

## "The Matrix Flyer"

Hi Everyone,

We welcome you to our March edition of "The Matrix Flyer". AND we hope that you enjoy our snippets and information.....

*"The Satin & Silk Ball....Glamour event of the year"*

*fundraising events over the past years and trust that you will be able to join us again for another fabulous night of "Glitz & Glamour". We would love for you to again support this event so that we can continue our work our work within the community for older lesbians:*

The Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.  
Proudly Presents  
**The Satin & Silk Ball**  
Featuring  
**SOUL SISTER SWING**



**Date:** Saturday 20th April 2013  
**Time:** 7.00pm - 12.30am  
**Venue:** St Kilda Town Hall  
99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda  
**BYO:** Nibbles & Drinks  
Light Nibbles, Tea,  
Coffee & Water Provided

**Ticket Prices:** \$50 / \$40

**Ticket Sales**  
Anna Cook: 0448 002 870  
Sharon Stanton: 0419 992 966  
Email: matrixevents@matrixguildvic.org.au

*The Matrix Guild's Major fundraiser will be held on the 20 April 2013 and everyone is welcome....Our event will be held in the grand St. Kilda Town Hall. Doors open at 7pm -1.00am. This year we will be providing an Auslan Interruption for our hearing impaired guests. We sincerely thank those who have supported our*

- Accommodation for older lesbians
- Social Support
- Publications
- Best Practice Session words for both the Strategic and the Practical sessions for aged care workers
- The Matrix Guild of Victoria is an advocacy and support group for older lesbians.

*Thank you to Our Sponsors for assistance with our Fundraising Events*

- City Of Port Phillip
- City Of Yarra
- Pink Sofa
- Aalsmeer Floral Studio
- Core Works
- D Vice
- Happy Medium
- Hares & Hyenas
- JOY FM
- Rainbow Radio
- Nari Thai
- SHEBAR Grrrrlz
- Southern Star

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### Monthly Coffee & Chats...



Everyone is welcome, and please feel free to pop along and join us for a delicious coffee or perhaps a bite to eat at our informal gatherings. Our get togethers will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Sunday of the month at:**

#### **The Edinborough Hotel**

430 Sydney Rd Brunswick VIC 3056

(03) 9380 1771

2 -4pm

The venue was just fabulous, very quiet so we could hear conversations, friendly & welcoming service from staff, plenty of room comfy chairs, public transport at the front door and ample parking at the rear of the venue.

We hope that you can join us as we look forward to catching up with you soon.

If you have any queries please contact Sharon on 0419 992 966.

### Monthly Profile of Matrix Committee Member: Anneke Deutsch



#### **Anneke Deutsch**

– Housing Convenor

Anneke Deutsch joined Matrix to help realize the dream of her friend Heather Chapple - to create affordable and accessible housing for older lesbians. In addition to putting her lesbian feminist efforts into Matrix she also works towards a world powered by renewable energy. She is retired from a career as a prosthetist and hopes to return to sculpture sometime she can extract herself from her laptop.

Mobile: 0427 482 976

Email: [housing@matrixguildvic.org.au](mailto:housing@matrixguildvic.org.au)

An article recently published by committee member  
Anneke Deutsch

Why Should LGBTI be a "Special Needs"  
group in Aged Care

## *“The Matrix Flyer”*

***“When admitting my partner’s mother into aged care, the forms all assumed heterosexuality. There was no spot for me on those forms. The message received from this was that only heterosexuals were welcome.”***

*Australian studies have found that some older lesbians are discriminated against in aged care settings and can find it difficult to access sensitive and appropriate aged care information and services. The Aged Care Complaints Scheme (the Scheme) handles complaints covered by the Aged Care Act (1997), including discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* and intersex (LGBTI) care recipients.*

*The Australian Government is committed to ensuring people from diverse backgrounds can access aged care services that are specific to their care needs. The recently launched [National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex \(LGBTI\) Ageing and Aged Care Strategy](#) will help inform the way Government responds to the needs of older LGBTI people and better support the aged care sector to deliver care that is sensitive and appropriate.*

*In this guest post, Anneke Deutsch from [The Matrix Guild of Victoria](#) explores some of the issues faced by older lesbians and provides information and tools for aged care service providers to make their service more inclusive.*

**Why should LGBTI be a “special needs” group in aged care?**

Imagine a life where you had to hide your true identity. My aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins tried to do just this so that they wouldn’t be humiliated, assaulted, lose their jobs or worse. But because they lived in Nazi-occupied Europe in the 1930s and 1940s the “worse” did happen and they died in the notorious death camps of Treblinka and Auschwitz.

