



Speakers Bureau Newsletter

By Sara Snyder, Speakers Bureau Manager • Jan 25, 2024
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Speakers Bureau Highlights

Thank You, December Speakers!

RAINN Speakers Bureau Speaking Opportunities
A number in each state representing how many opportunities we have had in that state.

For the month of December, there were a total of 3 opportunities. We had speaking opportunities in **Puerto Rico, Tennessee, and Virginia.**

If you would like to see a full list of our speaking opportunities, please visit the [Speakers Bureau Portal](#).

Communication Preferences

As we continue to make enhancements to the Bureau, we want to update our communications preferences for all members.

As a Speakers Bureau member, you receive the **Speakers Bureau Newsletter** (which provides highlights of the Bureau, member stories/projects, events, policy updates, RAINN job openings, and more) and email communications about **opportunities to speak and share your story.**

Please [complete this form](#) to update your future communications and membership status preferences.

Speaking Story Highlights

Each month, we want to highlight members from the RAINN Speakers Bureau throughout the country who have participated in speaking opportunities. Would you like your story highlighted?

[Fill out this form!](#)

Events & Workshops

Save the Date: January 29, 2024

WE'VE BEEN PUT THROUGH FIRE & Come Out Divine
Stories of Hope & Survival

Mary Simmerling, Editor
Contributions by the Writers of Write Where We Belong

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](#). The book is an anthology born from a series of Simmerling's writing workshops, "Write Where We Belong," for survivors of sexual assault.

At the event, Simmerling (a RAINN National Leadership Council member) will facilitate a 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.

Survivor Highlights

Meet Speakers Bureau member, Michelle Jackson (she/her).

Michelle has been a RAINN Speakers Bureau member since 2016 to share her story and join with others on the road to a deeper recovery.

Can you tell us about the first time that you felt heard, validated, or accepted by someone?

"The first time that I felt really heard, validated, and accepted was in 2011 when I shared my survivor story at an open mic event. Since this was the first time I'd shared my story openly, I was trembling in my shoes as I read the poem. While reading, I was filled with shame and embarrassment but was met with love, acceptance, and a long line of people who thanked me for giving them permission to process and share their stories. One gentleman told me that he felt shame fall off of him."

Can you tell us about your favorite experience through the Speakers Bureau?

"My favorite experience through the Speakers Bureau was in May 2023 while participating in a [Survivor Love Letter led by Tani Ikeda](#). Although I've used creative writing as a healing tool various times, that one was such a soul-stirring event."

Describe a memory that brings a smile to your face.

"Christmas at Disney World sponsored by my daughter. It was one of the most beautiful experiences in my life!"

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Sara's Corner



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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and time to ring in 2024. As 2023 has ended, I want to take a moment to reflect on the growth of the Speakers Bureau over the past year. In 2023, we had 185 speaking opportunities shared with members. We received 467 new applications and welcomed 312 new members. We created space and community by holding six workshops for speakers. We also held our first Congressional Day of Action in May, where nearly 30 Speakers Bureau members came together to lobby on Capitol Hill for changes to protect children from sexual violence.

I am excited for what 2024 will bring to the Speakers Bureau!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback. You can email at 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

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

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. 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

After surviving sexual assault, it may be difficult to imagine a positive future. However, creating a vision board can be incredibly useful in reframing negative thinking surrounding upcoming events and implementing helpful activities that can assist your growth, healing, and reaching your aspirations.

A vision board is a method used to manifest your hopes and dreams for the future, presenting as a physical board or a document/note on your digital device where you collect images, words, and phrases that inspire you. You can cut out pictures and phrases from magazines, print them out, or digitally download them to create your collage, combining your positive intentions.

[Read more](#)

RAINN Job Openings

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

- [Director of Marketing](#)
- [John and Lauren Marciano Legal Fellowship](#)
- [Social Media Intern](#)
- [NSAH Hotline Services Manager](#)
- [Bilingual Hotline Services Program Coordinator](#)
- [Senior Web Manager](#)
- [Safe Helpline Staffer \(Sunday through Thursday - 7-3pm EST\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [Bilingual \(Spanish\) Senior Consultant](#)
- [DOD Safe Helpline Shift Manager \(3-11pm EST, Tuesday through Saturday\)](#)

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