

Ten Forty Newsletter

September 2017

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6pm Saturday 14 October 2017

A Night out with the books

Jan will moderate this session with help from others.

Come and tell us about your favourite books: fun, sexy, serious, kid stuff, cook books, favourite author, whatever.

You can talk about your book, read a bit or just listen and pick up ideas about books you might like to read.

We will also have a short session on How to Start Your Own Book Club, with notes to take home.

And if you have books to give away please bring them along.

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

6.30pm Thursday 12 October 2017

Miss Hu

465 New Canterbury Rd, Dulwich Hill

RSVP by Sunday 8 Oct to

contact@olderdykes.org

6.30pm Thursday 9 November 2017

Pappardelle

217 Ramsay St, Haberfield

RSVP by Sunday 5 Nov to

contact@olderdykes.org

Report on Mental Health First Aid

A small group of older dykes attended the July discussion led by Fiona Price. Fiona explained that the Mental Health First Aid program was developed in 2000 by an Australian woman, Betty Kitchener and now operates within every state and territory of Australia and internationally.

A 12-hour training course is offered by organisations such as ACON to people who come in regular contact with people who might be developing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, psychosis and substance use problems. Training

covers giving support and information and encouraging appropriate professional help or and other supports.

Reflections and recollections

Diann is currently collecting photos from the last thirty years of Ten Forty events for a slide show at our 30th birthday party.

There must be thousands of photos out there, but where are they?

Please go through your albums. If you have a complete album of Ten Forty photos please bring it along, or if you find photos you are happy to share, scan them and send to

contact@olderdykes.org



A memorable weekend at Vision Valley

The weekend of 15-17 September was the third Fun Weekend organised by the Management Committee of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. It was partly subsidised with money from the Julie Hacker bequest.



Stringy Bark Lodge, our self-contained accommodation for the weekend, was set in the large, bushland setting and nature reserve of Vision Valley, just over an hours drive north of Sydney. It provided warm, comfortable bedrooms and accessible toilets and bathrooms for the 28 women who attended. The large lounge and dining area, plus a smaller lounge and wide balcony overlooking a small lake surrounded by bush provided areas for friendly gatherings and quiet reading. A private swimming pool and spa made up the complex.

A small group met on Friday morning at Berowra Waters to spend four hours kayaking and picnicking at Crosslands Reserve. A few women were put off by the previous days of high winds but luck was on our side as we glided 5km up a calm Berowra Creek to the delightful Crosslands Reserve for lunch. We were entertained by waiting kookaburras hoping for some titbits. We returned under a warm blue sky, taking in the beautiful gorge scenery. We met up with a few women enjoying lunch at the café at Berowra Waters, then we all made our way to Vision Valley for a 4pm rendezvous.

We spent the weekend engaged in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, with a few indulging their love of reading, and casual games of mah-jong, card playing and scrabble springing up during a lull in outdoor activities. With the gentle sunny weather heightening our enjoyment of the bush environment, many of us ventured on a long bush walk around the site, enjoying the bird life and the masses of wild flowers. One group had a great archery session with, they told us, some very successful scores plus a few arm bruises for their efforts! Others focussed on photography.

Saturday night Diann gave us a preview of photographs of Ten Forty over the years. Lots of "Oh that's ..." were heard. Then a fire was lit outside and conversation around the flames sealed the evening.

While a group spent Sunday morning walking Cobah Ridge and enjoying the fabulous views over Berowra Waters, a few

slipped off to the local nursery in Galston to stock up on garden plants.

Meanwhile back at Stringy Bark Lodge Viviane conducted a talking Ten Forty Stories workshop. These and other stories will form a part of the October 30th birthday Celebration Party and will also go up on the website. Remember to write down your own and send them to Viviane

contact@olderdykes.org or bring them to the party.

Many of us managed to put on a little weight due to the good food served at breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and supper. Our different culinary needs were accommodated by the friendly female kitchen staff, plus Margaret, who provided information and looked after our general needs.

Lots of goodbyes and hugs ended a relaxing and enjoyable weekend of fun.

