

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Alworth, Vi - She/her; They/them Email: olivialatworth@gmail.com Affiliation: Odyssey Teen Camp Website: https://www.odysseyteencamp.com/ Session: Building Community in a World That Divides Us	Vi has been working at Odyssey Teen Camp for five years as a counselor and a part of administrative staff. They work as a special education teacher during the school year and have a background in building social emotional learning programs for kids.
Baiano, Alexa -She/her; They/them Email: alexa@odysseyteencamp.com Affiliation: Odyssey Teen Camp Website: https://www.odysseyteencamp.com/ Session: Building Community in a World That Divides Us	Alexa is one of the co-directors at Odyssey Teen Camp and has been organizing and participating in radical community building for over a decade. They are a trained auto mechanic and have a background in alternative education.
Basil, Azalia - She/her Email: azalia.basil@gmail.com Session: Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going: Making Poetry & Art to Move Towards Healing & Queer Liberation	Azalia Basil is currently a senior at Horace Greeley High School. While she's interested in going into STEM as a career path, she also loves doing pretty much anything creative. In her free time, she's a designer, writer, avid reader, and photographer. With aspirations to work in mental health care, she's very excited to begin creating safe spaces where she can and help connect people from all different backgrounds in order to foster personal, interpersonal, and community level growth.
Borrero, Miles - He/him; They/them Email: miles@milesyoga.com Author of Beautiful Monster: A Becoming Session: Emotional Survival Kit for Tough Times	Throughout his many lives, Miles has survived fronting a Latin rock band, riding horses competitively, acting on various stages across the US, and nannying a six-year-old. He has been Catholic, Jewish, and a frequent guest at Krishna's house, and has lived life as a boy, a girl, a woman, a man, and something in between. As the author of "Beautiful Monster: A Becoming" and a senior yoga teacher who leads retreats all over the world, Miles is passionate about dismantling the systems within ourselves that keep us small. He lives in New York with his sweetheart and their two adorable dogs.
Briviesca, Alexis - She/her Email: alexis@pridelive.org Affiliation: Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center, founded by Pride Live Website: https://pridelive.org Session: In the Name of Those Who Came Before Me: What Can Stonewall Teach Us About Activism?	Alexis Briviesca (she/her) is proud to be the first Outreach and Education Senior Manager at Pride Live, the founding organization of the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center. Her priorities align with the necessity to provide the LGBTQ+ community with access to liberation through the design of educational programming, advocacy initiatives, and community engagement. Before her role, Alexis championed critical mentoring and violence prevention for LGBTQ+ youth as the first Senior Program Manager of LGBTQ+ Programming at Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC. Her experience is grounded in liberation education & theatre pedagogy which led her to found a Gay-Straight Alliance club at LEAP, a youth arts-driven organization, and travel across the country to educate and facilitate conversations around consent and healthy relationships with Speak About It as a vehicle for sexual assault prevention.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Casana, Leslie - She/her Email: lcasana@hopesdoorny.org Affiliation: Hope's Door Website: https://hopesdoorny.org/ Session: Hope's Door presents Love Shouldn't Hurt!	Leslie Casana joined Hope's Door this fall as our new Bilingual Prevention Program Educator, leading workshops in both English and Spanish. In her role, Leslie delivers education on teen dating violence and prevention in middle schools, high schools, and youth-centered programs throughout Westchester County. Her experience in the Windsor Central School District brings valuable insight to our Youth Prevention Program. She recently graduated from Binghamton University with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Education. She is currently pursuing her M.S. in Mental Health Counseling from Pace University. Leslie looks forward to building strong relationships with local school districts and making a meaningful impact on the lives of students.
Chess, Jen - They/them Email: paperthoughtsprogram@gmail.com Affiliation: Paper Thoughts Program Website: https://www.paperthoughtsprogram.com/ Session: A Hunt for Who You Are: Journaling and Scavenger Hunt Party	Jen Chess, LCSW has a passion for helping others. As a young child her family instilled in her the importance of caring for others through volunteer work. Jen carried this into her adult life and built a career out of service to others and the community. Jen has worked in schools, at community mental health centers, for non-profits and for the State of New York. She has worked as a therapist, researcher, peer support partner, home health aide, direct care staff, care manager, and crisis worker.
Cirlin, Oliver - He/him; They/them Email: olivercirlin1@gmail.com Session: Your Rights and Advocacy Skills	Oliver Cirlin (he/they) is a 16-year-old trans nonbinary junior at Clarkstown High School South. He has served as the president of the school's GSTA and is an honors/AP student. Oliver has spoken at multiple Pride events, including Pride Sunday at the Rockland Pride Parade and is presenting at their 3rd PrideWorks, where he shares his personal story and advocates for LGBTQ+ visibility, equity, and community. In addition to his advocacy work, Oliver is an active theater artist, performing in and working backstage on numerous local musical productions. He is passionate about the arts and always eager to engage in conversations about theater and musicals.
Goldberg, Rabbi Ben - He/him Email: rabbigoldberg@congkti.org Affiliation: Congregation KTI, Port Chester Website: https://www.congkti.org/ Session: Easter and Passover Through an LGBTQ+ Lens	Rabbi Ben Goldberg has been the spiritual leader of Congregation KTI in Port Chester, NY since 2018. As a member of the LGBT community, he enjoys modeling an affirming and inclusive religious voice at PrideWorks.
Green, Peter - He/him Email: Petergreen001@gmail.com Affiliation: PFLAG Westchester Website: https://pflagwestchester.org/wp/ Session: Coming Out/Being Out - MS and Beyond	Peter is a member of PFLAG Westchester's steering committee, and a therapist in private practice. He is the former Director of Jr Youth programming for the Metro District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the former Rye Middle School social worker. As a performing artist, Peter was the founding creative director of LawnChair Theatre, which for 15 years was Westchester's only free traveling summer Shakespeare company. He has a BFA in Acting from SUNY Purchase and an MSW from Fordham University.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Guaman, Luis - He/him Email: lguaman@wearepact.org Affiliation: Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT) Website: https://www.wearepact.org/ Session: Training of Advocates: Trafficking Prevention and Advocating for the Community – Adult Session	Luis Guaman earned his B.A. in Social Work with a minor in Spanish from the College of Staten Island and completed his M.S.W. in 2024 at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, specializing in Community Organization, Planning, and Development. He is deeply committed to empowering and educating youth and adults. Luis has guided LGBTQ+ youth on safe sex practices and boundary-setting and facilitated academic, professional, and personal development workshops for college students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. His passion lies in strengthening communities through education and advocacy, expanding access to essential resources for marginalized populations. Alongside social work, Luis is pursuing a second career in the culinary arts. A graduate of the School of Cooperative Technical Education's Advanced Culinary program, he manages a wellness-focused nutrition business while aspiring to become a Chef. He currently serves as a Senior Education Associate at PACT's Educational Initiatives Department.
Harman, Jess - She/her; They/them Email: jessharman@impact-psych.com Affiliation: IMPACT Psychological Services Website: https://www.impact-psych.com/ Session: Intro to the Intersection of Neurodivergence and Trans Identities And Learning to Ride the Waves: Emotional Skills for Neurodivergent Trans Nervous Systems	Harman (she/they) is a therapist at IMPACT Psychological Services. Her clinical work with adolescents and adults utilizes multiple modalities to explore identity, overcome shame, build self-esteem, and improve interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills. Jess specializes in working with neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+ individuals. As a Queer and non-binary person who has sought out her own therapy, Jess knows how difficult it can be to find an affirming therapist. She deeply understands the importance of recognizing and acknowledging individuality and personal experience in all its forms. Jess is a licensed master social worker in New York as well as licensed for telehealth in Florida. She is an instructor for the University of Kentucky's College of Social Work and is a consultant and trainer for organizations who want to collaborate in building affirming and supportive communities for the LGBTQIA+ population.
Haynes, Laura - She/her Email: laura.haynes820@proton.me Session: Telling and Preserving Our Stories – We ARE History!	Laura is a late blooming “queer” individual who has worked and lived in the greater New York area her entire life. She is a personal financial advisor and assists people with their financial planning needs. She has travelled the world for business & has experienced the true depth and breadth of numerous cultures & communities. Life is a rich tapestry, and Laura is continually expanding her knowledge & horizons and is excited to share her trials, tribulations, joys, and sorrows with the wonderful PrideWorks community!

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Kofman, Jason - He/Him/HeyDadCanYouDriveMeTo___ Email: jaykof@gmail.com Affiliation: PFLAG Westchester Website: www.pflagwestchester.org Session: GSA Student Roundtable	Jason is a parent of two high schoolers and a kid in college, one of whom is transgender. Jason spent 30 years working in banking, consulting, and sales before starting a second career focused on community service. He is currently on the PFLAG Westchester Steering Committee and is a Trustee on the Board of the Village of Scarsdale. He has facilitated many group discussions covering loads of different topics. He is excited to help GSA members learn from each other and find best practices that they can share.
Levin, Cynthia Changyit - She/her Email: cynthia@changyit.com Website: https://www.changyit.com/ Session: Advocacy Made Easy: Turning Frustration into Powerful Action	Levin is the author of "From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started" and the new "Advocacy Made Easy" handbook that released in October of 2025. A non-partisan activist working across a variety of issues, Levin coaches volunteers of all ages to build productive relationships with members of Congress. She advocated side-by-side with her two children from their toddler to teen years and crafted a new approach to advocacy based upon her strengths as a mother. She is currently a volunteer with RESULTS, the ONE campaign, Bread for the World, CARE Action, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, MomsRising, and the UN Foundation's Shot@Life Campaign. She has served as a board member for RESULTS and CARE Action.
Lewack, Alex - He/him; They/them Email: lewack.alex@gmail.com Session: Transgender Affinity Peer Space	Alex Lewack (they/he) is a transgender, queer man. He is a longtime volunteer at The LOFT and facilitator of the Young Adult Transgender peer support group at The LOFT. They hold their Bachelor's Degree in Gender Studies and Psychology from SUNY Purchase and their Associate's Degree in Psychology from SUNY WCC. Alex is well known for being awarded for their LGBTQ+ activism and leadership, being a pillar in the Westchester LGBTQ+ community, and for being Westchester Pride's 2020 Homecoming Queer.
Louisthelmy, Dednika - She/her Email: dlouisthemy@hopesdoorny.org Affiliation: Hope's Door Website: www.hopesdoorny.org Session: Hope's Door presents Love Shouldn't Hurt!	Dednika Louisthelmy joined Hope's Door in September 2023 as a Prevention Program Educator. She focuses on education and prevention efforts around domestic violence and promoting healthy relationships with young people throughout Westchester County. Dednika graduated from an HBCU, North Carolina A&T State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree. Dednika has also received her Master of Social Work (MSW) at Rutgers University. Dednika facilitates workshops and discussions in schools, churches, and other youth-based communities highlighting the differences between healthy and unhealthy components of relationships, helping empower youth with knowledge to build stronger, safer connections.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Luckman, Jimmy - He/him Email: jluckman@pace.edu Affiliation: Division of Student Affairs, Pace University Website: https://www.pace.edu/lgbtqa-center Session: Queer Theory 101: Learning Through Making Zines	Dr. Jimmy Luckman (he/him) has worked in higher education for over six years, working at a variety of institutions across the country focusing on new student orientation, first-year experience, and identity centers. Luckman currently serves as the director of the LGBTQA+ Center at Pace University at both the New York City and Pleasantville campuses since January 2025. Luckman's research interests include LGBTQ+ sense of belonging, wellness, and leadership development. Luckman graduated with his doctorate in executive leadership from St. John Fisher University, as his dissertation focused on LGBTQ+ Center directors' ability to process, implement, and utilize LGBTQ+ campus climate assessments. Luckman continuously engages in LGBTQA+ spaces in higher education, as he serves as the Praxis Coordinator for the Coalition of Sexuality and Gender Identities (CSGI) through ACPA and was the finalist for the 2024 Promising New Professional from the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals.
Luke, Shannon - She/her Email: sluke@hopesdoorny.org Affiliation: Hope's Door Website: https://hopesdoorny.org/ Session: Hope's Door Presents Love Shouldn't Hurt!	Shannon is a Senior Prevention Program Educator at Hope's Door. She began with Hope's Door as an intern in its shelter as an undergraduate. Shannon received her Bachelor's Degree in Applied Psychology and Human Relations and a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling at Pace University. She began working full-time with Hope's Door in August of 2022 as a Youth Educator. Shannon leads in facilitating workshops surrounding healthy relationships with young people throughout Westchester. Through her organizational skills she is able to schedule workshops and group discussions throughout the county to share our mission and promote our prevention work. Shannon strives to create a safe space for young people to talk about relationships and make healthy decisions.
Manzo, Kerry - He/Él Email: kerry.manzo@purchase.edu Affiliation: Purchase College Website: https://www.purchase.edu/ Session: Trans 101: The Sex, Expression, Identity, Orientation (SEIO) Model	Kerry Manzo (he, él) is an Assistant Professor of Global Studies and Chair of General Studies at Purchase College. His research is on decolonial methods for thinking about sex/ual and gender diversity in 20th and 21st century African literature, including its institutions and histories. Originally from Texas, Kerry is a trans man who has been active in the LGBTQIA+ community as a volunteer and non-profit leader for over twenty years.
