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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, gay, people, women, talking, october, houston, voices, life, men, song, member, judy, choir, work, tickets, closet, story, includes, sandra

## SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Brian Nunes, Zachary Steele, Deborah Bell, Cindy Friedman, Mary Helen Merzbacher

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00:00

00:26

[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]

D Deborah Bell 01:05

and we hope that the only causes that anyone has or those that we hang our clothes in. Welcome to the special National Coming Out Day edition of lesbian and gay voices the program that brings the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio. Today is October 7 1994. Jeff, Jack Valinski is out of town tonight. This is Deborah Bell am I'm a lesbian.

Z Zachary Steele 01:28

And this is Zachary Steele and in I'm a lesbian too. This coming Tuesday, October 11 is National Coming Out Day. The day is designated to help gay men and lesbians take one more step and affirming the joy of being who they are. Tonight, we will see some flat. We will be messing up on air. We'll be celebrating National Coming Out Day with some special features and music.

D Deborah Bell 01:54

Jim woods, co author of the corporate closet we'll be talking to Bert while and about issues of being out in the workplace. He will discuss such things as the price people have to pay for staying in the closet in the workplace, whether to come out to fellow employees and they use unanimous no regrets voiced by all those who did come out at work.

**Z** Zachary Steele 02:15

Guess I'm not the only one there. Greg Gordon from this way out. We'll be talking to author and the therapist Dr. Don Clark, about deciding who to come out to and the critical importance of complete self acceptance before coming out to others.

**D** Deborah Bell 02:30

On a lighter note, Judy Carter, who's just another Jewish lesbian comic magician will be bringing her hilarious show nice girls don't say things like that, to Houston's laughs stop for one night only Thursday, October 13. I talked to Judy earlier this week, and we'll be hearing that interview. We'll also have tickets to give away to Judy's performance. And we'll be telling you how you can get those tickets compliments of lesbian and gay voices later in the show.

**Z** Zachary Steele 02:58

Hey, and speaking of tickets, Sandra Bernhardt will be performing at the Arena Theatre on October 21. And we also have three pairs of tickets to her performance to give away later on our program.

**D** Deborah Bell 03:09

I'm going to have to think of the good trivia question for that. And our regular features Mary Helen is going to have some members of heart song Houston women's chorus here to tell us about the fourth solo concert, which we'll be presenting on October 15. At Hammond Hall on Rice University campus. And of course, Mary Helen has also brought some special coming out music to celebrate National Coming Out date. We'll have news wrap from this way out our calendar of events and that out and about lesbian Of course, Suzanne Anderson speaking out when the bad show can make you see us

**S** Suzanne Anderson 04:02

good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson, a dyke, speaking out for lesbian and gay voices. And Dallas woman accused of being a lesbian has struck a bargain with the Marine Corps. She's getting an honorable discharge in exchange for allowing military records to say she left the Marine Corps because of homosexual acts. Now this makes no sense to me. Maybe you all can catch on to it but she's married but separated from her husband has denied being a lesbian. However, her military separation form will say that she was discharged for homosexual conduct. Are you keeping up the allegations against her stem from rumors that in 1991 she had kissed a woman in a stop car in the lobby of a Jacksonville theater. Her accusers also claimed that she had danced suggestively with females in the Jacksonville nightclub. I'm confused The Department of Public Safety is investigating in Texas the death threats against Texas House member Glen Maxey who of course is gay. The Democrat from Austin is the state's only openly gay Legislature and the anonymous caller threatened to vote with a bullet in the next election.

D

Deborah Bell 05:20

There goes the microphone.

S

Suzanne Anderson 05:22

Rush Limbaugh always in the news and Louisville Kentucky nurse who sued Rush for calling her a transsexual lesbian has settled out of court. No details on any financial terms are being released, but the woman has quit her job. Cheryl Miller sued after Limbaugh called her a gender Bender in a book and a related tape. But Limbaugh had her confused with another person. Miller says that Limbaugh has signed a letter of apology and Limbaugh says that the errors been taken out of a subsequent printing of the book. Now the military is real worried about women coming into their forces. While the Clinton administration pushes to open as many military jobs to women as possible top officers appear more worried about whether the policy is weakening the force. Many have asked if the Marine Corps has gone too far have we reduced combat capability and readiness in order to allow more opportunities for women they're asking, well, maybe they ought to drop by the ranch this weekend. And after taking a quick look around, we can handle ourselves and take care of ourselves and our country. A settlement that includes \$100 donation to AIDS research has been reached in a lawsuit filed on behalf of a gay bar patron who says he was assaulted by three camp lusion Marines. I think that's pretty brave. And it shows that we again can strike some headway all we got to do just try. The headline says life imitates art. In October of 1992. This gentleman was working for a top Philadelphia law firm delink clients at \$150 an hour in order to handle complex commercial litigation. By early 93. The attorney thought dirt attorney identified in court papers as John Doe has learned that he's HIV positive. So he told his new employer and his employer told him that he needed to find a job within a year. The matters grew worse when his employer found out that he had sued for disability discrimination. At that point, he was told that he could kiss his legal career could buy and his belongings were packed in a box. John Doe is suing for discrimination under the two year old Americans with Disability Act which you all may be familiar we've heard about this from Brian Bradley on a couple of occasions. Brian filed the first lawsuit under this act took it all the way to the United States Supreme Court, and unfortunately was not successful in his lawsuit. There have been 554 complaints of discrimination involving HIV status, but only four have been that have been involved in have made it to the full length litigation. And interesting story high school student council president Lisa Winthrop can't a blueprint print for her future. She was going to study at the prestigious MIT and then have a career as an architect. Her plans didn't include falling in love. Working on her senior project and design for a solar house ambitious 17 year old New Yorker headed to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and quite by chance met a woman Annie Keaton, a singer about her age, the young men women were immediately drawn to each other. There was something very magical about their attraction and they spent long afternoons together. And when Lisa nanny could hold her passion back no longer their lips touch that first kiss, unexpected and gentle gateway to words of love and within months they were making love. After being suspended from high school because of this romance lace has struggled with herself over not fitting into straight society. And from a distance Annie tried to keep the relationship alive. Eventually, Lisa reconfigure her plans to make room for her loving Annie. The story of Lisa and Annie is not particularly unusual. What makes the story unusual is that these are actually fictional characters. And they have a gay relationship and the novel for young adults. And a by my on my mind was written by Nancy garden. And Nancy actually did fall in love herself at 16 and at 56. She's with the same woman. I can't help but wonder how wonderful it would have been if when I was 15 or 16 or For over 13

been able to read books like this. I have a feeling that I'd be a far better reader today because it would have held my attention much better than Nancy Drew. But the book is available at Crossroads probably in Inklings. And I think it sounds absolutely lovely. Now, there's

 D Deborah Bell 10:18

an incredible number of books out there that you'd find interesting, Suzanne?

 10:25

Well, actually, I

 S Suzanne Anderson 10:26

on occasion, I do read being married to a woman that is involved in a in a bookstore, I read a lot more now than I did when I was a teenager. I just wish I'd have started a little earlier. Next week. Stay tuned, I'm gonna do an interview. And again, see if you can keep up with this some of this commentary tonight, it's been kind of confusing with my niece's mother in law and her lover of 20 years, these women invented something called a board game called the rainbow games, it is as

 D Deborah Bell 10:55

to one of them in Washington. When they were first putting it together. They wanted to be vendors at the March and we talked about it.

 S Suzanne Anderson 11:04

It's a fun, fun, terrific game. And we're gonna talk next week about what some of the questions are, how the game works, and how they came across our game how the game came to be. So this is Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.

 D Deborah Bell 11:19

Well, another thing in the news today is the big story of the research project that was done at the University of Chicago. And one of the things that they say is that the numbers of the homosexual population is a lot less than 10%. They estimate that 2.8% of men and 1.4% of women identify themselves as gay, lesbian, are bisexual. And I once again, I don't know these studies, they try to diminish us. And I think that's another reason it's so important for us to come out so that we're visible and so that they know we really do exist. It really doesn't matter what our percentages, what matters is that we are community, and we have to make ourselves heard. And that's what we do here on lesbian and gay voices. Coming up next we'll have some music with Holly near wonderful lesbian performer who's been lending her voice to the movement for many years.



12:31

Why does my love make you she's?



Deborah Bell 12:43

My love for a woman's the best thing in my life. This is Deborah Bell along with



Zachary Steele 12:48

Zachary still and we are celebrating National Coming Out Day which is October 11. So find new and interesting ways to come out to others.



Deborah Bell 12:59

Oh, let's talk about that a little bit later. But first, we'll be having a interview between Bert Whelan and Jim woods.



Zachary Steele 13:08

And it's called Beth. Jim woods does the corporate closet his co author? Gosh, do we really have any more information on them?



Deborah Bell 13:19

Well, let's just listen to the interview. All right.



13:25

Oh, I Oh, hi. Oh, oh.



13:48

I'm Bert Weiland. Speaking now with Jim woods, an assistant professor of communications at the College of Staten Island City University of New York. And Jim is here to talk about his book, The Corporate closet professional lives of gay men in America, which he wrote with the collaboration of Jay Lucas. Here we have an incredible documentation, complete with a fabulous bibliography. It's a real scholarly work, thank you. Give us a definition that we can work with of the corporate closet.



14:23

Well, I guess the corporate closet, actually, in most people's minds would be something very simple, like the discrimination that people face in hiring and firing. In fact, when you ask people to talk about, you know what sort of situations lesbian gay professionals face, usually what they'll do is they'll volunteer a fairly simple definition of discrimination. And one of the arguments that I make in the book is that this definition is really too narrow that in fact, heterosexism or the closet is much larger, much more complicated and it includes things like unfair, you know, hirings. But it also extends to things that are much more subtle, such as the lack of mentoring, the lack of social support that maybe our heterosexual peers take for granted. Benefits policies that don't include us in quite the same way that they do include our, our straight peers. And this, for me is all part of what I call the closet or or what is better called heterosexism. But many people don't really think of those things when they think of, you know, how gays are treated in the workplace



15:28

is not as simple as my sex life is nobody's business.



15:32

Right? That's sort of the classic answer to the question, right? You know, what role does sex play in work? And that's, you know, it's quite a myth, actually.



15:39

How did you find subjects to interview given that I know, I wasn't the only one so terrified?



15:46

That's, that's a good question. The sampling whenever you're studying this particular community sampling is a big issue, because there's no, there's no directory of all gay people. Nor are we always easy to find for exactly the reasons you decided. It took us a good while. And you know, Jay Lucas, and I did the research together over about a year long period. And, you know, some people were easy to find those who were openly gay, those who were activist those who were, you know, we could network into their friendship groups, the ones that were harder to find, obviously, were the very closeted people, the more senior people, people who were not necessarily in my same age category, people I just wouldn't know, in my social life. And so that those they took longer, they took some finding. And some we never got, I mean, obviously, someone who was very, very closeted, we would never even locate that person, we realized, and this is, again, something that I argue in the book is that the closet is really a terrible metaphor for talking about how we handle our identities in the workplace. It's very, it's a very imprecise metaphor. And so when we recruited people by phone, they would tell us, I'm in the closet, or I'm out of the closet, and we would meet with them and discovered the bare definition of what counted as being closeted, was quite different than I are. So we had, we had men who said, I'm very closeted, but in fact, there was every reason to believe co workers

knew they were gay, or, you know, oppositely people who said, Oh, I'm very open. But then when they're pressed, you realize they've actually never spoken to anyone about this, you know, people work must know, but I've never talked to them, that kind of thing. And so, you know, in the book, we make the argument that the much better way to think about this is in terms of strategies, what are the different strategies people used to communicate or disguise their sexual identity? It's sort of a more useful metaphor. I think,

17:30

Jim, sex has no place in the office. Why would this even be a topic of interest?

17:36

That's the starting point for the book is that conventional belief, which I call the myth of the asexual professional, or is that credible. And it turns up in all kinds of places and the way we believe that when we go to work or strictly business, we're just professionals. And we believe that sex is inappropriate, or it's tacky, or, you know, I has no place in a place of business. It's a very easy myth to discredit. In fact, because the workplace is very sexual. And that ranges from simple blatant things like looks and flirtations and romances and sexual harassment, through much more subtle sorts of things, whether it's camaraderie, the things that we call report, the intangibles that are part of professional fellowship,

18:17

or those that are closeted at work, what kind of reasons did they give? Well,

18:22

they ran the range from people would make a sort of conventional privacy argument, it's a private matter, it shouldn't be the workplace, or they would make a sort of professionalism argument, you know, when I'm to be a consummate professional, you really leave your personal life at home, something like that. Or we would get some version of the following. You know, it's very, it's really tacky to talk about sex, or it's really inappropriate, or it's disruptive, or it's rude, or, you know, these kinds of things. And again, it's, you know, we've said, it's very easy to show that, in fact, sex is on display in all kinds of ways, whether it's wedding rings are talking about family, people don't realize when they talk about their families, they are communicating something about their sexual orientation, it's implicit, and we don't even notice it, because it's so it's so much part of the furniture for people to talk about their families. But that's a way of conveying information about sex.

19:11

And yet one particularly wrenching story was about a corporate executive who gave a fabulous dinner party at his home. And this wife or girlfriend that he often talked about at the office, wasn't there. She was away on business. Well, it turns out that his gay lover spent the evening

in the garage after having cooked the meal and set everything up and what exactly, yeah, how could that be normal? How can any rational person see that as a normal way to live and



19:44

his he would he knew that this was he was putting himself through something awful, but he really believed that this was a way of sort of setting some boundaries of keeping my sex life out of the office, even when it meant sending his lover into the car, you know, during a dinner party. Luckily, this story has a happy ending. In the man made partner he ultimately little by little, let people know that the wife was in fact a male lover, and he apparently has done well, he's still with the same law firm in Houston.



20:15

Jim, what kind of toll does being in the closet in corporate America take on people,



20:22

you're very often when we would ask people, especially those who were very closeted what price they thought they paid for, for being closeted. It was very clear that this was not something they had really thought about something that was in fact painful. Some one man was very explicit, we asked this question, he said, You know, I've got a pass on that. But this really is painful for me, because I don't know, I don't know the answer. And he was afraid to contemplate it. Others realize that they paid all kinds of prices from the obvious ones such as what I call performance anxiety, which is the, you know, ongoing fear that at any moment, your act will be discredited. And that creates a lot of stress for anyone who keeps a secret. You know, they know what that experience is like, also through, you know, the sense that one is not treated as if you are yourself, the sense that people treat you as if you were someone else, and that you pay a real psychological toll for that you don't get meaningful feedback. You don't form normal friendships or relationships,



21:20

you can't be honest with people, you can't be who you are,



21:23

absolutely, and that the workplace is so social. And this is something that I think people realized as they move on in their careers, how much you know, work is really about managing relationships. And if you're playing a role that's not consistent with who you think you are, obviously, those relationships are really stunted and distorted. And



21:41

basically, because you're, you're maintaining artificial boundaries. And those, those walls that you build have to be so high. And then lie is compounded by lie, compounded by lie. And



21:54

absolutely, one of the more painful stories actually was a man who maintains some of the most strict walls if anyone I've ever known in my life, he lives in New Jersey commutes to a bank where he works in another state, he keeps a very long commute an hour plus, so that he can keep those two worlds separate. He maintained the post office box in Philadelphia through which he has credit cards, telephone cards, so we can make calls. gay friends are allowed to call him one night a week when his wife plays bridge. I mean, it's a very segmented life, there also



22:27

has to be a professional price that's paid. While you're using all of this energy maintaining these boundaries, and you're living with all this paranoia, I can't believe that you are as efficient as you normally would



22:42

be. No, clearly not. I mean, think about the amount of your your energy and creativity that go into trying to beat the system, which is essentially not productive time, a software engineer at Microsoft, who had recently come out, a woman told me, you wouldn't believe the amount of energy I find I have today now that I'm openly lesbian at work. She said, I used to sit in front of my screen, you know, at work, she's a writer, hours a day doing what looked like work. And I was essentially dawdling worried about all kinds of things that had nothing to do with writing software manuals, which is what



23:15

she does. And I can remember, you know, as a salesman on the road driving along, and instead of thinking about the next customer, I was looking at, you know, the shame and the guilt. And I wonder if this one figured it out. And that one figured it out. Instead of thinking about customers. I was thinking about that about that. And then there's an excuse that, well, if I came out, I wouldn't get the promotion that I deserve.



23:38

People very often talk about glass ceilings, or in this case, a lavender ceiling, if you will. And the thing I always say is that in many ways, these things are not only imposed, but they're self imposed, when people withdraw from the social life of the office, when they are mysterious about their personal lives when they don't form good, solid, honest relationships. They bring the glass ceiling or the glass walls around them without intending to because you know, they cut themselves out of support and mentoring. You very often see that,



24:07

Jim, the advocate of Pandu, for leaving women out,



24:12

the two or three existing studies of gay life in corporate America are of just women. And the decision to study just men was based there were a couple of reasons that we did that part of it was sort of the nitty gritty, we, you know, we didn't have the financing and time to really do a large enough sample to do both men and women. Also, we knew enough about lesbians situation in the workplace to know that it's not the same. These organizations are sexist as well as heterosexism. Which means that lesbians have different options. They pay different penalties for choosing a particular strategy. And we knew enough to know that we didn't really understand that as well as we understood the situation gay men face. And so the decision was not just practical, but also there was a good theoretical reason. Certainly, it would be a much better study had we been able to do both. And in fact, Jay Lucas and I have both branched off in that direction and are doing samples that are unclear. Sounds like another book. Yeah, it's



25:06

another book is sort of the short answer. We're talking with Jim Woods, author of the corporate closet, the professional lives of gay men and America, co authored with Jay Lucas. Under what circumstances do people usually come out? Well, I



25:25

think there are two or three factors that seem you know, consistently associated with people who make the decision to come out. One of those is people who don't feel vulnerable economically, who feel that if things turned sour, in this particular work environment, they have other options. They have credentials, perhaps that would let them go somewhere else. That's one factor that we saw was sort of vulnerability in that not the same thing as how much they were earning, it was how vulnerable they perceive themselves to be very well paid. Men very often were the most closeted. A second factor, I suppose, would really be the personality of the individual. I mean, you have some people who were willing to take these things on, in a way that others aren't. And that kind of person, whatever, let his level in the workplace was more likely to come out. And we saw that. The other thing was, there was a very strong correlation between the strategy people used at work, and the strategy they used with families. Very few people were out at work, who weren't out to mom and dad or siblings or whomever. And that's not surprising me family relationships are often models for relationships that are a part of the coming out process. Absolutely. It's not in a vacuum. I mean, these coming out decisions very off the workplace is in many ways the last place people decide to come out, although not always. The other thing obviously, would be the particular culture of the environment they were working in, you know, the perceived level of homophobia, the perceived level of, you know, penalties, they would suffer for coming up. And obviously, that has a lot to do with the decision to come out in a place like Wall Street, for example, which is a very homophobic sort of frat house, atmosphere, at least on the trading floor, you pay a different

price for coming out there than you would, for example, at Microsoft, where there's large visible was being gay employee group, whether it's a non discrimination policy and so forth. What sort of experiences did people have? Were they mostly good, mostly bad when they came as they came



27:30

out? Well, the



27:31

one thing that was a surprising finding for me was the of the men we interviewed. A good chunk of them 50 Or so had come out at least to someone, someone.



27:50

Not letting the system beat them. Or it could be that what I'd like to believe is that, in fact, these men for all that they suffered the mistreatment they experienced, they really feel better about how they're handling this, they certain pressures they weren't even aware with there are gone now. And they feel that the most amazing thing that's happened in the last just a couple of years is that the invisibility factor was no longer such an issue. People are talking about this. And for so long, progress was was stunted by the fact that we really just weren't talking about lesbian gay people, and certainly not about their jobs, you know, where we spend more than half our waking lives. And now we are the military, even though we seem to have temporarily lost that battle. It's the single largest employer in the country. And it has brought to the forefront. The idea that gay people work, pay bills and face the usual workplace pressures. And in that sense, we have gained a lot of ground.



28:44

I'm Bert Weiland, and we've been talking with Jim Woods the author of the corporate closet, the professional lives of gay men in America from free press. An excellent scholarly book yet wonderful reading very easy reading with extensive bibliography for anyone interested in pursuing this further and extensive notes. Jim thanks for talking with us pleasure.



Deborah Bell 29:16

No closet for me by Jamie Anderson opens lesbian gay voices each week. Well spoken word well sung words about the importance of not being in the closet as we continue this special National Coming Out Day edition of lesbian and gay voices.



Zachary Steele 29:34

Hey, and later on in program this way out Greg Gordon will be talking to author and therapist

Dr. Don Clark, about the exaggerated fears most people experience prior to coming out to people who are important in their lives, deciding who to come out to and the critical importance of complete self acceptance before coming out to others.

D

Deborah Bell 29:55

We'll be having Mary Helen talking to members of Heatsong as they get ready To perform their fourth solo concert on October 15, but first we have some very special tickets to give away. Actress comedian singer Sandra Bernhardt will be at the arena theater October 21. With her no excuse for bad behavior show that so Sandra, don't you think? Now you do have to answer a trivia question if you would like to be put on the guest list to send your birth. Okay, in a recent photo spread, and I use the term loosely in Playboy magazine, Sandra appeared as part of an AIDS Awareness Project. The question is, what is Sandra wearing? And that number to call if you know the answer to that question to win tickets is 526 KPFT 5265738 They 10 for Mary Helen and the music of heart song

♂

31:04

it must be Sunday morning

♂

31:17

because you're hearing a solid blues blog on 90.1 FM K PFT in Houston Texas from 6am until noon

♂

31:40

you told us what you lost on Sunday morning

♂

31:50

must be Sunday morning.

♂

31:56

So Bob Do you have the list of candidates to replace logon as department head I guess are right here first on the list is coming highly qualified plenty of experiences Cummings these days so 57 I think that's a little odd don't you who else is on the low side Gonzalo you can move on blank his last name Gonzalez I don't think we need any of that here off well then there's Taylor her real go getter a woman was department head I don't think so. already. What about Gardner works long hours knows the department don't tell me don't know about Gardner. The man has light in the loafers get my drift? Well, it doesn't really matter. Oh, sure. Next thing we know the whole department will be overrun with all right. I've always liked Richardson. He's worked his way up to help reorganize Bob in case you haven't noticed he's black. So just slow the whole

department down. He's one of the best workers we have. Simpson he's a mathematical genius but men wheelchair I don't think so. Well, it's the whole list of the person filled with people and other one of them is qualified. Isn't that ridiculous? Ridiculous. The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the advertising Council remind you that our strength our progress depend on our diversity?



32:59

Good evening, and welcome back to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT This is 90.1 FM. My name is Mary Helen and I usually do the music portion of lesbian and gay voices. Joining me tonight Denise Malisa and T W. Members of HeartSong very important members of heart song really. They represent three really, to me really important functions of HeartSong The Houston women's Community Chorus Denise Bullock is one of the conductors of the chorus. Melissa Blankenship is, I guess the oldest living member what I meant to say was, she's been in the chorus longer than any woman in there, I think at this point in TW has been president of HeartSong for many many years and and but not this year, but but she has been past president for a long long time and is still a real active member of the course as well as being a first alto welcome women and we're going to talk a little bit this evening about heart song and about our upcoming performance and I say our because most people know that listen to the show many do that I'm also a member of heart so yes



34:28

indeed Alto to



Mary Helen Merzbacher 34:31

Killer killer voice and they do usually want to kill me when I've seen we're going to hear some music that that we chose tonight to go with the interview and so so we're going to hear a little little taste of heart song before. Before we talk to you women and this is a look back at kind of the way heart song used to be It's a song from 1988 From the very first solo concert that art song did at the First Unitarian Church and we'll be back with delete delete Denise Malisa and TW after this he knows much okay, we're gonna we're gonna rethink that one yeah, I don't know what to say Donna it's a heating my job so it's, it should be queued right to it and yeah, we operate by the seat of our pants here. Let's try it again. Donna we're gonna really try again for Hainan.



35:57

Chevron Chevron Chevron evening good. Evening again Chevron Chevron Chevron, Chevron Shan Shan Shan Shan Shan Shan Rica.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 37:30

From 1988 heart songs first solo concert performance in the First Unitarian Church and,

What's your remember of heart song in these days? Can you tell me just briefly about that

melissa, you remember our heart song in those days? Can you tell me just briefly about that song,



37:44

about a month? Well, I remember the reticence of the choir about doing it because it was going to be really the first song that was in another language. But after we learned the Hebrew and started singing it, then then it started to really come off much better,



Mary Helen Merzbacher 38:03

you know, a lot of the history of heart song because you were around when it was an idea. And and were there and have been, I guess, short of a short leave of absence at one time. You've been there through the whole entire process and and the choirs been through a lot of changes. And I guess I'm trying to get an idea from you and for our audience what what you see as what's going on now. And where where is the group now coming out with this, this new concert that's coming up? And what are we trying to say at this point about my about Heartsong?



38:48

Well, I think what we're what we've been focusing on as far as the theme goes new directions and shared hopes, has been sort of bringing back some of the nostalgia of the chorus and what we love about us best while looking towards the future, to where we want to go. Those of us that have been in a choir for as long as I have, we sort of see that the whole history of the choir, sort of like a book and we can turn the pages and look through it and pick out what we want to look at. We're trying to get the new membership on, you know, in the same pages we're on.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 39:26

And there are a lot of new members of Heartsong including not a new member, but a new to the director's chair or directors podium. Denise Bullock and so Denise, how does it feel to be up there leading these women in song?



Suzanne Anderson 39:44

It's wonderful to have all those smiling faces looking at you. Of course, during the early parts of rehearsals on pieces, it's the frightened faces and we can't do this in face



Brian Nunes 39:58

and we don't like this



40:01

But it comes around fairly quickly. And it's just it's wonderful to be



Mary Helen Merzbacher 40:08

different than you thought it would be when you first considered directing. After after Lynn Wayman, left who was the director for, what, six years, after limb left, and in you and Roz kind of stepped in to lead the group? Is it different than you thought it was going to be?



40:31

Well, I was very nervous at the beginning, I wasn't sure that my, my skills and my experience in directing would be up to the challenge. But the choir was very supportive. And I think that made a big difference. And I'm very comfortable now in front of the choir.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 40:52

Tell us about your music background.



40:55

Well, I was taught directing by my mother, who is a choral music teacher and directed her choirs on occasion when she needed to step back and listen to the choir. So I would step up and direct the choir. And that was my first experience in directing. And I've sung with central Methodist college choir for four years. And a few other things here and there.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 41:23

Yeah, what about Roz? roughen. I know you, you know Roz real well, and maybe you could tell us a little bit about her background, musically. Well, she



41:35

has a master's degree in music composition from rice. And she's a very, very talented woman. We have very different styles of directing. And I think that's an asset to the chorus. I think we both bring different things to the pieces. And we, we kind of divvy up the songs based on what we think we can bring to them. And she's just this very talented woman.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 42:01

Yes, she, she, it's really fun, as a member to have these different styles. And I think that it'll really appeal to the audience to see different personalities coming out of the chorus this time

around. I really think that's that's what's going to happen. I mean in person. I mean the

around. I really think that's what's going to happen. I mean, in personalities, I mean, the personas that are contained within the choir as as all of this is joined together. And one of the big accomplishments of heart song in the last few years has been the production of the National Women's Choral Festival, which the group brought to town G hasn't been 1990 91

42:48

Whoa.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 42:51

Anyway, I guess getting old and I want to play a piece of music from from that concert in just a minute and give you a chance to hear a different side of Heartsong you know from the Heaney ma Tov Hebrew side and in TW we'll come back to and talk to you some more. After we hear it. Let the river run a song written by Carly Simon an arranged for HeartSong, who arranged that song as a matter of fact, Judy and Ross did they did they collaborated? Then Judy Messina is the accompanist for HeartSong. She's been playing piano for HeartSong for

43:53

Geez. Well, she

43:54

tried to be a singing member. That was her original. Yeah, she came to saying and Marian pendeen I was leaving us as a company and so we begged her and we pleaded with her and and finally just she'd let us beg for a while before she said yes. Well, of course.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 44:12

Just like any good woman would know.

44:18

We have to beg her one day.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 44:21

And that's as it should be. Joining us tonight on lesbian and gay voices. Three members of Heartsong the Houston women's Community Chorus Heartsong will be in concert. This Geez. Is it next week next Saturday night at Hammond Hall on the Rice University campus



44:45

737 30 entrance



44:46

number 13



**Mary Helen Merzbacher 44:49**

Yeah, yeah. Tell us about tell us a new directions and shared hopes. You always you're saying some kind of funny stories and And a lot of people in the choir have known each other a long time and there are a lot of new members which is really exciting and, and but TW was saying it kind of funny story about Ross Ross



45:11

and well, Ross are often you know, she's our director, one of our directors down. She has a master's degree and when I knew her she was 19 years old who was a student at Rice University. She worked for me at Girl Scout camp. And I used to go hear her sing at Willie's pub, and play her guitar and she was that she sang like Janis. And first of all, she sang all the Genesee and songs and then she sang all over the rosdorf and songs that were written to sound like jealousy and, and, but she was quite entertaining and she's just really evolved from that. But you know, I, when she's directing me, I don't think about that. Okay.



**Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:53**

She does a lot of arranging. In fact, she arranged a version of is this in my correct Beethoven's Ode to Joy or Beethoven's Fifth to I don't know probably Denise was to joy for the the Gay Games bands. Then the national combined gay bands that performed during Gay Games last summer. So I mean, Ross is, she said quite a talent. We're lucky to have her



46:30

about the lowest voice and he used



**Mary Helen Merzbacher 46:33**

she does. She's got one of those Joan Armatrading kind of voices. And she's listening tonight since we were only talking about about what about our MCs? Oh,



46:44

that's what we're really excited about. It just gives me goosebumps every time I think about it. We've asked Tory Williams and Dr. Sandy scurrying to be our MCS and Tory is the founding Mother of the choir. And we can't wait to see what she's going to get up and do for us.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 47:06

And they go way back with Heartsong Melissa was telling a story about the original idea of heart sunk Come on. Malisa just tell it PW don't listen.

o

47:17

Yeah, I'm just gonna say that Sandy skordalia was one of the original members that came to that meeting. And although she hasn't been in the choir since I've been there. She is a an alum. And I don't know what when she can sing, she can sing well. So the NEMA? Lisa, if you want to tell that story fun otherwise?

o

47:44

Well, when I met Tori Williams, it was in 1985 at the Michigan Women's music festival. And I'd never been there before. That was the 10th year so if anyone's been to Michigan, as many of you have, if you know most of the condition you walk around in most of the day because of the heat. And so when I met Tori, shall I say I was in very breezy attire.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 48:12

And you're in any attire at all?

o

48:15

She had a bandana on

o

48:17

that was about it. So it was the first time I've been introduced to someone was in we were all in the same condition. So

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 48:26

hi, I'm Elisa and I make and and I don't have a lot to hide. Well, I kind of liked that story. And so you sat around and decided that you really missed having a women's course. Of course the thing about Heartsong is we do practice in our clothes. Yeah. And we do perform in our clothes.



48:47

As a matter of fact, sometimes we perform as balloons under our shirts but that was the follies we won't do that at the concert.



48:54

We did do one concert with our shoes off that came out during a Kay Gardner piece that we were accompanying her and she performs without her shoes most of the time so we thought we'd join her and we all took our shoes off so our feet were naked



Mary Helen Merzbacher 49:14

not quite the same thanks a lot women for for joining me here tonight on lesbian and gay voices and I'm really looking forward to seeing everybody it's going to be the event. The season definitely October 15 What What were you going to say the



49:34

least? Oh, I was just gonna say where everybody can get tickets. Oh, that's right. Tickets are available from Inklings bookstore from Crossroads market and also from Lucci is garden. They are \$8 in advance \$10 at the door, and of course if you know any Heartsong member, please flag her down and get a ticket from her.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 49:55

Right or call you know, call us up. I have son Call us up, do anything well, we'll definitely deliver them to your door or whatever we have to do to get to there. We'd love to see you. And it's going to definitely be one of those events to help. You got to be in on these things. Yes, please



50:15

come. Yeah, we're very happy.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 50:18

We're looking forward to it. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT Houston. And we're going to go to another heart song song and this one. I think the choir is going to sing in this upcoming concert, right? Maybe, sister? Yeah, it's kind of become a theme song of heart songs. We sing it so many times. And I remember one of the first times we ever sang it for the public was at at women and AIDS conference, downtown Galveston, and I'll never forget and that's that's probably been like at Sadie's seven Ada, and was a very powerful, powerful moment. And we've we've marched on we're still singing it and we're still singing it in support of each other and supportive. Women and men. You know, when it wherever we go, so so

enjoy, sister. HeartSong for from a concert in 1989 held here in Houston at Hammond Hall. Their upcoming concert October the 15th. Next Saturday night, Hammond Hall Rush University campus hope that you'll be able to be there. Want to say thank you before I sign off for my portion of the program to Harry Livesey, who was with me last week and all the staff and of the Harris County Hospital districts have third annual conference on HIV and AIDS which was held today at the Sheraton Astrodome. Congratulations to all those folks for a real successful conference today. very moving, very informative and very inspirational. For those of us working with HIV and AIDS care here in Houston. Thanks, HC HD for all your work. Still to come on lesbian and gay voices here on 90.1 FM Greg Gordon from this way out. We'll be talking to author and therapist Dr. Don Clark, about deciding who to come out to and the critical importance of complete self acceptance. Before coming out to others. Deborah Bell will talk to Judy Carter, who is just another lesbian Jewish comic magician. She'll be coming to the laughs stop bringing her hilarious show nice girls don't say things like that. For one night, only Thursday, October the 13th next Thursday, we may have some tickets to give away to Judy's performance. It's the last stop. So stay tuned. We'll also have a calendar event of events coming up. But right now, news wrap from this way out.

♂

53:27

I'm Cindy Friedman.

B

Brian Nunes 53:28

And I'm Brian Nunez.

C

Cindy Friedman 53:29

What's news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending October 1 9090. For the results of

B

Brian Nunes 53:40

us primary elections held on different dates in different states continue to come in. In Arizona, both open gate kin Shavon and open lesbian Denise Heap on democratic nominations to the Arizona State House. However, Shabbat is seeking to represent a heavily Democratic district and so has a good chance of winning while he is running in a heavily Republican district. In Maryland, open gays John Hunay and David Lesnar both lost their bids for Democratic nomination to the state House of Delegates.

C

Cindy Friedman 54:12

In New York, Judge Karen Burstein became the first open lesbian to win a major party nomination for statewide office, taking the Democratic nomination for state attorney general. In fact, only one woman has ever held statewide office in New York. Burstein beat out three other democratic contenders including incumbent Attorney General Oliver Kapil in a hotly contested

race, but faces a further challenge in November against Republican conservative nominee Dennis Vacco, who is likely to make Burstein sexual orientation and issue openly gay and openly HIV positive New York City Council member Tom Duan, however, pulled less than half the votes of incumbents Jerrold Nadler who was re-nominated in the Democratic primary for his seat in

**B** Brian Nunes 55:04

the US House of Representatives, Nadler has been a strong supporter of gay and lesbian rights. In Rhode Island, Democratic voters selected openly gay incumbent William Fitzpatrick as their nominee for his state senate seat, even though the state Democratic Party had endorsed one of his two primary election opponents, and he was gay baited by both of them. Fitzpatrick is virtually assured of reelection, as he'll be running unopposed in November. Another open gay Mike PISA Turo was unopposed in taking a Democratic nomination for a Rhode Island House seat. Democratic voters in Rhode Island also chose gay and lesbian rights supporter and State Senator Murphy York to be their gubernatorial candidate, making incumbent Bruce Sunland the first Rhode Island Governor ever to be denied re-nomination by his party

**C** Cindy Friedman 55:54

in the state of Washington. Open gay Cal Anderson currently a state representative was unopposed in winning the Democratic nomination for a state senate seat. Since his district is heavily Democratic, he is expected to win handily in November as well. To other open gays lost their bids for Statehouse nominations to gay friendly Democrats. Washington State also saw the ultimate stealth candidate in fundamentalist homophobe and current state representative Linda Smith, declaring her candidacy only 10 days before the September 20 primary. Republicans Smith became the state's first candidate ever to win a major party nomination on a write-in vote. Smith will attempt in November to unseat gay friendly Democratic incumbent Jolene unsold from the US House of Representatives.

**B** Brian Nunes 56:51

On the first of three weavings a bill to extend government pensions to gay and lesbian domestic partners was approved by the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. The bill was introduced by Yael Diane, and has the support of both the justice and finance ministries.

**C** Cindy Friedman 57:06

The European Union financed a visit to Poland by eight young Dutch gay and lesbian activists and journalists in early September to teach Polish gay and lesbian youth how to use the media. Another visit to Poland is planned for January by members of the International gay and lesbian youth organization.

**B** Brian Nunes 57:26

AND FINALLY, ANTHONY GILDED, A RECENTLY NAMED IN THE DISTINGUISHED CONSULTANT POSITION

And finally, Anthony Slater was recently profiled in the distinguished mainstream newspaper, The Washington Post, later told the post journalist Richard Laby people are going to accept you or they're going to reject you, you have to be your own person. Slater is 16 years old, six foot, two 240 pounds, black, gay, and a transvestite named Bubbles. He wore women's clothing all through ninth grade. But in order to wear them to his junior high school graduation, he had to hire a civil rights attorney to negotiate with the Washington DC public school system. Thus, in Laby's words, Bubbles became the first male pupil in the history of Kelly Miller junior high school to graduate dressed in a woman's blouse, bell bottoms and flats, not to mention \$120 African twist hairdo.

 Cindy Friedman 58:28

That's news wrap for the week ending October 1 1994. Follow the news in your area and formed community is a strong community

 Brian Nunes 58:37

news rap is compiled and written by Cindy Freedman. For this way out. I'm Brian unit

 Cindy Friedman 58:42

and I'm Cindy Friedman. As we reported last week, the International lesbian and gay association or ILGA has been suspended from its consultative status at the United Nations ostensibly over concerns that some of its member organizations support pedophilia. The UN vote came under pressure from the United States which thanks to an amendment by notoriously homophobic Senator Jesse Helms to a UN appropriations measure threatens the withdrawal of US financial support unless such action was taken. This way outs Johnboat pray as a follow up to that story.

 59:22

As the only non governmental organization at the UN advising the world body on lesbian and gay issues, Yoga has undergone a scrutiny that virtually no other such observer organization has had to endure. What has been largely misunderstood and certainly underreported in most mainstream media reports is that ILGA has not been expelled but only suspended pending the appeal of its case. Carmen Vasquez is the Director of Public Policy at center ILGA in New York City,

 59:52

the Economic and Social Council. What they did was to suspend or NGOs non governmental status there is an investigation pending, at which point the Council Committee on non governmental organizations of the United Nations has to make a decision about whether or not there will be an actual expulsion of yoga. It is my expectation that yoga will take steps to have consultative status reinstated.



1:00:25

Dugar had expelled Nambla, the North American Man Boy love Association and two other groups that allegedly promoted pedophilia. But the UN demanded that you will certify that none of its member organizations endorse or promote pedophilia. Clearly, ILGA was not expecting the uproar and is a relatively young alliance of hundreds of organizations around the world. It has been unable to identify every subsidiary and subgroup within its ranks. For example, New York City's lesbian and gay Community Services Center, which is not only the official US home for ILGA, but also a member organization hosts meetings and events for over 400 Different groups each week at their Greenwich Village facilities. It has been virtually impossible for the International Secretariat of the yoga to keep track of all the constituent groups and each of its affiliated umbrella organizations around the world. Once again Carmen Vasquez



1:01:20

Erica membership I don't know the exact number but it has hundreds of members. The resolution passed at the World Elga conference in June very clearly indicators that no pedophile organization could be a member of the US mission. Or hems people's investigation turned up the name of another organization which they claim is an alga member but which we'll get does not have any record dive as a full member of Elgar



1:01:55

Carmen Vasquez Director of Public Policy at center ILGA in New York, with the case on appeal at the United Nations and under an intense media microscope both from within and outside of the queer community you will get is being forced to take a much more painstaking accounting of its membership. Reporting for this way out on John vo prey.



Deborah Bell 1:02:33

Well, I was waiting for Zachary to sing on the air. So he is so glad to be gay. Oh my god, he can sing and I can't. And it's



Zachary Steele 1:02:42

like National Coming Out Day coming up Tuesday.



Deborah Bell 1:02:45

Do you know how October 11 came to be? Yes,



Zachary Steele 1:02:48

it is the anniversary of the first march on Washington actually

D Deborah Bell 1:02:52

the second second mark National march on Washington for lesbian gay rights. And it was in October 11 1987. And I was there. It was also the first unveiling of the AIDS Memorial Quilt the names project. Big Weekend, Jack and I and a bunch of other people from Houston all took part in that and at that time, I was just kind of an observer and an attendee Little did I know, a few years later, come out. Oh, yeah, I definitely came out. I've been out for about 10 years now. Good. i Yeah, yeah, I mean, so you don't get much more out than me. Because I am the cron diva of the universe, the supreme lesbian being of all time, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. I'm Deborah Bell. And I'm Zachary Steele. And we will have the lovely voice of Sandra Bernhardt just a moment. But first, we're going to continue with our ticket giveaway. We only had one winner. Robert won a pair of tickets for October 21. At the arena, arena Theater, which we're not sure we're debating debating if the show is no excuse for bad behavior or excuse for bad behavior. But Sandra Bernhard will be there at the arena theater, October 21. And so we're changing our trivia question that the answer was what was Sandra wearing in Playboy a few months ago? And the spread that was for AIDS awareness. And the answer was high heeled shoes.

Z Zachary Steele 1:04:30

I thought it was a smile, but ya gotta run a smile to

D Deborah Bell 1:04:33

Okay. And so when I when I saw the picture, which I found through my son's bed. Anyway, so the question now and this is what you need to do you need to answer this question to win those tickets by calling five to six KPFT 5265738. What pop diva was Sandra Bernhardt once linked with and has since had a falling out now Oh, if you can answer that call five to six KPFT 5265738.

Z Zachary Steele 1:05:07

And speaking of Sandra Bernhardt, we have some music coming up right now.

