

WEBVTT

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00:01:04.140 --> 00:01:05.910

Gail Evans: Hi Rachel.

Rachel Simi: Hi.

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00:01:06.270 --> 00:01:07.050

gailevans: How are you?

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00:01:07.860 --> 00:01:09.810

Rachel Simi: I'm good.

Gail Evans: Good.

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00:01:12.720 --> 00:01:15.780

Rachel Simi: Thanks for doing this interview with us.

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00:01:15.870 --> 00:01:18.810

gailevans: Absolutely. Anything I can do to help education.

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00:01:20.700 --> 00:01:22.470

gailevans: I know it's been a rough semester.

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00:01:23.070 --> 00:01:32.820

Rachel Simi: Yeah, it's been interesting everything. Everyone's having to transition into a new learning tech new type of learning.

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00:01:33.660 --> 00:01:35.850

gailevans: So where. What year are you, Rachel?

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00:01:36.450 --> 00:01:43.770

Rachel Simi: So I am uh like a junior. I'm a junior.

Gail Evans: Okay.

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00:01:44.130 --> 00:01:48.090

Rachel Simi: I'm a Junior in credits, I think. I'm a transfer student so

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00:01:48.720 --> 00:01:50.160

gailevans: Where do you live?

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00:01:50.790 --> 00:01:55.380

Rachel Simi: I live in Elk Grove, California. So it's right outside of Sacramento.

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00:01:55.560 --> 00:01:56.700

gailevans: My niece lives there.

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00:01:57.240 --> 00:01:58.860

Gail Evans: And my cousin. Yeah.

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00:02:00.630 --> 00:02:07.260

Rachel Simi: Yeah, so, um, to get started today is, uh.

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00:02:08.640 --> 00:02:17.370

Rachel Simi: April 21 10am. So the first question I wanted to ask you is the story of how you got your name.

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00:02:18.870 --> 00:02:20.910

gailevans: The story of how I got my name.

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00:02:22.290 --> 00:02:32.070

gailevans: That's interesting. Um, my name, Gail was my mom's best friend's sister's name.

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00:02:35.610 --> 00:02:43.890

gailevans: And she liked it. And so she picked it and it was between that and Jill and My brother's name is jack. So I'm really glad they didn't

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00:02:43.950 --> 00:02:44.820

gailevans: Name me Jill.

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00:02:49.950 --> 00:03:01.200

Rachel Simi: So is your mom's best friend's sister. That's interesting. Um, could you tell me a little about the neighborhood you grew up in?

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00:03:03.000 --> 00:03:17.550

gailevans: Yes. Um, well, I lived in Arcadia California until I was five. And I don't remember much about that. But when I was five, (barking in background) Annie, no, sorry my dog, Annie no.

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00:03:18.600 --> 00:03:27.000

gailevans: When I was five. We moved to test in California, which is in Southern California near Newport Beach Disneyland that area.

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00:03:27.720 --> 00:03:30.720

gailevans: And it was very much a tract home.

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00:03:31.110 --> 00:03:39.300

gailevans: Neighborhood. I knew all of my neighbors, we all played together in the street, it was a different time in those days than it is now.

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00:03:41.700 --> 00:03:45.900

gailevans: It backed up to Orange Grove. So we used to play in the orange groves all the time and

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00:03:47.220 --> 00:03:48.240

gailevans: It was a good childhood.

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00:03:50.070 --> 00:03:54.720

Rachel Simi: Is there any specific memory that sticks out to you.

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00:03:56.850 --> 00:03:57.480

Rachel Simi: from that Neighborhood

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00:03:59.160 --> 00:04:20.160

gailevans: Probably the fact that I loved any kind of water. And so I would gravitate to any homes that had a pool because I wanted to be able to use their pool and we got one when I was in eighth grade, I think, but as a young kid I yeah I would gravitate to all of the homes that had pools.

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00:04:27.390 --> 00:04:27.780

Rachel Simi: And

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00:04:29.190 --> 00:04:29.700

Rachel Simi: Nice.

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00:04:32.670 --> 00:04:33.420

Rachel Simi: Um,

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00:04:35.040 --> 00:04:39.570

Rachel Simi: How would you describe the neighborhood, would you describe it as being

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00:04:40.590 --> 00:04:46.590

Rachel Simi: Like more like conservative, how like the values and neighborhood were they

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00:04:51.840 --> 00:04:52.350

Rachel Simi: Like

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00:04:52.800 --> 00:04:56.820

Rachel Simi: more conservative or like

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00:04:59.220 --> 00:05:18.870

gailevans: Yeah, I would say I like to say tell people that I grew up behind the orange curtain, because in those days. Orange County was very, very, very conservative very Republican as were my parents. So yes, I would say it was conservative my high school only had one black student

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00:05:21.390 --> 00:05:24.990

gailevans: So yes, I would say it was very much on the conservative side.

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00:05:25.020 --> 00:05:28.140

gailevans: Orange County has changed since then. But that's how it was then.

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00:05:30.120 --> 00:05:36.840

Rachel Simi: And how did that, it being conservative. How did that affect you, um,

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00:05:39.150 --> 00:05:44.670

gailevans: Um, at the time as a youngster. I didn't think much about it.

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00:05:45.360 --> 00:05:46.800

gailevans: It probably

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00:05:48.300 --> 00:05:53.910

gailevans: Struck me the hardest when I went to college, I went to San Jose State as an undergraduate.

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00:05:54.540 --> 00:06:03.240

gailevans: And lived in the dorm and we had African American students living there. And my best friends happen to be of Japanese descent.

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00:06:04.050 --> 00:06:08.970

gailevans: And my father had fought in Japan. He was a pilot in World War Two.

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00:06:09.390 --> 00:06:20.550

gailevans: And when I invited one of my friends to come stay with me over the Christmas holiday. My father said that she wouldn't be welcome in our home because she was of Japanese descent.

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00:06:21.180 --> 00:06:31.200

gailevans: And that was the first time it really hit me that they were so biased and so prejudiced. And I said, Okay, if she's not welcome, then I'm leaving.

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00:06:32.250 --> 00:06:44.010

gailevans: And eventually he did let her come, but that was my first and I like to say my father was kind of the original Archie Bunker. Are you familiar with All in the Family?

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00:06:44.640 --> 00:06:45.390

Rachel Simi: Yes, a little bit.

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00:06:46.440 --> 00:06:47.190

gailevans: Okay.

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00:06:47.850 --> 00:06:55.860

gailevans: He was very, both of my parents were very prejudiced against anybody who was not white Anglo Saxon

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00:06:57.000 --> 00:06:58.230

gailevans: Conservative

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00:06:59.790 --> 00:07:02.580

gailevans: They were just racist. I mean, there was no question about it.

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00:07:05.190 --> 00:07:07.080

gailevans: But I didn't realize it as a kid.

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00:07:11.700 --> 00:07:17.100

gailevans: It was just the only thing that I knew, it wasn't until I went away to college and started learning other things that

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00:07:18.150 --> 00:07:19.050

gailevans: Things changed.

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00:07:20.550 --> 00:07:22.230

gailevans: We didn't talk about politics.

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00:07:24.780 --> 00:07:27.660

gailevans: Oh, I'll tell you a funny story. Do you want anecdotes?

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00:07:28.320 --> 00:07:28.830

Rachel Simi: Yes.

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00:07:29.100 --> 00:07:36.660

gailevans: When I was a senior in high school I turned 18 so I registered to vote. And as I said, my parents were both staunch republicans

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00:07:37.230 --> 00:07:50.310

gailevans: And I registered democratic and I just left the registration on my dresser and a couple weeks later, I said to my mom, you know you didn't mention that I registered democratic and she said,

Oh, your father was just so glad you didn't register communist

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00:07:52.080 --> 00:07:53.610

gailevans: So it's all relative.

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00:07:57.060 --> 00:07:58.080

Rachel Simi: How did that.

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00:08:00.480 --> 00:08:11.190

Rachel Simi: Affect you then being so conservative to that. How did that affect you in coming out. Did you feel like you were. Is there a hesitation to come out to them.

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00:08:11.640 --> 00:08:15.480

gailevans: Oh, absolutely. I didn't come out to them until I was, um,

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00:08:18.270 --> 00:08:19.740

gailevans: 41, 42

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00:08:21.360 --> 00:08:29.340

gailevans: Because when I was in college. My mother made a comment once about I think your queer or something and I didn't even know I was at that point.

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00:08:30.030 --> 00:08:38.880

gailevans: And I knew they would be very, very prejudiced and the impetus for my coming out, was we had a big family reunion with all my aunts and uncles and cousins.

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00:08:40.050 --> 00:08:49.680

gailevans: And one of my cousins had used me as an example to his kids because they were using derogatory terms about gays and lesbians.

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00:08:50.130 --> 00:09:06.330

gailevans: And he said to them, you know, your cousin Gail is a lesbian and you love her and she's a very good person and blah, blah, blah. Well, they then told my niece's that I was a lesbian. So it came out. So that was how I was forced to tell my parents and

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00:09:07.590 --> 00:09:14.010

gailevans: My dad actually was better than my mom, I was very surprised. My mom said for years that she wished I had never told her.

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00:09:20.280 --> 00:09:23.010

Rachel Simi: So you um

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00:09:24.450 --> 00:09:30.180

Rachel Simi: So that was then because I know you were you would have been a professor at this time.

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00:09:30.600 --> 00:09:35.100

Rachel Simi: Yes, correct. So how so you

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00:09:36.120 --> 00:09:43.140

Rachel Simi: So was this before you came out professionally or was this after you'd come out professionally.

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00:09:43.290 --> 00:09:44.280

gailevans: I came out.

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00:09:45.630 --> 00:09:49.200

gailevans: To many of my colleagues at San Jose State.

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00:09:51.630 --> 00:09:58.140

gailevans: Well, I started there in 83 so I was 32 I came out too many of them.

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00:09:59.520 --> 00:10:00.990

gailevans: In my 30s.