Sylvia Kinder





To Bed or Not to Bed: Sex and the older lesbian

Published by: OLOC BOSTON (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change), and Last Gasp Press. Copyright 2017 All rights reserved.

...a unique collection of writings about older lesbian sexuality including an excerpt from a novel about a love affair in senior housing, how to end sexual hibernation, poetry, performance pieces, lesbian sex taking the lead, the last word on orgasm, the new 'normals' for older lesbians and more ...

For a free electronic copy (outside the USA only), email spearlman@hartford.edu (subject line: sex & age).

The following is an excerpt from *To Bed or Not to Bed: Sex and the Older Woman*

LILLIAN IN LOVE by Sue Katz

Chapter 6. Puff the Magic Brownie

At 7:00, Sarah knocks twice on my door. Finally I've got an occasion to dress for, and I open the door, wrapped in the long satin bathrobe in silver I bought online the day I accepted Freda's invitation to stay here. What a boon Internet shopping is for "gimps and crips," as one friend with bad scoliosis likes to say. A polished silver headband secures my long white hair, loose down my back for the occasion.

I open the door to find Sarah holding out a bouquet of daffodils, but she is so astonished by this new, unexpected image of me that she neglects to hand them over. I had been hoping she'd have this kind of reaction – and not think that I'm being a foolish old woman trying to tart up. Plus, I was nervous: who knows what women wear in bed with each other. I don't.

I take the flowers from Sarah's hand – "For me?" – and only then, to my self-centered embarrassment, do I notice how Sarah is dressed. Starched, ruffled, bright white tuxedo shirt with black cufflinks tucked into handsome black slacks over patent leather boots.

"Well, well," I say in my most seductive voice. "Someone cleans up nicely. What a fine-looking twosome we make – you're ready for the opera and I'm heading for the boudoir. Come in before someone sees us."

"So what if they do?"

"As they say in Yiddish: Love is blind; jealousy sees too much. I don't want the neighbors' envy on my conscience."

Sarah only takes a couple of steps inside before she stops – a mixture of a smile and surprise taking hold. The apartment is glowing. I've changed some table lamp bulbs to red bulbs, and then Emmanuel helped me string a length of pink fairy lights over the bed. He was almost giggling the whole time, but he didn't pry. I'm sure the people who work in Manor House could fill the Grand Canyon with the secrets they know about residents.

"I'm not going to offer you wine or any drink other than tea," I say. "Do you know why?" Of course she doesn't.

"Because I baked pot brownies and I'm hoping you'll agree to split one with me."

"Are you a dooper?" Sarah asks.

"The truth? I am, big-time."

Sarah laughs, shaking her head. "Well, I'll be. Me too! Have been since the 60s." She reaches into her bag and pulls out a leather pouch, waving it around. It must be her stash. "Great minds," she says.



Celebrating Thirty Years of Ten Forty A FREE 30th Birthday Party

For lesbians over forty and their friends

Saturday 7 October 2017 12.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Summer Hill Community Centre,
131 Smith Street, Summer Hill

Come for lunch and stay for a dazzling line up of talent, including singer/ songwriter Sue, storytellers, slide shows covering events over the past 30 years, photo displays, short performances and dancing ...

Please let Dorothy know you are coming

contact@olderdykes.org

Supported by



Annual General Meeting

5.30pm Saturday 25 November 2017

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street,
Haberfield

The first part of the meeting will be a discussion of the pros and cons of merging Ten Forty and Ten Forty Matrix Inc. (More information on this issue will be sent out on Contact in early November.)

All lesbians over 40 are welcome. However, only women who have been financial members of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. for three months prior to the AGM can vote or stand for election to the Ten Forty Matrix Management Committee.

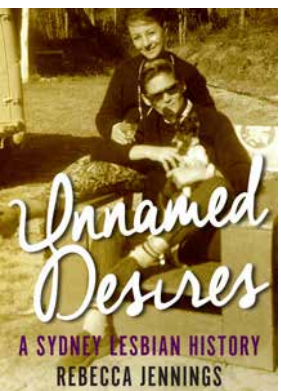
After the AGM, join us for a celebration dinner (subsidised @\$10 pp) at O's Kitchen, 147 Ramsay St, corner of Dalhousie St.

