



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT







# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**4**

2018—209  
Season

**10**

Working

**16**

GenOUT Chorus

**22**

Partners

**6**

Equality Tour

**12**

Outreach

**18**

Ensembles &  
Leadership

**24**

Spring Affair &  
Finances

**8**

Ropeburn 2

**14**

Our Members

**20**

Demographics

**26**

Donors



# WELCOME

In the fall of 2017, GMCW had formal discussions about the national anthem, asking whether we should sing it, and if we do, should we kneel? These were difficult discussions to have because at the root, we were discussing race and racism. We were inspired to set those challenging conversations to music, which led to the performance of *Let Freedom Sing* in March 2019.

We learned much from having these conversations and planning this concert. But we knew we could do more. We decided to name our entire season “Let Freedom Sing.” We infused each and every one of our main stage and outreach performances with the message that people from all backgrounds deserve love and full equality. We recommitted ourselves to providing mission-driven artistic productions that entertained and inspired.

I’m proud to say that through the work of our performers and the support of our donors and patrons, we were able to not only engage our audiences, but also call them to action. Throughout the season, we gave people concrete ways they could make a difference and encouraged them to share their time, resources, and energy for good.

Beyond our world-class artistic presentations, one of the most impactful tools that GMCW has at our fingertips are the thousands of stories from each individual who makes up our organization. By sharing these stories, we bring our audiences closer into our fold, making them sit up and take notice. Not because the stories are shocking, but rather because the stories are familiar. When a fellow human is vulnerable and shares something from deep within, it creates an incredible immediate link with those who are listening. Whether the story is sad or happy or somewhere in between, the courageous act of sharing creates kernels of connection that bring us closer together. It helps us understand each other on a deeper level and that understanding is exactly what will help the world become a better place.

We truly live our mission through art at every level of GMCW — from our large main Chorus with over 300 members to our small ensembles like Potomac Fever, Rock Creek Singers, and Seasons of Love, to our GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ young people to 17th Street Dance. And we share that mission by performing over 125 times each season. Everything GMCW does is only possible thanks to the gracious generosity of our supporters. We are grateful to each of you as we venture forward, raising our voice for equality and justice!



Thea Kano  
Artistic Director



Justin Fyala  
Executive Director

## MISSION

The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.

## Follow Us:



@GayMensChorusofWashington



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# 2018-2019 SEASON

## **ROPEBURN 2**

OCTOBER 2018

## THE BEST WORST THING

NOVEMBER 2018

## *The Holiday Show*

DECEMBER 2018

## WORKING

FEBRUARY 2019

## LET FREEDOM SING

MARCH 2019

## SMALL ENSEMBLES *Extravaganza*

APRIL 2019

## LEGENDS OF OLYMPUS

MAY 2019

## STONEWALL 50

JUNE 2019



## 2018-2019 SEASON

GMCW is a collective of singers, dancers, artists, educators, volunteers and staff who come together to create music and art. We have been a part of the DC community for over 38 years, and we continue to be a powerful voice for the LGBTQ+ movement in our fight for equality and acceptance, plus we remain a symbol of musical excellence in the DC area and beyond. With our outreach programs, we've expanded beyond the beltway, including our successful Equality Tour outreach efforts. We continue to expand our youth outreach as well.

The 2018-2019 Season included five subscription concerts, a fall fundraiser, and a gender-bending production of a musical by Stephen Schwartz.

### ROPEBURN 2

We opened the season with the return of our fall fundraiser, *Ropeburn*. This season's event was a "celebration of gay geekdom, with an event that was all about the LGBTQ+ gaming, comics, fantasy, and cosplay communities. The event was held at SAX, and featured performances by aerialists and 17th Street Dance as well as a panel discussion and cosplay contest hosted by Dax Exclamationpoint from Season 8 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

### THE BEST WORST THING

Our successful fall cabaret series continued as we returned to Atlas Performing Arts Center. Select soloists from the Chorus shared their funny and outrageous stories and songs. The show was later performed at CAMP Rehoboth and at Signature Theatre as part of their *Sizzlin' Summer Cabaret* series.

### THE HOLIDAY SHOW

Our holiday extravaganza was back and bigger than ever complete with drag queens, tap-dancers, and more!

