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SPEAKERS

Bruce Reeves, Jimmy Carper



00:01

I tend to try to socialize in organizations I heard Kay talking earlier. And I thought a lot about that because that's one of my big pushes when I'm on the switchboard. And you know the organization's and get involved because a lot of people out there want looking for ways to connect, you know and healthy ways. So I tell him to join organization, you start with both all four feet on the same ground, because you've picked this organization. So it's a great thing to be, you know, easy way to be brought together with other people like yourself.



B Bruce Reeves 00:33

There's lots of organizations you know, there's on on Monday nights, there's a women's bowling league that's from six to nine, there's a men's bowling league that's from nine to midnight, there's a mix league on Thursdays from nine to midnight audible a lot of a lot of bowling. I love all this volleyball,



00:51

sports, watching.



B Bruce Reeves 00:54

There's the Houston outdoor group, which is open to both men and women. There's actually a new skirt for Butch ones. For Butch,



01:02

for the for the hog. Oh ha guys for both twins,



01:08

outdoor group camping,



B Bruce Reeves 01:10

but, you know, they do camping and bike riding and there's a bicycle group there's



01:18

talking about the medical professional, there are nurses, gay nurses, groups out there. There are



01:24

doctors, gay psychiatrist,



01:26

gay dentists, gay counselors, you



01:30

know, they're gay, lesbian teachers lesbian,



01:34

looking for, you know, people to join their groups and socialize with them. And be with peers peers, not only because you're gay, but also because of your vocation or your hobbies. So



B Bruce Reeves 01:46

associations and computer associations and programmer associations cause stuff scientists Association gamers with switchboard, five to 932 11 is the gay and lesbian switchboard they are doing training starting this Friday, January 10, it'll be the 10th through the 12th, the 18th through the 19th. If you're interested in, in training for switchboard be sure and give him a call. It's 529 3211. You get to meet some, some really wonderful people and get to help the community too.



02:19

There's a lot to do out there a lot of things you can be creative with. There are a couple of art groups, there are a couple of not only appreciators of art, but art creators as well. There are political groups, there are religious affiliation groups. One of my favorites posters at work is Catholic is not a gay Catholic is not an oxymoron. And I really liked that poster. There are, let's see motorcycle groups. Just about every kind of group you can imagine, is in the twit.



02:59

Because we know that gays and lesbians makeup are everywhere.



03:03

Well, you know what is really nice about the switchboard is that they can listen to you tell them tags, tell you, you know a little bit about yourself, and kind of help you find these groups that might suit you rather than you just know off the top of your head. You know, what groups there? Are? We no groups that aren't even in town that would be impossible for the average person to put their hands on. So



B Bruce Reeves 03:24

that's true. And it Yeah, if they're their groups out of the Houston area, too. I know there's a couple of different groups in the Beaumont area. This groups in several places in the switchboard has that information too. It's not just the Houston area, but they can tell you the stuff that's around Houston to anything they know about. They can probably give you clues, too. Of course, our signal carries pretty well. In fact, I've been told by people in Beaumont that they can pick it up better and boom month and they can pick it up in downtown Houston, which is probably true. But yeah, that's the way the signal bounces sometimes. But



04:00

yeah, I think we're pretty fortunately Houston there are some cities and I can tell you because I've traveled, there are some cities that they don't have an organization like this. So they have a radio station like KPFT. And it's really valuable to have these places that collect information so that we can disseminate to our our listeners aren't our peers, our brothers and sisters out there. So it's really exciting to be part of both and I'm looking forward to a long and, and healthy stay with KPFT I'm really looking forward to doing a show here. I heard Kerry was talking about it early. Yeah. Really. So what are we going to do tonight guys? Well, we're doing



B Bruce Reeves 04:55

we're just having the time of our lives closer to you. So there you have it. already,



05:00

I really was just stopping by. Um, let's see what can we talk about? Well,



05:06

there are a few things that are going on that we should probably sketch over. Okay, well like for one here coordination is going to kind of boycott kissin still slam Guns and Roses actually they're doing a picket thing January 9, Guns and Roses are going to be at the summit and I think that coordination will be there too. It's going to be called pansies against roses. If you would like to be a part of pansies against roses, the homophobic Axl Rose himself and that's the leader of the band if you're not up on Guns and Roses, be at the queer nation meeting January 7 at 730. To learn about all the great stuff that queer nation does, but specifically about pansies against roses. queer nation meets at the Montrose Palace, which is at 1505. That's 1505 Nevada at Commonwealth. And for more information, you can call them at 5292969. That's coordination 5292969. It's going to be real important because Mr. Axl Rose has done lots of hateful things.



06:17

Yeah, you said some ugly things I've heard. Mostly it's his attitude. I imagine. I wanted to bring up you were bringing up the queer nation that on the show, I'm gonna host in your chair. On the eighth, I believe it isn't Saturday, the eighth, I think I'm going to have a woman who is part of coordination and we're going to talk to him about that. And about, you know, women being part of coordination. There has been some controversy about that when they first got together and the women, you know, wanted different things. Anyway, I want to talk I want to get a woman's perspective on coordination. And I'm looking really forward to seeing I think I think it will be Diane Williams. I'm begging her on bended knee like I beg on bended knee.



07:05

Yes, dear. Of course.



07:07

Where did Kay go? I was



Bruce Reeves 07:08

looking. She's back in the bank. Did you listen?



07:12

Did you come down here to just similar KR she's in the back.

B

Bruce Reeves 07:16

She's listening to some music look, but you are listening to after hours here on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston. We've our gay and lesbian radio here in the in the Montrose. There's also two other gay and lesbian radio shows here on KPFT. You can hear Wildenstein Monday night from nine until 10. And you pick up break through Friday mornings from nine till noon. So that's coming up. We've got marathon coming up in two weeks, and we're going to be coming back to you saying, you know, here we are. We're we're volunteers. We're not paid to come up here four hours a week. But you know, we have to come to you and ask for money three times a year to support the station. And so that's something we will be doing. In the next couple of weeks we'll be thinking about how much gay and lesbian radio means to you how much the other, the other shows, listen to you. There's lots of different shows on KPFT things you can't hear anywhere else in the city of Houston. There you go.

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08:21

Yeah, there you go. And we're back.

B

Bruce Reeves 08:24

You're listening to after hours here on KPFT 90.1. FM Houston. One of the things that has happened recently the Houston Pride Week committee has selected their logo. panel of five judges selected five entries, a panel of judges selected five entries from a field of 15. And then community members with voting privileges selected the winner. His name is Richard bang a graphics artist whose logo incorporates the theme pride equals power and the logo. Richard made use of the pink triangle with the W and power. And soon you'll be seeing that logo around town on T shirts, buttons and hats and all kinds of fun stuff. And of course, private meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the multipurpose service center on 1475 West grey, if you're looking for another way to get involved besides volunteering for the switchboard and going through their training this coming weekend. And if you want to do that, again, that's 5293211 you may want to consider getting involved in Pride Week. It's a small organization. But it manages every year to put on a very large parade and I think last year there were 60 plus some odd units in it and several 1000 onlookers was great. I taped it from beginning to end lots of people I did radio coverage.

👤

09:47

Yes. Are you there? Yeah.

B

Bruce Reeves 09:49

So it started raining and that was about the time we had to go off the air anyway but

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09:53

because well even if you didn't you know your makeup was running then

B

Bruce Reeves 09:57

how I know it was just it

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09:58

was teary afternoon. know whether the world is just gonna fall down and on your head that was so scar was so great,

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10:04

it was murky. But

B

Bruce Reeves 10:06

if you've never really been involved in in a real major event, like a Pride Week, I would strongly urge you to go. And we always tell people, you know, if you have to go with a paper bag over your head with two little eye holes cut out, so nobody will see you. Because it's it's a wonderful experience. And I know the I actually saw a parade in Los Angeles before I saw the first one here and really, so the crowd in LA is like 300,000 people in the parade takes three hours and mighty mighty. Yeah, it's pretty fabulous. But a lot of empowerment there. The last March on Washington was in 1987. And of course, we've got another one of those coming up. I think it's April 3 1993. Being the next March on Washington, and Deborah Bell, who's co host on Wildenstein on Monday nights is the regional contact person, or the regional representative, or your title. And she's going to be going to Los Angeles to the next planning meeting and representing our region and not a better person to do it either. Master Deborah can definitely stand up for herself and what she knows is right and stand up for the community. And she'll do a good job.

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11:25

Yeah. And it's it's really important that this like this year will be my fourth Pride Parade. It's not because I haven't been out of the closet a long time. It's just because I'm young. And I can't help that. But it certainly makes you feel alive. I remember the first Pride Parade I marched with after hours and cried almost all the way down the street. And it

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11:47

is a good time to is one of the greatest times I've ever had was marching with the switchboard and we made these huge foam squares, I think you were there and had these phone numbers on them. And we turned around and twirled to make phone numbers and words from the phone

numbers. And it was such a great time. And you know, I'm still connected with every single person in that, in that that day that walk and will probably be for the rest of my life that kind of bonding and get it right.

B

Bruce Reeves 12:16

You make friends. You know, Phil ever could imagine that to make you meet you meet people you would never imagine that you'll meet. You know, I'm constantly running into people that remember me from a Pride Week parade. I was a co chair of Pride Week, several years ago, not something I want to repeat again anytime soon. Um, well, I've been back in Houston six years and this, I promised myself when I came back to Houston that I was just going to be a member for a while because I had been fairly involved when I was in Baton Rouge. And unfortunately I came back to Houston and jumped in with both feet and not looking below me and but you know that that happens sometimes you've you've sometimes you have to take a stand and do what you feel needs to be done. You know,

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13:08

that's that I wanted to clear that up. I said that a while ago about my lover showed off, I don't follow up on that. She She didn't wear

B

Bruce Reeves 13:15

follow up on that comment about a

J

Jimmy Carper 13:18

while ago didn't

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13:19

wear a hat, I mean a bag over her head. But she did carry a little a little mask and I missed that one. She did carry a little mask that she drew on a cardboard piece of paper and she had a sign that said I shouldn't have to wear this mask. And she walked down the street that way. She's an educator in the area and feared for her job. And, you know, that's a ugly thing, but we managed to get by get out there and, and March anyway.

B

Bruce Reeves 13:46

That's true. Because there's there's always a way to do that. That's right. Um, during the last year's parade, one of the things that course all of the for gay and lesbian programs on KPFT tried to get together and put together some different things, things that hadn't been done in a while and sort of cooperate in the production of the gay and lesbian Pride Day Parade here on KPFT. And one of the things that was produced for that spot was done through some interviews

of Jim Carper and Ray Hill, and a lot of editing time in the production studio by Edmondo here at the station, and we've got that tape for you and it's about 25 some odd minutes long but it's it's really neat to listen to this tape and and get a different perspective maybe then one you've ever had before about you know what it was like to celebrate Pride. Boy, what



14:44

an interview



B Bruce Reeves 14:45

for him this decade.



14:48

And some of those people that were interviewed are Larry Lingle and Lee Harrington. And



B Bruce Reeves 14:54

I think even John Burgos on the tape is as a very new perspective and Fresh, fresh perspective. So shall we? Yes, let's do that.



J Jimmy Carper 15:06

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



15:34

Lee Harrington is my name. And I began to deal with my sexual orientation in 1977, really. And it was a disconcerting experience. So much so that I came to Houston in 1979, I had to wear a mask at the first gay pride parade calm might also add that also had turned left on Westheimer, our South by the tower theater. The first week I was here, and I had Michigan license plates still on my car. And so the police stopped me. And they said, What have I done wrong? And they said, Well, you've turned to a one way street and the other officer realized that they'd made a mistake. It was only one way on the other side of Westheimer. And the people in front door mirrors were standing there watching all this take place. And so since they had to say face, they looked and found the University of Michigan flight asked me how long I'd been here so far. They just said, Well, you know, we just what are you going, and I was not quite as bold as I am now. And I wasn't quite sure what to say. And so I pointed between Mary's and BB rock, and I look that day straight enough that they thought I was going to be wrong. And I regretted it ever since



16:42

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



17:29

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



18:58

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



J Jimmy Carper 19:34

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



19:50

Well, I was not aware of it at the time, of course. When I first heard about it probably was when I began to deal with leaving He's Lansing, Michigan, where I had gone after graduated from University of Alabama. And probably, I really can't remember exactly which troubles me because it's such a profound moment, but I wouldn't have remembered it. Like, I remember the day that Kennedy was shot because I knew where I was. And but I wasn't aware of all this

enough at that time to remember what it was exactly the spot. But in 1977, I would say I began to hear about it. But in seventh year when I arrived in Houston, and saw the likes of you and others, at the Astro Hall, in town meeting one, I certainly knew it. And I think it's, I think it's a glorious moment for all liberated people. And a special moment for gays and lesbians. It is something I look forward to most each year, I always want the parade to be bigger and better I want the mainstream businesses to enter float and I weighed myself to death all year long, but I finally got good and the folies and talk them into it and work with the academy and tuck them into it and, and always been so busy with other projects, I never get to go and help Gay Pride Week. Do that. Also better this year, of course, by being at the parade and and trudging back when I wear the mask and the first one, and how far I've come. And I think also how far we still have to go.

21:23

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

22:24

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

24:01

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

that everybody should experience here around. I think it's very important that we take pride in being gay and lesbians first of all, because it's, it's good for us individually. Everybody, I think should have a very poor Positive attitude towards themselves. And that comes I think with pride, I think they should be proud if they are gay and if they're lesbian.

J Jimmy Carper 25:06

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

25:21

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

26:37

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

27:21

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

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



30:06

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



30:13

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



31:36

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

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

J

Jimmy Carper 33:33

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

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33:41

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

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33:57

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

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34:21

Oh, I have a wonderful life now. I don't

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34:25

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

J

Jimmy Carper 35:06

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

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35:10

My name is John Burgo. And I first came out when to myself when I was 16, junior in high school, and 1986. And I've been dealing with it ever since. I was like 10, or 11. You know, because things that happened in Boy Scouts and everything and denying it, you know, and myself, even at the same time that I was lusting for all the men that were around me. And it was, I was really lucky. When I came out. The reason I came out was that an exchange student and German exchange student was living with my family and sharing a bedroom with me, and I was madly in love with them. And I had a terrible crush on him. And that's the point where I could no longer ignore the fact that I was gay, where I was just like, totally, I was really upset when he wasn't there, I was incredibly jealous of his girlfriend. And I said, you know, the reason you feel this way is because you're gay. And so the very first person I told was a teacher in high school, and she was my best friend. And things were great. I mean, things were great. She was very accepting. And very, she really gave me a lot of support in in dealing with them, and also in dealing with my feelings about him, which was the big stress in my life. And I just started telling people, and probably by the end of that year, I told maybe a dozen people in my high school and people that I knew, and except for one, I told my mother, I got nothing but fairly positive responses. And so it made me feel very confident about coming out a lot to a lot of different people. I was being born in September of 1969. So my life was pretty simple. Just a little queer baby, doing the things that little queer babies do. Like most other babies, I first heard about when I was in high school. When I was a junior, after I told that teacher, I was still dealing with a lot of problems. And there was this youth counselor that came to the school once a week. And so my teacher helped me arrange a time to go see her, and I wouldn't talk to her. And then she went back to the county agency that she worked for and found everything she could in their files, about gay people. And she copied made huge copies for me, and brought them back to me. And one of them was an article in the American Library Association Journal that talked about Stonewall. And I was just really excited, because almost as soon as I came out, I was like, I was an activist, you know, I would get really pissed off when I heard people, you know, like in Congress like Jesse Helms saying, stupid awful things. And, and when I just heard about, about it in the police, raising the bar, and, and, and all of the patrons fighting back and everything I just felt so excited and energized, I think it's a time for us to remember everything that we've accomplished in the last 22 years. And to be really angry about the things that haven't gotten done, not not angry at ourselves, but angry at all the stupid people and the stupid society that stands in our way, and to remember all the things that we still have to do in dealing with AIDS and helping gay and lesbian youth. And, you know, getting some real political power for ourselves to represent ourselves in government, and the violence, you know, and all these problems that we still have to face, but to celebrate the fact that we have come so far, and that we really have a community of people who are working to end these problems. And what I'm gonna be doing this year is I'm going to events and like I've done every, every year, as soon as I came out like that, that first year when I was 16, a lesbian teacher that I knew in school, who I come out to took me to see planting glasses, it was my first Gay Pride Week event. And so reasons that I've done something and so like, I want to see play this week and going to going to the parade, of course and marching with the people from your age, and, and just trying to be with as many as my friends as possible. But I don't think that game has been people have changed too much since the time that I came out to the president because that was only six years ago, five years ago. But I think in talking with people and reading about the last, you know, 22 years and even before them, I think people have changed a lot and people are coming out more. And people are realizing more and more that you know, when they get a negative reaction from people about their being gay. It's not their problem. It's the problem with the person who's giving them the negative reaction. And I think that's a big change in the last. I mean, it's a big change for myself, you know, from when I was 16, and I was terrified about my mother, you know, having a fit. If I, if she found out, I was gay to saying

more, she has to deal with it, it's her problem, not mine. I also think that, that people are starting to realize that the problems that we face as gay and lesbian people, no matter what group we come from, or what gender we are, or what color our skin is, or what language we speak, or what we like to do in bed, are a lot of the same problems, and that we really have to work together to overcome them. I think that young people in the community today have I think they see a lot of those things that that other people saw as dividing factors, like men and women, or black and white, that divided people in the community, I think for not all young people, but for a lot of young people. They're getting over that, you know, the young men are learning to, to change their behavior towards women, so that they don't, they're not patronizing, and they're not behaving in even unconsciously sexist ways. And, and younger women in the community are learning that there are young men who want to change and giving them a chance to change. And I think there's a feeling more that you know, rather than being gay, or lesbian, or black and white, wall, queer, and we're all together, and there's a strong feeling of community. The advice I would give is that I think a lot of young gay people also tend to overlook the accomplishments of the generations before us. And if they, they look at the past 20 years, and they see older people as not having, not having accomplished very much, and I think they really have to look at everything that's happened. And look at everything they've done, and learn learn from learn from what the community has accomplished, and also the mistakes that the community has made. But to learn, you know, you can't just like start over and we we're not just we're not we're not coming from nowhere. We have a whole past behind us that we have to respect I mean, better and better all the time. I think in Houston, I see a lot of changes that people are coming out more people are getting more involved in the community that that they're there people are saying you know that they can do their own thing and do what they want and not feel ashamed of themselves.

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Bruce Reeves 42:34

Promenade ski and Phillips from their album emotional roller coaster and the cut his old friends. And I thought that was a special tribute we could play for a lot of people remembering what it was like, in the Stonewall era what the had now the world has changed since then. And

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42:54

especially Judy's friend, celebrate.

B

Bruce Reeves 42:59

Well, we've got one other song to go out to Judy's friend Judy had a friend, a young girl who called who's having difficulties at home and what it's like to be coming out and be at home and be alone and know you're not the only one out there and it's going to be okay and we love you and this song is for you.

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43:22

I am what I am. I am my own special creation.

