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SUMMARY KEYWORDS


lesbian, houston, years, good, christmas, woman, aids, song, week, hiv, people, gay, work, anti gay, marvin, day, give, bit, tattoos, comedy


SPEAKERS


Suzanne Anderson, Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell


-  D

Deborah Bell 00:39
[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]
-  J

Jack Valinski 00:50
From Pacifica's KPFT Houston This is lesbian gay voices a show and for and about the game lesbian community. We bring you a closer look at your radio with us talking through it. Today is December 16 This is Jack Valinski
-  D

Deborah Bell 01:05
and this is Deborah Bell and you know it's Christmas time in the Montose to tree is up a top Mary's with beautiful angel there as well
-  J

Jack Valinski 01:13
I remember one time they were lighting their Christmas tree and it was raining so hard we were inside I was waiting when they turn that switch on with the whole city would go dark but it didn't it
-  D

Deborah Bell 01:23
didn't. And Mary's of course is at Westheimer at Waugh [crest?] if you want to check out the tree there
-  J

Jack Valinski 01:31

very close to Waugh.

D

Deborah Bell 01:32

Yeah. And on tonight's program we have Mary Helen is not going to be here because she's out singing with heart song all those Christmas caroling as it were, but we do have Nancy Ford with an interview with singer writer Sarah McLaughlin and Sarah McLachlan will be performing in Houston this Saturday night December 17. Where she will be performing it I'm glad you asked me that I haven't the slightest- well we will find out what someone will inform us of that

J

Jack Valinski 02:01

Marvin Davis ala Lady Victoria Lust will be here tonight to talk about the holiday gift of giving.

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Deborah Bell 02:08

And special holiday music from this way out featuring the group Venus in the from their album out the home for Christmas and every other day of the year as well.

J

Jack Valinski 02:18

Promo alone and also we're missing another person actually two people.

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Deborah Bell 02:24

Well, I say [Amanda?] was sitting in opening of the show we appreciate that Merry Christmas to him. Have a good vacation. Stay safe on the in your travels to you and your lovely bride. Zachary's out tonight. I'm not sure really what he's up to, you know, something. And oh, tonight is the concert in Galveston, he's things with well, thing but as the director, that direct President right, the Gay Men's Chorus and they're performing Galveston tonight. That's right. So I guess he kind of had one of those mandatory attendance had

J

Jack Valinski 03:00

to be there, right? Yeah. So some of the things are going on the news play in last Sunday's post the political cartoon, which the Post story has some good stuff there. Now I'm not about to sing it but it's the 12 days. With Lucci seeing 12 squad cars chasing 11 More behind them 10 that are marked unmarked. Nine SWAT teams are swatting eight meter maids writing seven Law Officers leaping six cops on cycles, five cops on horseback for ambulance chasing lawyers, three MTA squad cars to hate speeding choppers and a quick install and pickup.

D

Deborah Bell 03:40

You know it is crazy out there. I had a rough time trying to get to the station tonight. And I want all of you to be really careful out doing your shopping and holiday parties and everything. Do be careful. And I do not have a sign on the front of my car that says please pull out in front of me so don't do it. Speaking of the 12 days of Christmas Murphy Brown Monday night, wonderful episode. Want me to do it. Go ahead. Okay. Murphy's reading to her little baby boy Avery. And this is what she says. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas when all through the house, not a Democrat was stirring not even to grouse. Their suitcases packed in a mood of despair. Knowing Newt in his cronies soon would be their health care and Headstart were all put to bed all visions of school prayers danced in their heads out rosti out Foley out Richards and come now back into your closet you soldiers who are well you know from the top of the hill they'll shout will not fell to take back the White House with Sonny Bono and quell into all a good night. That's not quite as humorous is in today's Chronicle. There is a study finds that anti gay activity increasing earlier in the week chronicle was well I'm Yesterday, I'm still catching up. They don't get there on time. So if I leave, I still think it's the same day the next day or something I say the anti gay activists stepped up attacks in Congress, state legislatures and courts and public policy arenas. Last year, according to a report from the People for the American Way. The result is a political and social climate hostile to the principles of justice and fairness, that safeguards every American, somehow they don't think we're included in that a lot of the people begin increasing the number and scope of anti gay measures introduced in Congress and state legislatures from anti gay amendments attached to unrelated bills to efforts to criminalize sodomy. That's what they do. They sort of sneak this stuff in and something like the education bill, that they put anti gay legislation in that a big jump and attempts to pass state and local ballot initiatives. Luckily, in Texas, we don't have that right now. But that's, it's it's not as hard to get something on the ballot. But it is very hard to have to defend it with money, right. And we can't really expect any progressive movement, even though we plan on March in Austin next year. Well, broadly, verbal attacks have increased a lot. According to this report, organizations 1990 report documented 132 events almost exactly the same as this year's but the report contends growing anti gay campaigns is gaining around across America. There's a shift in strategy by the anti gay movement from a focus on ballot initiatives to working through Congress and state legislatures. And if you want to be part of combating that, one of the things you can do is this little card which fell out of the this week's Houston voice, you know, that was really neat with a voice. And I really think that's a great thing for them to do. It's the voter registration card that you need to fill out and make sure that it's sent in to Carl Smith. And it's a really simple thing to do. It takes what maybe three minutes max, and if you have moved or had other changes in your life that might necessitate re registering need to take care of that too. We're because we do have a special election coming up in January. City council, January 21. The replacement for Sheila Jackson Lee, who is now going to be in Congress in January, sorry, moved into her office the other day, she was on Morning Edition the other day talking about choosing an office, they got a lottery I guess to get the best office. So if you haven't registered, if you don't have the card, you can dial two to 490 19 and they will send you a card. And it's really easy to fill out very important. And mine just fell out too. As he opened up the paper there it was spectrum 95 which is a big celebration and business expo event that's taking place in June of 95 part of the Lesbian Gay Pride Week festivities and kind of a reunion and a remembrance of the town meeting one that took place a number of years ago. They're doing a lot of work trying to get on board, make sure this thing gets pulled off. They have four open board positions that they're hoping to fill and they have added an additional four seats that they would like to have more people being involved, especially women and other minorities within the Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender gender community and they will hold their next meeting January 4 at 811 Westheimer. Suite 208 from five to seven if you'd like to get involved in that. I am sort of on a brighter note if you haven't seen Greater Tuna or Tuna

Christmas here in Houston or Galveston or Austin or any places it was traveling around it has made it to New York and the New York Times has given it a pretty decent review. If your Christmas holidays have a way of turning out badly take heart things are worse than two and a Texas the state's third smallest Hamlet were good shears always in short supply is threatened to dry up altogether. And one of the comments here tonight Christmas is much more than a drag show. Mr. Sears who has to change they all play a both the two characters play about 11 different characters in the play. Do he deserves at least two Tony nominations for the Best Actress. Really funny show when it comes back. You've got that well it's it's difficult to get a quite a coup, wouldn't it? To get two awards to Tony Awards for Best Actress. And just in time as she makes her appearance. Oh, no, no, no, she's late. Yeah, actually she is. And maybe we can talk with her a little bit about the subject that I was just about to bring up. Suzanne Anderson is here. And she's going to be speaking out with us. Did you have anything else to close off with before we bring No, no How you doing Suzanne? How the Holidays Good

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Suzanne Anderson 10:00

evening. They're hectic selling lots of houses. I'm trying to I went Christmas shopping today I'd wrap it all up in about two hours. I bought one item

