

**ZACHARY** It's the-- let's see here-- live coverage of the international March on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay people. That's going to be starting here at 1:00 but for the first hour, we're going to have a little bit of music and a little bit of history of what Stonewall is. You're listening to KPFT 89.1 Pacifica Radio. This is Zachary Steele First, I'd like to start out my show with a song that isn't quite by a gay person. We don't know yet. But I think it's an interesting one, so I'll go ahead and play that, and we'll see what it's like.

[MUSIC - KIM WILDE, "STONE"]

**ZACHARY** That was Kim Wilde. That's her song "Stone." It's off her "Close" album.

**STEELE:**

One of the interesting parts of the song [INAUDIBLE] the lyrics kind of goes with Stonewall. You can't close your eyes to the lies perpetrated by dangerous fools because they're handing out rules like a prophecy chiseled in stone. That brings us to Stonewall, the 25th anniversary of Stonewall.

Happened back in 1969 on June 27. It's interesting. I have here an article written by the *San Francisco Examiner* about five years ago for the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, and I'm going to be reading some bits and pieces of that and then also kind of playing music that goes along with it. First part is prejudice and pride.

The late '60s are reputed to be the years when a benevolent, anything goes mentality swept the nation. But for gay men and lesbians, they were days when same sex couples routinely were arrested for holding hands or dancing together even on their own turf such as bars like the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. Shortly after midnight on the evening of Friday, June 27, 1969, eight of New York City's finest arrested patrons at the Stonewall, including employees. It was a familiar scene. Harassment was given in a gay life.

Yet when the paddy wagon arrived, the crowd gathering in the streets suddenly turned hostile, hurling catcalls and bottles at the police. Thus began the riot that fueled the gay rights movement. Few images record the symbolic event. In the early years of their civil rights movement, gay people were not considered news.

In the *San Francisco Examiner's* archives, for example, a folder marked Homosexuals 1975 and Previous contains only 32 photos to represent the first six years after Stonewall. Whether marching in Freedom Day parades, lobbying politicians, or fighting anti-gay laws, lesbians and gay men have made history. But the images of these events exist largely in the memories of those who fought on the front lines-- a personally rewarding sense of one's history but a heritage impossible to pass on to the gay people of generations to come.

[MUSIC - JAMIE ANDERSON, "NO CLOSESTS"]

**ZACHARY** 'K, and that was Jamie Anderson. That's her song "No Closets" from her "Center of Balance" album. That's also the song that we usually intro our show "Lesbian and Gay Voices" here on KPFT 90.1. Our show is on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Today is just going to be kind of a first hour of history and a little bit of music. Then starting at 1 o'clock, we're going to have our live coverage of New York's international march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay people. This is Zachary Steele coming at you.

Normally at this hour, you would probably be tuning in for Bluegrass Zone. That's going to be coming back at you next Sunday. But for today, we're going to go on and continue with the little bit of Stonewall history and a little bit of gay history in the '70s and '80s bringing us up to the '90s. Then at 1:00 PM, we'll go ahead and cut live to New York.

Early activism took different forms. Many cities did not specifically outlaw gay bars or social events. But because of harassment and entrapment, gays could not socialize freely.

In 1965, in the company of prominent lawyers and religious leaders, San Francisco gays held a Mardi Gras ball at California Hall, a fundraiser for the New Council on Religion and the Homosexual. Police arrested the revelers but were later embarrassed by a resulting suit against the city. In 1966, members of one of the first gay men's group, the Mattachine Society, staged a sit-in at the Julius bar in Greenwich Village, demanding, as open homosexuals, that they be served.

That kind of brings us up to our next song. It's by Fred Small. It's "all the Time in the World," and here it is.

[MUSIC - FRED SMALL, "ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD"]

**ZACHARY STEELE:** And that was Fred Small with his song "All the Time in the World." You can find that on "Feeding the Flame-- Songs by Men to End AIDS." And that brings me back.

I've been reading from the *San Francisco Examiner* from 1989, their article on the 20th anniversary of Stonewall. Right now, it's about the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, and coming up at 1 o'clock, we're going to be receiving from New York a live broadcast on the march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay people. Back to my article in the *San Francisco Examiner*, by the late '70s, gay men and lesbians had reached beyond their Castro home, creating new alliances and presenting their own heroes to the world.

However, Dan White, the man who ended an era and started another, a conservative San Francisco cop turned fighter turned supervisor, shot San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk on November 27, 1978. These killings brought 40,000 people together for a candlelight homage for the Castro down Market Street to City Hall, a silent memorial repeated every November 27 since. On May 21, 1979, Dan White was sentenced to seven years in jail for voluntary manslaughter.

Inflamed by a punishment they saw as a pardon, gays and lesbians once again took to the streets. In what came to be known as White Night, they torched police cars and besieged City Hall, causing \$1 million in damage. In retaliation, police went down to the Castro, pulled gays out of a local bar called The Elephant Walk, and beat them.

Meeting new challenges while celebrating new successes, gay people found the 1980s a turning point in their movement. Forced to confront the unprecedented tragedy of AIDS, gays and lesbians became the great teachers, caretakers, and fighters of the decade. Protesters demanded an end to AIDS discrimination. Street fairs, rallies, and the Gay Freedom Day parade continue to unite a diverse people.

But whether fighting inequality or the war on AIDS, gays remain on the front lines. AIDS brought both heroes and enemies into the open. Activist Bobby Campbell with his arm around his friend Bobby Hilliard brought gays and AIDS to the cover of *Newsweek* in 1983.

Campbell, the first AIDS poster boy, died a year later of AIDS. AIDS also claimed Leonard Matlovich as well as thousands now memorialized in the NAMES Project Quilt. Displayed in Washington DC in 1988, the quilt brought a nation to tears.

Being a person in my 20s, it's really hard to know what went on in the '70s and '80s. But I certainly know about AIDS, and I know about the loss of people to AIDS. We still need a lot of education, both gay, lesbians, and straight people. And that brings me to my next song, of course, which is called, "Daddy, what is AIDS?" And if I can get around to it-- and here it is.

[MUSIC - PETER ALSOP, "GOTTA LOTTA LIVIN' TO DO"]

**ZACHARY** And I need to go ahead and make a correction to that. That's Peter Alsop, "Gotta Lotta Livin' to Do." It's also found on the CD "Feeding the Flame-- Songs by Men to End AIDS."

Ah, there's a lot of debate going on whether or not we as gays and lesbians should become political in fighting the battle against homophobia and also in joining the battle against AIDS and to end AIDS. There's a pretty neat song by Romanovsky and Phillips. I'm going to be playing that in a bit.

Just to let you know, you are listening to KPFK 90.1 Pacifica Radio. Today at 1:00, we have the live coverage from New York City on the international march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay people, and that will be coming in here live at 1 o'clock. We'll be playing that until 4:00. Normally scheduled at this hour is the Bluegrass Zone, and that'll be coming back next Sunday at its normal slot, 12:00 to 3:00.