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00:10:02.100 --> 00:10:19.140

gailevans: I didn't come out to my students until after I was a tenured full professor, which was in my early 40s, because I didn't trust that there wouldn't be ramifications. And so the way that I came out to my students was I was teaching a course, um,

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00:10:20.160 --> 00:10:30.390

gailevans: For seniors in kinesiology, and we were talking about the ismsí, sexism, racism ageism (Barking) Annie no



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00:10:32.160 --> 00:10:33.180

gailevans: It's just Gordon, Annie

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00:10:36.030 --> 00:10:49.500

gailevans: And I was talking about LGBT issues and I just said something to the effect of, or racism, I said something to the effect of, I can never understand what it's like to be an African American

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00:10:49.980 --> 00:11:01.410

gailevans: But I can understand prejudice from sexism being a woman and heterosexism and being a lesbian. And then I just kept on talking so I didn't really make a big deal out of it, um

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00:11:02.640 --> 00:11:07.680

gailevans: But a lot of students came to talk to me after that and I think it helped them understand

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00:11:10.410 --> 00:11:12.270

gailevans: Hetero sexism and homophobia.

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00:11:15.000 --> 00:11:25.500

gailevans: And I did come out when I applied for the Dean ship at San Francisco State. I was very open in the interview. So after I came out of the closet. I was not going to go back in

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00:11:27.180 --> 00:11:29.160

gailevans: What is the name of the class you're taking

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00:11:29.610 --> 00:11:33.870

Rachel Simi: Um it's oral history, an oral history guide.

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00:11:34.500 --> 00:11:37.350

gailevans: Oh, So it's not just focused on LGBT issues.

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00:11:37.590 --> 00:11:49.020

Rachel Simi: No, it's not just focused on that, but it is focused, um, for our projects we're doing it with people in the LGBTQ community as well as the theater community.

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00:11:49.440 --> 00:11:50.580  
gailevans: All the students are

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00:11:50.970 --> 00:11:54.210  
Rachel Simi: Yeah  
gailevans: okay so that's just the population you chose

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00:11:55.170 --> 00:12:05.640  
Rachel Simi: Yeah. So I'm interested in hearing the stories that  
people who are LGBTQ have to tell

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00:12:07.170 --> 00:12:10.800  
Rachel Simi: Because I believe it's important during this day and age.

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00:12:11.160 --> 00:12:12.780  
gailevans: Thank you. I appreciate that.

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00:12:13.470 --> 00:12:13.890  
Rachel Simi: There's

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00:12:15.810 --> 00:12:25.800  
Rachel Simi: One of the interesting things is things I noticed is that  
the Briggís act actually happened. Probably a little bit

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00:12:28.110 --> 00:12:35.310  
Rachel Simi: Before you would have been a professor, um, it was

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00:12:36.450 --> 00:12:38.760  
Rachel Simi: You know, it was very popular until

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00:12:39.810 --> 00:12:51.510  
Rachel Simi: People like Ronald Reagan came out against it. Um, did  
you hear a lot of stories about teachers being fired because they were  
because of

103  
00:12:53.520 --> 00:12:54.570  
Rachel Simi: lesbian or gay

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00:12:55.050 --> 00:12:55.980

gailevans: Absolutely.

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00:12:56.730 --> 00:13:03.390

gailevans: And the proposition that was during the Reagan era. I can't was a prop.

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00:13:04.710 --> 00:13:15.960

gailevans: Can't remember the number. Do you know? When he was governor of California. There was a proposition that would have forbidden teachers from being gay or lesbian

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00:13:16.800 --> 00:13:25.020

gailevans: And it was very interesting, because I was living out of state then I think I was teaching in New York and I was having lunch with my mom and my two aunts.

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00:13:25.500 --> 00:13:27.960

gailevans: And they brought it up. And I thought, oh, here we go.

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00:13:28.350 --> 00:13:41.220

gailevans: But all of them even being very conservative said they would vote against it because they didn't feel like it was anybody's business and it didn't make any difference in terms of what kind of a teacher Somebody was and that was long before I came out to them.

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00:13:42.030 --> 00:13:56.700

gailevans: So that was, that was an interesting phenomenon for me. But yes, I heard of many teachers being fired and that's part of the reason, even though I was in the Bay Area San Jose State that I didn't come out until I was a tenured full professor because I wanted the protection of it.

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00:13:59.970 --> 00:14:06.150

Rachel Simi: And could you tell me a little bit, um just you mentioned you mentioned a little bit about your mother.

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00:14:07.470 --> 00:14:08.130

Rachel Simi: And can you

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00:14:09.300 --> 00:14:11.340

Rachel Simi: describe to me your relationship with her.

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00:14:13.680 --> 00:14:15.180

gailevans: In a word, challenging

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00:14:17.760 --> 00:14:18.480

gailevans: Um,

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00:14:19.710 --> 00:14:32.520

gailevans: I was not the daughter, she would have wanted me to be. And that was from a young age. I mean, I was a tomboy. I was outside playing all the time. I loved being gone and

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00:14:33.540 --> 00:14:45.330

gailevans: So I would say challenging. We didn't relate real well to one another mean we didn't fight and we weren't estranged or anything like that but

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00:14:46.080 --> 00:14:54.600

gailevans: It was not a close warm, loving, it's interesting because both my brother and I, we talked about this after my mom died and she was 95 when she died.

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00:14:55.590 --> 00:15:07.590

gailevans: Neither one of us remember being held as kids or cuddled or so there wasn't a lot of nurturing and warmth in the family. My father was an alcoholic. So that made things difficult to but there just wasn't a lot of

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00:15:08.670 --> 00:15:13.230

gailevans: Love and warmth. I got that from my aunt and other people in the family.

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00:15:19.980 --> 00:15:21.900

Rachel Simi: Um, I'm

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00:15:23.040 --> 00:15:24.540

Rachel Simi: Sorry, so

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00:15:26.250 --> 00:15:27.390

Rachel Simi: We're

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00:15:28.440 --> 00:15:38.640

Rachel Simi: How is your relationship, since you talked about, you mentioned having a sibling did. Were you and your siblings closer because of that or

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00:15:39.450 --> 00:15:41.280

gailevans: I had one older brother.

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00:15:42.330 --> 00:15:44.790

gailevans: He's four years older than I am jack

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00:15:45.870 --> 00:15:46.650

gailevans: And

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00:15:50.430 --> 00:15:51.720

gailevans: He was

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00:15:53.430 --> 00:16:07.110

gailevans: The perfect child. He did everything he was supposed to. And I was very, very rebellious. Yes. I think we were close to a certain extent, but because he was four years older.

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00:16:08.880 --> 00:16:17.070

gailevans: He was in high school when I was in elementary school. He was in college. By the time I started high school. So we didn't have a super close relationship.

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00:16:17.730 --> 00:16:32.280

gailevans: And I resented him because and this is, I think, very typical of that generation, it didn't have anything particularly to do with my parents but boys were just valued more than girls were

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00:16:33.180 --> 00:16:39.390

gailevans: They thought it was critical that jack go to college, they didn't think it was necessarily important for me to go to college.

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00:16:40.020 --> 00:16:48.390

gailevans: They paid for all of his education. By the time I went to college. My dad had lost his job because of his drinking. So I paid

for my education.

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00:16:48.780 --> 00:16:59.790

gailevans: And they really I don't think ever understood why I kept going to school. Why did I need a master's. Why did I need a PhD. Um, I think in a certain way. They were proud of me, but

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00:17:00.960 --> 00:17:09.990

gailevans: All my mom wanted was for me to get married and have kids, she thought that was the only reason to go to college was to meet a man and get married and have kids and I never did that so.

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00:17:12.660 --> 00:17:13.530

Rachel Simi: So,

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00:17:14.940 --> 00:17:20.850

Rachel Simi: um, what made you. You have a very extensive education.

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00:17:22.440 --> 00:17:24.180

Rachel Simi: It's very impressive.

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00:17:24.570 --> 00:17:25.230

gailevans: Thank you.

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00:17:25.350 --> 00:17:26.040

Rachel Simi: So,

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00:17:27.120 --> 00:17:31.860

Rachel Simi: What was your decisions behind the

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00:17:33.720 --> 00:17:41.700

Rachel Simi: Major you picked and what kind of pushed you to want to go and get a masters and a PhD and

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00:17:42.870 --> 00:17:43.740

Rachel Simi: Continue.

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00:17:44.370 --> 00:17:54.060

gailevans: Well, I chose physical education as my undergraduate degree

because I loved sports and my original goal was to be a high school PE teacher

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00:17:54.900 --> 00:18:07.200

gailevans: And then when I got into college, I found that I really liked being around college students. So, and I decided that I would rather teach either at a community college or at a four year

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00:18:07.800 --> 00:18:13.230

gailevans: And so I went on to Washington State University and got my masters, so that I could do that.

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00:18:13.890 --> 00:18:19.440

gailevans: And when I was an undergrad I was the manager and then assistant coach of the gymnastics team.

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00:18:19.920 --> 00:18:30.120

gailevans: And so when I went to Washington state to get my master's I was also the assistant coach for the gymnastics team. And then my first teaching position in New York was as varsity gymnastics coach.

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00:18:30.780 --> 00:18:41.310

gailevans: And what was when I was doing that, that I realized that I really wanted to be a university professor and so after four years at SUNY Brockport where I was coaching.

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00:18:41.790 --> 00:18:56.340

gailevans: I went back to get my PhD and it was because of gymnastics that I chose biomechanics, because it was so important to understand how to analyze movement, which is what biomechanics is all about. So that was why I chose that as my PhD.

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00:18:59.730 --> 00:19:17.580

Rachel Simi: Um, what was it like to go to. You mentioned Washington state and York you're going out there out into the world where there's not necessarily any family or you into a different world was that scary for you.

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00:19:18.570 --> 00:19:21.540

gailevans: It was scary. And it was also incredibly exciting. Um,

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00:19:26.130 --> 00:19:46.410

gailevans: I just was always, I like to be away from home. My favorite memories as a kid, were Girl Scout camp during the summer where I got to be away for two weeks and I love when I was in eighth grade I flew to Hawaii to visit a friend by myself. I just loved exploring and going around.

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00:19:47.760 --> 00:19:52.020

gailevans: And I chose Washington state because

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00:19:53.130 --> 00:20:02.160

gailevans: One of my teachers actually the gymnastics coach at San Jose State had come from the University of Washington. So I applied to the University of Washington and Washington State.

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00:20:02.670 --> 00:20:11.460

gailevans: And it was the faculty and department chair at Washington State who I spoke with who I really connected with and I'm much more of a small town person than I am a big city.

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00:20:11.910 --> 00:20:20.370

gailevans: So I chose going to Pullman which is very small, rather than Seattle, which is very big. And it was a good choice. But yeah, it was scary.

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00:20:21.090 --> 00:20:31.410

gailevans: And then going to New York. Once I got my master's I was offered two coaching positions one at the University of Wisconsin. And when at Brockport

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00:20:32.040 --> 00:20:55.140

gailevans: And I went and interviewed at both and I just really liked Brockport and again it was big city Madison vs little town Brockport in upstate New York, and it was very scary to go 3000 miles away from anyone that I knew, but it was also really fun because you kind of get to

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00:20:56.400 --> 00:21:06.480

gailevans: reinvent your life when you start over. There's nobody there that has preconceived notions about you and you kind of can.

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00:21:09.930 --> 00:21:24.000



gailevans: I don't know, make a new path and not necessarily that the old one was bad, but it just, it lets you really sort of start over. And it was a great experience. Both of them were

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00:21:29.040 --> 00:21:32.310

Rachel Simi: Were you ever the small towns.

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00:21:33.540 --> 00:21:37.980

Rachel Simi: I know a little bit about Pullman it's I went to school in Moscow.

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00:21:38.280 --> 00:21:53.400

Rachel Simi: So yeah, so it is very small, and it is very conservative at that time when you were going to Pullman. Had you known yet that you were um, known that you were attracted to females and that you were gay?

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00:21:54.330 --> 00:21:57.510

gailevans: No. Now, tell me, what were you doing in Moscow?

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00:21:57.990 --> 00:22:00.150

Rachel Simi: I went to school at University of Idaho.

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00:22:00.270 --> 00:22:02.490

gailevans: Oh, you did go there before Monterey Bay?

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00:22:02.640 --> 00:22:03.180

Rachel Simi: Yeah.

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00:22:03.330 --> 00:22:04.200

gailevans: Did you like it?

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00:22:05.640 --> 00:22:06.750

Rachel Simi: Yeah, it was interesting

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00:22:07.740 --> 00:22:25.050

gailevans: It's very different than California. Um, no. I did not know I was engaged, Annie, I was engaged to a man when I was working on my master's, I didn't come out until I was teaching at Brockport and

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00:22:26.310 --> 00:22:37.230

gailevans: There were many, many lesbians on the faculty there. And when I first, I didn't realize that. But when I first arrived, they had been very welcoming to me and had had me to their homes and

173

00:22:37.620 --> 00:22:57.180

gailevans: had dinner and I got to know people. And so I decided to reciprocate. And I had a dinner at my house and I don't know. There were two or three couples women and I thought they were just roommates and then as they were talking, it became very clear to me that they were more than roommates.

174

00:22:58.830 --> 00:23:01.050

gailevans: And I was kind of taken aback.

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00:23:02.790 --> 00:23:11.220

gailevans: But then it was a couple of months later that. And in thinking back. I mean, I was lesbian from birth. There's no question about it.

176

00:23:12.270 --> 00:23:27.480

gailevans: But that was when it all dawned on me that, wow, this is a real possibility that it may be something that I want. And I am so and I was, how old was I then 74 I was 23

177

00:23:30.150 --> 00:23:45.330

Rachel Simi: So was that difficult being engaged to you're engaged to a man and during that time, it's maybe a little bit harder to break off and there's. Was there any backlash when you broke off your engagement.

178

00:23:45.660 --> 00:23:59.580

gailevans: I broke off my engagement before I went to Brockport because I had told him that I wanted to go on and get my PhD and he didn't want me to do that. And I don't like it when people tell me that I can't do something

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00:24:00.840 --> 00:24:04.290

gailevans: And so I had already broken it off. And I think a part of me knew

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00:24:06.330 --> 00:24:07.230

gailevans: I just hadn't

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00:24:08.340 --> 00:24:25.020

gailevans: Put a name to it or really realized, and that was a very, very different age in 1974. I mean, there were no gay characters on TV or in movies or in public or it was all very, very hidden

182

00:24:27.870 --> 00:24:37.290

Rachel Simi: Yeah, I'm one of the, I mean, biggest, I think, especially in the Bay Area biggest political figures that was gay was Harvey Milk.

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00:24:37.620 --> 00:24:46.170

Gail Evans: Absolutely.

Rachel Simi: Um, were you in California or were you still outside of California when Harvey Milk was

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00:24:47.400 --> 00:24:50.790

Rachel Simi: got his position. And then when he was assassinated.

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00:24:50.970 --> 00:24:52.620

gailevans: I was outside of California.

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00:24:53.670 --> 00:24:55.140

gailevans: What year was it. Do you remember

187

00:24:55.770 --> 00:25:02.130

Rachel Simi: Don't want to sound like somebody something, it was, it was right. Oh no, I think 69 it might have been

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00:25:02.250 --> 00:25:04.800

gailevans: It was a wasn't 69 because I was still in high school.

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00:25:06.180 --> 00:25:07.170

gailevans: Okay, let me look it up.

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00:25:08.370 --> 00:25:12.030

gailevans: Alexa, when was Harvey Milk assassinated.

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00:25:13.980 --> 00:25:20.340

gailevans: 1978

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00:25:20.730 --> 00:25:21.150

Rachel Simi: Yeah.

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00:25:21.270 --> 00:25:22.650

gailevans: So I was in

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00:25:24.360 --> 00:25:29.550

gailevans: Either New York or Washington. I went back to get my doctorate in the fall of 78 so

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00:25:30.210 --> 00:25:38.400

Rachel Simi: So was that a big event outside of the state as well. Was that a big thing that gained attention where you were at

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00:25:39.450 --> 00:25:58.050

gailevans: Yes, it did. It gained attention when he was elected because he was the first openly gay supervisor elected and then I mean not as much as California, but it certainly was public and it was very scary in the LGBT community, just like the Stonewall rage and 68

197

00:25:59.130 --> 00:26:07.350

gailevans: Now, at that point, I wasn't gay, but I've learned a lot about the history since then. I mean, I didn't realize I was I was, but I didn't know it.

198

00:26:10.110 --> 00:26:15.450

gailevans: Ellen's coming out on TV was another big biggie for the LGBT community to

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00:26:17.040 --> 00:26:17.310

gailevans: Yeah.

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00:26:17.340 --> 00:26:22.680

Rachel Simi: Did that, um, was there any one person who

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00:26:24.660 --> 00:26:29.970

Rachel Simi: Inspired, particular person who inspired you or who

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00:26:31.470 --> 00:26:41.430

Rachel Simi: You looked at and said, if they can, you know, deal with this backlash, or if they can handle this, then I can as well.

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00:26:46.470 --> 00:27:02.640

gailevans: There were two people that really helped me when I was ready to come out to students. One was a woman by the name of Pat Griffin, does that name ring a bell? She's a huge LGBT activist primarily in, um

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00:27:03.690 --> 00:27:22.440

gailevans: With respect to athletics and Physical Education and she and I became friends. And so she was very much a mentor, but the person who probably helped me the most was my partner, Jean, who was a minister in Metropolitan Community Church and she really, um

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00:27:24.120 --> 00:27:32.760

gailevans: helped me figure out the best way to come out to my students and would listen to me and give me feedback and was just extremely supportive

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00:27:33.570 --> 00:27:50.100

gailevans: And she had come out when she was in high school and she was four years older than I was. So that was pretty amazing. And then she went into the military and was outed in the military. And so she had quite a history with it, um, but she helped me a lot.

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00:27:52.860 --> 00:27:54.900

Rachel Simi: Can you tell me the story of how you met Jean?

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00:27:56.190 --> 00:27:57.270

gailevans: I met her at church.

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00:27:59.310 --> 00:28:17.310

gailevans: And I was not, I had never been baptized. I was not religious. I had just broken up with somebody and I went to some friends for dinner. And one of them said let's go to MCC on Sunday. And I said, What's MCC, she said it's the local gay church. And I said, Why is it that we would want to do that?

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00:28:18.810 --> 00:28:33.180

gailevans: And she said, well, they have a cute lesbian pastor and she wears Birkenstocks and blah, blah, blah. Well, this cute lesbian pastor was in a relationship. But anyway, I said, well, if I don't have anything better to do. And then joy said we'll take you out to breakfast afterwards. So I said, Okay.

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00:28:34.320 --> 00:28:46.950

gailevans: So I went and I was fascinated, not so much with Jean, but the fact that she referred to God as she and they sang songs that were all inclusive and it was just very different than any church I had ever attended

212

00:28:48.540 --> 00:28:54.930

gailevans: So I kind of, this was in September. It was Labor Day of 1991

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00:28:56.400 --> 00:29:05.880

gailevans: So I kind of attended on and off until Christmas time. And I went once in December and Jeansí partner at the time, stood up.

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00:29:06.930 --> 00:29:17.520

gailevans: And said they were breaking up without even telling Jean that and I just thought that was so horrible that she would do that in public in front of Jeansí congregation

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00:29:18.360 --> 00:29:24.780

gailevans: That after that I called Jean. And I said, you know, would you like to go out for lunch and just visit and have coffee or something.

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00:29:26.340 --> 00:29:29.010

gailevans: And we just started being friends after that.

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00:29:30.390 --> 00:29:36.630

gailevans: And we didn't live together until 93 so we were very, very good friends before we ever lived together.

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00:29:39.630 --> 00:29:41.070

Rachel Simi: Um, so

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00:29:42.270 --> 00:29:55.830

Rachel Simi: How did your relationship with Jean, um did you kind of look at did your parents relationships with each other, affect your relationships at all with

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00:29:56.400 --> 00:30:07.170

Rachel Simi: Jean or your other partners, did you look at them kind of saying, I don't want to do what they did, or I want to take these aspects from the relationship

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00:30:07.560 --> 00:30:10.350

gailevans: The former. I don't want to do what they did.

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00:30:11.670 --> 00:30:22.170

gailevans: I only have, well only I've lived with three women one when I was in New York and that kind of ended, just because I went back to school in Pullman

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00:30:23.640 --> 00:30:29.220

gailevans: And we're still very very good friends, then the person I was with prior to Jean

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00:30:30.420 --> 00:30:41.070

gailevans: Had a drinking problem and I couldn't deal with it after having an alcoholic father, and then I met Jean and

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00:30:41.730 --> 00:30:52.020

gailevans: Part of with my parents and I think some of that was generational to, they never talked about feelings. They didn't work through things they didn't. So communication has always been really important to me.

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00:30:52.650 --> 00:31:03.270

gailevans: And Jean and I were pretty good at that. I mean, no relationship is perfect, but we would try and sit down and talk about things and work through things rather than just getting angry and storming out

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00:31:06.660 --> 00:31:11.010

Rachel Simi: Did you guys, One of the big things that happened was,

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00:31:12.030 --> 00:31:26.430

Rachel Simi: legalization of prop 8 was very big, was there. Did you guys ever have, because I know some couples didn't have any desire to get married, while others

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00:31:27.090 --> 00:31:42.330

Rachel Simi: Actively did. Was that something that you guys were watching very closely, that you guys were like, if this, you know, if we are allowed to, we would you know possibly like to get married or perform a civil

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00:31:44.160 --> 00:31:48.420

Rachel Simi: Do civil marriage, I think in court. Well,

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00:31:48.480 --> 00:31:55.440

gailevans: Marriage certainly was important, particularly since Jean was a minister. We were legal domestic partners.

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00:31:55.890 --> 00:32:15.150

gailevans: We didn't get married when Prop eight passed because neither one of us thought it was going to last, which it didn't. I mean, it did eventually get, but um, and then before marriage was legalized Jean died so we didn't have a chance to get legally married, but we were legal domestic

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00:32:15.150 --> 00:32:15.720

Gail Evans: Partners.

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00:32:15.780 --> 00:32:17.730

gailevans: Which was the best you could do at that point.

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00:32:23.100 --> 00:32:33.510

gailevans: And we were together 19 years. So it was a very stable relatively long relationship and if she were still alive. We, I'm sure we would still be together today.

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00:32:36.270 --> 00:32:53.010

Rachel Simi: Um, were you guys, she, you mentioned, her church was a gay church, is all inclusive. Were you personally ever involved in any activism when you're younger before you met Jean.



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00:32:54.540 --> 00:32:56.010

gailevans: LGBT activism.

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00:32:56.850 --> 00:33:01.800

Rachel Simi: Yeah, LGBT activism or activism in general.

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00:33:02.610 --> 00:33:18.120

gailevans: I protested the Vietnam War in when I was in college, and I very much was supportive of the era and a feminist and and fought for women's rights. I was not

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00:33:20.550 --> 00:33:30.630

gailevans: An activist for LGBT until I came out and that was after I had met Jean. And that was when I started marching in parades and we went to

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00:33:31.800 --> 00:33:34.290

gailevans: The march on Washington in 1993

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00:33:35.550 --> 00:33:44.670

gailevans: We also went to the 25th anniversary of Stonewall in New York City and in 1994, so we were very active.

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00:33:45.750 --> 00:33:51.510

gailevans: But it was all after I had met Jean, because I was still in the closet, as a teacher, prior to that.

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00:33:55.290 --> 00:33:56.010

Rachel Simi: Um,

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00:33:58.020 --> 00:34:09.450

Rachel Simi: When you were in the closet, as a teacher, after you came out. Were there any colleagues that hadn't known that were, um

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00:34:12.120 --> 00:34:17.310

Rachel Simi: Were open or were there some that have problems accepting you?

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00:34:19.710 --> 00:34:27.540

gailevans: Not to my knowledge. Um, Everybody was very supportive. And I think some of that had to do with being in the Bay Area.

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00:34:28.980 --> 00:34:42.240

gailevans: In my department at least everybody was very supportive and so were the students once I came out to the students. I never had any negative backlash. But I had a lot of positive experience, I'll never forget.

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00:34:43.770 --> 00:34:50.610

gailevans: In their senior year students have to go out and observe and be on high school campuses. If they want to be a teacher.

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00:34:51.150 --> 00:35:00.690

gailevans: And I had these three big jock males in my class when I was talking about the isms and hetero sexism and homophobia.

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00:35:01.140 --> 00:35:15.180

gailevans: And they came back to me after they were out working in the school and they said, We just wanted to tell you that because of you, When we had to pick a club to help supervise and oversee we chose the gay, Straight Alliance.

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00:35:16.230 --> 00:35:22.560

gailevans: And that just meant so much to me. And then I remember another guy coming back and telling me that that

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00:35:23.340 --> 00:35:39.780

gailevans: He was getting married, and he was Catholic and his priest was talking about derogatory about LGBT, and he said, and I talked back to him and told him that he was wrong and So stories like that were really positive and there were more, but those are my two favorite

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00:35:46.440 --> 00:35:49.200

Rachel Simi: How is that one of the things that you

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00:35:50.310 --> 00:35:56.430

Rachel Simi: Are stories like that one of the reasons like you continued teaching for as long, in

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00:35:58.140 --> 00:36:04.530

Rachel Simi: Is it you wanted to have that impact on students, that positive impact.

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00:36:05.280 --> 00:36:24.780

gailevans: Yes, I loved teaching. I didn't get to do a lot of that kind of thing. Because most of my courses were biomechanics and it doesn't fit in. So naturally, but I love teaching the senior seminar course and I really did redesigned it to make it more of a social justice.

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00:36:25.890 --> 00:36:29.070

gailevans: Emphasis than it had been previously.

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00:36:30.330 --> 00:36:35.700

gailevans: But yes, I love teaching and I didn't go into administration, because I was tired of teaching.

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00:36:36.870 --> 00:36:41.760

gailevans: I wanted to be able to have a greater impact on more students and

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00:36:43.170 --> 00:36:58.800

gailevans: My big thing as an administrator. Well, my first position was director of general education. So I was overseeing the general education curriculum where I could make a lot of changes in terms of what students were doing and what kinds of courses and that kind of thing.

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00:36:59.400 --> 00:37:14.760

gailevans: And then as Dean of Undergraduate Studies I oversaw all of the undergraduate curriculum. So even though I didn't interact personally with students, which I really missed. I think I could have more of an influence in terms of what they were learning because I was overseeing the curriculum.

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00:37:18.030 --> 00:37:25.020

Rachel Simi: And then what would be some advice, do you have any advice you would give to

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00:37:26.520 --> 00:37:30.690

Rachel Simi: Someone who is LGBTQ and wants to become a teacher.

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00:37:37.020 --> 00:37:40.740

gailevans: Well, it's a very different day and age now and

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00:37:41.790 --> 00:37:51.720

gailevans: My feeling has always been that I think homophobia and homophobia and hetero sexism would go away if everybody could come out.

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00:37:52.590 --> 00:38:05.010

gailevans: Without fears and comfortably, because I believe that just about everybody knows and loves somebody who is LGBTQ, but they may not be aware of it. If the person isn't out so

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00:38:06.000 --> 00:38:15.810

gailevans: My advice would be, and some of this may have to be with where they live. I would give different advice to somebody in the Bay area than I would to somebody in Alabama.

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00:38:17.100 --> 00:38:33.240

gailevans: But for the Bay Area. I always say, Be your own self, being in the closet is such a horrible, horrible experience because you can't be honest. I mean, I would come into work.

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00:38:33.900 --> 00:38:37.500

gailevans: On Monday mornings and the students would ask me whatíd you do over the weekend?

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00:38:38.250 --> 00:38:54.120

gailevans: And I couldn't really say. Because if I had been doing things with my partner. I mean, I could say, I went to a winery or something, but I couldn't really talk about my life, and that is that is not healthy for anybody. So my advice would probably be

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00:38:56.010 --> 00:39:01.110

gailevans: If at all possible, be totally open and honest and

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00:39:02.340 --> 00:39:15.330

gailevans: Don't pretend at the interview or before you're hired that you're somebody that you're not because once you get into that

position, you're not going to be happy there. If you can't be your true self.

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00:39:19.590 --> 00:39:20.700

gailevans: Does that make sense?

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00:39:21.120 --> 00:39:22.230

Rachel Simi: Yeah yeah

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00:39:24.180 --> 00:39:24.810

Rachel Simi: Um,

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00:39:27.930 --> 00:39:28.590

Rachel Simi: Um,

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00:39:30.270 --> 00:39:32.460

Rachel Simi: Couple other questions, um,

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00:39:33.540 --> 00:39:34.560

Rachel Simi: Could you

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00:39:35.880 --> 00:39:37.230

Rachel Simi: Do you have any

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00:39:38.370 --> 00:39:39.360

Rachel Simi: Regrets,

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00:39:40.590 --> 00:39:45.930

Rachel Simi: About any decisions that you have made, and if so, could you explain why or why not

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00:39:47.910 --> 00:39:50.010

gailevans: Oh god, I probably have thousands, um (laughing)

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00:39:54.960 --> 00:39:56.070

gailevans: Let me see.

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00:39:57.120 --> 00:40:03.570

gailevans: I regret not coming out sooner but I don't know what the ramifications of that might have been

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00:40:06.360 --> 00:40:07.110

gailevans: Part of it.

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00:40:08.250 --> 00:40:18.840

gailevans: Was when I did come out even though my parents were hesitant all of my aunts and uncles and cousins were so supportive and so wonderful and I wish that I had had that support sooner.

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00:40:21.930 --> 00:40:22.710

gailevans: I have

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00:40:23.820 --> 00:40:25.500

gailevans: Somewhat

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00:40:27.210 --> 00:40:28.050

gailevans: Regret

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00:40:29.400 --> 00:40:33.960

gailevans: leaving San Jose State after 25 years and going to San Francisco state as the dean.

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00:40:34.590 --> 00:40:43.350

gailevans: Not because I didn't. I had a great six years there and a wonderful experience. But Jean stayed in Santa Cruz and the original intent,

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00:40:43.950 --> 00:40:57.210

gailevans: Was that we were going to move up the coast to Half Moon Bay or somewhere between Half Moon Bay and San Francisco. And then the bottom fell out of the market because of the recession, so. My only regret was that I missed time with her.

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00:40:58.260 --> 00:41:16.770

gailevans: Because then she died in 2012, um, I went to San Francisco in 2008 so that time I regret not having with her. I came home every weekend but still we were apart all week. So that was probably a regret and yet.

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00:41:18.720 --> 00:41:27.720

gailevans: It was a wonderful experience. And I was able to retire early because of doing that. And so there were pros and cons, but I did miss time with her.

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00:41:30.450 --> 00:41:31.260

Rachel Simi: How did you, um

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00:41:33.000 --> 00:41:45.450

Rachel Simi: Know a lot of things that people struggle with is grief, a lot of times grief and something that is really hard to deal with. And because you're still teaching. How did

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00:41:46.410 --> 00:42:00.270

Rachel Simi: How did you deal with grief and what is advice that you would give to someone who is dealing with the loss of a loved one while still having to go through everyday life.

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00:42:02.250 --> 00:42:03.660

gailevans: That's a really good question.

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00:42:05.400 --> 00:42:20.670

gailevans: I was fortunate when Jean, Jean was diagnosed the end of July 2011 and it was stage four cancer, and I called my boss the provost at San Francisco State and said this is a situation

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00:42:21.420 --> 00:42:31.020

gailevans: I'm going to stay home with her to care for her. If you need me to retire. I will and bolshie and the President said absolutely not, we will hold your job for you.

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00:42:31.710 --> 00:42:43.110

gailevans: So during the time that she was sick. I think I went up to campus, maybe two or three times for a couple of days. But for all intents and purposes, I was home with her and I worked from home.

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00:42:43.530 --> 00:42:54.150

gailevans: And so that was a wonderful opportunity, um, and my boss said, you know, if you work from home don't count that as a sick day I had something like nine months of sick leave but at that point. So that wasn't an issue.

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00:42:54.690 --> 00:43:07.380

gailevans: But they were so supportive and I was hesitant because I felt badly be I was gone for about six months, I had a great associate dean to so that helped, but I was gone for about six months.

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00:43:08.010 --> 00:43:22.920

gailevans: And then Jean died on February 28th and memorial service was March 24 and I didn't go back to work until after her memorial service. So I did have a month at home to be able to grieve. But going back

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00:43:24.450 --> 00:43:40.680

gailevans: It was very difficult. And it was a blessing because I had something to do, to take my mind off of the grief. Now, I used to tell people when I first got back. Don't be nice to me. Don't give me a hug, because then I'm going to cry.

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00:43:42.240 --> 00:43:49.380

gailevans: And so people were just incredibly supportive and incredibly wonderful and I was very glad that I had that to go back to

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00:43:51.090 --> 00:43:56.430

gailevans: And the one thing I would tell people is try and have some sort of a support system.

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00:43:58.080 --> 00:44:10.350

gailevans: I didn't do any formal grief counseling because of my living situation, Jean was on hospice in Santa Cruz County, but I couldn't participate in that because I was working in San Francisco.

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00:44:11.310 --> 00:44:23.370

gailevans: And so instead I did an online grief support for people who had lost their spouses and I thought, now this is going to be interesting to see how they react to me because most of them were straight spouses.

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00:44:24.210 --> 00:44:33.450

gailevans: But there were two or three that I really connected with and for me, that worked best doing it online because I could decide when



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00:44:34.050 --> 00:44:39.870

gailevans: I wanted to deal with it, rather than saying you have a therapy appointment at two o'clock on Thursday.

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00:44:40.320 --> 00:44:52.080

gailevans: I may not feel like dealing with it at two o'clock on Thursday. But by doing it online. It worked really well for me because I could decide when I was going to do that. Grief interaction kind of thing.

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00:44:53.160 --> 00:44:53.580

gailevans: But

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00:44:54.930 --> 00:45:00.360

gailevans: Probably the most important thing I would say is, let the grief come out.

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00:45:01.680 --> 00:45:17.820

gailevans: Or else it will come out when you're not expecting it. Unfortunately, I wasn't teaching. So it wasn't like I had to stand in front of a class and be on it was an administrative position. So I think that made it a little bit easier teaching would have been really difficult.

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00:45:20.520 --> 00:45:21.870

Rachel Simi: Yeah, um,

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00:45:23.310 --> 00:45:33.210

Rachel Simi: That's, I mean, I can't imagine I've, I have lost family members to cancer. So it's

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00:45:34.050 --> 00:45:38.280

Rachel Simi: I'm sorry. Yeah, it's um it's rough and I

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00:45:39.540 --> 00:45:48.240

Rachel Simi: Don't know what I would do if you know my if someone if my if I had a partner, you know, my

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00:45:49.470 --> 00:45:55.470

Rachel Simi: I don't know how I would deal with that. So that's very

helpful. Thank you.

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00:45:56.310 --> 00:46:19.140

gailevans: It's hard. I mean, well, they say that losing a child is the hardest loss and second is a spouse. So, um, but at least because I was able to stay home. I did have six months with her and was able to say goodbye, which was very helpful. But watching her suffer was

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00:46:21.060 --> 00:46:22.920

gailevans: The worst experience of my life.

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00:46:24.840 --> 00:46:40.680

gailevans: But I had huge support from friends and as she got sicker. I had caregivers come in and her mom also came and stayed with us for much of the time, which was really wonderful, her mom is an amazing person.

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00:46:41.760 --> 00:46:52.560

gailevans: Who I'm still very close to she's going to be 93 this summer, but she's lost two daughters, both of her biological daughters, a step daughter and two husbands.

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00:46:53.130 --> 00:47:05.370

gailevans: And if I were her. I don't think I would even be able to get out of bed and she is just so strong and so powerful and focuses on the positive and the good memories and so I learned a lot from her.

327

00:47:07.620 --> 00:47:11.940

Rachel Simi: Speaking of good memories. Can you tell me your happiest memory with Jean.

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00:47:14.550 --> 00:47:15.690

gailevans: Oh, there were lots, um

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00:47:20.340 --> 00:47:23.340

gailevans: Two stand out, We both love Disneyland.

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00:47:24.840 --> 00:47:27.630

gailevans: And we happen to go. She happened to turn 50

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00:47:29.250 --> 00:47:38.280

gailevans: On gay night at Disneyland. And so we went to gay night at Disneyland to celebrate her 50th birthday with two of our friends and had a fabulous time

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00:47:38.970 --> 00:47:49.290

gailevans: And then for my 50th birthday. We went to Disney World in Florida, and that was a fabulous time too. But we also had a couple of really nice trips to Hawaii.

333

00:47:50.010 --> 00:48:09.270

gailevans: In 2007 we went on our Olivia cruise down the Mexican coast. That was a fabulous time but probably the most important was we just enjoyed everyday things working in the garden, going to the grocery store, we just tried to find joy in everything that we did.

334

00:48:10.350 --> 00:48:11.820

gailevans: And most of the time that worked.

335

00:48:14.100 --> 00:48:19.800

Rachel Simi: Could you tell me I would love to hear more about the story of her 50th birthday at gay night at Disneyland

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00:48:21.360 --> 00:48:23.340

gailevans: I don't even know if they still do it.

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00:48:24.930 --> 00:48:28.290

gailevans: But that would have been in when

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00:48:31.710 --> 00:48:32.940

gailevans: 1997

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00:48:35.040 --> 00:48:50.910

gailevans: And they close the park, except for for the queers and I just love the fact that that everybody was so happy and out and being themselves and walking around holding hands and

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00:48:51.510 --> 00:48:59.130

gailevans: Jeansí favorite thing was the haunted house because she thought all the gay guys were so hysterical when they were screaming and

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00:49:01.440 --> 00:49:22.050

gailevans: It's just anytime we did something that was gay focused like the March on Washington in 1993 and Stonewall in 94. It was so liberating to be around everyone who was gay because you could just totally be yourself and immerse yourself in it, when most of the rest of your life.

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00:49:23.100 --> 00:49:23.760

gailevans: Was hidden

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00:49:25.020 --> 00:49:27.570

gailevans: And so that was what was so liberating.

344

00:49:31.020 --> 00:49:35.610

Rachel Simi: Um, were, sorry. Um,

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00:49:37.920 --> 00:49:46.650

Rachel Simi: Did you, have, you can. Is that something that you've continued to do continue to have you continue to be involved in activism.

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00:49:47.670 --> 00:49:52.800

Rachel Simi: In any groups or parades and things like that.

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00:49:53.610 --> 00:49:58.740

gailevans: No, it's been too hard since Jean died. I did one gay pride in Santa Cruz since then.

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00:50:01.020 --> 00:50:02.400

gailevans: And I'm also old now. (laughing)

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00:50:03.570 --> 00:50:06.960

gailevans: And so instead of participating. I give money.

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00:50:08.490 --> 00:50:18.840

gailevans: Now, a group of us. And this isn't really LGBT related as much as political, after Trump was elected in 2016

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00:50:20.010 --> 00:50:28.170

gailevans: A group of professional women got together and tried to figure out what we could do to help counteract the things that Trump was doing

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00:50:28.680 --> 00:50:40.980

gailevans: And that's probably, we met for a year, probably once a month, and we wrote letters and we did that kind of thing. So that's probably the closest I've come to activism since, excuse me, got old

353

00:50:42.420 --> 00:50:53.130

gailevans: I don't like to go to meetings anymore. But I also don't hide who I am. I moved to a senior living community. It's, we all own our own homes

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00:50:53.820 --> 00:50:59.340

gailevans: In Scotts valley, A couple of years ago, and many of the people here are very fundamentalist Christians.

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00:50:59.970 --> 00:51:14.760

gailevans: And older than I am even and I have not hidden in the least who I am and I'm very out and open about it and I've only had positive feedback from every single person I've interacted with. In fact, they elected, elected me to the board. So I guess they liked me

356

00:51:15.930 --> 00:51:16.410

gailevans: But

357

00:51:17.760 --> 00:51:29.580

gailevans: That's sort of a subtle activism just not hiding, who I am. I don't. They'll ask me if I have children. And I'll say, My partner and I had two foster daughters or

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00:51:30.630 --> 00:51:36.540

gailevans: Are you a widow. Yes, I lost my partner in 2012 so I don't hide who I am.

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00:51:40.080 --> 00:51:42.270

gailevans: (Phone Ringing) Oh, can I answer this really fast.

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00:51:43.110 --> 00:51:44.910

gailevans: I'm sorry, are you okay with that.

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00:51:45.090 --> 00:51:45.510

Yeah.

362

00:51:48.630 --> 00:51:49.200

gailevans: Hello.

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00:51:52.890 --> 00:51:54.240

gailevans: Hi, Jason, how are you

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00:51:56.610 --> 00:51:59.430

gailevans: I'm fine, thank you. Can I place an order with you?

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00:52:01.200 --> 00:52:03.420

gailevans: Okay, um, part of it is wine.

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00:52:04.470 --> 00:52:06.540

gailevans: Do you have a limit on how much wine?

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00:52:10.740 --> 00:52:16.380

gailevans: Okay, a friend of mine and I would like to purchase a case of your BB Rutherford cab.

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00:52:21.690 --> 00:52:26.760

gailevans: Okay, great. And then three bottles of Kennedy seven young blank Katherine Kennedy.

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00:52:29.070 --> 00:52:31.710

gailevans: And then I'd like the crab cake Caesar salad.

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00:52:35.880 --> 00:52:38.190

gailevans: And can I pick this all up about 4:30?

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00:52:42.900 --> 00:52:44.220

gailevans: Let me give you my credit card.

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00:52:45.480 --> 00:52:46.500

gailevans: Don't listen, Rachel.

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00:52:48.300 --> 00:52:50.010

gailevans: Okay, it is

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00:54:06.780 --> 00:54:08.670

gailevans: Sorry, that was

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00:54:09.360 --> 00:54:21.540

gailevans: I'm trying to support the restaurants in town that have all closed down. And this one, um, is my very favorite restaurant in Santa Cruz County and they are selling their wine at half price.

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00:54:22.170 --> 00:54:28.650

gailevans: And so I didn't want to hang up on. I mean, I didn't want to not answer because it's my dinner tonight, too.

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00:54:29.370 --> 00:54:30.930

gailevans: But the wine is not all for me. (Laughing)

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00:54:34.860 --> 00:54:45.150

Rachel Simi: I'm even doing the same thing. Um, so before that phone call on you mentioned that you and Jean had two foster children.

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00:54:45.510 --> 00:54:46.080

gailevans: Yes.

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00:54:46.380 --> 00:54:51.960

Rachel Simi: Tell me more about being a foster parent and your foster children.

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00:54:52.290 --> 00:54:56.010

gailevans: Okay. Can I have you hang on for one more minute. I have to go to the bathroom.

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00:54:56.160 --> 00:54:56.520

Rachel Simi: Yeah.

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00:54:56.790 --> 00:54:57.750

gailevans: I'll be right back.

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00:56:06.960 --> 00:56:07.500

gailevans: Thanks.

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00:56:09.660 --> 00:56:09.720

Rachel Simi: Sure

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00:56:10.200 --> 00:56:21.180

gailevans: Having foster kids was one of the biggest challenges of Jeansí and my relationship, she always wanted kids and regretted the fact that she hadn't had them. I never wanted kids, even when I thought I was straight

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00:56:21.870 --> 00:56:35.070

gailevans: But both of the foster daughters. We got were because of the Church. The first one we got was 13 years old and her mom had been a member of the church for several years.

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00:56:35.520 --> 00:56:56.310

gailevans: And both of the kids had grown up in the church and Kristen, The 13 year old had some issues and was put into a group home and her mom asked us to foster her. So she came and lived with us for about eight months, I think. And then she went and lived with her father after that.

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00:56:57.570 --> 00:57:08.430

gailevans: The second one we got when she was 17 and a half. And she came to the church because she both of them identified as lesbian both of the kids.

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00:57:10.110 --> 00:57:16.680

gailevans: The second one came to the church because she was seeking some sort of support when she was 17 and a half.

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00:57:17.340 --> 00:57:25.230

gailevans: And then her father, who was a Baptist minister and her mother, who was a social worker, they threw her out of the house because she was lesbian

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00:57:25.980 --> 00:57:36.420



gailevans: So she came, um, and was our second Foster daughter and she ended up living with us on and off for probably six or seven years.

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00:57:36.930 --> 00:57:42.630

gailevans: When she was going to Cabrillo and then when she went to CSU Monterey Bay and she graduated from CSU Monterey Bay.

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00:57:43.560 --> 00:57:54.750

gailevans: And I'm still in touch with both of them. They both ended up being straight. So we used to joke about the fact that either we were really bad role models or environment doesn't have anything to do with it. (Laughing)

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00:58:01.020 --> 00:58:11.640

Rachel Simi: Um, so you guys never you guys weren't technically you guys were foster parents in that you guys were there for children, um,

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00:58:13.560 --> 00:58:21.000

Rachel Simi: I, one of the things that has been a huge issue. Recently, is the fact that those who

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00:58:22.140 --> 00:58:34.260

Rachel Simi: Are gay in many states are not allowed to legally adopt children, you said Jean wanted children was she a big advocate for, Did she ever

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00:58:35.460 --> 00:58:39.690

Rachel Simi: In your guys's activism. Did you guys ever tried to push for legislation.

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00:58:42.480 --> 00:58:59.580

gailevans: We pushed for legislation for gay marriage but adoptions were open to gays and lesbians in California. So we didn't, no, we didn't fight for that in California, but we both were very much opposed to it in other states that they weren't allowed to

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00:59:02.490 --> 00:59:04.650

gailevans: And they still can't in some

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00:59:10.500 --> 00:59:11.790

Rachel Simi: What was it like

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00:59:13.110 --> 00:59:16.440

Rachel Simi: You know, you mentioned it was difficult on your

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00:59:17.760 --> 00:59:24.510

Rachel Simi: Relationship with Jean being a foster parent. What was it like, was it

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00:59:25.590 --> 00:59:29.580

Rachel Simi: Can you describe to me, go into more detail about

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00:59:31.050 --> 00:59:37.590

Rachel Simi: I guess what role you played. And were there any difficulties you faced

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00:59:39.510 --> 00:59:44.460

gailevans: Well, it, it changed the dynamic of our relationship having somebody else live there.

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00:59:45.090 --> 00:59:46.440

And in particular.

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00:59:47.970 --> 00:59:56.130

gailevans: A young person that was troubled, now Jean certainly took the brunt of it because she worked from home and I went to work every day.

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00:59:56.520 --> 01:00:05.820

gailevans: But it just seemed like our whole life then focused around. I never spend as much time in therapy as I did when we had the foster kids because we'd have to go to therapy with them.

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01:00:07.290 --> 01:00:07.950

gailevans: And

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01:00:09.180 --> 01:00:24.240

gailevans: Both of them had a lot of issues. And so it just made life much more complicated and also because of their parents interacting and

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01:00:26.100 --> 01:00:32.580

gailevans: When we had Elisa, the older one her mother died during that timeframe. And so that was very difficult.

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01:00:34.920 --> 01:00:35.460

gailevans: But

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01:00:36.810 --> 01:00:50.730

gailevans: It. I mean, it's like I think any parents, and particularly if you're getting, Jean used to always say it would have been so much easier if they had grew up with the same values that we had, but because we got them as teenagers.

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01:00:52.560 --> 01:01:05.010

gailevans: They already have so many things set like they only wanted to eat, especially the first one, only one to eat fast food because that was all that her mother ever fed her. And so she didn't want to eat a home cooked meal and

416

01:01:07.260 --> 01:01:22.470

gailevans: Because they both identified as lesbian, they had issues at their high schools. They were bullied and so we'd have to go and meet with the teachers and the administrators in the schools because we were advocating for them and their LGBT rights.

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01:01:24.930 --> 01:01:25.920

gailevans: So it just

418

01:01:27.090 --> 01:01:33.810

gailevans: I think it was even harder than if you started out with kids as infants and grew with , to have them come as teenagers.

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01:01:35.250 --> 01:01:36.690

gailevans: But that's just my perception.

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01:01:39.900 --> 01:01:45.480

Rachel Simi: Um, what would be your advice to do you have any advice to someone who'd want to become a foster parent

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01:01:48.180 --> 01:01:55.740

gailevans: Be really, really sure that's what you do. It's hard work. I mean, I think it's great.

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01:01:57.000 --> 01:02:10.350

gailevans: I haven't great niece, actually. She was jeansí great nice but I consider her my great niece and she, she and her husband have had several foster children, two of them, they've adopted and it's worked out beautifully. But it's so hard. I mean, even

423

01:02:11.430 --> 01:02:20.910

gailevans: It's takes a good year to go through the whole process and be able to adopt in the whole time you're worrying that you're going to lose them back to their parents or something else is going to happen.

424

01:02:23.550 --> 01:02:36.270

gailevans: So my advice would just be, be sure that you understand all of the ramifications and I would support anybody that wants to do that. But it's hard. It's very hard.

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01:02:39.840 --> 01:02:40.560

Rachel Simi: Um,

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01:02:43.980 --> 01:02:44.220

Rachel Simi: What

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01:02:45.510 --> 01:02:50.880

Rachel Simi: Let's talk about a little bit about this um quarantine situation.

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01:02:51.360 --> 01:02:55.800

gailevans: Okay. Um, I am going to have to go pretty soon. Do you have a lot more questions.

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01:02:56.310 --> 01:02:59.070

Rachel Simi: Uh, no, I just wanted to end with the quarantine.

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01:02:59.190 --> 01:03:06.750

gailevans: Okay, I don't want to cut you short because I want you to get an A on this. Are you going to send me your final project.

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01:03:06.990 --> 01:03:10.920

Rachel Simi: Yeah, yeah, I'll get the recording of this interview.

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01:03:11.280 --> 01:03:15.780

Rachel Simi: Oh, so it's, yeah. The recording kind of is the file.

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01:03:16.590 --> 01:03:18.180

gailevans: You don't have to write it up.

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01:03:18.540 --> 01:03:22.740

Rachel Simi: While we do have a transcription. So the transcribing thing now.

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01:03:22.830 --> 01:03:23.850

gailevans: Okay, sweet.

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01:03:24.510 --> 01:03:26.310

Rachel Simi: Um, which I'll also send to you.

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01:03:26.700 --> 01:03:31.650

gailevans: Well, you're very good at this. It feels like a therapy session. Okay, so let's talk about the quarantine.

