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Wed, Mar 22, 2023 2:02PM 47:12

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, lesbian, city, dale, running, houston, coalition building, candidates, years, talk, premarin, race, kingwood, stephen, issue, child, nice, britain, city council, group

SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Anise Parker, Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper

S

Sarah DePalma 00:02

It's, it's not fair. And I didn't want to be in that position either. And I strongly recommend that you do it. I know how people feel about attorneys. You know, and I know how people feel about doing legal contracts and all that kind of stuff. But use your head.

J

Jimmy Carper 00:18

Yeah. Before we get off the subject, someone else has died. That it may be only people your age and my age who remember her singer songwriter. Most of her big hits, were back in the 60s and 70s. Laura Nero.

S

Sarah DePalma 00:36

Is that Is that right?

J

Jimmy Carper 00:38

Yes. I saw I saw it in the advocate.

S

Sarah DePalma 00:42

What did she pass away from cervical cancer? She Oh my god. 40 9000. That gives me goosebumps,

J

Jimmy Carper 00:49

doesn't it? Oh

S

Sarah DePalma 00:51

we lost Gilda Radner. The same way?

J

Jimmy Carper 00:52

Yes. Yes. She was responsible for hits back then, like stones. Soul picnic. Eli's coming it escapes me.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:07

I got some email from somebody who.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:09

But the other big point about it is that she has been an openly less lesbian for a very, very long time.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:16

Yeah, long before it was ever pot long before Ellen.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:20

And she is survived by her lover and her son.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:24

Something that we said in the last show. And we you now we're talking about the importance of getting for transgender people getting mammograms? Yes. And I got an x ray. I got an x ray. I got an email from somebody who said that was the dumbest thing that ever heard. Why? Because it's just one more expense and they really couldn't afford it. And they were real upset with something else that I had said on the last show about the importance of being honest with your your OB GYN if your post surgical, you know the importance of telling them what one person said to wrote and said, I didn't go through transition to make a make everybody the world where I'm transsexual,

J

Jimmy Carper 02:02

well, then you're playing with with fire. That's all I have to say. I mean, if you can't trust your ~~doctor who the hell can you trust? And I~~

S Sarah DePalma 02:11

honestly I completely forgotten about it until you brought this up about lowering our neuro. Folks, did you hear what just happened to this woman? She's What do you say 4099 Nine cervical cancer. If you are so ashamed of yourself, that you cannot tell your own doctor, what your medical circumstances are, you're a fool. I mean, I can't put this any other way. You're a fool. Right? And I don't like to use that kind of language or be preachy.

J Jimmy Carper 02:40

But for heaven's sake, and the breast cancer thing,

S Sarah DePalma 02:44

I asked my doctor about that I called him back and we had a we had a chat about it. And my endocrinologist said that there is some debate in the in among endocrinologist about this exact issue. It is his belief that any transsexual should get a mammogram at least every other year, at least and after they have been on hormones, five years they should get a mammogram every year. Okay, you heard it. So, I mean, there it is, okay. Women die from breast cancer to very readily. Yes, and that that is a an epidemic and transsexuals in particular are very high risk at this. The hormones that we are taking blew back up their little education here. There are two hormones, two sets of hormones, which are very popular. One of those is called Premarin. And the other one is called St. Neil's case. So there are basically two different types of hormones that are commonly are actually lots of different kinds, but these are the two that are the most commonly prescribed. There is a lot of discussion now about Premarin. It has been linked to suicides. It has been linked to tumors. It has been linked to incredible mood swings, and more and more doctors are leaning away from Premarin. It is very popular among transsexuals though because the belief is the Premarin is quicker. Ah, well, I asked my endocrinologist about that and he said very bluntly, he doesn't prescribe Premarin period. That it's his view that Premarin is dangerous and he won't do it. There are other endocrinologist who disagree. The one thing that he did stressed out over he, he stressed to me several times, when I talked to him about the idea of being open with your doctor post surgery. He said that anybody who is not honest with their doctor is just a complete idiot. Period. And I thoroughly agree with that and

J Jimmy Carper 04:48

no matter what it is, you know, what, what good could a doctor do me if I didn't tell him that I had AIDS? Yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 04:55

Yeah. You know, you know, I know we spent a lot of time on the show talking about shame and guilt. And then this person writes me says, Well, I didn't go through my surgery. And you know,

didn't tell my doctor, I'll listen. If you know if your your discover was cervical cancer, I'll be sorry for you. But not as scary as I would be if I knew there could have been caught early and treated. Yes. You know, there's a there's a point there, okay. No, mammograms are not a lot of fun. They're cold. They, you know, they have some, they're the alternative. The alternative is breast cancer. There you go, Hello. Okay. The alternative to telling your doctor, the truth is the doctor not knowing what they're looking for, and not discovering something when they should have if you're not going to go and do these kinds of things. And then I actually, I don't feel sorry for you. You know, I mean, really, which brings up another subject, I have the I have been speaking with the director of EMS here in Houston. And we are about ready to set a time for it to meet. And he has been very nice on the phone with and very cordial conversations. And I'm looking at the idea of setting up some in service training for the EMS, right. And this comes about after a an incident, another incident in Chicago, of a transsexual, who had been mistreated by E by EMS and paramedics. And so far, there have not been any incidents in Houston. And we've been very lucky. That's a credit to the to the paramedics here in the city. But it doesn't mean it couldn't happen. Yeah. And so we're looking at that. And I'm very pleased that the city here has been very cooperative about that. They realized when I talked them about it. They were very, very honest, saying they had never ever talked with anyone the transgender community didn't know there was a transgender community. Didn't know who to talk to. Wow, well, fine. Now they have my phone number. And we're going to talk to somebody

J

Jimmy Carper 06:53

who never heard of Phyllis.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:58

Touching, touching. Yes, you will. Okay, let's do switch subject. I want to talk about Steven Liddell. Okay. If those of you who may or may remember the last show, we talked about Steven Whittle, and I talked about how much I admired him. Well, and on a previous show, we talked about how he had a case that went was going to the European Court of Human Rights. Let me give you give a little bit of background about this case. The Court of Human Rights has ruled against Steven woudl. And let me tell you the background on this, okay. Stephen woudl, was registered as a girl at birth. Yesterday, so we're talking about that since birth registration, Britain underwent gender reassignment treatment in the 70s and began to live as a man in 1975. His female partner is named Sarah and they have been married for 18 years. They have three gorgeous kids. I've seen pictures of beautiful little kids. Okay, in any case, in 1992, Sarah gave birth to their first child after donor insemination treatment in a licensed clinic. fine so far. So Stephen will agrees to be the father of this child for social and legal purposes, which is a requirement under the regulation of licensed fertility clinics in Britain. And then Stephen goes to the Registrar General for birth and desk to ask if he can be registered as this child's father on the birth certificate, as would be the case for any other non biological father, whose children were conceived using fertility treatments. The Registrar General refused this permission. And Stephen then received a letter from the Secretary of State for Health and Services saying that his wife would be for all legal and welfare benefits purposes be considered a single parent. Whoa, now there's plenty they're married. Oh, yeah. Britain is a Britain is a funny thing. They will give you they will pay for your surgery but they will give you a legal rights. So in this case, they don't recognize Stephen as a male. They recognize even though Stephen is male in all ways, they don't recognize them as male because he was born female.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:17

He got married in Britain that he not really got married. Well, he

S

Sarah DePalma 09:20

got he got married by okay, you get married but MCC. Okay, so so so Britain's basically saying, nevermind that you have a beard. Right? Never mind that you're a professor at the University of Manchester. Nevermind that you're extremely well known and that you're attorney and that you're probably a better family man and most family men dropped it. Wrong Stephen Wilson. Okay, I'm gonna have to sue you now. Now, let me tell you the repercussions of all this first of all, as a result of that decision and myth and Steven would has no right to the information about the child about his own child in her school right nor can he approve any medical treatment for her. And if she died, he has no automatic right to bring up the other children as his children. And in fact, if if the child died, he may not even be listed as next of kin, or even as a relative. Consequently, he couldn't register her death. It's just a stupid, just incredibly Scituate situation you're though Oh, yeah, it really does. So okay, so they decided to go ahead and take this to the court of European court. What the court did is they held that there is family life between the applicants, which is important because Great Britain refused to recognize that. But then the court held that since there is no consensus in Europe yet as to whether nine but non biological fathers should be allowed to have their names on their children's birth certificates, then the nations have to be given a wide latitude in the rules they choose to apply. So this out, well, this is it. I don't know, we talked about the the legal issues once before, and I had mentioned at the time, the courts are 15 years behind medical science. And this is another one of those cases, what's happened is the courts don't know what to do it and this has nothing to do with being with his being transgendered. And it has to do with the whole issue of being a non biological parent. There. Apparently there are nothing in laws there that tell them what to do. Science and laws have not caught up with the science. So so it's a situation where the Court has said, you know, yeah, Stephens probably the better fit and probably one of the best parents we've run across. But technically, we don't know what to do here because we don't know what to do with non biological parents. And so if Britain chooses to make this ruling will go by it. So for now, what Stephen has at least been able to show is that yes, family life can be recognized for transsexuals. That's, that's a win, because that's something they've never won before. But he's still not able to win rights for his children to be the parent of his children legally. Incredible. It is a very strange situation in Britain. There are many strange laws in Europe as well. But I wanted to pass this long. If I know Steven, he's not through. No, and he will come back. Right. Yeah, he'll come back and he'll, you know, we'll fight this more. But I wanted to pass that along as general information we need to do a station break here.

