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SPEAKERS

Rich, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin, Cindy Friedman, Glenn Holt



00:00

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Jack Valinski 00:18

Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski.



Joan Devlin 00:21

And I'm Joan Devlin.



Glenn Holt 00:22

And I'm Glen Holt.



00:24

And JD Doyle. Yay. We



Joan Devlin 00:25

got JD in the studio tonight. He's doing a special guest appearance, so we usually don't get to see JD live because he's cool and puts his stuff all on CD for us over



00:34

here. This is a luxury here tonight.



Jack Valinski 00:37

A luxury for us. Yeah, it's usually he's on tape. Glenn. Yeah. Have you heard about the movie called The dish off subject? The dish? No, haven't actually it's a fabulous movie. It's about in Australia radio telescope. Oh, yeah. Yes. Yes. It's playing at the allogenic and I don't know where else but it's really good. And he's got a story besides nerdiness



Glenn Holt 00:57

okay. And it isn't something stupid about the we didn't really go to the moon or something. No, no.



Joan Devlin 01:02

No conspiracy theory.



Jack Valinski 01:04

It there is some sort of that stuff about how these, these you know, they became heroes by evil to make this whole thing work.



Glenn Holt 01:10

Okay, well, that would be worthwhile. So yes, yeah.



Jack Valinski 01:13

Other things going on what else is going on? Of course the bunny party is next is this this Sunday, Easter, Easter at the fish Plaza downtown, between two and seven which is right next to where them to a word them. Theatre should be a lot of fun.



Joan Devlin 01:28

There's quite a few things going on at the community center. So you might want to check that out they're going to be having on the 28th their annual book in yard sale, and currently are taking applications for vendors. If you want to join in on the yard sale you can keep the profits of anything you sell, but there is a \$25 fee to be a vendor at the yard sale.

 Jack Valinski 01:47

Speaking of vendors, the vendor application is finally up on the website for the Pride festival which will be happening June 24, between one and 7pm and that website is PrideHouston.org. Let's talk about tonight's show. Who do we have on

 Joan Devlin 02:03

tonight's show? Well, that's part of the reason that JD is here.

 02:05


I'm here to talk about a play I saw in New York last spring. The play is called Bad Boys and Beyonds. It's a game musical. I loved it. And I couldn't wait for the CD for the musical to be released. It finally was in February. And I contacted the writers of the play Jeff Dobbins in Alfredo Alvarez and got an interview from them. And I was able to use part of that interview a very small part on my Queer Music Heritage show a couple weeks ago, but the interview was so good. I thought there was so much I couldn't even begin to use. I wanted to share it. And so I made a full segment out of it and interspersed with clips from the CD. Well, that's

 Joan Devlin 02:45


great. Yeah, I know that show is actually it's starting this did start this past

 02:50

week. Yes. It's his Houston debut. It's the first opening of the play outside of New York. So that's a nice feather in in the cap. It's got Catholic the name of the newest, newest theater, yes, in New West and Joe Watson, the director, and he got kind of a coup of getting the the first outside New York production.

 Jack Valinski 03:11

That's great. And at nine o'clock, we're going to be talking about Project leap right with rich. And


 Glenn Holt 03:18

while also we would like to remind everyone who pledged to go ahead and fulfill your pledge. Currently lesbian and gay voices is at 33% fulfillment. And of course, we would like to see it get a lot higher than that.

 Jack Valinski 03:20

 Jack Valinski 03:29

Yes, we'd like to ask about 20% I paid.

 Glenn Holt 03:33

And Alan is going to be on this evening, if you remember. Well, more than a year ago. Now, when Alan was newly diagnosed, he came on and then he came on a little bit after that. And we talked about what it's like to be newly diagnosed and how he adapted to life as being a newly HIV positive person, which was a big change for him. And he's going to be here a little bit later this evening to talk some more about what it's on ongoing what it's like the fact you just walked in the door.

 Jack Valinski 03:59

But first we'll listen to news from this way out.

 Cindy Friedman 04:08

I'm Chase Schultz and I'm Cindy Friedman with news

 04:10

wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending April 7 2001. Australia's Federal House of Representatives this week voted to support a government bill to allow states to restrict fertility treatment to heterosexual couples. Last year, a federal court struck down the state of Victoria's ban on fertility treatment for lesbians and for heterosexual women not in relationships with men, finding the restriction violated the National Sex Discrimination Act. The government's controversial bill would amend the Sex Discrimination Act to specifically allow states to set their own standards for access to reproductive technology. The Senate vote is expected to be close with the Australian Labor and Democratic Party's opposing the coalition government. The Australian Labor party is campaigning for this year's national elections on a platform including recognition of gay and lesbian couples for purposes of pensions, Social Security benefits and inheritance.

 Cindy Friedman 05:11

Inheritance rights of surviving members of gay and lesbian couples in Canada were upheld this week by a court in Edmonton, leading Alberta's government to review the provinces laws for discrimination. The court case was brought by Brent Johnson, whose partner of six years Larry Douglas sand died without leaving a will. Had they been an unmarried heterosexual couple, Johnson would have been the chief beneficiary, but under Alberta law, the entire estate would have gone to sands former wife and two daughters justice del Paris of the Alberta court of Queen's bench found the intestate succession act violates the federal Charter of Rights and Freedoms and gave the province nine months to amend it. Within hours of the ruling, the conservative provincial government announced it would review all of Alberta's family and

property laws and may act to amend perhaps 50 of them to recognize gay and lesbian couples. Premier Ralph Klein's government has in the past staunchly opposed legal standing for gay and lesbian couples, and still vows to reject gay and lesbian marriages. But Klein and others emphasize that the changes will affect only economic and property issues rather than marriage as a social institution.



06:23

In the wake of the Netherlands historic first legal gay and lesbian marriages, neighboring Belgium's coalition government announced that it will be presenting similar legislation to the Parliament later this month. Health Minister Magda ovelt issued a press release saying that the government considers the right to marry a constitutional right and the chance to marry the sole true opportunity to see that homosexual and heterosexual couples are treated in the same way. A spokesperson for the prime minister added that there are no objections on principle for the moment. If all goes well, Belgium could celebrate its first gay and lesbian marriages in 2002. But in



Cindy Friedman 07:01

the US a bill to create Vermont style civil unions in Connecticut was withdrawn and the Texas House of Representatives unanimously passed a measure to restrict the definition of spouse to legally married heterosexual couples. Connecticut's General Assembly Judiciary Committee held a contentious five hour hearing on civil unions in March. When it became clear the bill lacked the votes for passage, supporters decided to withdraw it rather than create further division or attempt to compromise with a weaker proposal. They optimistically expect the bill might pass in another two years. Texas already restricts legal marriage to one man and one woman. But Republican state representative will Hartnett move to explicitly define the word spouse that way as well. Texas House Democrats, including openly gay representative Glen Maxey viewed the proposal as a political move designed for next year's state election campaign. It was to block any such partisan advantage that Maxey and others organized the unanimous passage of a measure they called unnecessary. Their suspicions of partisanship were supported by heart and its demand that each representative vote on the record. Even though passage was obvious from a voice vote.



08:17

health care benefits for the domestic partners of employees of Broward County were upheld by the Florida Supreme Court this week. Almost as soon as the benefits and a domestic partners registry were adopted by the county in 1999. The right wing Northstar Legal Center challenged them in court claiming they violated Florida so called Defense of Marriage Act. The challenge had failed first in a trial court and then in a state appeals court. A decision the state's highest court this week declined to review. Northstar will not attempt a federal appeal.



Cindy Friedman 08:51

The Arizona State Senate this week approved to build to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity by public agencies, state county and local

based on sexual orientation or gender identity by public agencies. State county and local government entities including public schools and universities would be covered under the bill. A companion measure has already passed a State House committee.



09:11

Arizona's openly gay Republican US Congress member Jim Kolbe has decided against a run for governor in 2001. He said our initial soundings were very encouraging, and I think we could have been successful, but Colby said he couldn't spare the time for a statewide campaign from his new duties as chair of the House Appropriations committee's Subcommittee on foreign operations. Only one open gay in the US has ever won statewide office by general election. For months former State Auditor Ed Flanagan,



Cindy Friedman 09:43

the sixth national day of silence was observed on many high school and college campuses across the US this week. Students remained silent for the day distributing cards explaining the action is in support of civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. who have been silenced by hatred, oppression and prejudice. on many campuses. The observance also featured rallies, marches, parties and discussion groups.



10:09

The only gay magazine in Belarus has been silenced by the State Committee for mass media. The agency said it was canceling forum lambdas official registration because of its erotic content. Publishers will appeal the cancellation in Belarus's supreme arbitrage court with the support of the Belarus Association of Journalists. They say that forum lambdas sexual content has never been any more explicit than that of the mainstream magazine men's health.



Cindy Friedman 10:38

Homosexual erotica on the internet may lead to prosecution of three more Egyptian men. They're being detained pending investigation of their websites offering allegedly pornographic photos and invitations to contact them for sexual relations. In February, two other men were sentenced to three months and 15 months in jail for similar websites.



11:00

One of the most popular nightclubs in the emirate of Dubai was shut down this week by order of Crown Prince general Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, after it hosted a gay night, the Department of Tourism and Commerce marketing accused the Diamond Club of violating the Islamic laws of the country and indulging in immoral activities in contradiction with the laws of Dubai. Tourism officials actually attended the gay night party after receiving complaints about its promotional flyer. The party featured a cross dressing British DJ and a drag beauty contest.

