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SPEAKERS

Mary Helen Merzbacher, Deborah Bell



01:22

[Sissy Man by Pinewood Tom]



Deborah Bell 02:57

Okay, some jazz record sissy Man Blues by Pinewood Tom. In parenthesis, it says Josh White. I'm not sure what that means. I guess the song was written by Josh White performed by Pinewood Tom, Mary Helen, you do come up with some really interesting music. You're listening to lesbian gay voices on KPFT Houston. This is Deborah Bell. And just as Jackie has feared the women have taken over. But that's okay, because we have lots of things in store for you for the rest of the show. And now we're going to be going to our sister affiliate station and out in California for the syndicated program This Way lut, stay tuned.



03:40

One set of sellers. I don't think they seen that many gay people in their life or they didn't know that they'd ever seen that many gay people in their life. When we came through that house. They had k.d. lang on the CD player. I think just for the sake of making us feel more comfortable. We



03:55

certainly want to be made aware and kept aware of the work of the organization. We see it as a useful forum to give us advice about the concerns of the gay and lesbian community.



04:04

The suffocating pain of the closet stopped for me four years ago. However, while I have come

out to nearly everyone who was in my life to any degree, my coworkers have been a special case.



04:32

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucy Chapelle,



04:37

and on Greg Gordon, court order confines Pentagon policy,



04:42

gays and lesbians Rise Up Down Under and queer real estate booms while azaleas bloom. All that and more because you've discovered this way out



05:05

Hi I'm Cindy Friedman and I am Brian Nunez with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending October 9 1993.



Deborah Bell 05:15

Have been engaged voices it for more on the coming out topic, you can tune in tonight to KPRC at 11pm. Texas radio network is featuring



05:27

Need to experience portions of the names project aids Memorial Quilt, which was a project that was organized some years ago to put value on the individuals who had died of AIDS. So they wouldn't just be a number and justice statistic that we could all remember they had names. They were want someone's son or daughter or lover or friend, or child or mother or father. I'm joined today by Barry Mandel, who was chairing the events that will bring the names project aids Memorial Quilt to Houston, starting October 17. Welcome, Barry, thank you. And I'd like to ask you, first of all, what was the motivation to not only bring the AIDS quilt back to Houston, but to bring it to the Jewish Community Center and involve the Jewish community.



06:25

I think the impetus for the project started with my eighth grade religious school class last year, when I brought up the subject of AIDS and that we would spend some time dealing with the subject of AIDS, I got a very negative response from a number of the kids in the class based

upon the fact that they felt they had heard all they wanted to hear about AIDS through their secular schools. So I had to find a way to approach the subject of age from a different avenue, that would again, give me the opportunity to educate them. Give me the opportunity to bring to light the compassion that I believe the entire community needs to have in dealing with the issue of AIDS.



07:10

And so what were the first steps in getting the entire Jewish community involved in not only being able to view the quilt, but there are several events that are going to be occurring. Opening and closing ceremonies, of course, and other events as well. The keynote speaker is Mary Fisher, who most of America heard speak at the Republican National Convention last, well, a year over a year ago now, right?



07:36

When I started, the first thing I did was I went to the most prominent Jewish institutions, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Herald voice, and the Jewish Family Service, presented the program presented to them why I thought the program was so important. And I got overwhelmingly positive responses from each of the organizations. And then from there, little by little different elements of the whole week's project came to being. Mary Fisher came up one night at my family's dinner table, is my sister said to me, you know, it'd be great if you brought in someone Jewish, especially HIV positive that could again bring home the issue of AIDS is not a problem for someone else. AIDS is a problem for the use and community. And for the Jewish Houston community.



08:29

I think we're starting to see this in all kinds of communities that AIDS is everywhere. And it's long past time that all the communities recognize that they and we are all affected by this disease, and has the names project. That's the organization here Houston been involved in in this as well.



08:50

The most extraordinary thing about this event is that the international names project has been involved in this event. We will be bringing panels back to Houston have members of the Houston community that have passed away, we will be we will bring back Jewish panels from the country of people that have passed away from AIDS as well as panels from Israel. A few of Israelis that have passed away from AIDS who've loved ones have made panels that will be part of this quilt display.



09:26

You know, just for those who might not have had the experience of viewing some of these samples from the AIDS quilt and the times it's been in Houston or DC or somewhere else. Some of

panels from the AIDS quilt and the times it's been in Houston or DC or anywhere else. Some of the panels have become so creative now not only list someone's name victims of AIDS and their birth date and the day they passed on but some of them are extremely creative with silly things and crazy things that really would allow the loved ones to recognize that there's something really special about this individual.



09:59

There is a whole gamut of emotions that you'll see in that room. Once the panels are laid out and displayed, you will see parents crying over a panel of a son, you will see lovers laughing hysterically over a panel of a loved one of theirs. Because that's what the emotions of those panels bring up for them. That's what the essence of their relationship was like with that person. So you'll you'll find the whole gamut of emotions that will come up in that room.



10:29

So the events actually begin Sunday morning, October 17, at 10am at the Jewish Community Center, which is located at 5601, South braise wood that's in southwest Houston, not far from the 610 loop.



10:46

Right. All of the events will be housed there, beginning that Sunday with the opening ceremonies in which Mary Fisher will be our keynote speaker.



10:55

And then the hours for viewing the quilt and of course, people of all ages will find poignant and as you said perhaps smiling moments as well. So the hours reviewing the quilt are 10am to 8pm. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and different hours on Wednesday and Friday. Also beginning at 10 and Friday, it stops at four and this is interesting quote viewing hours on Saturday night.



11:35

Well, Saturday, obviously is the Jewish holy day so the center is closed up until sunset Saturday evening, Saturday evening. Specifically there is a cultural arts evening, where Linda Lorelle from channel two will be narrating out of the book a promise to remember the names project book of letters, and different local Houston artists will be highlighting their particular talents to this narration. So that programming will begin at eight o'clock in the capital in theater at the Jewish Community Center. And the quilt will be open prior to that as well as after that performance. And again, that performance is open to the public, as are all of the events.



12:16

Okay. And also the following Sunday, October 24 is the final day for viewing. And there will be closing ceremonies at 6pm on Sunday, October 24. And Barry, would you say this is an opportunity not only for Houstonians who are Jewish or who have loved ones who are Jewish, but for all Houstonians to also be able to learn a bit more about the Jewish culture because you have rabbis and cantors and other people who will be bringing sort of liturgical and musical side to the ceremonies as well as just individuals like you and I or anyone else.



12:56

Right additional to that is every 10 every hour on the hour, for 10 minutes, there will be a brief discussion, which will center on AIDS and its statistics, the quilt and its statistics, and the Jewish perspective on the issue of AIDS, and the quilt.



13:16

It's wonderful. Well, let's sum up again for those. First of all, if you'd like more information you can call 5268484. And that's if you want to volunteer your time or you just want to know when you can view the quilt and when the events are. And again the names project aids Memorial Quilt is coming to the Jewish Community Center Sunday, October 17 through Sunday, October 24. And the Jewish Community Center is located at 5601 South braise wood. Berry Mandel has been my guest today. He's been the event chair and Barry, I would imagine that you have spent many, many hours preparing all these events and projects and thanks for doing that. Sure. Cindy Friedman World Radio 90.1 I know you're tired.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 14:10

I know you're as a goddess,



Deborah Bell 14:18

yes to the Goddess and all of us. So we're here talking about lesbian and gay things matters, events, affairs will not affairs. And we have a number of things coming up in the community that we want to let you know about. Some news articles to to chat with you about. One of the things is to remind you that starting tonight through November 13th, Earl Olli Austin and Ralph will be showing over at Khumba house Repertory Theater 3414 lob ranch at home and this is from the group Theater Workshop and It's the Southwest premiere of this play. It'll be Fridays and Saturdays reservations are recommended 5222204 And I think you hit some things there. Mayor halen did me



Mary Helen Merzbacher 15:15

well. I wanted to make mention of a KPFT event that's coming up on November the seventh. The ninth annual KPFT gumbo cook off will be presented so if you like gumbo, and Cajun music, you can check it out Sunday September 7 at the Pasadena rodeo fairgrounds out.

