

LGBT STORIES:

Reflections and Voices from Within

I believe...

The issues are...

This is me...

BIOGRAPHIES

FACILITATOR

Deb Coolhart is an Assistant Professor in Community and Human Services at Empire State College and adjunct faculty in Syracuse University's Marriage and Family Therapy Department. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and has a private practice. Deb's clinical work generally serves the queer community and more specifically, she works with transgender individuals and their loved ones. Deb's academic and research interests cluster around issues of diversity and oppression, including transgender issues, particularly with regard gender transition, and sexual identity, particularly as it relates to youth and families.

REFLECTIONS

Kim Watson is the co-founder of Community Kinship Life (CK Life) which is an up and coming organization working to help connect Trans individuals to resources within their community. Kim works as a care specialist to ensure that trans/gender variant individuals receive adequate medical care. Kim is on several boards including the NYSDOH AIDS Institute's Prevention Planning Group and NYC Prevention Planning Group as the co-chair of the Transgender Advisory Committee. Kim aims to make the world a safe place for people of Trans experience. Kim is also committed in helping in the fight against HIV/AIDS through education and community empowerment.

Mona Rae Mason served as Project Director & Field Coordinator of 'The Transgender Project', an NIH funded, five year, longitudinal study of the male to female population of the greater New York City metro area. She has co-authored six papers for professional journal publication. Mona serves on the Board of Directors of Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., is active on various committees of The Transgender Health Initiative of NY, and was invited by the New York Police Dept. to help re-write the training manual for the NY Police Academy with regards to transgender diversity. Mason has presented and participated in several transgender research forums. She has also organized and promoted several food and clothing drives to benefit homeless transgender youth in the NYC area.

LOCAL STORIES

Denise Rhone is a transwoman living and working in Northern N.Y. who loves life and is very happy.

William Knodel was the chair of the AIDS Interfaith Council and the Westcott Street Fair. He previously worked with the LGBT Youth Program, SAGE Upstate, LGBT Seniors Program, the Radical Faeries and a variety of other faith & human service organizations. He was married to a handsome, red-headed Canadian fellow named Keith and lived in Ontario. Now widowed, William lives in Syracuse with his goldfish and is occasionally visited by the nephew he raised who now lives in San Francisco. William's curiosity and optimism spur on stories.

Judith Anderson was born and raised in northern Canada, and moved to the US in high school. Judith attended conservative religious educational institutions through college and was married by the age of 22. At the age of 30, she claimed her queer identity and ended the marriage. Currently, Judith is a post-doctoral fellow in health psychology at Cornell University. Her research is focused on how the experience of severe stress influences our mental and physical health. More recently, she has begun to pursue an interest in the interplay between stress, social relations, and physical health during hormonal gender transition. Judith's goal is to attain a permanent academic research and teaching position in health psychology, with a specialization in stress and physical health as related to the needs of the LGBT community.

Marc Mario is a 1978 graduate of the Albany College of Pharmacy currently living in his hometown of Rome, NY. He began his transition 14 years ago, after extensive counseling with experts in the field of human sexuality. Marc was initially diagnosed as a heterosexual female-to-male transsexual in 1981. Although he began his journey several years later at mid-life, Marc noted his first feelings of being "different" at age five. Today he is employed full-time as a retail pharmacist. He holds two doctorates, one in Transpersonal Psychology and the other in Ro-Hun Therapy, from Delphi University of McCaysville, GA, and has completed a two-year training in heart-centered hypnotherapy with the Wellness Institute near Seattle, Washington. Marc wishes to combine his educational backgrounds to assist all people in healing themselves in mind, body, emotions, and spirit. He is the founder of the Adirondack Spiritual Center for Healing and Personal Transformation.