

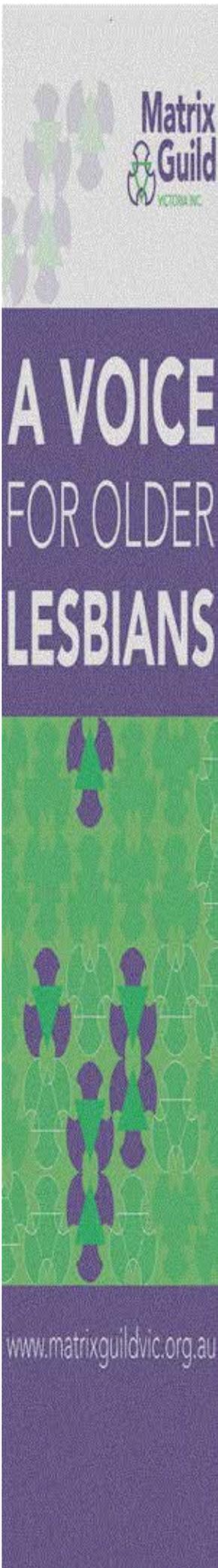
Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

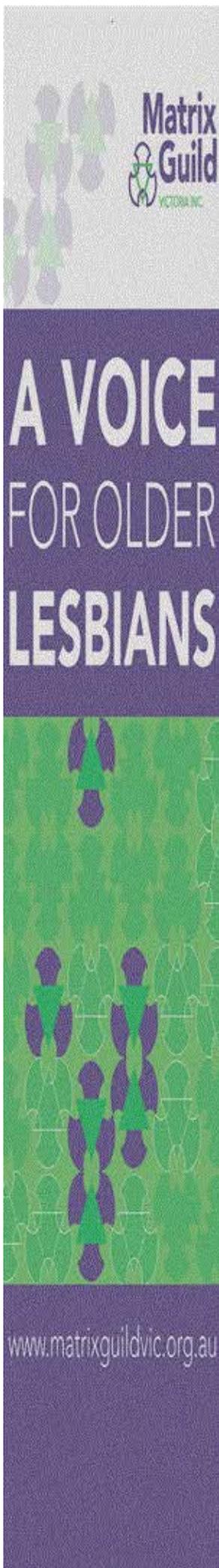
Newsletter - April 2017

The aims and objectives of Matrix are to:

- Promote appropriate care and support for older lesbians
- Provide some accommodation that caters to the needs of ageing lesbians who experience financial disadvantage
- Support ageing lesbians' accommodation choices
- Challenge ageism and oppose discrimination against older lesbians
- Advocate on behalf of older lesbians to governments and other relevant bodies
- Promote social contact and support among older lesbians
- Research lesbians' experience of aged care

GOODBYE SARA ELKAS





Sara Elkas died on Tuesday 14th March at the age of 67.

At her burial service, as in life, her partner, Shoshi (Ros) Goldman, Shoshi's ex-husband, children and partners; their grandchildren and her Jewish lesbian and secular lesbian friends surrounded her. Together, in the Jewish tradition, we shoveled earth and filled her grave. A disparate group, we gathered to honour her memory and say a final farewell to an inspirational and unforgettable woman.

Sara was born in Haifa, Israel on 14th December 1949. She was the only child of Polish Holocaust survivors Meir Lewin & Elka Lewin nee Kornblit. At 19, she arrived in Australia with her new husband. During the 70's while working as a librarian in Darwin, she discovered the Womyn's Liberation (WL) movement through feminist texts and in 1978, she and her husband separated. Like many feminists of the time, her discovery of this social movement led to her finding her lesbian self. By 1984 she decided to drop her ex-husband's last name (Braunstein) and adopted a version of her mother's name instead. You may come across publications from before that time bearing her married name.

Sara had an MA in History, a Post graduate Diploma in Library Studies, a relaxation Massage Certificate and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy. She worked as Special Collections and Reference Librarian, a masseur, a Research Officer and as an OT in the area of disability. She moved around Australia, living in Sydney, Perth, rural WA and Darwin before settling in Melbourne



where she launched herself into the thriving lesbian feminist scene of the early 1980's. She was involved in the WL building at its old premises at 295 Victoria St and worked to fix up the new WL building in Gertrude St, Fitzroy. In her writings about her life from that time in Jean Taylor's "*Stroppy Dykes*" book, Sara remembers being involved in Women Against Rape and the WL Switchboard for 10 years. Once she committed to something, she saw it through, working quietly and humbly, doing the often boring, but necessary tasks that maintain healthy organisations.

