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SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, Lori Rice, Teresa Richards

- S** Sarah DePalma 00:01
Wow, I had no idea. I for some reason, I just assumed that you that your parents, you know, said, Hey, listen, this is person to be proud of regardless and got it.
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:10
No never did.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:12
Oh, wow, I have no idea. See I've been doing the show for this person for two years. It's the first time I heard it.
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:18
Thats why family of choice in the queer community is very, very important.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:23
Yeah, yeah. In fact, that's the next subject that came up with Dr. Cole's was the number of friendships that were lost. And the new friendships that were made in I guess that's a good time to talk about that. Now. Lori, why don't we talk about talk about Louis? Oh, there's they're the epitome of cool.
- L** Lori Rice 00:42
Louis is a very cool friend of mine. I've known him iez since 1980. Something about them

Leads is a very good friend of mine. I've known him, jazz, since 1966. Something about them. And I see him to several relationships. Recently he had a holy union with the-

With the holy union with Francis.

Francis.

Who's who's African American.

And my [INAUDIBLE].

Yeah, go ahead and tell that story.

He said he brings friends to meet his friends and family is very tall African American. Very softly spoken. an islander I think I'm not certain about that. Jamaican. Jamaica, yeah. Jamaican, and the first response to [INAUDIBLE] is Gee, you're so tall.

Yeah. They don't want to it's like they can't say, Gee, you're black. You know? Like, is it Francis doesn't already know. Anyhow you know?

Yes. Thank you. You know I know I'm tall. And he's a marvelous, marvelous person, just a wonderful person. So happy for both of them never seen Louis so happy.

So when you told Louis, what did Lewis when you told Louis about me? What did Lewis say?

L Lori Rice 01:46

Oh, he said that he's never seen me so happy.

S Sarah DePalma 01:48

It was really funny. I Lewis is he's just really cool to begin with. And, and I have had the experience of having gay men not react well to me. And Lewis was just the opposite. His first response was, I've never seen Lori so happy. I don't care if you're a horse. With polka dots. You're welcome. The only person he cared about was his friend, Lori.

J Jimmy Carper 02:13

I knew that what it comes down to.

L Lori Rice 02:15

Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 02:16

You know, how don't we want the best for our friends and our loved ones and our children? We want them to be happy. We want them to be in great relationships. So what does it matter? The sexuality or the gender?

S Sarah DePalma 02:31

Well, it shouldn't. But it does. It does tend to be people.

L Lori Rice 02:35

Louis's mom always asked that said every time she calls, he just loves her. He just adores her that.

S Sarah DePalma 02:41

Well, anybody who has Louis for a son has to use to some very new things happening. Lewis Lewis is really great. It's funny. Every time he calls he'll say. So what's new in the activism world. So there's a friendship that Lori has has kept in and you have another friend in Florida.



Lori Rice 03:03

Oh, Vivian. Vivian asked about her. She wants to meet you. She thinks you're cool.



Sarah DePalma 03:07

So, so Lori has basically retained her friend. Teresas, what about you?



Teresa Richards 03:14

For the most part, I think I've reached you know, kept foster my friends. I know, Beth, some of the friends that we've had I met through through bath. And I know there's a couple that just don't cope. But they, you know, the friendships were getting farther and farther apart. Because of distance. Anyway, so really wasn't a great loss. Because, you know, I mean, you're losing part of history, but you're not losing, you know, a really solid, good friendship.



Sarah DePalma 03:45

Have the friends been giving you trouble about the kids?



Teresa Richards 03:48

No, no, no.



Sarah DePalma 03:50

It just as you were talking, I just had this thought, when in thinking about the friends that you know, the worst friend you can have is the busy body who thinks it's their business to child protection, say, oh, by the way, did you know?



Teresa Richards 04:02

Right.



Sarah DePalma 04:04

It all of a sudden, I just had this vision. I've been around now-.



