



Matrix Guild of Vic Inc Newsletter

January 2011

The Return of the Satin & Silk Ball

The Glamour Event for 2011.

Staged at the beautiful St Kilda Town Hall and returning by popular demand featuring that all time favourite & wonderful performer Wendy Stapleton As "Dusty Springfield".

On behalf of The Committee of Management for the Matrix Guild Of Victoria Inc I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of The Matrix Guild; I assure you that your ongoing support of our fundraising events is very much appreciated AND we look forward to catching up with you very soon.

As you might be aware, our organisation is a not-for-profit / Charitable organization and only through the generous support of our guests, businesses and organisations to the like of yours are we able to continue to operate successful fundraisers with All proceeds to services for older Lesbians. Given this, we are seeking your assistance to promote AND support and attend our next fundraiser, "The Return Of The Satin & Silk Ball".

The Matrix Guild presents

Satin & Silk Ball

a womyn only event

Featuring
**Wendy Stapleton as
Dusty Springfield**

To be held on Saturday
16th April 2011
at the St. Kilda Town Hall

plus
DJ Trish playing the
usual favourites
Door Prizes
Photos & lots more

Tickets \$50
Concession \$40

Date: Saturday 16th April 2011
Time: 7pm - 12:30am
Venue: St. Kilda Town Hall
99A Carlisle Street, St. Kilda
BYO: Drinks & Nibbles
Price: Full \$50 Concession \$40

Contact: Anna 0448 002 870
Sharon 0419 992 966
Email: matrxevents@matrixguildvic.org.au

All proceeds to services for older lesbians

Pencil this wonderful event into your calendar for 2011

Don't Miss This One....A Night we have been waiting for...AND a Night to remember.... The Glamour event Of The Year

The Matrix Guild Of Victoria Inc. Presents

THE RETURN OF THE SATIN & SILK BALL

**** Featuring Wendy Stapleton as DUSTY SPRINGFIELD ****

Date: Saturday 16 April 2011

Time: 7.00pm - 12.30am

Venue: The St Kilda Town Hall 99a Carlisle Street St Kilda

DJ: DJ Trish with music from 70's - today. (If you have a special music request please ask when you book your ticket)

Tix: \$50 / \$40

Anna: 0448 002 870

Sharon: 0419 992 966

Email: matrxevents@matrixguildvic.org.au

Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project

Gathering the Unique Stories of the Lives of Lesbians Born in the Early 1900s

The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, OLOHP, began in 1997 when Arden Eversmeyer started working with women she knew who were ill and dying in her area, Houston, Texas. Next, she began collecting stories from friends as she travelled. And now, she and others are working to collect the life stories from lesbians 70 and older wherever they are found and whenever they are willing to share them.

Arden was also integrally involved in OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. In October 2000, OLOC agreed to serve as a sponsor for the project, helping Arden connect with more old lesbians.

There is urgency inherent in the nature of the OLOHP. Each year, women whose stories the project wanted to gather slip away. Some old lesbians die before we are able to interview them; others become unable to do the interview.

The herstories of the women who lived through a unique period in time need to be preserved. The women deserve to be recognized for their experiences and contributions.

And, just as importantly, there are thousands of other old lesbians who need to know they are not alone.



The above is a project of Older Lesbians Organising for Change (OLOC). See website for more details: www.oloc.org

THE MATRIX APARTMENTS

Heather Chapple, a lesbian feminist who loved animals, to dance, to bird watch and to coax vegetable seedlings from the soil, was also an accomplished poet and carpenter. When she died, Heather left \$300,000 to Matrix for the purpose of providing affordable rental housing for older, financially disadvantaged lesbians. The Matrix Real Estate Task Group (RETG) formed and began looking for a unit or flat to buy with Heather's bequest towards the end of 2008.

Then the federal government announced an unprecedented amount of money would be available for social housing as part of its economic stimulus package. This money would largely be 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 2009, RETG has been in negotiations with a RHP called the Victorian Women's Housing Association (VWHA) to see if we could partner with them to access some of this social housing money. VWHA is a feminist, non-profit organisation, set up to provide low cost housing options for women who experience disadvantage. It is run by a voluntary board of skilled women, with 4 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) . They have values and policies that mesh well with those of the Matrix Guild.

Matrix will provide the seeding finance, enabling the VWHA to access the remainder of funds from the OoH. This will allow Matrix to house 3-4 times as many lesbians as Heather's bequest on its own could have done. VWHA will hold the titles, but Matrix will always select the lesbian tenants. In the unlikely event that the VWHA decides to sell these properties, and no suitable substitute property is available, then the Matrix bequest (as a percentage of the sale price) will be refunded. Matrix would then benefit from the growth in the property value. Matrix is very grateful to Jennifer Feeney for her thoughtful, pro bono legal advice.

On 11th September 2009 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - and on the 30th October 2009 a partnering agreement was sealed with the VWHA to buy 3 apartments in a new complex at 201 Albert St. Brunswick.

The Apartments

- Will be purpose built for universal access
- Will 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
- Will have solar hot water
- Will have A/C, heating
- Will have stainless steel appliances, gas cooking
- Will each have a secure, basement car-park with caged storage

It is expected that the building will be completed by the end of March 2011. 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% total household income - usually - 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.

To Apply

Matrix will develop guidelines for selecting tenants. These will be posted on our web site and will also be available by post. Both single lesbians and couples who suit the criteria will be encouraged to apply. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate their financial position with supporting documentation.

For more information, or to express your interest, contact housing@matrixguildvic.org.au or call Anneke on 0427 482 976.



**“Building progress at 201 Albert St Brunswick on 20th
September 2010.**

**The fifth floor slab has been poured and the framing for the
individual apartments on the first and second floors has
begun.”**

MATRIX AND RESEARCH

Matrix has 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.

Older Lesbians Social Networking

A number of new Matrix's members have written to us that they would be interested in meeting other older lesbians. The Matrix Committee would be very interested to hear from any older lesbians out there who are able and willing to start such a group/network.

Matrix Guild's Managing Committee

Meets 6.00pm the 3rd Tuesday of the month



To get venue details - 0419 992 966

Come and meet more lesbians.

SHEBAR - Women Only Events

2nd and 4th Saturday Every Month

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

"The Glass House Hotel" 51 Gipps 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



Application/Renewal Matrix Guild Membership

Yearly fee period from Annual General Meeting

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: