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SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Jack Valinski, Mary Helen Merzbacher



00:00

Meet me



Jack Valinski 00:12

for me, from Pacifica as KPFT in Houston, this is lesbian gay voices a shelf one about the game lesbian community. Welcome to the January 27 edition of this show. I'm Jack Valinski. And



Mary Helen Merzbacher 00:27

I'm Mary Helen Merzbacher.



Jack Valinski 00:28

And we're here to bring you the post marathon radio show. So we have a lot of things to talk about this evening. And we won't be doing any pitching.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 00:39

Thank goodness. Yes,



Jack Valinski 00:40

yes, we certainly do want to thank everybody that pledged to this show and to every show here on KPFT. It's probably been one of the most successful marathons here at KPFT. And we thank our listeners that by far

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 00:53

the most successful in a long, long time. And, you know, do in in large part by the listeners of lesbian and gay voices. We thank you. On tonight's program, Diane Hardy Garcia will be joining us. She's the Executive Director of the lesbian and gay rights lobby of Texas. We'll be talking about this year's legislative session. She was recently featured on the January 25 edition of primetime talking about hate crimes in Texas. Maybe you caught that one. So she'll be with us here tonight on lesbian and gay voices.

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Jack Valinski 01:27

Very special feature tonight, we're going to be doing a full hour of cool music. And I think we probably have one of the best music persons here to do that. Would you know who that is? I thought, what's her name? What's her name? Right. Mary Helen, we'll be featuring lots of different types of music.

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 01:43

Thanks, I hope you'll enjoy it. We'll be featuring Fred small who's coming to town and some other people that I'm sure you'll recognize in some new artists.

J

Jack Valinski 01:53

Yes. And not everybody realizes how important music is to our community and to the station as a whole because it really is sort of the arts and the arts and all that stuff sort of glues us keeps us together. It's sort of a, you know, we can do all that political stuff. But music also sort of has its own sort of way of bringing that savage beast in. You don't? Yes, it does. And also tonight, we will be having news wrap from this way out the new segments. And of course, we have Suzanne Anderson who's going to be speaking out.

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Suzanne Anderson 02:25

Good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices. Well, if you've seen the Washington blade where there's a picture of Moody's little sister, and it's kind of an interesting interview they have fortunately and you've probably already heard this, she wouldn't vote for her brother if he ran for anything. But regardless pick up a copy of the blade and see what she's all about. Cleveland, Ohio, the Cleveland Heights city council unanimously voted on January the third to add sexual orientation as a protected category under existing anti discrimination ordinances governing housing, city contracts and city employment. In addition, the council updated a 1982 ordinance, which protects city workers from job discrimination based on sexual preference. The term sexual orientation will replace the term sexual preference in the existing artist ordinance. And in Olympia, Washington, the Olympia Washington City Council extended benefits to the domestic partners of city employees. Now domestic partners are both gay and heterosexual city employees can enjoy the same benefits including health insurance as married spouses of employees. In Denver, a group of gay