Teresa Richards 04:07

But I had a I just got a phone call from a friend of mine that I hadn't talked to him for about five

But I had a, just got a phone call from a friend of mine that I hadn't talked to him for about five years. Now, she's having, you know, husband sleeping around, you know, boss's ex wife type of thing. But, you know, and she's having problems with one of her friends calling CPS because of various things. So I mean, it happens in the real world, versus the queer world.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:30

Yeah, it's a funny thing heterosexuals. They point to gay couples. And I didn't understand this and this whole same sex debate. They kept saying that they that with gays and lesbians. They threatened the sanctity of marriage. No, honey, the philandering husband, who's at Rick's tonight threatens the right marriage. It isn't gay and lesbian people who are threatening your marriage. I just didn't get it and I still don't get it. I didn't mean to take off on that. It's just the Every time I hear it, it's like honey gays and lesbians and same sex couples and transgendered couples. We don't threaten your marriage. Your husband who's at Rick's tonight, or at one of these other topless bars, or the hot wife who's out in the honky tonks sleeping around while still married, that threatens the sanctity of marriage, other heterosexuals threaten your marriage, not us.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:23

That's right. That's exactly right.

S

Sarah DePalma 05:26

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to take off on it. It makes me crazy. Every time I hear them say that kind of stuff.

T

Teresa Richards 05:31

I mean, from what I have noticed, I'm not like really into the gay and lesbian and really transgender community. But once you found a partner, you stick you stick with them. And it's, it's a life partner versus marriage of today is, well, when I get done with whatever my use for you is, you're out of here. I mean, or-

J

Jimmy Carper 05:56

When I get tired.

T

Teresa Richards 05:56

When I get tired of you, when when, you know.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:00

When you're not as exciting anymore, or when something else better comes along or.

T

Teresa Richards 06:05

Something like that. It just seems to be you know, what heterosexual marriages should be looked at significantly more, you know, for points that they're trying to ignore, you know, on how the divorce rate is, what 50% or something like that. So obviously, I mean, once the gay couples officially, let's say get married, let's-.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:31

I'll be interested to see with their divorce-.

T

Teresa Richards 06:33

What their divorce rate is.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:35

One of the things I can tell you is that if it when a transsexual person retracts a transgender partner, when they find somebody who, who stays with them, no matter what they know, they've got someone special.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:50

Oh, you bet.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:51

They know they do. In your right to trans, the couples that I've seen who've made it through the first few storm, who make it through the first couple of years, stay together forever. Because the transsexual partner knows they have someone special. And so does the partner who fought in the partner who fought so hard to stay married, has got so much invested. And the relationships do tend to last. That's one of the things that I was really interested in it Dr. Cole's because there were a couple people down there who had been married 20 years. And who were transsexual couples. Yeah. And that's one thing they talked about was after they got through that first few storms, their marriage is stronger for not not worse, which I thought was kind of interesting. Lori, we haven't talked about much about well, I guess I should talk a little bit some about some of my friends now. I have a fantasy and the Lord's. Oh-.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:52

No. no. no. not not that auv.

no, no, no, not not that guy.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:54

What I for the regular listens to the show know that I had had a male lover. And and I think I've told the story maybe once before I was I get it was my high school reunion came up. And when it came time to go to my high school reunion, I said, Well, I'm gonna go and my lover said, Do you not go in without me, are you? I said, Well, this is a small town, Connecticut, you know? He said, Well, are we a couple or not? Gulp. I said, okay. So I said fine. In we went as a couple. And all the way up on the third time, I'm thinking to myself, this is the end of my life as I know it, by my world is coming down. So as we got to the door, they were introducing people by name, Mr. And Mrs. So and So, Mr. And Mrs. So and so. And then they got to us. And introduced the person doing the introductions looked at us and said, What do I do? And Mark was real cool. marks it well, this is my, this is Neal Dipalma andin his love his life partner, Mark Champion. I thought that my life is coming to an end. So they made this introduction, and the whole room stop. You could have heard a pin drop in a girl that I had helped when she was in high school because she was pregnant, was the person who got up and said, extended her hands and I always knew you'd meet someone special. Please come and sit down.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:25

Wow.

