



# Library podcast

## Susan Burton: 'Becoming Ms. Burton'

[00:00:05] Welcome to The Seattle Public Library's podcasts of author readings and library events. Library podcasts are brought to you by The Seattle Public Library and Foundation. To learn more about our programs and podcasts, visit our web site at [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org). To learn how you can help the library foundation support The Seattle Public Library go to [foundation.spl.org](http://foundation.spl.org)

[00:00:35] Good evening. Hi everybody I'm Stesha Brandon. I'm the Literature and Humanities Program Manager here at The Seattle Public Library. Welcome to the Central Library. And to tonight's event with Susan Burton. I would like to thank our author series sponsor Gary Kunis and the Seattle Times for their generous support for library programs. We're also grateful to The Seattle Public Library Foundation private gifts to the foundation from thousands of donors help the library provide free programs and services that touched the lives of everyone in our community. I am delighted to introduce Susan Burton here to talk about her new book *Becoming Ms. Burton*. From prison to recovery to leading the fight for incarcerated women turning to drugs after the tragic loss of her son Susan Burton cycled in and out of prison before getting clean. She's since dedicated her life to helping women facing similarly similar struggles. Susan is nationally known as an advocate for restoring basic civil and human rights to those who have served time. Her organization a new way of life operates five safe homes in Los Angeles that supply a lifeline to hundreds of formerly incarcerated women and their children setting them on the track to education and employment rather than returning to prison. In 2010 Susan was nominated as a CNN Top 10 Hero and received the citizen activist award from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She's been a Soros Justice Fellow and a women's policy institute fellow at the California Wellness Foundation.

[00:02:01] Please help me welcome Susan Burton as thank you so much and I want to thank The Seattle Public Library for hosting this and all that you did to bring it together and I want to thank you all for coming out this evening to listen to me talk about my memoir *My Life Story*. I think back to where this began and I would have never dreamed I'd be in Seattle with a memoir. Capturing my life's journey and the impact that it's had on women just like me. I'm a native of Los Angeles born in a household with five boys. I was the only girl and my mother and father came to Los Angeles running from the south. Running from the races and running from the Jim Crow running from the lynchings and what they brought with them was what they learned in this town and it wasn't until I. Had. An inkling of of of something was really wrong in the world. But I couldn't put my finger on it until I read Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*. It allowed me to really understand what had happened with my life and what had happened with so many other people's lives and what created mass

incarceration. And I wish my mother and father would have had something like that. That they could have understood more all of the obstacles and ways of the society that. They could navigate. But it's all in the book. I'm going to read from a section of the book. To give you a sense of the story and then I'll be happy to answer any questions that you have.

[00:04:26] The book The book's prologue begins with the story of Ingrid. This sharp lively woman came to the reentry homes in 2007 when she was just 24 years old. With her five year old daughter Simona she was one of the residents who would come with me to meetings with policymakers and political activists. She'd stand up and tell her story a childhood of violence. She escaped her group homes and boot camps and ended up in the streets selling drugs and giving birth to her daughter at age 19 those she thrived while she was at the home. She eventually was re in ha serrated again. This is the story of how she ended back in the prison system.

[00:05:19] And it says a lot about the cruel and unjust realities of incarceration in America today. Ingrid's life changed in a single day outside a Dallas store having scrounged up the money to buy Pampers and baby formula. She took her screaming toddler made a bottle in the checkout checkout line but left her sleeping baby in a car. The window open for air not more than 10 minutes later when she returned to the car. The police were there. She was arrested for child endangerment. Though her baby was unharmed the police impounded the car the diapers the baby formula. Despite Ingrid's plea that the children were hungry and needed changing because of her history she was guilty before ever standing trial. She was sentenced to three years in prison and lost custody of all three of her daughters I was silent while she blamed everything on herself.

[00:06:28] How she'd been frazzled and sleep deprived and looking back. Perhaps she had postpartum depression. I thought. But had Ingrid been a person of means. Had she been in a different neighborhood had she not been black.

[00:06:48] Would she have been sentenced to three years in prison. I wish she had been given help center parenting classes and therapy resources that existed for certain people but not for others. Did I even have to ask the question. English story could have and should have been different. Same with my own story and the story of most of the thousand women who have been through the doors of a new way of life seeking safety productivity meaning and fulfillment. So I keep asking the question why are black Americans incarcerated at nearly six times the rates of white. Why are prison sentences for African-Americans disproportionately higher. Once released. Why do people face a lifetime of discriminatory policies practices that smother any chance of a better life. Nearly 20 years ago. Before I fully recognize there was a big picture I set out to offer a type of fresh refuge and support. I wish I'd had. A house of women helping women. I came at it with only a GTD earned in prison without mentors without funding. All I had was my life experience. All I knew was there had to be a better way now. Every year in South L.A. around 100 newly released women and their children call a new way of life. Home in a state where more than half of the people with a felony conviction will return to prison.

[00:08:31] I read recidivism rate is a mere 14 percent. We assist women in completing their education finding jobs. We have to regain custody of their children. We provide 12 step programs counseling

and peer support groups. All for less than a third of a cost of incarceration. Our annual cost per women at a new way of life is sixteen thousand dollars compared to an annual cost of up to sixty thousand dollars to incarcerate a woman and a new study came out that cost to incarcerate a person went up to seventy five thousand dollars. But something bigger than I ever could have imagined happened as we began telling our stories and talking about what was going on around us. I found my voice I could no longer shake my head helplessly asking the same question over and over again it was time to change the answers. To do that meant tackling many institutional barriers. The laws the policies and the attitudes that created mass incarceration and that continue to punish people long after they served their time. The 13th Amendment of the constitution abolished slavery other than in prisons but it was a lie that you get your life back. It was a lie that you ingrain your freedom once you left the prison gate upon release and for the rest of your life you faced a massive wall of no.

[00:10:05] The American Bar Association documented forty five thousand legal sanctions restrictions imposed upon people with criminal records. A near impenetrable barrier denying access to employment student loans housing public assistance custody of your children the right to vote and in many places incarcerated formerly incarcerated people. I even blocked from visiting their loved ones in prison. The minute I picked up the supposedly free Ingrid. All these collateral consequences stared her square in the face the highest priority was to get her kids back. But before she could even attempt to regain custody of her daughters we had to get her set up in permanent housing. But she had no money to cover rent so we had to find her employment. Of course only a limited number of jobs existed for someone with a conviction. So are you starting to get the picture. By Design ingress hopes and dreams were all but snuffed out. And her child's life. Her children's lives thrown into permanent disarray that day. She made that faulty decision outside the general data store. This isn't a problem that's going to go away on its own.

[00:11:29] The United States has the largest prison population in the world and most of these people most of these people will come home one day. Ninety seven percent of those incarcerated returned to the community. I realize that formerly incarcerated people had no voice and no one seem willing to speak for us. But as I build a new way of life sometimes I felt as though a new underground robot was taking shape. We the People of the community weren't going to let each other fail. We would rescue each other and deliver. Deliver ourselves to a lasting freedom. We would do all we could to help women like Ingrid get their lives back and make better lives for their children. Through a network at cultivated over the past two decades we began chipping away at what once seemed nearly impossible. We found a great job doing intake in a women's homeless shelter working closely with the Department of Children and Family Services and would approve of her residence at a new way of life. Anger was approved to have her children on weekends while we pursued a longer process of gaining full custody. Ingo was putting money away into a savings account working with housing agencies to find a permanent residence. You know I watched her get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and catch three buses to get the children caught on time. She never complained. You know she got up as she did what she had to do I sorry laying in the hospital next to her 15 year old daughter

[00:13:08] Who had became pregnant while she was incarcerated. And got really sick while she was carrying the baby. And she never complained she cried. But she never complained and then one day.

Angwin looked at me. And the spark in the life. That I knew had come back into her eye. And she said to me Miss Burton my life. Is coming back together. And she continues. To show up. And work. And make a better life for her. Her children and the community around her. And it just so happens tonight that Ingrid is here to speak at a conference with over tomorrow around employment.

[00:14:09] So I know you might have some questions for her for me. But I think you might have some questions for Ingrid too.

[00:14:17] So let's welcome her up here we'll take any questions that you might have. Yes

[00:14:43] She asked me how did I start in the way of life. And do I have a secure source of funding after serving six prison sentences for possession of a controlled substance that I use to medicate my grief and pain. For the loss of my son I found a treatment center in Santa Monica California and at that treatment center I began to heal and I received the resources and the support that allowed me to heal

[00:15:23] After I left and came back to South L.A. I worked as a caregiver and the lady asked me to move in with her and I did it was a minimum wage job but I was really frugal with my with money I didn't spend it I saved it all I was living rent free and after about a year I saved thirteen thousand dollars. I brought a little. Escort it with a little blue Escort with two thousand of the 13 and then I got a little house. With the rest of it the majority of it. And I realized that if people had a place to go in South L.A. like that place in Santa Monica that I went to. Then perhaps women wouldn't return to prison. So. I never dreamed I would need anything like that.

[00:16:21] You know we were sustained. I wasn't trying to get paid but I just felt it was so cruel. That the people in South L.A. went to prison for possession. The people in Santa Monica they got a court card diverted to divert diversion and did community service where the same charges that we went to prison for over and over again.

[00:16:45] And the recovery was so effective. I could just didn't understand why

[00:16:54] They weren't accessible in South L.A. where the war on drugs was jets rapid and tore our community apart. So is the other part of the question in a non-profit. Funding is never secure. Are always trying to raise money. And we've come a long way. We've developed we have. Five homes now

[00:17:20] In the South L.A. area for women as over a thousand women have been through those homes.

[00:17:31] Three hundred children have been reunited with their moms.

[00:17:35] And we've got a legal department organizing department civic engagement department. Ingrid is the leader in our civic engagement department. And we do some policy community

organizing leadership development housing and you know we just run amok. China trying to you know raise the living conditions for. In that community for that community and specifically with formerly incarcerated people. You're welcome.

[00:18:12] Yes. So he says he was attorney at Microsoft and

[00:18:46] He became homeless. And he you know has noticed the homeless community also the the rise in the building a rise of incarceration in the building of prisons. And. Yeah I've noticed that in South L.A. or throughout the L.A. and really throughout the country so this country was on a I call it a race to incarcerate. And build in these monstrous cities in these areas throughout the country incarcerating people for any and everything.

[00:19:28] Could you imagine.

[00:19:30] What are communities may look like. If those resources hadn't been invested in our communities to improve the quality of life. So you know prison literally destroys people punishing them and torturing them and locking them up and stripping them of everything and then they send them back

[00:19:57] Seventy five thousand dollars a year and in Los Angeles how much money you come on with. Yeah. Yeah you come home with 200 dollars minus your bus or train for it they give you two hundred dollars in

[00:20:14] School which you get by. So. Yeah. Michael. If

[00:20:31] You don't. Well

[00:20:34] You have to pay for it. We get two hundred dollars. Yeah. There you go. There you go. There. You go. There

[00:20:43] You go. We gave two hundred nominees. Wait a minute. You have to pay for your bus ticket out of that 200

[00:20:55] Yes. So there they are and then there. You go first. Yes. And

[00:21:27] She asked what type of access to services did I have when I was released from incarceration. So every prison in California when you are from Los Angeles County where I'm from. You return to the Greyhound bus station you get off the bus with your book 50 bucks

[00:21:49] 60 or whatever and you make a life from there. So I had. No resources no access to resources. Each time I left prison I was firmly resigned to you know make a life. It was my hope and my dream to what I call get it together. And each time I failed miserably because there were weren't any supports I know that everybody leaving from incarceration need some level of support they need

a place to actually detox incarceration they need to heal not only from what might have happened prior to incarceration but from the Conservation experience. So I had nothing. You know my household was really a violent place a place that I experienced a lot of abuse.

[00:22:49] And there was a lot of alcoholism. So that wasn't a good place to go back into. So I would get caught up over and over again until I found that help and I'm like What is there. It's pretty good. And I wanted to replicate that. You had a question

[00:23:13] Yes. Even though we go through this program

[00:24:42] Well something happened. And what I want to want to say is that you know it's scary. It's scary. You don't want to stay there but it's scary walking out of those gates back into community. You.

[00:24:59] Time has passed and you know the community has changed you've changed. And it's almost like time stood still for you while you're incarcerated but everything outside. Move forward. And I guess that's why I know it's so important to be there at that gate to embrace that person that's leave and that they can become comfortable. Yeah. You know I mean that's what we do. But but everybody we work with. They write us a letter and they ask for help and they're ready and that's part of our requirement is that you ask for help and you're ready. And then we'll give you that help. So I guess you had to get ready and I'm so glad you're here and I can understand. Well yeah I don't understand why you would be ashamed of your prison education. It's your education regardless to where you got it. So I tell people yeah. You know. I say I went to. I didn't go to Yale I went to jail and and I don't have a h HDI I have a p h do and I'm grateful and I'm happy for it. So I'm glad and I'm happy and I'm grateful that you got your education too. It didn't matter where it came from you got it. And nobody can take it from you.

[00:26:29] Yeah. There was a hand. Yeah.

[00:27:05] So she heard the Fresh Air interview last week and she wanted to know if there's other parts in other parts of the country that the model of a new way of life. Is there any thought about that and yes there is though the book is a tool that gives me the ability to go other places and work with other people. I'm actually that want to develop something similar. I've had inquiries over the years but now I think the time is right. I'm working with UCLA to create a model replication study to expand the model of a new way of life and to support and help people to do that. So the book sales and any resources that Tom will be I'll be working to get working with that to make that happen because a new way of life consists of single family homes that you know just like your home or your home that women come to and they create their their family they're there that family in that home and support one another. It's not that they throw are divorced there they're their biological family.

[00:28:25] But it's a place that they can be long that they are part of that they have ownership and that is supporting them to redevelop or further develop their lives their skills and get grounded in and learn to think more critically about their environment and their lives and the decisions that they're making and they're supported through those decisions be it good decisions or blunder because I think all of

us all of us have blunders at some time and that doesn't mean that you're undeserving or that you can't be supported to understand and maybe not make that blunder again. But you know they're supported through you know all of it. Did you have any blunders.

[00:29:17] Ingrid you want to. You want to talk about any blunder that you recognize that you were supported through.

[00:29:32] Is that working.

[00:29:33] Oh OK. I came to a new way of life twice. So you know the first time. I'm not going to say that I came there because it didn't work. It worked the first time and it's working the second time. It was just you know when you have a record it's hard you know when you don't have that type of support or will you decide to detach yourself from the support. The second time I came around on my kids were the system and I needed support with talking to social workers dealing with detectives and how to navigate housing court dates all types of stuff. And I was supported through each and every step all the way down to Job Services in getting the counseling that I needed individually to deal with my personal issues so that I could be able to stand up and fight for my kids and allow the support you know that a new way of life had for me. And no matter what you know no matter what type of decisions or no matter how I feel you know I still got that support. So a new way of life showed me that you know you don't have to be perfect you know to to have a life that even though like I was explaining to her just because all hell is breaking loose personally and your life doesn't mean that your dreams die. You know a new way of life taught us that. You could still dream that you could still have a life but it's a way to handle things. It's a way to go about things and to never you know never give up to always fight for what's yours. And sometimes if you have to kick the door down then you have to keep the door down. But take what's yours. You know in a positive way and never give up and pull somebody else up. No. Along the way don't ever forget. And that's what a new way of life is built on. Never forgetting where you know Ms Burton never forgot where she came from.

[00:31:14] So she teaches us that you know just because she helps us and we get to where we get to that we have to do the same thing with other people that you don't be judgmental because they went through something that you support them just the way you were supported just the way she supports us. So we just pay it forward.

[00:31:34] And the lady that asked me the question about the model replication and I'd like Daniel to stand. Daniel contacted me and he has an arts program with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people here in the Seattle area. And he reached out to me about a month ago asking me about replication. So we might have something going on right here in Seattle

[00:32:18] Yeah. She says that she doesn't think that it's an excuse to let the system off the hook that we shouldn't let that system off the hook. And I agree with you. But in the meantime you know we have to get up and stand up and we have to work to make our communities better and extend whatever we can.

[00:32:35] You know I'm thinking the system is going implode at some point. You know I'll be just fine outside of it. Yeah. So you had a hand here and then you. Yeah. You know I didn't have that problem it was my home and I lived in it and I got along with my neighbors. You know I have one neighbor who when there's a full moon she doesn't get along with any of the neighbors

[00:33:21] And she teaches you know her own type of patience and tolerance that we all you know need to having we're really teaches the women patience and tolerance and just because you write that don't mean you can hurt and harm and or whatever but I didn't have that problem. But you know I'm a communicator and the women have helped the neighbors. You know we have. Have this abundance of food every week and we share with the neighbors. We've gotten some of our neighbors sober so we haven't had any any problems in any of our homes. So she was asked me about not in my backyard. Do I have not in my backyard I'm a good neighbor.

[00:34:04] We're good neighbors.

[00:34:06] You know we just want to live. Yeah.

[00:34:11] Yes.

[00:34:53] Yeah. So she's saying that thing in the justice system and other types of systems there are many many providers and folks within those systems that would embrace something like this and their diversion programs.

[00:35:10] Yeah. You have the

[00:35:16] It's it's up. I can't think of the acronym for it but it's easy. The policeman doesn't take the person to jail. They take him to some type of safe house here. The first in the country you have it here.

[00:35:34] Where does it lead. Yeah.

[00:35:36] Lead law in for enforcement assisted diversion.

[00:35:42] You know I don't you know but. But I heard about that. It was supported by the Soros Justice Foundation. And you know so other other parts of the country is trying to copy that lead program. But yeah I was the lead on the LEAD program.

[00:35:59] Yeah. Yeah they're there and in there. Go ahead

[00:36:13] Yes I did. I love a successful repeat the. Oh she asked did I end up getting all of my children back. And yes I did. I fought long and hard. From the time you know I got out with the support of a new way of life and I have three children three girls and one granddaughter and each and every one of them are in my custody. Last month I just got custody of my middle child which was the last

one. So. I have custody of all my kids she she comes to work sometimes says be careful what you pray for

[00:36:51] Expressing that this feel really.

[00:36:56] But I mean it's a blessing because I remember being in my bunk in prison and not having nothing to do and you know wishing that I could be at home you know with my kids. So. It's. You know

[00:37:08] It's a curse and a blessing for lack of a better term. You know all at the same time but I'm grateful. I'm grateful

[00:37:22] The whole process took about a year and a half which was because I had the support of a new way of life. If I had not had the support of a new way of life along with the fact that I was willing to stand up and do whatever it took to get my kids back it would have taken longer. You know I had a guy come up to me in the DCF as building and he was like You know what are you here for a visit. I'm like No I got all my kids back. He was like Oh you're a lucky one you know. And that's sad. You know for somebody to say that to me because not everybody you know gets their kids back and is like what type of support do you really have is is there really you know in our communities when it comes to our kids being placed in city systems.

[00:38:06] How long have you been home.

[00:38:09] I got out 2015 so it'll be two years this year.

[00:38:18] How long did it take you to get your children back.

[00:38:21] A year and a half. You had a year and a half about now. Right about now. Yeah. Yeah well actually less than that about a year but about a year. That's six months. Yeah about it. Yep. About six months actually. Yeah. We fight hard. Yeah yeah.

[00:38:36] It took about six months but we fought hard. We.

[00:38:40] You know I made some phone calls and I helped and social workers to the to the nail and I sat in on meetings and she needed to have those kids and she needs to have that big girl back home because she had been traumatized while she was incarcerated.

[00:38:55] So. So I just had a refresher. It took about six months. Yeah.

[00:39:01] I mean when as soon as I got out we hit the ground running. So it's kind of like everything I just happen like you know is I'm sorry. Probably did take longer than that but it seems like a lifetime to be honest and it's now that I look at it I've been out a year and a year two years now.

[00:39:17] Yeah six months. Yeah I fly. Time flies per year. Service rates because they're

[00:39:30] Now just like very. Peter Schiff organized the next flight are getting a little bit about that. Not are for you. I think you're right just like the example I gave her a year later I said you gave them your car to

[00:40:01] Anymore. Yes. You also see a lot of really hard to say about the way. Rides. How you. Carry yourself

[00:40:18] Through this journey. I'm not I didn't even do this day say that if people do this for decades will. Cultivate accordingly yourself.

[00:40:29] You're speaking to me.

[00:40:36] So the first question I have a friend named Glenn Martin he has an organization called Just Leadership USA.

[00:40:44] And I'm gonna take his slogan that those closest to the problem are closest to the solution and it comes just like second nature.

[00:40:53] Understanding what somebody needs because that's what you need it also understanding the changes that need to be made because those changes affected you and you see the effect it has on the daily lives of people. Every year I go to the mountains and am silent for 10 days and my mind stops in other

[00:41:22] You know I get calm and and you know I'm just silent there.

[00:41:26] And I think that's one of the things that that helps me to stop the frantic pace of my my mind.

[00:41:34] And that can run out.

[00:41:38] I still go to 12 step meetings. I mean I'll be 20 years sober this year.

[00:41:49] You know I still work the steps. I did an inventory last year and I took it because I was getting too angry with people and I had to unload some of the resentment and understand you know my part I played in it. So. So that's what I do and I go to meetings twice a week I'm on the road a lot now but I usually try to get back in the alley for my Sunday night meeting and I'll probably be doing some meetings while out on the road. But you know I'm a twelve stepper

[00:42:25] Diehard.

[00:42:26] What would you do to rejuvenate. You don't keep it going. I go and I lock myself in a room an hour after I get off work and I don't

[00:42:37] I really mean no I have I have small children. So it's kind of hard to you know take a 10 day break. I wish I could let myself care is you know I. I just make sure that my kids are in bed at a certain time and. You know I just I try to have my me time at night but mostly. I feel like

[00:43:02] I'll take care of myself by always being available. You know that helps me stay grounded. And not forget you know. That. I was saved and that you know is the constant battle and so many others that we have to save. You know sometimes if you forget if you forget why you're in the works sometimes you get lost in me and I just try to. I always pray that I don't get away from myself that I don't become too self-absorbed into this and that and this and that that after Gatewood my whole point of me being here is. And that's for me to be of service to somebody else at all times no matter what. So whenever Miss Burton needs me I'm here. So she's learning

[00:43:47] You know she's learning. She discovers she will uncover and she'll understand what it is that that keeps her

[00:43:55] But that's for her. I can't give it to her. She has to discover

[00:44:01] Ok. Yes. Oh and then and then. Yeah. She asked me if I had seen the documentary that 13

[00:44:33] And yes I have. I've seen it three times. And it's seldom that. I can't speak but each time after I hear I'm so furious that I don't want to open my mouth because what comes out

[00:44:56] And I just don't know what will come out so I.

[00:45:00] Abbie I'm furious. Each time I see the 13 it just captures it. It's real.

[00:45:15] So the 13th is about the 13th Amendment. It's made by a widow Bernie. And it goes through the history of incarceration the KKK both lives and stories. The killing a black man and it takes you press it to the Trump administration and I think it was just before he was elected president that he captured all of that fighting. You know it talks about slavery. And it is the history of racism in America. Oh yeah.

[00:46:00] And the the way in which laws are influenced and made these laws that are so punitive and they create mass incarceration and the companies that support this. What's the name of the company.

[00:46:16] What's the name of the company. Oh. You don't know. Yeah.

[00:46:20] So it's. It documents. How we got here. It's the issue. If you haven't seen it.

[00:46:31] The question.

[00:48:03] It's sad and it's outrageous. The whole thing about trying kids as adults these long sentences where rehabilitation and support isn't even a consideration so they'll spend one hundred and twenty thousand dollars on your year on your son to incarcerate him. But what they won't invest in your stability and your housing. And support his is a great you know his his schooling and whatnot. I don't know if there's anything that you can do here. So prayer works here and she works with you and she works in the criminal justice system. But this is just an example. Of how a life is just swept away. A life with potential and you know the other thing I want to say is that. We're not throwaway people. We have promised we all promise for America. You know. What is the why can't I promise be bloomed in developed. While we treat it as if we are have no promise no scales you know but we are not. Throwaway people. We have mothers and we have children. And we're going to you know fight and stand. And bring one another along and it's hard tough road. You know we're on it but that's just a real example.

[00:50:00] Of Promise stolen and wasted.

[00:50:18] Is there another question Was there another. Yes. Yeah.

[00:50:51] Yeah yeah.

[00:50:53] So yeah it is it's very tired it's very frustrating and I still go through the same thing.

[00:51:00] So we've launched campaigns around ban the box and in those campaigns we're putting in levels of accountability that if it's not followed we can use the law to hold employers and governments accountable. But what I want to say to you is that we didn't get here in a day so there is a long road of reconstruction. You know stay encouraged you know join those that are fighting for the rights for the restoration. You know I wish other formerly incarcerated people would would would come out of the closet. And stand and fight. There's 70 million people in America that has been incarcerated. You know I wish we could bring them out to stand up and show who they are and shine a light and say and an and and build the power in the numbers so join in your community and end you know fight further you're right. And don't be discouraged and don't isolate yourself

[00:52:59] Yes it does. And you know she says she was homeless. So she don't have no way to send you information. You you you she can get with you right now

[00:53:13] Ok. I

[00:53:17] I. So you got a couple of resources you got to work on. You got to fight for you. You got to work. Yeah.

[00:53:26] All right. Thank you.

[00:53:43] This podcast was presented by the Seattle Public Library and Foundation and made possible by your contributions to the Seattle Public Library Foundation. Thanks for listening.