

Randye Kaye Bio

Randye Kaye is an author, mental health advocate and the primary caregiver to her son, Ben*, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his early twenties. Randye's experience with Ben's illness and recovery has taught her a lot about diversity, resilience, acceptance, and the importance of communication with family in the face of devastating challenge and change.

Randye's book, *Ben Behind His Voices: One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope*, is a memoir of her experience as a mother and caregiver to her son from the onset of his battle with schizophrenia along the hopeful road to managing his disease. By telling her story, Randye hopes to increase understanding, reduce stigma, spark hope, provide support, and bring readers through the family experience as it happens. Randye speaks frequently to groups of families, providers, and legislators regarding her role as a caregiver and challenges she and her family have faced in managing her son's mental illness. She is a Family-to-Family teacher and trainer for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and diversity trainer with the Anti-Defamation League. Randye covers everything from helping siblings understand a new family dynamic, to managing involuntary commitment proceedings, to navigating the mental health system and confronting stigma.

Randye is also a national voice talent and actress, and currently working as a part-time newscaster and classical music host on NPR affiliates WSHU-FM and AM. She has years of experience as a full-time morning personality for a top-rated Connecticut radio station in addition to her voiceover, on-camera and theatre work. She hosted the talk show "Issues and Answers" on Connecticut TV, and recently appeared on the educational DVD, "Dealing with Stigma in Mental Illness." Randye is a member of NSA (National Speakers' Association), Authors' Guild, Actors' Equity Association, AFTRA, SAG, MENSA, NAMI, and Theatre Artists Workshop. She is working as a paid consultant for Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. and Lundbeck.

**Ben is the pseudonym Randye uses for her son, to respect his privacy*