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SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Bruce Reeves, Diane Williams, Deborah Bell

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Diane Williams 00:04

If you think queer nation is a bunch of radical queers think again. We're doctors, lawyers, teachers, parents, politicians, students, and radical queers. Queer nation is a group of people joining together to end discrimination in all its forms. Many people are interested in queer nation because queer nation addresses ideals and issues particular to them. Affinity Groups of queer nation include shop suburban homosexual Outreach Program, a program to be visibly queer places where lesbians and gays would not normally be visible, pissed people with immune system disorders. FYI Q fine, young queers, United Colors of Queer Nation CUPA trouble the eyes and ears of Montrose, and many, many more. We meet Tuesday nights at 7:30pm 1505 Commonwealth in Nevada at the Montrose palace. For more information call 5292969.

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Deborah Bell 01:03

Lesbians are discriminated against in housing and employment. And because how we act is more important than who we are. And if we get harassed, it's our problem. And if we get attacked, we provoked it. And if we raise our voices, we're flaunting ourselves. And if we enjoy sex, we're perverts. And if we have AIDS, we deserve it. And if we march with pride, we're recruiting children. And if we want or have children, or unfit parents, and if we stand up for our rights, we're overstepping our boundaries. And because we are forced constantly to question our own worth as human beings, and if we don't have a relationship with someone of the opposite sex, we haven't given it a chance. And if we have a relationship with someone of the same sex, it is not recognized. And we are told our love is not real. And if we come out of the closet, we're just going through a phase. And because Lesbian and Gay History is virtually absent from literature, and because homophobia is sanctioned by the Supreme Court, and for lots and lots of other reasons, we are part of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement. This is a special 1992 Gay and Lesbian Pride Week presentation of the one to three program. Thanks for joining us. Our theme this year is pride equals power. And we have to share with you some of the reasons that we feel that is

B Bruce Reeves 02:32

true. And numbers rave is one of your co anchors today. And I'm Deborah bell. And we'd like to thank Kay Harper and Jim Carper for being our engineering team today,

D Deborah Bell 02:41

the rhyming engineering team. And we're going to have music and interviews and lots more so stay tuned. And we're back. And this is a festive little neighborhood over in the Montrose area most of the year, but particularly during this time of the year. Houston Lesbian Gay Pride Week was founded in 1979 by a small group of Houston gay and lesbian activists to coordinate a formal program and celebration each year for the gay and lesbian community of Houston. Gay Lesbian Pride week through its mini cultural, athletic and educational events seeks to increase understanding of social, racial and sexual minorities into encourage acceptance of intolerance of alternative lifestyles. So that together, the citizens of the city of Houston in the state of Texas, may work in the spirit of peaceful cooperation to build a better society.

B Bruce Reeves 03:41

Now, Deborah, we've got to get this right here, because this is your emotion that passed and it's Lesbian Gay Pride Week this year. It's not gay, lesbian pride.

D Deborah Bell 03:48

Did I read it wrong? Well, it's hard to remember that. I did that make sure the word lesbian got included. And, you know, that was one of the changes that took place as as we grew as a community. And that is true that each year the order of the words lesbian, gay, are reversed. And so next year will will be gay. That's right. But as long as we understand that it is a week to be celebrated by lesbians, gays, transgender girls, bisexual and their allies. Then we've got we've got it all covered. Of course, Pride Week grew out of one of the more volunteer and emotional social movements in the nation's history when it emerged on a summer night 21 years ago, at a ransacked bar in New York City's Greenwich Village at 3am. On June 25 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn investigating alleged liquor violations until then writes regarded as routine harassment of bars catering to homosexuals had met with only token opposition. Within minutes however, more than 400 people had gathered in the nearby Sheridan Square and a riot erupted. More disturbances followed the next night. I minority Stroud it in mystery, fear separation that self depreciation and widespread looting decided it had had enough. It was the Lexington of the gay rights movement, a gathering of forces and the beginning of a tumultuous March. And there's a lot of different stories that you hear about the Stonewall riots and they're it's been elusive media accounts have been printed. They certainly were biased. And, you know, we don't really know the total reality I've I've talked to some people who say they were there and so they all have their own little perspective about it. The results of that night in New York City can be seen today if the National Gay and lesbian community grows in both influence and in stature in our society. Jack, you've been involved in Pride week almost since the day you first set foot in Houston. Yes, I

J Jack Valinski 06:06

got off that bus and they basically moved me right into that.

D Deborah Bell 06:10

They said there's a queer let's recruit him to be active. Jacqueline's gay, of course, is one of the co host of the Wallenstein program and is one of the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992. The other co chair is Carol Clark. And so I'm going to welcome both of you to this program. So what what year was that you first arrived in Houston

J Jack Valinski 06:36

night that I moved to Houston the day Kathy Whitmire was elected.