 Cindy Friedman 11:35

The right to cross dress while performing government jobs has become a campaign issue for Senate candidates in the Philippines. The Philippine Daily Inquirer made that one of four questions it's asking in a series of candidate interviews of 31 candidates question 15 supported cross dressers, nine oppose, and seven offered a range of other responses. Five respondents laughed at the question and three had to ask what cross dressing meant. The Philippines activist group pro gay was not pleased by the question. Although it believes cross-dressing should be allowed in government offices. The group said its top concerns were improved access to education and health care and enactment of laws against discrimination.

 12:18

Namibia's President Sam Nujoma This week upped the ante and his latest campaign against gays and lesbians. Two weeks earlier, he had told University of Namibia students that homosexuals should be arrested imprisoned and reported this week in a speech in the northern town of Okavango how he called on regional governors, counselors and tribal leaders to report gays and lesbians for arrest, calling on them to see to it that there are no criminals, gays and lesbians in your villages and regions. He added that his SWAPO party, the Southwest African peoples organization had not fought for an independent Namibia that gives rights to criminals, gays and lesbians to do their bad things here. Nujoma, who first spoke out publicly against gays and lesbians late in 1996 was criticized by the British based human rights watchdog group Amnesty International, and a resolution censoring his remarks was introduced in the European Parliament.

 Cindy Friedman 13:15

And finally, peripatetic homophobe, Fred Phelps, and less than a dozen members of his Topeka Kansas clan visited Madison, Wisconsin this week, they were protesting the city's recent creation of a job in its school district offices for an advocate for gay and lesbian students. Lately, most gay friendly groups have chosen to avoid direct confrontations with the Phelps gang, rather than calling more attention to them. One group in Madison took pledges for contributions to youth programs by glisten the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network based on how many minutes Phelps protested in public, they quickly racked up more than \$6,000 before the weekend was over. Meanwhile, a counter rally was held on the University of Wisconsin campus, with some 500 people turning out to hear two choirs and a dozen speakers. Among them was openly gay State Representative Mark Pocan, who got the biggest laugh of the day when he said, Remember Mr. Phelps, you're not in Kansas anymore. And believe me, this crowd knows Judy Garland.


 14:22


That's news wrap for the week ending April 7 2001. Written by Cindy Friedman and recorded at the studios of KPFF. Los Angeles, follow


 Cindy Friedman 14:30


 Cindy Friedman 14:30
the news in your area and informed community is a strong community. For this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.


 14:36
And I'm Chase Schultz.

 Glenn Holt 14:38
News rapid is heard each week as part of lesbian and gay voices to which you are listening on 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston.

 14:47
This is JD Doyle and I'm the host of queer music heritage heard our lesbian and gay boys is on the fourth Monday of the month. I'm bringing you a special segment about a new game musical called Bad Boys and beyond. And you heard that right As I said, bed boys and beyond and not Bed Bath and Beyond. The show ran in New York City last spring and will soon be seen in other cities. And there is an excellent CD of the show that was recently released. On this feature, you'll hear clips of the music and also comments from the show's writers, Jeff Dobbins and Alfredo Alvarez. I'll let them do most of the talking, starting out with Jeff.

 15:23
Hi, this is Jeff Dobbins. I'm book writer and lyricist of the musical review bed boys and beyond the original cast recording of which has just been released on dank records. And I'm here talking about the show with the show's composer Alfredo Alvarez.

 15:39
Hi, I'm Alfredo Alvarez and I'm the composer of bad boy and beyond.

 15:44
Well, it's the original cast recording of a musical review that is about gay men struggling with kind of the contemporary challenges of modern gay life. You know, a gay community is changing so fast and so rapidly that it's hard to find your footing sometimes. The CD is made up of the score of the show, which is 19 songs in the show actually features monologues and spoken word pieces. Although we really tried to take a good look at the gay situation and some of the darker and harder aspects of it. Primarily the show is humorous.

 16:27



16:17

I find love and friendship in this new day today. Well some of the stigma and blame finally follow from being gay today.



16:42

If you want to say hey, you flipping out and or



16:47

do I have the heart or the hope



16:49

to help me? With being engaged Jay will



16:58

soon become a verbal antique



17:03

will game become chic. And backspin



17:07

bearing rainbow flags are every way they're so common people just won't care that we are gay today.



17:26

That was a bit of the opening number called gay today. Jeff, tell us who the audience is for your show.



17:33

Well, when we first wrote the show, we kind of assumed we would have a primarily young ish gay audience because that's who the show was about those are the lives that are being portrayed up there. But we were surprised we got people during our run from all over the country families and there's a song in the show called troll magnet the troll magnet that several straight women have come up to me and sworn is their story.



18:02

I'm just aa



18:05

troll



18:06

magnet I attract the saris of men if they're completely charm prewar would frighten you see, they always gravitate to me. Got a wide bed, seven kids, or your life has hit the skids. Do you reek of cheap cologne, just a free from the Twilight Zone. So feel free to step right up to me. So you breached your



18:41

we found that since we were writing about love and romance and friendships and belonging or not belonging, that actually pretty much everybody who's come from all different types has related to the show which has been really gratifying.



19:00

I also think the show will appeal to young people more so than say a show that was written you know, maybe five years ago just because I think the perspective is probably more in tune with the current climate of the of the gay community and what they face you know, today and moving forward.



19:21

Guys, can you tell us about the actual writing of the show?



19:26

Writing the show was a challenge for me because I'm very much outside kind of the community or the scene. I don't really go out to a lot of bars. And so I had to do a lot of research actually. The the basic ideas about about wanting to be loved and accepted, were universal but the specifics I had to really look into



19:51

musically I wanted to match the freshness and youth and vitality of the lyrics that that Jeff

came up with. And being that I like to work there is first the songs on the or the music that you hear on the CD is directly inspired by the lyrics that Jeff gave me. It was also important for me to find singers that you know, that could pull off a pop your sound when needed, just now be able to break out and just jam every now and then. And luckily, we were blessed with these, you know, these guys who just had voices, you know that we're having sent who could? Who could pretty much handle everything we threw at them. And you know, these songs are not easy to sing.



20:33

Yes, but they did a great job. Can you describe some of the songs for us?



20:38

There's a song called there's always some guy about three really good looking guys who just feel they can't measure up. There's a song called the dance at the gym, which is all about the exploration, while working out looking for a mate. The troll magnet, which we've mentioned before, which a lot of people feel is their story, and a song called The Misfits lament, which is also known as naturally Nelly, I think that's pretty self explanatory.



21:09

I was born an army brat in a masculine family that had played for Notre Dame, so he never missed a game. All my brothers, they were the same. They excelled in all sorts of sports. And then there was me.



21:30

Imagine how tough it was to be. Naturally now the SEC, a big old girl, I don't know why my voice was so high. Or my sibilance such a mass. But when I spoke without failing, my arm started flailing or my hands was slipped to my hip. I was different and wrong. And I just wanted to fit in and belong



22:08

we really made an effort to capture the feeling of the show on the CD. In fact, beyond the songs there are some dialogue and there's even a whole section the coming out section we call it where all characters talk about their coming out experiences good bad. Funny, and we wanted to put that in because we wanted to give people a real feel of what the show is like.



22:46

To me



22:56

there's a song in the in the show called May I take your hand, which was actually one of my original ideas before I really knew what the content of the show would be. And it's a song about public display of affection. And I was really personal to me because I'm kind of both characters in the song I I longed to be able to hold my partner's hand. And yet I'm still uncomfortable with the reaction I might get. And what's interesting is that Alfredo Alvarez the composer didn't see it quite the way I did. He didn't think it was the problem.



23:31

I think it was more concerned with giving that issue so much weight as to have its own song. But I guess as I thought about it, if that is a problem in the relationship, it's probably not a small one. So I think the audience did appreciate the sentiment and you know, it kind of opened my eyes as well



23:53

is it's so taboo. For me to get close to you



24:02

the way that Lubbers to



24:06

me I take your



24:13

eye wish you were free to be intimate with me. And let people see that I am taking your hat. I don't want to make a statement to conservatives in New York. just confuse all the ladies on Verizon the tourists are not looking to shock or must we always pretend that you



25:02

Another one of the first songs we wrote was called searching for euphemism, which is very autobiographical. Not that the whole show is about the struggle to figure out what to call your partner, there just doesn't seem to be an appropriate word. And often when that song is performed, the audience is very quiet. And because it's comic, I think maybe it's not working. But um, I get amazing reaction from people who say, Oh my God, that's my life. Yeah, there just isn't a word to call your partner significant other you name it



25:38

seems I'm always searching for are you looking for a way to say who you are? Is there an expression or word that I've never heard? To explore? What do you mean to me?



26:01

There's a song in the show called here in Chelsea, which is about we get to see someone initiated into the ghetto and the lifestyle of Chelsea. And it's, you know, really about the ghettoization. of gay culture. But even though that's particular songs about Chelsea, we're our hope is that when the show goes to other areas, we'll have a song about the Castro, or a song about West Hollywood. You know, all the parameters are pretty much the same. It's just the names for the bars that change.



26:36

North of 14th Street and south of 23rd lies an idyllic retreat. Like none you've read about or heard. It's our sovereign little zone 1000s of Queens up on its throne. After you've been here a while you'll see it's less a neighborhood and more



27:03

a lifestyle.



27:07

Welcome to Chelsea land of brownstones, boutiques and boys and great places to play, filled with boys and bears and nobody stares at men strolling in pairs, where you're free to greet other guys on the street with a warm, affectionate kiss. If every boy in view looks just like you that's the beauty of live hearing shall see now about your



27:41

trip enough free to I especially want you to comment on the title song.



27:45

The title of the show bed boys and beyond is actually the title of a song in the show. It's about a guy who goes shopping for a husband at Bed boys and beyond. And you know, we were actually a little nervous about the reception we'd get from Bed Bath and Beyond, with our title.



28:00



28:03

And of course one night, a group of employees from Bed Bath and Beyond come and and watch the show. Well, long story short, they, at the end of the performance, they ran up on stage they you know, they had their cameras, they took pictures of the cast, they raved to us how much I loved it. And I think they even put some of the pictures in their company newsletter.



28:24

Hitting the HA heard of Chelsea. There's a great big stone where I pick up home the car, sometimes easy then I go shopping for a husband that bad boys and beyonds a man that I can nest with my folks will be impressed with a dreamy clean cut guy with whom I love to buy furnishings for tasteful home. You may want to take notes. My math is so precise. I cruise every section twice appraising the goods and shagging out the merchandise I may saunter up the and flash and naughty smiling, hunky cutie who is dressed in J Crew, or sometimes they'll share us like home and their stare with the securities investor with a new citrus zest. Hi lovemaking.



29:32

Tell us about what kind of reactions you've had to the show Jeff.



29:37

One thing that's really gratifying is we will get letters and emails to our website from people all over the country who we didn't necessarily get a chance to meet after the performance who say that was their life up there. Those are their stories. Somebody said she came with her friend who was just coming out who was a college student and it kind of opened up his eyes because it's really although it takes a hard look at some of the craziness of the gay scene in the current situation, it's really kind of paying homage to it too. So we find that really, really gratifying that our thoughts and feelings resonate with other people. As for the future, the show, it's our hope that this recording will bring the show to a much wider audience than could ever have fit into the theater we're playing in New York, and that the show will get a chance to be seen also in other parts of the country and maybe other parts of the world. We've, we've had some requests, so keep your fingers crossed that bed Boys and Beyonds will be at a theater near you.



30:46

I want to thank Jeff Dobbins and Alfredo Alvarez for the interview. You could find out more about the CD for bed boys and beyond at the Deke Records website at [www Deke records.com](http://www.DekeRecords.com). Or about the show itself at [www. Bad Boys and beyonds.com](http://www.BadBoysandBeyonds.com) this is JD Doyle for lesbian and gay voices on KPFT in Houston.



Joan Devlin 31:07

Good evening. And we are in the studio now with JD live live again. That's right. And we also have Lee Matthe... visiting us and they're going to talk about the Houston experience actually the

nave Joe Watts visiting us and they're going to talk about the Houston premier actually the Houston showing of bad boys and beyond. It's a premier to



31:21

so the first production out of New York.



Joan Devlin 31:25

That's how did you manage to get it to New West.



31:30

JD had probably almost everything to do with that. He saw the show like the show, liked the work that he has seen that I've done. I don't know how far back he goes. In terms of my work. I've been producing and directing now. Mostly gay and lesbian materials since 1983. So I have been around for a while. The Houston press, I think in an article a year or so ago, called me the grandfather of gay theater. Recently in the Chronicle, they call me the father of gay theater getting used to getting younger. But anyway, um, JD told the writers about me since he had done it, done the interview that we just heard. And they sent me material. And I immediately leapt on it. And it's here.



32:38

I was making reservations to see dirty little show tunes. And when I realized I had Joe on the phone. My first thought was, I've got to tell you about bad boys and beyonds. Here we are,



Joan Devlin 32:48

and the rest is history. Now you did a fundraiser for home sorry, Houston



32:56

Buyers Club Buyers Club



32:57

accusing Buyers Club. Last Thursday, they sold it out. And every every dollar that they made, goes to the Buyers Club and there was no charge for the theater or so forth. That was all for them. And then we opened Friday. And we'll be playing Friday and Saturday is only through the end of May, which is kind of a long run. But not exactly if you consider that we just perform on Friday and Saturdays we don't have Thursdays or Sundays you held over there. That'll show

tense. for two more weeks. We did. We could have probably held it over for two more months. It was after 18 years and 30 Something productions. It was my most successful production rarely ever.



33:49

I loved it that the writing was so it was all good stick and you had to pay attention.



33:55

Well, that's I think that's one of the reasons that Tom or the lyricist told me that you will be seeing a lot of people coming back. And we did. We had lots of people that came to him three times. And not just a handful. I mean, dozens of people came to him three times. And I think some of tomorrow's lyrics were were brilliant. So I had a few people say some of his lyrics were, were better than the original lyrics. Yes, but um, I think it was, it was a feel good show. It was wonderful to hear people say, you know, after coming one time that people would say things like, well, a friend of mine just broke up with his lover or my mother just died or his friend of mines mother just died or something. And this is the perfect way to pump them up and make them feel good. And I guess that's what a lot of people did. It was a very great production. I was very proud of it.



Joan Devlin 34:54

So now it's gone to bed Boys and Beyonds a somewhat different production but it still seems kind of upbeat kinda cheerful, excellent music. So tell us a little bit about it.



35:04

It's a little bit unusual in terms of what a lot of us think of in terms of a musical review, in that it does have a lot of dial, it has a lot more dialogue than most musical reviews, actually. It's about two thirds, music and a third dialogue. We have a little more dialogue than what when JD saw it in New York. So it's about an hour's worth of music and about 30 minutes worth of dialogue. And there, there are some, some very funny monologues. But there's some also some very, very touching monologues, there's a wonderful monologue about a man who is standing in front of a theater and that showing the most the most fabulous story ever told, which is a play about Adam and Steve, among other things, and some nuns are in front of the theater, and they're praying for the centers that have gone to see this play. And he has this monologue about how he feels about that and what he tells the nuns and, and how it affected him. And it's it's a beautiful monologue. I think the one that that has really touched me the most is one that was not used in New York. And it's the longest monologue and it's delivered by one of our younger actors. And it's called paying respects. And it's about a young man who meets an old queen at well, the bar that we referenced here is the briar patch. And he, he cleans apartments, cleans his apartment, and the man is is very elderly, in the monologue is actually at his eulogy. And he's talking about how, you know, his friends, always shied away from those older types, because he thought they were sad looking or desperate, you know, smoking their cigarettes, lugging praise. And, you know, ultimately, he tells how this older gentleman really

changed him and made him you know, feel the importance and the worth of gay pride. And it's just it's a beautiful, beautiful monologue. But there's, there's a lot of humor to I don't want to downplay the humor at all. I think it's pretty well balanced.



37:33

There's a nice coming up dialogue, isn't there?



37:35

Very end, it's,



37:38

I recall each of the characters taking their turns and putting their stories into it.



37:43

You know, they all talk at the same time back and forth. But it's not confusing. No, no. And what we've done is is a little interesting, from what I understand they didn't have it was it was done at the Plex cabaret in New York, which is a pretty small cabaret space in the village. But we don't have a great stage, but we have a lot more room than they do. And, and because it has this flight attendant, theme throughout, who the flight attendant is sort of the emcee, like in Cabaret or something. The songs are coming out. We have the guys sitting in chairs that look like airplane chairs. Like they're actually riding on an aeroplane, because the flight attendant opens the show by walking, welcoming the audience to TW gay. So it's like, it's like they're on a plane.



Joan Devlin 38:45

Sounds great. And, yeah, you've had it. It's premiered Friday. So you had to show Friday and Saturday along with the Buyers Club fundraiser. What's the audience response, man?



38:56

Um, as far as I can tell, and it's kind of funny because I, I'm always honest about these things. Most of the response always goes to the actors, you know, it's like, people forget that somebody actually directed this thing, because they run up to the actors, you know, oh, God, You were wonderful, you know, I'm back in the back cleaning up the the drinks, you know, and putting things in the trash. But the response has been good. I've had some things said that I really liked like, someone said, I have a lot of friends that are under 30. And this play talks about a lot of things that those people need to get in touch with a little little better in their lives. And I'm going to bring my younger friends to see this. And, you know, we had during the show, there's been a lot of laughter and in some very quiet moments. There's wonderful little

sort of bookings, two numbers one is called Hear. And it's about a couple who are singing about how they sort of feel about having just spent their first night together. And it's followed by a number called the seven week itch about a couple that have been together just long enough to discover some of the bad qualities that they each have. And it's it's hysterical. The other one is is actually very sweet. So there are a lot of different numbers in there. There's a wonderful number called dance at the at the gym, which is a really big dance number. And it's kind of like a tango of five guys at the gym.

 Joan Devlin 40:41

It sounds interesting. So is everybody up on the stage at once for that one? Yes. And so you said you actually have a bigger stage you said than the one they did in Greenwich Village? Oh, yeah. Oh, they must like them. It'd be a lot easier for him. Oh, yeah. So if people want to see the play, dates, times, where's the theater? All that good stuff.

 41:06

Okay, theater, New West is on the ground floor of the Sonoma restaurant building, which is not just giving them a plug, but it helps people looking clearly know where it is. If you just say 1415 California, everybody's like, what? You know, a lot of people that have lived in Montrose for years aren't always sure where California is because it's a very short Street. Anyway, it's in the Sonoma restaurant building 1415, California, Friday and Saturdays only curtains 8pm. The reservation number is 713-394-0464. Friday and Saturdays through March correction May May 26.

 Joan Devlin 41:58

take credit cards or cash only. Cash only. Okay. Well, that was Joe was with me and Joe was JD Doyle is live in the studio, talking about bed boys and beyond which will be playing at the newest theater under Sonoma through the end of May. You've been listening while you are listening to lesbian and gay voices.

 42:17

When the Dutch Senate voted last December to extend legal marriage to same gender couples. The Netherlands became the first country in modern times to acknowledge gay and lesbian relationships under the same legislation as heterosexual marriage. Legal SAME GENDER partnerships have been registered there since 1998. But the new law allows those partnerships to be converted into marriages of couples wish. That's exactly what for Amsterdam couples did on April 1. And this way our correspondent Jackie Carver of MVS media was there for the historic occasion.

 42:51

It's a quarter to 12 on the 31st of March 2001. We're in the city council chamber of the city of Amsterdam waiting for the for happy couples to come upstairs. They come in downstairs just

Amsterdam waiting for the for happy couples to come upstairs. They came in downstairs just about 10 minutes ago. Surrounded by press. And here comes Mayor Yop, CO in mayor of Amsterdam who is officiating tonight the former Minister of Justice who did so much to push this bill through both Houses of Parliament. And here they come here. Stay Foster and followed by Elaine fasm and Tony onsen and Louis rock ones. Finally, they tune into road Limca. And they're taking the seats. And Matt Cohen is stepping up to the microphone. This is your current



44:08

committee I think



44:10

brides and the bridegroom's for family and friends. Ladies and gentleman music to big welcome to the Amsterdam city council chamber on this memorable night. We are here to join you in marriage. We're making history tonight. This is the first legal civil marriage between two men or two women and that is unique in the world. Not the reopening of civil marriage is a milestone in the history of lesbian and gay emancipation. For you over Stelling, this is a very special moment. Probably the happiest day of your lives really and very likely the longest day of your life as well. And it's a double Bharti, you're celebrating that you're getting married. And you're also celebrating that you can get married couples. Last week when we spoke, you told me what marriage means for you. And you were all very definite in your feeling that a registered partnership is a sort of second rate marriage partnership, having a registered partnership is a bit like creating a small business. And for all of you, a marriage is something else, something special that represents the deepest and most emotional bond that two people can have. And very soon, you will be able to say to each other, we are married. And that does sound better than we are partners. You all look wonderful. And I wish you the best April the first of your lives. I'd like to go over to the formal part of the ceremony but it's still two minutes to 12 so we'll have to wait a bit



46:35

so just keep clapping until midnight.



46:52

Mike, Stan, and Elka would



46:57

you please stand and take each other by the right hand and



47:04

beta Lemke Milton Perkins con stop mid Francisco is Maria Vita brought home set in a new

beta Limke Milton Perkins cop stop and Francisco is Maria vda brought home set in a new



47:11

code and then each couple if they wish to convert their registered partnership, and below marriage



47:18

uplifted to Silla fulfilling happily with somebody who looks a bit better with the board Limca By the



47:25

authority vested in me by the Civil register of the city of Amsterdam, I declare you to be married off



47:32

Atlantic on tonight



47:34

Nico and then struck the gavel and with that hammer bow beginning from the Art History was made.



48:31

You listening to on the same coverage of the world's first gay and lesbian marriages on this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. Now back to Jackie harbor in Amsterdam.



48:43

At the reception afterwards, We all drank a toast. The first one was to the happy couples. And the second one was to history. I spoke first with Tanya Hanson, you've been together for 36 years. How does it feel to finally get married?



49:03

Eyebrows, I must say, although that's really unfair, because I didn't do it. And there are other people who did it to politicians. And so but it's wonderful to be to be here and to set his example to the world. That's what I hope it is. All the world to seeing this. The media all

example to the world. That's what I hope it is. All the world to seeing this. The media all together here. Millions and millions of people that look at this and they will see that in the Netherlands it's possible for two men to get the same rights as every other married couple. That's wonderful.



49:45

Do you think that this will offer inspiration to other gays and lesbians throughout the world who are struggling?



49:52

Most certainly most, I think Europe will have to follow this



50:00

I then asked Castillo how he was feeling.



50:04

Well, I'm very proud and very happy that I married. But it's two parties in one first party that I have married my husband, my man. And the second party is that I that that is able in Holland that we can marry. The civil marriage opened up and it's wonderful.



50:23

This is a historic day. Do you hope that this is going to be an example for the rest of the world?



50:28

Yes, we hope so. But I think it is a fight of many years.



50:34

You look absolutely. Head over heels in love and happy. Tell me how was it to stand there and say, yes.



50:42

So yes. I thought, well, I want to say yes, but I could not. I just said yes.



50:53

Yeah, congratulations. I then spoke with Peter with the broad Limca and Frank Vita broad. Tell me why you wanted to get married. What was so important about marriage? I mean, surely, that's just a heterosexual institution



51:13

is not only the marriage, but the possibility of marriage. And so that is also what we celebrating tonight.



51:22

And the most important thing is also when you love each other, so much like we do, and like a lot of people do, then you want to take care of each other. And then you have rights now. So you have rights was heritage, you have rights and pension, you have all the rights, like, like everyone dollars, it was tilde and you have the rights. And before it wasn't possible to get that right. And now it's possible. And you have to choose the choice. You can you can marriage, or you cannot marriage, normally, it was only for the for the heterosexual males. And now we can choose likely heterosexual. And I suppose, in one generation or two generations, it's quite normal, like the right for voting. 100 years ago, it was only the voting sports for men, as you know, and now everyone knows it's quite normal to everyone. It's ridiculous that only men can vote. And in 15 years or 20 years, it's ridiculous that only heterosexuals can marry, get married, get married. So I hope in a few years, they say it's quite normal, like the right for vote and all the other rights.



52:26

And how did it feel standing there, knowing that you are among the first gay people to get married legally,



52:34

very romantic. Yes, there's nothing more romantic.



52:39

That's the way that we knew before that, it was like this. I may have chosen for it. Because we want to be to say all the world from you can do it. And it's okay. Holland is the first land but maybe Sweden or Norway is the second. So and it's very good.



52:58

It's the day we will not easily forget. We hope we are a good example. And many people follow.



53:07

Erica Hauser is the executive director of the CSA the Dutch lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights group. I asked her how she viewed the night's events.



53:18

It's an historic day. And we all are very proud. Of course, with this moment and the result of such a long, long fight for justice,



53:27

let's say you'll say wasn't actually behind this fight at the very beginning. What changed your mind?



53:31

Well, there are two different meanings in the COC. And first, the one who said well, we have to get rid of the marriage was the strongest. But we more and more realize that it was just a phase in the process, that you have to get equal rights for equal people. And then you can go for a run. And that's what we are doing. That's this is a historic moment. But this is not the end. This is the beginning of the next phase. And that is give way to all kinds of other well, economic and emotional couples. Two people, three people living together, not living together, but have the same rights as couples who wants to stay in a close relation together and live together. So we are going on



54:22

and is the COC planning to spread the knowledge how Holland went about this and achieved marriage. Are they planning programs to help other countries?



54:31

Well, we do as much as possible. Yes, one of the things we do is that we promote in the European Parliament to get our marriage, as we have it now recognized in their countries. And I think that is really important to start with.



54:50

caught up with Matt Cohen and asked him how he was feeling.



54:55

I'm really glad that it happened. I'm glad as it came through Parliament and I'm glad that I The opportunity that was first marriages to place here in Amsterdam, it's very important that we have this. This law here is the law for equal opportunity for equal or for handling. And in the same way, and I think that's very important.



55:15

And you think that this is going to set an example for the rest of the world and Europe will follow in the footsteps of the Netherlands. Well,



55:22

I really hope so. I know by myself that take years, I know very well, that's 1050 years ago, when for the first time people said to me, isn't it important that also people have the same sex can marry? I wasn't convinced, not at all. And it took time with me. But now I'm convinced. And I can imagine that also in other countries, people can be convinced when they think it over when they see how important it is that people who want to marry also have the possibility to marry.



55:51

And I finally caught up with Hank Crowe is the editor of the gay crown and one of the main proponents of opening up marriage for lesbians and gays. And he was looking just delighted. I asked him if he was feeling as happy as he looked.



56:07

Well, I feel incredible. It's unbelievable. And it's the first first of April that I'm really happy. first of April is my birthday. And I never celebrated my birthday. And now for the first time I have a party on my birthday. This is the best present ever. It is I'm sure, but it's not a present to me. It's a present to the world.



56:32


In Amsterdam. This is Jackie calm.




56:45

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Freedman che Sheltie Graham Underhill, Jason Lynn Chris Ambridge. Brian newness Rex Walker and Jackie Carver contributed program material, Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. Some this way our operating expenses are funded by grants from the kicking

assets fund of the Tides Foundation, and the CPS desolate Lupe fund. From designated contributions by uncommon cloud Visa card holders who've chosen this way out and through direct charitable donations from our listeners around the world. For audio cassette information or with any questions or comments about this way out. Please email us at TW o radio@aol.com. visit our webpage at this way out.org Or write to us at Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038 USA and please be sure to include the call letters of this station. Remember you can also hear this way out anytime online exclusively on planet out. Just point your browser to www dot planet out.com and click first on multimedia than on radio. For Greg Gordon and the entire this way out family I'm Lucy Chapelle. Thanks for listening on KY DS, Sacramento, California. WTF Grand Marais, Minnesota, si fbU St. Catharines, Ontario and more than 125 other stations around the world, including this community radio station, and we know you'll stay tuned.


 Glenn Holt 58:19

This way out is heard each week as part of lesbian and gay voices, which is heard on 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston at 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas


 58:46
and now


 Glenn Holt 58:47

more of lesbian and gay voices Well, a year and some months ago, someone that we know named Alan was newly diagnosed with HIV and we had him on the program at the time to talk about what that experience was like. And we've had him on since to talk about adapting to life as an HIV positive person and Alice Joy Allen joins us again in the studio. Welcome. Hi. I didn't mean to say Alice

 59:21
It's okay. She's a wonderful person really.

 Glenn Holt 59:26
Freudian slip. So what's new what's going on?

 59:29
Oh, got a little bit of nothing just about it's trying to stay healthy.

 Glenn Holt 59:35



Glenn Holt 59:35

What's what's involved with staying healthy now? Um, what does that mean for you?