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Deborah Bell 10:10

in two hours. Once it was for me,

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Suzanne Anderson 10:13

oh, Lord, what's going

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Deborah Bell 10:15

on? Well, lots

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Suzanne Anderson 10:17

is going on. When Veronica Jacobs attended a resume writing workshop recently, she found out that she was advised not to list her work with eight patients on her resume. It turns people off. You might close the door before you get an interview. Well, needless to say the woman was shocked. Branca Jacobs is an attorney and she is providing among others that are students free legal counseling, which is available December 17 and 18th. And the sessions are planned between 9am and 3pm at the college legal clinic at 1602. San Jacinto. One of the things Veronica wondered, though, is if she's not supposed to put on her resume that she's helping AIDS patients, one of the AIDS patients have to go through pretty scary. Barry Goldwater, who's 85 years old has a message for his fellow Republicans be nice to gave. The 1964 GOP presidential candidate was honored as civil liberal libertarian of the Year by the Arizona Civil Liberties Union. I bet that's the first time the ACLU has given Republicans. Which I think the guy is just terrific. Of course, as I understand he has a gag grandson. And that's just shows the guy

you that if you know somebody that's gay, it makes a difference on on how you feel about them. Anyway, he reminded the audience that the Constitution doesn't say anything about gays, it gives us freedom of speech, it gives them as freedom of association. It gives us other freedoms, as long as the expression of those freedoms does not do any harm to anybody else. Yes, sir. I'm getting I'm getting notes passing. And

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Deborah Bell 12:07

I'm certainly for the part of the Constitution that talks about the pursuit of happiness.

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Suzanne Anderson 12:12

Absolutely. Now, this is pretty shocking out of Philadelphia, three placecards are posted on a tiny church in a rundown neighborhood, one says are welcome. And the other says are the second says only those who have tested negative for AIDS are welcome. And the third says, homosexuals aren't welcome, either. That's on a church. I mean, I just I'm aghast anyway, out of San Francisco, anti gay activists had stepped up their attacks in Congress and state legislature and that's according to a report by People for the American way. Number one, there's been a big increase in the number and the scope of anti gay measures introduced in Congress and state legislatures. There's also been a big jump in attempts to pass state and local ballot initiatives against gay rights, broadly disseminated verbal attacks on gays and a very increasingly well organized and I these two words do not go together to me, but they said in the paper religious rights, you know how I feel about that. But sponsors of Oregon's anti gay initiative contended that Germany's Nazi Party was founded in a gay bar, and then a bunch of homosexuals ran the Nazi death camp. Now talk about a creative imagination. Oh, no. Anyway, I was interested in seeing something in the ad off page this week, and it was written by Peggy Testa, and the headline says colonists doesn't understand gays in those who love them. And I just want to congratulate Peggy, it's a long article, I'm not gonna go through it. But Peggy has come a long way and coming out and I think she's gone everywhere from this stage, that it's really nobody's business whether or not I'm gay to writing something in the ad op page at the Houston Post and having it published. And one of the

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Deborah Bell 14:05

other things a famous columnist is Anna Quindlen did her last column this week in The New York Times. She has done some very good columns on our community, and just being a woman living in the third living her life in the 30s. And what it's like to raise kids and dealing with life situations in a very honest open way.

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Suzanne Anderson 14:25

Refreshing isn't okay in New York, some days gyms sleeps, while a stranger opens his door, slips quietly in and takes out his guide dog will gems a blind man and he has AIDS. We'll get his three daily walks, whether Jim sleeps or not, and he's well provided for by a volunteer who comes in if Jim's awake, he invites a volunteer for tea. He says he can't trust himself to wake up. He said in sometimes when he wakes up, he just doesn't have the strength and will

considering the fact Because this man's blind is his right hand, rent right hand arm. Anyway, he relies on volunteers from an organization called powers nets, pet owners with AIDS resource service. And that's one of the many organizations that's going on around the United States right now that takes care of AIDS patients pets. On a recent day in San Francisco, a man showed up outside the office of pause, which is our pets are wonderful support. He had his cat in hand and the man asked the group if he could take care of his pet for a couple of months, until he was financially stable. He was forced by financial problems that follow AIDS. And the man was moving into low income housing where pets were banned. He was just crying. It was sad. And you could see that he was absolutely devastated about banding and his cat. One of the things we have in Houston, of course, is pet patrol. But I think it's very moving that there are people out there that even think about something I'm sitting here with my four pound Yorkie in my lap, which I do every Friday. And our pets are real important to us. And I think it's terrific that our people are out there helping these PW A's with what many of them is their family. I'm sure we've talked about it before. I don't want you to forget a nice Parker is looking at writing running for city council. Now the wonderful thing about this is the election is going to be taking place. I think it's the 21st of January, there's not much time between now and then. Not many people are going to go out to vote. A nice Parker is a tremendously talented woman. She's president of the near town Association, which of course is the neighborhood civic group. She's former president of the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus, and she could work could be the very first City's openly gay council member by Parker said while she's campaigning for the state and seeking pledges for campaign contributions, she's made no final decisions. Let's hope let's keep our fingers crossed. My sense is that she probably will run again, not many people are voting if we get out and vote and we vote for a nice, a nice, we'll be on the city council. On the light side. This was a quote from Governor Bailey, or Bill Weld in his victory speech. He says when you see a turtle on a fence post, you may not know how it got there. But that you know that it had a lot of help. I'm met turtle and I'm looking for a lot of help. And of course, this came out of the that little Harvard Lampoon magazine that I get on a on a regular basis. In closing, and again, I wasn't here last week, and I would imagine that this was brought up but it hasn't been that long ago that Elizabeth Glaser passed away. And she, of course, was a Hollywood wife, who became a tireless AIDS activist after she and her two children were infected with HIV through a blood transfusion. She was 47 years old. She was part of 1000 points of life that President Bush hit well. Her comment scuze me towards the 1000 points of life was that it just wasn't enough. She stayed at her house had been too dark for too long. Three weeks later, after she lost the child, or excuse me, after she had a blood transfusion Glazer read an article telling in the newspaper telling about the dangers of contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS from blood transfusions, and when she had this child, she had to have a blood transfusion. So she asked her doctor if she was tested and he said no, it really wasn't anything to worry about, and there was no need for her to test or check into it. She nursed her child and four years later, Ariel became seriously ill. Hospital tests found her red blood count low, but doctors again assured her recovery. Four months after that, doctors finally tested the family for the immune deficiency. Glazier tested positive, and she had passed the virus to Ariel through her breast milk. She'd also given the virus to her second child, Jake, Ariel's then, and Elizabeth dead, and her son's infected. When she went to the Democratic Convention in 1992. She spoke and this is just a small quote from her. exactly four years ago, my daughter died of AIDS. She did not survive the Reagan administration. I'm here because my son and I may not survive four more years of leaders who say they care but do nothing. I'm in a race with the clock. And sadly enough, she's lost that race. Susanna Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.



D Deborah Bell 19:45

Thank you, Suzanne, for you. Check out completely for the evening. Have you heard very much about the new proposed home test for HIV?

S Suzanne Anderson 19:55

I have heard about it. I did miss the meeting this week. I was still working What you know, I know that there's Oh,

D Deborah Bell 20:02

it was announced that Glen Maxey of Austin and Deborah Dannenberg of Houston, have introduced a bill are planning to introduce a bill as soon as the legislature goes into session to legalize the HIV home test. And this would involve pricking a finger and sending dried blood spots to a laboratory and about a week later, people would learn their results by telephone, they would remain anonymous by using identification numbers included in the kits, counseling and referral to other medical and social resources are given over the phone. Direct Access diagnostics, say one of the divisions of Johnson and Johnson has an application pending. With the FDA for approval. A conservative group in Washington has called for immediate approval. The Coalition for America and the Institute for Justice accused the agency of endangering the lives of 1000s of people who say they will only test for the virus in the privacy of their home. Now, there are some concerns about this, such as the effect that it will have on actually tracking the AIDS population, the accuracy of the test, the effectiveness of the proposed telephone counseling, assuring the competence dimensionality and not am an entity of the users possible misuse of the kits by adults and children, and secret and illegal test of workers by employers. I think we need to discuss this a little more about whether it's a good idea or not, of course, Maxey says that it's a way for people who otherwise would not get tested to make sure that they do. Are you telling me that the conservative factor is on the same side with Denver, Denver, and that seems to happen more and more lately? It's the strangest thing.

