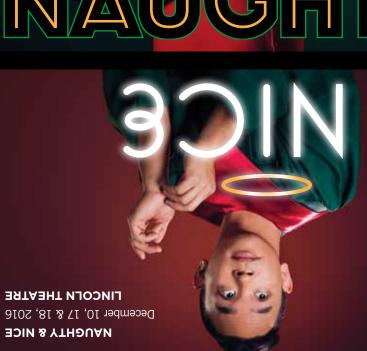
You've been naughty all year. Spend a nice evening with us.



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Welcome to our 36th Season!

We are thrilled that you're here with us. Each year, we aim to make our holiday show more delightful and surprising. *Naughty & Nice* is no different. As the show progresses, you'll see our flagship GMCW sparkle, Potomac Fever shine, Rock Creek Singers dazzle, GenOUT rock the house and our new-thisseason 17th Street Dance Company kick up the pavement.

What you won't see are the **thousands of hours** spent behind the scenes preparing the show — the rehearsals, the set building, the planning meetings, the…eek…budget talks.

And that's how it should be — one of the best parts of a show like this is the suspension of reality. The curtain goes up and, magically, we're just ready to go — ready to sing and dance you **right into the spirit**.

But there are other things you won't see tonight that this organization spends thousands of hours on that you **should** know about:

- That the people of GMCW contribute more than 4,000 hours volunteering for other organizations each year in addition to what they do within.
- That we perform over 100 outreach events each year for schools, other LGBTQ-focused organizations to give their missions voice and throughout the greater DMV area and beyond.
- That when our voice of equality is needed at the White House for the National Vigil for
 Orlando, on the steps of the Supreme Court when marriage equality was legalized in all fifty
 states, in Raleigh to protest the discriminatory HB2 law the people of GMCW rally. That our
 commitment to raising our voice in the pursuit of justice and dignity for all is relentless.

There's one other thing you should know about us — that our ticket sales only cover a third of our expenses each year. By being here tonight, you're a vital part of our community.

If you **believe in the power** of what we do on AND off stage, we invite you to join Federal City Stars — our monthly giving program. Sustained monthly giving will help us grow even further and continue our path to being the **Voice of the Nation**.

Envelopes are inside this program — turn yours in tonight, mail it to the office, or sign up online at www. gmcw.org/philanthropy to help us raise our voice even higher. Your donation, at any amount — \$25/ month, \$100/month, \$1,000/month, \$5/month — is fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and will help ensure that the future of GMCW is bright and sustainable.

Your support means the world to us. Now, sit back and let the Nice spirits (and the Naughty ones, too) take you away.

All best for a thrilling new year —

Thea Kano
Artistic Director

Justin Fyala

Executive Director

PS: Don't miss GenOUT in their first solo concert at Atlas Performing Arts Center in February and *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* — performed for the first time ever through an LGBTQ lens — at Lincoln Theatre in March. Tickets on sale now at www.qmcw.org/season-shows/tickets.





Naughty. Nice. Why choose?

Happy Holidays from SmithGifford, the creatively driven, strategically grounded branding agency that's been kinda naughty and especially nice for a while now. We're proud to ring in the holidays with GMCW. Get to know us at **smithgifford.com**

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GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Thea KanoArtistic Director

Artistic Staff

Justin Fyala Executive Director



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Artistic Director	Thea Kano
Assistant Conductor	
Stage Director	John Moran
Choreographers	Craig Cipollini and James Ellzy
Principal Accompanist	Theodore Guerrant
Vocal Coach Emeritus	Philip Rogerson
Announcer	Ryan Williams
ASL Interpreter	Jamie Stephens
Stage Band	
Piano	Theodore Guerrant
Bass	Mary Scott
Drums	Paul Keesling
GenOUT Pianist	Tim Smith
Administrative Staff	
	Justin Fyala
	Craig Cipollini
	Kirk Sobell
Production Staff	
	Joe "Stage Daddy" Vignali
	Solomon HaileSelassie
	Tony Prestridge
9	Gary Turner
	John Moran
Prop Masters	John Goodrich and John Robinson
	Ido Politi
	Nikolaos Alexiou (Greek), Andrew Harmon (Arabic),
	Ido Politi (Hebrew), Silvio Weisner (ASL)
	Bob Klein
	Mark Klein, Chris Asaro and the Lincoln Theatre crew
Master Carpenter	Ron Norberg
3	Ron Norberg, John Schwanke
Stage Wranglers	Chris Asaro, Jerry Blackmon,
	Michael Cunningham, Robert Joppa, Mark Klein,
	Joe Vignali and the Lincoln Theatre crew
Archival video	Steve Herman

Special thanks to Sammy Hendrick, Kyle Holland and Salman Shamsi



ACT ONE

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC presents



GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC A P.C. Christmas	Eric Lane Barnes
Soloist: Andrew Powaleny	
Snow	
GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE	Arranged by Mark Brymer
Sleigh Ride	Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish
Guest Conductor (Dec 10): Rob Finn	Arranged by Hawley Ades
ROCK CREEK SINGERS	
Jingle Bells Hallelujah	George F. Handel and James Pierpont Arranged by Jonathan Miller
GMCW	
The Dreidel Song	
	Arranged by Larry Moore
GENOUT CHORUS	
The Twelve Days of a Regifted Christmas	
The Snow Lay on the Ground	Arranged by Greg Gilpin
The Show Lay on the Ground	Arranged by Greg Gilpin
GMCW	
December PrayerCharlie M	lidnight, Idina Menzel and Walter Afanasieff
Soloist: Dana Nearing	Arranged by Greg Gilpin
GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE	
Recycle the Fruitcake	
Soloist: John Knapp	Arranged by Danny Wesley Ray
INTERMISSION	
ACT TWO	
GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE	
African Noel	9
Percussionists: Pradipta Banerjee, Robert Dean, Tim Gillham, Kevin Sweizt	Arranged by André J. Thomas er
GMCW	
I'll Be HomeKim Gannon,	Walter Kent, Buck Ram and Megan Trainor

Arranged by Steve Huffines

Soloists: Jon Perry, Ido Politi

All I Want for Christmas Is You......Ernie Lijoi Soloist: Brad Rinaldo Piano: Tim Gillham JBMCA.....James Pierpont Arranged by Jeff Funk **GMCW and GENOUT CHORUS** Christmas Round.......Paul Ayres POTOMAC FEVER Soloists: Jonathan Jones, Paul Negron Arranged by The Blenders Text Me Merry Christmas......David Javerbaum and Adam Schlesinger Soloists: Robert T. Boaz, Matt Holland Arranged by Alan Billingsley **GMCW** Merry Christmas, I Win......Lawrence Rush and Ernie Lijoi Soloist: Sam Brinton Piano: Tim Gillham **GMCW, 17 STREET DANCE and GMCW DANCERS GMCW and GENOUT CHORUS**

Merry Everything......Ernie Lijoi

17TH STREET DANCE

Paul Breakiron Iván Dávila
Sean Cator James Ellzy
Joshua Chambers Will Hernandez
Craig Cipollini Jeffrey Hollands

Soloist: Michael Aylward

Alon Mazor Jonathan Moss Matthew Williamson

Ernesto Fritts Imari Galloway

GENOUT CHORUS

Soprano Alto Tenor Camilla Barillas Lauryn Barnes **Brennan Connell** Jay Chavez Dan Goldman Matthew Lowe May McLaughlin Kian Monette Dvlan Kleiman Sanera Powell Calem Riggs **Brack Thomas-Fischer** Becca Schaefer Breanna Walton Julia Reider **Destiny Smith** Taylor Watson Maddi Yando Kelsey Wengert Baritone/Bass

Dani Zapata

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WHO'S WHO



Thea Kano, Artistic Director

Dr. Thea Kano, a Northern California native, became active in the arts at an early age. She started playing piano at age four and began taking ballet soon after, a background that has a strong influence on her conducting. Dr. Kano's graceful yet commanding presence on stage and the robust performances she obtains from her musicians have basis in her formal training as a dancer.

Dr. Kano has conducted an extensive range of repertoire with several ensembles, including the Angeles Chorale, The Washington Chorus and in 2014 assumed the position of artistic director of the

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, for which she also directs its acclaimed ensembles Rock Creek Singers and Potomac Fever. In addition, she oversees GMCW's outreach efforts, including its GenOUT program. A champion of music education, Dr. Kano has devoted countless hours to students of all ages and backgrounds. She believes in the power of music to nurture and believes that classical music should be accessible to all. Dr. Kano's substantial experience in this arena includes: building partnerships with organizations serving disenfranchised adults, hosting workshops with at-risk youth, leading youth arts programs of many sizes, as well as directing award-winning high school and collegiate choruses.

In addition to her work with GMCW, Dr. Kano serves as the artistic director of the New York City Master Chorale, which she founded in 2005. The 80-member group is recognized as one of the finest vocal ensembles in New York City and has performed to sold-out audiences on two continents. Dr. Kano is known for her expressiveness and dynamic conducting and the Chorale has been praised for its balance and richness in tone in performing a variety of musical styles. Under her direction, the Chorale made its debuts at Lincoln Center (2006) and Carnegie Hall (2009), as well as its international debut in Paris, France (2011).

Dr. Kano has prepared choruses for Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Solonen, Emil de Cou, David Hayes, Craig Fleischer, Victor Vener and Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano's various ensembles have performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Disney Hall, Église Saint-Sulpice (Paris) and on the National Mall for the 2009 inaugural ceremonies.

Dr. Kano received her doctorate in choral conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004. At UCLA, Dr. Kano studied under Donald Neuen, her professional mentor. For her dissertation on Duruflé's *Requiem*, Dr. Kano completed research with L'Association Duruflé in Paris and studied privately with Paul Salamunovich. Dr. Kano holds a Master of Music degree from UCLA and a bachelor's degree in choral music education and piano performance from Arizona State University.

Dr. Kano speaks French and actively conducts ensembles in New York City, Paris and Washington, DC.





John Moran, Stage Director

John Moran has produced and directed cabaret and theater premieres and revivals, worked on a number of presidential inaugural events, as well as countless other ceremonies, awards programs, conferences and shows around the country.

He produced and directed *A Time of Remembrance*, a National Mall event, for the Families of the Fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan, featuring the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military bands, George Stephanopoulos, Martha Radditz and Kevin Bacon. The ceremonies conferred the Medal of Remembrance on the Children of the Fallen.

He designed and continues to produce/direct the annual Kennedy Center Gala for Vital Voices Global Leadership Awards with Hillary Clinton and international celebrities (Sally Field, Angelina Jolie, Ben Affleck, Nicholas Kristof, Muhammad Yunis, Judy Collins, Melanne Verveer, Norah O'Donnell, Joe Biden and many more).

Annually he produces and directs the National Arts Awards for Americans for the Arts in New York City (Julie Andrews, Robert Redford, Angela Lansbury, Hal Prince, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Renee Fleming, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tommy Tune, Anna Deavere Smith, Robert Downey Jr., Jake Gyllenhaal, Dakota Fanning, Sophia Loren, Lady Gaga and many others).

With the late Marvin Hamlisch, he directed a "Tribute to Tibet" featuring Harrison Ford and Elie Wiesel honoring the Dalai Lama.

GMCW audiences will remember he directed the sold-out productions of *Grease*, *Men in Tights: A Pink Nutcracker* (2004) and the cabaret *Everything's Coming Up Sondheim* along with several other Chorus concerts. He also emceed the very first bi-coastal gay chorus concert with the Seattle Men's Chorus, Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and hosted by GMCW at Lisner Auditorium.

