

COMING OUT: ONE FAMILY'S STORY

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ABSTRACT

This case study elicits the process of coming out of a 6 member family-of-choice of an adult gay man in rural New Hampshire. 27.5 hours of face-to-face interviews were conducted with the family individually and collectively. Reflexivity, as a technique, was used extensively. Four themes were identified: Embracing gay identity, integrating as a family, building social networks, and social awakening. This study addresses the complexities of how multiple individuals negotiate rules and accommodate diverse viewpoints within a family system, provides insight into a family's journey of accepting their gay identity, utilizes personal narratives of family members, and reveals how the reflexive process contributes to a family's creation of new stories. Implications for clinical practice and future research are discussed.

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Dedications

To my parents:

Maryann Jee Nyuk Phatt who sowed in me the value of education, and
the late Leonard John Baptist who loved me unconditionally.

To Jack and his family:

May your testimony of family love and resiliency
be an inspiration to other families who struggle with identity.

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*“A teacher if indeed wise does not bid you enter the house of wisdom,
but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.” Khalil Gibran.*

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