

Matrix Guild of Vic Inc

Newsletter



January 2010

SATIN & SILK

As part of the Midsumma festivities The Glamour event of The Year is fast approaching...

The Matrix Guild Proudly Present

"THE SATIN & SILK BALL"

"The Australian Kylie Show"

Featuring a talented seasoned performer introducing Kylies double with Ms Angie Hilton...and two dancers.

DJ Anny from Dance Cats will be our DJ for the evening, playing all of your dance favorites.

DJ Trish will be our technical support on the night.

Belly Dancing performance by Sheryl.

Venue: The St Kilda Town Hall
99a Carisile Street
ST KILDA

Date: Saturday 20 February 2010

Time: 7.00pm - 12.30am

Tix: Lou /0419 539 324

Tix: Sharon /matrixevents@matrixguildvic.org.au

Tix: \$40 / \$50

BYO: Nibblies & Drinkies

** Tea and coffee provided

** Water for Tables

** Bio degradable plates & bowls

** Bio degradable cups

Daughters of Bilitis: First National Lesbian Organization

In the 1950s there were few options for lesbians to meet each other outside of gay bars. The Daughters of Bilitis was founded in 1955 in San Francisco by eight women, including long-time activists Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon and Barbara Gittings to provide an alternative to the bar scene.

Daughters of Bilitis: Lesbian Activists

The Stonewall Riots in 1969 are often thought of as the beginning of the gay rights movement, but even before 1969 gays and lesbians were gathering to start to demand their rights. Daughters of Bilitis was formed as a social group, but quickly became active in the early homosexual rights movement. They saw the need to educate both other lesbians and the general public, to advocate for legal reform and research.

Bilitis

The name Daughters of Bilitis comes from a poem by Pierre Louys called "Song of Bilitis," about a lesbian living on the Isle of Lesbos with Sappho.

The Ladder

In 1956 the Daughters of Bilitis began publishing a monthly magazine called *The Ladder*. *The Ladder* contained poetry, fiction, news items, book reports and social commentary written by and for lesbians.

A National Organization

By 1958 Daughters of Bilitis had chapters in Los Angeles and New York and several other cities. Different chapters had different focuses but included discussion groups, social events, activism, research projects and coordinating with homosexual male groups like The Mattachine Society.

The End of the Daughters

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon formed Daughters of Bilitis as an organization seeking acceptance for lesbians from mainstream culture. In the 1970s, after Stonewall and the birth of the Women's Rights movement, more and more radical lesbians came into the organization and pushed for change. The debate over the two

philosophies eventually split the fledgling organization and by 1970, although some local chapters still existed, the national Daughters of Bilitis all but disappeared

MATRIX REAL ESTATE TASK GROUP

AGM Report 15th September 2009

Heather Chapple left \$300,000 to Matrix for the purpose of providing affordable rental housing for older lesbians. The Real Estate Task Group (RETG) began looking for a unit or flat to buy with Heather bequest towards the end of last year. Around this time, the federal government announced an unprecedented amount of money would be available for social housing. This money was largely being spent via Registered Housing Providers (RHP's). The RHP needed to provide 25% of the finance and then the Office of Housing (OoH) would foot 75% of the purchase price of newly built accommodation.

Since March, we have been in negotiations with a RHP called the Victorian Women's Housing Association (VWHA) to see if we could partner with them. VWHA is a feminist, non-profit organisation, run by a voluntary board of skilled women, with 3 employees and supported by a lot of other women who provide free professional services such as legal, accounting, project management and graphic work. (see www.vwaha.org.au)

We would provide the 25% seeding finance, enabling the VWHA to access the remainder of funds from the OoH. This would allow Matrix to house 3-4 times as many lesbians as Heather's bequest on its own could have done. VWHA would hold the titles, but Matrix would always select the tenants. On 11th September we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the VWHA to buy 3 apartments in a new complex at 201 Albert St Brunswick.

It is expected that the building will be completed by the end of 2010. The apartments will then be available for lease for older, financially disadvantaged lesbians who have difficulty affording current market rent. The intention is to provide universally accessible, long term, secure housing for those in most need. Rent will be pegged at 25% of the full pension, plus full rent assistance. Matrix will endeavour to provide social support to the tenant, should this be required, but the applicants must

be capable of independent living. The VWHA will act as lessor. Where possible, they will source female trades people. Matrix will use the following criteria in selecting tenants.