J

Jimmy Carper 12:38

We do. Go ahead. You're listening to KPFT Houston. And ke O 's College Station. This is after hours, queer radio with attitude. And I want to put a little something in your ear right now. It's something that that Glen Holt did on lesbian and gay voices last Thursday night, but it's promoting a group for Southwestern Bell employ. Oh, yeah, here we go.

G

Glenn Holt 13:09

Efforts are underway to expand the Houston chapter of aware the lesbian and gay employee group of Southwestern Bell Corporation. The Organizing meeting will be held Sunday, May 18 at 5pm at the Boulevard Bistro, and that's at 4319 Montrose Boulevard. The dinner meeting is open to current and retired lesbian and gay employees Southwestern Bell and their partners. Sean Moore, who started the first chapter of aware in Fort Worth will be the guest speaker. Please call 713-253-7929 to RSVP that's 713-235-7929 so that proper arrangements can be made with the restaurant. It is suggested that you bring cash to cover the cost of the meal and that makes payment at the end of the meal a lot less confusing. Laurie Clark is spearheading this project. And now that the groundwork has been accomplished, Clark says that the group is ready to soar. The name aware is not an acronym, but comes from the fact that Southwestern Bell is not aware that their lesbian and gay employees are denied the same benefits and compensation as their non gay counterparts. Clarke notes quote, the company is not going to give us domestic partnership benefits and no one is going to request them for us. We have to unite to make the company aware that it is a matter of equal compensation for equal work. Other benefits that are typically denied to lesbian and gay employees, our bereavement and family leave, pension plan benefits, leave for adoption or birth of a partner's child and EAP counseling. Identifying allies at various levels has given Clark hope that Southwestern Bell which has a non discrimination policy, we will make a to recrimination of the free workplace a reality starting with domestic partnership benefits. The May 18 meeting will include an update on the work that has been done, and the group will establish goals and strategies where it's open to management and non management employees. Clark is also a member of the Equity Committee of the Communications Workers of America, which works for more inclusionary policies. She hopes that having a strong lesbian and gay presence in the Communications Workers of America will make a difference at contract bargaining time, benefits and protections for workers are bargained for all employees whether they are union members are not. Houston aware union members are encouraged to attend Equity Committee meetings, the second Tuesday of each month at the CWA union hall at 1515. Jefferson from six to 7pm. Jeff Bartlett, a former CWA Vice President will speak on effective bargaining at the next Equity Committee meeting on May 13.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:00

Okay it's it's interesting about Southwestern bill because I was my understanding that 18 T had domestic partners. Did I Was that wrong? I guess I must have been.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:15

I don't know.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:16

I don't know. Well, I don't know. Maybe. I don't know. Maybe it has to do with the breakup of the telephone company.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:20

sold me Yeah. Fragmented now. Yeah,

S

Sarah DePalma 16:23

so I don't know. Okay, I want to tie two things together here first of all, I'm talking about deal carpenter and then let's go to the interview with the nice okay. All right our good buddy Dale, the I don't like coalition's because I believe in gay separatism. Carpenter is added again. He has an editorial in outsmart and he is after what he calls the gay left, which is what I would call the gay Senator probably. And he is against this he says he's talking about building bridges which translates into coalition building. The bridge building theme is practically the only metaphor with any currency among gay liberals. They want to build bridges or coalition's between gays and every dispossessed disenfranchised, this depress group that has so far gained official recognition in the pantheon of the sick the victimized favorite destinations for our gay bridges, our racial and ethnic minorities, the poor, labor unions, feminists, the transgendered and political dissidents of various stripes. Now, wait a minute. Let's back up. We just heard Glenn Holt talk about unions, bargaining for domestic partnership, right? What exactly is wrong with gays being involved with unions? Particularly,

J

Jimmy Carper 17:42

I see nothing wrong with it.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:45

I just thought we just heard a perfect example of why gays and lesbians would work with labor unions and all sorts of things. Sure. Hmm. Okay. Dale don't understand that one. He is, what is what is this thing about being involved with ethnic minorities? Well, you wait a minute, aren't there a lot of ethnic minorities who are also gay and lesbian? The last time I looked, um, gee, you know, there's the African American gay lesbians and the Hispanic gamer and, you know, there's quite

J

Jimmy Carper 18:15

quite a lot of Asian, gay and lesbian people here.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:19

So, so should we stop dealing with these groups? Or should we not stop dealing with straight Hispanic groups? I mean, let's not talk to Lou black because they're not gay. You know? I mean, and well read it tell Jesse Jackson to get the hell out of town. Because he's not queer either. So we don't want them. And and in fact, let's just take the whole Civil Rights Movement. They're not clearly we don't want any part of them.