John's production of *In Gay Company* was named one of DC's most important events of the 1980s by the *Washington Blade*. He directed the GLAAD nominated revival of *The Boys in the Band* and the Washington area premiere of Jerry Herman's *Dear World* for the American Century Theater. A big band revue, *In the Mood*, has toured the world after being rewritten and directed by John.

In 2007, he was selected for the Wakefield High School (Arlington, VA) Hall of Fame.



WHO'S WHO



C. Paul Heins, Assistant Conductor

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as assistant conductor in the 2014 – 15 season. Dr. Heins was previously the director of the Concert Choir at Georgetown University, where he also taught music theory, piano and introduction to voice, and served as music director for the university's opera and musical theater productions. He served as director of the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington for nine seasons and was music director for three GMCW musicals (Ruthless, When Pigs Fly and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown). Past appointments also include the Washington Master Chorale (assistant conductor), Washington Men's Camerata (accompanist),

and an interim position as choir director at the College of William & Mary.

Dr. Heins is delighted to be the conductor of the GenOUT Chorus, founded in January 2015 and featured at all of GMCW's major concerts this year. The GenOUT Chorus is open to all young people ages 13 – 18, and its twofold mission is to give a voice to young LGBTQ people and their allies and to connect those young people to community. Last season, the GenOUT Chorus was featured at the Kennedy Center and at the GALA Choruses Festival in Denver.

Dr. Heins is the director of choirs at the Bullis School and is a frequent guest pianist, flutist and conductor in the DC area. He was trained in piano and flute at Bowling Green State University (B.Mus.), flute at the University of Maryland (M.Mus.), and choral conducting at the University of Maryland (D.M.A.). His principal teachers have been Edward Maclary, Patrick Walders and Mark S. Kelly (conducting); William Montgomery and Judith Bentley (flute); and Virginia Marks and Victoria Harris (piano). His doctoral work centered around Lukas Foss's cantata, *The Prairie*.



Craig Cipollini, Choreographer

Originally from Baltimore, Craig began dancing at the age of 14. He has an extensive background in theater, primarily musical theater, having performed all over the East Coast and abroad. He toured with productions of *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street*, in addition to many regional, summer stock and dinner theater credits. He was also a member of the DC Cowboys Dance Company, performing with the group all over the United States, in Toronto and in Budapest, Hungary. He also performed with the group when they appeared on NBC-TV's *America's Got Talent* where the group made the Top 40.

Craig has also worked extensively as a director and choreographer. Some shows he has directed and/or choreographed include *Cabaret*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Annie*, *Hair*, *Carousel* and *West Side Story* to name a few. He directed and choreographed *One Night in New York!* at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival where the show won Best Overall Production. He directed and choreographed GMCW's productions of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Xanadu*, as well as *Men In Tights: A Pink Nutcracker* (2010), *Seven*, *Divas*, *A Gay Man's Guide to Broadway* and *That '80s Show*. He holds bachelor's degrees in theater and art, with a concentration in visual communications, and a masters degree in arts management. By day, Craig is the marketing director for GMCW.



James Ellzy, II, Choreographer

James Ellzy began his dance training at Northwestern University in 1989. He performed primarily in musical theater until starting with modern dance in 1999 in San Diego. While in San Diego, he danced primarily with San Diego Dance Theatre and with the California Ballet Company. He also performed with Butterworth Dance Company and LaDiego Dance Theater. He directed the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego's full production of *Oliver Button is a Sissy* in 2000 and *Nutcracker: Men in Tights* in 2006. In 2004, he was invited to serve as one of the international judges for *Showcase!*, the Australian national dance competition.

Since moving to DC in 2008, James has performed with Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company and the DC Cowboys. He serves many roles in GMCW depending on the concert: singer, dancer, dance captain, choreographer, stage director and audition cocoordinator...and delights in them all! By day, James is an active duty family physician in the US Navy.



