


POLITICAL RESILIENCE & JOY IN 2025



*Jorge,
Denver*

**NEW
ERA
COLORADO**



ARTIVISM

The current political climate has ignited feelings of restlessness and discomfort amongst young people across our state. New Era's focus is on fostering a political home for young people, and we know it's more important than ever to practice political resilience and joy in our communities to sustain the movement.

This year, we aimed to achieve this activism via this collaborative community zine project.

Our contributors were asked to contribute to one of four prompts:

- El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido.
Who is your community?
- How do I care for my community?
- How does my community care for me?
- What is the vision I have for my community?
What is the future I want for my community?

Read, recharge, rally, resist, and repeat.

*Want to stay in touch? Follow us on Instagram
@neweracolorado or shoot us an email at
info@neweracolorado.org!*



A Vision

I am at a loss, so I look up volunteering days, I search for places where artists and activists gather. I redistribute hundreds of pounds of food to my neighbors during a morning filled with thank-yous and understanding.

I go to open mic nights and say thank you to the audience, thank you to my peers for speaking their truth, I thank you for hearing mine.

I have no clue what to do, so I reach out to my lovers. I invite them to play pool with me, to come to the hot springs to soak, I ask if they want to go see a movie, I ask if they want to make brunch, I ask "are you working?", I ask "have you eaten"

And I talk to a farmer and he says although he's not ready, here spring comes. I eaves drop on him talking about a silent meditation retreat, and I wonder about our bodies, what they speak of in quiet moments. I know it to be our greatest resource, this breath that fuels us. I've already run from home once before, at seventeen let loose in the City, or an hour and forty minutes away by train.

I don't know what to do, so I go to work, and deal with what I can. And I smile at my neighbors who sometimes don't smile back. And I think they might not care, if they never saw our faces again.

I search for community and for space, so I go on hikes, I talk to tree and stone. I rage at the carving, the painting, the dyeing. I remember that we not only destroy, we create. So I create, I paint and draw and dance and I remember we've stayed alive through those acts alone.

Because I remember, because we remember.

I study, I learn about my body, do my best to listen.

I look forward to spring, with its bustle and its fits and starts. And I'm thankful for the inconsistency, for what keeps me on my toes.

I search for music, for queerness, I search for words that speak to me.

I make some potatoes, boiling in water with an egg.

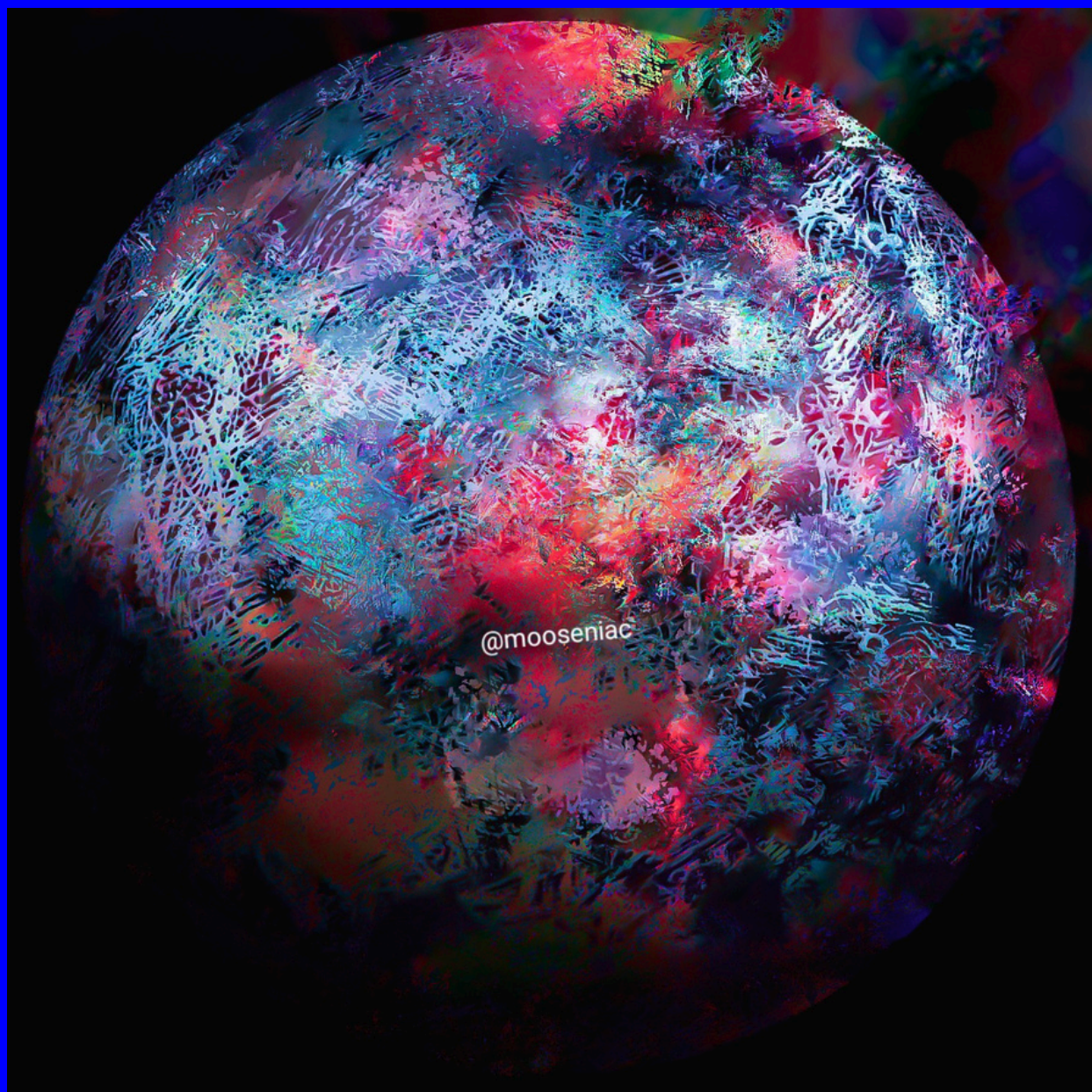
I say I don't know what to do so I write some stuff down that I'm thankful for, and I find myself lighter.

I go to a coworkers birthday party and I sit in a papasan grey chair that pulls me as the moon pulls the tides. I brought her a tiny pink ceramic bowl, because she reminds me of blushed cheeks and wide smiles.

I tell a friend about the theme for the open mic "be the sunflower seed" and he tells me sunflowers are good at filtering heavy metals out of the soil.

We all get to be like sunflowers, we can pull heaviness from the root, can make the soil new.

Maru, Colorado Springs



My piece is titled 'amaurosis 3 - synapse flare' - it's an abstract representation about what the eyes see when there is a lack of light or when exposed to a prolonged period of darkness. Inspired by closed eye visualizations/hallucinations, I tried to portray the condition as a planet in space, to symbolize the worlds of vision outside of our own. With my work I try to bring awareness and attention to a variety of visual disabilities, conditions, and phenomena. With how vision shapes our perspective of the world, I think first understanding how someone truly physically sees the world, can lead to more inclusive and understanding interactions.

Adam, Lakewood

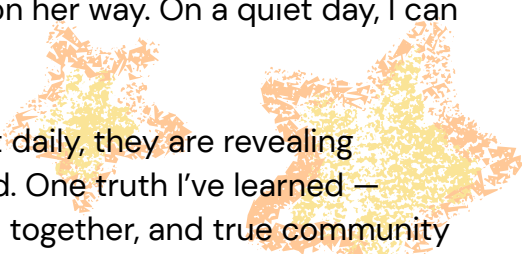


COMMUNITY IS TO BUILD NEW WORLDS TOGETHER



Arundhati Roy — 'Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.'


We are living in dark times. And though they break my heart daily, they are revealing essential truths, like stars to navigate towards a better world. One truth I've learned — community is more than a group of people who spend time together, and true community is something few of us experienced growing up. Another truth— resistance and resilience will require more than letter writing and protests. A third— it is the creation of this deep community itself (to an extent which most of us have never experienced before) that can empower us to go beyond these tactics and build a future that is joyful, just, and free.