S Suzanne Anderson 21:55

Well, I guess everybody has their lucid moments. Yes.

D Deborah Bell 21:59

And I hope you have many more. Thank you. Thanks for being with we're gonna listen to some music now. Straighten up the house Romanovsky Phillips at a strain at the house for the holidays. Because Mom's coming to visit. You went to your company Christmas party with your lover. Is that the first time you've done that? No, no. It was a different lover. It's some first time in a while. Yeah. First time I went to how many Christmas party? No. I for a while. Yeah, yeah. They those can be interesting campaign. Yeah, they can be I won't behave myself if I go to them. So it's best that I don't. Well, we certainly hope that you're enjoying your Christmas activities. We have coming into town tomorrow night here in Houston singer songwriter Sarah McLaughlin, Nancy Ford interviewed her a couple of months ago, she's the heartbreaker of

many lesbian. And she's gonna be telling Nancy about how she came up with some of her songs and what has influenced her life. You have a tremendous gay and lesbian following. Everybody tells me here, do you have any things that you attribute that to? Or?



23:22

Well,



Deborah Bell 23:25

I think probably the sexual ambiguity of my songs. I don't tend to place gender as an issue anywhere. Except on occasion when I'm actually talking about women. And whether it's, you know, whether it's the sisterhood and friendship or whether it goes further, I mean, but I don't, I don't like to put boundaries on it like that, because I think sexuality needs to be stated a lot more freely than it has been in the past. And indeed, certainly historically love songs have been about him losing her and you know, she pining away for he thing, and I was obviously studying your your lyrics a little bit more closely than just enjoying them as I have in the last few months, studying this morning and you very, very seldom use pronouns. Very seldom is that been intentional? Yeah, pretty much. I mean, one of the only songs that I do, or one of the only songs it has sort of a natural gender thing is good enough. Whereas, like, basically, you could you can, you could take it as far as a woman thinks whether a woman right, I'll take better care using this guy. What Yes, in fact, a group of friends and I were talking about that very song the other night, it has very, very lesbian overtones, definite statement there. Somebody you can also you can also you can also parallel that with a mother daughter relationship, or a simple female friendship. You know, you can take it very lots of different levels and that's what I like Whether it's ambiguous or ambiguous that way, right, you kind of can appeal to a much broader sense. or broader spectrum of audience. Yeah. In in possession. Now, there's a lot of speculation what that's about. Some people say it's about battered women. Some people say it is about a lesbian love relationship. There's something about holding you down and kissing you all over that is that as intrinsically lesbian is what I'm told. That's what I hear. That's what's what my friends tell me. Wow. But curious what? Yeah, I think that's great. I mean, that's, you know, when people ask me about, you know, when they asked me to be specific about what my songs mean, my first thing is, what does it mean to you? You know, and, and whatever their answer is, I go, Well, that's what it is, you know, it means something different to me. But, you know, I basically told you as much as I planned to tell you in the song as to what it spoke to me. You know, and if they really pushed me know, I'll go into detail on the possession was if it turned into a lot of different things, but it was initially inspired by a lot of letters that I got from male fans, who were who just went really, really over the top as far as their adoration and the fantasies that they created and sort of place myself myself in with them and sort of demanded that that was reality. And it got you know, it got kind of frightening because I didn't know I don't know these people but kind of on the line between a fan letter and a stalker letter very much so very much so that would surprise a lot of people to learn it that that was the basis of that song. Yeah, but reading it It certainly makes sense. Well, yeah, and but again, once again, it's on the outside it's a love song. It's got that same kind of thing is every breath you take and yeah, you know that it's always such a pretty low song but you really obsessive compulsive yeah if you tend to go inside the lyrics and read what's behind them then Well, speaking of which your press notes in fumbling toward X to see referred to you referring to writing fumbling as a kind

of therapy. Oh, yeah. What sort of writing always has been it's become more so and more so as I've as I've progressed as far as my songwriting skills for me it's. Obviously, is relationships failing? Tell me about it. No point in bringing up my personal

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Suzanne Anderson 27:52

life?

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Deborah Bell 27:55

Well, it's generally it's fundamentally pretty much the same. You know, we've all we've all been through the shitty relationships. We've all had people mistreat us. We've probably mistreated people at the same time and it's just it's a fascinating topic for me, the psychology of the human brain and and how and why we do things is you know, it's always a reaction to something else, whether it's recent past or distant past. And, you know, for me, it's just trying to figure out myself in relation to all that and where I where I sit and you know, process of finding out who I am really right, you said is also writing it also helped you overcome your long standing fears throughout the day. I'm working on it. Yeah. Okay. You know, I'm not necessarily there but yeah, I mean, any kind of therapy is generally you're trying to deal with something so that it doesn't bother you anymore, or so that you can at least put it you can put it to rest you can understand a little better and that's working through it. Yeah, and that's what the songs are for me and you know, and a lot of its projection. Like I'll say I want your love doesn't necessarily mean oh, it just means I'm working on this is what I wish for. We do all aspire don't we? Yeah. In your song plenty. There. It sounds to me like there's some serious abandonment. Yeah, the ultimate kilted relationship song. You indeed, what was the inspiration for that? Oh, my may be so personal. Well, how do I say it? I told myself a huge lie. Oh, I got myself into a relationship where I decided that this was the perfect guy. And that was it. And so I projected the perfect man onto him and expected him to be that and when he fell through is the short of it I was terribly offended through no one's fault but our own, I guess. Absolutely. And it was, it was an amazing things like, Wow, I can't believe I allowed myself to deceive myself so much to such a degree. And so that song is totally about that. But it was, it was one of the best relationships I've ever been through because of what it taught me. In the end, I believe this is heaven to know what else to no one else, but me describe heaven. I'm the place where I know who I am and where I can be exactly who I am and then be accepted unconditionally for the does that happen? Have you ever been there? I've been pretty close. Where when I was making the record, and I was by myself. But that's the most important. I think the most important to acceptance is accepting yourself. And for a long time I didn't and I didn't have much confidence or faith in myself. And I didn't really know who I was. And I think being by myself for seven months as I was really forced me to address a lot of things that I've been suppressing for many years. You know, it's like I just and standing for many conversations of, you know, everybody going over all this is the Enlightened generation. It's like, Yeah, but yeah, sure, in your 20s, when you're being the rebel, you you are a radical, and you'll try and make change, but by the time you hit 30, you're either sucked into the system, or you're a total outcast. Is that the impetus behind your music, you want to make some change? Inevitably, yeah, I mean it, I have to say that first and foremost, it's an incredibly selfish thing on my part, I do it to please myself, I do it to learn about myself and try and try and get ahead, try and figure out what what I'm all about what everything else is all about. And, and I do also have that feeling that if a person is really good, and I'm really happy and peaceful that this may sound a bit corny, but I truly,