Applicants must:

1. Identify as a lesbian or as a gay woman
2. Be legally female
3. Be 40 years old, or older
4. Be currently receiving the full aged or disability pension or equivalent income
5. Be eligible for full rent assistance or be able to pay it's equivalent
6. Not own or part own any real estate or other significant investment

Preference will be given to lesbians who:

1. Are homeless or at risk of being homeless
2. Are 65 years old, or older
3. Have minimal assets

The 3 new apartments:

- § Will have universal access
- § Have two bedrooms each
- § Are in a 5-storey block of about 40 with lifts and a gym
- § Are north-facing and near each other on the 4th and 5th floors
- § Have solar hot water
- § Have A/C, heating
- § Have stainless steel appliances, gas cooking
- § Each will have a secure, basement car-park with caged storage

The RETG will be developing detailed selection criteria in conjunction with the VWHA. An application form will soon be available via the web site or by calling the RETG convenor.

Anneke Deutsch
Convenor
Matrix Real Estate Task Group

P.S. Since this report was written:

- A contract was signed with VVHA at the end of October and the deal is definitely going ahead.
- Building will commence in January 2010 and is now expected to be completed by the end of March 2011.

Public Officer – Finance Co-ordinator Report 2008-9 AGM Report 15th September 2009

In my opinion the 2008/9 financial year has been the most exciting in the history of Matrix. For the first time we have come close to realising the vision of the founding members of the Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc of providing accommodation to older lesbians in need. This was made possible by Matrix receiving a bequest of over \$300,000 from Heather Chapple's estate. We are most thankful to Heather and to Sarah Yeomans the executor of her estate. I would also like to thank the Matrix Real Estate Task Group (RETG) and especially Anneke and Sue Leigh for their contribution.

On the research front we received \$9000 from the Vic Women's Trust to go towards a lesbian specific publication of practice guidelines for those who work in or are consumers of aged care services. We expect the project will be undertaken in 2010. Two "Australia first" research projects funded by the Reichstein Foundation were completed, printed and distributed. The first report was My People: A project exploring the experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex seniors in aged care services. The second report was Permission to Speak: Determining strategies towards the development of gay, lesbians, bisexual, transgender and intersex friendly aged care services in Victoria. On behalf of Matrix, I would like to thank the Reichstein Foundation, Dr Catherine Barrett, researcher, Jane Kent, project coordinator and Dr Jo Harrison, project consultant for making this possible. Both reports are available on the Matrix website that continues to be maintained and updated by Pat Mitchell.

We again put on two fundraisers in 2008/9; the Dusty Dance in August 2008 and the Return of the Satin and Silk in February 2009. Our income from both events was around \$7800 which is a great result. I would like to thank Sharon Stanton our events coordinator for the skilful and professional way in which she coordinated these events as well as Lou Carter for undertaking the ticket sales and table arrangements for both events.

We have had 24 women either become members or renew their membership. I would also like to note that nearly \$500 was donated by members. The SHEBAR raffle raised \$800 and our thanks go to Sharon & Andrea for organising this. Our stall raised \$424 at the ChillOut festival and \$285 at Midsumma Carnival.

Our "Society" accounts at the Commonwealth bank now include besides our cheque account, a general Gift Account and a specific Gift Account for Housing where Heather's bequest went. \$300,000 of the bequest has been invested in a term deposit

Sara Elkas
Public Officer/Finance Co-ordinator
Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc

MATRIX AND RESEARCH

As you may remember from previous Matrix Newsletters we have been successful in gaining funding from the Reichstein Foundation for research on seniors GLBTI people.

The first research project has resulted in a report titled
My People: A project exploring the experiences of GLBTI seniors in aged care.

The second research project has resulted in a report titled
Permission to Speak: Determining strategies towards the development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex friendly aged care services in Victoria

Both reports are available on our web site: www.matrixguildvic.org.au

Partnerships with other groups involved with the Project.

