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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

transgendered, interesting, people, lesbian, transsexual, cole, transgender, issues, holiday, beth, spouse, tonight, heard, kids, years, marriage, family, houston, talking, lori

## SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, Lori Rice, [Introduction], Teresa Richards

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### [Introduction] 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or a sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours of continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Hear it After Hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

### Jimmy Carper 02:03

Hello, Houston and welcome to After Hours queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is-

### Sarah DePalma 02:12

Sara Dipalma. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year Happy Hanukkah, whatever Happy Kwanzaa Happy Holidays. Yeah. Well, we, if, you know, I feel like I've been out of the studio for seven months. I know it, it has been like seems like forever.

### Jimmy Carper 02:27

What's the deal?

### Sarah DePalma 02:28

I don't know. It's just it's like I'm sitting in the studio and I'm looking around at my surroundings go right. Okay. Now this does this, and this does this. This seems like I've been out the studio a long time. Welcome to the After Hours Holiday Edition. Tonight, we're going to be talking about some issues that were brought up to me when I was at dock coals. For those of you who were regular guests on the show, or regular listeners of the show, I guess some of the guests. Years ago, I had been away a long time. There was a lot of discussion about how do you survive the holiday? If you're going to come out, what should you do? How should you do it. So we're going to be talking about that tonight, because that's an issue that an issue that addresses everyone, it doesn't matter whether you're gay, lesbian, or transgendered, or whatever the heck you are. If you're going to come out over the holidays, this is information you'll need to know. So we'll be talking about that tonight. We have two guests in the studio, one of whom is my life partner, and another whose life partner of Beth Richard, and we're going to be talking about significant others of transgenders. It is going to be I think, you'll find it very interesting subject, especially as we're approaching the holidays. And we know it ties in I guess, with people coming out if you're a transgendered couple. In other words, if you're a couple and one of members, either transgender or transsexual, or crossdresser very interesting, how to handle it. Family issues that normally you can handle during the regular season seem to be greatly exaggerated during the holidays for some reason. So we'll be talking about that. Have an excellent interview with the wife of a crossdresser, who wants only to be known as Francis, and I agree to that. Okay. But Francis gave a terrific interview, which Lori is probably tired of hearing because we spent a good part of the afternoon editing it, but it's an excellent piece. And it also will highlight some of the differences between being the wife of a crossdresser and being the wife or a spouse actually, of a transsexual. I tried to find the wife of a female to male transsexual. Yes. I was turned down five times. So for those of you who are F to M's tonight, and you say, Well, you know, why are you only talking about the wi-, you know, the, the, the males or females because I couldn't get anybody come on the air, or even if I promised them anonymity, really. So that's why it's not that I ignored you. I tried honest. So it was just-.

**J** Jimmy Carper 05:07

And there's so much going on in the F to M world these days.

**S** Sarah DePalma 05:12

Yeah. And it's funny because Gary Bowen will be on the show next month, I intentionally I thought, maybe December is not the month to do political stuff. Okay. So Gary Bowen is going to be on with us next month, who is the director of American boys, and he talks quite a bit about spousal issues. And I thought about actually excerpting some of the interview for the show and the thought, now we get plenty of other stuff to do. But at least he gave me some some things where I can talk about that. And well, one of the things that's very interesting, let's say you start out with marriage where you had two women, one of them becomes female to male transsexual, okay, suddenly, you go from being seen as lesbian, to being seen as heterosexual. Oh. And it's amazing the stories that Gary has to tell about how suddenly life changes for you and how accepted you become when you suddenly seen as being straight. And it's an interesting twist. I never would have thought about it that way. It is yeah, never in. And so anyway. So that's an extra-.

- J** Jimmy Carper 06:18  
You just, all of a sudden, doors are opened. And people take a lot of things for granted.
- S** Sarah DePalma 06:24  
That's right.
- J** Jimmy Carper 06:25  
And you're the same person.
- S** Sarah DePalma 06:26  
That's right. Well, it's very interesting. I don't want to give away the whole interview. But stick definitely tune in next month is that's terrific. Tonight, we're going to be talking about significant others, we're going to be talking about surviving the holidays. I'm going to be sharing information from Dr. Cole's gathering. This was one of the best that I have been to
- J** Jimmy Carper 06:44  
Really, very, I am so drawn to-.
- S** Sarah DePalma 06:49  
For those of you who I started to start out talking about this never got to it. Dr. Cole is a therapist who runs the Rosenberg clinic in Galveston, it's one of the more well known clinics for transsexualism in the country. And he has these semi annual get togethers and I typically read the one for Christmas.
- J** Jimmy Carper 07:11  
Now, why is that?
- S** Sarah DePalma 07:12  
Because it tends to be much more whining. You know, the holiday season is coming on, in issues that you didn't get resolved in the first 11 months now look like the size of an elephant in Christmas time.
- J** Jimmy Carper 07:23  
No, like the holidays and my families

NO. IT'S THE HOLIDAYS AND MY FAMILIES-.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:27

My family hates me. And my kids hate me. And it was not like that this time. For one thing, this particular gathering had a lot of hidden more people in it. Who were further down the line. People like Dee in myself and many, many others who were four or five, six years down the road.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:49

It makes a big difference, doesn't it?