employees of the city and county of Denver petitioned the local government to change a personnel route ruling so that they may use their sick leave to take care of domestic partners. And there's also our article this in this issue of the blade about its headline lesbian runs for Houston City Council. And they're talking about our own and nice Parker, who I think did ran a terrific race and gave a wonderful showing that she got more votes. She was came in third and got more votes than the next five people contending combined. She also got a call from Barbara Boxer, wishing her well and congratulating her on her campaign. Lawrence burner 54 and American with AIDS who went public with his condition to try to promote AIDS awareness in Japan died Wednesday in Tokyo. Last year, Bernard became one of the few people with AIDS virus in Japan to publicly announce his condition. discrimination against people with HIV remains common in in Japan. He told an interviewer last year that his boss tried to fire him after he announced that he had a bird came to Japan in 1984. After working as a volunteer, an AIDS counselor in the San Francisco at the lesbian and gay counseling agency in Boston, one man's HIV infection over a decade ago is giving scientists their first evidence of safety have an AIDS vaccine that has been considered too dangerous for people. It's a kind of unintended natural experiment, the man caught and genetically weakened form of the AIDS virus. Typically, people fall ill within 10 years of contracting HIV. This man 44 appears to be perfectly healthy at least 12 years after being infected. The study is the first to show that long term HIV survival may clearly result from catching a crippled version of the virus. The unique case was described in the New England Journal of Medicine. Giving dead fragments of the virus does not appear to stimulate the body enough to ward off infection, yet giving a weakened but live virus called the attempt at attention attention weighted vaccine is considered too risky because of its chances that it will cause HIV. In Dallas, the Dallas City Council weathered vocal opposition Wednesday and upheld a new policy to protect homosexuals against discriminating in city hiring, firing and promotion. The council voted nine to six to uphold the policy two weeks after adopting it in a nine to five vote. Mayor Pro Tem quoted Anne Frank's observation that all people deserve to be human beings. The policy comes in the wake of the city's settlement of a suit filed by mica England, who was denied a job as a police officer because she's a lesbian. The city settled her claim in September for \$73,000. While there are no faces of all people on AIDS awareness posters, no public service announcements aimed at the elderly, older people with HIV are as faceless, as most women have been in the past, the elderly are forgotten. And there's a group in Orlando that's working very hard to bring recognition to the fact that these older people are getting HIV nationwide. 6.7% of all AIDS cases involve heterosexual sex among the elderly, it's 9% masked by the symptoms of other ailments, AIDS is easier to misdiagnosed among the elderly, elderly and easier to overlook by physicians who don't think that the older patients are at risk, that older people may be more vulnerable to the disease because they're less likely to price place. The practice safer sex, they just don't worry about getting pregnant. Well congratulations that gene Harrington. He's one of the three white Texas Southern University Law student from our law professors who were victims of racial discrimination, and retaliated against by the university officials for criticizing administrative policies. The jury decided this this week and they were awarded the three people the three men were awarded 169,000 and backpay and damages. And Harrington contended that when they complained about policy matters, their higher ups retaliated by giving them lesser raises. Harrington 55 is a senior tenured law professor, or law faculty member. He's taught at Tsu since 1966. He makes \$102,000 For nine months of teaching. That's \$3,336 less than what another professor with the same level experience and productivity is paid during the 9495 years. Gee Jean, congratulation. He's been a great advocate of our community and a supporter for years and years. This is Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.



JACK VALINSKI 09:00

Thank you very much, Suzanne, and we'll be talking a little bit more about the election later on in the program. But first, let's listen. I

Mary Helen Merzbacher 09:12

think we should ask Suzanne about Barney fag today. Did you hear the news? Now? I didn't hear a thing what happened? Dick Armey the new majority whip with from Texas from Texas. Congressman Dick Armey had a supposed slip of the tongue and today called Barney Frank. Barney Fag.

Suzanne Anderson 09:35

NO! No!

Mary Helen Merzbacher 09:38

In front of reporters

Jack Valinski 09:39

and he did apologize he did apologize directly about saying it but he was probably thinking it.

Suzanne Anderson 09:45

I think that brings me right into our ex mayor who said something about shoot the query that goes right in line hopefully the same results

Jack Valinski 09:54

will happen but at least he apologize and apologized directly. Oh,

Suzanne Anderson 09:58

he should have apologized for youthfully?

Mary Helen Merzbacher 10:01

Well, he did. And I'm sure there will be very little consequences for that. But you know, it does feel it does really give you, you get a little slap on the wrist or something. But it does really give you an idea of what is in their mind

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Suzanne Anderson 10:17

exactly where they are. Right?

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 10:19

Remember it, kids,

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Jack Valinski 10:20

let's listen to some music now.

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 10:34

We won't be silent,

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Jack Valinski 10:36

your girlfriend, my girlfriend to yeah, very nice. Your

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 10:39

friend of mine.

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Jack Valinski 10:41

We are going to be talking up next with Diane Hardy Garcia, the director of the Lesbian Gay rights lobby in Austin, which is a statewide organization. The lobby is one of the few such in the country, I believe there's only two or three other ones around the country. And we are very lucky to have somebody doing that. But we also need to be able to support somebody doing that because it does cost money to do that. And I know all the predecessors of this organization had a tough time keeping going to be able to to work for the Lesbian Gay rights lobby. And on Wednesday of this week, Primetime live did a segment on Texas and the gay murders, which was very interesting and brought some national attention to something that we knew about a New York Times not too far back also wrote an article on it. And I'm sure this is not so isolated in other states. It's just that we have we know about these incidents, and it was pointed out to be gay. Diane, how are you doing?

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11:45

All right, having a busy week?

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Jack Valinski 11:47

Yes, I'm sure you must have gotten a lot of calls after that. The national story?

