

## LGBTQ Activities and Events – Fall 2007

### August:

**Welcome Back Party** – Colgate Inn (over 75 people in attendance)

### September:

**First Supporter's meeting** – September 5, WMST

**Student Involvement Fair** - Academic Quad

**Campus Safety Fair** – September 5

**Rainbow Dinner** – September 14 - Emily Blake's house

**Study Break** – September 19 - *Let's Talk Dirty: The Sex Ed. Your Parents Never Wanted You To Go To* - an informal discussion about sex (any type!) - cosponsored by OUS/CLTR/Health Center/Counseling

**Bisexual Day** – September 23 – <http://www.biresource.org>

**What's Up Doc?** - September 23 - *Let's Talk Dirty*, with guest speakers Emily Blake and Dom Ruggerio '08 - WRCU 90.1

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## Gay Civil Unions Sanctioned in Medieval Europe

by Jeanna Bryner, LiveScience Staff Writer  
*Reprinted with permission from Imaginova Corp.*

Civil unions between male couples existed around 600 years ago in medieval Europe, a historian now says.

Historical evidence, including legal documents and gravesites, can be interpreted as supporting the prevalence of homosexual relationships hundreds of years ago, said Allan Tulchin of Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

If accurate, the results indicate socially sanctioned same-sex unions are nothing new, nor were they taboo in the past.

"Western family structures have been much more varied than many people today seem to realize," Tulchin writes in the September issue of the *Journal of Modern History*. "And Western legal systems have in the past made provisions for a variety of household structures."

For example, he found legal contracts from late medieval France that referred to the term "affrèment," roughly translated as brotherment. Similar contracts existed elsewhere in Mediterranean Europe, Tulchin said.

In the contract, the "brothers" pledged to live together sharing "un pain, un vin, et une bourse," (that's French for one bread, one wine, and one purse). The "one purse" referred to the idea that all

of the couple's goods became joint property. Like marriage contracts, the "brotherments" had to be sworn before a notary and witnesses, Tulchin explained.

The same type of legal contract of the time also could provide the foundation for a variety of non-nuclear households, including arrangements in which two or more biological brothers inherited the family home from their parents and would continue to live together, Tulchin said.

But non-relatives also used the contracts. In cases that involved single, unrelated men, Tulchin argues, these contracts provide "considerable evidence that the affrères were using affrèments to formalize same-sex loving relationships."

The ins-and-outs of the medieval relationships are tricky at best to figure out.

"I suspect that some of these relationships were sexual, while others may not have been," Tulchin said. "It is impossible to prove either way and probably also somewhat irrelevant to understanding their way of thinking. They loved each other, and the community accepted that."

*Fall 2007 Events and Activities – continued from page 1*

**Film: Yossi and Jagger** - September 25 – a collaboration between Rabbi David Levy, Barbara Regenspan (Political Science), and LGBTQ Initiatives

**Robyn Ochs** - September 27 - brown bag lunch, workshops at 4:00 and 8:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM

**Out for Work Conference** – September 29-30 – attended by Joe Madres '07

**October:**

**Out for Undergraduate Business** - October 5-6, NYC – Drew Carelson '08 and Mark Bello '08 attended

**Film: Before Night Falls** - October 2, Hamilton Theater

**James DeVita '06** on Campus – informal visit - October 4

**BBQ at Neal Rosenberg's** – October 6, 4 pm, after football game – email eblake for directions

**Film: Gay Power, Gay Politics** - Creative Arts House - October 7, 7:30 pm – presented by Bob Connelly '84

**National Coming Out Day** - October 11 – Brown bag lunch, WMST – 11:30 am

**NYC LGBTQ Alumni Event** – October 15-16 – Tour of MTV Studios

**Views on Human Sexuality** - October 22 - 209 Lathrop – cosponsored by CCS and University Church

**IASO: Four Hearts Changing, A Dating Play** - October 23 – Love Auditorium (Olin) – an interactive play about relationship violence