D Deborah Bell 06:40

Oh, hi. a momentous occasion. And so that was

J Jack Valinski 06:47

8192 81. Right at the end of 81.

D Deborah Bell 06:51

Okay, so that was really the first year of the parade. You had missed the parade that year. Right. So your first act activity was an 82. With the

J Jack Valinski 07:01

82. I sort of was just watching as a bystander and watching the reviewing stand and saw how it all worked.

D Deborah Bell 07:08

And what did you think of the Houston community?

J Jack Valinski 07:11

It was? Absolutely well see, I really didn't know any other community, I really came out at the same time. So it was an incredible experience to see all these gay and lesbian people. Of course, we just said gays back then we didn't say lesbians. But it was very incredible to see all

these people out there in a parade and then the rally, I think the rally actually was in 1000, California Street, where the maca Dory house is now be at people just got out there on the streets and had a good time. And there was some speeches and stuff like that. And then of course, later on spots Park thing happened. And that was just really incredible.

D Deborah Bell 07:44

And Carol, how long have you been involved in Pride Week activities?

♀ 07:48

Really, my second year

♀ 07:50

seems like longer

♀ 07:52

tell you how fast things can move in this community. I went to a meeting years ago, about more, you'll

J Jack Valinski 07:58

never forget, right?

♀ 08:02

Let's go to this meeting. And so I went to the meeting and they needed someone to chair the events or logistic committee. So I volunteered and two months later, I became acting co chair. Wow. The wrong meeting.

D Deborah Bell 08:21

Your life can change forever. But actually, by volunteering. I mean, you must have had an interest in what Pride Week was all about what what was the sort of things that inspired you to become to say, I want to do more than just stand on the sidelines and watch? Oh, well, I've

♀ 08:38

been here since 69. So I think I kind of grew with with the community. And I think it was just part of trying to give a little something back to the community. And I thought that this was a

good organization, I was involved in various other organizations. And so I just said, well, let's give this one a time. I think you kind of rotate around your energies, you know, sometimes you have a lot of energies and you go out there want to save the world the other time you want to hibernate for a while. And so just kind of in my community mode here.

 Deborah Bell 09:06

What sorts of other things Are you active in in the community?

 09:11

Well, I was quiet the only distinction of being the commissioner of both the men's and women's softball league. Kind of unique situation. So I basically I started with them for a number of years and went with the men's league for a couple of years and got them started and then moved on to the women's league for Commissioner for a couple of years there. And also just recently elected to the board of the Political Caucus and I actually worked number of years on various political campaigns I've worked on. Cathy with Meyers husband's campaign when he ran for city council So way back when

 Deborah Bell 09:49

and Jack, what other things are you involved with their sides Pride Week?

 Jack Valinski 09:54

Well, of course was KPFT. I've been involved in KPFT for 10 years now. And it It's just so different now. It's sort of like that episode of Night Court where they did a day court session, and everybody had different personalities. different personalities are gonna show up here because

 Bruce Reeves 10:10

mine still asleep. We're so

 Jack Valinski 10:13

used to doing night programming, especially Bruce doing late night programming here on campus, we've already

 Deborah Bell 10:18

had a bit of a conversation about some of the music that we might be playing today, and that there is a difference in all the senses in late night and daytime, and that some things might be

appropriate in the evening, good or not during the day. And, you know, we don't want to step on any toes or offend anyone by that sort of thing.

J Jack Valinski 10:41

But it's real nice to be able to have this forum to talk about Pride week during the day. So that people who are listening in the offices aren't who are in town who are not usually around can listen and about some of the things we talked about.

D Deborah Bell 10:53

Right. And we really need to express our appreciation for Cindy Friedman, who's traveling in Europe right now and won't be back until after Pride Week for allowing us to take this time on Wednesday 123.

B Bruce Reeves 11:06

And we'd like to take a short break right now we've sort of been talking about Pride Week and its history for a song called the Gay History rap. And we're not sure who did this song for us. Rapping huh, who's rapping it kind of floated down through the airwaves and wound up on a cassette at some point. But it's called the Gay History rap. And it's a little bit about the history of what happened at Stonewall in 1960. This but

D Deborah Bell 11:29

this version is

11:33

now that the nation is slung to the right, and more and more people have seen the light
murders and motions and a lot more fights sex and discuss instead of

B Bruce Reeves 11:43

rights, the Gay History rap. And, of course, we're here today at this special one to three program and to talk about the Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992 with our special guests, Jack Valinski, and Carol Clark, and Jack and Carol, maybe I can tell us a little bit about the organization, how it stands now and the changes that are gonna be coming about and resell. It's very

J Jack Valinski 12:06

easy. We've got tons of people helping us and we just show up once a once a month for a

meeting. It's a very grassroots organization, as most of them are in this community. In the years past, Pride week would sort of like as Ray Hill used to say it be a Phoenix, it would spring up in about February, and it started having meetings and then everything would get organized and it would be over and as soon as June hit the pride and the pride happened. Everything just sort of like died down again. In the past for four years, five years, I guess it was we're for your organization. Now. As soon as the parade stops, we're starting to play next year. In fact, we're already thinking about next year at this point, because most of the stuff is in motion now. It's a right now, Pride Week is under the Montrose Activity Center, which is a nonprofit organization. We are a subgroup that basically we just follow the IRS rules and regulations and we pay them a small fee for lawyers and stuff like that that they have for us. And then after that, after this Pride Week, what's going to happen is we're going to become our own organization, we've already got our 5013 C, and Mack wants to concentrate on building a community center. And we're going to concentrate on doing pride.

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Deborah Bell 13:23

And that reminds me that that the Montrose activity center is auctioning off our raffling off rather a truck and a motorcycle at the pride rally this Sunday. And so if anyone would be interested in buying a ticket for that they will be selling them at the rally site until you have a chance to win either a monster truck or is it the motorcycle?

J

Jack Valinski 13:47

Right? And if you're so inspired

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13:57

I'm not really sure that we're on the I'm hearing lots of skills in my mind in my phone

Ω

14:04

13 artists conducting a test of the emergency room comparisons. This is only a test

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Deborah Bell 14:23

Hello, okay. Wow. Every now and then things just get really interesting here and that Kermit the Frog coming on now.

Ω

14:32

A forest. You know, forests are home to lots of animals and they give us wood and they keep our water and air clean. Common Unfortunately, these days are a part of trouble. They're being threatened by development and people who don't treat them with respect. Yes. So find out

what you're trying to force Oh, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, DC 2036. Remember, more than threes?

15:02

Okay.

D Deborah Bell 15:04

We were not prepared for the test of the emergency broadcast guest. I think so I think we got an F on that one. But he run for the daytime. Mic, folks here.

15:19

We were. Well,

D Deborah Bell 15:21

you were you were talking. We were talking about Pride Week, and we were talking about that. It was under the mattress activity center. But now it's going to be its own organization. And are you in Carroll going to be co chairs forever? Or walking

J Jack Valinski 15:36

away? You're saying here? No, no, no, really?

D Deborah Bell 15:40

How does that happen? Because every year it's different folks that take positions of responsibility.

J Jack Valinski 15:46

The way it happens is that somewhere around September, August, September, so August is the general meeting. Yeah, yes, it changes from year to year exactly where it is. But somewhere in the fall, new co chairs are elected from the membership where which basically, to me, memories just show up for two meetings in a row. And new persons come and put it on. Well, this year, since Carol and myself and Brian Keefer are the new board of the new organization. We're going to sit down right after pride, we can talk about how we can make this more of a streamline. But we're always going to keep it open to communities, community criticism and praise or whatever, and then put in absolute activity and Pride Week is a community. It's not our organization,

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Deborah Bell 16:32

I think basically Jack and I would probably stay on the board for a year but possibly faulting the day to day operations to two new co chairs, right? Some structure and continuity. It's really striking when you tend to Pride week meeting, because you have the leather community, you have the names project, you have Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays. And so there is this diversity of organizations, people that come and represent themselves as individuals. But then people that also are already involved in the community and whatever particular organization they were interested in. I think that's also one

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17:10

of our strengths. Personally, I've met so much wonderful people that I don't think I ever would have had the opportunity to do because you would have to, to go to all these individual organizations to meet them where you can come to Pride Week, and you can meet everybody. And it's really,

J

Jack Valinski 17:27

you know, we had our parade meeting last week. And the diversity there was just incredible, and everybody was getting along and we're having a good time and rainbow tries to sneak in in his outfit. And of course, he can't do that.

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Deborah Bell 17:39

When a man and a blonde wig and a tutu comes in. It's kind of hard to not notice it. Of course rainbow the clown is an integral part of the parade every year usually gets his picture in the paper. We are honoring this year Larry binaries. And as a founder, the Founders Award and Larry was one of the people that contributed to the early years of Houston's galas, been Pride celebrations. He was among those who established the ongoing traditions and helped guide the planning committee to its vision of becoming a sophisticated year round organization. He lived in Houston for several years before returning to his native New Orleans. And he has been politically active and a frequent contributor to community projects in both cities. And he recently was appointed to the human relations advisory committee by the Mayor of New Orleans. So he'll be here to celebrate with hilarious

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Jack Valinski 18:39

fault that I'm involved in Ray Hill. Yes, Larry, everything's

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Deborah Bell 18:43

right here.

