



THE GAY MEN'S CHORUS
OF WASHINGTON, DC
PRESENTS

TransAmerica

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Thea Kano
Artistic Director

Justin Fyala
Executive Director

Presenting Partner






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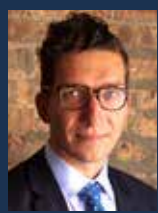
WELCOME

Tonight we share our authentic and vulnerable selves as we celebrate and elevate the transgender and gender fluid members of our community. We are willing to say we don't yet fully understand everything, but we are willing to learn. We also admit that we are learning, and for many of us, these are new conversations. Tonight's show merely scratches the surface of these communities' challenges and celebrations. But it gets the conversation started, and hopefully will give you information to take out into the world. We are all learning together as a family, as members, patrons, and allies.

Our willingness to learn and to have these conversations saves lives. It brings people together through connection, love, compassion, and, ultimately, acceptance. Thank you for joining the conversation and for supporting GMCW and enabling us to raise our voice for equality and justice for all people. Because everyone has the right to be their authentic selves.



Thea Kano
Artistic Director



Justin Fyala
Executive Director

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We're proud to celebrate the transgender community with you today and every day. SmithGifford, marketing sponsor of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC.

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Thea Kano
Artistic Director

Justin Fyala
Executive Director

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Stage Direction by
Frank D. Shutts, II

Conducted by
Thea Kano

Choreographed by
**Craig Cipollini and
James Elzy**

Musicians

Piano.....Theodore Guerrant
Bass.....Shawn Alger
Drums.....Don Jons

Production Staff

Production Manager.....Joe Vignali
Associate Production Managers.....Chipper Dean, Betsy Libretta
Technical Director.....Solomon HaileSelassie
GenOUT Director.....C. Paul Heins
17th Street Dance Director.....Craig Cipollini
Seasons of Love Directors.....Marcus Brown, Calvin Robinson
Costume Design.....Gary Turner
Lighting Design.....Thea Kano, Frank Shutts
Property Master.....John Robinson
Scene Shop Manager.....Jarrod Bennett
Production Crew Chiefs.....Tigger Schwanke, Bernard Vicary
Sound Engineering.....Chris Asaro, Mark Klein
Stage Wranglers.....Chris Asaro, Jerry Blackmon,
Michael Cunningham, and the
Lincoln Theatre crew
Archival Video.....Steve Herman
House Manager.....Bob Klein
ASL Interpreter.....Jamie Sycamore

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sam Brinton, Fancy Butler, Ruby Corado, Fiona Dawon, Morgan Dori, Lt. Cmdr. Blake Dremann, JR Ford, Vanessa Ford, Sgt. Jessica Hawkins, Debi Jackson, Mara Keisling, Rebecca Kling, Keygan Miller, Bishop Gene Robinson, Alex Tyson, JJ Vera, Kayley Whalen, the National Center for Transgender Equality, PFLAG, Ed Stack, and the Lincoln Theatre crew.

TransAmerica

ACT ONE

GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE

Let the River Run.....Carly Simon
from *Working Girl* Arranged by Steven Milloy

Speaker: Keygan Miller

GMCW

I Am Willing.....Holly Near
Soloist: Keygan Miller Arranged by Steven Milloy

Speaker: Morgan Dori

Everyday People.....Sylvester Stewart
Arranged by Mark Brymer

Speaker: Alex Tyson

Who Will Love Me As I Am?.....Henry Krieger and Bill Russell
From *Side Show*
Soloists: Michael Dumlao and Ellery Rhodes

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

Blackbird.....Paul McCartney
Arranged by Steven Withers

GenOUT CHORUS

Speakers: Camilla Barillas and Becca Schaefer

Caitlyn.....Anya Turner and Robert Grusecki
You Will Be Found.....Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
From *Dear Evan Hansen* Arranged by Mac Huff
Soloist: Daniella Zapata

GMCW

At the Heart.....Gerald Gurs
From "That's Good Enough" by Debi Jackson,
about her daughter Avery's journey to be her authentic self
Narrator: Vanessa Ford

INTERMISSION

Poem: Hidden Lives.....Charles. R. Butler, Neto

ACT TWO

GMCW

Our Number One Problem.....Eric Lane Barnes
Bathroom Bill: Joe Burton

Speaker: JJ Vera

17TH STREET DANCE

The Village.....Stephen Wrabel
Soloist: Stephen Crisp

Speaker: Fancy Butler

POTOMAC FEVER

You Matter to Me.....Sara Bareilles
From *Waitress* Arranged by Brad Stephenson
Soloists: Matt Holland and Kevin Thomason

