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Dear Friends,

We are delighted to kick off the holidays with you here at the historic Lincoln Theatre, with enchantment and delight, with sparkles and snowflakes, and with plentiful heart-string tugging and joy. Enjoy the escape from the holiday hustle and bustle as you sit back and enjoy our holiday magic.

We create musical magic all year long. This season we will give nearly 100 outreach performances, we will premiere our PORTRAITS collaboration at the Kennedy Center, and our GenOUT Youth Chorus will grow its programs thanks to your generous support. And that’s just some of the magic that happens when we raise our voice for equality!

Music is the universal language, and music is an agent for change and for healing. We offer our holiday show music as a salve, and what we hope is a vehicle for healing and peace. May peace prevail around the world, and may your holiday celebrations be warm and joyous.
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JUSTIN FYALA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SEASONS OF LOVE DIRECTOR
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STAGE DIRECTOR
SOLOMON HAILESELASSIE
THE HOLIDAY SHOW

Thea Kano, Conductor
C. Paul Heins, Associate Conductor

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC, GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS, & 17TH STREET DANCE

Brand New Day/Joy to the World..........................Music and Lyrics by Luther Vandross/
Issac Watts, and G.F. Handel
Arranged by David Maddux

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Little Drummer Boy......................................................Music and lyrics by Katherine Davis,
Henry Onorati, and Harry Simeone
Arranged by Ted Arthur

Speaker: Thea Kano

Oseh Shalom.....................................................................................................Music by Paul Leavitt

GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Still, Still, Still.................................................................Traditional Austrian Carol
Arranged by Victor C. Johnson
When We’re Together...........................................................Music and lyrics by Elyssa Samsel
and Kate Anderson
Arranged by Mac Huff

Speaker: Jeffrey Fleming

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC & GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS

Umoja (“Unity”)..........................................................Music by Zanaida Stewart Robles

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC, GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS, & 17TH STREET DANCE

It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year..............................................Music and lyrics by
Eddie Pola and George Wyle
Arranged by Hawley Ades

POTOMAC FEVER

Carol of the Bells..........................................................Music and lyrics by Mykola Leontovych
Arranged by D. Teel
Everybody’s Waitin’ for the Man with the Bag......................................Music and lyrics by
Harold Stanley, Irving Taylor, and Dudley Brooks
Arranged by Theodore Hicks

Speaker: Ellery Rhodes

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Room..........................................................Music and lyrics by Lois Cecsarini
Soloist: Shawn Morris
Speakers: Justin Fyala and Thea Kano

Silver Bears............................................................Music and lyrics by Ray Evans and Jay Livingston
Arranged by Pax Ressler
Parody text by Robert Groves

THE SILVER BEARS
Tommie Adams       Howland Hartley
Brent Almond       John Knapp
Frank Anania       Dana Peterman
Tom Augustin       Sean Robinson
Michael Aylward    William Stroupe
Marcus Brown       Jim Taverner
Skip Concilla      Dennis Vonasek
Andrew Harmon      Jim Williams

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC & 17TH STREET DANCE
Favorite One..............................................................................Music and lyrics by Cy Coleman,
Betty Comden, and Adolph Green

ROCK CREEK SINGERS
Gloria.................................................................................................Music by Ily Matthew Maniano
Nutcracker Jingles................................................Music and lyrics by James Pierpont and
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Arranged by Chuck Bridwell

Speaker: Joseph Levin-Manning

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC
Eight Days of Lights.............................................................Music and lyrics by Judith Clurman
and David Chase

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC & 17TH STREET DANCE
Happy ABBADays.............................................................Music and lyrics by Sam Mitch and
Joseph: Stephen Naimoli       Vaughn Mouton
Mary: Gabriel Lopez
Reindeer: Gregory Stowers
Arranged by Paul Saccone

SEASONS OF LOVE
He Reigns Forever (We Sing Praises).............................................................Music and lyrics by
Piano: Kevin Huang
Arranged by Marshal Carpenter
Carol Cymbala

SEASONS OF LOVE & GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC
Anthem of Praise.............................................................................Music and lyrics by Richard Smallwood
Soloists: Chris Murphy and Freddie Quimbley
Piano: Kevin Huang

GAY MEN’S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC & 17TH STREET DANCE
The 12 Rockin’ Days of Christmas..................................................Music and lyrics by Dave Thomas,
Frederic Austin, Rick Moranis, and Andrew Carter
Arranged by Steve Milloy
### POTOMAC FEVER
- Mike Allen
- Peter Cheney
- Gia-Ninh Chuang
- Jake Cundiff
- Jim Gruschus
- Gibson Haynes
- Matt Holland
- Jonathan Malavé
- John Marsh
- Josh Millson-Martula
- Shawn Morris
- Paul Negron
- Steve Shi
- Michael B. Smith
- Kevin Thomason
- Santos Torres
- David Treacher
- Cooper Westbrook

### ROCK CREEK SINGERS
- Michael Aylward
- Zachary Barger
- Billy Barry
- Eric Belkengren
- Jarrod Bennett
- Rick Bennett
- Javon Byam
- Jonathan Chaffin
- Ethan Chiang
- Giancarlo D’Elia
- Robby Dean
- Bob Dragoset
- Robert Finn
- Anthony Gipson
- Rob Hall
- Ben Harris
- Mark Hegedus
- Michael Hughes
- Henry Johnson
- Paul Kelsch
- James Madigan
- Joval Martin
- Patrick Nelson
- Joshua Peterson
- Larry Poole
- Jack Reiffer
- Raymond Rinaldo
- Sean Robinson
- Craig Ruskin
- Lonny Smith
- Jason Suggs
- James Turner
- Brian Watts
- Chuck Willett

### SEASONS OF LOVE
- Tommie Adams
- Brent Almond
- Derrick Brown
- Marcus Brown
- Alex Domini
- Michael Dumlao
- Jeffrey Fleming
- Timothy Foley
- Hunter Jackson
- Faraz Khan
- Joseph Levin-Manning
- Gabriel Lopez
- Donald Medor
- Chris Murphy
- Ronté Pierce
- Freddie Quimbley
- Mikal Rasheed
- Tyson Reed
- Simon Regenold
- Colin Smith
- Kevon Smith
- Lamar Smith
- Matthew Teubert
- Jahdiel Torres Cabá
- Dennis Vonasek
- Aaron Wabinga
- Jerry Washington
- Micah Yarbrough

### 17TH STREET DANCE
- Sean Cator
- Craig Cipollini
- Iván Dávila
- James Elzy
- Adam Greczkowski
- Jeffrey Hollands
- Cole Jaconski
- Daniel Kingsley
- Franky Lieder
- Michael McGovern
- Darryl Pilate
- Brook Urquhart
- Yuri Velasquez
- Matt Zagorski

### GENOUT YOUTH CHORUS
- Cal Ausema
- Maysen Bedsole
- Ben Biggs
- Zach Briskin-Watson
- Mia Cary
- Victor Coleman
- Maddy Dean *
- Lawrence Florio *
- Mia Garcia
- Victor Kidwell *
- Logan Lipshultz *
- Vivienne Lyons
- Iris Maas
- Anjali Murthy *
- Lucas Olivo
- Alisa Ostovitz
- Duncan Shaw-Rose
- Ziv Stuart *
- Ezra Thomas
- Asher Wise

* member of Youth Leadership Team
Rock Creek Singers
Potomac Fever
GenOUT Youth Chorus
17th Street Dance
Seasons of Love
Thea Kano (Artistic Director) (she/her)

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 founded the New York City Master Chorale in 2005 and served as the artistic director until spring 2019. 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.

Theodore Guerrant (Principal Accompanist) (he/him)

Now in his 40th 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 traveled with the Chorus to various cities across the United States, two Canadian provinces, three Scandinavian countries, and can be heard on many GMCW recordings. Dr. Teddy received 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 in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne. Dr. Teddy is also organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale, and associate director-accompanist for the Central Maryland Chorale. He also teaches on the staff of the University of Maryland School of Music as a coach-accompanist.
C. Paul Heins (Associate Conductor) (he/him)

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as associate conductor in the 2014 – 2015 season. Dr. Heins’s principal role with GMCW is directing the GenOUT Youth Chorus, an outreach ensemble for LGBTQ+ and allied youth founded in 2015. Under Dr. Heins’s leadership, GenOUT has grown from its inaugural class of nine singers to a current enrollment of 20 singers representing 16 schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Since its inception, more than 140 students from over 80 schools have participated in GenOUT Youth Chorus and camps, and notable performance venues have included the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, the Washington National Cathedral, and the White House for President Obama. In addition to its regular performances with GMCW, GenOUT’s collaborations have included Nashville’s Major Minors, The Musicianship’s Washington Youth Chorus, The Washington Chorus, Mosaic Harmony, and the Children’s Chorus of Washington.

In February 2023, GenOUT traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to perform at the national conference of the American Choral Directors Association. As one of eight Insight Choirs, GenOUT showed how vocal ensembles are/can be communities that provide a sense of belonging to marginalized populations.

Dr. Heins’s previous appointments include Georgetown University (Concert Choir director), the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of Washington (director), the Washington Master Chorale (assistant director), Washington Men’s Camerata (accompanist/associate conductor), and the College of William & Mary (interim choir director). He was musical director for three GMCW musicals (Ruthless, When Pigs Fly, and You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown). Dr. Heins 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. Dr. Heins has presented at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and Chorus America, and has served as guest clinician for DCPS music festivals and teacher workshops.

Ronté Pierce (Seasons of Love Director) (he/him)

Ronté Pierce brings over 33 years of singing, performing, and directing experience with faith-based, community, academic, and choral vocal ensembles, as well as experience with musical theater and opera to his position as the director of the Seasons of Love ensemble.

Ronté’s musical journey began in Durham, NC, where he participated in the children’s choir of his childhood church. It was there that his love of singing and directing gospel music was cultivated and he eventually started a successful singing group, served as a worship leader, and directed three choirs at his home church.

Ronté’s musical experiences with his childhood church inspired him to study voice at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, NC. He was a member of the NCCU Concert Choir, NCCU Touring Choir, NCCU Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and NCCU Opera Workshop. Upon receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Music, he began a teaching career with the hopes of inspiring others to express themselves with music.

Ronté currently serves as one of three music teachers at Jackson-Reed High School in Washington, DC where he directs a successful choir program. He believes that the best teachers are those who continue to engage in the learning process, which has led him to pursue and receive a Master of Music degree from Boston University (2012) and an Education Specialist degree from Grand Canyon University (2021).
Craig Cipollini (Choreographer) (he/him)

As a performer, Craig toured with productions of A Chorus Line and 42nd Street, in addition to many regional, summer stock, and dinner theater credits. He was a member of the DC Cowboys Dance Company and danced with them in Toronto, in Budapest, Hungary, and when they appeared on NBC-TV’s America’s Got Talent where the group reached the Top 40.

Craig has worked extensively as a director and choreographer. Some musicals he has directed and/or choreographed include Cabaret, Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Will Rogers Follies, Anything Goes, 42nd Street, 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 and Best Choreography. 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/visual communications, a masters degree in arts management, and is also a freelance illustrator.

James Ellzy, II (Choreographer) (he/him)

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 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 productions of Oliver Button is a Sissy and Nutcracker: Men in Tights. 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 co-coordinator. By day, James is a family physician at the Defense Health Agency.
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Special thanks to the Lincoln Theatre team.
We remember our members who have been lost to us over the years. Their spirits live 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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Derrick Brown
Phillip Carson
Peter Cheney
Alex Domini
Greykell Dutton
Vinz Dy Cruz
Adam Edgerton
Jimmy Edwards
Shirra Edwards
Jeffrey Fleming
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Ali Hecimovich
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Hayworth  
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Dennis Jaffe  
Jason Jeffaes  
Frederick King  

**SL** = Section Leader  

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Alan Laing  
Nick Lawton  
Samilet Lee (SL)  
John Levegood  
Gari Lewis  
Andrew Mcllroy  
José Morales  
James Murphy  
Yoshiyuuki Nishio  
Ronald Norberg  
Pat O’Connor  
Todd Paul  
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Dean Reichard  
William Riggins  
Blake Roberts  
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JR Russ  
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John Santell  
Adam Schwartz  
Alec Sherman  
Morgan Slusher  
Colin Smith  
William Stroupe  
Jahdil Torres Cabá  
David Treacher  
Brian Walther  
Dustin Winkel  
Yiming Xu  

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Sherri Bale  
Michael Bigley  
Jerry Blackmon  
Steven Bobys  
Tomeika Bowden  
Michael Cunningham  
Mark Di Phillipo  
Robert Featherstone  
Carroll Hanson  
Steve Herman  
Eve Hill  
Jeffrey Hollands  
Kevin Huang  
Derrick Jones  
Daniel Kingsley  
Mark Klein  
Robert Klein (SL)  
Frederick J. Krebs  
Greg Kubik  
Tim Lewis  
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Y
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...may your holidays be filled with music, beauty, peace & joy!