totally believe it, that they really shine. And I believe that if other people see that light shining, that if it shines a bit onto their lives, and I really believe that can make a difference. I mean, I've met people who are like that. And they've been amazing inspirations to me and I, you know, I kind of I kind of dig that that notion that I could give other people happiness, indeed, speaking of meeting other people who shine I was in wasn't able to see your show, but I was in New York for the Gay Games and cultural festival when you were doing life beat. Oh, that was such an amazing night. Tell me everything. Well, it was it was a great bill for one thing. Maligna Katie? Seals, John Fukada Mila Queen Latifah myself. The length MC, didn't she? Yeah, yeah. And Ronica as well. And Madonna showed up just as we were leaving, Madonna. Yeah. I was like, Oh, good. I'm out of here. I don't think I could handle looking at her up close. Not not a big inspiration for you. And Madonna isn't? I really loved her for a while. I really did. And I was just sick to death of her. No. But that's, you know, what I'm waiting for to reinvent yourself like everybody else. She always does. She Yeah, I think next move is setting kids. That would make sense. Because she's she's getting on to so. But the back back to life be? Yeah. Anyway. Um, yeah, it was a really, really amazing vibe. Because, of course, the whole thing that it was surrounding and all the people that work for life beaters is the most amazing bunch of people. And, you know, there's no, there's always a great energy with sort of a volunteer organization where, you know, people are working, because they, they love it, because they want to be there because they want to help. I mean, there's always a great vibe and and that was, you know, really the ceiling of the night and then the people in the audience were just, you know, so into it. And, you know, what's really bizarre thing was, maybe you can shed some light on this for me. Maybe it's just the jaded New York thing, but nobody, not a single person or the red ribbon. Now, I'm wondering why that is. Is it it become passe now or something or?



34:39

Um,



Deborah Bell 34:40

that's interesting. I've heard some controversy about it that it's becoming like the, the Yellow Ribbon round the old oak tree, you know, it's a nice again, passe thing, but let's do something other than wearing something a piece of costume jewelry, all right. I hate to say you use the word bad. But it was almost like that I you know, I still see mostly activists here in Houston wearing the AIDS ribbon. And then there's like a formal deal that always looks good on on a on a tuxedo God that sounds jaded. But I think you're right not as it's not as prevalent now I think people are maybe putting their awareness into actually cold hard cash a little bit more. Right. That's an interesting observation. I was really interested because I hadn't heard anything about it. But you know, when in any other event like that, where there was always ribbons plastered, and all of a sudden, the words really strange because nobody had them on nobody. That's, that's odd. Yeah. Not a single person. It's like, it's almost like it has been tattooed or something, you know? Wow. Yeah. That's pretty extreme. I have I have no explanation for that. Yeah. And we searched and what a lot of people they didn't all come together. Yeah. I was really looking. I was looking for them. And there's nothing Red Ribbon detector at the door. Yeah, it was bizarre. Why don't you do a lot of stuff. For AIDS charities, you're involved with the no alternative? Album? It's certainly it's affected you. Yeah, the AIDS crisis? Well, I'm finally knowing people who are dying from which, you know, I didn't for a long time, but no, you know, one of my one of my good friends is HIV positive. But people who I've known for years who have lost contact

with like, a guy I know, for like, six or seven years, died a couple of weeks ago, and I didn't even know we had AIDS. You know, that's, well, that certainly has been, you know, a major, major focus of the gay and lesbian community for years now. So, as a spokesperson for that community, I'd like to thank you for your involvement. Oh, my pleasure. I mean, it just did. It's one of the things that makes me so angry is people's intolerance and lack of compassion. Well, that's maybe that's reflective also in your music in your in your genderless. So to speak music. I don't like to say that because your music isn't genderless it's very feminine based, very, very feminine, spiritually based. Yeah. And I mean, you can't get around the fact that I'm a woman, and I'm, and I'm a woman singing and so obviously, that is, and I do have, in the past couple of years, I've definitely gotten more on to, you know, this female thing. Well, you need to know you need to be aware that you are breaking every lesbian in America's heart.

S

Suzanne Anderson 37:35

Straight.

D

Deborah Bell 37:37

It's just that is a big topic of conversation. It's impossible. You can't possibly be hit with the way you write. I love it. Oh, I love so what do you say to these women? Um, I smile there's one woman I know. Right? I met a cup I guess a couple of months ago in Montreal who is just totally over the top like oh, just just her her her nature like she's very very touchy. Very. You know, like just going man you got a great girl Hey, well, thank you. What's her number exactly it oh the wall that kind of the wildest thing is that she likes you a bit over the top to she she got a big tattoo of my face that are like like Tom Arnold and Roseanne it that was a bit frightening. He goes Don't worry. I'm not a psycho. I say Well, yeah. Let me permanently scar my body for you. But I'm no psycho. Yeah, I mean, she's she's real harmless. She's like, She's a great girl. But I just went wow, that's the you know, my a lot of my friends know her too. And they went, sir, it does tell you something. So this was not the lick on kind of tattoos. No, Jeremy, this is a this is a permanent kind. My Well, that's I guess that is the true epitome of start. And if someone tattoos Yeah, so your image. I got a bit of that a couple months ago in I think, I don't know if it was in Texas. No, it wasn't Texas. It was somewhere in the south. So this fellow came up to me and asked me if, if I could find his back and think, Oh, come on, you know, why don't you get me to sign a piece of paper or something? I'd rather not sign your body. But he turned around and slipped up his shirt and he had his whole bat covered and what am I drawing? But the Medusa Angel? Wow, it's so cool. Because they really led towards tattoos. Yeah. I'm looking at your your album covers your CD covers right now. Yeah, design these. Yeah. I do all the t shirt designs and the direct some of the videos and stuff. Yeah, it's I mean, I've tried to have total creative control over everything was had anything to do with my career. When's your birthday? January 20. Oh, there you go. Aquarius. There you go. Yeah. Space good at flaky, wishy washy but in charge and control save time in charge of all the flakiness. I don't know. I'm looking at the fumbling toward ecstasy liner notes right now. This it's so biological. It's so. Oh, yeah. The the Indian the labia is yes. Why? Maybe it's flying laybys Thank you, Sarah. Yeah, that's a great. Tell me about those. Well, Adrian, was this your friend with a tattoo? Well, this is actually not my work. This is a friend of mine, Graham Gilmore. And he does that painting. It's a part of a painting that's about 15 feet long. And don't tell me you post. Oh, heavens. No, no, no, he gets his stuff at a taxidermy books for the most part. Oh, wow. He's he's a little. He's a little rat. It's

kind of opened up. Like he. I cannot explain what any of this stuff means except that I love to look at it. Because it is extremely vaginal and floral and luscious. And erotic. So are you sure you're not a lesbian?



41:31

I'm



Deborah Bell 41:32

fairly sure. I've kissed girls before, but don't leave that door open. Okay, okay. Let me see. I'm I'm a penis girl. I really am a penis girl. Find you. I'm not opposed to strapless.



41:51

Yeah. Oh, you should stop



Deborah Bell 41:53

this right now. I'm getting bad. No, I kind of like it. I'm in fact blushing. And that doesn't happen too often. So



42:01

I guess it's a good thing. We're



Deborah Bell 42:02

talking on the phone here. Yeah, really can be a little real. We're no good for him. Yeah, well. So I probably would not have said that if I were in person. Or you shy or you know, but I you know, there's a certain there's a certain wall that you know that the phone gives that. Probably be a little more obnoxious than they usually would be had that 1-900 syndrome. Yeah. God, okay. You first released I'm getting back to business for you first, please. Solus back in 1991. And now possession comes along in 1994. How's things changed for you? Gosh, well, I've gotten a couple years older. Other than the math Sarah gotten a bit wiser tort law started painting. Ice cream. Let me ask you about ice cream. Sure. The song? It's the lining I'd say it's a result of your newfound ability to find inspiration and happiness. Oh, yeah. Love these buyers surprise. What's making you happy? I'm happy enough to write about ice cream. Well, the main thing as I mentioned before, was being by myself and finding completeness in myself for the first time without needing anybody to fill a hole. And and from that point, I could actually have a relationship with somebody and and truly give myself to them. Holy totally because I felt comfortable enough to do so. It's I'm still in this relationship. And it's it's absolutely amazing. How long has it been? It's been about a year and a half now. Well, congratulations. That's like five years and lesbian years. Well, I want to you know, I want to have kids, I you and I, you

know, I've been searching for a good dad too. Because I want you know, I want there to be two people raising this kid or these kids and he's so into it. Wonderful. You know, so yeah. I'm very lucky. Well, you sound happy. I am. What's your favorite kind of ice cream? Chocolate Chocolate Chip. Chocolate Chip Haagen Dazs. It's gonna need to wrap up pretty soon. Is there anything else you'd like to tell the people here in Houston? Oh, gays, lesbians straight, undetermined. Figure out what you want and go for it. Figure out what you want and go for it. And that's what you did. Yeah, I think so. It took me a while to figure it out. That's it. I had to figure stuff out. But I'm still figuring. Definitely the, you know, it's really cool that I realized that I can be sort of in control of my destiny and concealing. It is a good feeling. This end you're doing a great job. Thank you. You're more than welcome. It has been a pleasure talking to you. So yeah, and you too, for it's been very fun. And having Nancy Ford join us on lesbian and gay voices is also a pleasure even when she's getting naughty with people in her interviews. Sarah McLachlan is performing tomorrow night in Houston as part of krB acoustic meet Christmas at the tower theater. And Sarah McLachlan has a CD called fumbling towards thing. However you get there. There should be something said about krB ie they have been very friendly with this community. And then in the prayer some stories I could tell about the old krB



45:59

I'm sure you can



Deborah Bell 46:02

also be involved with the AIDS Walk and the number of also being with the street festival Westheimer and they every now and then play some really good music. Not as good it sounds of Texas in the world but some good stuff in the World Cafe. That's right. Our new morning program on KPFT with the World Cafe people should tune in to hear sir McLachlan on that and other folks. Philadelphia public radio. Yeah, yeah. So how about some other Christmasy kind of tunes? I don't know if this is a Christmas tune or not now it's but it's someone we like a lot. k.d. lang



46:42

Hi, this is now a year, the sapphic superpixel coming to you directly to and I emphasize the word calming. And whilst being gay voices que PFT 90.1 FM.



Deborah Bell 47:04

Of course that music was from one of the best things that happened this year, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, the official motion picture soundtrack I will survive. How many drag queens have we seen perform that number? But the and I'm just waiting for next year's parade. Somebody coming down on top of a bus with the Yeah, you've got that plan? Don't you? Aren't you gonna do No, no, no, no, no. Well, we're going to speaking of drag queens and things like that we will be talking to Mormon Davis, who's also known as lady victoria was there's going to be telling us some ideas about holiday gift giving in a very special way. And we will be having some other things coming up. But we're going to do our usual this way out. Plus some very news wrap from

this way out. But we'll also have some very special Christmas music holiday music from Venus in the yes something about home over Christmas. Yes, Samia Houma for Christmas and every other day of the year is well, well, it is that time of the year and even though it doesn't feel that way outside because it was such a little cooler is it Yeah, it's cooler now. Full Oh, it's Oh, yes. Our nice said the other day, it's a whole home. And actually KPFT is having its Christmas party as we as even as we speak. There that Christmas. I think the Punchbowl is, you know, got punch. Anyway, we want to let you know official you're listening to KPFT Houston, a Pacifica foundation station, and this is lesbian gay voices his show formed about the gay lesbian community I'm Jack Valinski. And I'm Deborah Bell, and let's go to this way out. Lesbian comedy has always been a staple at women's music festivals, and 1000s of women have enjoyed dozens of such events around the globe this year. This way as Kimberly Kreinik says the comic says Citroen did some stand out stand up at the 19th annual sister space weekend in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania a few weeks ago. I go to therapy for a lot of reasons. One reason I go is that I'm extremely neurotic in relationships, I suffocate people. I mother them to death. And my lover Harriet nine. We have all these straight friends and now he's complaining about the men that they're involved with. You know they're cold. They're rejecting their uncommunicative. Harriet says to me, why can't you be like that? Always afraid she's gonna leave me like the other day she goes to the refrigerator. She goes she you're fun Got to get milk again. I said, look, let's not make this messy. I'll move out.

S

Suzanne Anderson 50:10

Sarah Citron has been performing lesbian comedy professionally since 1987. After taking a stand up comedy class, taught by a heterosexual mainstream comic,



50:21

I was the only lesbian in the class. And I said, what I really want to do is perform comedy for lesbians about being a lesbian. Can you help me with that? And he says, Well, do you think about being a lesbian, but I could probably help you structure and act and help you work on the material I did. It's a different era now in 1994, than it was in 1987, when I started doing comedy, but the truth is that already by 1987, I had been out as a lesbian for 12 years, I started really being much more of an out lesbian in my 20s, mid 20s 25. And then I'm now 42. So when, when it was 1987, the gay and lesbian movement had not fully exploited in quite the same way it has now been, I was living in the village in New York City. And partly there was this, almost still meditate about what kind of homophobia I will encounter in the world of comedy. And I did for a very brief time do this, we didn't comedy in street clothes. And it was a humble, punishing, awful experience. I only did it briefly because it was so horrible. Example of some Well, one time I was on stage and this club called comedy you I don't know if I should say the names. It's different now anyway, but I got on stage. And I didn't beat around the bush right away, you know, I introduced my standard comic. And this entire people just put their heads down and look up. So I got offstage. And as soon as I got off stage, they lifted their head. And it was like some kind of religious thing or something. And then one time, I remember I had just gotten off stage, and I hear this guy put on screen was a lesbian on stage, I'm gonna combat here. What is performing in places like Sister space and other lesbian festivals give you what is it give me? Well, I feel thrilled that I'm able to do something that feels good to me where I feel I'm using my talents. That's one of the most important things to me in the world that I'm using, what I can do and giving what I can do. And of course, it's very gratifying to feel like I'm making

people laugh. Sometimes when I perform in different places, people come up and say different things. But one of the nicest things I can hear from someone is I was really depressed tonight, and you really made me feel better, or I can walk out of here really feeling that you gave me some relief from what I'm going through. Or sometimes a young person will come up to me and say, you know, I'm, I'm struggling with coming out on my job, or I'm struggling on coming out to my family, and you really helpful feel I can do that. And that's a tremendous problem.

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Deborah Bell 53:23

Yeah, I've been out to my parents now for 17 years. And in the 17 years, they have made some efforts to deal with their homophobia. I mean, they're still totally uncomfortable with my life. But they've recognized that there are a few cheap gestures they can make. Like the second my father picks up the phone and hears it's me, he goes. No, he wants to be on record immediately. But having said that, it's like he's punching in his PIN number. Now we can have a transaction with his lesbian daughter. But of course, there's only one answer. That's acceptable. She's fine. Then we talk for a couple of minutes, you know, they tell me about the repairs. They're getting done on the VCR. Their visit to the sheriff, but it's pretty soon we run out of conversation. My father gets off the phone by saying, oh, please give my very, very best regards to hire. Okay, then, you know, it's very interesting spending time with your parents as an adult, you know, I mean, it's one thing to be with people who press your buttons. It's another thing entirely to be with the people who installed the button.

