

JEAN-MICHEL JARRE: This is Jean-Michel Jarre, and you are tuned to 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston listener-sponsored Pacifica Radio.

MAN: Jose Caballero.

WOMAN: Joe Anderson.

MAN: John Carver.

WOMAN: Terry Baker.

MAN: Dan Creasey.

WOMAN: Bobby Baylock.

MAN: Larry Davis.

WOMAN: Tim Barlow.

MAN: Darryl Day.

WOMAN: Art Barrow.

MAN: Greg Kudah. Michael Combs. Ralph Comas.

WOMAN: Michael Brown.

MAN: Jimmy Curry.

WOMAN: Chuck Buck.

MAN: Barry Cooper.

WOMAN: Bob Paycheck.

MAN: Danny Cochran.

WOMAN: Allen Ellis.

MAN: Peter Hollinger.

WOMAN: David Emmons.

MAN: Gregory Helmans.

WOMAN: John Irwin.

MAN: Michael Hargrove.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: It's called the Names Project, and the names go on, and on, and on.

WOMAN: Robert Fisk.

MAN: DW Hod.

WOMAN: Jack Frost.

MAN: Tim Hogan.

WOMAN: Terry Franklin.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Good afternoon, It's 12 noon on KPFT Houston on May the 4th. My name is Buddy Johnston. I produce a program here each week called *After Hours* for the gay and lesbian community of Houston.

This weekend, something wonderful is going to happen in the George R. Brown Convention Center. And for the next hour, we're going to tell you how you can experience the Quilt, the NAMES Project Quilt. It began with one name and has grown into thousands.

It's a living memorial to those that this country has lost from the AIDS virus. I want you to stay tuned and join us as we share in the love, the loss, and the hope that someday, the reading of the names will stop.

WOMAN: John Joseph.

MAN: June Bell.

WOMAN: Ralph Joy.

MAN: Tommy Michel.

WOMAN: David Cane.

MAN: Roosevelt Montgomery.

WOMAN: Larry Casper.

MAN: Marc Morrin.

WOMAN: Mike Keaton.

MAN: Mickey Martin.

WOMAN: Ron Keber.

MAN: Roger Lang.

WOMAN: Gary Kelp.

MAN: Greg Linguini.

WOMAN: Charlie Kerr.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Hey, what is this, Judy, the gym?

JUDY: Parkway Athletic Club gym, I guess.

BUDDY And we're speaking to?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Judy Felguerez.

BUDDY And you are what with the NAMES Project?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Volunteer coordinator.

BUDDY This place is full of volunteers this morning. It's Saturday morning before we do the show. Of course, we're taping

JOHNSTON: this, but there are people everywhere. What's going on?

JUDY: Well, right now they're broken into groups, and each group is hearing a different aspect of volunteering. There's about 10 different areas where people can work if they do volunteer. We've got about 300 volunteers. We could use about 200 more. Anybody who wants to volunteer and has it can come on Friday night, May the 6th, at Brown Convention Center, and we're going to have one final volunteer session then.

BUDDY That's going to be at the Brown Convention Center this coming Friday night?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: May the 6th, yeah, this Friday night.

BUDDY It will be this Friday night. What's been the reaction from Houston? I've been in Houston for almost five years.

JOHNSTON: This is the first time that I've ever seen the gay community come out like this. Why do you think they're doing it today or have in the past few weeks?

JUDY: Well, I think that AIDS is a particularly close subject to all of us. And the funny thing is I have volunteers that run from age 12 to 87. I have volunteers coming in from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. These people are just coming together. AIDS hits everybody, and everyone has to react this way in order for us to do anything about it. And it's just been a tremendous reaction.

BUDDY What about Judy? How's this project touching you?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: This project has probably changed my entire life. I'm not sure where I'll be going from here. I know I'll be going to Washington again in October. I was there last October. But it definitely has just consumed my whole life for the last several months and probably will continue to for a while.

BUDDY So you would encourage everyone to come out to the Brown Center and view the Quilt this coming weekend?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Absolutely, we're going to be open from 10:00 to 10:00-- excuse me, from 8:00 until 10:00 on Saturday and from 9:00 to 9:00 on Sunday. We'll have different activities going on the whole weekend.

BUDDY I think they're calling your name. You better get over there.

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: OK, thank you.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Thanks, baby. Hello.

TESS: Hello.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: What's your name?

TESS: Tess Thomas.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: You spent a lot of time here at the Names Project workshop, Tess. Can you tell us what you've learned, or what you've experienced, or what's been going on here the past few weeks?

TESS: Sure can, it's been a great experience. I have worked with the nicest people I've ever worked with in a volunteer group. They've been great.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: You've been our guardian angel seamstress, is that right?

TESS: That's right, teaching everybody how to use the sewing machine, how to zigzag around their letters that they've put on their quilt panels.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: What about the emotion and the family or whatever? What do you see going on here?

TESS: There is a family spirit prevailing. And there are some really joyful, wonderful times, and there are some sad times. There are times when we shed tears. Overall, it is a wonderful experience.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: So what would you say to people that are listening right now to encourage them to come out to the Brown Center next weekend and view the quilt?

TESS: You're going to see a lot of folk art, artistic. It's great to see the amount of time, money, and effort spent on these quilt panels to memorialize people, and they get so much personalities of the people into their panels.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: The panel you maintain down in the window at Foley's, right? Can you tell me who that was made for? Your friend?

TESS: It was made for my godson, Donald Ray Phelps. He and I owned a garden center together, and his great love was gardening. And so I tried to make his panel to give him the farm that he did not live long enough to get.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: And what's the panel made out of itself?

TESS: It's a regular quilt. I put 150 hours into piecing that quilt and quilting it.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: How long have you been-- every time I come down here, you're here. How long have you been involved just in this project at the office here?

TESS: Six weeks here at the office.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** How much have you gotten paid?

TESS: Great amount of love. I get hugs you wouldn't believe. I charge them for doing their sewing. I charge them a little bitty hug for a little bit of sewing, a medium-sized hug for a lot of sewing, and a giant hug for bunches of sewing. It's great.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** So you think people should go out and see the quilt next weekend?

TESS: I truly do. It's going to be a great experience for everyone.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Hello.

BLANCA: Hi.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** What's your name?

BLANCA: Blanca.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Blanca, we're standing in one of the rooms at the Parkway Athletic Club, and we're surrounded by-- I can't even count the panels that are on the walls here. These are just Houston panels that will be placed in the George R. Brown Convention Center next weekend. And what is that, a tear in your eye?

BLANCA: Yeah, that's many. I see a familiar name up here.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** What do you think?

BLANCA: It's amazing. I don't know what to say. You can't even describe it in words. It's just so much emotion, so much wonderful energy and so many memories.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** As a gay man, I've said that I don't know why and how or what has encouraged the women to stick by us, because women in this movement have been treated like garbage a lot. Back in the early days, we would say, you go make the coffee, and we'll do the rest of the work.

But if it hadn't been for our sisters throughout AIDS, I don't think we could have made it. So how can you express what you're feeling now to people that might be listening, that haven't seen these panels or haven't stood in this room?

BLANCA: First of all, I'm shaking my head very loudly, yes, to what you just said, your listening audience. There's a lot of us that we don't even quite-- we know that the guys haven't been there for us all the time, and there's no guarantee that they will be in the future.

But we're here, and we know that this is affecting us. It's just something that we don't even question, that we need to be here, that we're needed. There's a place for us right now.

BUDDY Who is this beautiful lady here?

JOHNSTON:

BLANCA: This is Carol.

BUDDY What do you think?

JOHNSTON:

CAROL: I like the quilts. They're great. They represent a lot of lives that are in the past but they're also in the present too.

BUDDY Do you see death, or doom, or gloom, or happiness, or joy? What do you see?

JOHNSTON:

CAROL: I think there's a seed being planted, and there's going to be something blossoming in the future. We're going to see life.

BUDDY So you would encourage everyone then, ladies, to come to the George R. Brown next weekend and see the Quilt?

JOHNSTON:

BLANCA: Yeah that's all we're talking about. It's more than encouragement. It's a demand. It's an obligation.

BUDDY The interviews you just heard were part of *After Hours*. It's a program I produce every week here on KPFT for the gay and lesbian community. The gay and lesbian community, obviously, is very affected by AIDS, and some people think we haven't learned to deal with it. We seem to be pretty proud of the fact that we have learned how to deal with it a little bit.

JOHNSTON:

And this weekend, we want to invite those of you that are listening to experience the Quilt at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This is *Open Journal*, and that's what we're going to be talking about for the next 50 minutes or so.

On January the 31st of this year, I attended a Leadership Conference out at the University of Houston, with gay people coming from all over Texas. During that conference, we heard about something called the NAMES Project. Although I had seen it in television pictures and in magazines, I really didn't know what it meant or how it would affect our lives.

That morning, Ray Hill joined us on our program, and this is the first telephone call that we received about the Quilt. And after listening to this phone call hundreds and hundreds of times, I began to understand the love, and the emotion, and the beauty that you're going to see this weekend. And we want to share that call with you right now.

MAN: Ray?

RAY HILL: Yeah?

MAN: You remember the Mary's panel?

RAY HILL: All of the Mary's panels. There were so many of them, yes.

MAN: That struck me. My friend was not part of that. However, seeing that panel and seeing those people.

RAY HILL: I knew all of those people.

MAN: I didn't know of them, but that segment of panels brought me to my knees, Macadore's panel.

RAY HILL: Mac's panel, yeah.

MAN: Lorie Macadore, seeing that at the far end of that Quilt was a moving experience. And I know there are people out here listening to me who saw it also.

RAY HILL: Well, there are a lot of people listening to this, from all kinds of people listen to the *After Hours* show--
insomniacs, people in their place going from one place to another--

MAN: There's a lot, yes. There's a lot of insomniacs.

RAY HILL: So I want to say something that perhaps will help those people that didn't experience the Quilt as you or haven't experienced losing someone to AIDS as everyone in this room had. Let me tell you, I am 47 years old. I have lost more of my friends to AIDS and violence than my mother has of her friends, and she's 74. That is an unnatural environment. That sort of thing ought never in the history of humankind to happen.

But I have learned more about life from the direct experience of learning about death and know how precious every minute that I have is. And I know how precious every minute that I spend with a friend is to my hope in the world.

I want to invite you to start planning now to make time available on Mother's Day, 1988, so that you can come and experience the rich tapestry of people young and old, straight and gay, who have died in at least some small part of the hope that never again will we hate one another, never again will we waste our lives.

[MUSIC - CATHY FINK, "NAMES"]

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Counted not as numbers but as names-- good afternoon, sir, how are you?

JIM CRARY: Just fine, thank you. How are you?

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Just fine. Joining us in the studio is--

JIM CRARY: My name is Jim Crary. I'm the co-chair of the NAMES Project Houston.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Jim, welcome to KPFT.

JIM CRARY: Well, thank you for inviting me.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** A lot of emotion, right?

JIM CRARY: A lot of emotion.

BUDDY Getting ready for the weekend?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: We're getting there. It's very close.

BUDDY It's close. I wish it was here.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: No, with everything that's going on, we need help. We still need help pulling it together.

BUDDY So they're still looking for volunteers, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: That's correct, we are.

BUDDY The Quilt started with an idea that Cleve Jones had several months ago before we went to our national march on
JOHNSTON: Washington for our lesbian and gay rights, which was held on October 11th of last year.

Cleve went-- I heard Ray Hill tell this story on our show. Cleve went to the NAMES prior to the march people and said, I've got this great idea. We're going to put together this quilt and memorialize all these people that have died from AIDS. And they all looked at him like, you must be out of your mind. But that's the way Cleve is. Ray says Cleve has a-- what did he say, a loose role in the gay movement or something?

But anyway, when Cleve went out and got funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, and came back, and said, hey, I've got money, well, then everybody was interested in listening to him. But the project came off in a very short amount of time, and on the Capital Mall on October the 11th, the NAMES Project Quilt was unfurled for the first time, right?

JIM CRARY: That's correct.

BUDDY Containing almost 2,000 names?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Yeah, to be exact, it was 1,920.

BUDDY And when we made these panels back in the summer and getting ready for October, we thought that was all we
JOHNSTON: were going to do. But the impact there has just continued to roll, and roll, and roll, and we keep making more panels, and more panels, and more panels. And now the Quilt is on a 20-city tour.

JIM CRARY: We happen to be on the eighth leg of the tour. It's in Dallas this morning.

BUDDY It's in Dallas this morning, be in Dallas today and tomorrow.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Correct.

BUDDY Then they'll load it in the truck, and it'll be in Houston on Friday.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Friday morning.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Open to the public?

JIM CRARY: We'll open to the public Saturday morning at noon.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: There's a lot of other things going on other than just coming down and looking at the quilt during the Saturday and Sunday, right?

JIM CRARY: Yeah, it's the emotion. It's the panel. It's the person that the panel represents. There's a lot of love put into that panel, making the panel.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Someone at the workshop compared it to the Vietnam Memorial, and that's true. Because I see those programs, or I read books about Vietnam, and you see all those young people, all those beautiful people that served this country, that died for what I believe is no apparent reason. And then you see their names on that wall, and their names go on, and on, and on.

But there's something a little bit different from this panel, this Quilt, rather, as trying to compare it to the new monument. And that is that each panel, each panel on the Quilt, is 3 feet wide, right?

JIM CRARY: By 6 foot long.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: By 6 foot long. Each individual panel bears the name of someone that this community has lost due to AIDS, not just gay people--

JIM CRARY: That's true, not just gay.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: --children, babies, women, Black, white, rich, poor, young, old. And when you see these panels-- Ray said they scream out at you. They do because of the beauty, the individuality. Is that right, the colors?

JIM CRARY: That's true, the colors-- you have some of the most beautiful, beautiful patchwork you've ever seen.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: One of the ladies that was on the interview at the beginning of the program, Tess Thomas, made a panel for a friend of hers, Don Phelps, I believe. And this is actually quilted, and she spent-- I can't remember, 150-some odd hours working on this thing? It's just incredibly beautiful. And each one of those panels, they take a piece of fabric, a little larger than 3-by-6 because it's hemmed to size right after they're finished.

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: And each panel is individually put together by lovers, friends, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters. We could go on, and on, and on talking about the panels and the emotion that goes into those. The Quilt itself right now has 3,488 panels. This is in the tour, right?

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: The 12-by-12 panels, there are 436 of those. And we're going to have 100,000 square feet of this in the George R. Brown Center?

JIM CRARY: George R. Brown will be in exhibition C. It holds 125,000 square feet. We're looking at, in the Houston display, nearly 2,300 panels, 2,272. That is already incorporated in the Quilt. Plus, we'll have, from the panel workshop upstairs on our second floor, numerous that have not yet been included but will be included.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: What are some of the more unusual things that panels were made from? I saw that on there.

JIM CRARY: Yeah, we have quite a few different ones. We have panels that are made from-- matter of fact, we have one that's made of a 3-foot-by-6-foot piece of leather. We have one made of a Buddhist robe. We have panels that were hook rugs that were mounted together. And there just goes on and on.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And also, some of the material that you'll see on the panels themselves-- this is what I like-- Barbie dolls, stuffed animals, t-shirts, silks, photographs, records, incense, flowers, beads, lace, state flags, feather boas-- I saw a lot of feather boas-- jewelry. And the list goes on, and on, and on, and down at the bottom of it, it says, and more glitter than you can imagine.

JIM CRARY: That's quite true.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And listening about the Quilt, and hearing a lot of people talk about the Quilt, you hear all the heavy emotion, because it is very emotional. But the emotion is love. That's what I see anyway, right?

JIM CRARY: I see the exact same thing. Love's what's going to bind us all together, and this Quilt has helped pull us together, not only the gay community but the straight community. Everyone is involved in it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And you talk about people like the Ewings in Southwest Houston, a mother and father whose son lived here in Houston, and moved to San Francisco, and died because of the virus.

When you hear them talk about the story of them taking their son's ashes out into the bay-- and those of you in the Street Community won't this, but one of the members of the funeral party wanted to go and drag, like the little lady that advertises for that one radio station here in town.

And as they were waiting on the boat to leave to take Jean's ashes out into the bay, the boat had to be held up. You know why? They were waiting on this drag queen to get back with her wig. She hadn't got her wig back from the beauty shop.

Now, when you hear the Ewings, this very loving couple in Southwest Houston, talk about that story and laugh, and then you see the emotion and the love on their faces along with people like Tess and all of the other volunteers down at the NAMES Project, you just can't help but be touched by it.

And I heard someone say to the city and do other people that they were afraid of this project because they didn't know what the gay community was going to do. There'd be a lot of yelling, and screaming, and a lot of running around.

You can't yell and scream when you're emotionally in tears. And all we were doing is putting a beautiful quilt on the floor and inviting you to come and see it. And it's going to be at the George R. Brown Convention Center, right?

JIM CRARY: That's right, opening ceremonies will be 8:00 AM by ticket only.

BUDDY Right, and if you would like to be a guest of *Open Journal* today on KPFT, we have four tickets because of a limited number. We do have four tickets available to that opening ceremony. You can call us right now at 5-264-000 and pick up those two to a customer please. And what were you going to say?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: If there's more tickets needed, we are offering tickets at--

BUDDY Uh-oh.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: --Parkway Athletic Club this afternoon--

BUDDY I only had four.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: --down at the first floor.

BUDDY There are more tickets available at the Parkway Athletic Club. Also, if you're interested in making a panel for someone to be included in the Quilt, the workshop is at the Parkway Athletic Club.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY 800 Rosine. That's down one block east of Roy at--

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: West Dallas.

BUDDY --West Dallas. And the number for the NAMES Project here in Houston is 5-243-850. They can tell you all about how you can go and make a panel. Now, if you'd like to be a volunteer and work on the Quilt itself, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Yes, I'd call the same number, 5-24--

BUDDY 5-243-850. If you'd like to volunteer to help us with this project, there's going to be one last training session to be held at the George R. Brown, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Correct.

BUDDY Friday night beginning at--

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: 7 o'clock.

BUDDY 7 o'clock. And Judy, our wonderful volunteer coordinator who you also heard at the beginning of this show, will be glad to direct you through that.

JOHNSTON:

We're going to listen for a few minutes to a program that was sent to us by Los Angeles, a young man by the name of Danny Lemos with Pacific Vision. Danny produced a program all about the NAMES Project National Quilt Tour.

You can hear this program in its entirety at 6 o'clock immediately following the KPFT evening news on Friday. Carolyn Cantor, our news director, has told us that they'll be running the program in its entirety on Friday immediately following the news from 6:00 until 6:30. And then, of course, you can hear it again Sunday morning on *After Hours* right here on KPFT from 2:00 until 4:00

So let's listen to Danny Lemos's program. It's called *Counted Not as Numbers*. This is *Open Journal* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

LIZ FULTON: What you're listening to took place at dawn on October 11, 1987. As the sun rises majestically over the Capitol building in Washington, DC, under the silhouetted spires of the Smithsonian Institute across the Capitol mall, the inaugural unfolding of the largest community arts project in the world taking place, the unfolding of a huge quilt four football fields in length assembled from 3-foot-by-6-foot patches from all across the United States. Slowly, you begin to realize that most traditional American quilts shouldn't make you cry. This one does.

WOMAN: We saw that quilt go down and it was the dawn. And people were reading the names, and the names, and the names of all the people that died, and all the talent gone, and the lives lost. And it simply became a lonely experience. It became a lot more than just my son.

READER: Richard Anderson. Gary Barnhill. David Hidalgo. Bobby Campbell.

MAN: It was a very overwhelming emotional experience, more than I had even anticipated that it would be. And part of that was because of the personal nature of the project to myself and having created several panels for people that I knew. The sense of accomplishment was wonderful, and the power, and the sense of the drama of it. And it really did its job.

READER: Bruce Harris. David Hicks.

LIZ FULTON: Each panel of the quilt displays the name of a person who has died from AIDS. As the quilt is unfolded, the names are read aloud. That's when you begin to understand that AIDS not only affects the lives of those who suffer from it but the lives of their family, their friends, and their coworkers. Norman Armentrout. Tim Barbeau. Richard Brower. Gary Christoff-Flaherty. Jim Crandall. Ed Sax. Dennis Dunwoody.

MAN: The most important thing about the Quilt is it shows the humanity behind the statistics, and it shows in a number who have been affected, not just the people who died but people who are making the quilt.

LIZ FULTON: I'm Liz Fulton. For the next half hour, you'll be hearing the stories of the NAMES Project, the people who are taking the AIDS Quilt on a national tour of the United States to 20 cities and crossing 12,000 miles to carry the memory of loved ones who have died from AIDS home again.

[MUSIC - CYNDI LAUPER, "TRUE COLORS"]

WOMAN: We had a good time making it, and it was fun to remember David. And he brought a lot of joy into our lives, and we think about him with great fondness. But it was important to do something we thought that was connected to a larger expression of loss in the country from AIDS.

[MUSIC - CYNDI LAUPER, "TRUE COLORS"]

WOMAN: What I love about this, this pink fabric, is it reminds me of Arturo's cheeks. They were so beautiful and rosy always.

[MUSIC - CYNDI LAUPER, "TRUE COLORS"]

MAN: There is a panel for a man by the name of Shawn. And the image, the colors, everything on that panel, it just works, and it jumps off the fabric. And you sense who this person is, and there's a great amount of love that you can see that went into making the panel. And it's very moving, and it's hard to walk away from.

LIZ FULTON: The Quilt is a powerful display of the human toll taken by AIDS. In addition, it's a colorful, loving tribute to those who are currently battling the disease. Peter has AIDS. We were with him the first time he walked on the Quilt and stopped near the patch for his brother, Cap.

PETER: It brings up a lot of sadness for me. It's the first real memorial of Cap that we have. And seeing it, it surprised me. I wasn't sure how I'd react, but seeing it just brought up a lot of sadness for me.

But being here, seeing this Quilt, it's just amazing. Seeing it on television and seeing photographs, it's not the same. But actually walking through and seeing it, it makes you feel really good. It makes me know that we won't be forgotten.

LIZ FULTON: Actress and comedian, Lily Tomlin, was there also, standing on one of the walkways that crisscrossed the Quilt as she told us how she felt.

LILY TOMLIN: Well, it's overwhelming, just the positive quality of it, I think, because the fact that so many individuals put so much caring into making these squares.

And then what leaps out to you is that each one is so personal. I was driving over here, and I was thinking about the crosses at Arlington, and the huge collective, the anonymous quality of it, and how profound it was.

And this is so much more individual and personalized. And each one of these individuals is a living person to you. And there are little mementos, and their shirts, and their little symbols that reflected something sweet and dear about them to the people who knew them and loved them.

LIZ FULTON: I'm Liz Fulton. You're listening to the stories of the people who work on the NAMES Project.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Program's called *Counted Not as Numbers*. You can hear its entirety on the newscast on Friday beginning at 6:00 PM. That's May the 6th, which also happens to be my birthday, Jim.

JIM CRARY: Happy birthday.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: I'm not going to tell you how old I'll be. And then you can also hear it in its entirety on the ~~the~~ *After Hours* program, which is a program all about and for the gay and lesbian community produced right here on KPFT every Sunday morning from 2:00 until 4:00 AM. We'll be back to take your phone calls about the Quilt and have some more information for you about the Quilt right after this.

DEBORAH: Hi, I'm Deborah Bell.

BRUCE: And I'm Bruce Reeves.

DEBORAH: I'm a dyke.

BRUCE: And I'm a faggot.

DEBORAH: And we're the co-chairs--

BRUCE: And we're the co-chairs--

DEBORAH: --of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988.

BRUCE: --of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988.

DEBORAH: Pride Week is June 17th to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

BRUCE: That's right, the parade is Sunday June 26th 3:00 PM and will run from Westheimer at Woodhead to Montrose. Immediately following the parade will be Gay Fest across the street from Krogers. We need everyone to come out and be a part of the festivities.

DEBORAH: Pride Week is much more than a group of individuals parading down the street planned by an elitist few.

BRUCE: It is an opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy loving people, that we are united in our fight for civil rights.

DEBORAH: We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people.

BRUCE: For more information on Lesbian Gay Pride Week--

DEBORAH: --call 9-612-905.

BRUCE: Come out of your closets.

DEBORAH: Come out into the streets.

BRUCE: And show the world--

DEBORAH: And show the world--

BRUCE: --you are rightfully proud in 1988.

DEBORAH: --you are rightfully proud in 1988.

NARRATOR: When you see the Quilt, you understand how it began with one name sewn with love and grew to thousands of name. Stitched with memories, surrounded by favorite things, each name is a proud inscription, but all of them together make a national monument to those who died of AIDS, a monument that says, remember me.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** The NAMES Project Quilt, they experience the Quilt, right?

JIM CRARY: That's right.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** On Saturday and Sunday at the George R. Brown Convention Center in beautiful downtown Houston. Joining us in the studio is my good friend--

JIM CRARY: Jim Crary, co-chair of the NAMES Project Houston.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: There's a lot of wonderful things going on with the Quilt this weekend, right?

