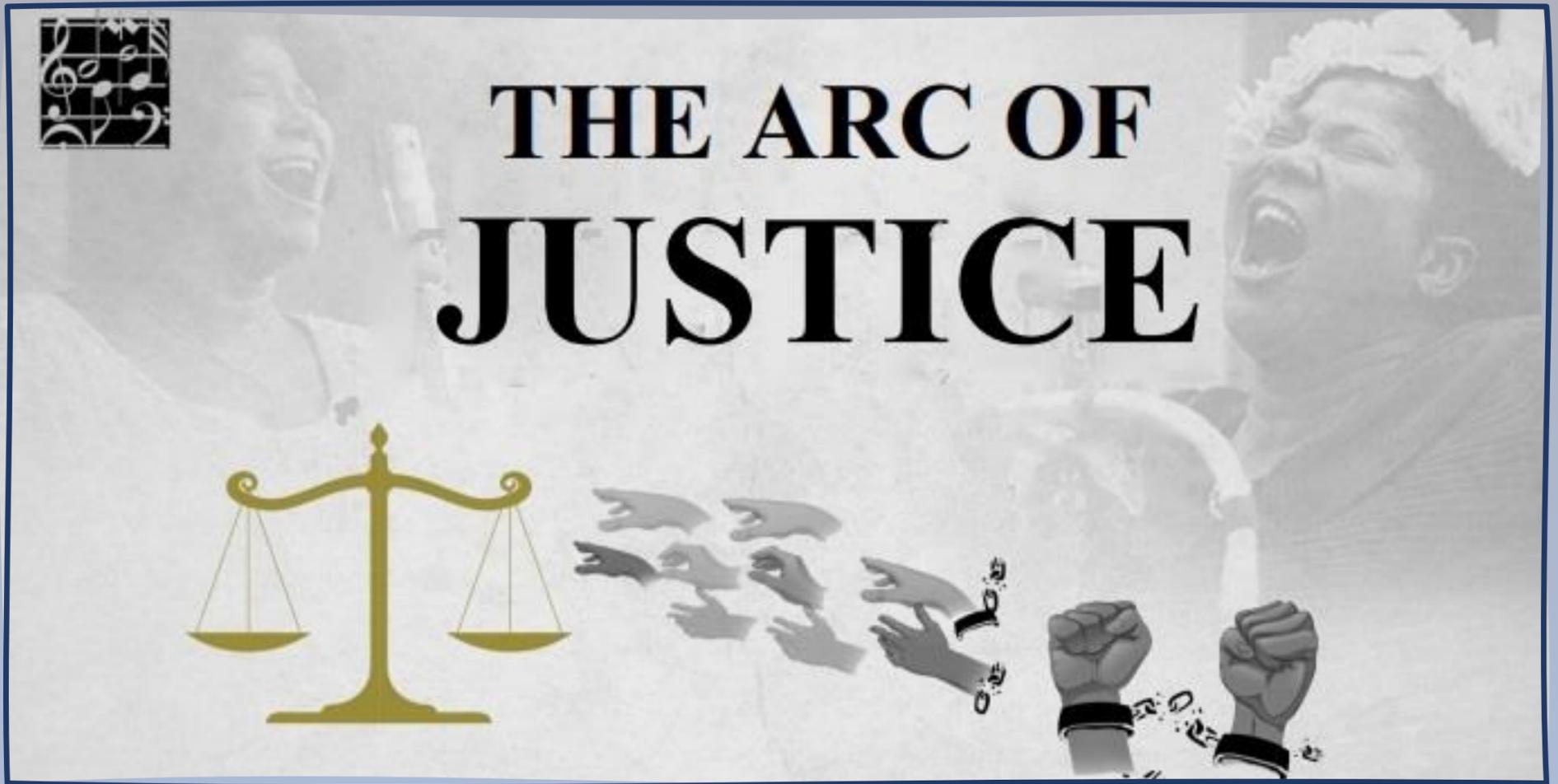




Teaneck Community Chorus

Steven Bell, Artistic Director

Presents:

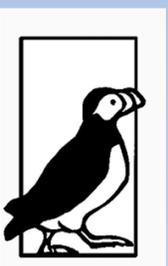


**A Virtual Concert
with a live Talk Back**

June 27, 2021 @ 4:00 PM



This program has been made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



This program has been sponsored in part by a grant from the Puffin Foundation, Ltd.



The Arc of Justice

A Virtual Concert

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Producer	Marisa DiPaolo
Video Editor	Rich Kronenberg
2 nd Video Editor	Harrold Edgar
Audio Editors	Reggie Bennett Daniel Stocker Wes Matsui Steven Bell
Web Master	Laura Downs-Buma
Graphics	Shara Bennett, Simone Graphics

Greetings from the Chorus President

My name is Gail Smith, president of the Teaneck Community Chorus. I hope you are enjoying our second virtual concert, The Arc of Justice. After all of the challenges of the 2020 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the protest movement it sparked, members of the chorus, particularly those on the music committee, felt we needed to acknowledge things in a meaningful way. Thus, we began a thoughtful exploration of the subjects of justice, equality and freedom and the feelings it evokes, and how to convey these feelings through music. This project was somewhat personal for me, and I spent a long time thinking about how to proceed. I wanted to illustrate or express that what I was feeling in 2021 was the same as what my ancestors felt in the 60's, 30's, 1800's on back to the 1700's; and confronting the reality that Jim Crowe wasn't totally gone...(it was still present).

As we began to formulate this concert, I thought about Ben Duster. Benjamin Duster was my neighbor for ten years in Chicago, IL. He was a founding member of the National Black MBA Association, an attorney and the grandson of Ida B Wells. I had the pleasure of participating in one of his workshops at a Black MBA conference. His presentation was titled, "The Game is the Same, Only the Players are Different." And based on recent events... from the political nonsense following the 2020 presidential election, to the storming of the Capital in January 2021 and the current efforts to make it more difficult for many of our citizens to vote, it seems that there is an attempt to bend the Arc of Justice away from freedom,...historically, the same game.

Ben Duster's theory reflects a part of my view of the cry for freedom and justice and perhaps explains why reaching equality is so slow. If you listen to the words across a century of music, you hear the pain of the struggle and yet the hope of achievement. The American Dream is real if we only let it be so.

As we reflect on the music and the messages of this concert, I would like to thank the members of the Teaneck Community Chorus who continued to commit to uniting communities together through music. It was a challenging year, but we made it through together! I so appreciate your embracing this theme with your whole hearts! Once again, your videos

Greetings (cont.)

made the concert successful and I appreciate your perseverance. We hope that our next season will be live and in person, and I can't wait to see you all again!

To the TCC board members who supported the planning and execution of this project, thank you!

Hats off once again to our Music Committee, led by Wes Matsui, and thank you to the Publicity Committee, led by Jack Aaker.

Thank you to Shara Bennett of Simone Graphics for the work on our poster and program graphics, and to Laura Downs-Buma who updates our website each year and who helped us keep the technological dots connected for this concert!

We were fortunate to have several guest artists participate in this concert. First, to Mr. Reginald (Reggie) Bennett. Words cannot express how much your participation in this concert has meant. Not only did you work behind the scenes as part of the audio editing team, but you used your voice in such a significant way. Your singing, interpretation and additional words to Glory, brought tears to my eyes!

To the Garden State Choral Chapter led by Director Rick Greene. I always love hearing you sing and cherish the opportunities I have to sing with you! And to Rick, I have been blessed to have worked with you on a variety of music productions from Black Sunn, to Purlie to gospel choirs, (this being the third). You still have one of the most powerful singing voices I have ever heard! Hopefully, our collaborations will continue on for many more years to come! TCC would like to thank you for bringing in some of the updated versions of our classic songs, and of course for rounding out our sound and enhancing the gospel sounds in Bergen County! Thank you to Samuel Tolbert of Sound of Joy, for playing so beautifully on "Lift Every Voice and Sing", "We Shall Overcome" and "People Are Beautiful". To all of the GSCC singers, thank you for your enthusiastic participation in this concert. All of you have made this event more special with your unique sounds and we are so happy that you shared your talents with us

Greetings (cont.)

Our audio team, Daniel Stocker, Reggie Bennet, Wes Matsui and Steven Bell did a wonderful job of taking our individual recordings and consolidating them into one audio song track. Once again you made us sound like a chorus

To the production team of Marisa DiPaolo and Rich Kronenberg, who took the combined audio tracks and the videos, put them together along with some background graphics and information and made us look not only like a chorus, but produced a polished finished product, THANK YOU!! ! Thank you to Harold Edgar of Wundertwins Productions for his work on creating the video experience to “People Are Beautiful”.

I would like to say a special thank you to our signer Juliette Bowen, and our pianist Daniel Stocker. Once again you have been instrumental in helping us achieve a higher connection to our audience. And to our Artistic Director, Steven Bell, Thank you Steve for your leadership; continuing to push ahead whether it was on audio editing, virtual rehearsals or just encouraging us through our complaining and woes. Hopefully, we complained a little less this time! We appreciate all that you do and especially thank you for your patience in guiding us through this process.

None of this would be possible without you, our audience, patrons, and supporters of the chorus. Thank you for going on this journey with us. We look forward to the day when we can see you, shake your hands and chat face to face about music, life, love and community!

Visit our website at www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org, and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Teaneck-Community-Chorus-105307001058>, for information and updates about our events. Please consider donating to the chorus as we strive to continue to meet our mission of diversity and unity in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gail S. Smith

The Arc of Justice

Program Order

Lift Every Voice and Sing

**John Rosamond Johnson /
James Weldon Johnson,
arr. Kirk Franklin**

Combined Choirs

Blackbird

**Lennon / McCartney,
arr. Brymer**

A Change is Gonna Come

Sam Cooke, arr. Althouse

Gail Smith, Solo

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free

**Taylor / Dallas,
arr. Bremer**

People Are Beautiful

Clinton Utterbach

*Garden State Choral Chapter
Summer Lewis, Solo*

I Know Where I've Been

**Marc Shaiman /
Scott Wittman**

Gail Smith, Solo

Glory

**Stephens / Lynn / Smith,
arr. Brymer**

Reggie Bennett, Solo

Strange Fruit

**Lewis Allan,
arr. Boerger/Bell**

Make Them Hear You

**Flaherty & Ahrens,
arr. Funk**

We Shall Overcome

**arranged for Bishop Paul S.
Morton and the Greater St.
Stephen Mass Choir**

Combined Choirs

Artistic Director – Steven Bell

Steven L. Bell has been the Artistic Director of the Teaneck Community Chorus since 2000. He recently retired as the Director of Vocal Music at Teaneck High School where he conducted the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, and award-winning Madrigal



Singers. He also served as the Instructional Leader of the Teaneck High School Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

He taught AP Music Theory and was the Director and Musical Director of the school's annual musical. He had also taught Choral Methods at Montclair State University. Previously he taught music at Leonia Middle School, the Dwight School in Manhattan, and elementary and junior high schools in Teaneck. In his role as Musical Director, Mr. Bell has been nominated four times as Outstanding High School Musical Director by the Papermill Playhouse's Rising Star Awards and has won this distinction in 2004 for his production of Company at Fair Lawn High School.

Chorus Pianist – Daniel Stocker



Daniel Stocker joined the Teaneck Community Chorus as its pianist in its 2019-2020 season. He is currently on staff at Porch Light Studio, Stage and Schools (Glen Rock, NJ) as music director where he teaches private voice lessons and music directs a number of musical theater productions. His favorite credits at Porch Light include: Into the Woods, Matilda, and The 57th National Mathlete Sum-It. Daniel is also a member of the music ministry at St. Mary's R.C. Church in Pompton Lakes, NJ.

The virtual TCC season saw Daniel take on additional responsibilities within the chorus, including audio editing and mixing a number of songs in Bagpipes, Banjos and Songs (Winter 2021) and The Arc of Justice (Spring 2021).

He earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at Boston University under the instruction of Dr. Linda Jiorle-Nagy, and graduated cum laude in May 2019.

Guest Artists

Rick Greene

and

The Garden State
Choral Chapter



Rick Greene is a lifelong resident of Teaneck NJ and developed a love for gospel music at an early age singing in church and community choirs in the local and surrounding areas. He is a co-founder of the Teaneck High School Gospel Choir and founder of The Master's Children an ensemble of talented youth and young adults from Bergen and Passaic counties. Rick is the former Minister of Music at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Community Baptist Church both of Englewood NJ.

Rick joined the Garden State Choral Chapter (GSCC) in 1980 under the direction of George M. Stuart and became one of the directors and soloists. He is currently serving as the director of GSCC and serves as National Assistant Youth Supervisor for the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses of which Garden State is a member. GSCC has recorded 3 cd's under his direction and toured Italy extensively spreading the Gospel. GSCC's theme "It's more than music...it's ministry" has also become his motto.