In my younger years, I too wanted to be liked and accepted and so I generally hid the fact that I was lesbian (and that I had a Jewish heritage). I had the occasional boyfriend, knowledge of my lesbian lovers was kept by a few, close, trusted friends. Twenty six years ago, when my partner and I started our relationship, we kept it hidden for the first few years because we had a number of friends who had custody of their children awarded to their ex-husbands because they were considered unfit mothers due to their lesbian relationship. We didn’t want that to happen to us and our 3 kids. After all, homosexuals were considered criminals by the state, diseased by the medical profession and are still seen as sinners by many religious groups. Homosexuality was only relatively recently removed as a criminal offence in Australia. South Australia was first in 1972 and Tasmania last, in 1997. We were listed on the World Health Organisation list of mental disorders until 1992. Although in 2009, sweeping changes to Australian legislation meant that we finally had equality before the law in many areas; attitudes and public opinion can lag behind.

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Most institutions have heterosexist assumptions behind their documentation and governance procedures. When we were admitting my partner’s mother into aged care, I noticed the forms all assumed heterosexuality. They asked “Are you married, single, divorced or separated?” Sometimes, if they were a bit more progressive, they might also have “de facto” as an option. There was no spot for me on those forms. The message I received from this was that only heterosexuals were welcome. My experience of most hospitals and aged care intake forms indicates that this is not an isolated example.

I am a committee member of the Matrix Guild of Victoria, founded by a group of lesbian feminists for the benefit of older lesbians. We promote appropriate care, support and provide advocacy for older lesbians. We challenge ageism and oppose discrimination. We educate aged care providers about how to provide inclusive, affirming care for lesbians. We also provide some accommodation in Victoria for older lesbians who are financially disadvantaged.

Matrix has published two studies – [My People \(2008\)](#) & [Permission to Speak \(2009\)](#) - which show that older lesbians are discriminated against in aged care services. The studies also show that positive attitudes from service providers go a long way to creating a welcoming environment. Our booklet [We Live Here Too: A Guide to Inclusive Practice in Aged Care \(2011\)](#) is designed to assist aged care staff to understand our needs and the

inherent heterosexism of most institutions.

Lesbians face the double disadvantage of homophobia and sexism.

Many lesbians fear using aged care services because they expect (and often receive) homophobic treatment. I visit and support an older lesbian who lives in an Islamic aged care facility. She is not Islamic and had been an “out” lesbian for about 30 years. After her 25 year-long relationship ended, she was very upset and disturbed. She went to live with her daughter, but after a few months, she attempted suicide. Her stomach was pumped and then the acute hospital needed to discharge her. Her daughter didn’t want her back. The Islamic facility had a bed available, so this is where she went to live. She has not disclosed her sexuality to the staff there, because she expects poorer care, or possibly being asked to leave. She sometimes hears the staff make disparaging comments about gays.

Experiences like hers indicate that there is a great need for aged care organisations to learn about how to be welcoming and affirming to all clients including the 11% of us who are LGBTI. If your organisation doesn’t have this percentage of staff and clients who are openly LGBTI; they are still there, but they will be closeted.

I urge you to educate yourself about how your service could become inclusive:

- Read the report [“Beyond: we treat everyone the same”](#) published by [Gay & Lesbian Health Victoria](#).

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- Enrol in the course "[Beyond 'we treat everyone the same': How2 create a LGBTI inclusive service](#)" run by [Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria](#).

- Use the [Rainbow Tick Audit Tool](#) to assess the areas your workplace can improve its service.

The Matrix Guild of Victoria's publications can be downloaded free at [www.matrixguildvic.org.au](http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au)

Anneke Deutsch, Housing and Aged Care

Spokesperson

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc

## Sudoku Level Easy

5	1						2	7
	2	8	6	3	7	1	9	
		6	1		5	2		
				7				
		5	8		4	3		
	4	1	5	8	2	9	3	
6	3						4	8

## Lesbian Social Dance

**Saturday 16th March 2013**

1pm till 5pm

Leinster Grove Community Centre,  
99 Leinster Grove  
Thornbury

For a relaxing social afternoon  
Great dancing to freestyle music  
Sit and chat if you prefer  
Light finger food, tea & coffee provided  
BYO drinks and food (if desired)  
\$18 /\$12

Pay at the door (no need to book)

**Any profit to go to the new Lesbian Loans and Grants Program**

<http://femininebyte.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi/u/leso40>

Contact: [Spider@femininebyte.org](mailto:Spider@femininebyte.org)

**Our newsletters now have the facility for an advertising page for our Matrix members to promote items such as:**

- ❖ **Shared accommodation**
- ❖ **Items for sale**

**Please note this is not for businesses and you must be a current member of The Matrix Guild. Your advertisement will need to be business card in size and forwarded to Sharon via email**

Many thanks for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter and stay tuned.

Cheers

**Sharon E Stanton**

Events Coordinator  
Matrix Guild Of Vic Inc  
0419 992 966