

# Speakers Bureau Newsletter

By Sara Snyder, Speakers Bureau Manager • Dec 21, 2023

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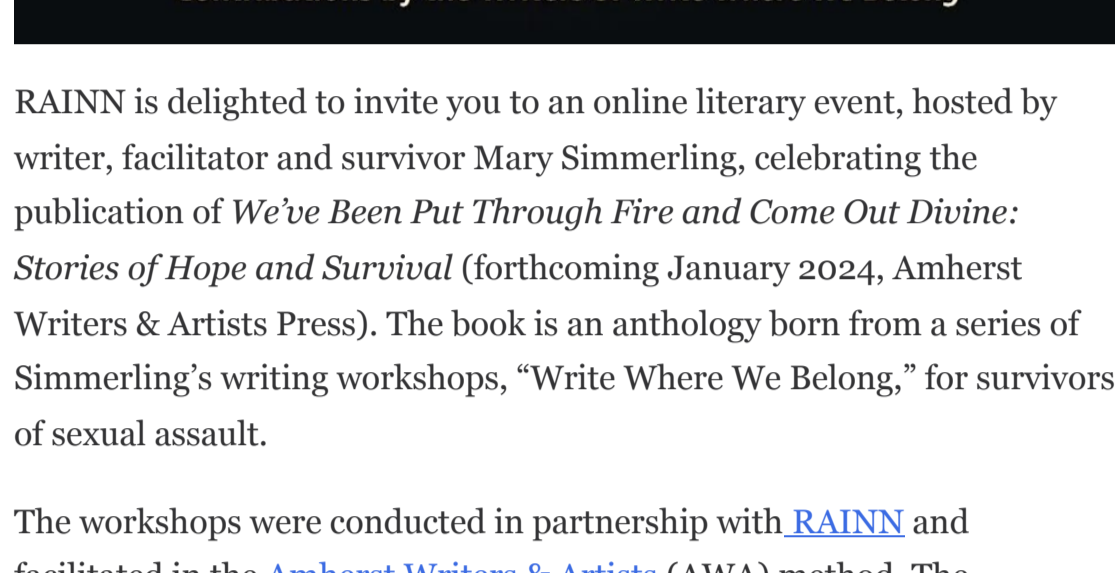
## Speakers Bureau Highlights

### Thank You, November Speakers!



For the month of November, there were a total of 16 opportunities. We had speaking opportunities in **Alabama, California, Colorado, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.**

## Events & Workshops



RAINN is delighted to invite you to an online literary event, hosted by writer, facilitator and survivor Mary Simmerling, celebrating the publication of *We've Been Put Through Fire and Come Out Divine: Stories of Hope and Survival* (forthcoming January 2024, Amherst Writers & Artists Press). The book is an anthology born from a series of Simmerling's writing workshops, "Write Where We Belong," for survivors of sexual assault.

The workshops were conducted in partnership with [RAINN](#) and facilitated in the [Amherst Writers & Artists \(AWA\)](#) method. The anthology is a testament to the healing powers of expressive writing, where survivors are invited to weave words from their memories and experiences in response to prompts, using craft tools such as metaphor and poetry to narrate their stories. It is a celebration of reclaimed voices, speaking truths that have long been silenced, and a testament to the resilience and strength of survivors.

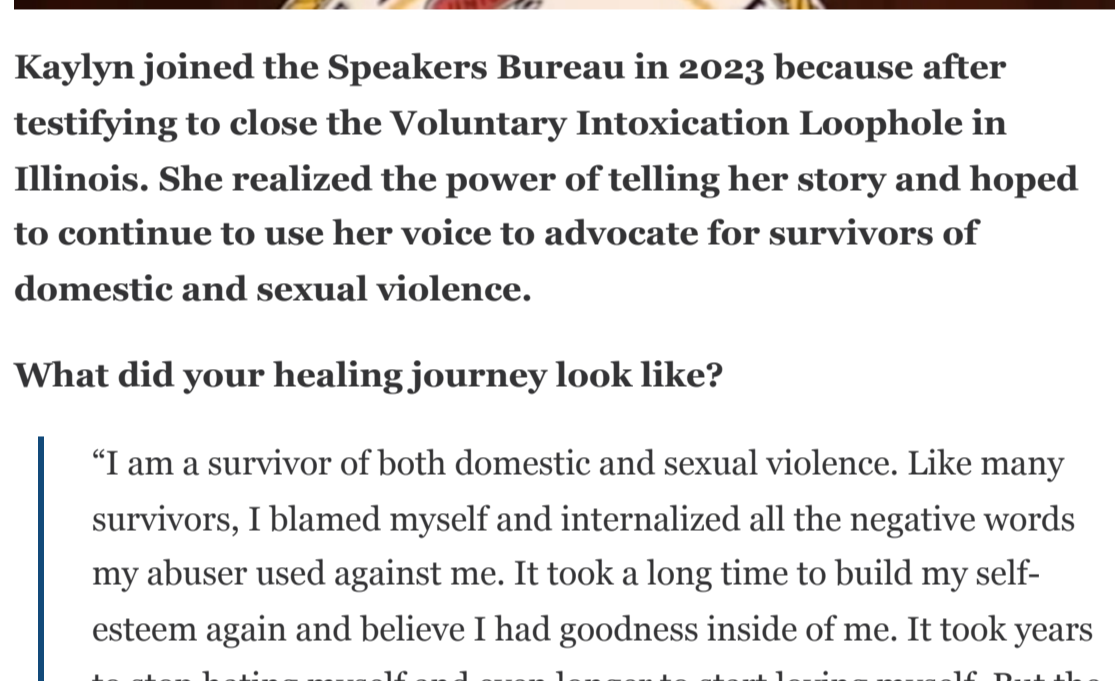
At the event, Simmerling (a RAINN National Leadership Council member) will facilitate conversation with and readings by the authors. The goal of this event is for attendees to find community and healing, and be reminded that you are not alone. As Pat Schneider, who developed the [AWA method](#), observed, "When we write, we create, and when we offer our creation to one another, we close the wound of loneliness and may participate in healing the broken world. Our words, our truth ... may be the best gifts we have to give."

The event will take place on **Monday, January 29, 2024, from 4-6 pm ET**. This is a free event. Registration is required. Please RSVP to the event [here](#). Zoom information will be shared one week prior to the event.

**Content Warning:** The anthology and some of the pieces that will be read during the event contain explicit descriptions and discussions of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and rape, some of which involve minors. The material can be distressing and triggering for some readers, particularly those who have experienced similar traumas or know others who have. Pieces that are triggering to one person may not be triggering to another. Please consider your personal comfort and mental health, and whether you feel you may be negatively affected by these themes before attending this event. If you need support during or after the event, support specialist will be standing by on RAINN's National Sexual Assault Hotline, available in both English and Spanish, 24/7.

### Meet Speakers Bureau member, Kaylyn Ahn!

## Survivor Highlights



**Kaylyn joined the Speakers Bureau in 2023 because after testifying to close the Voluntary Intoxication Loophole in Illinois. She realized the power of telling her story and hoped to continue to use her voice to advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.**

#### What did your healing journey look like?

"I am a survivor of both domestic and sexual violence. Like many survivors, I blamed myself and internalized all the negative words my abuser used against me. It took a long time to build my self-esteem again and believe I had goodness inside of me. It took years to stop hating myself and even longer to start loving myself. But the moment that I realized that none of what my abuser said was true was the moment that I was free."

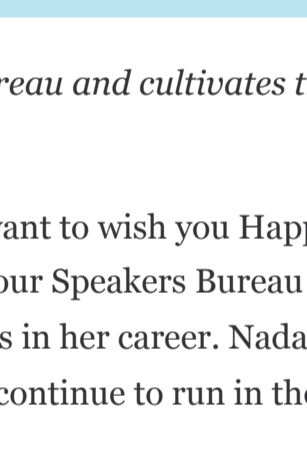
#### What is your favorite word or phrase?

"The wound is the place where the light enters."

Each month, we highlight members from the RAINN Speakers Bureau throughout the country. Would you like your story highlighted?

[Fill out this form!](#)

## Sara's Corner



*Sara Snyder manages the RAINN Speakers Bureau and cultivates this community.*

From us at RAINN to you and your family, we want to wish you Happy Holidays. I also want to take a moment to wish our Speakers Bureau intern, Nada Conway, farewell and much success in her career. Nada ran our Speakers Bureau Facebook page which will continue to run in the New Year.

As the holidays are approaching, it's important to remember that these can be challenging times for everyone. If you need additional support during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to our National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4573) or [online.rainn.org](#) for support in English and Spanish 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback. You can email at [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

Have you recently published a book, participated in a fundraiser, or completed some other project having to do with RAINN or your survivor story and would like to share it with members? Please email [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)



## Policy Corner

We are in the process of planning a policy and legislative training. Take [this survey](#) from our Policy team so we can tailor this training to members' interests and passions.

## Updates & Reminders

### Speakers Bureau Workshops

We are planning more training sessions for Speakers Bureau members. If you are interested in leading a workshop or have an idea for a future workshop, please contact us at [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org)

### Speakers Bureau Applications are Closed

As of October 1, 2023, we have closed applications for new Speakers Bureau members. Applications will re-open in the Spring of 2024.

### Portal Tech Issues

If you are experiencing technical problems with our new Speakers Bureau Portal, please send an email to [speakersbureau@rainn.org](mailto:speakersbureau@rainn.org). We are aware of an issue wherein members are not able to edit their profile information. We are working with our IT Team to fix this issue.

### RAINN News Newsletter

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## Self-Care

As the year winds down, folks across the country are headed home for the holidays to spend time with family and friends. While this is a time of celebration for many, it also presents challenges for some survivors of sexual abuse.

More often than not, the perpetrator of sexual violence is someone the victim knows. This is especially true for those who experience [sexual abuse as a child](#): 93 percent of children know the perpetrator, and 34 percent are abused by a family member. For these survivors, holiday gatherings can mean facing painful memories, feelings of anxiety, or a chance of repeated harm.

During the holiday season, RAINN support specialists for the National Sexual Assault Hotline anticipate helping survivors who are going through a tough time at home or during family gatherings.

[Read more and share some strategies from RAINN to help survivors feel safe.](#)

## RAINN Job Openings

If you are looking to become more involved with RAINN, please view [our current job openings](#):

[Safe Helpline Staffer \(Sunday through Thursday - 7-3pm EST\)](#)

[NSAH Volunteer Onboarding Coordinator](#)

[Director Federal Affairs](#)

[DoD Safe Helpline Morning Shift Manager \(Tuesday-Saturday 7-3pm EST\)](#)

[NSAH Coaching Senior Shift Manager](#)

[NSAH Bilingual Evening Coaching Shift Manager](#)

[NSAH Morning Senior Shift Manager](#)

[NSAH Evening Senior Shift Manager](#)

[Director of State Legislative Affairs](#)

[Software Development Lead/Architect](#)

[Safe Helpline Staffer \(3-11 pm ET, Friday through Tuesday\)](#)

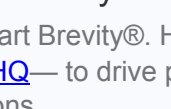
[Bilingual \(Spanish\) Senior Consultant](#)

[DOD Safe Helpline Shift Manager \(3-11pm EST, Tuesday through Saturday\)](#)

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