



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

## FEBRUARY 2007

# Challenger

## Red Party

Saturday, February 17  
7:30 PM to 11:00 PM

Steve and Ken have invited us again this year to their beautiful home in Newtown Square for a party. Put together your best entree and get on over here. Wear something **RED** (hence the name of the party). See you there.

See directions on page 4

### FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Well we're into 2007 and getting busy. The anniversary committee is working on plans for our 26th anniversary. It'll be May 4, 5 and 6. The Saturday night dinner will be a 10 course Chinese banquet. The afternoon workshop will be at Temple under Equality Forum's auspices. Further, there'll be a Theatre of Understanding on immigration.

Our general meetings have had interesting topics and speakers. Last month's included a participant in the U of P gene therapy program and a powerpoint presentation on all the current developments in HIV/AIDS vaccines (see story on page 4). Future topics will include 'Dolph speaking on the WWCC and in April a joint presentation on violence.

Can you be one of the Sat. volunteers on March 10 to help spruce up the William Way Center?

Also, later in March the American Cancer Society is selling daffodils and is looking for people to help.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR CHAPTER LEADERSHIP!!**

Don't forget about this summer's convention in Cleveland.

Aaron

**Hi this is Stevie...** Well here we are again, another article for the newsletter. I hope everyone is well and keeping warm now that it is finally getting cold out. Let me tell you what is happening with the group. We have one new member this month, his name is Ronald S. That brings the membership up to 57. Membership this month is going slow. I guess the weather has something to do with that. For the new members we'll have a lot more by November when you have your welcoming party.

Jerry and Al say they want to make some changes in the website, we are still in the PGN and there is a new magazine out called HX Philadelphia and we are in that also. We are showing up at the 12<sup>th</sup> AirCommand for the Jaded Lounge. All that gives the group exposure. Publicity is going well but could

See STEVIE on page 3

IN CELEBRATION OF  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

### Did you know?

Joshua Johnson was the first black painter to win recognition in America. Born a slave; he lived and worked in the Baltimore Maryland area. An advertisement in the Baltimore intelligencer on December 19, 1798 described Johnson as a "self-taught genius".

James Conway Farley of Richmond, VA was the first black American to gain recognition as a photographer. He won first prize at the Colored Industrial Fair in Richmond in 1884 and a premium at the New Orleans World Exposition in 1885, where he exhibited with white photographers.

Fredrick Douglas Patterson was the first black

See HISTORY on page 4

# Membership Application

If you are not a member of MACT/Philadelphia, why not join us?

Please fill out and mail this form to:  
 MACT/Philadelphia, PO Box 42257, Philadelphia, PA 19101  
 Make check payable to **MACT/Philadelphia**

**Take a \$5 discount on full year membership when you become a member of the NABWMT**

Renewal / Full year – couple  \$45 – individual  \$30 (July 1 through June 30)  
 Individual (10/1 – 6/30)  \$22.50 – Individual (1/1 – 6/30)  \$15  
 Individual (3/1 – 6/30)  \$7.50

Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Second Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Of couple (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthday (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Periodically we use images of our members in the newsletter and on our website.  
 Please indicate below your willingness to allow these images to be used.

**Group Picture YES / NO      Single Picture YES / NO**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Unless checked  applicant's name will be added to our Membership directory that is sent to all MACT/P members.

Members are encouraged to join one or more committees.  
 Please circle your committee choices

**Membership ♦ Rap/CR ♦ Social ♦ Newsletter ♦  
 Political Action ♦ Health Education**

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia, is a gay multiracial, multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial, social and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia, engages in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, heterosexism, HIV/AIDS, ageism, ableism, classism, and other inequities in our communities and in our lives.

# Happy Birthday

Jim S.	02/14	Irwin S.	02/15
Ken H.	02/22	Freddie T.	02/24
Roger T.	02/27		

A new year,  
 a new Congress,  
 a new opportunity  
 to repeal  
**"Don't Ask, Don't Tell!"**

Join Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) for its biggest Lobby Day yet! There are three ways to get involved:

- **Ground Forces:** Raise visibility on Capitol Hill with one powerful day of action! Spend Monday March 26 making an impact with visits to Congressional offices and a rally for

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal. Ground Forces registration cost is \$10 (\$5 for students) and covers lobbying training, breakfast, and a t-shirt.

- **Leadership Track:** Step up your activism with a high-powered role in SLDN's Lobby Day! Leaders will receive in-depth training on Sunday March 25, will lead visits to Congressional offices with delegations of Ground Forces participants on Monday March 26, and will meet with key Members of Congress on Tuesday March 27. Leadership Track registration cost is \$50 and covers in-depth training, food, and a t-shirt.
- **Advocate from Home:** You can still help SLDN urge Congress to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" even if you can't make it to Washington for Lobby Day. Stay tuned for details on ways to advocate for change from home.

**Join SLDN for Lobby Day and send Congress a clear message: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has to go!**

**Contact:** Jill Raney, Grassroots Organizer, 202-328-3244 x103



**The Jaded Lounge**  
**Friday**  
**February 09**  
**at 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**AirCommand**  
**10:00 PM**  
**to 1:00 AM**

Jaded Lounge is the gay Asian party experience of Philadelphia. It's an event for gay Asian men and their supporters. It's a mix of dancing, entertainment mixed with education and just a place to connect with friends or make new ones.

STEVIE continued from page 1

always be better. I want the members to talk about the group.

Thank you Aaron and Ron for the wonderful discussion we had at the January General Meeting. It was really interesting hearing about what happened to Jeff J. with his gene therapy and Edd from AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) was quite interesting with the seminar he gave on AIDS vaccines. We are keeping in touch with both of them for future discussions. I'm going to ask the to do a Theatre of Understanding. Because as we know, racism is in everything. We're going to get AVAC and MACT/NY together because networking is also important. More thank you's to Jerry Winokur for a wonderful time at his house. We always have a good time going there. Remember if anybody wants to have a pot luck be sure to contact the Steering Committee the number are on the back page of the newsletter and in the directory. We have some real good discussion coming up in our General Meetings. We use to have a thing called CR's which stand for Consciousness Rising sessions. Which was a classy way of saying Rap session. Every month there was a subject. They were about everything and anything and they were wonderful but because of time, stress and members lives they disappeared. We scheduled them and nobody showed up. So we canceled them. I think about three years ago at a pot luck we just started talking, I think it was about marriage and voting. Anyway it came up again at a General Meeting and after that we've been having guess speakers, mini-seminars, movies and wonderful discussions. William Way has had to put us out because we ran over time. So now there back and they have been wonderful. Thank you for bringing these discussions back. We have lots of things to talk about. For example – what about elections in this organization. Do you want to be Co-chair? Secretary? Treasurer? Or do you want to be on a committee? We would like to have a Social chair and a Political chair. I would like to have more phone tree people. This is what we need right now.

As far as social, I would like to see us plan some day trips - like going to New York for example. Or going to the Baltimore Aquarium. Thinking about aquariums, what about the one in Camden, New Jersey. I mean wouldn't that be a good idea? We already have a tradition, we go to New York every June. Thousands of people, music, fireworks, men galore and wonderful fun. It would be nice to go just with our group, the New York group and our friends. Because that's one thing about our events you can always bring a date of you want to. I want you guys to think about that. Here's the question – What kind of interesting place can MACT Philadelphia go to? We have members all over the area. For example, I live in Norristown and there is a Museum and a zoo here. You probable have interesting places to see in your area. Send me some ideas.

I'm going to ask you all to do something. We need your support in everything that we do. March is coming up and we are volunteering at William Way. Corbett is organizing that. There will be more news about that in the March newsletter. We have Theatre of Understandings coming up. Please make it to one of them. Other things we do that need your support are thing like for camping trips, beach trips, gay pride, pot lucks, protesting, and anything else that we do. Like I have said before there is always something you can do. This is why we have so many events. The Steering Committee does a very good job in putting things together. So now I'm talk in to the new members. If you were wondering about any of these events call or e-mail me and I can tell you about it. The best way is to see it for yourself. There isn't one thing that's more important than something else. It's all important. Let me repeat – our educational, political, cultural, supportive and social sides are all important. I try to make things as clear as possible so there is no confusion.