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The Harmony Award is GMCW’s highest honor. The awards are presented by the Chorus’s Board of Directors to individuals and organizations from the community, and an individual from within the Chorus family. Recipients include:

**Individuals from the Community:**
- Peter D. Rosenstein, LGBTQ+ community activist, 2004
- David Catania, DC Councilmember, 2005
- Frank Kameny, Gay rights movement pioneer, 2006
- Adrian Fenty, DC Mayor, 2007
- Noi Chudnoff*, business proprietor and arts patron, 2008
- The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson, Episcopal bishop, 2009
- John Berry, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 2010
- Barney Frank, U.S. Congressman, Massachusetts, 2012
- Eric Schaeffer, Signature Theatre Artistic Director, 2014
- Kevin Jennings, GLSEN founder & Obama “safe schools” appointee, 2015
- Marsha Pearson, GMCW founder, 2016
- Muriel Bowser, DC Mayor, 2018
- Wendy Rieger, NBC4-TV news anchor, 2019
- Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chairperson, 2022
- Tammy Baldwin, US Senator, 2023

**Organizations:**
- The Mautner Project, national Lesbian health organization, 2004
- Holland & Knight, international law firm, 2005
- Food and Friends, food and nutrition service providers, 2006
- Metro DC PFLAG, education and advocacy organization, 2007
- SMYAL, 2008
- Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department’s Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, 2009
- Immigration Equality, 2010
- Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, 2011
- Washington Blade, 2012
- Team DC, 2014
- Williams Institute, 2015
- National Center for Transgender Equality, 2016
- NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists, 2017
- Whitman-Walker Health, 2018
- Casa Ruby and NBC Out, 2019
- Metro Weekly, 2022
- The Wanda Alston Foundation, 2023

**Individuals from the Chorus family:**
- Steve “Soph” Herman, 2004
- Gary Regan and Roger Bergstrom, 2005
- Carl Baldwin & Gary Turner and David Streit, 2006
- Phil Rogerson, 2007
- Laurence Rosen, 2008
- Michael Baker, 2009
- Jeff Buhrman, 2010
- Greg Kubiak, 2011
- Mark Hennen, 2012
- Joe Vignali, 2013
- Tom Nichols & Dan Chadburn, 2014
- Michael E. Hill, 2015
- Christopher Grieder & Stuart Kopperman, 2016
- John Moran* and Jack Reiff, 2017
- Marcus Brown and Rob Hall, 2018
- Charles Berardesco, 2019
- Robert T. Boaz*, 2022
- Timothy Allmond & Robert Klein, 2023

* posthumously awarded
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ABOUT US

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

OVERVIEW
GMCW is the largest LGBTQ+ chorus in the nation’s capital. We are a renowned performance group. Since 1981, we’ve performed shows nationally, internationally, and at-home in Washington, DC. To date, we have 250+ singing members, four select ensembles, a youth chorus, over 500 donors, and an annual audience of 10,000+. Our mission is to use music to promote equality, achieve justice, and overcome our differences. Over the last 42 years, we’ve put on numerous shows and done hours and hours of community outreach. We’ve sung and danced our hearts out around the country, including our Equality Tours in 2017, 2018, and 2019. We’ve been around the world, too, including stops in Cuba, Iceland, and Ukraine. We’ve sung for the Clintons, the Bushes, the Obamas, and the Bidens. Alongside Alan Cumming, Carol Channing, Chita Rivera, and Angela Lansbury. We’ve visited many prestigious venues, including the Kennedy Center, the White House, and Carnegie Hall, just to name a few.

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BRAND NEW DAY/JOY TO THE WORLD

Ooh... Oh...
Joy to the world!
Joy to the world!
The Lord is come. Woo!

Everybody look around
’Cause there's a reason to rejoice you see!
Everybody come out and
Let’s commence to singing joyfully!

Everybody look up and feel the hope that
We’ve been waiting for!
Everybody be glad because our silent fear
And dread are gone!

Freedom, you see
Has got our hearts singing so joyfully!
Just look about
You owe it to yourself to check it out.
Can’t you feel a brand new day.

Joy to the world!

Everybody be glad because the sun is
Shining just for us.
Everybody wake up into the morning
Into happiness!
Hello world!
It’s like a different way of living now
Thank You World!
I always knew that we’d be
Free somehow.

In harmony, let's show the world
That we’ve got liberty!
It’s such a change for us to live
So independently!

And He shall reign forever and ever.
Can’t you feel a brand new day.
And He shall reign forever and ever.
Can’t you feel a brand new day.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her...
Can’t you feel a brand new day.
Let every heart
Prepare Him room!
Can’t you feel a brand new day.
Can’t you feel a brand new day.

King of Kings,
And Lord of Lords!
Can’t you feel a brand new day
Can’t you feel a brand new day
Everybody sing joy!
It's a brand new day!
It's a brand new day!

LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Come they told me,
Pa rum pum pum pum pum
A newborn King to see,
Pa rum pum pum pum.

Our finest gifts we bring,
Pa rum pum pum pum pum
To lay before the King
Pa rum pum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum.

So, to honor him
Pa rum pum pum pum, when we come.

Little baby, pa rum pum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, rum pum, pum!
I have no gifts to bring,
Pa rum pum pum pum.

