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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

couples, people, lesbian, gay, quakers, talk, love, parents, walked, queer, women, good, important, told, moving, open, tune, houston, happened, dancing

## SPEAKERS

Speaker 10, Speaker 7, [Music], Speaker 11, Speaker 3, Speaker 8, Speaker 12, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Speaker 9, Speaker 13, Speaker 15, [Together], Scott Lewis, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 14, Diane Williams

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S

Speaker 3 00:01

In the religious society.

D

Diane Williams 00:04

That's something I didn't know.

S

Speaker 3 00:05

And, and just the kind of the basic Quaker belief is that in every person, there's an, they use a million words for it, but that there's an inner light. Or they'll talk about the seed of God or that of God that is in every person. But that it's something that it's an every person. It's not like John's light and Diane's light, you know, Scott's light, but it's one light that every person has. And it's kind of each person's direct spiritual link with, you know, God or the higher power or Buddha or whatever, whatever name you want to use. And that while things like the Bible may be important, or things like what some religious figure has taught in the past may be important, it's your personal connection that is the most important thing. And what you get is the most important thing.

D

Diane Williams 01:00

I think that that's what we're all looking for. So it's some kind of connection. You were telling me about a weekend that you just spent?

S

Speaker 3 01:11

Yeah, I just spent a week in Oklahoma at a national gathering of Quakers around 1,300 people

team, I just spent a week in Oklahoma, at a national gathering of Quakers around 1,500 people at Oklahoma State University and about a thousand were adults,

 Diane Williams 01:21

Gay and lesbian, or partially or, or what? What kind of ,what are the numbers? I mean, I hate to be statistical but,

 Speaker 3 01:29

How many Quakers are there in the world?

 Diane Williams 01:31

How many queer Quakers are there? Well, yeah, how many Quakers and how did you feel about

 Speaker 3 01:35

There's three, there's like, there's several branches of Quakerism. And the part that I'm involved with, follows the historic traditions of Quakers and in terms of the forms that they use in their worship, and they, it's the unprogrammed tradition, is what I'm part of. And then there are, also there are events, they're a program, which sounds kind of like, I don't know, computer Quakers or something. And then there are evangelical,

 Diane Williams 01:52

Right. Formatted Quakers.

 Speaker 3 02:02

There are evangelical Quakers also. And, in fact, Friendswood was founded by Friends, by Quakers. Cool, very old evangelicals.

 Diane Williams 02:11

I thought it was founded by Exxon.

 Speaker 3 02:13

Well, there's a very old Friends Evangelical Church in Friendswood.

D Diane Williams 02:19

Cool.

S Speaker 3 02:22

And so around a totally, there's around 100,000 members around the country, and probably another 200,000 People who are involved like I'm not a member. Yeah. But who are attenders,

D Diane Williams 02:33

A friend of a friend, a friend of Friends.

S Speaker 3 02:35

That's right, a friend of Friends. In the unprogrammed tradition, and most of the out gay and lesbian people seem to be in the unprogrammed tradition. There's, there's no ministers, and there's no, no one plans the worship, you don't come in and sit down, and they have a little list of what songs you're going to sing and what you're going to read and everything. People gather together, and sit silently waiting on, waiting on God. And so there's, you know, in Houston, you'll have anywhere from 50 to 70 people sitting in this room together. And if anyone feels moved or inspired to speak, or very, sometimes very occasionally to sing, they stand up and they speak. And then they'll sit down and maybe silence will go on for another five or 10 minutes. And then someone else might feel inspired to speak and stand up. Sometimes the whole meeting will go by and no one will speak. Sometimes, you know, there'll be eight or nine or 10 people who get up and speak. You know, it's real busy,

D Diane Williams 02:37

Great. Busy week.

S Speaker 3 03:38

Busy week. And a lot of a lot of things happen in that silence. I mean, it's it can be very moving. But there are lots of openly gay and lesbian people involved in the unprogrammed meetings.

D Diane Williams 03:52

Is there any kind of

S Speaker 3 03:54

There's a national organization, yeah, called Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. And we're starting a group in Houston. If you were to walk in, and probably you know, it's hard to tell how many of the people going to Quaker meetings are gay or lesbian, right? Because no one ever feels need to say, you know, I'm, you know, I'm gay or not gay, and so many straight Quakers are so supportive of gay and lesbian rights. At this week in Oklahoma, every day, in the afternoon, the friends for lesbian and gay concerns held a meeting for worship, silent meeting for worship. And like 300 people would show up, you know, out of that 13, out of the thousand adults like 300 people would show up,

 Diane Williams 04:33

Yeah that's a good number.

 Speaker 3 04:34

But it's I have no idea how many of those people were gay, or how many of those people were heterosexual people who support gay and lesbian rights. You know, there's, there's really no way to tell them. They just come in and take part because it was, it was the only meaningful worship that was held in the afternoon. And it was one that's famous for being, you know, deeply moving and spiritual.