S

Sarah DePalma 07:50

And we sort of kind of we, each of us got up and kind of put a stop to the wind. And you know, we'll talk about that tonight. You know how to get a grip?

J

Jimmy Carper 08:00

Do not doubt for one moment that you would stand up to try to stop the morning. Yes.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:07

You know, it's just that I realized that sounds real Republican, I don't mean it this way. It's just that like, I really do believe like if life sucks, do something about it, get up off your butt and do fix it.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:17

Exactly.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:18

In there were a lot of people who didn't think-.


J

Jimmy Carper 08:21


Take responsibility for your own life.


S


Sarah DePalma 08:22


 Sarah DePalma 08:23  
That's it.


 Jimmy Carper 08:24  
And so that was the beginning of the show every week.

 Sarah DePalma 08:26  
Yeah. And it was interesting because Dee and I were told by several people how we were responsible for the ills of the world because we were transgender rights activists.

 Jimmy Carper 08:33  
Oh, brother.

 Sarah DePalma 08:34  
And we put it back on your shoulders about how will if you don't like it, fix it?

 Jimmy Carper 08:38  
Yeah.

 Sarah DePalma 08:38  
And so we'll talk about that tonight. And if we can, listen to music.

 Jimmy Carper 08:43  
The basic is you're always afraid of things you don't know.

 Sarah DePalma 08:47  
That's right.

 Jimmy Carper 08:48  
It's it's the unknown. That's scary and weird and mysterious. And once it comes out in the open out of the closet, all the cobwebs are dusted off. It's ordinary.

**S** Sarah DePalma 08:59

I was very pleased because Dr. Cole's more or less took our side which which genuinely surprised me. But it was real clear to Dr. Cole was kind of tired of the whining do and so we'll talk about that. But it was a one of the more interesting gatherings that I've been to. Because the mix was different this time. So and it's just general holiday show. We've got some Christmas music.

**J** Jimmy Carper 09:25

I do.

**S** Sarah DePalma 09:25

I requested music requested music.

**J** Jimmy Carper 09:27

We do have Christmas music lots, lots of queer Christmas music. In fact, this evening I attended the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Christmas concert. But don't fret if you if you missed it tonight. They're repeating it tomorrow at 2:30 in the afternoon at the Universalist Church 5200 Fannin.

**S** Sarah DePalma 09:50

That happens to be my home church.

**J** Jimmy Carper 09:51

There we go. A beautiful place.

**S** Sarah DePalma 09:53

First Unitarian Church I and it's they're great folks. And besides-Gay Men's Chorus is beautiful.

**J** Jimmy Carper 09:59

I have a new never heard them sound better. Technically, they they have improved 150%.

**S** Sarah DePalma 10:06

 Sarah DePalma 10:00


Unlike the unlike the Houston Voice, which is going downhill in a hurry.

 Jimmy Carper 10:09

Yes. No kidding. But they did a wonderful concert, really. And they did Kwanzaa music they did Hanukkah music and all your favorites. It was just really nice.

 Sarah DePalma 10:23

Yeah, it's, this is the first time in a long time that I have really noticed the Christmas lights. And I don't know if they're if it's my imagination, but it seems like more people are decorating this year than I've seen before. In our neighborhood in New York, we're developing traffic jams for people driving up and down the streets looking at the decorated. It was nice actually.

 Jimmy Carper 10:44

Yes.

 Sarah DePalma 10:44

It's and I'm actually in the holiday spirit for change. That's not even though I have to work on Christmas Day. Maxing holiday spirit.

 Jimmy Carper 10:51

No kidding on Christmas Day.

 Sarah DePalma 10:53

Well, I volunteered for it. Everybody in so happens that we're at work, everybody's going to end up working one of the days of the holidays. So you essentially were given the choice take the pick of which day. And I thought well, as long as I'm going to have to work I might as well work one hate the most. So I thought well, let's get paid double time and a half and we'll do that one.

 Jimmy Carper 11:13

Basically, holiday pay for you.

