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SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Brian Nunes, Deborah Bell, Jack Valinski, Cindy Friedman



00:06

KPFT receives no funding for its broadcast



00:49

[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]



Jack Valinski 01:01

From Pacifica's KPFT in Houston This is lesbian gay voices a show for and about the game lesbian community. This is Jack Valinski.



Deborah Bell 01:08

And this is Deborah Bell and I guess you realize Jack is back from New York and he'll be talking with us in just a moment about his experiences at Stonewall 25 It's July the eighth and on tonight lesbian and gay voices. Well, Suzanne's running a little late, but hopefully she will be here to speak out once again.



Jack Valinski 01:28

We also have the is this still a film creator of



Deborah Bell 01:32

the assistant curator at the Museum of Fine Arts.

J Jack Valinski 01:35

And she's going to be talking to us about the film's in July, featuring the work of gay director artists Derek Jarman. He died of AIDS at age 52. And he's highly regarded in Berlin and his unique style will be viewed in four films at the museum. We also will have a ticket giveaway later in the show.

D Deborah Bell 01:55

So stay tuned for that. Of course, Mary Helen is here as always with music. And tonight we premiere an aspect of our coping in the gay 90 series, we'll take a look at the legal issues that affect us as lesbian gay people with members of bar the Bar Association for human rights. Our topic will be domestic partnerships and listeners who will have a chance to call in with their questions. And of course our

J Jack Valinski 02:19

regular features such as this way out news wrap a report on the employment and non discrimination act of 1994 introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy and that would have protection for gays and lesbians from drug discrimination and also from this way out more on Stonewall 25 in the Gay Games and speaking of New York,

D Deborah Bell 02:39

okay, we're gonna go to a piece of music and we'll be back talking to Jack

B Brian Nunes 06:36

[music plays]

D Deborah Bell 06:53

And that's Toshi Reagon from her justice CD. How long? She's one of those people that really cooks, you know?

J Jack Valinski 07:02

Yes, it was cooking. They're just like they

D Deborah Bell 07:04

were cooking. Yeah, it was cooking in New York

were cooking. Yeah, it was cooking in New York.

J Jack Valinski 07:07

No, I don't think New York could handle all those people. I mean, I was in places where the air conditioning just couldn't handle it. The lights kept going on in some places, because it was, you know, they were pushing the limit with air conditioning. And that's why I was talking about the weather. I mean, I know you didn't want to talk about it, I had to teach you about that type of, you know, the weather in New York, it was very hot, and they can cope with it like we do here.

D Deborah Bell 07:28

I guess we just need to tell folks that they're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And I'm Deborah Bell. And I'm talking right now with Jack Valinski, who is usually a co host on this program, but he was traveling. He was traveling, and he was in New York. And he did call us and tell us about some of the things going on there. But now he's back and sharing a little bit more because that was pre event.

J Jack Valinski 07:51

Yeah, one of the things with you. I did miss was the Dyke March. Yeah. Because that was

D Deborah Bell 07:55

Graham went to that. So

J Jack Valinski 07:59

I did go to the closing ceremonies that the Gay Games, you know that there were more people participating in the Gay Games than there was in the Winter Olympics. Is that incredible? I mean, this is only the fourth time they did the Gay Games. And already, we're surpassing the Olympics. And there's such a spirit. And I mean, I didn't see all that. You know, one of our friends here in Houston, Ray Ramirez came back with a bronze medal. I don't know what their whole team or whether it was right or not, but I'm not sure how that I did see the metal he showed it to me. It's, it's really neat. I mean, that's the whole thing about it. It wasn't so much who won. But it was really the competitive and the competent. I mean, the the spirit of it all. But the closing ceremonies at Yankee Stadium, and that was probably the only way to get me in Yankee Stadium was really incredible. In fact, it took forever for all the athletes just to walk through and one of the comedians says, couldn't they run. And the entertainment and Harvey Firestein was one of them announcing and here comes this. And here comes we thought for at one time, it was the same Twitter people going round and round. But he you know, his voice is real deep. So he really lost his voice, just screaming out all those names, but they had a spectacular laser show and fireworks and all that type of stuff. But just the feeling of being there and seeing people from all over like when they announced South Africa, people just

cheered like crazy. And unlike Washington in New York March did really emphasize the international movement, and seeing flags and people from all over the world. And they did do some of the stage announcement were announced different languages. And but unlike Washington, where you had that big, big mall going all the way back and the big diamond vision type thing, they didn't have that. And the staging wasn't really quite as important, I think in New York as it wasn't Washington.

D Deborah Bell 09:48

Well, they had to do the march a little differently to I mean, it's not set up quite the same way. The

J Jack Valinski 09:54

streets aren't quite as wide I guess. There was the official March which started from the UN and they had this tremendous rainbow flag that stretched a mile, it was just a really beautiful visual. In fact, when I got there at the beginning of March, I ran underneath it, you know, to try to get my press credentials and ran back underneath it. And I just got there in time before it started. But it just, you know, took forever was as Washington did, also,

D Deborah Bell 10:19

you ended up not marching, but getting up to the stage early enough. While some of the performers were on some of the speakers,

J Jack Valinski 10:25

right. So I taped the entire ceremonies there and got a really good wow, we will be able to use some of those. The entertainment, really, it was really good. It was different than I mean, it's amazing that we have all these people. The other amazing things, we have all these video, people taping this stuff for different networks and channels, which of course we can't get here. But yeah,

D Deborah Bell 10:45

apparently was not on C span as well on Washington. Well,

J Jack Valinski 10:49

one of the reasons was it Congress was still in session. And they had like Bacco his

D Deborah Bell 10:53

hearings. Yeah, I mean, that that was what was on, we were real disappointed, because we wanted to see it. And unlike

J Jack Valinski 10:59

Washington, where C span is is home, it was in New York. Now I don't know exactly. I did see a CNN there a lot. And New York also has their own cable channel on New York, one that covered a lot of it. But it seemed like as you said, it seemed like it was a local event because the TV stations were there. But then again, the TV stations in New York are owned by the network. So they were able to throw that up. But what you also didn't Washington was basically you got your own satellite dish and put it up on the satellite for anybody to pick up, you know, who needed it. Any television thing? I don't think they did that in New York.

D Deborah Bell 11:33

Right? Alright. Someone from this way out last week said that they thought that this would be the event that all other events would be judged from from forevermore. And, and from what I've heard of people is that that the event that that it happened with the Washington March and in April of 93. And, you know, we we can't be too critical on ourselves. And and the importance is the lives that were touched by what went on. I know a lot of people that went to New York, where people who had not been to marches in Washington or done things like that, a lot of people that participated in the gay game. So the stories that came out of that were incredibly moving.

J Jack Valinski 12:19

Yes. And I mean, that's the whole thing about this community. There's all these different layers now. And the fact that there's, you know, this this incredible Gay Games, which is going to happen every four years, next time, it's going to happen in Amsterdam. And we're going to really move into it. And are

D Deborah Bell 12:33

you going? I don't know, do you compete as a runner? You

J Jack Valinski 12:37

really well, I'm not really into that.

D Deborah Bell 12:41

You can think of something to compete, and I'm involved in another thing. Oh, I don't think so. Jack Welch, was there any particular speaker or event that particularly moves you? Lewis was

J Jack Valinski 12:55

one of the speakers. And he gave a nice speech. It's hard to pick up and we'll be playing some of this back. You know, the, I guess what was really interesting was that it was an international thing that some of these people spoke of what's happened, what's happening in their own country. And we don't realize how lucky we are here. Despite our problems here that we're still so much further advanced. And I guess what was really interesting is the police were just absolutely wonderful in New York.

D Deborah Bell 13:21

This is the story that I've heard. The Nancy Ford said that she did go by the Stonewall and turn over a police car just for the spirit thing. Sure.

J Jack Valinski 13:29

She did. Yes. Well, the interesting thing was on the plane up that my friend John came, came on that Larry lingo and Bill White were flying first class and Spike Lee was in coach.

D Deborah Bell 13:40

So what does that say? I guess I'm not sure.

J Jack Valinski 13:44

I guess after spending \$20,000 for a ticket

D Deborah Bell 13:47

for basketball game. Yeah. Well, you know, there might be things that you think of, that you'll want to share with our listeners in the near future. That was Did you do anything besides the Gay Games, closing activities and Stonewall March or any other activity,

J Jack Valinski 14:07

I didn't do a lot of things because I also was working up there. I knew that the following weekend had a lot of things to do. I did see Phantom of the Opera, which was great. There were so many things going on, but those eight things were packed. And I mean, comedy things and and all these different plays, and it's just really incredible. And somebody was telling me last night that he visits the New York Center. The game has been centered he says it was just incredible, that they have like 200 different 12 STEP program right



Deborah Bell 14:35

meeting there. Well, we're working on it. We're working on it and hopefully with the help of people like our listeners and other folks who will be able to have something like that someday.



Jack Valinski 14:43

It's very relatable to see all the different merchandising though I mean, how



Deborah Bell 14:47

how not talk about that worn to shop. We save New York City, you know, sure from their their bad winter. Well, we're going to be talking in just a moment to cara de bas from the The Museum of Fine Arts about their film series that's the month of July. They're featuring the works of gay director artists direct Jarman and we'll talk to Kara in just a moment.



15:11

MCCR and its music ministry is presenting Karen and Edwards in concert on Sunday July 10 at 6pm. The event will be held at 1919 Decatur Street in the sanctuary. Miss Edwards is from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and is well known in the southeast United States. She has released her first recording lighting the way MCCR Sign Language ministry are offering sign language classes. The classes begin on Sunday, July 10, and run 4pm to 6pm. through September 4. Participants will be introduced to the Deaf Culture and Communication. The fee is \$10. And scholarships are available. For more information on the concert or to register for classes call Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection at 8619149.



Deborah Bell 16:17

And thank you, Zachary, for reporting on those things going on over at MCCR. Well with us. Now we have [Cara deBas?]. She's the Assistant Curator of film at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. And we expected Marian Luntz to be here but she wasn't feeling very well. So Cara is pinch hitting. You have something very exciting coming up during the month of July. Why don't you tell us a little bit about it?



16:43

Yeah, we're featuring the films of Derek Jarman during the month of July Derek Charmin is a British independent filmmaker, a gay filmmaker, who unfortunately died in February due to complications with AIDS. And he's a very interesting director, very innovative. We've described him as avant garde to a lot of people, but he's has a very strong visual style that most people find very appealing. He was trained as a painter. And he also has a very strong gay element to all his films. Most viewers in the United States would remember his film Edward the second, which we're not showing, but it's one of his larger budget films that got a lot of attention here. But he was highly regarded in Britain, very politically active there, and it's a great loss to lose.

And the way we did that we are featuring four of his films. This weekend we're showing tonight and tomorrow night, we're starting with Caravaggio, which is one of his earlier films. He made it in 1986. And it's about the 16th century painter Caravaggio. And it's a very beautiful, painterly film. But it also explores a lot of the sort of big historical elements of Caravaggio's life that Derek took some liberties with. And to make a more interesting story. So that's what we're starting out with that

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Deborah Bell 18:08

artistic license as it were. The following film that's going to be on July 15, and 16th, called blue. And I was pretty intrigued when I was first hearing about this film, because that's what it is the color blue.

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18:23

Yeah, it's 76 minutes of the blue screen. But that's not all it is. It's a very powerful film. I was actually looking at it some of this afternoon getting ready for this interview. And it's just incredibly moving. It's a blue screen. But the soundtrack is music, excerpts from Derek's diary as he was getting sicker. And part of his thinking behind using the blue screen was he was losing his sight. And as an artist really was blue. Yeah. And he talks about that a lot in there and few of his old friends stepped in to narrate. And the music is, is beautiful, but it's a very moving film, about his dealing with the last stages of his aids and reflecting on his life.

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Deborah Bell 19:09

And then the next film coming up on the 22nd and 23rd. You probably could pronounce this name better than I can with

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19:16

Guin Stein, and it looks like yeah, and and this is a film about the philosopher of the 20th century philosopher Ludwig with Wittgenstein. And again, it has the typical Jarman elements of being it's a very sparse, a very experimental storytelling style. To tell the story of this 20th century gay philosopher, and who was born in Vienna, grew up in Europe was friends with like, went to school with Freud, and Hitler, unfortunately, and

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Deborah Bell 19:52

in combination there yeah, sometimes I wonder which one was worse?

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19:56

Yeah. So Yeah, it's, it's another really interesting film from him sort of a different subject manner. And he enjoyed dealing with historical topics like that and exploring sort of the more ..


silent aspects of these famous people, mainly their sexuality.

 Jack Valinski 20:17

How do you? How do you find it? How do you find an artist like this to show? I mean, you talk to other museums, or do you actually view these films? Or is it a package that's put together?

 20:27


It's a combination of both with this series we? Yeah, I was already familiar. Marian was already familiar with his work. And we had been sort of gauging his illness, we knew that he was on the last legs and made plans at that point to put together some of his films and wanted to show his range of films. So these we sort of booked individually. And some packages come as a tour. And a lot of people have been doing retrospectives of his work all over the country since he died.

 Deborah Bell 21:02

Isn't it a shame, though, that so many people we don't really know until they're gone? Yeah. Yeah. And the series closes at the end of the month. 29th and 30th of July was the Tempest. Now, this isn't the Shakespeare

 21:15


play? No, not quite. It's based on it. And it's one of his very early songs 79 He started making films, only in about 76, I think is when he first started experimenting with that. It's based on a Shakespeare play. That is a very, again, avant garde storytelling of that story and filmed in these crumbling old alleys. In England, and again, very beautiful visually.

 Deborah Bell 21:48

We're talking with Kara DeVos, the Assistant Curator of film at the Museum of Fine Arts here in Houston, and we're talking about the series during the month of July, featuring the work of gay director artists, Derek Jarman. I noticed that in a couple of his movies, Tilda Swinton is starring and some of our listeners may be familiar with her because she was the leading character in the film or lendo. Say I can't remember which ones that she's in, let's say ones with

 22:24

blue. Yeah, she helps narrate and blue and she's also in tonight's film, Caravaggio.

 Deborah Bell 22:32

Of course, she's a striking looking woman and that alone is worth going. They are there other people that we might would recognize in his work.



22:43

He had sort of a group of people he liked working with Tilda is probably the one that American audiences are familiar with. Because of Orlando. Michael GAO is another person that he worked with a lot. But he didn't have a group of four or five actors and actresses that he really liked working with repeatedly.



Jack Valinski 23:02

How did he get funded for doing these films?



23:05

Fortunately, the BBC was very kind to him and and he did have his struggles like any sort of iconic, classic filmmaker, and relied a lot the way filmmakers do here in the United States on friends.



Jack Valinski 23:18

It's really interesting. You mentioned the BBC, but channel four over there, which is sort of an independent commercial network over there, which also funded Tales of the City, right. And on the agreement that PBS would fund the second series, which they reneged, but that's another story. But Channel Four has funded a lot of independent films that we see over here and pay for where they get it on television over there. It's really interesting. How do you gauge Houston in compared to other cities? And since you do a lot of these sort of avant garde or art films here, and I don't really see Houston although now that landmark has three sets of theatres here. Hopefully, we're gonna see a little bit more.



24:01

Yeah, well, you know, for a city as large as Houston as we're always surprised at how few people we get at some of our more challenging films, but we always do get people and



Jack Valinski 24:12

the papers do a good job of publicizing what's in the museum? Yeah,



24:15

they do. You know, all the film critics in town, sort of, regardless of where they fall in the

scheme of things, are willing to look at the films and review them good or bad, and at least get us a little publicity. So people at least know that we're showing them. How long have you been with the museum about three and a half years?

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Deborah Bell 24:35

Well, one of the things that I like about seeing films there is that it's a wonderful theater. I mean, there's not a bad theme, the way it's arranged and everything. And you have touched on more of the controversial films that come along, and in fact showed the film. Marlon Riggs another person we lost for too soon. Tongues Untied we And channel eight refused to show it here in Houston. Yeah. And it was packed and they had to have another showing over a diverse right because of that.

25:10

Yeah, that's true. Yeah, that was really exciting event. And yeah, we were just very shocked at 10 Lights decision and even hearing the reasons for it and just saw the film was just incredibly powerful and just had to be shown and, you know, to some extent, we created a situation where people could experience it, I think in a better way than sitting home isolated, watching it on television, they were in a group with their friends.

J

Jack Valinski 25:40

The only unfortunate thing is that channel eight would certainly have a bigger audience. That's the fault actually. Yeah,

25:45

exactly.

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Deborah Bell 25:46

Well, the unfortunate thing about that, too, is that there are some people that who, whose only opportunity to see it would have been would have been isolation, it may have been an opportunity, you know, for them to break that

25:58

ice. Yeah, yeah. But we felt we had to do something that it just not be shown. One of

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Deborah Bell 26:03

the things that we get from channel eight a lot is especially like if they either refuse to show

something, although they have been really progressive. I mean, they shared last language of the crane. They didn't tell us the city, even though they censored it a certain degree. But

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Suzanne Anderson 26:20

the

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Deborah Bell 26:24

they always say that they can't show certain things because of where they get their funding. How does the museum fit in to that? Or are the people that support the museum more willing to support the arts and all aspects? Yeah, I

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26:40

think that's true. I think we have a lot of support from our director, Peter Marzia, which I mean, that just helps. And we did we got some calls. We had some members of the museum dropped their membership. When we showed tungsten tide. There was some controversy about that. But we had some people join the museum. So it really evened out. And you know, so.

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Deborah Bell 27:05

Well, that's wonderful. And the cost at the museum for the film's is very reasonable. But do you think it really is it's very often a very fair price, and it's a pleasant theater, Nice parking and everything. I want to thank you, Kara, for being with us tonight to tell us about the fans, we are going to have 10 pairs of tickets to give away to our listeners, which people can call in for during the music segment. And I'll give you that number will tell you when to call. Yeah, that's exactly right. And

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27:41

real quickly, if I could just add a number of people can call at us at the museum if they have questions thinking is 639753 Give us a call if you have questions about any of our programming or the German films in particular

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Deborah Bell 27:53

6397530 and the museum is located at 1001 Bissonnette 1000, won the

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28:02

free Parker. Does that mean in between monitors and men can't miss it.

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Deborah Bell 28:07


Excellent location. Thank you. And we do have Suzanne coming in the door even as we speak and we'll have her on to speak out in just a moment. And Suzanne, you're on.

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Suzanne Anderson 28:28

Thank you. Good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson speaking out. Talking about the new they counseling bill approved by the state assembly of New York would make New York the first state to require doctors to provide aids counseling for pregnant women and new mothers. Supporters say that if the bill passed that could help prolong the lives of infected babies. I don't know how the the the religious right south, shall we say feel about that. Cindy Crawford was set in a Vanity Fair interview that she had reservations about her husband Richard Gere's decision to run an ad in the London Times papers declaring that the couple is heterosexual and happily married. The man is absolutely desperate. We have some support lesbians and lesbian and gay voices started this if you'll recall, and then it went to the National Organization of Women. And now the National Education Association has joined in on lesbian gay born voices boycott of Florida orange juice 2.2 million members of the NEA excuse me voted Monday to boycott Florida orange juice because of Rush Limbaugh. He had a \$1 million fee I guess that was paid to him for for being head of campaigning for their for their orange juice organization. I think that's absolutely in credible, but the National Organization of Women the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Federation of business and professional women's club are among those who have boycotted the project now. Also in the news, gay police officers in New York are in force. If you'll remember it was gay police officers who rated Stonewall back 25 years ago, well, some things have changed. Now there is a gay officers action league that's been founded. Actually, it was founded in 1982 in New York City and there are 1000 members. And the if you want to know what kind of changes have taken place because of this organization, first you look at Stonewall 25 years ago. And now you can look at the fact that the police department looked the other way on June 26, when several of the 1000s of gays in an illegal parade took off their clothes and marched past St Peter's Cathedral. The place just looked the other way. They also allowed lesbian officers to use the departmental motto New York's finest as the name of their softball team in a recent Gay Games. Right now it appears that lesbians are very in I mean, just listen to Howard Stern Show, which How many of you actually you don't have to listen to show now you can see it Yeah, and I don't know I'm just sick that they move talk soup to channel 11 As much as I do. Produced and earned more than a million dollars. So that's some of the motivation. I know behind the new film Go fish. It's going to be interesting to see how much money that month movie makes I think it's a far better movie than Claire of the moon. One of the things that the people who put it together said their goal was to make a movie, not about happy lesbians, but about a movie that had lesbians in it with a happy ending. I think that you all will enjoy this and Sarasota, Florida there are plans in the works for a new retirement community for gays only swishy seniors will soon have the opportunity to set up camp together. According to the the the proprietors the palms of manasota is billed in gay magazines as the first Alternative Living retirement home and will boost an end care. Treatment for gay oldsters who can't cook or clean for themselves. And finally, if you don't get the inquiry, you probably missed this. But in Norway, a group of beer guzzling salesmen started a ball in their ritzy hotel after they found out that the 8660 Sexy hostess brought in to entertain them during their convention. Were actually

transvestite. The hotel said our organizer said that they had no idea that these were actually men, but they but yet they apparently signed a contract with an organization called dolls in drag Inc. This is Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.

 Deborah Bell 33:17

Whoa, thanks, Suzanne. Well, coming up next on lesbian gay voices. We'll have music by Mary Helen news wrap from this way out, among other things, and be thinking of your questions considering domestic partnerships for our Colin segment with members of the bar association for human rights, the gay and lesbian attorneys group. And if you would like tickets for the Museum of Fine Art showing up Caravaggio, we have 10 pairs of tickets to give away. You can call Matt Holland the music is playing 526-573-8526 KPFT. And Mary Helen, take it away.

 33:57

Thanks, Deborah. And yes, welcome to the music portion of lesbian and gay voices this evening. My name is Mary Helen, and I'm just pleased to bring that to you. And first of all, let's hear this little short message.

 34:24

Alisa Etheridge, one of many lesbian and gay voices, lesbian and gay voices is a program that brings the lesbian and gay community is close to your radio. Repeat your local, state, national and international news, music and community events, interviews, book reviews, and commentary. So tune in Fridays, from six to 8pm Lesbian and Gay voices on KPFT World Radio 90.1 FM

 35:08

and you are indeed tuned to that very program on that very radio frequency at. Oh, it's about 635 here on Friday evening. Have a good weekend. You know, that's what sometimes forget to tell you the start of the weekend. So let's start partying right now. Okay. Hey, this weekend. Coming up at two piece over at 1830, West Alabama. Leonora sailo is going to be performing some acoustic women's music that Saturday night at 9pm over a two piece on West Alabama. And that sounds like Bob might kind of be like my cup of tea over there. Dierdre McAuliffe who, whose music I'm going to feature tonight we'll be here in concert at the Hyatt Regency downtown on July the 13th at 8pm. That's a Wednesday I believe, and it's sponsored by the Houston area Women's Center, July 13 at 8pm Hyatt Regency downtown Dierdre is one of my favorite recording artists. She's on the Olivia label and has three albums out that I know of her very first album won a lot of critical acclaim. It's called don't doubt it. And this is one of my favorite songs from that album. It's called Oh, the earth

 36:52

the fabulous voice and the inclusive words of one of my favorite recording artists. Olivia is Dierdre mcauliffe. And like I said a couple of times already she's gonna be here on next

Dierdre makalah. And like I said a couple of times already she's gonna be here on next Wednesday, July the 13th at the downtown Hyatt Regency to perform and entertain us. I've met Dierdre a couple of times and she is usually on the Olivia cruises was one of the entertainers that they bring along and is really popular. This next song that we're going to listen to is from her latest compact disc called everyday heroes and heroines and it's the title track from that album



37:50

you can hear from that selection. The Cajun in the country influence on Dierdre McCall as opposed to the or as a compliment really to the reggae influence in all day all ways the song that we heard before that and oh the earth the song about the uprising of Mother Earth. And just quickly I'm going to interrupt my dear drum makalah set to let you know that we do still have a couple of pairs of tickets left to go go to the Museum of Fine Arts tonight or tomorrow night to see the film Caravaggio it will be screened at 8pm tonight and tomorrow night. Saturday night at 7:30pm. If you'd like to go and see a free movie courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts and lesbian and gay voices here at KPFT. Give us a call at 5265738 or five to six KPFT we'll be glad to get your name and on the guest list to go see Caravaggio this weekend either tonight or tomorrow tomorrow night. Another event of interest may that may be of interest to many of you is coming up in it's it's way far away now kids so don't get too excited Indigo Girls will perform at the backyard on Thursday, September the first and that's in Austin, Texas. I don't know if they're scheduled yet for a performance here in Houston in the conjunction in conjunction with the release of their latest CD. But we'll let you know because we know so many of you are Indigo Girls fans, but they will be in Austin Thursday September the first at the backyard. If you'd like information about getting tickets, you can call area code 512-263-4146. That's the backyard in Austin and stay tuned to lesbian and gay voices. For more information on a Houston appear Since we hope back to Dierdre makalah, who's going to be here who will definitely be here in Houston? Next Wednesday, and I think Oh pretty much planned to be there and hopefully I'll get a chance to talk to her. She is as a new mother, she yeah she she adopted a little boy. And a lot of her music has to do with family and has to do with with her own mom and and the way she feels about her family and this last song is one that I will bet you dollars to donuts she sings during her appearance here next Wednesday. It's called Mama's little baby girl.



40:59

While there probably won't be a dry eye in the house after Dierdre McCall's performance next Wednesday, Hyatt Regency go early and see the play for the same all for the same ticket price. When love is not enough as the name of the play. It's going to start at seven. Then at 8pm Dierdre. McCall are brought to Houston by NCSA a national conference on sexual assault, the Houston area Women's Center. Stay tuned for news wrap here on lesbian and gay voices 90.1 FM KPFT Houston.



41:37

Hi. This is Holly youths, the sapphic super Vixen, coming to you, directly to you. And I emphasize the word coming. I'm lesbian and gay voices que PFT 90.1 FM

B**Brian Nunes 42:03**

I'm Brian and I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap up summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending July 2 1994. The employment non discrimination act of 1994 ENDA was formally introduced at a press conference on June 23, for consideration by the US House and Senate. Although comprehensive federal legislation to protect the civil rights of gays and lesbians has made no real progress over the last two decades, and is specific focus on prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation has more public support and more appeal to conservatives, and would prohibit discrimination based on real or perceived homosexual bisexual or heterosexual orientation in hiring, firing promotion and pay by businesses with at least 15 employees and specifically prohibits quotas and different or preferential treatment based on sexual orientation. It has no requirements for extending family benefits to employees SAME GENDER partners. It specifically exempts the military and religious organizations including religious schools, but would be applied to profit making affiliates of religious organizations and it was presented at the press conference by Senate co sponsor Ted Kennedy, and openly gay congressional co sponsors Barney Frank and Gary Studs, aisle Democrat from Massachusetts, along with Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Executive Director Ralph Abner, and Coretta Scott King, widow of the late African American civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. and already has 30 co sponsors in the Senate and almost 100 in the House of Representatives, including some Republicans in both bodies, and has already been endorsed by a number of diverse civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the People for the American Way Action Fund, the women's Legal Defense Fund and the Consortium for citizens with disabilities, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Japanese American Citizens League, and the American Friends Service Committee, the United Church of Christ office for the Church and Society and the American Jewish Committee. The first hearings on ENDA will be held July 20, in New York City by the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on select education and civil rights. It will also have to go through the House Judiciary Subcommittee on constitutional rights. On the Senate side, Kennedy says he plans to report the bill out of the labor and Human Resources Committee which he chairs this month.

C**Cindy Friedman 44:28**

In mid June, the Human Rights Campaign Fund released findings of a survey of the hiring practices of US Senators 71 of the 100 senators pledged in writing not to discriminate against gays and lesbians in the hiring of their personal staffs. The 71 included a majority of the Senators from both the Democratic and Republican parties, and both Majority Leader George Mitchell and Minority Leader Bob Dole. If conservative doles agreement came as a surprise to some so did that of Sam Nunn, the staunch defender of the ban on military service by gays and lesbians. And earlier similar survey of the House of Representatives has now won written non discrimination pledges from 234 Congress members.

B**Brian Nunes 45:16**

When you as District Judge Thomas silly religion first that the US government violated the civil rights of Colonel Margaret Keller Meyer. By discharging her because she is a lesbian. He ordered her immediate reinstatement, the government asked him to keep her out of uniform until an

appellate court ruled on either her case, or that of openly gay Navy Petty Officer Keith Weinhold, claiming her immediate reinstatement would cause irreparable harm to the military. This week, Zili denied that request, writing that in this case, the public interest is likely promoted by permitting such an extraordinarily talented and dedicated officer to serve her country. Kevin Meyer herself joked that either the military is quite fragile or I am extremely powerful. Her attorney said preparations for her reentry would begin soon. The Department of Justice has not yet announced if it would appeal Zili's ruling on the reinstatement.

C

Cindy Friedman 46:10

A respected consumer research company this year investigated the gay and lesbian market for the first time as part of its 23rd Annual Survey. And the recently released results may give a truer picture of the economic status of us gays and lesbians than previous reports that Connecticut based Yankelovich Partners Incorporated received 2500 nationally representative responses to a confidential written survey, which for the first time included sexual orientation among the questions regarding personal characteristics. Almost 6% identified themselves as gay or lesbian, debunking the earlier finding of a survey by the Battelle human affairs Research Center that only 1% of men are gay. Not surprisingly, the self identified gays and lesbians were more concentrated in the largest metropolitan areas than the general population. They were also twice as likely to have attended graduate school and 60% more likely to be self employed than the general population. The median household income for gay men was \$37,400 5% lower than for heterosexual men, and \$34,800 for lesbians, about 1% higher than for heterosexual women. That's in stark contrast to the widely quoted survey by overlooked opinions that found household income for gay men more than \$51,000 and almost \$46,000 for lesbians. However, the angle of each finding isn't expected to stop the new wave of advertising directed to the gay and lesbian community. More of their income is assumed to be disposable because of having more two job households and fewer minor children. Yankelovich found half of the gays and lesbians were parents compared to two thirds of the heterosexual population, with minor children in 1/4 of gay and lesbian households, compared to 1/3 of the

B

Brian Nunes 48:18

one parent, although Sharon Bottoms is expected to take physical custody of Tyler later this month after the appellate decision is signed, Kate Bottoms has already filed an appeal with the Virginia Supreme Court. And there will probably be a further legal wrangle as to who should have custody while the appeal is pending.

C

Cindy Friedman 48:36

Another unanimous appellate court decision this one in Kentucky ruled that sexual preference alone absent a clear showing of harmful impact on children is not an adequate basis for termination of visitation rights of a divorced parent. Although the decision was ordered not to be used as a legal precedent, it is believed to be the first time a Kentucky appeals court has considered the issue of a gay or lesbian parents rights to visitation. The decision came in the case of a GI HIV positive man referred to as RDH. His ex wife L A. H. And therefore children, that Jessamine County Circuit Court will next rehear the case under the appellate courts new instructions.

B**Brian Nunes 49:21**

And finally, the New Republic, edited by openly gay Andrew Sullivan, and described by some as the most influential opinion journal in the US had this satirical bid in the edition dated July 11. This just in from Mars, he openly heterosexual former football player OJ Simpson was arrested today and charged with the murder of his former wife and her companion. The arrest sent shockwaves throughout the heterosexual community as one of its most popular icons revived old stereotypes that surround the heterosexual lifestyle. wife beating is not equivalent to being heterosexual, said Joe AIPAC, a spokesman for the straight away against defamation. While it's true that some heterosexuals engage in spousal abuse, it's still no more common among straights than among gays. But opponents of heterosexual rights seized on the incident. Every year hundreds of 1000s of women are victims of this immoral subculture said the Reverend Donald go Lord spokesman for the concerned homosexuals of America, there appears to have been a heterosexual ring in Los Angeles, including the police force that covered up this depraved activity for years. I'm particularly concerned about saving our children from this kind of example, statistics suggest a large minority of heterosexual males are involved in some kind of domestic violence. One in four heterosexual relationships involves violence with two to 4 million women affected each year. Researchers who claim that heterosexuality is a choice and not as some believe in voluntary argue that this makes it even more important not to give social sanction to the activity. It's not heterosexuals that were opposed to argues Gaylord. It's their self destructive lifestyle. That's news

C**Cindy Friedman 51:06**

wrap for the week ending July 2 1994. Follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community

B**Brian Nunes 51:15**

news rap is compiled and written by Cindy Friedman, for this way out. I'm Brian in

C**Cindy Friedman 51:19**

it. And I'm Cindy Friedman.

J**Jack Valinski 51:22**


One of the interesting things about being a New York was listening to our Mr. moped. You know, he was the one that did tell for the city that was originally on PBS,

D**Deborah Bell 51:31**

but hidden, hopefully more Tales of the City will be on again,

 Jack Valinski 51:35

he was very strong talking about, you know, people being out and, and very critical about what you know, some of the things that are going on even in the current administration, I would guess I was a little surprised that the attitude and that he was very angry, but of course it's very justified.

 Deborah Bell 51:50

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. This is Deborah Bell along with Jack Valinski. And we will be having Collins later in the program after our discussion with members of the bar association of human rights. And we're going to be talking about domestic partnerships. But first, we have more from this way out more about guess what Stonewall

 Jack Valinski 52:13

25 One of the reports, talks about the international flavor and that's really the second report of what happened in Central Park some of the staging things and we'll run through the frame some more in following weeks. But this is what we have from this way out.

 52:28

This is honest at mop and author of Tales of the City. And you're listening to this way out the international gay and lesbian radio magazine.

 52:38

Unless you've been in a hermetically sealed queer proof environment lately, you don't have heard about the recent invasion of New York City by lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion with a cornucopia of conferences, marches and a lot of other activities. The major kickoff event of the Stonewall 25 observances was of course, good games for with an assist from Gary Rosenblatt, John Breau pre filed this report from the Big Apple Gay Games for featured over 11,000 athletes from around the world, competing in events as varied as physique and swimming to volleyball and badminton, even tiny Latvia sent an athlete we have Gary Rosenblatt, who reports on the Opening Festivities.

 53:23

Record day games for

 53:25

everybody involved. We'd like to welcome you to the largest athletic event in the world.



Deborah Bell 53:40

There was one of the



53:41

women's teams from London, just a sampling of the enthusiasm present a crowd of athletes as we waited for the opening ceremony. The high point was the rousing opening with Joe Stefan, the former Naval Academy Cadet who was booted for coming out and was kind of a wry twist and ironic twist to see him up there singing the national anthem, and everybody was very moved by that experience. There was a large screen in the stadium so people could see his face as he sang the anthem and there was a visible grin on his face.



54:53

In the first three days, we had seven world records topple and we've had several more the last couple of days we've had immense spectator numbers for swimming and for diving with the exhibitions with Greg Louganis figure skating has been very popular here the physique finals nearly sold out the Paramount Theater at Madison Square Garden. We've had over 800 tennis players registered and know what maybe the largest tennis tournament in the history of the world.



55:19

You don't have to hide anything. And elite sports. You know, for me, I was told a lot of times keep things under the wing. And here I can be whoever I want. And that actually makes me feel better about my performance.



55:33

Volleyball is the largest sport of Gay Games. It's about 13 150 athletes. There are 165 teams participating. I think probably 30 to 40% of our teams are from other countries, in some ways, like the New York City Marathon, the spirit here where you cheer in the last person, and then everybody's valued, whether they're a world record holder or whether they're just a weekend athlete.



55:56

One of the most popular events was the speed skating competition held in Prospect Park, in which nearly 200 skaters wound their way through the trees and rolling lawn of Brooklyn's most famous green spot. The men's novice 10k event 30 to 39 year age division was held Sunday,

June 19. The winner of that competition was Albert McComb from California, who trained by speeding several miles a day on the famous ocean front walk in Dennis,



56:24

I've always been athletic. I have four brothers. We're constantly competing and so you know, as a child, I was always interested in athletics, I played soccer I played volleyball i i was in gymnastics, I swam you know, I did all the things that a quote unquote normal person would do.



56:47

Albert is about five foot nine solidly built with bulging thigh muscles and a clear direct gaze. He is modest and low keyed about his accomplishments. Although he is clearly thrilled to have won the gold medal, which he wears openly as he wanders about the Pennsylvania hotel, center of activity for the games. And lest one be tempted to think that these Gay Games are secondary in importance in terms of international sporting competition, unofficial world records have been set in some age groups for track and field, as well as in swimming events. The chat among the jocks is, after all, not unlike that of other major sporting events. The camaraderie is casual, friendly, admiring,



57:28

everyone wants to touch the metal. They want to find out where you're from and what event and then when John speedskating, they reach immediately to touch my legs to feel a house. My legs are



57:40

the second thing that hits you about Alberta Cohn is not only has he won the 10k speed skating competition for his division. Not only is he openly gay, his lover of seven years along at the sidelines cheering him on. He is also HIV positive.



57:56

Anything under 200 T cells the CDC considers to be full blown AIDS and the last time I checked, I had five T cells. And I think living with AIDS, it's really important that you have something to



58:10

focus on. For Albert simply getting to New York and being able to compete was a long term goal. Winning was the joyful experience of a lifetime. Clearly what has sustained him has been his drive as an athlete, the support and attention of his lover and his faith and the redeeming

power of athletic competition. Albert doesn't know how many trips he can take in the future. How many athletic events he can participate in. Each one is more precious than the last. But he is certainly not want to mope or wax eloquent about his existence. It's a



58:43

challenge to yourself. You know, when I get up at 637 in the morning to go and skate 15 miles you know, the only thing that's really that was really on my mind was doing my best here and proving to everybody that living with HIV can be done.



59:03

Reporting from the Gay Games in New York for this way out. I'm John Bo cray. Well, good games for did not enjoy sports headline coverage in most of the mainstream media. Many of the reports which were published or broadcasts were quite positive. For example, here are excerpts from dictions report on the ABC TV networks late night newscast of June 26.



59:24

That there was one major surprise during the week long festival that drew more than 10,000 competitors, most of them gay and lesbian. It was a quality of the competition for performances world class in the swimming pool crusades gold medalist in the 1984 Olympic Games, when six individual events, three world records for his 30 to 34 age group.



59:48

I know certainly in the Masters swimming world is going to look at this and say wow,



59:55

the games went remarkably smoothly except for an ambulance snafu that propels it triathlon and the finding of steroid abuse among bodybuilders just like the regular Olympics



1:00:18

to wrap up our coverage this week of Stonewall 25, we traveled to New York City's Central Park for more excerpts from Pacifica radios broadcast of the rally following the march on the United Nations for global human rights.



1:00:30

You're listening to Pacifica radio coverage of Stonewall 25. I'm Julie Dresden with David Rothenberg and Karla Julie Walker. There's quite a lot of activity happening on the stage right

now. There's a huge lesbian and gay dance routine. Going on to some very loud music which you're hearing behind us. The stage is filled with a lot of speeches and entertainment celebrating 25 years of the modern gay and lesbian struggle. The city is teeming with the energy of queer liberation. And we're joined now by an activist from New Zealand. Could you pronounce your name for me?



1:01:07

Oh, Kyoto, everybody. My name is Xiao Hui. And I am a First Nations person from New Zealand and I am a Maori of New Zealand and it's wonderful, inspiring. And indescribable. I have been active in the gay rights movement since the very early 70s. I was like is what might be described as a pre feminist lesbian. I came out in the in the late 50s, early 60s. And for me, the realities of Stonewall was, was something that changed my life. And it was as a result of that regeneration in 1972 are in our own Gay Liberation Front organization. We are here today to reclaim our place of honor. As people of the Pacifica's people of this planet, First Nations, these traditions of same sex love and transgender love, enhance the community and articulated piracy and vision for the people. Our mountains, our skies, our rivers, our landscapes, they remember us they remember our reality, though we have been vilified and decimated, hated and denied. So our own people, our own families have been taught by the colonizer to hate us. We we have survived. All cultures have been weakened by the brutality of colonial and missionary occupation. Because those alien values tend us as the other, the other within the other. The same six love, which enrich our Maori and Pacific lives as taka, Tarpley ma who icon in the oil, fossa Bacala, he was cursed, as pagan, as unnatural, as demonic and we were repeatedly told we did not exist, that there was no word in our ancient languages for who we are, or for what we do for our land, our culture's our languages have been loosened. But we are the land and with the land, knowledge remains and we are here we continue to be Thomas's oddsmakers dogs, storytellers, seals, composers, healers and dream weavers, Shaman, for the people. We exist. We thrive. We rejoice. We mourn. And we're here today to reclaim our shoulder closer I



1:05:05

think you're from New Zealand here at Stonewall 25 in the center of Central Park, New York City,



1:05:12

we bring you a message from lesbian and gay people in South Africa. We are very proud to be. Because what has happened in South Africa is the best proof that gays and lesbians around the world have a common interest. Our new constitution contains a clause in the Bill of Rights to condemnation on grounds of sexual orientation.



1:05:42

South Africa is the first country in the world to have such a clause in the Constitution. And this is a great breakthrough for gays and lesbians, internationally, and particularly in Africa. We are sure that as the democratic movements trade, some more countries will follow our example

sure that as the democratic movements trade, some more countries will follow our example. We recognize that this would never have been possible, had it not been for the event of Stonewall 25 years ago. The event in New York made it possible for gays and lesbians to come out of the closet and begin the long struggle to take place in our society. Stonewall, important to us because it was arranged by the drag queen, the most discriminated against group in our community. In Cape Town, the traditional thing was for gay boys to become drag queens. We left out of the closet and re accepted in the poor communities long before Stonewall. But we also felt that prejudice and discrimination from the white and the government will gain liberation, the guys in suits came forward, leaving us behind, they could enter where we cluded. At this anniversary, let us dedicate ourselves to removing the discrimination in our own community.



1:07:21

lesbians in South Africa as everywhere in the world have to contend with male domination as well as anti gay. Amongst working class lesbians are very few opportunities to discover, as a woman, religious conservatism tradition and use to keep us in the kitchen. We are demand to change our attitudes. The gay lesbian movement is important because we stand for the right of each person to feel left out the sexual orientation. In doing this, we are doing something for the freedom of all people not only gay but lesbians. In South Africa today, there is still a law called the sexual offense, which makes it a crime for us to make love. The age of consent policy issues is 19. Enter utero sexuals is 16. We stop in our partnerships, or unrecognized and do not qualify for the privileges for straight marriage. All of this is in direct conflict with the Bill of Rights. We know also from experience of the afro Americans, that having something guaranteed in in your bill of rights does not mean that you will get it in practice. We know that there are many ways in which to focus the conservatism can operate to deny our life. That is the message of the people in South Africa, the association by passage for gays and lesbians. Viva South Africa viva.



1:09:11

And we just heard from two members of RT Gail winners of the International gay and lesbian Human Rights Commission's Maria de sol to award and there are black lesbian and gay bisexual group based in Cape Town, South Africa. We're joined now by what a core theme Yes. Who is the program director of what's become known as it'll hurt the international gay and lesbian Human Rights Commission which is the international group fighting for lesbian and gay liberation around the world. Welcome.



1:09:39

Thanks. It's great to be here for Hey, there



1:09:40

are so many countries represented here. I was just talking to some people from Thailand. Well, if you



1:09:45

saw the march today, it was really beautiful. There was representation all the way from Albania and Argentina all the way to Zimbabwe. We just heard Reza Rothenburg and Bobby Nelson were speaking from South Africa and amazing victory there with a new constitution. They came just for this week, well for this week for the March for the International lesbian gay Association Conference here in New York City. It's a really exciting time and it's sort of unparalleled gathering of queer activists from all over the world.



1:10:14

We'll have still more highlights from late June's multifaceted Stonewall 25 celebrations in New York City next week on this way out



1:10:25

so Bob, do you have the list of candidates to replace Logan's department head is are right here first on the list is coming highly qualified plenty of experiences Cummings these days says if he sounds I think that's a little odd don't you who else is on the list? Hi Gonzalez. Good move on blank his last name Gonzalez I don't think we need any of that here. Well then there's Tyler a real go getter a woman has department head I don't think so already. What about Gardner works long hours knows the department don't tell me don't know about Gardner why the man has lightened the loafers get my drift? Well, it doesn't really matter. Oh, sure. Next thing we know the whole department would be a little run with. Right. I've always liked Richardson. He's worked his way up helped reorganize Bob in case you haven't noticed he's black. So he'll slow the whole department down. He's one of the best workers we have left Simpson. He's a mathematical genius. But in that wheelchair, I don't think so. Well, it's the whole list. The person filled with people and not one of them is qualified. Isn't that ridiculous? Yeah. Ridiculous. The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the advertising Council remind you that our strength our progress depends on our diversity



1:11:37

other things once said everybody's got the blues. I know I have. You will have to if you tune in to KPFT every Friday night for the off the clock blues show from eight to 10pm. Whether you like BB King, Eric Clapton, Albert King, Elmore, James, Stevie Ray Vaughan are local talent. This is a show for you. In addition to music, we feature interviews with local, regional and national artists, as well as specials and some of the blues greats. Remember this every Friday night at 8pm for two hours of down and dirty blues here on World Radio 90.1 FM kpsc history.



Deborah Bell 1:12:29

And this is lesbian and gay voices. It looks like we'll be hearing more about all the Stonewall activities in the weeks to come. But right now, right here in Houston, Texas, we have with us a representative from the Bar Association for human rights. Gary McCoy is the newly elected

president of that organization. Welcome to lesbian gay voices, Gary.



1:12:52

Okay, thank you very much.



Deborah Bell 1:12:55

Tell us a little bit about what the organization is.



1:12:58

Okay. Sure. The Bar Association for human rights also known as bar is the only organization in Houston gay and lesbian community for attorneys, law students, and others in the legal profession to meet network and socialize. Bar sponsors, a number of professional and social activities each year to service members and to support our community. Some of the benefits of membership and bar are continuing legal education. Bar strives to provide approximately six hours a year for its attorney members. These seminars are also they're free, they're open to the public to attend.



Deborah Bell 1:13:38

What kind of seminars do you present? I think I attended one that dealt with sexual harassment issues. Yeah,



1:13:44

our seminars really cover a variety of subjects, both civil areas and criminal areas. Family Relations, the next seminar coming up as an overview of the new Guardian code. And that's going to be Friday on July the 22nd, the West grade multipurpose center.



Deborah Bell 1:14:04

And that's open to anyone who's interested in attending.



1:14:06

That's why it's open to anyone. It's free. Excellent.



Deborah Bell 1:14:09

And what time



1:14:11

there'll be four to 5:30pm.



Deborah Bell 1:14:15

And how many members are involved in the organization at this time? And how long have you been in existence?



1:14:23

We've been in existence for several years now. And right now, I'd say the membership is somewhere in the neighborhood of around 50 Members, I believe. And it's been growing steadily each year. So we're very proud of that. We do, you know, provide a good service for the members and we really try to support our community. We've had a booth at the Gay Pride rally this year as well as last year. With attorneys there answering questions to people



Deborah Bell 1:15:02

Is there any thing else that you particularly would like to say about the organization? Like, you can give a phone number for example, right.



1:15:11

If anyone is interested in for any more information about bar or if they're interested in joining, they can contact me. My number is 622 1320. Or they can also call Barry 247 9500. The days for attorneys are only \$40 a year for non members. It's only \$10 a year. One other thing I would like to say in the newsletter, we have a update of cases around the nation appellate decisions that affect our community. And that's been something that the members have been really enjoyed. It's been very helpful, I think to them.



Deborah Bell 1:15:50

So if someone has a case somewhere that pertains to certain areas, such as our topic tonight, domestic partnerships, then a member of Loring Houston would get that information and maybe be able to use that in a case here. That's quite possible. Yes. Yeah. Neat. Neat. Well, thanks for being with us. We'll be back in just a second with Martha Pitkin and Connie Moore and we're going to talk about the issue of domestic domestic partnerships. Okay, we have with us not one but two participants in the Gay Games. But that's not what we're here to talk about. Connie Moore is with the lesbian and gay Bands of America and was in New York, as with that group did a big concert. And Connie also was the person in charge of the concert they did with the March on Washington and an inaugural activity. So that's that's one way the community in Houston knows honey more. Our other attorney is Martha Pitkin and Martha was a cyclist at the

Gay Games. We're building up those fives Martha? Yeah, I've been working on it. Yeah. So these are women that are active in the community. But they're both excellent attorneys, and deal with many of the issues that affect our community. First of all, we're going to just open the topic of domestic partnerships. What is it?



1:17:58

Well, Deborah, it sounds a whole lot like marriage. To me. It's what I would consider to be the best that we've got to form our relationships in in a loving, caring, nurturing, committed way, without the blessing, so to speak, of the of the of the legislature. So we do the best we can with the tools that we have. What do you think, Connie?



1:18:26

I think that you're absolutely right. One of the neat things and of course, this is a real controversial subject in the Lesbian Gay community now is, you know, marriage, and do we need it, and should we have it, some people think we shouldn't even have it or should even want it. One of the interesting things about doing the domestic partnerships Our way is that we have an opportunity to set the terms of our contract, and we are not bound by what the legislature says, is a marriage. And when you are married, your property is treated this way. And when you are married, your tax situation is treated this way. Because we get to craft a lot of our own agreements, we get to put it around contractual terms and maybe make it something that's more appropriate for us instead of what the legislature says is going to happen to everybody.



Jack Valinski 1:19:15

I guess one of my questions is, aren't we opening ourselves to a lot of the faults that are in what happens now in marriage and the family court and many of the problems that are down there?



1:19:25

Oh, sir, you know, the conventions come along, it's a package deal. We can't possibly separate ourselves in reality from what we've grown up with, what we've been attuned to, and in what we've experienced all our lives, and we all come with it, that that backpack on our backs, baggage, baggage.



Deborah Bell 1:19:46

It might just be a backpack for you more there but for some of us, they hold trunk and everything.



1:19:57

11 1:19:32

Well, and I think that just like you know, in this instances is just mirrors life's situation entirely that When when you get something, there's good that comes with that. And very often there's bad there are pros and their cons to a lot of different decisions that you make throughout life. And so yes, although there are a lot of pros that would come from having

1:20:24

live their life, and I request my prospective clients in this area to do some homework before they, you know, before they want to pay for my time, and, and get get a fix on what it is that they have in mind, what their, what their scope, what their, what their expectations are. And then it makes my job a lot easier, you just simply can't go to the shelf and pull off, you know, contract 101 and say, Okay, here it is, let's, you know, insert your names and sign here, it's just not going to work for people, or even

1:20:55

if you've done them for, you know, couple, a couple being couple see over here, likely couple of days is going to need something that's very different from what you've done before. They're all very individual type.

1:21:06

And what I've found is that people don't want to do that homework. They won't, they won't do it. And, and so and so that's an impediment to entering into legally binding contracts.