Sara was a founding and active member of both Matrix and the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria for almost 25 years. For Matrix, she was the Public Officer, the Financial Officer, the Secretary - sometimes performing all roles at once if there weren't other takers for the positions. She continued as an Office-bearer until her Ovarian Cancer diagnosis, but remained an active committee member up until a few of months before she died. Her dedication and support have been pivotal in keeping both groups going. She was also a committed member of the Performing Older Women's circus from its inception. Her outstanding contribution to both Jewish lesbian and secular lesbian feminist life will be sorely missed.

Shoshi, her life partner of 23 years, has lost her soul mate, her rock. My heart goes out to her as she navigates her way through unimaginable grief. Personally, I have lost a good and kind friend and an inspiring sister lesbian feminist activist. I know that at times of waning interest in Matrix, it was always Sara who, without any fanfare, submitted the annual reporting to the authorities to keep the association/charity solvent and legal.



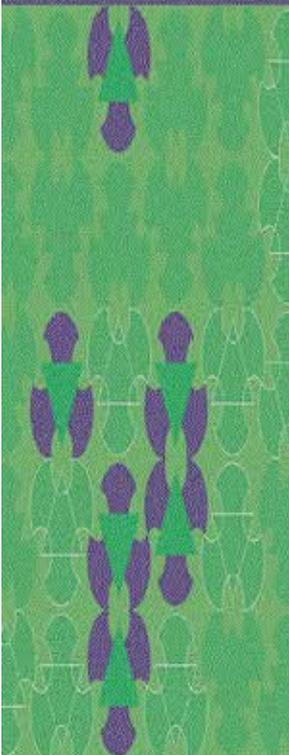
Creating the first affordable housing for old lesbians in Australia (Heather's Flats) was a proud moment for Sara. Photo of Sara, Anneke and two of our first tenants, Pamela and Shirley.

Without her dedication, Matrix would not exist today. I acknowledge that the work I do for Matrix is built on a solid foundation created and maintained by many lesbians, but most of all, by Sara. It's with profound sadness that I say goodbye to a truly inspirational lesbian

Anneke Deutsch, Matrix secretary.



**A VOICE
FOR OLDER
LESBIANS**



www.matrixguildvic.org.au



**Jewish Lesbian Group
of Victoria**

With deep sorrow, we mourn the untimely death of our beautiful and beloved friend Sara Elkas (14 December 1949 - 14 March 2017) from ovarian cancer.

A founding and dynamic member of Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria, whose forethought, commitment and diligence nourished JLGV for almost 25 years. She was a generous, loyal and loving friend, who listened with an open heart and mind, and without judgement.

She built and sustained countless community organisations, including JLGV, Matrix Guild and POW Circus, working tirelessly, with humility and integrity.

She faced her cancer as she had lived her life: calmly, with equal parts pragmatism and positivity. Her optimism, courage and determination were inspirational. She had so much life left to live.

Her outstanding contribution to Jewish lesbian and lesbian feminist communities is deeply cherished and will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt condolences to her beloved Shoshi and family, and to her many friends in Australia and around the world.

In sorrow,

Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria



DONATIONS IN HONOUR OF SARA

We'd like to express our sincere and public thanks to those women who have made a donation to Matrix in memory of Sara Elkas:

Margaret Dickens
Jean Taylor
Ardy Tibby
Rachel Morgan
Barb Williams
Joan Nestle
Anneke Deutsch
Pat Mitchell
Kaye Mosely
Magda Van der Ven
Ana Cartajena

It means a lot to Shoshi to know that Sara's friends and acquaintances have made the effort to remember Sara in this way.