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11:51

Well, we've been working for a year to bring attention to the hate related murders in Texas. And and I think finally our work is paying off and that we're getting as much coverage as we can. I mean, as a lesbian and gay community, we don't often have a great deal of money to pay politicians or make big contributions. So we have to depend on the public being aware of our issues. That's why it was so important for us to make sure that these kinds of programs aired and do everything we could to bring public attention to the violence How

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Jack Valinski 12:23

was this program put together, they come to you or you all try to suggest a story to the to the media,

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12:29

we had been trying to get this story covered for the last year I am, it was about about the summer that we started to get a little bit more attention. But I was always trying to get them to do comprehensive coverage where they look at all the murders and put them all together. And finally, a writer from Vanity Fair, we had, I sent out no less than 20 AP stories that made it across about partial stories in regard to the murders. But finally, a writer from Vanity Fair, and the editors from Vanity Fair decided they wanted to do the complete story. I think they did an excellent job. If people haven't read that piece. It's the February one month issue. It's the February issue. It's the one with Brad Pitt on it. And it's really well done story about, you know, what we've been trying to say is that the murders are a product of the society that we live in a society that preaches and teaches hatred of lesbians and gays. And that, you know, when you preach and teach hatred, you're going to get violence. And so the story talks about that the anti gay environment, and that the fact that it produces violence,

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Jack Valinski 13:45

well, does it always make sense when something like this happens to try to push it as a hate crime, knowing the political climate, the state and or just press it as a murder?

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13:58

I think what we need and what we're asking Texas lawmakers to do, and I hope I get a little bit of a chance to talk about that, in terms of legislation is that at this point, people do not want to look at the fact that eight gay men were murdered in this state for one reason, they were gang,

and they do not want to look at that. They do not want to acknowledge it. And if we just say, Okay, well, we're just gonna prosecute it as a murderer. We know that people who murdered lesbians and gays get lighter sentences. Historically, it's the same of people of color, and it's the same of women as well. But we know that we have that historical precedent. So at this point in time, we have to make the public aware that, you know, hatred and discrimination that are not by benign things, they produce violence, and you need to look at the violence it produces.

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Jack Valinski 14:52

It's also a little bit interesting that probably a few years ago, let's say if this happened five years ago, probably a number of these murders did happen. Five years. was ignored 10 years ago, is that a probably a lot of the families would probably not want to say that it was a gay related murder.

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15:07

They know and some of them that are not not all of them, you know, we're not getting along with their sons or our daughters. It's just that they, we've been told, we know historically that people who kill lesbians engage or commit crimes against lesbians and gays get light sentences. So oftentimes, a prosecutor will say, look, I want to keep this gay stuff out of here, because the jury is going to be prejudiced again, against your family member, because they were gay. And so they're going to be prejudiced against the victim, and therefore the person who committed this crime is gonna get a lighter sentence. So family members are also concerned because they know the history as well. And so sometimes, of course, naturally, they want the stiffest penalty for the person who did this to their loved one.

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Jack Valinski 15:54

I guess one of the things that also happened in this series is that you've been able to travel around the state and talk to some of it, you know, not everybody realizes that Texas is an urban state, when you consider the, you know, the four major cities, that triangle here in the east part of the state, but there's a lot of people that live outside that area, that don't have a so called ghetto or gay and lesbian community. How do these people are these people starting to organize

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16:22

now? I think some of the things that I'm proudest of, in the last year have been the efforts of people, lesbians, and gays living in rural Texas to organize around the violence. And, you know, to, to stand up to it. Everywhere I go. And it is my you know, I've been trying very hard to make sure that we are really represent taxes that we're not just about Houston, Dallas, and Austin. And when I travel around the state, I always hear violence. People always talk about violence. And it's almost as though we use our fans and gays are used to it. Yeah. And so I think there's the two biggest issues facing lesbians and gay Texans today is fear violence. Rightfully so and, and employment discrimination,

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Jack Valinski 17:17

where I think one of the things is that a lot of us gay men have learned from the women's community of how to protect ourselves when we're going out to walk in the street, rather, on the sidewalk, because it's a little it's a little bit safer there. And we hold our keys in our hands. And you know, those those, those very common sense things that women have learned a long time ago,

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17:38

or socialized to, I mean, women met gay men are socialized as men, they're not told that you're never to park in the dark. And you know, what lesbians are socialized as women that that is something if we parked in the dark, and we got ready to, you know, people would think it was our fault. So I think that's part of why gay men have been so they can take the mic in some way.

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Jack Valinski 18:03

And I'm missing the tolerance. And I guess it was talked about how the gentleman did not fight back.

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18:11

Well, I mean, would you fight back with three pistols play in your head? I don't think so. I mean, I think they just tortured man over and over again. And that's what I think people need to know this. I mean, these were brutal murders, they were mutilation of people's body, they were not a single gunshot to the head or to test that, you know, a man was stabbed over 100 times. I mean, to do that kind of act, you have to somehow believe we're not human. And until I'm saying that beyond the issue, we have to hold society accountable for producing these actions. We live in a society that continues to preach and teach hatred of lesbians and gays, and that has consequences and their violent consequences, that if you preach and teach hatred, then you need to be responsible for that round, and

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Jack Valinski 19:13

we're gonna make you responsible. The November's election was sort of a wake up I think to a lot of us were not a lot of us because a lot of us have been working in the in the electoral community for a long time that that a lot of our community just sort of sat behind it and vote or wasn't concerned about it. And we had this big sweep in Washington, and everything's changed up. There are other progressive movement. What has happened even though the election didn't affect Texas, I mean, it wasn't a Texas election, in particular, but what is going on this year in the legislation?



19:53

After the fear of violence, there are top legislative issues that hate crimes. On, I would like to urge your viewers to write your state senators from Houston right now, because this bill, how a Senate Bill 121, will probably come up for a vote quite soon, they're ready to take up this issue. And what we're trying to do is provide penalty enhancements for those who commit hate related violence on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation, or religion, and you're trying to mirror what is on the federal level in terms of reporting, and and then also copy a law that was upheld by the Supreme Court and that there was constant hate common law. And so that's something that I encourage your viewers to write right away, it'll come out, and then also to write their state representatives and I can do those addresses, if



J Jack Valinski 21:00

you will. I think it also be important that a lot of people couldn't allow people to hear us from our from some of the other areas in Texas, that they should probably also try to write where they had the legislative district where they came from. Absolutely. Because the Texas Legislature is still more biased towards the rural areas than it is metropolitan areas.



21:19

Yeah, you can if you're living in Utah, and you've been living there 10 years, but you have friends and we come from Amarillo, certainly please get your friends from Amarillo, the right to get your family to write. It's been a mess T longer. But, you know, we're addition Houston, from Monterey and Oak Lawn and Oliver off, and so, you know, right where you live, and where he grew up, can get shut down and left to right. Because he was particularly palatable, I think, to other people. This is not about asking people to agree with us at all homosexual issues. This is about asking people to say, even though we may not agree on a topic of homosexuality, no one could die with the agreement. I think everybody conservative, moderate liberal can say that and should be able to say that we're



J Jack Valinski 22:21

talking to Diane how to go see it, because the director of the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas, and she's in Austin today. It's pretty scary, though, when when they're in session, isn't it?



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It's scary, because there, the potential for harm is always there as well. But we have a real chance to win this bill. And we deserve this bill. Other hate crimes, federally enhancement we certainly deserve after this year. So I'm very hopeful that we will we will make history with this bill this time. And so it's there, the composition of the House and the Senate did not change that much. Texas, did not have a big swing to the Republican. Right. But at the same time, you know, there's an old joke with the Texas legislature are Democrats or the Republicans in any other stage. So we're always up for a tough battle. But we need as many people that can read

the paper and keep up and become members and you know, respond, your letters make a tremendous amount of difference, especially if they're handwritten. A handwritten letter from a constituent is, is like, gold. And I can't emphasize that enough.

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Jack Valinski 23:42

Absolutely. It is so important for people to get involved and it doesn't take a lot of time or effort is a simple level. address to your state representative or your state. The senators, and especially are calling your your you know, talk to your family and friends who may live in other parts of the state to dig a little bit we see in a legislation.

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24:07

I think, yeah, of course, there's always a fight for funding. And for the funding that we need to provide services and what to do for prevention. I anticipate that we'll probably have some bad legislation that will come our way in regards to confidentiality and so we have to watch for those kinds of bills and track them there's been talk of mandating testing for all people before they marry mandating testing before people become parents and adopt. So we're watching for those kinds of bills of course we want to do everything we can to protect people's rights to confidentiality. Niall exchange we another topic and a battle home health testing and is an issue that's of interest to many lesbians and gays right now Johnson and Johnson wants to provide home health, home HIV testing.

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 25:12

And

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Jack Valinski 25:12

what is the position of lobby on on home testing?

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We're right waiting for some surveys that we sent out to tally some information on them to see how people feel about the issue, we will probably make a decision in in the next month or so, when Maxey's carrying the bill to allow home health testing. So but regardless of what Glen does, we're still telling that information, we want to make sure we represent some some reality in terms of what people think

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Jack Valinski 25:47

there's good issues and bad issues on that



25:49

on. Absolutely. And we need to hear. So our survey was really designed for rural Texans to see how they felt about this issue. We seem to have gotten more feedback already. Glenn has extensive feedback from the from the cities. But we wanted to make sure that rural Texans had had a voice in this era,



J Jack Valinski 26:11

you know, we're very lucky to have places like the Montrose clinic where you can get anonymous testing. And I guess that probably isn't available in all the rural areas.