We're also not going to be having The Prison Program coming up from 3:00 to 5:00 since we do have our live coverage. Next song I'm going to play for you is "Be Political, Not Polite." And that's by Romanowski and Phillips.

[MUSIC - ROMANOWSKI AND PHILLIPS, "BE POLITICAL, NOT POLITE"]

**ZACHARY** And that was Romanovsky and Phillips, their song "Be Political, Not Polite." On the flip side of that is kind of a little parody by Jamie Anderson, and it's titled "I'm Sorry."

[MUSIC - JAMIE ANDERSON, "I'M SORRY"]

**ZACHARY** OK, and that's Jamie Anderson. She's saying that she's sorry. You are listening to KPFK 90.1, and this is Zachary Steele coming at you.

We're just kind of doing a little bit of introduction for the next half hour before we go into the live coverage from New York City. This is Zachary Steele. I normally am found on Lesbian and Gay Voices, although you don't really hear me because I'm back here working the board.

So I don't know, but maybe today's just a special treat being able to hear that. A lot of us lost some friends and lovers to AIDS. The next song is kind of a dedication. It's by Jimmy Somerville-- "For a Friend."

[MUSIC - JIMMY SOMERVILLE, "FOR A FRIEND"]

[MUSIC - MELISSA ETHERIDGE]

**NARRATOR 1:** Melissa Etheridge, one of many lesbian and gay voices-- Lesbian and Gay Voices is a program that brings the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio. We feature local, state, national, and international news, music and community events, interviews, book reviews, and commentary. So tune in Friday's from 6:00 to 8:00 PM to Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT World Radio 90.1 FM.

**NARRATOR 2:** Yeah. Back in this. Yeah, you know what I'm saying.

You know what time is. You know what time it is. Here you go.

[? Barbacoa ?] they dropping bombs to the break of dawn. Strictly Hip Hop. They should be in a [INAUDIBLE].

Because they got so much flavor, [INAUDIBLE] Mad Man [INAUDIBLE]. The way they drop bombs should be a felony. I got to add this.

Watch out for Rad Richie. This man quick. Scratching records like he's crazy. Make me think he's [? easy ?].

What can I say? Around the way, they got Dre. I get hanged for listening to the type of music made by [INAUDIBLE] no place to be [INAUDIBLE] chilling like a villain.

Yeah, that's the way to be. Monday mornings, 4 to 5 [INAUDIBLE] dropping bombs to the break of dawn, Strictly Hip Hop. 194 [INAUDIBLE] BFT. You know what I'm saying?

I don't [INAUDIBLE] entertainment in here. Peace. Fellas, what's up?

**NARRATOR 3:** KPFT Strictly Hip Hop, 12:00 to 5:00 AM Sunday, Monday morning. Only on KPFT 90.1, Houston.

**ZACHARY STEELE:** And you are listening to KPFK 90.1. It's 12:43 now. This is Zachary Steele coming at you for a little special introduction before we go to our live coverage of New York's march.

You probably might be tuning in to KPFT for the first time, or maybe you're a frequent listener. At this time, you usually can catch Bluegrass Zone here on KPFT from 12:00 to 3:00. Then from 3:00 to 5:00, we have our prison program with Ray Hill.

Both of those will not be heard tonight since we're having our special feature here today. This is, once again, Zachary Steele. We played the promo for Lesbian and Gay Voices, which is on Friday nights, but Pacifica radio also has a lot of non-gay and non-lesbian programs.

So go ahead and tune in to those. This is listener-supported radio. We play, or try to play, usually, what listeners want to listen to. And we are nonprofit.

So with that I'm going to go into another song since it seems to be a little bit easier to do. But before that, I have a special announcement. There's going to be a benefit tonight at the Brazzos River Bottom, the BRB. That's at 2400 Brazzos.

There's a benefit going on. It's called Lean On Me, and is presented by Virgil Burke. He's the candidate for Mr. TGRA 1995 with special guest stars, and let's see if I can get these names right. It's Chablis Love, Houston City [? Limits ?], Katya Lelove Nevada, Shelby Saint John, Miss BRB 1994, Regina Dayne, [INAUDIBLE] Love, Mabel Norman, members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

Those members of course, are going to be kind of redoing some of the skits that they had done in the last benefit for the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. So go ahead and catch those. That starts at 7:30 tonight at the BRB, 2400 Brazzos.

Before that, there's going to be Happy Hour. So go on in a little early. Get a good seat and watch the show. Coming up next, we have a little respect by my favorite group, Erasure.

[MUSIC - ERASURE, "A LITTLE RESPECT"]

[MUSIC - THE FLIRTATIONS, "FLIRT"]

**ZACHARY STEELE:** All right, and that was The Flirtations, their "Flirt" song, of course. And you are listening to KPFK 90.1 world radio. It is now 12:53. Coming up in about seven minutes, we're going to have the live coverage from New York City on the international march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay people.

That should be here from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon. Normally scheduled at this hour is the Bluegrass Zone, and of course, that will be resuming next Sunday from 12:00 to 3:00. Coming up, here's a little bit more music that we're going to have here, and before them, let me go ahead and get out another announcement.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is having a concert on July 2. It starts at 7:30 PM, I believe. It's going to be at the Wortham Theater, and to get tickets, you can call 227-ARTS. It's promised to be the best ever concert for the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

Again, that's July 2 at-- actually, 7:00 PM, I think, is the actual time. Go ahead and call 227-ARTS, and they should give you the real time that it's going to be starting at. Next is kind of a cutesy song since most of the show so far has been a little on the down side. So this one is called "I Can Take a Hint."

[MUSIC - "I CAN TAKE A HINT"]

**MILES WILLIS:** Armstrong, Ellison, Holiday, Parker, and Davis-- some of the milestones along the dynamic continuum of jazz. Join me, Miles Willis, as we touch upon these and other points of interest. We'll also keep up with new markers being set by today's young practitioners of jazz straight ahead tradition by Wynton Marsalis and Marcus Roberts. Tune in to Milestones every Monday evening from 8:00 to 10:00 PM and let the music take you away on KPFT 90.1 FM.

**ZACHARY STEELE:** And you are listening to KPFK 90.1 Pacifica Radio. Coming up in just about two minutes-- it's 12:58. Now is going to be our live coverage from New York City.

Before that, let's go ahead and play a little bit of introduction music. This has been Zachary Steele you've been listening to for the past hour, and you can normally find me on Lesbian and Gay Voices, although you can't find my voice because I'm back here working the board. Thank you for listening, and coming up from 1:00 to 3:00 is our live coverage from New York City for the international march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay people. That is, of course, down here on 90.1 KPFK

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ZACHARY**

OK, and we finally got the broadcast from New York City. We now go to that live joining it in progress.