### WORKING

GMCW presented another musical, this time a gender-bending production of the Stephen Schwartz musical *Working*. Directed by Silvio Weisner, the cast of 12 singer took the stage in February at



## 18-19 SEASON AT A GLANCE

the Atlas Performing Arts Center.

### LET FREEDOM SING

Subtitled a "glittering musical celebration of African American influence on civil and equal rights," GMCW returned to Lincoln Theatre for an evening of stories and songs celebrating the Black community.

### SMALL ENSEMBLES EXTRAVAGANZA

Potomac Fever and Rock Creek Singers joined together with our GenOUT Youth Chorus for an evening of music.

### SPRING AFFAIR

Our spring fundraiser moved to the Ritz-Carlton this year for a glamorous evening of Greek gods and mythology, dinner, entertainment, and frivolity.

### STONEWALL 50

We ended the season with the area premiere of a new musical about the Stonewall riots, followed by a celebration of what we've done over the last 50 years since the uprising. The musical was an original commission organized by several GALA Choruses.







## EQUALITY TOUR



## BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Just three weeks after presenting our season-ending *Stonewall 50* concert, GMCW took to the road again to head to the Big Apple for three days of performances and appearances all over New York City as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Pride.

The highlight of the trip was certainly our performance on live television on NBC-TV's *The Today Show* as part of their celebration of Pride and the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Thea was also interviewed for NBC Radio about GMCW's performance and bus tour. Other stops in NYC included Anita's Way, on Liberty Island near the Statue of Liberty, and at a private Pride party for NBC-Universal employees that

also included well-known drag queen Shangela from *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

Following the NYC performances, GMCW hit the road again to head to Annapolis, MD for their first-ever Pride celebration. The festival ended with a huge rainfall which cut the performance short, but a great time was had by all.





# ROPEBUAN 2

## GUARDIANS OF EQUALITY



Original artwork by Craig Cipollini



## A CELEBRATION OF GAY GEEKDOM

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird. It's a plane. It's the Guardians of Equality!

On October 18, 2018, GMCW held a "sequel" to its new fall fundraiser *Ropeburn*, with an event celebrating gay geekdom. Entitled, *Ropeburn 2: Guardians of Equality*, the event aimed at reaching communities within the LGBTQ+ umbrella that had been harder to reach in the past. The event was a celebration of all things LGBTQ+ in comics, gaming, fantasy, cosplay, and gay geekdom. The event was held at Sax, an over-the-top burlesque supper club located in downtown DC.

Guests were greeted by the infamous throne from *Game of Thrones* when they entered, followed by photo booths, refreshments, and various vendors. The evening began with a panel discussion, hosted by Dax Exclamationpoint from Season 8 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. This was followed by performances, aerialists, strippers, and a cosplay contest. Guest panelists included Molly Stratton, Sleights of Hand, Jazmine Cosplays, and D'Arcee Neal.

The evening's entertainment also included soloists from the Chorus, and dance numbers by 17th Street Dance. The event was a great success bringing in over \$20,000 for GMCW.







**WORKING**



## A GENDER-BENDING TAKE ON A BROADWAY MUSICAL

In February 2019, GMCW presented an all-new staging of the musical *Working*, a show that looks at the working lives of everyday people revealing their hopes and dreams, performed for the first time with non-traditional gender roles. The show is a down-to-earth, funny, and joyous musical about American workers.

Based on the ground-breaking 1974 book by Studs Terkel, the show features a wide variety of musical styles — from showtunes, to jazz, Latin, folk, rock, and gospel. The songs were composed by a variety of artists, including Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*,) James Taylor (Five-time Grammy winner, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee,) Micki Grant (*Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*,) Craig Carnelia (*Sweet Smell of Success*,) Mary Rodgers (*Once Upon a Mattress*, *Freaky Friday*) and Lin-Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton*.)

In the early 1970's, Chicago radio announcer Studs Terkel traveled across the United States and interviewed dozens of ordinary Americans about their jobs. He compiled these interviews into a best-selling book, titled *Working*. In the late 1970's, Stephen Schwartz and others transformed these interviews into the musical *Working*, which opened on Broadway in 1978, where it was nominated for five Tony Awards and won two Drama Desk Awards. Although the original Broadway production was not a hit (running only 24 performances and 12 previews), *Working* was later revised in 2000, and then again in 2012, incorporating new material and new songs by Tony Award-winner and Kennedy Center honoree Lin-Manuel Miranda.