59:40

Having fun trying to fight off this, you know, the flu still goes is still going around very, very heavily. So vitamins, minerals, water, water, lots of water trying to stay at a heat not too much air conditioning. You know, trying to avoid the tongue As I knew that will catch your attention



Glenn Holt 1:00:07

when you gotta have some fun.



1:00:10

Every once in a while, every once in a while.



Glenn Holt 1:00:14

So I got it, that means that your love life remains healthy.



1:00:18

It's okay, it's okay. You know? It's okay. Not like it used to be. Okay?



Glenn Holt 1:00:29

Well, now I remember when when somebody, oftentimes when somebody becomes newly HIV positive, there's this sort of feeling like that you're suddenly toxic waste that all of your, your your body products, even your sweat is some kind of horrible industrial accident or something, but how do you get over that?



1:00:52


I never went through it, and then went through it, I think my major thing is, you know, is knowing that, you know, anyone that I've become physically involved with, I would have to tell. So in order to avoid having to tell them, you just kind of don't do it. You know, or, you know, like, with me, I got into relationship with someone, and, and when it came time for me to get out. I really had to second guess, because it's like, do I really want to go through having to tell someone else again? You know, and then having that feeling of whether or not you're gonna be rejected? Or because of what they know what they don't know. You know, so I think that was my greatest, my big thing. Is that just having to tell anyone that I've become physically intimate with.

 Glenn Holt 1:01:36

So you really find that that's a concern for you,

 1:01:38

guys. Yes. God, yeah. Oh, yeah.

 Glenn Holt 1:01:42

Because, I mean, as someone who's HIV negative, whenever the opportunity arises, for me, I just naturally assume that the other person is HIV positive? Because that's the most logical thing for me to do.

 1:01:55


It's okay. If if, if one believes that or or assumes that the other is, but knowing that the other is something else is like, if you want a glass of water, and you see a coke sitting beside it, which one do you take? Okay, so, you know, is in knowing that someone it kind of knowing that someone is HIV, HIV positive, and, and going to bed with them, and then already having a fear or a phobia is completely different than me, being open minded. Someone like a you and I, who had the education background, knowing what safe sex is, and how to prevent or whatsoever it compared to someone who doesn't, you know, who has that fear of it in the first place? Who doesn't know that, that, you know, the preventive methods of trying to keep the disease at bay? They run from it. So they just don't know. Just like the person I'm dating now. Or that I'm seeing now. You know, we are not we haven't crossed that border of being physically intimate. But I've heard him say those little, those little cracks, or those little statements about people that are you just kind of makes you wonder, like, how far is this gonna go? You know, and it's like, do I tell him now? I do I tell him later, you know, and whenever I feel at the moment is just right to tell him.


 Glenn Holt 1:03:22


And usually, it's not the both of you are naked in front of the fire.


 1:03:26


Well, when we get naked in front of a fire, for sure, it'd be time to tell him but we haven't been. We haven't gone that far yet. We just haven't gotten that far yet. Besides, we're just getting new hot outside now. It's mostly me. So, you know, it's my fault that we haven't progressed to that physically. Because I don't know how to tell them. You know, but I know when it comes time, I will have to.

 Glenn Holt 1:03:50
And your parents.

 1:03:52
Funny, you should ask that. You know, I, you know, I still haven't told my parents. I still haven't told my parents. I I sent a letter to my brother. And he sent it to my parents. So that's how they find out I just happen to you know, go to church, and you know, walk in, I'm like, Hey, Mom, how you doing? She's like, telling me it's not true. I'm like, What are you talking about? She showed me later. I'm like, Well, I can't you know, she goes, I tell you know, Mom, you know, my parents aren't over the gay thing yet. Yeah. So it's like, you know, and then you know, my dad being a preacher. You know, Southern Baptist family growing up in the Baptist side of thing is like, Yeah, I told you that that gay stuff that it was gonna get to you one day and my mom being gay gonna deal with it. You know, but, you know, then you guys said let's do the sermon. What they have to say, but you know, and but, you know, my parents they feel that, you know, like my mom, they like, well, if you repent, you know, God will take this away from you. You got the same look, I did. Oh, really? Let me start praying now. Ah, yeah, we're just trying to get them to understand that, you know that this is the way things are. And, you know, the same thing is they're gonna have to Well, I guess you'd say they're gonna go centrally same thing I went through when I first found out, I said, this is the way things are, and this is the way things are going to be. And if some fluke of nature happens that I'm killed in the cracks and on the way home or something like that, then I won't have to die from this. Right. Okay. Right. As far as I know, right now. This is the death of me. And won't be anytime soon. But But this yeah,

 Glenn Holt 1:05:36
there's more than one.

 1:05:39
But this is will be it. Yeah. Are you on meds yet? Not yet. Still the one vitamin day? Yeah, yeah. You know, my counselor are still very fluctuant you know, my last count, my T cell count was only 100 something, take the back, got it backwards. my viral load was only 100 something but my T cell count was up in the nine hundreds. But if you go a month before that, it was almost the reverse. So they they're up and down. Very unstable. I guess it kind of goes with, with like, this weather pattern, you know, this weather pattern, you know, weather change, if it gets cold right now, I'll be sick tomorrow. You know, so a when my when I'm, if I'm okay, you know, if all the conditions are fine. I'm fine. But if I get sick or something, I'm out Hill. And it's not it's it's obvious. It's just really obvious.

 Glenn Holt 1:06:28
Yeah. Do you find yourself catching colds more easily or anything like that?



1:06:37

Yes, yeah, it takes nothing, nothing out, you can cough up my face and I'll get sick. Now. It's like, like, I don't have an immune to anything. I tried to take preventive measures, preventive measures and dress more warmly or just less less. With less clothing during the summer, like all winter, I you know, I didn't wear scrubs to work during the winter, because I wore long sleeves, turtlenecks, you know, trying to stay warm. Yeah. But, you know, now that the sun's out and scrubs, because I can breathe, you know, but, you know, but then again, a patient can come in and coughing my face and I will be sick. That that's just the way it is. This is like, it's like, almost like cross contamination. But, you know, I mean, now like working, I try to stay back from people, you know, in, you know, are off to the side. Or if I see him coughing, or you



Glenn Holt 1:07:36

know, that must be an adaptation for you. Because I know, before you were always sort of a hand on the shoulder, very warm, kind of,



1:07:41

and I still try to be I still try to be however, no other person is gonna take care of me as me. Yeah, you know. So, you know, I mean, I can show you empathy and your little sympathy from a distance. That way, my health stays good. And yours, you know, and you get better. You know, but I still hug me.



Glenn Holt 1:08:03

Well, I know that it's not in the African American cultural background to take this sort of thing to groups or anything like that. But have you participated in any groups, support groups, anything like that?



1:08:13

No. No. I guess I just some African American thing is I don't know any.



1:08:23

Group. But, you know, I think it's mainly I have, I have my own way of dealing with things, you know, it may take a little time, you know, but I try to get to know my inner me, you know, me that that me that nobody else could know. Or you only share with someone really, really special. And when I come in contact with that, that part of me outside of a laughter outside of the tears, just get me you know, like me sit in front of the TV, just thinking we're in a room Quiet, quiet room, just me. You know, and I can help myself two things, I guess is how I see it. Or I really don't I'm not suicidal or not causing any damage to anybody. You know, I'm not a life I don't think I'm like threatening anyone or anything, but you know, and I'm very socially aware

of what's going on and stay conscious. I don't drink anymore. So well, I can't say that. Let's say that. I might drink on a social occasion. Okay, all right. Fair enough. might enjoy life you know, on social occasion with the understanding of knowing that and when I do get on medication that that's gone.

G

Glenn Holt 1:09:41

Yeah, but as soon as you're off this program, you go outside smoke cigarette. Oh, you

U

1:09:45

know. You know it. God, that's my lungs. However, however, I am trying really hard to beat you know, I just smoked me. The marble or little red pack. Now I'm in the marble in the white pack. For smokers, we know what I mean. And that's a big step. That's a big step going from full flavor to late. So, you know, and gradually wean myself off, I've noticed that that, you know, like, during the work day, you know, during the work that I'll smoke more weekends I would during during the work week, you know, as long as I keep myself busy, I won't smoke much at all, you know, I can go with a pack of cigarettes during the work week for three days, weekends with a couple of hours. No real, you know, about a day, you know, I can go about a day, you know, so yeah, it's something that I'm working on. I'm constantly aware of what's going on. You know, I keep my little journal and my my little track what I do, you know, and, yeah, but it's just something I can't quit everything cold turkey, right? Cigarettes is an addiction, you know, just takes time to weed off that addiction. That's all and I'm working on it. I'm working. I'm gonna do a cold turkey because I want to get sick. But I'm working on. I'm working on it. Well,

G

Glenn Holt 1:11:04

I wanted to ask you something that, I don't know, you may not have the background answer the question. And that's okay. But I've been aware for a while that in the African American churches, there's sort of a new resurgence or a movement seems to have been started by the the ladies in the churches to make the churches more open and accepting of homosexuality and HIV issues, because the black churches are losing so many of their young men.

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1:11:34

Yes, yes. Yes. Really, I think that's a good thing. I don't think he I think the women are becoming more understanding, knowing that there are a lot of came back men out there, it just whether or not the black community in Hispanic community almost like in this situation, because as long as you don't talk about it, it doesn't exist. But now that you're being faced with, with, you know, when you having, you know, funeral day after day after day of, you know, a black male or Hispanic male, who died of AIDS, you know, it's something that you have to face eventually. And being a male, I know, my father wouldn't want to face it at all matter, he hasn't even talked to me about being gay yet, much less, you know, much less about the fact that being HIV positive, being HIV positive. My mother, on the other hand, has, is willing to accept the fact that I'm gay. Her thing is wanting to date someone your color. But, you know, she's willing to accept the fact that I'm that I'm gay. And she knows that I'm that I'm positive,

you know, and so it's just easier for women, you know, they just don't, they want to be able to keep their son, or keep their child, you know, so you have to face it, you have to, it's the only way to get around it, you have to be able to talk about it. If you because if you don't, if you're able to talk about it is to some it's gonna be hidden. And then you don't know until it's too late, then you've just lost your son, or your child, I just say because it's not just men, it's million is men and women. And, you know, the big thing that's going on in the black in the Hispanic and black community is that you have I say gay men who have families, and they're going out and they're sleeping with with men and protectively, then they're taking those diseases back to their wives. And then those wives have kids. So now you've just tripled your your infestation. So if you're just willing to be open about, Hey, it's okay to be gay, just be gay and be safe about it. Now we can talk about it. And you just limit the risk.

G

Glenn Holt 1:13:52

Right. And for all of those folks listening, who were screaming at their radios when we started this particular topic, it's not just the KDC. The reason why I didn't say that was because I wanted to, I wanted our conversation to lead naturally to the point where we talked about the fact that there are there are men playing the field who have wives and children, and as a result you end up with well, women, for example, are becoming one of the leading indices of new HIV infections. And if, if a community isn't, isn't willing to face up to the reality of the situation. It's the hearts gonna fall out of it. And so I'm glad to see that there is that change being made? Because I and maybe it's just a misperception on my part, but I really get the feeling that especially in the black community, a lot of the community focus is around the church.

U

1:15:02

I would say 5050 It'd be church home in church. A lot of it starts at home, and then the fam, and depending on how the parents are, you know, if you're like, if you, if you grew up in my house, if you grew up in my house, are you going to church? You're in church all day, Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday, you know, just the way we're just we were raised, we were raised in a church, basically, you know, but, you know, I mean, I have friends who kind of went when they want to, but it all came down to the same thing of, you know, when, when I came out of class, my parents, they knew that I was gay. And married. Yeah, and married with kids, you know, so. So, but, you know, when I came out, I came out, and I was exclusively with men. I didn't have to go through that hide anymore of sleeping with a man and then going back to my wife, you know, I mean, it happens. I mean, that's the way that's the way things was back then. You know, so I guess it's just, it's kind of a good factor that, you know, now, being able to talk to my family. rephrase that, being able to address my family, about certain issues, you know, and I know how they're gonna react, I know, they're gonna pull out the, you know, like, the early Adam and Steve issue, I know, it's gonna come out, you know, but you know, and I've heard all the speeches, I've heard all the services, I've heard everything they can tell me, you know, and I'll hear them probably for the rest of my life. But at least I can address the issue with them. And they understand, you know, that, at least I was man enough to get out of a situation, knowing what I was, and not try to hide it, and continue to, you know, continue with someone else. Sure. Because if I hadn't, if I hadn't, if I was still trying to hide it, you know, and, and then to be in my situation, now, my wife would be positive.



Glenn Holt 1:17:00

That's right. And on top of that, you'd have two people emotionally miserable anyway.



1:17:05

So I guess it's, I guess, it's a good thing, especially to try to get the church involved because, you know, they're gonna have a big voice in the community, in the black community, they're gonna have a really big voice. And if the, if the Catholic Church would actually say the same thing, they would have a big voice, you know, in the community, then you have more Catholic priests that have, yeah, they have diseased and probably the people. But when the church has learned to accept the things that people start to accept the things, you know, it's like, you always gonna have to go eat, you don't give us church and state. But when you put some before alert legislature about gay this or gay, that it's all No, that's a mortal sin. You know, and that's the first thing are their mouths, right? No, it's a sin. You can't you know, it's Adam and Steve, it's happening, you know, but when the church start going, Hey, being gay is okay. People are gonna start changing their attitude, you know, and it's like, I had a friend of mine. Well, you know, Silvia from gymnastics, you know, she was telling us that we were having a conversation last week about how her a friend of hers was killed in a hate crime, non gay, but it was some skinheads who walked up to her friend walked in, and it was a black guy, and Hispanic. And some skin has walked up and questionable whatsoever, and ended up stabbing them. And her friend ended up dying. I said, what, you know, something. Now, if you put the word gay on there, you know, it'd be you be a hate crime, they like, well, he was out on 3000 hours, because there are no laws against hate crime. Right? And, you know, especially in the state of Texas, so I mean, the thing that they're worried about is, if they do pass laws against hate crimes include, it would include the gay population, it's just like, Wow, I've never I never thought about that. Well, my nobody ever does. You know, and that's the thing about it is, you know, if you've got to stop and look at things at a much broader horizon, you know, if you're going to stop one, you've got to stop at all, you've got to stop at all, you can't just start with, with, you know, trying to stop aids in the black community aids and, or, I'm sorry, HIV and AIDS in the black or the gay or just singling out different areas or whatsoever. You can't just just work on your own community. You can't you've got to, you've got to go, you've got to take it all over. It's got to go all over because if you if you only single out a certain area, like Jesse Jackson, well, you know, Jesse, manly done nothing to me. You know, Kane done nothing for me. But he meant nothing to me, you know, but to me, his his main focus is on the black community. And it can't just be there. It can't if he's going to preach equal rights, equal rights need to be for everybody. It has to be it has to be here. So preachers across the board, whether it's Jewish, whether it's, you know, Hispanic or whatsoever you know, my my wife went before the before immigration, and the question that they asked us, I thought was completely unlawful. They had no No business going inside the bedroom? Yeah, no reason at all. Yeah, but they can go there. Hmm. You know, and, and it shouldn't be, it shouldn't be, but because they're, they're not considered to be citizens. You can just ask anything you want to be anything you want, you know, and it's not right. Yeah. And I'm like, wait, hold on a second. You know, I'm American, you ain't gonna. And I mean, that's the way things are this, that's where things are. And if people don't start saying things in color, you know, I see, people see black and white people seeing color. If people don't start saying things in color, this world's gonna go to hell. Excuse My French Joe



Glenn Holt 1:20:42

Allen, joining us to talk about living with HIV, newly diagnosed, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And back when you were newly diagnosed, the song that we're about to go in here by Romanovsky and Phillips, living with AIDS was pretty important to you.



1:21:05

Yeah, they helped me through a lot. Because, you know, I mean, I love to sing. And they say, there's a song out there for everybody, you know, in songs, kind of express your emotion at different times. And, and one thing I mean, is, when, when I was newly diagnosed, is I wanted anyone if anyone touched me, I loved it. You know, it's like, you hugged me, I loved it, you know, because I didn't get that feeling of being a disease. You know? And not that, you know, you know, I think we were talking about like sweating. It's just that that feeling of just no walking infection. You know, you know, so I got to feel like I was a person again, you know, and then hearing, you know, that, that there are other people out there that went through or is going through the same thing. You know, what they say? Oh, god, what's the old saying about? Some people find happiness through other people's miseries and stuff like that. It does make you feel a whole lot better.



Glenn Holt 1:22:11

Misery loves company. Yeah. Yeah.



1:22:14

You know, knowing that someone else is going through the same thing. Kind of made a little bit easier. Right. It made it just a little bit easier.



Glenn Holt 1:22:21

Good. Alan, it's been good talking with you. And I'm sure that we will have you on. Again. It's always fun to talk with you.



1:22:27

Two years, eight months, by the way.



Glenn Holt 1:22:31

Be a long term survivors. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And maybe with hugs Romanowski and Phillips from their best of album living with AIDS, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

J Jack Valinski 1:22:59

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Wolinsky. We're going to be talking about Project leap with rich Aaron field. So okay, Project leap. In a nutshell, the next 25 minutes. What is it?

R Rich 1:23:19

Good evening, Jack. How are you? Thanks for having me on.

J Jack Valinski 1:23:22

Well, absolutely. Anytime you want to come on the show. You're more than welcome.

R Rich 1:23:25

lovely to be here. Thank you,

J Jack Valinski 1:23:27

even if you do that other

R Rich 1:23:28

show. Well, that was a late night show.

J Jack Valinski 1:23:31

Yeah, well, we're all friends, we're all certainly

R Rich 1:23:33

are. One of the interesting things about Project leap, and leap is an acronym that stands for learning, empowerment, advocacy and participation. In a nutshell, in a one minute nutshell, with more to follow. We are through the people with AIDS coalition, we sponsor project leap. And the purpose of this program is to empower HIV positive individuals for advocacy within the Houston community and in it. Furthermore, what we want basically we want HIV positive folks to be able to sit at the table to make decisions about how funding and services are allocated to folks with HIV and houston and harris county.

J Jack Valinski 1:24:24

And that was really a very radical thing just a few years ago

And that was really a very radical thing just a few years ago,

R

Rich 1:24:27

right. Interestingly enough, the history of LEAP is quite fascinating. There's a gentleman who unfortunately is no longer here named Steven Bradley, who some folks may know in Houston, about five or six years ago, Steven and Mike Ross, who is a world famous epidemiologist from the UT School of Public Health he and Jim Halloran, the three of them got together. And what Steven was seeing in the community at that point was that a lot of decisions regarding HIV funding and services They were being made by people who were not directly affected with the disease. And so he said, Hey, he said, Why are these folks getting involved? And the reason they weren't getting an? Excuse me? Sorry, pardon me? Oh, that's really wrong. They tried is really wrong to do on the air. Sorry. The reason they weren't getting involved was because they didn't understand the process and the functions and how things worked, and where the funding came from it, where it went, and who made the decisions?