The anniversary committee is working hard on the anniversary and it's exciting. I can't wait. I'll talk more about that later too. Are you going to convention this year? They're wonderful too. After 26 years we developed a lot of traditions as well as friendship. The community is growing and changing and that's exciting. Please be a part of it. I hope to see you all at the next event and I hope you all stay healthy and happy and like I always say – stay positive and stay strong. Stevie

**Don't miss our General Meeting on Friday, February 16 at 7:30 PM, when we will have as our special guest 'Dolph Goldenburg the Executive Director of WWCC.**

**ADDITIONS NEW MEMBER  
 To the 2007 Directory**

Addition – Ronald E. Shelton  
 3000 West Master Street, #401  
 Philadelphia, PA 19121  
 Phone – 215-765-2346

DIRECTIONS to Steve and Ken's place.

From Phila. go west on West Chester Pike to Newtown Square. (Or, From the Blue Route intersection of the West Chester Pike 4 mi. W.) Go to the intersection of 252, go thru this stoplight and the next one, and then you will see a flashing yellow light, keep to the left and you will see a white picket fence on the right. Go about 3 blocks, on the right you will see a blue sign "Library" with an arrow pointing left. Turn Left here (Ellis) and make a Right at the second street (Chestnut). Follow this to the end 6 blocks, turn right, go 2 blocks, around the bend and the 2nd house on the right is 221 Hickory. Parking is on the street or in our parking area. From our house we can see the West Chester Pike.

From West Chester on the West Chester Pike as you approach Newtown Square, you pass a small shopping center (Genuardis) go up the hill to a stop light with SAP America on the left and Hill Auto sales and a gazebo place on the right. Turn right at the next street (College) go to Main (or Chestnut) make a right, go all the way to the end, make a right, go around the bend and 221 Hickory is the 2nd house on the right

Address: 221 Hickory Lane, Newtown Square  
Phone: 610-355-0832



Founded in 1995, the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) is a non-profit, community- and consumer-based organization that uses public education, policy analysis, advocacy and community mobilization to accelerate the ethical development and global delivery of AIDS vaccines and other HIV prevention options.

AVAC's publications and continuous policy, advocacy, education and outreach work is made possible by the dedicated labor of AVAC advocates and support from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the Ford Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, Until There's a Cure Foundation®, the WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative, UNAIDS, and many generous individuals who have become AVAC Members.

#### About AVAC

Founded in 1995, the non-profit AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) seeks to create a favorable policy and social environment for accelerated ethical research and eventual global delivery of AIDS vaccines as part of a comprehensive response to the pandemic. This work is guided by the following principles:

- Translate complex scientific ideas to communities AND translate community needs and perceptions to the scientific community.
- Manage expectations.
- Hold agencies accountable for accelerating ethical research and development.

See AVAC on page 5

HISTORY continued from page 1

to manufacture cars. Between 1915 and 1919 Patterson built some thirty Greenfield-Patterson cars in Greenfield Ohio. The car reportedly had a forty horsepower Continental four-cylinder engine and reached a top speed of 50 mph. There were two models, a roadster and a big four-door touring car – both sold for \$850.00

In 1953 James Del Rio was the first black licensed mortgage banker in the United States and established one of the first black mortgage companies in the country. Del Rio was a successful real estate broker in Detroit; he later served for eight years in the Michigan Legislature until 1973, when he became a Detroit Recorder's Court Judge.

In 1957 the first black producer of network television programs at NBC was George E. Norford, he had also been the only black correspondent on the staff of the Army weekly magazine "Yank" during World War II. Born in New York City, Norford studied journalism and playwriting at Columbia University and attended the new school for social research.

In 1959 Count William Basie was the first black man to win a Grammy. He also was the first black from the United States to have a band give a command performance before Queen Elizabeth II.