That’s fit to give the King,
Pa rum pum pum pum pum
Rum pum pum pum pum
Shall I play for you, rum pum pum pum pum,
On my drum?

Pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum pum pum pum
rum pum play for you
Rum pa pum pum pum pum pum.
Pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum pum
rum pum play for you, rum pa pum pum pum pum pum.

Shall I play my drum?

Mary nodded,
Pa rum pum pum pum pum,
The ox and lamb kept time,
Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for Him,
Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum pum
rum pum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum. Then He smiled at me
Pa rum pum pum pum.
Me and my drum. Me and my drum.
Me and my... drum.

OSEH SHALOM

Oseh shalom bimromav
Hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu
V’imru amen. V’imru amen.
(repeat)
Oseh shalom
Bimromav.

Hu ya’aseh, hu ya’aseh,
V’al kol, v’al kol, Yisrael, Yisrael.
V’al kol Yisrael.
V’al kol Yisrael.
(repeat)

Oseh shalom
Bimromav
Hu ya'aseh shalom.

Ahleinu
V’al kol Yisrael.
Ah... Veimru
Amen.

V’al kol. V’al kol.
Oseh shalom!

English Translation:
May the One who makes peace in high places make peace for us, for all of Israel, and now we say amen.

STILL, STILL, STILL

Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping
Radiant stars, their vigil keeping
Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow

Sleep, sleep, sleep
Lie still in slumber deep
The night is peaceful all around you
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you
Sleep, sleep, sleep
Lie still in slumber deep.

Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come.
Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come.

WHEN WE’RE TOGETHER

Sure, it’s nice to open a gift that’s tied up
With a perfect bow
But the greatest present of all
Was given to me long ago.

It’s something I would never trade,
It’s the family that we’ve made

And when we’re together,
I have everything on my list.
And when we’re together, I have all I wished.

All around the Christmas tree,
There’ll be dreams coming true.
But when we’re together
Then my favorite gift is you.

I would travel miles and miles and
I would follow any star
I’d go almost any place
If it’s any place you are
’Cause when we’re together
I’ll forever feel at home
And when we’re together
We’ll be safe and warm.

 Doesn’t matter where we are
If you’re there with me
’Cause when we’re together,
That’s my favorite place to be
’Cause when we’re together
It’s a holiday every night.
And when we’re together
Then the season’s bright
I don’t need the bells to ring
I’ll know when it’s here
’Cause when we’re together
I could stay forever
And when we’re together
It’s my favorite time of year.

UMOJA

Umoja
Umoja
Umoja (unity).

IT’S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

It’s the most wonderful time of the year!
With the kids jingle-belling
And ev’ryone telling you,
“Be of good cheer!”
It’s the most wonderful time
Of the year!

It’s the hap… happiest season of all!
With those holiday greetings
And gay happy meetings
When friends come to call.
It’s the hap… happiest season of all!

There’ll be parties for hosting,
Marshmallows for toasting,
And caroling out in the snow
There’ll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of
Christmases long, long ago.
It’s the most wonderful time
Of the year!
SONG LYRICS

There’ll be much mistletoe-ing
And hearts will be glowing
When loved ones are near;
It’s the most wonderful time
Of the year!

There’ll be parties for hosting,
Marshmallows for toasting,
And caroling out in the snow;
There’ll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of
Christmas long, long ago.

It’s the most wonderful time
Of the year!
There’ll be much mistletoe-ing and hearts
Will be glowing when loved ones are near;

It’s the most wonderful,
Most marvelous,
Most fabulous, most joyous,
Most wonderful time of the year,
The most wonderful time of the year!

CAROL OF THE BELLS

Hark! How the bells,
Sweet silver bells,
All seem to say,
Throw cares away,
Christmas is here,
Bringing good cheer,
To young and old, meek and the bold.
Ding-dong-ding-dong,
That is their song,
With joyful ring, all caroling.

One seems to hear, words of the cheer
From everywhere, filling the air,
Oh, how they pound, raising the sound
Or here and there, telling their tale
Gaily they ring, while People sing
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas.

Hark! How the bells,
Sweet silver bells,
All seem to say,
Throw cares away,
Christmas is here,
Bringing good cheer,
To young and old, meek and the bold.
Ding-dong-ding-dong,
That is their song,
With joyful ring, all caroling.

One seems to hear, words of the cheer
From everywhere, filling the air,
Oh, how they pound, raising the sound
Or here and there, telling their tale
Gaily they ring, while People sing
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here.
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas.

On, on they send, on without end
Their joyful tone, to every home
On, on they send, on without end
Their joyful tone, to every home
Ding-dong-ding-dong.