Why? The climate crisis, wealth inequality, gender and queer violence, and the other crises that make up the Polycrisis is ultimately not a crisis of carbon molecules or economic policy, but a crisis of imagination. It is so hard to dream of something we have never experienced before, but it is a world never before experienced that we must begin to build. My vision for community is for groups of people to rediscover a dream that goes beyond projecting our current reality into the future, and to do this by building small, imperfect visions of that dream in the present. What would it look like to be a part of a movement where you knew you would always be fed, housed, or cared for simply because you are a part of that movement? What would it feel like to eat community meals with food grown on land we have a relationship with, and without exploiting migrant labor or using petrochemicals?

I've experienced a taste of that, through Climatique's community dinners, and it has led me with a sense of hope and clarity beyond anything I've found in reading theory or writing letters. Be it in gathering every other Saturday to help grow climate-resilient seeds and get local, sustainable produce for free, teaching each other new skills like patching clothes or writing letters to advocate for water remediation for Valmont Coal Ash plant, or just having a discussion, the shared commitment we have to a liberated world is what keeps me believing it possible. Community is a way of life, one that combats our culture of individualism and division by choosing to radically commit to each other instead of fending for ourselves or waiting for a politician to save us.

The dream that I have for my community is that we will build a new world together, one where we recognize our inherent interdependence, and where all people can experience collective care, meaningful work, and the deep connection with each other and our non-human kin that makes a life so meaningful.





Another truth — These times require a paradigm shift. Incremental change cannot make change at the speed or the extent that we need. And we need to start building systems of care and creating alternative systems now — we can't wait until the next election cycle. The current administration relies on our isolation, and the sense of helplessness we feel when we try to act as individuals. They also rely on us believing that change can only come through politics, because they know that transformative change cannot be won through a lobby day when the systems of modern governance are rigged to protect profit over people. The strongest way to fight their power is to invest in each other. Community, to me, is an action, and one based fundamentally in trust. Be it through cooking for each other, creating a community zine, hosting skill shares, or showing up at a rally together, action shows that words like community, justice, or interdependence are not just words, but a way of life that is possible in the present. It means being willing to give your time, energy, and money to others, because you trust they will do the same for you. It means knowing that you will always be taken care of, fed, and supported, so that we can weather these times and emerge from them into a transformed world. The future we are fighting for and the movement we belong to must be made clear by the actions we take right now. We must tell a story so beautiful, and embody it so clearly, that the people become unwilling to accept any other future than the one we fight for together.

One last truth — community can have multiple meanings, and all of them can be true. Community is a small group of people — an organization you do mutual aid with, or a bioregion. Community may be people who share the same struggles, the same identity, or beliefs. But we can also learn to see ourselves as part of a global community. We are in community with people all across the world, because we all dream of more justice, healing, and joy, and we all rely on each other to make that dream a reality. I am connected to struggles of Congolese, because of the lithium in my phone that was mined by their hands. I am connected to migrant workers who are exploited to grow our food and build our homes and roads, and so know that my liberation is intertwined with theirs. I am in community with bees and bugs, because they pollinate the food without which, I could not survive.

What would it feel like to organize a rebellion of belonging? What if organizing wasn't just about letter writing and protests, but could make millions feel that they can trust and depend on each other, that all of us are deeply held by the earth, and that another world is possible? This is my vision for my community — that we will build a new world together, one piece at a time, until we are all free.



**Serafina Scalo,
Boulder**





Six Cratty, Lafayette

Coloradans are Pyrophilus Fungi

In this ashen wilderness, beneath a lonesome tree, murmurs rise
Pricklings of regeneration, whispers from your roots.
Swirling ecologies awaken,
pioneers flourishing from the burn.

The fire devastated,
left a vacuum.
But beneath the charred
surface, solidarity thrives.

Nimble workers, unseen, organizing what's next.
They beckon you— return to the present,
to these grounds for hope.
Mycorrhizae persist.

Before the fire, they built bridges,
a subterranean network woven from reciprocity
and lovingkindness—
a mycelial web of mutual aid,
sharing wealth, root to root.

The fungi—
ecological interlocutors,
bridge builders, web weavers, silent resisters.
Even now, they endure, leading the recovery.

