

En Esos Tiempos # 9

Pau: Hello, my people. You are listening to the podcast En Esos Tiempos. Hi, I'm Pau and I'm one of the co-hosts of the En Esos Tiempos podcast

Leo: I am Leo, Pau's father. I'll be co-hosting with Pau for today's episode.

Pau: Before going into today's topic, first we want to say that En Esos Tiempos is part of Somos Familia's programming. Somos Familia focuses on supporting LGBTQ, Latinx people, and their families. To learn more about the En Esos Tiempos podcast, view past episodes, and support the work of Somos Familia, subscribe to this podcast by visiting the Somos Familia website at www.somosfiliabay.org. Very well. Let's start with today's episode of En Esos Tiempos.

Pau: Today's episode is about LGBTQ pride month. Pride month is a full month dedicated to elevating LGBTQ voices, celebrating LGBTQ culture, and supporting LGBTQ rights. Throughout the month of June across the country or around the world, there have traditionally been parades, protests, drag performances, live theater, and memorials and celebrations of the lives of community members who lost their lives as a result of HIV and AIDS. It is part political activism and part celebration of all that the LGBTQ community has accomplished over the years. On those days, pride month is an opportunity to remember how far we've come in a relatively short time. But there is still progress to be made. The Pride Marches actually started as a way to commemorate the Stonewall riots. Over 50 years ago in the year 1969. My dad is going to tell us a little more in detail about the origins of LGBTQ pride month and the importance of the Stonewall Inn.

Leo: Yes, look, at the dawn of June 28, 1969, the NYPD led a raid on the Stonewall pub. It was like the club or bar located in Greenwich Village. The gay community then responded by a series of demonstrations that led to violent incidents. The history of the homosexual movement in the United States. This episode marks the moment when gays began to fight against an entire legal, police and social system that persecuted them in the 60s. Few places openly welcomed gay people. Among these was the Stonewall. It was owned by the mob. This pub, as it was called a pub, served a wide variety of customers. This bar was popular for having among its regulars gays, transsexuals, drag queens, male prostitutes, says that article, and homeless youth. Raids on pubs, such as the Stonewall, were common at the time. What made the difference was that the police unexpectedly lost control of the situation and the customers and

other people who approached the scene rebelled. The tension between the police and the gay residents of Greenwich Village lasted for several days and in a matter of weeks the collective organized to achieve places where homosexuals could be freely without fear of arrest. The first Gay Pride marches to celebrate these events took place in 1970 in New York and Los Angeles. Little by little cities around the world were added, since they host the so-called Pride Parade or Gay Pride parades around the world.

Pau: So since the night of Stonewall, since then, many things have happened and over the years, you know, there are many things that have changed and but there are many things that are still the same. Ah, but in your opinion, pa! What things have changed in favor of the LGBTQ community in your opinion?

Leo: Yes, look, many things have changed in favor of the LGBT community, because I am glad that leaders are emerging, that activists like this Mr. Randy Berry, who is a special envoy of the United States for the human rights of LGBT people, which are like 30 articles of rights that are very interesting and where to go. There are several very interesting that everyone in the LGBT community should read. For example, I was very interested in his biography, because for example Randy Berry, openly gay, occupies this position after being consul general in Amsterdam and occupying other diplomatic positions. He speaks for all the people worldwide. He has been to Mexico and they have asked him questions and he has answered and it is not given. Sometimes he has had bad experiences, but he fights a lot to promote the human rights of all people in general. And also something in favor, is that here, for example, here in California we have many, many groups have emerged, for example, support for parents and families like us, that I am in a support group called La Familia and my son is in another group called Somos Familia and there are several Latinx trans groups and well, we are all united here to face any situation and also to celebrate. Well, it is very nice that we are united and support any cause that is against or in favor.

Pau: You as an ally, what message or messages do you have for other allies who want to be more visible to the LGBTQ community? Or what can they do to protect and advance the rights of the LGBTQ community?

Leo: Yes, look, there are several ways and many of them, but I will focus on three. For me the three main ones, for example, educating children, educating them from childhood. Because there are associations there, there are people who focus on badly educating them or giving them bad information about their identity, right? So that is one of the very important points that they have to focus and also educate the parents. It is true that they are misinformed, they are misinformed. That is another question. My focus is educate, educate and educate. And also

make yourself a little more visible, put a little more pressure on the authorities and be united. That is the most important thing, to be united.

Pau: Now my dad is going to share a poem in honor of LGBTQ pride month.

Leo: Yes, well, I'm going to read you this poem, I'm going to tell you that this one was made in the wake of Stonewall, it's called Knock Down the Door and it says

How many people dare not come out of their insecurities! To open the key to the closet, to get out of their fears, to exceed their capabilities. People who do not dare to dare. People who don't believe in their own possibilities. That they don't open the door for fear of getting the wrong key. People who do not decide to express themselves. People who are terrified of the rejection of not being accepted or being disoriented. People, your life is not a disaster. Break with your insecurities. Open the closet and let everyone see what you are worth. Fears only exist in dreams, so don't let them attack you. That you are not different does not mean doubting you. Enjoy your capabilities. Dare to love any body, sex, mind, different ages. You will get everything. If you believe in your possibilities, open the door. use your key. There are many locks. And sooner or later one of them opens. Express yourself. Don't be afraid to demonstrate. And what do you want? And what do you want? Accept you. And so no one will have to accept you. Keep in mind that whoever loves you like I do is never going to reject you.

I hope you liked this poem. And happy LGBT pride month. And to meditate I am going to read you this little paragraph that says: We do not own the thoughts that come to mind, but we do own the thoughts that stay in it.