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people, conference, bisexual, year, austin, regional conference, usa, brc, bisexuality, last year's conference, talking, bi, wonderful, south central region, call, youth hostel, meeting, community, activism, houston

SPEAKERS

Gigi



Gigi 00:00

To open the mental health community to the concept of bisexuality, any he wrote some a lot of abstracts and, and papers on bisexuality that were accepted within the mental health field. So it just kind of really, before that, you know, bisexuality was kind of seen in the mental health field as this state of confusion. Yes, yes.



00:28

Something that didn't really exist. Yeah. You can make up your mind.



Gigi 00:33

Yeah. And, you know, so he really was instrumental in in breaking that field wide open. For bisexuality?



00:44

Yeah, definitely a key figure. And actually, I think it's kind of too bad. That is such a short conference, only in that John Fritz actually has done some very interesting work, just recently, between last year's conference in Houston in October, and this year, he has done a new study about the sexual behaviors, and like, you know, likes and dislikes within the bisexual community. From what I understand, I haven't read the study or seen it yet myself, but from what I understand there's some really interesting data that came out of that study. Maybe he'll speak about that a little bit in the keynote, I'm not sure. But, you know, he continues to study and and write on a scholarly level about bisexuality. And so he's, you know, he's just a wonderful, I'm so glad that he could be there. We're all very pleased that he's, he's coming to our conference. Yeah. And then the second person is Chris rolling. And Chris Rowling is, she has

sort of been, until very recently, the sole standing National Coordinator for BiNet, USA, she's shouldered a lot of the responsibility for keeping violet USA going over the last year, year and a half or so. And she also has a very varied background in by activism. And she's out of Atlanta. And I think before that, she did a lot of activist work in Florida. Yeah. And, Gigi, you could maybe even say more about Chris. Oh,

 Gigi 02:31

goodness. She is just so awesome. The things she has done this past year to kind of she's pretty much single handedly helped bind it together. She's done the secretarial the accounting, the bookkeeping, the newsletter, just everything about binding USA, she's had her hands and literally, you know, we this past year by net USA saw five national coordinators leave one by one for various reasons, some for health for reasons, some for because of jobs, requirements and demands. Some for just because I needed a break from activism, right? The burnout has been so high this past year. Yeah,

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community really owes a lot to her for holding it all together.

 Gigi 03:35

And while we're on that subject, I do want to mention that the this you know, one of the things I was talking to Lonnie about and you know, as see this totally, this next national meeting, we're going to be making history in the BI movement, we're really going to be transforming by net USA, reorganizing and looking at where, you know, looking at our vision and where we're going from here, by nets been, I think one of the problems we've encountered encountered is that, by nets been so successful in the past that we've really accomplished a lot of what we set out to do as a national organization,

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right. And at that point, when that happens, it starts to get harder for people to keep their vision going to be like what you know, be creative about where can we go from here, and what are the next steps? Yeah, you know, you start to get complacent whenever you make real, real strides. And,

 Gigi 04:41

and so this, this conference is going to be so all important because this is when, when and where we're going to be deciding what's our vision for the future and where we're going. Right. So it's really going to be a historical meeting. We're going to be making history in Austin.

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05:02

And from what I understand you're going to be having, you're going to have an open Internet line to keep those binary USA, people across the nation who aren't able to make the conference, keep in touch with them and let them know what's going on at this national meeting, right, so that a lot of people can put, you know, give their input and help make some decisions about where to go from here.

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Gigi 05:24

Yeah. So it's really going to be an awesome meeting. And for you know, we are we have been putting the call out for people that are interested in BI activism to either get involved at the regional level here in the south central region, or the national level. Yeah,