J Jimmy Carper 18:43

Well, it gets confusing when you're a separatist, because you don't know where the boundaries are.

S Sarah DePalma 18:47

I mean, what a load of crap. I hope you're listening. And I dare you to call because this is the biggest load of bunk I've ever read. I mean, good heavens. And of course, you know, we all know that why there's no reason in the world why gays and lesbians would want to build coalitions with feminists is their right wing. There are no lesbian feminist never have been if

J Jimmy Carper 19:09

it wasn't for lesbian, though, there wouldn't be a feminist movement. Thank you very much.

S Sarah DePalma 19:14

Hello, Dale Beatty. What are you on? I mean, really, you know, we certainly gays and lesbians have nothing to do with transgenders. So we don't want to build any bridges for transgender, either. And, you know, while we're at it, you know, let's not work for a nice Parker or do anything for a nice because what the hell she likes all those people. We can't use any queries that are in favor this. I'm sorry, Dale, baby. There. You know, this is the second article that he's written about this, and I understand there's a third one coming. And I'm trying real hard not to write a rebuttal, but I probably will. You were and I know I will. You know, the thing about this is somebody who's in the south in the 60s, you This, it sounds to me, I'd have a hard time distinguishing between the word separatist and segregationist. Ooh, it sounds an awful lot. Like there's a wonderful letter to the editor about to Dale, in the very in the very opening here in Rick Dale bashing this way. Oh, he's such an easy target, you know? I mean, he really is and

J Jimmy Carper 20:27

I've said such nice things about him in the past.

S Sarah DePalma 20:29

Okay, this is just a quick letter here. Okay, so Dale, who is queer, who doesn't want to be called queer and who the hell cares? He says, He creates a movement he calls gay separatism, since gays had been driven from the fringes of society. Exactly. How is it possible that we could be separate? He says, carpenter must be referring to the city by the bay where gays have true political and economic clout. So much for the argument that gay separatism is destructive. Likewise, carpenter tax black separationism is destructive. Is it possible for people already segregated to be separatists only in Dale's twisted little world? I wish that people would would know would who know not what there's speak of wouldn't speak. The most ill informed move to

date, Dale decides to put his own personal spin on civil rights. According to him, white America realized that blacks were the same as whites in an all report in important respects, and therefore deserve the same rights. Wait a minute. Wait, wait, wait, I was in Tupelo, Mississippi in 1966. All right. Trust me, the whites in Tupelo, Mississippi. Were giving blacks nothing except the shotgun in the head. There you go. Hello. This in this writer says then I suppose like magic legislation was passed. No mention of the marches. No mention of bloodshed. No mentioned a live loss. Just wait one day the white vote got benevolent. I suppose.

J Jimmy Carper 21:56

There's still not been a lot of areas as a constant fight. Yeah, the point.

S Sarah DePalma 22:05

I he has a right to his opinion. And you know, it's a funny thing, because I really would like to admire this guy.

J Jimmy Carper 22:10

Well, I think in the strata in which he lives and breathes and works and plays,

S Sarah DePalma 22:16

which is an inch wide by inch wide right. appears that way. Yeah. Dale, I mean, baby. You know, it's EDC. I'm sorry. coalition building is the answer. I

J Jimmy Carper 22:28

have to say something nice, though. Because, you know, I really admire Dale for sticking up with the law cabins and fighting the Republican Party. I agree. It takes a lot of guts to go somewhere where you're not wanting Yeah. And I took a lot of guts for you to go to Tupelo, Mississippi in 1966. Well, and

S Sarah DePalma 22:47

I complimented him on the air for that. And I agree, I agree with that. Doing one good thing and 10 bad things, however, does not equate. Dale, I can tell you're a Republican. And I'll tell you very honestly, you're not far different from the fundamentalists in the Republican Party. If you can say this kind of stuff with a straight face. You have a lot more in common with the fundamentalist than you want to admit. And you really ought to be ashamed. Wow. And I'll leave it with that.

J Jimmy Carper 23:16

Okay. Okay. Not saying anything. My lover of 19 years is a Republican.

S Sarah DePalma 23:21

Well, there are you know, they you know, the McKellar is a Republican. Not all Republicans are as narrow minded is this. But in this case, I gotta say, I didn't see and read anything in this article. You know, when the right wing in the Republican Party says things about gays and lesbians Dale stands up and says that's wrong. But then Dale turns around and says, well, but we don't need to be building coalitions to the blacks. We don't need to be building coalitions of Hispanics what's the distinction? Exactly the roof how was that? How is it different one narrow minded view being swapped for another narrow minded view is not an answer.