If you would also like to honour Sara, you can do this at:

<http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au/donations.htm>

Or you can deposit directly into our gift account. Because we are registered charity, all donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

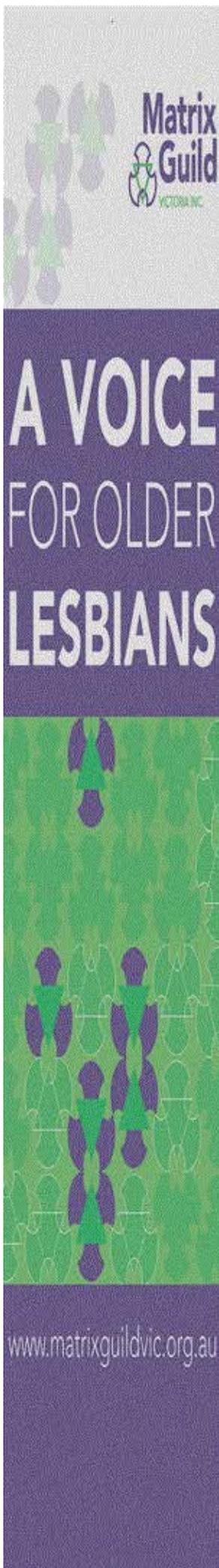
Matrix Guild Of Victoria Inc. Gift Account
Bendigo Bank, Preston
BSB: 633 000
ACCOUNT NO: 144 565 637

SARA's WRITINGS

You can read some of Sara's own writing that the Jewish Australian Lesbians Anthology Collective publish on the **JLGV website**. In her *Letter to Imma* she movingly talks to her mother, who died when Sara was only six years old. And her coming out story she named: *From Darwin to Jerusalem*. In Jean Taylor's *'Stroppy Dykes: Radical Lesbian Feminist Activism in Victoria During the 1980's'*, Sara has written a section on her personal herstory called, 'I See Myself As Being More of an Organiser Than a Leader' available at **Dykebooks**.

For convenience, these short stories have been added to the bottom of this newsletter.

www.matrixguildvic.org.au



Dear Sisters

As most of us in Melbourne know, Sara Elkas was not only a founding member of the Matrix Guild of Victoria (1992), the Jewish Lesbian Group Victoria (1992) and the Performing Older Women's Circus (1995) but she continued her active involvement and commitment to all three groups until she died last Tuesday. A remarkable achievement.

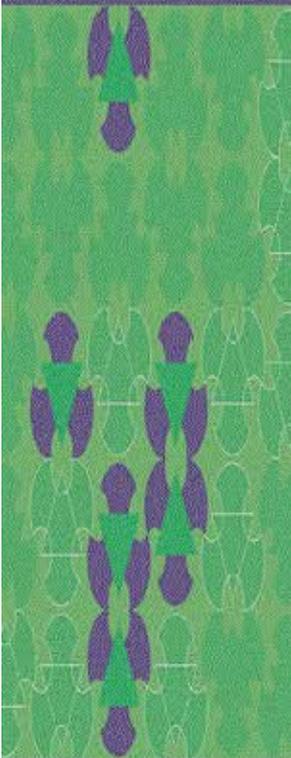
What some of us may not know is that Sara was also an active member of the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archives Inc. from 2000, helped with the incorporation and the decision to move the extensive collection to the University of Melbourne Archives and maintained her interest in preserving our herstory for posterity till the end. Sara also made sure that her own as well as the Matrix, POW and JLGV archives were included in the collection. Her presence and input at VWLLFA meetings will be sorely missed by the collective.

Sara and I got to know each other in the early 1980s when we were both members of the phone information and referral service, Women's Liberation Switchboard, based in the WL Building in West Melbourne. Sara was also a member of Women and Against Rape and I had joined what was then call the WL Archives. In order to keep the WL Building open when it was threatened with closure in the late 1980s Sara and I helped organise two Women's Balls a year to raise the necessary funds to house the activist collectives we were involved with. And we were both there for the clean-up when the WL Building in Gertrude Street closed in 1992.

Sara also attended the National Lesbian Festivals and Conferences during the 1990s as well as the National 10/40 Conferences and single-handedly



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organised the last one at The Basin in Victoria in 1997. During most of this time she worked full time as an Occupational Therapist.