**Webinar – Lives of Transgendered People** – 3:30-5 pm – Coop TV Room

**Intersex Day** - October 26

**LGBTQ support** - Men's soccer vs. Navy - October 27 at 7pm

**LGBTQ support** – Women's soccer vs. Lehigh - October 28 at 1pm

**Nicole Bromley - Dirty Little Secret** - October 29, 7:00 pm - Chapel

**Nicole Bromley** - October 30, 11:30 am - WMST/Chapel – brown bag discussion on sexual assault

**Women's Tea** – discussion about sexual assault - October 30, 4:15 pm - Coop TV Room

**November:**

**Doing Well By Doing Good** - Betsy Purcell '79, from HRC – November 1, 6:00 PM – 108 Persson

**Betsy Purcell '79 and Sarah Peake '79** – Brown Bag discussion – November 2, 11:30 am – COVE

**LGBTQ support** - Volleyball vs. American - November 3 at 4 pm

**Camp 101** – November 8, 7:00 PM – a discussion about drag

**First Home Basketball Game** (men's) – ALANA-sponsored Spirit Night - \$100 for student group with the most spirit

**Drag Ball** - check the LGBTQ website for the latest information

**LGBTQ support** - Women's hockey vs. Yale - November 10 at 4pm

**Transgender Remembrance Day** – November 18 – Window painting at the COOP

**Webinar – Out of the Closet and Into the Cabinet** – November 27 – 3:30-5 pm – Coop TV Room (cosponsored by LGBTQ and Office of Professional Development and Promotion)

**December:**

**AIDS Quilt** – December 1

**ALANA Holiday Party** – December 7



*Get involved!  
Join a group,  
come to a meeting,  
attend an event.  
Connections can  
change your life!*

## Ongoing LGBTQ Groups and Meetings

**Rainbow:** Meetings on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM - for location contact jmadres or druggerio

**Advocates:** Meetings on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM in the COVE

**Supporters:** Meetings on October 24, November 7, December 5 – WMST, 4:15 pm

**WorkOut:** A confidential support group for faculty, staff, and Hamilton community members that meets once a month during the lunch hour, starting at 12:30 pm. Contact Emily Blake at [eblake@mail.colgate.edu](mailto:eblake@mail.colgate.edu) or 228-7279 for location details. Upcoming dates are October 25, November 15, and December 13.

### **Bisexual and Questioning Support**

**Group:** Sponsored by Counseling and Psychological Services - This weekly group helps participants explore a variety of issues related to sexual orientation. Students of all

nationalities, races/ethnicities, genders, and religions are welcome. Individuals who identify as gay, lesbian, and transgender are welcome as well. To register: email Hsiao-wen Lo at [hlo@colgate.edu](mailto:hlo@colgate.edu) or call Rose Novak at 228-7385 to schedule a brief individual meeting.

### **Safe Zone Trainings:**

September 24 from 8:30-11:30 am – Coop Conference Room

October 21 from 1:00-4:00 pm - COVE

October 29 from 8:30-11:30 am - Coop TV Room

November 11 from 1:00-4:00 pm - COVE

November 19 from 8:30-11:30 am – Coop Conference Room

**Online Chat** – once a month at 10:00 pm – September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 3 – for login information, see the LGBTQ website at [www.colgate.edu](http://www.colgate.edu).

## **HRC's Healthcare Equality Index Report Released**

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has just released its first-ever Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) report. The HEI is a new annual survey launched by HRC's Family Project and the [Gay and Lesbian Medical Association](#) that looks at how hospitals are responding to five areas of greatest concern to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender patients: patient non-discrimination, visitation, medical decision-making, cultural competency training for staff, and employment policies.

The full report can found at: [http://www.hrc.org/documents/HEI\\_Report\\_Oct\\_1\\_2007.pdf](http://www.hrc.org/documents/HEI_Report_Oct_1_2007.pdf).

For more than a decade, state and local governments have been establishing legal mechanisms for the recognition of same-sex couples. Whether referred to as “domestic partnerships,” “civil unions,” or “reciprocal beneficiaries,” many of these programs provide registrants with the right to visit their partners at hospitals. As of July 2007, the following eleven jurisdictions have some form of relationship recognition for same-sex couples:

California - Statewide domestic partnership registration available since 1999

Connecticut - Statewide civil unions available since 2005

District of Columbia - Domestic partnership registration available since 2002

Hawaii - Statewide reciprocal beneficiaries registration available since 1997

Maine - Statewide domestic partnership registration available since 2004

Massachusetts - Statewide marriage available since 2004

New Hampshire - Statewide civil unions available effective 2008

New Jersey - Statewide civil unions available since 2007

Oregon - Statewide domestic partnership registration available effective 2008

Vermont - Statewide civil unions available effective 2000

Washington - Statewide domestic partnership registration available since 2007

*In a 2007 poll, 89 percent of Americans reported that they believe gay people should have equal rights in job opportunities.*

## PINK PRIDE: GAY FLAMINGOS BECOME FOSTER PARENTS

*Gay flamingos Carlos and Fernando have become proud foster parents after taking an abandoned chick under their wings.*

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*Homosexual behavior in the animal kingdom has been scientifically observed among birds, beetles, sheep, dolphins, orangutans, penguins, ostriches, macaques, and bonobos, to name just a few species. For more on this topic from studies done by National Geographic, see [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/07/0722\\_040722\\_gayanimal.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/07/0722_040722_gayanimal.html).*

*The editor of this newsletter has also observed, absent scientific scrutiny, homosexual tendencies in at least three different house cats over the many years she has lived with cats.*

*[Editor's note]*

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The pink pair were so desperate to have a family they started stealing eggs at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

But their egg-sitting and hatching skills impressed staff so much that when one of the Greater Flamingo nests was abandoned, they were considered the number one choice to "adopt" the chick.

The unhatched egg was whisked off to an incubator where it was warmed up and monitored.

Hours later a healthy chick hatched, but staff were concerned the flamboyant duo would not bond with the newborn because the process normally begins when the chicks are "calling" them from inside the egg.

So the chick was carefully placed in an old eggshell, which was taped up and returned to the unsuspecting couple's empty nest.

The pair were soon seen 'talking' to the chick inside the egg and a little while later it hatched for a second time - to be greeted by its loving new foster parents.

WWT spokeswoman Jane Waghorn said: "Fernando and Carlos are a same sex couple who have been known to steal other Flamingos' eggs by chasing them off their nest

because they wanted to rear them themselves. "They were rather good at sitting on eggs and hatching them so last week, when a nest was abandoned, it seemed like a good idea to make them surrogate parents."

Carlos and Fernando, who have been together for about six years, can feed their chick without any female help - by producing milk in their throat.

The chick, who is being brought up in a "crèche" with 15 other newborns, has been welcomed into the flock, under the watchful eye of its new parents.

Gay flamingos are not particularly rare and enjoy an elevated status with their choice of partner.

"If there aren't enough females or they don't hit it off with them, they will pair off with other males," Ms Waghorn said.

The pair are Greater Flamingos, the most widely dispersed of the six flamingo species, being found in Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. The average lifespan is about 30 years.

Article retrieved from Sky News at <http://news.sky.com/skynews/article/0,30100-1266787,00.html>

## ENDA debate sign of Congress', public's gay comfort level

The final version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act is not likely to include transgender protections -- a reality that reflects where many members of Congress and the public stand on LGBT issues: They are aware of issues facing gays and lesbians, but not in tune -- yet -- with the problems of transgender people, according to this article. LGBT activists have two weeks to lobby lawmakers to include transgender workers in the bill, according to out U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., ENDA's chief sponsor.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21113678/>

## *Speak Out! Activist Tools for GLBT Equality*

### **So You Want to Fight for Equality?**

We are living in a time like no other for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Americans. Never have the stakes been so high, and never have the opportunities for real change been within our reach.

