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SPEAKERS

Deborah Bell, Jack Valinski

J Jack Valinski 00:09

Two songs by Christine Lavin first is Downtown, which also features Livingston Taylor. And it has a lot to do with our community that gay and lesbian people who live in the urban ghettos and live near downtown, usually many times inside the loop at least. And another one from her "bo woes and other problems of modern life" album called the moment slipped away. I purposely chose this song before what we're going to talk about and talking about letting the moment slip away, make the best of that moment, make the best of the friends, you have, live life now, and I don't always practice what I preach. And I'm far from that. And that really has a lot to do to talk about Longtime Companion, which is currently showing at the Greenway, the three theater, I understand it's been pretty packed crowds and do see the film. That's basically what I want to stress. It's an absolutely wonderful film, I [inaudible] and I got to see it in the previews before it opened. And I saw it in New York again, and I'm going to talk about the different audience aspect of it. You also saw the second time,

D Deborah Bell 01:12

I kind of had to say the second time, and I was really glad I did, because I got a different perspective the second time and in fact, I think it impacted me more the second time even. And what I had found ironic, all the reviews that I had heard up to the point where I actually saw the film, were excellent movie reviews, talking about what a good film it was, and all this. But then, when it actually was released, there were a few critiques done especially locally, and one in People Magazine that made criticisms about many of the things that I thought were incredibly wonderful about the film that I agree with you positive aspects and I realized that it was the difference between the gay slash lesbian audience that I saw the film with, and the heterosexual reviewers viewpoint, not having had the experience of living the AIDS crisis and being able to relate to it the same way. Their comparison was, was different. And some of the things that I really appreciated about the film, I realized were from the unique perspective of being lesbian. One of the things that I had noticed was that family of origin is not dealt with in the film. And it's not to say that these people didn't have parents and siblings but But what was being focused on. And what was being brought out was the fact that there was a family of friends, a chosen, chosen family that was there together for each other throughout these years.

J Jack Valinski 02:55

I absolutely agree with you. And basically, this is a film seen through the eyes of even more than mostly of a gay male, a gay white male, of course. And what was interesting about the film, while we watched let's finish talking about family aspect, I agree with you totally. And some of the other criticisms were that this has been some can be of the New York Times who was very well known critic. It can be criticized though, for making a film that is unwittingly trivializes its own middle class characters by failing to see them as anything but rather superficial stereotypes. Now, I understand I do understand what he's saying there. But, you know, we also have a right to have a film like this because there are so many 1000s of other films, right?

D Deborah Bell 03:37

We're we're entitled to have a film that only speaks to gay people, or if that is what it in fact is, but I think it goes way beyond that. And I think it says a lot more. And there's nothing trivial about the people, when you're when you're looking at a guy who sees his best friend die and who is there at his, you know, through throughout another man who goes through caring for his lover being nurse and family to his lover through a very difficult about of from the dementia and inability for personal care, and that he was there for him throughout. And then of course, it doesn't depict his illness, but it does show his funeral and the way he is remembered by his friends in the memorial service. And then to have the same group of people then become active, not only in the Gay Men's Health Network, you see them starting to do things do such things just as we were talking about respite teams, and then to get getting ready to go actually go out to a protest where there's going to be arrested.

J Jack Valinski 04:46

It's really interesting because the in the Houston post, it says Bruce Davidson, who played that role as the person who took care of his lover and actually tried to do his job for a while to this guy was a writer for soap opera, and the character, Bruce, the person, Bruce Davidson play the character, who was the person who tried to do that, who took care of him, who really just, you know, just really stood by him incredibly well. The other thing that the film also does is it sort of compresses our life. And in many of us, you know, because we've been living this life, seeing our friends die, very people very close to us, we don't quite grasp the impact of that I'm looking at the screen for a film that runs an hour and a half. And to see it and basically how the film is set up, as it shows you a couple of days each year from 1981 through 1989, I guess '88?

D Deborah Bell 05:38

in July of 89. So from one year ago,

J Jack Valinski 05:41

and you know, the film was excellent, and you really do have to see it,

D Deborah Bell 05:46

and take tissues and and enjoy the cry because I think longtime companion does something very much like the names project does, it is not easy necessarily to see it. But there's, there's a lot of laughter, and there's a lot of love. And those tears are cathartic. They're they help you process. And I think sometimes we need to do that again, as family. I agree

J Jack Valinski 06:11

with you. Also, this is a film, as we said about gay people, are we

D Deborah Bell 06:15

going to give the school in a run for their money. Now,

J Jack Valinski 06:18

what I want to say, though, is like there was no part of the film saying whether the question about coming out, I mean, these people were out there gay people, and it wasn't like, well, I'm, you know, should I or should not write exactly. And, I mean, it basically starts with people living sort of in the fast lane of life and going out to Fire Island and stuff like that, and life what I would know nothing about. And it basically, you know, as we all many of us change, and probably most of us change in the community, is that maybe we've got a little bit too serious now, because of you know, what's going on, and we had to, we had to be able to deal with this, we had to be able to not only deal with our friends who have left us, but our own health and our own ways of dealing with it our own mortality.

D Deborah Bell 07:01

That's the other thing the film did for me, it made me much more conscious of and reminded me of, of what we're going through and what I feel like for for gay men, particularly to be going through. And then there, there is a twist ending, which is kind of a fantasy sequence. And I don't think that it's unfair to let people know that before they see the film. But at first I thought, no, wait a minute, this is a dirty trick. And then I said no, because it really asked, especially the second time I kind of felt into that and I thought about all the people that I've loved and lost in to AIDS and and and I kind of treasured the moment. And I thought about them being with me again and what that would be like

J Jack Valinski 07:47

I agree with you 100% In fact, when we saw the film together the first time I said I wasn't sure about that. And I said the second time I thought that was really interesting because yes, it did remind me of people you know, the the Mike Miesch and the Doug Turner's and the Art

Tomaszewski, who were doing things in the community at that time. I also wanted to touch a little bit about you know, we, when we first saw it, we saw it, which I guess the tickets were given away one of the bars, it was probably a younger group of gay men, and maybe not all of the knew what sex was like beforehand, or before this before safer sex. I don't know that. I mean, that's my that's how I thought it. And some of the things that happen on screen like the men looking at each other as they're walking down, you know, cruising each other basically had gotten a lot of laughs in New York when I saw the film a lot of this stuff, because the film is set in New York. It's like most of these people took these things for granted. Yes, this happens in New York. Whereas a person seeing the film in Houston, we don't quite take as much for granted because we don't quite as have as much freedom here. And as much openness here in Houston as people do in New York,

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Deborah Bell 08:51

but it might not on Fire Island. Yeah, absolutely.

J

Jack Valinski 08:54

But you know, it's still was very well received in New York, but not quite as much as it was received. I think it was received better here because we don't have quite a diversity of entertainment here.