Sara's love of travel and snorkelling took her to many places round the world and we were both on board the Olivia Cruise to Aotearoa in 2015. Sara is survived by her beloved partner Shoshi and her many grandchildren who were a joyful part of her life, something else we had in common.

This is only a very brief tribute to Sara's commitment to lesbian community over the past several decades. A more detailed overview of Sara's life in her own words is included in Stropky Dykes.

It's been hard saying farewell to Sara, both at the arvo tea we had at her place a month ago and again at the burial and even now I'm still taking it in that we'll never see her smiling face and quiet and cheerful presence ever again.

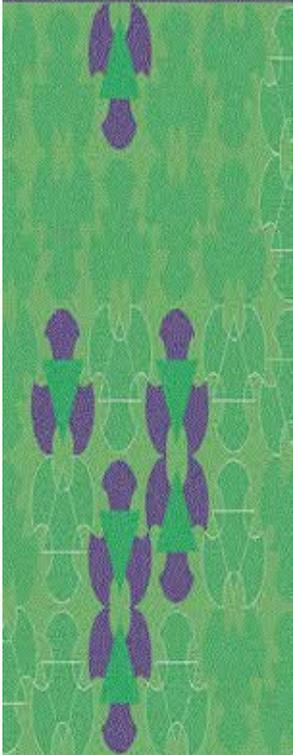
But the memories of Sara, thank goodness for the memories

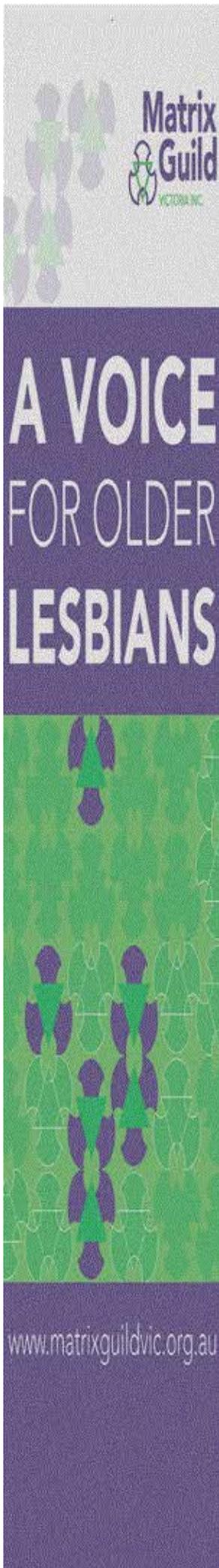
With love
Jean Taylor
Wurundjeri country



Sara at training with POW.

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LESBIANS





International Women's Day Lesbian Tea Dance

Matrix's International Women's Day dance on 4th March was a great success, with Cath and Angie, the Wild Women of Armidale, singing some old feminist anthems as well as their own inspiring songs. Trentham locals, Suzanne (bass) and Sue (beat box) supported them. DJ Kerry wound up the energy with lots of our favorite dance tracks. The Wild Women had a fabulous time and plan to come back again. Angie describes the event:

'When we woke up the morning after the tea dance we lay in bed thinking and talking about it, so we wanted to share our perceptions of the event with you as participant observers.'

The whole event had such a lovely 'feel' to it. From beginning to end we saw and heard women having a great time dancing, talking, singing, hugging, smiling, griping, pairing up, greeting old friends, making new friends, eating, drinking, working and soaking up the 'this-is-our-lesbian-family-and-here-is-our-own-comfortable-space' atmosphere that you and the Matrix Guild had created. Everyone we talked to had lovely things to say about the event and seemed to enjoy themselves. We saw volunteers quietly working away setting things up and ('though they kept their capes and masks well hidden) it was crystal clear that every single one of them was a Super Hero on a mission to make the world a better place for women – and succeeding brilliantly.

We were tremendously impressed by Laura the Sound Techie who (cape flying) single handedly wrangled all instruments and vocals to produce a balanced front-of-house mix plus onstage foldback while also patiently putting up with star-struck prima donnas ('turn me up. No, turn me up!'). She deserves a medal and Dameship from the Queen at the very least. Please give her our sincere thanks. We also greatly appreciated your miraculous provision of Brilliant Bassplayer Suzanne, Groovy Beatboxer and Uker Sue, and Magical Melodious Muso Barb. Their onstage contributions easily enhanced our performance by 300%. Those three would be an asset to any band and we really hope they know it.'