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you may, saying that reminded me that we, we probably really should mention again, once again, for those who may not know that the region, the South Central region, for binary USA consists of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. We're really hoping to pull people in from all four of those states, not just you know, here in Austin, or Houston, or, you know, the other big cities in Texas, but all over the country, and especially the region. So let's, um, I'll move on to the third person participating in the keynote that will be Tina Blonko. Tina Blonko, is a member of the BRC and Boston bisexual Resource Center. She is a young vi activist, she was involved with the BRC in Boston, when, you know, as young as 18, one of the youngest people we ever had on the board there. And I say we, because I am Austin transplant from Boston, formally, a part of the BRC, myself, and Tina has been really instrumental in helping the BRC in a lot of major functions, she served as treasurer of the BRC for quite a while, and participated quite a bit in the both the International and the regional conferences in Boston. And recently, I think it was probably about a year and a half ago, now. Tina founded the bisexual people of color group in Boston. And I think, you know, it might be the only one of its kind, if not, it's one of the few, really specific by groups for people of color. And, you know, it's just wonderful what she's done there, in order to reach out to people of color. And, you know, I think that she's going to have a really kind of a fresh look a fresh voice to add to a lot of, you know, what we're hoping to look at and envision with this conference. Because we're talking about freeze, you know, magining by sexual freedom, I think that we are really covering a lot of bases, when we have people like Fritz Klein, who have been, you know, in in the BI movement since the beginning. And then people like Chris rolling who have sort of, you know, kind of came into it maybe midstream. And then, you know, the Tina Blanco, who has, you know, been in it, you know, came into it very young, and, you know, has different visions for for where the buy movement should go. I think the three of them are going to just do a wonderful presentation

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Gigi 08:30

of its terrible lineup.

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08:34

I think it'll be great. It'd be a great way to start off today. And people will be pumped up and

psyched for the conference after that.

G

Gigi 08:41

Yeah. And, you know, I wanted to stop here for a moment and just talk about what a bi conference is because, you know, it's not like other conferences. What happens at a bi conference, we create by space, and you get a room full 100 Plus bisexuals together in one space. And this incredible energy comes about Absolutely.

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09:08

It's probably very much like my first experience of walking into a gay bar. Like, these are my people. Yeah. And nowhere else had I ever been in that type of company. And like we were talking about earlier, we bemoan the fact there aren't any buy bars and there's really not much buy space where you know, you can get together, right? Yeah, celebrate. And

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09:34

it actually it actually takes that that experience that probably all of us have had upon walking into like maybe a mixed you know, a co Ed gay bar and kind of takes it to another level. Yeah, because, you know, in a regular gay bar, you can say these are my people, but then at the same time, it's hard for us bisexuals to not be aware that there is a lot of BI phobia out there and the gay and lesbian. Oh, I know. Right. That's it When we're invited, it's like, it's, it adds a whole nother dimension. Because, you know, the by fobian level is so much diminished. And we really feel like, okay, this is my tribe.

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Gigi 10:13

And, you know, to me, it's is so wonderful to look across the room and see, you know, a guy in the guy's lap one moment, and then 10 minutes down the line, he's in a girl's lap. And then, few minutes later, he's in a three way kiss. And, you know, it's just, wow, I'm not in Kansas anymore.

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10:42

We don't want to insinuate that all bisexuals are our lap jumping.

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Gigi 10:47

Well, I don't mean in a sexual way, I mean, in a very central way. And it's it's just this love energy that just shoots through the roof. There's a lot of hugging, there's a lot of people just holding each other. Because, you know, we have been through a rough ride out there. And once we get in our own space, it's like, it's the most wonderful, loving, nurturing environment

you can never imagine. When it's like it just, it's like all the wounds that you feel all year long between a conference or in your life, that just kind of evaporate for a magic weekend. And you're with people that, you know, you're okay with. And they're like you and you're like them. And it's just, I don't know, it's hard to put into words.



11:40

It's really hard to put into words, which is especially why you know, people need to come people really need to know, drop whatever they have to do and rearrange their schedule and really make an effort to come to this conference, because they are far a few between. And there is no pure buy space. At this time, except for at conferences.



