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Wed, Mar 22, 2023 1:57PM 38:33

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay men's chorus, call, concert, houston, bisexual, tickets, gay, song, friends, switchboard, irving berlin, lesbian, folks, work, music, love, wonderful, churches, good, part

## SPEAKERS

Michelle, Gigi, Jimmy Carper

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00:01

So and around the country and, and I think it's his Well, it's historical that all 50 states that our movement has matured enough, including the gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender movement, that that we can have something happening in the capital of every state. And then yeah, during the same timeframe to focus back on stages, that's where the issue, you know, we each each state has their own specific, particular issues that we need to work on. And that we need to come back home and I just got actually got back from Central New York, I was speaking at a gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender student conference at Colgate and I was so moved by the activist there. And the transgender activist, the youth activist them, some of them are the only person that is out. Well,



Gigi 01:02

I think the other wonderful thing about this movement is that it's it's so inclusive, it's the first movement of this magnitude that includes guys lesbians by transgendered, everybody. Yeah.



01:17

And our allies. Uh huh. Yeah,



Michelle 01:19

yeah. Well, my sister is coming up to you know, she is taking that week off, we're gonna go up to San Antonio have some fun. And then she says, Oh, and you know, I get Sunday off. So I can go to Austin and go to that rally with you. That's gonna be really neat to have her



Gigi 01:33

— up there Sisters of Reverend.

M

Michelle 01:35

Minister. So that's why she wasn't gonna be able to make it at first, you know, Sunday and all that. But she got Sunday off and said, Hey, now I can come with you. And we kind of, you know, of course, made the offer, if you want to come, that'd be great, but didn't push it. And she's the one who said, hey, I can tell him great, what we're working on getting on my mother to go. So that's,

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you know, what, the communities of faith are really coming? Well, they've been out. But there's so much good work being done in the communities of faith. With regards to our allies, and people coming out of the closet that are in leadership positions in the synagogues and the churches, and

M

Michelle 02:17

well, it's really becoming a big issue. Now, in all the churches, what are they going to do? You know, our church just recently voted to be to become open and affirming, openly open and affirming, so to speak, we've always had this sort of under tone of being gay friendly, but never been overt. And never really spoken about it. And now we finally decided to do this. And it's been, you know, everyone's Whoa, what's this gonna do to the church? What's it gonna do the church, attendance has never been higher, you know, it's gone up and everybody and we're getting, you know, new ministers or old Minister retired. And so the music of Director of Music. And all the people who have been applying for the job said, One thing they really liked, was that we were being open and affirming. And that is, you know, the top priority for churches, churches, and synagogues. And all of the houses of faith these days is what to do with the gay issue kind of thing. And, and it's really neat to see who's on our side, you know, who's who's backing up, you know, the gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgendered rights and saying, we have to do this because this is the right thing to do. And the truth will

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03:27

set you free. Exactly, exactly. Yeah, I'm, I'm more and more amazed at Well, I think it's why the right wing, the religious right, is so worried, worried their back is against the wall and change is happening, and they can't really stop it. So they're pulling out. They're pulling out all stops, and it's

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Gigi 03:54

BS. Oh, wow, that is so bad.

M

Michelle 04:01

Well, because you for the longest time, the only people who were talking about homosexuality were the ones who are condemning it. And now, other people and I think part of it too, is some of the people in again, this was an issue in our church, you know, they're saying, Well, why do we have to say we're gay friendly? You know, everybody knows we're gay friendly. And, you know, I kind of had to stand up and say, Hello, people. You guys don't know what's really out there in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Okay, the queer community, he'll just say it that way. It's easier. The unspoken assumption is if somebody you know, churches are homophobic unless proven otherwise. Yeah. And so now a lot of these churches are standing up and saying we are not homophobic, and we don't think homophobia is right. And so it's it's it's really I like that, you know, I'm really excited by that. And yeah,

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04:47

the ghastly murders and violent deaths like we there's just been another one Billy Jack Gaither, I think in Alabama. I mean, the Matthew Shepard and that you James, James Byrd I mean people, the outrageousness of that and then people saying I did it because they were, you know, black or I did it because they were gay is that people won't stand for that anymore. They just it's not no wrong. And that the crossover it's, it's it's all of us, all of us that are disenfranchised, and that being pitted against each other doesn't do anybody any good and that we have to remember that it's all of us. So it's not just about being gay, it's just some people that are gay are also people of color, or they're also homeless or, you know, yeah, Biden, gay and bisexual, and transgender people in every population, and then all the issues we have to we have to keep them all. All in mind.

G

Gigi 05:50

I have a question for you. Yeah. I don't know if you can answer this or not. Has anybody kind of tried to get an estimate on the total number coming out for EBh week? All across the country. I know, it's gonna be huge. It's

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06:10

what I know, I have. This is all this is like, from this is a memo I pulled out a memo that I got as a board member about, and this is, well, it's from February 22. So it's old but as of February 22, there was 150 events already planned in 30 states. Wow. Now that that's like, what, three weeks ago Yeah, and and it's just

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Gigi 06:40

since then, like covered I

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06:43

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actually just go to the website because it's updated every day. find out what's happening in every state is WWW dot equality begins@home.org that's all one word. Equality begins at home is one word no spaces and that people can check in with every single state Puerto Rico and District of Colombia and bisexual have a particular by net USA has particular little spin it's by phobia makes me blue. bisexuals are wearing blue and they've got little buttons and stuff and I just you know on the the by net leaders list she she you may have seen this. Somebody in Nebraska is there's a lot of high visibility of bisexuals in Nebraska. And the by net people in Nebraska got a call from a bisexual in high school who wanted bisexual makes me blue buttons and stuff because of their high school they were going to do inequality begins at home action.



07:46

Oh, you don't care about school?



07:49

I think one of the coolest thing is in Connecticut. The State of Connecticut at the top of the Capitol dome they're going to fly the rainbow flag yeah me I love it. Yeah,



08:05

I don't think we'll be doing that here in Texas but



Gigi 08:08

hey, I'll push for it. Let's get those colors up there. That would be neat. Well I'm getting the signal from Jimmy our producer wrap it up here because we've got the Gay Men's Chorus waiting outside come in.



08:27

Girls have gotta get on there and saying oh so thank you for inviting me yeah,



08:35

thank you for being here. Yeah



Gigi 08:36

thanks for joining Yes sir. Good to talk to you



Timmy Carter 08:40

 Jimmy Carper 00:40

time just flew didn't



08:44

flew honey.



Gigi 08:45

It always does on this show.



08:47

We're with attitude you rock have a great equality begins at home. And we will talk again. Okay, okay. Love ya love, Vijay by Tc by.



Jimmy Carper 09:02

And before we bring Tony from the Gay Men's Chorus out we would like you to hear a little bit of what they sound like. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We'll be back and check the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston from their album to friends and to life that was Michael Collins. Everything possible beautiful song Beautiful song. Tony is here to tell us about or to talk about chat about the upcoming stuff. With the Gay Men's Chorus. I know you just had a fundraiser that we pitch every week. Thank you very much for that it was pricey for me.



10:06

Well, we understand. No, we just had silent moon, our annual fundraising February dinner and it went very well. Thank you for everyone who came out and get a repose restaurants. A great place then it's a wonderful place. Best food. Yes. Yes, I feel sorry, folks, but the veal was very good. I know little lake or wherever they



Jimmy Carper 10:31

know. You go to fundraisers where they have like, was this a sit down or was this?



10:37

This was a sit down? Yeah. Awesome. Oh, yeah.



Jimmy Carper 10:40

J Jimmy Carper 10:40

They have the best buffets to never been there. It's amazing. No, they

♂ 10:47

are wonderful people. We love going there. And we urge everyone to go there. Sure. And our advertisers support us. You

J Jimmy Carper 10:54

got it. You got it

♂ 10:55

and say hi to Mike. Very nice. No, not one of us.

J Jimmy Carper 11:04

Well, I'm glad that went well.

♂ 11:05

Yeah, it went very well. We're just saying our fundraising and grant writing has been going very well. This year. We've been very successful on all fronts. Perfect. Our March concert is being underwritten in part by the John Stephen kelut Foundation. Good. Our local groups. Yes.

J Jimmy Carper 11:25

John Kelly is such a nice guy. He is he's very,

♂ 11:27

he's been very good to us over the years. And we're very happy that we have such a strong relationship with them. Yeah, no kid, and especially his support for this concert has been great.

J Jimmy Carper 11:39

He's got a fantastic support for the entire community.

♂ 11:43

Oh, yeah. Yeah. No. More people like him. Yeah, no kidding.

J Jimmy Carper 11:46

No kidding. So tell me about the concert. Okay.

11:50

Now firstly, important facts. And I've even got the little you can't see it. I know this. Because I knew I'd forget most of it, I'm Corrado. Morning, folks. I'm getting old. Yes. Yeah, I'm not the only one right.

J Jimmy Carper 12:08

I've been doing this for years. Yeah, no. You should see me on Sunday when I get up.

12:19

Well, this concert is called. I write the songs. It has nothing nothing repeat to do with Barry Manilow? Oh, good. I'd like to stress that. It will be a once again at the Kaplan Theatre of the Jewish Community Center. Yeah, that's at 5601 South Breezewood. It's really easy to get there. Just take 610 South Pass Galleria get on South braids wouldn't just hit West. Okay. Yeah, it's a big complex. Oh, goodness. Yeah. Oh, yeah. Big thing there real nice people out there. It's been held Saturday, March 27, and 8pm. And Sunday, March 28. At 3pm. Tickets, we've got a whole range of prices. You can call box office tickets at one 800 494 Ti x s. And you can get tickets in advance from them through your credit card, or plastic. For \$13 and \$17. Depends on where you want to set. You can also buy from course members, and you can buy tickets at the door, if you want. Because most about a lot of people are going oh yeah, we get lot of people at the door. So don't worry about well, we would like to get to the point where we have to turn people away from the darkness. Every seats gone, folks. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 13:37

Well, you know, I've been to Gay Men's Chorus concerts where there weren't very many empty seats. Oh, yeah. It's

13:43

been attendance. It's really been picking up over the years. It's perfect Christmas, our first concert over at JCC, which we said, Okay, we're outside the Montrose and new venue the whole bit what's going to happen? We had record Christmas attendance. Good. So we were very happy to see that. And we had also increased our ticket fees. So Well, yeah. didn't scare anybody off. Yeah.

J

Jimmy Carper 14:08

Well, what I like, what I like about your concerts is that you have one in the evening and one in the afternoon. Because if you can get them coming and going, Oh, yeah.

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14:18

And of course then if you really liked the Saturday concert, you can come back Sunday. There you go. You can't do that. If you wrote like the Sunday, but then you can come to the next one. And

J

Jimmy Carper 14:27

I like to go to the Saturday concert so I can come on Saturday night and tell everybody how wonderful it was so that they can be there on Sunday afternoon.

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14:36

Oh, yeah, we got some tickets for you, Jimmy. And we do have some tickets for your listeners with you. So you'll be able to call in later on about that. But this concert is a much lighter one than some of the others. Obviously it's not Christmas music. Whatever you think of Christmas for us like this is focusing on the music of six girls. Rate composers of the last 200 years, starting with Franz Schubert, who was arguably gay. Well, you never know. Well, we know he didn't get married. Did I possibly have syphilis? And he was real cute. He was real. Yeah. Yes. Real cute when he kind of. He hung out with all of the queens. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. So yeah. He was really so yes, yes. But we're also doing Oh, just a lot of Irving Berlin, who was very straight and loved to play Pina ocho, apparently, George Gershwin, who, there's all kinds of stories, rumors and things like that. Lenny Bernstein? Garcia. We don't even have to say that. Who else we got? Oh, of course. Aaron Copland. Yeah. It's a great American composer. Yes, we'd like our Americans. And to top it all off. Duke Ellington. Yes. Yeah. Music for music. So it's everything from the German art song to American jazz and pop this time around. That's nice. So it should be should be kind of exciting. Okay. Yeah. Yeah. A toe tag.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:13

But that's got special costumes and stuff.

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16:16

We're still working? Well, we've got

J

Jimmy Carper 16:19

— you know, there's more and more of the members doing things,



16:24

what we call a choral geography. We didn't invent it ourselves. We used to be if you remember us years and years ago, the sights on B corpse. Yeah, yes. Let's just stand up there. No tuxedos. There's nothing wrong with that. Of course, it's do it and we do part of it like that. But we will be doing the white glove and cane routine. Well, well. Yeah. So we're working on that. Now. There's any number of solos duets,



J Jimmy Carper 16:57

so just never keep my gloves? white gloves clean?



17:01

Oh, yeah, we're gonna see what these are like, and how many of us can put on our gloves about it falling off the risers? But no, it should be a good one. It's all love. Oh, big name, standard tune. So we're doing a lot from well, not a lot. But we're doing a bunch from West Side Story, of course, and it gets Stephen Sondheim. Yeah, of course, if you have if you haven't read the Seacrest biography of Sondheim, the one that came out last year. It's very good. Make a plug for that. Okay. Yeah. And of Ellington's everything from take the A train. Oh, Copeland. It's mostly American folk songs. Yeah. So everybody. I know that song. Shall we gather by the river? Oh, yeah. So it's, yeah, it's gonna be one of those concerts where people I think are gonna want to either hum along or tap their feet.



J Jimmy Carper 17:56

When I kind of know the song. Yeah, yeah. It's perfect.



17:59

The Irving Berlin medley, which we've been calling the Irving Berlin epic because it does.



J Jimmy Carper 18:06

15 things. Oh, yeah.



18:08

are one of our singers in residence. Charles Baker has arranged a wonderful collection. It it does run probably for about 1520 minutes. Good. But he jammed just about every famous Irving Berlin song I can think of into this. Oh, that's great. Yeah. Oh, it's it's an amazing,

amazing piece.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:32

How has the chorus changed now that you have like, a, like a permanent conductor? Not I don't mean permanent. But I mean, you know, it's a paid staff because he gets paid

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18:42

step position. We have Dr. Dr. J. David favor. Talking to Jay David Faber. Febe. Are you Hi, Dave, if you're listening. Dave's musicianship is has brought the chorus to just new levels. It's amazing, for example, just what we're doing with the Schubert, which were singing three or four pieces in German, yes. And we're afraid when we're

J

Jimmy Carper 19:13

thinking, that's something that's difficult to

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19:17

but there's so much enthusiasm coming from him and so much musicianship that the course has fallen in love with the songs Oh, good. But, like say, ever since he's come on board. Oh, our musical quality I think has improved tremendously. Of course, we did our gig with Eastern Symphony chorus. As last May so almost a year ago now. We're looking at doing some more things possibly big time in the future.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:50

Big things planned for Pride Week. Very big

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19:53

things for Pride Week. Let's get a plug in for that one. On mark your calendars for this one. Folks, June the 19th we will be Juneteenth. Very good. Okay. Yeah. A few of us. Come on that one. Yeah. June the 19th. We will be at the Cullen Theatre of the Wortham center. You know that big thing where they do the operas. For one show only starting at 7pm. It's one show only called it happened in the theater because it will be us and seven other courses. Wow. Oh, yeah. It's going to be Wagnerian.

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20:36

Lunch. Yeah.



20:38

No, it should. It should be great. We're we're tying down. Oh, everybody from New Orleans Kamens course, the women's course of Dallas, they're going to send the contingent down. Oh, good. Austin, should be coming for worth some of the men from Dallas, and a couple of other local courses. So as far as it looks, everything is it go. And part of the excitement with this one outside of just being able to see, and here's how many different groups we will have all the women from all the courses doing one or two songs together. All the men will then combine and do one or two songs and then everyone. So who knows, we might be looking at two to 300 singers times, finally doing one big number. So that's June 19, or 7pm. Tickets will go on sale. So probably sometime in May. But you can always be a season subscriber a little bit late now. But oh,



J Jimmy Carper 21:41

I didn't know you had subscriptions?



21:43

Yes, yes. We started. This actually was our first year, first big year for us season subscriptions. And it's gone over very well. We'll be sending out our season brochures probably come now sometime early August. We hope depending on timing and stuff like that contracts must be written and stuff like that. But yeah, we urge everyone to sign up early for tickets. Season subscribers do get the best tickets. Oh, yeah. And the best seats go fast. Yeah. That's it, putting himself here together sitting



G Gigi 22:28

here listening and yeah. So do you have anything going for EBI tweak in the course, which is March 2023, the 27th, Thursday, something like that?



22:46

Well, it's kind of a bad timing for us. Since our since a cancer it is the 27th and 28th. So we'll be in Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals for the final sectional. So the week before we actually put on the show is one of our incredibly intensive weeks. Things like has anybody called a photographer? Has anybody made arrangements for videotaping, or all the contract signed? Do we have permission to do this then? So it looks as much as we'd like to do more community things like that, especially at that time, it's just, it just gets impossible. We we ended up turning down a lot of community appearances, just because we don't have enough advance warning on it. We do need weeks and weeks just to be able to put on our schedule. There's just too much going on.



00:00:22:41



GIGI 23:41

What Where do you think the Gay Men's course is going in the near future? It sounds like it's really growing in leaps and bounds.



23:49

We've been real happy with that. As a matter of fact, no pun intended, but we are going in July of the year. 2000. So next year to San Jose, California. Oh, wow. Well, San Jose, what's happening is it's the international Gala, Choral Festival. Gay and Lesbian courses from around the world.



Jimmy Carper 24:13

I read about that. Oh, yeah. It's



24:14

very cool. Yeah. We went to Tampa back in 96. And everybody loved it. We're hoping to take all the course members so maybe 40 to 50 guys



Jimmy Carper 24:26

with us need fundraisers for that?



24:28

Oh, yeah. Well love it. We're we're gonna be talking about that some next week at our board meeting Exactly. How we're gonna do the money thing. Yeah. But we ended up putting four people together in a room and stuff like that. But it's it's a lot of fun because you get to hear, like say, Well well, maybe you don't want to but we're looking at the minimum 6000 gay, lesbian, transgender friends bisexual everything. All in one city for eight days. Wow. There's a very good chance we could tap out at 10,000. Wow performers and their friends there, and lovers and patrons and everybody else. So



Jimmy Carper 25:13

yeah, but this these things, you get new material brand new material new. So yeah,



25:19

there's always Commission's songs. And it's a matter of fact, we've already got there's so many courses who wanted to perform this time around normally everybody performed, but they share they said, Well, if everybody performed, we'd be there for probably a month, and it just

wouldn't work. So for the eight days, they had to cut down the number of performances, and we have a slot. Hey, yes, Houston will be represented internationally. San Jose, that's wonderful. And it will bring back pictures good. No, it's a very, very neat event.

J

Jimmy Carper 25:51

Yes. Yeah. And I hope you get lots of press on this. Yeah. Then I, I'm the one. I'm the one over the computer saying, Hey, how come we don't hear about the chorus? It is it's true. I don't know why you don't get the get recognition and the guy presses as much as you should.

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26:12

Well, that's something that we've been discussing to on our end. We appreciate all the publicity we can get from any one of Houston Chronicle. It's been wonderful. He's impressed has been very good. Texas triangle. Yeah. And even this week in Texas, had been very good. And of course, after our wonderful

J

Jimmy Carper 26:36

you know, it's this is

G

Gigi 26:38

clear music.

J

Jimmy Carper 26:40

That, but you are ambassadors to the straight world? Yes. Because you have done it. We made a big deal about about

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26:49

the Northwoods. Presbyterian. Yeah, just the most incredible thing. Yeah. And we'd like to do more. It's community outreach. When it comes down to, the more we can do, maybe the choral America festivals and things like that. Like say it's it's music, it's a message.

