

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS KEYNOTES

May 2018, Volume 35 Issue 3

BACK TO BROADWAY

We are so looking forward to our 35th Anniversary Concert, *Back to Broadway*, on Saturday, June 15th at Hochstein Performance Hall! The show features a broad spectrum of selections from the Broadway stage, and many of them LGBTQ+-centric, including songs like “Not My Father’s Son” from *Kinky Boots*, “I Am What I Am” from *La cage aux folles*, and “Ring of Keys” from *Fun Home*. Also included in the concert are selections from *Cabaret*, *Hairspray*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*.

We’ll be joined onstage by **Mrs. Kasha Davis**, who will serve as our Mistress of Ceremonies as she brings her vibrant personality and incredible talents to the stage with us. She’ll join us for a few numbers and she’ll sing a few of her own as she leads us through the evening with style, grace, and humor.

Back to Broadway will feature our Rochettes and their new choreographers Torie Gregory and Robert Kauffman. Of course, we’ll also feature our singing members throughout the evening in solos, ensembles, and in full, vibrant-sounding chorus you’ve come to expect!

BACK TO

BROADWAY

PRESENTED BY
THE
ROCHESTER
GAY MEN'S
CHORUS

Hochstein Performance Hall
Saturday, June 16 at 7:30pm

visit theRGMC.org
for ticket information

FEATURING
MRS. KASHA DAVIS



Tickets are available at www.thergmc.org or by calling (585) 423-0650. Tickets can also be purchased in person at Equal=Grounds, Parkleigh, or from any chorus member. Advance sale tickets are \$8.00 for children 12 and under, \$17.00 for students and seniors 60 and older, and \$20.00 for adults. Tickets at the door are \$8.00 for children and \$25.00 for all others.

RGMC Out On The Town



The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is thrilled to continue to realize its mission statement out in the community by participating in events in and out of Rochester.

On Friday, March 2nd, in the midst of some wild weather, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus performed a concert as part of First Baptist Church of Rochester's Community Concert Series. The crowd was large and enthusiastic as we performed some of our greatest hits and a preview of *Two Boys Kissing*. Favorites including "If You Only Knew," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," and "Names" during which we commemorated those who lost their lives in the Parkland tragedy. We were honored to be asked to be a part of this wonderful concert series, and special thanks to Doleen Hood, our host, for making us feel so welcome!

On Sunday, April 15th, in the midst of some wild weather, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus sang as part of the morning services at Fairport United Methodist Church's Reconciling Ministries Sunday. We sang "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "If You Only Knew" as we helped spread the message of inclusivity and unity, and were thrilled to see this group of people striving to do just the same. Thanks to both Heather Drabek and to Nicole Cammileri for helping to organize this!



Matthew Fleig, MD

Family Medicine

Office: (585) 270-8971
1736 East Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14622

*Caring for entire families . . .
Pediatrics, adult patients, and OB*

*Congratulations to the RGMC
on its continued contributions
to music & entertainment
for the community.*

Get Fiscally Fit!

**Saving/Checking
Auto Loans
Home Loans
Personal Loans
Financial Advice**



395 Gregory Street (Between Clinton & South)
www.genesee.coop • 585-461-2230



Genesee Co-op
Federal Credit Union



*A proud sponsor and member of
the Board of Directors*

Committed to meeting all your needs to your complete satisfaction. I pride myself on being a good communicator.



Real Estate Services

ROBERT NEALE

Cell: 585.203.6446

Office: 585.347.1810

robertneale@howardhanna.com

2055 Empire Blvd, Webster, NY 14580

Contact me to discuss your Real Estate needs



Follow us on Twitter!

@rocgaychorus

Patti LuPone: Don't Monkey with Broadway!

Featuring members of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

On Sunday, April 29th, 21 members of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, along with Artistic Director, Dr. Robert Strauss, performed onstage with Broadway legend Patti LuPone. Of the performance, Strauss said, "In our history, we have been so fortunate to work with some extraordinary artists, but singing with Ms. LuPone will be a memory we cherish. The fact that this is happening during our 35th anniversary, is just icing on the cake!"

The chorus sang five numbers with Ms. LuPone, "Ya Got Trouble" (*The Music Man*), "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" (*Guys & Dolls*), "Blow, Gabriel, Blow!" (*Anything Goes*), Sleepy Man (*The Robber Bridegroom*), and "Some Other Time" (*On the Town*), each garnering a thunderous ovation for the chorus each time she acknowledged the RGMC. We were so grateful for the opportunity, and thank the organizers of the concert for having asked us to participate!



SUPPORT THE RGMC WHILE YOU SHOP

Did you know you can support the chorus by shopping on amazon.com? The Amazon Smile program allows you to select a nonprofit organization that will receive a percentage of sales. Just go to smile.amazon.com, designate Rochester Gay Men's Chorus Inc. as your organization of choice, and then shop as you normally would!

Whenever you shop through Amazon, be sure to start your browsing at smile.amazon.com in order for your purchase to benefit the chorus. As always, we thank you for your support!

Serving the Rochester Community
for over 30 years

Ellenwood ELECTRIC

"We Do It Without Shorts"

Fully Licensed & Insured
Free Estimates

654-8642
www.ellenwoodelectric.com

PROTECT YOUR

PREP DAILY TO PREVENT HIV

Trillium HEALTH
585.454.PREP

35 Years of RGMC - Act 3: Kent Peterson

A desire to give gay men a voice and now a legacy



When Kent Peterson moved to Rochester in 1981 with his partner, Dennis Carlson, he felt isolated and longed for a sense of community. He was also aware that gay men were continually being bullied and treated poorly due to their orientation. He believed that a chorus could serve as a means to his meeting people and also improve the image of gay men in the community as well as giving vice to his activism.

Kent knew and still is proud of the fact that music is a great way to develop and maintain straight allies and to change the hearts and minds of people toward acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals. He says, "Our music was a common way for us to relate to all members of the community and to be accepted."

In 1982, he and his friends advertised in the paper that they would be starting a gay men's chorus. Five guys showed up for that first meeting, which was held in his apartment. Mr. Peterson was thrilled to learn that David Knoll, one of the original five members, is still an active member of the chorus, as is David Skinner, who had joined by the first concert.



Unfortunately, Kent's tenure with the chorus only lasted one year. His partner got a new position at Rutgers University in New Jersey and they left the Rochester area. When he moved to the New Jersey area he became a member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.

Though he was most certainly a catalyst for the creation of RGMC, Kent emphatically stressed that he was not the sole creative force behind the chorus. He stated that he initially had the members sing a lot of canons or rounds to help them feel comfortable singing together. Nicholas Williams, a member present for the very first meeting, volunteered to assist with directing and contributed repertoire suitable for the fledgling group. Kent jokingly stated, "I was the sperm donor for the chorus but Nick was the real father". Their collaboration was both fruitful and fortuitous given that Nick was an established member of the Rochester community and able to take the helm once Kent, following the career path of his partner, left Rochester. "Were it not for the dedication, energy and artistic vision of Nick Williams, the 36-year of existence of RGMC may never have come to full fruition," stated Mr. Peterson.

Kent Peterson has been involved with choruses ever since his short tenure in Rochester. He started the Cincinnati Men's Chorus (CMC) and attributes its success to what he learned with the RGMC and New York City Gay Men's Chorus. He started the CMC in collaboration with nine other people eager to see a gay men's chorus form in Cincinnati and was the director for five years. He had a lengthy commute to rehearsals while directing school music programs and being a church choir director. He finally left the CMC to spend more time on the other local choirs. Once, while attending a joint concert of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington DC and the Windy City Gay Men's Chorus in the early 1990s in DC, he heard a rendition of the African-American spiritual, "Motherless Child". He thought it sounded very familiar and then realized it was his own adaptation that he had done for the RGMC years prior. That was a very fond memory for him.

He shared that his wonderful partner of 37 years passed away two years ago just two weeks prior to gay marriage being legal in Ohio. He stated, "we felt like we deserved it but we didn't get the official paper."

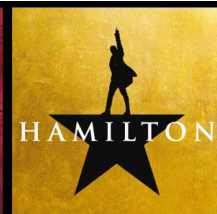
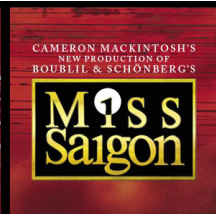
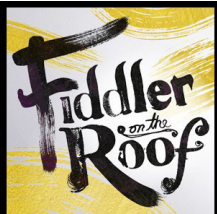
Kent Peterson had a vision of what music could do for our world and our communities. He used his political activism to start gay men's choruses. The legacy that the RGMC has is due to his vision and ability to make something happen. We are proud of our heritage, developing our present, and look to our future with anticipation and hope. Thank you, Kent Peterson.

KEYNOTES is the official newsletter of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus and is published three times a year. The RGMC is solely responsible for its editorial content.

KEYNOTES is a collaboration of several talented people. To place an advertisement, contact the RGMC at the chorus office at (585) 423-0650. Reproduction of editorial or photo-graphic content without consent of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is strictly prohibited. Copyright 2017 RGMC Inc., 121 N. Fitzhugh St. #315, Rochester, NY 14614-1214, (585) 423-0650

Privacy Statement: The RGMC is very concerned with keeping your personal information private. The RGMC will not share or sell personal information to any third party.

THE
2018-2019
M&T BANK
BROADWAY
SEASON



Broadway is coming to Rochester in a big way!

The Rochester Broadway Theatre League (RBTL) is presenting a huge lineup of hits this year for its Rochester audiences. The 2018-2019 season boasts Broadway box office hits like *A Bronx Tale*, the revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Chicago*, *Miss Saigon*, *Waitress* and *Hamilton*. That is a collection that you definitely want to see and cherish the memories you will make.

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is combining their upcoming Broadway concert on June 16, 2018 with the RBTL shows. How you may ask?

The RGMC is raffling off two season tickets to the RBTL 2018-19 season (approximate value \$900) and will select the winner of those season tickets at *Back To Broadway*. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and available from any RGMC chorus or board member or by purchasing tickets through the website (thergmc.org) via the raffle link. For tickets purchased online, you will receive stubs from the RGMC business manager. The chorus is only raffling off 500 tickets to give you a greater chance of winning.



HIGH FALLS TREE SERVICE

P.O. Box 17 107
Rochester, NY 146 17
585.467.9310
HighFallsTreeSuc@hotmail.com

Connect With Us!



@rocgaychorus



www.facebook.com/thergmc



Search for Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

The winner will be announced at the RGMC concert on June 16, 2018 at Hochstein Concert Hall. Winners need not be present to win. Make Broadway a part of your future and join us in this exciting raffle and at *Back To Broadways*. Both opportunities offer excellent outcomes. Thank you for your continued support of the RGMC by supporting our RBTL raffle.



salted
CARAMELS,
TRUFFLES & HANDMADE
CHOCOLATES
FOR EVERY
celebration.

CELEBRATING 10 SWEET YEARS

HEDONIST
Artisan Chocolates

674 SOUTH AVENUE · DAILY 10AM-9PM
HEDONISTCHOCOLATES.COM

Red Gym Men's Club

Just what you're looking for.



448 E. Brighton Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210
www.redgymmensclub.com



Mr. Jean G. Thibodeau, CPA

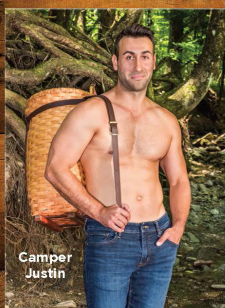
31 Putting Green Lane
Penfield, NY 14526
585-586-6160

For all your Tax and Accounting needs:

“Call the Gay CPA”

Over 20 years experience

WHERE ROCHESTER MEN GO TO GET AWAY!



Camper Justin

ALL-MALE GAY CAMPING SINCE 1991
ONLY 75 MINS FROM ROCHESTER
Cabins • RV Sites • Tent Sites
Bunkhouse • Guest House • Rental RVs

- Different themed weekends, outside entertainers, dances, specials — all on our website
- Full-service Cafe (weekends)
- 100% BYOB park

Reservations going fast! Book today!

For event details, reservations, maps & more, visit:

JonesPond.com 585.567.8100 facebook



Affordable & Accessible
www.renewing-massage.com

Colin Coffey LMT
585.709.6725

Share the gift of a Renewing Massage!
Gift Certificates available at \$50 for one hour,
and \$85 for 90 minutes of massage.

更新按摩
RENEWING MASSAGE

LGBT Affirming
Professional Building
Relaxing Environment
~near Equal=Grounds

728 South Ave. Rochester, NY
colincoffey@renewing-massage.com

Get ready. You're getting your hair back.

Your own healthy hair. Your own confident look. NeoGraft Hair Replacement is the most advanced technology there is, and it's finally here in Rochester. NeoGraft offers little discomfort, quick recovery time and a completely natural looking result. We place your own healthy follicle exactly where you want it.

It's that simple.



Before

After

Actual Helendale NeoGraft Hair Replacement Patient.

The Hair Center at

Helendale

Helendale Dermatology & Medical Spa
500 Helendale Rd Suite 100
Rochester 585.266.5420
www.HairCenteratHelendale.com

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO OUR DONORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and Members of the Rochester Gay Men's chorus we would like to thank all of our donors listed below for their generous support during the past twelve months. A special thank you to Jim Moran on establishing the James R Moran Endowment for the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. For more information to contribute to the fund visit RACF.org.

*Donors who have contributed to our 500 at 35 Anniversary Fundraising Campaign are indicated with an **

Maestro (\$1000 and Over)

Jacqueline Archer*
 Bob Caruso
 and Dennis Rosenbaum*
 Colin Coffey
 and Michael Brundage
 Genesee Valley Council on the Arts
 Norman Horton
 In Honor of John Williams and
 Chuck Lundeen*
 Jim Janssen
 and Carl Norcross*
 David Knoll
 and David Skinner*
 LGBT Giving Circle
 Chuck Lundeen
 and John Williams*
 James R Moran
 Robert Neale*
 John Owen*
 Trillium Health*
 Dr Bill Valenti
 and James Wolk

Diva (\$750 - \$999)

H Darrell Lance*

Crooner (\$500 - \$749)

Mark Brewer
 and Richard McGowan*
 GALA Choruses
 35th Anniversary Gift*
 Norman Horton
 Terry Quataert
 and Dennis Foley
 Marvin E Ritzenthaler
 and Steven A Jarose
 Stephen Smith*
 Tom Wahl
 and Glen Skalny*
 John Yavonditte
 and Thom Hutchison*

Patron (\$250 - \$499)

Barbara E Ames
 and Nancy A Kennedy
 David Champlin
 and Frank Hanzel
 Richard Connett
 Robert and Howard Green*
 H. Winn McCray
 Dee Miller
 and Kris Hunt*
 Joe Morelle JR
 Marilyn Mould
 John Stevens
 David W.S. and Fernelle R.
 Jamie and Sally Whitbeck

Prima (\$150 - \$249)

Anonymous
 Lon Baratz*
 Thomas Brazda*
 Susan Costello
 Marc Ellis Holland
 and Theodore W Smith*
 Giuseppe Erba
 and Mark Pierzynski*
 Joanne Everts*
 Timothy G Geen
 and David B Marshall
 Carolyn and Thomas Gorman*
 Michael Kusovich
 and Steven Brewer*
 Gerald and Diane Macaluso
 Noreen Mastro
 and Arlene Sherman
 Chris McCormack*
 Joan McCormack
 Thomas Menzel*
 Milli Piccione*
 Vera Powley*
 Richard and Shirley Quataert
 John Rutkowski*
 Henry Schroeder
 Judy and Al Schwartz*
 Mark A Smith*
 Mark Smith
 Laurie Strauss

Friend (Under \$150)

Paul D Allen
 and David C Quick*
 Father John A Andrews*
 Anonymous
 Anonymous*
 Anonymous*
 Eugen and Karen Baer
 Mary C Barrett
 Gerry Bateman
 In Memory of Peter Schragle*
 Nancy Beck
 Kennan T Beckstrand*
 Ron Berry
 and Mike Touhey*
 Marcia Betlem
 Darla Blair
 Bill and Grace Boudway
 in Honor of Al Carvill*
 Shirley Bowen
 and Tracy Perkins*
 Lee Bower
 Kim Brumber*
 Tom Burke*
 Jennifer Caccavale*
 Mary and Paul Callaway*
 Michael Carafos, MD
 and Mark Joseph*
 Carolyn and Cathy*
 Al Carvill*
 Jeneva Champion*
 Chuck Collins*

Friends (Continued)