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Now and you know, but Glenn has concerns too, as well as to how, you know, will people be able to get some kind of



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already the night before the March, but we're really going to try to we're going to have another march in Austin. It's called the Texas march to stop the violence, very much focused on our two biggest legislative issues hate crimes and employment non discrimination. And so we want the march to be focused on that we want to talk about what hatred does to people how it destroys lives by employment discrimination and how the violence has affected lesbian and gay Texans. And so that's the focus of the marches. The night before the March, we're going to have a really big kind of party, and it's called the biggest and hottest party in Texas, and so will, will, will be able to celebrate a little bit before but it really will make a difference if people can make that time to come down to Austin on April 2. And we're urging people to take off and work on April 3 to lobby their legislators. People need to meet our legislators need to meet us face to face, they need to shake our hand they need to get a you know, triangle shaped cookie and have us tell us why have us tell them why we need justice in the state. So



J Jack Valinski 27:57

and doing all this stuff, lobbying and traveling around and talking and getting this publicity you're getting Pete letting people know that this is going on certainly does take some money, doesn't it?



28:07

Absolutely. We're only as strong as our membership. And right now I'm really proud to say that our membership has doubled in the last year. But it's not nearly what we should be Texas should have a huge membership in terms of lobbying effort. So if people would like to become members, they can do so by sending a donation to us at PO Box 2579 Austin, Texas 78768.

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Jack Valinski 28:40

And they also can get involved by going to the local political organizations around the state which includes the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus.

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28:47

Yes that Houston the Houston lesbian, gay Political Caucus has been very helpful to us, they always are there for for the lesbian and gay rights lobby and been a tremendous support, I really admire their work. And if people do not know who their legislators are, either call the local Political Caucus and they will help our call us at 512-474-5475.

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Jack Valinski 29:13

The low that number one more time, Diane, area code

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29:16

512-474-5475. And if you call us we'll tell you who your legislators are. So you can write we'll look you up in our database. And we'll look you up in terms of what what district you're in. Because this system, I think people I want to say this clearly this system is not just not designed for access. The state political system is not designed to give people access to how this whole system works. And so I fear oftentimes, people may want to write but they don't know who to write to. Because this isn't publicized. People don't know how the legislature works. Most people don't know who they're stateless. legislators are. And so don't be embarrassed about that. That's not your fault. This system is designed to keep people out. And so we've got to figure out ways to infiltrate the system. So call us and we'll help you get connected with who you need to be writing to. Well, great. It

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Jack Valinski 30:16

was great seeing you up at the Creating Change Conference in Dallas bound last November where we had a special Texas sort of meeting up there. And but it's really important to get involved. I mean, we're always preaching that thing get involved, whether you're involved in the local radio station or, or the local political caucus or the statewide stuff. Diane, thank you very much for joining us this evening. And we look forward to seeing you there April for the March on Austin for the third march on Austin. We were speaking to Diane Hardy Garcia, the executive director of the lesbian and gay rights lobby of Texas. Diane, we'll see you in in April. Take care and you're listening to KPFT Houston, this A Pacifica foundation station bus we gave voices. We're going to take a little less station break here and then Mary Helen is going to come back with lots and lots and lots of music

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 31:12

Hey wake up. It's Saturday night at midnight and you thought it was bedtime. We'll just listen

hey, wake up. It's Saturday night at midnight, and you thought it was bedtime. We'll just listen to what you've been missing. The snap queens are in the house ladies and gentlemen snap your fingers for after hours



31:31

Jodie Jodie Foster. Jodi This is Nancy. You know who this is Nancy for Don't pretend you don't know who I am. And if you're listening, you know you're listening to after hours a continuing tradition here on KPFT Houston 90 point



Mary Helen Merzbacher 31:54

this is Sarah G with the gang at after hours, saying if you're queer, we're here Saturday night at midnight to 3am on World Radio KPFT.



Suzanne Anderson 32:14

Down to the bayou next time as guitarist extraordinaire Sonny Landreth joins us live and even die Sonny's new album just south of I 10. We'll hear some of it. And we'll get him to do some tunes for us live on the next World Cafe on Tina Johnson join us Monday for the World Cafe I'll bring you shadow tropics. The news headlines and the weather forecast for Houston area right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 32:54