GMCW

For the Fallen.....Mike Sammes
Oboe: Alec Sherman

Please Stay.....Jake Runestad
Speaker: Sam Brinton

GMCW and 17TH STREET DANCE

I Love You/What A Wonderful World.....Larry Norman, Randy Stonehill,
Soloist: Michael McGovern George Davie Weiss, and
Bob Thiele
Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson

GMCW and GenOUT CHORUS

Truly Brave.....Cynthia Lauper and Sara Bareilles
Arranged by Mac Huff

BREANNA SINCLAIRÉ

Somewhere.....Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim
From *West Side Story*

GMCW and BREANNA SINCLAIRÉ

You'll Never Walk Alone.....Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II
From *Carousel* Arranged by Johnny Mann

GMCW, GenOUT CHORUS, 17TH STREET DANCE, and BREANNA SINCLAIRÉ

This Is Me.....Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
From *The Greatest Showman* Arranged by Dave Volpe
Soloists: JJ Vera and Breanna Sinclairé

GMCW ENSEMBLES

Potomac Fever

Mike Allen
Robert T. Boaz
Jay Gilliam
Jim Gruschus
Gibson Haynes

Matt Holland
Jonathan Jones
Paul Negron
Paul Nichol森
A.J. Rawls

Michael B. Smith
Jeb Stenhouse
Kevin Sweitzer
Kevin Thomason
Cooper Westbrook

Rock Creek Singers

Michael Aylward
Billy Barry
Eric Belkengren
Jarrod Bennett
Richard Bennett
Jonathan Chaffin
Robert Dean
Bob Dragoset
Rob Finn
Rob Hall
Andrew Harmon

Mark Hegedus
Kyle Holland
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Kevin Morris
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Sean Robinson
Craig Ruskin
David Shotwell
Lonny Smith
C. Lyn VanNoy
Aaron Ware
Brian Watts

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Tommie Adams, Jr.
Ben Aparicio-Coto
Marcus Brown
Romm Gatongay
Adrian Gillem
Matthew Horton

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Tyler Niggel
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Calvin Robinson
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Cooper Westbrook

17th Street Dance

Sean Cator
Craig Cipollini
Iván Dávila
James Ellzy
Will Hernandez

Jeffrey Hollands
Jaremy Hill
Aaron Jackson
Alon Mazor
Michael McGovern

Brian Jon Moran
Clint Novotny
Erich Sommerfeldt
Brandon Steele
Matthew Williamson

GenOUT Chorus

Camilla Barillas
Mia Barutta
Brennan Connell
Quincy DuBois
Andreas Espinoza
Anna Grace Fuller
Amélie Gerber
GG Guajardo
Marquite Hall

Nathaniel Kipers
Gigi Levin
Luke Maddox
Lily Matthews
Matthew Neri
Jack Newman
Elliot Oppenheim
Chris Pisinski

Sanera Powell
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Becca Schaefer
Emma Schmiedigen
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Ava Tiller
Daniella 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 Durufé's *Requiem*, Dr. Kano completed research with L'Association Durufé 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.





C. Paul Heins, Associate Conductor

C. Paul Heins joined the GMCW artistic team as associate 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/ associate conductor), and an interim position as choir director at the College of William & Mary.

Dr. Heins's principal role with the GMCW is directing the GenOUT 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 25 singers representing 16 schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Over the past three years, more than 60 students from nearly three dozen schools have participated in GenOUT Chorus and Camps, and notable performance venues have included the John F. Kennedy Center, the White House, Washington National Cathedral, and the 2016 GALA Choruses Festival.

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*.



Theodore Guerrant, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 35th 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 GMCW recordings.

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. As a high school senior, he accompanied five choral ensembles and played five Sunday church services weekly. He 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 additionally in Buriton, England, with Denise Lassimonne.

Dr. Teddy is also organist-choirmaster at Christ Church Parish Kensington (Episcopal), accompanist for the National Philharmonic Chorale (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.

WHO'S WHO



Breanna Sinclairé, soprano

A native of Baltimore, MD, Breanna Sinclairé is a graduate of the esteemed Baltimore School for the Arts and Tanglewood Institute. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in vocal performance from the Herb Alpert School of Music at California Institute of the Arts, under the tutelage of Maria Fortuna Dean and Kate Conklin. She earned a Master of Music in opera from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, as the first transwoman of the opera program, under the pedagogy of Ruby Pleasure.