To attend the dinner RSVP to Sylvia
contact@olderdykes.org by 18 November.



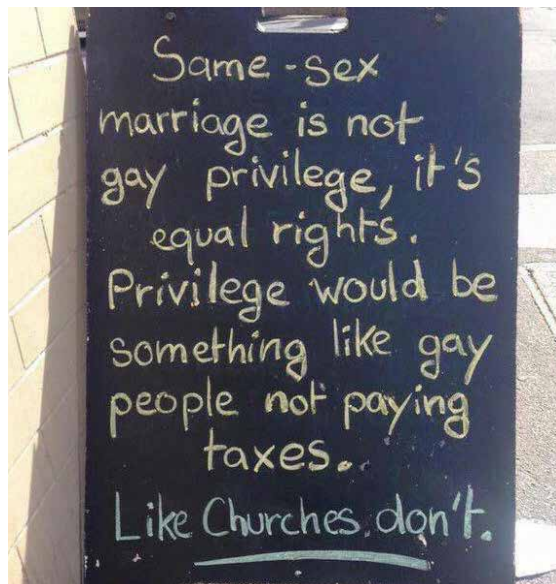
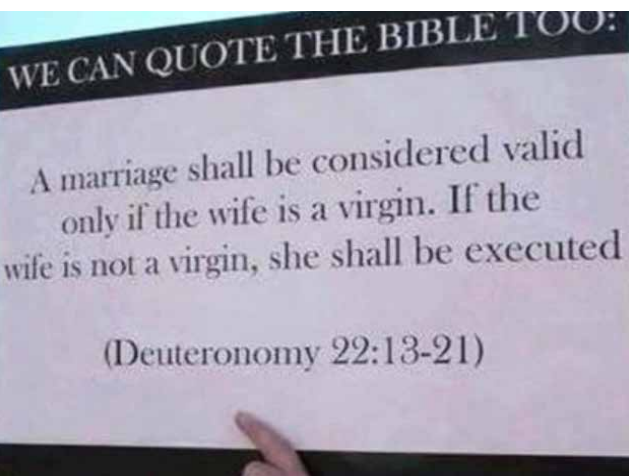
Unnamed Desires: A Sydney Lesbian History

By Rebecca Jennings



The first in-depth study of female same-sex desire in twentieth-century Australia, *Unnamed Desires* explores the compelling stories of ordinary women who struggled to build lives and express their love for other women in a hostile

society. Focusing on Sydney and country NSW in the mid-twentieth-century (1930-1978), it traces the development of lesbian culture, identities and material spaces from the interwar period to the first Mardi Gras. Drawing on major oral history interviews, conducted by the author, and archival research, this book offers fascinating new insights into the social and cultural history of mid-twentieth-century NSW.



The problem with biblical literalism ...

For instance, in the same passages in the bible where gay sex is condemned and punished, so is eating shrimp, crop comingling, eating rabbit, wearing linen and wool at the same time, and eating raw meat.

Exodus 21:7 talks about the 'rights' of a girl whose father wishes to sell her into slavery. She has to be treated with more dignity than a son sold into slavery would be. If the new owner wishes to have sex with her and is not satisfied, he must allow her father the chance to buy her back.

Leviticus 20:14 'If there is a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no immorality in your midst.

About Ten Forty

The first national conference of Ten Forty in the mid-eighties attracted politically active feminists of all hues and sexualities. However, over time it became obvious that a huge majority of women attending follow-up meetings and activities in Sydney were lesbian feminists.

Today Ten Forty and Older Dykes refer to the same group of women. We enjoy discussion 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.

Our website www.olderdykes.org encourages 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 the bi-monthly newsletter, email contact@olderdykes.org and ask to be put on our mailing list.

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/about_us/newsletters.html

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Diann, Gillian, Wendy, Kel

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Gillian

Money Management: Kel

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann,

Sandy

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy