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00:25

Oh yes, you tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after ours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closet. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



01:48

Hello, Houston and College Station, and welcome to the March 13 edition of after hours queer radio a with attitude. Heard every Saturday night at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is



02:11

Vanessa Edwards asked her. Hey, you don't look like Sarah dipalma at all. Well, Sarah actually went to the weekend, the plastic Reconstructionist and got a couple of changes and changed the name. And that's I've got a new attitude and a new identity. Hey, I know that's wrong. Oh, well, that it's nice to live vicariously?



02:38

Well, actually, I want it I want to tell all the listening audience because Sarah has talked about her dad, and the relationship she's had with her dad and how it had opened up at Christmas when she went there. And that for the first time in years. She saw her dad and her dad actually, you know, referred to her as Sarah and all have this good stuff. And unfortunately this past week her dad passed away.

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03:05

Yes. And this was something she was very, very crestfallen over. She really wanted to go back and visit with him some more and try and engage them in more of a relationship, something that they'd missed over the course of the the number of years that does her transitioned. And unfortunately, it was kind of tragically cut short.



03:26

No kidding. No kidding. She



03:29

really, really wanted to be here. This is a very special show, in fact. And why is that? Basically this is something that Sarah wanted to do that's kind of tied in with the Unity banquet that happened tonight.



03:44

That's right, that was tonight, wasn't it? Yes, it was.



03:47

The Unity banquet, for those of you who may not be aware, is the one time of year that all of the various transgender groups here in the city of Houston get together for a grand banquet. We all get to sit down, break bread together and celebrate and communicate.



04:05

Now what do you mean by all these different? What do you mean by the all these different groups?



04:09

Well, we actually have five social support groups here in the city of Houston. We've got Trius, which is the oldest of those. We also have GCTC or the Gulf Coast transgender community. We've got taps, the Texas Association for transsexual support. We have got h CDA helping cross dressers anonymous.



04:37

And these are different groups because these are different segments of the transgender community.



04:42

Exactly. And htsc I don't want to live in Houston train standard Social Club. Okay. Um, yes. Try Yes, specializes in the heterosexual crossdresser and especially focuses on support regarding their families, etc. The Texas Association for transsexual support, obviously, is there for the transsexual community. And the other three groups are basically kind of a catch all of everything of both groups and everything in between and variations thereof. So it's the one time of year that all five groups do get to said, meet each other, communicate, and actually help build some kind of community here in the city, which is something that we I guess it lacked maybe in years past. But over the course of the past seven years, since the Unity banquets, Inception, this has really taken off and has actually spread to other parts of Texas as well. We actually brought in a group from Austin great to participate.



05:47

Wonderful. I know I went to the unity banquet last year, I could not make it this year, I had people from out of town. And I had a great time. And I'm just no quiere



06:00

here, not at all.



06:02

Before we get too deep into it, I want to talk about the music that we played we're doing for folks who maybe haven't listened to the last couple of weeks. We have a we're different. We're have a different opening, in that we go to music directly from the acid jazz folks. Play a couple of songs, then do our opening and the music that we had tonight. That last song you heard was blood blind hearts and knowing glances from a woman who is up for a glamour award. And I'm very excited about it. I've been playing Veronica Klaus now for a couple of months. Very beautiful girl and just realized just recently found out that she is transgendered.



06:53

I had no idea myself.



06:56

Hello, so every she is beautiful. She is very great voice. Wonderful album. It's called All I want Veronica Klaus K L a US before that. We had another wonderful singer named Jordan, who actually I happen to know. Jordan is friends is a straight girl. Woman. Because I knew her as a girl. And she she did the the opening song. Take My Breath Away, which is one of my all time favorites. It's such a lush and sophisticated song. Thank you. Thank that is yeah, I loved it. Jordan is new on the music scene and you'll be hearing a lot more from her.



07:40

I like it. In fact, actually, I really liked the little intro with the music as well. It's a good way of kind of easing into the show. Yeah. Nice segue.



07:49

Jordan's dad is a former programmer here at KPFT. And I believe that was my first. First I believe it was my first year walking in the Pride Parade, which was 1988. Wow. And Otis took his two daughters and also walked in the Pride Parade. So Jordan and her sister have received a wonderful all around education and made them appreciate a lot of different aspects of the world.



08:33

congrat Oh, yeah, he kudos to them. Yeah, that is neat. I like that. Is that I guess they were still Houstonians. Actually



08:40

Jordan lives in Austin right now. And is good friends of many of the more discriminating Queens there. And Jordan happens to own the most fabulous pair of glittered shoes I have ever seen in my life. Anyway, we will be playing this and more in the future. Now the Unity banquet



09:04

Yes. Unity banquet. We had a very very successful outing this time. Last year. Officially we had 119 with a three others that showed up a little bit late. Here there were 126 Good officially showing up. We are that house.



09:25

That was pretty packed last year.



09:26

Yes. Well, it was that much more and then some this year. Wow. We had people I mean just wall to wall and we had some luminaries in the audience is here to our esteemed city council member and he's Parker good good. She was there to present the apogee award in fact, if you remember she was last years Apogee award winner



09:45

apogee. Okay, let's let's go into it right now. Okay, Apogee,



09:49

Apogee, not effigy? No. Apparently she got the wrong message from Kathy last year. Kathy said it was the effigy or Oh my Got, to me. It's the apogee Award, which Webster's defines as being the highest or the furthest point. And in essence, this is kind of a metaphor, if you will, for the individual that has gone the furthest end, this represents the high point of the year for the transgendered community, which is based on one act or a number of actions over the course of the year. And in fact, this year is Apogee award winner, the second annual Apogee award was Brenda Thomas, the founder of HCDA. Oh, good, then around a good number of years have been very active in the HIV community.



10:40

Such a nice person.



10:42

She is yeah, she really, really has done a lot for this community. And I'm very, very



10:47

bad. You bet she's been on the show, too. When I was really impressed. Yes. In



10:51

fact, actually, she was on one of the tapes that she did on the best of



10:56

no matter. Yes, yes.



10:59

But yes, we had an excellent crowd there tonight. We even had the Harris County Democratic Tara, tonight's who Schechter Oh, good. She showed up as well. I was quite impressed. And she was very impressed with our community as well. We're, I guess, making some headway. If we're getting these people coming out to take a look and see what's going on with the transgender community used to be I guess, we were, I guess, considered a bit of a sleepy

community. And, yeah, probably a blip on the radar map. And now all of a sudden, we're attracting some attention, turning a header to. And hopefully it continues. I just hope this is the very beginnings of it. As far as I'm concerned, it will be I plan on trying to put a lot more effort into things and trying to get a lot more things organized. But there are a lot of movers and shakers in this community that have some great ideas. And we're going to be talking about that some tonight. Good, good.



11:52

And what about doings in Austin?



11:57

Yes, the Austin group, they should be here a little bit later this evening. Um, they also came down to take a look and see what we were doing here in Houston. They've heard quite a bit about us in and heard about our successes, and have inquired about it. And they want to copy this for the Austin community. And in fact, they've got some upcoming events themselves, that they're going to publicize. I don't want to steal their thunder or anything but that they will be here to mention that a little bit later in the show, as well as tell them bit about their group. Since they came down here in mass, we literally had about 20 people from the to Austin groups, the Trius chapter and Central Texas transgender society. So that's quite impressive when we're pulling people from 150 miles away to come to our unity banquet. So



12:48

nice. That's nice. I may be putting you on the spot here. But do you have any any information on it? The quality begins at home stuff?



12:56

i Yes, I do. In fact, I actually am kind of involved in that. Oh, good with the fact kind of the caucus participation whip. They found a girlfriend. They got the West and let's get these people going well make a march.



13:19

Not that kind of way.



13:23

Anyway, though, we are actually getting up a great big group of people to go to Austin for the equality begins at home March and also the lobbying day, the very next day. This is going to be a weekend. Yes. Exactly. A week from today. Yeah, yes. Sunday. Yes, it will be next Sunday. In fact, the well, I shouldn't say festivities the march starts at 1230. Sharp. So we're going to meet

approximately about 1130 12 o'clock and get lined up at the Palmer Auditorium in Austin. And we're going to line up in the parking lot and march up Congress Avenue. And we will meet in the Capitol. The Capitol grounds area. I'm not exactly sure the exact point. But we will have a rallying point there at the Capitol grounds. And we will hold our rally there and have a number of speakers. And afterwards, I believe there was talk of a candlelight vigil. I don't have the exact details on that. So I need my notebook. And I don't have my notebook here with me so, so much for being prepared. But anyway, yeah, but that's good. Yes. We have a number of events scheduled around this. And then of course, for me, the important part is actually getting to go back up there and do a little more lobbying. Go up the very next day on Monday morning, and every day. Yes, I get to go visit with our friends again, including Robert Dalton, who I got to speak with last time. Lucky you. Oh yes. He's such a friendly guy.



15:01

Well let's play another song and bring some folks in here and talk about unity sounds great. I've this I played this last week. But boy, this is a song for tonight. It's by our late great icon Dusty Springfield, who passed away this month. Yes. Last week of breast cancer. And I know she I played like three or four of her songs last week. But this one I don't know for you're talking about unity banquet and people getting along and, and all of that kind of stuff. I think this one fits. Fits the cake right here. It's that's the Springfield and a brand new me. And you're hearing it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station



16:01

Thank you dusty, brand new me. And some brand new me's happen to be in our studio as we speak, doing all kinds of feedback



16:13

or feedback. Is everyone awake now? Well, do we want to do a little round robin introduction here. You bet. Yeah. Introduce yourself. First, Jessica.



16:29

Hi, I'm Jessica Crawford. Deseret. Well, 10



16:34

and brandy Welch.



16:36

And would you mind letting us know which groups you're here? Yeah. Representing DCTC tests and?



16:45

Well, I represent the community at large. I cover the whole state of Texas.



16:50

I've heard that about you. Yeah.



16:56

Well, I do with the social club and with Todd some of the GCTC n trials, and also participated in HCDA. Pretty much with everybody at some point or another.



17:11

And I'm for time facilitator and try. Yes.



17:15

In fact, I actually she was one of the award winners tonight at the banquet. One of the trials awards. Who brandywell? It. Congratulations.



17:25

Four years to get something.



17:29

Well, hey, at least you got something. Anyway,



17:34

Oh, yeah. What reactions on the Unity dinner tonight? Yes,



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I would have to say it's probably the most exciting night to put a gender community in a long, long time. Our group was very, very, very well attended. We had 126 folks tonight. And that's the most I can ever think of gathered together from all groups and community I've ever seen,



18:00

ever starting to rival the size of a lot of conventions rally on a national scope.



18:05

Exactly. I think people are starting to realize it's the place to be seen. Yeah,



18:11

we're definitely gonna have to get a bigger place. Yeah,



18:13

I was a little elbow room short tonight. Just a little bit.



18:19

Anyway, let me go ahead. And have you say a little bit about the various groups that you're here representing? I guess I will start off with brandy with Troy. Yes. Do you want to say that?



18:32

Yes. Right. Yes. Is that international support group for cross dressers and their spouses and families? And we have like 37 chapters in us and a few overseas one in Canada. And we're just all over.



18:49

Like everywhere. How many do you have here in Texas? three chapters, three chapters, one of which was in attendance tonight where they had Austin group was there. How many people came from the Austin price group?



19:02

I only know of two,



19:05

six, I think there were a total of six. By the time we did the cow.



19:10

Two of them and they get the award to for the community, tries community service.



19:17

All kinds of awards getting this high calling.



19:22

People have done a lot of work for a lot a long time. He deserved recognition. That's



19:27

true. There's a lot of very, very capable members here in the community. A lot of people that are worthy of a lot of awards. I was kind of hoping our CO hosts might even pick up an award that says something when we've got someone like Sarah and she she actually did make the the final five of fellas fry Wow. did not make the final file that says something when we've got this many members that are actually doing enough to work. Phyllis doesn't get all the awards. Yeah,



19:58

yeah, that and that's great and it it in the in the four years that that Sarah has been on the show I have seen so many more people get involved.



20:08

Well, I think the gender community has finally come of age. It was really interesting for me tonight to see so many different people for so many different places and walks of life, I think that you're going to see in the future, beginning nothing but bigger and stronger good.



20:23

Not only came of age, but really gelled together as a solid community,



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like Houston's a leader in I mean, we've really shown that you can organize, get together have a unity bank was with five individual groups, and bring in people from other cities very to come and join us. Well, you know, one of the things that just impressed me so much about this community here, having come from all parts of Texas, and seeing all the other groups, I mean,

some of the groups that were were big back, oh, 510 years ago, are now falling apart. So I think it's really key that the Unity committee that we put together, works together to help hold all groups together for all the time to



21:04

kind of jump a little ahead of me there. But in fact, before we get to the unity committee, let me go ahead and finish with the remaining four groups Deseret, would you tell us a little bit about HCDA?



21:17

Well, it's CDA is really, it's helping cross dressers anonymous. And it's a group that meets every Tuesday for people who are really, you know, questioning, about cross dressing and trying to find out a little bit about themselves. It's really gotten quite large. In the past year, we used to have about six or seven people that would show up, and now it's about 26. So it's, it's this past six months have really brought it together, there's something going on some sort of a madman. And fact Brenda, who won the award tonight put it together about eight years ago. And for a long time, it was only about two to three people that would show up.