J Jack Valinski 18:45

Larry was a very much part of both galas been Political Caucus and the pride Committee. He was the one that got us in spots park into the fireworks and all that wonderful stuff. So we're very proud that he has started this organization got it going on its feet. So we want to honor him

D Deborah Bell 19:01

so we're gonna fight. Thank you. Thank you, Larry. Yeah, you're so what what has been going on So Bruce said he went ice skating last night? Yes, I did.

B Bruce Reeves 19:11

I didn't fall down. I made two rounds around the rink in my size 12 skates with my size 13 feet crammed into them because every time I've been to this place, they swear to me they own 13 skates but they're always out

D Deborah Bell 19:25

and how many other six foot five people are running around?

B Bruce Reeves 19:30

Well, but it was I made a couple of rounds before my back started hurting me and my brain convinced my body that it really didn't need to be on

D Deborah Bell 19:38

the ice. Now there is a regular group that goes ice skating or there is and

B Bruce Reeves 19:43

last night was in addition to being the official Pride event for IBM was one of their regular events the the lambda roller skating rink in conjunction with the Houston outdoor group and the chain gang Bicycle Club do this like every other week. And

D Deborah Bell 19:59

and they are Also give free skate lessons. So if someone's interested in doing ice skating with other gay and lesbian people, they can contact that group at 5236381.

B

Bruce Reeves 20:13

And I guess we should just take just a moment here just to clarify that. We did have an ABS test a few minutes ago and, and while I managed to screw it up in the engineering room, it was just a test. So don't panic.

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Deborah Bell 20:25

The only crisis that we have might people trying to function is day people on the radio. So what kind of things I know you've had to kind of like take the limo out and go from event to event as co chair. Remember, Jack

J

Jack Valinski 20:41

walked from one bed to another? No, there were some very great events. So one of them. One of the highlights was a town meeting on lesbian, gay and bisexual youth that happened at the First Unitarian church on Saturday. I think basically, these people are going to solve the problems of the world because they had it outlined and they're working on it. And it's really neat to see young people involved in the community and that was sponsored by hatch which is a Houston area teenage Coalition on homosexuality, smile Sexual Minority Youth Alliance league Alliance a boy Thank you system

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Deborah Bell 21:18

flakes. Acronyms we just love this

J

Jack Valinski 21:22

hates gay and lesbian switch where Houston I know that one Gaylor, which is the rice group and fine young queers, which is a an infinity group of queer nation. And that was really neat to have all these young people. And then the first time had been at a PFLAG meeting, which was also the Pride week meeting was wonderful. They had a number of people telling their stories, and that was at the Grace Lutheran Church and they meet every month. PFLAG as parents and friends of gays and lesbians. And there's just a number of neat things that happen all during the week. I went to the

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21:55

carnival, which is sponsored by the switchboard and I think they had a lineup for those who wanted to be on the dunking booth because it was about 98 I think Saturday and I think everybody was wanted to get on there so they can get wet. And the grindstone was pretty well I think always in the morning. It goes well in the afternoon. Again, it was a little hot, but just a little hot, a little hot there. Monday, I also went to the as is play which is sponsored by the gay and lesbians of rice and it was really neat. It was way downtown and there's kind of no hope



22:33

I never been down there before you know and it's it's kind of part of it's the little stage area that they've kind of made up and the other part of is kind of an empty warehouse and then with little place for refreshments areas and that continues continues it did is was last night in fact it was only two tonight and Thursday night. We want to remind you, there are two things on for this evening there is at the Montrose Palace, the late lesbian gay rights lobbyists in the AIDS Ecoli league are having an open discussion as at 7pm to nine and also one event that did not get on the calendar is an open house by the neighborhood police department here at 808 Westheimer. Please stop by those from one to 9pm tonight and say hello to our neighborhood police personnel.



Deborah Bell 23:22

And of course that used to be the Wildenstein bookstore. So kind of interesting that now it was well now now, not in an official way. We do have word that the streets in downtown Houston are closed because there is an emergency situation with a woman with a gun at City Hall who is demanding to see the mayor. And I don't know what that's about. Other than that, maybe you should avoid the downtown area. Certainly don't go to City Hall. I tell you if she's a woman with PMS and a gun, we're in trouble.



Jack Valinski 23:54

And as far as we know, it's not coronation. Yeah, so well. I don't think actually speaking of the mayor on Friday night there's an open invitation to the mayor's house, which did not get on the calendar either. It's a sponsored event by the AIDS equity league. And that happens at the corner of River Oaks and San Philippi. And there will be Valley Park you just



Deborah Bell 24:14

go through the Rose Garden and there is a donation requested to help the AIDS equity league but Elise and Bob have opened their home to the community and invite you to come and have some hors d'oeuvres with them. Well let's let's go to a quick break and then we'll return with more of the calendar for Pride Week.