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Deborah Bell 09:05

Interesting thought,

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Jack Valinski 09:06

Okay, well, let's, let's sort of have a little pause here before we

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Deborah Bell 09:10

art arts and cultural night here on Wilde 'N' Stein before we talk about some of the others we have to thank Tori and her friends from interfaith for their little sweet treats. They brought us we have a little bag of candy kisses and a Sweet Charity button and we appreciate that and very heavily not eating the candy you know, we wouldn't do that but we do like it when our guests bring in gifts. They don't have to do

J

Jack Valinski 09:43

another song or Christine Robins are good thing he can't read my mind album. We basically been featuring her tonight because she's really seems to be fitting in what we're talking about community and the different entertainment aspects of what's going on right now. It's really strange how it seems that whenever there's one thing there's like Many things going on

culturally, the opening of a Torch Song here at stages. You know, this was scheduled as part of their season early with the season, I guess starts in the fall usually for theater, and it was scheduled and I call him up and talk to him about this. There's no we dropped it, but apparently they put it in it the last for the last part of their thing. I didn't get to see the Houston production you did see a Deborah.

D Deborah Bell 10:24

Right I went Friday night that was a fundraiser for cure AIDS now not cure AIDS now I'm sorry, AIDS equity League. There's so many organizations, I get them confused. It was a very successful turnout, with a lovely reception following. But

J Jack Valinski 10:39

I understand chef Bob was part of this. The food afterwards?

D Deborah Bell 10:42

Well, he maybe he helped prepare the food or something. I don't know. I wouldn't recognize chef Bob if I saw him. But I think financially it was a good fundraiser, but the play itself. First of all, I went in feeling like well, how are they going to do better than Harvey Fierstein did in the movie. And it was such a heavy weight as Anne Bancroft is the playing one of the lead roles. And of course, it's done in the round the theater. And I would say right away, I was hooked once again, by this production, line themed fresh, some of the ones that you remember that from the movie came back again. And once again, lots of laughter, lots of tears. And excellent cast, I really couldn't find that there was some stumbling the woman that played the mother did some stumbling over lines when she first came on stage. But once she got Rowling, she was very good. There is a young woman who plays the the wife of Ed and does a character called Lady blues, which she sings a torch who and she's very good. Unfortunately, the way the timing is you can't really applaud her singing, because the next character is already talking. But I mean, right away when he says, Well, you know, what choice did I have, I can't walk in flats. And then the the course to me, which is the bottom line, when he tells his wife, he tells his mother, that he only needs two things from anyone else. And that's love and respect. And if people can't give him that he has no room in his life for them. And I just think that is so true. It's like it's getting back to the family choice, right that that, but that's what we all deserve. And that's what we all should be saying. And he really captured so much in that. There's some really funny bits, and I couldn't do them justice over the air. I'm hoping to maybe get some of the cast members on to talk with him personally about the experience of doing this play. I don't want to make assumptions about their lifestyles, but they really there is a kiss between two men and the play. People should be aware of that. And I I really liked it. I thought it was excellent performance, just to

J Jack Valinski 13:16

get back to longtime companion for a second kiss between two men where they were doing that on the soap opera. And no, you don't have to they do

D Deborah Bell 13:23

that in in New York. And it was different than when we saw it here. And

J Jack Valinski 13:27

the way they played that on screen was as soon as the two men kissed they panned out like a showroom of TV sets they're in like Middle America was watching being Yes, and that was pretty funny. But getting back towards like I said I didn't see this production but I did see the production the tower few years ago and the movie and I also did see it in New York. And it's an excellent play. Absolutely Excellent play. And as movie was pretty good too. And if you get a chance to see it, it's playing at stages. And that of course is at it's right on Allan Parkway and

D Deborah Bell 14:00

the D'Amico, actually just off of wha yeah watch rod you can't just say wha you'd have to say watch drive

J Jack Valinski 14:08

and performances are 8pm Wednesday through Saturday 3:30pm Sunday and it goes on through July 7 and that it stages repertory which is actually at 3201. Allen Parkway and tickets of course, because it's a place there a little bit.

D Deborah Bell 14:23

Yeah, there are some two for one tickets available which you might want to go by the box office and check into that. An important thing is the the June 20 performance has been designated as an official event of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1990. And they're also trying to get a second night for that because they feel like the there is going to be the demand. So that's really exciting. Sponsored

J Jack Valinski 14:48

by the company we keep which is Lee Harrington's group, and for tickets for that performance you have to call him at 523 9000 That's his number because I guess that's how the money goes back into the country. I didn't,

D Deborah Bell 15:00

I didn't realize it was actually going to be a fundraiser. But that that's great. My

J Jack Valinski 15:04
understanding. Of course, when Lee Harrington talks, you never really know.

D Deborah Bell 15:08
He's never really because he always changes his mind. Well, he's been over during performances of longtime companion, getting up in front of the movie. Yeah, jumping up business and letting people know that this is taking place. And I really appreciate stages doing that. Because I feel like that that is part of our community. They're near Montrose location for one reason. And because I think the mutual support of our community for theater, I

J Jack Valinski 15:37
think it's been working both ways in the city of Houston. I mean, the alleys, done things. They've had the Fifth of July, they've had so many different plays. Of course, they did the event with us Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf Main Street has done some things and stages has, and unfortunately, the smaller will all the theaters have been having a little bit of rough time because the economy, and I hope things are gonna turn round a bit. And I know stages has had some particularly rough time. So it'd be real nice if we can support

D Deborah Bell 16:00
their song runs a little long, because it is three acts, but it is well worth the money and to attend. It's a very rich experience.

J Jack Valinski 16:12
So we have a few other things coming up. Is there

D Deborah Bell 16:15
anything we don't want?

J Jack Valinski 16:17
Yes, there's lots of things we don't like today on TV, there was an after school special. I don't know if it was called actually, I

D Deborah Bell 16:24
think they call them afternoon special at school break school

J Jack Valinski 16:27

break, because this was CBS not ABC. And it was an hour, I didn't see it, I taped it, it's an hour thing about I want to say I do too, I very much want to see it. It's repeat. And you know, we would really like to be able to tell our audience this week ahead of time, but we don't know it ourselves. I mean, both of us try to read the paper and catch these things. Or we tried to get on mailing list. And sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't. But anyway, that was on today, if you got to see it, maybe you can give us a call a little bit during the break and tell us what you thought about it. I understand that, you know, because we're talking about kids, they had to be a little bit careful.

D Deborah Bell 17:03

The title was called What if I'm gay?