Every lesbian sex goddess k.d. lang, from absolute torture and twang here on 90.1 FM This is KPFT. My name is Mary Helen. And this evening, we have a special hour of music for you, featuring artists that we identify as lesbian and gay, or that sing songs pertinent to our interests and about us. That sounds that sounds right. It's about 20 minutes until seven o'clock on KPFT. And I want to also make a special announcement regarding an upcoming show on lesbian and gay voices. The February 10 program, we will be doing special Valentine's requests and dedications for lesbian and gay couples. If you have a special sweetheart that you'd like to request a song for, or dedicated song to give us a call here you can call this week or next week or the night of the show. It's much more of a guarantee that you get the exact song you request if you call this week or next week. Our number here is 5265738 You'll talk to Laura She's very nice. And she'll take your request or dedication from you to the one love and we're doing this for lesbian and gay couples because so many times of the strike media wants to ignore our love for each other. And this is something we think deserves some special attention. And here's somebody that will give it some special attention. This is Fred small. Sometimes people ask what is it like? Cred small, doing a duet with Chris Williams and Fred small will be here in Houston. For a is last concert for a while. He's gonna go on a sabbatical from performing. He'll be here Friday February the 10th. At the First Congregational Church, tickets are available at Crossroads market Inklings, in which he has garden and we have more information about about that later. If you'd like to stay tuned to lesbian and gay voices. We'll be doing a little bit more music this evening than we usually do. hope that you enjoy it. Please call in if you have a request, or a dedication of some kind for our February 10 Valentine show we'd love to hear from you. We rarely truly word this the next song is by an artist who's out of

Canada. Her name is Lucy blue Tremblay. The name of the song is homeless. Lucy boo Tremblay and this is Ani DiFranco. k.d. lang Of course, and before that ani DeFranco was another song about a big gal. On he says she looked like John Wayne. Oh, well, Mr. Wayne. Coming up next. Castleberry in Dupree from their brand new album called hot corn in the fire. This one is on lady slipper records. The name of this tune that we're going to hear is called foolish attitudes. Listen to the words and heed the warning Castleberry and debris, hot corn and a fire foolish attitudes. The name of the song can't stand no foolish attitudes about AIDS. And we really can't kids, we got to be real aware now. Because a lot of attitudes in our nation's capital are changing. And we can't afford that. Okay. Hey, it's seven o'clock here on KPFT. In Houston, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. We're in the midst of a music night on.

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Jack Valinski 37:44

Last Saturday was a very interesting day for me. I thought we had a really good chance of getting a nice Parker in the runoff for city council position. And it was also the premiere of Harvey Milk. And I don't really know or appreciate opera, not well, you know, opera buff, or queen or whatever they say, Queen in the bath. But it was very incredible what the Houston Grand Opera done to promote this thing. They had a number of panel discussions, they certainly opened up the press to be able to cover this. And it's something else I didn't realize until recently is that Houston is one of the very few cities that does have an opera company, there's probably only five or six cities around the country that has a resident opera company. And that's pretty incredible. Not

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 38:32

very lucky. And the arts here really, and and he stuck their neck out.

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Jack Valinski 38:39

Absolutely. And this is sort of not a traditional type of opera. It's something that is modern contemporary. English, yes, yes. Even even though there was subtitles up there. And it was a very interesting subject to our community, of course. And as a Buddy Johnson, who used to have after hours, I mean, talked about Harvey Milk, almost every shake Harvey Milk, devo Tei. And in fact, he put on the rally downtown a number of years ago to commemorate Harvey Milk. But what was really interesting also the one of the discussions they had Saturday afternoon, which was free and open to the public. They brought a number of people back who knew Harvey and worked with Harvey, during his brief time on the board of supervisors including and Cronenberg, Scott, his lover, few other people that worked with him and people that were in that film, the documentary about Harvey Milk, and also written in the book The Mayor Castro Street, barrio rent Schultz. Very informative and free. The opera to me, I don't quite understand it or comprehend opera, but in the reviews, I mean, there was a review. It was interesting because the Washington blade reviewed it, although I don't know if it's pretty Yeah, but there was somebody there in the New York Times The Dallas Morning News and both the San Francisco papers over reviewed it. So it was a major arts

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 40:01

kind of got mixed reviews from, from critics.

J Jack Valinski 40:05

And but there's a standing ovation. And there's three acts. And the stage is set up in a triangle. And they were trying to bridge a lot of different parts of our lives and dealing with our lives in the parade in San Francisco. And if you're all interested in either history, or the opera itself, you should go see it. Because there's only a few performances left

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 40:29

it it will be performed this weekend, the 28th, as well as the 31st and February 3. There's their evening performances 730 and a matinee I guess it's on the soldier o'clock on, say that would be the third.