S

Sarah DePalma 09:27

Now my fantasy is there for my 20 year high school reunion. I know what Lori and I go back and I get to go back and forth you know, I've thought about it and I thought maybe after my flight my father moves out of town.

T

Teresa Richards 09:56

What's surprising is that friend probably already knows Yeah,

S

Sarah DePalma 10:00

Probably so. I mean, yeah, yeah, probably probably. So it's just that that's my fantasy. Let's talk about jobs. Yeah. Oh yeah. This is KPFT 90.1 Houston, and KEOS 89.1. in College Station.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:19

Okay, let's talk about jobs. When we come back from a break. I need to put a couple of things in your ear and-.



S Sarah DePalma 10:25
Sounds good.

J Jimmy Carper 10:25
And maybe a tune Hmm.

S Sarah DePalma 10:28
Where am I going? I am totally lost. Where-.

J Jimmy Carper 10:32
We're at when it when we I've got something in the in the CD player right now. It's an Indigo Girls tune and it's kind of special. So I hear-.

S Sarah DePalma 10:44
Yes, as a matter of fact, it is. And as soon as I finish remind myself which button it is that I'm going to, which is I think this one and okay, this is live radio, folks, we get to make mistakes. We'll be back in a little bit. Okay, Jimmy, go ahead.

J Jimmy Carper 10:59
But this is for Beth for this is for Beth.

S Sarah DePalma 11:01
Oh, I didn't realize that.

J Jimmy Carper 11:02
Yes, we have to make a dedication here.

L Lori Rice 11:05
Hi Beth.

T Teresa Richards 11:06
... - ..

Hi Beth.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:07

I want and that you are a great friend. You are terrific person. Thank you for for sharing your wife with us.

T

Teresa Richards 11:18

Thanks for this [INAUDIBLE].

S

Sarah DePalma 11:21

Having said that. Let's go to some music. We'll be back a little bit. Okay, we are back. And we are talking about being transgendered folks. And what it is like to be the significant other of a transgender person.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:47

This is After Hours. And I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me is-

S

Sarah DePalma 11:50

Sarah DePalma.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:51

Right.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:52

And now we have guests in studio and they are Teresa Richard.

L

Lori Rice 11:56

And Lori Rice.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:56

And you know, before we left, we I started to talk about some of the other issues that come up and let's talk about jobs. Most, one of the biggest problems to being the as the, a significant

other or the life partner of a transgendered person is that it's often when a person when the person in transition starts to transition, they lose their jobs. So for the marriage to survive, it starts to become an economic issue. And most marriages don't survive economic issues. Regardless, regardless whether you're heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender. Well, if you have economic issues piled on top, because the person is transitioning is the most is just an incredible stress on a relationship. And Lori, you've you've watched me go through that once you talk about that.

L Lori Rice 12:53

I've seen so about those several jobs I don't think having transgendered had to do with with not retaining any of them. I know she got one to two jobs, I think because of her transgendered.

S Sarah DePalma 13:10

I actually got this job because-.

L Lori Rice 13:13

And your previous job was done very well, because of your activism and your transgendered situation.

S Sarah DePalma 13:22

Was very interesting. When I went to interview for the current my current job. The the guy that was interviewing me stopped and said, are you that? Are you the person that does that radio show?

J Jimmy Carper 13:30

You're kidding? I didn't know that.

S Sarah DePalma 13:32

Yeah, he stopped and said, You personally desert radio show and I thought, hey, no, says yeah. He says, Oh, great. And I really think actually, it helped me to get the job. I think the theory was, if this person can handle radio, they can handle anything.

J Jimmy Carper 13:50

Which is pretty much the case. It is around here.

S Sarah DePalma 13:53

Yeah. I'm in but yeah. So the where I work now. They were aware I was transgender, and it was a non issue.

L Lori Rice 14:02

Regarding at this, regarding jobs though. The executive secretary in my office knows about Sarah. But she's cautioned me not to let the owner of the business now because you're not may not be able to handle it, I guess. Yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 14:18

So Lori's job is the one that could conceivably be in jeopardy because she's because of me.

L Lori Rice 14:24

That wasn't that I don't I don't think would ever come to that because he's he's very liberal. But she said nothing not quite tell him.