EVERYBODY’S WAITIN’ FOR THE MAN WITH THE BAG

Old Mr. Kringle,
Is soon gonna jingle
The bells that’ll tinkle
All your troubles away
Ev’rybody’s waitin’ for the
Man with the bag
’Cause Christmas is comin’ again.

He’s got a sleighful,
It’s not gonna stay full
He’s got stuff to drop
At ev’ry stop of the way
Ev’rybody’s waitin’ for the man with the bag
’Cause Christmas is comin’ again.

He’ll be here with the
Answers to the prayers
That you’ve made through the year
You’ll get yours
If you’ve done ev’rything you should
Extra special good.

He’ll make this December,
The one you’ll remember
The best and the merriest
You ever did have
Ev’rybody’s waitin’ for the man with the bag
Christmas is here again.

Old Mr. Kringle, is soon gonna jingle
All the bells that’ll tinkle
All your troubles a way
Ev’rybody’s waitin’ for the man with the bag
Christmas is here again

He’s got a sleighful and
It’s not gonna stay full
Got stuff that he’s droppin’
Ev’ry stop of the way
Ev’rybody’s waitin’ for the man with the bag
Christmas is here again

He’ll be here with the answer to the prayers
That you’ve made through the year
You’ll get yours if you’ve done
Ev’rything you should
Extra special good.

He’ll make this December,
The one you’ll remember
The best and the merriest you ever did have
Ev’rybody’s waitin’
They’re all congregatin’
Patiently waitin’ for the...
Waitin’ for the man with the bag.

ROOM

You came and sat beside me
(Good King Wenceslas looked out)
As carols filled the air
(Deck the halls with boughs of holly)
And you told me of your story
(O come, o come Emanuel)
A tale of your troubled years
And I wondered as I watched you
Clutch your bag and hold it tight
Yes, I wondered as I watched you
Disappear into the night.
(Silent night)
Will you find room in a stable?
Is there a place where they know your name
Will you find hearthfire and laughter
Colored lights ’round a window pane?
Will there be space at table
And kindness to share
And if the manger child should come now
Would He find you there?

And I wondered as we parted
And I looked into your eyes
If I should see you again
Would I stop for a friend or
Would I simply pass you by?

Will there be room in my stable to stay,
Stay the night
And where the lonely find welcome
Midst the gifts and the glist’ning lights?
Will there be space at my table
For the ones we’ve keep apart,
If the manger child should come now,
Would He find Christmas?

Would he find room in my stable
Where the wanderer might stay the night.
Where the lonely find welcome,
Midst gifts and glist’ning lights?
Will there be space at the table,
For the ones we’d keep apart.
And if the manger child should come now,
Would He find Christmas in our hearts?

SILVER BEARS

You know there’s black bears
And brown bears and grizzlies and polars
Then there’s sun bears and sloth bears
And pandas with molars
But do you recall the most festive bear
Of them all?

Silver bears, silver bears
It’s Christmas time and they’re pretty
Hair of gray, makes me say
I can’t wait till Christmas Day.

On the sidewalk, older men walk,
Dressed in bright red and white
My new man crush is named
Father Christmas.
Bearded daddies, silver foxes
Hot and hairy and gray
And on every street corner you see.

Silver bears, silver bears
It’s Christmas time and they’re pretty
See them prance, love that gut.
Helping to make Christmas gay.

Strings of people all are waiting
Just to sit on his lap
I think I know who I want for Christmas.
You’ll be nice and I’ll be naughty
We’ll both get what we want
At the top of my wish list you’ll see,
You’ll see.

Silver bears, silver bears
It’s Christmas time and they’re pretty
See them prance, watch them dance.
Helping to make Christmas gay.
Helping to make Christmas gay.

FAVORITE ONE

We want you to know our holiday show
Now features our fav’rite ho ho ho!
We give you Mrs. Claus’s bouncing son!
Wherever he goes this jolly old soul brings
Presents and cheer and love to ev’ryone.
Hooray for our favorite one.
(repeat)

Hooray for our favorite,
Hooray for our favorite,
Hooray for our favorite one. Hooray!

NUTCRACKER JINGLES

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O’er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way;
Oh! What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

(repeat)
Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

It's jingle bells, jingle bells,
What fun to ride in a one horse open sleigh.
Hey!

GLORIA
Demons on my shoulder
Monsters in my head
Shadow in the water
Will you be my friend?
The world revolves around me
As I lay in my bed
Dreaming of more, more.

Be yourself so loud tonight
They'll hear you from the stars
(And they will hear your voice)
Sparkling like dynamite
If that is who you are (is who you are)
A hymn for Gloria
For Gloria, Gloria
A hymn for Gloria
For Gloria, Gloria, Gloria.

It's all but a hymn for Gloria.
It's all but a hymn for Gloria.

