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talk, gender, transsexual, transgendered, blues, lesbian, community, partners, women, transgender, people, chapter, meeting, s&m, transgenderism, gay, transgender community, montrose, men, spend

SPEAKERS

Michelle Meyers, Jimmy Carper, Roy, Sarah DePalma

M

Michelle Meyers 00:02

as the case may be, you may come on Sunday morning early. It's best that you get a hold of one of these pledge cards and you get some pledgers. To help provide money for this walk. The suggested minimum total pledge is \$200. But any pledge would be greatly appreciated. Most walkers and rollers set a goal of raising somewhere in the order of \$100. There are more than 128 companies and organizations that have formed walk teams. And if you are a member of a company, or an organization that hasn't walked in, please consider being part of the AIDS Walk in Houston, again, it's next Sunday morning. The Walk starts at 830. But they're about 730. It's the same Harrison park downtown. And it's a great morning activity. You don't have to run. You can walk. Yes.

R

Roy 01:08

Okay. Next we want to talk about Mr. Ray Hill, there's going to be a roast and toast of Ray Hill, this coming Thursday, May 14 at 5:30pm at the Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection in their fellowship hall. And this is going to benefit Mr. Hill. Now, he has helped many of us for many years, he's helped the gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgender community. For many years, he stood up for our rights for our constitutional rights. He's gone to bat for us, he's gone to court, he's gone to jail for us. And now he needs our support, because he just recently had heart surgery pass I know. And so we're having a roasting of Ray Hill to help raise funds for him. And it's a community fundraiser, to help defray the medical expenses. They're asking for a \$50, minimum to rosary Hill, and all contributions are greatly appreciated. We urge you to call to get on the list to roast Ray Hill and tell your wildest Ray Hill stories. To sign up call 713-523-6969 Oh, that's an easy number to remember.

M

Michelle Meyers 02:34

That's right Hills number that's your home phone number

R

Roy 02:38

523 6969. Or you can call at 713-681-9082. And it is going to be hosted by the Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection at 1919. Decatur.

M

Michelle Meyers 02:57

Let's talk about the garden and yard society for a minute. As part of their community outreach effort, they're going to take care of the Omega house gardens, the Omega houses and AIDS hospice facility. And they're committing to working there every Saturday to make sure that the place really looks spiffy. So the garden and yard society without doing that, in addition, just wanted you to know that on June 12. They're going to have their meeting at the new Houston lesbian and gay community center on they're having the meeting there because what they're going to do is they're going to walk around, they're going to tour the facilities, and they're going to discuss possible garden design. Hey, Shawn, where's

R

Roy 03:50

the gay and lesbian community center? It's

M

Michelle Meyers 03:54

located at 803 Hawthorne? Just down from Akron?

R

Roy 04:02

It's actually what Hawthorne and Sanford

M

Michelle Meyers 04:06

Yes. Um, so it's right, it's right down close to Walgreens. Um, so they're going to come out and they're going to decorate our facilities for us. That's really neat. And then of course, they'll bring people by to showcase them. Right. But if anyone is interested in and working, particularly in working for the Megahouse gardens, you can call Kiki at area code 713-864-8639. So if you have a green thumb this is the thing to do.

R

Roy 04:43

Well, I I won't be there because I have a black plastic plants don't even make it with me.

M

Michelle Meyers 04:49

I'm good with plastic but I'm not good with the real stuff. I don't know what it is.

R

Roy 04:55

Anyways, next up on the agenda here we have the gaming survivors. of domestic violence. Again, I want to say abuse is not love and love is not abuse. That's correct. You know, if you are a gay man who is being abused in your present relationship, or if you're still dealing with unresolved issues from a past abusive relationship, you can do is a place that you can go to. And abuse can be physical, mental, verbal or sexual. You can wind up experiencing low self esteem, suicidal thoughts, isolation, you can get a deep sense of shame or embarrassment. And like I said, there is a safe place to share your experiences, learn or to just listen. Now it's a confidential group, and it's presently being formed at bearing Memorial United Methodist Church. If you'd like more information, call Russ Robinette or Troy Plummer at 713-526-1017. That's 713-526-1017.

M

Michelle Meyers 06:11

Now, I mentioned something about this to your boy, do you know that this is the only support group for survivors of domestic violence who are gay men, this area,

R

Roy 06:26

people have the misconception that as a man, we do not get abused as a man, we should be able to take the abuse. There was nothing could be further from the truth.

M

Michelle Meyers 06:41

There was a discussion at their last caucus meeting and a presentation on domestic violence in the gay community. And a lot of people raised eyebrows at numbers like 25, or 30% of the people in the community will have at some time or other be a victim of domestic violence. However, once people started to talk just a little bit about it. They were all shocked that yes, some of them had actually been. Some are survivors of domestic violence and just had never talked about it before. And in fact, one young man stood up and actually talked a little bit about his experiences. And she'll be very glad to come here in a month or so after they get this group going and talk with us a little bit more about gay men survivors of domestic violence.

R

Roy 07:36

And another thing that could another result of domestic abuse among gay men is that the victim or the survivor can experience impotence, which will lead to even more abuse by the abuser.

M

Michelle Meyers 07:57

Yes. For the transgender community, the next meeting of the Texas Association for transsexual

support will be at Vanessa's on the 23rd Please call area code 713-827-5913. That's 8275913 For more information, the next meeting for our screening and discussion with the Gulf Coast transgender community will be on May 21. At thirsty at chances located at Westheimer I'm wall drive. That's call area code 713-870-1282. That's 870 4282 In addition to helping crossdressers anonymous, ah, this Tuesday and every Tuesday at Susan Anderson properties 239 Westheimer.

R

Roy 08:51

And what about pets meeting?

M

Michelle Meyers 08:53

Oh, I gave the Tasmanian what I wanted to mention as another meeting that people in the transgender community would might be interested in. If you remember from earlier in the program, Sarah mentioned that Susan Anderson, the president of lesbians in business or lib tonight at the Unity banquet made an open invitation to the women in the transgendered community to come and join them. And so I wanted to mention that the next meeting of lesbians in business is Friday, May 15th. And that meeting starts at 630, where there's networking, and at seven o'clock for the actual meeting, the meeting will be held at barren, barren Methodist Church at 1440. Harold, and for more information, or for complete directions and instructions. call area code 713-526-1017. That's 5261017

R

Roy 09:59

Yeah, was that That meeting when the when Suzanne Anderson gave that invitation and I, you know, that really was something

M

Michelle Meyers 10:07

while Suzanne has been very active in the community and has always been open and inclusive to everyone. I mean, my heart goes out to her because she provides the facilities for Cubitron. Real, that's where we meet. That's where we get going.

R

Roy 10:24

Next I wanted to mention about mastering your life. This is making and achieving goals to create the life that you want at the men's network. And it's going to be held Tuesday, May 12, at 715 till 9pm. And it's going to be at the Montrose Counseling Center at 701. Richmond Avenue. Now, that's four blocks east of the Montrose Boulevard. And this will be an examination of needs and wants, and especially the quality of life issues and where and how improvements can be made. There'll be that creating and setting goals and making plans on how to achieve those goals. They invite you to join in on discussions of how to create the kind of life that you would like by moving beyond fear and ideas of limitation that we all can create, and full and exciting life. For more information contact Michael Madura at 713-529-0037. That's

5290037. The men's network is for gay, and bisexual men to come together in a safe and supportive environment to learn and share about issues that can affect them. They're asking for a donation of three to \$5. However, all men are welcome regardless of their ability to pay.

M

Michelle Meyers 11:49

And with that same number, which is 5290037, you can call the Women's Network. And I wanted to mention that the Women's Network is going to meet this Monday, May 11. And that is a change and schedule. That's not the normal day for them. And this special meeting. They're going to have award winning writer, photographer and public speaker Jan Phillips. And she's going to talk about how to encourage all of us lesbians to be proud of who we are, how to tell our stories, and how to make sure that our stories get out. Jen is author of a whole bunch of books like born gay, marry your muse, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Again, that number is the monetarist counseling center number a code 713-529-0037

J

Jimmy Carper 12:48

Hello, Gary Norman and Hello, Christine. And hello, Tony and Midway. Well, that was no Gary Norman and Christina from the Montrose

S

Sarah DePalma 13:00

counseling Counseling Center. Yes. Ah, I was listening to y'all talk about the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered veterans. Yeah, that is chaired by Terry Fredrickson in San Antonio, who was formerly the co director for its time, Texas. Oh, and a very good friend of the transgender community. She is in fact herself transgender, and is decided to get active again, now that I've come back and is putting together an A it's time San Antonio. So

J

Jimmy Carper 13:29

you have anything else?

M

Michelle Meyers 13:30

Yes. I just wanted to mention that the president of Stone Soup. John, welcome. Send a letter.

J

Jimmy Carper 13:39

That was a fabulous letter sent a letter. Yeah. So I wanted to talk about that tonight, too, because I'm glad you picked it out because he gives Thanks. For what, go ahead. I'm sorry. I don't want to step on.

M

Michelle Meyers 13:54

M Michelle Meyers 13:54

We've been talking about the Colt 45 stone soup for quite a few weeks. Yes, we have. And he I just want to read the first paragraph, very short paragraph the letter. I am delighted to report that over \$18,000 has been donated to the Colt 45 stone soup. pantry. Fine. That's fine. I think the whole community deserves a pat on Well, first

J Jimmy Carper 14:19

of all I want I want to if you can go through there who were who was the first group to donate money. Can you see he says in that letter, the first.

M Michelle Meyers 14:32

The first group was the brotherhood of pain and s&m. Never needed. \$1,400. At the February shave off

S Sarah DePalma 14:41

the brotherhood of pain is the oldest s&m organization in the city. And if those of you who've been on the show, or listen to the show before heard me talk about the colonel, being one of the premier s&m Masters in the United States. He was one of the founders of the other brotherhood of pain. A person I'm very proud to call a friend.

J Jimmy Carper 15:01

And they did that without being asked. Now the second group,

M Michelle Meyers 15:06

Royal Sovereign imperial court of the single star,

S Sarah DePalma 15:11

no surprise about either one of those organizations.

M Michelle Meyers 15:13

So, and then there's a whole bunch of a whole bunch of others, but I heard Mr. Die. Oh, mister.

J Jimmy Carper 15:21

Yes, Mr. Wonderful. Yes. Mr. Everything Actually, yes. But I want to stress that HERE WE ARE

THE COLT 40. lives in time of need with stone soup, which provides food for indigent AIDS patients. And who steps in first, the the s&m community, the leather community and the transgender community.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:45

And it honestly, in the brotherhood of pain in particular, was nearly decimated by AIDS. I know. I know, at one point they held they were losing it seemed like a member a month. It was incredible. It was just incredible. And the brotherhood of pain being one of the oldest s&m communities. And I don't want to, I'm not going to embarrass the colonel by talking about his own with some of the things that he's done on a personal level. But he has been active in the AIDS community in one way or another for as long as I've ever known. You bet. So there's really not a surprise there. And but I'm very pleased, and of course, the court. And I mean, there's nothing to say about the court that we haven't already said they're just terrific.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:21

They are terrific organization.

M

Michelle Meyers 16:23

Yeah, and I think I mean, from what I what I see, and from what I share, I've been amazed at the entire community. For the time that I've been in it. It is it's a community that when in need, works together, all facets of the community and work together to help those who are desperately in need. Right? This is a community that we could hold up to the straight community and say, here's a model of how you we all ought to work. Together, we go work, we are a model for the rest of the city, and for the rest of the state on how to work together for a common good, a common goal for those who can't really do it for themselves. Thank you

R

Roy 17:12

and get the desired result. Yes, yes.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:14

Now, that is not to say that we don't have differences and we may argue among ourselves, but that's on an entirely different level. Because when when when there's a problem when there's, there's a need, we can come together and do it.

M

Michelle Meyers 17:27

But when there's a true need in the community, the community helps it rolls up his sleeves, gets out there and works. Great. And it's a model for the rest of the city to follow. You bet.

- R** Roy 17:40
Okay, I'd like to close with running everybody to watch TV Montrose , on Warner, cable 54 News and touch Yes, on every Monday evening at 8pm where you can see Suzanne Anderson is on Tuesday
- J** Jimmy Carper 17:53
evening. On Wednesday and Wednesday at 8pm. Yes.
- R** Roy 18:00
Me. And you can add Hey, this past Monday, their lead story was our very own Jimmy Carper and app and the after hours radio show.
- S** Sarah DePalma 18:10
No matter how briefly was done.
- J** Jimmy Carper 18:12
It was so much fun. I really enjoyed that. I look forward. I liked the bloopers better. Bloopers were great. And to tell you the truth, I could have had a lot more bloopers with my segment.
- R** Roy 18:26
Anyways, you can also listen to gay and lesbian voices on Friday nights
- J** Jimmy Carper 18:31
at lesbian and gay voices. lesbian gay boy sorry,
- R** Roy 18:36
at Friday nights at
- M** Michelle Meyers 18:38
eight o'clock till nine okay.



Roy 18:41

And the reason why I'm pointing that out is because the pride guy which Jack Wolinsky



Michelle Meyers 18:47

let's not go there. Well, they got it wrong, they got it wrong, because it changed after they got the stuff together, right.



Roy 18:55

And if you'd like to contact us on after hours, contact us after on the email is after hours. kpft@hotmail.com that's H O T, ma i l.com



Jimmy Carper 19:08

Or after hours at web tv.net Ah, you can reach us that way too.



Michelle Meyers 19:16

And please reach out and become a member of KPFT 713-526-5738 That's five to six KPFT activate your membership.



Jimmy Carper 19:30

Yes, because we like bringing you the like tonight's interview with PAC Lithia we're going to we've only done half of it. We're gonna go to the other half in the last hour of the show. But we do need to hear from you and your support 5265738 With your pledge of support \$35 or more. And the amazing Michelle Meyers is going to for every \$35 pledge or more is going to donate a match with \$25. And her company is going to match that. So for your \$35 pledge that becomes \$85 for the station now, you just can't beat that that's really really putting your money in a good place.



Michelle Meyers 20:19

Michelle on a new map.




Sarah DePalma 20:21

And, Michelle, I want you as my investment counselor.


- R** Roy 20:25
And also I'd like to mention that you don't have to make there's another way of making donations to which is your electronic fund transfers
- S** Sarah DePalma 20:33
and your plastic will
- J** Jimmy Carper 20:34
take your plan. Of course, plastic. Yes, we love plastic and EFT electronic funds transfer. It's wonderful. It's easy, it's painless,
- M** Michelle Meyers 20:42
but tell us why EFT is painless ROI.
- R** Roy 20:46
Because it breaks up your monthly payments down to something very manageable for what you would for less than what you would spend on a lunch. Hey,
- S** Sarah DePalma 20:59
a \$60 pledge comes out to 16 cents a day and they'll take it out at five bucks a month.
- R** Roy 21:04
Okay. That's it five bucks a month.
- S** Sarah DePalma 21:08
You spent more than that for your makeup.
- R** Roy 21:10
You spend I spend more than that at at the at the burger joint
- S** Sarah DePalma 21:15


Roy spends more net for his mate of course that's why they call


 Roy 21:17
me big Roy.


 Sarah DePalma 21:21
Is that what it is? I always wonder.

 Jimmy Carper 21:24
That's only that's only 1/3 of the CD. Really amazing.


 Sarah DePalma 21:29
Amazing. Only if you find at Walmart

 Jimmy Carper 21:34
so give us a call 5265738 operators are sitting by

 Roy 21:40
that standing buddy. No, no, no, we're all we're all

 Sarah DePalma 21:42
sitting at the moment I believe. So

 Michelle Meyers 21:45
anyway, that's it for the nerves. Good night all Good night.

 Sarah DePalma 21:49
Good night chat boy.

 21:52

11

21:54

If you've been listening to KPFT for a long time, now's a great time for you to take that step forward and be counted as a member. We know you've been needing to call so do it now. The number is 713526573871352 6k P F T



22:18

the sound of Texas KPFT Houston. Have a civic radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1 kg EOS College Station.



22:31

Sweet mama cotton to tell you why I love ABFT I love the diversity. All the music from Mary in the morning to after hours. And of course the blues on Sunday. So support your listener sponsored radio KPFT 90.1 FM



Jimmy Carper 22:53

Oh yeah, sweet mama cotton. And you know you can sweet mama cotton plays at the briar patch once a week. I didn't know that. Oh, yes. And she's got a CD out and I left it at home. Damn it because she's got some good music on that and we will be playing it right here on after hours. And we really thank sweet mama cotton for it for that little plug.



Sarah DePalma 23:20

If you've heard for your blues man, this is the name that will ring a bell with his sweet mama cotton sounds a lot like Coco Taylor. Yes. And that's real high praise. They don't call Coco Taylor the queen of the blues for nothing. And I tell you what, for that man if there's a person woman from Louisiana named Katie Webster, who plays his boogie woogie piano and sweet mama cotton is kind of a cross between those two I would say really good stuff, by the way. Really good stuff.



Jimmy Carper 23:47

So you're familiar with Big Mama cotton.



Sarah DePalma 23:49

I'm very familiar with the blues honey, I got a big blues collection. Ah, yeah, I listened to I'm listening to Mr. Mrs. V on since Sunday morning. Yeah,



23:58

.

darn right. Good.

J Jimmy Carper 24:01
I like Joe Montez in Joe's Roadhouse.

S Sarah DePalma 24:04
He plays a real different kind of blues. Traditional stuff and I kind of like it

J Jimmy Carper 24:08
it's kind of a rock yeah rock and roll bluesy stuff and very very similar in between there Yeah, that's right. I mean and the coming up after after hours will well if not tonight, I don't think he's gonna be here tonight but it's Big Daddy j with his show and that's like very very traditional blue yeah

S Sarah DePalma 24:29
and listening very very old traditional stats right

J Jimmy Carper 24:32
and and that's that goes into the morning. And then the you with Roger Collins does the same thing and kind of brings it up to I mean, it's just kind of a progression because Mr. And Mrs. B get get a little bit more modern than and then Noreen Hooray does his stuff and then by the time you get to Joe Montana Joe's Roadhouse, man, you're getting the newest blues and rock stuff.

S Sarah DePalma 24:56
Neri Neary has been doing tributes to local artists every week. Hmm. And then he's medically knowledgeable man. Yeah. And, you know, it's off the subject here. But Houston is really a blues capital. Oh, yeah. I mean,

J Jimmy Carper 25:08
the blues society. Yeah. Houston is really, really strong. And and that's the society. I mean, we were talking about the queer community coming together. The Blues community does the same. Oh, yeah. Very much sound. Yes. It's incredible.

S Sarah DePalma 25:22

Sarani DePalma 25:23

Yeah. Yeah. And you remember Kathleen that used to do blues, bright blues, and they've done numerous benefits from her and Sarah. Yeah, that's right. So anyway, it was off the subject. I just thought it would point you that, but it's the reason it contributes money,

 Jimmy Carper 25:36

the subject, but it's still part of KPFT. And we are after hours, we are a queer show, but we also are part of a larger piece of the pie. And we like to mention all the other shows I'm at the Irish Air Show. Have you ever listened to that? No. Can't say, okay, that's Sunday afternoon. That's traditional Irish music. You know, the bluegrass. Do you like that? I

S Sarah DePalma 26:05

like the I like to pick it in swimming. That's good stuff. Yeah. I love that good. I mean,

 Jimmy Carper 26:09

we got the diversity here. And if you're a late night person, we've got heavy metal with sweet nightmares. And a mixture of heavy metal and rock with big Jesus trashcan, those shows are on midnight during the week.

S Sarah DePalma 26:29

So why are the phone's not ringing? You? Don't get it? 526-573-8526 KPFT? Come on boys and girls. I realize it's five after two which you can do it? You bet you can do it. Well, let's talk more about Pat's book. Before we go back to the tape. I wanted to go over some of the titles of the chapters because it will tell you a lot about her book. Okay. Her first part of the book she does. She calls it transsexual autobiographies, the first wave. And for those of you out there who think that you are knowledgeable about transgender history, let me tell you, I consider myself very knowledgeable. But there was a lot of stuff in there about people like Christine Jorgensen that I did not know. She tells an incredible story about Christine Jorgensen, who is, if you don't know, as Christine was really the Pioneer transsexual against growing will actually Christine Jorgensen really wanted to be a housewife. That's all that's all she ever wanted to be. She believed in the 1950s Ozzie and Harriet stuff. That's what she wanted to do. A friend a so called friend of the family outed her. And she came home to a media circus from hell. And basically, it ruined her life.

J Jimmy Carper 27:48

Well, it she'd never attained what she wanted, you know, a husband a home,

S Sarah DePalma 27:56

1. The first two columns are the same as in the previous table.

she actually had a couple of boyfriends in the media just drove out white picket

J Jimmy Carper 27:59

fence and all of that. He was never able to attain that she did attain international status, incredible to have that added to the field to have to talk to somebody who knows more about your community than you do.

S Sarah DePalma 28:05

which she never wants. He never wanted. If ever, there was a person who achieves celebrity, and would much rather have been home cooking. Christine Jorgensen was there you here and she also mentioned several other transgender pioneers in that first chapter. In the second chapter, she taught as called father figures, the gender scientists. And if you notice, in the first part of the tape, we talked about the gender scientists, and you heard Pat Califia sort of giggle is the concept of a scientist dealing with gender. And she talks about Harry Benjamin, and I never really knew much about Harry Benjamin, other than he had been a pioneer. But she goes into great detail about that. And she also talks about some of the other folks who became quite famous sometimes folks like Stoller, and green and money. And she spends a lot of time explaining who they were, what they believed, and what effect that left on the transgender community in Arizona and as a lesbian, Oh, yeah. But she put a ton of research into this, but it's Well, she is a professional therapist. Well, yes, but I mean, even so. I knew some of it, but but frankly, it hasn't been big issue to me. So I really haven't spent a lot of time on it. But I learned a lot that I had never seen never read before. Her third chapter is the backlash transphobia and feminism. Oh, yeah. And she spends a lot of time talking about a book called The transsexual empire. Written by Janice Raymond, probably one of the worst pieces of hate literature about transsexual has ever written Wow, it's I don't think that's being too strong in actually pack leaf. You pretty much said almost same thing, I guess and about the same words. Just it was it's As hateful I mean truly is and she spends a lot of time taking a going through that material and dissecting it piece by piece. She has a chapter on the bird ash wars. And it's the bird ash, for those who don't know, was almost a third gender in primitive cultures, very well known in, in the Native American culture. But it was not the old culture, they had something like that. And really what the chapter amounts to is a discussion about how transgender history has been appropriated become gay, lesbian history. She has a chapter on called contemporary transsexual autobiography. In there, she talks about people like Renee Richards, and Lou Solomon who was really the father of the male to the female to male transsexual movement. A lot of his materials still being used on the internet to this day. Wow. Very, I got to meet him many years ago. Very, very interesting guy. She has a chapter called The Invisible gender outlaws partners of transgendered people. Oh, yes, boss, she hit that and hit right on the head. It's an excellent, excellent chapter. And I asked her, I said, What made you decide to do that? Come to find out pack LiFi had a transgendered partner for some time. Oh, no kidding. And so she sort of got to find out about this firsthand. And then she has a chapter called, this is my favorite chapter in the whole book, trashing the clinic and burning down the beauty parlor. Activism transmute pitiable patients into feisty gender radicals. And she talks about the kind of people that we've had on the show. She talks about Ricky Wilson there. Yeah. Kate Bornstein, Phyllis Frye, Karen, Karen, Jessica Xavier, all the folks that we've had on this show that, you know, yeah. And it's a wonderful chapter in which basically, she talks about how, how transgender people have started to take control of things. And she talks about how transgenders have begun saying to the gender clinics, hey, you lied to us cut it out. You lied to

us start telling us the truth. We demand better service in great, great chapter, just great book. And then finally, the last chapter is the future of gender and transgenderism. And we ended up and you'll hear on this tape ended up in a pretty good discussion about where we thought the transgender movement was going. And, and you'll hear actually hear me say something that I've repeated, I guess I'd said in the show once before, and that is, as much as I love Kate Bornstein. I think what she suggests is impractical. But in any case, you'll hear an explanation of why that is. So without further ado, let's go back to the book. This is called sex changes the politics of transgenderism with Pat Califia. Okay, if you missed the first section of this interview with Pat Califia, you missed so much material, I couldn't possibly come back and do it in another 20 minutes.



32:59

I run on a little I'm sorry. Oh, no, no,



Sarah DePalma 33:03

this is great stuff. This is In Depth, and I love it. We're speaking with Pat Califia, about her current book, which is called sex changes the politics of transgenderism. And I have just I've really been recommending this book to everyone. I consider myself to be quite a knowledgeable activist. But there was a lot of material in your book that I was not aware of before. Oh, great. Why don't we talk a little bit tell the audience first of all, what leper dash is, because I found that pretty interesting.



33:33

Okay, for dashes is kind of a an umbrella term that's mostly used today by white scholars who are doing anthropological work on Native American cultures. And it's not a Native American word. It's a term that seems to have kind of been coined by European invaders, to describe a social role that is found in some but not all Native American tribes. And it's really difficult to talk about in an accurate way. Now, partly because we don't, we don't really know a whole lot about the societies that existed prior to that invasion. But there seem to have been in many Native American tribes and cultures, a social role for someone who was genetically male, but who took on some of the appearance, the dress, the mannerisms, and the sexual and social roles that women played. And so that's kind of the way that bear dash is being used today as a catch all term for what are also called third gender roles in native societies. And this isn't something that we just find in Native American cultures. It's also found in Samoa, and in Southeast Asia, and possibly in other Aboriginal societies as well.



Sarah DePalma 34:56

Well, what I thought was interesting about that chapter was that you were you were pointing out something that I have discussed in many times on the show. And that is how, what and basically would have been a third gender or transgendered sort of an individual, how that has been appropriated to suddenly become gay and lesbian in its history. Yeah.



35:16

It's interesting how that's happened. And I can really, excuse me, I can really empathize with the desire that gay men and lesbians have to find role models in history. Because we've really been invalidated by people saying, well, you're just sort of a modern, degenerate phenomenon. You don't really have a history. And that's simply not true. But I think there's a real problem with with any, anytime someone in the 20th century goes back, you know, several 100 years, and claims a group of people from the past as ancestors are role models, because chances are really good that people who live that long ago did not understand their identities or their sexualities in exactly the same terms that we use to understand ourselves. So, yeah, I think that that we need to use all kinds of conceptual tools to understand that there dosh we need to use gay and lesbian paradigms, but we also need to use transsexual paradigms. And it's ironic that some of the gay male writers like Walter Williams, who have made quite a name for themselves with work on the bear dash are emphatically anti transsexual and reject any association of these, these men who dressed in women's clothing, used female pronouns to refer to themselves had women's names lived in the women's part of the tribal area, you know, took men as partners. I mean, I just, I think it's, it's absurd to try to say that this has nothing to do with transgenderism.



Sarah DePalma 36:56

Well, and I've made that argument we didn't, we had done a segment about Billy Tipton, the jazz, the, and how that has suddenly become gay lesbian history, which which I found really kind of disheartening. Because if ever there was a transgendered person, that was it. Right, exactly.



37:20

That's really true. It's interesting how passing women have become. The GM was appropriated by lesbian historians. You know, in fact, it's pretty impossible to go back and ask these folks how they viewed themselves, you know, I'm sure that that we have examples in history of women who loved other women who chose to live with men, because that was the only way they could figure out to, to have a life with a female partner. But I'm also sure that for a lot of those individuals, they basically viewed themselves as mistakes of nature and felt that in fact, they should have been men, and that they were going to do everything they could to correct what they thought was on the state so that they could have male identities and be accepted as male in their communities. And there may very well have been folks who thought, you know, I don't really feel male or female. But in this world, I've got to make a choice if I'm going to get along and make a living. And so this is a choice I'm going to make. It doesn't feel exactly right to me, but this is what I have to do to survive. So yeah, I think we have to be really cautious when we label female bodied people who passed as male or vice versa, without talking to the individual is pretty difficult to know why they made those choices and how, what they thought it meant. And the individual really has a right to decide how to label themselves. That's just so basic. It ought to be just a basic civil rights that everyone handles.



Sarah DePalma 38:53

I think a lot of people forget that Joan of Arc was burned, because she refused to wear women's clothing. That's right. That was the bottom line reason. She may have been the ultimate transgendered martyr.



39:06

I think Leslie Feinberg has quite a bit of material about Joan of Arc in in here book on transgender warriors.



Sarah DePalma 39:16

Yeah, yeah, very much. So I was really pleased to find the chapter about the partners of transgendered people. Oh, my favorites. If ever there's a group that has been overlooked and left out, that's it. And you did a great unit, what made you decide to do that, because so many books, they tell all these great things about transgenders and the partners never get mentioned once. Yeah, it's



39:42

kind of weird. I mean, I think part of that is because part why that has happened is because the or the first wave of gender scientists tell people that what they were doing through sex reassignment was creating men and women. And so the assumption was that post reassignment A transsexual man or a transsexual woman would be fully equipped to just go out and get a partner like anybody else. And of course, that's not exactly true, because the reassignment process does have its shortcomings. And also just because it's crazy making to leave your history behind, when you're trying to have an intimate relationship. You know, I think that most of us want our partners to know where we've been, and how we've come to be the self that we are in the present. And I've always thought that actually there, there is such a thing as a person who is attracted to folks who are differently gendered, and that there's no label for that sexual orientation. And I certainly wouldn't call it a fetish because I don't think it's dehumanizing or objectifying. I think it's a genuine interest in an appreciation of someone who has gone through some kind of transformation in their life around gender. And I consider myself to be one of those people. And one of the one of the reasons why I read the book was because I had a bet a year long relationship with someone who was female to male, although he does not consider himself to be male, but considers himself to be third gendered. And so I really felt like partners had their own special concerns. And in fact, I think a whole book could be written about that.