JIM CRARY: There surely is. I hope everyone will have the experience, experience the Quilt.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: My lover is doing something very special that we need to mention or he will be mad at me.

JIM CRARY: OK, let's talk about it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: It's called the Mothers Balloons of Hope.

JIM CRARY: Yes, that's on Sunday afternoon, 2:00 PM.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Right? And what's going to happen?

JIM CRARY: What we're going to do is release helium-filled balloons that contain names and messages and read the names of all the local people that have died of AIDS. And that will be and are memorialized in the Quilt itself.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: I understand Roger's got 3,000 balloons to blow up?

JIM CRARY: That's going to take a little while.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: So we're going to be busy between now and Sunday.

JIM CRARY: I'm sure Roger could use some volunteers Sunday morning.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Also the NAMES Project can use volunteers. And the number, again, if you're interested, is 5-243-850.

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Right, we're going to take your calls about the Quilt at 5-264-000. 5-264-000 is the number to call. Jim, what happens to all the money? There's no admission charge for this? Everybody's a volunteer? Where's the money coming from?

JIM CRARY: All the money is coming through the community who are having their in-kind supports. We have people donating their time, their services, and sending us money.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: What happens to the money then that's collected here in Houston?

JIM CRARY: All the money that's raised, Buddy, stays here in Houston and are distributed through and for the Houston area direct aid service. providers.

BUDDY Including places such as the AIDS Foundation?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: The AIDS Foundation, Montrose Counseling Center, Omega House, Baring Foundation, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, just to name a few.

BUDDY Do you have any idea as to the number of people that have volunteered so far to help in this project?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: We're over 300. We're nearly 400 people.

BUDDY That's just for the weekend, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: That's for the weekend.

BUDDY We can't even count the people we've seen in the last six months.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Literally hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds of people.

BUDDY A lot of love and a lot of emotion. And surprisingly enough, a lot of support from everyone. The community has

JOHNSTON: really stuck by us with this. And we're looking for something beautiful to happen. The unfolding ceremonies, again, began at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning. And that's by ticket only, right?

JIM CRARY: That's true.

BUDDY Tickets available by calling the NAMES Project office at 5-243-850. We have tickets for you here at the station

JOHNSTON: now at 5-264-000. Also waiting on your calls if you have questions about the Quilt. And?

JIM CRARY: This afternoon at 1 o'clock, we'll be able to hand out tickets if you'd like to stop by at the Parkway Athletic Club, 800 Rosine. We'd be more than happy to give you some tickets. We would not have time to mail your tickets as we are coming to a deadline here. It is short on time. Come pick up your tickets after 1 o'clock today if you'd like them.

BUDDY I'm not going to say how this project affected me because I want to get out of here by 1 o'clock or Dennis will be

JOHNSTON: in here to drag this out. Has this project affected you? We heard what Judy said about the emotional drain and the--

JIM CRARY: The project, right from the inception, I happen to be one of those people that sat in conference Houston and saw Scott and Jack--

BUDDY I remember sitting there next to you.

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: --from San Francisco, and it has touched me in a way it's never been before. And I'll never be the same.

BUDDY Our community is really coming together, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Oh, we've all been here. Everyone's been helping. We appreciate everyone's effort.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Sounds good. Well, let's see what we got here, Jim. Hello, line 3?

MIKE: Buddy?

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Yes, you're on the air.

MIKE: This is Mike Brown Journey.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Oh no, Michael Brown Journey.

JIM CRARY: Hello, Mike.

MIKE: Hi.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: What you got?

MIKE: I have some great news.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: What's the good news?

MIKE: The fire marshal has raised the number of people admitted to the opening ceremony.

JIM CRARY: That's fantastic.

MIKE: And we are allowed to bring as many of our friends in as we wish. So the tickets to be passed out plus as many more can come.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: OK, so all they need to do is call the NAMES Project--

MIKE: And be there at 8:00 in the morning.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Sounds good. Thanks for calling, Mike.

MIKE: OK, bye.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Line 2, you're on the air.

BRUCE: Hi, Buddy, this is Bruce.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Hello.

BRUCE: I just called to tell you the same thing Michael did, honestly, because we do want to stress that you don't have to have a ticket to get into that opening ceremony, and it would be great to get as many people out as we can.

JIM CRARY: As we all knew, it was pending. We were hoping that something like this would happen.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah, we saw that note, but we didn't want to make any major announcements over Public Radio.

MIKE: Right, we're also-- we still need a lot of monitors for the club on Saturday and Sunday, and we still need a few on folder. So if people are interested in doing that, they can come to that Friday evening training session at 6 o'clock at the Brown grounds.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: You're working with Judy, right, with the volunteers?

MIKE: Right, we've been transferring people from one list to another all week trying to get ready for this. It's a big top, but we think we've got a good handle on it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: OK, you said you needed someone as monitors. What's a monitor?

MIKE: The monitors are basically people that are actually going to be working on the Quilt to pass out hugs, Kleenexes, directions, and just general support for the people on the crew.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: OK, sounds good. Thanks for calling.

BRUCE: Thank you, Buddy.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: We said something about the balloon release that's going to happen on Sunday the 8th at 2 o'clock. What about the closing ceremony? How are we going to get out of that convention center? What's going to happen, Jim?

JIM CRARY: The closing ceremony is we're going to have a candlelight memorial outside right in front of the George R. Brian Convention Center.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: That's going to be conducted by the people with AIDS Coalition--

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: --right here in Houston. It's going to be a beautiful ceremony beginning at dusk somewhere between 7:30 and 8:00. You know how the weather is in the Texas Gulf Coast. So wrapping everything up briefly, we've still got about 15 minutes at 5-264-000. The opening ceremony's beginning at 8 o'clock Saturday morning where the names will be read and the Quilt will be unfurled. Is that the right word to use?

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: That should conclude somewhere around noon. And then from noon until 10:00 PM, the Quilt will be open to the general public.

JIM CRARY: And it's free.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Absolutely free, one of the few free things you get any more out of life. And all we ask is that you come down and take a look at it. Come down and take a gander at it. That's what I told someone at work the other day.

And someone was afraid too. What's going to happen? You're not going to hear a lot of people yelling and screaming because the Quilt is non-political, non-religious, non-just about everything it can't be. All we're asking is that you come and see it. And once you see it, I guarantee you it will change your life.

JIM CRARY: Change your life.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And then, again, on Sunday, May the 8th, the Quilt will open up at 9:00 AM.

JIM CRARY: 9:00 AM and will be open until dusk.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: At which time, the closing ceremony conducted by the PWA Coalition will take place right outside of the convention center. And then we can't forget the balloon release. This is going to be really neat because mothers from the area, right?

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Texas men and women.

JIM CRARY: Mothers will be reading a list of people that have died.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And as they read a name, a balloon will go up. And then once they finish, there will be a massive balloon release of some 3,000 balloons. So that should be beautiful. Also, music will be provided that afternoon by the Lone Star Symphony band.

And we couldn't even begin to read the people that have contributed things like the band to this project because the list goes on, and on, and on from all kinds of places like Print Text Plus, and the band, and you name it. And they've volunteered to help businesses. KPFT Radio has gone out of their way to help us. Everybody's gone out of their way.

What we would like to do for you is read the names. But that would take several hours, and unfortunately, we only have an hour for this program Jimmy, was there something that we missed that you were looking for?

JIM CRARY: No, I think we've covered everything. I just want to put out that appeal. Everyone, please come see it. It's Saturday and Sunday at the George R. Brown Convention Center. It's greatly touched my life, and I know it'll touch yours.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: We've still got about 15 minutes to go. There's something I want to play for you done by Hitaji Aziz. Hitaji did a program called *Speakeasy*. She's taking a little break from KPFT.

And Hitaji was very close to a young man by the name of Mike Misch. Mike worked on the *Wildenstein* program, which right now is done by Jack Falinski, and Ray Hill, and several other fine people on Tuesday evenings from 10:00 until 11:00 right here on KPFT. And Hitaji did a poem after the loss of her friend, Mike Misch, and we want to share that with you right now.

[MUSIC - DAVID FOSTER, "LOVE THEME FROM ST. ELMO'S FIRE (INSTRUMENTAL)"]

HITAJI AZIZ: April 1, 1987-- my friend, Mike, died, passed on, went somewhere else. I don't see him anymore. He left no arms, no legs left to walk beside me passed dogs, concrete, and trees. Why did he leave me? I wanted to smile the way he touched your hair, that glimmer in your eye. I wanted you in whole body. I wanted you not to die.

[MUSIC - DAVID FOSTER, "LOVE THEME FROM ST. ELMO'S FIRE (INSTRUMENTAL)"]

April the 11th, 1987-- passing through the pain, missing you. I keep hoping that you will walk in and tell me about a great new song, or maybe we'll talk about the international politics of AIDS, the killings of gay men while their murderers walk free. We were from the same class. We were gentle together. But you had to go, leave, pass on. You just died.

I wanted to be with you, work with you, have one last good time, but you didn't stay. You left, passed, and died. I take your death one day at a time. I think dying is like reading a book. It will end, the pain will end, and the joy of it all will become clear. We will remember your love, the beauty of your spirit, the lessons of how to live, your humanity, your quest for life. After the pain, the last page in the book. We will all know what you have left.

[MUSIC - DAVID FOSTER, "LOVE THEME FROM ST. ELMO'S FIRE (INSTRUMENTAL)"]

Your friend, Hitaji, April the 11th, 1987, 2:30 AM.

WOMAN: It was a wonderful moment. When they started to unveil that Quilt, there was absolute, total silence. And the names were read one at a time, hundreds of names. And people began to cry, and total strangers were hugging each other. It was the only way we knew to show our love, and it was wonderful.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And you can experience the beauty of the Quilt this weekend at the George R. Brown Convention Center beginning at 8 o'clock now, I understand, until 10:00 PM on Saturday and then again Sunday from 9:00 until dusk. The tour continues after it leaves Houston. It's in Dallas today and tomorrow, right?

JIM CRARY: That's right.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And then going on to?

JIM CRARY: It'll go on to New Orleans. After New Orleans, they have 12 cities after Houston. New Orleans happens to be the first, Atlanta, Cleveland, Baltimore, Boston, et cetera.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And eventually winding back up in Washington again on October 9th, 10th, somewhere around there?

JIM CRARY: 9th, 10th, yes, the tour itself ends in July, at the end of July, first part of August, be able to accumulate all the panels that have been made in all the various cities.

BUDDY This is just a US tour, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: Yes, it's only an American tour at present.

BUDDY And after this tour, after Washington, what's going to happen with it?

JOHNSTON:

JIM CRARY: There has been negotiation and work to take it worldwide.

BUDDY That's right, as there's been interest expressed from several countries around the world, people wanting to see this Quilt. And we hope that you share that interest and will join us at the George R. Brown Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday.

JOHNSTON:

What do we need to say, Jim? The opening ceremony's at 8:00, the balloon release at 2:00 PM, the candlelight closing at dusk on Sunday. And it's all going to be happening this weekend at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

So I tell you what, I am trying my best to get to the next seven minutes. We in the gay community have been really touched by the AIDS problem. That's no secret. What has touched me more than anything has been the support of my friends, and my family, and the people that I work with, and the love that's come forth from all of these people as we try to make it from day, to day, to day.

And we talk about AIDS and how it's affected us. And sometimes, we just don't have the words. And I guess right now that's one of those times. We can't express to you the beauty of this Quilt. We can't express to you the magnificence of this Quilt unless you come out and see it. You can see it on television, or you can see it in magazines, but unless you physically stand on it and look at it, you're going to be missing just a little bit of something that you shouldn't miss, right?

JIM CRARY: That's right there's been an expression that's been used. It's time to see the humanity behind the statistics. It's so true. When you see 125,000 square feet from wall to wall covered with a quilt, it's all striking.

BUDDY Well, this has been kind of slow and subdued, I guess, compared to what I normally do at KPFT, because we do a program called *After Hours* every Sunday morning from 2:00 until 4:00 AM.

JOHNSTON:

We like to stay late Saturday nights after the bars close because for a lot of us, including myself, it's hard to figure out when we're actually on the air. But if you'd like to tune in on Sunday morning, we're going to be doing a complete two-hour broadcast all about the quilt, including the *Counted Not as Numbers* program from Los Angeles, beautiful show that we heard a part of in this program.

Also, you can hear that program, *Counted Not as Numbers* on Friday from 6:00 until 6:30 right here on KPFT. Jim, before we push the button and leave, what final thoughts do you have for someone that's sitting there thinking, man, this is so depressing. I don't think I really want to go out and take a gander at this thing?

JIM CRARY: People do have those thoughts. We've talked about it before, Buddy, people, without them experiencing the Quilt, without them knowing about how a panel's made, without them being able to really feel the depth of all the names.

We have over 2,300 names here in Houston that will be read. Each reader, we have approximately 71 readers that will read at least 32 names apiece, some even more. And the names, as you say, go on, and on, and on. And for someone not to be able to be touched, to be emotionally drawn to the Quilt, I don't know if there's any other way to pull them to the Quilt.

BUDDY

JOHNSTON:

We want to invite you to the George R. Brown Convention Center once again this Saturday and Sunday to experience the Quilt, the balloon release for the Texas people at 2:00 PM outside of the Convention Center, then the candlelight memorial closing of the project at dusk on Sunday evening, music provided by the Lone Star Symphonic band.

And you will see lots of love, and maybe a couple of tears, and lots of smiles. And I can guarantee you it will change your life. If you've enjoyed this program, and you'd like to hear more from the gay and lesbian community, let me personally invite you to join us each week on *After Hours* right here on KPFT, your Pacifica station for the Texas Gulf Coast. Marathon is just around the corner. This has been *Open Journal* on Wednesday, May the 4th. My name is Buddy Johnston. Joining me has been--

JIM CRARY:

Jim McCrary.

BUDDY

JOHNSTON:

Thanks, Jim, for coming by.

JIM CRARY:

Well, we appreciate it.

BUDDY

JOHNSTON:

And we're going to play our little theme music from our show to pep us up, and get us out of here, and get us ready for Dennis and an afternoon of wonderful jazz. Stay tuned for *Jazz and Motion* with Dennis Wilson coming up at 1 o'clock, and join us next week and everyday from 12:00 until 1:00 PM right here on KPFT for *Open Journal*. Thanks for listening. Have a good day, bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HARVEY MILK:

We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[APPLAUSE]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if, indeed, they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[APPLAUSE]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children, and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo, will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

BUDDY

JOHNSTON:

You've been listening to *Open Journal* today on Wednesday, May the 4th. We've been talking about the NAMES Project Quilt to be seen in the George R. Brown Convention Center this weekend, beginning at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning, closing at 10:00, then again Sunday morning from 9:00 until dusk.

My name is Buddy Johnston for KPFT and for *Open Journal*. Have a good afternoon, and stay tuned. Here what you've been missing on, your Pacifica station, KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]