**STEELE:**

**DJ 1:**

Thought it was a learned and legitimate form of self-expression. Sound familiar? In the early 20th century, Sigmund Freud claimed that humans were innately bisexual and that homosexuality arose from arrested sexual development. Yet he considered it neither a mental disorder nor an excuse for legal or social persecution.

His successors were less generous. In the late 40s, the survey results of sexologist Alfred Kinsey revealed that male homosexual experience was widespread in the US. Regardless, in 1952, the American Psychiatric Association listed homosexuality as a serious mental disorder.

Psychologist Evelyn Hooker reported finding numerous well-adjusted gay people. Still, through the '50s and '60s, psychiatrists and psychoanalysts strove to convert gay men and lesbians to heterosexuality by means of the couch or aversion therapies. After the Stonewall riots of June 1969, a new activist gay and lesbian community disrupted psychiatric conventions and accused the medical profession of practicing bigotry disguised as science.

These tactics forced psychiatrists into a dialogue with the people they condemned. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. This has been a moment in gay history

And you are listening to WBAI 99.5 FM in New York City where we're having the Stonewall 25 National celebration of the riots that happened here on June 28 in front of the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street. The March stepped off at 11:00 from the United Nations on First Avenue. There also was a March that stepped off from the original site of the Stonewall Inn in Sheridan Square. There was a little problem in getting a permit for that March. And in fact, there was no permit issued for that March, but ACT UP and the gay and lesbian Americans took the streets. They started off on their March at, what was it--

**JOHN BEAUPRE: 7:00.**

**DJ 1:**

I have John Beaupre from KPFK in the studio with me, and you have your impressions for the day. We've been sitting in the studio since 12:00, the reports coming in. What's your take on what's been going on?

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** It's-- Joseph, it sounds to me like first and foremost, the atmosphere is one of absolute jubilation and joyous rejoicing unity everywhere that everyone is gone. And while there was some controversy with the judge's order and the legal case against the gay and lesbian Americans about their stepping off March from Sheridan Square, ultimately, when the gay and lesbian American groups, which included some of the more radical, I guess, more active and vocal lesbian and gay activist groups, took off from Sheridan Square, there really wasn't much rancor. The cops sort of held the streets aside for them, and it really wasn't-- turned out to be a kind of a tempest in a teapot, I think.

**DJ 1:** Well, they didn't want to have a confrontation with ACT UP, and the mayor, mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who's here in New York, was very hesitant on giving them Fifth Avenue. And one of the reasons that was speculated was because that John Cardinal O'Connor, the Cardinal here, had told the city that he did not want millions of gays and lesbians in front of St. Pat's. And, well, it didn't happen, John.

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** What's a remarkable thing, though. We were talking about this yesterday. The strategy used by the group Lesbian and Gay Americans, if they won their permit right from the city of New York, then, of course they get to March and yell and rave and scream and have a good time. If they didn't get their permit, then, of course, they can still rage and yell and scream, albeit outside the letter of the law. What have you seen, Linda?

**DJ 2:** Well, the main thing that I've noticed is having been here since early in the week is that a lot of the athletes, they had to really keep a low profile because they were competing. You know they were going to be involved in events. A lot of them started really early in the morning, and a lot of them had spectators that came to see them. So just from that side of things, I've seen a real high energy when I came out of my-- I'm at the Hotel Pennsylvania. And this morning in the lobby, the excitement and the tension, it was just a lot-- it's a big release for a lot of the athletes and a lot of the spectators because it's over for them now, you know, after closing ceremonies ended--

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** Joseph, I have a question for you. We have been producing this day long programming material for several months now. And we on the West Coast heard continuously about the rift between Stonewall 25 and the Gay Games and the sort of disorganization. Do you think that actually came to fruition, or did they ultimately end up being pretty much marching to the same tune?

**DJ 1:** Well, I don't think the problem was so much between Stonewall 25 and Gay Games. The problem was with Stonewall 25 and Gay Games and the city. You see, we've got a new administration. When the plans went in for us, it was in the Dinkins administration. David Dinkins was sitting and presiding.

And pretty much everything was set, and we knew what we were going to do. Now that we have a Republican mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, he has come in and has pretty much told gay games you can't have Yankee Stadium. But then they just concluded closing ceremonies at Yankee Stadium last night, which, it was spectacular-- Cyndi Lauper, Patti Label, and a host of others.

And for everyone's information, Gay Games 5 will be in Amsterdam in 1998. So the games move on, and they continue. But the problems the problems with the city have been really the focal point. There hasn't been much in-fighting between Stonewall 25 and Gay Games. In fact, the little things you see in the coordination really show that they are trying to work together and pool their resources.

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** The amazing thing too, I think, is that logically, when we think of specialized festivals and specialized fairs and special events in the city, we don't expect what we saw last night when we walked through the gateways into Yankee Stadium and saw in the stands already a little over 40,000, 40,000 screaming and yelling and exuberant lesbians and gay Men, their family, their friends, their lovers. They were followed by 10,000 athletes.

**DJ 1:** Yeah, their estimates were 5,700-- I'm sorry, 57,000--

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** Total in attendance?

**DJ 1:** --total in attendance, including the athletes on the field. And it was a spectacular evening getting. Down to the subways after that or transportation was--

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** Whereabouts were you?

**DJ 1:** --was incredible. I was in the press box, and then we went out. I don't even know the streets up there.

But I wanted to move on, to get off of this Gay Games, because basically, what we're here is for the international march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbian and gay, bisexual, and transgendered people worldwide. Now that was the title in the 1993 march on Washington for Stonewall 25. And then what happened was they dropped transgendered and bisexual people.

And what happened after that was they had different meetings, and they excluded NAMBLA from marching in the Stonewall 25 international march, and they had to actually go March with the alternate march, which started from Sheraton Square. And they were marching with an organization called Spirit of Stonewall. Spirit of Stonewall is marching with the alternative march up into 42nd Street. Then they're going to cross 42nd Street from Fifth Avenue, go to First Avenue, and then march with NAMBLA in their procession up First Avenue to 57th Street, 57th Street West to Sixth Avenue, Sixth Avenue North into Central Park to the Great Lawn for the human rights rally.

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** [INAUDIBLE] was we heard from our field reporter, [INAUDIBLE] national field reporter Victoria Starr. By this time, most of those streets in this part of the city, while there were direct routes, most of the streets are just clogged with people. So as a reminder to our listeners, don't plan on driving in. It's going to be next to impossible to get a place if you are driving in.

By all means, use public transit if you can and while we had a couple of callers earlier asking about whereabouts are the presentations in Central Park, I think if you go in about the lower half of Central Park, it's going to be sort of hard to hide near a half a million people. Sounds like we're getting a little bit of a signal here. Sooner or later, we will be--

**SPEAKER:** [INAUDIBLE]

**JOHN BEAUPRE:** There. Let's go to our live national [INAUDIBLE] coverage at Central Park.

**SPEAKER:** --together-- women, people of color.

**DJ 1:** [INAUDIBLE].

**SPEAKER 1:** People and queers who had been beaten back into bloody closets say no more business as usual. [SPEAKING SPANISH]. The Stonewall Rebellion could have been a footnote on history's page, but it isn't.

It isn't a footnote because queers since then have organized against discrimination and violence. The drag queens and the bikes of Stonewall made a momentous statement. But we who have worked since then have made Stonewall historic.

Listen-- we're here today to make a momentous statement, aren't we? But we can make history. If we will go home organize our communities, join with others struggles for justice, then people will remember today, June 26, 1994, as the day that hundreds of thousands of queers said no more business as usual.

**SPEAKER 2:** [SPEAKING SPANISH]

**SPEAKER 1:** Hold up.

**SPEAKER 2:** [SPEAKING SPANISH] The struggle before us can only be won if we are united, if we ourselves are united, and if we were united in solidarity with other movements. Our struggle cannot be won on a struggle alone. It can only be won if we organize.

It cannot be won in an instant. It demands time. [SPEAKING SPANISH].

**SPEAKER 1:** OK, come on, come on, come on. [INAUDIBLE]

**SPEAKER 3:** Thank you. Our next guest-- hm. Having toured all over--

**SPEAKER 1:** [INAUDIBLE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**REPORTER:** Live from Central Park-- good afternoon if you're listening in New York City, good morning if you're listening out in Berkeley or Los Angeles. I'm Julie Drizzen with Carletta Walker and David Rothenberg, and this is Pacifica Radio's live coverage of the Stonewall 25 anniversary. New York City is teeming with the energy of queer liberation this week as lesbians and gays from around the world have gathered on this capital, this gay and lesbian capital, to demand that their rights be recognized by the United Nations. It's the culmination of a week of celebrations and actions which included the Gay Games, and we'll be bringing today's celebration from Central Park live to you, the voices of many of the activists who helped make this event possible and the lesbian and gay movement possible.

The rise of the Stonewall Inn 25 years ago have come to symbolize the beginning of the gay liberation movement. The symbol is convenient, but it's not entirely accurate. Two decades before Stonewall, gay men and lesbians had begun quietly forming organizations that called for the civil rights of homosexuals. What Stonewall did was change the tone and temperament of that call from a plea for acceptance to a demand for change-- from the love that dare not speak its name to the love that shouted its name. Pacifica reporter Amy Eddings spoke with activists who remember the early years before Stonewall and the turbulent ones that came after.

**AMY EDDINGS:** The Stonewall Inn its name perhaps misguidedly to the red brick exterior that faces Christopher Street. It owes its place in history to the patrons who turned a typical vice squad raid into a three day riot that altered the gay community forever. Prior to 1950, that community found little reason to organize political or social groups. Most homosexuals feared the loss of jobs, family, and friends that any visibility could cause. Many agreed with society and thought their behavior was sick. Jim Kepner is familiar with this period in history, not only because he's the founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles but because he lived through it.

**JIM KEPNER:** I came out in 43, and right away, as soon as finished the wrestling, when do we organize? And people were horrified. Most gays at that time thought we were sick, and [INAUDIBLE] organize, [INAUDIBLE] organize or because the [INAUDIBLE] and they do the same for America. So they just--

**AMY EDDINGS:** Nine years would pass before Kepner found others willing to begin what was called the Homophile Movement. In 1952, he attended his first meeting of the Mattachine Society. The society was founded two years earlier in Los Angeles by five former members of the Communist Party. Kempner says this background helped Mattachine survive during the McCarthyism of the early '50s.

**JIM KEPNER:** In spite of the fact the Communist Party was homophobic, they had a general theory and approach, practical approach, to how to organize where it's impossible, where it's dangerous. And so the people who started the Mattachine had had training of going into places where it is dangerous and organizing.

**AMY EDDINGS:** Mattachine and the lesbian organization called The Daughters of Bilitis maintained a low profile during this time. But in the early 1960s, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement of African-Americans, they started holding public protests to demand equal rights. To get those rights, demonstrators felt they had to prove they were normal citizens and worthy of respect. Picket lines were polite and orderly, with men in suits and ties and women in dresses. In this quiet way, the members of Mattachine and DOB laid the groundwork for what was to come in 1969.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**AMY EDDINGS:** The Stonewall Inn didn't have a liquor license, but it still managed to serve watered down drinks to its patrons. Its dimly lit dance floor was the main attraction. Randy Wicker didn't go there much. An early spokesman for the Mattachine Society, Wicker didn't care to associate with the young drag queens, hustlers, and street kids who gathered at the Stonewall.

**RANDY WICKER:** I mean, it was a dive. It didn't have a liquor license. There was some drug there which doesn't seem like much today since every disco is loaded with drugs today.

But in those days, when you said they had a trunk swimming around, that was a real no-no. Even though the psychedelic thing was sort of coming in, like, drugs were a real no-no. It had a lower class crowd. As a matter of fact, the slang would be they'd call the Cha Cha Palace because a large number of Latinos-- very few Blacks but a large number of Latins.

**AMY EDDINGS:** Like other gay bars in New York City, the Stonewall Inn was owned and operated by the mafia. Payoffs were made to the police officers of the local sixth precinct, but that didn't stop them from making an occasional raid, especially during the summer of 1969 with a mayoral campaign in full swing. In the early hours of June 28, four patrol cars brought eight officers to the Stonewall for their second raid on the bar that week.

Lights were turned on. Policeman ordered everyone in the bar outside. How an ordinary raid turned into a riot that night is now the stuff of myth and memory even to Gregory Terry. He was at the Stonewall and says no one there had any idea what would happen next.

**GREGORY TERRY:** [INAUDIBLE] with any forethought. You know, I wouldn't say, oh, we're going to rally. We're going to get together. We're going to fight this together.

There's just something that we were thrown into, something [INAUDIBLE] thrown [INAUDIBLE] something throwing right in a cop's face. They were throwing drinks and such. The cops [? will be-- ?] at first was taking the [INAUDIBLE] for amusement, but it was [INAUDIBLE] with them. So they started smacking guys around. And [INAUDIBLE] have smashed cops back.

**AMY EDDINGS:** A crowd converged on Sheridan Square to watch. Some joined in and threw bottles, coins, and cobblestones uprooted from 7th Avenue. The police, badly outnumbered, barricaded themselves inside the bar and called for backup units. When they arrived 45 minutes later, the crowd was soon dispersed, but not before the press witnessed the event. What they reported the following morning was shocking to Randy Wicker and others in the Homophile Movement.