Theodore Guerrant, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 34th season as GMCW's principal accompanist, "Dr. Teddy" is arguably the longest-tenured collaborative pianist for a single chorus within the entire GALA Choruses network. He has been honored in various ways throughout his more than three decades of service including a Circle of Excellence Award in 2001, with a plaque honoring his 25-year milestone in 2008 and, finally, with a Distinguished Service Award from the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance in 2011 for his long tenure with GMCW. He began with GMCW in 1983 as co-accompanist with Jim Holloway, and has served under every GMCW conductor from founding director Jim

Richardson to Thea Kano, traveled with the Chorus to various cities across the United States, two Canadian provinces, three Scandinavian countries and can be heard on several GMCW recordings and in Paula Bresnan Gibson's book, *Voices from a Chorus*.

Dr. Teddy, who grew up in College Park, Georgia during the 1950s, studied with his aunt, Eliza Holmes Feldmann, who was then artist-in-residence at Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia, throughout his high school years. He eventually found himself, as a high school senior, accompanying five choral ensembles and playing five Sunday church services weekly. From there he went on to receive degrees in keyboard performance from the University of Georgia (B. M. piano cum laude; M.F.A. harpsichord), the University of Wisconsin (M.M. piano), the University of Maryland (D.M.A. piano), and the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University (G.P.D. organ), and studied piano additionally in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne.

Aside from GMCW, Dr. Teddy is organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale (formerly the Montgomery County Masterworks Chorus and now the resident chorus of the Strathmore Music Center in Rockville), where he was recently given an award for his 30 years of service to that organization, and associate director-accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale. He teaches on the staff of the University of Maryland School of Music (where he has also served for more than 30 years) as a coach-accompanist.

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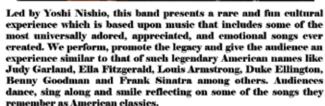










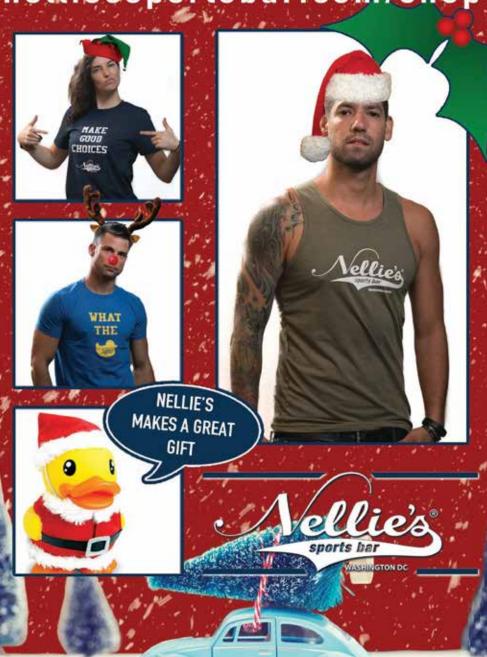




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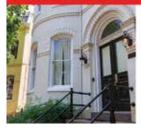
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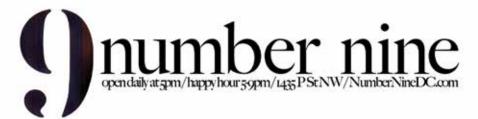
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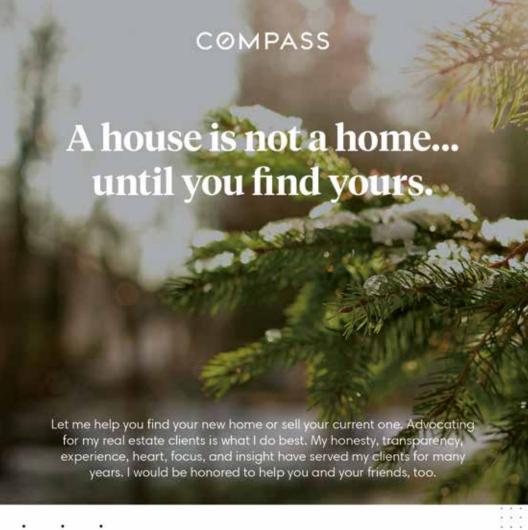
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CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

Circle of Excellence Awards are chosen annually by members of GMCW to recognize the outstanding contributions made by members of the Chorus. These awards honor those individuals who have exemplified the spirit of camaraderie, brother- and sisterhood and community in the Chorus and whose work has had lasting impact over many years.