J Jimmy Carper 24:01

Nor nor getting getting rights for a splinter group and and at the expense of all other groups. Yeah, it's not ready.

S Sarah DePalma 24:12

No, it really isn't. Anyway, I just saw that article and made my blood boil.

J Jimmy Carper 24:17

And by splinter group, I mean, that section of the gay community

S Sarah DePalma 24:25

contrary to his belief, this community he badmouth a diversity is as a as a catchphrase, he doesn't like this phrase. I'm sorry, but this is a diverse community. This is a diverse country. Thank

J Jimmy Carper 24:41

you very much.

S Sarah DePalma 24:42

I just read an article the other day where they estimate that by the year 2010. This country will basically a third Hispanic, a third black and a third white. You know,

J Jimmy Carper 24:54

what, you know, really when you look at other countries that have one on people in them. They have very big race problems.

S Sarah DePalma 25:05

Yeah. I mean, it's it's incredibly narrow minded for, for a gay white man to come out and say this kind of stuff is

J Jimmy Carper 25:12

incredible. It's like two different groups trying to kill each other off. Yeah. Now, we're a country that is nothing but minorities. Well, we have a majority. It's a white, he doesn't have anything but minorities. But I mean, we have a lot of diverse people here all getting along, trying to get along or trying to live and work together. Face it, we this country is a diverse country.

S Sarah DePalma 25:39

Let me point out something too. I said this before, and I got in trouble for it. But I'm gonna say it again. We need to know how to do coalition building with stripe PayPal. Sure. We've got to get over hetero phobia. Listen, if we're ever going to get a hate crime passed in the Senate, for example. We don't have any gay openly gay senators, hello, if you want to get it through, you got to be able to do coalition building and there's gay people, we're not a majority we and we're never going to be and we have to have straight people on our side. If you're going to get into through Congress, you got to be able to do coalition building. That's right. So for him to come out and say, you know, the coalition building is, you know, the gays and lesbians ought not to be doing this. Is is just that. It's it's beyond lunacy. I can't help.

J Jimmy Carper 26:30

But coalition builds hell yes.

S Sarah DePalma 26:33

You know, and there was a, there's been some criticism I know about. And nice working on doing coalition building with Jude and Boni,

J Jimmy Carper 26:46

and I've been one of the ones to do that. Even though I love Elise an ACM, I'll be voting for her and urging everyone to vote for but I just don't like this was part.

S

Sarah DePalma 26:56

Yeah. Now having said that, there are parts of our Judy Comboni. I don't like, okay, but Judah and Boni is a very popular person and a very powerful one. There are going to be times when we need you, Don bonies vote, there gonna be times when we need his help. There are going to be times when we need his fundraising. We don't have to like everything about him. We need to need to be able to work with him. That's the art of the possible. And that's politics. And that's the artist of politics. That's politics. And that's real hard to swallow.

J

Jimmy Carper 27:30

It really is. It really is. But that's, I mean, that's politics all over you're you're in bed with people you can't stand.

S

Sarah DePalma 27:37

It's funny, because Jessica Xavier, who was talking about that in the last show that we did in the last tape that we did, Jessica talked about what it was like being in Washington, and she talked about the art of making compromise. And she talked about how hard it was because you may be on the floor of the House of Representatives screaming at someone over an issue. One minute. And then the next minute, you may be co sponsoring a bill. It's incredible. And that's politic. Yeah. And if you can't do it, then you probably shouldn't go into it. But that's also coalition building. So I just don't understand his his oblique reference here. Did you done bony? And he's you know, and you don bony being being friends with the Nation of Islam. Certainly. They're they're rabid homophobes. It's not a question. Having said that, if, if we're going to go and get a gay and lesbian person or on city council, she has to be able to work with him. Yes. Okay. That's coalition building. So they'll get a grip. What do you say you want to go to the interview? I think

J

Jimmy Carper 28:39

we should. It's been a long time since a nice has been on the show. The last time she was here. Was Diane Williams. Wow. And Diane Williams interviewed and nice. And Cathy together. Oh, cool. That was quite a show.

S

Sarah DePalma 28:57

I bet it was. Kathy is so sweet.