J Jack Valinski 17:07

And yeah, it was my understanding that guy, the gentleman, the kid who was in there, had a counselor he talked to or something like that. And they discussed just, you know, what, if you're gay, or what if you're not gay, it's a type of options, which is really interesting. Yeah,

D Deborah Bell 17:21

well, also for young people, that's very valid to to talk it through with a trusted adult. I have friends who are teachers are who are counselors who also happen to be gay or lesbian. And they sometimes are put in quite a quandary over advising young people who they know are gay or lesbian in giving them the proper, they don't want to seem to be encouraging them, you know, because that could cause problems, but they want to be able to convey that they understand and that there are things that you can do and that there is a world out there and that it's not such a hard thing if you do happen to be gay, that might be quite a wonderful thing. You just need to understand and decide for yourself if that is truly your orientation. And so it's it is difficult for for the the teachers and counselors that are put in that position.

J Jack Valinski 18:20

We have sort of a an off the cuff type calendar. We don't have an official calendar of the Montrose activities newsletter because we're getting out of may and there isn't going to be an issue for June the pride guides coming out instead. And there are a few things going on as as you know, normal type things

D Deborah Bell 18:37

first of all this Friday. Arriva dieci Poppo talking about cultural theatrical events or Aruba, dieci Pana will be at Kumba house which is over on Main Street I don't have the address in front of

Papa will be at Khumba house, which is over on Main Street. I don't have the address in front of me.

J Jack Valinski 18:52

I think it's Crawford and Fannin isn't, or San Jacinto and we probably can find that there's a poster on the wall out in the hall okay,

D Deborah Bell 19:03

because I didn't bring my flyer in. This is produced by Joe Watts was produced by Claude Williams, directed by Joe watts, the theater, a Group Theatre Workshop. Arriva dieci Papa is a drag mostly done and drag that is around the events of a death in the family. And it's supposed to be hysterically funny. And it to June 22 is designated as a special of an event of Lesbian Gay Pride Week and that will benefit the Montrose activity center. So we certainly want to encourage people to attend that particular performance but it does open June one and runs throughout the month of June.

J Jack Valinski 19:47

And for tickets you can call 5222204. That's Joe wants his number and it's Khumba house is at 3414 Law branch at Holman. And that apparently was where the original Mac center was. Ah, so they so they say interesting. The Houston oh well actually let's let's progress on tomorrow night Wednesday, and you won't say is Tuesday even though it seems more like

D Deborah Bell 20:09

now I'm in a time where myself is Lesbian Gay

J Jack Valinski 20:13

Pride week meeting for 1990. And basically a half, you know, most of the stuff has been put to bed and planned and stuff like that. But there are certainly a lot of volunteers needed. That's tomorrow at 730 at dignity center, 3217 Fannin. And then the following two nights or possibly the following three nights, Thursday, Friday, and during the day Saturday, there's going to be a mail out for the pride guide, we're going to be mailing out somewhere about delivering of the pride, right, we need volunteers to help us stamp and mutilate and do all that wonderful stuff for the post office to give those give us those really wonderful rates, and also people to help deliver the guide there is going to be what is the guide? Jack? What is the guide? That's the next person to show you ask me questions. The guy

D Deborah Bell 20:57

I think when we talk about the guide, I mean, you and I understand and readily know, but he will say okay, big deal, the prod guide is going to be milled out will the price. Why it's important

is

J

Jack Valinski 21:07

about a 40 page, magazine magazine with a nice cover on the outside in color. And it's a guide to Lesbian Gay Pride Week is going to have all the events there that start from June 14 through the 24th, which is more than a week of events. And you can see what's going on there. Also, the guide contains a listing of as many community organizations as we can find out about apparently there's about 60 of them that are listed in there. It gives the address when meetings are what the purpose of those organizations are. Also there are a number of articles have been written by community, people, people in the community. And I was very impressed by the turnout of people who wrote articles, you know, that we had a tough time squeezing them all in.

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Deborah Bell 21:49

Yeah. So it's something that you can keep around and use as a resource. There's businesses that supported the publication of the guide and

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Jack Valinski 21:56

never did you like write this for me? That's exactly what it is, Deborah. Yeah, well, people will keep it on their coffee table and use it as a resource guide throughout the rest of the year. And so next year has come out. So I'm I was we were both part of it. It's, I'm really looking forward to coming out and seeing what people have to say about it.

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Deborah Bell 22:18

Oh, good. And some people can come help actually get that. Yes, that's going

J

Jack Valinski 22:22

to be happening at MCC our church at 9019. Decatur up in the near heights, just the other side of the bayou that's off of Washington, near not too far from downtown. It's actually it's wonderfully located to the post office. Yes, for 7pm on Thursday night, Friday night, and probably during the day on Saturday 9090 indicator, if you'd like more information, you can call 52912235291223. And we will give you more information on that. So that's happening in the near future. We have a lot of things we're going to be talking about the calendar in full length next week of Pride Week, because there are many things including some things we already talked about the the theater events that are going on. There are a pride awards on the first weekend with Quinton Christmas coming to town. And the second weekend, of course, is the star night 90, which happens both Saturday and Sunday at the Metropolitan multi Service Center at 1475. West grey.

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Deborah Bell 23:20

And man is a wealth of information. Well, when

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Jack Valinski 23:23

you write those things down a million times it was like in school, I'm sort of been punished for life. I always got to type those things in. That's happening dramatic handed? Yeah, yes, left handed. Well, of course left handed. Do everything to the left. So that's the stern. 890 is sort of a carnival event type thing that happens at the Metropolitan multi service center on Saturday and Sunday, the 23rd and 24th. And of course the parade happens on the 24th. It's going to start at 3pm. And unlike some publications that already

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Deborah Bell 23:55

well, we have to warn people that the June issue of the one the publication by a woman's space has incorrect information about the parade route. They are trying to get a gathering of women together to have a delegation where they're going to call it a kitchen ban. And they want you to bring pots and pans and spoons and you can make noise and this is something that the kids can come in. If people do not feel comfortable with being out in bare face. They can paint their faces do clown face mime wear a mask, but be there and be visible as possible because that's so important. That's what really matters is our numbers, our visibility, but there is incorrect information in that publication. So people need to be aware that it's going to start at Taft at Westheimer is going

J

Jack Valinski 24:46

to start that's where the parade is starting and the lineup will be here right in front of KPFT on love it in front of mothers and Bacchus. Those are like the two areas where you start to congregate and there will actually be more, the planning goes on there'll be less occasions where every delegation is supposed to meet right that will be published and the information will be available. And we will start promptly at three. So you really need to be here about one to two to set up and get your things going and

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Deborah Bell 25:13

bring shirt. Make sure you bring your portable radio so that you can tune into 90.1 FM. There'll be live coverage right in front of cuties. I think Jack and I and Mary Helen are going to be stationed there. That's about

J

Jack Valinski 25:25

the seven 800 block of Westheimer. And we'll be on the city stage the city more portable visit

D Deborah Bell 25:32
last, my son gave me an anti war Andy Warhol dollar. It buys you 15 minutes. That must be

J Jack Valinski 25:42
yes. But people don't realize that we also have to be out there sweating and setting things up and things like

D Deborah Bell 25:47
going up on a roof. Well, we

J Jack Valinski 25:49
had fun on the roof. We had lots of fun. And so we'll be broadcasting live starting at 3pm. That's when the parade starts. And we're not quite sure if all what we're going to do but we'll I'm sure we'll have

D Deborah Bell 26:02
a talk about the delegations and the different floats and who's who and what's what our grand marshals and our honorary grand marshals and the different sights and sounds and fun in gaiety of Lesbian Gay Pride.