S Sarah DePalma 14:32

Tell the new Kingsbridge campaign to take something more than once you more than one and loudly as I recall. Now you have you. You've had some of the economic stuff but not as much because Beth is I think she's been employed through most of it has-.

T Teresa Richards 14:45

The most economic was was just because of the job. The job disappeared. company went out of business. So that was that was the major part. That's a problem that basically transition And within about three months, her boss didn't like her anyway. And she got a chance after being a year at the company to be able to transfer and she transferred in as Beth. So it was it's kind of a non issue. And a lot of them do know that. I mean, I was I'm assuming that they think we're a lesbian couple.

S Sarah DePalma 15:25

It is very interesting. I met persons that have known before I actually knew for a while. And it was Michelle Ballinger, Michelle believes your works with the prison systems for the state of Texas, in transition while working with prison system.

J Jimmy Carper 15:38

Wow.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:38

And Ray Ray Hill is very familiar with with Michelle, and they have been had had conversations back and forth. But Michelle was used Beth's letter when for those who really listens to the show, they may remember we had death Richard on the show, and she read the letter that she used when she did her transition. Well, Michelle used a good part of Beth's letter, when she sent out her letter to the people in the prison system. Ah, it worked for Michelle in the prison system, too. So-.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:09

It was a great letter.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:10

It really was. So Beth without, without realizing maybe it was kind of a pioneer in the other sense. Yeah. And so it's kind of interesting how that all works out when one person succeeds. Other people try to emulate it pretty quick.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:25

Do you think companies are letting loose and I say that because Stanley is in and out at the airport all the time. He lives in Seattle and so on. I know, by site, a lot of people are Continental. And I've seen at least two people that are working counter at Continental who were transgender.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:50

Of course, that was after Continental lost a major lawsuit. After way, after Continental had to pay several million dollars, a Continental decided maybe they would cut it out. It is the airline industry tends to be more liberal than most. But I will say this, it is getting better in the employment areas for transgenders than it has been, um, I'm not exactly certain why, actually.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:18

Maybe because employers are looking for people who will do the work.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:23

Well, I think it's part of that. And I'll tell you, I this is just my own theory. But I think employers don't know the difference between transaenderism. aav and lesbian either in a lot. and a lot.

And a lot of employers have sexual orientation protection now. And I think, although they don't know, they don't know transgenders legally wouldn't fit under that. And so some transgenders are benefiting almost by accident.

J Jimmy Carper 17:47
Don't tell them.

S Sarah DePalma 17:49
Well, I didn't, did I? Let's talk about depression. And most transgender transsexual people just have a huge problem with depression sooner or later anyway. And Lori has certainly seen me go through that she, she went through it with me when I attempted suicide. And I don't know if you you haven't had those kinds of problems with Beth, have you?

T Teresa Richards 18:13
On and off, but not major. I mean, you know, a minor, you know, she'd go into minor type of depression things and that's usually when I would give in and say, Okay, you can do this. You can wear girls underwear and some boys underwear, okay, you know, type of things like that.

S Sarah DePalma 18:32
What point did you finally did, it finally dawned on you that this was going to be progressive, and she was going to just keep going?

T Teresa Richards 18:39
Um, I'm not really sure. It was really gradual. And I think just at one point in time, it was like, just, it's not even more. It's not even worth the effort anymore to put the whole back on, you know, well, that's a girl shirt, not a boy shirt. But you know, it really didn't. It was. What's the word? Androgynous. So it was kind of like you got to the point that you know, she was dressing very androgynous. So it was like, What's the point of, you know, I'll let it kind of all go.

S Sarah DePalma 19:17
Here to see Lori had the advantage. She knew I was transsexual when she met me. I think for Lori. I think you can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think you've sort of had fun watching my transition as I've gone along.

L Lori Rice 19:31
And the biggest problem is keeping her out of my closet.

...and the biggest problem is keeping her out of my bedroom.

S

Sarah DePalma 19:34

I agree with that, especially can lead us to that. Oh, oh, okay. One of the other things I wanted to ask you about is balancing is balancing the issues. Now, especially when you've got kids, you got kids to try and balance you got family to try and balance. You've got your own relationship. Strite this but you have to balance. How do you maintain sanity to all that?

L

Lori Rice 20:10

Just trying to think.

T

Teresa Richards 20:11

I think he just do it. I don't, I don't really know how I do it. I just do it. Yeah. Basically, the kids come first. I guess that's probably how I was brought up that, you know, your kids are probably the most important. And then Beth, you know, being grown up being brought up the way I am, your husband is, is your, you know, kids are important than your husband and then yourself. So you. I mean, there's a lot of times that that I don't get, you know, the psychological stimulus sometimes that that, you know, I pass it on to everybody else.

S

Sarah DePalma 20:49

Yeah, I would think that that's gonna that's gonna be real. That's one thing. I'm very glad Lori and I don't have that. That issue of the kids. We have a hard time maintaining balance, because our times don't match. My work schedule is so different from Lori's. But any couple we have that?

J

Jimmy Carper 21:05

And I've got it.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:07

Yeah. Oh, boy, if anybody's-.

J

Jimmy Carper 21:09

[INAUDIBLE] Stanley goes to bed at 1030 every night.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:12



And your schedule is really weird.



Jimmy Carper 21:14

Yeah. And I'm on radio two nights a week, midnight to three. So-.



Sarah DePalma 21:19

Yeah.



Jimmy Carper 21:20

But you don't have a job [INAUDIBLE]? Yeah.



Lori Rice 21:24

No, it's not the same at all.



Jimmy Carper 21:26

No.



Sarah DePalma 21:29

The financial issue, I think got a person that's in, that's in transition, and is maybe looking towards surgery. That's a tough one. It's something Lori and I have been talking about for a while. Because I'm one of those people. I'm in the situation saying, I'd like to have the surgery. I don't think it's a financial reality. I think there are two chances that will ever occur slim and none and slim when home and left. So and I think Beth it's some point, we'd like to have the surgery too. But my impression sort of feels like the same way that I do is like she'd like to, but she isn't sure it'll ever happen.



Teresa Richards 22:10

Right? I mean, it's, it's more of you got to pay the bills that you already have. And then by the time we get the bills paid, you're gonna have two colleges to pay for. So you know, I would not doubt the by the time she's you know, 50-. She may have this, you know, not before, but I don't know, see, I'm not that far from 50.



Sarah DePalma 22:30

...that's like 50 is the same as that that that that...

I'm looking 50 in the eye and going I just don't think so.

T Teresa Richards 22:34
But would it make a difference?

S Sarah DePalma 22:38
No.

T Teresa Richards 22:39
So I mean.

S Sarah DePalma 22:40
No, there's a part of me that says that. I would just assume not die this way. Right. Having said that, I'm going to embarrass Lori. One of the things that I have learned from Lori and I have learned from our relationship for the audience doesn't know this. I'll tell us Lori only he has the use of she has partial use of both hands. And he has has it is a what-.

L Lori Rice 23:08
A partial use the left side of my body, but full use of my right hand.

S Sarah DePalma 23:12
Yes, I can I can attest to that enough said there. Now I'm the one that's blushing. But one of the things I have I've learned from Lori and I've watched when we go in malls. And sometimes kids especially we'll stop and kind of look at Lori because she went through it I have learned something about being handicapped. And one of the things that I've learned from Lori is I've thought about this a lot. It seems to be Lori in any other handicapped person for that matter. Could be really mean and bitter. But really go through life saying why me God? You know, it would be easy to go through life, being self pitying. And Lori's not like that at all. Lori uses look, okay, I was dealt a rotten, rotten set of cards.

J Jimmy Carper 24:15
But life goes on when you got them when you got lemons.

S Sarah DePalma 24:19

That's it. And so one of the things I've learned from Lori is I've adapted her attitude toward the sex reassignment surgery. And, and looked at and said, You know, I could do this too. There's a courage there that in and I did I draw a lot of courage and have learned a lot from watching Lori and apply that into the look. Yeah, all right. I was not dealt with the deck of cards I wanted. But life goes on.

