

GLBT-SA Presents

Judy Shepard

When: Jan. 30, 7 p.m.

Where: Great Hall

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On October 8, 1998, Judy and Dennis Shepard were awakened in the middle of the night in Saudi Arabia, where Dennis works, by a telephone call no parent should ever have to receive. What they heard changed their lives forever. Their eldest son, Matthew, was in a coma after having been brutally attacked — because he was gay. The distraught parents flew to Ft. Collins, Colorado, and met-up with their youngest son, Logan, to visit Matthew in the hospital. On October 12, Matthew passed away.

Judy Shepard is determined to use her grief over her son's death to make a difference —to do what she can to ensure that no other parent will have to endure what she has. She is now speaking to audiences nationwide about what they can do to make their schools and communities safer for everyone, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.