Maxam, Tess - She/her; They/them Email: tmaxam@circlecare.org Affiliation: Circle Care Center Website: https://circlecarecenter.org/ Session: The Superpower You Didn't Know You Had: Preventing HPV-Related Cancers High School Students Only	Tess Maxam is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Circle Care Center, where she provides a range of services including primary care, sexual health, STI testing, and HIV prevention. She is also focused on developing a gynecology program that includes sexual and reproductive health services. Tess received her education from Yale School of Nursing and graduated as part of the class of 2025, with a background in Biology and Gender & Sexuality from St. Lawrence University.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

McCaine, Stephanie - She/her Email: sjmccaine@hamleteducation.com Affiliation: Hamlet Education Website: https://hamleteducation.com/ Session: Choosing the College That's Right for YOU!	Stephanie McCaine is a seasoned college admissions professional with over 25 years of experience in higher education, including leadership roles at Berklee College of Music and Purchase College, SUNY, where she served as Director of Admissions for a decade. Currently, she is the founder and chief "College Whisperer" at Hamlet Education Group, where she works as an independent educational consultant, helping students find the right-fit schools to thrive both academically and personally.
Milman, Psy. D, Roseanne - She/her Email: roseannemilman@impact-psych.com Affiliation: IMPACT Psychological Services Website: https://www.impact-psych.com/ Session: Intro to the Intersection of Neurodivergence and Trans Identities And Learning to Ride the Waves: Emotional Skills for Neurodivergent Trans Nervous Systems	Roseanne Milman, PsyD, is the Director of the Integrative DBT-A Program at IMPACT Psychological Services. Her clinical work with children, adolescents, adults, and families is rooted in empowerment and fostering resilience, emphasizing support for navigating life's challenges and pursuing meaningful goals. Dr. Milman's approach is informed by relational and attachment-based theories and emphasizes an integrative model of care tailored to each client's needs. She has specialized training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Adolescents and specializes in working with autistic individuals and other neurodivergent populations using a neuro-affirming framework. Dr. Milman has training in neuropsychological assessment in inpatient, outpatient, & private practice settings. She earned her doctoral degree from Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, completed her predoctoral internship at the Child Guidance Center of Southern CT, and holds the position of Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.
O'Hanlon, Jim - He/him Email: johanlon.stpauls@gmail.com Affiliation: St Paul's Church, Rye Brook Website: https://stpaulsryebrook.com/ Session: Easter and Passover Through an LGBTQ+ Lens	Jim O'Hanlon has been a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2000, Pastor of St. Paul's Rye Brook since 2010. He has served ministries in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Westchester. Jim earned a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary and a Master of Sacred Theology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He has collaborated with colleagues of various faiths and no particular faith. His ministry is about fighting discrimination and building community.
Ochs, Robyn - They/them; She/her Email: robyn@robynocho.com Website: https://www.robynocho.com/ Session: All the Letters: 10 Things that Gen Z Knows about LGBTQIA+ Identity That Your Elders May Not And Bifabulous & Pan-tastic: Bisexuality 101 & Beyond!	Robyn Ochs is a US-based speaker, grassroots activist, and editor of Bi Women Quarterly and two anthologies: the 42-country collection Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World and RECOGNIZE: The Voices of Bisexual Men. An advocate for the rights of people of ALL orientations and genders to live safely, openly and with full access and opportunity, Robyn's work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements, with special interest in bi+ health, the experiences of bi+ people in the workplace, the global bi+ movement, and bi and LGBTQIA+ youth. Teen Vogue named Robyn one of "9 Bisexual Women Who are Making History."

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Pasquale, Lindsey - She/her; They/them Email: northeastrd@pflag.org Affiliation: PFLAG National Website: https://pflag.org/ Session: We Are All Genderfluid – This and Other Myths About Non-Binary People	Lindsey is a non-binary trans-woman, and an active advocate in their community. They serve as Northeast Regional Director and Board Member for PFLAG National. She is also the PFLAG Hartford Co-President. Lindsey has curated many non-binary spaces on Facebook and is the Creator of "Older and Non-Binary", in response to the erasure the relationship and professional issues can often receive in more generic spaces. They also serve as Steering Committee Community Coordinator for Yale Medical study on SOGI data collection at Smilow Cancer Center and are a Past Board Member for the New Haven Pride Center. Lindsey lives in northeastern CT with their spouse and dog Echo and is parent to two adult children. She works in the InsureTech industry, and enjoys attending WNBA CT Sun and New England Patriot games, as well as live music.