 Sarah DePalma 11:19

Very nice clothes. So which holiday are we going to work?



Jimmy Carper 11:24

Oh, come on, Mama needs a new outfit.



Sarah DePalma 11:28

I didn't I can't pass this up. I saw an article in the paper not long ago in which Diane Hardy Garcia of the Lesbian Gay Rights Law Offices. She's going to work on behalf of transgendered issues. And I my I'm gonna say this, just leave it alone. Leave it at this. I believe that that Diane Hardy Garcia cares about transgenders today that I see Dale Carpenter join the Democratic Party.



Jimmy Carper 11:53

Here we go. So matter of fact, I don't know if I should be saying this over the radio. But recently, all of the members of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus were sent a letter saying, hey, you have free membership for a year and they're all LTRL. Oh, you know, if you if you don't want it, just let us know.



Sarah DePalma 12:16

Right. I read I had heard that that was coming down the road.



Jimmy Carper 12:20

So I wrote to Pat Gandy and I said, thank you very much, but no thanks. When LTRL includes everybody in the queer community, then maybe I'll consider membership but, no, thank you.



Sarah DePalma 12:38

And I'm really disappointed with Pat Gandy. I gotta be honest. Pat has has known me for years. She's known Phyllis Frey for years. She knows who transgenders are, she knows what we're about. She has my phone number. I haven't heard a peep out of her mouth. Well, so-.



Jimmy Carper 12:54

I'm kind of torn because I'm really happy that Diane Hardy Garcia is doing stuff with the gay and lesbian community. But you know, I feel that I'm part of a queer community rather than just a gay and lesbian community.



Sarah DePalma 13:00



**S** Sarah DePalma 13:06

And I feel the same way as a transgendered person. I'm a member of the queer community, which is everybody, not just a segment.

**J** Jimmy Carper 13:12

That's right. And so I'm kind of happy that stuff has been done. But you know, it's only for part of us. And that's like that, that just takes me back to those days where we don't want weather people and we don't want drag queens, you know, and I don't like that.

**S** Sarah DePalma 13:29

So that's the end of my political discussion for tonight. I just couldn't I just couldn't resist. I saw that in the paper, and my blood boiled and I had to remind myself, I'm not the chair of [INAUDIBLE]. So I can't call her up and tell her what I think.

**J** Jimmy Carper 13:42

Well, it's not exactly the end of political discussion tonight, because we are expecting Ray Hill.

**S** Sarah DePalma 13:48

Yeah, you're right. We're Ray goes, politics.

**J** Jimmy Carper 13:52

Ray is running for city council.

**S** Sarah DePalma 13:55

City council in the seat, that [INAUDIBLE], and that, you know, who was it? It was Steve, you know, Steve who ran against Annise Parker, if you remember.

**J** Jimmy Carper 14:04

Oh, ha.

**S** Sarah DePalma 14:05

And I worked in Annise Parker's campaign in boys and girls, the gay community did not turn out. We get about 10% of The gay- or the queer community who cheered now. And it was interesting because her phone banks were basically run by transgendered people.

interesting because her phone banks were basically run by transgendered people.

**J** Jimmy Carper 14:21  
Gosh.

**S** Sarah DePalma 14:22  
Now boys and girls, Ray Hill is running. You know, what? If the whole queer community turned out for Ray he'd have a heck of a shot?

**J** Jimmy Carper 14:31  
He sure would.

**S** Sarah DePalma 14:32  
But do I think that's going to happen? No.

**J** Jimmy Carper 14:35  
Well, that's that's also why he's involved in LF, which is Adults for Legal Freedom. And that's the fight against what Jew Don Boney and Helen Huey are doing.

**S** Sarah DePalma 14:46  
What are you talking about the adult bookstore?

**J** Jimmy Carper 14:47  
Yes.

**S** Sarah DePalma 14:48  
Because, you know, I have no feelings back.

**J** Jimmy Carper 14:51  
I know, it's a First Amendment thing. And you know, if it's adult bookstores now, it's gay bars later. It's It's the [INAUDIBLE].

**S** Sarah DePalma 15:02

I don't have any I don't have a problem with it with the bookstores. I have a problem with some of the topless bars. That's-. So you've Ray comes on ee'll talk about that because I have some real issues with that so-.

**J** Jimmy Carper 15:15

But it's still First Amendment stuff.

**S** Sarah DePalma 15:17

Oh, yeah. Yeah. And if there's anything that KPFT believes in the First Amendmen.

**J** Jimmy Carper 15:23

I mean, the fact that this show was on the air, tells you that KPFT believed the First Amendment.

