



Ten Forty Newsletter

July 2014

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6pm Saturday 2 August 2014

Topic: Feminism: past, present and future

Facilitator: Diann

Ten Forty has always identified as a 'feminist' group, yet there is no one meaning of feminism, just as there is no one women's movement. This means no two experiences of feminism will be the same. It is this diversity that we hope will emerge during 'Feminism: past, present and future'.

The focus will be:

- What attracted you to feminism?
- How has feminism impacted on your life?
- Have there been any disappointments?
- What are the big issues now?

Before breaking into small groups for individual storytelling, two members of Ten Forty have agreed to talk to the larger group about feminism in their lives. Their stories will be recorded and added to existing podcasts on our website, www.olderdykes.org/words/Podcasts/podcasts.html

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street (cnr Dixon St), Haberfield

BYO food to share and your own drinks.

Entry fee: \$10 fully waged, \$5 concession.

Entry to the Mervyn Fletcher hall is in Dixon Street, which has unrestricted parking after 6pm.

By bus, catch the 436 or 438 buses which set down on the corner of Ramsay Road and Dalhousie Street.

Dykes for Dinner

Daytao Tao

6.30pm

Thursday 10 July 2014

207 Lyons Road, Drummoyne

BYO no corkage

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org by

Sunday 6 July

Hotel Saravan Bhavan

6.30pm

Thursday 14 August 2014

15 The Strand Croydon

Licensed and BYO

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org by

Sunday 10 August

Imogens photo exhibition

Prize-giving and afternoon tea

2.00 to 5.00 pm

Saturday 26 July 2014

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, Haberfield

Ten Forty once again brings you a cultural experience of artistic awesomeness in the form of a lesbian photographic exhibition.

Prizes of will be awarded in two categories:

- Wild things
and
- Interactions

First prize: \$200.00

Second prize: \$100.00

Third prize: \$50.00

Champagne and high tea will be served.

The competition closes at 5pm on Thursday 10 July 2014. See next page for how to enter.



Imogens 2014

Entry is free but don't delay the competition closes at 5pm on Thursday 10 July 2014. Take a look at a few of the entries to the competition www.olderdykes.org/gallery/interaction.html

Photographs can be in colour or black and white and can be taken with any type of camera. Three carefully selected members of Ten Forty with a background in photography have agreed to be judges.

Entry forms and terms and conditions plus information about size and acceptable formats are available on our website www.olderdykes.org/gallery/interaction.html

Sex over 40? Yes please!

On Saturday 7 June our bi-monthly dinner and discussion group attracted an open and friendly group of women, including some attending for the first time.

As facilitator I opened the session with some personal experiences of the discussion topic. I observed that since having a full hysterectomy a few years ago I have found a marked reduction in my libido, and this has helped me learn to relate to women on a multi-layered basis. My L word has changed from Lust to Love!

We had a brief discussion in the large group about how, as we age, we can experience a loss of self esteem and lack of confidence when meeting new women and

potentially asking them out. Several women said that as they grew older they felt sexually invisible.

Women then separated into small groups to discuss the following questions, which I had compiled with Sylvia's help.

- What views did you have about lesbian sex when you were in your 20's? Have these changed today?
- How old were you when you had your first lesbian experience? If under 40 how did your early experiences differ from post 40?
- What is your view on sex toys (vibrators, feathers, dildos, lubrications etc)? In what way, if any, are these useful for older lesbians?
- What factors limit you having sex with a partner? What factors make sex better over 40?
- Do you think fantasies are an important part of sex? In what way and what types?
- Are there any no-nos in your sexual repertoire?
- Is there a role for lesbian pornography for older women? What do you see as pornography?
- Is there a role for lesbian brothels, bathhouses, etc. for older lesbians?
- Is it OK to have casual sex without love?
- What are your views on group sex (usually threesomes)?

- Add other topics...

As I moved from group to group to ensure everyone was feeling comfortable and able to speak within their group, I was pleased to notice that each group had created an intimate space, with women leaning in towards each other, their knees almost touching, as they discussed the questions honestly, openly, and with genuine interest.

On the subject of pornography, it was



Mel demonstrating the fine art of one handed bra removal

generally agreed that pornography is largely created by men for men, and that it is often themed with violence towards women and domination of women. It was suggested that there is definitely a place for lesbian erotica rather than pornography, both visual erotica and the written word. Some thought that

photos of older women, nude or in positions of love-making, could be well received.

It would also be great to see older women as role models in fiction, including the detective genre, which appears to consist only of women under 40.

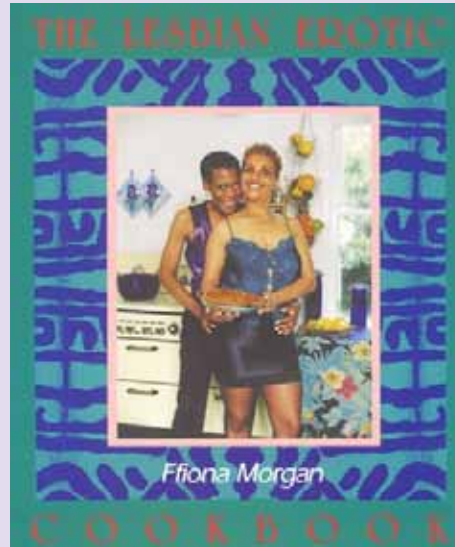
I mentioned *The Lesbian Erotic Cookbook* by Ffiona Morgan*, which contains photos of women of different ages in various stages of undress, caress and nudity. (This reminds me, I need to have another good long look at that book – for the recipes of course!)

