22, 1992, Fall River Hikes. Meet at OOP by 8 am, carpool to trail

November 13, 1992, Games Night, 6:30-10 pm

November 15, 1992, Bisexual Support Group, 5-7 pm

November 17, 1992, Newsletter Meeting, 7:30 pm

November 20, 1992, OOP Elections, 7 pm

November 21, 1992, Lesbian Women in Science Potluck, 7 pm. Meet area scientists. First in a series. Look for artists, lawyers, engineers, etc.

November 22, 1992, Newsletter collating, 5:45 pm

November 26, 1992, Thanksgiving Dinner at OOP (potluck, no alcohol)

November 27, 1992, Video Night and "Creative Leftovers" Potluck. (\$2-5)

November 28, 1992, Holiday Crafts, 6:30-10 pm (\$3-5)

December 4, 1992, Holiday Extravaganza Preparation, 6:30-10 pm

December 5, 1992, Holiday Extravaganza

December 6, 1992, Fall River Hike. Meet at OOP by 8 am, carpool to trail