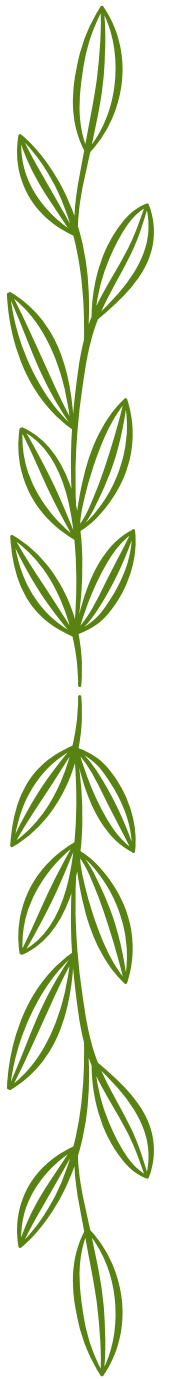
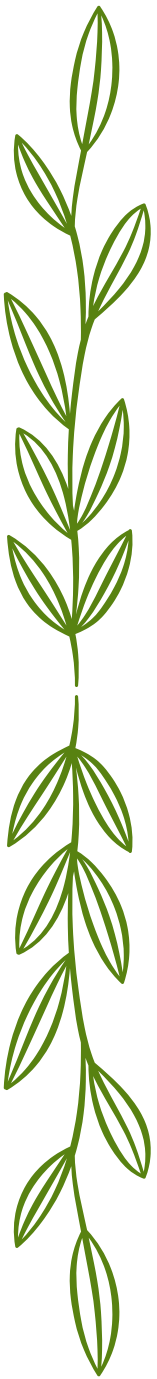
This is the community you need, little tree—
to root deep, resource, regenerate.
Fruiting bodies rise in a precarious world,
where extractive forces seek to exploit,
divide, destabilize.
But together, your community will rebuild
from these charred remains.

Branching fractals of possibility, you emerge—
from deep roots to delicate leaves,
in a constant state of death, rebirth, expansion.

Like you, little tree, we thrive in fire's wake.
Community is resistance. I root into my network of support.
Mutual aid, shared joy. Coloradans know fire—
We are pyrophilous.



Sophie, Denver



In my community have only ever seen strong figures even in my own home my great grandmother has raised 3 generations to be strong and hold pride in their identities as being Black Americans, she has raised us on reading and writing strengthening our brains and moral compass so no matter what a white society has to say we would always know who we are, what we can be, and the impact we can make in this world that tells us we can't be anything. This piece is a homage to all her teaching and the teaching of the members of community that has and continues to hold our wits and make change for the better. This piece is about the soul embedded strength that my community's ancestors has put into all us that still hold and practice to this day.

Nura'dyn, Denver

The Sea of Gen Z

by Jayce Rumsey

The days keep moving, the time keeps going.

Can't stop. Can't slow down.

For our gray lit world is constantly owning.

A sea of troubles pushing you under until you drown.

No room for air, no space to move, all you have to do is float or hit the ground.

You hit the ground, but you hit it running.

Running towards something you can't see but hoping that the future will be shining instead of shunning.

It's a big bright beautiful world and yet all you are is curled, stuck in your sea of endless troubles.

The bill is due, the time has come, but all you are is a fish at the bottom of a sea until you're nothing but a dream. A dream of who you once were.

You saw it coming, you swam down down down, forcing yourself to drown, in your own sea of miserable doubt.

Poor me, stuck in a sea of Gen Z

Jayce, Littleton

Resistance through Dungeons and Dragons

My community is one often formed by a desire to escape the various difficulties real life presents. Problems at home, at your job, with your friends and especially ones caused by a particularly terrifying time in politics are often made smaller by getting together each week and fighting imaginary monsters or spreading imaginary good in an imaginary world. D&D brought me together with complete strangers and turned them into some of my closest friends, many of whom I knew only by their character names for an embarrassingly long time.

Like any art, D&D can't entirely avoid real life parallels. For my community, it has been helpful to process the feelings around big issues in the World because problem solving in D&D can only lead to imaginary consequences. Things like authoritarianism, war, the deaths of loved ones, emotional healing and even how to run a city council meeting have all been things we have tackled in this last year. My community supports each other, sparks creativity in each other and creates a space where joy, education and healing can all be done together.