**S** Sarah DePalma 15:29

That's right. And Cheryl Causton, who was a guest on this show, several several months back. Cheryl caster is an openly transgendered person who does commercial radio or Howard Stern type radio show in Washington DC is on the verge of getting her show nationally syndicated on a commercial network.

**J** Jimmy Carper 15:48

Wow.

**S** Sarah DePalma 15:50

If that happens, Cheryl Kosta it, believe me, this will be a huge step forward. And it was very interesting because Cheryl Kosta Kate Bornstein. And I tried to set up Jerry Springer to get three of us on the air so we could get Springer. And we didn't succeed. But I would have given anything he'd gotten share up from Cheryl Kosta, Kate Bornstein, and myself on that show, Springer would still be looking for his ear lobes. It would have been fun. So when you say you want to go to some music here.

**J** Jimmy Carper 16:20

We have the music that was requested last week, and I didn't have it with me. This is from

Thomas in the 1960 area. He wanted something off the Jeffrey soundtrack. And so I'm gonna play it for him.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:33

You know, that's one of my favorite movies. That was really a good movie. It really was. It's a movie worth going out and renting Jeffrey, it really that was a fine movie.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:42

The other thing is about this movie is that it's the first time I think in a big budget movie at that, and hence, I mean, the big movie. I don't think it had that big of a budget, where straight actors didn't mind playing gay roles weren't afraid that it was going to ruin their careers.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:58

I can't think his name, the guy who plays Captain Picard.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:00

Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:01

Well, he was terrific in it. And in fact, the whole movie was extremely well done was very enjoyable. Speaking of since we just saw someone walk in the door here. Hello to all of you who are out there at the S&M ball tonight.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:16

Yes, indeed. Yes, indeed. Some of the S&M ball just walked in.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:21

Oh, yeah, the S&M ball was a Tantra tonight.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:24

Yes, we talked about it last week.



S

Sarah DePalma 17:26

And for all of you who are out there at the S&M ball and listening in or on your way home. Welcome to the show. Yes, so going on. It's gonna be going up to like three, four o'clock in the morning. And before Jimmy has heart failure, I think we better go to some music-.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:45

You're listening to After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College. This is Helpless for Thomas in 1960 area and I'm feeling that right-. Ooh that I like that helpless. I don't know what to do without you. And that was for Thomas the 1960 area.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:19

And trust me, Jimmy's tongue was hanging on the floor. He was truly helpless.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:23

I was Glen Holt, from Hugh patrol walked in in a very provocative outfit. And he said he was going to do it, but I didn't believe it. And what do you know.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:33

We've had some interesting things happen to us. [INAUDIBLE]

J

Jimmy Carper 18:36

In the fire in the studio one night. We got we got mooned by an outgoing program director one night around the ball.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:44

So people ask me, Why do you do this show at 12am? Because it's fun.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:48

I think they do that on purpose just to get your reactions on the air. You know.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:53

I remember the night that we're mooned because we both sort of sat here and went ahh huh, and this by an outgoing program director that? It was interesting.

**J** Jimmy Carper 19:02  
Yes, it was.

**S** Sarah DePalma 19:03  
It really was. I am before we go to our guests in studio, I want to talk about some of the stuff that will not Dr. Cole. Oh, okay. Part of what you're going to hear us talking about tonight you'll be hearing is talking about spousal issues. And I wanted to take a few minutes to do some setup and explain to people what what it is that we're talking about. There are there are relationships that exist now. And there are far more of them than you might think. Where a couple might be become legally married, they and you know they are legally married as husband and wife. And after marriage, or after a certain amount of time goes by and during the mere afternoon one of the partners says, Honey, I love you, but I want to be the opposite gender than the person you married? Not a small ask.

**J** Jimmy Carper 20:03  
No. I can't imagine you-.


**S** Sarah DePalma 20:05  
No, no, no, you, you, you if you're a typical heterosexual couple, and the male's portion of the couple says, Honey, I want to become a female. I hope you don't mind too much like- marriage.


**J** Jimmy Carper 20:20  
Tough, that's very tough, very tough.


**S** Sarah DePalma 20:22  
It's probably if it isn't the worst thing that can conceivably happen in a marriage. It's, I guess, outside of the partner dying. In many ways, it's pretty much the same.

**J** Jimmy Carper 20:32  
Well, you know, I guess it's a it's a, it's like a coming out thing. Hopefully, the relationship is strong, because the partner who wants to change is has been thinking about this for years and years and years and years and years. And the other partner this is, this is a new thing.


**S** Sarah DePalma 20:51


 Sarah DePalma 20:51  
Honey, I love you. But boom, yeah, exactly.


 Jimmy Carper 20:54  
But you have to get very used to it.