D Deborah Bell 1:21:19

But what we're talking about here in relationships for gays and lesbians is rights and responsibilities and the consequences of those now in a domestic partnership, what what would be some of the things like, if you get married, you can get married legally, in a civil, you know, ways and not have religious ceremonies. Seems like for gays and lesbians we often have religious ceremonies are some kind of commitment service, but we don't go through the legal concepts. But in order to have some of those rights, we need certain documents, what would be the kinds of documents that would be required to give our relationships the same sort of protection as a marriage between a heterosexual couple,

1:22:13

one of the things that you should consider, I think first would be those set of personal documents, including wills, directive to physicians, medical power of attorney for health care designation of guardian in the event of incompetence, these help structure give rights to our partners, even creating deeds, you know, if when one partner buys the property and then wants to transfer, partial ownership, these are a lot easier to do than I think relationship contracts. Wills probably the hardest because it's hard regardless of who you are. In my


clientele, I find it hard to get people to sit down and make a commitment. Some of them think it's very, very morbid to write to write wills, but it's essentially just taking care of your business. And that those are things that are in place available to all of us and whether we're in a relationship or not. And and important, but they can be sort of the groundbreakers I think to to getting a domestic partnership, the most the most tools the most power when we're dealing with the outside world.

 Deborah Bell 1:23:30

Where does like custody issues or artificial insemination type things? Enter into this Connie? Work with that issue a

 1:23:39

lot? A whole new ball of wax there. It really is. You know, and when you were asking your question about what documents it's almost like, well, In what aspect to take care of what situation and I think that Martha hit the nail on the head with these are the things that everybody needs single relationship. Anybody needs some basic fundamental personal documents. When you start talking about families, gosh, there's just all kinds of options. We create our families in many different ways. We create our families either by having children from prior heterosexual unions and still being very much involved even many times on a day to day basis with us children. We create our families through adoption and other ways. And we create our families more and more often through artificial insemination. That's becoming something that's very hot toddlers for lesbians. Yes for lesbians. But you know, I spoke with a gay man today about a child that he just adopted and and then what can he do to further his partner's rights to help his partner have some parental rights over a child that he just adopted? It's a real complex and in some aspects area of the law. And the interesting thing is it goes back around in a lot of respects to status. Are you married to the person that you are trying to co parent with, especially in the case of adoption? And you know, back around to that initial question that we started out with, one of the pros, or one of the cons of marriage has to do with how you are traded under many of the laws under the probate laws, surviving spouses have certain benefits that surviving partners don't have, under the Family Code. If you want to share your parental rights, and let your partner adopt your child with you, as you can do in a step parent situation in a heterosexual you can't do that. Because it's not that it neither parent can have. It's not that there's any prohibition of having same sex parents, it's that in order for Partner B over here to adopt Partner A must terminate parental rights unless and the exception is unless you are married to the person who is petitioning for adoption,

 Deborah Bell 1:26:07

we are going to open the phones for questions. If you have questions, specifically dealing with domestic partnerships. Go ahead and call someone will answer your call and kind of put you on hold until we get you on the line. And we'll continue talking to Connie Moore and Martha Pitkin from bar about the issues of domestic partnerships, the number is 526573852 6k PF t go ahead and call now. And we'll be living in just a moment. One of the questions that I have is about

cost. A marriage you can call us from just going down to the courthouse getting the license and all that are too, you know, a full blown affair. What do having these documents what's the range? Of course, it will depend on the attorney you go to



1:26:58

wow. Gee, you know, as to the personal instruments, wills, directives and things like that, I think unless you have a complex set of circumstances with lots of loops, and perhaps guardianship, trust situations and things like that, I think that you could probably find, find those available in package deal from it from 200 to \$300.



1:27:26

Are you talking, you know, per person, per couple what have



1:27:30

you know, I think if you're going to come in by yourself, I consistently give a discount, when when couples come in together, because quite honestly, doing a set of documents, you know, in a duplicate sort of duplicate form just makes it easier for me easier for my staff, even if you don't execute them at the same time. And you know, some people think that, well, you should really be cheaper than that, because they're very, very sort of standard. And, and, and maybe, and maybe they are, but I find the amount of time that I personally spend in counseling with people as to what their needs are, what the options are available. And then the actual execution is, is pretty, pretty pretty up there. So in order to cover that time and make, be able to make make, make it worthwhile, and still provide a service to the community. That's that's about my rate.




Deborah Bell 1:28:23

And it does depend on certain aspects. Like if there's property involved in those custody issues, we're gonna go to our first call, but Connie has a thought she wants to,



1:28:34


I was just, I was going to second that and just reiterate that it really isn't the paper. It's the it's the counseling, it's the working with people on what their needs are based on their circumstances. I've been involved in many, many situations, in retrospect, when people come to us with documents that it could even be sometimes generated or used forms. But if you don't know the situation of the people and what their, what their needs are, what their concerns are, then the documents may not do you much more good than the piece of paper. And I I've had situations where documents sometimes did more harm than good, because the facts weren't

 Deborah Bell 1:29:17

out on the table. Okay, we're gonna go to Sonny Hold on just a second here. Let me push the button. Sonny, you're on the line with lesbian and gay voices. You have a question that concerning the domestic partnerships.

 1:29:29

Yes, I do. I'll go ahead and ask my question and I'll hang up so I can hear it on the radio. Right. All right. My situation is I have I've been in a in a partnership with my partner for 10 years. And I have a sister and a brother both of which have children. My concern is my sister in the case she and her husband travel extensively. And their fear is that in a should they die in a car crash or whatever in a whatever the case might be plane crash. They would like for me, my partner and I to have cars To the other child. What I said to my sister at that point was you need to state that or do some paper somewhere, because I know that my parents or my other brother, we want to take custody. And I want to know what kind of action I need to take or she needs to take to ensure that what happens?

 Deborah Bell 1:30:17

Okay, we'll get to that question. And you just keep listening, you can just stay on the phone and hear it on hold. Thank you. Okay. That So good question. And it brings to mind the recent case of the two young girls who were just awarded to the couple their, their father died of AIDS, and he had said, This is who I want my children to be with. And it has been ruled that they need to go with that couple instead of being with their paternal grandparents.

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The trick here is in the person who has the authority to make that decision about those children, making the decision doing it correctly, in writing the appropriate legal documents, and there are several ways to do that. So that it's done with a clear, consistent plan, maybe even over a period of time, so that it sets up a clear on confusing plan of action, and it's done.


 Jack Valinski 1:31:13

My question is, though, it may be very specific, and it may be all legalese and stuff like that. Are there still some judges who ignore it?

 1:31:21

Well, I think that, well, first of all, the background that you can set up for that include putting it in your will, and include signing a designation of guardian. And in that designation, you can affirmatively name guardians, and you can also disqualify. Now, the reality is, is that you take those documents to court and attempt to establish the guardianship based on the on the wishes the known wishes of the decedent. I think Connie is right, if you set up a if you said


anything, if you can add anything more to that, including a series of communicates to your to your family, letting them know, consistently that this is what your desires are, and you know if it's going to be by Christmas card or letter, keeping copies of those things, and letting as many people know, and of course, establishing a relationship being sure that a relationship and a healthy interactive relationship is established between the proposed guardian. Absolutely,

 Deborah Bell 1:32:21

I was gonna ask about that. Because it seems like that if if if there is a relationship in place, because that's what happened with a couple, I think in Minnesota, is that this this is who the children had been around been with knew, as I guess, kind of relatives and we're comfortable with That's right, I want to be real important. That's right,

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indicating some stability and some content, and even powers of attorney for health care decisions while they're out of town. You know, they travel a lot now. And there's already that set up, we'll set up some documents now that show this is not just what I want it to happen if I die, but this is what happens in our day to day existence and how we live. And I

 Deborah Bell 1:33:03

think the operative word there is do it now. Because you just never know. You just never know what'll happen. The number to call with your questions about domestic partnerships for lesbians and gays, I guess we'll even answer them for straight people who want to know 52657385 to six KPFT.

 Jack Valinski 1:33:22

It's really interesting that last year, there was this fight with Apple Computer outside of Austin, and that they were offering domestic partners, a ship to gay and lesbian people. But they weren't apparently offering it to heterosexual couples, surely, because they can do it in marriage, should heterosexual couples be allowed domestic partner ship? Things that we're trying to fight for without getting married? Well, their opinion,


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I think they already have, you know, we have common law marriage in in the state of Texas and have had it forever. And I think by creating those kinds of unions, heterosexual couples can can just sweep into all the rights and responsibilities and consequences of marriage.