J

Jimmy Carper 27:09

Sure. It's wonderful entertainment. So how about if we give away some tickets here? Okay. Okay, I've got Well, I think what I thought we'd do is end up the interview. And I put on a piece of music from two friends into life, and the first caller to call in after we start the music. gets tickets. Okay. That sounds it sounds good.



27:39

Tickets will be old for Sunday. And, yeah, I think that sounds good. A pair of tickets. Yeah. Yeah. Okay.



J Jimmy Carper 27:48

Got it. Got it. So let's give the information once again, about the the



27:53

Okay, once again, this is I write the songs, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston at the Kaplan Theatre of the Jewish Community Center. Saturday, March 27. At 8pm. Sunday, March 28, at 3pm for tickets called Box Office tickets at one 800 494 Ti access. If you need more information, you can always go to the courses webpage, www dot GMCH dot o RG that's very pretty. You can see pictures of all of us and put names to faces and stuff. We don't run a dating service.



J Jimmy Carper 28:36

Well, I'm excited about this. And I want to thank you Tony for coming on. And thanks for having me. And like Like we said, Folks, the first caller, when that music starts gets a pair of tickets to that concert. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. Coming up is the gay switchboard gay and lesbian switchboard Houston with some exciting news about what's going on with them. Then the news with big Ryan Michelle, but right now



29:13

Whoo. Yeah, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston rhythm of life, from their CD to friends and to life. And yes, we have a winner on those tickets. But we've got other pairs to give away in the coming week. So maybe in the second half of the show. Who knows? listen in and find out right now we've got the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston right here. Right here in our studio, folks. Yes, indeedy. All the mics are on. Yeah, they're



G Gigi 29:43

online. Yeah. Let's introduce y'all. Yeah.



29:49

Well, my name is Jude and I'm with that, I guess out of the three of us here. I'm the only one who's actually doing volunteering currently, and I've been there for five years now. Oh, wow.

I'm trying to get Steve, a good friend of mine and his boyfriend Alex involved in the next training course which is scheduled. Not what is it this Friday and Saturday, but the next which will be for the 12th and the 13th.

J Jimmy Carper 30:14

Okay, okay. Hold on there. Now, when does that again? Okay, again,

♂ 30:18

it's gonna be next Friday and Saturday, the March the 12th and the 13th. That's Friday

J Jimmy Carper 30:25

night and Saturday. And how do people sign up?

♂ 30:29

Well, you can call this number, please have a pencil and paper handy. And you can download 713-529-3211. And you can leave a message or here's another number. And this is a direct contact with the person you may reach a on a recording. There's a recording. And you can most likely speak to direct person Evelyn, or you may reach her recording and her numbers Area code 713-523-4390.

J Jimmy Carper 31:04

That's cool. Well, people do have their pencils, because normally we're doing the news right now. And they're used to having pencils and papers handy. What's been going on with the switchboard? Well,

♂ 31:17

I think we're trying to concentrate on getting a large recruitment. And this is my first time. So if I stutter, please forgive me. But we're trying to get a large group this time to participate in the training and things are going well, the signup sheet looks like it's an array, maybe 15 to 20. And hopefully, we'll reach a lot of people to the radio, and we're trying a buddy system, actually, also we're trying to get volunteers to promote their friends. You know, whoever when they know to become involved in this way. I have two guests here with me.

J Jimmy Carper 31:51

Well, the more people involved, the more hours you're open



31:57

Exactly. Right now we're limited to the hours that were open. And like you said, Jamie's because the amount of staff that we have, the more staff we have, the more hours that we'll be able to cover. And believe me, we have



J Jimmy Carper 32:11

what's what's being covered right now,



32:14

the hours pretty much are are set to 7pm to 10pm. And that's from Monday to Friday, like to try to get staff to where we can go back to where we were, which was probably about five years ago, to have weekend hours. As



J Jimmy Carper 32:31

a matter of fact, I just talked to someone this afternoon, who wants to volunteer for Sunday. Wonderful. So, you know, very soon we'll be able to do that. And with a new class, we might get Saturday. Although Saturday is a tough day, to have people on the switchboard, because it's Saturday.