*Working* director Silvio Weisner says, "GMCW celebrates and gives voice to the members of our community. As we have told our stories and represented the

diversity of our community to our audiences, what better way to continue this process by producing a musical with universal themes and emphasizing our common values. We ALL work to earn a living, and also to find meaning and purpose in life; to support our loved ones; and to create things that will endure after we are gone. By adding gender fluidity and sexual orientation to *Working*'s already diverse content, we seek to deepen and broaden these themes."





*Make Them*  
**HEAR**  
*You*





# OUTREACH

**The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC sings to inspire equality and inclusion with musical performances and education promoting justice and dignity for all.**

From singing the National Anthem at Night OUT at the Nationals to making history by singing at Reykjavík Pride in Iceland, GMCW continues to raise its voice for equality and inclusion whenever and wherever we can.

During the 2018-2019 Season, members of GMCW performed 104 outreach performances at venues all around the DC area and beyond. From performing a concert in Luray Caverns in VA, to singing live on NBC-TV's *The Today Show*, GMCW is taking its message on the road and making a national name for itself. GMCW performed at many Pride celebrations during the past year, but of special note were the performances at the first-ever Annapolis Pride, by Season of Love and Rock Creek Singers on the Millennium Stage at The Kennedy Center, by Potomac Fever at the British Embassy, and Rock Creek Singers performing at the Pride celebrations in Reykjavík, Iceland.

GMCW also lends support to other local charities like Food & Friends, where each month members turn out to help prepare meals. GMCW also continues annual traditions like the holiday toy drive to benefit Community Life Family Services and caroling on Christmas Eve at the National Institutes of Health.





# Who We Are



**343** SINGING MEMBERS



**54**  
SUPPORT  
VOLUNTEERS



# OUR MEMBERS





# The Kids Are Alright



GenOUT  
YOUTH  
CHORUS





# GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

In 2018-19, GMCW's GenOUT Youth Chorus grew to two dozen members, representing 18 schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Throughout the season, GenOUT joined GMCW to sing at the chorus's mainstage shows *The Holiday Show* (12/8, 12/15-16), *Let Freedom Sing* (3/16), and *Stonewall 50* (6/1-2); additionally, GenOUT collaborated with GMCW to sing at the interment service for Matthew Shepard at the Washington National Cathedral (10/25) and at the Walk to End HIV (12/1). In the spring, GenOUT joined with Potomac Fever and Rock Creek Singers to present Youth Invasion as part of the Small Ensembles Extravaganza (4/6), inviting our audiences to the UDC Theater of the Arts for the first time.

From September through June, GenOUT presented 25 outreach performances (a record high), notably including the 45th anniversary gala for Whitman-Walker, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce gala dinner at the National Building Museum, the DC High School Choir Festival at the Washington National Cathedral, and the Rainbow Families annual conference, plus six performances in Tennessee and Virginia on a bus tour to Nashville in collaboration with the Nashville Major Minors.

The four-day bus tour took GenOUTers to Knoxville (concert sponsored by Knoxville Gay Men's Chorus), Nashville (2 performances + a masterclass at the national Barber-shop Harmony Society headquarters), Oak Ridge (solo concert at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church), and Blacksburg, VA (performance for Blacksburg HS). GenOUT prepared 14 songs for the tour; the program additionally featured 7 GenOUT solos. Prior to the tour, GenOUT presented an outreach concert at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alexandria (3/30), which raised funds to help pay for the charter bus.

In the summer, 15 GenOUTers welcomed 11 singers from Nashville Major Minors to DC for our 5th annual GenOUT Camp (our largest ever), at Clarendon Presbyterian Church in Arlington, VA. The highlight of the Camp was a two-day songwriting workshop with composer Jim Papoulis, which resulted in the new work "Write My Own Story." Campers also enjoyed a vocal masterclass with singer Jenny Anne Flory, a music theory lesson with composer Christopher Hoh, and a presentation on the Stonewall Uprising by GenOUT alum Becca Schaefer. Wednesday's field trip itinerary started with a walk on the National Mall from the Lincoln Memorial to the MLK Memorial to the Washington Monument. The first museum stop was the National Museum of African-American History & Culture, followed by the "Rise Up"



exhibit at the Newseum, then a backstage tour of the Shakespeare Theatre Company (led by Dat Ngo, SCT's Associate Director of Engagement & Inclusion). Campers next visited the National Portrait Gallery & American Art Museum, before concluding the day with dinner at Union Station. On Thursday night, Campers enjoyed complimentary tickets to SCT's production of *Hamlet* (starring Michael Urie). Camp concluded Friday with a closing concert for a packed house at Clarendon Presbyterian.

At the end of 2018-19, GenOUT bid farewell to graduating seniors Lee Matthews, Jack Newman, Gidget Shirley, and Destiny Smith at a year-end party at SPACES.

GenOUT is grateful for the support of GMCW staff and board, who envisioned the chorus, brought it to life, and have sustained it since our first rehearsal in January 2015. In the trenches, we are grateful for the work of our GenOUT Rehearsal Team (led by Chorus Manager Darryl Waller) and GenOUT parents. Additionally, we are grateful to financial supporters, including corporations like Safeway, organizations such as Brother Help Thyself, and individual donors who understand the impact this program has in the lives of our young people, their families, and the community.



# SMALL ENSEMBLES

## POTOMAC FEVER

a cappella tight harmony group



## ROCK CREEK SINGERS

chamber ensemble



## SEASONS OF LOVE

gospel and inspirationally-focused vocal group



## 17th STREET DANCE

dance ensemble





# BOARD

## Board of Directors 2018 — 2019

Chris Thomson.....Chair  
Howland Hartley.....Vice Chair  
Janene Jackson.....Secretary  
Russ Capps.....Treasurer  
Sherri Bale, Suzette Derrevere, Michael Dumlao, Jay Gilliam, Carroll Hanson,  
Eve Hill, Ray Hoffman, Michael Hughes, Don Jodrey, Derrick Jones, Fred Krebs,  
William Moran, Shawn Morris, Kerry Neal, Jami Rodgers, Rob Serpa (*ex officio*),  
Meghan Skelton, Jeb Stenhouse, Nicole Streeter

# STAFF

Thea Kano.....Artistic Director  
Justin Fyala.....Executive Director  
C. Paul Heins.....Associate Conductor  
Greg Watkins.....Seasons of Love Director  
Craig Cipollini.....Director of Marketing  
Kirk Sobell.....Director of Patron Services  
Theodore Guerrant.....Principal Accompanist

# MEMBERSHIP

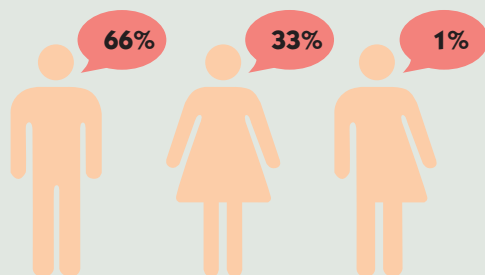
Rob Serpa.....Membership President  
Matt Holland.....Vice President for Membership  
Jonathan Chaffin.....Vice President for Events  
Andrew Harmon.....Vice President for Communications  
Samilet Lee.....Vice President for Volunteerism  
Brett Kessler.....Vice President for Outreach  
Keygan Miller.....Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion



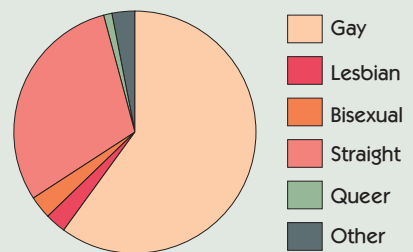


# DEMOGRAPHICS

## GENDER



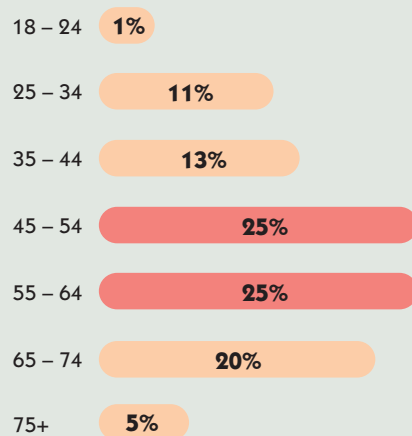
## ORIENTATION



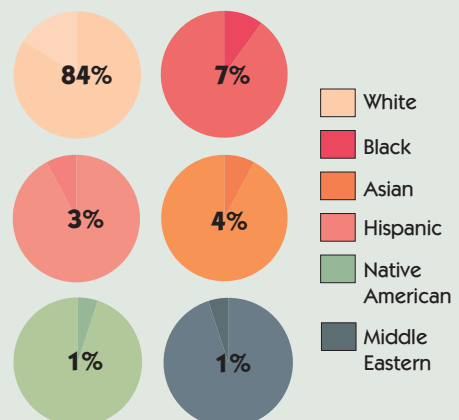
## INCOME



## AGE



## ETHNICITY







## AUDIENCE & INCOME DATA

**\$27K**

Income from  
outreach gigs



**104**

Outreach performances  
in FY19



**\$321K**

Income from  
FY19 ticket sales



Facebook  
(9.1k followers)



Twitter  
(2k followers)



Instagram  
(1.6k followers)



YouTube  
(3.5k subscribers)



Email Newsletter  
(9.1k mailing list)



Website  
(7.2k monthly avg.)





# PARTNERS

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

**THE MORRIS & GWENDOLYN  
CAFRITZ FOUNDATION**



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IBM Corporation  
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Louis Vuitton/Moët Hennessey  
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PhRMA  
STALKR  
Washington Gas



# SPRING AFFAIR



GMCW's annual black-tie fundraiser was once again a smashing success. Led by Spring Affair co-chairs Erich Sommerfeldt, Derrick Jones and Romm Gatongay, this year's theme was *Legends of Olympus*, and we moved the party to the ultra glamorous Ritz-Carlton, Washington, DC. The hotel was transformed into the gayest toga party in the District area with Greek gods, laurels, capes, and togas everywhere you looked.



Our special guest emcee was Emmy-nominated actress Jackie Hoffman, perhaps best known from Broadway and the FX-TV series *Feud: Bette and Joan* where she played Mamacita. Our Harmony Award winners for 2019 were Wendy Rieger, Casa Ruby, and GMCW member Charles Berardesco.



The event was a huge success raising over \$235,000 for the Chorus. Guests were treated to entertainment that included performances by Ms. Hoffman and the GenOUT Chorus.





# FINANCES

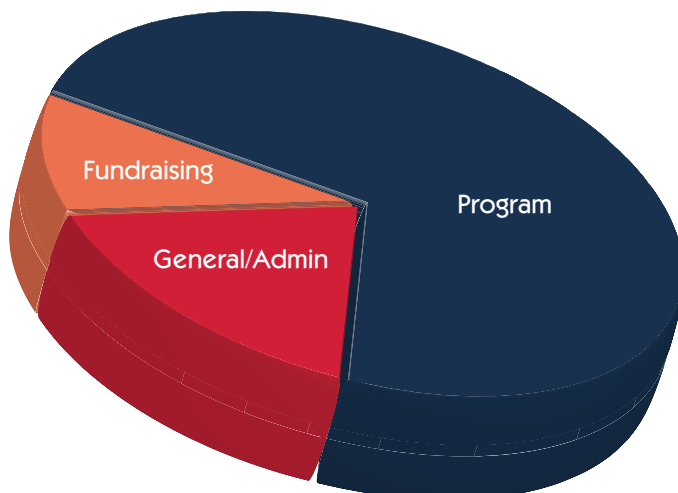
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AUGUST 31, 2019 AND 2018

	2019 Season	2018 Season
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$412,310	\$86,888
Investments	—	500
Contributions Receivable	6,367	6,000
Inventory	7,880	7,282
Prepaid Expenses	74,357	46,725
Property and Equipment, Net	59	203
Deposits	6,556	3,720
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>507,529</b>	<b>151,318</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts Payable	51,960	47,796
Deferred revenue	187,126	41,451
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>239,086</b>	<b>88,947</b>
<b>NET DEFICIT</b>		
Unrestricted	268,443	62,371
<b>Total Net Deficit</b>	<b>268,443</b>	<b>62,371</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$507,529</b>	<b>\$151,318</b>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUG. 31, 2019