 Sarah DePalma 20:57  
I have a hard time imagining anything that's more difficult in a relationship than this. And yet, despite all of that, many of the marriages survive.

 Jimmy Carper 21:07  
Evidently that leaves the relationship is strong.

 Sarah DePalma 21:10  
Phyllis and her wife had been married 26-27 years. And tonight, we have a guest with us, who is legally married. You've heard her other half on the show, Beth Richard. And tonight, we have best wife, Teresa Teresa with us. And the other part of the relationship equation are people who are not legally married, but choose to have what would from the outside world look like the same sex marriage?

 Jimmy Carper 21:40  
Yes.

 Sarah DePalma 21:40  
And that was and so tonight, my life partner Lori is here. And we'll be talking about that. Spousal issues. It's something that it's paid lip service in the transgendered community. But you don't really see much being done to help spouses. I'm not aware of a single program in the transgender community, to help the spouse of a person who's in the middle of transition. And one of the things that was it was interesting to me, when we went to Dr. Cole's get together is that there were at least two or three couples there. Were the were the the - the person that was transitioning was in the early stages. And if you listen to the difficulties that was being created in their marriage. How badly they want to keep this marriage together. In some cases, there were children involved. And yet, the the transsexual partner said, I've got to do this. If I don't, I'd rather be dead. Very tough issue. And so we'll be talking about that in a little bit. Also, there's another another equa- part of the equation here, and that is being the spouse of a crossdresser. Now, you would think that at first, those issues are the same. But they're not. If you're the spouse of a crossdresser, yes, it's a crisis in your marriage. But for 85% or 90% of the time, you still have a man around the house, through for the spouse, betraying-.

**J** Jimmy Carper 23:18  
The outward are the outward appearances.

**S** Sarah DePalma 23:21  
For a transsexual it's as if their partner died and was reborn in a new gender true. So the issue is not exactly the same. Having said that, if you discover that your spouse is a crossdresser, it's a crisis in the mirror.

**J** Jimmy Carper 23:34  
It's a crisis, you know, of being transgendered kind of answers the question, do you love this person for the person? Or do you love this person for the genitals?

**S** Sarah DePalma 23:44  
Yeah, and let's face it, you know, it's a big shock when the person comes to you and says, Honey, I love your clothes. I've been wearing them for a couple of years now. That's, you know, and there. And so later on tonight, we're going to give the interview with Francis and she'll be talking about that. And she raises some terrific issues. I think it's maybe the best discussion that we've had about cross dressers since we have Linden and Cynthia Phillips on the program. So some of that's coming up. So any further ado, do our guests do they have their headphones on?

**J** Jimmy Carper 24:18  
They do. Now their mics are on.

**S** Sarah DePalma 24:20  
Why don't each of you sit and say a few words and introduce yourself? So that folks get to hear your voice and hear what you're like?

**T** Teresa Richards 24:28  
Hi, I'm Teresa. I'm the spouse of Beth Richards, and happy holidays. And-.

**S** Sarah DePalma 24:38  
And.





Lori Rice 24:39

Good evening, y'all. My name is Lori. I'm Sarah's life partner. And I'm particularly thinking happy holidays.



Sarah DePalma 24:48

Happy holidays to everyone. Okay, now, let's, Teresa, why don't we start with you. Tell folks a little bit whatever you feel comfortable telling you about your relationship with Beth how you met that sort of thing.



Teresa Richards 25:01

Okay, Beth and I met in college, I guess about 15 years ago. And we fenced one fencing team together. And she went away for about two years. Foster's to private school versus public school type of things. And then she came back. And and I guess in my senior year, or both of our senior year, we started going out. And about a year after graduation, we got married. And as of May we'll be married for 10 years.



Sarah DePalma 25:42

So you've been married for 10 years?



Teresa Richards 25:44

Now close to it. Yep.



Sarah DePalma 25:45

Okay. Now, how, how far into the marriage, were you when Beth came to you? And said, Hi, honey, I got it. I love you. But I gotta talk.



Teresa Richards 25:56

Well, when when we are engaged, I found out not to do this by pronouns by history, right? I can't do it. I found him in a teddy. And like, major shock and type of things like that. And we were talking. I don't know why I didn't leave. But I didn't leave. And we were talking and decided to keep going, you know, I can do this, I promise we won't, you know, I won't do this again. And-.



Sarah DePalma 26:22

**S** Sarah DePalma 20:52  
The number one promise out, Honey, I'll stop.

**T** Teresa Richards 26:36  
And it lasted for about about four or five years after our marriage. So I mean, it's only been, and then all of a sudden stress at work was really, really bad. And he was like, can I wear a nightgown? I probably will help and it's like, okay, and just kind of gradually, you know, you set your limit, and it gradually goes on and on.