Peiffer, Erika - She/her; They/them Email: epeiffer@whiteplainslibrary.org Affiliation: White Plains Public Library Website: http://www.whiteplainslibrary.org/ Session: My Monster Came Out of The Closet: A Horror InQueery	Erika is a Youth Services Librarian for the White Plains Public Library. They love all things horror, queer, queer horror, and puppies.
Pentheny, Cadence - They/them Email: cadence@ctpridecenter.org Affiliation: Triangle Community Ctr, Norwalk, CT Website: https://www.ctpridecenter.org/ Session: Reproductive Justice & Queer Bodies	Cadence Pentheny (they/them) is Triangle Community Center's Community Education Director and runs the LGBTQIA+ Training Institute. As Community Education Director, Cadence is responsible for engaging with the wider community to provide educational opportunities and professional development surrounding LGBTQIA+ cultural humility across Fairfield County, CT and beyond.
Picciano, Christina - She/her Email: christinapic910@gmail.com Affiliation: Hudson Valley Queer Collective Instagram @christinapic and @hvqueercollective Opening	Christina Picciano is a queer musician, activist, and community organizer from Ossining. Her work explores the intersection of art and advocacy, using her music to inspire and empower the LGBTQ+ community in Westchester and beyond. A self-taught multi-instrumentalist, she leads the band All My Friends, using music to explore themes of queerness and identity. A recipient of the Creatives Rebuild NY Artist Employment Grant; she has spent years developing arts programming that uplifts LGBTQ+ musicians and fosters queer community spaces. She established the Ossining LGBTQ+ Alliance, working with elected officials, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses to amplify visibility and advocate for the queer community in Ossining. Her PrideWorks presentation served as she catalyst for the LGBTQ+ Listening Library. In the summer of 2024, she debuted the Listening Library at Bethany Arts Community, showcasing over 85 titles by LGBTQ+ artists on vinyl, CD, and cassette, spanning from the 1960s to today. Currently, she is developing the Hudson Valley Queer Collective to support queer artists and inclusive arts events across the region.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Piñon, Dakota - He/him Email: Dakotapinon@gmail.com Session: Health and Wellness Roundtable Discussion	Dakota is an ACE certified personal trainer and certified nutrition coach. He is in his last semester for his M.S. in Mental Health Counseling. He has worked for GLSEN Lower Hudson Valley for five years. He currently works as a Learning Specialist in higher education and has been in (dis)ability services for four years. He facilitates an LGBTQ+ Support Group plus a Health and Wellness Group at a private mental health counseling practice in Westchester County, NY. During his free time, he enjoys writing poetry, woodworking, hiking, and fishing.
Rivera, Kal - He/him; They/them Email: Kalrivera@icloud.com Affiliation: Odyssey Teen Camp Website: www.odysseyteencamp.com Session: Building Community in a World That Divides Us	Kal is an undergraduate at Rutgers University studying Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Psychology. He has been a counselor at Odyssey Teen Camp for 2 summers and is involved in many queer-oriented collegiate student groups. Their research interests lie in the intersection of trans/queer community building, decolonial feminist theory and practice, and mitigating mental health service barriers. He is passionate about cultivating accessible, inclusive communities, loves cooking, making music, and their pet turtle!
Roberts, Erica - She/her; They/them Email: eroberts@whiteplainslibrary.org Affiliation: White Plains Public Library Website: http://www.whiteplainslibrary.org/ Session: Here and Queer for Over 60 Years: Fans, Fandom, and Fanfiction	This librarian can be found at her library most of the time or otherwise preoccupied outside of it (most likely in their apartment on their computer). Always happy to discuss books (especially fantasy, queer books, and *especially* queer fantasy) and her favorite role-playing games (especially their current favorite, Wanderhome!).
Rubin, Kephra - He/him Email: paperthoughtsprogram@gmail.com Affiliation: Paper Thoughts Program Website: https://www.paperthoughtsprogram.com/ Session: A Hunt for Who You Are: Journaling and Scavenger Hunt Party	Kephra is a writer, artist, and photographer. He is passionate about using his creations to grow and help others do the same.
