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gay, lesbian, life, houston, years, night, women, remember, felt, stonewall, work, week, community, police, gay bars, love, mary helen, live, bar, pride

## SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski

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00:12

And that was Phil Coulter Stein to clear out want to thank you for being with us and we'll be back next week and do it again and we're going to this this week we're going to have a special starting very shortly and this is early coverage of the gay pride parade which will be going on as take it starts about 530 and radio station is going to cover that as well. So stay tuned and we're going to play a group called Oh sheen and see our last number it's called Doherty's jig and Donnybrook fair



01:02

this is 90.1 FM you're listening to Pacifica radio KPFT Houston. Good afternoon. The PRISM program sunny tardy Pakistan at the Arabic hour will not be heard this week said that KPFT can present our annual celebration of Gay Pride Week with your host Mary Helen. That follows momentarily prison program Sunny, dirty Pakistan and the Arabic hour all returned in their regular time slots next week here on listener sponsored Pacifica 90.1 KPFT.



01:29

Good afternoon. I'm Mary Helen. And welcome KP lefties annual celebration of Gay Pride Week. For the next four hours, we'll be highlighting various aspects of gay culture, both here in Houston and around the country. We'll be looking at where we've been and where we are going. And Houston's annual gay pride parade begins at about 530 down on Westheimer street, so you have still have time to get down there. We'll be bringing you live reports from the parades for viewing stand will also have lots of music, and some special features looking at both the joys of gay lesbian life, and the difficulties that gay and lesbian, gay men and lesbians face as a hidden minority in our community. In a few moments, we will present a 1988 award winning documentary from producer David I say which revisits the Stonewall riots that began the modern American gay rights movement. We'll finish the hour with some thoughts from older local men and women. And after all, Stonewall was in New York, lesbians and gays in Houston have a number of individual battles with political and social system here in our

community. But first, I'm going to talk to two of the real movers and shakers here in Houston's gay and lesbian community. I'm joined this afternoon by co chairs of this year's Houston pride celebration. Join us in welcoming Carol Clark and KPFT's own Jack Valinski, also producer of the Wildenstein program on KPFT. Welcome Carol and Jack.

J Jack Valinski 03:22

It's great to be here. Thank you.

03:23

Thanks for joining us today. I'd like to start off by telling our listeners a little bit about Houston's pride celebration. How many years has this celebration been going on?

J Jack Valinski 03:36

According to Sherry, our bone who is the editor of Montrose Voice it's been 14 years and this includes one of the early first years that they actually had a Nina Brian and by March because she came down here after she really helped to defeat the Dade County ordinance. And many of the many of our sisters and brothers were boycotting orange juice and basically trying to boycott her because of her stance against us came down you're raising money or do you have a benefit and our people and that's just the way before I was in Houston I've only been here nine and a half years. So Houston has had a history of celebrations. In fact Houston has the largest in the state of a Pride Week celebration,

04:15

has it always been a a parade type format or

J Jack Valinski 04:20

mostly it goes about 10 now it's sort of settled down to 10 days sometimes it's been up to two weeks but it's 10 days now. And it includes the biggest event of course is the parade but the size the parade there's the route sort of rally which is Star Night 91 which is happening starts at three o'clock and goes to 10 o'clock at the Quick Copy parking lot at Montrose and love it. And so there's always been some type of celebration included with that different formats,

04:43

number of years they used to have parties in the park, they had spots park for number of years and festivals with fireworks and etc. So it's had different types of format. But as Jack said, I think for the last couple of years it's gone down this format of starting a week or so, prior to the parade and climaxing with this afternoon's parade.

J

Jack Valinski 05:02

And the neat thing is, is that all these events cover so many different aspects from theater being cultural, we have a spiritual things with churches, like the MTCR will have celebrations, and including even the National Weather Association, they had a nice party Friday night and they had a workshop on Saturday.

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05:20

One of the things that people often ask that aren't familiar with gay and lesbian culture, is why a pride celebration? Or why should gay and lesbian people be different and singled out to have their own pride celebration? I mean, what? What is the significance of that? What does this mean? Do you have four hours? Yes, as a matter of fact, yes, it is

J

Jack Valinski 05:47

very important. We're a very different type of in a lot of people don't like to be called minorities. But we are very different in so many other minorities. Blacks grow up young, black women and men grow up in a black family. Hispanics grow up in a Hispanic family, we women, the women's minority, they at least there's there's usually women in the family, or they have women role models, gays and lesbians don't. They go through some of the worst type of child abuse because they are told all the way through in school, in church in the family, that gays and lesbians are terrible people. Of course, they're not really sure at some time when they're growing up. But then when they start to realize it, they need role models. Now recently, we had a state representative who was openly gay elected in the Texas House of Representatives, Glen Maxey, and now that's really important now that that person is listed in the newspaper that this is an openly gay person. This year, we've been very lucky in the media coverage. Of course, we've always been very lucky with Pacific and KPFT. And having our own shows, this is the one place where gays and lesbians can do radio programming, and not have to worry about who they are.

♂

06:58

I think also especially it plays a vehicle for us in the community to be proud of ourselves. And sometimes it can, this might be the only thing that some people in our community code to, which is kind of sad at some point, but at least they have this that they can go out for one afternoon and their lives for whatever reason, meaning they have, they can at least come here for one afternoon and say yes, I'm gay, and I'm proud and I can I have this hour or two. So I think it's very important that we continue at least to offer everything that we can,

J

Jack Valinski 07:28

it's really important because the suicide rate of young gays and lesbians is like 30%. And then we only make up 10% of population. And of all the street people on the streets in New York, young teenagers, half of them are gay and lesbian. And that's a pretty sad fact. It is very

difficult for us people who work with people, not necessarily myself, but people who work in social services, that there's always that difficulty in working with younger people because the society says we're trying to recruit them, right, which is not true.



07:57

You just you feel that you're trying to help them help them with their own sexuality in a way that show yeah, so something populates your self esteem.



08:07

Exactly.



J Jack Valinski 08:08

And that's basically what we've been doing here on KPFT. We've been able to talk openly to people to talk about our community what our community is doing. Our community's response to AIDS is just incredible. Basically, the city and state has not done very much. But our communities built the organizations like the AIDS Foundation, the Montrose clinic, the Montrose Counseling Center, and we've had to live in the battlefield.



08:29

How's the nature of the the gay and lesbian pride celebration changed with the advent of AIDS and with them, you know what that coming on is such a factor in the community.



J Jack Valinski 08:41

Houston has a very different, not very different, but has each city sort of has their own way they celebrate Pride Week. And Houston has always been a been trying to have a very professional parade that's open to all the community. But during those years, and right after the referendum in 1985, it got very subdued and our numbers didn't turn out like it used to. And for a year or two, we really tried to discourage having professional photos floats that we felt that people should spend more money and giving money towards AIDS than spending all that money on floats. So it has changed. Now we're starting to celebrate again, just as the city's economy is coming around, our people are feeling a little bit more open. And sure we're still doing all the hard work in organizing and volunteering for all these things. But it's time to celebrate too.



09:26

I think we're this parade is even going to be larger than last year and we're having more organizations and community input that if you're in last year's was highly successful. Again, we're growing as Jack said momentum is picking up again. I think that the agent who is in some

part has brought the community together that both lesbian and gay men are standing together hopefully and taking pride and being supportive



09:53

to each other. Well, it used to be called just the gay pride parade. When was the word lesbian?



J Jack Valinski 09:58

I had it's been about four Five years now and every years we switch off when you're it's gay, lesbian the other year, so lesbian, gay. And I'm just thinking about how we finally get listed in the phone book. How are we going to do that?



10:10

Have to have two listings? Well, I know that you all have been working really hard co chairs of the gay and lesbian pride celebration, Carol Clark and Jack Valinski . How many people do you expect? How long have you been working on this? And how many people do expect to turn I've



J Jack Valinski 10:26

been involved in probably two weeks since 1982. I've been here Jack Welch, neither one of us actually started out being co chairs. We both had a sort of fill in somebody else's shoes because of different reasons. And Carol and I are just two people. There are hundreds of people that are really involved in pride. We, the Pride Week, organization itself is not very big. We have co chairs of the parade of fundraising, of media, and all these different different aspects of it. But we're only two people. It is the committee that did a lot of work. And it's a community at large, it's really putting Pride week together. We're sort of like a super organization that we're we're an organization of all these different organizations, because when you look at the parade, that we're looking at upwards of 80 units this year at different contingencies, which is just incredible. It's made up of different groups, the Counseling Center, the clinic, churches, churches, bar, we even have a commercial radio station this year.



11:19

Miller,



J Jack Valinski 11:20

Miller, and so let me know when they give you airtime. Okay. Yeah, actually, this year, we had some PSAs, right on a commercial radio station, which we're very surprised. It's great. It's about time. It's about time. That's absolutely right. And we've gotten some good press coverage. This year, the Houston press has done an incredible cover story. And it's very incredible and very

timely, because a nice Parker, who's on the cover is going to be running for city council district C, as an openly lesbian person just announced this week. So that's really exciting that we're really excited now because things are starting to turn around in the community.



11:55

Well, great, thank you for joining us here today. We're going to go back a little bit in time and back to the beginnings of the gay and lesbian movement here in the United States. That was in New York.



J Jack Valinski 12:09

Can I just ask everybody, you still have time to get out and see the parade as y'all take your walk person with you and listen to the coverage because we're gonna be doing a live coverage at 530 of the parade. That's right,



12:18

we're gonna have Bruce Reeves and Deborah Bell. Cindy Freeman. We're going to have live updates from time to time during the parade. So we hope that you'll join us here on KPFT. And join all your sisters and brothers out on Westheimer for a beautiful celebration. Thank you. Thank you. Okay, now, we're about ready to go back in time. Back to New York City. Back to 1968. You're listening to Pacifica radio 90.1 KPFT Houston, with our annual celebration of gay and lesbian pride. I'm Mary Helen.



13:02

Today, this white two story building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant 20 years ago. This was the Stonewall Inn. I'm Michael Shirker and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots. In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City. And, like all other gay bars was routinely rated by the Vice Squad. The patrons of these bars many of whom were frightened and having their identities revealed with quietly submit to any orders coming from the police. Yet, on June 27 1969, that all changed. The patrons of this bar with the drag queens at the forefront decided to fight back against the police. What happened here on that night would spark a revolution?



13:57

My I'm Jean Harwood and my age is 80. I'm Bruce Mero. He wants to he also would like to know what your age is. So



14:09

...

my age 78 Yes,



14:13

I don't I don't I don't know if it's really true. But now people do refer to us as the two oldest gay men in America. We do have I think, have maybe a record relationship of almost 60 years together. Bruce's memory started going bad in 1984 Fortunately, we have we have our music together which we've which we've done over the years we've we've written any number of of songs. Bruce remembers the melodies very well and the lyrics for the songs.



14:54

And you would judge me when you took



15:02

Something happened.



15:04

I had never



15:06

being gay before Stonewall was was a very difficult proposition because we felt that in order to survive, we had to try to look and act as as straight as possible. The attitude the general attitude of society as far as employers were concerned and landlords, all of these people were very hostile and and to protect ourselves, we had to act as rugged and manly as possible to, to get by and my name is Randy. I was the first openly gay person to appear on radio in 1962. And on television in 1964, as a self identified homosexual and near before all people felt a need to hide because of the precarious legal position they were in, they would lose their jobs. There was a great hostility socially speaking in the sense that people found out you were gay, they assume you were a communist or a child molester. And they have another dozen stereotypes are rampant in the public media at the time.



16:15

I'm Jerry fair, and I'm 80 years old. I started the gay lifestyle in 1948. When I was around 3940, at that time, if there was even a suspicion that you were gay, that you were a lesbian. You were fired from your job. And you're in such a position of disgrace that you flunk out without saying goodbye, even to the people that liked you and you like, never even bothered to clean your desk. You just disappeared. You just disappeared you went quietly because she were afraid that the recriminations that would come if you even stood there protested would be worse than just leave. My name



17:05

is Sylvia Rivera. Bye my name before that was bravery bear until I started dressing in Dragon 1961. There are before us now more. As a hider there was always the gay bash and under drag queens by heterosexual men, women and police. We learned to live with it. Because it was part of the lifestyle at that time, I guess. But none of us were very happy about it.



17:40

My name is Seymour pine. In 1968, I was assigned as Deputy Inspector in charge of public morals in the first division in the police department, which covered South Manhattan from 38th Street to the battery, including the Greenwich Village area. It was the duty of public Marlins to enforce all laws concerning vice and gambling, including prostitution, narcotics, and laws and regulations concerning homosexuality. The part of the penal code which applied to drag queens, was section two four 0.35 section four, being masked or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire, or facial alteration, loiters remains, oh congregates in a public at



18:38

that time we looked at the universe with the sky around to try to figure out when and when this masquerade harassment would come to an end. When knowing and we would always dream that one day that would come to an end. And we prayed and we looked for it wanted to be human beings



19:13

My name is Rob Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking partying and working in the gay bars for the last 30 years. In the era before Stonewall, all, all of the boys 90% of the boys were mafia controlled. They were controlled because the mafia had the right connections. There wasn't there wasn't that many gay bars. You'd have maybe one to Uptown and the Upper East Side, they would get closed down and they'd be one or two in the west side. They get closed down and midtown they'd be 123 maybe open. As they would get closed down. They'd move around and they would dump



19:57

on Joe Nestle Cove. founder of what is now the largest collection of lesbian culture in the world. The police raided lesbian bars regularly. And they did it. They both did it in the most obvious way, which was hauling women away and paddy wagons, but they there was regular weekend harassment, which would consist of the police coming in regularly to get their payoffs. And in the SI colony, we had a back room with a red light. And when that red light went on, it meant the police would be arriving in around 10 minutes. And so we all had to sit down at our tables. And we would be sitting there almost like schoolchildren. And the cops would come in not depending on who was on which cop was on. If it was some that really resented the butch

women, whoever with many times very beautiful women. We knew we're in for it. Because what would happen is they would start harassing one of these women and saying, Hi, you think you're a man, come outside, we'll show you and the woman would be dragged away. They throw up against a wall. And they'd say, so you think you're a man? Let's see what you got in your pants and they would put their hand down her pants a stone wall.



21:06

Oh, that was a good boy. That was just to get into the stone wall. You'd walk up and you'd knock on the front door. In knocking noodle door opening, Eduardo won. A Mary sent my good C'mon, and girls, you know, when you walked in to your right was your bar wrong? No windows. Down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall, going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room. And no one does in that room either. The stone wall, like all gay bars at that time, were painted black, charcoal black. And what was the funny part, the place would be so dimly lit. But as soon as the cops are gonna come in, to collect their percentage or whatever they were coming in for, from it being a nice, dimly lit dump. That place was lit up like Luna Park



22:03

felt Wow, two guys. And that's very often all we sent in would be two men could handle 200 people. I mean, you tell them to leave. And they leave. And you say show me your identification. And they all take out their identification and file out and that's it and you say okay, you're not a man, you're a woman, or you're vice versa and you wait over there. I mean, this is a kind of power that you have. And you never gave it a second thought a



22:35

drag queen took a lot of oppression and we had to we we were at a point where I guess nothing would have stopped us. I guess, as they say or as Shakespeare says, We were ladies in waiting, just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did happen, we were there.



23:05

On Friday night, June 27 1969. At about 1145 eight officers from public morals First Division loaded into four unmarked police cars. From their headquarters on 21st Street and Third Avenue. They headed downtown and then west towards the Stonewall Inn here at Seventh Avenue and Christopher Street. It was the second time the bar was rated that week. The local sixth precinct had just received a new commanding officer who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. And New York was in the midst of a mayoral campaign. Always a bad time for homosexuals. Mayor John Lindsay had reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost. And the Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target. Operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license. This dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers miners, and more masculine lesbians known as Bulldogs, many were black or Hispanic. It was a warm night in

New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour pine.



24:25

There was never any reason to feel that anything of any unusual situation would occur that night.



24:34

He could actually feel it in the air. You really could. I guess Judy Gall was just really helped us be really fair. And for some reason,



24:43

things were different this night. As we were bringing the prisoners out. They were resisting.



24:50

People thought a guy in front of this shattering square park right across the street from Stonewall people upset, no, we're not going to go and people started screaming and hollering



25:07

one drag queen, as we put her in the car, opened the door on the other side and jumped out. At which time, we had to chase that person. And he was caught put back into the car made another attempt to get out the same door the other door. And at that point we had to handcuffs, the person. From this point on, things really began to get crazy.



25:39

My name is Robert Rivera. And my nickname is Bertie, and I think cross-dressing All of my life. I remember the night of the riots, the police were escorting the queens out of the barn into the paddy wagon. And there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful queen with stacks and stacks of Olivia the style or the tail style hair. And she was asking them not to push her. And they continued to push her and she turned around and she matched the cop with her high heels. She knocked them down and then she proceeded to frisk him for her the keys to the handcuffs Alana. She got them and she ended up and pass them to another queen that was behind her. Well, that's



26:22

when all hell broke loose at that point. And then we were we had to get back into



26:28

the stone.



26:30

My name is Howard Smith. I'm Knight of the Stonewall riots. I was reporter for The Village Voice locked inside with the police covering for my column. It really did appear that that crowd because we could look for little peep holes in the plywood windows, we could look out and we could see that the crowd My guess was within 510 minutes is probably several 1000 people to the 2000 and videoing kill the cops. Police brutality. Let's get them we're not going to take this anymore. Let's galette is a group of



27:10

persons attempting to approve one of the parking meters in which the in which they did succeed, and then use that parking meter to as a battering ram to break down the door. And they did in fact, open the door. They crashed it in. And at that point is when they began throwing Molotov cocktails into the place. It was a situation that we didn't know how we were going to be able to



27:45

remember someone throwing a Molotov cocktail. I don't know who the President was, but I mean, I saw that and I just said to myself in Spanish I said oh my god, the revolution is finally here. And I'm just like started screaming freedom. We're free at last it out. It felt really good.



28:03

There were a couple of cops stationed on either side of the door with a pistols like in combat stance aimed in the Dory area, a couple others with patients and other places behind like a pole, another one behind the bar. All of them with their guns ready. I don't think up to that point I ever had ever seen. Cops that scared.



28:22

Remember the pros that everybody is frightened?



28:26

There's no question about that.



28:29

I know I was frightened. And I've been in combat situations. And there was never any time that I felt more scared than I felt that moment.



28:42

And



28:45

I mean, it was just you know there was no place to run.



28:50

When the moral squad officers barricaded themselves inside the stone wall, Deputy Inspector pine put it in a 1041 call an emergency help request which can only be placed by a high ranking officer. That call was mysteriously canceled, and the telephone inside the Stonewall went dead. It took nearly 45 minutes for the riot police to get to the Stonewall and rescue the moral squad from the smouldering bar



29:17

once the tactical police force showed up. I think that really excited us a little bit.



29:29

My name is Martin boys. In 1969. I was a drug known as mismarked. I remember on that night, when we tried to write all of his records, we linked arms like The Rock heads and sang the song we used to say we are the village girls. We were having girls. We were a dog and goodies are above our daily news and the police going crazy hearing that and they just immediately rushed us. We gave one kick and fled.



29:58

My name is Rudy And the night of the Stonewall I was 18. And to tell you the truth that night I was doing more running than fighting. I remember looking back from 10th street and there Waverly street, there was a police I believe on His, on his on his stomach in his tactical uniform and his helmet and everything else. With a drag queen straddling. She was beaten the hell out of him with her shoe. Whether it was a high heel or not, I don't know. But she was beaten the hell out of this hysterical.



30:34

My name is mama Jean, and I'm a lesbian. And I guess you would label me as a butch. I remember on that night, I was in the gay bar, women's bar cool cookies. We were coming into the gay bar going towards Eighth Street. And that's when we saw everything happened blasting away people getting beat up. Please come from every direction. hittin women, as well as men with the United States. Gay men running down the street with blood all over their face. We decided right then and there, whether you scan or not, we didn't think about it. We just jumped in. We're here



31:09

with Quinn have gone completely bananas. You know, I'm planning on hitting the windshield. And next thing you know, taxi cab was being the cause of the entire dopest. Windows was shattering all over the place. Fires were burning around the place. It was a beaut.



31:27

It was beautiful. It



31:27

really was.



31:28

I remember coming at me, hitting me with the nightstick in the back of my legs. I broke loose I went after again. I grabbed this nightstick. My girlfriend would behind him. She was a strong seven. I wanted to feel the same pain I felt. And I kept on saying to him, I liked the pain. Do you like it? Do you like it? I kept on hitting him and I was angry. I want you to kill. At that particular minute I want I wanted



31:52

to do every disruptive thing that I could think of at that time to hurt anyone that had hurt us. Yours



32:04

is like just when you see a man protecting his own life. They were at the queens that people call them. They were men fighting for their lives. I tried a website and any day there



32:15

was a lot of heads for that. Every time they all came back from when you could tell that nothing could stop us. But anytime in the future.



32:42

The media covered the riot extensively. The Daily News featured it on its front page. There were reports on all the local television and radio stations. By the next day graffiti calling for gay power had appeared on buildings and sidewalks all over the West Village hastily worked up flyers distributed on street corners touted the night as the Hairpin drop heard round the world. And the next night 1000s of men and women converged on the West Village. They came here back to the stone wall to see what would happen next. While trash cans were set on fire stones were thrown and sporadic fighting broke out between police and gays, the more than 400 riot police milling around the village ensured that the previous night's violence would not be repeated. But on this night, for the first time, gay couples could be seen walking hand in hand or kissing in the streets just by being there surrounded by reporters and photographers and onlookers. 1000s of men and women were proclaiming to themselves and the rest of the world that they were gay. And the crowds grew and came back the next night and for one more night the following week. What happened here on those nights helped to usher in a new era, both personally and politically for gay men and lesbians.



34:00

When when Stonewall happened, Bruce and I were still in the closet. And we're where we had been for nearly 40 years. But we realized that this was this was a tremendous thing that had happened at Stonewall and it it gave us the feeling that we were not going to be remaining closeted for very much longer. And soon thereafter, we did come out of the closet. My name



34:31

is JR Prusa. In 1969, I was in the convent. I was in the Sisters of Charity. And when Stonewall hit the breast it hit me with a bolt of lightning was as if I had an incredible release of my own outrage at having to sequester So much of my life, I made my way down I seem to recall, in subsequent nights, being down on the, you know, kind of just in the periphery looking observer, clearly an observer, clearly longing to have that courage to come out and was a matter as I recall is only a matter of weeks before I left the convent and started a new life,



35:25

I'm Henry Baird, in 1969. I was in the US Army, a specialist three stationed at long been post near Saigon in Vietnam. I remember I was having lunch in the army mess, waiting the Armed Forces news summary of the day. And there was a short paragraph describing a riot, led by homosexuals in Greenwich Village against the police. And my heart was filled with joy. I

thought about what I had read frequently, but I had no one to discuss it with. And secretly within myself, I decided that when I came back stateside, if I should survive to come back stateside, I would come out as gay. And I did



36:04

for those of us in public marveled. After the Stonewall incident, things were completely changed from what they had previously then they suddenly were not submissive anymore, they now suddenly had gained a new type of courage. And it seemed as if they didn't care anymore about whether they were whether their identities were made known. We were now dealing with human being my name



36:35

is Jim for and then in the mid 60s, along with Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin as one of the founders of the hippie movement. I remember the third night of the riots, there was this meeting called by Madison society at St. John's Church, West Athan Waverly Place. We went and Randy Ricker was running the meeting.



36:54

For 10 years, I've been going on television, as Randy wicker, the respectable homosexual dressed and dark suit and tie, explaining to people that most homosexuals look like everybody else and behave like everybody else. And when Stonewall began happening, you had chorus lines and queens picking their heels up at the police, bonfires burning and corner trash baskets, and throwing bricks and stones at the police. I was horrified because this violated everything that we thought of as responsible behavior. Like this was not the way respectable citizens behaved.



37:27

Evelyn Hooker was a sociologist, I believe, Randy hit introduced her and she got up and she suggested that we should have a candlelight March that we shouldn't turn the other cheek because gay people were really different. We were really nice. And we had to show how nice we were in Stop all this riding because people were going to get hurt. I remember I stood up. And I said, No, we are not going back. And people felt the same thing I felt, and we marched out of that room. And that was the night that the Gay Liberation Front was born.



38:05

Today, I live in a senior citizen apartment building. What's different now is that I can be free. I have a daughter who's a senior citizen, and my son is 58. They know about my homosexuality. My three grandchildren in the 30s know about their grandmother. I have a great granddaughter

who at the age of 10 learned that grandma Jerry was a lesbian, and she thought that was most interesting. And yet, I still don't have the personal courage to not care if these yentas in the building, know that Jerry is a lesbian?



38:52

Well, I retired from the police department in 1976 20 years have passed, I'm going to be 70 in a few months. I still don't know the answers, I would still like to know the answer. I would like to know whether I was wrong or whether I was right. In ever thinking that there was a difference, and ever thinking that maybe you shouldn't trust a homosexual because something is missing in his personality archives



39:20

of lesbian culture, which surrounds us now and was created four years after Stonewall owes, at least from my part, its creation to that night and the courage that found his voice in the streets. That night, in some very deep way. We finally found our place in history. Not as a dirty joke. Not as a doctor's case study. As a freak, but as a people in mice



40:05

from remembering Stonewall was engineered by spider blue, it was produced by David Isay with a grant from the Pacific National Program fund. I'm Michael shirkir.



40:18

Ah ha I'm a 38 year old drag I can keep my long hair I can pop by eyebrows and I can work wherever the hell I want. And I'm not going to change find a body if I change that I feel that I did I'm losing what 1969 brought into my life and that was to be totally free.



40:47

How can I ever



40:55

be the the same



40:57

as I was before Jah



41:16

it's true



41:32

and here we are at 90.1 FM 22 years after the Stonewall riots. If you'd like to get a copy of that documentary, remembering Stonewall that are available from the Pacifica radio archives, you can obtain one by calling the phone number 818-506-1077. If you'd like more information or catalog of Pacifica radio archives tapes you can reach someone that can give you that information here at KPFT at five to six 4000 during the week during business hours. Good afternoon. I'm Mary Helen and welcome to KPFT annual celebration of gay lesbian Pride Week. We'll be with you until seven o'clock with coverage of Houston's own gay and lesbian celebration. It's the parade starts at 530 down Westheimer street if if you'd like to go see that you still have time to get on now to the gay and lesbian Pride Parade. The prison program Sony Dharti Pakistan and Arabic our normally heard at this time will return next week. So hope that you'll join us for our celebration today. And we're gonna go to a little bit of music from a woman that you just heard in the remembering Stonewall documentary a woman whose pain and whose pathos are often identified with by gay and lesbian people Judy Garland



43:09

place where there isn't any trouble there is such a place and must be should we get to buy a boat or a train far far away behind the moon beyond the rain



43:48

then I heard



44:08

dreams



44:11

dream really do



44:20

wish upon a star And wake up one of the clouds of lobby



44:30

trouble like lemon drops all the way above the chimney tops. That's what

44:41

me

45:23

The little blue birds fly

45:47

you're listening to KPFT special coverage of Houston's gay and lesbian pride celebration, we'll have live coverage of the parade which begins at 530. Coming up, then, right now, it's about 10 minutes until four o'clock at 90.1 FM. First thing on our agenda right now is going to be to hear from some of the people that were around in Houston. Circa the Stonewall riots, you you listen a little while before about to documentary of from 1969 of events occurring in 1969. But what was Houston like, in that day and age, we're going to talk to some people that remember. And we're gonna hear from some of some voices that are be real familiar to you. If you're a listener to KPFT prison program. Or if you're a listener to the after hours program, the gay and lesbian program heard on Saturday nights from midnight to 4am. So we're going to hear from Jimmy and we're going to hear from Ray and some other people that were around in Houston during those days on KPFT is continuing celebration of gay and lesbian pride.

46:58

Hello, Happy gay and lesbian Pride Day. This is the time of year that we remember the Stonewall riots in New York City circa 1969. I'm Jim Carper. When Ray Hill and I got together to interview people, we decided to concentrate on those who would remember that era 1969. Everyone was given the same questions. And what follows are their responses.

47:24

Harrington is my name. And I began to deal with my sexual orientation in 1977, really, and it was a disconcerting experience. So much so that when I came to Houston in 1979, I had to wear a mask at the first Cape provide. I might also add that also had turned left on Westheimer, our South by the tower theater. The first week I was here, and I had Michigan license plate still on my car. And so the police stopped me. And they said, What have I done wrong? And they said, Well, you've turned down to a one way street and the other officers realize that they've made a mistake. It was only one way on the other side of Westheimer. And the people in front door mirrors were standing there watching all this take place. And so since they had to say face, they looked and found that my sister had Michigan plate asked me how long I'd been here so far. They just said, Well, you know, we just said what are you going and I

was not quite as bold as I am now and I wasn't quite sure what to say. And so I pointed between Mary's and BB rock and I looked that day straight enough that they thought I was going to be graded ever since



48:28

my name is Eleanor Hanley, and I came to accept being lesbian, approximately three years ago. And the best way to describe it, it was like coming home. I felt like I finally got the whole picture together what life was all about? In 1969, I was living in a little town in upstate New York called hobby. What I was doing was being a wife and mother I had four children ages four to nine. And that's what I was doing. What was what was it like? Good and bad. I enjoyed it a lot. And part of it was pretty difficult.



49:15

My name is Pat Gandy and I first came to accept the fact that I was a lesbian. Actually, five years ago, when I came out, I had strong suspicions of it all my life, but I didn't do anything about it. In 1969, I was living in Deer Park, Texas, teaching in Pasadena. And on trying to sympathize with all the four adolescents who are getting drafted for the Vietnam War. And as as always, all my life I've always been sympathetic with the press people's I suppose that was a projection of my own. Hidden On acceptance of myself, for what I actually knew I was I was lesbian and projected by helping other folks and I sympathize with these adolescents. And it was it was, it was a very upsetting time for me because I could see the power and the the awfulness of the federal government as it is society stomped on any young person who dared to disagree. And I feel that it's somewhat similar to the fact the way the situation we are in many times by society that they will squash and step on us the same way.



50:37

Okay, my name is Laurie lingo. I accepted being gay in 1974, when I was 37 years old, calculate fast. It was very liberating. When I finally came to terms with it. I don't I think for some years, I was gay, but really come to terms accepting it was about a year after my divorce. And it was, as I say, very liberating 1969. I was married, I was living in Fort Worth, Texas. I was teaching history at Texas Christian University. And that was



51:12

me, Eleanor, Pat and Larry, now tell you when they first heard about the Stonewall Rebellion, and what they thought of it, you will find out what gay and lesbian pride means to them, and how they will celebrate their pride this year?



51:27

Well, I wasn't aware of it at this time, of course. When I first heard about it probably was when I began to deal with leaving East Lansing, Michigan, where I had gone after graduating the

University of Alabama. And probably I really don't remember exactly which troubles we

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA. And probably, I really can't remember exactly which troubles me because it's such a profound moment. But I wouldn't have remembered it. Like I remember the day that Kennedy was shot because I knew where I was. And when I wasn't aware of all this enough at that time to remember where it was exactly the spot. But in 1977, I would say I began to hear about it. But in seventh year when I arrived in Houston, and saw the likes of you and others at Astro Hall, town meeting one I certainly knew well, I think it's I think it's a glorious moment for all liberated people. A special moment for gays and lesbians. It's the thing I look forward to most each year, I always want the parade to be bigger and better. I want the mainstream businesses to enter floats and I weighed myself to death all year long. But I finally got going and to focus and talk them into it and work with the academy and tuck them into it and, and always interface with other projects. I never get to go and help Gay Pride Week. Do that. Also, by this year, of course, by being at the parade, and I'm thinking back when I wore the mask in the first one, and how far I've come. And I think also how far we still have to go.



52:56

I heard about the Stonewall Rebellion about two years ago, shortly after I came up. For what I've heard about it when I've you know, heard about it from other people, they had good reason to ride in the streets and write on Lesbian and Gay Pride means means my own personal pride, since I am a lesbian, and proud to be one. I feel like there's a lot of work to be done for us to have to have the real recognition that we should have as citizens of this world. I will be celebrating Pride week I restarted celebrating by going to the the dinner last Saturday the awards dinner, I will be marching in the parade and this will be the second year of march in the parade. And it'll be the third year I know there was a parade



53:54

well I probably heard about it when it happened but I don't remember because I usually read the paper very avidly I wasn't out there. But I spent most of the first part of my life as an alcoholic trying to suppress the fact that I was a lesbian. So there are a lot of I have a lot of blank spaces in terms of memories of things. But after I sobered up and and when I was in the process of coming out, I read about it and being an old sort of semi mover and shaker and radical myself I thought that they're probably long overdue and doing it and I should put should have done it sooner but it's wonderful Lesbian Gay Pride means to me accepting who I am. And and being being cool with that and participating in the life of other community and doing what I can to further the cause of gay and lesbian rights. And I plan to celebrate it by by doing as I do normally. And then participating in, in the events of Gay Pride Week such as going, went to the banquet last Saturday night, I will attend several events and participate in the parade on Sunday.



55:26

Of course, I heard about it when it happened because I read The New York Times. My feeling was, again, secretly knowing I was gay. I was very sympathetic. I was involved in the anti war demonstration of myself at the time, I thought it was a great thing. Well, let me answer the let me say, celebrated by being in the parade Sunday, the store, our store, Lobo will have a booth at Star 91. So I guess in that sense, that's part of how we celebrate it. We decorate the store. We celebrate gay pride, we actually a year round at logo, but we do get a little more involved

during Gay Pride Week. What Gay Pride means to me. Again, I think it's something that everybody should experience you around. I think it's very important that we take pride in being gay and lesbians, first of all, because it's, it's good for us individually. Everybody, I think, should have a very positive attitude towards themselves. And comes I think, with pride, and I think they should be proud if they are gay, and if they're lesbian.



56:28

Now, Lee, Eleanor, Pat, and Larry will tell you how gay and lesbian people have changed over the years in their perception. You will hear what they think of young gay and lesbian people today. And what advice the four of them offer,



56:43

I think, I think that there has been a lot of change. I'm a perfectionist, and I don't, please easily, but there's no question that there are more people who are out now I think one of the things that colors my thinking on that is is a dilemma in Houston. Because I did things in 1985 and the January 19 referendum that we have gotten done here, I think more people are scared. But I do see a lot of young people out in the bars coming out at an early age. And that's exciting. I really love them, I go to the bars, and I'm a late person. And I'll work at my desk on scripts or on a production schedule until midnight or so and, and I'll jump up and my friends kicked me about using that as an excuse when I'll go to the bar, sometimes maybe for only 30 minutes. And I'll see young couples in the bars, especially on the under 21 night, and there'll be embraced or when I'll be jealous and envious. And finally, I'll watch. Because I didn't do that at an early age in my life. And so I'll wait for until they break. And I'll usually walk up to them and tell them how jealous I am. And tell them that they need to have two goals that one they need to come out at work within two years and at home within three years. That's where our power is.



57:55

If I go back to what I thought gay and lesbian people were like, they definitely have changed. Because it was only what I thought it wasn't what I knew, because I didn't know any gay and lesbian people. I don't really know a lot of young people, but the ones I do know. They seem to have a lot of pride. And they seem to know who they are. I think the advice I would give them is to be true to themselves. And to keep working for the rights that we all need and deserve.



58:36

Oh, well. Yes, I'd say so. Back when I first suspected my tendencies. I was Hmm 615 15 years old, just out of high school in a small rural high school in Texas, not far from Houston. And I went away to college. But then I was all 16 years old. And I strongly suspect the I was one of those homosexuals. So I went to the library and read about homosexuality and found out that it was a sickness that that was visited upon folks and I determined that I didn't want any of that. So it you know, it took lots of bottles of alcohol for the next 30 years to keep that from, you know, to kind of change myself and it didn't work of course. And but I remember a differently I

went to a girls school so it's you know, there were there were a lot of lesbians there. It's affectionately known. Among some of us today is the daqfactory of Texas. However, I purposely avoided all those people, because I know who they were. I don't know how I knew, but I knew. I knew. I knew the ones that I that were really out obvious, I felt like we're fit the stereotype actually. And some of the rest of them, I didn't know because I've run into her here in Houston since then, and I had no idea about her. But everything was very closeted, and very, nobody, you know, nobody talked about it if I hadn't been so shy and retiring, and less bookish. Of course, some people find that hard to believe about me, but but I was, and I, you know, everything was hidden. And it's wonderful to data, you know, you can you can, you know, read newspapers, in things in the newspapers, even the even the straight press says, says, some positive things in between the rest of the time that it's not, and we have access to gay press and to information that's that uplifting and helpful. That's how I eventually came out is, you know, other people helped me but I was I got some of my midwater rating. So. So that's, that's pretty much it changed. It's changed for the better, but not nearly fast enough.