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01:03:33.510 --> 01:03:42.210

Rachel Simi: Yeah, how has that affected you being in urine. You say you're in a senior neighborhood senior living neighborhood.

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01:03:44.160 --> 01:03:48.000

Rachel Simi: And I don't know Scotts Valley more rural

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01:03:49.260 --> 01:03:59.400

gailevans: It's rural I'm in the Santa Cruz Mountains. I couldn't be in a better place. I mean, this is a beautiful community. It's redwood trees, fir trees, oak trees.

441

01:03:59.790 --> 01:04:15.270

gailevans: I'm walking distance to the pool and Jacuzzi and sauna and and I couldn't be in a better place to be quarantined because I can go out walking every day in a beautiful environment. I can run into my

neighbors as long as we stay six feet away, and we can visit with one another.

442

01:04:16.410 --> 01:04:30.660

gailevans: So it's not as lonely as it might be, if I were stuck in an apartment or a senior in the nursing homes, they're not allowed out of their rooms that would just be horrible. But this is the best it could possibly be. I have

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01:04:31.920 --> 01:04:39.780

gailevans: Even though I'm used to living alone. It's different because I don't, can't go see my friends, I can't do any of my activities play bridge.

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01:04:40.500 --> 01:04:54.570

gailevans: Do water aerobics do all the things I'm used to doing. So there is some loneliness involved, but I'm, I remind myself every day how grateful I am and how lucky I am to be in the situation that I have. It could be so much worse.

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01:04:56.910 --> 01:05:01.080

Rachel Simi: Um, yeah. So what was it like when you first

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01:05:02.490 --> 01:05:07.980

Rachel Simi: Found out. How did the Community First react, I guess, to the Covid-19

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01:05:08.970 --> 01:05:18.510

gailevans: Well, we were actually, our community manager was very proactive and I'm on the board. I'm the treasurer and we were all proactive and we actually shut everything down here.

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01:05:19.170 --> 01:05:29.310

gailevans: About a week before the mayor's shut down the Bay Area. So we stopped all activities we closed our little gym. We closed our rec room we close the pools.

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01:05:30.930 --> 01:05:49.020

gailevans: And initially, I think people were surprised. But now, by and large, the vast majority are so glad that we did that and Santa Cruz County has been very, very lucky. I think we have about 250,000 in the whole county and we've had, I believe.

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01:05:50.160 --> 01:06:01.440

gailevans: 106 cases that we know of. And two deaths which is really pretty good considering and that's for the whole county

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01:06:03.060 --> 01:06:21.360

Rachel Simi: Has there been a large push by community members, I know some people, are the current thing right now is people are protesting the stay at home orders. They want all the stay at home orders to be lifted have there been any movements in your community.

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01:06:21.840 --> 01:06:29.280

gailevans: No, none at all. I mean, the only. We have a couple of people who complained that they couldn't have their gardeners anymore.

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01:06:29.850 --> 01:06:46.080

gailevans: But that wasn't our rule. That's the fact that that's not considered an essential service. And so they're not allowed. If we have people come in that are not essential services. We can be fined \$1,000 so that's not our rule. That's the county's rule.

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01:06:47.370 --> 01:06:55.440

gailevans: But by and large, people are very, very happy with what we've done. So we really haven't had a lot of pushback, and I wish those protesters would

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01:06:56.670 --> 01:07:05.340

gailevans: They don't get it. I mean, the fact that California has done as well as it has, I think, is because governor Newsom shut down the whole state

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01:07:05.820 --> 01:07:23.880

gailevans: So early. It's pretty amazing that we've done as well as we have. And because there's not enough testing. We don't know how many case. I mean, I could have it because you can be asymptomatic. We just don't know. And until we can test and until we have a vaccine.

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01:07:25.050 --> 01:07:40.440

gailevans: I don't think it's real safe for senior citizens to be out and about, I mean, I go to the grocery store, a friend shops for me some, but I do go to the grocery store and I certainly walk around the park. I do wear a mask. If I'm interacting with other people.

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01:07:41.580 --> 01:07:49.770

gailevans: But I don't think it's safe until we know exactly who has it. And until we have a cure.

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01:07:51.150 --> 01:07:52.620

gailevans: Or vaccine to prevent it.

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01:07:55.350 --> 01:07:56.670

Rachel Simi: Do you think this will

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01:07:59.340 --> 01:08:01.200

Rachel Simi: Change the way

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01:08:03.270 --> 01:08:04.050

Rachel Simi: People

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01:08:05.100 --> 01:08:09.300

Rachel Simi: Interact. Do you think this will, because a lot of the debate,

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01:08:10.380 --> 01:08:23.250

Rachel Simi: One. Some people think that people are going to come out of quarantine, and they're saying, I'm gonna hug the first person I see and the others are like, we're going to come out of quarantine,

465

01:08:23.760 --> 01:08:32.580

Rachel Simi: And we're going to kind of be in this six feet apart, you know, limited number thing. What's your kind of take on it. Do you think it will.

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01:08:33.720 --> 01:08:36.660

gailevans: The second one, for me personally.

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01:08:38.370 --> 01:08:44.850

gailevans: I don't think I will go to a movie or be on a plane or

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01:08:45.900 --> 01:08:50.820

gailevans: Go to restaurants and dine until there is a vaccination.



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01:08:51.750 --> 01:08:53.610

gailevans: Because it's just too risky.

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01:08:56.250 --> 01:09:03.300

gailevans: I mean, one of the things I miss the most is, I play bridge with a group of people, every week, and I haven't been able to do that. I am playing online.

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01:09:03.750 --> 01:09:18.690

gailevans: I have a book group, book group we're going to discuss our book on Friday using zoom. But I miss interacting with friends, but even playing bridge, I mean, you're all touching the cards. I just don't think it's safe at this point.

472

01:09:22.140 --> 01:09:30.120

gailevans: I have a cousin who is on a respirator in intensive care in renal failure. He's only 40 years old.

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01:09:31.200 --> 01:09:32.040

gailevans: With Covid

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01:09:33.270 --> 01:09:36.540

gailevans: And he's a physician's assistant, so he probably got it working.

475

01:09:38.610 --> 01:09:45.300

gailevans: But it's just, it's not worth it. It's, I mean, I pray for him every day is fighting for his life.

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01:09:46.170 --> 01:09:49.290

gailevans: And his wife and three kids are devastated.

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01:09:51.900 --> 01:09:52.470

gailevans: So,

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01:09:53.940 --> 01:09:56.520

gailevans: It's real. And I think it's sort of like

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01:09:58.290 --> 01:10:12.870

gailevans: The analogy with coming out until you know someone who's gay or lesbian, it's hard for some people to accept it till you know somebody who's dying of it or has it. I think it's hard for people to relate to it as well.

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01:10:13.770 --> 01:10:15.060

gailevans: But it's real.

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01:10:15.600 --> 01:10:16.140

I mean,

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01:10:17.580 --> 01:10:22.920

gailevans: We did a family zoom about 25 of us on Saturday night.

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01:10:24.060 --> 01:10:28.530

gailevans: With family all across the country. And a lot of it was for Teo, praying for Teo.

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01:10:29.580 --> 01:10:38.790

gailevans: But one of my cousins is in New York City and she's a teacher there and I'm so worried about her and she said, No, no, Gail. I'm staying in my apartment. I'm, she's

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01:10:39.630 --> 01:10:49.260

gailevans: 27 or 28 I think but it's terrifying for her because New York City is such a hot spot. I mean, she doesn't feel like she can you believe her apartment.

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01:10:51.480 --> 01:10:51.990

gailevans: So,

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01:10:53.670 --> 01:10:54.570

gailevans: How are you doing,

488

01:10:55.440 --> 01:11:22.080

Rachel Simi: It's, it's been interesting our, yeah like I mentioned in my emails. It's been the online transitioning to online schooling and kind of I'm at back at home with my parents and my older brother, and it's just different. I guess it's a very, you know, I think a lot of people

489

01:11:24.060 --> 01:11:45.360

Rachel Simi: This is the first big crisis, crisis that a lot of people have faced where they're being told, you know, and go out to same things that you were facing recessions and now there's the current fight over what's more important the economy or people's lives.

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01:11:46.980 --> 01:11:51.480

Rachel Simi: In the arguing, the argument for the reopening of the economy and

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01:11:52.710 --> 01:11:56.430

Rachel Simi: It's going to be very interesting. I think

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01:11:56.880 --> 01:12:06.150

gailevans: Especially scary and you know I'm heartbroken for all the people that have lost their jobs and for the small businesses. I think it's horrible.

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01:12:07.260 --> 01:12:07.920

gailevans: But

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01:12:09.450 --> 01:12:21.540

gailevans: What good is the economy if we're dead. I mean, it's we have to make sure that it's safe for people first. And I know that I'm old and probably traditional but I've never lived through anything like this.

495

01:12:22.110 --> 01:12:40.230

gailevans: In my entire life. But, and it's not just an old person's disease anymore. I mean, young people are getting it. Children are getting it. It's more prevalent with older people because our immune systems aren't as good, but it's just not safe to go out right now and

496

01:12:42.390 --> 01:12:51.780

gailevans: I see all the kids on the beach in Florida, and I just shake my head, or the protesters that are on top of each other and not wearing masks and and it just scares me.

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01:12:52.920 --> 01:12:59.580

gailevans: And I'm grateful that I live in California, because I do

think that we've done a really good job of controlling it to the best of our ability.

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01:12:59.940 --> 01:13:11.100

gailevans: And I think that Newsom and the mayor's will start opening things up as soon as they can test and be able to track the virus until we have a vaccine.

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01:13:12.390 --> 01:13:16.890

gailevans: I believe that they will do the best they can open it up when we can, when it's safe.

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01:13:19.380 --> 01:13:33.780

Rachel Simi: So you mentioned you're also supporting local businesses. So have you been doing. I know some people made the comments, leave this us outside out in the heat for 24 hours or

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01:13:35.130 --> 01:13:43.440

Rachel Simi: Spray it down. I have a cousin who leaves all the boxes. She grabs the can of Lysol and sprays everything all the boxes.

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01:13:44.640 --> 01:13:46.020

gailevans: I haven't gone that far.