Look out for our next big dance in October. We know that some women really come to talk, (asking for the music to be turned down) while others just come to dance (asking for the music to be turned up). We'll try to set up the venue so that everyone can come and have a great time.

Matrix Coffee Afternoons



Mamma Says Café

**We're there every Thursday
.....join us !**

Our Matrix coffee afternoons are in full swing again this year, at **Mamma Says** at 120 Station Street, Fairfield. The café is on the left side of Station Street heading north, between Wingrove St and Duncan St. The nearest railway station is Fairfield, on the Hurstbridge line, accessible from Wingrove Street. (*Melways Ref Map 30, K10*)

When you arrive at the café, go through to the outdoor covered area at the rear of the café, and you will find us there. There is street parking along Station Street, but you can also park in the carpark behind the shops, which you enter from Gillies Street.

The Coffee afternoons are held every Thursday from 12 – 3 pm. We can guarantee good company, good conversation and good food. Have lunch, or just a cuppa. Have a game of Rummio or just have a chat. Bring a friend along. It's a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and everyone is made welcome.

Check out the menu here: www.mammasays.com.au

If you want more information phone Carole 0437 891 981

WOMEN'S CO-HOUSING & CO-OWNERSHIP FORUM

There is an increasing feminization of homelessness and the housing affordability crisis is getting worse. Read about how **Two in three people seeking help for homelessness are women.**

Matrix
& Guild
VICTORIA INC

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If you'd like to do something proactive and positive to create secure, affordable housing with lots of social connectedness, come along to the FREE Women's Housing Forum, organised jointly by Matrix Guild of Victoria and Women's Property Initiatives, sponsored by the City of Darebin.

12:45pm – 5:30pm Sunday 7th May 2017

FREE LUNCH at 12:45pm

VENUE: In Northcote

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LESBIANS**

Co-housing is a way of living in a more affordable way, with a lighter footprint on the earth and with like-minded neighbours; begun in Denmark and exported to the English speaking world by people like **Charles Durrett** and **Kathryn McCamant**. Hear about living at Murundaka Cohousing Community, an all-rental co-operative model <https://www.murundakacohousing.org.au/> Come along if you'd like to be part of a Co-housing Community of Women.



WPI's Co-ownership innovative project aims to house low income women over the age of 55, who have a lump sum to contribute towards property in conjunction with WPI. If you'd like to find out more, please join us.

Bookings required by 3 May 2017 through Trybooking – no computer? Phone 0427482976.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/272701>

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Butch Melon Camp

The Beautiful Women Campaign, celebrating the diversity of LGBTI women, got us talking about butch lesbians and breast care. You said you wanted more information and breast screens with your mates – so, here it is.

Bring your mates and join us for drinks and nibbles. Photographer Lisa White will be there (photos optional) – and you can have your free breast screen at the event (if you are over 40) or just join us for a laugh followed by beer and dumplings.

Location: The Rose Clinic, Level 3, David Jones. 310 Bourke Street

Date: Friday June 2nd 2017

Time: 5 -7pm (this time is reserved for lesbians)

RSVP (for catering purposes): Dr Catherine Barrett on 0429 582 237 or director@celebrateageing.com or

Booking your breast screen: contact Maura Conneely at BreastScreen Victoria at maurac@breastscreen.org.au

Breast screens will be scheduled at 10min intervals.

More information:

<https://alicesgarage.net/beautiful-women/>

Photo: Beautiful Women by lisa white, thesocialphotographer.com.au



LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Strategies

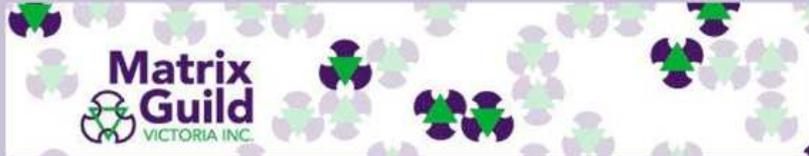
The department of health are looking for feedback on this and there is a 10 minute survey available on the National LGBTI Health Alliance web site. It would be great if members could go there - here is the link to the survey - <http://lgbtihealth.org.au/lgbtiq-strategy-survey/> to ensure that lesbian voices are also heard.