1:01:13

Special question just for you. How important is sobriety to your wholeness and your pride?



1:01:21

Sobriety is the most important part of being proud, a person that's proud and happy with themselves and with their with their gayness or their lives. bidness as you may say, I can't say too strongly or too often, that the advice I'd have to all people young and old, is to, they're not going to ever come to grips with their sexuality with their problems in life, if they if they don't get sober. And I think that's especially important in our community. Because we have been so oppressed and so downtrodden. And so maligned by so many people, families, by society, by everybody, that we've often turned to drink I did. And I'm no different than a lot of folks. It's no respecter of, of economic conditions. It's no respecter of intelligence. no respecter of anything. But it's a very important thing. If we, if we don't deal with the the alcoholism, we can't deal with ourselves, and we can't be proud of ourselves. And to me, that is crucial. Crucial, I'll never drink again.



1:02:39

Again, my experience of gay life has since 1974. As far as changes, yeah, radical changes, I guess, since I came out. AIDS has completely changed our community, I think the main thing I noticed is, and my daughter and I have discussed this often, in the early years, we seem to do very few women, gay women are those beings. And we find now that some of our best friends are women. I think that's been a radical change. I think for both men and women, gay men and women is discovering suddenly that there's this whole other community that we actually do have something in common. And I think part of that is because family up more and more gay men are realizing that there's a hell a lot more to being gay than sex. And once they get that through their heads, and they realize that we have a lot of common goals and just common ideals that we share with gay women. I think it's that's been the biggest change I've seen it's in it's been radical. Well, I guess my only count my contact mainly with with younger members of the community is primarily through the store or through the caucus or other activities. I find

them much more liberated than I ever was at that age or even after that age. If I have any concern is I think a lot of younger gay men don't always understand the impact of AIDS. I think there's a tendency to to slough off safer sex among younger man that that concerns me, but otherwise, I find they're much more together much more dedicated, much more comfortable with themselves. Certainly, younger men and women were years ago.

1:04:30

Lesbian and Gay men from Houston, remember what it was like for them then? And what it's like now. I'm Mary Helen will return to Houston voices of gay men and lesbians produced by Jimmy Carper. In a minute on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston stay tuned for KPFT is live coverage of the gay and lesbian pride parade starts at 530 on 90.1 Deborah Bell, Bruce Reeves and Cindy Freeman will join us from what time we'll have a lot Great music also right here on Pacifica radio right now. The flirtations

1:05:08

No no no. is to love to see him smile makes my life worthwhile no no him is to love love love him and Dad you

1:05:48

lunch

1:05:50

everyone says their day

1:05:59

job to know

1:06:10

guide

1:06:30

oh

1:06:38

he was meant for me



1:06:46

if you should ever need me, call me, no matter where you are, no matter how far just call my name. I'll be there in a hurry on that you can depend and never, ever worry.



1:07:01

And if you should ever get caught



1:07:03

short of life's desires remember life works for you one guarantee you'll always have new wind no rain, no winter is cold?



1:07:55

To



1:08:09

the last question for Lee, Eleanor, Pat and Larry concerns how they think their lives will be in the future.



1:08:16

Yeah, I have no idea I, I've learned to go with the flow, not quite as rigid as I used to be. Try not to expect things to happen quite as fast. But I do feel like that he's going to be more radical than I've ever been



1:08:31

right now. My life is pretty wonderful. Because I'm in a relationship with a person that I expect to be in a relationship for the rest of my life. And I'm very happy. Very fulfilled. In the future, I expect my life to just continue on as it is and you know, perhaps even get better. Oh, I have a wonderful



1:08:55

life now.



1:08:57

I don't as far as the future. I think I take the entity, you know, I don't know maybe more people take the idea. I think we are at least I think more in terms of day to day at this point. Given the health crisis and everything else, I don't really plan even in terms of the business, I don't really plan that far ahead. And as far as life, we really do take a day at a time and that's we like to think it's getting better every day. We watch all the reports say that are coming out of Italy right now in terms of the AIDS conference. There seems to be a lot of I think hopeful signs on the AIDS front.



1:09:37

Now for a different perspective. We talked to John Barco, a 22 year old gay activist. We asked him all the same questions we asked everyone else.



1:09:48

My name is John Burgo. And I first came out when to myself when I was 16 junior in high school and 1986 I've been dealing with it ever since I was like 10 or 11. You know, because things that happen in Boy Scouts and everything and denying it, you know, and myself, even at the same time that I was lusting for all the men that were around me. And it was, I was really lucky when I came out. The reason I came out was that an exchange student and German exchange student was living with my family and sharing a bedroom with me, and I was madly in love with them. And I had a terrible crush on him. And that's the point where I could no longer ignore the fact that I was gay, where I was just like, totally, I was really upset when he wasn't there, I was incredibly jealous of his girlfriend. And she said, you know, the reason you feel this way is because you're gay. And so the very first person I told was a teacher in high school, and she was my best friend. And things were great. I mean, things were great. She was very accepting. And very, she really gave me a lot of support, in in dealings with him, and also in dealing with my feelings about him, which was the big stress in my life. And I just started telling people on and probably by the end of that year, I told maybe a dozen people in my high school and people that I knew, and except for when I told my mother, I got nothing but fairly positive responses. And so it made me feel very confident about coming out a lot to a lot of different people. I was being born in September of 1969. So my life was pretty simple. Just a little queer baby, doing the things that little queer babies do. Like most other babies, I first heard about when I was in high school. When I was a junior, after I told that teacher, I was still dealing with water problems. And there was this youth counselor that came to the school once a week. And so my teacher helped me arrange a time to go see her, and I wouldn't talk to her. And then she went back to the county agency that she worked for, and found everything she could in their files, about gay people. And she copied made huge copies for me, and brought them back to me. And one of them was an article in the American Library Association Journal that talks about Stonewall. And I was just really excited, because almost as soon as I came out, I was like, I was an activist, you know, I would get really pissed off when I heard people, you know, like in Congress like Jesse Helms saying, stupid awful things. And, and when I just heard about, about it, and the police raising the bar, and, and all of the patrons fighting back and everything, I just felt so excited and energized, I think it's a time for us to remember everything that we've accomplished in the last 22 years. And to be really angry about the things that haven't gotten

done, not not angry at ourselves, but angry at all the stupid people and the stupid society that stands in our way. And to remember all the things that we still have to do in dealing with AIDS and helping gay and lesbian youth. And, you know, getting some real political power for ourselves to represent ourselves in government, and the violence, you know, and all these problems we have to face, but to celebrate the fact that we have come so far, and that we really have a community of people who are working to end these problems. And what I'm gonna be doing this year is I'm going to events and like I've done every, every year, since I came out, and that first year when I was 16, a lesbian teacher that I knew in school, who I come out to took me to see planning glances that was my first Gay Pride Week event. And so ever since that, I've done something. And so like, I want to see play this week and going to going to the parade course, marching with the people from U of H. And just trying to be with as many as my friends as possible. But I don't think the game has been people have changed too much since the time that I came out to the present, because that was only six years ago, five years ago. But I think in talking with people, and reading about the last 22 years, and even before them, I think people have changed a lot and people are coming out more. And people are realizing more and more that, you know, when they get a negative reaction from people about their being gay, it's not their problem. It's the problem with the person who's giving them the negative reaction. And I think that's a big change in the last. I mean, it's a big change for myself, you know, from when I was 16. And I was terrified about my mother, you know, having a fit. If I if she found out I was gay to say more, she has to deal with it. It's her problem, not mine. I also think that that people are starting to realize that the problems that we face is gay and lesbian people. No matter what group we come from, or what gender we are or what color our skin is or what language we speak or what we like to do in bed are a lot of the same problems and that we really have to work together to overcome them. I think that young people in the community today have I think they see a lot of those things that that other people saw as dividing factors, like men and women, or black and white, divided people in the community, I think for not all young people, but for a lot of young people, they're getting over that, you know, the young men are learning to, to change their behavior towards women, so that they don't, they're not patronizing, and they're not behaving in even unconsciously sexist ways. And younger women in the community are learning that there are young men who want to change and giving them a chance to change. And I think there's a feeling more that you know, rather than being gay, or lesbian, or black and white, wall, queer, and we're all together, and there's a strong feeling of community. The advice I would give is that I think a lot of young gay people also tend to overlook the accomplishments of the generations before us, NSA, they look at the past 20 years, and they see other people as not having, not having accomplished very much. And I think they really have to look at everything that's happened. And look at everything they've done, and learn, learn from learn from what the community has accomplished, and also the mistakes that the community has made to learn. You can't just like start over and we will not just we're not we're not coming from nowhere. We have a whole path behind us that we have to respect. I mean, better and better all the time. I think in Houston, I see a lot of changes that people are coming out more people are getting more involved in the community that that they're there. People are saying, you know that they can do their own thing and do what they want and not the chamber themselves.



1:17:10

Can you believe it? Cyndi Lauper on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, you're tuned to gay and lesbian Pride Day 1991 right here on 90.1 FM. I'm Mary Helen. We're going to have some more good music. We're going to have some more informative documentaries coming your way in just a few minutes. A collage of gay and lesbian authors, including excerpts from come out two letters

from Amherst, Massachusetts collegian the poetry of Houstonian, the late Pat Parker, and a short children's story by Morningstar. This is from the Pacifica affiliate KPFA in Berkeley, California. We'll get to that in just a minute. But first, this song by Sue.



1:18:13

Sally goes into starring Andrea Webster and other well known gay writers who occasionally concern themselves with gay themes. However, in the light of recent hysteria emanating from Miami, we thought it more important to emphasize the works of local and more contemporary gay writers. Today's reading is a collage of lesbian and gay male themes. Beginning with excerpts from a play come out. We hope these readings will give lesbians and gay men a sense of our own culture, which is so long been denied us and that are straight, or as yet undefined listeners will be under able to understand a little more about what being gay is all about.



1:18:49

fagot a bundle of sticks or twigs for use as fuel. Oxford English Dictionary 1300



1:18:56

Faggot with special reference to the practice of burning heretics alive, especially in phrase fire and faggot and to fry a faggot to be burned alive. Also to bear carry a faggot as those dead who renounced heresy actually English dictionary 1555



1:19:14

target a term of abuse or contempt applied to a woman Oxford English Dictionary 1591



1:19:21

Five it's a male homosexual Oxford English Dictionary 1914



1:19:27

ferries nurses wishes bags lessees call them what you please The New York Daily News 1972



1:19:36

It's words that break your bones, five equals nega equals die people big people queer, carry what equals pansy



1:19:45

cake equals pervert equals change equals equals equals.



1:19:52

Coming out is a documentary play adapted from historical and autobiographical accounts poetry and fiction by John Within cats, it was produced last year in New York. Now here are some excerpts from the play as recorded by Martha Shelley at WBI our sister station in New York.



1:20:10

Gertrude Stein the song of Alice v 1921.



1:20:16

I caught sight of a splendid missus. She had handkerchiefs and kisses. She had eyes and yellow shoes. She had everything to choose. And she chose me. In passing through France, she wore a Chinese hat, so did I. In looking at the sun, she read a map, and so did on in loving a blue sea she had a pain and so to die. In loving me, she of necessity thought first, and so did I. How proudly we swim? Not in water, not on land, but in love. How often do we need trees and hills? Not often? And how often do we need mountains? Not very often. And how often do we need birds? Not often. How often do we need a kiss? Very often.



1:21:17

Christopher Isherwood 1972 Despite the humiliation of living in a heterosexual dictatorship, and the Fury I have often felt against it. I have never regretted being as I am. A single man, Christopher Isherwood, 1964, George and Jim had already fallen in love with the house. They loved it



1:21:41

because he could only get to it by the bridge across the creek, the surrounding trees and the steep bushy cliff behind shut it in like a house in a forest clearing. George said



1:21:50

as good as being on our own island.



1:21:52

Peering into the low damp dark living room. They agreed How cozy it would be at night with a

fire. Jim thought



1:21:59

the garage would be useful for keeping some of his animals in the skunks, the raccoon. Their cars could be parked on



1:22:05

the bridge. The bridge was beginning to sag a little Jim said, Oh, well, I expected the last time



1:22:11

breakfast with Jim used to be one of the best times of day



1:22:14

it was then fall tricking their second and third cups of coffee, that they had their best talks. They talked about everything that came into their heads, including death.



1:22:23

But now George can't remember what Jim's views were on this Such questions



1:22:26

are hard to take seriously. They seem so academic.



1:22:31

Think of two people living together day after day,



1:22:34

year after year in this small space



1:22:37

standing elbow to elbow standing at the same small stove squeezing past each other on the narrow stare



1:22:42

shaving in front of the same small bathroom mirror



1:22:45

constantly jogging, jostling,



1:22:47

bumping against each other's bodies mistake or on purpose sensual, aggressively, awkward, impatiently in rage or in love. The doorway into the kitchen has been built to narrow to people in a hurry or up to keep colliding here.



1:23:01

It is here almost every morning that George stopped short and knows. Almost as though for the first time



1:23:09

Jim is dead. is dead.



1:23:12

Jim used to moan and complain and raise hell over a head cold, a cut finger.



1:23:18

But Jim was lucky. The only time when luck really counts the



1:23:22

truckers caught just right. You never felt it. His smashed



1:23:25

leavings were of no use to them for their hospital rituals.



1:23:28

How strange to remember the night when the long distance call came through from Ohio



1:23:33

and uncle of Jim's whom George had never met, trying to be sympathetic, even admitting George's right to a small honorary share in the Sacred Family grief. But then as they talked becoming a bit chilled by Georges laconic. Yes, I



1:23:46

see. Yes, his current no thank you to the funeral invitation



1:23:50

decided no doubt that this much talked about roommate hadn't been such a close friend after all.



1:23:55

And then at least five minutes after George had put down the phone. When the first shockwave hit, when the meaningless news suddenly met exactly what it said. His blundering gasping run up the hill in the dark to his friend Charlotte, his blind stumbling on the steps banging on her door, crying, blubbering, howling on her shoulder in her lap all over her and Charlotte squeezing him stroking his hair. The usual stuff one tells



1:24:19

most of George submerged in sleep.



1:24:23

The brain inside its scope cognizes darkly decisions



1:24:27

secretly signed and witnessed



1:24:30

wearable George so now he will stay in California because of him no humans in the past now.

George go now he will stay in California because of just the humans in the past now...



1:24:36

He is of no use to George anymore. But George remember some stuff faithfully makes himself remember



1:24:42

he is afraid of forgetting Jim is my life but he will have to forget if he wants to go on living his death. Then while George stay



1:24:49

here.



1:24:50

This is where he found Jim. He believes he will find another gym here.



1:24:54

He doesn't know it yet. But he has started looking already.



1:24:57

Why does George believe he will find him



1:24:59

he only know knows that he must, he believes he will because He must like George



1:25:03

is getting old will very soon be too late. Never use



1:25:07

those words to jaw. Listen down the future George clings only to now it is now he must find another gym.



1:25:13

Now he must love now



1:25:15

he must live.



1:25:17

Arthur Evans 1970 gay people, when they first realized that they're gay, have a process of coming out, that is coming out sexually. We've extended that to the political field, we feel that we have to come out politically as a community, which is aware that it is oppressed, and which is a political power block feared by the government. Until the government is afraid of us afraid about power, we will never have our rights.



1:26:04

Chesler women and madness 1972. Surely a black lesbian.



1:26:13

You know, I dreaded even thinking about the term lesbian. And I used to cope by telling myself I was normal, you understand? The only thing that would take my normality away would be for me to have an actual gay experience. I used to tell myself that you're not gay if you never do it. So I didn't. Because I didn't want nothing to tread on my sanity. I was trying to live with myself. And I went out with fellas and let them me. The more they did it, the worse I got. And the more I pretended to act normal, the crazier I got. And I mean, I was going out of my mind. When my mother died, I just stopped pretending to be something that I wasn't. Because it ain't done much straightness in the world. And it put my mind at ease, you better believe it. And I regained my sanity, which was slowly seeping away from me from trying to be on gay. And I am definitely gay. And I realize that I am definitely not the sick one. And you know, I'm a lesbian, right? I don't have to love men, and I damn sure don't have to depend on him. And that is freedom, honey. Because no matter how heavy my load, honey, I'm gonna make it because I'm free. I feel that I am free.



1:27:49

Walt Whitman 1860



1:27:52

I dreamed in a dream. I saw a city invincible to the attacks of the whole rest of the Earth, a city



1:27:59

where all men were like brothers. Oh, I saw them tenderly love each other. I often saw them in numbers walking hand in hand.



1:28:08

I dream that was the new city of friends. Nothing was greater there than the quality of robust love. It led the rest.



1:28:16

It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city. And in all their looks and words. I read in a dream. I saw invincible the whole rest of their



1:28:37

lives Joe Norman trading with Rosie on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. Before that your you listen to Frank, a song called Take off your swastika from the I enjoy being a girl disc. You're listening to continuing special coverage of Houston's gay lesbian pride celebration. We'll have a lot of coverage of the parade which it'll begin at 530 when the parade begins down Westheimer Avenue. So hope you'll stay tuned to 90.1 FM. I'm hearing some of the special programming that you've been listening to we played a piece of poetry by gay and lesbian authors. Excerpts from some different poetry. And we're going to hear now from pokey Anderson, you know, in the past 20 years, lesbian publishing has has grown tremendously. We've gone from the apologetic self hatred of the Well of Loneliness to the rollicking joyous books like Ruby fruit jungle by Rita Mae Brown, and curious wine by Katherine forest. Katherine Forrest is one of the most popular lesbian authors writing today. And she recently came here to Houston on a book tour celebrating the publication of her eighth book. Her work is published by Nyad press in in the United States and has been translated into a number of foreign languages. One of our mysteries is in the process of being made into a movie. Here breakthrough hosts pokey Anderson interviews, Catherine forced, hope you enjoy it. Listen carefully, because there's sort of some surprises in it for you. So here on 90.1 FM stay tuned for wonderful programming like you expect from your Pacifica radio station. Here's Catherine



1:30:41

sokola that



1:30:42

used to be just forking downtown somewhere and all of a sudden you became a writer,



1:30:47

it read seems like an amazing Odyssey to me as well. I think the the magical event was simply turning 40. And that seems to be something that it's sort of a ticking talk time of life, and a lot of women around the country have shared with this sort of the same phenomenon, I guess. And you kind of look back and see where you've come from and where you don't want to be and anyway, I decided to take six months and and try and write a book. And I think a lot of people think that that they can do that. And three years later, I had learned my craft. And nine years ago yesterday, I met Barbara Greer of Nyad, press on on a trip that she made with Sheila RDS Taylor, the author of faultline and south down in Los Angeles. And at that time, I had the manuscript of curious wine ready. And so this rocket ride sort of began there. And it's taken me today to Houston, which is kind of an appropriate kind of analogy to use and talking about rockets.



1:32:01

Curious wine? Had you written anything before and thrown it away? Or was that really your first try?



1:32:06

That's a good question. Curious wine is my first published novel, I wrote the obligatory autobiographical novel, which I think really an awful lot of writers have to do, you know, a lot of, I think you need to get rid of some of the ghosts in your life. So that you can really get down to the, to the business of writing material that you can really have some control over. I did, I wrote, this particular novel is still sitting on my shelf, and at some point, I will get back to it because I don't think that there's publishable material and that I basically rewrote that same book about eight or nine times and really learn to write with it. And I brought that painfully acquired experience to our curious wine.



1:32:54

But there's somebody who has told me that curious wine has certain elements of autobiography. Barbara has said that?



1:33:03

I don't, I really don't think so I would describe myself as someone who is, you know, there are writers who definitely mine their life, for their material. I and I think I do to some degree, I don't know how you possibly cannot. But I would say that I write an awful lot out of my imagination. All sorts of filaments and ingredients come together. In books, some, sometimes characters in my novels are suggested by people that I've known. But eventually, they acquire an entire identity and life of their own. And I really don't think that books work, unless that happens that they become sort of living entities kind of marching around in your brain.



1:33:47

Do your characters actually like lead the way for you? If some people say, Well, my character can do this? And I didn't want to do that they did?



1:33:56

I don't think so. It I sort of had envisioning, you know, some writer behind the typewriter, just chasing her characters around, come back here and sit down and do. But I think that sometimes they do do things that surprise you. And that's a wonderful indication that you have a characterization that really works, that you have a three dimensional person because I really don't care who it is in your life. You don't know. And people that you aren't terribly familiar with. Continue to surprise you. It's one of the delights of life, I think, and one of the delights of writing fiction, amateur city was an article that I almost fell into i Well, I did fall into it. I had I had no thought that I would ever write a police procedural when I started with that book, I was going to write a novel using my background in the business world and character but Neil was to be the central character in that book, until the investigating detective came on the scene. In K Delafield so captured my imagination and was so much the type of woman that I was looking for to write about in terms of a contemporary life and a high on a woman and a high visibility, high profile profession and how she dealt with her lesbian identity. And so all of a sudden I'm working with an employer with a police procedure. And I did everything I could do to help myself, read everything about the fire and about women in law enforcement, and made umpteen calls to LAPD to get information