Those on the committee were representatives from: Matrix Guild; Vintage Men Inc., a social and support group for mature gay and bisexual men and their friends; A General Practitioner, The Carlton Clinic and Senior Lecturer, The Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, Member Australian Lesbian Medical Association Committee and Member Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health; Admissions Officer Brotherhood of St Laurence; Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby; Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria; The ALSO Foundation; Women's Health East; Women's Health in the South East; Women's Health West; A Consultant Geriatrician and Australian Lesbian Medical Association; School of Health Sciences (OT Program) University of South Australia, and Expert Advisor to the Steering Committee.

Vic. Women's Trust Publication

The Matrix Guild Management Committee are delighted to announce that the Victorian Women's trust has provided us with a \$9,000 grant towards a publication, which incorporate information gleaned from research and work practice guidelines for the industry. The Committee has decided to contract the highly regarded Dr Jo Harrison and Marg Collins who are both experienced researchers in the area. The publication will provide the following benefits:

The publication will be a combination of practice guidelines, resources, and a summation in accessible form of data from stage one and two (research projects Matrix has recently undertaken, which have been funded by the Reichstein Foundation). It will be an easily handlable product for those who work in or are consumers of aged care services, or worrying about becoming consumers. Dr Jo Harrison

The project will also bring the plight of aged and disabled lesbians to the attention of policy makers. It will significantly influence the future quality of service provision as it will

- Address the suffering of aged lesbians
- Address the need for lesbian sensitive service provision and training of staff.

To our knowledge there has never been such a publication undertaken in Australia - it will be cited as such historically and hence be most influential.

Matrix Guild HOME BASED SERVICES

Services for Senior Lesbians

« Health, Counselling, Home Care, and Maintenance.

Matrix Guild facilitates qualified practitioners for you.

- « If you are a senior lesbian and/or a disabled lesbian and want a qualified lesbian to assist you in the above areas for affordable rates (means tested) give us a call.
Sharon Stanton 0419 992 966 or e-mail matrixevents@matrixguildvic.org.au
- « If you are looking for contracted work, are qualified in one of these areas and would like to be considered for the service send us your resume.

Matrix Guild's Managing Committee

meets 7.00 pm the 3rd Tuesday of the month in St Kilda –

You are most welcome to attend and contribute. Ring to check if meeting is still on 3rd Tues. before you come and also



to get venue details - 0419 992 966

Come and meet more lesbians.

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SHE BAR - Women Only Events

2nd and 4th Saturday Every Month

Fun and friendly atmosphere with regular live acts, female DJs and special events.

BENDIGO HOTEL 125 Johnston Street, Collingwood.

www.shebar.org - Call Sharon & Andrea 0419 992 966

For photos and information about our events, for back copies of newsletters, and full updates of the Matrix Research Project refer to

THE MATRIX WEB PAGE

www.matrixguildvic.org.au

Thanks to Pat Mitchell for designing, producing and keeping the page up to date



Matrix Guild Victoria Inc

A voice for older lesbians

Matrix Guild was founded by and for the benefit of lesbians over forty years of age. We are committed to the support of appropriate care and alternative lifestyle options for older lesbians in Victoria.

Matrix Guild was founded by a group of lesbians and it was incorporated in September 1992. The visions and aims of these women were to raise money to assist older/ disabled lesbians.

Matrix Guild Statement of Purposes

The Guild is established for the public charitable purposes of the relief of poverty, helplessness and suffering of women, and in particular lesbians, by without limitation providing home based services and accommodation to aged, disadvantaged and disabled women.

As an incidental and ancillary purpose, the Guild may provide training and education to home care providers on issues relevant to caring for lesbians to increase the sensitivities of the carers and the standard of home care to lesbians.

Do you want to support Matrix? Here's what you can do.

- Y Attend Matrix Guild fundraisers.
- Y Include Matrix Guild Victoria Inc as a beneficiary in your will.
- Y Become a financial member.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to Matrix Guild of Vic Inc

You will receive a receipt from Matrix, with our
ABN number on it that states
the receipt is for a tax deductible gift for
Matrix Guild Benevolent Services.



Application/Renewal Matrix Guild Membership

Yearly fee period from Annual General Meeting
(September)

Full membership: \$20 waged / \$15 concession

Organisation membership: \$30 (or donation)

Send to: The Secretary, PO Box 99 Fairfield, Vic 3078

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

This is a renewal / new membership.

I agree / do not agree to my name and details as listed above being
made available to Matrix Guild members.

Signature:

Date: