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people, women, lesbian, gay, houston, talking, loaf, years, life, friends, pill, live, support, age, work, months, queer, pink, children, monthly meeting



00:01

For The Arts, that an organization that supports artists all across America, we must fight back. Please call or write to your member of Congress today. Because silence for the arts is silence for America



00:15

sponsored by the People for the American wait Action Fund. I remember an incident four years ago when I was walking through an amusement park holding hands with my lover and was called queer by a child six years old. And from that day forward, I've been all too aware of who the child molesters in this society are. These are gay



00:30

and lesbian people singing out here what's your reaction to that? I have a little boy and I would hate for my little boy to be like that those are animals I think it's



00:37

terrible how to rock



00:46

all the queers want equal rights Why don't you do things way God made us do it your mother father led any person who was gay. Hear the sounds of the waves brushed up against the sand where he's written both of your names with a heart around it you were looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly a car drives up alongside of you, you stop for red light. Suddenly, the cars surrounded by a circle your blankets coming in closer bottles are thrown out of car windows, the sound of glass breaking baseball bats against metal hand grabs your hair less at your feet in your face in your eyes, a fist across your face again and again. I



01:28

queer, tell them tell them. Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry. Which is why the lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.



01:54

And I'll tell you what the game movement is about. After I got elected, I got the phone call. I knew I'd venture to get quite a few of them. One was from a 17 year old child in a small town in Minnesota. And the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay. And they want to put him in an insane asylum. That boy needs help. In the gay mood is about the letter I got from Southwest Africa. When you read about a gay person getting elected here. And that person has hope. And that 17 year old kid in Minnesota has hope. And we have gay leaders not understanding that and are more worried about their own personal power. They're not the leaders.



02:45

That's right, man. You had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice clean hospital. You know, I lost mine. I lost my brother's street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old they had dead on the street killed by a bunch of kids by baseball bats. That's right my kilobyte chosen by people like you because everybody knows that grids don't matter quiz so love those that five day gap



03:44

going back I think that's Robin hilar on the chat from lover for life. We're not going back to the Washington DC



04:24

want you to savor this next moment. The task of death the official count of the lsb and gay rights. The official count is all right, you may come on



05:00

Bye we parents wants to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance self indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society, the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men will support their children



05:11

 06:13

you already have a few words for KPFA come on out. Join us, bring your friends. What do you think about the turnout? Rally never done. Never enough never know. We must destroy the Miss Swenson for shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out

 06:52

you must tell your immediate family you must tell your relatives you must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends, you must tell your neighbors you must tell the people you're working with you must tell the people that historically do shopping

 07:19

once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere. Every myth every lie every innuendo will be destroyed once and brought and runs. Once you do you will feel so much better.

 08:20

I ask people in this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out America. Come out.

 08:30

Hi, good morning, baby. How you doing?

 08:33

I'm doing just great. We have great things happening here this morning. Oh, we sure do. We've got some great guest stars for you this morning. Somebody very very special and I'm not going to tell you who yet

 08:43

and it's someone I've been trying to get on this show for many months. Yeah,

 08:49

but it's gonna be fun. Also, we had our the Houston Police support personnel union right at the police department, where I'm the president. Now queen is head queen or head queen. Anyway, we had our monthly meeting with the chief Thursday. She is so nice, but she is so pregnant right now. Well, it happens. And we'll be talking about that too.



09:12

Thinking of head Queen we got a letter didn't wait. Yeah, several months ago from now address to buddy and Mary



09:23

will read about what talking about that later. Like I have to put it up over here. Speaking of letters, we did get some letters a couple of several months ago. Yeah, some queen that does a radio show or something. That's what I've been saying. In London there outside of London. traveling around the country. Oh, we found her walking down the freeway and she didn't have anything to do with radio. We're gonna talk to her tonight. Anyway, this is after hours radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose 90.1 FM KPFT Houston.



09:55

We're here and work where we certainly



09:56

are. And we want to share a lot with you this morning. There's a lot getting ready to happen now in the Houston area for the gay and lesbian community. The names project quilt will be here in a



10:06

couple of weeks, just a couple of weeks October severity very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very. Oh, okay.



10:14

It's very important that you take your friends and your family and those that you work with, and those that you love down to walk and look at the quilt. Yeah, and we'll tell you why later. Also, T gra the Texas gay Rodeo Association is bringing the rodeo to Houston this year. Yeah, November be fine. 10th and 11th. Anyway, here's Alan. We queer. Thank you. We certainly are and it's a We're in San Francisco. It's gonna be a lot of fun. But anyway, until we get to our super secret special guest stars in about 15 minutes we're gonna listen to some music, pure energy



10:59

now a review about what's happening girl. Well, we're having tell me what's going on now. The rodeos coming when the rodeo



11:08

is coming November ninth 10th and 11th at Sam Houston Coliseum.



11:13

Okay, next is gay Rodeo Association and the quilt will be here



11:17

well it's going to be here October 6, seventh and eighth at George R Brown.



11:22

Okay. And then this way out comes up at 131 30 and we're going to talk to this queen from England. She really the clean one of many she's got some jewels oh



11:41

here it is become butcher Nelly in less than a day simply by taking the little pink pill. There's no need to recruit, seduce or rely on environmental conditions anymore. The little pink pill does it all. Just one tap up before breakfast breaks the cycle of heterosexuality for a full 24 hours. For years. heteros have been asking gays if they would take a pill if it would make them straight. Well, last quieres Bell Labs have responded to this dilemma by giving heteros a taste of their own medicine. Yes, the little pink pill does it all the boring cliched life of a heterosexual can vanish in one gulp. Mrs. Betty Morgan of Gresham, Oregon talks about the little pink pill.



12:16

My life was a mess. Bridge clubs, gross husband, alcoholism, you name it. Then one morning I got my act together and took a little pink pill. In an instant my sexual orientation change, as did my desire to be married. Well, within a week I ditched my old man met a terrific woman and got joint custody of my children. All this without why retention headaches or loss of appetite. Thanks little pink pill. You made a new woman out of me.



12:46

Results may vary but don't consult a physician. The little pink pill it does it all.



12:52

Man, it's available at your local drugstore. Sure, just look for it.

 13:00

Hey, would you like to know something interesting? I believe what a lesbian it is. Yes, I do. There's these two pretty lady that lived down the block that green house with three dogs in the yard. And I asked her why there's no daddy at their house. So they said it's because there must be me. They told me it. Yes, sir. I've seen them kiss each other goodbye on their porch yesterday. I wouldn't ask mother if she knew what a lesbian was. She said she didn't know. So I told her. She knows now. Let's take I will change my day from either sad to lesbian. I think it sounds cute. That's the truth

 13:54

this is Vicki new president of the Texas gay Rodeo Association Houston chapter. Here today. The Texas rodeo is coming. So stay tuned after hours and KPFT

 14:05

Oh, I got pulled something the rodeo is coming. So you need to stay tuned for that. I took vacation girl. I went I'm going to be on vacation those three days. Oh yeah, man. There's no way I'm gonna miss this rodeo. Oh, I know where to find me a short, hairy cowboy. And it was

 14:26

a wonderful moment. When they started to unveil that quote, there was absolute total silence. And the names were read one at a time. Hundreds of names. And people began to cry and total strangers were hugging each other. It was the only way we knew to show our love. And it was wonderful.

 14:57

Oh, Mary indeed. The fix that

 15:05

I just got that wasn't supposed to. I just got off flushed. Why? It's hot in here

 15:12

in here. Yeah, it really is. Just hope I don't pass out or anything.



15:19

Okay, sure, no problem.



15:21

Anyway, we've been talking about our very super secret special guests. Yeah, it's really not a secret group. But we first met these ladies, three years ago, two and



15:31

a half was it wasn't that long ago, right at the parade.



15:35

And the group had, I don't know really how long the group had been around. But like that was the first year they were in it. And it was really exciting to see them there. Now we're talking about some ladies are very special. And they belong to a group called loaf. Which loaf loaf?



15:54

You do that all the time lesbians over age 50.



15:58

Now wait a minute. Lesbians over age 50. Love, love. So if we have a group of lesbians over age 50 that means there were gay people around before we got here. Tell your story real quick. Yeah. When I was living in Omaha, Nebraska, I went to housewarming for a friend of mine, an older couple who were both in their late 60s. They'd lived together for 15 or 20 years. And a young friend of mine, by the name of Michael was we were going out that night. And I wanted to go by Jack and Ray's apartment and take them a housewarming gift. Because they had just moved. One of them had retired and they had sold their house and they're moving into a little apartment. And Michael didn't want to go he said I don't want to be around these old people. That won't be any fun. And I said, let's just go and we'll drop this off. The when we got there. And Mike was around those gay men in their late 60s. And some even older than that, talking about how it was then I couldn't get them out of there. And he found out that there was something to treasure. And I think we both learned a lesson that night. Yeah, it was really nice to to experience that. But anyway, this morning, we've got treasure sitting right here, right? Yes. And we would like to introduce to you. I'm sorry, I forgot names. Sure. Holiday. Charlotte, and Arden Arden. With love, which is lesbians over age 50. How long has the group been around?



17:33

Well, I have our third birthday on the third Sunday of October.



17:37

That's exciting in Houston. Yes. And you said that you had just appeared recently in Dallas on the cable access channel there



17:44

July 9.



17:47

So tell us about loaf.



17:49

Well, loaf is a social networking and support group for lesbians. 50 years of age and older.



17:59

We hear that word a lot support is in from different groups. So you have been here at time after time. Is that important? For someone? I don't want to say for someone of your age, because they the kids say that to me when they see me. But is that important today in our society?



18:15

Oh, I think so. Because there is no validation for our lifestyle. It gets to be a particularly lonely situation for men and women who become isolated. Oh, yes, yes. And we have a lot of women who perhaps have been in long term relationships and our long now have lost a partner.



18:43

Yeah, sorry about that. Oh,



18:47

we're having technical problems. I thought I thought we could do it gracefully. But there's no way we can do it gracefully. So we have people who in the group who have lost Oh, yes.



18:57

Oh, yes. Well, the loaf originated essentially, because my partner of over 33 years died in 1985
33



19:06

years.



19:09

And there's lots and lots and lots and lots of relationships. 50 years and better in our
community here.



19:17

33 years.



19:18

Yeah, I'm working on it.



19:22

Can't do 33



19:23

days, sure you can all stand and I've been together 12 years and people think that's terrific.



19:29

But 33 years.



19:30

But you get particularly a people of our generation have been isolated. It was just a thing of
survival more than anything. And so you get you get isolated in to real small friendship groups.
And then you start losing people out of these friendship



19:50



19:56

groups and what happens there you are alone. That's right.



20:00

And there's lots of people, men and women who have been extremely closeted all of their lives. And then all of a sudden they're out there by themselves. Yes. So essentially the what we try to do is, find and reach some of these people and work with them and provide for them. A situation that is an unsafe environment, for socializing and for support. I love your members are still in the closet, I'd say Oh, yeah.



20:33

When you said 30 years, what what year are we talking about when you were young and Fancy Free and running around? I mean, your



20:43

relationship started? Yeah. When my relationships, the the partner that I lost? That relationship started in 1952.



20:53

Yeah. Was it? Was it easier for women to be together as a couple than men? Even back then? Because today, if society sees two women living together, no one seems to think too much about it. But if two men are living together, do you know what I'm saying? Was it That's right? Was it any different back then then,



21:12

the concept was that lesbianism didn't exist, it just simply exhausted there. Right. And it was not unusual for women to live together. Back in the war year, World War Two years, a lot of young men went off and didn't come back. And so there were a lot more young single women during those years than there were young single men. So it was not altogether uncommon to see young women making homes together. It's cheaper to live together than one. That's true. Yeah. So and, and that plus the fact that lesbianism just what didn't happen, it just didn't talk,



22:00

I remember was impossible. I remember seeing in a in the video before Stonewall a film that a friend of ours in New York put together, it's a video talking about the gay and lesbian community before Stonewall and a woman, I'm not sure what her age was talking about how, in those days in the 50s, and the late 40s and early 50s, that you could be arrested in some states just for the the idea that you may be lesbian or gay. That's right, and that her girlfriend, her

parents had her taken off to a mental hospital. This was in the late 40s. She came home from work and they had already carted her away. So it's really important for us to understand that even though things are hard today, they were even harder, I guess back then, because you're dealing with something that society didn't want to deal with at all.

 22:54

That's right. We had as an example, in the 40s, we had purges in college. And Monday morning, all of a sudden, there'd be people that had disappeared over the weekend, they packed and packed up and moved out. And it wasn't a case of having evidence. It was a case of somebody said that somebody said, and those people just automatically removed off campus and out of out of the area. It's

 23:27

something that's kind of hard for us to even imagine today.

 23:33

But it happened. Oh, yes. It still happens in some parts of the world to when he did understand that the Jimmy in bad in Asia in some parts of the Middle East, homosexuality is death.

 23:48

And in South America, even closer to us, and then that

 23:53

getting back to the 90s I guess in love What, what? Why should we want to be in love if we were a lesbian over age 50? What would what would you say to someone in that age bracket that is with that might be listening and going yeah, this all sounds good, but I still don't want my children to know or possibly my neighbors to know. And do you know what I mean? Is it is it really still closeted? Yeah, isn't isn't there? Isn't it time to come on down. You're the next contestant kind of thing. My Oh, there's there's this

 24:32

work may be easier for somebody younger than somebody in their 60s 50s and 60s and we have women in 70s also. And we don't presume to feel like life is for everybody. But it's true. No group is because coming out isn't for everyone. Well, that's right and certainly wanted to have and being involved with loaf isn't isn't coming out that well coming out as a part process. It's an ongoing process. Right. But as far as being visible, that's not what this is all about.



25:06

Curious, I understand that you have members who are out and members who are still in That's



25:10

right. We have, in fact, we have really activist people involved. And it's good because they are in a good place as far as how they feel about themselves. And that, in turn, helps a lot of the women who may still have some internal homophobia that they're dealing with which all of us do. That's true. Oh, yeah.



25:36

Do we do have monthly meetings?



25:38

Yes, third Sunday of each month. And, and we are what? I'm sorry, we're meeting now at the Metropolitan mouth service center on West grey,



25:48

what typically happens at a regular meeting,



25:51

we have a rotating agenda for monthly meeting, we have one month a speaker, a lesbian speaker, some and that varies. The topic and the person, of course, is rotating one month, we have board games. And then another month, we have a covered dish. We have refreshments we always have a lot of good interaction socializing.



26:20

What did what did our community do before there was love?



26:25

I don't know. You know, I mean, as far as a group for seniors there was not a group out there.



26:32

I spent a little time sitting on the bars to hate never met it of it. But I just went to just to be with

the with people. But there weren't any people my own age there. Most of them were a lot younger. Yeah. And so I'm really grateful for low fits has allowed me to be with people my own age, and we have common interests and common life experiences. And it's meeting a need, we have people, we've lost two members today. We have one now that's very ill, and it's we've been able to be supportive of her were, maybe she wouldn't have had anybody to be there for her. Was it for loaf. And so that's what it's all about just networking with people your own age and having someone to do things with go to the theater, go camping, go fishing, whatever your interests are, there's somebody to go do things with,

 27:41

I think that's so exciting. And I really admire your courage, because at any age, getting involved in something, so I don't like the word political, but everything we do is political in one way or the other. But getting involved and really trying to make a difference in you have to be making a difference in each other's lives. I really admire the courage that it takes.

 28:06

There were six people at the first love meeting and I was one of them. And now we have a member paid member, say 80 or 90 people. Were so bad 100 150 160 people and these were people that were lonely. And they found our number in a publication or read about it at a counseling center or wherever and the camera charger group. When I think it's great,

 28:45

we're speaking to Arden, right? Charlotte, Charlotte, and Arden. Okay, and I've got them backward. And we're talking about low lesbians over age 50. Of course, you're listening to after hours on 90.1 FM and KPFT. I think this is exciting. I always thought, well, this is kind of, I guess personal. Maybe I shouldn't say that. But I always look forward to getting old with my friends and with gay men, more so than with with women. AIDS has taken so many of our friends away from us. And death is something that I fear a lot and hearing you talk about your friend that is older or ill It must really be special to have someone around that cares in our community. Because so many of us grow up in our lives and we're alone and never have anyone there. And I think that that's something really special. I don't I don't know that that story really kind of touched me. Yeah. I have always had this fear of getting older being alone by myself. And I guess that's because in this in this Arkansas where I grew up There was there was no radio stations or switchboards. All we had was one bar and that lonely bar stool. And it's really encouraging to know that there's going to be hope out there for us and something to work for. What what do you hear from people when they come in, and they've never been exposed to the bars or to the parades or to anything in the game lesbian community? Maybe they've lived out their life, either man, either as a woman as a teacher, or she never married, you know what I mean? And now all at once she's here and I want to participate? What? What do you hear

 30:36

from them? Well, probably would be something like what I would have said, I, I'm retired from education. Very careful, of course, through the years, because not only what I've lost myself, I

education. very careful, of course, through the years, because not only what I've lost my job, I never would have had another

 30:52

one. That's true.

 30:56

And I didn't know we had a community. It's like being a kid in a candy store. You know, when you're in your mid 50s, and all of a sudden you you start discovering all of these things, and all these people in all these places, and I didn't know about KPFT. I didn't know about the women's concerts. So it it. It's empowering women's books. Oh, yeah, I didn't know there was such a thing. Oh, especially books.

 31:31

Yeah, I'm a big one on that I just bookstore because I remember when it didn't exist

 31:37

yet to see the loaf library. Now.

 31:40

Three years old, even we even spending 33 years with someone.

 31:45

That's right. Because that doesn't mean that we were aware or adding a community. That just simply meant that we felt good about ourselves. And we had a small, close, tight friendship group, very supportive friendship group. But these women, this friendship group of mine now have all been in relationship up to 50 years. And their needs are not the same as mine anymore. You see, they are still comfortable in where they are. And I couldn't survive there anymore. So that kind of put me outside of that particular arena. And of course, being retired, it was safer for me to go out and start making a new life for myself, too. And it's scary.

 32:42

I'm sure it's very scary. It's

 33:11

11 32:44

scary. And so I do have empathy for these women that finally connect with us, it takes a lot of courage to come that first time, whether it's a social or the monthly meeting, a lot of courage.

33:00

I'm sorry, this is exciting. I'm sitting here with this goofy look on my face, I'm sure but my father just died in April. And my mother and I don't get along. We haven't for 15 years, because they didn't like having a career for a son. But I recently got a letter from her. And she was complaining about how she only was able to spend 39 years with him. And I wish I could spend 39 weeks with someone. I'm exaggerating, of course, but to hear of such success stories. It's really exciting. And it happens. And we've been so careful with it. That I think it's about time that we came to your meetings to hear what's going on, and what strength it would give young people to know that there's hope you bet and that life is going to count. I think that's wonderful.

33:54

Well, there's hundreds of 1000s of long term relationships right here in Houston. That's true, yes. But I think essentially, because of the ages of the people in these relationships, they are, they're pretty invisible, and will continue to be some will continue to be until there's an unmet need there. And they'll either die in their loneliness or they will.

34:20

And I think that's sad. We talked today with Malcolm who's visiting from London about the video from the March on Washington and 87 how there were 750,000 people there. That was exciting. But when you think there are 30 to 40 million gay and lesbian people in this country, and we had 750,000 There, that's those odds really aren't that great. We get 15 or 20,000 people to come down on Westheimer during the summer parade here. And we know that in the metropolitan area in Houston, they're between what four or 500,000 Office.

35:04

Everybody was accounted for one time on the same day. Yeah, it's mind blowing in

35:12

credibly. So all those people in the school district would certainly set up, take note

35:19

could shut down the schools and health care facilities quickly if everybody left. One day,

 35:27
yes.

 35:33
I'm amazed and excited. I really, I've never seen you at a loss for words. I had all these questions, I thought, well, this is gonna be great. And all these questions that you hear things support your your wanting that I thought were gonna be there.

 35:49
Well, what, what kind of other activities? Did you have a monthly meeting, but I kind of get the idea that there are other social activities that you do and have planned.

 36:00
Yeah, there's at least, at least one other social activity in the months and it just and most of them are hosted by a loaf member. And it could be a covered dish, or it could be a board game or an old fashioned ice cream social. We crank ice cream freezers.

 36:20
We had two of those.

 36:22
Yeah, they were a roaring success. Oh, well bet. Oh, yeah. We last year, at Thanksgiving time had our first what we are going to have a call our annual encampment. And we had a five day encampment in one of our state parks. And last year, we had 16 Women who kept one or more nights. And then 10 More who came on a day basis. So we had 26 Women who participated in a campout. Wow, that sounds like fun. Oh, it was great fun. And we will be Turkey

 37:04
and dresses and all the train. Yeah. Ready. Rep. Did.

 37:09
You have to tuck into that? Yes, there. I know. She's leaning back against the wall.



37:14

I'll say she's fascinated. She wants an older group for older men.



37:20

She has an older man now I do.



37:23

My lover is 21 years older than I



37:27

thought she was gonna say he was 21.



37:29

He wishes?



37:31

No, not at all.



37:33

Is there? Is there a fee a monthly fee? Or is there a charge for for when you join is there because it has to take money to keep things going? Well,



37:42

essentially, what we want to do is be self supporting. Anybody who's interested, when we first connect, they can get our we have a newsletter also. And that they can get the newsletter for three months without joining or anything. And we figure in three months, they can either participate in activities, or there are some people who are members solely for the connection of the newsletter just for what's in that. But it's \$2 per month per woman which pays for our rent, and the printing and postage of the newsletter and for refreshments. And we stay solvent. So it works really well.



38:29

Listen, I want to I want to thank you too, for coming down and sharing with this. I'm I don't

know what I am. I'm at a loss for words. And that is unusual, right? I certainly do this without a lot of thought that I think I'm touched by your courage, and most of all, by the stories of your life together with someone that must have held some very special memories.

 38:56

And now she's making new ones.

 38:58

Yeah, I liked that. You said a new life and it was scary. By scary everyday no matter what age were. That's right. But Charlotte and Arden are with loaf lesbians over age 50. And you meet every third, third Sunday, at the multi Service Center, which is down on West grey. You can get information by writing them at Post Office Box 980601 and 77098, the zip code here in Houston. And this number do we want to broadcast that it's published. Okay, the contact number is 661 1482. We wish you well. And if something special is happening if you're gonna go on one of these wild camp outs or you want to, if something really is that you're doing that you want us to know about if you contact us, we'll be glad to talk about it.

 39:55

Thank you very much.

 39:56

Thanks for coming by. That was great. Thanks. Thanks. Thank you This is after hours on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston we're back in just a minute