Dr. Patricia Bath, ophthalmologic surgeon, inventor and activist for patient's rights. Born in Harlem, N.Y., in 1942. In 1981 Bath conceived the idea for the invention that made her famous – the Laserphaco Probe. It's a surgical tool that uses a laser to vaporize cataracts via a tiny, one-millimeter insertion into a patient's eye. After using the Laserphaco Probe to remove a cataract, the patient's lens can be removed and a replacement lens inserted.

In 1984 Air Atlanta became the first major black-owned airline and was considered a major success for black business. It's founder, Michael Mollis then age twenty-nine, raised over \$45 million to launch the airline. The company had four hundred employees and a fleet of five rebuilt Boeing 727-1000 jets. It served Atlanta, New York, Miami and Memphis.

Radio One, founded by Catherine "Cathy" Liggins Hughes became the first company headed by a black women to be traded on the stock exchange. The company went public in May 1999 and is the largest black-owned and operated broadcast company in America.

In 2002 artist Simmie Knox was the first black artist to paint the official portrait of U.S. President, that of Bill Clinton. Knox won the commission just before Clinton left office in January 2001.

**February may have been designated as Black History Month by the US government but every day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments of men and women of American decent.**



**The William Way Community Center**  
FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY

## WWCC Event

**Legislative Update 2007**  
**Thursday, February 1, 7:00 PM**

Join us for an evening of political discussion, let your voice be heard and get the insider scoop from those who promote LGBT inclusive legislation. Discussion and Presentations by State Representative Babette Josephs, 182nd District; Stacey L. Sobel, Esq., Executive Director, Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights; and Larry Frankel, Esq., Legislative Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania

AVAC continued from page 4

- Expand international partnerships to ensure local relevance and a global movement.
- Ensure that policy and advocacy are based on thorough research and evidence.
- Build coalitions, working groups and think tanks for specific issues.
- Develop and widely disseminate high-quality, user-friendly materials.

AVAC currently focuses in four priority areas:

1. Develop and advocate for policy options to facilitate the expeditious and ethical development, introduction and use of AIDS vaccines and other new prevention technologies.
2. Ensure that rights and interests of trial participants, eventual users and communities are fully represented and respected in the scientific, product development, clinical trial and access processes.
3. Monitor the AIDS vaccine field and mobilize political, financial and community support for AIDS vaccine research as part of a comprehensive response.
4. Build an informed, action-oriented global coalition of civil society and community-based organizations exchanging information and experiences.

## T-Shirts

The MACT Philadelphia Steering Committee is planning to make T-shirts this year both for fund-raising and to raise awareness. If you would like to submit a design please contact either Corbett Klein (609-530-1726) or Nate O'Neal (215-848-8532). Your creativity is needed and appreciated!

## MALE CIRCUMCISION AND HIV INFECTION

Notes from Jeff Keith

This is a follow-up to one part of the long, excellent lecture we had at our General Meeting in January.

Today I surfed around on the Internet looking for articles on the subject of whether circumcising males cuts down their risk of getting HIV infection. Needless to say, the debate is fierce. Many people in the US are for circumcision, and a lot of British and other people are against it. Practically everybody brings strong biases to the discussion. There is a definite risk that men could get the impression that becoming circumcised would mean that they couldn't contract HIV at all, which of course is false and would have tragic consequences.

I couldn't find any of the original research studies to read. They were all in medical journals that wanted money, like around \$30 sometimes, to let you see the article on the Internet. One of the main articles is as follows: Agot, KE, Kiarie JN, & others: "Male Circumcision in Siaya and Bondo Districts, Kenya..." (Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Jan. 1, 2007, pp. 66-70).

The Edd from AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) who made the presentation at our General Meeting was quick to say that this is a wonderful new finding.

I am not a medical worker or even a statistician, so I'm not in the same league as the AVAC. My work writing a medical dictionary involves reading many medical articles and trying to put information in simpler language for lay people. Also, I have my own biases about this subject. I am against routine circumcision of males. My attitude toward these studies is, "It could be true, but I hope it isn't" [that circumcising males cuts down their risk of getting HIV infection].