503

01:13:46.230 --> 01:14:04.530

gailevans: As what I do when I go grocery shopping as I wear a mask. When I'm in the store I wear gloves. As soon as I get out of the store I throw away my gloves. I put on hand sanitizer when I get home. I take all of the groceries out of the bags, they came in and put them into my own bags.

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01:14:05.550 --> 01:14:17.670

gailevans: And then I bring them upstairs. I put on a new set of gloves. I put them all away. I do not wipe them off with Lysol or anything like that because I figure it's going to be a couple days, probably before I use them anyway so

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01:14:19.980 --> 01:14:30.870

gailevans: And then I throw the gloves away and I wash. I think the most critical thing is washing your hands. I mean, my poor skin is coming off I wash my hands a million times a day. Anytime. I've been outside or done anything

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01:14:31.740 --> 01:14:47.460

gailevans: I do use Lysol wipes. If I think I've been in a danger zone on my front door and handles and that kind of thing, but because I live alone, I, nobody has been in my house, since all of this started, nor have I been in anybody else's house.

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01:14:49.020 --> 01:15:07.020

gailevans: And I do still, I have a person who cleans my house and I have a gardener and I'm still paying them because I don't want them to be affected by this. I've already budgeted for it, my income hasn't been affected. So, and I'm contributing to food banks and that kind of thing.

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01:15:09.540 --> 01:15:14.400

gailevans: That's the best I can do, I think. But no, I'm not neurotic, when I have food delivered

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01:15:15.330 --> 01:15:28.620

gailevans: I carry it into the house. Take with gloves on. Take it out of the container, put it in my own dish and then throw the gloves away and throw the containers away. And I figure, most restaurants are used to

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01:15:29.880 --> 01:15:38.460

gailevans: Having to be as safe as possible. Anyway, so I think that's one of the safest things we can do is get takeout delivered

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01:15:40.440 --> 01:15:43.050

gailevans: grub hub and doordash you're my new best friend.

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01:15:45.690 --> 01:15:53.250

gailevans: And I will be sending thoughts to you, it would have been very hard for me as a junior in college to have to come home and stay with my parents. I think I would have

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01:15:55.200 --> 01:15:56.970

gailevans: Found some other alternative if I could,

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01:15:58.650 --> 01:15:58.950

gailevans: Would have

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01:15:59.160 --> 01:16:02.520

Gail Evans: A real challenge because you're used to being on your own and independent and

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01:16:03.120 --> 01:16:11.100

gailevans: That's hard. That's really hard and I hope it opens up by next fall, but I'm not convinced that it will be

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01:16:12.150 --> 01:16:27.960

Rachel Simi: Now, yeah, it's gonna be very interesting or my brother and I currently do a majority of the shopping for my parents, so my parents send my brother and I, for the chores to do outside the house they can't do.

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01:16:28.380 --> 01:16:29.820

gailevans: Do you and your brother get along well

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01:16:30.540 --> 01:16:31.650

Rachel Simi: Yeah, I mean,

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01:16:32.010 --> 01:16:34.830

Rachel Simi: my whole family gets along fairly well.

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01:16:36.480 --> 01:16:45.510

Rachel Simi: Now it's just living in a house with four people all the time. It's starting tensions starting to

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01:16:46.470 --> 01:16:50.070

gailevans: Maybe try a jigsaw puzzle. Yes.

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01:16:51.210 --> 01:16:54.660

Rachel Simi: Yeah. My mom actually broke out a puzzle, The other day

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01:16:54.960 --> 01:16:58.620

gailevans: Oh, good. Do you like to play cards? Maybe you could play cards.

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01:16:59.310 --> 01:17:04.770

Rachel Simi: Yeah, I've been playing cards. I used to play solitaire with my grandma all the time.

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01:17:05.220 --> 01:17:05.910

gailevans: Oh, good.

527

01:17:06.330 --> 01:17:06.750

gailevans: Yeah.

528

01:17:07.080 --> 01:17:12.600

gailevans: So definitely, I love TV until that does help. I've watched a really good things on TV.

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01:17:13.320 --> 01:17:14.310

Rachel Simi: Any, any

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01:17:14.400 --> 01:17:17.370

Rachel Simi: Any recommendations any TV recommendations?

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01:17:18.120 --> 01:17:21.270

gailevans: Yes, there's a show on

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01:17:22.620 --> 01:17:23.370

Netflix.

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01:17:25.320 --> 01:17:27.900

gailevans: Think it's Netflix, Unorthodox.

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01:17:28.950 --> 01:17:29.910

gailevans: Have you heard of that?

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01:17:30.720 --> 01:17:42.630

gailevans: It's about a young Jewish woman. It's really, really good it's a three series, three episode series. Very well done. There's another thing that I really liked. I don't know if

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01:17:43.530 --> 01:17:56.880

gailevans: If it would appeal to you, but it was called Crip camp C-R-I-P camp. And it was about a camp for disabled adults back in the

1970s and

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01:17:57.300 --> 01:18:05.760

gailevans: The story of disability rights and the movement and I worked at Camp Easter seal on Lake Cordelane, when I was doing my

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01:18:06.060 --> 01:18:17.340

gailevans: PhD, which is for disabled mentally and physically disabled children and adults. So I related to it really well, but it was a wonderful documentary on disability rights.

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01:18:17.970 --> 01:18:30.750

gailevans: And then I just started watching on Hulu something called Mrs America, which is about the fight for the ERA Gloria Steinem and all. And that's really good too. I've only watched two of the three episodes but that's very good.

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01:18:32.580 --> 01:18:37.080

gailevans: I don't know if that would relate to you or fits because of my generation that I like these things.

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01:18:37.860 --> 01:18:38.550

Rachel Simi: Oh, no

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01:18:39.660 --> 01:18:46.980

Rachel Simi: Those all sound very interesting. I know the Crip camp. I've seen and Mrs. America and

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01:18:47.970 --> 01:18:49.200

gailevans: You've seen Mrs America.

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01:18:49.230 --> 01:18:59.820

Rachel Simi: I haven't seen it, but when I first saw the thing, I looked up the story behind it and I thought there was no way this woman couldn't have succeeded, and unfortunately

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01:19:00.450 --> 01:19:01.200

Rachel Simi: She did.

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01:19:01.680 --> 01:19:04.230



gailevans: Yeah, I remember living through Phyllis Schlafly

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01:19:06.360 --> 01:19:10.620

gailevans: Yeah, I haven't watched the last one yet because I know it's going to be depressing because we lose

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01:19:15.570 --> 01:19:18.180

Rachel Simi: Would you uh, anything where you're like,

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01:19:19.530 --> 01:19:28.290

Rachel Simi: I remember being in this march. Were there any events that you in the TV series. You remember being a part of or

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01:19:30.330 --> 01:19:36.180

gailevans: Um the era was kind of before my time. I mean, I was only in high school, so I wasn't

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01:19:36.180 --> 01:19:37.500

gailevans: Really an advocate, then, um

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01:19:39.390 --> 01:19:40.020

gailevans: But

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01:19:41.550 --> 01:19:43.020

gailevans: Yeah, no, I don't think so.

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01:19:51.360 --> 01:19:54.780

Rachel Simi: Well, thank you so much for everythin

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01:19:55.380 --> 01:20:06.930

gailevans: You're most welcome. And if you think of something else. Shoot me an email or whatever, I'm happy to. And I hope you have a good rest of your semester and you finish everything successfully. What are you majoring in Rachel.

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01:20:07.530 --> 01:20:15.420

Rachel Simi: I'm I'm majoring um and humanities and communication with an emphasis on history.

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01:20:16.260 --> 01:20:19.110

gailevans: Great. Do you know what you want to do. Do you want to be a teacher.

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01:20:19.740 --> 01:20:20.340

Um,

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01:20:23.250 --> 01:20:29.880

Rachel Simi: I it's not my top choice for jobs. I will. Yeah. Historian though.

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01:20:30.210 --> 01:20:32.130

gailevans: Oh, wonderful. Yeah, right.

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01:20:32.640 --> 01:20:34.230

gailevans: So may I ask you,

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01:20:34.650 --> 01:20:36.990

gailevans: Do you identify with the LGBT community.

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01:20:37.860 --> 01:20:52.680

Rachel Simi: Um, I don't personally identify as any letter in the LGBTQ and but I have had many friends, my closest friends are people

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01:20:53.250 --> 01:20:53.340

Rachel Simi: In

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01:20:54.090 --> 01:21:05.580

Rachel Simi: The community. And so, um, you know, you're talking about your family, and it is something that I've had problems with my own grandparents or aunts and uncles with

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01:21:06.690 --> 01:21:27.930

Rachel Simi: Them with comments, They've made I'm considering that my best friends are a part of that community. So I am you know it's definitely a struggle to try to talk to my some of my family members about it and get them to understand that it's not a choice.

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01:21:28.740 --> 01:21:38.580

gailevans: Exactly right. It's not. And most people would not choose

to be LGBT because it's so much harder, but

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01:21:38.640 --> 01:21:48.570

gailevans: I can't thank you enough. We need allies like you and so thank you for taking the time to do this and for caring enough to do it and your best friend is lucky to have you.

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01:21:49.860 --> 01:21:51.240

Rachel Simi: Thank you so much.

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01:21:51.330 --> 01:21:53.310

gailevans: Okay, take care.

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01:21:53.640 --> 01:21:54.570

Rachel Simi: Thanks you as well

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01:21:55.050 --> 01:21:55.800

Rachel Simi: Thanks,

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01:21:55.860 --> 01:21:57.090

gailevans: Okay. Let's stay in touch.

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01:21:57.480 --> 01:22:03.420

gailevans: You have my email, let's do that. Yeah. And maybe when I come to Elk Grove to visit my family. I can meet you

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01:22:03.900 --> 01:22:04.200

Rachel Simi: Yeah.

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01:22:05.310 --> 01:22:06.840

gailevans: Or when you come back to Monterey

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01:22:07.260 --> 01:22:08.400

Rachel Simi: Yeah, okay.

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01:22:08.850 --> 01:22:09.420

Rachel Simi: Hopefully,

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01:22:11.100 --> 01:22:12.780  
Rachel Simi: Take care, bye.

580  
01:22:12.960 --> 01:22:13.410  
Gail Evans: Bye bye.