Some of the women thought brothels for women, providing sex by women for women, would be a great idea. It was also suggested that non-sexual relaxation massage can help with our intrinsic human need for physical touch.

There were varied responses to the use of sex toys, from ‘I have used them when I was young, but have no need for them now’, and ‘yes, I have some that I use’, to the suggestion that the group have an outing to a sex shop to acquaint ourselves with the various sex toys available. Stay tuned for more information about this outing.

There were several comments about physical and libidinal changes during perimenopause and menopause. However, I did not have the chance to hear about whether these changes reversed in any way once the symptoms of menopause had passed.

I was warmed by the response of so many women interested in the subject of sexuality, sensuality and love over 40, and pleased to



* Copies of *The Lesbian Erotic Cookbook* can be purchased from Hares & Hyenas in Melbourne and Amazon.

From the inside description: “Fan the flames! This is a one-of-a-kind cookbook of cuisine extraordinnaire that will caress the palate and delight the tongue. It contains more than 250 gourmet recipes for the innovative cook. Recipes are complemented by erotic stories and poetry, as well as photographs of beautiful women. Even the recipe instructions, with their erotic suggestions and humor, will heat up your kitchen!”

The *Lesbian Erotic Cookbook* contains healthy gourmet recipes from a lifetime of cooking. Though playful and fun, this book is also a serious endeavor that explores the pleasures of the table.”

note that the women appeared happy and relaxed at the end of the evening. Thank you to those who came along and shared your experiences, and sorry you missed out to those who wanted to attend but were out of town because it was a long weekend.

Mel

Vale Maya Angelou

Celebrated author, poet, and civil rights activist Maya Angelou died on 28 May age 86.

Although she never went to college she was awarded over 30 honorary degrees and wrote more than 30 books throughout her long and varied career.

Her ground breaking memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* earned her international acclaim for her fearless account of childhood

rape, which left her mute for six years, as well as her experience growing up in the racist South during the 1930s and 40s.

A woman of conviction and incredible strength, Maya Angelou fought for justice, equality and education. Her wisdom will continue to inspire. Below are some of her greatest quotes.

“Courage is the most important of all virtues because without courage, you can’t practice any other virtue consistently”

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour, and some style.”

“Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation which is not nurturing to the whole woman.”



"You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off of you."

"If you're always trying to be 'normal' you will never know how amazing you can be."

"All great achievements require time."

"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated."

Ten Forty Matrix Inc.

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. will be held at 4.30 pm on 2 August 2014 at the Mervyn Fletcher Hall (prior to the 6pm Dinner and Discussion).

The AGM is open to all lesbians over 40. Under the constitution only women who have been financial members for three months prior to the AGM can vote.

The purpose of the AGM is to elect a management committee of seven - who must be financial members.

All nominations for the committee must be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and be received by the secretary before Saturday 26 July 2014. The secretary is currently Dorothy. Nominations can also be scanned and emailed to contact@olderdykes.org by the same date.

If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the women nominated will be automatically elected. If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies, a ballot will be held. Once the committee is formed, nominations will be called for Chair, Deputy-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The elections will be followed by a Financial Report and a discussion of future directions.

A reminder...there are now two membership categories for Ten Forty: the Contact mailing list (free) and the Incorporated Association membership list, which involves paying a membership fee.

Ten Forty events are open to all lesbians over 40. There is no obligation to go on the Contact mailing list or become a member if you want to attend an event.

New talent for websisters

The Websisters group is delighted to welcome a new member, Mel. Mel has experience maintaining and developing websites and has contacts in IT that will be of great value to us.

About Ten Forty

Ten Forty is an informal group of lesbians over forty, many of whom have been socially and politically active in Sydney since 1987. We enjoy discussion and debate on the issues we face in work, life and at home, and hold regular fun events to keep us in touch with the lighter side of life.

Ten years ago we established the website www.olderdykes.org to encourage national and international connections between older lesbians.

Ten Forty is not an organisation you have to join, but if you want to receive regular information about our activities and our bi-monthly newsletter, email contact@olderdykes.org and ask to be put on our mailing list.

Please note our new postal address is PO Box 1312 Randwick 2031

Newsletter

To receive a free emailed newsletter, please email contact@olderdykes.org

The web edition and back copies of the newsletter are available for download from our website www.olderdykes.org

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Diann, Gillian, Krystyna, Vivianne, Rob, Wendy, Bronwyn

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Wendy

Money Management: Cheryl

Websisters: Jan, Ruth Butler, Dorothy, Diann, Margot, Sandy, Mel
Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy

If you would like to become involved in any of the above, or have some ideas about social events and/or topics for our bi-monthly dinner and discussion evenings, please contact Jan on 9810 5130 or email contact@olderdykes.org