It is up to us to help make this happen, so please take some time to complete the survey at the above link. Women make up the vast majority of those in Aged Care, simply because we tend to live longer

Matrix Chartered Bus trip



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FOR OLDER
LESBIANS



EXCITING EVENT MAY 6

MATRIX CHARTERED BUS TRIP

APPROX 20 SEATS ESTIMATED COST \$45.00 PP APPROX.

TO CRANBOURNE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS SATURDAY MAY 6

LEAVE 10AM NORTHCOTE RETURN 6.00PM NORTHCOTE

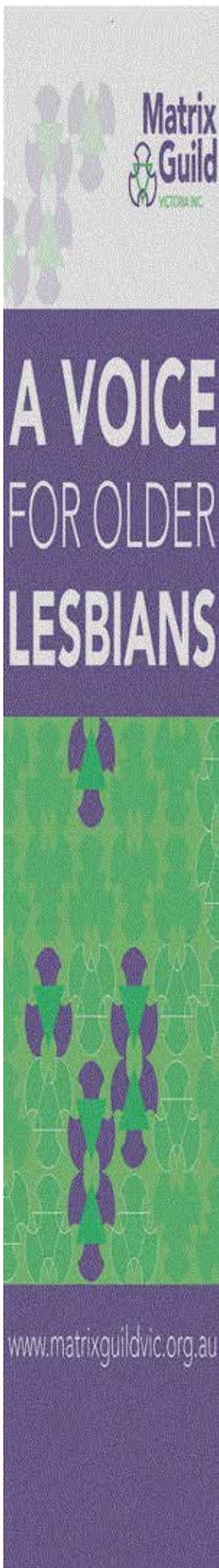
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED NATIVE FLORA:
CAFÉ: FABULOUS WALKS: PICNIC AREAS: FACILITIES:



For further details, contact Marg. on: margmj@nex.net.au

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MONICA DULLARD presents Ageing with Attitude



The poster features a photograph of two women on a paved road. One woman, older, is riding a red motorized scooter. The other woman, younger, is riding a black kick scooter and has a surprised expression. The text on the poster includes: 'MONICA DULLARD PRESENTS Ageing with Attitude', 'THE CLYDE HOTEL, 385 Cardigan St Carlton, 30th March - 23rd April, 2017, NO EASTER SHOWS, Tues - Sat 7pm / Sun 6:30pm, KITCHEN OPEN from 5.00pm, BOOKINGS www.trybooking.com, & AT THE DOOR \$25/\$22 & 6 + group \$20 Tightarse Tues \$18 Preview', a quote from Herald Sun: 'Very keen comedy eye... hilarious!', 'Directed by Shirley Billing', and logos for 'The CLYDE HOTEL' and 'MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL'. At the bottom right, it says 'Photo: James Furlina // Graphic Design: Anne Walker'.

Monica Dullard is a Baby Boomer! Her mum is 90 and feisty to boot! Join Monica in her new show, chock full of characters, stories and observations about doing what we can not to get old, including vertical folding of underwear and eating smelly kale! This 'assisted living' talkfest will deliver jam-packed, ridiculous fun! "Very keen comedy eye - hilarious" Herald Sun

Date: 30th March - 23rd April, 2017. NO EASTER SHOWS

Time: Tues - Sat 7pm / Sunday 6:30pm

Venue: The Clyde Hotel 385 Cardigan Street, Carlton, VIC 3053

Tickets: Full \$25 / Conc. \$22 & 6 + group / \$20 Tight-arse Tues / \$18 preview

Book: At the door or trybooking.com

Kitchen: Open from 5pm. Buy delicious pub food, top house wines & beers at The Clyde

Parking: 217 Elgin St, Carlton \$8 after 5pm

Trams: 1 or 8 Tram Stop 112 Elgin St, Carlton

LGBTI Elders Dance Club - Fitzroy Town Hall - Thursday 6 April



**A VOICE
FOR OLDER
LESBIANS**



Please join us for your

LGBTI ELDERS DANCE CLUB

THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex elders and their allies are invited to our monthly dance club event throughout 2017.