J

Jimmy Carper 28:59

And how long has Diane then gone from this show? Gosh,

S

Sarah DePalma 29:03

well, let's see. She was a year. And we'll see now because I succeeded Diane actually in which is what a little over two years ago now. Okay. Yeah. So if she said that she'd been on the show before, but it had been quite a long time spent at least three years. Yeah. So it's really I'm very pleased to get a nice on the show. Actually, it was an oversight. What happened was that Laurie and I had been talking about it because we were going to work for nice and and Laurie said, why have you never had a nice on the show? I have said No you haven't. I said oh yeah, I had run with Phyllis. She said, No, you haven't. And so I went back and played some of the tapes and doggone she was right. We hadn't. I said oops. So with that in mind, you

J Jimmy Carper 29:47

think Lori's you know, home sleeping? Don't you? Know, I

S Sarah DePalma 29:50

listen, I give her credit where credit's due and she was right on this. So with that in mind, we go to an East Parker regular listeners who after hours have often heard us talk about any sparker. Now anyone who's listened to the show for any length of time knows that she is a friend to the transgender community. What many people may not realize is that she is also a very qualified candidate that she is running in several city raises in the past, and is currently a candidate for city council. And so I'm really pleased to get a nice Parker on after hours. Welcome to the program.

A Anise Parker 30:29

Thank you. I actually have been on the program before but it's been a few years. So I think I know it's the first time I've been on with you

S Sarah DePalma 30:35

with Yeah, it was an oversight on my part. Actually, it wasn't until Laurie pointed not miss it. Yeah, we had her on with Phyllis. I know we did. And Laura says no, I don't think so. And she was right.

A Anise Parker 30:45

Well, most middle aged ladies are in bed at the time this

S Sarah DePalma 30:51

is this is terrible to admit to admit this, but I have to take a nap in the afternoon to do the show. Because otherwise I don't make it till three o'clock. Jimmy does all the talking last hour and I snooze on the air and that's not not good. So well. Okay, let's go ahead and get the obligatory

question out of the way. Well, maybe it's not so obligatory. There might be a lot of people in after who are listening to the show, who don't know who you are. Why don't you introduce yourself to the audience, give them some of your background.

 A Anise Parker 31:17

I'm a native Houstonian and have been a community volunteer in Houston for almost 20 years. In the gay and lesbian community and civic associations on police department issues, senior citizen issues, anything that I see that I thought I could make a difference in and get involved in. I've been generally known as the spokesperson on gay, lesbian and transgender issues.

 S Sarah DePalma 31:50

Now, I know anytime that I've gone to talk to the straight media, I always get these very strange questions. And I'm sure you probably do, too. What a lot of people in the gay community may not realize is you have a background that goes way beyond gay and lesbian issues. You've been involved in all sorts of things over the years.

 A Anise Parker 32:07

Well, as I said, civic association issues particularly I'm a past president of the near town Association, and we are broadcasting here in the heart of Montrose, which is actually a part of the near town Civic Association. And I'm current president of the near town Community Development Corporation, both organizations interested in quality of life here in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, we're also experiencing the Westheimer street Fest this weekend. And as someone who is who is headed the near town Association, I've been in the middle trying to mediate between the folks that love the festival and the folks that hate the festival. But yeah, I'm interested in all sorts of things that involve the city of Houston. And it's my civic association experience, particularly I think that qualifies me for city council these a lot of city government is getting your trash picked up, getting your potholes filled, getting your getting your sidewalks repaired.

 S Sarah DePalma 33:07

I worked as an aide for Mickey Leland for a while. And I was always amazed, we would get phone calls from people saying, my garbage hasn't been picked up. And would say, ma'am, you know, this is a congressman's office. We don't take care of that while I'm not voting for you. So with that in mind, why don't we talk about this position that you're running for now you're running for an at large position. And folks may not know what that is, they may not understand how City Council is structured.

 A Anise Parker 33:31

If you live in the city limits of Houston, and you are a registered voter, you are eligible to vote for me in this race. We have five at large council members that anyone can vote for. And then you also have district council members and you have to be in an individual district to vote for

we also have district council members and you have to be in an individual district to vote for them. But I am running citywide at large for position one on the ballot.

 Sarah DePalma 33:53

Okay, so listeners, you understand, it won't be enough just to carry Montrose because she also has to carry Kingwood. I'd love

 Anise Parker 34:01

to hear it. It may be it may be tough. I've actually been a candidate before and I ran in a special election in 1995. I was third of 19 candidates. And that was close enough to inspire me to further efforts, but also close enough where it really hurt to lose that one. So I'm getting out really early this year and working hard.

 Sarah DePalma 34:25

The irony is that was a seat that was won by Mr. Peavey is I recall, who would then turn around and had to resign

 Anise Parker 34:32

for ethics violations unfortunately. And is now held by by Chris Bell, who's a good guy and I think will be an excellent councilmember over the years.

