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SPEAKERS

Jewel Gray, Dee McKellar, Jimmy Carper, [Introduction]

[Introduction] 00:00

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.

J Jimmy Carper 00:23

Whoa, it must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening to after hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews and music hear for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We at after hours urge everyone to come out of their closets. By our definition, that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now, because of your age, your job or whatever reason, that's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.

J Jewel Gray 01:21

Okay, you're here with you all tonight, after hours. We're gonna be talking to some people from the March on Washington. I hope I hope I hope, hope they haven't partied out pooped out on his up there. But we expect to hear from some around 1215 which is just in a few minutes. And some around one o'clock telling us what's going on in Washington this weekend. And, and about the excitement that's happening up there. We also have a production room full of people that I might persuade to talk to us. One of the things I want to talk to you about tonight is safe sex for lesbians, or safe sexual women in general, I guess. And we've got some people up here who are going to talk to us and we're going to just have a frank discussion. We also have a couple of women from the community garden, they're gonna shoot me Oh, Lord, they're going to shoot me there from the community gardens, the Montrose community gardens club or somesuch. And when they get here, I will have them correct me. And we will know exactly who they are. And they will be here in about a half hour and we will talk to them about the community gardens and why they're there. They're still in town here. Over the weekend.

Perhaps it's the same reason yours truly is and every lesbian in the room who can't afford to get up there this weekend. Some of us had prior obligations, and you were my obligation. So stay with this. You know, Jimmy's coming up in a second with QMZ. And we look forward to this evening. And you stay with it

J Jimmy Carper 02:53

is she getting does this mean it's time for you? I'm saying already who am Z, the queer music zone right here on after hours. A continuing tradition? On KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. Here we go. Okay. Tonight on QMZ, we're gonna do some of the oldies that you have known and loved over the years, and with a kind of a slant on the radical this because of the march going on in Washington. So let's kind of start off with or the the granddaddy of all granddaddies by Michael Callen. The what the great Michael Talon, who started off on the soloqueue career and then got into the flirtations, and it's I'm not sure he's, he was talking about leaving because he wasn't feeling so hot here lately, but as far as I know, he's still with them. So here it is Michael Collins, living in war time.

J Jewel Gray 04:17

Okay, okay. We're going to interrupt the QC for a minute because we got Bruce Reeves, who was one of the producers for this program. And Judy vulgaris Reeves. Both up at the March on the phone right now. We're gonna go to them right now. Bruce, are you there? All right. Well, tell me what's going on up there. Well, there's

D Dee McKellar 04:39

just all kinds of things going on. It's it's definitely the Quiddity this weekend. Great.

J Jewel Gray 04:46

I heard you couldn't catch an airplane in or out of the place for the next couple of days through it.

D Dee McKellar 04:51

I think all the flights from Friday morning through Monday evening are completely booked.

J Jewel Gray 04:56

Well, I'm just really curious about what your estimation is a number of people they've showed up for this. I mean, I know, we won't know truly until the march tomorrow. But what's your guestimation?

D Dee McKellar 05:05

I would say we've probably got twice what we had 97. Well, that's great.

J Jewel Gray 05:10

That's well over a million. Yeah, that'll easily be a million. Of course, you know, the DC police will call it 250,000.

D Dee McKellar 05:17

Right? out at 70 and 87.

J Jewel Gray 05:21

Yes. Well, is there anything special going on that you've been doing?

D Dee McKellar 05:25

Well, we've just kind of been doing a little bit of everything. And of course, we've been watching a lot of news as I'm sure yeah, a lot of y'all have. Oh, yeah. I guess one of the things I heard on a on a news report, I'm not really sure whether I heard it like the day before I left or since I've gotten here, but they were talking to I don't even remember who now I think it may have been one of the march coordinators and they were talking about how many people they were expecting. And of course, the March coordinators are, what they've been saying since day one. They want a million people. But they don't want to say, Well, we think we're going to have this many because they don't want people to be disappointed regardless. All right. But she said, this is an indication, she said of course our account. And in 87 was 650. Right? The official count was 70. And they later up that to 200,000. Was the official part believe. In 87. There were 30 events. Mostly sold out. This year, there are 300 that are almost all sold out. Wow. Right? Wow.

J Jimmy Carper 06:33

I mean, that's at just 300 events. I mean, you can't even how can you go to all all of the you can download

D Dee McKellar 06:40

them. There's I think someone said there's 12 things starting every minute, which is not quite true. But there were probably 12 things starting every hour today. Amazing.

J jewel Gray 06:51

Well, I know Judy's tried to hit them all. She hit on some different ones than you. Well, we're actually sticking together for the most part sounds like a safe thing to do up there these days. I feel

D Dee McKellar 07:01

real safe this weekend. Yeah, cuz I mean, it's, you turn around and then you think, Oh, this is a real seedy part of town. But it's like, the queer over there. The queer over there. See one down the street, you see one right behind you. And it's like, well, maybe it's not the CD this week. It's

J Jewel Gray 07:17

like Montrose everywhere. It's like Montrose in

D Dee McKellar 07:21

it. It's better than Montrose. It might be mantra thin Halloween.

J Jewel Gray 07:25

Oh, wow. I'd love that.

J Jimmy Carper 07:27

Okay, fashion report, fashion report. What's the predominant color, black leather girl, real leather girl,

J Jewel Gray 07:34

I knew that. Every lesbian, just

D Dee McKellar 07:36

about in town is wearing leather. And some of the packets are too. Ah, but we've just I mean, we've been doing a lot. And one of the things for this morning, we went to the names project display. And, well, we got there while they were unfolding. And of course, what they what they're doing this year is a little different than what they've done in years past because they displayed the whole quarter in October. So we're doing this time as they unfolded all of the signature panels, which if any of you have been to the names project display, you know that there were like, four of their squares. So it's like a 24 by 24 foot six that they put in each display for people to sign in. So that's what they unfolded this morning.

J Jewel Gray 08:23

Oh, I remember those. Yes, yeah. Well, those cover probably

D Dee McKellar 08:28

as much or more of the mall, that the entire quote did and then can they be?

J Jewel Gray 08:34

Must be Impressive, impressive sight.

D Dee McKellar 08:36

And then what they're doing this this weekend is they're taking the new panels. And they're pinning those to the signature panel. And when we were there about four o'clock this afternoon, the quote was probably half covered. And they were still putting panels out.

J Jewel Gray 08:53

Wow, Bruce, do me a favor and find out where you can send a panel so we can we can give that information across. Here are the names project office in Houston. That's right. I know. And, and, and frankly, they're all in DC right now.

D Dee McKellar 09:08

Two names. You can get the names project

J Jewel Gray 09:11

officer in Houston. There you go. They can give you that five to 25. To that names.

J Jimmy Carper 09:17

Right. What else have you had a chance to attend Bruce?

D Dee McKellar 09:21

Well, the other thing we went to was the Harvey mounts Memorial unveiling. Oh, yeah. 1887 I went when they first were sort of coming up with the idea. And what they did in 1987 was they asked people to submit design what the design is and and the design has been picked now

asked people to submit designs, what the design is and and the design has been picked now... And now they're going to start the magic fundraising event to raise the \$100,000 to build it. It'll be easy. Right? It's fabulous. It's well, I guess, to try to quote one of the organizers, Ken McPherson is the person who's actually in charge of I have the organization which is called never forget. And they're trying to incorporate not just Harvey, but everyone who's been important in our history game heroes. And what they're doing is they're encouraging people that would like to do so to buy cemetery plots and congressional cemetery. And they've got a gay section now and congressional cemetery, which is just down the block from

J Jimmy Carper 10:26

Hoover, as it should be, which they said

D Dee McKellar 10:29

was Leonard Malevich. His last event is just really real close to J. River and courts Leonard was kicked out of the army for being gay. Yes, but the memorials got when you enter it, you go through a door. And once you get in, you're sort of like in a shoe box type area. So as you go in the quote, you see is if a bullet should enter my head, my brain let that bullet destroy every closet door. Yeah. And then you'll exit the memorial down at the end. Were one of the walls has been cocked out kind of like a closet door coming open. Wow. Hey, at area it says that I can be killed with the I can be cut right down. But I cannot fall back into my closet. I have grown. I am not myself. I am not by myself. I am too many. I am all of us.

J Jewel Gray 11:28

Moving. That's really great. Yeah. I wish I could see you taking pictures.

D Dee McKellar 11:33

We're taking some. We figure we'll wind up buying a lot.

J Jewel Gray 11:37

Yeah. tells you to expect to see some at bowling. Really.

D Dee McKellar 11:41

We also tonight we went to the lesbian and gay Bank of America concert. Oh, boy was that that was wonderful. Of course, the producer for that concert was very uncanny more.

J Jewel Gray 11:53

Have you run into Deborah hell in there?

Have you seen any Deborah set up there?

D Dee McKellar 11:55

I haven't seen Deborah yet. I think a lot of people that look like

J Jewel Gray 12:01

they love that.

D Dee McKellar 12:02

I made the comment to Judy this afternoon that all these lesbians look like and I immediately bit my tongue. And

J Jewel Gray 12:10

I'm surprised.

D Dee McKellar 12:12

Everyone I've seen looks like somebody I know. Because from I mean, I'm here I'm sure a lot of these are the same people that I've seen this morning that I saw last evening. So I look familiar to me. And of course we all look familiar and certain ways. In other ways, we're very unique.

J Jewel Gray 12:29

I think those are our cultural differences that make us stand out. That's right.

D Dee McKellar 12:34

But I have also had a couple of quotes from the band concert, which I thought were really interesting. Tommy's letter in her program, she said that, I must admit that when I first started producing the concert, I was not in food. But on one of my planning trips to DC. I read these words standing at the Jefferson Memorial. And Thomas Jefferson said, I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. If that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made new truths discovered in manners and opinions change. With the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, to keep pace with the time. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat, which fitted him when I was a boy, the civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbaric ancestors. Which of course is just perfect. Right? Perfect for the weekend.

J Jewel Gray 13:39

That's right. We're, you know, we've grown beyond that level that we've, we've lived under the rule of the religious, moral and valued people. We've We've lived under that before and we've grown past it. We're not going back. All right.

D Dee McKellar 13:55

And, of course, there were the special appearance at the band concert by Judith light. Oh, really, of course, a wonderful actress, she plays oh, now I'm gonna whatever show that is, who's the boss, the boss. But once she said something that was really kind of funny. She said that. According to the new statistics, of course, there are only 1% of us. Which means that one out of three of us, is here in Washington this week. Be what we need to do next time is organized a little better. And just get

J Jewel Gray 14:29

everybody here. Wow, that would be great. So Well, I hope you guys have a great time and I want to hear about it when y'all come back. Okay, I'm really jealous. tell Judy. Yes. And hi. Okay, so I've got one more one more quote. Oh, okay.

D Dee McKellar 14:45

It's a little long. But, but I think it really kind of helps to some of the story. Because of course, the other thing that's going on in Washington this week is the opening of the Holocaust Museum. Yes. I think it was dedicated on Thursday morning. I'm Clinton went through it on Monday night,

J Jimmy Carper 15:02

have you had a chance to see it yet?

D Dee McKellar 15:04

It actually opens Monday morning. Seeing it Monday afternoon, right before we fly back. But so in addition to all of the gay people in town, there are also a lot of Jewish people in town. Wow. Which is really kind of, it's kind of wonderful, because they are all very well aware that the gay marches in town, a lot of them are participating in our activities, whether they're gay or not, I can't really tell. But they're there. And they're helping us with our fight. And that's really important. And But Robin Taylor was the guest, at the band concert. And she said that she was, she said, said a couple of things. The first thing she said was, if I never had sex with a woman, again, I would still be a lesbian. Then she said, I wouldn't be a real happy lesbian, I'd still be a lesbian. But she said on her flight up, she sent by a woman who was coming here to meet her parents, who had were actually survivors from the Holocaust. And she was coming to be with

them for the dedication. And Robin asked her to tell her a story from their experiences. And she said that there were many times when there was a line, a single file line of people. If they strayed to one side, that would be electrocuted. If they straight to the other side, they would be shot. Very, very few chose that death, because they had hoped. And that with that hope, they knew that it would eventually end. And Robin then said she felt like we were living through our own Holocaust with the AIDS epidemic. And that we have to have hope to get through it. Right. And I think all of that really just kind of sums up where we are this weekend. It's, it's gonna be a great weekend. Tomorrow, of course, is the march APFT. has good coverage from nine to five. Yeah, I'll be here to C span is also starting coverage at noon. So if you've got a VCR, tape, C span and watch the coverage on it later, but they're doing live coverage from the mark. And, and I KPFT will be primarily probably from the rally, but both coverages are probably be superb. And I would highly recommend both of them.

J Jewel Gray 17:31

Well, thanks for giving us a call and we'll we'll be listening. I'll be looking for you

D Dee McKellar 17:36

the papers and stuff because this is we're making history this weekend. And if you're if you're back in Houston and you weren't able to come to Washington this time, start thinking now about the next March because when you get that chance to make the next March, make it a priority, because the more we can show them that we're not just 1% the better the world's gonna be

J Jewel Gray 18:01

bad. Well, thanks a lot, Bruce. Have a good weekend. All right. Take care. Bye bye. Okay, hey, it's your turn, you're gonna take this chair, and we're gonna let him have it. We're gonna let him finish the QMZ. Well,

J Jimmy Carper 18:18

I'm gonna just do one more song and the QMZ and I kind of had a plan because I knew Bruce was calling. And I knew that he was going to the opening of the Holocaust Museum. And for that reason, I have a special song one we've played very often here on after hours, and it's by our favorite Franc, and it's called Take off your swastika.

J Jewel Gray 18:58

Ole I like that. That was really meek, spirited. That was Bruce Reeves and Judy vulgaris were using the background. I heard so well. And they were at the March. Which one? Take off your swastika by Frank. Oh, yeah, Frank. That was the song you heard now. This evening, we're going to talk to a couple people that I literally who Yeah, Janey took me over. Took me over. She said that there were a couple of women over there, up to their knees and dirt. That was a

good sign. And they had a community garden going on. And they they would were wanting to get the word out that they were out there. So I invited Karen and Rhonda, from the Montreux screen community gardens garden to be here and they swear they won't kill me for my full pot earlier. And they're here to tell us about their organs. Session. All right. And from what I understand, you guys do planting. And that's about all I've got so far about, about what you do. I saw the garden, one of them, or where you're working now, and I saw that you obviously put a lot of work into it. And you want to tell me a little bit about what what your organization does and what, what you want to do in the community with it. Yeah,



20:27

we'd love to great we ever see the Montrose green community garden. And what that is, it's a garden that's made up of volunteers. And it's all volunteers. We are the people that come to spend time there working are all volunteers. And it's funded entirely by donations. So it's people in the community that want to see people fed or that have given us materials expertise, seeds, plants, hay, enthusiasm, advice, whatever they have to give. We raise food for hungry people in the city of Houston. The food pantry that feeds P ws has gotten some of it, people in the neighborhood that need it, get some of it. And we meet every Sunday, we work three hours shifts, and we ask our volunteers to do three hour shifts per month. So one three hour shift per month. And that allows us to schedule projects based on the people power that we have, and also allows volunteers to take on participation without getting overwhelmed, you know, just like only three hours, one day during that month. We have for raised beds which have all been donated. The only thing purchased in the garden has been the soil. And that has been purchased with donations. And we're growing everything from sugar snap peas, up the fence, to strawberries to kale and okra and a lot of different kinds of herbs. And the garden is at the corner of Wellington Whitney, which is eight blocks east of Montrose Boulevard. If you're going down, Fairview and you pass Barnaby, and then it's two blocks past Barnaby as you turn left on Whitney, and go three blocks ahead. And that'll be the corner of Welch and Whitney. We're sponsored by the interfaith hunger Coalition, which is a nonprofit organization that has taken on feeding hungry people in the city of Houston. And they supervise and advise 41 community gardens, I think we're the 40th, or maybe the 41st in the whole city. And what there is for volunteers to do is to build or plant, there's picking food, there's delivering it to people or to the pantry, creating projects, like maybe, you know, a rain gauge or a bird feeder, turning the compost mulching the plants, but it's all done within a framework put together by us. And we're the coordinators. And there's two other coordinators who aren't here, Bonnie and Suzanne.



Jewel Gray 22:58

Well, it sounds like a lot of stuff. Sounds like you got it broken, broken down to a place where people can handle it, though a lot of organizations have you down there every week. And and sometimes it kind of burn out pretty easy. This doesn't sound like something sounds like you thought well about this?



23:14

Well, we've had a whole year to put that into action. And it's gone through a lot of different transitions to get to where it is today. And I would like to say yeah, it works really well. We have about 25 volunteers from the neighborhood, and even surrounding areas, and everybody has

been really willing to put in a lot of time and effort to make it what it is today.

J Jewel Gray 23:36

What stimulated this idea. I mean, you just didn't wake up one day and decide you were going to, you know, put all this together what was the stimulus?

23:45

Well, I was participating in a course. And the course actually kind of instructed the participants to create themselves as a possibility for the future. And the possibility that I came up with for myself was the people are in relationship with the earth. And that how they get in relationship with the Earth is like our, you know, ancestors did by working the earth, and that people growing their own food is truly the future of the planet because then we weren't we're not going to destroy what sustains us. And I was in a course called self expression and leadership. And in that course, I you know, mentioned this, I spoke this vision. And the first person I spoke to said, Oh my gosh, you've got to meet my friend and who was his friend, Bob Randall, the head of the interfaith hunger coalition garden project. So it's just incredible. Whoever has a dream, all you got to do is say it because you're gonna get fixed with the right people.

24:48

Right and make it happen.

J Jewel Gray 24:50

Wow. Um, the thing I found interesting was that you're still you want to expand the spot, this place that you have now you're you're looking for someone to donate another space, aren't you? Good? No, that's a day actually.

25:04

Yeah, what we were talking about that day, it was something a little bit different that I wasn't even planning on talking about. But out of the gardens projects of what we're doing, which we talked about, there's 41, community gardens in town, I have been enjoying so much gardening and also what it's all about, which is feeding hungry people, feeding AIDS patients through the stone soup pantry, that I with another friend, we've been talking about. Getting through nonprofit status we have getting grant money and putting together gardens at homeless shelters. And by doing that we would be able to through another avenue, not the interfaith hunger coalition, but through another avenue actually have gardens where people need it most at homeless shelters. And then by doing that, actually teaching homeless people how to grow their own food, how to be more self sustaining, you know, just really continuing the vision of how to be self supportive and grow your own

J

Jewel Gray 26:06

food. Need. I like that. That is perfectly logical. That's why so far is yet you don't see it, because it's perfectly

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26:14

Exactly, exactly. I mean, it makes too much sense. Why should they do it? Well, it's very fact these days, you know, the homeless shelters in town, what I know of them is they usually get all their donations, and then they go to grocery stores and buy their food. And I mean, that works fine for many things. And I would really like to see them utilize that money that they do get from, you know, the foundations that they get their money from, to utilize that for growing their own food. I mean, really give those homeless people, you know, a feeling of self worth from growing their own food, you know, teaching them something they can be proud of.

J

Jewel Gray 26:47

Success to me when you've got that little tomato on a vine, it can be really empowering. I know my father's a gardener, a father, who's gardened all my life, we were able to walk out in the backyard and pull tomato off or lettuce or peace or something out of the garden. It was a wonderful experience growing up. Yeah, well, you guys obviously like it. When I was there, Karen was literally covered in dirt. was digging, ditches often just gotten a supply of herbs and you were desperately trying to get in before something. Maybe it was just before dark

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27:22

maybe before the summer, which thank goodness has yet to arrive. Really? Yeah. I'm really pleased. The weather has been real good in the garden. Yeah, yeah. And we've grown peas, we've grown cauliflower, we have grown broccoli. And this is stuff that usually the weather gets hot, so fast that you know, gets about an inch high and then goes to flower. We just took a few heads of broccoli over to stone soup. And gosh, you should have seen the difference in the stuff we brought in the stuff that was from the store. I mean, the store had really uniform bright green heads of broccoli. And we had these kind of freeform flowering heads of broccoli, they were just beautiful. It was great. And like everyone was like, gosh, oh, and Korea that broccoli. And so you know, we gave our names to some people there.

J

Jewel Gray 28:05

Tell me about your growing you. You told me then that you're one of the things you told me is that I couldn't smoke there, which I found interesting because I had not I had not dealt with that in a garden before my father was always had a cigarette. But you guys have a particular approach and that that and the ash from the cigarette was could be damaging in your approach. Is

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28:27

that correct? Uh huh. I just wanted to say that because I know I said that to you. And the reason being is we've mentioned Bob Randall is Dr. Bob Randall. And we utilize not only his extreme wellspring of information, but he's written a book and we utilize it in the gardens and one thing they talk about is for tomato plants, as well as peppers, probably even some other plants, beans, they can get the tobacco mosaic virus and that comes from anyone who has had any kind of tobacco on their fingers or even cigarettes being left in a garden. And so that's why it's very very important not to even smoke anywhere inside the garden. I don't know it is very unique. You wouldn't think that was be the case but it is

J Jewel Gray 29:10

well I believe you but my father always had fits with his tomatoes. He was always trying to read a variety because the other ones didn't make it like he wanted. Right.

29:18

Well one thing I want to say on that real fast Karen just reminded me is that one of the main reasons why we have to be so cautious is because we have a fully organic garden right and when you have an organic garden, you know what we basically do is go with a balanced you know, natural balance of the of the insects that come in the good and the bad, bad and let them even each other out. Right.

J Jewel Gray 29:44

Talked about Ladybug. Exactly. So

29:46

yeah, right when we had beans, they developed what was that they developed aphids, and then once a certain amount when the population of aphids became so high. Ladybugs naturally were attracted and then you can also plant certain things like penne, Royal, and arugula, marigolds and different things to keep bad insects away. So that is what we do. And that is truly been a creative and learning experience to figure out how to do it organically, to keep things growing and thriving.

J Jewel Gray 30:14

Well, I want to sign up, I really do. I can afford three, three hours a month. Believe me, we love it. And I really love to have you out there. I miss being around, you know that I wish, my wishes that we could have, you know, a farm somewhere to do this. But because we live in this inner city, we use corner lots, where houses used to be and backyards. You said someone has donated this space. Yeah. Are you using now that



30:43

happened out of the mantras, perspectives paper that Martin puts out? Yes. Well, you know, I just saw what he was up to was creating community and having people involved with each other. And I wanted to do this garden. So I've been knocking on doors and people were real supportive. But nothing was forthcoming. So I just wrote this little vignette in the paper. And a woman called and said, we'll come look at my yard and see if you want to use it. And that's where we are today. It was so incredible. I mean, I plan on getting a farm in New Mexico. happened in Houston.



31:22

That's right. And it truly is incredible, because I think a lot of people since they've maybe lost touch with their neighbors, and with what people are like in the city, after you find out that, you know, if you just put out what you want, you can have it you really find that so many people still are so willing to help their fellow man. Man. Yes, woman and man.



Jewel Gray 31:47

Yes. Well, you know, that's something I've learned recently is you you have to ask for what you want, because people can't read your mind. And when you willing to risk that ask for those things. A lot of people respect that enough that that they will respond in a positive way. It's it's a, it's a sign of, I don't know, getting past the superficial games that people play between each other and actually asking for what they want rather than hinting around and and moping and expecting someone to understand what all that's about. I would like to take a short break here. And Jimmy is cued up with romanovski and Phillips, are we going to do political plight? Okay, we're going to do B be political, not polite by romanovski and Phillips