George E Cunic
 David Curran*
 Douglas Deeley*
 Wanda DeFiore
 and Susan Yaniga*
 Kenneth Dodgson
 In Memory of Sally Lewis
 Dodgson*
 Charles Dorland*
 Peter Elliott*
 Peter Elliott
 In Honor of Ted Smith
 Jeff Elsenheimer Jr.
 and Lary Coia Jr.*
 Ryan Erdmier
 Julia Everitt*
 Dr. Douglas A Feldman*
 Christine Fendley
 Hon. Sandra L Frankel*
 Christine Fraser
 Freewheelers Bicycle Shop
 In Memory of Bobby Moore
 From friends of Bob and Dennis
 Randall Fulton*
 Cindy German
 Mark Goodenough
 Todd Gustafson*
 Cat and Rusty*
 Joseph Hartnett-Hughes*
 Robert Heminway
 Herman Family
 In honor of Ron Herman and
 Steven Price*
 Al and Janet Herman
 Lisa Hokula*
 Michael Holden
 and David Merritt*
 Peter House
 and Michael Hannen*
 Katia Iannacome
 In Memory of Norris Minard*
 Steven Jarose
 and Marvin Ritzenthaler*
 Joyce Kessel
 and Leanna Manna*
 Linda Krehling
 Mark Lawson
 Michael Longo
 and Roger Parris
 Coy Ludwig
 Diane and Gerald Macaluso
 In Honor of Bob Parsons*
 Roberta Majka*
 Jeff Markarian
 and Bruce Vair*
 Jacki Marthinsen
 Dennis Mazur
 Maria McBride
 In Honor of Gerry Nowak*
 Bruce D McClung
 and Jerry DeFilipps*
 In Memory of Lou Vallone*
 Stephen Metildi

Friends (Continued)

Connie Miles
 David Minchella
 and Roger Feistel
 Pat Moran
 Sam Nicolosi
 Glenn Nixon
 Nancy Pearce*
 Thomas Petrillo
 and William Reamy
 David and Joanne Poland
 Paula Popper
 Steven Price and Norm Geil*
 Peggy Quackenbush*
 Larry Quinsland*
 Edward and Sandra Ranalli
 Robert Read
 and Thomas Orsini
 Donald Rogers*
 James Rood*
 Janelee Sachs*
 Kirby Santillo
 Richard W Sarkis
 Linda Schriever
 Schuber Liquor Store
 Sara Senour
 In Honor Of Jorge Yacila*
 Charlene Sherwood
 and John Griffith
 John and Charlene Sherwood*
 Eleanor Siegfried*
 Frances Z
 and William A Smith*
 Anne E Sprout*
 Bud Strohmeier*
 Shawn Taylor*
 Ann Tippet
 and Mike Doolin*
 Michael Tiss*
 Stephanie Vaisey*
 Dennis Velia
 Kathy Vernam
 and Jean Kears*
 John Villani
 Cyril Waugh and Dale Hampton*
 Lauren Wetzelberg*
 Robert Wolf*
 Peter Woods
 Bruce C. Woolley*



Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
121 N. Fitzhugh St., Suite #315
Rochester, NY 14614-1214

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

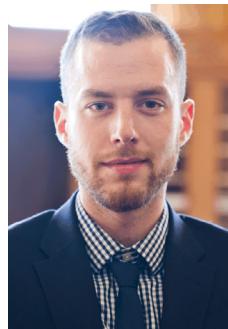
Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Rochester, NY
Permit No. 613

Meet Victoria Gregory (Torie) and Robert Kauffman the newest choreographers for the RGMC Rochettes. Enjoy these talented new members of the RGMC family.



VICTORIA GREGORY (TORIE)
Victoria Gregory started dancing at the age of five but confesses that she didn't like practicing so her lessons were stopped at the age of 12. She loved making up her own show and would perform them for others to enjoy. One of her strongest performance influences was Spanky and Our Gang.

Torie decided to quit college and to apprentice at Bucks County Theater in New Hope. She moved on to Theatre at the Tracks in Pittsford as a stage manager in the 60's. Chicago and New York City were her next stops. She is happy to share, "I danced as much as I could, all the time, and with everyone". Rochester became her home as she sought clean air and childhood friends. It was Rochester that offered her teaching opportunities and the opportunity to fall in love. David Skinner provided Torie housing solutions and she met Erika Atkinson and the Divas where she fit in comfortably to both.



ROBERT KAUFFMAN
Robert Kauffman became a dancer at the very young age of 2 ½ because he calls himself, "a hyperactive monster". Performing was in his blood from the beginning with his paternal side of the family all enjoying dancing.

Robert's career path moved away from dance as he became an attorney and studied law in New Orleans. Two years ago his dancing developed into instructor and choreographer for Ballroom Accessible, an organization that makes dancing curriculum accessible to individuals with health issues that have traditionally prevented them from dancing. Robert has been richly rewarded with the outcomes his students have experienced through his ability to make dancing accessible. His goal is to make his beloved new home of Rochester and our audiences smile at the choreography he develops for the Rochettes.