Operatic performances include *Carmen* (as Carmen), Cavalli's *La Calisto* (Furie), Menotti's *The Old Maid and The Thief* (Miss Todd), Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, Rameau's *Platée*, and Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's *West Side Story*, as well as contemporary performances in Meredith Monk's *Songs of Ascension* at the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theatre (REDCAT) and Zachary Sharrin's *Time Bodies* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Most recently Ms. Sinclairé performed for the Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Annual Convention (which House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a special guest), Capital Pride and Toronto Pride Festivals, the San Francisco Trans March, the Fresh Meat Transgender and Queer Arts Festivals, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club's 40th Anniversary Dinner, the California Academy of Sciences annual Pride NightLife event, LinkedIn's LGBTQ Employee Resource Group speaker series panel discussion (alongside civil rights leader Cecilia Chung), Janet Mock's *Redefining Realness* book tour, the Transgender Law Center's SPARK! anniversary celebration, and the 2016 GALA Chorus Festival, alongside the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Colorado Symphony.

Ms. Sinclairé also holds the distinction of being the first transwoman to sing at a national sporting event — first with the Oakland A's, and more recently for the San Francisco Deltas. She was among *Out* magazine's 2015 "OUT100" list of LGBT heroes.



Vanessa Ford, narrator

Vanessa Ford is an educator and advocate. She and her husband JR have two children, one of whom is transgender. She is a board member for the National Center for Transgender Equality and her advocacy pieces include published works in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Newsweek*. Her family can also be seen in National Geographic and Katie Couric's "Gender Revolution."

She is honored to be participating in a piece inspired by her dear friend Debi Jackson.



Debi Jackson, author, "That's Good Enough"

Debi Jackson is a nationally-known advocate for transgender rights. She is the mother of a transgender child and frequently travels to speak about trans kids. She was recently awarded the 2016 Role Model Award by the National Education Association's GLBT Caucus. Through her advocacy, she works with esteemed organizations such as PFLAG, the Human Rights Campaign, Gender Odyssey, and the Trevor Project. Her involvement with these organizations, as well as her personal connection to several thousand transgender adults and families with transgender children, has enhanced her knowledge and understanding of trans-inclusivity needs and solutions.



Frank D. Shutts II, Stage Director

Frank D. Shutts II is a native of northern Virginia. His interest in theater began at an early age and was shaped by his mentor, Dorthie R. Kogelman. A member the Educational Theater Association, Frank has directed over sixty productions on the educational, community, and professional levels. Some of his favorites include *Forever Plaid*, *Falsettoland*, *Cabaret*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *The Full Monty*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Avenue Q*, *In the Heights*, and *The History Boys*. Frank is a long-serving board member of The Little Theatre of Alexandria where he served as President for many years. It is there where he is currently directing the DC-area premier of *The Nance* (through June 23.) Although they have been together for thirty-seven years, Frank married his high-

school sweetheart, Myke, four years ago this month. An English major with a concentration in dramatic literature, Frank is a major Bardolator! "*Totus mundus agit histrionem.*" Frank directed GMCW's productions of *And The Tony Goes To...* and *The Holiday Show with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC.*

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Artistic Staff

Artistic Director.....	Thea Kano
Associate Conductor.....	C. Paul Heins
Principal Accompanist.....	Theodore Guerrant
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directed by **Frank D. Shutts II**

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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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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.

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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 Guarrant
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
Barrett Whitener

2007

Russ Capps
Rob Hall
Marsha Holloman
Paul Leavitt
Jim Murphy

2008

Greg Kubiak
Rob Driggers
Michael Hill

2009

Chip Crews
Mark Hennen
John O'Brien

2010

Jay Ball
Thea Kano
Steve Pflasterer
Andy Van Etten

2011

Sherman Blow
Robert T. Boaz
Peter Fox
Andrew Harmon

2012

Craig Cipollini
Ron Norberg
John "JQ" Quiñones
Shannon Rozner

2013

Joe Bloomer
Marcus Brown
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2014

Timothy E. Allmond
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Mary Scott
Ryan L. Williams

2015

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* posthumously
awarded

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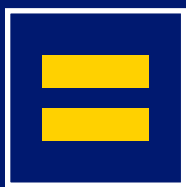
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In a world where religious leaders and their organizations have too often embodied the oppression and rejection that many of us have suffered, we rejoice to notice the growing number of synagogues, congregations, and other religious organizations that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

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
All Souls Church
All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church
Augustana Lutheran Church
Bethesda United Church of Christ
Bet Mishpachah
Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
Capitol Hill United Methodist Church
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
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Church of the Ascension
The Church of the Epiphany
Church of the Pilgrims
Clarendon Presbyterian Church
Dignity Washington
Dumbarton United Methodist Church
Fairlington United Methodist Church
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Foundry United Methodist Church
Friends Meeting of Washington (Quakers)
Georgetown Lutheran Church
Little River United Church of Christ
Lutheran Church of the Reformation
Luther Place Memorial Church

Many Voices
Metropolitan Community Church of Washington
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
St. Albans Episcopal Church
St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale Parish
St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
Tikkun Leil Shabbat
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