32:56

They have their own plans. But we do get calls from some people who request Saturdays. And it's been difficult in the past because what the way the curriculum is set is that you have to, it's required that someone who has done the training like myself be able to sit with them, right. So the fewer facilitators that we have and the people who have experience, you know, the less hours that we have to train them. Yeah, yeah, maybe.



J Jimmy Carper 33:23

And I think that's what we want to get on with this switchboard to of course, everybody knows that. But that we that's what we want to get across the people that when you call up you're not going to talk to someone who doesn't know what they're talking about or can't find out things for you because there will be experience there either directly on the phone or the person sitting next to them. Exactly. Exactly. Why did you join the switchboard?



33:47

Well, I enjoy back and like I said five years ago, I think it's my five years ago to try to see if I could find a boyfriend

J

Jimmy Carper 33:58

that's honest and a lot of people join just for that reason.

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34:03

It didn't work but I did make a lot of friends and it served the purpose as far as a social outlets social outlet, so it did serve that purpose.

J

Jimmy Carper 34:16

You don't live in Houston.

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34:18

Do you know I do not. I live in Brevard County in a town called out and so I'll commute back and forth. But I work in Houston and I volunteer and I play and go school so I do a large part of my my day activities here in Houston.

J

Jimmy Carper 34:31

Yeah. What have you really gotten out of the switchboard?

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34:36

I've made quite a bit of friends. And I've, personally I like to try to see if I can work toward I guess a career of maybe counseling. So I've received a lot of reward back by helping the community helping those who have called not just for referrals, but those who just want to talk or those who just want to pay for someone to listen, and maybe contribute some type of information or advice. We're not licensed counselors. But we if they ask us, you know what our opinions are, then by all means we're able to convey it to them. And that's the reward that I've received mostly

J

Jimmy Carper 35:17

and try to give options. Exactly. Yeah, yeah, those, those are the most rewarding calls. And lots of times you don't know if, if how, how the outcome is, after you've talked to somebody for an hour or two hours or three hours, even, you know, depending on the call Exactly. From experience. Sure. And, but just to know that that person may be has changed their mind from suicide, or from leaving home without a place to go, or, you know, something bad to turn that turn that around a little bit? Or even, you know, I've had calls from, from guys, women who are having fights with their lovers. You know, what can I do? You know, he's doing this, he's

doing that, you know, we I guess we forget, we think that all of the counseling calls may be just somebody coming out. But there's all kinds of domestic problems that we have, have had parallel the street community. Exactly. And where do you go for those answers? That the minute you call crisis hotline, and well, I'm not one to pick out crisis hotline, because they've been very, very nice, but, you know, call some other and say, it's the same sex thing. And then people have a whole different perspective. They don't they don't realize that this is serious stuff.



36:47

Exactly. We received calls where we had mentioned, well, have you have you ever thought about calling crisis helpline or we can get a number? And they said, Well, I just called them they gave me your number. And it was the same scenario that what you said lots of times he said, it's the same gender, same sex and so we pretty much go from there. Yeah, yeah. And it's not life threatening, they're not suicidal, or if they are, then you know, we can still work but



Jimmy Carper 37:12

they will know they can get validation.



37:16

We try to utilize whatever resource resources we have, like the crisis hotline and other the Montrose counseling.



Jimmy Carper 37:24

Well, people are going to join because they want to do that. And because maybe they want some more social things in their life. So what does the switchboard provide socially for its members?



37:37

Well, I'm glad you asked that. Usually, and it is this scheduled for this. This training course also week after or sometime after we try to have a bar tour. The reason for that is to get the new volunteers who may not be familiar with the community or maybe with the bars because a large part of the calls that we receive all referrals DeMars lots of times there are men and women who come in for the weekend, or come in for a few days and they wouldn't know where they can go eat, they wouldn't know where they can have some coffee, they want to know where they can go to a bar and just have a drink with nice guys running



Jimmy Carper 38:15

and people wondering, well, what does it look like inside what kind of people go there? Exactly.

And if it's, you know, if I take that call and it's a woman I don't know if that I don't go to bars anyway, but I certainly don't go to women's bars that often so I don't know. And he