 Sarah DePalma 34:42

Yeah, it was just ironic to see if and he said one we would never have gone through this stuff with Mr. Peter

 Anise Parker 34:45

would not be having had would have would have not had a special election in January. No,

 Sarah DePalma 34:50

that's right. Well, now what does it mean to be running for an at large position? I'm not sure folks understand you've run into skin and ate before and is used You came in third, in and

 Anise Parker 35:01

out large internet large arrays. But a special election is a is a race where that's the only thing

on the ballot that one particular race and most of the citizens ignore it. So I believe we had a 7% turnout.

 Sarah DePalma 35:17

Yeah, I think I was real disappointed that we didn't even hit 10%.

 Anise Parker 35:21

I know it was it was pretty pitiful. But when you think of a citywide race, there will be probably a million registered voters in the city of Houston. Come November, we have well over 100,000. Now, but there'll be we had over 100,000, we added Kingwood. There'll be voter registration drives. So we're looking at a million registered voters. And 640 some odd square miles of city that track down those voters in it's it's a really, really big job. Most of our the district council members, those districts are larger than most of the cities in this country. So we have to think on an order of magnitude and running for positions anyone?

 Sarah DePalma 36:03

Yeah, I don't think people understand what it means to run for an office in this city, this effort physically as ever, I believe this is the second or third largest station, city in the country in terms of land size. So you know, I mean, it's a long distance from Clear Lake to Kingwood. And that means that she's going to be doing a lot of speaking in clear words in clear, you know, one neighborhood know, a night and on the other side of the city the next night and repeating herself until she's just sick of it.

 Anise Parker 36:33

That's right, yeah, if you're running in a city like Chicago or New York, they're very dense. And you're in row houses or apartment complexes, and you're just going from door to door. And it's really easy. But Houston is so spread out and houses are spread out. It's very difficult to do the footwork involved, it uses a lot of volunteers.

 Sarah DePalma 36:54

Think of the distance from Clear Lake to Kingwood. And from Sharpstown, to the east side of the city. And you get some idea what what a task this is to run for mayor and you run for city council. Now in addition to that, it looks like we're going to have new candidates for mayor. And it looks like linear is not going to be able to run. So this should be a big election,

 Anise Parker 37:16

it looks like there is still a slim chance that the legislature will overturn our term limits. And if they don't, there's still a slim chance that there may be a petition drive to keep him on the

legislature for at least two more years. The winning candidate will be elected by

ballot for at most, two more years. I'm running for a seat that will be vacated by someone whose term limited. It's currently held by councilmember Gracie signs, but she can't run again, assuming that terminal was actually she's running for mayor. She's running for mayor. My race will take a budget of about \$150,000. The mayor's races just add a zero behind that. Your, you know, a million million and a half they're going to spend in their race. It's just

 S Sarah DePalma 37:57

yesterday, Helen Huey was complaining about the amount of money that it was going to take to run for mayor and I thought well, gee, you knew that when you started.

 A Anise Parker 38:05

But how do you is going to have a grassroots effort. I don't know if your listeners would know who she is. But she's sitting city council member for sort of the spring branch area. And volunteers can make up for a lot of money. When I had third place finish in the special election in 95. It was because of volunteers and grassroots effort. I mean, I had some money, but I was seriously outspent by the other candidates and that having having people who are willing to get on the phones or go door to door makes a difference. You can't pay for that. In fact, the best volunteers I had my phone crew was almost entirely transgender.

 S Sarah DePalma 38:47

And you probably will be again to have already been talking to. We had Ray Hill on the show. The night after the election after after that election was held Ray Hill pointed out that PV had linears team working for him in his race. Catherine Tyra had the money of the political right. And you finish third. That's not bad out of 12 candidates 19 9019 candidates. So folks, I want you to understand that when we just when we talk about this and with the idea that an ISA is running for city council, she has a legitimate chance at winning this is not a sacrificial lamb running. She's got a legitimate chance to win a couple of keys though, a she's gonna need some money and be she's gonna need some help. I mean, you're gonna have to turn out and help. That's all there is to it.

 A Anise Parker 39:34

Yes. And lots of things that that volunteers can do. Now, I'm expecting to have some money in this race. There's never enough as you want. Yeah, that's for sure. I'm trying to get I'm trying to get enough the first filing deadline is in June and I'm trying to get enough in the bank. So it kind of scares some other candidates at this point. I know of only one other case candidate who's actually an official candidate. Lots of people think about running for things. But you have to formally file a designation of treasurer, Treasurer with the city secretary. And there's only two of us who have done that right now. They'll probably be a dozen candidates by the time the official going down to City Hall and signing our names on a for the for the ballot positions takes place. But it's nice right now, because I'm out early and no one else is out. And it gives me an opportunity to go talk to people, I've been making the rounds of the downtown packs, and doing all the things that every other candidate needs to do. Now, I will say that I'm received

very well. I do get asked about the fact that I'm openly gay. And it they don't express any major reservations. What's so interesting is that a lot of people who interviewed me, they talked about what a great resume I have, and what an excellent councilmember, I'll be, and doesn't bother them. But they think it'll probably be a problem with other people.