No dance experience needed. All are welcome.
Delicious catering and drinks provided. Wheelchair accessible.

Where: Fitzroy Town Hall, 201 Napier Street Fitzroy

When: Thursday 6 April 5.30pm - 7.30pm

RSVP: Tristan Meecham - tristan@allthequeensmen.net / 0421 572 221

The LGBTI Elders Dance Club is supported by Margaret Lawrence Bequest and Yarra City Arts.



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WILLS
POWERS OF ATTORNEY

(Financial and Medical)

CONVEYANCING

Family Law Financial Agreements

*20% off for Matrix Members
Home Visits may be possible*

Marilyn Nuske BA, LLB, GradDip AT

Solicitor

Tel: 0400 784 754

Email: marilyn@oceanlegal.com.au

www.oceanlegal.com.au

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 25th April, 2017.

Please send news items and short articles to:

Rosemary Wealthy at r.wealthy@bigpond.com

Anneke Deutsch Matrix Guild of Vic Inc. at secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au

0427 482 976

A Letter to Ima¹ - By Sara Elkas

I wish you were here today to see me, your daughter, among hundreds of lesbians gathered to celebrate a decade of national lesbian festivals in Australia. Can you see me as women talk, eat, discuss menopause, do belly dancing steps and play table tennis? Are you with me as I walk around the boundaries of the camping area? Are you close by as I pause to look at the sea, when I lie down on the newly cut grass my body pressed against the yellow flowers? As I listen to buzzing bees endlessly flying from one flower to another, with the sun hot on my face even when I pull down the brim of my hat. Ima, are you there?

Will you understand who I am and why I need to be with other women? Why I consider the lesbian feminist community to be my family. Can you imagine my grief at the loss of a very close lesbian friend? The apprehension that this death is to be followed by others. My sadness when I see my friend's partner back from her travels thinner and still very much in pain. Coming to the only place where she can safely share her memories. This being the first anniversary of her beloved's death from cancer. The same disease that took you away from me when I was only six.

What would you think if you could see me proudly wearing the T shirt that says 'Mazel Tov! She's a Jewish Lesbian'? Because I am proud of both these identities. Denying one would be the same as denying the other.

I remember the stories I was told of your bravery when your entire family were refugees in Siberia during World War II . How you risked personal danger and imprisonment to go to a far away market town to trade the cloth which you wrapped round and round your emaciated body. You were prepared to do everything to save your parents and siblings from starvation. I admire the courage you showed and your brave struggle against the odds. These qualities I have learned from you. They have helped me to do what I wanted. They told me never to give up. I thank you for this.

My way in life has been very different from yours. Here I am without husband or children living half a world away from Israel, my birth country. The same country that meant everything to you after the betrayal by the one where you were born. But I have had my children too - my work helping people with disabilities regain independence, my lesbian political activism and my writing of short stories and poetry.

We are also unlike in our religious beliefs. You were an Orthodox Jewish woman who followed customs and rituals. Only recently did I find out that it was your stated wish that I attend a religious primary school. I did not follow in your footsteps; I do not go to shule², keep the Sabbath or eat kosher. I found my own

¹ "Mother" in Hebrew
² Synagogue

spiritual path based on my personal moral values, rejecting all religious structures and dogmas. Yet, when my partner lights the candles on Friday night my heart leaps with recognition. And the place where I truly feel I belong is with other Jewish lesbians.

As I look out of the window to a view of Australian green hills, rows of pine trees, sheep making their way up the slope - an idyllic peaceful scene - I am reminded that you lived as a refugee for five years in Siberia. Five years of moving from one place to another never having enough to eat. Yet, you were among the lucky ones, those who escaped the fate of the six million. This is the heritage you left me, not only of horrible death and destruction but also of survival and a new beginning in your home land.

Do you give your blessing to my six year relationship with a Jewish woman who is as loving and caring as any mother would wish? Whose warm hands and kind words are always there when I need them. Who misses me when I am away, waits eagerly for my phone calls and e-mails, and is always at the airport to greet me on my return. Are you against us wishing to 'grow old together', travel and play with her grandchildren.