Reginald Bennett



Reggie Bennett is a highly regarded creative artist and music educator, whose blend of diverse genres carries a special distinction among his peers. A native of Beacon, New York, Mr. Bennett offers a unique repertoire of Art Song, Arias, American Songbook, Hip Hop, and Art Rap, an original fusion of hip hop and art song. Mr. Bennett strongly believes in the unifying and transformative power of fine arts

education and extends his talents to the classroom, where he has an established career in teaching music to diverse learners, including those with special needs. Mr. Bennett will release a project this year on his newly formed record label, Good Society Recordings. Mr. Bennett holds a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance from The Boston Conservatory and a Master of Music Education degree from New York University,

Juliette Bowen

Juliette Bowen is a Sign Language Interpreter, who has won the hearts of the Teaneck Community Chorus audiences for over ten years. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hofstra University, a Master's of Education in School Counseling, Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx, NY and a Master's of Education in General and Special Education, Touro College, New York. She is fluent in Spanish, English, and American Sign Language.



She currently works with multi-handicapped, autistic, blind emotionally disturbed, deaf, and severely learning-disabled students in NYC. Her first experience with the deaf and hard of hearing was when she was approached to add these students to her caseload while counseling in Valhalla, NY. Juliette did not shrink back but willingly accepted the challenge and decided to provide equal access to these students by learning their language. She began working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in 1994 and later counseled and taught at the Lexington School for the Deaf, Queens, NY. She currently interprets for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Clinton Hills, Brooklyn, as well as Trinity Baptist Church in the Bronx.

Teaneck Community Chorus

**Artistic Director
Steven Bell**

**Pianist
Daniel Stocker**

**Drummer
Larry Silverman**

Singers

Jack Aaker

Elena Gil

elmira Nazombe

Winnie Asa-Awuku

Cynthia Jacobs

Ellen Ray

Steven Bell

Judy Mars

Gail Smith

Anita Bluestone

Diana Martinez

Daniel Stocker

Zesarae Bodie

Wes Matsui

Nadege Stretz

Diana Fainberg

Dominick
Mastrodonato

Eileen White

Jeremy Fletcher

Patrick Montesano

Fern Wilensky

Garden State Choral Chapter

**Artistic Director
Rick Greene**

**Pianist
Samuel Tolbert**

Singers

Tanazia Arnold

Lynda Hayes

Ingrid Parker

Jerry Aultman

Vannette John

Helena Pierce

Jay Bradley

Janice Johnson

Sherray Robinson

Lacretia Burgess

Jerome Johnson

Regina Rodriguez

Loryn Cauthen

Tangy Major

Yvette Roland

Kadisha Grant

Keisha McLean

Adam Sawyer

Rick Greene

Saalim McLean

Terri Smith

Ashala Harrison

Kia Miller

Toni Sumler

Patrons

Founder's Circle

(\$1000+)

Elena Matsui

Wes & Mary Matsui

Director's Circle

(\$500-\$999)

Jack & Margaret Aaker

Gary Ostroff and Ellen Ray

Fern Wilensky

Benefactors

(\$250-\$499)

Suzanne & Serhat Akiska

Steven Bell

Jean & Paul Friedman

Ramon & Elena Gil Gina

Mannix & Patrick Montesano

Gary Ostroff & Ellen Ray

Nadege Stretz

Patrons

Friends

(\$100-\$249)

Donation In Memory of Jo Robbins

Winnie Asa Awuku

Anita Bluestone

Evelyn Wolff and Chuck Ebert

Rhonda Eisenberg

Diana Fainberg

Anita Faulding

Debbie Feldman

Ilene and Jim Gilbert

Ginger Gordon

Peggy Hannis

Barbara Ito

Cynthia and Larry Jacobs

Jacqueline Kates

Richard Kronenberg

Theodora Lacey

David Lyon

Judy Mars

Diana Martinez

Barrie Peterson

Gail Smith

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Samuel N. Ray

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Flora Smith

Mark Smith

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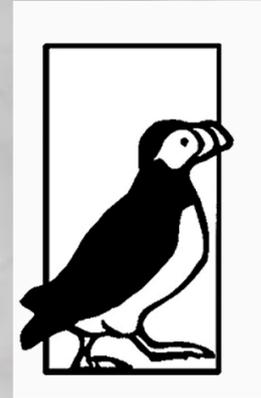
Susan White