1:05:13

Okay. Pretend it's 1978 and you're straight. Your best buddy calls your boy nice man. I really miss you. We haven't hung out in a long time. Let's go out tonight to a party to a disco. Yeah, sounds like a great idea just broke broke up with that Playboy Bunny. I busted open her lips she split down. Come back around town should should have some brewski sounds cool. He comes over you're catching up on old times, having some laughs get ready to go out and on pair of khaki pants. Topsiders Brooks Brothers shirt. Go downstairs to get in this car. Man you got a Camaro should do and rate. Then you start driving around town and he gets kind of quiet really

introverted. Kids fixing his hair in the rearview mirror and driving down some dark alleys you've never been down before. He pulls up to the bumper jumps of the car slams the door runs up the stairs to this big warehouse. So you walk up behind them and you're standing around looking inside. You don't see any girls. Wait a minute. Maybe you do this a couple of dance together short hair flannel shirts. Big badass is not your kind of girls. So you mosey on over to the bar and you're leaning there drinking a beer and all sudden this guy starts walking towards you in a real real tip here five button Levi's yoloing 10 Top handlebar mustache red bandana hanging out of his left pocket. He says I'd like to buy you a beer. Yeah, well, I've got one already. At this point, your best buddy has disappeared. Thanks a lot, man. Then the guy pulls out a little bottle shoves them up underneath your nose. They're poppers. You never smelled them before just trying to get kind of nervous, dizzy and sexy and hot and sweaty and into the rhythm and you walk out to the dance floor with but inside your head. It keeps echoing but I'm straight man. I'm straight. somebody hands you a tambourine?

 Deborah Bell 1:07:27

Okay, excuses for bad behavior, part one Friday, October 21. Sandra Bernhardt at the arena theater. All right. And we had winners. We have winner everyone knows that she used to hang with Madonna. But that's over with Cyndi Lauper.

 1:07:44

Oh, well, I got that one wrong to you just

 Deborah Bell 1:07:47

not doing well. So So Joan and Michael. Thanks, congratulation. And that does it for our ticket giveaway for Sandra Bernhardt for for the time being and some of us are going to go see her in performance.

 Zachary Steele 1:08:02

But coming up is this way out. Most people experience exaggerated fears prior to coming out to people who are important in their lives. This way outs Greg Gordon has the following interview with author and therapist, Dr. Don Clark about deciding who to come out too. And the critical importance of complete self acceptance before coming out to others, Zachary? Yes,

 Deborah Bell 1:08:24

I think,

 1:08:27

I think unless you can tell me it's all right. Okay. October 11 is National Coming Out Day in the

US and several other countries. On that day, everyone is encouraged to take their next step out of the closet, whether you're just starting out, or you've already put some distance between you and your closet, it said that everyone has a next step they can take.



1:08:50

Everybody was frightened about making the disclosure to somebody who's important to them in their life, whether it's a parent or whether it's an employer, for instance,



1:08:58

Dr. John Clark is the author of loving someone gay and living gay,



1:09:03

trying to sort out what are the worst things that could really happen? Because sometimes the fantasies are so catastrophic that they don't, they're way out of line with reality or



1:09:12

my father, have a cardiac arrest die right in front.



1:09:16

Traditionally, Father has a cardiac arrest mother jumps out of the window and the boss fires you. I mean, everybody knows. So try to try to figure out from what you know about Mother Father or the employer what their reactions are likely to be? What's the worst thing that can happen to you? Secondly, figure out whether this is a person that you really do need to tell? I mean, there's no more burden on us than there is on a heterosexual person. You don't have to tell everybody in the world that you're gay. It's not a matter of concern for some people. But his mindset he was so wary of making the disclosure that he thought he just put an ad in the newspaper and leave town for a month. Let everybody know, but try to sort out whether it's costing you some kind of emotional energy to not tell that person if it's something on your mind a lot, you're thinking about it a lot. It's causing you to lose sleep. You don't need that kind of loss of energy. So it's probably better to confront the issue with that person. They'll ask all the usual naive questions, did you go to a doctor and try to get it fixed? Why do you have to be that way? Why do you want to have so much grief in your life for one to try to get over it, etc? And there are answers to all those questions. A lot of it having to do with that's who I am, you know, if I were left handed, would you want to send me to a doctor to make me right handed, which we did once upon a time, it's not being gay, that's disadvantageous? It's the society that persecutes gay people that makes it difficult to be gay.



1:10:43

What about the father of being totally comfortable with themselves as

WHAT ABOUT THE FACT OF BEING TOTALLY COMFORTABLE WITH YOURSELF AS

 Brian Nunes 1:10:46

a gay person?

 1:10:48

Before you make the disclosure to those people close to you? isn't that important? Very

 1:10:52

important. Yes. If you're making an announcement to somebody who cares about you making a disclosure of your gay identity, and you're talking about it as if having just discovered that you've got cancer, please don't expect the straight person to celebrate with you. If they care about you at all. You've got to come to terms with it yourself in a way that's not just accepting this malaise that you have. But you have to first get to the point where you appreciate what a really good thing that is in your life, what the advantages of it are the possible richness that that can bring to you. Once you have that firmly in your heart, soul and mind then is the time to announce it to other people who care about you.

 1:11:53

Whether or not you do the two step or follow a 12 step, here's hoping you'll be stepping out on National Coming Out Day October 11. Thanks for tuning into this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Cindy Friedman by a newness Ron buchmeier Jason Lynn Graham under your John Breaux pray and Charlotte Perea, Fidel contributed program material. Edwin's phone calls came from a 1977 record album called appropriately enough,

 Deborah Bell 1:12:25

out out we're all out here on lesbian and gay voices.

 Zachary Steele 1:12:29

And most of us are lesbians. That Jack

 Deborah Bell 1:12:32

seems to think that sometimes, you know, we do welcome more men getting involved with the program. It just seems like there's so many women out there doing things. And well, we've been giving advice about coming out and things going on. In regards to Coming Out Day. One of the people who has been inspired to come out is comic Judy Carter. She'll be in Houston on

the 13th at the last stop. And I met Judy once and we had a very interesting conversation. It was very serious as I remember, but she wasn't out professionally then. And in the 10 years since she's decided it's time to be out and about. And so she'll be bringing her show called nice girls. One let me give it nice girls don't say things like that. Well, let's give up being nice girls and all go to the last stop and enjoy Judy Carter. Judy Carter is just another lesbian Jewish comic magician from Los Angeles who's appeared on Live at the Improv Showtime and HBO. She'll be bringing her hilarious show Nice. Girls don't say things like that for one night, only on Thursday, October 13. At the Houston laughs stop 1952 West gray. And opening the show will be Houston comic Shaw. I met you about 10 years ago at a now conference where you performed and you did a magic act.

1:14:03

The checks never worked. Right? Like comedy, you know whether I liked it or not. Yeah.

D Deborah Bell 1:14:09

So that kind of forced you to be a comedian because the magic didn't work.

1:14:15

As a magic act, I mean, I was going to my kind of intense, feminist, sadistic phase where I was. I think the highlight of that show is when I made a guy class grand piano on Saddam and half of the electric jigsaw. That's right. And, yeah, I remember what was interesting about that shows 10 years ago, was that it was a big to do for feminists to have a comic. I went before the show. They said no, you're not gonna say anything. You know, don't let anybody tell you you're not going to you know anything about pornography. That's an issue and this is an issue and that's an issue and issue, issue, issue issue. And I said no, no Why don't

D Deborah Bell 1:15:00

I remember a line that you did that I have have repeated many, many times. And you said, well, people have come to this conference, and they're talking about all these issues are so important. And we're talking about, you know, women's liberation. And we're talking about battering, we're talking about the environment. But the real problem is, what are we going to do with the bleeping smokers? So you you've had a busy career in comedy, but you have not been out as a lesbian professionally until fairly recently. Is that correct?

1:15:34

Yeah, that is, I mean, what happened with me was I was doing continued performing, getting on TV shows, and, and I was, you know, a lot of my life and interest is about relationships and making jokes about them. So you know, it's tough, we, you know, before the premiums, you know, it's like, saying, Well, you know, well, my boy, my, my relationship will vary. They

D Deborah Bell 1:16:06

will dance around

o

1:16:09

from it, because I just, I didn't have the courage to come out yet. And I started to teach stand up and I wrote a book and became a big seller, and I was fourth printing. Yeah, stand up comic book, and I teach people how to be themselves, which was, I guess, is a lot of people do, you know, you teach something you need to learn. And then I realized myself that my god, I'm teaching people, you know, how to be who you are, and not apologize. And then I started doing it myself. And I tell you, I would not go back for anything. It's, it's, it's scary sometimes. Actually, the first time I came out was in Texas, at a comedy club, in the suburbs of Houston. And you know, you'll be honest and cowboy hats. So tell you, I was just myself and the audience totally appreciated that, you know, I really appreciated it.

D

Deborah Bell 1:17:07

So you went from being a nice straight girl?

o

1:17:11

My opinion.

D

Deborah Bell 1:17:15

Now you're just out there and wild and you tackle things from gay relationships to political correctness, therapy. And what is this about your grandmother's girdle?

o

1:17:25

Oh, well, you know, I still do some magic tricks. I do a very dramatic escape from my grandmother's girdle which

D

Deborah Bell 1:17:34

it takes dramatic escapes I think those things

o

1:17:39

it's very exciting finale of the show, you know? Me Oh, will I get out and live?



Deborah Bell 1:17:47

Actually, I think it's an SM type thing. girdles aren't a



1:17:53

session with me being big and women having to be small, you know, you never hear oh, she's such a petite Dyk t you know, you really hear that men master they probably brag are huge. They're Flo's worry, you know, that's



1:18:12

true.



Suzanne Anderson 1:18:13

They would



1:18:18

like that, and, but it's really, you know, I mean, I think you really conservative



Deborah Bell 1:18:36

do to come out?



1:18:37

Well, you know, it's been written now and so usually asked you turn it in probably in January, turn it on, take a year before the publisher gets it out.



Deborah Bell 1:18:46

So there'll be something for us to look forward to. Before we close off here, or is there anything in particular you want to let the folks in Houston know about



1:18:58

this show? Just come to the show. Let's have fun.

 Deborah Bell 1:19:02

Let's have some fun girls, Texas girl,

 1:19:05

they always say to me, well, Katie, you just say things that I don't really say them.

 Deborah Bell 1:19:11

I think that's probably true. And then having the courage to say what needs to be said is is an important thing. And you know, it's it. I think one of the reasons there's so many lesbian comics is that they just have so much material to work from.

 1:19:28

TV. So we have to go down to town, you know, that we do,

 Deborah Bell 1:19:34

but you have actually appeared on TV quite a number of times, including Oprah and Entertainment Tonight,

 1:19:41

but never as an app lesbian. I have yet to do that.

 Deborah Bell 1:19:44

Do you think that's gonna happen? Oh, yeah. Pretty soon. Absolutely. And you've done three Showtime special.

 1:19:51

Yes, that was that was you know, nice, straight, sweet straight girl.

 Deborah Bell 1:19:57

Thank you, Judy. Thanks. Well, we'll see you soon. Thursday and Judy Carter will be at the laughs stop at 1952 West grey Be there or be straight tickets are available in advance are at the door and you can get them at includes bookstore or for phone orders call 713-524-2333

nice girls don't say things like that. And if you would like a pair of free tickets we have two pairs available and all you have to do is call I'm not going to make you have to answer any silly question what No, no questions five to six KPFT 5265738 for free tickets to Judy Carter on the 13th that the last stop

 Zachary Steele 1:20:44

Wasn't she involved with Madonna too? Could be okay.

 1:21:07

Why rinky dinky Turing ating. A town hall. Have I reached the party to whom I am speaking. A Miss Doris Day. Good. How are you Miss Gay? This is Miss calm on the telephone company. Yes, well, we have a little problem with your name. Well, we simply cannot print it in our listings. Well, that may well just just submit it that may well be that may well be but I'm sorry. Those are the rules. After all, children can look through the phonebook. And you know Yeah, impressionable minds. Well, I am very sorry. Well, then you're just going to have to change your name. Or by by the way, are you? You know, gay? Or you can tell me Come on I know what's happening. I'm hip to the happening. I had an uncle once who was that way? You aren't you? I knew it dike is not what you people like to be called. Excuse me just a minute just a minute young lady just a minute we do not allow such language to pass through our instruments

 1:22:14

I was keen once said everybody's got the blues. I know I have. You will have to if you tune into KPFT every Friday night for the of the clock blues show from eight to 10pm. Whether you'd like BB King, Eric Clapton, Albert King, Elmore, James Stevie Ray Vaughan are local talent. This is a show for you. In addition to music, we feature interviews with local, regional and national artists, as well as specialists in some of the blues greats. Remember this every Friday night at 8pm for two hours of down and dirty blues here on World Radio 90.1 FM Katy ISD, Houston.

 Deborah Bell 1:23:05

And as we continue our celebration of National Coming Out Day on lesbian and gay voices, we have a lot of announcements about things that are going on that you can come out to as you come out. I'm Deborah Bell, and I'm Zachary Steele. And among the things that are happening in celebration of coming out,

 Zachary Steele 1:23:26

well, there is the National Coming Out Day. Yes, I am rally at the University of Houston. That's October 11, from 11:30am to 1pm. At satellite Hill, there's also going to be the triangle ball also on the 11th from 8pm to 12. Midnight lowboy at the Oberholtzer Hall ballroom. I hope I got that

right. If you need more information, or if you require special accommodations, or just anything call Ruben Cantu at 7437539.

D Deborah Bell 1:23:57

And that's the University of Houston global group I believe that says sponsoring that the global group at University of Houston, you know, it must be for young people if they're going to be out to midnight on a school night.

Z Zachary Steele 1:24:08

I know I've never had that laid anymore. Well, we each can

D Deborah Bell 1:24:11

come out in our own way. And it says we know continuing process. One of the things that you might be interested in coming out to is the weekly meeting of whack the Women's Action Coalition. They're calling all women to join at 7pm at two Ps Coffee Company 1830, West Alabama on Wednesdays at 7pm. Wack is watching and we will take action.

Z Zachary Steele 1:24:38

Well speaking of two peas, my favorite coffeehouse, they're having a come in and come out this Sunday, October 9 from six to 9pm. There's going to be entertainment by Psy Brunson and Lauren Andrews she's great. She's a jazz singer. jasm Right. And that's from six to nine beer and wine is also available but there will be a \$5 donation at the door and to be He's will donate 20% of the gross sales to the pride used pride committee of Houston.

D Deborah Bell 1:25:05

So that's for the Pride Week celebration, which well, we got to start planning now. You know, so you can help the pride committee raise some funds and come out for that Sunday evening. That's a good time to have a gathering like that. coming up this Sunday at the women's group elections in South Africa. This is an eye net witness report and panel discussion presented by just Sandra spears and Attorney Laura Holliday. The Women's Group is a feminist group that meets at the present lay their meeting at the central congressional church Holman between Austin and Caroline at 3:30pm. Every Sunday,

Z Zachary Steele 1:25:49

and the theater group goat song presents the world premiere of a new play by Mike Hanks tobacco and boys being a truck. Ooh the tragical history of Christopher Marlowe, the man who outros Shakespeare before politics and the play cut him down. Directed by Mike Hanks. It's

opening this Friday. Oh, it's already open. Hey, how do we get this? Call it continues it continues call 5255960 for reservations. Tickets are \$12.

D Deborah Bell 1:26:23

And coming out together is the theme of the Women's Network program on a Wednesday, October 12. In celebration of National Coming Out Day come and share the coming out stories with the accepting women participants of the Women's Network. And they meet the second and fourth Wednesdays from seven to 9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center 701 Richmond Avenue room 15 For more information 5290037.

Z Zachary Steele 1:26:52

And there's also a call for help and support for the pride committee of Houston. Every year this committee is responsible for the largest celebration of pride in the Republic of Texas. This includes the annual parade pride rally, coordinating the 10 days of events before the parade, and also getting out to work the media and producing the pride guide. The committee is hardworking, dedicated and very cooperative group of volunteers yet there is never enough of them. They asked for people who are considered to help them with the pride community. If you need more information or interested in helping out you can call 5296979. That's the pride committee of Houston.

D Deborah Bell 1:27:34

I think that's one of the best groups to get involved with in the coming out process. You know, we've had some new listeners to lesbian gay voices tonight that have called in that just happened to tune in to 90.1 FM on their radio. We welcome you as a listener and keep listening to find out more of what goes on in the lesbian and gay community. coming up this weekend, GLP seeg endorsed feminist candidates are having activities that you can be part of on Saturday between nine and 10am at Ann Richards headquarters, which is at Travis and Elgin. They're having women for rich roots and they're going to get together and we'll be there. And they're going to work on some block walking and other campaign activity. So if you'd like to help out with that be there. Also on Sunday at 1pm Helen Cassidy for Judge Helen Cassidy was one of the original founders of Houston area now, and she's been a judge for a number of years and is a wonderful feminist candidate that we all can support. Also endorsed by GE LPC and if you would like to help on that on Sunday call 6646955

Z Zachary Steele 1:28:44

Pay and don't we have some information on Judy tenuta performing tonight she's over at the last stop

D Deborah Bell 1:28:49

to not to laugh. Stop but you know, she's not the only glass goddess

 Zachary Steele 1:28:53

well beside you, Deborah. she the only one?

 Deborah Bell 1:28:56

No. But she's she is one she is one.

 Zachary Steele 1:29:00

And Heartsong they were on our show tonight. They perform couple of their number numbers. And they're also going to be performing in concert October 15 7:30pm. That's a Saturday and they're performing at Hammond Hall on the Rice University campus. If you need tickets, they're \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. For additional information you can contact Denise Bullock at 9887150

 Deborah Bell 1:29:27

and we're going to have some more music about coming out. This is this is the song that really says what it's all about and then we'll be back to talk to you more about some thoughts on coming out.

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:29:54

If your heart did

 1:29:57

what a normal heart shouldn't Do

 Deborah Bell 1:30:07

the marvelous Michael Cowan in love, don't need a reason. And you know what love is the reason you're listening to lesbian gay voices. I'm Deborah bell.

 Zachary Steele 1:30:17

And I'm Zachary Steele. And we are celebrating the National Coming Out Day coming up this Tuesday, October 11.

D Deborah Bell 1:30:24

And we want to congratulate our winners of the Judy Carter. Tickets

Z Zachary Steele 1:30:28

are right and it is Colleen and Timothy. And y'all will be picking up the tickets at the last stop the night of the show.

D Deborah Bell 1:30:35

All right, Your names will be on the list, then, okay, well, thoughts on coming out the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays put out a wonderful monthly newsletter. And in their most recent issue for October, they do celebrate National Coming Out Day. And here are some of the ideas that they share. And you know, not only do lesbian and gay people, bisexual people come out. But if you've already come out to your family, sometimes they're placed in the position of coming out also, as the parent or friend of a lesbian or gay. And it makes a real difference being visible and being honest. Tell someone that you haven't told that you are the parent, proud parent or friend of someone who is lesbian or gay. Send a card or note to someone who has come out to you thanking them for including you in their lives. Write to your elected representatives on National Coming Out Day. Explain how fear of discrimination often prevents gays and lesbians from being honest about who they are. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper explaining why coming out is important. Do you have any ideas on coming out? I know he's going to be visiting your folks this weekend. And you've you've come out to them already haven't I have

Z Zachary Steele 1:31:58

come out and I am going up there with my lover and staying in my old bedroom, which is right across the hall. You know, it's a full size bed, but we do get to sleep together. We're not discriminated against in our household.

D Deborah Bell 1:32:12

Were you real scared when you first

Z Zachary Steele 1:32:16

parent I was very scared. And in fact, I had reason to be because I had problems with my father. I was almost kicked out. And he wanted me to see a psychiatrist and a whole bunch of other trouble.

D Deborah Bell 1:32:28

He thought it was a bad awful thing. Yes, he

 **Zachary Steele 1:32:31**

did. And that was about nine years ago.

 **Deborah Bell 1:32:35**

So so how does it get to be the point to where you and your lover can go home together? What has been this journey,

 **Zachary Steele 1:32:41**

the first hard step is actually just coming out and letting people know that you're either gay or lesbian. Once they know that, and then they get over the initial shock, they soon realize that you really haven't changed as since because you came out. And they realize that you are the same person and that you are basically a normal human being and there's nothing to be scared of.

 **Deborah Bell 1:33:03**

And I love you and they love and you love them. And that way that's what families are about was only love makes a family nothing more, nothing less. Gil, Ricky is the parent of a lesbian daughter. And she wrote some thoughts on coming out. And she says over and over again, she sees the powerful ripple effects of making positive statements about gay issues and putting a face on who gays and lesbians and families are. And she gives some examples. A father tells about coming out to coworkers around the lunch table saying here's why I don't think that the joke was funny. Zachary, do one?

 **Zachary Steele 1:33:48**

I think so sear. A high, a high school staffer speaks up about the needs of gay students, educating teachers and counselors who will listen and she finds more support than she imagined possible.

 **Deborah Bell 1:34:03**

A mom and dad mentioned to a new neighbor that their son is gay. And the neighbor says, I've known that one of my daughters is a lesbian for many years, but I've never been able to tell anyone before.

 **Zachary Steele 1:34:15**

Like I had something like that happened with my mom. It's interesting when that happens. A young woman who makes the point at work of standing up for gay issues reports a co workers saying, you know I'm prejudiced against gays. But last night, I was introduced to a gay couple as at a social gathering. And I'm surprised myself by actually being nice to them.

 Deborah Bell 1:34:36

Imagine that actually being nice. Friends of a PFLAG couple call to say, we went to the Republican caucus in our neighborhood. And when an anti gay proposal was made, we said no. We spoke up because of you and what you have taught us and that's what we do. We teach others and we make a difference by doing so. There's also share In the PFLAG flyer, their their newsletter, a story about some folks who went to visit Poland, and they were included among 34 people in a group. And by being visible as supporters of PFLAG. They had these experiences a retired high school teacher who had been alive 50 years before he even considered coming out of the closet. A father who had recently lost his only son to AIDS, a college dorm counselor himself straight, who had dealt with a variety of gay and lesbian issues on his campus. To couples who had reason to suspect they might each have a gay child, to other couples, who we thought probably had gay children. One of our lecturers was a psychology professor at a Polish University. In response to our question, he said that the status of homosexuality in Poland is about where it was the United States during the 50s. Jane wore her promote tolerance pin throughout the trip. This served as an icebreaker leading to discussion about PFLAG for future trips, we both will wear our pens, and we'll take plenty of PFLAG brochures, save what wonderful ambassadors we have, what a great organization, this Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, we're really lucky to have them here in active in Houston, they will be doing the healing homophobia conference again next March, right? You're listening to lesbian, gay voices, we're celebrating National Coming Out Day. And I have a point I want to share before we close, so I'm just gonna give Zachary A chance to if there's anything he wants to?

 Zachary Steele 1:36:47

Yes, actually, a couple days ago, a young friend of mine, he's in his early 20s, didn't know about National Coming Out Day and just wanted to know exactly what it means. And I think it's just the basis of National Coming Out Day is coming out one step further than you had been before. Whether it's coming out to your parents, to your co workers to your close friends, just trying to take it one step further each year to being as out as you can be,

 Deborah Bell 1:37:14

because that's the only way we can be visible when and when they do all those surveys. Countless, I must caution, people, especially if you're a young person who is dependent on your family for support, perhaps you're still in college and depend on your family to support you there. You may consider not coming out at this time. And there are valid reasons for that. If they it could mean those physical violence, if it could mean the withdrawal of support, because there will be time for that later on. There's too many children who are on the streets because they came out and it was not dealt with in the proper way. There's too many teen suicides where that is an issue 1/3 of teen suicides. So please, there are counselors available through the Montrose Counseling Center. And other people PFLAG is there. And once again, I don't have

their number at the ready, but you can get in touch with them. Let's say here it is. You're so good. Zachary Area code 713-867-9020. To contact parents and friends of lesbians and gay. Why do I need to come out to you? Mostly because I love you. Mostly because the greatest gift I can give you is the truth. Mostly because I want to share my story with you. Mostly because I want you to know me and love me as I am. Mostly because I don't want to be just another illusion for you of what you want me to be mostly to provide a great face for you to put on the word homosexual, mostly to break down this and false beliefs, mostly to provide a positive role model. Mostly because I want you to say with pride, I know a woman who is a lesbian, mostly because I need you to walk with me in my struggle for equal rights. Why do I need to come out to you? Mostly because I love you. Great, but that's the best reason I can think of and we do love you. We love all our listeners on lesbian and gay voices, especially those that pledge and pay their support for the program during our recent fun drive. We are community radio. We're on every Friday from six to eight, bringing the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio so stay tuned to 90.1 for that, and we want to let you know what's coming up next week on lesbian and gay voices.

**Z**

### Zachary Steele 1:39:51

Well, next week we have Joanne Lou LAN, Sandra Bernhard and Brent Shockley will be reviewing the new TV series *data girls* featuring Harvey Fierstein.

**D**

### Deborah Bell 1:40:00

Wait, it's gonna be a crowded studio. Metal melody Blake is having an interview with. Well, I don't know exactly what to call Joanne Lulu and well, I have my own name for her. But that's another story. She's a comic. She's a therapist, and she talks about sex a lot. And she'll be at live pretty soon. And so that interview will cover that we're supposed to have Nancy forward interviewing Sandra Bernhardt and of course, Brent's a new addition, a welcome addition to lesbian gay voices. Suzanne should be here and Brian if he's well and back in town, Mary Helen, thank you for your music that you bring to us every week. Looking forward to the heart song concert comic Judy Carter coming up at the last stop our program assistant Laura Newman, you're a goddess sin. Thank you, Zachary, for being here tonight, co hosting and thank you, Deborah. And thank you, Donna Gournay, our producer. Stay tuned to KPFT for off the clock right after the BBC News Update. And you can listen to us from six to 8pm on KPFT 90.1 FM in Houston.