The current generation is smart, driven and dynamic — and, straight or gay, they are more accepting of difference, and GLBT people in particular, than any generation before them. There is a wonderful world ahead if only we can outlive the bias, ignorance, and prejudice that have riddled our nation for decades. But wait it out? No way! There are many things you can do right now that would have MAJOR IMPACT in helping to eradicate the vestiges of bias in your community, your state, your Congress, and your country.

This is the generation that experienced Matthew Shepard left to die on a fence in the middle of a Wyoming prairie. These are the young people who have grown up understanding that labels belong on records, not on people. And we have all helped to bring our nation many miles along the path of freedom and equality. More than three decades after Stonewall, GLBT Americans are still standing proud, day after day, working at all levels to achieve equality. The gains are clear. Still, the journey to full equality is far from over.

Until Americans can be safe at work and at home, until the HIV/AIDS crisis is over, and until civil marriage equality is a reality in this country, it is up to ordinary citizens to use their voices and work for change.

**What You Can Do** - GLBT Americans have made many gains, but none were won without the hard work of ordinary citizens with extraordinary voices. Every time someone comes out of the closet, reports a hate crime to police, joins a GLBT advocacy group, telephones a member of Congress to ask for support on legislation, or writes a letter to the editor, our community makes progress. Pointing to the power of individuals, the Dalai Lama said, “Since periods of great change, such as the present one, come so rarely in human history, it is up to each of us to make the best use of our time to help create a happier world.”

Won't you consider becoming a part of the change you'd like to see in the world? Are you ready to stand up and be counted?

Is it right ...

- that families headed by same-sex couples are denied the basic protections taken for granted by opposite-sex couples?
- that same-sex couples are taxed on domestic partner benefits? And that they're taxed more than opposite-sex couples on jointly owned property and on inherited retirement plans?
- that a gay survivor cannot receive his or her partner's Social Security death benefit, no matter how long their relationship?
- that there is no fundamental guarantee of hospital visitation or family leave in the event of illness?
- that GLBT Americans cannot sponsor a same-sex partner from another country for a green card, thus tearing many families apart?

There are more than 1,000 rights, benefits and responsibilities on the federal level that married couples enjoy, as well as several hundred on the state level. The time for full equality is now.

**Spreading the Word** - It's been said that if every gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person suddenly turned purple, the very next day we'd have equal rights. Why? Because people would realize that someone they know and love is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender — and that's how hearts and minds are changed. Knowledge shatters stereotypes. And polling backs this up: People who have a family member, a friend, a co-worker or an acquaintance who is openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans-gender are more likely to support equal rights.

Coming out to yourself and to other people is an important step for any GLBT person. It's also the first step toward being political.

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*“Evil triumphs when good men do nothing.”*

*Edmund Burke (1729-1797)*

It's important to know when to speak up. You don't have to find a way to work gay issues into every conversation. But be on the lookout for teachable moments.

Visit HRC's National Coming Out Project on the web at [www.hrc.org/ncop](http://www.hrc.org/ncop) for more information about coming out and to download the Resource Guide to Coming Out and to learn about coming out in communities of color.

There are many opportunities to come out:

***Come out to family and friends*** - The most important conversations to be had are with family and friends — people who are close to us and will listen to what we have to say.

***Come out to co-workers*** - Co-workers often talk about weekend plans around the water cooler. If you are safe at work, why not mention that your weekend plans include a same-sex partner or gay friend or family member. (Obviously, you need to know first that your employer has a policy or your state has a law against sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination. Visit [www.hrc.org/worknet](http://www.hrc.org/worknet) to find out.)

***Come out to clergy*** - If you attend a place of worship, make your views known to the religious leaders, as well as others who attend. Many denominations are struggling with the issue of blessing same-sex unions as well as GLBT equal rights, while others have already made decisions.

***Come out to community*** - If you attend meetings or groups where fair-minded, GLBT or allied people are likely to congregate, tell them about your work for GLBT equality and invite them to participate with you in the discussion.

***Come out on the Internet*** - The Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate. If you spend time in chat rooms, talk about your views on equal rights and enlist people to get involved with HRC's Online Action Center at [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter) and Million For Marriage — [www.millionformarriage.org](http://www.millionformarriage.org).

If you belong to e-mail lists, try including a blurb about GLBT equal rights in your signature, with links to HRC's Online Action Center and Million For Marriage. Likewise, Internet bulletin boards that discuss issues of interest to GLBT people and people

who are passionate about civil rights are great places to post information about legislation, events and how to take action. If you have a blog, make sure to mention online activism. If you read and comment on someone else's blog, do the same.

### **Advocating for Public Policy with Elected**

**Officials** - Every time another governor issues an executive order to offer domestic partner benefits to state employees, another city council votes to ban discrimination based on gender identity, or another congressperson agrees to co-sponsor a bill, there is at least one ordinary constituent who can take credit for helping to make it happen. Change does not occur in a vacuum. Only by speaking out for equality do we begin to see gains for our community.

***Letters and letter-writing campaigns*** - Due to the volume of faxes and e-mails that members of Congress receive, a handwritten letter carries more weight than ever. Some representatives and senators have told their staffs they want to see every handwritten letter that comes into the office. So while it takes extra effort, hand writing a letter vastly increases the likelihood that your elected official will actually see your message.

***E-mail and HRC's Online Action Center*** - Through HRC's Online Action Center at [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter), you can send a fax or an e-mail with the click of a button to your state or federal elected officials. You can also sign up to receive action alerts about breaking legislation and news. Tell your friends about HRC's Online Action Center!

***Phone calls and phone-in days*** - Especially on days when a vote on legislation is imminent, a phone call can make a great impact. Keep it short. Introduce yourself as a constituent, be prepared to give your address, and tell the person who answers the phone that you're calling to urge the elected official to vote yes or no on the particular legislation.

***Lobby visits*** - Any citizen can seek a meeting, or lobby visit, with his or her members of Congress. In-district (local) lobbying visits are one key to advancing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. They put a face to the issue — the face of a constituent, or someone who also has the power to vote for or against the legislator. Visit [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter) to learn how to set up and execute an effective lobby visit.

## *Speak Out! Activist Tools – continued from page 6*

**Town hall meetings** - Town hall meetings are excellent forums to educate and ACTIVATE people around an issue or legislation. They're a great way to bring a diverse group of people together to learn and talk about an issue and how they can take action. Town hall meetings can vary widely in format and content, but they should be free and open to the public. Contact HRC's field organizers if you are interested in a town hall meeting in your area. E-mail [field@hrc.org](mailto:field@hrc.org).

**Rallies and marches** - Visibility events such as rallies and marches are excellent opportunities to energize large groups of people and to get your message out in the media. Read the local GLBT newspaper or visit GLBT websites to learn when such events are planned. Or get involved and help plan one yourself!

**Petitions** - Petitions can be an effective way to let elected officials know that a large group of people care about an issue. And they can be useful for letting people know about an issue and soliciting them to get more involved.

**Working on Political Campaigns** - Anyone can volunteer for a candidate or campaign. You can make phone calls, organize fund-raising events, go door-to-door, help people get to the polls — the list of jobs that a campaign needs to have done is enormous! Creativity is essential, and perseverance is vital. If you are committed, hard-working and reliable, you are the kind of volunteer that all campaigns need. No one person can do it all — everyone can make a difference!

**Candidate elections** - HRC's nonpartisan PAC makes financial and in-kind contributions to fair-minded candidates running for Senate and the House of Representatives. For more information about HRC's PAC and endorsed candidates, visit [www.hrc.org/pac](http://www.hrc.org/pac).

**Ballot measure campaigns** - In states that have the initiative or referendum process, voters can put issues on the ballot if enough sign petitions. HRC works to pass pro-GLBT ballot measures and to defeat anti-GLBT ballot measures. Right-wing activists have often been successful in using the initiative process to deny equal rights to GLBT people. While the number and scope of ballot campaigns vary from year to year, you can find up-to-date information about them at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).