Karl, Boulder



Reaching
for
Power

Revolution

Mykaela, Denver

VISIONS

Moving Mountains



Start
something
deep



WHY DO WE WORK?



JOB DESCRIPTION:

SAVE THE PLANET.

GREAT
FREEDOM

M

**I DIDN'T ASK IF YOU
WERE LIVING THE
AMERICAN DREAM. I
ASKED IF YOU STILL
BELIEVE SURVIVAL
HAS TO LOOK LIKE
SILENCE. I ASKED IF
YOU STILL ALLOW
YOURSELF TO NEED
PEOPLE. I ASKED
WHAT WOULD YOU
BUILD INSTEAD.**



i was taught a dream that left me isolated and confused. and in this confusion, i leaned on my grandma. she didn't just sew clothes. she stitched our lives together-- quietly, patiently, with love and care. survival isn't something we do alone. we hold each other and mend what doesn't work. we cry and laugh together. that's what community is and what keeps us alive.

Silvia, Colorado Springs



Rebekah, Lakewood

El Pueblo Unido, Jamás Será Vencido:

My Community at CSU Pueblo

Moving from Indiana to Colorado in 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, was quite the experience. As a first-generation college student, I knew my education was entirely in my hands, and I did not necessarily have a community to lean on. While I had a few cousins in the area, we were still learning about each other, and I felt like I was navigating this journey alone. However, over time, I found my community among the students, staff, and faculty at CSU Pueblo. These individuals became my support system, my mentors, and my chosen family.

I care for my community by actively participating in organizations that create spaces for students to feel seen, heard, and supported. Through PAACO (Pueblo African American Concern Organization) and BSU (Black Student Union), I help provide safe spaces for Black students to connect, celebrate our culture, and advocate for resources that support our academic and social success. With NAACP, I work to ensure that racial equity and justice remain priorities on our campus and beyond. As current Vice President of ASG (Associated Students' Government), I serve as a voice for students, ensuring their concerns are addressed, especially at a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) that is also working toward Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) accreditation. Representation matters, and I work to ensure that students of color feel supported and valued. In Psi Chi (the International Psychology Honor Society), I help foster academic and professional development opportunities for students pursuing psychology, ensuring they have access to mentorship and resources. Through all these organizations, my goal is to help students find a sense of belonging and advocate for student voices, rights, and overall well-being.

My community cares for me in return, offering me mentorship and guidance through strong leaders on campus. Women like Dr. Lucie, Bonnie Fruland, Dr. Victoria Obregon, and Dr. Marie Humphrey, all women of color in high leadership



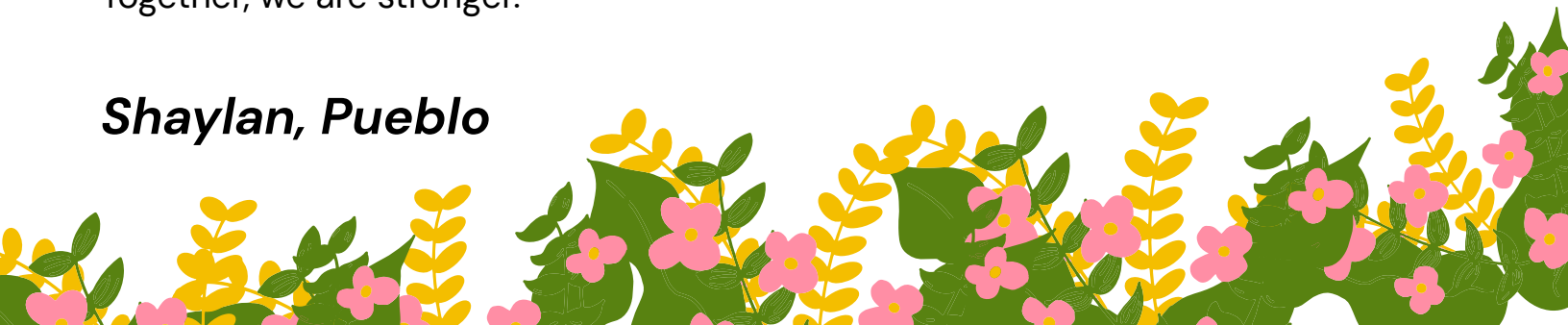
positions, have become role models for me. It is rare to see women of color in such highly respected positions, and their leadership inspires me every day. They support me through mentorship, constructive criticism, and by sharing their own experiences to help me grow. Their presence reassures me that I, too, can achieve great things and be a force for change on campus.

Attending an HSI and working with Latinx students in a large capacity has truly opened my eyes to the challenges that many of these communities face. Through my leadership roles in ASG, NAACP, and other advocacy spaces, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles Latinx students navigate, including language barriers, financial burdens, immigration concerns, and systemic obstacles that hinder access to higher education. Working closely with these students has strengthened my commitment to equity and inclusion, reinforcing the importance of uplifting and advocating for all underrepresented communities on our campus.

With the rising political tensions in our country, I recognize the challenges that lie ahead for our students. Many members of our community, whether undocumented individuals, BIPOC students, or LGBTQ+ students, are directly impacted by policies regarding DEI redactions, abortion laws, and immigration policies. As Vice President of ASG and a student peer advocate, I am committed to ensuring that all students at CSU Pueblo continue to feel safe, represented, and empowered. Regardless of federal policies, student organizations like BSU, LSU, and PRIZM do not have to cease their work; instead, we must continue pushing forward, ensuring that students have spaces where they feel welcomed and supported.

My vision for my community is one of resilience and empowerment. I want CSU Pueblo to be a place where students, regardless of their background, can thrive, find a sense of belonging and find support. I want our student organizations to remain strong in advocating for marginalized groups and for student voices to always be at the forefront of university decisions. Today, tomorrow, and for years to come, I will continue fighting for my community, just as they have fought for me. Together, we are stronger.

Shaylan, Pueblo





Kim,
Loveland

joy and strength 🔍



You belong here. We belong to one another. Both here and now.

How CAN YOUR PRESENCE
MAKE AN IMPACT?

Emily, Denver





The empire
may be crumbling
but olive trees
will soon

bloom.







Kate, Denver



Chelsea,
Boulder

The New York Times.
THE WAR IN EUROPE IS ENDED
SURRENDER IS UNCONDITIONAL
V-E WILL BE PROCLAIMED TODAY
OUR TROOPS ON OKINAWA GA

THE GIRL HE LEFT BEHIND
IS STILL BEHIND HIM
She's a **WOW!**
WOMAN ORANGE JUICE

POLITICAL RESILIENCY

Elections can be hard but **we can do hard things**. It's important to find ways to rest and reflect so we can continue to work towards the future we want to see. Remember, political engagement is a relay, not a sprint.

What is my joyous
vision of the world
that I'm working
toward?

How can I take care of
myself this year?

Who is my
community? How do
they care for me?

How can I help create the
election outcomes I want
with the orgs that I trust
to serve my community?

Feelings Check-In

Pause, and ask yourself:

- What am I feeling in my body right now?
 - Identify bodily sensations (hot/cold, tightness, pain, etc.)
- What am I doing right now?
 - Identify your actions (walking, clenching my teeth, raising my arm, etc.)
- What am I thinking right now?
 - I have the thought that_____.
 - I believe that _____.
- If a stranger were to see me now, what would they observe? That I am _____.
- Finally.....label the emotions (I feel mad, sad, glad, scared, etc.)

Some Ideas for Self Care

- Silence notifications and mute accounts that heighten anxiety
- Get outside
- Make a list of the hard things you've done that helped make you a badass
- Remember what the world you want to see looks like and root into that
- Talk about what you're feeling with friends and practice checking in with one another on particularly hard news days
- Practice hobbies that allow you to detach from the news and the election
- Add your own:

TAKE HOLD
OF THE HERE
AND NOW

GATHER

PLAN
FOR
A
BETTER
WORLD

NEED INSPIRATION

JUST LOOK AROUND

Join the
Supernatural America



SHARING
UNITY

Raquel, Denver

BATTLESHIP
GAME

Tw

THE
GAME OF

EDITION
Reproduction



The sacred and profane meet

PRODUCTIVE
TENSIONS