**RANDY WICKER:** The imagery that came across in the media at the time it happened at the *Daily News*, the Cops raid homo nest, queen bee stinging mad. And chorus lines of girls are out kicking their heels at the cops saying, we are the Stonewall girls. And here you had the nightmare PR, nightmare PR from the point of view of people like myself as an early Mattachine spokesman--

**AMY EDDINGS:** But many saw the riot that night and the following two nights as an opportunity to organize. Groups like the Gay Liberation Front, Radical Lesbians, and the Gay Activists Alliance were formed. Taking their cue from Stonewall, these activists defiantly abandoned the quiet picket lines and conciliatory tones of Mattachine and the DOB and aggressively demanded their civil rights in demonstrations like the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade. It was held on the first anniversary of what was being called the Stonewall Rebellion. Jim O'Brien, one of the founders of the Gay Liberation Front, helped organize the parade.

**JIM O'BRIEN:** The first march, in fact, we had no permit for it. The police blocked those from marching. We had to run down the street the opposite way, and then we had to push through the police lines at 14th and again at 23rd and 34th.

And finally at 42nd Street, they had the whole street across with the police line and cars and had the guns out. And we pushed through them too in order to get to the park. When we got to the park, which we didn't think we were going to make, there was no stage, there were no rallies, and there were no planned speakers because nobody thought it was going to get there.

**FRAN WINANT:** Christopher Street Liberation Day, June 28, 1970. [INAUDIBLE]

**AMY EDDINGS:** Poet and artist Fran Winant was a member of Gay Liberation Front and a participant in the March. She formed her impressions into a poem.

**FRAN WINANT:** --cameras. We are marching past the crumbling old world that leads toward us in anguish from the pavement. Our banners are sails pulling us through the streets where we have always been as ghosts. Now we are shouting--

**AMY EDDINGS:** The old world of the Homophile Movement was also crumbling. The conservative strategies of Mattachine and DOB had no attraction for a generation brought up alongside the Civil Rights movement, the anti-war movement, feminism, and anti-authoritarianism. Although the new groups tried to work with their predecessors, the ideological tensions were too great, and the Coalition DISSOLVED.

Unable to sustain members, the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis folded. But their goal, the liberation of a minority from discrimination and attempt, is now the goal of a movement that continues to change, grow, and thrive. Again, Mattachine member and activist Randy Wicker.

**RANDY WICKER:** We developed the ideology. So when Stonewall happened, I said it couldn't have happened without what went before. There was something ready to go. In other words, these people had a philosophy worked out with all these questions answered and all these arguments refined and all this research done. So I said we built the airplane, and all the Stonewall girls was to get in and fly off on it.

**FRAN WINANT:** We turned to look back on the thousands behind us. It seems we will converge until we explode. Sisters and sisters, brothers and brothers, together.

**AMY EDDINGS:** For Pacifica National programming, this is Amy Eddings in New York. Special Thanks to En Garde Arts production of Stonewall Night Variations by [INAUDIBLE].

**REPORTER:** And I'm Julie Drizzen with you live in Central Park, bringing you the Stonewall 25 anniversary celebration, the march on the UN. Right now, we're in Central Park.

The rainbow flag the symbol of gay pride-- a mile long rainbow flag has finally arrived here. I'm joined by my co-host from WBAR Carletta Walker and David Rothenberg. Good afternoon.

**CARLETTA** Hi.

**WALKER:**

**REPORTER:** And their mics are on. We want to apologize for the technical difficulty you had in the beginning of this broadcast. But hopefully, you'll stay with us for the next five hours as we bring you the voices from the stage and the voices from the movement.

We're being joined now by Leslie Feinberg, one of the more radical voices here and the first speaker from the stage. She's an old gay butch and a longtime transgendered activist. Her novel *Stone Butch Blues* won the American Library Association award for gay and lesbian literature and a Lambda Literary award. Feinberg is currently adapting the screenplay for *Stone Bush Blues*, which will be coming to a theater near you soon. She's also the contributing editor to *Workers World Newspaper* and *Liberation* and *Marxism Magazine*. Welcome.

**LESLIE** Thank you very much.

**FEINBERG:**

**REPORTER:** What are your thoughts on this day?

**LESLIE** What an honor to get to stand up there and open a rally that literally may usher in a new wave of lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender liberation.

**REPORTER:** Why do you say that you believe that this event will usher in a new era?

**LESLIE** Because I think that there's an enormous sense of urgency to build a movement now to fight the attacks from

**FEINBERG:** Camp Sister Spirit to these anti-gay referenda and that everyone senses in their marrow that the only way to do this is through unity. And so more and more people are trying to build deeper and more diverse.

**REPORTER:** You know, you're, as I said, one of the more radical Voices in our movement at this time, and some of the questions that your book and your life raise are the ways in which a lot of the oppression of gays and lesbians is about gender issues at its heart.

**LESLIE** And I also tried to talk today about how these two communities-- the lesbian, gay, bi community on the one hand

**FEINBERG:** is like a huge circle, and the transgender, transsexual, and drag community is like a huge circle, and they partially overlap. And I'm one of those people that's in the part that overlaps, and it's like having a foot in one of each of two rowboats. I have an intense personal desire to not see them go in opposite directions. Sure you can.

**INTERVIEWER:** One of the things that differ is the gay lesbian movement from other progressive movements is that it has a much broader political and social spectrum. From the far right, not that many, but there is--

**LESLIE** Right.

**FEINBERG:**

**INTERVIEWER:** --that element all the way over to the left. What kind of acceptance do you get from the broad spectrum?

**LESLIE** Well, I think that it was very important that this major international march was opened by a socialist. I think that

**FEINBERG:** it was communists who helped forge the first Mattachine and the early movement during the McCarthyite era and now when the right would like to see us in their crosshairs. It was socialism up there talking about the need to unite the struggles that are going on and to say that the Los Angeles rebellion is Stonewall and that the uprising of the Mayan Indians and [INAUDIBLE] is Stonewall and Soweto is Stonewall.

**INTERVIEWER:** Don't you get confused, though, when you see gays and lesbians who were in Houston with people like Buchanan?

**LESLIE** Well, I think that it's a class question. I think that it shows that there's gay people in every class in this society

**FEINBERG:** but that those of us who are working class or poor have the greatest stake in uniting with people right now who are fighting for health care and jobs and against racism and poverty.

**CARLETTA** Carletta Walker.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** Carletta.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** [INAUDIBLE] adjusting my level. But no, I know you from-- and I remember we were talking earlier.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** We go back.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** Jesse Jackson in '84.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** That's right. That's right.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** --part of the--

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** The Rainbow Coalition.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** --coalition.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** That's right.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** Certainly a people's class movement to do with economics which--

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** That's right.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** --does seem to kind of dissipate. So I'm really glad you--

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** It sure does. And all of us may not suffer identical oppressions, but more and more of us are finding that we're

**FEINBERG:** up against a common enemy. And you know, the things like an injury to one is an injury to all that the trade union movement were built on are truisms because they're so damn true.

**CARLETTA** Right, it was interesting. I was looking at some stuff in India, and the guy who started-- he founded the

**WALKER:** newspaper there, the first newspaper. And he was saying we could have a demonstration, have 20 or 30 people, 1,000 people out. But he said he didn't know how significant it would be, and he didn't know how significant it should be given that 1 in 10 people are on the street.

**LESLIE** Well--

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** So that it's important that-- obviously he was in support because he--

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** That's right.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** --his life in jail to do this newspaper but also put it in a context of the starvation that existed. I think that doesn't

**WALKER:** need to be forgotten.

**LESLIE** And the Stonewall Rebellion came after a wave of revolutionary liberation movements of the '60s-- the Black Liberation movement, the Young Lords, the American Indian movement, Women's Liberation, Lesbian Gay Liberation. And today in 1994, this rally opened with "Power to the People," and it's still a demand. It's never been more necessary than ever because in the '60s, the system was still working for a lot of people.

**CARLETTA** Right.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** People had jobs. They were hoping their kids would have a better future.

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** Right.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** You know, but people-- the system's not working today, and people are looking around. And no wonder the right wing is playing tug of war with the working class and most oppressed to say, you know, fight each other, you know? Fight each other. Don't [INAUDIBLE]. No accident that Stonewall happened in '69 because if there had been no civil rights and anti-war movements--

**CARLETTA** Right.

**WALKER:**

**LESLIE** --channeling and energizing as a result of a one night uprising and putting it into focus as a social protest would have never happened.

**CARLETTA** That's right. And we should remember today when times looked bleak is that the Revolutionary movements of the '60s and the '70s followed the McCarthy era when I grew up, when Jim Crow laws reigned supreme, and the Pentagon bombs were bombing Korea, and there was no word for gay that made you feel good to say it, and Christine Jorgensen was being dehumanized, and don't organize. Don't trust anybody. Don't rock the boat. And the '60s not only rock the boat--

**LESLIE** How do we bring the '60s back?

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** We can bring the 60s back with protests like this that get out into the streets, that comb the depth and breadth of people's oppression and grievances and bring them together to demand that health care is not a privilege for the rich, that a job is a right, that we have a right to not only live free from sexism and racism, but we have the right to love, to define our sex, and to express our gender in any way we choose. And we're going to build a fighting movement that's in the streets.

**LESLIE** You make me feel like it's 1964 all over--

**FEINBERG:**

**CARLETTA** Well, all power to the people.

**WALKER:**

**REPORTER:** Thanks so much for joining us.

**LESLIE** Thank you [INAUDIBLE].

**FEINBERG:**

**REPORTER:** Leslie Feinberg, the author of *Stone Butch Blues*. If you're just joining us, I'm Julie Frissen with Carletta Walker and David Rothenberg. [INAUDIBLE].

**CARLETTA** [INAUDIBLE] we need a lot of joy here today.

**WALKER:**

**REPORTER:** Well, we have a lot of joy. You're listening to Pacifica radio's live coverage of the Stonewall 25 anniversary march from the UN. Right now, we're in Central Park, and joining us is Perry Jude Radecic, who is the director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Welcome.

**PERRY JUDE** Thank you. Nice to be here.

**RADECIC:**

**REPORTER:** It's great to have you. What is this event like for you?

**PERRY JUDE** Well, for me, it's about celebrating 25 years of survival. We have survived AIDS and violence and discrimination and harassment for 25 years and more, and this is about recommitting ourselves to organizing for our lives, battling the radical right. There's so much for our community to do, and that's what this is all about for me today.

**REPORTER:** What's at the top of the agenda now for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force?

**PERRY JUDE** Well, certainly battling the radical right because the radical right is organizing at every level of our lives, and it manifests itself in so many ways-- on school board races, libraries, one of battling these anti-gay initiatives in at least seven states around the country. And also, we're working on an issue with local organizers in the South called the Olympics Out of Cobb County.

**REPORTER:** I notice you wearing a sticker that says Olympics Out of Cob County.

**PERRY JUDE** --the crowd. We're going to have two of the chief organizers, Pat Hussein and John Weaver from Georgia, with us up on stage. We're going to unfurl a banner, and we are going to invite everybody who is at this march and their friends and their families to Atlanta in 1996 because if they don't move volleyball out of Cobb County, which is the most racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Semitic County in the country--

**REPORTER:** Woo!

**MAN:** But with a lesbian who's the daughter of one of the individuals--

**PERRY JUDE** She's just come out.

**RADECIC:**

**REPORTER:** Why don't you tell us what happened in Cobb County which makes it the place that you describe?

**CO-CHAIR:** [INAUDIBLE]? Yes, [INAUDIBLE].

**REPORTER:** Your name, please?

**CO-CHAIR:** My name is Cathy Stain. I'm one of the co-chairs of the Olympics Out of Cobb and a member of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

**REPORTER:** Welcome.

**DAVID** I got chills when I read this story in the times this week.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**CO-CHAIR:** There was a play in Cobb County, and they said it had homosexual content. So the commissioners took up whether they wanted to fund something like that. They decided to end all arts funding and then passed a second resolution attacking lesbians and gays, an anti-gay resolution against the gay lifestyle.

The Atlanta Olympic Committee rewarded them after that in November. That was in August. They rewarded them in November with the Olympic volleyball venue. We told them the resolution is rescinded.

You pull the venue out of Cobb, or we will have a National protest demonstration to warn our people it's not safe. The Cobb commissioners have also welcomed Nazis and skinheads to Cobb County. There are 17 hate groups operating. A month ago, there was Ku Klux Klan paramilitary training for neo-Nazis. It's not a place for people to be.

**REPORTER:** Is that where you live?

**CO-CHAIR:** I live in Atlanta, and as a native Atlanta, Atlanta has the games. Atlanta supports all of its citizens without regard for their sexual orientation, and the Olympic Charter says that they will not discriminate against anyone for any reason. Having a venue in Cobb County is completely incompatible with that, and people will not know that they're in danger by going to Cobb County. So we will raise the alarm and warn them.

**REPORTER:** Cobb County is where in relationship to Atlanta?

**CO-CHAIR:** It's a part of metro Atlanta. There's an interstate that runs around. It's--

**REPORTER:** [INAUDIBLE] a circle.

**CO-CHAIR:** --county. Yes.

**REPORTER:** OK.

**CO-CHAIR:** It's within 10 miles.

**REPORTER:** Right. Now I know Atlanta is a huge loop. It's almost like a huge Metropolitan area.

**CO-CHAIR:** Right.

**REPORTER:** OK.

**DAVID** It's where lesbian volleyball is considered a threat to the nation.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**CO-CHAIR:** [INAUDIBLE] we're 10% of the population, but they're going to do women's volleyball. It's about 50% of their girlfriends out there, but the climate of hate that's been created by the municipality. It's unconscionable. They have to move the venue.

**DAVID** It's amazing that a volleyball game can be perceived that Cobb County is so fragile that a volleyball game might threaten the political fiber of its [INAUDIBLE].

**CO-CHAIR:** It's absolutely amazing that they would attack a portion of the community that has done nothing but pay their taxes and live there.

**DAVID** And play volleyball.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**CO-CHAIR:** It's an unwarranted attack. Nothing that it's ever conceivable to just attack a portion of the population-- it's even more horrendous because it doesn't do anything. It just says, we hate you people, and from a Cobb commission chair whose daughter he knew was lesbian.

He's known that. That's real family values. Condemn your daughter publically.

**DAVID** Well, the best sign that I've seen around this week, it says, hate is not a family value.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**CO-CHAIR:** It's not. If we believe it, before the games begin, the hatred must stop.

**PERRY JUDE** Absolutely

**RADECIC:**

**CO-CHAIR:** Thanks so much for joining us. Perry Jude Radecic--

**PERRY JUDE** --task force working with the Olympics out in Cobb is calling for a shutdown of the city of Atlanta in 1996 if they

**RADECIC:** don't move volleyball out of Georgia.

**REPORTER:** It's almost an echo, though, of the battle for Colorado which took place in the early '90s. There was a national boycott of Colorado because of anti-gay legislation that passed. What did we learn from the Colorado experience that's informing the Olympics out of Cobb County?

**PERRY JUDE** That people need to be educated about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues in a much more one on

**RADECIC:** one way and that creating our visibility, coming out of the closet, is really what's going to create change for our community. And the more people who come out of the closet, raise our level of visibility, is really what's going to create the change. A 30 second sound bite-- there is no magic bullet. There is no magic 30 second soundbite that's going to beat the radical right. It's about each of us finding change within each and every one of ourselves, coming out, and educating--

**DAVID** Can I make a suggestion? I would suggest that the Cobb County people talk to the Chamber of Commerce in New York City and the storeowners and the hotel owners who are boasting that they've never had such terrific business from well-behaved, money-spending gay men and lesbians who have-- one restaurant owner said we were wiped out in January and February because of the snows. If we had one more week of gays, we could erase the dollar and cents loss. That's a language that I'm sure that-- if they don't understand human rights, they understand bottom line.

**PERRY JUDE** I think that that's absolutely true. I think that for people of substance or of wealth who could come here today, it was important to show the kind of force both politically and economically. But there are many gays, lesbians, transgendered, and drag people who could not make it here today who are celebrating Stonewall 25 in their own community.

**DAVID** Exactly, and we're talking to those communities around the-- we're talking to people in Berkeley and Washington, **ROTHENBERG:** Houston and Bridgeport and Boulder, Colorado and Portland, Oregon and Columbia, Missouri and Minneapolis and Tampa. They're [INAUDIBLE].

**PERRY JUDE** --great

**RADECIC:**

**DAVID** Thanks for being with us.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**REPORTER:** Thank you so much for joining us. That's Perry Jude Radecic, who is the director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, one of the nation's leading lesbian and gay rights organizations. We're going to take you to the stage in just a moment.

There's a lot of activity. Hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gays are here in the center of Central Park. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25, the riots that erupted out of the Stonewall bar 25 years ago which gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

As we've mentioned before, it was not the beginning of the gay rights movement, but it was the event that changed that movement from being a more passive movement from being a more aggressive movement to fight for their rights. I'm Julie Drizzen with David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker of WBAI.

**DAVID** Maurice Kite, one of the venerable activists and one of the legendary names in the gay and lesbian movement, **ROTHENBERG:** joins us. Good morning. This is-- I've decided, watching everybody come and go so far, that this is New York's answer to Houston's Republican disgrace of two years ago.

**ACTIVIST:** What a wonderful answer this is. Houston was really far worse than people have yet found out. The Republican Party, which I've never been a great fan of, was seized totally and forever by the radical fundamentalist Christian right, and we're in terrible trouble. Our dynamism of our democracy is based upon several tendencies, and we've lost one to the most negative tendency.

**DAVID** I know when I was watching the Buchanan Houston speech, I found myself nostalgic for Barry Goldwater, whose **ROTHENBERG:** grandson is gay and openly gay and who he's been supportive of. And suddenly, what we used to consider the conservative right looked responsible. Bob Taft and Barry Goldwater--

**ACTIVIST:** Absolutely.

**DAVID** --suddenly looked fearful as compared to what we saw down in Houston.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** Pat Buchanan, Pat Robertson frightened me.

**REPORTER:** Not to mention Newt--

**ACTIVIST:** [INAUDIBLE]

**DAVID** And who?

**ROTHENBERG:**

**REPORTER:** Not to mention Newt Gingrich [INAUDIBLE].

**DAVID** You were involved in the gay movement before there was a so-called movement. Starting in what year, and what

**ROTHENBERG:** were the conditions--

**ACTIVIST:** It's hard to answer [INAUDIBLE]. I came out in stages as fast as I could. And then I had a vision that lesbian and gay people needed to be served.

And so I went to Los Angeles to do hands-on, not-for-fee service to lesbian women and gay men in trouble or trouble.

**DAVID** What year would that have been?

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** In 1970-- 1987. I had been doing things already, but I went there to intensify it because I thought that was a good place to organize from.

**REPORTER:** OK. So [INAUDIBLE] you were doing legal service.

**ACTIVIST:** All kinds of things-- housing, jobs. I prepared resumes for people. I conducted consciousness raising sessions

I had a session at my house in Westlake Park in Los Angeles in 1962 in which I said to a great, gathered throng of lesbian women and gay men, everybody in the world is gay. They just haven't found out yet. [INAUDIBLE] profound statement.

**REPORTER:** Can I ask you, Maurice?

**ACTIVIST:** I was doing all kinds of [? new ?] organizing. And that led in the early stages to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, which was the first ever in which I had to do with [INAUDIBLE] and which I'm proud of. And when I walked in front of 1625 North Hudson Avenue, I occasionally burst into tears because I went around the city hands-on, not-for-fee, suffering horrible abuse, terrible abuse, being arrested, spied on.

The police raided my house with regularity. And I did it, and it led to the center. And then I went to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on October 11, 12, 13, 1985, to found this event, Stonewall [? 25 ?].

**REPORTER:** Do you live in Florida now?

**ACTIVIST:** No, I live in Los Angeles.

**REPORTER:** In Los Angeles.

**ACTIVIST:** But I went to Fort Lauderdale as a delegate to the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Pride Inc, who are the people who do these events all over. And they went there to suggest that we not do the events in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and so on the last week in June.

But instead, we not do them at home and all come here. And I suggested further that we internationalize it. And that seems to have happened.

I'm having a hard time holding on to my emotions. I feel surreal. I feel that somehow or another that I'm in a really thrilling multicolored movie that I'm watching at a distance, and I'm seeing my brothers and sisters acting out a liberated roll. And so it's a happy day for me.