 S Sarah DePalma 41:06

Oh, yeah, we've talked about that, that whole issue on the show before, one of the things that we people have to look at then is this means this is going to be long dragged out process. Let's assume that there are eight to 10 candidates, that guarantees there's going to be a runoff virtually. So that means you're in for a long as a long, hard process. Now one of the things that what all this means is that we can afford any political apathy. The last time we had one of these elections, you would think you said they had with 7% turnout. And gay and lesbian people are in certainly no different than the rest of the community. I think there is every bit as apathetic about politics as everyone else. But let's talk about what it means for you to be running. I remember when I was I'm urban, when Harvey Milk ran the first time in in what it meant for them. And I know in other cities where they have been able to get gay and lesbian people elected to City Council seats, it has meant very important things to the city, what would it mean here?

 A Anise Parker 42:08

Think I think it would be a symbol of tolerance in a city, that while having openly gay people elected to office, to those of us who are gay, it gives us role models, it gives us something to aspire to, it makes us feel that we're we're equal and a part of what goes on in the city. But for people who are non gay, it also sends a message Houston likes to think of itself as an as a city where anyone can make it it likes to think of itself as a very tolerant city, a city that embraces diversity without really having that diversity divide us. We haven't had a history of riots and racial strife, that other some other cities have had not to say that it's that it's perfect by any means. But that it, it allows all of us to say we're taking one more step to show that what we care about in this city is what you can do what your qualifications are not not your gender, not your sexual orientation, not your gender identity, not any of those other not the color of your skin or your ethnic background.

 S Sarah DePalma 43:22

And one of the one of the shows that we did, I was talking about a a state representative in the state of Minnesota and openly transsexual state representative who won, and what that had meant as a role model for other transgender people around the country. And when I go and talk to the groups, I always like to use her as an example and say, it would have been easy for her to say all I'm transsexual, I can't do this, or I'm transgender, and I can't do that. And instead she said, hey, I can do anything. And I agree with you. I think it would be a terrific thing for people here to know that in Houston, it if you're qualified, you can win, period.

 A Anise Parker 43:59

Well I'd tell you what inspired me was the new sheriff of Travis County. Oh yeah, you might

Well, I'd tell you what inspired me was the new sheriff of Travis County. Oh yeah, you might want explain. Margo Frazier is the new sheriff of Travis County, which is the county that includes Austin. She's an open lesbian, but she was a qualified candidate for sheriff she was the best qualified candidate for sheriff had been in the sheriff's department for years and years. And if you could see her I had the opportunity to meet her. She's just a nice down to earth. I have to say it, tough looking woman. But the fact that the citizens looked at her qualifications and her opponent, her Republican opponent, did not gay bait her at all. He ran strictly on the issues. I don't know he may be kicking himself now for doing that. But it was a it was very issue oriented, clean race heads up race and she won. We tend to think of law enforcement as incredibly reactionary and that scenario, no one will I would like someone who's openly gay. But the fact that Margo Fraser was able to get out and run is wonderful now. Dallas has openly gay city council members come through Galveston has an openly gay city council right now that I Yeah. And I understand though, that most of those got elected. And it was, may have been known. But they really came out after they were they were elected. The only person I know in the state of Texas who's openly gay in holding office who was an activist beforehand is Glenn Max and Maxie, right. And it is different. Being a gay, lesbian or gay or lesbian activist, and being a spokesperson for the community, and then deciding to run for office than to be someone who, well, some people may know that you're gay, but you've never been publicly gay, before you run. It's a very different position. It works for other communities as well, if if you've been a black activist, and you've been you've led marches in the street, people are gonna have a different view of you than if you've been sitting in the boardroom. So reputation does

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Sarah DePalma 46:08

precede you. I can tell you that from experience. Yes. Well, okay, now, let's talk about let's talk about a little different idea here. I've been here long enough to know who Steven Hodes is, and what the right room you know, what all that's about. They didn't really mount much against you the last time I mean, they didn't try to use it against your, your, your sexual orientation against you. Do you think they will this time? Are you expecting organized opposition and your major? I don't know whether

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Anise Parker 46:34

Do you have my feelings heard about that? Or not? Maybe they didn't take me seriously. I know they will. This time, the finish in 95 got a lot of people's attention. It depends on I think all eyes are gonna be on the mayor's race. And there'll be a lot of folks in my race and then there'll be two other open city council races, one at large and one district race that I know. And I think, you know, if there's any attention left to focus, I'm sure I'll be a target actually. Well, I don't want to have to deal with that.