J Jack Valinski 26:19
Absolutely. Looking forward to it. Some other things that are going on the Euston outdoor group Saturday, June 2 at between one and 4pm Horseback riding picnic and Heather Glen and Saturday June 16, three to 8pm monthly potluck social. Friday night June 22. Saturday, the 23rd and Sunday morning the 24th weekend camping trip Brasil spend State Park invites you to visit their observatory, and Sunday June 24 at 3pm Of course the the Pride Parade so they're not like they're part of the they're gearing up towards Pride week also. So the Euston author group is a loose organization of gay men and lesbian and why wonder how they mean by Yes,

D Deborah Bell 27:04
rather intriguing. Maybe we should go find out Jack and the

J Jack Valinski 27:07
Houston area who enjoy outdoor and fine find in the fun a camaraderie of greater people of the Houston area. They share it with other gay men and women. Typical activities include camping,

hiking, canoeing, rafting, sailing, the beach, picnics, potluck dinners, games in the park volleyball is really sound. do I sign up? Sounds like urban living here, doesn't it? And you for more information you call 9849683

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Deborah Bell 27:35

sounds like a fun group. And people said there's nothing to do but go to the bars. Well, there's one of the alternatives right there. Okay, okay, Jack, I see that he's pointing to it. Well, okay, let me get this in the right order. Of course, every Sunday at the First Unitarian Church, the women's group meets at 10am. That's a group for all women. And I don't know who the speaker will be this Sunday, but on let's see, at 6pm on Sunday, June 10. There will be a showing of the video of radical feminist Sonya Johnson's Houston performance at the First Unitarian Church 50 to 10 fan and at South more a discussion will following and they will have a free will offering that means to help pay for the room and everything. And for information 6647438 And as we are at the top of the hour, we're supposed to say something like this is KPFT Houston, Houston. And this is Wilde 'N' Stein with Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski. And now we do have the heart song concert coming up June 16 at 8pm. This is not an official event of Pride Week. It's called Heart stories of voice for unity. And it's the third annual solo concert it'll be at the Episcopal high underwear theater at 4621 fornece. At 610. Bellaire, Texas does that mean it's inside the I think it's barely inside the loop tickets are \$9 in advance 11 at the door reserved seating only big letters. Tickets can be purchased from a Heartsong member Inklings. Lucci has garden for additional information you can call 526 4000. That's a familiar number to Mary Helen, if you call that number in regards to Heartsong law 264 1000. So

J

Jack Valinski 29:31

that's our semi official calendar for this week, or actually, for the next month probably. We are going to be mostly scheduling people who are involved in Pride Week organizations and stuff like that throughout the month of June, early July. We're going to be talking about of course, the other economic summit and the cure AIDS events that are going on

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Deborah Bell 29:47

and the other events surrounding that there. The wave rally will be taking place at that time. That's Women Against Violence Everywhere and there was another report of rape in the Mandel area This past weekend so once again to caution people be extra super careful. The this series of rapes is happening in the area bounded between West Alabama and Westheimer in between Mandel and Dunlavy. But that doesn't mean you're safe if you're somewhere else.

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Jack Valinski 30:21

And also the violence continues. I know you and Ray talked about this last week in the Montrose area and please be very

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Deborah Bell 30:27

there was an article in the voice also concerning that there has been an increase in violence in the the Montrose area. So when when whatever you're doing, there was somebody that was from our community that was mugged over in the village. So it's not just in Montrose that that happens. And we need to be very extra careful wherever we are and whether it's because we just might look like we have some money in our pockets or because we're gay or lesbian is specifically targeted for that reason. We have to be careful and we're pushing buttons again.



31:33

Question, what to Christmas St. Patrick's Day, and gay and lesbian pride day all have in common? Answer. They are all holidays considered important enough that the Empire State Building is illuminated in recognition of them. You are listening to naming names a regular broadcast of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, alerting you to dangerous media images that misrepresent the lives of lesbians and gay men. Keep paper and pencil handy. In a few minutes. I'll be giving you the names and addresses of where to write and fight back. Yes, you heard that right. This year on June 22. Through the 24th Lesbian and Gay Pride weekend, the Empire State Building will be flooded with pink, white and lavender. Such an event is an important example of gay pride being supported by mainstream cultural institutions. How did it all happen? Well, last year, GLAAD approach the managing company of the Empire State Building, we requested it be illuminated in pink or lavender to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which marks the birth of the modern Lesbian and Gay Pride rights movement. They turned down our request stating their policy is to have special lighting on the Empire State Building for major national holidays, religious holidays, and events of singular importance. This year glad wrote again, we pointed out that the commemoration of Stonewall and gay and lesbian Pride Day are certainly events of singular importance to our community. I'm happy to report our arguments persuaded them. Why is this so important? There are two reasons the Empire State Building is a highly visible cultural icon. We'll all feel very proud when we see it lit with our colors in June. Such visible recognition of the gay and lesbian community can be empowering for all of us. But that visibility can't serve its other purpose unless the rest of the country knows why the Empire State Building is pink and lavender on that June weekend. That's where you come in. It's time to start a blitz of phone calls and letters to all the media outlets in your city. You see, we here at GLAAD have a vision of Lesbian and Gay Pride becoming an integral and accepted part of American culture. Our history and culture are not legitimized and codified by public institutions. Gay and Lesbian pride in History Month doesn't get the same attention in the media as black or women's history months. There are no gay history exhibits in libraries, nor projects in public schools marking our month our community has made steps in the direction of having gay pride legitimized by cultural and civic institutions. For instance, the US Postal Service issued a special stamp cancellation last year commemorating Stonewall, the mayor of New York renamed the location of the Stonewall uprising to Stonewall place and annually declares June as gay and lesbian pride and History Month. And of course, many cities hold Lesbian and Gay Pride marches in June. But we need to do more. Start calling your local newspapers now. Tell them you want major coverage of Lesbian and Gay History and Pride Month. Tell them you want other people to know this is the first time the Empire State Building has been lit in honor of our community. Tell them we number 10% of the population and our month deserves attention Tell them it's high time we get the same dignity, visibility and respect as other cultural minorities. It's almost June. Let's give gay and lesbian pride and History Month a big kickoff. You can find numbers and addresses for your local newspapers in the phonebook. But first, right the Empire State Buildings management and tell them how you feel about having it lit with our colors in June.