J Jimmy Carper 24:51

Very few of us. I think we're dealt the deck of cards we wanted.

S Sarah DePalma 24:55

Yeah, not everybody gets to wear leather pants and look gorgeous with their shirt. Yeah. And so it's something that I've learned. It was actually something I mentioned to [INAUDIBLE] goals to bring in some of the whining and kind of brought a hush over the room, I think. But it is something that I've learned it's, it's molded my attitude about surgery, I think I would have a different attitude about it. Were it not for Lori, in that I've watched Lori and said, Listen, she can do this stuff. I can do it too. You know, and and it's, it's a different outlook. It's not one that most transsexuals would ever adopt that old thing.

T Teresa Richards 25:37

But do you think helping by slowing down to decision of getting surgery is helping you mature and accepting it more than some of the transsexuals that are just going straight from from getting an okay of getting the pills to within a year having their surgery and not thinking about it and maturing in about there?

S Sarah DePalma 25:59

Yeah.

T Teresa Richards 26:01

I mean, there are there are people.

S Sarah DePalma 26:03

I finally I reached the conclusion that a lot of my desire for surgery was coming from fear. In many of the fears were irrational. What if something should happen to Lori, would I ever be able to have another relationship again? Who would ever accept me this way? Lori's one in a million. Okay. That's a fear. And I'm not sure making a decision and surgery based in from fear is a smart move.

J Jimmy Carper 26:32
Right.

S Sarah DePalma 26:33
You know, there were other questions I had. What if I was in a car wreck? Would they send me to the male ward? I don't want to have that happen. Again, making a cert- a life altering surgery. I'm on the basis of fear. That just, you know, the more I thought about it, the more I thought that these fears are irrational. And you're right, I've watched I've got a friend that's in Montreal right now. I mean, she's in Scotland for her surgery at two years on the die. And I fear for her, I wonder, did she ever take time to stop and think about any of this? And say, when I come home, I'm going to be a mess. I'm not going to be able to walk, I'm not going to be able to work? I'm gonna have to go through an aftercare of at least two years and put up with stuff. Did she ever stop and think about what all what all the consequences were? You hope of in she'd had a good therapist, you hope? But yeah, I think my attitude about surgery is a lot different because I've had more time to think it over. And from what I've heard Beth say, I think she feels the same way, right. Beth is one of the most mature attitudes approach surgery of anybody that I've met. Because she and I have talked about it. And as far as I can tell, her attitude is yeah, I'd like to have it but the world will not end if I don't right. In and again, I think that's pretty rare. I don't think you're too many transsexual sees say the kind of things you've heard this say.

T Teresa Richards 28:07
Yeah, I mean, one thing that I got off the subject a little bit, but when you brought that up is the probably the worst time that Beth had probably was the depression was I think, in '91 is because a '91 in her mindset in college, she said, Oh, that '91 will be I'll have enough money for surgery. So when '91 came rolling around, she was sitting there going, kind of like what am I doing here? I have two kids. I just bought a house I had enough money to go for surgery. Now what am I doing? You know, so that whole year was really a very difficult time for us now when we got over that hump, but I mean that was you know, in '91 was the year of surgery in her mind so I mean that was kind of a difficult time. I mean, that was before I met her and and first started going out with her.

S Sarah DePalma 29:06
How about some of the other issues down things like electrolysis in in watching the body the bodies change as the hormones take effect. The Lori and I have sort of some inside jokes about the hormones in I mean Lori likes to tell us she likes to tell people that I draw I cry it it you know it's squirrels the other lawn-.

L Lori Rice 29:27
She cries at those long distance phone commercials.

S

Sarah DePalma 29:32

because they you know, you get on this emotional roller coaster. And how about that let's talk about adapting for that as we get toward the end here. I'd like to end a little bit lighter note and we can toggle to talk about some of watching the changes in your partner because they as the partner is changing. So as the significant other everything about their life is changing as the hormones take effect. Right. And in that's an issue you never heard discussed at all.