Gigi 12:04

Yeah. conference last year, yes, I was. You know, one of the things I'd like to hear is your impressions of last year's conference, because I know, we put a lot of work into that one, too. And been watching which all have been doing in Austin, and y'all had put in a lot of work to work. But



12:30

my experience last year was, you know, it was much much like it was a lot similar to my first bike conference ever, in that had been, had been quite a while. It's been a couple of years. And right, well, maybe a year and a half, I guess, to a conference. And it's, you know, it's easy to forget, even for me, you know, I've been doing a number of BI conferences. And, of course, I know, and I always talk them up to other people, but even myself, it they're always so much better even than I remembered. No matter how great I remember they were it's always even better than I remembered. And I know that for me, absolutely. That just that whole feeling of being invited space. Something about it just it makes me feel so much stronger. Immediately. Yeah, I really, I mean, it's that whole, you know, that whole sense of being truly Absolutely, thoroughly validated. And it makes your self esteem rise, and it makes your, you know, just your your sense of self and your self awareness rise. And then it also makes you aware of, yes, exactly like how much you do care about being around other people like you or at least, you know, something that you you share, like a really big important part of your life with these people. Ya know, it's not that we're all identical. We don't all have, you know, very different



Gigi 14:02

across the country. It's a diverse



14:05

area, spectrum of people, but at the same time, the one thing you know, is that, you know, you don't need to be afraid of, you know, this truth about your sexual orientation. And

 Gigi 14:20

then you don't have to explain it to MIT to me in times. I'm not sitting on a fence, incredibly Oh, I made a decision.

 14:33

And I know that for a number of the people that from Austin that came to the Houston conference last year, and it was their first conference. They were just blown away. Oh, yeah, they they just, I mean, you could just see it on their face. You could see it in their eyes and their smile. You know, people were just, you know, they were in lala land. They were they were so thrilled and it was really nice for me to see a lot of the newbies, the people who had never been to one before. Oh, yeah, having a wonderful time.

 Gigi 15:07

I mean, when we had our final meeting, last year's conference, and Jay and I did our polyamory commitment ceremony on Sunday, last year, I don't think there's a dry eye in the room. But it wasn't sadness. This is incredible joy. And I think it touches sadness, because, oh, all of a sudden, this is the end of it this year. And then it's really hard to leave. Oh, isn't it I mean, every time I get into one of these conferences or gatherings, it's like, I don't want to go back. I want to stay here. It's like this is.

 15:53

And it's really it's nice, especially to, to make one of the regional conferences, your first conference, because the international conferences are huge. And they can be incredibly overwhelming for a newbie. So if you've never been to a conference, you know, come to this regional conference, because this is a great place to get your feet wet, to meet a lot of people from the regional area and meet some people, you know, on a national level.

 Gigi 16:24

And this year, you know, I can't stress enough the importance of having the dinette USA national meeting, because we're going to have top activists from all over the country here. And this makes a this is kind of an added on to the normal regional conference. Usually you don't get that kind of exposure. Right?

 16:46

Have we talked about the whys in the house? You know, when the Where's

 Giai 16:50



Org. 16:50

Oh, yes. Do you have the email address for the website? Not the email the website?



16:59

Yes, the website for buying it often, which you has a direct link into the webpage for the conference. The address is [www dot main. m a i n.org/sign](http://www.main.mai.n.org/sign). It Austin, which is bi N E T. Au S T I am all running together?



17:26

And how much is it? The conference



17:28

is \$75. At this point, just actually, the 30th. And yesterday was the cutoff date for the early admission. But actually as a surprise, I was thinking that maybe what we should do is if there are if if you guys have any caller any listeners out there that called in now and gave you their name and provided it to us, we would do a special because of the radio show and get people in under the wire so they can still attend the conference at the low low price of \$60. Okay.



18:12

And that number is 713-526-5738 or 713. Jam KPFT. Right.



Gigi 18:23

At the webpage, you can find the registration form, the full lineup, what's going to be happening at the conference, the hotel information and just about anything else. And if you have questions you can even find someone to email to.



18:42

We have contact information on the website. And just so I don't forget the the limited income and student fee is only \$40.



18:53

What if I don't have access to a computer.



18:57

So if you don't have access to a computer, you are welcome to call myself Jennifer Fay at 512-447-7305 or email me at Glo girls. GL owgrrls@aol.com Or the other contact is Gary Harris. And you can reach him at Gary H 32 at Earthlink dotnet or 512-338-4164. So give either of us a call or email us and we'll help you get you registered. And if you have any other questions give us a call to if there's any other information that you need. We're still looking for volunteers and there are volunteers discounts available as well. So and if you can't, if there's anybody out there who, you know, can't do the full price, you know, please give us a call Anyway, we'll see what we can do.



20:12

And you don't want to turn anyone away. Exactly.



20:15

We don't want to turn anyone away. And just so everyone you know, is what's included. The fees do include the entire day of workshops, and readings and presentations. And it also includes a full dinner, and the entertainment and dancing in the evening. So you're getting you know, you're getting a lot for your dollar. Yeah,



Gigi 20:39

yeah, yeah, it really are. And while we're on the subject of low income folks is their community housing available, or low costs, if they can't afford the hotel room,



20:53

um, if anyone is looking for Community Housing, they should email or call me. I am in the process, I'm talking with a couple of different people that have requested it. And we are in the process of finding places for people. There are a few people that are offering community housing, but I'm actually not quite up to date on where people are at in terms of how much room they have left. So give me a call or email me and I'll take all your information, and we'll try to figure out what we can do for you.



Gigi 21:27

And I know Austin does have some youth hostels, don't they? Yeah, Austin



21:30

actually has one of the most incredibly beautiful hospitals in the country. It's right on Towne lake. And it's actually probably only about between five and 10 minutes from the hotel. It's very close. Yeah. And it's just an in clocking out over town, like, of course, I don't know exactly what their prices are the last I knew, I think it was like \$19 or something. And I don't know what, you

know, how much room they'll have. Austin is, you know, it's a pretty culturally, you know, hip and going city. So, if you're thinking about the Utah youth hostel, give him a call quick and, you know, maybe try to make a reservation. Okay,



Gigi 22:14

while I'm getting the wrap up, son, is there anything else you'd like to say about that?



22:18

I think what's really important to say that we haven't really touched on is, you know, the question of who should come to this conference, you know, a lot of people out there might be thinking, though, this conference is just for, you know, by activists or, you know, if they don't know anyone in my community, then there's no reason to go. This conference is for anyone who identifies as by anyone who's had by relationships is curious, is married to, or a relative of someone by, or is gay or lesbian or straight, but wants a better understanding of bisexuality, people who have formerly come out as gay or lesbian, but now they're, you know, they're finding that they have attractions to include people of the opposite sex. You know, anyone who wants to continue growing as a person, you know, not just as a bisexual, but as a person. Now, there's a lot in this conference to cover everything, you know, from coming out polyamory to transgender issues, to racial diversity, to how to have a sex party, to how to how to get your own support group started, you know, people that are in rural or, you know, small towns or rural areas throughout the South Central Region. Those are the people we really need to have at this conference. Because we want you to, you know, find out how wonderful by spaces and then take what you learned at this conference, back to your small town, or even your big city that may not have a bike group yet. And you know, do something, start creating by community, in your own town, you know, in your own backyard, so that you can experience this on a more regular basis. You know, so anyone out there if you have, you know, any interest in bisexuality, for whatever reason, come to the conference, I don't think anyone will be disappointed.



Gigi 24:09

And I do want to stress you don't have to be by to be welcomed. We welcome all people.



24:17

Absolutely anybody.



Gigi 24:19

And it is incredible energy. And, you know, I know that when I first started coming to terms with my sexuality, nothing like this existed. You not here in this



24:24

11 24:34

part of the world. You know, last year I went to the conference, and I'm a gay man, but I never felt out of place and I had a good time.

G Gigi 24:43

I know he did.

24:48

Yes, you did. Well, it's been nice talking to you when we'll be talking more about the conference next week. Yeah. It, GGS regularly scheduled segment? Oh, yes, first Saturday of every month. And you're probably pretty tired right now.

25:14

I'm not, I'm always slow. You're like me. Let me just in case anyone doesn't feel comfortable calling me or one of the other contacts for some reason they don't have web access. Let me give people buying at Austin's phone number, okay, so that they could, you know, listen to the information about buying it, Austin, and, you know, maybe leave a message for someone to get back to them. The number is 51237095731 more time. 512-370-9573.

G Gigi 25:53

Well, thanks for joining us. Thank you, God, incredible how fast the shows get set down and here we are already. But thanks for telling us all about the conference coming up. I'm getting so excited. We're gonna have our place again.

26:15

Take care. Okay. Thank

26:17

you, Jim. Can it Bye.

26:21

Oh, that was fun. And right now, I need to read a email that I got this afternoon. Then we'll be coming right back. But I promised that I'd talk about this. And this is concerning after hours north. It's our sister program. That's on midnight to 3am the same night in Huntsville.



Gigi 26:46

Wow. Yeah. It's finally taken out.



26:49

Yes. Yes, KS Hu. So those folks lucky enough to be close enough to them to pick them up and still hear us. I mean, they have a choice now. of core programming. Yeah, but I got an email from Doug who Doug enjoy. Who are the CO hosts on that show, says Jimmy, I hope this gets to you today. Joy and I lost a good friend this past week. Patrick Neil Oh Bryant, our friend and the vice president of the gay lesbian bisexual and friends Alliance here on campus was killed in a car accident last Sunday. The funeral was on Thursday. We are dedicating our show to him tonight. Could you say something over the air about him or play a song for him? Patrick was so wonderful. He was friends with everyone he met. He was a genuinely wonderful man beautiful both inside and out. He was from Friendswood and was a member of hatch when he was in high school. He was an industrial design major here at Sam Houston and was dedicated to the environment he touched everyone he met in a way that no one can describe. We will miss him terribly and we love him dearly. To see our GL BF a site dedicated to him. Please go to

Gigi 29:36

Wow.



29:37

You guys are doing a wonderful job and you play some awesome music. Thank you very much. I really like the awesome music pa a lot of time and energy into that.



Gigi 29:49

I know you've seen your music. Yeah. See how you can even get in your apartment anymore.



29:58

It's getting tough. It is it is getting tough



Gigi 30:01

as telling friend on the way home back to Houston tonight. I said, Yeah, Jeremy's gonna have to get in second apartment just for his music collection and say.



30:16

Yeah, of course. So what else find that doing these days?



Gigi 30:23

We're getting ready for the conference. And we just had a big slumber party last Saturday. Celebrate bisexuality day. Yep. And it was awesome. We played this game called by the Berk. And basically what you do is you draw a topic, and you can either make up a story, or you can tell a story from your past. And then everybody has to vote after you tell your story, whether it's truth or fiction.



30:56

Sounds like oh, it was uh, hey,



Gigi 30:59

everybody was I mean, it was hard to pick a winner out of all that.



31:07

I can imagine so I had that bind that we're meeting at the same place where you



Gigi 31:12

made we're moving this next window. We're gonna be brought into Oscars. Creamery. Okay, which is located right next door to the old tower theater. Oh, hey, over there by Hollywood Video. Yeah. Okay. So if you go to Hollywood Video, and get go right into the parking lot, and keep going back, you'll see it in the left hand strip malls corner.



31:39

So you can go to a bind that meeting and get to lick something. Yeah. Lick lick lick. And that's every Wednesday at 737 30.



Gigi 31:47

Okay, and we're starting a new thing. This man. The second, third and fourth Thursday's. We're having topic discussion meetings up at the gay and lesbian community center.



32:05

Oh, so what are the days again?



Gigi 32:08

While the second Thursday of the month? Yeah, we're gonna have a woman's only topic discussion group second Thursday. Yeah. Okay. The third is max. And the fourth is men's. Well, it's hard to keep up with it. Oh, on the only end at same time. 732 on then. Okay. And we'll have different top by topics, all kinds of things. Oh, cool. And one thing we left off on the lineup at the conference, I can't believe we did this but j will be doing her famous workshop on the vagina monologue. Yeah, and J is also going to be running the women's topic discussion. I'll be doing the mixed and we've got a couple of other people doing the men's group. Okay.



33:03

Well, we need to wrap it up. Ah, you've been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. Coming up. The men are here for early morning group. The the large guy standing here with the CD in his hand. And in the background, you're hearing a little ditty from Cirrus the lyricist with some help from ni double K. I yes indeedy. And we will see you next week.