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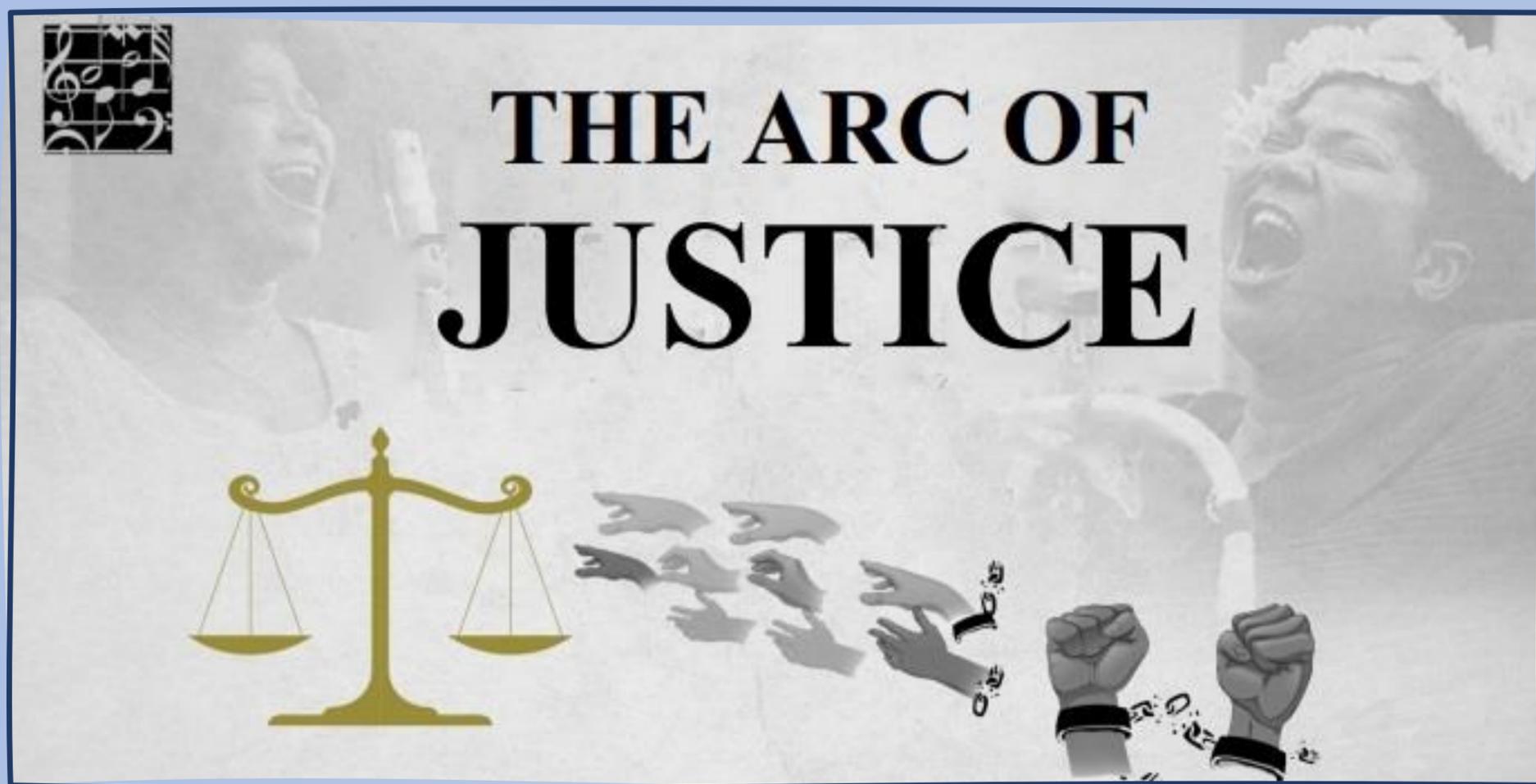
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*WAWA ABA – meaning: strength & perseverance



Teaneck Community Chorus



Thank you for sharing this day with us!

**Updates and information about TCC
will be posted on**

www.teaneckcommunitychorus.org

And

<https://www.facebook.com/Teaneck-Community-Chorus-105307001058>