**REPORTER:** Can I ask you, Maurice, how old you are?

**ACTIVIST:** I'm 75.

**REPORTER:** You look marvelous.

**ACTIVIST:** Well--

**REPORTER:** You're wearing a lovely straw hat.

**ACTIVIST:** --flattering.

**DAVID** When you came out-- not politically, but when you came out sexually, were aware of yourself, at what age, where  
**ROTHENBERG:** were you, and what was the social atmosphere, which--

**ACTIVIST:** That's an awfully hard question also to answer in that I try to be honest with everybody. But to be dishonest with yourself--

**DAVID** Well, when did [? you first have ?] the sex--

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** --horrible.

**DAVID** When did you [? first have ?] a sex [? ed ?]?

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** I simply never, ever did not feel gay. I never went to a psychiatrist. I never sought counseling in my lifetime. I never had a trace of guilt feeling.

**DAVID** You're lucky.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** Yes.

**DAVID** I mean, you're lucky that you never went to a psychiatrist. The damage they could have done 40 and 50 years--

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** Lobotomy! [INAUDIBLE].

**DAVID** I read Morton [INAUDIBLE] book, and it was--

**ROTHENBERG:**

**ACTIVIST:** [INAUDIBLE] practitioners burned our love.

**REPORTER:** Thanks for joining us, Maurice Kite. We're going to go right to the stage now where Dr. [INAUDIBLE] is speaking, an activist from New Zealand.

**SPEAKER:** We are here today to reclaim our place of honor as people of the Pacific, as people of this planet's first nations whose traditions of same sex love and transgender love enhance the community and articulated clarity and vision for the people. Our mountains, our skies, our rivers, our landscapes, they remember us. They remember our reality.

Though we have been vilified and decimated, hated and denied-- though our own people, our own families, have been taught by the colonizer to hate us-- we, we have survived. Our cultures have been weakened by the brutality of colonial and missionary occupation because those alien values damned us as the other-- the other within the other. The same sex love which enriched our Maori and Pacific lives as [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] was cursed as pagan, as unnatural, as demonic.

And we were repeatedly told we did not exist, that there was no word in our ancient languages for who we are or for what we do, for our land, our cultures, our languages, have been looted. But we are the land. And with the land, knowledge remains.

And we are here. We continue to be chanters, art makers, dancers, storytellers, seers, composers, healers, and dream weavers-- shamans for the people. We exist. We thrive.

We rejoice. We mourn, and we're here today to reclaim our place of honor. [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

**REPORTER:** A speaker from New Zealand here at Stonewall 25 in the center of Central Park New York City. I'm Julie Drizzen with Pacifica Network News joined by David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker of WBAI, Pacifica's radio station here in New York City. Thank you all for joining us.

We're joined now by Joyce Hunter, who is the president of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association and the co-founder of the Harvey Milk High School, which is an unusual school here in New York, which is a school for lesbian and gay teenagers, a safe place for them to be, where they will not be subject to harassment and can get in touch with their own history as lesbian and gay teenagers. And she's working on research on coming out process and HIV risk. Thanks for joining us.

**JOYCE HUNTER:** You know, I just want to say that I'm doing that research at the HIV center for clinical and behavioral studies at New York State Psychiatric Institute. [INAUDIBLE].

**REPORTER:** Great. Well, as a pioneer, you helped found one of the first, perhaps the first, lesbian and gay school, high school, here in New York City. What was it that led you to want to provide that space?

**JOYCE HUNTER:** Steve [INAUDIBLE], [? Damien Mark ?], and myself to do this is that we found a group of youngsters who were attending the Hetrick Martin Institute at the time who were not going to school, and there was a substantial number of young kids who have been truants, chronic truants, and had dropped out of school and were hanging out at the piers on Christopher Street and in the park and not attending the schools because of verbal and physical violence towards them. And we felt that these young people are entitled to an education, and we were going to see that this was going to happen because the school system had failed them. The judicial school system has failed them.

**REPORTER:** Joyce, I wanted to say welcome and commend you because I know you've been an activist as long as I've known you, and that's over 14-- about 14 years now just being aware of your work. And I wanted to ask in terms of the Hetrick Martin, I remember you have a newsletter. And a couple of years back, I did an article-- because you were googling to create a model so that other people in the country could start projects like Hetrick Martin because you had so many youth pouring into New York. What's happening with that if you could comment?

**JOYCE HUNTER:** Well, of course, the country now, I'm really happy to say that there are a lot of programs that are being developed. And one program that I'm particularly really pleased about is Virginia [INAUDIBLE] work with Project 10 inside the high school itself and providing-- it's really a model for prevention so that these young people do not drop out of school. And so she's creating something like that where we now have social service agencies or groups for teenagers across the country. Indiana has an Indiana youth group, a national hotline for lesbian and gay teens.

**REPORTER:** Could you talk a little bit about the experience of lesbian and gay teenagers in America?

**DAVID** Joyce, before you answer that, I think it's important to point this out, especially for young people listening across **ROTHENBERG:** the country. You are an expert. You're titled and everything, but many of us know you for many years, and you haven't come through this academically and theoretically.

Before that was the reality of your own life, that you were a street activist, a kid who was misplaced. That's important because part of your credentials and your effectiveness has been the fact that what you are now teaching, you went through. And you have been more than a-- you're more than an inspiration. To me, you're a model for what young people can overcome.

**JOYCE HUNTER:** That's true, and I think when people-- I never graduated high school. I quit high school when I was 16. I was one of these youngsters that had a very difficult time.

I do know what the street scene is like, and I lived in group homes when I was a teenager. At that time, they called them orphanages. I was 36 when I got a high school diploma, and that was after I was attacked.

**DAVID** And I remember when you got your diploma and we celebrated.

**ROTHENBERG:**

**JOYCE HUNTER:** Yeah. And so I like to let teens out there know that they can have a good life and that they can overcome hardships. And now there's more available for them that they can reach out to in terms of national hotlines and organizations like Patrick Moore, Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Community Center, which our former speaker were just talking about. And--

**DAVID** [INAUDIBLE]

**ROTHENBERG:**

**JOYCE HUNTER:** --there are places for young people to go now. One of the things that I do want to say, that I have an opportunity to say-- and I want to say this to activists out there. We've come a long way in 25 years. But if we don't do something about getting involved in our local school boards, the Christian right is going to beat us on every level.

We are not going to get the kind of AIDS prevention curriculum that we need in the school. We are not going to get the multicultural curriculum that we need in the schools that's going to show us how to teach people how not to hate and how to accept diversity and difference. This is an important thing that needs to happen. And I think this is the place where we failed so far as a movement because I am very concerned about the new right and the inroads that they are making on local school boards.

**REPORTER:** They've achieved a lot in the last few years, huh?

**DAVID** They've [INAUDIBLE] made *The Nation's*--

**ROTHENBERG:**

**JOYCE HUNTER:** [INAUDIBLE] in losing the rainbow curriculum.

**DAVID** *The Nation* magazine has described that as flying below the radar, that the religious right has got-- we've been so

**ROTHENBERG:** concentrating on being on the 6:00 news, and they've been quietly infiltrating into the school boards and the water commissions and now elevating up so that they're running for statewide office.