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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, gay, lesbian, jeb, women, wrote, good, therapist, diary, coming, aids, dash, feel, deborah, man, night, tonight, life, black, friedman

SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Ron Bradley, Deborah Bell, Greg Gordon, Cindy Friedman, Judith Meyer

D Deborah Bell 00:13

Meyer reviewing several books of interest to lesbians and gays, including Jeb and Dash: A Diary of Gay Life.

C Cindy Friedman 00:19

And also tonight we pay tribute to and celebrate Black History Month with two segments from this way out. The first segment is titled lesbian, gay and black. And in our second segment celebrating Black History Month, a panel of rainbow reporters explores some of the issues that unite and divide us into discussion titled, uneasy alliances, gays and lesbians and people of color,

D Deborah Bell 00:43

and a new segment on lesbian gay voices about mental health choice skills. We'll be discussing how to choose a therapist and

C Cindy Friedman 00:50

we'll also have news wrap a regular feature from this way out

D Deborah Bell 00:53

our calendar of events, there's just so many queer things going on constantly.

C Cindy Friedman 00:58

It's kind of that way. And also Devery. No, it's It's Valentine's day is Monday, and the music featured throughout the program over the next two hours will will be love songs.

D Deborah Bell 01:10

Oh, that's so nice. You can play a love song from my sweetie. I heard you say earlier that you and your sweetie Sharon have this is the 10th celebration of Valentine's Day to you. I think Donovan are somewhere around nine. So those long term relationships. And of course coming up next after our music will be Suzanne Anderson and Ron Bradley speaking out.

S Suzanne Anderson 02:20

This is Susanne Anderson and Brian Bradley. We are speaking out for lesbian and gay voices. First we had Anita Bryant. Then we had Burt Reynolds. Who do we have now? Rush Limbaugh really? Thanks.

R Ron Bradley 02:33

Yes, it certainly does. Folks. Thank you need to get your pens and papers out today. We've got several numbers for you probably need to begin with the Florida citrus Growers Association.

S Suzanne Anderson 02:44

We tried to find that telephone number if anybody gets it. Call Five to six KPFT because we'd like to announce it on the air. I really don't appreciate Rush Limbaugh representing the Florida citrus first I thought it was meant it may not be easy enough. I'll just buy Kroger's orange juice, but cheaper to you and much cheaper but oh, man, that's so insulting. Didn't they learn anything from a Nida?

R Ron Bradley 03:08

I guess they they've forgotten actually. We're just gonna have to get on that bandwagon and, and flush rubbish. There you go.

S Suzanne Anderson 03:15

We do want you to get out piece of paper and pencils tonight, though, because we have telephone numbers. We have a home number of a lawmaker who we think it's a home number. It's his number that information gave us that we want you to make lots of telephone calls to and we also have an address for ABC that we're going to talk about. Brian, you have been working today. I know with one of the TV stations on this. Warren Chisholm who is in the Texas House of Representatives today.

R

Ron Bradley 03:44

Yes. The pig in the house of Texas actually Warren Chisholm is a Democrat and he is the probably the single person that kept us from getting 2106 the sodomy law off the books. When the Penal Code was being rewritten last year, tons of energy and effort and work went into bringing Texas into the 21st century. And in this man who heads the conservative Christian coalition in Texas, squashed it, he has tried his best to and been very successful in some instances of blocking HIV funding for services. Glen Maxey the only openly gay Texas Legislature sponsored a bill that would provide foster care for terminally ill babies with HIV and other diseases. He killed that the man has done everything in his power to see that people with AIDS are not served in the state of Texas,

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Suzanne Anderson 04:33

and now it's time for him to cash in on all of that. That's right. It

R

Ron Bradley 04:38

seems as if deer Warren Chisholm has spent \$200,000 of his own money investing into viatical settlement companies, which bought terminally ill people, primarily persons with AIDS, life insurance for a greatly reduced amount of money, and he doesn't seem to have a problem with it. It's he says he doesn't support government spending a lot of money on AIDS pay Since because there's never been a cure when Mr. Chisholm Go figure, cancer, diabetes, whatever.

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Suzanne Anderson 05:07

And as long as there's not a cure, then he's going to get a quicker higher return on his buck. He said, If they die in one month, you really do good.

♂

05:17

Yeah, you really do good. He'll

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Suzanne Anderson 05:18

get back. I mean, if they let, what, 90 days or more or six months, he gets a 17% return on his money. I'm not excited about that. I'm

R

Ron Bradley 05:26

not excited about it either. I mean, I'm sure there are no laws against it, but it's highly unethical. It just shows that his morals are no higher than his ethics are.

 Suzanne Anderson 05:36

I was hoping maybe we could get a hold of Warren tonight. I tried to call this afternoon there wasn't any answer, but first number that we're giving you tonight. Warm Chisholm. Dial 806. Area code 6698. Teen 72 Again, 806-669-1872. I think he needs to hear from you, Mr. Freudian

 Ron Bradley 05:58

things in that number two there, there are a few that maybe we won't talk about.

 Suzanne Anderson 06:02

I just think I just think this is just about I just think that's awful. I can't even even imagine, you

 Ron Bradley 06:08

know, but before we skip from Warren, let's let's remember, he's a Democrat. You know, we've got a president in the White House. Now he's a Democrat, all of our woes and troubles are going to be over with people need to wake up and smell the coffee. Just because George Bush is no longer in the White House and we have Democrat there doesn't mean that we can sit back and do nothing. This man is a pig and he's a Democrat. So we need to put pressure on Governor Richards, the state Democratic Party, Harris County Democratic Party to disassociate themselves from this. I want to know Ken Benson, you call me a couple of days ago, wondering what you could do as a person that's running for public office in the state of Texas for the gay and lesbian community. Well, speak out. White March, Mike Charlton. You're the head of the Harris County Democrats. Are you going on the news tonight to distance your group of Democrats from this Democrat? I don't know.

 Suzanne Anderson 06:55

Warren Chisholm making money off of AIDS. Nurturing. That's what he is. Next headline. A kiss is not just a kiss, not when it involves Roseanne Arnold and Mariel Hemingway. Well. Marielle and Roseanne had a kiss on her show Roseanne, and they're not going to show it. Why is that? Well, because as the general counsel said, it's not the lifestyle that most people leave. Is that what we put on TV?

 Ron Bradley 07:27

Well, you know, all those documentaries I watch about places in foreign countries in different people. It's not the lifestyle of most Americans either, but we still see that

 Suzanne Anderson 07:36

I can't mean the life the what you see what's really drawing people to TV or talk shares with

with

R

Ron Bradley 07:43

people to hitted lesbians from Mars who gave birth to babies to look like Elvis.

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Suzanne Anderson 07:47

And well, I guess, are we going to bring up that you're going to be on talk show next week.

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Ron Bradley 07:51

I will be flying to New York Sunday to be on the roll on the Watts program. But I'm gonna be talking about HIV education. I'm not going to be trying to kiss a lesbian.

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Suzanne Anderson 07:58

Can you believe, though that they that general counsel for ABC for ABC says that they cut that scene, Mariel Hemingway and Roseanne Arnold kissing in a lesbian bar, or in a gay bar, because it is not the lifestyle that most people lead

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Ron Bradley 08:13

will understand. It's not even a kiss that's grounded in blatant sexuality. It's just two women who happened to be in a gay bar.

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Suzanne Anderson 08:22

And they kiss they were not mounting on a pool table now. Well,

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Ron Bradley 08:26

maybe that's the point of it right there. Because we're normalizing our relationship when it scares them. You know, what was the movie two years ago? With Sharon Stone, Basic Instinct. It's okay to have a pick axe lesbian murderer grossed hundreds of millions of dollars at the box office. But you can't have one woman kiss another woman.

S

Suzanne Anderson 08:47

That's right. You want to write the network? You still got your pen, pencil and paper out. Okay, ABC information. 77 West 66th. Street, New York, New York. One double o 236298. Again, the number for eight ABC and this is a for audience participation and information 77 West 66

R Ron Bradley 09:21

Those folks are very receptive to people calling that they have a formula for every phone call that someone makes pro or con on an issue. They extrapolate it out and say that at least 4000 people think that way. So the Christian right. I mean, they're sitting home they have nothing to do because they pure denies their entire lives. But call folks so we have to do it also. That's true.

S Suzanne Anderson 09:40

We need to participate and take action. Amnesty International announced a campaign to see to combat rights abuses against homosexuals in the United States. Well, it's about time. Well, we didn't know about it until we took this big 24 nation survey. But in fact, the survey found out that A lesbian and gay or gays are vulnerable to the pre tax government uses to lock people

R Ron Bradley 10:07

up. Well, it sounds like Amnesty International is coming along time. It's about right. I mean, they've been in organization for over 25 years. And it was only last year that they added persecution because of the sexuality homosexuality problem primarily as a means by which to apply for amnesty as people were being beheaded in Iran and middle middle, genitals mutilated in African countries because of sexual orientation such it took them 25 years and I understand the majority of the board of the International branch of Amnesty International is gay. So it took them a little while to bring themselves around but you know, as they say, now love is a basic human right and we need to protect it and fight for it.

S Suzanne Anderson 10:47

Good news, Democrat Kathleen Brown announced her candidacy for Governor of California she is currently the state treasurer. Of course she is the daughter of Edmund G. Pat Brown and the sister of Jerry Brown. Anyway, something to look forward to.

R Ron Bradley 11:01

Well, no, that's not what you said earlier Suzanne, you made me think that she was drop

S Suzanne Anderson 11:05

dead gorgeous. Okay, well, that's just a little part that comes and looks woman she she's she's around your age also. She is around my age somewhere around my age 48 Folks, welcome. Thank you, Brian. Baby Brian. You're welcome. Moving right along quickly. Let's

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Ron Bradley 11:21

talk about tail hook tail hook. Well, it seems as if tail hook was the whistleblower didn't have anything but a bunch of hot air behind it. The Navy refuses to release their two inch thick report on the various incidents that happened because they know what the how the pup was going to read. That seems as if the woman who blew the whistle on them all of Paula Coghlan, she's resigning from the Navy because she just can't take it anymore.

S

Suzanne Anderson 11:45

I NBC quoted. Her is saying the physical attack on me by the naval ever aviators at the 1991 tailhook convention and the covert attacks on me that followed, have stripped me of my ability to serve. What happened to the others that were involved. What did they get stripped of?

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12:04

Nothing.

R

Ron Bradley 12:05

Understand the last of the charges were dropped on the rack

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Suzanne Anderson 12:08

this week? That's exactly right.

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Ron Bradley 12:11

Don't Ask Don't Tell. Don't complain. Don't put up a fight you're being weighed. So then you go into the Navy anytime soon.

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Suzanne Anderson 12:19

No, I'm, I'm 47. And that's to O'Brien, as you will point down tell them you were 48. I said somewhere around? Yeah, I just want to make sure they know it's not quite that

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Deborah Bell 12:28

and she's not gonna give up that homosexual conduct. And

R Ron Bradley 12:32

we all know Suzanne, you don't have to tell her to not ask or don't tell. She's always out there with the sign doing it.

S Suzanne Anderson 12:38

Before we close you have any parting words? Brian Bradley. Well, are we out of time already know, but you can even if you've got something else to say hit it.

R Ron Bradley 12:46

There was a large article in the Houston Chronicle this week about the teen and adult HIV rates big similar. I got a lot of phone calls from folks who couldn't understand a very large article. Essentially, folks what what they are bureaucrats have done one more time is take a large hunk of money and studied the gay and lesbian community under a microscope. They tested women in all kinds of clinics, they tested youth in all kinds of shelters and such. But when it comes to testing gay men for HIV, they only went to the VD clinics and now they're they're saying that we have 20 22.5 times the amount of HIV transmission then the general public. Well, hell yeah, you go to the VT clinic you got to get folks with VD probably. You know, if they went to First Baptist Church, they would have got a good Tyrone bigotry. It's wasted money one more time. It's wasted money.

S Suzanne Anderson 13:33

We got we do have one more thing triangle video productions in Houston PFLAG are presenting tonight a world premiere premiere of always my kid is going to be held at Rich's at 2401 San Jacinto between 645 and nine. I think the thing that we wanted to point out here is that there is some concern that maybe some of the Christian fundamentalist got a hold of this and that they're going to be showing out in force tonight. Next Friday, excuse me. Next Friday, February the 18th. So this is a good time for those of you that haven't had an opportunity to marchers show yourself or stand up for a cause. To be there again, it's Rich's 2401 San Jacinto next Friday, from 645 to nine. It's a presentation given by triangle video productions and Houston PFLAG

R Ron Bradley 14:25

and reports all that Rush Limbaugh and Representative oranges are going to be there. Oh, as a couple that is.

S Suzanne Anderson 14:32

What a precious looking couple. That would be. Dinosaurs do it.

D Deborah Bell 14:36

Well, Suzanne and Brian will join us again next week to speak actually

S Suzanne Anderson 14:40

now with lesbians in business. Who has her meeting the third Friday of every month

R Ron Bradley 14:48

and I'm supposed to be back from New York by Thursday night.

D Deborah Bell 14:51

Well might be Brian I'll just come so you can just be with those lesbians and we will be giving the information about lesbians in business activities later into pro From Well, thanks for speaking out, and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. This is Deborah Bell and Cindy Friedman will come back with more music later in the program. We're about to find out what are the good books to be reading in the gay and lesbian community love when Judith Meyer will give her book review. But first some romance with k.d. lang from Even Cowgirls Get the blues Well, we're back to find out what what's happening when you turn the pages of what's out there. There's there's just more and more every time he's in there, Judah there. Sure. How do you read all that much? You just don't have enough time, do you? Yeah, sure.

J Judith Meyer 15:53

Don't. I wrote a few though and I want to tell you about them. First is a diary. Now who out there has not read a diary? Yes, sisters or brothers or a lover. You read a diary of someone you know, to find yourself mentioned or to look for a sexual tidbits. But the diary of somebody that you don't know and somebody that's not even famous is also fascinating. Maybe not for sexual detail so much. But just to know somebody, a diarist reveals himself in ways that the people we get to know in our real life do you gradually bit by bit. And in reading a published diary, you assemble the mosaic of personality or character, but you don't have the same personal investment or risk that you do in real life. Reading a published diary is at least guilt free, emotional voyeurism, but at best, it's a bridge a chance to see ourselves mirrored in someone else. And there's a good published diary out now it's called Jeb and dash a diary of gay life 1918 to 1945. The diary is that of Jeb Alexander. He was born in 1899 to a prosperous Washington DC family. He kept a diary from adolescence till the time he died in the late 1960s. And these excerpts began in 1918. Jeb was a dreamy young man who planned on becoming a famous writer. His family insisted that he go to college and he went to Washington and Lee and Lexington. His first month there, Jeb laid eyes on the beautiful CC dash and a young man who became the love of his life. He looked like a god Jeb writes thrillingly beautiful. And dash appears in jabs, diaries through the rest of his life. That's the interesting part about these diaries in jabs writing about Dash you see the very familiar arc of a love relationship. First, there's obsessive fantasy than disillusionment, consummation, euphoria, breakup, a bitter clinging and finally, maybe eventual friendship. In the college years, Jeb just admires dash from afar, but that distance sort of make space for a consuming passion. After he sees dash on a

train. Jeb writes in his diary, several days later, penetrating cold, lay deep under the covers miserably and ecstatically returning in imagination to the racketing train, Tasha, Tasha, Tasha, Tasha, I feel my life has changed forever. When dash speaks to Jeb on a casual meeting, Jeb who is awkward confesses to his journal. Oh, I know I am shine weak but I believe that with Dash Cam, I would be godlike and he would be godlike with me. Let sort of perfection is unattainable in life is certainly attainable in dreams. And Jeb is conscious that his obsessive ambivalent love is just that is unrealized. He writes, he is a God upon his throne, and I in dumb adoration in a basement, dream dreams of ourselves. As much as I long for him. I'm fearful of the slightest response, fearful that it will pull him from his pedestal, afraid that a touch of earth will destroy the celestial vision. Perhaps he is for me only a dream, a part of an obsession that threatens to ruin my life. But how could such a passion rule a human soul if there were no meaning to it? If this were the end? Well, it seems to be the end. They never did make contact in college and the way that Darshan leaves colleges is very interesting in itself, and I won't spoil that. But eight years later, in December 1926. Jeb runs in into dash in Washington. He says, the moment I saw him I knew I didn't love him. But a few months later, he begins to appear in the diary quite frequently. And in July 1927 Dash spends the night and jabs room at the YMCA. Jeb writes, oh, that look in his eyes as he pressed me hard that look of wistful yearning tenderness. I shall never forget. So beautiful. I would do anything for him. Jeb sort of a clinging jealous lover though and by the end of the year dash becomes just friends. Jeb continues to love and wait, hopeful and bitter by turns. He dreams of a future with Dash and vitamin vacations tries to maintain a friendship. But eventually gradually he begins to let them go. And for the rest of their lives, these two breakfasts are regularly together, they share the same circle of friends, and dashed does become a friend even though he remains a dream. In addition to this sort of tracing the angle of love other aspects of Jeff's diary are familiar. He's frustrated that he's so socially awkward. He writes with great bravado about his future as a famous writer, but he castigates himself for never picking up the pen. He has a debilitating indulgence and alcohol and fantasy cruises for men. In these years apparently Lafayette Square crossing the White House was the place to cruise. He is paranoid often that people in public know and are whispering about a sexual identity. He longs for love and realizes that time has passed and so much that he had planned remains and accomplished. These familiar aspects are made fascinating by very casual reminders of a different time and place. He refers in the beginning simply to Mr. Wilson, to Woodrow Wilson, the President and describes Wilson's Inaugural Parade talks about the prohibition the Great Depression worn Europe blackout curtains he complains that these new rotary dial telephones are just too damn complicated. He described Mr. Roosevelt's funeral procession and the spontaneous V d V Day celebration when world war two ended. Most interesting are jabs use over the years of the words queer, invert, homosexual and gay. They showed very definitely the development of a gay idiom. In fact, the behavior and personality of some of the friends that he described in his diary suggests the source of the term gay, as meaning homosexual instead of happy as it did in the past. The book was edited by jabs nice in a rustle he left her 50 volumes of diaries when he died, and she read through them all and redacted. These excerpts which, judging from a sample of his handwriting was a monumental task. The years this of the diary only cover 1918 to 1945. And that's the only complaint I have the years from 1946 to his death in 1965 or missing. She acknowledges that these are politically important years for gays. But she thought the diaries for these years were insufficiently important. She explains, for instance, that she thought she might have a good one a good diary entry on the day Dash was fired from the State Department during the McCarthy years. But she says it just turns out it was because of his stubbornness. Well the part the good part about this book is that she has done such a good job of showing us these characters and their lives. This seems important interesting to us, we want to know why he was fired. The narrative energy of these edits diaries is really strong. I mean, when the book ends, you're not finished knowing, wanting to know what happens. The Jebi comes now isn't really

admirable. It's a little pitiful. But as Nietzsche says in the introduction, nevermind that his life ended unhappily, every life is precious. A lesson she draws from Jacob's life is that everyone should be required to read all 50 volumes of his diaries than to appear in a silent courtroom before a faceless judge would ask, do you understand? Do you know what will happen to you if you do not use your talent? And none would escape she says by saying But was it not enough that in my life I fell tragically in love? Couple of the books have come out. I really recommend Vikings anthologies, the penguin book of lesbian short stories and the penguin book of gay short stories. The Lesbian book traces the history of lesbians over the last 100 years from Boston marriages and Sarah Orne Jewett story, to modern vampire Tales by Pat Kalithea and a serial monogamy episode from Alison Bechtel stocks to watch out for comic strip. Three stories one by a Madonna who won by Kathy Acker, and one by Jeanette Winterson were commissioned specifically for this anthology. The gay volume is edited by David love it love it defines a gay story as one that illuminates the experience of love between men explores the nature of homosexual identity or investigates the kind of relationships game and how with each other their friends and their families. In keeping with this definition, love it says sexuality of the author is irrelevant. So include stories by women and straight men. And this is okay you get some really good finds a story by and Beatty and one by William Trevor. The problem I had with Levitt selection is that he expresses a disdain for what he calls quote. The dreary are aspects of existence, the worship in pursuit of physical beauty. The sexual veracity the close conscious pupper hazed bars and discos of the 70s. The world depicted in Andrew hollow and HoloLens novel dancer from the dance, which he calls very damaging. He says these traditional mail distractions as he calls them are avoided here, these writers have their fingers too firmly on the pulse of experience to waste time with any of that. Well, I wonder how a writer can discern the heartbeat of alive without appreciating its history, and it seems to me love it is consumed with some prudish political correctness or simple shame to dismiss a history as all of that. But I recommend both of these anthologies very highly. Just to round you out on what's come out, Naya has come out with four new books in the last six weeks. Spiritual mystery story also out in paperback boots have leather slippers of gold and pagan babies. These reviews will be printed by the new Houston voice. This review appeared in last week's edition but you can still pick that up at Crossroads market we saved a few copies for you.

D

Deborah Bell 26:30

Thank you Judith. And you've been listening to Judith Meyer reviewing books on lesbian and gay voices which can be purchased at Crossroads market of which she is one of the proprietors and we thank you for listening to lesbian and gay voices. We'll be joining Cindy Friedman for some music and just a moment I'm Deborah Bell

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26:49

so Bob Do you have the list of candidates to replace logon as department head is a right here first on the list is coming highly qualified plenty of experiences Cummings these days says ft salary I think that's a little odd don't you who else is on the list? GONZALO you can move on why his last name Gonzalez? I don't think we need any of that here I fell in there's Tyler a 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 why 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 would be able to run with all right. I've always liked Richardson. He's worked

his way up I help reorganize. In case you haven't noticed he's black. So he'll slow the whole department down. He's one of the best workers we had his left Simpson. He's a mathematical genius but in that wheelchair I don't think so. Well, it's the whole list of the person filled with people and not one of them is qualified. Isn't that ridiculous? Yeah. Ridiculous. The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the advertising Council remind you that our strength our progress depends on our diversity



27:57

I was killed one 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 like BB King, Eric Clapton, Albert King, Elmore, James, Stevie Ray Vaughan or local talent. This is a show for you. In addition to music, we featured interviews with local, regional and national artists, as well as specialists in some of the blues greats. Remember, that's every Friday night at 8pm for two hours of down and dirty blues here on World Radio 90.1 FM KPFT history



C Cindy Friedman 28:35

that's right. That's my buddy Nori, Nori, and he'll be coming on at eight o'clock immediately following this program, which is lesbian and gay voices. You're listening to KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, your community radio station for the greater gulf coast of Texas. I'm Cindy Friedman sitting in this Friday evening as opposed to the usual Wednesday afternoon. And in honor of Valentine's Day, we have a few love songs coming up. And this is probably one of the best so lucky. Keep it precious Melissa Etheridge, that's the song she sang on the stage at the March on Washington last spring. And Melissa, let me bring you down there just a little bit before that French Canadian singer Lucy blue Trombley, so lucky. A few love tunes in honor of Valentine's Day, you're listening to KPFT Houston 90.1 FM I'm Cindy Friedman sitting in for Mary Helen on this portion of lesbian and gay voices which comes your way every Friday evening from six until 8pm. And more music coming up right now a few more love songs. Next is Susan Herrick. Who's all around the women's Music Festival scene these days? I've cleared out all the good that is Elise de Michelle a she's from Oregon and she writes some really fine music before that the late Peter Allen with love crazy. And before that Susan Herrick, and slow burn in love from her CD, truth, and the live, it is 653 Right now you're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, more music coming up plus more features and issues that affect the lesbian and gay community not only here in Houston but around the world as well. I'm Cindy Friedman. And it's good to be to be here tonight sitting in for Mary Helen and for Jack and whoever else is off for the evening. And of course coming up at eight o'clock off the clock with nori, Nori and then later on at 10 Those nutty Jim squared guys will be coming your way so stay tuned to KPFT throughout the Friday night to get your weekend off to a really fine start. Here's another one from que de langues new release Even Cowgirls Get the blues this seems particularly appropriate in this pre Valentine's Day weekend. Hush sweet lover know Joan Baez is not a lesbian, but the song written by Janice en and she is a lesbian and that's from Joan Baez album play me backwards. And before that k.d. lang hush sweet lover from the new Even Cowgirls Get the blue soundtrack



G Greg Gordon 32:00

when Los Angeles and simply titled lesbian, qay and black, and while some of the references

may not have kept up with current PC terminology, the issues unfortunately have we hope this brief sound pastiche may paint at least a broad stroke picture and provide some food for thought. The narrator is Frankie Briscoe.



32:35

New things



32:44

many tagged in Walmart, and Walmart act in May.



32:51

We all know there's a tremendous amount of prejudice in the black community. As regards the gay community, there's still the absurdness floating around that homosexuality is the white disease. And that somehow does not quote unquote, afflict minorities, blacks, in particular, my best professional defense against being identified as being gay when I was interested in being defended against that discovery was my life. Nobody assumed that I was gay because blacks don't come in gay, right? That's exactly what



33:33

we have an old history, tales of women's team dancing in New York, to shops, the famous black men would be viewed by size Queens while being fitted.



33:44

I woke up this morning, when my troubles in my hand. I woke up this morning, in my business in my head.



34:00

You can bring me a woman, bring me up.



34:07

We have a written history and music and literature that describe our search for self identity. And



34:15

I realized I was gay when I was very young. I had sexual desires for men, since I was about maybe seven or eight. But my religious upbringing and my family and the way my parents raised me, encouraged me to suppress all those feelings.



34:35

I was about two months from my 26th birthday. I had been told by other people that that I was a latent homosexual but I didn't feel that it was true. So role models that I saw, you know, not knowing anything more than then what was obvious about lesbians and gays. Were you not the type that I thought that I'd associate myself with. So, identity was a problem with my coming out, knowing now that I am gay, I think subconsciously I have avoided black communities. Perhaps I feel as though I would not be comfortable in a black community. But that may be very narrow because times are changing. They're not like they were 20 years ago, but I just I relate it all to the environment in which I grew up.



35:30

And corruption. God decided to end this brigade race decided to



35:48

would not get his work



35:50

in the black community, you're dealing with strong religious background, Southern backgrounds.



35:56

In my earlier life, I was somewhat of a naive person. I believe that life was exactly the way the minister said it was in the pulpit. And when I had gay feelings, I used to just cry on my knees and pray to God that I wouldn't be gay. I was



36:11

raised a Christian, it took me a while to come to terms with that. I sent myself through a lot of hit chips around it at first,



36:20

after I got over this feeling guilty routine about myself. And after I finally got to the point where I accepted myself I started seeing that there was really nothing wrong with me. I was just

I accepted myself, I started seeing that there was really nothing wrong with me. I was just being myself. That's all it really was. Having been



36:35

on the bottom of the totem pole, you know, for so long. I think our tolerance of different ideas and that if it is that we understand it is a lot higher than it is with white middle Americans.



36:50

I think religion is a very good thing and I think it's helped society and help people a lot. But I think some religions focus too much morality on sexuality. And I don't think of sexuality as being a moral issue. Like rape. I don't think of rape as a sexual act. I think it's an assault. But people attach that to it. I think that is the kind of thing that I think is a moral issue. And people are more excited about homosexuals than they are about women being raped



37:27

when



37:41

when



37:45

every day that gay people celebrate this gay Freedom Day, the Christopher Street riots was basically initiated by third world people.



37:55

The one and only black in my circle of friends, and Lord knows they're loaded with prejudices and they're so narrow. They say prejudice is the child of ignorance. If you don't expose yourself to any culture, certainly you're not going to know and certainly you're going to be ignorant about it. And subsequently prejudice.



38:20

Come on, let's fade on. Black, Django Vani chigo who come in and mouth and your mama. Sam gotten bacon swamp. Gani, junk man, shoeshine boy,



38:35

I love beta. David graders out hot and hauled off slave



38:41

song at your bank.



38:42

I think just like any other segment of society, there is racism in the gay community, just like there's racism in the country. There's racism in the world, it just exists. And it's a constant thing that you have to deal with. At least I have to deal with it. And I think white people have to deal with it, too. You know what I mean? Because you're a part of the problem.



39:12

A lot of work, people tend to separate from the game game movement, besides the fact that they don't really feel like they want it. I've been involved in lots of things that had hidden agendas. I've been in situations where there were not enough third world people to sway the vote in terms of the way we were feeling about certain things and write for more numbers. And it's really frustrating. You know, after a while, you get to a point where you just need to say, you know, hey, let's work in our community because this is where we live. And this is the people we have to educate and that's where a lot of the energy is going and that's where I live in the mission. And I live here as an openly gay person. I mean, I don't have to look to the cash to be gay. I'm gay right here. hear a lot of times white people call on third world people to say, what can we do to bring more third world people into? I feel like my problem. A lot of times they don't do their own homework. They don't know enough about other people culture enough to know why they think differently or why they even feel differently. It's kind of like, they should be asking themselves, that instead of asking me,



40:33

it's really a thing that I think the gay community is going to have to come to grips with. You know, there are 1000s of black gay people and 1000s of white gay people and 1000s of brown gay people. And if they were all a solid group of people, we wouldn't have half of the problems that we have.



40:51

Bags, Bags, Bags



41:15

you have anything you'd like to address to the perhaps closeted and perhaps not so closeted

you have anything you'd like to address to the perhaps closeted and perhaps not so closeted young, lesbian and gays in



41:31

the bath place to start, it's slowly it's painful. It steals from your life. It doesn't give you anything. I have nothing good to say about the closet. I don't know anyone that has ever come out that has regretted it. And I recognize that saying that hardly makes it easy. Perhaps my junction is less to young gays and lesbians into their older brothers and sisters. To be sympathetic, and to be receptive and perceptive and to help.



42:03

Right, we'd like to thank Charles Stewart, Jewell, Williams, BlackBerry, and others who prefer to remain anonymous for sharing their thoughts with us. I'm Frankie Briscoe. Backs can't be more bags, bags.



42:53

Bags.



Deborah Bell 42:58

You know, we're all just folks here. We're all just people. We're just men and women on this planet Earth. And we're still struggling to find ways to get along. As gays and lesbians we all battle homophobia. And as a diverse community, we have to continue the fight against racism. Unfortunately, we didn't have all the material of that we wanted to use tonight. In honor of Black History Month, it's one of those things it's like, why do we have to have a black history month? I mean, shouldn't it be our history all the time, just like a women's history month in March.



C Cindy Friedman 43:37

That's true. But you know, the positive side of that, Deborah is that it's as we do with holidays and rituals and ceremonies, it's really good to take a special time of the year and really honor and focus on particular groups that helps us all learn about each other. And honoring Black History Month in terms of lesbians and gays is a very special way of learning things. I always learned something new. And I know in future months where there will be more people of color joining the cast here at lesbian and gay voices. And that's a real important voice for us to put out there on the airwaves. And we should say if you're just joining us, you're listening to KPFT Houston, 90.1 Lesbian and Gay voices. I'm Cindy Friedman, kind of sitting in this evening. And of course, Deborah Bell is here each and every week. And I want to also say something about the piece. We just heard Deborah some of the music, one of those pieces, the one with the probably the most direct language that's from the Broadway musical hair. And of course that was first out there in the late 60s. And it was really shocking at that time, but in

D Deborah Bell 44:41

a lot of ways it was ahead of its time. It was the dawning of the Age of Aquarius when we were becoming aware of issues and of being not what I call politically correct so much as being culturally sensitive and and being aware. I mean, we were fighting unjust war when you know, I don't know that or he's ever just and we were holding hands with with the people who were struggling for civil rights. And I guess for a lot of us that gave us the courage when the time came to be active in our movement back from Stonewall in 69.

C Cindy Friedman 45:16

All the progressive movements have learned from each other and have reached out to each other and I suppose that will come hopefully that will continue on as well.

D Deborah Bell 45:23

Exactly. And we are going to switch gears just a little bit. I guess in a way it ties in because what we're going to be talking about, we're going to go to music first but we will be back to talk about a new play that will be opening at stages.

C Cindy Friedman 45:41

So we're going to hear a little bit of music and that's an read I would love to dance that's from the talk to me C D and Deborah that seems like a great segue moving from serious subject to more fine arts kind of topic with this new play opening stages next week.

D Deborah Bell 46:08

You know this music you brought tonight is so good all this love song and romance and everything just like get you in a mood doesn't it? Well, you know there was this young man and and he he had been looking for love in all the wrong places and he just decided nothing was really going to happen so I gave up on it. In the age of AIDS as they say in all that. Opening February 16 over at stages the play Jeffery fresh air host Terry Gross up why why and Philadelphia talks with writer Paul Rudnick, the author of the play.

46:46

writer Paul Rudnick is becoming famous for his offbeat humor. He wrote the screenplay for Addams Family Values. His off Broadway hit Jeffrey is the only play I can think of that opens with a condom breaking. Jeffrey is a comedy about love and sex in the age of AIDS. New York Times theater critic Frank Rich described it as the funniest play of the season. And maybe last season to read Nichols who wrote the hit Broadway comedy I hate Hamlet. Sister Act evolved from one of his screenplays, he asked that his name be removed from the film, for reasons I'll

explain to us later. Read next comic novel I'll take that was about a family of compulsive shoppers. Of course, it's easier to find humor in a shopping spree than in the AIDS epidemic. When we spoke last April, Rudnick told me he thinks of humor as a weapon against AIDS.



47:36

When people come see the play, they're not quite sure what to expect, especially when they hear that it's a comedy about AIDS, they all wonder how is that possible. And throughout the play, there's sort of a roller coaster effect, because the play doesn't shy away from the subject matter from AIDS. And from that, that particular nightmare. And there are these moments when the audience will gasp, or suddenly become very, very quiet. And they'll feel oh, my God, it's not a comedy anymore, you know, we won't be allowed to laugh after this. And then five seconds later, they're howling. And that's just it's such a thrill for me, as a writer and as a person to see that that works. And that it's possible.



48:17

You know, the saying that when you go to bed with someone, you're going to bed with everybody that person has ever slept with, you do that in a pretty comic way in the opening of your play? Would you describe it? Oh, yes.



48:27

Well, what I wanted the opening to be it opens with two men and Deb and they're having sex. And then one by one, the rest of the cast pop out of the bed. And suddenly you have eight people and I based it on the idea of a clown car at the circus, where suddenly, you know, it seems like a tiny little vehicle and suddenly the stage is packed. And the audience you could see at the beginning, they get a little nervous because they worry when you open the play with two people have exact sort of, where do you go from there? What are we in for? And then as everyone starts appearing, they start to laugh and they start to just realize, okay, we're not sure what we're in for, but it seems like a good time. So no, I love that kind of opening because it's just really it's the exact right image for the play, the kind of lunacy of sex period and certainly of sex nowadays.



49:12

You're talking about allowing yourself to see a comic side to the epidemic. It reminds me of an op ed piece. He wrote in the New York Times about visiting a friend in the hospital. And your friend had AIDS and you said that he wasn't a suitably noble dying person. He wasn't only dying, he was whining, and he wouldn't even wear his New Silk Road because it was to George Hamilton. How did this experience change you?



49:36

Oh, well, that was when this guy who he was dying and he was horribly obnoxious, which feels terrible about death but somebody who's still in no longer with us. But all the all of his friends

terrible drunk devil, but somebody who's sick is no longer with us. But all the all of his friends myself, we kept visiting and we're really trying to be supportive, and he was treating us the way a rude celebrity would treat a waiter. And even though you don't want to ever dessert, somebody at a point like that. We finally all met in the lobby of St. Vincent's Hospital in front of a bad oil painting of the Pope and collapsed in laughter because that was all that was left. It was just we were gonna go back up there and be handmaidens to the dying emperor. Very little choice. I did that to find it amusing. And it's funny. I have a friend right now actually who's who is quite ill, although on the mend in Florida, and I've been talking to him on the phone. And it reminded me of that situation, except he actually is quite a spectacularly numerous person. And he had just been through a terrible episode of illness of a viral thing attacking his spine, all sorts of dreadful pigs. But meanwhile, and his speech was a little slurred at but while I was talking to him, he said, with a little slur, he said, I know I sound like post stroke, Bette Davis. He said, he said, I hate this hospital. Everywhere I turn, there are crazed candy stripers and Shanghai shame girls. never quite sure what he was talking about. But he seemed in a good mood. And it was his personality coming through the disease. And somehow that seemed a triumph of sorts. And that that's, I mean, that's what Jeffrey is all about to is that kind of victory through personality and humor.



51:18

Jeffrey, your main character says at one point that I hate sex, I hate love. I hate the world for giving me everything. And then taking it back. Have you watched people go through different phases in their attitude about sex and love during the epidemic?



51:30

Oh, absolutely. I mean, I think it's why when I first had the idea for the play, the situation of someone giving up sex because of AIDS, and because of the last 10 years seemed the romantic situation of our time. And that if you were going to write a What a play that is, in any ways a romantic comedy, that was the dilemma that everyone is in right now. And in the at that point, in the play, Jeffrey, the leading character has made this vow to give up sex and then that the man of his dreams, this fantastic guy, who is also HIV positive. So suddenly, he's, I can't imagine being more torn between feelings of overwhelming romantic love. And what are you in letting yourself in for in terms of someone being sick in terms of someone who you may then need to be taking quite a bit of care of and just the idea of falling in love with someone who may very well not live forever. And that's the moment that Jeffrey reaches sort of towards the end of the first act. When he just he just throws up his hands and says, these are all the things I love and they are suddenly seem forbidden? And what where's the nearest bridge? And I think the play is about avoiding the nearest bridge.



52:49

Now we were talking about funerals before have you spoken at many funerals?



52:53

Let me think. I've spoken sort of as one of a group of friends. I've never been the main act, and

have been the floor show. Also because of New York, especially the theatrical community where they have memorials on the stage of Broadway theaters. It's like I'm not going to compete with Jennifer Holliday and Patti LuPone. You know, when you've got name entertainment, I think no, I mean, I'd have to bring out white tigers or something in order to compete. So it's, that's what gets also funny as you start to feel, Oh, I don't know, like, like, tickets will be available half price at the booth sometimes. So but I have spoken at them. And it's, I guess, the nicest ones and the ones the most memorable memorials are the most personal there was one. Actually it was funny. It wasn't for a man who died of AIDS. It was for a man who died of cancer which funny there used to be a scene in the play that it's really pushes the boundaries of taste, but everyone I know identified with it, which was when you hear about someone who didn't die of AIDS, where they have a heart attack or brain tumor, you somehow oddly think good for them. You think here's a horrible response because they're still dead. But on the other hand, it seems oddly refreshing. I remember when Andy Warhol died and people realized it wasn't AIDS. There was this feeling of that that was how original and I think it's just because death has become so much more commonplace than anyone expected, especially at people at younger ages, that suddenly you're you're forced into these sort of bizarre responses.



54:35

My guest is Paul Rudnick, he wrote the screenplay for Addams Family values, and the Off Broadway comedy Jeffrey, in your in your previous play I hate I hate Hamlet, which is about a TV actor who's about to play Hamlet. And the actor is is is met by the ghost of John Barrymore, who of course informs him how to perform. So in the part of the ghost of John Barrymore was Nick



55:00

Williamson, God loves them.



55:03

Well tell us what happened the night that his co star Evan handler, the actor who played the TV actor in your show, the night that Evan handler walked out in the middle of the performance.



55:13

Yes, well, no, Evan, it must be said was a saint Evan had this resolved tip of the iceberg time, Evan during rehearsals had put up with an enormous amount of dreadfulness behavior on the part of Nicol Williamson, and this was tonight, it finally peaked. And the first act of that play ended with a climactic stage duel with swords. And Nicol Williamson, who is a Oh, egomaniac is far too kind word, I think you would have to, I think any word that ends and maniac will do for Nicole, but he began to direct Evan while on stage. And this all sort of culminated in nickel actually stabbing him and drawing blood and ever quite wisely left the stage at that point, and the production and the theater. So it was the understudy finished the second act, and the rest of the run of the play. And the next morning, when I came downstairs to get a magazine, at my Newstead the, there was a picture from the play that filled the entire front page of The New

York Post, with the headline star slots actor on the butt. And that that kind of phrase, apologetic may explain the trouble that the post is having right now. But it was a story that then the media just adored. And for weeks thereafter, there were TV crews at the cat at the theater. I was getting calls from all over the world, I sort of learned to say no comment, and every language seemed to be somehow you could either hear Barrymore up in heaven, you know, cackling gleefully, or snickering with vengeance, but it was a very wild time.

56:52

Were you in the theater that night? No, I

56:54

wasn't. And I'm grateful I wasn't many people were there. I mean, even now, people come up to me saying I was there as if it were Woodstock. And Gregory Peck was there that night and Elaine Stritch I was seeing something else. I ran into the show's press agent later that night, who told me that the story was going to appear on the front page of the times, but that Jerzy Kosinski, the Polish author, had committed suicide that night and had bumped I had Hamlet back to the Art section. And even though I did not wish Jerzy Kosinski any ill, I began just laughing uncontrollably. And I was so glad he picked that night, because I thought, No, I didn't need this on the front page. But it just had all absurd dimensions to it.

57:39

Isn't it good publicity, though, to have something really wild happen? On stage

57:44

it? Well, it certainly was a lot of publicity. And I think because the play was a comedy and involved a wild figure like Barrymore, it didn't really hurt the play, it sort of fed into it. On the other hand, I felt after that evening, audiences came with real bloodlust, kind of the Roman Colosseum feel like, We're terribly disappointed when no one was stabbed. In thought, you know, I'm sorry, we'd run out of actors.

58:08

Now, I know that you wrote the original version of the movie that became Sister Act. And then you eventually had your name taken off of it. And I think a lot of script doctors rewrote it. What was the difference between your conception and the movie?

58:21

Well, the original script which I was I was quite fond of was written very much as a vehicle for Bette Midler and to take advantage of her genius. And it was, I wanted it to be quite subversive.

It had the same overall plot, which was that of a kind of broken down chorus girl who, for various reasons, is forced to join a convent for a brief period of time. But I think, kind of the best way to put it is what was intended to be a satire of the singing nun became the singing nut. I wanted to show the triumph of a certain kind of pure showbusiness Glee over the Catholic Church, or at least the more repressive aspects of the Catholic Church, because although there are certainly positive, if not miraculous aspects to most, most religions there are also darker side and I wanted to show kind of Bette Midler gleefully victorious. And as the rewrites continued, and then when that was replaced in the role with Whoopi Goldberg there were just demands made that I was in violent disagreement with the movie became much more taste of sort of wholesome uplift and.



59:50

It just was odd. When you



59:53

started writing Were there many out writers you know gays who were out, like yourself?



59:58

Ah, yes, I think You know, increasingly certainly more and more that there. The other night, I did a wonderful benefit reading for ACT UP. I wish there were practically more gay novelists to reading than there were people in attendance and witches, and there was a big crowd. But it's no, it's wonderful. I think one of the great pluses of having so many gay writers is that no one writer has to carry that burden of representing all gay people forever.



1:00:25

Well, what about the differences between being out in Hollywood and on Broadway?



1:00:30

Well, I think in, in the theater, I mean, both both sectors certainly have an enormous amount of gay people working in them. The theater has certainly been far more in the vanguard of gay subject matter, you know, both in AIDS plays in terms of the normal heart and as is and terrific works like that. But just even in terms of, of real commercial theater falls, a wonderful show, like *Falsettos*, which, you know, very much has many, many gay characters, and is a smash hit on Broadway and is a musical that just Broadway and wonderfully, I think the theater audience has been so much more accepting, attacked, eager to hear all sorts of stories. And I think in Hollywood, there's a real fear of gay subject matter and a fear that it's not commercial. If you're that it's off putting, which I think as time goes by will, God Willing be completely erased because I think it just leads to so many awful decisions that the every game movie somehow then has to be very serious that it just has to be an ultimate statement and music course, this could often end up being quite boring films, because you sense all of this, you know, earnest

hand wringing going on behind them. So I think Hollywood just, you know, has to get over itself. And, as it has with black films, films about women tell us that all the groups that weren't considered commercial until suddenly you had a smash hit. But Hollywood, Hollywood lives in fear in general, you know, Hollywood is run not just on racism and homophobia, but on fear of studio executives losing their job that they produce the wrong police academy aid. So to try and get them to, you know, open up to in terms of subject matter, it's not easy.

 D Deborah Bell 1:02:19

And that was Terry Gross, interviewing Paul Rudnick, author of *Jeffrey*, *fresh air* is heard at 3pm, Monday through Friday on KPFT. And,

 C Cindy Friedman 1:02:30

Deborah, I was gonna say beginning on Monday, this coming Monday, *fresh air* will be broadcast again at 6pm, Monday through Thursday. So where you can catch *fresh air* at three and also at six.

 D Deborah Bell 1:02:41

And Terry Gross is my interviewing idol. And as you have *Uteri*, she often features gay and lesbian issues, and has guests that are out and discuss things with them. And she handles everything beautifully. Never

 C Cindy Friedman 1:02:56

I have many times I have been on long road trips, and have been in the middle of America, and pick up a rural FM NPR station. And here's some of Terry's interviews on gay issues and really serious issues and some funny, and I think she's doing such a great service to America, in the sense of bringing these issues to areas, not just urban centers like we are, they would never hear these interviews in any other way if it weren't for her program on all those stations. So I respect her not only for her interviewing skills, but for the fact that she brings these issues right out there on a regular basis, you know,

 D Deborah Bell 1:03:36

and if you appreciate *fresh air* and the segments that you hear on KPFT, you need to make sure that you continue your support of this station when you pledge during our fundraising drives and make sure you page pay your pledges, as per the recent fundraising, that we had the membership drive, I think they call it now. I remember the

 C Cindy Friedman 1:03:59

the marathon dash fund, I think they're in a situation where they're not too delicate about what

we call it as long as our great listeners come through with cash and support us financially, you may have noticed we're commercial free. And when

D Deborah Bell 1:04:13

that's what pays the bill, by the way, it's so true. And Geoffrey the play will be opening at stages this coming week it previews the 16th and 17th and opens on Friday the 18th. It's Wednesday through Fridays, at I'm sorry, Wednesday, through Saturday at 8pm and Sundays at 5pm. And I think there might be a phone number there Syndra and

C Cindy Friedman 1:04:37

it's gonna be running through March 13. And it's at stages, Repertory Theatre, and you can simply call five two stage that's 5278243. And it's great to see this production casts locally. And its director was the assistant director of the New York production. And so I'm looking forward to seeing Jeffrey Wright,

D Deborah Bell 1:04:57

a frequent guest to lesbian gay voices rant All job isn't that I think he plays man number two

C Cindy Friedman 1:05:03

all right as we just heard the interview all the characters come out of the same bed. That's right.

D Deborah Bell 1:05:07

And we know what that's like. We are going

C Cindy Friedman 1:05:11

we have some music coming up next and then we'll have some more information

D Deborah Bell 1:05:15

and you are listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT he

C Cindy Friedman 1:05:18

says Ryan and I have one more love song coming up and Deborah, I know you love chocolate.

D Deborah Bell 1:05:23

This is true. Okay, is this song I

C Cindy Friedman 1:05:24

think this is dark chocolate oh Jamie Anderson.

D Deborah Bell 1:05:45

This is Deborah Belle with lesbian and gay voices. And we are welcoming to the program tonight Dr. Joyce Gills. She's a psychotherapist in private practice for over nine years in the Houston area. She's a former lesbian nun and was featured in the book *Breaking Silence*. One of her current hobbies is a member of the Tri Angels, the lesbian and gay skydiving team. Along with Dr. Susan Terrell, she presents a workshop called the dating dance which addresses the issues the ins and outs of dating and the lesbian world. And to find out how it can be. The next presentation will be on February 12. Tonight, we're going to be talking about how do you go about choosing a psychotherapist Joyce, what is your viewpoint of what psychotherapy should be or is?

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1:06:35

Well psychotherapy has certainly changed over the last 10 to 15 years. And psychotherapy as I know and use it with clients. It's a powerful tool for healing and transformation. The psychotherapy of today is not about trying to get people to conform their personality to the dictates of society but more about helping people heal the separation within themselves, the separation between them and other people and a separation between people in the larger society. So we're looking at something that's pretty powerfully transformative.

D

Deborah Bell 1:07:15

What are some clues that a person might go by to decide that they might need the help of a therapist?

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1:07:22

Well, there are a lot of issues and concerns that I think bring people to therapy. For example, a lot of people come to therapy because they experience feelings of chronic unhappiness or depression for no apparent reason. Other issues that might cause somebody to seek psychotherapy as if they're having problems beginning or maintaining close relationships. Or even if you're finding difficulty establishing personal and professional goals. Stress brings people just the normal stresses the day to day stresses of life that we have to deal with.

As well as things like anxieties and fears. A lot of people that I work with come into treatment because their lives are functioning pretty well. But they really want to grow and develop to their full potential in psychotherapy is very, very helpful in that way.

 D Deborah Bell 1:08:36

What about someone who's just beginning the coming out process?

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psychotherapy, believe it or not, would be very helpful for somebody who's doing that. There are many more lesbian and gay identified psychotherapist and heterosexual therapists who are gay and lesbian friendly. So we're not looking at the situation that we had 20 years or so ago where it wasn't a good idea if you were coming out to, to seek therapy,

 D Deborah Bell 1:08:59

what type of things would come up with someone who was coming in to work on the coming out process? What would be the approach to that?

 1:09:10

Well, I think that there would be an approach of really supporting the woman who was coming out in terms of hearing her experience and validating the process that she's going through. I think for many women coming out, there's a need for just basic education about the process to help normalize it. And I think that a lesbian identified therapists can really work very well with a woman in terms of that process. And also helping women to recognize that coming out is a very individual process. It's also not a once and for all process, and helping a woman to recognize where it's safe to be out where it's not safe and how to come out at her own pace.

 D Deborah Bell 1:09:58

In your practice, you work my slowly with women, but there are a lot of therapists available now who work with both gay and lesbian clients, some of them who may not be gay or lesbian identified themselves, but how would I begin to find a therapist? And what if I was were seeking someone who was a lesbian?

 1:10:17

Okay. There were I think, you know, by far the best way to locate a therapist is to get a recommendation from someone you know, who has had a good experience with a therapist, I think that's by far the best way. But there are lots of of referral services here in Houston that you would normally think of that have on the referral list of therapists who identify themselves as working with gay and lesbian issues and or women's issues. For example, the Houston

Psychological Association in their referral service identifies therapists who work specific with, specifically with gay and lesbian clients. Mental Health Association does that, as does the wires, which is the women's information and referral service.

 D Deborah Bell 1:11:09

Now, of course, we have our own gay and lesbian switchboard and lesbian and the Montrose Counseling Center. That's why is a place where people can go to have group therapy, or individual therapy that is community service within the gay and lesbian community in Houston. And a lot of the people that are in private practice now got their training there, that's wrong, which we've seen a lot of the women that we've known in the community kind of progress from their internships at the counseling center on to private practice.

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Another another thing I want to mention is the use of gay and lesbian Yellow Pages is also an excellent source for therapists who have watched over the last couple of years increasing number of therapists be listed in there, as well,

 D Deborah Bell 1:11:55

what would you consider a good therapist?

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Well, I think that there are a number of things that you need to look at in terms of selecting a therapist. One is a real basic thing is that the therapist be licensed or certified in their particular field. And what that says is that that therapist has the basic requirements to be able to practice psychotherapy. Beyond that. The next important criteria, I think, is experience. Because just like anything else is therapists have more experience, the better, they're able to work with a variety of different clients. So you want to look at somebody who has experience who has a variety of experience, and also someone who has experience working with gay and lesbian clients. A third factor is what's important in terms of developing the therapeutic alliance. And basically, that's the working relationship between a client and a therapist. And it's important that that be a good fit. And the best way to determine that is to go in and have a session and talk with a therapist about your concerns. Ask questions about the therapist's orientation and, and approach to things and get some sense as to how knowledgeable the therapist is about issues that may be specific to gays and lesbians, such as homophobia or the coming out process,

 D Deborah Bell 1:13:31

or maybe dealing with issues such as childhood sexual abuse, or like you said, some of those career development things can get us real stuck. So you do the therapist does an assessment on you usually in the initial interview, but you should be interviewing them as well.

What what are some of the kinds of questions,



1:13:52

important questions to ask are, whether the therapist has had experience or the amount of experience the therapist has had with the particular issues that are concerning you, for example, if you're dealing with career issues, then it would be important to have a therapist who has had a lot of experience with that. Or if you're dealing with depression, it would be important that the therapist has worked a lot with people who have who have that. So you'd want to talk with a therapist about your particular issues and concerns. Another thing to look at is how does your therapist work? You know, is there what's the therapist theoretical orientation? Are



D Deborah Bell 1:14:35

they real formal? Are they real laid back? What are you comfortable with? And you shouldn't feel an obligation from that first session. If you're not comfortable with them, you should probably go on and find someone else that's very valid. But what if you started therapy with someone and you get to a point that you feel like it's just not working?



1:14:55

Okay. That's a that's a really important question because that does happen. And the thing that I recommend to clients, if you get to that point is to discuss that discomfort with your therapist. Because sometimes the discomfort comes about because of the natural process of therapy, because therapy can be an uncomfortable process. So it may be that you're at this impasse, because you're dealing with something very difficult. And talking with a therapist about your discomfort may help you move through that. If after talking to your therapist, your aren't able to move through that, and you and the therapist have made the best efforts possible, then it may be that this is not a good fit, and that it doesn't show up until somewhat later in the work. But always if, if it does not feel like a good fit, then the better thing to do would be to seek another therapist.



D Deborah Bell 1:15:52

What about a gay or lesbian person who's in therapy, but their, the issues that they're there for are not specifically related to their sexual identity? They may be having an addiction problem.



1:16:05

I think many gay and lesbian people are dealing with issues that are not directly related.



D Deborah Bell 1:16:12

But it's really interconnected most of the time, I think,



1:16:16

Well, I think you have to be knowledgeable about how that interconnection may come up and be willing to deal with that when it does come up. But quite a few gay and lesbian people come into therapy, not because of issues directly related to being gay or lesbian, but related to more the general problems of living in our society.



D Deborah Bell 1:16:40

Well, we have Valentine's Day coming up, and I can't help but wonder, does the not working? Have a relationship B? Is that is that a catalyst for a lot of people to seek



1:16:51

therapy very much. So yeah, a lot of people come into therapy after a relationship has ended. Because not only are they dealing with the issues around that, but having an ending of a relationship will often bring up other losses will bring up childhood difficulties will bring up all kinds of concerns about the future, the ending of a relationship can be a powerful catalyst for growth, people are asked off and catapulted into major and important changes in their life. So a lot of people do seek therapy at that point. And it's I think it's an excellent time to come into therapy.



D Deborah Bell 1:17:33

You've heard that joke of what what lesbians do on the second date? What do they bring on the second date? And the answer is the U haul. And I always say the third date is going to couples counseling. So trying to find a satisfactory resolution to the end of a relationship also is where both partners come in, to, to make it as amicable as possible. And maybe stay trying to stay friends, which is always the ideal situation is not always possible. And sometimes you have to realize, Hey, that's not possible. And that's okay, too. But it is possible to, for some people to do that, yes.



1:18:16

In what you're saying, You're raising something that I think is really important. There are many phases of relationship. And a lot of times people come into therapy somewhere in the middle of relationship when they're just beginning to have difficulty. One of the things that I'm seeing that I feel really pleased about is I'm seeing women come into therapy as they're getting into relationship to do some preventative work, to identify what might be issues for them, and to get some skills and how to move through things. So I'm seeing women come in at the very beginning of relationship. And I also think that that transition of ending a relationship is very important. And I think it would be helpful for women to use therapy as a way to make a

healthier, more positive transition out of their relationships so that they can see what they've gained from that. And they can also look at the mistakes that have been made. And so that that's not repeated from relationship to relationship.

D Deborah Bell 1:19:22

That's what we can always hope for is that we don't repeat our mistakes. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. We've been talking to Dr. Joyce Gills about how do you find a psychotherapist? This is Deborah Bell. Thanks for listening. If you would like to reach Dr. Gills, the phone number is 6676047 and we are planning to have Dr. Gills back with us on future future episodes of lesbian and gay voices. And we also hope to continue our celebration of Black History Month and hopefully we'll get the right tapes next time.

C Cindy Friedman 1:19:57

You know speaking of celebrations, We should also wish a very happy new year to all our Asian brothers and sisters who are celebrating the what's referred to as the Chinese New Year but people from all the various Asian nations celebrate this Lunar New Year that I believe in celebrating all celebrate them all the Russian New Year, the Jewish new year, it doesn't matter. Happy New Year, whatever,

D Deborah Bell 1:20:17

whatever. You know, the Christmas salsas, Hanukkah, all of them, you know, we'll do it for Easter. And it's true. It's true. Yeah, but I didn't even know about Kwanzaa as they call. It was just terrific. I think that's one of the best ones and it's never heard of it before. It's a new holiday. Yeah. Lesbian and Gay voices can be heard every Friday from six to 8pm. Here on KPFT Houston, our voicemail number is 289 2700. If you'd like to get involved with a program or have any suggestions or compliments, you need to stay tuned to KPFT for Nuri Nori with off the clock followed by esoteric adventures. And also since it is Black History Month, I want to make sure people are aware of June Jordan speaking at the March lib meeting, this is March 25, which is not their regular meeting night on the 10th floor at in Nova. The end there is a charge and if you'd like to find out more information you can call lesbians in business somewhere I have their number.

C Cindy Friedman 1:21:18

Let me just make one comment about March. I'm Cindy Friedman. And it's been a real treat sitting in tonight I'll be performing March 12 at the mill bend coffee house in The Woodlands. And be great to see some of our lesbian and gay friends there

D Deborah Bell 1:21:32

now. So thanks so much to everyone that participated in the program tonight. Judith for her book with us, Brian and Suzanne with their usual big talent like it is Cindy who's our rookie here

working with I mean Cynthia, Cynthia Cynthia. I know it gets confusing. Anyway, Cynthia is going to be joining us regularly on this been engaged with this Andy Friedman for our Cindy Friedman nominee. This way out for being here and especially well that wonderful Valentine's music and thank you very much to my valentine Donna for producing the program. I'm Deborah Bell.

c

Cindy Friedman 1:22:07

I'm Cindy Friedman Nerys next