T

Teresa Richards 29:59

Um, I would say on that point, the electrolysis probably really interesting on the point that you're sitting there rubbing somebody's face and it's all fuzzy or, you know, rough or however you want to describe it. And then all of a sudden, you got a nice smooth face, maybe not as smooth as your own, but it's significantly smoother. And, you know, that kind of changes takes a little getting used to, and, you know, getting the things for the hormone change. I don't know, I guess Beth wanted-.

S

Sarah DePalma 30:37

She wanted breasts.

T

Teresa Richards 30:38

She's, she just wanted the breast and she's getting them. And so you know, I guess. I guess I got to the point of, if it makes you happy, you know, well, I'll try to live with it.

S

Sarah DePalma 30:53

Well, yeah, and but that's got to be real hard, because all sudden the buy in is a mixed body still because it's right before surgery. So it's a body with breast but still with male genitalia, right. And, you know, I don't know how many people audience can even imagine this. But, but you talk about adapting from the point of view of the life partner. This is tough. This is real tough. You know, sexual identity issues are difficult. Imagine being the spouse and watching his partner slowly change as you sleep next to this person every night, right? This is this is rough all the way around. You know, Lori, how about you?

L

Lori Rice 31:32

It's been a lot like watching little girl grow up actually. I've seen Sarah from almost start to finish well almost.

S

Sarah DePalma 31:42

Almost. yeah. verv close.

.....,,

Lori Rice 31:43

And his skins become much, much softer since I've known her and she's gotten more curves. And she's developing in quite a bit. It's got he's about 14-15 now.

Teresa Richards 31:59

And they're lopsided. It's really funny.

Lori Rice 32:02

I know so so it's, it's it's been interesting. And I can't wait till it finishes where she wants it to be.

Sarah DePalma 32:08

I went through a real grieving period for not having had a little girls childhood. For a while I went through a period, I couldn't even stand and look at a little girl without crying. Wow. And so come Christmas time I get up. Lori comes over. And she gives me her bed. She says Come on, come on. Santa has been here. And lo and behold, we've got dolls under the tree. And we got a little we got a little girls tea set. And we've got teddy bears. And Lori gave me little girls Christmas that I never had.

Teresa Richards 32:37

But why is that a little girls Christmas?

Sarah DePalma 32:40

Well, because most of the girls don't get the kind of dolls that I got.

Lori Rice 32:43

Yeah, she fell asleep with this little doll.


Sarah DePalma 32:46

And you know why? That cured it. I haven't haven't grieved for it since that's, that's part of being in a relationship that you don't hear the right wing fundamentalist ever talks about right but to me, that's what relationships are about. And so I have to say that as we come to the end

of this here, that it seems to me that if you're the significant other of a, of a transgendered person, you have to be one of the most incredible people on the planet. I just did the obstacles that a person has to go to with being able to be married to a person, have the person change their gender, and stay with them anyway. And adapt all the changes that go on. i It's beyond it's almost beyond my comprehension with what all that's like any you never hear it's an interesting thing. Jimmy you never hear it discussed much. I've gone to God knows how many different transgendered meetings and you never hear the wives discuss. Now, one of the things that Lori and I are doing is we have decided that we're going to start sort of a social group for transgendered couples, nothing formal, we're not going to name it. We're not in any of that stuff. But we've decided that just because, through this show, I've met people in you know, there's one maybe a couple of weeks in the spring. And there's a couple that's in wood and there's a couple but and none of us know one another. So everybody's out there feeling isolated. Everybody's thinking they're the only transgendered couple in the world.

 Teresa Richards 34:26

You also need involve them since I have the kids, we also need to bring in the kids darn right because they have I mean, I'm not worried right now. Like I asked their school when they're teenagers, though, I asked their school therapist to find a psychologist, a child psychologist, not that they're having problems now, but if they have any questions or have need somebody to talk to, they'll have somebody to talk to by the time they hit teenage years.

 Sarah DePalma 34:52

That's right.