**S** Sarah DePalma 27:02  
And if you're the spouse of a of a, of a crossdresser. That's, that's the worst fear that a spouse of a crossdresser has, is, my spouse won't stop that cross dressing won't be enough.

**T** Teresa Richards 27:14  
Right.

**S** Sarah DePalma 27:15  
And that's, that's a whole separate issue. We'll get into it a little bit. But that's always that's a real clash. Now, Lori, you and I met in different circumstances, why don't you tell about that?

**L** Lori Rice 27:26  
I knew Sarah was trans when I first met him, he met at a party that was held at my house given by my roommate. And we became apartmentmates about maybe four or five months later. That went up very well. It's kind of odd that when I go and get my skirt, and I find that she's wearing it, he is wearing the pair of shoes I want. I haven't had my necklace since I left home, my sister wore my stuff.

**S** Sarah DePalma 27:55  
It is very it's it's it's different. In her her her mom doesn't quite know what to think of our relationship. Her mom was very interesting. At one point, she said something to the fact that there's something really different about Sarah, but I can't put my finger on it. Well, yes, there is something very different. So yeah, that that does make for an interesting sort of thing. Now, Tracy, you have something something a little additional to what we do, because you've got two.

**T** Teresa Richards 28:26  
Yes, we have two children. One's eight and a half. He's a boy. And we have a six year old girl.

S

Sarah DePalma 28:33

And I've we've gone to the Ren Faire with these kids we have in the house. They're wonderful kids. They're extremely well adjusted. They obviously love both of their parents. So for those of you who are out there, and you say to yourself, how can this be? How can you possibly have a spouse who's transsexual and have children? The answer is, you can be just fine. And it works very well. Thank you very much.

T

Teresa Richards 28:56

Yeah, well, Katie has she six and she's I was pregnant when basically the hit the fan. Oh my. And so she has literally lived with this her entire life. So it's really not she doesn't really know any difference. And Christopher was, you know, two and a half at the time. So and we were basically very honest with him, which is probably the most important thing is to be honest with your kids and tell them what's going on, you know, to the extent of how old they are.

S

Sarah DePalma 29:30

Okay, now, one of the first when we were at Dr. Cole's there were several issues that were brought up issues that were obviously very difficult. And so I want to start with some of those. The first issue that we heard from people is people are gonna think I'm a lesbian. People are gonna think my sexual orientation changed. And I don't know if either one of you want to start with that one because that's the first thing that we heard was all people are gonna think I'm gay.

L

Lori Rice 29:59

Okay, Well, the mother of a very good friend of mine knew us as Tim, gee, does that mean that Lori lesbian now? Is that you are, Sarah? And the answer is no. A lesbian is a lover of women. I don't love women. And one woman I love Sarah. There's not another woman alive who could come and take me away from it. So I think that my answer.

S

Sarah DePalma 30:25

[INAUDIBLE]

T

Teresa Richards 30:27

I I guess perceptions of some some people is yes, we're lesbians. I don't consider myself that way. I'm not quite sure how Beth perceive it. I I think it's just how, how you feel about yourself. And you know, what people's perception is, I was somewhat worried about like, how the kids how the kids friends would react, their parents would react to lesbian. You know, in suburban, suburban Houston.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:00

We were worried about it. When we moved in, we live in a rather conservative area. And I was concerned when we first moved in. And it was really funny. The kids used to come around our house, right up to the point that figured out they were to women two women living in the same house. Ooh, and they kids. And then they discovered that we looked out for their house when they were on vacation. And we picked up the newspapers, and the burglars wouldn't know they were gone. And we kept the yard clean. And the kids came back.

L

Lori Rice 31:38

They loved it as well.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:40

Yeah, it was really it was really interesting. So whatever the initial hang up was, they got over it, and what they think about us, I don't know. And I think our general feeling is we don't care. You almost have to have if you can do this, I think it seems to me that if you care what other people think your chances of success are zero. You know, Lori and I walk down the beach holding hand all the time. And we're very aware that people look at us, they all go out there to lesbians. And we don't care. Think what you want, you know, your opinion and 50 cents of was profit McDonald's. My favorite thing.

L

Lori Rice 32:14

We sat on the beach does just this past Saturday, and the [INAUDIBLE] ceremony. [INAUDIBLE]

J

Jimmy Carper 32:23

Aw that's nice.