Right to Donald B. Kaplan, Senior Vice President, General Manager, Empire State Building, New York, New York 10118 or call him at 212-736-3100. naming names is a project of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. If you see or hear any anti lesbian or anti gay defamation, please let us know. Also send us copies of any letter you write or receive in regard to naming names. Right to GLAD at Varick Street, New York, New York 10013 Or give us a call at 212-966-1700. This is Chad at Rogers for glad.



36:21

writers and editors think those problems are of secondary importance, perhaps because they think lesbians and gay men are of secondary importance. Leaving homophobia out of survey articles about bigotry is a constant problem. recent articles about bigotry and rock music, many of which have ignored homophobic lyrics are a case in point. We need to object to every instance of this defamation by omission. In



Jack Valinski 36:50

are, are the microphone actually and talk about each other on why we're doing the show? It's I've been here for eight years now behind this microphone. Sometimes lately in town, sometimes not. And Deborah has been very much involved in the gay and lesbian community and also in the women's community. And in a number of different things. I have



Deborah Bell 37:12

to sit here for a moment and think how did I get here? How did I end up doing a radio show on Tuesday night lesbian and gay program on KPFT. You happen to



Jack Valinski 37:23

be available? That was one Oh, yeah. You have to be willing to do it also. Well, I



Deborah Bell 37:28

had started off a number of years ago occasionally as a guest on a woman's place cleric current program, which now proceeds Wilde 'N' Stein because I was so involved with the feminist community, the National Organization for Women in particular, and usually was aware of different things going on or had commentary about different things that I had read or issues. And so I did that for a number of years, and then have always kind of hung out and done things that KPFT vol, volunteered for break through during marathons and sometimes did things with that program. So it wasn't like I was a stranger that just stumbled in one night, about a year ago, which does



Jack Valinski 38:13

happen here too. I sort of got involved. When I moved to Houston. In half years ago, the day Kathy Whitmire got elected. Just a strange coincidence there and thought, Wow, what a wonderful city this is. And when I first moved to Houston, I was not I didn't like it. I thought you know, Euston Is this real cold city that has all this glass and everything is brand new

D

Deborah Bell 38:14

Yeah, that does. called in terms of of

J

Jack Valinski 38:36

the way the architecture was that, that everything was just like thrown there. And you know, there was no roots in the city. And then I moved to Montrose and found out that was just the opposite. There's some really neat places in Houston. And I started to slowly get involved in the community and how I got involved in here's because of my background in radio, and I keep hearing is what well, I'm an engineer in radio. I've been either an assistant chief engineer or chief engineer in it for 10 years now working in radio, and I started listening to I just happen to stumble on the radio dial listening to Wilde 'N' Stein, I kept hearing people like to talk like way Off mic and things like that, and static and things like that. Yes. And so I decided to volunteer, I called up this person named Ray Hill and thought of him Yes, well, maybe you know, all they need is a person who'd like to run these dials and things like that on the air. And as as the way Ray Hill works, you never just get off that easy. But first ray was very protective of the show. And I understand that because I've been accused of being that too. And because this is one of the few pieces of electronic media that the gay and lesbian community owns. Well, it

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Deborah Bell 39:48

also become becomes your child your baby in a way you you're putting yourself on the line each week and you feel kind of a responsibility a A luck, you've been charged with this mission. And this is your mission if you choose to accept it. And we are very conscious, I mean, I'm aware that you are. And I know that I am of the kinds of information that we bring on this program, the kind of role models we want to be. We want to understand about who our listening audience is, so that we're reaching them. We want people to know about the different events and activities. But we also really want to get that message across about being a lesbian woman and a gay man who are very glad to be who we are and proud of our community.

J

Jack Valinski 40:44

I think one of the most important things that we need to stress is this is not the Deborah and Jack show, right? This is not a show for us to talk about ourselves all the time. But sometimes we do have to do that, to let people know what we go through in our daily lives about being an open gay or lesbian person. And not to necessarily say, Well, you've got to do things the way we do. Because I've certainly sacrificed a lot of things to do some of the things I do in the community. And that was my choice, that sometimes life hasn't been always easy. I've sacrificed on my personal things that I do that that's just when I'm not saying everybody else

should do that. We decided that we could be open people and be on the microphone. And we've also sacrifice careers in some sense. I know you've, you've sacrificed a lot, Deborah to work at bearing. You know, I know it didn't pay very well. But I know it was,

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Deborah Bell 41:40

especially since I no longer work there.

J

Jack Valinski 41:43

But, and the fact is, is that there's times I'm sure it wasn't an easy job dealing with life and death matters all the time. And dealing with the church. At the same time,

D

Deborah Bell 41:55

it was dealing with a church that was harder for me. They, of course, if for people who are familiar listeners, they know that what I did at Behringer was work with the aid support group over there, which had been a very fine group. And I think under my direction of it really was a very special place. And unfortunately, I was dismissed for my position there because someone didn't see quite eye to eye with me, and that someone was a person in authority. But it was a surprise, dismissal. And very disappointing, because I really love being there. And working with AIDS, working with people who are living with AIDS. And in a way, I think we're all living with AIDS, some of us just have it inside our bodies, and others of us have it because we're care about those that have it inside their bodies. With incredibly growing enriching experience, and yes, it's hard, it's hard to get to know and care about people and lose them. But what if I had never got to know them at all? So many of them just, you know, my life has so much more value because of that experience. And so, you know, I tell people don't shy away. Someone asked me this weekend, someone who knows me very well. She says, What motivated you to work with people with AIDS. And I said, Well, I guess ideally, if I were going to choose a job, I'd want a job where I was doing something utilizing all the things that I've learned as an activist as an organizer, since I was 16 years old, and I'm 40 now so that some some number of years, being involved in civil rights and anti Vietnam War work, which led me to becoming involved as a feminist in a Democratic Party worker, and so on. To be able to take those things, and particularly what I learned through being involved in National Organization for Women, now is an incredible training ground at least it was during the time that I was active in that organization, during the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment and during the fight for abortion rights, which is an issue that's still very near and dear to my heart. Because it's one that's in jeopardy, the the anti choice, people are gearing up to have a major event during the same time of the economic summit, just as so many of us are with other issues. And it kind of puts you in a bind, you don't know which which thing you need to be there for the most. And anyway, I wanted to utilize and be appreciated for the talents that I have in that area. And I also wanted a job where I could be out and one of the few places that that's available is in the aid service providers. People because it was the gay community that started those organizations. For the most part, and so I was able to be accepted as a lesbian. And that's really important to me, I don't want to have to hide behind anything in my