J Jack Valinski 40:52

Yes. And also at seven o'clock before the show, they do give sort of a little talk about what the opera is about, you know, so you can understand that if you're not quite used to opera. So I really commend us to grand opera for doing this. It's going to go to New York City Opera and then to San Francisco. So we got to see it. First one Houston

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 41:13

Tuesday night's performance, the January 31. Performance, the 50% of each ticket proceeds will go to AIDS Foundation of Houston pet patrol, the assistance fund, and Houston gay and lesbian Pride Week 95. Committee,

J Jack Valinski 41:30

that's if you take go down there and take the Super Paper that's an out smart or the male or if you got it down to the box office and buy the tickets there. Okay, so that is a little bit you know, you have to do that you have to plan ahead and take the coupon. The other thing that happened Saturday was of course, was the election in Nice. Parker was third in line, which is that's good protein line. But her vote total was about 5000. And it was about 7%. Turn off, turnouts turn off, turn off to mostly like 93% Turn off. That's I mean, that's absolutely incredible. We always talk about democracy here in participation and stuff like that, yet, we only were able to show 5000 votes from this community where we could have really have made the difference if people got out there. I guess her concession speech was was very well and she talked about you know, thank everybody for working hard, but we're not going to make change if we don't go out there. What we don't need is more good concessions. Exactly. We need to be at the table and not depending on the so called friends down there. But we're in the middle of stuff going on and our community and

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 42:47

they want us to get to some music. So I guess we'll go okay. We got a piece by and read. It's called deep fat frying. enri deep fat frying don't ever do your deep fat frying in the new jack. I don't let this be a warning team. Let's not pretty.

J

Jack Valinski 43:20

Where do we go from here? A number of things coming up. Saturday living proof of photo exhibition by Carolyn Jones depicting positive lives of people with AIDS benefiting differ you still running through Sunday February 5 And where's it at Neiman Marcus tan country mall I 10 and beltway eight. If you'd like some more information you can call at 5529445

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 43:46

in a really exciting much awaited long awaited event. Saturday, the Montrose clinic, Grand Opening congratulations to everybody the volunteers and staff, the board everybody that worked so hard to get this clinic here in the Montrose area. It's a very important piece to the puzzle. here in Houston, Montrose clinic grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. You can take a tour of the new building and meet the staffs of the Houston clinic the Houston Clinical Research Network in the clinic Montrose clinic is located at 215 Westheimer. The open house the grand opening will be held from two to 4pm. Five to 2000 is the number for more information. That's a great clinic, anonymous HIV testing and lots of other good work.

J

Jack Valinski 44:42

And you can get there by getting on your bike and going for a ride with the chain gang and they meet at heaven at 810 Pacific at 10am and you can contact them at 863 1860

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 44:55

Houston Clinical Research Network Community Forum highlighting the new am Far American Foundation for AIDS research, sponsored clinical trials will be held at Montrose clinic. Their Montrose, clinic, sexually transmitted disease, clinical trials and the new clinic services. Let's see that's going to be from four to 6pm. Same place. So you know, you can catch all that that day at the clinic. We should have read that all together. But apes,

J

Jack Valinski 45:26

we have some movies coming up back the rice cinema, starting at 730. There is a short film with a lesbian subplots are actually that's at the Museum of Fine Arts. It's called Cool. And then you can go over to Rice Media Center, and see beware of a holy horror 1970 film about homosexuality. And that says it's at 930. And it's playing both Friday and Saturday, according to this, check the papers because their information is a little bit different. And of

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:57

course, Harvey Milk, and then the mystery of Irma Vapp is being staged at the alley theatre at 230 and 8pm on Saturday.

J

Jack Valinski 46:06

And what are you going to be doing Sunday?

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 46:09

Well, I mean, all this gal is going to be watching the Superbowl.

J

Jack Valinski 46:15

Well, the good thing is San Francisco's official DICOM

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 46:18

today

J

Jack Valinski 46:22

Okay, what else we got coming up, of course, if you are interested in politics or want to finally get interested in politics this Wednesday is the game was being Political Caucus meeting at 7:30pm at 2700. Albany, their new office and meeting location place and want to get involved. That's a good place to do it.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 46:45

February 10, I'm moving ahead really far. Spread small, like we had mentioned before. A really not a gay man, but a very kind, gentle, wonderful ride on politically correct, sensitive, beautiful, great singer songwriter, good meme.