 Deborah Bell 15:37

I think we ought to get lunch queers together, cook up some gumbo, go out to Pasadena, Texas, and enter there.

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 15:44

If you'd like to cook some gumbo if you've got a good recipe and you think you could win you can call during the day five to six 4000 and register there they have prizes that you can win you can call up and get an entry form if you'd like to do that. So give us a call if you want to enter the gumbo cook off or be a vendor or if you just want to go out there and eat Gumbo and have a good time Sunday November 7. in Pasadena,

 Deborah Bell 16:17

the rice gay and lesbian Alumni Association will host its annual dinner as an officially scheduled event of rice homecoming 1993 reunion dinner is also a fundraiser through which the group hopes to award two scholarships for the spring 94 semester contributions to the scholarship fund or not. However, our requirement to attend the reunion dinner, the dinner will be held at beer heredis downtown. And if you would like to take part in that I do not know the date you need to call 797 1732 are 8804970 next weekend, San Diego there's going to be a conference of bisexuals but here in Houston we have our own group the bisexuals commune they meet on Wednesday evenings from seven to 9pm at MCC our 99th indicator. And if you would like more information about that, please call Joel Butler at 4646553. While they'll shake up their mirror, Helen pat

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 17:30

robertson hates it. He does but you'll love it. You can get a second opinion by dialing a gay atheist. The number is 880 4242.

 Deborah Bell 17:42

Now, isn't there something you're involved in that's going to be coming up the last weekend this month and I'm not talking about Halloween?

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 17:50

That's right. i You need to go ahead and get your tickets now. If you haven't gotten them yet to the Heartsong follies Heartsong presents. The second time they've done it. The follies of October the 29th and 30th at the First Unitarian Church. What is it 5200 Fannin. And it's two nights of fun and laughs and it's a very reasonable price. Tickets are available at Inklings and I

think Crossroads bookstore, and so are for any for many Heartsong member and I am a member of hearts on they'll be joining us also next weekend to give us a little preview of the show.

 Deborah Bell 18:37

Okay, and this is not all those women just stand there singing, which they do very fondly, but it's showcasing certain members and kind of doing some little fun thing. It's small

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 18:48

groups and skits and some people from outside of Heartsong will be performing. And different the choir will be singing I don't know three or four or five numbers, but most of them are more of a lighthearted sort. And it's meant to be funny and we hope that you laugh and I think you probably will. It's silly

 Deborah Bell 19:10

they there I'll be laughing

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 19:12

It's um if you went last time you know that when it was really a good time and we did and we really liked it's even worth going like two nights to it so I mean it's it's that funny.

 Deborah Bell 19:25

Woman space and lesbians in this business. I was trying to do when your tongue twisters Mary Helen woman's face and lesbians and business will be having their Halloween dance on Friday, October 29. from nine to one. The theme is the movie so you can come I guess a target is one of your favorite characters. Maybe maybe that T Rex from Jurassic Park or something. And that's going to be at a fancy place downtown. You can get tickets at England's or at Crossroads markets. It's going to be at the Veracruz building there. Do 223 Smith, dancing food drinks and featuring that wonderful DJ cherry wolf it will be chem free. And so if you're a woman and you want to dress up and go out and do the thing on how for Halloween, that's, that's the thing to do.

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 20:14

You can come to the the Heartsong follies and then be through in time to make it to the dance.

 Deborah Bell 20:21

That's right after listening to lesbian gay voice, right? And, and you should also let me run your life. That's true. That would Well speaking of Halloween, and kind of spooky stuff, you know, and rice is going to be in town to her new book Lasher, which is the exciting sequel to the witching hour, she will be holding an exclusive Houston book signing at Crossroads market 610, West Alabama, that's Wednesday the 20th at 6pm. And you are invited to go over there. They do ask that if you're going to have asked her to autograph your book that you purchase that at that market. Crossroads is a little tinge, which I think is only fair and Shan rice has a very large gay and lesbian following. I don't know quite what it all is about this vampire thing and all that. But if you're interested in Anne Rice, if you're a fan, you might want to go over there and say how you doing?

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 21:15

I think it has to do with like sucking or something. Yeah,

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Deborah Bell 21:18

I think well, you know, that's one of those old vampire movies had a lot of Beavis

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 21:22

and Butthead say it, I can say it.

D

Deborah Bell 21:26

Some of the old vampire movies have a lot of homoerotic sexism and them also taking place on Friday the 22nd at 8pm at the Cullen theatre where them center will be I'm gonna say the name right. Di Amanda glace with her performance of Judgment Day. And she will be having a dialogue, meet the artists, Thursday the 21st at 7:30pm. At the first work studio 1117 East freeway, you'll get to hear her lecture and actually have a q&a session with the artists. And this is supposed to be a very dramatic new work of being presented by the Society for performing arts.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 22:12

So like an s&m set session,

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Deborah Bell 22:14

it could be from the looks of q&a, Hannah that's like, questions and answers. Okay. Other exciting news in the lesbian world is that there are two video releases that lesbians might be interested in. One of them is Claire of the moon is going to be available on video, I think that is

taking is currently the case. And it is three of hearts, which I guess I mean, it has a little bit of a lesbian theme in it, which was a mainstream done movie, and it's going to be available on video as of October 22. So what else you know, Mary Helen?

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 22:55

Well, I just wanted to, to let people know I was written a little article about the March on Washington and the economic impact that it had on the Washington DC area according to the convention, Washington Convention and Visitors Association director. The March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights, boosted the economy in the DC area by \$177 million. He estimated that the revenue associated with President Clinton's inauguration was \$65 million. So that

D

Deborah Bell 23:31

I'm really confused Mary Helen, how only 300,000 People could have generated that. I mean, I knew that we're supposed to be a fluent, but I just had no idea of the magnitude. I think that's one thing we have to look at when we when we realized that the they don't know how to count in the Park Service in DC. I'm pretty sure there were at least a million of us there on April 25. Well, in Austin, Travis County, unmarried couples can begin registering today as domestic partners creating the necessary documentation to prove eligibility for spousal benefits. It entitles partners to a set of limited legal rights and set the Travis County Clerk Dana, they've worked both yay. And it is specifically for establishing a relationship for the purpose of insurance coverage. It's definitely not a marriage license. But the Domestic Partnership does apply to both male female female, female, male male whatever combination like that, that you have, and the city of Austin will be taking part in that so that the they the if you work for the City of Austin, then your spouse of whatever nature can receive benefits if you're in a married partnership. Hey, Donnie, want to move to Austin? Just kidding. Okay. Colorado gay policy chat. challenge begins in the state state district court a challenge to the constitutionality of a Colorado measure for betting legal protection for homosexuals begins in the state district court. And as you may know, there was amendment two got passed within it was a judge ruled that it wasn't a constitutional. And so Colorado has been losing a lot of money because of the boycott. And fact they have lost over \$40 million due to cancellations of conventions booked through the year 2000 Majan. That

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Mary Helen Merzbacher 25:38

and it's such a nice place to go. An alternative that to that boycott, has also been talked about, which is going to Colorado anyway, but letting people there know, of your sexual orientation.

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Deborah Bell 25:53

And there are lesbian and gay businesses there that you could support while you're there. And and there are many tactics that we use in our efforts to obtain equal rights, loot civil rights or constitutional rights. And of course, that's part of what we're all about here on lesbian and gay voices. Thanks, Mary Helen, so much for being with us tonight. You're a good substitute for Jack. Yeah, yeah. And we want to thank Cindy Friedman for her contribution to the program.

Donna Goring, yay, the birthday woman for her engineering are wonderful producer of the program. Jack may or may not be back with us next week, but we hope that you will be and stay tuned for Noreen Nuri with off the clock with his special guests, Marcia ball and thanks for being with us. I'm Deborah Bell.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 26:45

Mary Helen. Goodbye.