Sarah DePalma 41:26

Yeah, I think so too. I know Phyllis Frye in her wife, Trish had been married for 2627 years, something like that. I know of a number of other folks who are in a similar category. And in my own case, so Lori, and I will be will be excuse me six years for us and October. Well, thank you. But the point that is going to make is I really think that the partners of the transgendered people are the heroine heroes and heroines and all this, because the changes the adaptability, they have to have just astounds me.



42:00

Well, it's very difficult and and once again, in my private practice, as a therapist I work with, sometimes I'm privileged to work with couples who are going through the transition process, but it's very difficult to sustain a relationship through that larger change.



Sarah DePalma 42:16

Well, it really is.



42:19

Hard, I think, especially to support your partner when they are in between genders, and where they're likely to be read as either male or female by people on the street. Our society is just so intolerant of gender ambiguity. And so partners, of course, have legitimate concerns about safety and about, you know, economics, is it going to be possible to keep a job? How are we going to keep our livelihood together? And I think there's also a lot of emotional changes that go along with just taking hormones that can be hard for partners to understand.



Sarah DePalma 42:54

Oh, yeah, I got I got for a while where you could say good morning to me. Now, it's



43:01

very common, you know, that with estrogen comes a lot of emotions become more labile? And, yeah, completely understandable. But then your partner's going. Okay, what did I do wrong? Exactly. I think it's also hard to deal with the social climate. I mean, I, for women, partners of transsexual men, who may have started out in the lesbian community, it can be very difficult to lose membership in the lesbian community and to feel isolated. And to then, you know, try to figure out, well, who, where are we going to go for friends, you know, to spend social time with other couples? You know, it's just difficult to have what is basically lesbian identity, and then try to turn it into a heterosexual identity. And I think that's a reason why a lot of partnerships don't endure through transition, is because the transition demands to greater change and in the partner's understanding of himself or herself.



Sarah DePalma 44:03

Oh, yeah, we've had, we have a number of a large part of our audience, our wives of cross dressers. And interestingly, when we talk to them, the first question I'll ask is, does this now mean, I'm lesbian? You know, and so the whole idea that you might have to change his sexual

orientation and the misinformation that's out there, I think any any of the, the partners or transgender people who stay in fight their way through it, maintain families, I just think they're stunning individuals.



44:31

And they're every bit as much a part of the transgender community as the folks who are actually going through transition. You know, I think that's exactly the point you raised is why it's important to focus on gay politics as well as on transsexual politics, because the fact is that yes, if you're a woman in a relationship with another woman, that is a lesbian relationship. It may be a very different kind of lesbian relationship, but certainly that's how other people are going to perceive you. So it's one example where homophobia is really not going to be your friend. And you have to, I think, be prepared to do some personal work to adjust your attitudes around that. And I know that what I just said is going to be controversial for some wives and girlfriends. That's how I feel about



Sarah DePalma 45:21

I was really interested in the last section of your book about the future of transgenderism. We've had Kate Bornstein on the show and Martine and Martine Rothblatt and Gordon McKenzie, and it's always interesting how they see, oh, how they think the future of transgenderism will go. And I've argued that, that when I start to see the end of Butch femme roles or or, you know, there are male jobs and female jobs, then I believe that the trend that gender which I think is really the the culprit issue here, what is going away, but until then, I think it seems to be the future transgenderism is sort of up in the air. Well,



46:01

I have really mixed emotions about the fact that we're seeing right now in transsexual politics, for about a cry to just eliminate gender, you know, the gender is the enemy. And that's what we have to get rid of. I'm just not really sure that that's the world that I want to live in. I think I feel comfortable with trying to eliminate gender linked privilege. And I'm certainly in favor of opening up gender expression so that people have more choices than just the blue box or the pink box. But you know, I really think any quest to eliminate gender entirely is doomed to failure, in large part because genders erotic, you know, people are invested in it because it is a way to organize the world around them.