J

Jack Valinski 47:07

And if you're one of those people that like to be on the phone a lot, the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston is going to have a training volunteer program starting Friday, February 3. And that's like a two weekend session and covers the first week in three days. And then the second week in two days, if that's the way they still do, it starts at 6:30pm. But you need to call them at five to 930 to 11. First to sign up to do that. And they basically ask everybody who

goes through this session, if you continue through the session to do one three hour shifts a week for a three month period, I think is what they're asking. But it's a very good way to get to know people and to help out the community.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 47:49

Next Friday is the beginning of a Houston mastery weekend, the weekend workshop for HIV positive individuals and their families. To help you come to terms with HIV and AIDS. It's sponsored by the Northern Lights, alternatives. It's through Sunday, it starts on Friday. And if you'd like more information about that to read or to register, you can call 523 8711. That's a really good good training in good support. If you or a loved one has HIV or AIDS,

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Jack Valinski 48:27

and also remind you that the Lesbian Gay rights lobby, this is their high season because the legislature is in session. If you'd like to get in contact with them, their mailing address is PO Box 2579, Austin, Texas 78768. And it's always tough when the legislature is in session. And as we talked earlier with Diane Hardy Garcia, they can certainly use your help if you're interested. And of course, coming up in April is the third march on Austin. And on the Saturday night there's gonna be a big party, which is gonna be a fundraiser for Texas Human Rights Foundation and other organizations around the states. And on Sunday will be the march and on Monday will be Lobby Day. And Diane Hardy Garcia and a number of people are asking you there'll be training sessions and how to lobby if you've never been to the legislature and that ought to be very interesting. You going I'm planning to at least at this time, I am planning to you're going to take off and go lobby. I didn't do it the last time because of course Deborah Dannenberg is my state representative, but certainly they are not much to complain to her about well there's always something to complain about. There's always something to complain right I could think of some can

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 49:45

be represented by Deborah and Rodney so we have work other people's territory that's right in help them out.

J

Jack Valinski 49:54

But we especially want to thank after two weeks of Marathon, this has probably been one of the most success For more funds here at KPFT, and for our show in particular, we're very happy. And I think you have a few more people to

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 50:06

learn to also think, even Susan, thank Todd and Marian. And I'm just thinking people by first names, because I don't have it written down here whether or not you want your name set on the air, but you know who you are. I want to thank Ernest, and Shelby, and William and Philip

and Joe, Marion, and Janet. Want to thank Margaret, and thanks to Bob and Chris. Thank you, Mary, and Thomas. Thanks, Michelle. And thanks, Paul. And thanks, Kip. And Otto. And Greg, thank you very much. out smart magazine. Also thank Sunny, and Jim and Stella, and Ellen. And we're human, Michael, together. And Michael and Richard, and Becky and fawn and Nancy and Jackie and Cindy, and Katherine. And Bob.

J Jack Valinski 51:04

That's great as you're our friends. That is great.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 51:07

Those are the people that come through. We have lots of other friends too. But

J Jack Valinski 51:10

you know, we always tell these guys that put their money where their ears are their fulfillment of pledges, because that always hasn't been that high at the station. But our last marathon we had 100% and this marathon are going for 120. Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. And I think we already had cash in hand, over 100% of what our goal was, You guys are great. And but to keep the momentum off, you do have to if you haven't sent your pledge in, once you get your letter or you don't even have to wait to get your letter do send it in, because it's what the money is that really the counts that comes in, makes us look good. And we do want to thank all the volunteers that helped us during the marathon to answer phones. I mean, we went out to the lobby one time and I don't even know if you know this, at one time looking for you. And everybody was on the phone.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 51:56

Oh, all the phones were ringing. It was great, right? It's not very often this time of night that there's enough supporters calling to make all four phones ring. And so it's very gratifying. And we're most appreciative

J Jack Valinski 52:10

Well, I hope it wasn't just the scare of what's going on in Washington or Austin that got people to call. But they really do value the programming that comes on KPFT. From the World Cafe to, to fresh air to lesbian gay voices to after hours, all the different types of programming is it's really a community station.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 52:30

We love you. We want your feedback. And don't forget to call so you can ride us. If you'd like to make a dedication for Valentine's we're doing our special Valentine's program dedications to

gays and lesbians. We don't we're not forgetting yet. You know, sometimes when you call a straight radio station, they will, you know, the mainstream radio stations, they will play a dedication from one man to another or from one woman to another. So, we will be we will and that's what we're going to do February the 10th Give us a call 5265738 and, or you can write 419 Lovett. 77006 and tell us what song you want. And from whom to whom, and we'll do it.

J

Jack Valinski 53:17

Well, I'd like to thank everybody who was responsible for tonight's show. Diane Hardy Garcia from the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas. We want to thank Kevin our new engineer. And Kazuaki was out tonight and Donna, our producer, and Laura for answering the phones and taking down those dedications. And Mary Helen, thank you very much. My pleasure.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 53:40

Thank you very much. And this is Jeff thanks Ray for coming by.

J

Jack Valinski 53:44

Can't keep Ray off KPFT This is Jack Valinski along with

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 53:49

Lord knows people with Dr. Mary Helen Merzbacher

J

Jack Valinski 53:52

and will join you next week at six o'clock for Lesbian Gay Voices you're listening to KPFT Houston on Pacifica foundation station