1991

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Jeffrey Buhrman
Tom Dudley*
Steve Herman
Jim Holloway
Steve Maddox*
Dr. Jim Richardson
Ron Sabacek
B. J. Sobus
Bruce Trinkley
Everett Waldo
Bob Wonneberger
Michael Ziskind

1992

Michael Bohn
Eric Korpon
Darrell Netherton
Harry Powers
Michael Rivard
Rick Rosendall
David Sisson
Duward Sumner

1993

Craig Bowen* Peter Brayton Phil Rogerson

1994

Rod Fiorito Scott Pierce* David Streit Robert Wheeler

1995

Darrell Lewis Len Padgett Jim Peterson

1996

Michael Baker Roger Bergstrom Dick Dorr Dennis Swick*

1997

Jack Gerard Charlie Merk Michael Milano Gary Regan

1998

Kevin Doss Robb Rexroth Laurence A. Rosen

1999

Jerry Carpenter Bob Dragoset Thom Gibb

2000

Christopher Grieder Gary Turner Joe Vignali Marvin Weeks

2001

Joe Cannon Teddy Guerrant Steven Haber John Perkins Michael B. Smith

2002

Carl Baldwin Barry W. Bugg Michael Cunningham Dan Patton Todd Paul

2003

Tom DiGiovanni Rick Johnson Kathy McGee Chuck Walker

2004

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2005

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2006

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2009

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2010

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2011

Sherman Blow Robert T. Boaz Peter Fox Andrew Harmon

2012

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2013

Joe Bloomer Marcus Brown Sean Robinson

2014

Timothy E. Allmond Raymond Burditt Mary Scott Ryan L. Williams

2015

Emérito Amaro-Carambot Larry Cohen John-Paul Hayworth Rob Serpa, Jr.

2016

Chris Asaro Rick Davis Suzette Derrevere James Ellzy Rob Neighbour Lyn VanNoy

^{*} posthumously awarded

OVATION SOCIETY

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington's **Ovation Society** is an initiative that recognizes and honors those generous individuals and families who have made planned gifts to the Chorus.

If you have already included GMCW in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can include you as a member of the **Ovation Society**. If not, we hope you will consider joining this special group by including GMCW in your will, as a beneficiary of a retirement account or by setting up a charitable trust. Planned gifts can greatly reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate at the time of your death and often do not change the amount that would go to your family and friends.

While your attorney or accountant can provide you with more information, GMCW has several corporate sponsors — both financial planners and attorneys — who specialize in LGBT estate issues. We are happy to share this resource list with you upon request.

As a member of the **Ovation Society**, you will be invited to attend special events and receptions especially for **Ovation Society** members.

For further information about GMCW's **Ovation Society** or if you are interested in learning more about the many ways you can include GMCW in your plans, please contact Executive Director Justin Fyala at 202-293-1548 or jfyala@gmcw.org.

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In a world where religious leaders and their organizations have too often embodied the oppression and rejection that many of us have suffered, we rejoice to notice the growing number of synagogues, congregations and other religious organizations that welcome, enfold and celebrate LGBTQ persons.

We proudly list them here as our **PARTNERS IN HARMONY**. We recommend them to any who are looking for a faith community to call home. Visit gmcw.org for links to all of these religious organizations.

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Many Voices

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IN MEMORIAM

We remember our brothers who have been lost to us over the years. Their spirit lives on with us and we honor their memory. Respectfully, we request if you know of anyone whose name has been omitted from this list, please contact us at 202-293-1548 so that we may continue to celebrate and honor the contributions of all of our members.

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