J Jack Valinski 45:11

background, being a background, person and radio, making sure that things work. Not being on the air in a commercial radio station made it a little bit easier to come out. And because a lot of people, especially in pop radio, for the most part are much more open to people of difference, you know, musicians and things like that. So when I came out, and it was basically here in Houston, working at a major market, radio station, there really wasn't very many problems. And at that time, the radio station I worked for was run owned by ABC American Broadcasting Company. And they had an informal policy of non discrimination. And I never really experienced it. But I also channeled a lot of my energy back into the community and didn't concentrate totally on my career. And but it never really backfired on me until about a year ago, when I was working for a station owned by another company. It just got to me thinking that, you know, what am I doing here, when there are so many more important things going on in our community, I mean, losing the friends and the people so dear to me, that I very much wanted to work in the community. And I tried very desperately to get a job either in the community or community related type thing. And finally, I worked on my own trying to do some things. And it didn't quite work out that well. I mean, the experience was very, very much worthwhile for me. So I had to go back and earn a living in another company. And that's

D Deborah Bell 46:30

why sometimes you're not with me on Tuesday, and Ray Hill has to come in and put on his jacket suit.

J Jack Valinski 46:36

And I'm sure Ray, he'll doesn't mind doing that. Because he does a great job, too. He loves doing that. And yes, it does take me away from Houston a lot, which I've grown to love. I mean, I've been here for eight and a half years. And I've been very lucky to be able to travel around the country to major cities, and I'm very much a city person, and seeing the way some of the other communities are set up and things like that. And I still like being in Houston and I know Euston is not as advanced as like San Francisco, New York is in some ways, but and we're in the trenches here. I mean, we're really fighting guard, Jack, I really considered in the trenches, I mean, we've got a long way to go here to do things and, and here in Houston, you can make a difference if you and and partly, that's the problem. Because if you start working one organization and other organizations really interested in your talents, or what you can do or what you can contribute, and it's really easy to get burnout here, it's really easy for that to happen. And there aren't enough people involved in the community. And that's one of the reasons why we do this show as we're trying to attract more people to get involved.

D Deborah Bell 47:33

Had you been active at all other cities? In

J Jack Valinski 47:38

No, no, I wasn't at all. In fact, I even voted Republican sometimes. I mean, I was I was brought

up in a definitely a Republican family. And it's like, it was a middle class family. But it's like, I there was really no want for anything until I realized I was gay. And and then you knew what you wanted. Yes, knew what I wanted, but also knew that, you know, there was some people that didn't quite have it as well as I did, and had to struggle and had to, you know, have helped and making things a little bit better for their lives. And living in a city you get to see that more than you do sometimes living in smaller towns. From a small town, definitely a small town, there was 42 people in my high school graduation class. So we were very, you know, it was a very small cliquish town. And I would never want to see anybody have to grow up in that type of situation where you had to fit in. I mean, I was sort of a rebel there. But being a rebel, there was a lot less and it didn't take much. Right, exactly. And I didn't realize, you know why I was doing that then. But now realize that, you know, you don't have to always follow what everybody else does. And the society sort of makes it a little bit difficult for you to do that, to be able to choose your own paths in life. And, you know, being gay is is because choosing a different path in life. Definitely. I mean, it certainly isn't easy. Being a gay or lesbian person,

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Deborah Bell 49:03

either young at the Texas lesbian conference, did a little routine about you're standing in the cafeteria line, and they give them your plate and they put a dose of sexism on there. And then you go move along, they put a dollop of racism and then you go, Well, excuse me, could I please have some homophobia for dessert? Yeah, there there are choices made. When When did you realize that you were gay a

J

Jack Valinski 49:31

long time ago. I mean, I always sort of always knew I was gay, but didn't realize didn't have the opportunity to know that there were other gay people out there. I didn't know of any role models. Growing up in a small town you don't have that opportunity. You don't see it in the paper. You don't see it on the radio or TV. You knew

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Deborah Bell 49:47

that your affectional preference and your sexual interest when you came of an age where that was there were directed towards other men. But did you I didn't know. Do you know The word even,

J

Jack Valinski 50:01

I guess I heard those words a little bit reading like Time Magazine and Newsweek and stuff like that. And, and what's really interesting is in my school, a lot of those pages were torn out. Absolutely. Or anything that had

D

Deborah Bell 50:14

a chance to go back to a reunion yet? Yes, I

J Jack Valinski 50:17
did. Actually, I've been to a couple of them,

D Deborah Bell 50:19
do you think they were torn out because they wanted to suppress that or because there were other people who were interested?

J Jack Valinski 50:25
I know, they I think that was I definitely knew that was tore out because it was the way the school was run anything, not just if it had to do with gay issues. But if it had to do with any type of radical thinking those pages were torn off. But luckily, we had a subscription at home. And that's where I first realized that there were, you know, but

D Deborah Bell 50:41
the pages were torn out. And

J Jack Valinski 50:45
and, of course, you know, the pictures that they usually showed or stories were very, you know, the radical gay or lesbian people in New York City and things like that, but really didn't have to do that. And so I buried a lot of my energy into work at that time as a career and things like that. And she got to college, Syracuse University, and I knew there was a gay group there, but somehow it just wasn't my time, then it just wasn't my time to get involved and do things like that. So I sort of made up for it. I think.

D Deborah Bell 51:13
So when did you actually have your first, you know, ended counter it happened

J Jack Valinski 51:18
before I moved to Houston, short time before I moved to Houston in South Carolina. And it was a real sort of different experience. Of course, it was but you know, it was like, it took me it was different. You felt

D Deborah Bell 51:32
needed for it at the time? Yeah

ready for it at the time? Yeah.

J Jack Valinski 51:34

I don't know if I was quite ready for it. I really don't. Yeah.

D Deborah Bell 51:41

Is it a cherished memory? Not really, not really? No. But are you the kind of accomplished? Yes, you kind of have to get that out of the way? Absolutely. Now, I always say that. We're always thankful for that first person, no matter how it turned out, or you know, whether it was a one night stand, or whether it was a relationship or whatever, because, you know, then then it accomplishes that mission. And it's an important thing for us to be able to do. It's nice if it can be nice.

J Jack Valinski 52:11

Well, Deborah, you can't you were married, you have children. Yes. And

D Deborah Bell 52:15

my older son just turned 18, the 27th of May. And I'm incredibly proud of him and my other son, who's now 13. I actually had had sexual experiences as a teenager, with other girls. And I don't know why, but we thought it was pretending it was a lot of fun. I had one girlfriend in particular, who, whose mother was a widow, and she dated. And we're talking Lubbock, Texas here. And I would go over and spend the night and I am not sure exactly how all this started. But I really enjoyed going out there and spending the night. And we knew that we should keep it secret that we shouldn't let other people know we were doing what we were doing. But we were well aware that there was something to that. And there were a number of other girls throughout my teen years and, and well, and then we moved we moved from Lubbock, and I didn't know anybody. So I kind of didn't have any anything going on for a long time, not till after high school. And and then I realized that there were men around and as I like to say it, men are so easy. There were so many of them around, I was a hippie girl running around the Montrose and doing go go dancing. Yes, you heard it here. And I do appreciate men sexually, and had many experiences and eventually met someone and married I did have a couple of encounters with women during that time. But once I'm married, I very much believe in monogamy and was married for 12 years. Unfortunately, the some of the problems with the marriage led me to want to leave the marriage and I did begin having a relationship with another woman. After in my mind, I had already decided that the marriage was over and that I was not going to continue living a lie. I had always been aware of my attraction to women, and but didn't think that it was right to act upon them under the circumstances. And I do have these two wonderful, very special children who have lived with their dad, because I can't afford to. I don't make as much money as a woman. But they're doing real good and I can't I don't have any regrets about that I spent a time of my life as a homemaker in Springboro ranch and it was in that environment that I actually, I owe it to Phil Donahue, what can I say? I was watching television, I heard him talking about this thing called the era, I heard rumors that there was

going to be a major conference in the city of Houston, from an international conference for women. And I found out that I wasn't the only one that thought that women should have certain rights, just like men should have certain rights and that abortion should be legal and abortion issues. Another another big issue, because during the time of my coming of age, it was not legal. And I did have to see a number of friends through illegal abortions. And I never want to see that happen again. That's an important issue for me. And then, as I came out, and as a married person that decided I had to leave my marriage and discover myself and being comfortable it was it was easy for me, because I was already a feminist I was already involved with now, I, I've attended the women's group at the Unitarian Church for over 10 years now. And that group is a mixed group with both lesbian and non lesbian women in it. But there was always that kind of understanding and acceptance because it is a feminist group. That's the way it should be. So it was real comfortable for me to come out and to not freak and say, Oh, my gosh, I'm a lesbian. I mean, it was more, I did this, this little joke where I bumped my head, and I go, I could have had a woman. I just didn't know that it was possible, you know that there were relationships and all of that. So that was part of my coming out. I remember during Pride Week, several years ago, Rita Mae Brown was here and spoke. And she talked about that, that second adolescence, some of us go through, if we come out at a later age, and she said, like 33. And I happen to be 33 When I came out, so that's a shame. We're gonna may

J

Jack Valinski 57:16

well, I don't really regret that I was in my mid 20s, before I came out. But it would have been a lot nicer to be able to have the opportunity to know this beforehand. And I think that's one of the reasons why I do the radio show. This is an opportunity for younger people to find out about the show or just stumble upon or something like that. I wish there was a radio show when I was growing up that at least I would know some of these things at the time. And I think that's really important. Sometimes

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Deborah Bell 57:43

the late night talk shows would have things where people would talk and it was never presented in a positive way. Particularly, I mean, every now and then, but very rarely. I was an avid reader, and it was through the fact that I would read stuff that gave me the information. I realized after high school that I had quite a reputation because I was so knowledgeable and and people assumed that it was from experience and it was it was because it was well read. If only I had earned it

J

Jack Valinski 58:24

well I also said I just lost my French Let's Let's place one bit of music here another bit from Christine Lavin,

D

Deborah Bell 58:32

is it gonna fit in I'm well it

J Jack Valinski 58:35

probably will. It's just like everything else has. Christine Lavin and getting used to leaving. There's a reason why play that, of course, is mostly music, I just want to go over her her albums that she has out. Her latest one is called attainable love. And she also has an album called Future fossils. And good thing he can't read my mind. And also bow woes. And

D Deborah Bell 59:16

that's Bo as be a you. Absolutely.

J Jack Valinski 59:19

And a folk song writer, and singer, stylist getting used to leaving you, I guess that sort of has to go with the transitions. And it's not to say that if you come out then everything is wonderful. It's like you pass through this thing and and coming out is many times a gradual process.

D Deborah Bell 59:41

And it's not to say that everything's horrible either.

J Jack Valinski 59:44

No, absolutely not. There are tough times. I mean, we're going through a very tough time now with AIDS. Were going through a tough time with the violence and

D Deborah Bell 59:52

though there's never been a time when it wasn't a tough time, the Holocaust. homosexuals were victims of the Holocaust. Have there has at different times been prosecutions of persecutions of persons who were homosexual. And then in this country, when we look back at 20 years what was happening, the borough raids in the people's names being published in the paper, part of the Texas lesbian conference, Joan Nestle, who is director of the lesbian Herstory archives talked about reading from people's diaries, in personal letters, some of the things that they went through, coming out and realizing their gay and lesbian identity. And what an underground dark secret life it was. Somebody described it as, Oh my gosh, I'm gay, it means I have to spend the rest of my life and in bars without when those

J Jack Valinski 1:00:50

what there was also a sort of a little speech giving in the age show, which was a put on by theater were Nasus in San Francisco, which is a residents gay lesbian theatre group out there. And it was a documentary done on PBS American Playhouse, very, very wonderful piece. And

this elderly gentleman talked about, you know, the lives of people Holly went through the tough times that people's lives were basically just ruined, because names would be published and they would lose their job. And they would be sort of blackmail from things. I mean, the 50s

D Deborah Bell 1:01:24

kind of like what outing is now but but then it was done through other means. Yeah. Avi Jung said an interesting thing about outing which I shared last week, she said, it is actually unethical. It is against the very fabric of what our movement is about.

J Jack Valinski 1:01:44

That's true. I do you know, I have mixed feelings about outing but I do agree with that statement.

D Deborah Bell 1:01:50

Yeah. Sometimes we get called here at the radio station, people that maybe have just like you did tuned in and happen to find 90.1 FM. If a person needs help, wants to find a group get involved in the community. There is a wonderful organization here in Houston called the gay and lesbian switchboard, and they can answer your questions. They'll do telephone counseling, they'll give you resource information. Their number is 5293211. And they're usually open till midnight. I think it's four to midnight, the ice hours they try to keep they also are constantly in need of volunteers who go through training. And also if you would like to pick have a copy of the Montrose activity center newsletter, which provides a wealth of information including the wonderful calendar that Jack and I do on Wilde 'N' Stein, you should call 52912 to three you can leave a message and ask your address and ask that a copy of that be mailed to you so that you can keep up with what's going on in the community.

J Jack Valinski 1:02:54

And if you want to get involved real quickly, tomorrow night, there's a Gay Lesbian Gay Pride week meeting at dignity center 3217 Fannin, and that starts at 7:30pm. And also there's this little radio station called KPFT. And KPFT provides three programs. This is one of them. It's called Wilde 'N' Stein. It's about Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein, two people in history who were known to be a gay and lesbian who were

D Deborah Bell 1:03:19

opening out and I'm not out of trouble. Because I think Kendall easier.

J Jack Valinski 1:03:25

Because she was in Paris, yes.

D Deborah Bell 1:03:27
And Perry.

J Jack Valinski 1:03:28
And also there is breakthrough, which is on Friday mornings between eight and 11, P eight and 11am, which features a lot of women's music as sort of like what we've been playing tonight, but a little bit more variety. And also after hours, which is on midnight, Saturday night, Sunday morning. Normally, we usually have a half hour program included in our program called this way out, which is a half hour's worth of news and information on the national level. And we try to cover things on the local level, we don't really have a news team to go out and cover stories. But we do try to get we are the news team, right? We do try to read the newspaper and see what's going on and interview people that are involved in the community who are doing worthwhile things.

D Deborah Bell 1:04:08
Yeah. What things have you been involved in as an activist?

J Jack Valinski 1:04:13
Well, very much this, this show is very important to me. I've also been involved in the gay lesbian Political Caucus. And I've been involved if I'm not

D Deborah Bell 1:04:21
mistaken, you were awarded a lifetime achievement award last I

J Jack Valinski 1:04:25
was I'm real proud of that. And I'm also been involved in Pride week since 1983 in some form or the other either on the inside or the outside of the group. But always promoting it because it's very important to be able to show your pride and be able to know that there's lots of other people around

D Deborah Bell 1:04:41
did you do parade coverage every year since you not since

J Jack Valinski 1:04:45

J Jack Valinski 1:04:45

83? Yeah, we've done prayed coverage we've done live. I think this will be the fourth or fifth year. I'm not really sure. We did. There was one year we didn't do it. And but most of the times we have and so Pride Week is really important. I'm also involved and of course, you know, the Montrose Activity Center, which is the past couple years, which is an organization that is hoping to build a home for the community a center that we can be able to network and share ideas. And a few other organizations on the periphery if you're

D Deborah Bell 1:05:15

extensively involved in putting together the Montrose activity center newsletter, is your Title Editor.

J Jack Valinski 1:05:22

Yes, it is. It's editor, I guess. And Deborah, what do you do

D Deborah Bell 1:05:26

I'm the copy guy at the Montrose Activity Center? Well, I have been involved in a number of organizations, as I mentioned, the National Organization for Women being one of the primary ones. And I've been on the board of the Montrose Counseling Center and have been involved in this is my third year being on the board of Montrose activity center. And it's one I kind of feel like all the other things have led into that area. Because I have been doing all of this for so long, that I really feel the need to focus. And through that one place, I have access to everything else and can kind of put my precious time and energy where it is going to do the most good or be the most valued. Because after all these many years, as an activist, I do get pretty tired. And I still have a lot of I do activism that is around feminist issues. And not just gay lesbian. And of course, I'm really excited to have become part of Wilde 'N' Stein, one of the best things that I've liked about is our growing friendship. It's nice to find a kindred spirit and and to be able to have time with them. And you and I have a lot of the same kinds of feelings and insights into things and and so that's something I value very much,

J Jack Valinski 1:07:00

you know, it's really interesting, but major radio and TV stations pay incredible amount of money to get a news anchor team that worked well together and things like that. And it just sort of happened with us. And and Well, I think sort of it's part of the reason is because we're sort of battling the same battles and things like that and hoping for the having the same dreams and a lot of things. And knowing that, hopefully the show is doing some good for people out there listening. It's certainly doing some good for me last

D Deborah Bell 1:07:25

week after the show, I got a call. And it was just a young man who said thank you. And and that just meant so much to me. That made me feel like well, that show did reach someone. And

just meant so much to me. That made me feel like well, that show did reach someone. And we're always appreciate the people that support us during marathon and people that come and volunteer and answer the phones and make that happen. And we really appreciate people who pledge their support and pay their pledges. But we really like to hear from folks too, and any ideas that they have, or anything that they'd like to be on the show and any comments or questions that they have. They can always write us carob the station for 19 Love it Boulevard, the zip is 7706 is not just a zip code, it's a lifestyle.

J Jack Valinski 1:08:11

And more than likely the show's probably going to be moved to another time slot. I mean, we don't have that officially. But we know how things happen at the station here, you sort of hear rumors and stuff like that. And we don't know when and where that's going to be probably the show is going to be moved back to an hour. But we'll let you know as soon as we find out.

D Deborah Bell 1:08:30

Well, I had some questions I wanted to ask you, Jack because since this is my opportunity, and it's sometimes hard to play like I don't know, you, you know, at all and that if I was just asking this question as if I didn't know you because a lot of things I do feel like I know about you, but I always learned stuff. And I think that's really neat too. What do you feel like is the most significant contribution you've made to the gay and lesbian community? Would it be Wilde 'N' Stein?

J Jack Valinski 1:08:58

I think Wilde 'N' Stein is the most important thing, because it's get a chance to talk to people. For somebody who has no connection in the community. I think it's really important that they may find this connection and if we can be a positive force in their life to let them know in nuts in positive and also informational source, that there are options in life.

D Deborah Bell 1:09:21

With any regrets.

J Jack Valinski 1:09:23

Any regrets. There's a lot of things I wish this radio show can do that I just can't physically do because we don't have enough time that were involved. Both of us are involved in other things that we can't just totally concentrate on, like having regular

D Deborah Bell 1:09:35

jobs that we have to earn some money to where we can live. Do you have what is your major goal as as a gay man

you as a gay man.



Jack Valinski 1:09:44

to make it easier for somebody else? To come out and be who they are?



Deborah Bell 1:09:50

Oh, thank you do that.



Jack Valinski 1:09:53

And what about you Deborah?



Deborah Bell 1:09:56

I want to say our community learn to be kinder to one Another and I too want to see people be able to be open and out visible that that is just the most crucial thing to the as Arnold says and Torch Song for the love and the respect if someone can't give us that they have no room in our lives. And that's what that's why I think it's about love and respect teachers



Jack Valinski 1:10:25

turned out to be a real special radio show for me. And thank you Deborah for being here. I want to thank Tori and her guest to talk about Sweet Charity, which is coming up next a week from



Deborah Bell 1:10:35

Sunday June 10. Sunday June 10 at 6pm



Jack Valinski 1:10:39

and Pride Week is coming up so get out and celebrate and thank you for listening.



1:10:59

Guys



1:11:11

calling has to



Jack Valinski 1:11:19

and that's another edition of the Wilde 'N' Stein Show. The world's longest and continuous running gay and lesbian radio show the collective we'll be back next Tuesday at 9pm. For further information on what is going on in the community. Call the gay and lesbian switchboard at five to 930 to 11 and at 90.1 on your FM dial, you are listening to pacificus community sponsored KPFT Houston. When we were born they tried to cover our eyes