**Candidate meet-and-greets** - One of the best ways to introduce a new or incumbent candidate to voters is to organize a candidate meet-and-greet. These events are not fundraisers — rather, they are a chance for candidates to meet the people they would like to represent (or, if they're seeking re-election, the people they already represent). They are free and usually held in a private home. If you would like to organize a meet-and-greet in your area, contact HRC's field organizers at [field@hrc.org](mailto:field@hrc.org).

**Voter registration drives** - Voters who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual in exit polling typically make up about 5 percent of the electorate — a significant proportion that has made the difference in many close races. That's why it's so important that GLBT and allied voters are registered, because in most states you can't vote if you aren't registered. Organizing a voter registration drive is something that everyone can do, and HRC is here to help you. For a voter registration kit, e-mail HRC's field organizers at [field@hrc.org](mailto:field@hrc.org). You can also hold a "virtual registration campaign" online using HRC's Online Voter Registration form at [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter).

**Fundraising** - If you would like to organize a candidate house party, contact HRC at [field@hrc.org](mailto:field@hrc.org) — we can put you in touch with the campaign staff!

**Letters to the editor** - If you like to write, are pretty good at it, and have something compelling to say, you're ready to write your own letter to the editor. This section of your local newspaper offers an ideal method of getting your message across to a wide variety of readers. More people read the letters to the editor section than almost any other part of the paper. To learn how you can craft a good letter to the editor, visit: [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter).

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### **Straight for Equality: Ten Things YOU Can Do for Equality:**

Become informed, be open, speak up, ask, help, support, encourage, write, call, take the ***Straight for Equality Pledge***

<http://www.straightforequality.org/>

## Colgate University Supporters Network

Emily Blake - Assistant  
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**Did you know?** The first gay rights  
legislation introduced on a federal level  
was in 1974 by Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY).

### *Frank Discussions – Frank Dining Hall – 8:45 am*

*What if my roommate comes out to me? – September 7*

*These are a few of my favorite things – September 21*

*Domestic violence & sexual assault in the LGBTQ community – October 5*

*I have a family member who is out; how can I be supportive? – October 19*

*Gay marriage vs. civil unions: what's the difference? – November 2*

*I'm Out and going home for break for the first time – November 16*

*Checking the box: m, f, o – November 30*

### *Speak Out! Activist Tools – continued from page 7*

#### **In Conclusion**

HRC's field department employs professional field organizers who are eager to guide you in your efforts and put you to work for GLBT equality. Visit [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter) to find out who your regional field organizer is and how you can get involved immediately. HRC also has political sub-committees across the country in cities such as San Francisco, Columbus, Atlanta and Boston, to name a few.

A cadre of committed HRC members also serve as congressional district coordinators, working on HRC's grassroots legislative and electoral efforts in their local community. These HRC members are the backbone of HRC's work to elect fair-minded candidates to federal office, shape local media regarding GLBT issues, keep members of Congress informed and aware of the concerns of GLBT constituents, and much, much more. To learn more about opportunities in your area, e-mail [field@hrc.orgtoday](mailto:field@hrc.orgtoday)!

- For other volunteer opportunities, to host a house party, or help with a local pride event, visit: [www.hrc.org/volunteer](http://www.hrc.org/volunteer)
- To take action with your members of Congress, visit: [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter)
- To sign up for HRC newsletters, visit: [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter)
- To become an HRC member, visit: [www.hrc.org/joinus](http://www.hrc.org/joinus)
- To register to vote, visit: [www.hrc.org/actioncenter](http://www.hrc.org/actioncenter)

*Material retrieved from [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org), the website of the HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN 1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036*

*"When someone with the authority of a teacher describes the world, and you are not in it, there is a moment of psychic disequilibrium, as if you looked into a mirror and saw nothing."*

Adrienne Rich, 1986

Colgate University and the LGBTQ Supporters offer many programs, lectures, films, events, and social occasions for the LGBTQ community and its allies. The best source of current information on all activities is to check the website at [www.colgate.edu](http://www.colgate.edu). Click on "Offices and Services," click on "L," then click on "LGBTQ."