Ruiz, Ramon - He/him Email: Ramon.Ruiz87@gmail.com Affiliation: CUNY Graduate Center Session: Policy-to-Practice: An LGBTQ+ Rights Action Lab	Ramon is a first-generation graduate with a Master's Degree in Social Work specializing in policy practice. A dedicated social work practitioner, Ramon focuses on research and macro policy. Currently, Ramon interest in research and macro policy has only grown throughout his academic and professional career. Using his experience Ramon is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Welfare from the CUNY Graduate Center.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

Shirk, Eli - He/him Email: es62063n@pace.edu Affiliation: Pace University Session: Queer Theory 101: Learning Through Making Zines	Eli (he/him) is a junior at Pace University studying Political Science and Peace and Justice Studies. As a First-Year student, Eli was a finalist for the Most Promising Newcomer award at Pace University's Lavender Graduation. Now, he works as a student assistant in Pace's LGBTQA+ Center, hosting monthly zine making workshops and fostering queer community. Eli has previous conference experience, having presented at the 2025 Peace and Justice Studies Association Conference on Leveraging Legacies of Peacemaking in Precarious Times. Eli presented on a panel promoting his campus' mutual aid network, emphasizing the need for communities to care for and support each other. On and off campus, Eli is a proud trans masc advocate with aspirations to be a human rights lawyer.
Simon, Rachel - They/them Email: Rachel@ctpridecenter.org Affiliations: PrideWorks, Triangle Community Center, Westchester LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Website: https://www.ctpridecenter.org/ Session: Building Your Rainbow Toolkit	Rachel Simon (she/they) is the Vice President of the Board of PrideWorks and loves this conference! They are also the Executive Director of Triangle Community Center, an LGBTQA+ community services center in CT, and the Chair of the Westchester County LGBTQA+ Advisory Board working with the Westchester County Executive.
Spieldenner, Lee - He/him; They/them; She/her Email: leejs@queeryouthassemble.org Affiliation: Queer Youth Assemble Website: https://queeryouthassemble.org/ Session: Movements Sparked by Activism and How You Can Light the Match	Lee Spieldenner is a junior in Highschool who volunteers with Queer Youth Assemble. They identify as bisexual and Agender and have a passion for theater and film. They have tabled for their organization at events such as world pride in DC and PrideWorks and are a part of an amazing community of queer youth and other queer people that they love dearly.
Steinmeyer, Kuiper - He/him Email: Kuiper.steinmeyer@purchase.edu Affiliation: Purchase College LGBTQU President Website: https://www.purchase.edu/offices/student-involvement/multicultural-center/cultural-clubs/ Session: Lavender Lab Coats	I am a queer student studying premedical biology at Purchase College. I am a passionate environmentalist, a cancer survivor, and a lover of all things science. I am also the president of the oldest LGBTQ+ student union in New York State.

PrideWorks 2026 Presenter Bios

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Stenerson, Jim He/him Email: jstenerson@gmail.com Affiliation: Westchester County LGBTQ Advisory Board Session: People & Places Important to LGBTQ+ History	Dr. Stenerson is a member of the Westchester County LGBTQ Advisory Board. Jim is the retired founding director of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Professional Development at Pace University. He served on the Board of Trustees for the Charter School of Educational Excellence in Yonkers and served on the board of directors for SAGE (Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders). His achievements include research papers, presentations, lectures on faculty development, information technology, and LGBTQ issues. Jim holds a Ph.D. in Information Science, with a concentration in the philosophy of technology.
Valerie and Yelena Valerie (she/her) Yelena (she/her)	Valerie is a high school senior who plays clarinet and saxophone. She attended the Tanglewood Institute and the Ithaca Summer Music Academy, played in the Rockland Youth Jazz Ensemble and the Rockland Youth Symphony, and attended New York State School Music Association All State Conference as a first clarinet two years in a row. Valerie also played Girls Varsity Volleyball for 1½ seasons. Yelena is a high school biology and earth science teacher, and Valerie's mom.
Verbas, Shepard - They/them; He/him Email: shve@WestchesterCountyNY.gov Affiliation: Westchester Human Rights Commission Website: https://humanrights.westchestergov.com/ Session: Reclaiming our Truth: LGBTQ+ Human Rights, Leaders, and Combatting Hate and Misinformation	Shepard is the Fair Housing Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Westchester County Human Rights Commission where they focus on creating educational workshops on fair housing and human rights topics. Shepard has a background in LGBTQ+ advocacy, and prior to their work at the Commission, they served as The LOFT LGBTQ+ Center's Director of Programs and Services where they helped to develop the center's diverse programming from 2015 to 2023. Shepard has spoken at trainings and panels for local and national groups and has been a keynote speaker for GLSEN Lower Hudson Valley and The LOFT LGBTQ+ Center's events.