	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>	
Ticket Sales and performances	\$ 315,433
Special events	133,076
Contributions and grants	765,969
In-Kind Contributions	89,283
Membership dues	115,420
Merchandise sales, net	37,269
Other	14,309
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>1,461,759</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Program Services:	
Concerts/performances	800,440
Membership	60,067
Total Program Services	860,507
Supporting Services:	
Management and general	195,980
Fundraising	199,200
Total Supporting Services	395,180
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,255,687</b>
Change in Net Assets	206,072
<b>Net Assets (beginning of year)</b>	<b>62,371</b>
<b>Net Assets (end of year)</b>	<b>\$ 268,443</b>

## Annual Expenses





# DIRECTORS CIRCLE

GMCW is pleased to honor former members of the Board of Directors who have made multi-year commitments to continue their legacy of leadership within the Chorus by joining the Directors Circle.

John F. Benton & David W. Briggs  
Fred Boykin & Jack Killen  
Larry Cohen  
Jack Gerard & Craig Arnold  
Rob Hall & Chris Behan  
Matt & Kyle Holland

Greg Kubiak  
Tom Mounteer  
Jack Reiffer  
David Shotwell & Erin Short  
Gordon Tanner & Robert Patlàn  
Jim & Barbara Tozzi

## DONORS

As of August 31, 2019

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Eve Hill  
Raymond Hoffman  
Kelly Johnson & Todd Gerdes  
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Shawn Morris  
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John O'Brien  
Charles Payton & Jim Jurczak  
John Perkins  
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Jami Rodgers & Scott Morgan  
Kenneth Roraback  
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Meghan Skelton & J. Connell  
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James W. Williams



# DONORS

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Thomas Bower  
Phillip Carson  
Cory Claussen  
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Dr. James Elzy & Francis O'Malley  
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Harold Lewis  
Betsy Libretta  
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Joan Marionni  
Ivan May  
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Rob Neighbour  
Tom Nichols & Dan Chadburn  
Gary Regan  
Joshua Riley  
Bishop Gene Robinson  
Thomas Rowe  
Mario Sengco  
Frank Silverio  
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Michael Toth & Bill Purdy  
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Rebecca Miller  
Kevin M. Morris  
Ed Neuschler  
Billy Newell & Byron Stevens  
Gregory Niblett  
Yoshiyuki Nishio  
Edward O'Brien  
Edward Oseroff  
Eve O'Toole  
James F. Padgett  
Jack Reiffer  
Daniel Reitz  
Riggs/Caulfield Family  
Calvin Robinson & Ben Aparicio-Coto  
Craig Ruskin  
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Grant Thompson  
Bernard Vicary  
Terry Vick  
Dennis Vonasek  
Bryce Weems  
James Weinstein  
Nancy & Marc Williams  
Ryan Williams  
Robert Wilson & Elliott Lapin  
Rick Yarborough  
Julian & Stacy Yochum

## **FRIENDS**

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Ram Abireddy  
Jeffrey Adler  
Tim Agar  
David & Eric Akridge  
Nikolaos Alexiou  
Edward Jay Allan  
George Ambrose  
Louis An  
Tony Anderson  
Anonymous  
Samilia Anthony  
Terry Applebee  
Ruth Arenas  
The Arlia Family  
Allan Armus  
The Arnoldi Family  
Stacie Arpey  
Jim Asp & Perry Streidel  
Donna M. Attanasio  
D. Atwell  
Ana Ayerbe & Philip Holmes  
Brian Aylward  
Dan Aylward  
Sean Aylward  
Schylar Baber  
Amanda & Matthew Baggett  
Amanda & Matt Baggett  
Amy Bailey  
Janet Bailey  
Robert Baker  
Terry Bandy



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Chris Berry  
Gene Berry & Jeff Campbell  
Daniel Boggs, Jr.  
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Jeff Bonnell  
Ryan Bos  
Steven Brady  
Patricia Broida  
Jason Brosch  
Crawford S. Brown, M.D.  
Julie & Dennis Bruns  
Nicholas Burkholder  
Joe Burton  
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