I

55:05

Have your parents heard you act? Yes. For years they just watched me on videotape and you know, they were never allowed to attend live when a woman living in condominium ever watched the act, but they finally really did see me live, they came to a show of mine at La MaMa. In New York City, one of the gay clients because I do a gay pride show there every year. And, you know, I, my parents try so hard to be totally warm and totally supportive and totally enthusiastic. But I would be making these jokes that I knew my parents had no clue as to what I was even talking about, but they're laughing their heads off and clapping. Everybody in my family, my sisters have seen my dad, my brother. I mean, try again, you know, to be very supportive, but it's obvious, you know, we're coming from different perspectives and are in somewhat different worlds. But, you know, this, this ethos of the Jewish family to try to celebrate whatever there is to celebrate and be supportive. So I'm doing a joke about the Michigan festival and my father's he's been there very often, you know?

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Deborah Bell 56:13

How is Harry?

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56:15

He is an academic who often punctures my maybe less analytical way of looking at things she's trained me to absolutely question things more deeply and be more analytical and I I've said that for every year that I've been married, it's like getting graduate credits. No, at this point, I

absolutely have earned a doctorate. There's no question about it.

 Deborah Bell 56:37

My lover Harriet gets mad. Every time I call her a femme. She has no patience. That is Butch femme stuff. You see, she's an academic. And she spends her life telling me that I haven't gone far enough in my thinking. Recently, we were coming home from a butch femme panel at the Lesbian Gay community center in New York City where Joan Nestle had spoken. And Harriet was very annoyed at my unquestioning enthusiasm. She said that I didn't understand that these categories reductively bifurcate, lesbian experience by reifying, the false dichotomies that structure and constrain all the Western thought she had a point. I said, Harriet, how come events like these make me want to have sex. And they just make you want to write a dissertation about it.

 57:55

I've had a lot of therapy. I'm 42. I've been around the block a few times. I was much more neurotic. In my earlier years, I mean, I think I went into comedy partly for neurotic reasons that I needed a lot of attention. And I think, you know, partly with Harry's puncturing my worst parts and therapy. But now I think I'm much more about getting on stage because I have something to give, as opposed to, I have to get something.

 Deborah Bell 58:25

Now me and my friends, we all go to therapy. And my friends who have kids, the one thing they wish more than anything else, is that kids will grow up to be less than they are. And it's kind of like all parents hoping we'd be more economically secure than they were. Like my mother always used to say, I was so poor. If I wanted a toy, I hadn't so buttons on a dish towel just to make a doll. You don't know how fortunate you are to do every thing that you have. My friends will say to their kids, I was so just to be functional. I had group on Tuesdays. Individual on Thursdays 12. Step by Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Yeah, know how fortunate you are just to call a couple of hotlines on the weekends.

 59:43

I think there's been a lot of progress on television. But I still think it's in the realm of only a certain ratio of shows will have lesbian or feminists content. And I've been on television for example talking about out how hard it is for me to be on television as the most famous fan of comic, so one of my goals is to be on television, doing comedy, instead of being on television talking about how I don't have the opportunity to do comedy on telly. But I think that they may come hoping that Well, anyway, it is

 Deborah Bell 1:00:24

fun being a stand up comic, but, you know, there's so much going on now with with stand up comedy and with lesbian community in general. And have you read all these articles lately? You

comedy and with lesbian community in general. And have you read all these articles lately? You know, last couple of years about lesbian chic. You know, I have to tell you, I don't relate very well to this concept. You know, nobody's ever really thought of me as a chic lesbian. And to tell you the truth, with all due respect, I doubt very much that a photograph of 800 vegetarian chili filled women, parodying sister space mugs, and wearing sweatshirts and dumping their food scraps and pails marked pink food only. would be considered chic enough to grace the cover of Newsweek I have my doubts. From the 90s Daniel sister space women's Music Festival in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, that was lesbian comic, Ferris Citroen, she was interviewed by this way out Kimberly chronic Okay, we're on the air on lesbian and gay voices here on KPFT radio. And that was our regular feature of news wrap from this way out. And the rest of this way out for this week, because we thought you might enjoy that interview with Sarah Cytron. Got a great name Cytron sounds like something from another planet invasion of the Cytron. You know, so keep up with all the other news that's going on. Even though it's a holiday weekend, a lot of things aren't going on. There is a lot of things going on in this community, especially in speaking of what may be going on there maybe a gay or lesbian person for that city council person. And we certainly hope that a nice Parker does run because she is just the person that we need in that position. We had, we have fan mail jack, and then Christine and she really likes her show and she likes after hours. And she wanted to know about the song go west from the movie Priscilla Queen of the Desert. And that song is by the village people and it was not made all the songs used in Priscilla were covers are not covers, but their copies are used from prior renewing original music. They're usually ya know, original music. They're usually songs that have been performed in the drag world. So, Christine, I hope that answers your question. Thanks for listening and thanks for the support. with us this evening is Marvin Davis Orlov at Victoria lust. And as we knew the holiday season, one of the things we thought about was that everybody's sort of on a rush to buy presents and do this type of stuff. But there's a whole nother side of things that you can do for yourself, or the community or friend or something else. And there's probably not a better person for you know, there's probably not a better person in this community known for the things they do and for the community is Marvin Davis. Marvin, you've been here for you said 13 years, 14 years.



1:03:57

1414 years. You're 1980



Deborah Bell 1:04:00

I've been writing when the boom was starting. And I got here Yes, I got here a year later and the moon was starting to go down.



1:04:07

I got here just for the last of at the tail end.



Deborah Bell 1:04:10

Boomtown boogie. But when you got here, did you did you come here for a job? Did you have a job offer?



1:04:19

What Why don't you? Okay, I had I had a friend who lived here. At that time I was working in North Carolina. I was working for a hotel chain in hotel management. And I came to Houston for visit. I fell in love with it, really. So the company I worked for happened to have a property here. And I said as soon as they have an opening, I want it. So they finally transferred me down to about nine months to get an appropriate opening. Salvo Houston.



Deborah Bell 1:04:52

Were you involved in the community in North Carolina.



1:04:56

There was not a community in North Carolina. There was Jesse how I'm in North Carolina and Stelios. It was no, there was not much going on in North Carolina. There were a couple. I think in the state there were about three bars at that time in various cities, so there wasn't much going on. Now, what are you? Yeah. Well, my first real involvement in the gay activist community was when I was living in Chicago, back around the time of Stonewall, and shortly after, so I had been used to a big city. But Job wise, career wise, it was more appropriate for me to go other places, but then I went, No, I gotta get back to someplace where there's reality.



Deborah Bell 1:05:48

Did you do drag in Chicago?



1:05:50

Yes, I started in Chicago, about 26 years ago, and performed up until about the latter part of the 70s Disco became popular comedy became unpopular. So I retired.



Deborah Bell 1:06:09

You mean you weren't one of those people that was singing I will survive.



1:06:14

Not seriously. What do I do? It is common you?



Deborah Bell 1:06:19

You do? Disco darling. And performance. lady victoria last was that your stage stained bento was your



1:06:26

that's your ever since I first started doing,



Deborah Bell 1:06:29

who's a lovely lady, by the way. And then sometimes I get kind of startled when I say Marvin is Marvin and then see him once again as lady victoria. And in that persona, you have done many benefits. I mean, 1000s of benefits and fundraisers for the community. You were recently honored with a roast. Tell us a little bit about that.



1:06:52

Oh, well. It was a lot of fun. In first part of November, several people in the community said, we want to roast you. And I went, Oh, how wonderful. Just what I need. Well, it was not a roast. It was not a toast. It was a barbecue. They taught me on this barbecued meat with extra sauce. A lot of the old time. Right queens, community activists, various and sundry people. Yeah, Miss America was involved. The leather community, a number of bars. And they put me on the railroad me down and I said, Oh, how wonderful. Sitting here, getting tarred and feathered and then put on a barbecue. It's so nice. Not only am I roasted, but I smelled the feathers burning. I've always been known for my feathers. But it was a lot of fun and,



Deborah Bell 1:07:53

and in good spirit. Yeah,



1:07:54

it was a good spirit. And we raised a lot of money. How they informing



Deborah Bell 1:07:59

Yeah. And you said in looking back that there was a time when people if someone had told you Okay, Marvin, this is going to happen to you and this is going to happen to you and this is going to happen to you. You will never believe that. One of the things was there was actually a lady victoria last day in the city of Houston proclaimed by the mayor by Mayor Whitmire



1:08:19

That was on the fifth anniversary of the lady victoria last PWA holiday fun PWA Christmas

benefit. And since then I've gotten citations from the governor, mayor Lanier, city council. And who would have ever thought you know that you'd ever have a drag queen. That's not recognized as Marvin data's but is recognized as lady victoria lust. You've been that way.

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Deborah Bell 1:08:49

That's not what you do all this stuff for. Tell us what you actually have a foundation set up.

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1:08:56

Okay, I have sheltered under the coat. 40 fives what's called the lady victoria loves PWA holiday punch. My a number of years ago, my mother passed away. And that was the last living member of my family. So the holidays are hard for me. But I was thinking, Well, gosh, I've got a good job. I've got my help. What's it like for somebody who's trying to live and deal with HIV and aides? Who maybe their families living but they've lost their family because their family deserted them? Maybe they're indigent or maybe they're sick. And you come up to Christmas and everything is

i

1:10:03

Who but they won't let me come home. You know, different things like that. So I started what was called PW a Christmas. That was eight years ago. The first year we met it raised enough money to send out a Christmas card with a little bit of cash to about 40 people. Were getting assistance from some other agency for like, rent. So these were the ones that are indigent.

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Deborah Bell 1:10:27

When you say we, you're talking about the Colt 45 THE COLT 45. She worked with me tell us who the Colt 45 czar.

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1:10:35

Okay, the Colt 40, fives of Houston started out many years ago as a cowboy Social Club, basically. They used to have different functions, and they found out oh, well, we've got some money leftover. So let's give it to a charity. Well, back in the early days in the mid 70s. It might be Ronald McDonald House, it might be you know, some other type of charity. Then we started getting things like the Montrose clinic, the Montrose counseling center, so they started doing that. And then aids came along, right. And another one, those things we never would have thought would ever hit us. They did. And they responded by developing from a social organization, to a charity organization

D

Deborah Bell 1:11:26

and a service, right.



1:11:29

They have what's called the ARB PW a treble Fund, which helps pay rent utilities. And those sorts of needs. For people that are friends. You get to a point where you're disabled, then you have to apply for Social Security. It takes you about six months usually to get it. So there's no income for six months, so they help out with temporary relief. In that way. They have the stone soup Fund, which provides assistance to stone soup, food pantry, in the bay by the fresh vegetables every month, they buy the meat is given out and in emergency situations help restock the shelves if



Deborah Bell 1:12:12

what type of overhead is there in this organization.



1:12:15

It's strictly a volunteer organization, any monies given to the 40 fives or any organization sheltered under the Colt 45 such as myself. If it is earmarked for a fund, it goes into that fund, and those monies can only be used for charitable purposes. Now, the coats themselves and those of us who work with them. We have bake sales and car washes and things like that. How do you cope with the money, the working what we call the working Fund, which pays for the phone, the office supplies the computer paper. And it ends up between all of the agencies involved under the cold with the Colts. We're talking about distributing \$150,000 a year. With all volunteer, nothing's taken out of anything that anybody gives designates for fun.



Deborah Bell 1:13:18

I was really impressed when when I heard about this. And when you do drag, and you have these beautiful gowns and this elaborate makeup and wigs and all that. I don't know I somehow assumed that people took the money that came in for shows. And they used it to pay for the costumes, etc. And then whatever was leftover, but that's not the way it is, is it? No. What happens is the people actually take and go out



1:13:49

and raise. That's our hobby. And it's not a cheap hobby. Runrig about 50 bucks, then \$20 more to have it styled. It lasts about three performances. So \$20 more to have it restyle. When you're as big as I am, dresses aren't cheap.



Deborah Bell 1:14:13

I think I could lend you some.



1:14:14

Yeah, probably. Yeah, we can we can trade off. Fortunately, I so I was



Deborah Bell 1:14:19

fortunate I don't.



1:14:21

My background. In college when I did my graduate work is in costume and makeup design. So that's where I kind of had the gearing toward all of this. Now, at one time I made my living doing this. But that was back in the late 60s, early 70s. Then when AIDS came along, a lot of us just gave up doing any type of paid show. And we give all of our time to charity because somehow in this community. We make money. People enjoy shows. They'll come they'll tip and So every dollar that the audience gives goes to the charity, not to anybody involved with it.



Deborah Bell 1:15:07

Well, do you have anything coming up that we need to let folks know about any benefits or fundraising just basically finished your



1:15:15

I finished up my year? The first Sunday in December, and that seemed kind of early for Christmas, but you have to get everything out to the people. So yeah, to get the money cleared. Okay, so right now what I'm doing is I just made and build 200 Christmas stockings for the children impacted or affected with HIV. At Texas Children's Hospital. I'm working with the National Weather Association next week, and we're taking to Casa de Esperanza for the children. I'm in the process now of mailing out \$20 checks to indigent persons with HIV and AIDS. And on top of that, will be going out on Christmas Eve to the hospitals, taking Christmas stockings with candy and little goodies and toothpaste and toothbrushes and soap and some deodorant and, you know, little hand wipes and things like that you may need in the hospital, but the hospital charge you an arm and leg boredom,




Deborah Bell 1:16:23

when you work so hard doing this stuff and gathering up and working and giving us stuff out? How does it feel when you sometimes feel that the federal government is just totally neglecting us or not?



1:16:34


If anybody now, you made me right sign this statement that I wouldn't say anything nasty on here.

 Deborah Bell 1:16:44

I won't worry,

 1:16:45


I'll use the nice words. Oftentimes, when I'm doing a show, I don't use nice language. Because I'm very disappointed in that. During the day, I work for the city of Houston health department doing HIV counseling and testing. I'm seeing more and more young, heterosexual, non IV drug using non prostituting women becoming infected with HIV. It never has been. And never will be a gay disease. But it's been stigmatized. And therefore, unfortunately, it's left to to our gay and lesbian community to fund the entire health care the government will spend for prevention, they'll spend for research, but they won't spend much for taking care of people. Then you also get into the bureaucratic system of government. Where, with what little they're doing with white and white funds, you've got people falling through the cracks every time you turn around. And it's left it to this community. What kind of role that that we have

 Deborah Bell 1:18:00

the hump testing? Do you think that's a good idea? No, I do not. Have a big conversation about that with other folks from the health department. But if there's something in particular you'd like to say about it,

 1:18:13

this is personally my feeling is when I tell somebody that they are HIV infected, they do not need to be looking at a little color screen or something and have no support around them. This thing will affect different people in different ways. Some people go, Okay, well, I sort of thought, you know, and then you have been going, but not me, I could never get that. And there. It may take me 30 minutes to get them out of crying and out of hysterics. Well, if they're home by themselves. Oh, no, I think they need to be someplace where they're involved in a situation with where there are trained professionals, and even preferably, medical facilities. But if they pass out, you know,

 Deborah Bell 1:19:06

interesting. Yeah. Getting back to the idea of holiday gift giving and the spirit of the holidays. You're going around and you're doing all this work. What does it mean for you personally, when when you give maybe those kids at the hospital something and yeah, and see their face? What Yeah.