 Teresa Richards 34:53


And I mean, I can see Christopher may have problems just you know, you know, with the You know that starting out as a male when we come in a female, and he's sitting there going, well, you know, I'm a male and well, I'm I gotta become a female when I become an adult, you know,


 Sarah DePalma 35:11


Yeah. And it's one of the one of the hard things for me going through the holiday seasons that I have a daughter, I don't even know where she is. Yeah. And I just decided that I, there was no point in my focusing on that, because it's not it's outside of my control. But it's, it's, it's hard. And part of the problem was that when my daughter was told, through necessity, she was a teenager when I told her, and that's got to be the hardest time in the world to adapt. So in any case, what Lori and I are doing is, if we're, you know, people can contact us here at the station, or they can contact us through our email, and I'll give my email is ita@flash.net? Very simple ita@flash.net If you'd like to get more information about this, a transgendered couples group, and you know, we're not going to do anything fancy, and we may go out and get to begin with.

 Jimmv Carner 36:08


 Jimmy Carper 36:09
It's just the idea of knowing you're not alone.


 Sarah DePalma 36:11
And in having other people to talk to.

 Jimmy Carper 36:14
Yes.


 Sarah DePalma 36:14
I talked to one couple, Jimmy, when I was Dr. Cole's the transgender couple were with the person changed from female, male to female. And as far as they know, they are the only couple like that in their entire state. They're from from Arkansas. And Dr. Cole's, although it's not true, I know others, but they didn't know what I've been married 20 something years. Yeah. And I thought, you know, I mean, that's like the ultimate isolation, you know. And to me, it just seems like that makes it so much harder for the so and you're right for the kids, because the kids don't know any other kids like them, right? You know, and so we're going to start that way, it's nothing fancy, just get and contact us, we'll get together and have coffee or something and get to know one or the other. Maybe we'll put together something of an event every three months. Just something to knock down the isolation. If you're a transgendered couple out there, if you're transsexual, one of the partners is transsexual, you're really not the only ones because I hear from so many. And we're going to try and make something good happen. Use the show for that.


 Jimmy Carper 37:24
What a great idea.


 Sarah DePalma 37:25
Well, it's really overdue. You know, you and I've talked about this before. In our I've sort of played with it and toyed with it. And now that I'm no longer leading national political groups, I've actually got time to have a life. And that's one of the things that I had always said that if I was finally got out of being, you know, national political person, that I would want to do it, just do something local.


 Jimmy Carper 37:47
Sure.


 Sarah DePalma 37:48

 Sarah DePalma 37:49
Who knows, maybe it'll spread.

 Jimmy Carper 37:50
I hope so.


 Sarah DePalma 37:51
I want to thank you both for coming in. I know this has been this has been real tough. And, Theresa, I know you want to get home before 3am. Yeah, it would be nice. But I really want appreciate I thank you both for coming in and horrible for Lori, who's listening to the show until she falls asleep. She finally gets to be a participant for change. And thank you both. Thank you.


 Lori Rice 38:12
Oh, wait, people go home?

 Sarah DePalma 38:14
Yeah, really?

 Jimmy Carper 38:14
Thank you. Let's go to a piece of music. My Kansas mom called in and she asked for some music from Jeff Howard. And I would love to play something from Jeff Howard. If Jeff Howard would give me some of his music.


 Sarah DePalma 38:28
Oh, that's a problem.


 Jimmy Carper 38:30
I'm gonna see her tomorrow. So we'll discuss that more deeply. But I think I mentioned earlier that I went to the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's concert tonight. And there was a song called the Season For Lovers that was written by John Michael Albert, who was a past conductor of the chorus. He wrote it and it was a Gay and Lesbian Association, Course Association festival competition winner in 1992.

 Sarah DePalma 39:07
...

Wow.

 Jimmy Carper 39:08
I have a version of it. By the Seattle Men's Chorus.

 Sarah DePalma 39:13
I worked with some of the music before I love their stuff.

 Jimmy Carper 39:15
This, this is kind of a genderless thing. So I mean, we've been talking about relationships and and, you know, it doesn't matter. The gender or the or the sexual orientation or any you know, it's just people loving people. So, this works. It's called a Season For Lovers.