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Send Society News To: PSteinberg08@gmail.com

## Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus to Join Forces with Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida

n the spirit of unity and collaboration, the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus (FTLGMC) will become one with the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida (GMCSF) effective Jan. 1, 2023. This transition will strengthen the position of the GMCSF which has seen amazing growth and development since it started in 2010.

"The time is right to unify our choral community which has an abundance of notable talent and dedication," said Justin Knight, president of Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus. "The Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus has entertained for 36 years and is proud of its legacy under the direction of its founder, Gary Keating. We thank our fans and supporters who have made us proud to sing and encourage them to continue with us as part of the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida."

This news coincides with the retirement of the founding director of the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's

Chorus, Gary Keating. His last concert of the FTLGMC will be the upcoming holiday performance on Dec. 3rd. Keating is credited for

organizing the Fort Lauderdale chorus 36 years ago, in 1986. It was the first gay performing arts organization in the state and one of the first in the nation.

"We applaud Gary Keating's vision and commitment to keep the music alive while we also thank the community for supporting both choral groups over the years," said Mark Kent, executive director of Gay Mens Chorus of South Florida (GMCSF). "Both organizations have simultaneously served the community well, but now the focus will be on GMCSF which continues to expand its reach and impact on new audiences."

The GMCSF is under the direction of Gabe Salazar and is a regional arts asset that is widely recognized for its artistry and commitment to the community. Now in its 13th season, the GMCSF has more than 150 members on its roster, making it the largest gay men's chorus in the southeastern United States.

The FTLGMC will welcome some of the members of the GMCSF to sing a song with them at their final concert on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 8 p.m., at the United Church of Christ For information and tickets log on to: www.ftlgmc.org.

The GMCSF will welcome members of the FTLGMC to join them for a song at their holiday concerts on Friday, Dec. 16th at 8 p.m., at Sunshine Cathedral and on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 7 p.m. at Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood. For information and tickets: www.gmcsf.



## Debbie's Dream Hosts Bruncheon

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) will host a DDF Legacy Bruncheon on Sunday, Dec. 4th at 11 a.m. The event will take place at the Huizenga Pavilion at Broward Center of the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale and will celebrate the organization's mission and the lasting legacy of late DDF Founder Debbie Zelman.

Guests will enjoy a welcome reception, raffles, a delicious brunch buffet, and a live saxophone performance throughout the afternoon. This year's co-chairwomen include DDF Board Vice President Cynthia Peterson and Board of Director Liz Gassew.

"We're excited to be back hosting this signature event coming off the heels of the global pandemic," said Cynthia Peterson. "We look forward to celebrating all of the wonderful things DDF has accomplished in honor of the amazing woman who started it all. Debbie would be proud to know that her legacy lives on and continues to thrive with the support of those in this community and beyond."

In previous years, DDF hosted an annual Luncheon to celebrate the birthday of its Founder, Debbie Zelman, who passed away from stage IV stomach cancer in December 2017. It has since become an event that highlights DDF milestones and the continuation of the organization to raise awareness and research funds to support patients and families and help find a cure for stomach cancer.

"We look forward to sharing the tremendous strides and accomplishments that DDF has made, all in the name of education, support, and research for individuals facing this awful disease," said event co-chair Liz Gassew. "We also recognize and honor our founder and the legacy she has left behind."

Tickets for the DDF Legacy Bruncheon are \$100 and can be purchased at https://debbiesdream. org/inspire\_events/bruncheon22/. For more information on how to join the committee, donate, or become a sponsor, contact Events@DebbiesDream.org, or call 954-475-1200.

Debbie's Dream Foundation:
Curing Stomach Cancer is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising
awareness about gastric cancer,
advancing funding for research, and
providing education and support
internationally to patients, families, and
caregivers. DDF seeks as its ultimate
goal to make the cure for stomach
cancer a reality.

For more information about DDF, log on to www.DebbiesDream.org.