Next month I will be flying to Israel to visit my uncles, your brothers, and my cousins. My uncles are not well and perhaps they will join you in the not very distant future. Even though I am so different, I would like to see, talk and really try to connect with them.

Please do not be angry if I decide against visiting your grave in Israel. It is a cold stone and you are not there for me. I want you to be with me and experience what I experience. I want you to be proud of me, Your Daughter.

© Sara Elkas

From Darwin to Jerusalem - By Sara Elkas

The year was 1979 and I was 30 years old. Exactly eleven-years before that I had stood under the chuppah in Haifa, Israel. Now the marriage was over and I was living in Perth, Australia. I had just completed a post-graduate course in librarianship at the Western Australia Institute of Technology. I had been looking for work in Perth for some weeks with no success when I met a woman recently arrived from Brazil. Maria was a member of a religious sect I had never heard of - something to do with reaching God through mathematics - and was keen to spread the word. When she told me she was going to Darwin and asked me to come with her I thought why not. I had heard that it was easy to find library jobs in Darwin.

It so happened that Joan, a teacher returning to her job at an Aboriginal school in the Northern Territory, advertised for a couple of women to join her and share petrol costs. In a few days I was packed and ready leaving most of my possessions with friends.

Here we were on the highway - the three of us as well as Joan's dog. The first day out we lost the dog. The poor thing fell off the canvas on top of the van without anyone noticing for some time. We went back but couldn't find her. The dog limped her way to the house of a kind woman and was later returned. The second day on the road the radiator burst and had to be replaced at great expense. We reached Port Hedland and were only a couple of days away from Darwin.

On the third day somewhere between Port Hedland and Broome the van broke down completely. Luckily it happened just outside a road service station appropriately called "No Name Place". Apart from a few cars on the highway there was nothing for miles but sunburnt red soil.

I remember just standing there and for once in my life I wasn't anxious or worried about my responsibilities. There was nothing I could do about the situation. Nothing mattered except the feel of the earth under my feet and the sun on my face. It was a moment of freedom and bliss that I will never forget. I believe it helped me prepare for what was to follow.

After a while a truck came and took the car and us back to Port Hedland. On the way I was fortunate to witness one of those amazing tropical electric storms while the truck made its way slowly over a bridge. We stayed in Port Hedland overnight and flew to Darwin the next day.

We arrived in Darwin and booked into the local YMCA, a large wide building with a glass front situated right on the beach. For some strange reason Joan and I ended up in a double room while Maria was given a single room. As soon as we

were alone Joan, who had been drinking, made sexual advances to me. I replied that I wasn't interested.

Afterwards I told Maria about the advances and assured her that I was "in control" of the situation. However, the next night in the double bed Joan gently touched my back and that did it. We hardly emerged out of bed for the next three days. I was oblivious to everything including Maria's displeasure that I wasn't spending any time with her. Joan left to undertake her teaching duties and then it hit me like a brick. I had had sex with another woman!

While my body was saying that the sex had been great my mind was telling me that it was all wrong. When Joan came to visit, holding the dog on a chain, I told her that the idea of being sexual with her made me feel like throwing up. Later, I understood that as well as suffering from internalized homophobia I was also troubled by the fact that I wasn't in love with Joan. Indeed I was in love with Maria and did express my feelings to her on one occasion. However, even though she said she loved me as a friend she was not attracted to me and shortly after formed a relationship with a man she met at the YMCA.

Six months went past with me working full time as a librarian at the Darwin Community College. I was also working hard at being heterosexual having a couple of one night stands and even a short affair with a teacher at the college. It met neither my sexual nor my emotional needs.

I made friends with a couple of women I worked with at the college. One of them invited me to a party where I met a woman who had recently arrived in Darwin. Sonia was tall and good looking and I think I was attracted to her from the very beginning. She was very open about her sexuality and her interest in finding a new lover. However, I played hard to get mainly because she seemed so sure of herself. One evening she was in my room talking and chain smoking and all of a sudden she reached over and touched my hair. That did it again. The next day I told the woman whom I was sharing the house with what had happened.

"You must be bisexual," she said.

"No. I am a lesbian"

I had no more doubts. I had arrived at my own Jerusalem.

© Sara Elkas