There are three big African studies in question, two done partly by the US government's NIH (in Kenya along with Canadian and Kenyan researchers, and in Uganda along with Ugandan researchers) and the third one in South Africa. I am suspicious of studies funded by the US, since the majority of the medical establishment here believes that routine male circumcision is just fine "no problem." The best (most balanced) short summary of the research that I found was on the website of the World Health Organization, an article called "Statement on Kenyan and Ugandan Trial Findings."

A British research article from 1999 (that is, before these trials were done) is flatly contradictory of the later ones and found that circumcising males increased their risk of contracting HIV. That article (needless to say) is quoted all over the Internet by people who oppose circumcision of males.

I had better not say more, because I am only a layperson. I printed out several of the articles, if anyone wants to see them, or you can go on the Internet yourselves.

# FEBRUARY 2007

- Friday 01**      **Town Meeting at WWCC**  
 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
 See details on page 5
- Friday 02**      **Steering Committee Meeting**  
 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
 at Nate's house
- Friday 09**      **The Jaded Lounge**  
 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM  
 See page 3 for details
- Friday 16**      **General Meeting at WWCC**  
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
 Special guest – 'Dolph Goldenburg  
 The Executive Director of William Way LGBT Community Center
- Saturday 17**    **The RED Party Pot Luck**  
 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM  
 at Ken and Steve's house  
 See details on page 1 and directions on page 4

# MARCH 2007

- Friday 02**  
 Steering Committee meeting  
 at Art & Stevie's house  
 7:30 to 9:00 PM
- Friday 09**  
 The Jaded Lounge  
 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM
- Saturday 10**  
 Volunteer to work at WWCC  
 We are going to help with sprucing up **OUR** Community Center  
 It's a little hard work for a great cause  
 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Friday 16**  
 General Meeting  
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM

## COMING EVENTS

### Theatre of Understandings

**April 7 at UPenn & May 26 at WWCC... Topic – Immigration as a whole and how it effect the LGBTQ communities**  
**May 5 at Equality Forum... Topic – The Queer Agenda: Creating Our Own Table and Solutions**

[Watch the newsletter for more details](#)

### Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

PO Box 42257  
 Philadelphia, PA 19101  
 2006-2007 STEERING COMMITTEE

- Co-chairs
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Aaron Libson | 215-455-6038 |
| Nate O'Neal  | 215-848-8532 |
- Recording Secretary  
 Call Aaron if your interested
- Corresponding Secretary
- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Ron Cropper | 215-806-5016 |
|-------------|--------------|
- Treasurer
- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Corbett Klein | 609-530-1726 |
|---------------|--------------|
- NA Reps.
- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Nate O'Neal   | 215-848-8532 |
| Corbett Klein | 609-530-1726 |
- Social Chair  
 Steering Committee
- Political Action  
 Steering Committee
- Membership Chair
- |                       |              |
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| Stevie Martin-Chester | 610-277-6595 |
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- Newsletter Editor
- |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Arthur Martin-Chester | 610-277-6595 |
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- Members-At-Large
- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| George Harris | 215-875-8086       |
| Sam Fisher    | 215-542-8665       |
| Lenny Stanton | Relay 800-654-5988 |
|               | 215-222-5035       |
| Bob Hooks     | 215-223-1688       |
| Patrick Lewis | 302-762-6166       |

Email address:  
[ajmartin-chester@juno.com](mailto:ajmartin-chester@juno.com)  
 Web site:  
<http://www.mactphila.org>

Hello, is this the Sheriff's Office?  
 Yes. What can I do for you?  
 I'm calling to report 'bout my neighbor Virgil Smith ... He's hidin' marijuana inside his firewood! Don't quite know how he gets it inside them logs, but he's hiddin' it there.  
 Thank you very much for the call, sir.  
 The next day, the Sheriff's Deputies descend on Virgil's home. They search the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they bust open every piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They sneer at Virgil and leave. Shortly, the phone rings at Virgil's house. Hey, Virgil! This here's Floyd ... did the Sheriff come?  
 Yeah!  
 Did they chop your firewood?  
 Yep!  
 Happy Birthday, buddy!  
 (Rednecks know how to Git-R-Dun!)