1:19:31

It's wonderful. It does as much for me as it does for them. I firmly believe that. That in giving in caring and loving, it all comes right back to you. When you talk to somebody or they send you a letter, a little note saying, Oh, I was able to do this. Or I was able to send a Christmas card to my mother because I got your check in the mail or or I needed a new set of pajamas and I was tired of going out and getting hand me downs in little things like that. They make it all worthwhile. So it's worth as much to me. If I'm giving myself a present every day of the year when I do this,



Deborah Bell 1:20:17

if somebody out there is listening and wants to get involved, how can we get a hold of you?



1:20:23

Okay? The best thing to do would be send a note



1:20:31

to the LBL PW holiday fun care of the Brazos River bottom. The cold offices are upstairs the Brazos, BRB, 2400 Brazos. That's and that way we'll get to



Deborah Bell 1:20:43

me, that's Houston. 77006, right. And money is always good. But there are other ways you can be involved. But a lot of



1:20:53

us and a lot of the people that are involved in raising all this money are people who are living with HIV, or living with full blown AIDS. And they may not have the financial resources, but they give their time. They give their talent, they give their love theirs 100 or more different agencies in Houston that need volunteers. And volunteering doesn't necessarily mean that oh, gosh, I've got to commit myself to every Saturday,



Deborah Bell 1:21:26


eight hours, not just every Friday. There's a



1:21:30

lot of things that can be done. Maybe somebody or maybe it's a personal thing, where you know, somebody else has an offer to take them to the grocery store. Take them out for a drive


know, somebody's okay, go out or to take them to the grocery store. Take them out for a drive, do any little thing that helps somebody else. And it all comes back to you.

 Deborah Bell 1:21:48


Marvin, I want to thank you very much for all your work. Okay. I've know I've worked with you in the past and certain things in the community. But you're doing some very special work and, and you've got a lot of other people that help you out too.

 1:22:03


Oh, yeah. And the thing is, because this is becoming such a problem of magnitude, if everybody would just find one little way they can help. It was walking a pet helping somebody volunteering anything, an hour a week, an hour a month. If everybody had helped it make it so much easier for all those people out there.

 Deborah Bell 1:22:28

Thank you for being with us Marvin Davis and for all the work that you do in the community. Hey lady victoria lots Yes, lady victoria last I love that name. And as a tribute to Marvin and all the drag queens out there here's the song drag queen from John Frederick. Hey, wake up. It's Saturday night at midnight and you thought it was bedtime? We'll just listen to what you've been missing. Nap queens are in the house. Ladies and gentlemen, snap your fingers for after hour Jodie Jodie Foster. Jodi This is Nancy. You know who this is Nancy for? Don't pretend you don't know who I am. And if you're listening you know you're listening to after hours a continuing tradition here on KPFT Houston 90 point this is Sarah G with the gang at after hours. st if you're queer, we're here Saturday night at midnight to 3am on World Radio KPFT Houston after hours, the flip side of lesbian and gay voices on Saturday night. Well, we're gonna be here next week doing another show. Yeah, we're gonna have some like Christmas kind of holiday Winter Solstice and Hanukkah. Yes. Well, I wear my shorts. apart. We will probably need to knowing the weather in Houston. It's often very, very warm and Christian times. It's

 Jack Valinski 1:24:24

very cold though. Yeah.

 Deborah Bell 1:24:25

Every now and then. Next week, we will have a special that has to do with A Christmas Carol and Tiny Tim only this Tiny Tim character has eight. Yeah, a little different take on the story. Nancy Ford's going to be joining us again for her holiday editorial, no telling what she'll come up with. And Cynthia Gaver is going to have a special holiday reading and she does have a very sexy voice. So I know you're going to want to join us for that. Coming up in January. The opera is going to be doing the Harvey Milk. Yes. And Juan Palomo recently did an interview with the people involved in that production will be having data on the upcoming episode of lesbian and

gay voices is going to be six performances and two of those performances are going to be benefiting some of the major organizations that bearing communities abomination. And it's the world premiere of the opera that is incredible. They've been planning this for a long time. I guess I never realized the expense and, and the work that has to go in to do something like that, because I'm not an opera queen. Not afraid to say it over the radio, I'm not afraid. The course last week on Saturday, they wonderful Gay Men's Chorus course, was really nice. Unfortunately, it wasn't well as attended as we go to. But only the things that the word them they do really well. And but you know, there's this horrible flu thing going around or some kind of bug and so many people have had it. I personally know several members of the chorus have had it really. So they probably just weren't really feeling all that great. Well, the COVID performance was great. Yeah, yeah. And they're down in Galveston tonight. That's right around the Grand Opera House. Yes. in Galveston. Well, so what else is going on? Let's talk a little bit about this talk about holiday spirits and holiday cheer. Marijuana. No, no, no, no. The thing about marijuana is that it has been found useful when used in a medical way to help people who may be affected by the wasting syndrome that goes along with AIDS and some of the other side effects of taking medication or chemotherapy. And for a while the government did allow the use of it but it's still there, the drug enforcement administration continues to block the study on the use of marijuana to alleviate the symptoms of AIDS. The National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws is trying to get the Drug Enforcement Administration to do something about this to change it. And one of the local newspapers also is very interested in doing a story to help bring this issue to light. And if you would like to be involved in that, you or find out more information you can about the study, you can contact us Rick Doblin at 704-358-9830.

J Jack Valinski 1:27:38

Speaking of newspapers, John gravas, is former editor, Washington, editor of the Houston Post has been moved to city editor here in Houston. And I know he spoke to you during the march.

D Deborah Bell 1:27:50

Yes, he did an interview, I think he used the whole sentence that I said, well, in the whole article. As you know, you love that when they interview you for about 30 minutes, and then they use once a lot of times I talked to reporters, but it's a lot of background type of stuff. And that's fine. I mean, as long as they get the story, right, it doesn't really matter whether they use my quotes or not. If they find better quotes, that's fine. But, you know, I've had a pretty good dealing with a lot of the local media, it's been pretty good. I mean, there are always some who are looking to to change, they want to make it confrontational, or have a controversy or twist it in some way. You know, they they do a different take on it or, or sometimes they try so to bend over so far, to be fair, you know, where they won't be biased that they go too far the other way. Yeah. And you know, like they they've got to get the other side saying homosexuality is wrong sometimes. But the but not on this show. The only thing you'll hear about it here is that it's good. It's great. But the papers in Houston have been much better. Yeah. John's a good guy and along with one Palomo some of the other folks that over there the post and glad to Haley Ivan's who contributes to that paper. Wonderful. Do you love her or why I do. I do. And Linda Ellerby she's in the Chronicle. I love them. I those are two of my idols. Those mushy robes? Well, we want to thank everybody who helped out in tonight's show. Want to thank Marvin Davis, aka lady victoria loss for not only for being our guest tonight, but for all the work he's done in his

community. And that goes the same for Nancy Ford. She does a lot of benefits and work in this community as well as plus she helps us to keep laughing which is so important. She did that interview with Sarah McLachlan who will be in town tomorrow night at the tower theatre and Suzanne Anderson for speaking out. However in our little dog too. And of course we want to thank Laura not only for being an angel have a studio assistant but she helped provide the music tonight. And segments of this way out including news rap. Zachary still was the producer tonight and I think what he ran off to Galveston to listen to the Gay Men's Chorus. Cynthia stopped by to lend her support. So did Rebecca and I met maybe they just came to the party, I don't know. And then of course Nona Gournay, our executive producer, and a sweetheart. Coming up next on KPFT is off the clock, followed by esoteric adventures with Jim squared. And don't forget to listen to after hours midnight Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Lesbian Gay voices. We'll be back next Friday at 6pm. This is Jack Valinski, and this is Deborah Bell. Keep safe, keep happy, and it's a full moon. Tonight you're listening to KPFT Houston, a Pacifica foundation station