22:02

Remember when it was D, Brenda and myself some Tuesday nights? Yeah. And



22:07

it's wonderful. I mean, I've been involved with them for almost two years. And it's what it's helped me do is meet other people who have the same exact backgrounds, but different story. You don't you think you're the only one who goes through it until you meet other people who have been through the same thing? Yeah, it truly is exciting to see the new girls coming out to I mean, there's so many new girls who are just coming out for the first time. And there's a lot of confusion, because society has always told us that, wow, this is not acceptable. Or we're finding out that, you know, maybe society is not right on this issue. Right. And not the only one exactly as you don't fit in this little mold that we have. So you can't be but we're finding out there are a lot more people that that do fit in that mold that are in every walk of life, you know, doctors, lawyers, I don't care what profession, pilots, pilots. They're there. And you know, the only differences we've been, you know, kept back for so long. Nobody wanted to talk about it. And we've got people now coming out saying yes, this is who I am. And please accept me and HCDA



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kind of begin from one of the steps and loosely based on one of the steps of the 12 step program, which is kind of the feelings meeting



23:27

Exactly. Except it's a little different. A lot of people immediately think it's, we're going to come to cure it. It's really not talking about cure. That was the first thing I



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thought of when I heard that name. Someone talks about that in my mouth fellow. Wait a minute. Yeah. So



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the whole idea is really to show you acceptable? Yeah, it's curing the fact that it's unacceptable. Yeah, there is no cure. Exactly. And so it's really nice to have something and it's not. It's your actuation, where you're a member, it's a anybody can show up who's interested in the subject of crossdress.



24:06

I think the cure is looking in the mirror and being able to say this is who I am.



24:10

Exactly. That's exactly the message because a lot of us have split personalities created a male side and a female side. And what has to happen is you have to be comfortable with yourself and bring them back together. I mean, everybody has that everybody has a male and female side, our ones. But a lot of times, we're told you can't be this and you can't be that. So you find you've split yourself apart. Yeah, this helps you bring those two together and be a single person again. And that's really what the message is, as far as be comfortable with who you are as a person. Gender is secondary.



24:48

How instrumental was this in helping you in your transition?



24:52

Oh, extremely instrumental. I mean, I was in denial for many, many years. And it got to a point where I couldn't do anything without being thought totally about this subject. And I got to the point where I thought, Okay, I can't do anything else. And I met, that's when I met Brenda. And she said, You need to come to a Tuesday night meeting. I did. And I was scared to death. And then, after I went the first time I started, like every Tuesday going, and pretty soon. The next thing I know, I'm dealing with issues I never thought I would deal with good and in a positive manner.



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Let me ask Jessica speak real briefly on GCTC, the Gulf Coast transgender community?



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Well, it was a great organization. As a matter of fact, it was very key in bringing me out about 10 years ago. So matter of fact, one of the folks who won an award tonight was Jackie Thorne, who was instrumental in the beginning of GCTC. The organization accepts all members of the gender community, there are no rights there are no wrong, which is one of the reasons that I think it's so key to the whole community, and helping the whole community here in Houston gel,



26:11

very similar to the concept of the unity bank was very, very much a way for everyone to meet and find a place and, and to communicate. It's very much similar to you. It was the first organization I found 11 years ago, myself. And indeed, I started off and dropped out of things. But when I started back, I started back again with tctc. And



26:33

well, yeah, I came all the way across Texas, from Dallas, to kind of to Houston to come out. Because there was no, there was nothing like GCTC. In Dallas, there was very strict organizations that were up there. And GCTC allows you to be free to be yourself. How does it



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vary, I guess on a personal level as far as the interaction between the members?



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Well, from what I've seen there, it's more of a counseling, bigger sisters who are further along helping the new younger sisters along as well. It's a sisterhood more than anything else, almost like a sorority. Well, I think the other thing that's important about GCTC it has a structured program. So each month you get to meet somebody, whether it's you know, someone in the electronics, you know, trilogy, or if it's laser surgeries or things like that, it addresses key issues. That's one of the good things about it. You learn more about what you need to know. And there's so many things you have to become educated on as you go through this process. And it's also a good way of getting a lot of the individuals who may be thinking about transitioning out in the public first, in a safe environment true. Matter of fact, that's why I came to Houston. Jackie POM was instrumental about getting me out of my closet and out into the street and it was it was a big step but always just for everybody.



