

*When you're done reading, pass it on!*

# THE KETCHIKAN QUEER COLLECTIVE

Based in Ketchikan representing Southern Southeast Alaska, the Ketchikan Queer Collective is a group of local LGBTQIA+ individuals who have come together to network and support one another. We seek to make meaningful connections, provide resources, and spread awareness of issues.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK

- Have a personal connection to Southern Southeast Alaska (for example: live here, have lived here, work here, have visited here)
- Please keep written works to approximately 300 words (around one page)
- Email submissions to [loudandqueerketchikan@gmail.com](mailto:loudandqueerketchikan@gmail.com)



If you liked reading this zine, scan the QR Code to check out our website for even more!

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST! [loudandqueerketchikan.com](http://loudandqueerketchikan.com)

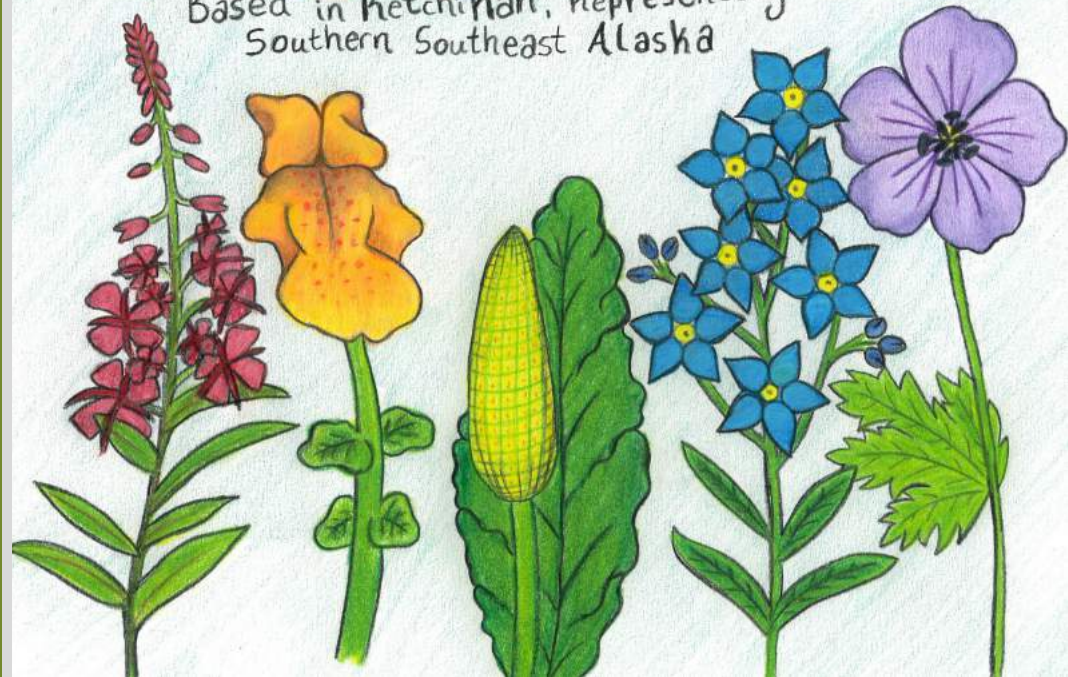
Click the Subscribe button on our website to get the best of what's queer, each quarter, in your inbox.

Cover Artwork by Hannah Bayles - She/They - Pansexual

SPRING 2021 Volume 1 Issue 1

# LOUD and QUEER!

Based in Ketchikan, Representing  
Southern Southeast Alaska



*Fireweed - Monkey Flower - Skunk Cabbage - Forget-Me-Not - Geranium*

# LOUD & QUEER!

**Loud and Queer!** is a quarterly zine published by the Ketchikan Queer Collective featuring visual art, articles, and resources. **Loud and Queer!** engages with the Queer community of Southern Southeast Alaska to make our experiences visible and voices heard. This publication tells our stories by and for each other.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Not every person who is HIGH-RISK can safely get the vaccine!



**DISMANTLE ABLEISM**



## GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE

Everyone should be able to live FULL lives, while being safe from COVID-19. We need at least 80% of our population to be fully vaccinated to reach herd immunity. This will allow those in our community who are unable to be vaccinated to be protected. By the release of this issue, only 44% of Ketchikan (All Ages) is fully vaccinated. That's great, but nowhere near enough!!

People who are high-risk deserve to exist safely in Ketchikan!

To schedule a vaccine apt, go to: [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov)

### Puzzle Me This!

A X Y D L B A A X R = L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this example, A is used for the three L's, X for the O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. In each quote the code letters are different.

"G WTCX CWX DMLH WMQMZWMIQT.

GC'Y EMC T ZWMIQT. SMA' LX EMC

YPTLXH. SMA' LX TE TYYWMFX."

-QMLVTE JLXXQTE

*\*YOU CAN DO THIS\**

Email your answers to

[loudandqueerketchikan@gmail.com](mailto:loudandqueerketchikan@gmail.com) for a chance to win a prize! The winner will be announced in our next issue.

(Subject line: Crypto Quote Answer)

Crypto Quote Provided By: Joey Fama - He/Him/His - Ally



Remi Cothren  
They/She  
Pansexual

**Photographer:**  
Janalee Gage  
She/Her/Hers  
Ally

I'm truly excited to see this publication moving forward in the Ketchikan area!!

A lot has happened in the past year with the Ketchikan Pride Alliance (KPA). To bring you up to speed, we formed a 501(3)c non profit, opened up a bank account with the grant monies from SEAGLA, and had a board of directors election where we added an additional board member! In addition to all of that, we formed a KPA "page" on Facebook that links all "groups" that have been up and running in the past including; Inside Out, Ketchikan Pride Alliance, and Transgender Ketchikan. We are moving forward carefully. The reason for this is to be certain that in the infancy of our organization we set a solid foundation and follow all state and federal guidelines.

In June, we are having our Annual Pride Picnic! We weren't able to have the picnic last year because of the pandemic, but I am hopeful that as we see more community members getting vaccinated, we will be able to host it in person this year. Please check out the KPA Facebook page for details and updates as they come available.

I'm really excited about our group! The level of diversity in Ketchikan never ceases to amaze and humble me.

Sheen Davis,  
President, Ketchikan Pride Alliance  
She/Her/Hers



## **THIS IS LINGÍT AANÍ** **The Land of the Tlingit**

We are located on the current and ancestral lands of the Tlingit, who have been living here since time immemorial. Kichxáan (Ketchikan) remains the territory of the Taant'a Kwáan (Sea Lion Tribe) of the Tongass Tlingit. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and learn here in mutual respect and appreciation.

**Do you know whose land you're on?**

Find out on the Native Land website  
<https://native-land.ca>

Visit our website for more resources  
<https://loudandqueerketchikan.com/land-acknowledgement>

# BACK TO THE BASICS

## USEFUL TERMS

When learning about the LGBTQIA+ community, it can be difficult to know where to begin. There are lots of terms to describe the identities and experiences of Queer individuals. Fear not, **Loud and Queer!** is going to have an ongoing series on the basic terms and theories to help us all better understand. We are going Back to the Basics in each issue, so let's begin!

There's a lot more to being male, female, or any gender than the sex assigned at birth. Your assigned sex does not always tell your complete story.

It's common for people to confuse sex, gender, gender identity, and gender expression. But they're actually all different things.

## Sex

Assigned sex is a label that you're given at birth by a doctor based on medical factors, including your hormones, chromosomes, and genitals. Most people are assigned male or female, and this is what's put on their birth certificates. Not everyone's anatomy fits into the two categories of female and male.

## Gender

A set of expectations from our culture and society about behaviors, thoughts, and characteristics that go along with your assigned sex.

Gender is also a social and legal status. It is generally male or female and includes gender roles.

## Gender Identity

How you feel inside, your own understanding of self and gender.

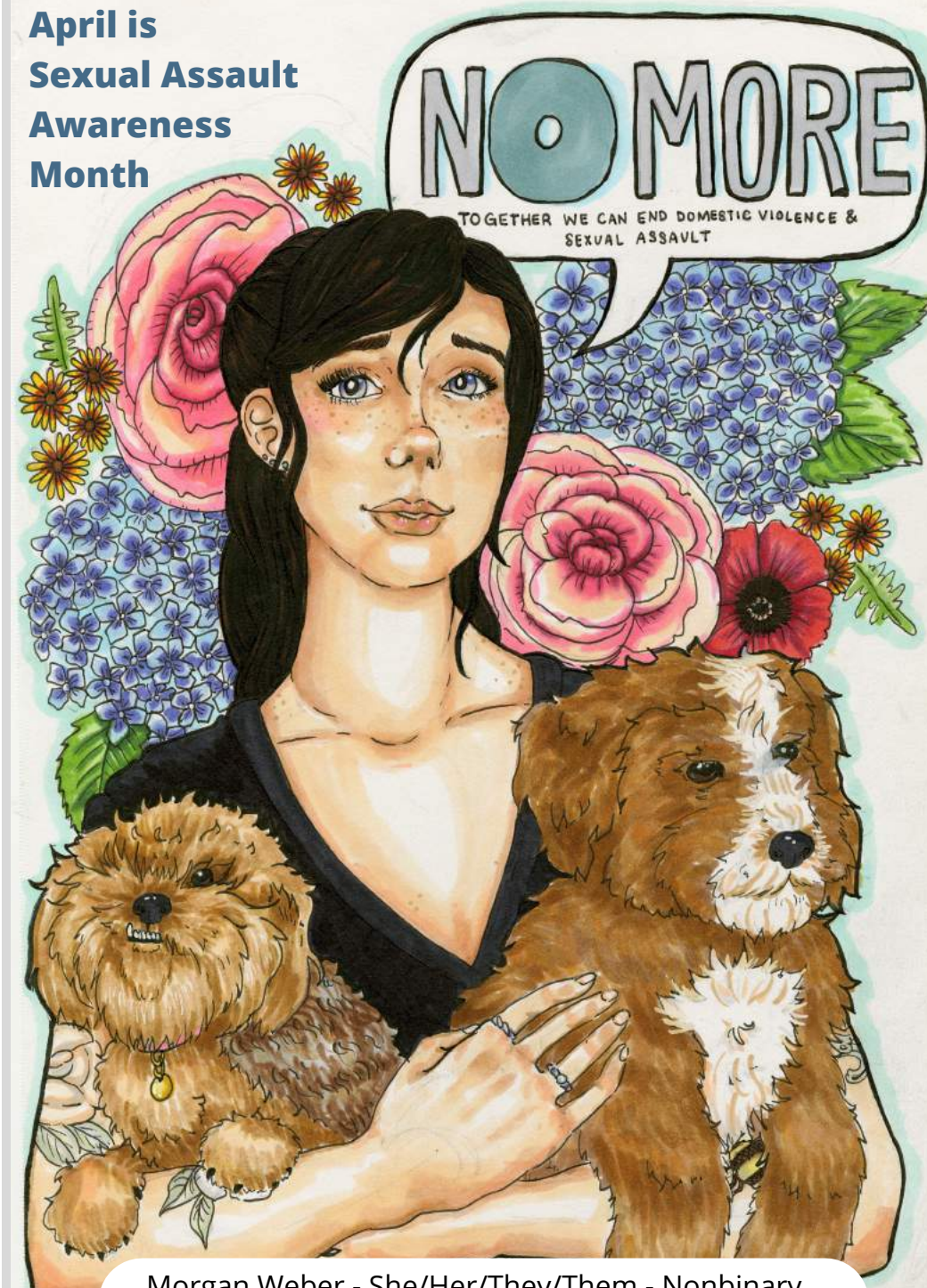
Gender identity has nothing to do with societal expectations of gender. It can be the same or different from your sex assigned at birth.

## Gender Expression

How you express your gender through clothing, behavior, and personal appearance.

Gender expression does not have to align with societal expectations of gender and gender roles.

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Morgan Weber - She/Her/They/Them - Nonbinary

Colored drawing of Arryn Zech — a bisexual voice actress who spoke out about her experience with her abusive ex-boyfriend. Everyone deserves relationships free from domestic violence. Helpline: National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

THE KETCHIKAN CITY COUNCIL PASSED A NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE THAT PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND GENDER EXPRESSION.



# KTN'S NDO PASSES! JULY 16 2020

You **CANNOT** be fired or discriminated against within the workplace on the basis of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Effective  
**AUG  
21  
2020**

You **CANNOT** be evicted from your apartment or denied access to housing on the basis of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

**HRC  
RATES  
KTN 38  
OUT OF 100**

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU



You **CANNOT** be denied service at a business on the basis of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN INCREASED KETCHIKAN'S SCORE FROM 0 TO 38 AFTER THE NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE WAS PASSED!  
SEE HOW WE CAN INCREASE OUR SCORE AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.HRC.ORG/RESOURCES/MUNICIPALITIES/KETCHIKAN](https://www.hrc.org/resources/municipalities/ketchikan)



Carls Hurst  
They/Them/Theirs  
Pansexual

# Making Community Visible

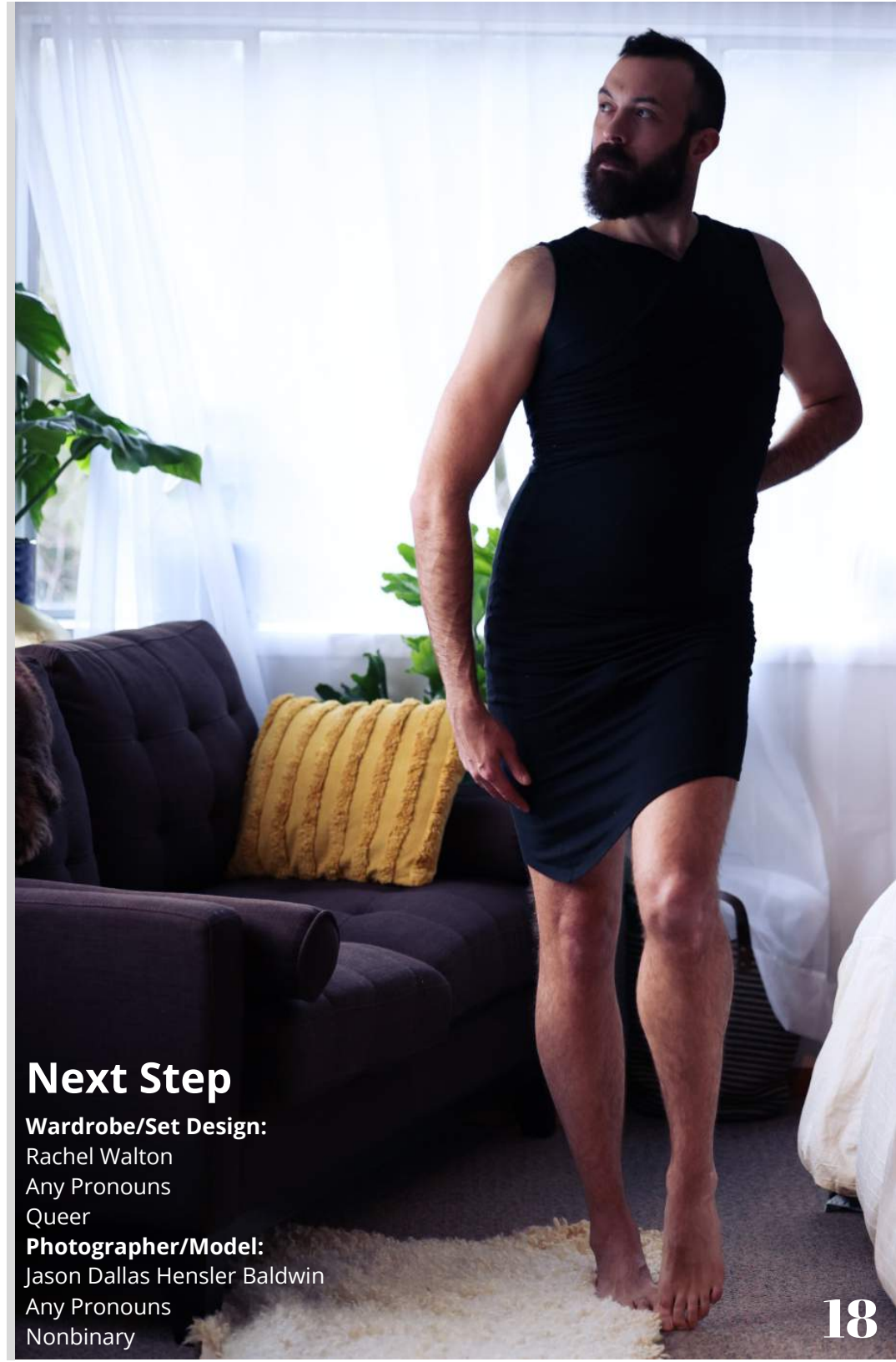
On June 5, 2020 around 200 people showed up for a protest, lining the street and holding signs expressing support for the LGBTQIA+ community after a local florist refused to provide flowers for a same sex wedding. Members of our community came together to reject discrimination and demand additional protections for marginalized individuals. This demonstration allowed Queer people in our community to be seen and heard, some for the first time.

The passing of Ketchikan's non-discrimination ordinance is a direct example of our collective power to enact policies that protect us. By showing up and advocating for our rights, we effected lasting change in our community. We have every right to take up space, to make our experiences visible and voices heard. We are valued members of this community. We belong here.



(above and right) Photos from the LGBTQIA+ Protest on June 5, 2020 outside a local florist who denied service for a same sex wedding

**Photographer:**  
Janalee Gage  
She/Her/Hers  
Ally



## Next Step

**Wardrobe/Set Design:**

Rachel Walton  
Any Pronouns  
Queer

**Photographer/Model:**

Jason Dallas Hensler Baldwin  
Any Pronouns  
Nonbinary



***“All of us should have the opportunity to be as loud and as queer as we want.”***

***Grant EchoHawk  
He/Him/His  
Ally***





This country was founded on racism and white supremacy. We have inherited a system built for white people to benefit from the devaluing of Black lives. White people must acknowledge this, and work to make our communities more equitable.

On June 7, 2020 over 400 community members gathered to lend their voices and support for Black Lives Matter. In support of both the national Black Lives Matter movement and our local Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, Ketchikan showed up to call for an end to systemic racism and police brutality. This shit isn't just in the lower 48! We need to address it, right here, in our community.



I knew the moment I let her in on my truth, I'd lose her forever. I'd never be able to call her, and laugh for hours about nonsense... or taste her indescribable sweet potato pies, and cornbread dressing on thanksgiving. Being me would mean the death of my mother, as it pertained to our lifelong bond; I've been with my mother since her early teens, remember. Yet, I didn't think she loved me more than she hated who I am. But it had to be done in order for me to be free.

I woke up pretty late one day, opened my laptop with the knowing that I was going to do it. I was coming out to my mother without even wiping my eye boogers first. I logged onto Facebook, and sent her a heartfelt message expressing who I am, while explaining my fears.

"I love you, but please don't die in this sin..." That was her response. She loved me! I was overjoyed. I literally felt physically lighter, and I knew life was just beginning for me. That joy was slowly replaced with bitterness, however. "Why the years of pain?", I thought to myself. I began to resent my mother. I only recently began to break down those past traumas with her in our communications, and I feel like she comes around more and more all the time.

I've recently adopted the philosophy, "The sin is in the secret." My life since coming out has been incredible. I have nothing to hide. Nothing to fear. I can be my full self, and feel no shame. I'm in love with myself for the first time! It truly feels incredible, and that kind of joy can be seen by those around you.

"I have nothing to hide, nothing to fear. I can be my full self, and feel no shame."

So, shine your light, FIERCE QUEER BITCHES! It's a dark world, and though it sometimes feels like we aren't appreciated, the world is a better place with us in it.

Joe Williams  
He/Him/His  
Gay



Being who I was wasn't acceptable, but what was I to do? I knew! I could pray it away! I would pray to God to literally cleanse me of my homosexual spirit, and immediately kill me, so I'd be pure enough to enter heaven... I was fucked up to say the least. Praying the gay away never worked, and as I entered my 20's, I knew something had to happen. I know! I can have sex with a girl! That would surely cure me, right?

"Praying the gay away never worked, and as I entered my 20's, I knew something had to happen."

With this, I set on a course that would end in me making the worst mistake I've ever made. I lured a good friend into a year and a half long farce of a relationship. After carrying on the lie, and denying who I was whenever she'd voice her suspicions (because... duh!), I finally decided to break it off. I just couldn't take the lies anymore, and I wasn't getting any less gay. In an

attempt to save my soul, I began meditating and vowed Asexuality. I'd never have sex with anyone. No sex, no sin, no hell.

Satisfied with this resolve, I lived my life sex free! It was actually kinda nice not focusing so much on that part of existence. It's funny how thinking your sexuality is inherently evil makes you think about sexual things more often. I was doing great living my new asexual life... until HE showed up. I can't talk to much about the experience, as any details would out the individual, and I'd NEVER stoop so low; but let's

just say some asshole seduced me, randomly outed me (denying his involvement), and basically destroyed my life. I wasn't outed completely... only a small group had heard, but I'd never let a bitch hold any clouds over my head. The shell had been cracked, and I was COMING OUT!

"I just couldn't take the lies anymore, and I wasn't getting any less gay."

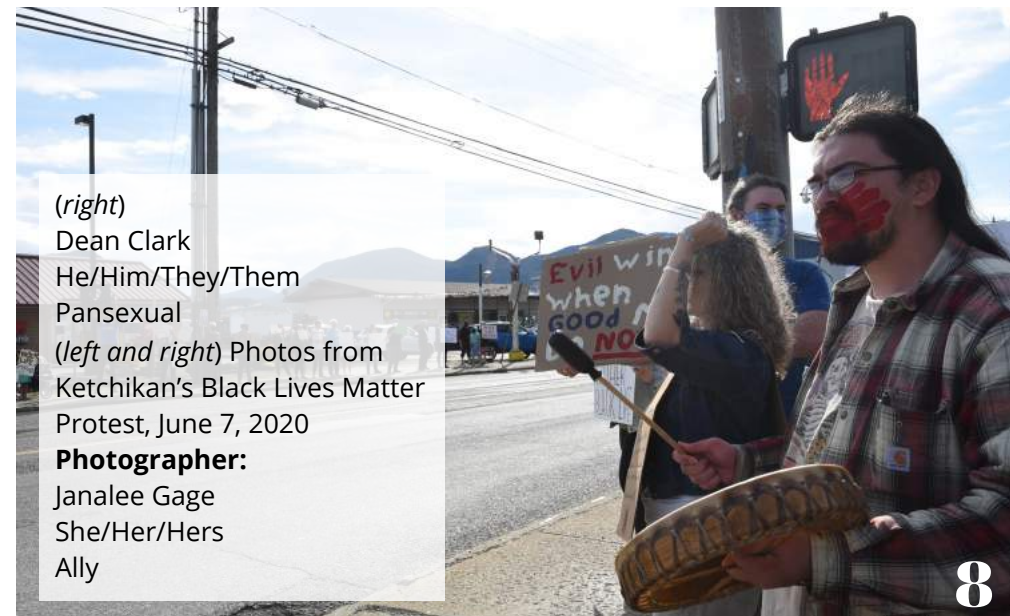
I started small: coworkers, friends, etc... it was easy... freeing... addictive even! I wanted everyone to know EXCEPT my mother.

## Intersectionality

We all have multiple identities that intersect to make us who we are. Intersectionality is a way to talk about oppressions and privileges that overlap and reinforce each other. This term dates back to the 1980s and was coined by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw. She noticed that there wasn't an effective way to talk about how the experiences of black women are different from the experiences of black men, and of white women. Black women endure both gender discrimination and racial discrimination.

Intersectionality acknowledges systemic discrimination due to race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, immigration status, national origin, and ability among others. These overlapping identities make each person's lived experience unique.

Until and unless all people in this country, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, are allowed to thrive, we still have work to do. The only way to achieve Queer liberation is through the liberation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. We must be allies for each other, show up for each other's causes, and build intersectional solidarity.



(right)

Dean Clark  
He/Him/They/Them  
Pansexual

(left and right) Photos from  
Ketchikan's Black Lives Matter  
Protest, June 7, 2020

**Photographer:**

Janalee Gage  
She/Her/Hers  
Ally



# THE SIN IS IN THE SECRET

"I love you, but don't die in this sin..."

Being queer in the African American community, you are seen as the lowest of beings; literally worthy of death. Religion plays a large role in this. There is no greater sin in than homosexuality in the African American church, so being that African Americans believe and rely on the Bible so deeply due to our devastatingly traumatic history, there's nothing more disgusting than homosexuals. Particularly in poor urban areas, which is where I come from.

We never had a lot of money. My mother gave birth to me at 16 years old, which made life difficult for us at times; church was a constant fixture, and corporal punishment was prevalent. What do you do when your son is fashioning sheets into dresses, and wearing a rag on his head to emulate "feminine" hair?

You beat him... beat the demonic spirit which inhabits him out! That was the answer. That was my reality. My creativity, my ideals, my being... They were evil. I was evil. I was an abomination.

My only refuge was my great grandmother, after whom my mother was named. With her, I could live unashamed. She'd catch me playing in her makeup, or tying her scarves around the waist of my bedtime extra large T-shirt to make a skirt; and she'd just laugh with me. She loved me as I was, and didn't judge me. She was my hero, and undoubtedly the only reason I'm alive today. But grandma's was only a temporary escape.

Though my father was/is a prevalent figure in my life, and had weekend and summer custody of my brother and I for most of our lives; my mother was my primary caretaker, and my mother wasn't raising any "soft" men. She was a very Young woman with 2 black male children. We had to be tough. I wasn't tough though. I was soft... feeling... QUEER.

Joe Williams  
He/Him/His  
Gay

"My only refuge was my great grandmother... With her, I could live unashamed."

# LIFE'S A DRAG...

## QUEEN

I grew up in Ketchikan from age 6! I received my masters in Juneau and am moving back to Ketchikan in May!

I used to do drag in my bedroom when I was in high school. Usually I did it by myself but sometimes with a friend. I'd go downtown to the party store and I would buy the cheapest wig they had. Then over to Walmart where my palms would get sweaty as I checked out with makeup. It was always some cheap shit that barely covered my skin, but when I put on my lipstick, eyelashes, and a dress I borrowed from a girlfriend, nobody could tell me that I was anything less than fabulous.

When I was in college I would venture out to house parties in drag, I loved being the center of attention. Then I got on a stage as Luna for the first time and that's when everything changed. I realized how empowered I felt and more importantly how empowered others felt watching me. It didn't matter that my dress was too big, my eyebrows weren't glued down, or that my wig was falling off, there was such joy amongst the crowd.

This is the power of drag and the duty of drag queens to be a beacon of light and hope within the LGBTQIA+ community. Soon I'll be moving back to my little fishing town of Ketchikan and Luna is coming with to keep spreading that light in a town where Tommy used to feel so dark.

Tommy Varela (Luna)  
He/Him/His out of drag  
She/Her/Hers in drag  
Gay

# תיקון עולם

Pronounced "tikkun olam", the Hebrew phrase literally translates to "repair the world". In the modern era, tikkun olam is the idea that all persons bear responsibility not only for our own mental, physical, and spiritual integrity, but also that of society at large.

Tikkun olam takes many forms. TOM is a non-profit that develops free adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Tikkun olam is found in the hands of those preparing meals at the Salvation Army, in the hearts of healthcare workers caring for those with COVID-19, and in the brains of environmental researchers exploring new ways to restore balance to our planet.

Tikkun olam also takes form in political reformation. As many as 90% of civil rights lawyers in Mississippi during the 1960s were Jewish, working to review bail systems and arrest procedures, filing formal complaints about jail beatings and intimidation, and racing from town to town obtaining parade permits.

Mass atrocities are not spontaneous. They are preceded by early warning signs. "People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when people are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option."

Tikkun olam means Black lives matter. It means differently-abled lives matter. It means Asian lives matter. It means female lives matter. It means Palestinian lives matter. It means immigrant lives matter. It means Indigenous lives matter. It means Queer lives matter.

It's more than protests; it's promoting כבוד (dignity/honor/respect) for all through everyday actions, even if you don't agree. All experiences are valid, so ignore the passive aggressive post-it note, be kind to the person who cursed you, and sell them the damn flowers because it's not all about you.

"You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." Never again, means never again.

Arizona Jacobs  
She/Her/Hers  
Bisexual



Tommy Varela (Luna)  
He/Him/His out of drag  
She/Her/Hers in drag  
Gay