EIGHT DAYS OF LIGHTS
Sh'monat y'mei. Chanukah
Eight days of lights
Haneirot halalu kodesh
Eight sacred lights!
Ah, Ah
We give thanks to Your name
For Your miracles,
Eight days of lights.

Eight sacred lights.
Sacred lights, sacred lights!

Sh'monat y'mei Chanukah
Eight days of lights,
Haneirot halalu kodesh.

Eight sacred lights
Eight sacred, sacred lights!

O Chanukah. O Chanukah
Chanukah. O Chanukah,
Chanukah. Chanukah!

Eight sacred lights, Eight sacred lights
Ah... Ah
Eight sacred lights. Sacred lights,
Sacred lights!

HAPPY ABBADAYS
I was cheated by you and
I think you know when
So I made up my mind
This must come to an end.
Look at me now, will I ever learn?
I don't know how
Baby J makes me lose control
There's a savior inside my soul.

Just one push, and all the angels will sing
One more push, I think His head is crowning
Woh, woh
Mamma Mary, she's a “virgin,”
My, my! Immaculate conception,
Mamma Mary
Stuck in Bethlehem
Only an ass for transportation.
Hark! I hear wise men knockin'
Why did they let livestock in?
Jesus, born the King of Israel!

I've been here all night
I was first in line
Santa I'm still free
Take a chance on me.

If you're all alone.
And the elves are still at home
Santa I'm still free, take a chance on me.
I'm a reindeer that can lift you
off the ground
Take a chance on me, I won't let you down.

If you're all alone
And the elves are still at home
Santa I'm still free,
Take a chance on me.
Gonna do my very best,
And it ain't no lie
If you put me to the test, if you let me fly
If you let me fly, if you let me try.
Take a chance on me. Take a chance on me.

Ah. Ah. Oo.
You can prance, you can fly
Santa's sleigh through the night sky!
Oo, see that nose,
Watch it gleam,
Rudolph the prancing queen.
Christmas eve and the fog is low,
Santa can't see the way to go.
Lookin’ out for the chimneys
Of the girls and boys.
Good ones will all get toys.

Rudolph with your nose so bright
Won’t you help guide my sleigh tonight
You can lead all the reindeer,
Flying through the snow
Now is your time to prance,
Well Rudolph here’s your chance.

You are the prancing queen,
Only you can save Christmas eve!
Prancing queen,
Now you’ll go down in history oh yeah.
You can prance. You can fly.
Santa’s sleigh through the night sky!
Oo, see that nose,
Watch it gleam,
Rudolph the prancing queen!

HE REIGNS FOREVER

We sing praises to the King
For He is the King of Kings.
We sing praises to the King
For He is the King of Kings.

Give Him glory for
He is the King of Kings.
(repeat)

We sing praises to the King
For He is the King of Kings.
We sing praises to the King
For He is the King of Kings.

Give Him glory for
He is the King of Kings.
(repeat)

All hail King Jesus!
All hail Emmanuel!
(repeat)

He reigns forever, He reigns forever
He reigns forever, and evermore!
All hail King Jesus!

ANTHEM OF PRAISE

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance
Praise Him with the
Sound of the trumpet
Praise Him with the psaltery and harp
Let everything that
Hath breath praise the Lord.
(repeat)

Oh magnify the Lord with me
Magnify the Lord, magnify the Lord with me
Magnify the Lord,
Let us exalt his name together.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance
Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet
Praise Him with the psaltery and harp
Let everything that hath
Breath praise the Lord.

Oh magnify the Lord,
Magnify the Lord with me
Magnify the Lord,
Oh magnify the Lord with me
Magnify the Lord, magnify the Lord with me
Magnify the Lord
Let us exalt his name together.

Oh be joyful all ye people,
Oh be joyful and clap your hands
Oh be joyful all ye people,
Oh be joyful and clap your hands.
(repeat)

Oh, oh, oh praise Him.
(repeat)

Lift Him up, lift Him up
Lift Him up, lift Him up.
(repeat)

Higher and higher
Lift Him up, lift Him up
Lift Him up, lift Him up.
(repeat)

Let everything that hath breath praise Him
Let everything that hath breath praise Him
Let everything that hath breath praise Him
Praise him the Lord!

THE TWELVE ROCKIN’ DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the 1st day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me
A partridge in a pear tree.