J

Jack Valinski 1:25:30

Well, you know, the amazing thing is, is that now in the year 2001, we have, you know, our people are at the table. You know, Lou Vantage has served on the Ryan White Planning Council Chair of the hearing it is, and it's incredible. And I, you know, I think a lot of the work is because of the work you've done. And this, this, and many other people had done to make this happen. I would

R

Rich 1:25:53

hope so. And Lou Lou is up. He was a presenter last year at Project leap as chair of the Planning Council, he gets the honor of coming before the class for some time and telling them about his experiences. Interestingly enough, the this program has really grown over the last five years, and really specifically and we we've had the program at the people with AIDS Coalition for three of the past years. And during that time, I'm very proud to say that it has really grown and matured and intensified. We expect a lot more of our graduates this year than we were last year. And certainly then the year before,

J

Jack Valinski 1:26:32

I think is changing a lot to the curriculum

R

Rich 1:26:35

is pardon me, I'm sorry. So pardon me, the curriculum has become more compacted, we have an in a nutshell, it's 100 hours of classroom training, that's basically aimed at covering all aspects of HIV service delivery and funding. And as the epidemic moves into different corners of the world, that says to us that, that we need to address those specific communities. So

rather than make the curriculum longer, which is probably impossible at this point, we decided to put more in the 100 hours there. So we have new communities that are being affected by HIV. Our feeling is we address those.

J Jack Valinski 1:27:25

Okay. 100 hours is a lot to put in a six month. Yeah, I mean, that's, and besides that you have homework to do?

R Rich 1:27:34

Well, actually, one of the good things is this is like going to school, but it's without the homework, okay, what we do is that we our curriculum is is kind of a stair step curriculum, and that we start out, basically, with an introduction to the program, then we go into the basics of HIV. How does the disease work? What are the clinical markers, and we spend an entire session on how to stay well, because our feeling is that in order to advocate, you need to stay well, and you need to be healthy. So we spend one session with Dr. Arlette Ferro, who was a terrific alternative therapy practitioner, she comes in and she does a sister a session on side effect management, and how to manage the symptoms and how to deal with the drug, toxicities and that kind of thing.

J Jack Valinski 1:28:36

Well, and we do have people who are living a lot longer now. Oh, yeah, not everybody. But a lot of us. Well,

R Rich 1:28:42

they're, you know, this is a mixed blessing because I have the the current studies indicate that between 40 and 50% of the people that are on what's called the triple combination cocktail are failing that and they're failing it primarily through side effects and liver toxicities. We're seeing a lot of folks who've been on the cocktail. You know, one of the one of the great things was that the the FDA process was really speeded up through our friends years ago with

J Jack Valinski 1:29:12

those things right, which at that time it needed to be done.

R Rich 1:29:15

Exactly. Well, what's what we're finding now is that the long term studies that were really needed and in sometimes in some occasions are done with other drugs weren't done with with HIV oriented drugs because we didn't have an we didn't have an option. Now we're seeing a lot of kinds of additional side effects, the lipid dystrophy fat distribution, the tux the liver toxicities

are very dangerous for folks with HIV because the the drugs are all metabolized through the same pathway in the liver, and that becomes problematic. We're seeing a lot more side effects related to a gay relate well not gay related. Pardon me, two different cancers. And and there are several, several things that have come up that the practitioners I think sometimes spend as much time with patients not only prescribing the drugs in the proper sequence, but also managing the side effects appropriately. So we spend four hours of our curriculum on staying well and managing side effects. And the interesting thing is not to get off the off the beaten path too much. Many things that you can do to manage HIV, drug related side effects are cheap and easy and available at at your local health food store, or apt in a shameless plug at the Houston Buyers Club run by our good friend, Fred Walters, who is a graduate of my program as well.

J Jack Valinski 1:30:50

And a lot of this stuff is just common sense to right now getting getting good amount of sleep, right reducing stress sleep.

R Rich 1:30:57

And you know, one of the one of the most interesting things is is a proper fluid fluid intake. Now that the weather's warming up, we need to realize that that our bodies metabolize a lot more water, we use a lot more water, not only intake, proper intake of water, but water of the right kind, there are little organisms in Houston water, that people who are immune suppressed need to be concerned about like cryptosporidium is the one that comes to mind. And those of us that that don't have an immune problem, you know, this is something that we deal with every day, it's not a problem. But if you have any kind of immune suppression, and not just from HIV or AIDS, but say you're going through chemotherapy, for some reason, you know, there are there are those kind of little bugs you need to worry about is if you didn't have enough to worry,

J Jack Valinski 1:31:45

and the air and all that stuff, right? So,

R Rich 1:31:48

so we do spend some time on wellness, then we go into, we do spend a fair amount of time on on how the HIV virus works. And I say this, because what I say to class is, you know, sometimes you'll be at a cocktail party, and somebody will say, you know, why is HIV such a problem. And you need to be able to say, Listen, let me give you a two minute primer on how this thing works. And as a result, why it's such a problem. So we move from kind of the basics of HIV and wellness, we move from there into what I call the ABCs of funding. There are primarily there are three federal agencies with an interest in funding in HIV. And they are the Health Resources and Services Administration, what we know is HERSA, you sometimes hear that acronym, they are responsible for services for folks with HIV and AIDS, things like case management, transportation, food, pantry, medical care, that kind of stuff, the services that folks with HIV

get. The other branch is the National Institutes of Health, the NIH, and they are primarily concerned with HIV. From a research standpoint, a lot of the research that happens regarding HIV and AIDS happens there. And then we have the centers for disease control out of Atlanta. And they're primarily concerned with prevention. If you've heard of the community planning group here in Houston, they are funded through the CDC. So from the Fed, those are the funding, that's the funding at the federal level, then we move on down to the state level through the Texas Department of Health, and then we move to the county through the Harris County Health Department. And then we also have funding very limited funding I might add from the city of Houston.

J

Jack Valinski 1:33:43

And the city of Houston really isn't you know, isn't centered on health issues in that respect. It's the county more or less, right, and also the state. But then again, Texas, has never been known to give a lot of money to you know, to worry about social, right,

R

Rich 1:33:59

probably about 17 and a half million dollars of HIV funding comes from what we call Ryan White Title One and the HERSA, the Health Resources and Services Administration, they administer the Ryan White Care Act, and the Care Act actually has a few titles. And I'll just go through those briefly on it. We don't need to spend a lot of time but Title One, when you hear Title One, that means that that's funding that goes to large metropolitan areas, which we are right, which we are called EMAS for title two goes to states. And the theory behind that is that say you're live in a state like Vermont. God forbid that you that doesn't have a large metropolitan area. Well, there are some people in that in that geographic designation that still need services for HIV and AIDS. And so the feeling is you Let's make sure that we cover everybody. And the interesting thing about the Care Act is, is it's the largest single investment that has ever been made by the federal government in to tackle a disease. Wow. Which a lot of people don't know. But it's it is. It's really a monumental piece of legislation. And thank God it was reauthorized while Clinton was still in office. Yes, absolutely. So after the title two, which goes to states, you have title three, which goes for primary medical care. And then you have title four that goes to women and kids. And then you have another title, which is kind of a mishmash of several other things.

J

Jack Valinski 1:35:40

So is it generally that people who need drugs in this country have access to them?

R

Rich 1:35:47

I would say generally, and certainly here in Houston, you know, you see a lot of bad press about the Harris County Hospital District. But I don't know if you know this or not, but Thomas Street Clinic, which is the HIV AIDS clinic, here in Houston, run by the Harris County Hospital

District is the largest freestanding HIV clinic in the state of Texas. And the doctor, the care that folks get there is very good. We really do have a good system of medical care here in Harris County, for those folks who don't have private insurance.

J Jack Valinski 1:36:23

Right. But that just didn't happen. I mean, it took a lot of work by a lot of people to make that night. Because I certainly remember when they were opening up that up to how much criticism there was, it was the middle of nowhere, there wasn't even a bus going there. And there's just so much concern about Sure.

R Rich 1:36:39

The interesting thing is Thomas Street's been open 10 or 11 years, I think they celebrated their 10th anniversary last year. And the one of the things I found out when talking to one of the nurses who had been there a long time is one of the reasons that clinic was opened up was because everyone was petrified of dealing with short folks with HIV and AIDS. So their attitude was, well, let's kind of put them in, put them here. And, and, you know, kind of keep them out of the way.

J Jack Valinski 1:37:06

Well, certainly we all remember having to wear the gloves and the gowns and stuff like that to visit people.

R Rich 1:37:11

And so you know, you look at a program like Project leap. And you see over the last five years of this program, you see graduates from this program everywhere you see them on the Thomas street Advisory Council, you see them on the Ryan White Planning Council, because in addition to wellness and and funding, we also talk about the different deliberative bodies, there are different pools of money that come to Houston from different sources. And there are different committees, if you will, that manage those funds, and that determine where those funds go, who gets what, how much at what time. So we talk about each of those we talk about the Ryan White Planning Council in depth, we have the Planning Council manager and Lu Vantage both come share their experiences with us we talk about the Consortium, which is the other major deliberative body, I think they control about \$3 million in funding. And then we have a representative from the community planning group that does prevention. So we go from there. And and the next part of the curriculum is interesting because we talk about how what the process is by which the needs of the community are determined. And this is a this is a very important part of the Care Act legislation. The Care Act is an interesting act, because it mandates that several things happen. It mandates that there must be a planning process, it mandates that there must be a certain percentage of HIV positive folks on the Planning Council involved in the process, really, and it gives it gives them very specific parameters as to what they can do. So we talk a lot about how those needs are determined. There are two two ways there's the Comprehensive Plan, which is a three to five year kind of blueprint, if you will, for

how planning for HIV and AIDS funding is done. Because this, as you know, is not a static epidemic. It moves through communities. And as it moves into different communities, the service providers have to be able to plan to meet the needs of those specific communities. So we talked some about priority setting and the needs what we call the needs assessment process. After that, after we've talked about the funding streams and the needs assessments, we talk about how money is accessed, we get kind of into the nuts and bolts of of how do agencies like people with AIDS coalition or the Houston Buyers Club, what is the process by which they access this kind of what I call this pot of money, or your HIV pie you You know, how do they get a slice of this HIV pie. And we talk about what's called the RFP process. If you've ever been involved with grants, you know that some, some funding agencies will will issue an RFP or request for proposal, they're going to ask you, they're going to say, We'd like to get a proposal from you for funding. So we talk about that we talk about how you write a good grant, I'm proud to say that two graduates from our program, Fred Walters, and Carlos Navarro competed for and received a Ryan White title grant for the Houston Buyers Club, I think largely in part to what they learned in Project leap. So that's a real life example of this isn't just theory, you know, this isn't just theory,

J

Jack Valinski 1:40:46

right. But the bottom line is, is that these are organizations that are doing something for the community. Exactly. And, you know, you have to be able to prove that the money you're getting is being used the right way. Because otherwise, you know, there has to be some type of accountability.

