

# CELEBRATION OF ACCEPTANCE

# SPEAKERS

**MAY 3, 2024**

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**JAMES LEE COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

**Soren Lysander Karol Anderson (He/Him)** is a member of Healthy Minds Fairfax Youth Advisory Council. Soren is also boy scout and early high school graduate. As a person who's experienced a number of challenges with mental health, he tries to use his knowledge and understanding to spread awareness of mental health. He likes the outdoors, reading, science, and working!

**Naysa Piper-Fisher (She/Her)** is a student at Westfield High School and a founding member of the Healthy Minds Fairfax Youth Advisory Council. She is active in multiple school affiliated honor societies, and has leadership roles in Westfield's Hip-Hop Dance Team, and school newspaper, The Watchdog. Naysa is active in multiple different clubs: Art club, Improv club, and Environmental Protection club. She is extremely passionate about academics and school and has been recognized by College Board for her outstanding scores on AP, SAT, and PSAT tests. She has volunteered at numerous community centers around Fairfax County. Naysa was awarded the Juneteenth Resiliency Award in 2021 and 2023 by Fairfax County for her volunteer and advocacy work.

**Rebecca Kiessling (She/Her)** is the Executive Director of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Northern Virginia, serving the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church. Rebecca is passionate about creating stigma-free communities, advocating for real change, and breaking down barriers to mental health resources that can improve the lives of people, families, and communities affected by mental illness. Before joining NAMI, Rebecca worked extensively with nonprofits for almost 20 years. During her career, she has testified before Congress, received national awards for strategic communications, and built nationwide grassroots coalitions for advocacy. Most recently, she was managing director of a nonprofit with chapters in the US and throughout the world, helping further the education of medical students. A long-time resident of Northern Virginia, Rebecca has degrees from the George Washington University and from Georgetown University, as well as a certificate in Leadership and Management from Harvard Business School.

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**Paige Reitz (They/Them)** is a queer (nonbinary ace) neurodivergent licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) who currently works as a youth and family therapist for Fairfax-Falls Church CSB. They love being a clinician and supporting youth through their own personal journeys. Paige has about a decade of experience in the mental health field, where they operate from a lens that is LGBTQ+ affirming, antiracist, and neurodiversity-affirming. Paige has a systemic worldview and believe we do not exist in vacuums, thus Paige challenges the various -isms as they come up in life and is always working to better themselves and both recognize and reduce personal biases. Paige is a giant nerd - an avid reader of genres from fantasy to nonfiction and everything in between. If not reading and/or spending time with their cats, Paige hanging with family or playing trivia.

**Leon van der Goetz (He/Him)** is the Executive Director and Founder of NoVA Prism Center, a library and community center serving the Northern Virginia LGBTQIA+ community. He graduated from James Madison University in 2012 with a degree in Computer Science. In 2022, he pivoted to the nonprofit space by founding NoVA Prism Center as a response to a rise in challenges and bans against books featuring LGBTQ+ representation. Through navigating his own coming-out journey in isolation while living in Japan through the worst of the COVID-19 lockdowns, he came to understand how critical representation and connection are for the LGBTQ+ community. After founding NoVA Prism Center under fiscal sponsorship in May 2022, Leon led the library to achieve the CORE Foundation Community Hero Rookie of the Year award in October 2022. When not cataloging books or planning community events, Leon enjoys playing video and board games and collecting textile crafting hobbies.