2nd... 2 turtle doves...
3rd... 3 French hens...
4th... 4 calling birds...
5th... 5 golden rings...
6th... 6 geese a-laying...
7th... 7 swans a-swimming...
8th... 8 maids a-milking...
9th... 9 ladies dancing...
10th... 10 lords a-leaping...
11th... 11 pipers piping...
12th... 12 drummers drumming...
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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
Fred Boykin
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 Guer rant
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
Scott Button
Robert Klein
Jerry Lee
Harold Lewis
Jack Reiffer

2005
Jeff Van Luyn
Stuart Kopperman
Edward P. Oseroff

2006
David Bielenberg
Joe Canter
Bill Cutter
Matt Komornik
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Rob Hall
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Raymond Rinaldo
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Brent Almond
Tom Boeke
Jonathan Chaffin
Michael Hughes
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2023
Michael Aylward
Rick Bennett
Justin Fyala
Solomon HaileSelassie
Keygan Miller
Paul Negron
Kirk Sobell
Santos Torres

* posthumously awarded
The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC’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 LGBTQ+ 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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C. Paul Heins & Matt DelNero
Kurt Hielle & Edward Puzio
Bill Hilleges
Rymond Hoffman
William Kibby
Matthew E. Komornik
Cathryn & Fred Krebs
Margaret Krebs
Chris Lackovic
Alan Laing
Dillon Lewis
Bill Lipsett & Eric Bolda
James Stephen Longo
Sean Lyons-Burke
Joan Tabor Marioni
David McAuley & Dan Johnson
Andrew McIlroy
Michael McKibben
Don Medor
William Moran
Kevin Morris
Paul Negron
Rob Neighbour
John O’Brien
Jim Orrell
Eve O’Toole
Mark Paist
Dana Peterman
Andrew Powaleny
Robert Powell
Chris Quach
Cori Quirk-Keefe
Jack Reiffer
Kenneth Roraback
Jeffrey Rydborn & Rick Knight
Ivan W. Skowronski-May
Derek Smith
Marilynn Smith
Renee Sontheimer
Dave Stamery
Kate & Jeremiah Strack
Chris Thomson
C. Lyn VanNoy
Bernard Vicary
Silvio Weisner
James W. Williams
Robert Wilson & Elliott Lapin
Kimball Winn & Stephen O’Neill
Justin Zimmerman

* deceased
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Grape Intentions proudly partners with GMCW and 10 other charitable organizations you help each time we send you wine.
In a world where religious leaders and their organizations have too often embodied the oppression and rejection that many of us have suffered, a growing number of synagogues, congregations, and other faith-based organizations are welcoming and celebrating 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 faith-based organizations.

- Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church
- Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
- All Souls Church Unitarian
- All Souls Episcopal Church
- Arlington Presbyterian Church
- Augustana Lutheran Church
- Bet Mishpachah
- Bethel United Church of Christ
- Bethesda United Church of Christ
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church
- Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church
- Burke Presbyterian Church
- Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
- Capitol Hill United Methodist Church
- Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
- Center for Spiritual Living — Metro
- Christ Church + Washington Parish
- Christ Congregational Church
- Christ Episcopal Church Kensington
- Church of the Ascension
- The Church of the Epiphany
- Church of the Pilgrims
- Clarendon Presbyterian Church
- Commonwealth Baptist Church
- Congregation Ner Shalom
- Dignity Washington
- Dumbarton Unitarian Universalist Church
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Fairlington United Methodist Church
- The Falls Church Episcopal
- First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC
- First Christian Church of Falls Church
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Foundry United Methodist Church
- Friends Meeting of Washington (Quakers)
- Georgetown Lutheran Church
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Hope United Church of Christ
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church
- Kol Ami: Northern Virginia Jewish Reconstructionist Community
- Little River United Church of Christ
- Luther Place Memorial Church
- Lutheran Church of the Reformation
- Many Voices
- Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia
- Metropolitan Community Church of Washington
- Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church
- Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
- National City Christian Church
- New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
- Oaklands Presbyterian Church
- Rising Sun Outreach Ministry
- River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ
- St. Alban’s Episcopal Church
- St. Anne’s Episcopal Church
- St. George’s Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale Parish
- St. John’s Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square
- St. John’s Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish
- St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
- St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church
- St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
- St. Mathew’s Episcopal Church
- St. Michael’s Episcopal Church
- St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church
- St. Thomas’ Parish Episcopal Church
- Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
- Temple Rodef Shalom
- Tikvun Leil Shabbat
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling
- The United Church — Die Vereinigte Kirche
- Unity Fellowship Church of Washington, DC
- Unity of Fairfax
- Universalist National Memorial Church
- Washington Ethical Society
- Washington National Cathedral
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
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In 2011 the Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health CARE WITH PRIDE program was created to openly champion love, equality and care for the LGBTQIA community. Twelve years later our mission continues, having raised more than $1 million for LGBTQIA advocacy organizations and is more important than ever. Join us at carewithpride.com