

OF SUBSTANCE

Real, personal stories about our complicated and contradictory relationships with drugs and alcohol

MEET THE STORY TELLERS

Gary M. Almeter is an attorney, writer, former teacher, bibliophile, Orioles fan, and all-around bad boy. His second book, "The Dream Dinner Party Handbook" will be published in October. He lives in Anneslie with his wife, his three kids, and his dog Dave.

Kelly Gill is a Baltimore native, mother of four, Realtor, and wannabe writer. Her oldest (and funniest) child, Randy, lost his battle with addiction after an overdose in March 2019. She is the proud co-founder of Love In The Trenches. LITT eradicates the shame and stigma associated with substance abuse disorders and provides loving support for parents of addicts, as well as those who have lost a child to addiction.

Michael Moran is a Baltimore-based stand-up comedian, improviser, writer, podcaster, and musician. His comedic style is best described as "stupid-smart."

Tei Pearson has modeled her life following Dr. King's mantra that everyone can be great - because anyone can serve. She is the founder of Love Advocates LLC, VP of Community Relations for Cocobump.com, multi Vcast co-host, a wife, mother, disabled army veteran, and a survivor of childhood and adult sexual assault. As the trendy D.C. song says, she's a "SURVIVOR" — she's not going to stop, she will work harder!!!

Elizabeth Piper enjoys storytelling, speaking words of affirmation to her plants, and finding joy in simple things like freshly baked bread, “Gilmore Girls,” spontaneous dance parties, and evening soul strolls. She lives in a cozy studio apartment where she savors the pleasure of her own company along with the company of her one-eyed-kitten, Gizmo. She makes sense of her world by writing and speaking about it rather openly, and hopes her words inspire others to show up to their lives fully, without apology.

Zach Ruckin was born in the fabulous year of 1997, and somehow managed to survive by drinking hot sauce, eating canned peaches with creamers, and harvesting energy by annoying his parents.

Zuriel U. Savoy was born in Washington, D.C. The oldest of six boys, he graduated from the Prince George's County school system and attended Morgan State University. He is a proud U.S. Army (Airborne) veteran and the father of three wonderful sons. He enjoys telling jokes, singing karaoke, writing poetry, rooting for all D.C. sports teams, and speaking at various Substance Use Disorder treatment facilities. He’s been working in the field of recovery for the past six years and is currently a state employee with the St. Mary's County Health Department.

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