T

Teresa Richards 32:25

Congratulations.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:26

Yeah. And we were aware of the people from the outside who saw us over there hugging and kissing on the beach. You know, and our general attitude was, who cares? This is important to us, to heck with you saying but that's not everybody can do that. Right? It takes a certain it takes a certain kind of person that you have kind of interesting because you live in an apartment complex.

**T** Teresa Richards 32:48

I live in an apartment complex, we got a lot of Bubba's, let's say, living around, but for the most part, people don't. They, they've figured out that we're honest people and, you know, relatively trustworthy, and we're not going to hurt their kids or, you know, hurt their stuff. So they're not too worried about, you know, they've gotten to the point that whatever you do in your house is your problem, not ours.

**J** Jimmy Carper 33:14

And isn't that the bottom line? It's how you are as a person.

**T** Teresa Richards 33:18

Right.

**S** Sarah DePalma 33:19

One of the things that was brought up? Uh, Dr. Cole, I actually made the list is the discussion was going around the room. The way that Dr. Cole's get together is set up is first, they basically go around the room and everybody sort of gives a little check in, you know, Hi, I'm so and so. And I'm a transsexual, and, you know, sort of reminds me of an AAA meeting at first. But then as people begin to loosen up, some of the stories begin to come out, it becomes very interesting. And I sure I took notes as the discussion went around the room. And the first the very first issue that was being raised was the issue of family rejection. You know, maybe, you know, the inlaws said, you know, don't you marry this person because this person's something weird about this person. Now you gotta get back. They'll say, well, Mom, you were kind of right. So what let's let's talk about the family rejection is the Laurie and I certainly organized certainly hasn't come up yet. But we have a little different situation, Teresa go.

**T** Teresa Richards 34:19

Okay. Um, I guess I guess from Beth's family point of view, they've been very accepting. They've haven't physically met Beth yet. But they've been very accepting my family. When everything started to come out, they my one brother and sister they were okay and you know, Teresa will whatever makes you happy it's okay with. My oldest sister is a grown up cover are a born again Roman Catholic. And I think my mom, mind her, we gave her push. Because she wasn't really, being Roman Catholic, you can't say, get a divorce. But I think my mom really would like have liked me to do that. But somewhere along the line, I think my parents went to see a psychologist and the psychologist basically said, she's a big girl. She'll know what she knows what to do. So she, they kind of like are they're ignoring Beth versus, Bea harassing my sister for about three years was severely harassing us via calling CPS.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:39

Oh my, I didn't realize that.

T

Teresa Richards 35:40

Yeah. And, you know, we're getting little Christian care packages every single time she sees my kids, you know. And right now, I don't know if she officially as our address or not so she hasn't been harassing us since we've moved down here.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:58

So it's funny thing about my family is very strange. My brother is a police officer. And of any other people in the family that I thought would be accepting. I thought he would be the one most likely he is his wife isn't. And his wife actually asked him if this was a problem that the kids could tell.

T

Teresa Richards 36:22

Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 36:22

Yeah. Now I just sent a Christmas card with a check in it and told my brother to buy some presents for the kids from aunt Sarah in Texas. Oh, and I'm gonna be very interested to see whether he keeps the check. Or whether it comes back saying thank you, but we can't, yeah. So that that will be interesting. My father is a deacon in the Pentecostal church, so you can kiss this bye. For a while I was getting these letters, telling me how hot the fires and hell were going to be and how well my father was going to be there stoking and waiting for me when I got there again. And for I got to the point where I simply decided I would stop reading my father's mail. And Laurie will tell you, I got to the point that when my father's mail came and sat on my desk for a week before I would open it, because I just didn't want to hear it anymore was just enough. I finally got to the point. And at one point, I wrote him back and said, Listen, if you can't do any better than this, stop writing to me. I'm a big girl. I don't need your approval. So if you want to get along with this, this is great. And if you don't stop writing me. Now I get hard address to Dipalma. No first name. No, no, no, no. In fact, my Christmas- Laurie, Laurie's shaking her head, just got the start to my father in the mail, a genderless Christmas card, you know, sort of a generic Christmas card addressed to Dipalma. No first name. And that's probably is as good as it's going to get with him.

J

Jimmy Carper 37:53

Maybe.



S

Sarah DePalma 37:54

He has no high school education you want. I mean, he's a hard worker who's a hard worker always right. But he has no high school education. And comes from real small town backgrounds. Deacon in the Pentecostal church, put it all together and he probably bout to his max. My mother, interestingly, was the one person in the family who was not surprised when I told her I was transsexual.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:16

Really.

S

Sarah DePalma 38:16

She was surprised when I got married.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:19

Oh.

S

Sarah DePalma 38:22

She she really was she was surprised when I got married. She was the one least surprised by my being transsexual, because she remembers my coming through when I was five years old and saying Mom, I'm a girl. I want to get fixed.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:34

Oh.

S

Sarah DePalma 38:35

So and my mother has accepted Laurie, very well. She says, you know, she considers Laurie part of the family. And she has a photo of the two of us sitting at her piano and so she's come along pretty well. And Lori wants to talk about your parents because that's kind of interesting.

L

Lori Rice 38:52

Well, my family's met several times. My dad this last trip my dad's put up the door to our computer room staring at a I'm transgender my vote bumper sticker over up over there stood up poster and he just stood there and stare for about 5-10 minutes and then just walked away. I think they've come to accept so quite a bit they know how important she is to me but P docs and I've told them that Sarah is my primary person- a month into Christmas gifts this year.

S

Sarah DePalma 39:27

That was kind of a shock. We did our personal documents we did our powers of attorney and medical powers of attorney and that sort of thing. Because we don't have the same legal rights that you just said Teresa and Beth. So we went had it done and it came was kind of a shock to her mother. I think she discovered that she was second on the list behind me on some of these.

L

Lori Rice 39:47

She's already solved the case. I know where you are and you know where to find me. And I mean this this is just the way it should be.

S

Sarah DePalma 39:56

I had a big puzzle of the desert poster in computer rooms with a I'm transgendered and a vote bumper sticker underneath it. And I wasn't there the day that her father saw this, I wish I had been, it would have been real interesting. Now we have a big, we have a photo montage, a memory, we call it our memory wall. And we've got photos of different faces of Ben and people that we've met and stuff. And a lot of those ever, Laurie and I are holding hands, or we're doing something that's fairly intimate. So when they come into the house, you almost have to be blind, deaf and dumb not to know there's some kind of a relationship going on here. And I've since then, I've won a couple of awards, and I've got an award from Transgender Law conference, the transgender plain University word sitting on the wall. And it's gonna be really interesting when they come back again, because I mean, you almost have to be like willfully ignoring things not to know what's going on.

J

Jimmy Carper 40:49

Some people can do that. Some people can really willfully ignore things.

S

Sarah DePalma 40:53

Oh, yes.

J

Jimmy Carper 40:54

Gay Lesbian people know this, because parents ignore it or just don't want to know just don't want it said, if it's not said it doesn't exist.

S

Sarah DePalma 41:04

Yeah, and to be the spouse of a transgendered person is really, really tough. Because first of all. mother in law may not have liked the person to marry. You know. which is fairly rare



happens lots of times. But now sooner or later, Mother in law finds out that well, that person would be married, has changed genders.

**J** Jimmy Carper 41:24  
Whoa.

**S** Sarah DePalma 41:25  
And Mama, you may not like it, but you have to get a grip, too. And that brought up the second issue and that was the lost or retained family relationships. You know, how many people have brothers and sisters that simply disappeared and said I can't deal with this never came back.

**J** Jimmy Carper 41:43  
Sure.

**S** Sarah DePalma 41:44  
And I think that's lots of gay and lesbian people have that issue.

**J** Jimmy Carper 41:47  
I'm there. Yeah, my whole family deserted me at age 17 at age 17.

**S** Sarah DePalma 41:53  
I didn't realize that.

**J** Jimmy Carper 41:54  
Yes. Yeah. So I've been estranged from my family for over 30 years.

**S** Sarah DePalma 41:58  
And they never got a grip about it.

**J** Jimmy Carper 42:00  
Never Never.

**S** Sarah DePalma 42:02  
I had no idea. And here you are. This loud activist is doing this radio show for 10 years or whatever. No. Do they- Are they aware that you're HIV?

**J** Jimmy Carper 42:14  
No.

**S** Sarah DePalma 42:16  
They don't know that?

**J** Jimmy Carper 42:17  
In fact one parent already died.


**S** Sarah DePalma 42:22  
Oh, my was it I mean, I'm shocked, here my jaws hit the floor. Speechless.


**J** Jimmy Carper 42:32  
Focus on baby.


**S** Sarah DePalma 42:33  
No, it's very interesting. I wasn't aware.

**J** Jimmy Carper 42:35  
But that's true. Yeah, yeah. And I come from a Catholic background and they just couldn't could not cope with it.

**S** Sarah DePalma 42:43  
Wow, I had no idea I for some reason I just assumed that your that your parents you know said hey listen this is person to be proud of regardless and got it -.

 Jimmy Carper 42:52  
No never did, never did.

 Sarah DePalma 42:54  
Oh, wow. I had no idea. The I've been doing the show for this person for two years. It's the first time I heard it.

 Jimmy Carper 43:01  
That's why family of choice and-.