 Diane Williams 04:54

Well, it sounds like it's something that's been really meaningful for you.

 Speaker 3 04:58

I mean, it really has and, you know, what I think it offers as an opportunity for, for gay people and lesbians and bisexual people and transgender people, all of whom you might find it at a meeting for worship here in Houston if you've walked in the door. What I think is so, yes, what I think is so moving or it was so, it was such a great opportunity for gay and lesbian people is that there's, there's no one telling you what you have to believe or not believe.

 Diane Williams 05:26

Yeah.

 Speaker 3 05:27

And there's there's never been anyone who said, you know, it's wrong to be gay. It's wrong. I mean, there's no historic tradition of that in, in the society.

 Diane Williams 05:35



Diane Williams 05:35

No judgment.

S

Speaker 3 05:36

No judgment.

D

Diane Williams 05:37

No human judgment.

S

Speaker 3 05:38

I mean, I walked in, you know, I don't think I was wearing a Queer Nation t-shirt the first day I walked in, but I had my five earrings in my ears. And, you know, I was obviously queer. And I walked in and, you know, from, from the teenagers all the way up to these, you know, sweet little old ladies, I just received nothing but but a welcome, you know, accept. a lot of accepting support. And it's just been wonderful.

D

Diane Williams 06:01

Do you have, I know, this might be a little early. But do you have any phone numbers or any way that maybe our listeners might want to get in touch with

S

Speaker 3 06:08

I sure do is, if you want to talk to a, if you want a phone number that will connect you directly to a gay man who is a Quaker, involved in the local group in town. The number is 523-6760. And if you want to reach the, there's only one unprogrammed Quaker meeting in town, and their number is 862-6685.

D

Diane Williams 06:32

One more time.

S

Speaker 3 06:34

862-6685.

D

Diane Williams 06:38

Cool. Well, I'm really glad that this has happened for you. I know that you've had a little bit of a

personal happiness to come out of this meeting, especially this meeting in Oklahoma.

 Speaker 3 06:46

That's right.

 Diane Williams 06:47

Care to share?

 Speaker 3 06:47

I went to Oklahoma and fell in love with a man from Boston.

 Diane Williams 06:50

And care to share his name, first name?

 Speaker 3 06:50

His name is Frederick.

 Diane Williams 06:50

Frederick. We say hi, Frederick.

 Speaker 3 06:50

Hi, Frederick.

 Diane Williams 06:50

And treat John nice.

 Speaker 3 06:52

I may be moving there to Boston. Today, actually, two things happened in Oklahoma that, for me, were just they just blew me away, and they were deeply moving. Every night there would be a big speaker. And like all thousand adults would gather in this huge ballroom, and we hear someone like one night. This woman talk. She's a historian and she lectured about Lucretia

Mott who was a Quaker, one of the earliest feminists in the United States. And, but before each one of these people spoke, there would be some music and someone would get up and they would lead everyone in singing. So this guy got up and, you know, he's gonna lead us in singing. He's tuning up his guitar and everything. And there's an overhead projector and he throws the lyrics out. And it's a song by Cris Williamson, who I think Jimmy may play sometimes on the air, you may play,

 Diane Williams 07:43

I have a CD tonight, we can play her certainly.

 Speaker 3 07:45

All right. And it's a song called "One Song." And he's, and he starts talking, he's introducing the song. And he's talking about, you know, this is song written by a lesbian. And this was cute, we're gonna sing it, and everyone, all thousand adults there, again, from the little kids all the way to the, to the, you know, the 80 year old women, just join right in and not one of them felt at all, you know, embarrassed or inhibited about singing this, this queer song, and it was wonderful. And then later that night, the high school kids had a dance, and it was all kind of folk dancing every night. You know, these are, these are real kind of funky people. I saw more Birkenstocks there than I would have seen at the Michigan Women's Music Festival.

 Diane Williams 08:25

And that's shoes for you out there that don't know what Birkenstocks.

 Speaker 3 08:28

Lesbian shoes.

 Diane Williams 08:29

Lesbian leather sandal things, and how many of them are wearing them right now in this room? Okay, at least one. Okay.

 Speaker 3 08:36

And I saw, I saw, you know, more people wearing these, so they're real folky. But the high school kids that one night, they had this, you know, dance, you know, we have a DJ, and we're gonna play real loud music to our ears hurt and we're gonna dance. And so a bunch of the queer guys went over there. So there were like 60 or 70 high school kids, you know, dancing away. And later on, I realized that a couple of the high school boys were wearing skirts. And all these queer guys were dancing. And these high school kids didn't even give us a second look. I mean, they were totally peaceful, totally nonch. I mean, they were not even surprised to see

men dancing together. Then at the end, you know, as being a kind of high school dance they played a slow song. And if we grabbed someone, you know, and they were dancing, like real close, and we were, I was dancing with Frederick, and we were making out.

 Diane Williams 09:22

You kissed a man at a Quaker event.

 Speaker 3 09:25

I did. And again, these kids were like, totally. Yeah, big deal. So what? You know, we're dancing and people are kissing, and it's no big deal. And I was just totally blown away. These are like

 Diane Williams 09:34

On your first date?

 Speaker 3 09:35

In the universe.

 Diane Williams 09:36

On your first date?

 Speaker 3 09:37

On our first date.

 Diane Williams 09:38

Well, it's serious then.

 Speaker 3 09:41

Yes, it's very serious.

 Diane Williams 09:43

Well, I'm happy for you. I'm very happy for you.

S

Speaker 3 09:47

So and those are just two experiences that I had where this whole, whole nationwide group of people I mean from, you know, from New York and Boston and you know, and

D

Diane Williams 09:59

And Texas.

S

Speaker 3 10:00

San Francisco and Houston and little towns like Stillwater, Oklahoma. And, and you know, Tyler, Texas and everything.

D

Diane Williams 10:11

Podunk town.

S

Speaker 3 10:12

Podunk towns all over the all over the country. Not, not not one single bit of homophobia did I encounter at all.

D

Diane Williams 10:19

It sounds like a great kind of society, I wish we could all have that kind of peace.

S

Speaker 3 10:26

And, you know, peace is one thing that's very important to Quakers. They've always kind of had a testimony against, fighting against, against war, and, and they try to carry that out in their own lives of being very peaceful people, and it's still a place that I found a lot of peace.

D

Diane Williams 10:43

Well, why don't we give that number out again, those two numbers.

S

Speaker 3 10:46

Okay, if you want to talk to a gay Quaker, you should call 523-6760. And if you want to talk to

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the Friends Meeting that's in town, their number is 862-6685.

D Diane Williams 11:02

Well, we're gonna thank you very, very much for coming tonight and talking about what's important to you. I'm getting the finger from my producer.

J Jimmy Carper 11:09

Well, not exactly.

D Diane Williams 11:11

Yes, Jimmy.

J Jimmy Carper 11:11

But I did want to say it's been a very, very long time since John has been in the studio.

D Diane Williams 11:18

That's right.

J Jimmy Carper 11:18

And for ,I bet there's one or two out there who might remember, Youth Beat. How long ago was that?

S Speaker 3 11:27

Like, it was like

J Jimmy Carper 11:29

'88, '89?

S Speaker 3 11:30

Yeah, it was like four or five years ago.

J Jimmy Carper 11:31

Yeah. John was a part of After Hours.

D Diane Williams 11:34

Returning to the fold, they all come back boys and girls.

S Speaker 3 11:38

Can't escape, even when you get kicked off the show.

D Diane Williams 11:41

This circle. The circle has been completed.

J Jimmy Carper 11:43

Well, I wasn't going to talk about that part.

D Diane Williams 11:47

Well, you're back now, and we like you.

J Jimmy Carper 11:48

And he's back. And he's in love. And he's peaceful and happy and settled. And it's wonderful.

D Diane Williams 11:54

And we love you and come back anytime. I want to ask you several questions about a new radio serial we're doing and we want you to be part of it. So keep in touch. Thank you very much for sharing your beliefs. I know that's very personal for a lot of us and I'm really glad you had the courage to come to talk about it. And phone numbers if you're listening out there and you need a little, little inner truth happening, give him a call. Right now we're gonna go to a tune. It's one of my personal favorites. It's kind of rowdy. The group is called Sister Double Happiness and the tune.

J Jimmy Carper 12:25

Oh, and yes, there's a reason we play Sister Double Happiness.

D Diane Williams 12:29

Because of Gary?

J Jimmy Carper 12:30

Gary Floyd.

D Diane Williams 12:31

Gary Floyd is a gay boy although you would not know it from looking at him because he's a big old bear. He is this I saw a picture of this group Sister Double Happiness. There's like this cute little girl with like orange hair something and a couple other guys in with tattoos and guitars and stuff. And then you see this big large man with lots of hair, tattoos, shirt hanging open, ripped sleeves, I'm thinking I don't want to run into him into a dark alley and I, and then Jimmy says, oh yeah, this is the gay boy, pick, pick out the gay boy. I'm like going oh, maybe that one, no, that one, nope. The girl? No. This big ol bear of a guy and he is pretty much the leading force behind the group, doesn't he do writing and singing and plays drums so Gary Floyd, Sister Double Happiness, and this is a rockin tune, makes me want to get on the back of a pickup and drink beer, I mean coke and shake my head up and down. So that's, well no not that far. Don't do that. That's kind of disgusting. Okay, but you know, it's a rockin tune and we're here to rock you tonight with Sister Double Happiness and "Lightning Struck."

S Speaker 8 13:42

Hi. I'm not home right now. But if you want to leave a message, just start talking at the sound of the tone.

13:51

It's 10 o'clock Friday night, live at the station doing my radio show. Esoteric Adventures. Were my co host and I bring you the oddities and highlights from the recorded universe. So hang up, tune in to 90.1 and don't call back or you'll wake up my fish. Don't forget that's Esoteric Adventures with your flight attendants Jim squared on KPFT Houston.

S Speaker 4 14:24

Well, you don't know me, but I know you. To give to you.

S Scott Lewis 14:43

You're listening to After Hours, a continuing tradition on 90.1 FM KPFT World Radio. That's right, fundamentalists, if we have to listen to you, you have to listen to us.

FUNDAMENTALISTS, IF WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO US.

 **Jimmy Carper 14:54**

I was walking down the street holding hands with my lover when suddenly we were attacked after being publicly identified as breeders.

 **Speaker 6 15:12**

Heterophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the National Federation of Contributors to Overpopulation wanted you to hear and think about this message.

 **Speaker 7 15:28**

Rebecca and I went camping, we made camp, we spent some time eating, we were laying down by the stream, and all of a sudden there were shots. My arm exploded, Rebecca was hit twice and started to bleed to death. Tempted to carry her, but I was unsuccessful. The entire walk out of the woods, I believed myself to be hunted. My name is Claudia Brenner. We were identified as lesbians by a stranger with whom we had no connection. He will spend the rest of his life in prison. But Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.

 **Speaker 8 16:05**

Homophobia can kill, education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message.

 **Speaker 9 16:19**

For more information, write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

 **[Music] 16:44**

Stay and calm and flipper, faster than lightning. No one you see is smarter than he. And we will flip

 **Speaker 10 17:03**

The preceding was brought to you by the National Committee to Save Unborn Queer Baby Whales, which wanted you to hear and think about this message.

 **Diane Williams 17:13**

Hey, and we're here. We didn't get to hear Jimmy say, whoa, but I'll pretend. Whoa. Hey, was that good? Good. Well, you know, things are gonna get a little difficult here. Now boys and girls, you're gonna have to bear with us. We're in two separate rooms. That's right, two separate rooms. And in this one room, I have a bunch of really gorgeous women. I know that if you're at home right now and you're by yourself, you're thinking, Gosh, I wish I was up there at KPFT so I could be up there with these gorgeous women. But it's here. I'm here. There's many gorgeous women here. There's also a few very handsome men, but I don't care. I'm talking to the women. We're in here tonight. We're talking about couple things, being couples. We've got two couples here and my lovely girlfriend, fiance, housemate, etc. And I want to ask everyone that's here quick little personal questions like I won't, I won't do your whole personal biographies and coming out stories, but I want to know how you met, how long you've been, your name, first name, how long you've been together and how you met. Trish, Kathy?

 S Speaker 11 18:21

Hi.

 D Diane Williams 18:22

How long how long I've been together?

 S Speaker 11 18:26

15 months? Yeah.

 D Diane Williams 18:27

15 months? Isn't that like a year and a half or a year and a third or something? Fifteen months, how'd you meet?

 S Speaker 12 18:36

We met at through women's group, [unintelligible].

 D Diane Williams 18:40

And the women's group is what?

 S Speaker 12 18:42

Is a group of women that meet at 10 o'clock on Sundays and educate each other about what's going on in the community and what's going on in each other's lives and on topics that are of

interest to all of us, it's very empowering.

 Diane Williams 18:56

Was it love at first sight or how'd you, how'd you get to know each other?

 Speaker 12 19:01

Well, we went to the pro-choice march in Washington last April. And

 Diane Williams 19:06

An activist thing.

 Speaker 12 19:08

We sat next to each other on the bus.

 Diane Williams 19:10

And they had their first kiss on your blanket on the bus.

 Speaker 12 19:13

We weren't under the blanket at that point.

 Diane Williams 19:16

Everyone knows the Trish and Kathy first kiss story. Okay.

 Speaker 12 19:21

Already witnessed it anyway.

 Diane Williams 19:23

Okay. Also friends here, Becca and Laura. Right?

 Speaker 13 19:27

Yes.

D Diane Williams 19:28

Cool. How long have y'all been together?

S Speaker 13 19:30

Almost seven years.

D Diane Williams 19:31

Way. And how'd you meet?

S Speaker 14 19:34

In a sorority.

D Diane Williams 19:35

Sorority girls, care to say which one?

S Speaker 13 19:38

Gamma Phi Beta.

D Diane Williams 19:39

One more time.

[Together] 19:40

Gamma Phi Beta.

D Diane Williams 19:42

Let's hear it for sorority girls. And would someone try to tell me exactly how y'all met and the relationship at the time?

S

Speaker 13 19:50

Well, Becca came to a rush party, and I was in it. I just joined.

S

Speaker 14 19:55

I was not aware it was a rush party. Friends of mine told me hey, come to this party. I no idea it was a sorority party.

S

Speaker 13 20:02

So we're like all sitting on the floor. And all the little initiates are on the couches, and we're talking to them and their little skirts and ponytails. And anyway, we decided to ask Becca to join the sorority. And so she did. And she, we got along real good. So she was my little sister

D

Diane Williams 20:19

Little sister.

S

Speaker 13 20:20

And so you know, we'd stay up nights talking about different things, and you know, gave each other hug and the hugs just kept getting lost. And I never had an attraction toward a woman before, I was very much heterosexual before. And

S

Speaker 14 20:40

I was on the fence myself, I wasn't sure what I was.

S

Speaker 13 20:43

Started feeling better and better and better. And one night, when I was at home, I realized that I loved her, and

D

Diane Williams 20:48

You what?

S

Speaker 13 20:49

That I loved her, hit me, it just came into my head, like God just dropped it down and put it in my head. And so we were playing football at midnight in the rain in the field behind the sorority

house

D

Diane Williams 21:00

That sounds like fun.

S

Speaker 13 21:02

Tackling in the puddles. And I told her and said I don't know how you're gonna take this, but I've just got to tell you that I love you.

D

Diane Williams 21:15

And you said?

S

Speaker 14 21:17

That's nice. I told her that was nice.

D

Diane Williams 21:24

And?

S

Speaker 14 21:24

I wrote her a note the next day and gave it to her.

S

Speaker 13 21:29

Right before a major test.

S

Speaker 14 21:31

Right before a major test. So she went in, it was just blown away and couldn't take the test. But she aced it anyway, probably. And, and so seven years later, yes, seven years later with

S

Speaker 13 21:44

And three cats.

D

Diane Williams 21:45

Three cats, seven years and three cats. It's important. So I want to know, what do you think? I'm not gonna say you're one of the more longer term couples, but certainly of my friends and the people that that I know, you're one of the couples that have been together over five years. And I consider that pretty long term. What do you think is helped you stay together and stay in love because, you know, looking at you guys, you're obviously still in love with each other. You just missed the giggle. This is Radio, folks, they can't see that. You missed the goo-goo eyes out there. But it was very cute.

L

[Together] 22:25

We just

S

Speaker 13 22:26

We're not really that much alike so

S

Speaker 14 22:29

Yeah, we're very different.

S

Speaker 13 22:30

We're really different.

D

Diane Williams 22:31

You think that helps or that hurts?

S

Speaker 14 22:33

It's, sometimes it helps. Sometimes it hurts. In the most, for the most part, it does help because it keeps us interest a lot. We're very honest and open about everything. From fillings to just name it, you know,

D

Diane Williams 22:50

Talk a lot?

S

Speaker 14 22:51



Speaker 14 22:51

Talk a lot.



Speaker 12 22:52

Talk a lot.



Speaker 13 22:53

Laugh a lot.



Speaker 14 22:55

You have to.



Diane Williams 22:56

And Karen?



Speaker 15 22:57

I just was noticing here as I look at these two couples there that they, there are matching rings here. And I'm just wondering about any kind of ceremonies or unions that y'all might have gone through that. Diane and I here might be able to take into consideration when we do our own little, whatever kind of thing.



Diane Williams 23:17

Yeah. Yeah, we're doing the goo-goo eyes. Now y'all go ahead and talk.



Speaker 15 23:22

Okay, I want to I want to hear about the rings. And yeah, that went with.



Diane Williams 23:27

How'd you decide, this is for anybody that wants to answer. How do you decide to have rings? And what does that mean to you? If there was a ceremony and if you've made any personal commitments to one another, what kind of vows?

**S** Speaker 11 23:40

We were married before we got the rings. Because we got the rings when we went to Washington and had the big mass. We all

**S** Speaker 12 23:48

All four of us got married last year. Not all together. In our respective couples.

**D** Diane Williams 23:55

I was there. I was.

**S** Speaker 15 23:55

I was there.

**D** Diane Williams 23:56

I was there by myself.

**S** Speaker 15 23:57

We weren't together yet. But we were both there, with, didn't really know each other.

**D** Diane Williams 24:02

Yeah, we didn't really know each other. We walked for a while together a little bit. We didn't know each other.

**S** Speaker 11 24:06

The precursor to the love theme.

**D** Diane Williams 24:09

Yeah, I think so. Thikn so, we barely acknowledged each other's existence, because we really didn't know each other.

**S** Speaker 15 24:15

But we saw pictures of the March when we got home. And I would be looking through the

BUT WE SAW PICTURES OF THE MARCH WHERE WE GOT MARRIED. AND I WOULD BE LOOKING THROUGH THE PICTURES GOING HEY, IS THAT ME? NO, WHO IS THAT? AND IT WAS HER BECAUSE WE WERE DRESSED THE EXACT SAME WAY ON THE DAY OF THE MARCH, RIGHT DOWN TO THE SAME COLOR FANNY PACK.

 Diane Williams 24:30

And we both carried the flag for Women's Action Coalition.

 Speaker 15 24:33

Yeah, we did at different times.

 Diane Williams 24:34

It was meant to be.

 Speaker 15 24:35

But anyway, back to them. Rings, ceremonies, commitment.

 Diane Williams 24:40

So where do you get the rings?

 Speaker 13 24:42

Got the rings

 [Together] 24:45

James Avery.

 Diane Williams 24:48

For this April wedding ceremony, and did either one of you, what was the first time you made a commitment to one another? When was the first time that you said I'm going to be in a monogamous relationship or in an open relationship, whatever kind of commitments you've made to one another.

 Speaker 14 25:06

I'll be here after the lease is up. November 8

S Speaker 13 25:11

It was, it was really early for us. We met in September, in November, we were a couple. And that's I mean, that's, that sounds maybe like a long time. But you have to realize, you know, I was basically straight before that. And and Becca, this is her first relationship.

D Diane Williams 25:28

And acting heterosexual.

S Speaker 13 25:30

And we had a lot to, a lot of emotions to go through.

S Speaker 14 25:35

I think that made us stronger, because we came out together. And very moving experience.

D Diane Williams 25:43

You guys over there, Trish and Kathy.

S Speaker 12 25:46

We got together in April and went through sorting out emotions on both ends and decided to stay together to see how, you know, not to see how long it would last but, but just trying to work it out.

D Diane Williams 26:05

You guys have like a day by day, a day to day commitment to one another? Or what kind of? Well, what kind of words did you say I guess is what I'm saying. What I'm thinking about here is people that may be listening, I think it's important for our listeners to know that gay and lesbian people aren't just bar people. Number one, aren't just lonely, single people, aren't just married people in the closet. And it's important to know that there are role models for couples. And I'm certainly aware that both, both couples in front of me are couples that have very strong feelings going and very good healthy relationships going for them through whatever kind of trials you may be faced with. And I just want people to, to see some positive things. And if there's anything that you can share that might help people get a little further in their own life, I'd love to hear it.

S Speaker 12 27:01

Well, when we met, we were both self acknowledged lesbians. So I think we both separately sorted out our sexual identity. And I don't think either one of us were looking for a relationship at the time that we met. It just

S Speaker 11 27:20

Kind of happened.

S Speaker 12 27:21

Yeah, it just happened.

D Diane Williams 27:24

And, and so you were happy being single at the time? Or were you both single?

S Speaker 12 27:30

Yeah, we were. We were both single. I was. I don't know. I wasn't happy about it. But I was accustomed to it. Yeah. Accustomed to it.

D Diane Williams 27:39

That's good.

S Speaker 12 27:42

And I don't know it just it just happened.

D Diane Williams 27:45

So did you do the, okay, let's tell the joke. Everyone knows the joke. What is the lesbian ring on the first day? Flowers and roses? What a lesbian bring on the second date?

[ [Together] 27:55

U-Haul.

D Diane Williams 27:56  
A U-Haul with all your stuff.

S Speaker 12 27:57  
No, we got together in April and I moved in to her apartment in September.

D Diane Williams 28:03  
Wow. This, does this mean you actually dated?

S Speaker 11 28:07  
Yeah. Yeah. We actually dated. We would plan to do things together.

D Diane Williams 28:12  
Can you share with people out there how that dating thing works? Because, well,

S Speaker 11 28:16  
Well, you make plans to do something. And then you actually go and do it.

D Diane Williams 28:20  
But how do you not like go and automatically move in or spend the night at each other's house and then not go home the next day and stuff like that.

S Speaker 12 28:28  
Well, number one when you're living with your parents, that's kind of difficult t

D Diane Williams 28:31  
Uh huh, got it.

S Speaker 12 28:33  
Number two, when you're committed to working for a Girl Scout camp for the whole summer,

that makes it even more difficult.

 Diane Williams 28:40

Okay, raise your hands. How many of us did do Girl Scouts at one time or another, brownies, Girl Scouts campfire? Everybody? Everyone minus one. Okay, well, no. Another common bond with lesbians. Girl Scouts, bluebirds, campfire girls, etceteras.

 Speaker 14 28:56

Diane, with your latest love interest. How long was it before you actually set into the commitment kind of thing?

 Diane Williams 29:03

God. And onto the next question.

 Speaker 15 29:09

I'd say that was what about nine days,

 Diane Williams 29:12

You think so? You were figuring that out while they were talking? Well, I know you well enough to know.

 Speaker 15 29:17

I wonder would that calendar was that far. Yeah.

 Diane Williams 29:20

So tell me, Karen, what do you do for a living? I'm gonna ask everybody. You're just first.

 Speaker 15 29:27

Actually I'm a school teacher.

 Diane Williams 29:30

Yeah. And how do you feel about that?

**S** Speaker 15 29:32

How do I feel about being a schoolteacher?

**D** Diane Williams 29:34

Summers off.

**S** Speaker 15 29:35

Gotta love those summers off.

**D** Diane Williams 29:36

That's right. So I want to know, tell me about your past experience. Tell them tell the listeners out there. Like how many people you dated and what your past relationship situations have been.

**S** Speaker 15 29:50

I came out when I was eighteen, had a brief, long distance relationship and then denied the whole thing.

**D** Diane Williams 30:00

With a girlfriend camp right?

**S** Speaker 15 30:01

With a girl from camp, and then one of my sorority sisters roommates is who I got involved with. And that relationship lasted eight years. Not a very healthy good feeling thing towards the end, but eight years and, and then I was out of it. Yeah, and then I met you, honey.

**D** Diane Williams 30:25

Excuse us while we make goo-goo eyes at each other, it's just too darn cute. We're still in our cute phase. Okay, so I want to know, basically what you do for a living, what this couple over here does and how out you are, or how out you're able to be or how out you'd like to be as a gay lesbian person in the workforce. How does that relate? How do you reconcile those two things?

S

Speaker 11 30:47

Should you go first?

S

Speaker 12 30:48

I'll go first. I'm an attorney. And I'm very out with my family. I told all of my immediate family in the past few years, and this past Christmas, I sent a letter to all of my aunts and uncles and you know, all of that, that farther away family and came out to them. And so I have, I got really good responses from almost everybody. And I didn't get any responses from certain people, but didn't get any bad responses. I mean, my, my aunt is a Catholic nun. And I sent one to her. And when I went home for Christmas to see my family, and she was in there praying, my heart just kinda stopped when I saw her. And she came up to me and gave me a big hug and told me she loved me. And it was so sweet. She's, I was really impressed by that. That to me, that is Christianity. That loving feeling. But anyway, at work, I did come out to the attorneys I worked with, because, because they said, they use the word fag in front of me. And it really bothered me. And so I came out to them. And I told them that it bothered me and I tried to do in a positive way. So it went okay. I mean, it wasn't any sort of liberal environment. It was a corporate law office so.

D

Diane Williams 32:08

You scared?

S

Speaker 12 32:09

Oh, yeah.

S

Speaker 11 32:09

I was so proud.

D

Diane Williams 32:15

I came out to one more person.

S

Speaker 12 32:17

Yes, I came in quite a few people. really.

D

Diane Williams 32:20

That's great.

 Speaker 12 32:21

But I've had almost all positive experiences.

 Diane Williams 32:23

So you feel good about being open about your sexuality and about your partner?

 Speaker 12 32:27

Yeah. I hate it when I'm in a situation where I can't. That makes me really uncomfortable.

 Diane Williams 32:34

I think the worst part for most of us, or at least for me about being gay is when somebody else talks about their husband or the wife or their children, not being able to say my spouse, or my significant other, or my husband or wife.

 Speaker 12 32:45

I'm still in a lot of situations where I can't say anything. But I have taken opportunities when I can.

 Diane Williams 32:54

And you?

 Speaker 11 32:54

Oh yes, I work at the school that I go to. And I'm very open. I'm very out to everyone there. I mean, in fact, I had a very interesting thing happen to me. I had a guy ask me out and very politely told him that no, I do not date guys. And he had his very puzzled look on his face. Like he just did not get it. And I did, then I

 Diane Williams 33:19

Buy a clue.

S

Speaker 11 33:21

Buy a bell. Yes, I, then I went to explain further that I was in a relationship with a woman who was now my wife, and it just totally blew him away. He walked away and just, he doesn't say much else.

S

Speaker 12 33:38

Jealous?

S

Speaker 11 33:39

Yeah.

D

Diane Williams 33:40

Do you work with him? Or is he a co-student?

S

Speaker 11 33:41

He's just student there and it was a, it was an awkward thing, but you know, hey, get over it. So I have no problem with being out except when I go home, maybe dealing with parents who the L Word is just too much, you know, they say whispered tones, so, but I've had very good responses. When I told my parents you know, I cried and they felt sorry for me and well, yeah, they kind of get over that. So but I've had a pretty good response otherwise.

D

Diane Williams 34:15

Did you get the I love you anyway bit?

S

Speaker 11 34:17

Yes, I love you still.

D

Diane Williams 34:19

Even so, any way, and whenever.

S

Speaker 11 34:21

I got, I live, I got I love you and a new car.

S

Speaker 12 34:26

Yeah, how many different ways could I come out to my family? How many different vehicles could I collect?

D

Diane Williams 34:33

Yeah, some people just know how to say I love you with gifts of monetary value. I think if I came out to your mom, she'd buy me

S

Speaker 11 34:43

I think my mom already knows.

D

Diane Williams 34:45

That's true. She did make up the guest bed for both of us.

S

Speaker 15 34:47

There you go.

D

Diane Williams 34:49

And you guys? You women. I'm sorry. That's, it's, I can't help it. You women.

S

Speaker 13 34:53

It's better than saying girls and boys. Well, I'm out to just about everybody I know, everybody at work. Oh, I'm the assistant manager for an educational toy store.

D

Diane Williams 35:07

Care to say where?

S

Speaker 13 35:08

Sure I'll make a plug for it, Imaginarium in Willowbrook Mall, sell educational and nonviolent toys thank you very much.

**D** Diane Williams 35:14

And what a fun place it is, I hear.

**S** Speaker 13 35:16

Well, unless you're cleaning up after them,

**S** Speaker 14 35:18

They have dinosaurs there.

**D** Diane Williams 35:20

And I'm going to come and get some dinosaurs from you.

**S** Speaker 13 35:22

No problem. We got lots. But yeah, I'm the assistant manager, I came out to the manager. Probably the first week, I worked there. And that was before the store opened last fall. And she said she already suspected and no big deal. And everybody else now that that works for us knows, if they don't know, it's not my fault. And nobody really cares. Yeah.

**D** Diane Williams 35:52

Well, what about you?

**S** Speaker 14 35:54

I'm a librarian at Prairie View A&M University. And, and,

**D** Diane Williams 36:01

And are you out to anybody there?

**S** Speaker 14 36:03

I'm out to a couple of my coworkers, but I'm not out in general. And not to my parents, I just came out last Christmas, that was their Christmas present, they took it very well. They invite Kathy and I to school all the time, to school, to school, to their house. Family events.

**D** Diane Williams 36:25

So your family relate, let me ask you this. One of my, one of the things I always wanted that my parents still don't really do a lot, because I'm out to anybody and everybody. My parents still don't ask me necessarily, when I was single, they didn't ask me how my date went, you know, instead of saying, how'd your date go, they would say things like, you know, how's your work? Or is the car still running or whatever. And I've always wanted my parents to ask about my marital relationship, my spousal relationship. And I think they have a hard time doing that. Do either of your parents asked about how your spouse, significant other, wife, girlfriend is? And do they acknowledge the fact that you do sleep in only one bed probably, and things like that?

**S** Speaker 14 37:11

My parents always ask about Kathy, when they call.

**D** Diane Williams 37:14

My parents always ask about Karen. But I don't know if they, they, I think my mom has this idea in her head that she just gained another daughter. She doesn't realize any of the sexual aspect of it. And I think that we haven't been very affectionate in front of them together. We've been very, we've been very affectionate in front of them. But we haven't really like held hands on the couch and hugged and stuff like that. So I think that's something that we're working towards being a new couple. How long have we been together? How many weeks?

**S** Speaker 15 37:44

This would be 10 weeks,

**D** Diane Williams 37:45

10 weeks tonight? Okay.

**S** Speaker 12 37:47

Well, I know like, my parents, my mom asks all the time, you know, how's Trish doing? And when we were when we got married in Washington. And we didn't tell my parents until after Washington that we had gotten married, because she wanted to know what the big secret was. And we told her she's, uh, she just pulled me aside and said, are you sure you guys are committed enough for that, you know, to each other? And I said, well, yeah, we think so. We hope so. We're, we're trying.

**D** Diane Williams 38:21

So it sounds like commitment to all of us and I'll say us is an important part, you know, not just being together because but the actual commitment thing. So, yeah, do, if there's one last kind of parting thought that you'd like to give? Specifically, couples, single people, if you're out there listening, listen up. Somebody's waiting there for you. I guarantee it. If you're meant to be with somebody and you want to be with somebody, somebody's waiting there for you. And if you're a couple out there, is there something, something that you'd like to, some parting wisdom or something you can bring to those couples out there who're struggling and who, who want to work on their relationship and stay together through hard times? Keep the lines of communication wide open.

S

Speaker 12 39:08

Yes, that is the key.

D

Diane Williams 39:11

And make sure you understand each other and hear each other?

S

Speaker 11 39:13

Yeah, listen, and learn from each other.

D

Diane Williams 39:19

That's great. Well, I thank you all for dropping by. I know that this was kind of a little impromptu, impromptu and for all you guys out there listening if, if you're wondering hey, how come there's no guys on the show? It's because it was impromptu. I just didn't know. We just wanted to have these folks on. If I wanted to find some gay guy couples. It could happen, they are out there. I know several, we could call, John, you're having a relationship with a guy in Boston. It's great if he was here we'd sit and talk but I'm sorry. So call us up let us know what you're thinking how you're feeling, JAM KPFT, we've got some really happening tunes coming up next, kind of a little industrial stuff happening, a little techno And if I can open up the CD because I am going to need to look inside it, okay, we're gonna try to pronounce this word "Apotheosis" O'fortuna, that's what we're gonna be listening to and it's coming up right now on KPFT After Hours.