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The heterosexual couple is essentially in the place with the best ability to make that pro and

con evaluation and make a decision on a choice. When you look at it, we can make that distinction and figure out it would be better if we were married, or would it be better if we did it by contract, but we don't have a choice. We can only do it by contract. The heterosexual couple is really the one that can look and say, Well, if we got married, it would cost a b and c if we stayed single, we could do this but this wouldn't happen. And so they actually have a choice. So they've got it now anything that they need to do and choose to do they already have the right to do.

 Deborah Bell 1:34:41

Okay, call with your questions at 526-573-8526 KPFT. We have another caller standing by and it's Michael, and he has a question about why would a single person need a will Good question. Michael, are you on the line? Okay, so We are attorneys, and I die.

 1:35:02


Okay, I've tried to explain the situation. I'm not in relationship right now. But I do have like, quite a bit of property and finances. And that stands now it would all go back to my parents. And unless I get into a relationship, why would I need a will as a single person?

 1:35:24

Would you rather spend about oh, maybe 1200 or 1500, on probate and to be able to transfer those assets back to your parents, or would you rather spend five, six, maybe even as much as \$8,000, on a dependent administration, and to prove who your legal heirs are, and to go through a determination of heirship and then have the court give someone authority to transfer those

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parents and not only just at that point gives somebody authority, but then they are subject to bonding, and reporting into the court. And this, of course, is what's going to drive the part of what's going to drive the expense up. In other words, you, you take the opportunity to appoint an executor of your estate, who you can name to serve independently, and has basically freehand without with the exception of a few legal requirements that are necessary, this person can expedite your your estate moving along a lot quicker than if you have no will. And in require a as Connie said, to do dependent administration,


 Deborah Bell 1:36:24

and as your parents age, they might be in need of the money that they might get. So it would be imperative.


 Jack Valinski 1:36:32

 Jack Valinski 1:36:12

Also, if you outlive your parents, and there is no heirs left, there's a possibility of giving some of the stuff to game has been organizations. You bet

 Deborah Bell 1:36:40


the good point, Michael, thanks for calling in. We we are taking calls on lesbian and gay voices concerning the issue of domestic partnerships with attorneys, Connie Moore and Martha Pitkin. The number is 526-573-8526 KPFT. Let's say I had a question forming. Go ahead, Jake, if you

 Jack Valinski 1:37:02

want to expound about that a little bit, but there are a lot of very good organizations. And you know, this is really the first generation of gay and lesbians who are open. And some of us are making good money, some of us are not, that we can really help fund some of our organizations by, you know, starting endowments and starting things that that many heterosexual organizations have for years and years.

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Absolutely. This concert that Debbie and I just produced in New York was due in large part to a generous donation from a foundation that was set up in San Francisco from a man who just love band music. And, you know, they everybody has the things that they love. And it can make an impact on a lot of other people from a lot of different perspectives. And whether it's cultural or sports aren't legal foundations are many different ways to handle that.

 Deborah Bell 1:37:54

It's your legacy in a lot of ways, right? What you what you leave, what you can leave behind, can't take it with you, but you can leave it behind, you can make a difference in the world with it. What if it? What if you are not in a relationship such as Michael was talking about? But you you know that your parents or whoever in your family is not going to do things the way you want them done? Yes, he thinks, well, some of the things that I've thought about is, if you don't have these agreements with a partner that you're in a relationship with, maybe a trusted friend, it would be good to draw up things in partnership with a trusted friend. Because the reality for a lot of us is that we are going to live our lives not in partnership. And especially women because we live long

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are you talking about like cohabitation agreements, just sharing property sharing agreements and things like that? Well, that

 Deborah Bell 1:38:51

but also is like how you want your funeral conducted, which you don't want to leave in your will, because that's all done after your service? Well, you weren't leaving to your property to go, you know, having your ex ex, I can't think of the right word for the person who handles Executive Director. Um, unlike that a power of attorney, for example, there are a lot of



1:39:18

people that know that they're not in a relationship right now and know that their next of kin, their parents are the ones that would make medical decisions in the case of their illness, and they simply don't want that. So when you get back to some of the basic, broader personal documents that I guess we really started talking about. Again, I think Martha and I agree wholeheartedly that it's a basic fundamental personal thing to do, just like making sure that you have car insurance and that you have homeowners insurance and you have you know, it's legal insurance and a lot of respects. I think that there's just no doubt about it that first of all, when you need the document and you don't have it, it's too late to get had it. And second of all, there is not one document that we have talked about today, that is more expensive than the consequence if you don't have it good point,



1:40:11

and lots of people really are hesitant to, to draft these documents not so much on the cost, but they just feel like they're making a final decision. And the reality is on that is that you're going to wind up modifying amending redoing these, if you're doing it right. Every time that there's an event in your life that is significant enough that it's it's important enough to pull them out. And even if events don't happen like that every several years, it's it's just really critical to be sure that they still do what you want them to do, you still have the same people in place that take care of your affairs, we



Deborah Bell 1:40:45

still have time for one more called be squeezed in it 5265738 about domestic partnerships. What holds people back from from doing this is it sometimes like, Oh, this is like to this isn't romantic




1:41:00

to do this. Dev or sometimes it's just plain procrastination. Many of us live in our hectic busy lives with the if it's not broken, don't fix it. It's not broken, I don't have to deal with it yet. Or it's only I'm thinking of this morning and the disposal and the plumbing at my house. It's not broken enough, you have to call the plumber until it floods the kitchen and then you call the plumber. So it I think it is sometimes just basic procrastination, it's not necessary, it hasn't come up, we don't have an emergency. This will scare and



1:41:37

this is where if you're in a partnership where one can egg the other on and inspire, create, you know, create the call up the lawyer make the appointments, say we're going darling,

 Deborah Bell 1:41:51

because I love you and I want things taken care of. And that's not

 1:41:54

under the influence or duress or anything like that isn't.

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You know, sometimes it's it's not a bad idea, for instance, when you come around to the execution of these documents to execute them separately during separate appointments to show that, well, you know, there wasn't a there wasn't an implied gun to my head, I really did it on my own freewill. A lot of different things

 1:42:15

that you can do even in the execution of documents, to ward off potential problems. If people are having health difficulties, you can execute documents on the same day that they've had a doctor visit so that there's some documentation of where they were and what they were doing that day and how they were a lot of things that you can do with creativity, when you sit down with somebody who has some experience, and you talk about what the problems are. And that I think that is another thing that's real key, you've got to be comfortable, be honest, and talk about what your issues are.

 1:42:50

And I think that after you've, since we're on personal documents and and contracts and such after you've executed them, I believe it's important to share the fact that you have and perhaps even the you know the, the basic contents of them with your families and, and associates, friends and such so that it's real clear, it's no surprise, there's no shock when it comes time to having to yank them out.

 Deborah Bell 1:43:16

Well, we are closing out now we're here on lesbian gay voices. We will have more members of bar and future shows to talk about issues that affect us as lesbian gay people. Thank you very much, Connie and Martha for being here. I hope you too particularly join us again. And thank you for all you do in the community as well. You're certainly welcome. Thank you.

J Jack Valinski 1:43:39

We have some things coming up this month you know even though pride month is over with there's lots of things going on schools out the naming project we featuring on July 16 and 17 None other than diverse works a Trinidad teen youngster to see New York State Commission. Video artists combines media Christian Right attacks organizations, gay and lesbian generator exes finds guidance, all this at diverse works and many more subjects be happening the weekend of the 16th and 17th. And if you'd like some more information, it's two to 38346

D Deborah Bell 1:44:14

also the KD Lang film salmon berries will be showing at the landmark Greenway on July 15. That was shown at the Museum of Fine Arts and it will be showing there I think, well it's it's German in it's kind of strange, but KD is on think about five seconds without clothes on. And that alone is worth seeing. And of course also

J Jack Valinski 1:44:40

go fishes featuring at the River Oaks, originally built

D Deborah Bell 1:44:43

the women that made that movie, and on July 13th, all you wanted to know about sex. That is sexually transmitted diseases and HIV and lesbians at the Montrose Counseling Center Women's Network. That's it At 701 Richmond Avenue starting at 7pm. And of course

J Jack Valinski 1:45:05

the Museum of Fine Arts is featuring Derek Jarman and films include this weekend, which is the eighth and the ninth tonight, and tomorrow, and all the next couple of weeks.

D Deborah Bell 1:45:20

And thank you for listening to lesbian and gay voices. If you would like to volunteer, have input suggestions, call our voicemail at 289 2700. We are planning a training in August. We're here every Friday from six to 8pm. Thanks to everyone that participated in the program tonight, Zachary, for engineering and Donna for producing and thank you Deborah Bell and thank you Jack Valinski

J Jack Valinski 1:45:45

and you're listening to KPFT ustun. Next up the BBC from London.



Deborah Bell 1:45:48