R

Rich 1:41:01

Exactly. And, and this is federal funding. So they do take it, you know, pretty seriously, they just don't give this money away, you know, this is this is our money, as taxpayers, and if you are a recipient of this money as a community based organization, or an aid service organization, you have a fiduciary responsibility to be a good steward of that money and are required by law to do several things. So it's, it's quite an accomplishment for someone like the Houston Buyers Club to, to be able to access this kind of federal funding. And I'm very proud of both of those guys, because they, they did a great job in class. And, more importantly, it's a real tangible effect. To to the education process, you know, you'll you'll hear a lot about education. And sometimes you go through a curriculum and you graduate, and you kind of wonder, where am I going to use this? What am I going to do with this, our feeling is, is right at the onset, we're going to tell you where we want you to be at the very first gathering of Project gleep, what we do is we say, Okay, six months from now, we want you to be out in the community, we want you to be a member of the Planning Council, we want you to be on the consortium, we want you to be on the CPG we want you to be on a board of directors for an eight service organization. This is where you must be and if you're not willing to do that, don't waste our time. Yeah, basically, because we have, we have about 40 spaces. So we have a limited amount of space. And and I I really encourage a thought process from applicants, because this is not something where you you just show up, you know, just just to say you're doing this, this is something that that is we make an investment in you that the interesting thing is the Planning Council here in Houston has set aside money for this project, because they believe that the better training that that folks with HIV get the better planning council members they can recruit. So it's kind of a self serving thing right

J Jack Valinski 1:43:08

now, are there groups like this and other cities?

R Rich 1:43:11

I'm so glad you asked that question, because this is my pride and joy. Um, I've been doing this for the past three years, since we've gotten the grant to do this. There is no other program like this anywhere in the world. There's one other program that's kind of similar, a little bit in Philadelphia. But this is the only program where we expect 100 hours of classroom training to take place.

J Jack Valinski 1:43:39

Well, you know, the interesting thing is certainly when this all started out in the early 80s, that Houston was way behind the times. I mean, it was just it was like we were a third world country in a sense. And it seems to me that in the past couple of years, we've got some organizations here in Houston that are bar none, from other cities.

R Rich 1:43:58

I would agree with you. And let me let me segue into something else. One of the things that we decided to do with Project leap was there were some core elements to leap that we thought several people in Houston could benefit from specifically what we did was we took the elements regarding the funding and the deliberation process. And we compacted that into a four hour seminar format. And we offer this seminar format separately to boards of directors of aid service organizations and community based organizations. And as a matter of fact, we actually went to Austin, a few months back to train the Austin Planning Council on how the funding flows, where the money happens. Who's responsible? What what is the application process? What's the history of the Ryan White Care Act? We spent four hours up there and trained their new members. And last week I got a call from Las Vegas the folks in the Las Vegas Planning Council heard about this seminar format. And they would like us to come out and do the same thing again. So what's happening is there's information here that a lot of folks in Houston can benefit from. And I'll just say unashamedly, if you have any listeners who are a member of a board of directors of an aid service organization, that people with AIDS coalition would love to provide this service to them. Because the number one comment I hear from executive directors is, you know, we sit in these board meetings, and my board has no idea where my money comes from, or how it happens or what the process is. And we get back to what we first started talking about, about knowing this process. When you demystify this process, you empower people to make better decisions. And I think sometimes, especially with government related things, you know, everyone loves to kind of have their own lingo and their own little code. Well, once you break that code, you know, people can start making decisions and suggestions and becoming really part of this process. So one of the things we do is in leap as we tried to demystify that process. And in talking about where money comes from and how it's accessed.

We not only talk about how to write a grant, we also talk about how grants are reviewed. I don't know if you know this or not, but guess who reviews, grants for funding for HIV and AIDS services in Houston Harris County? Who does

J Jack Valinski 1:46:34

that? Just guess, would it? Would it be the Ryan White Council? Do they look at it?

R Rich 1:46:40

No. People who review grants are people like you and me, just normal everyday consumers of services. Folks, they, they come in, they read the grants, they come in to a room, and they review the grants. These are not people with 1000 letters behind their name. They're not people who work for eight service organizations. They are normal people that that look at grants and help to make decisions about who are funded. And a lot of people don't know that. You know, they think that it's all done with smoke and mirrors and a back room somewhere. And that's not the way this happens. And so one of the things we want to do with this project is we want to train folks to be able to review grants, so we spend a lot of time on what's called the external review process. After that, we one of the other priorities that we have is pardon me is teaching people how to how to participate organizationally, we talk about communication. We talk about effective communication styles, we talk about how boards of directors work, we talk about we do a session on entirely on nonprofit management, how to manage a nonprofit, how to budget for a nonprofit, how to manage volunteers and staff, we talk about the and the last part of the curriculum is really based on how HIV and AIDS affects specific communities. One of our best presentations is the transgendered presentation that Brenda Thomas does for us. Because what we've realized is, rather than giving one message to all people, I know the speaker, the person who was on the radio before me talked about HIV and AIDS and communities of faith in the African American community. And a lot of what I heard him say, was right on the money we have, so what we do in leap, is we take a look, we take a hard look at each of the communities affected by this disease, the transgendered folks, folks in the African American community folks in the Hispanic community, folks in the incarcerated population, the people from the UT department of pediatrics, come and do a wonderful presentation on women and kids and HIV. So we not only cover HIV basics, Epidemiology, funding, money access, we also take it one step further, and we say, okay, if you're going to be involved with an organization doing HIV advocacy, here's a picture of how this how you deal with this disease in each of these communities. So it's pretty

J Jack Valinski 1:49:24

it's pretty incredible. We're talking to rich Ehrenfeld from the people with AIDS coalition and project leap. Where do you see this going?

R Rich 1:49:34

Well, I I think this is the beginning. I think leap is ready to pardon the pun, take another leap. We've We've kind of firmly established this program. Lou Lou GIK Vantage Chair of the Planning Council gave me a wonderful compliment few months back he said you know rich he said I

Coach gave me a wonderful compliment few moments back, he said, you know, then, he said I hear everybody bellyache about every program in Houston Harris County at one point or another But I never hear anybody bellyache about Project leap. And I'm so proud of that. Because the LEAP truly is a collaborative effort. We bring in the best presenters available, we bring in folks from the health department, we bring in folks from the Center for aids that do treatment. Our person that does epidemiology is Kay Reynolds, who's the head of epidemiology for the city of Houston, the external review process is headed up by someone from the resource group, we bring in the very best people that are available. And I think because the curriculum is so solid, and so well respected, I think it's time for us to expand this into more of a capacity building program. And that's why we offered the seminar format to boards of directors and other planning councils. Because we've kind of taken we've done all the work to take just the most important parts and put them into a seminar format. You know, part of the problem is, you get all this information, the hardest thing for some people to do is to put this information into a package that is presentable and understandable and comprehensible to people who have a very short amount of time. So we I really hope in addition to getting just the best possible applicants for the 100 hour program, one of the other things I'd like to do is to really shop this seminar curriculum to boards of directors, because I think that that's something that they can benefit from.

J Jack Valinski 1:51:34

Okay, so the project lead, which is gearing up again, when does it start? How the who, what, when, okay,

R Rich 1:51:43

we'll be starting in late April, we have, it's, we'll have two classes schedule, we found in the last couple of years that a lot of our folks are working, so which is which is great. But we had to kind of accommodate their schedule. So we have a Tuesday night class, which goes from six to 930 on Tuesday nights. And then we have a Wednesday day class from 10 to two. And we'll feed you these fabulously expensive sandwiches from Kroger which you will be so tired of by the end of the six months, you'll just I don't need any less

J Jack Valinski 1:52:18


water graduate.

R Rich 1:52:20


So it the program is free. There is no cost. We do provide childcare, if that's an issue. Let me see if I've Oh, and if you need to contact me for an application. There's a couple of ways to do it. You can go to Project leap, Dash houston.org. That's project leap, Dash houston.org. There's an application on that website, which you can print out, you can fax or email that application back to us. You could call me at the coalition. Just ask for rich, it's 713-522-5428. I'll be happy to send you an application. We are still taking applications but we're kind of winding down.

 Jack Valinski 1:53:06


Okay, great. Well, Rich, thank you very much for joining us on lesbian and gay voices and everything I've heard about this. It's just a fabulous program and thanks for all your work. Thank

 Rich 1:53:15

you very much, Jack.

 Jack Valinski 1:53:17

You're listening to lesbian gay voices.

 Glenn Holt 1:53:18

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