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She did the same thing for me. Apparently work. You know, I



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am so glad to hear that Jackie Thorne is one that won an award. Yes. I had heard of Phyllis fry, but Jackie Thorne was the first open transgender person I ever met. Because she came to the switchboard and about 1989 and and gave a talk. And from there and Jackie can talk. Oh, yes. I mean, let's, let's all admit this. But for the switchboard folks who didn't know a thing about transgendered folks, this was great. This was really, we're just like, with our eyes open. Oh, yeah. In fact, I'll



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read an excerpt from an article from when Jenna Johnson that she's written actually to kind of promote Jackie for the Empress for the Royal Imperial,



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of Royal Sovereign imperial court.



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Exactly, always get that mixed up. But anyway, as she did a write a very, very good article and I excerpted that for the speech tonight. She was very instrumental in getting Janette and bull in town Hi. And Jeanette Of course, went on to become editor of the femme mirror, and indeed, decided to put out the national magazine for triathlon as well. Jackie's done a lot more for the groups other than just GCTC. She's directed a lot of people towards tats and triathletes and HCDA and HCSC. She was truly a godmother. Let's see. I'm on htsc That is the newest group in town. htsc that is the Houston transgender Social Club. Oh, that's where you want to us pick a moment.



29:48

Yeah, basically, that was created for doing mainstream events a couple of times a month going out into places that you know, places like trials are GCTC wouldn't go, going out to play, it's going out to restaurants and clubs in more of a social setting, so that it would teach the girls how to act in the mouth. Yeah, in a more social environment where it wasn't just in somebody's home or in a single restaurant where it was designed to be a program. Yeah. And that's really worked well, it's been in existence for a little more than a year now. And we've had a wonderful

success, right, because a lot of people who have participated have never been in public, they had come and you know, either dressed in their homes, or had never been in any situation other than a particular shop. This is



30:46

a this is wonderful, because I know in the past, at the switchboard, we take a lot of calls. And it's always like, work and I go, well come to the Montrose you can, you know, go somewhere, even during the day, you know, shop at erotic cabaret or wherever. But a lot of a lot of stuff. Or, you know, this is can be a scary thing when you're by yourself very scary. But in a group setting, right, and



31:17

what they do is they get to learn from people who have been there already. Yeah. And they'll watch you know, the different people within the group and say, God, I didn't know that you should do this. I didn't know in a restaurant, this is the proper way to do. It gives them a good idea of how to live what it does, too. I think it's really wonderful as it gets them out of a larger closet. Too many times the other groups, when you get out into a restaurant setting, it's already prepared. Or when you go into a meeting room for a hotel or at someone's home, it's just a larger closet, this gets you out into the mainstream, you're right to live the life. It is it's a more casual environment to we do two events a month. One is an event where we call an event and that's usually held in somebody's home. And it might be something just as simple as game night or we watch a movie, rent a movie and sit around have popcorn. And then we do something out like we've done plays we've done, you know, movies, we've done restaurants and all kinds of things. So it's a good way for people who don't want to get into trials or GCTC. Immediately to get a taste of what it's like to be out in the public. How



32:24

do we how do people get a hold of you?



32:28

We have a website? Unfortunately, I don't have the number right here. However, if they want to put you on the spot there, he should have brought it in with me. I wasn't thinking no pressure. Really bad. Actually, if you go to Jules store, she has Yes. Membership applications there



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right over there on tap to the venue. Yeah, Taft and Fairview. Yeah. Right. Kind of right by T TM T shirts.



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33:00

Exactly. Right next door. Yeah. And so she has applications that are in and she's actually the one of the main sponsors of the social club.

33:10

Oh, no kidding. So I'm hoping, like, just drop in and get some information about

33:13

exactly. She has copies of our brochures, and she has applications for membership. And a lot of times what we do is will allow the members or people to try it out at least free for the first month, you know, first time, and if they like it, they can continue. And if it's not their cup of tea, then they go on and check out some other form

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actually wasn't the htsc the brainchild of jewel to begin with?

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Yeah, it was a combination of a few people who didn't want to join any of the structured groups and thought, Well, what we're really looking for is I don't want to just go to somebody's home and sit there. I'd like to go out and more public setting they wanted to get out. Exactly. So it originally started out with Joule and Lilly Roddy was another person that was instrumental in putting it together. And they said, Look, this is the kind of thing that we're thinking about doing. Would you be interested? And so I said, That sounds perfect for me. Yeah. And the rest of it. I mean, like I said, for a year, we've already had our one year anniversary party, and that was wonderful. We have about I think 30 members now. So it's

34:29

Oh, I'm sorry, you were looking at me. We do have one other group I guess. Before we do something, the Texas Association for transsexual support tats and I guess I'll try and briefly Oh, that went up. 10