



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

## February 2008

# Challenger

A Gay Multiracial Organization for All People – Now Celebrating 26 Years

## The **RED** Party Pot Luck Saturday, February 16 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM



at Ken and Steve's Home

Put on a little RED, put together your best dish to share and get on over to Ken and Steve's for great time. See directions on page 4



## ASIAC Invites You To A Lunar New Year Banquet

Joy Tsin Lau Restaurant  
1026 Race Street  
in Chinatown, Philadelphia  
Saturday, February 9, 2008  
6:00PM to 11:00PM

Help us celebrate the Lunar New Year by getting together with old and new friends, chasing away the bad from the previous year, and welcoming what is good in the coming year.

This year's event features a:

- 10 Course Asian Banquet
- Silent Auction
- Raffle
- Cash Bar

Proceeds to the event raises funds to support ASIAC's programs.

Aaron has reserved a table, please call him at 215-455-6038 to reserve your place at this event  
Cost is \$40.00 per person

## Hi this is Stevie... Now it's

February and we are getting closer to spring, one of my favorite seasons and I feel wonderful and I hope you all feel that way too. We have a lot of good things coming up this month and we did a lot of good things last month. Last months General Meeting went very well. As you all know, PFLAG came to talk to us. Three members of PFLAG showed up and talked to us about the group. You all know what PFLAG is right? It's the organization that deals and celebrates Parents & Families of Lesbians and Gays. One of the speakers talked about her transgender child. I think she said female to male. Those of you who were there, can correct me if I'm wrong. They gave out booklets and bumper stickers. They have four new publications and they are *Opening The Straight Spouses Closet*, *Our Daughters And Sons*, *Faith in Our Families* and *Our Trans Children*, some are even in Spanish. It's all interesting reading. We had questions and answers and some of our members talked about their coming out process and how it effected their families. I talked about my family and mentioned that I didn't really come out. My being gay meant nothing to my family. I was always level headed and real mature for my age. I told the story about my grandfather. We were on a bus talking about this guy that was calling me all the time. My grandfather met him, we had dinner and he took me dancing and stuff like that. And when I wasn't home, grandpa took messages. His name was Tommy. I said, grandpa Tommy is in love with me and he is trying to be my boyfriend, you know what this means, it means I'm gay. He looked me right in the eyes with no response. So I repeated myself and still no response. I said, "Maybe you didn't hear me" and his answer was, "So is there a problem," to my surprise. He told me that he just wanted me to be happy. My grandparents were the ones who raised me and my sister because my mother and father died. I often wonder how I would be if they had raised me. I probably wouldn't be any different

See STEVIE 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

Irwin S.	02/15	Ken H.	02/22
Freddie T.	02/24	John McN.	02/25
Roger T.	02/27		

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.



Who was Octavius V. Catto? In many respects, Catto was a renaissance man... capable in many arenas, as well as a natural leader. However, as an African American, he continually hit the wall of racism. He strove to break that barrier. Read about him in the March newsletter



PFLAG – Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gay - is a national organization which celebrates diversity and works towards a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and

gender identities. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends, through support, education and advocacy.

PFLAG Philadelphia was founded in 1981 and remains a “safe haven” where parents, children, families and friends have found support and information. For more information go to their web site at [www.pflagphila.org](http://www.pflagphila.org)

## GIOVANNI'S ROOM

345 South 12th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
at 12th & Pine Sts.  
in Philly's "Gayborhood"

Expert staff and millions of books!  
Join our emailing list and receive

monthly bestseller lists and announcements of store events.

We will arrange to have books autographed for you.

"I always check in with Giovanni's Room before I purchase a book anywhere else", Stevie says.

We can find out-of-print books too.

A Giovanni's Room gift certificate is good for mail order as well as for store purchases.

America's World-Class Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Bookstore for Queers & Our Friends

Mail order: 1145 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107

Tel: 215/923-2960

Fax: 215-923-0813

[giovannis\\_room@verizon.net](mailto:giovannis_room@verizon.net)

### A Giovanni's Room Event Sunday, February 24, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Thomas Wirth (a member of MACT/NY)

Editor of Richard Bruce Nugent's novel, *Gentleman Jigger: A Novel of the Harlem Renaissance* (Da Capo, \$18 pb).

Mr. Wirth will combine a reading with a presentation about "Bruce Nugent and the Gay Male Presence in the Harlem Renaissance". Edited by Tom Wirth and with a foreword by Arnold Rampersad, this vivid roman a clef of the Harlem Renaissance, written by an eyewitness, is being posthumously published by Da Capo Press more than 70 years after it was written. Join us in honoring Nugent and witnessing the emergence of a new dimension of Harlem Renaissance history.

Go to [www.giovannisroom.com](http://www.giovannisroom.com) for the full schedule of events

### RESEARCHING YOUR AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY

at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia. Wednesday, February 13, 2008 (5:30 PM to 8:00 PM), Tony Burroughs will present a program entitled. The program will be presented in the form of a lecture, discussion, reception, and book fair. Admission is free, and the program is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, you must RSVP to Christianne Balsamo at 215-732-6200 or [Cbalsamo@hsp.org](mailto:Cbalsamo@hsp.org). Tony Burroughs, author of *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree* will discuss methods of conducting African American genealogy and the difficulties associated with this type of research. You may review (and purchase if you wish) relevant genealogical materials and learn about local collections of African American resources and artifacts. Afterwards, light refreshments will be made available. Mr. Burroughs has appeared on the PBS programs *African American Lives* and *Oprah's Roots*. He is also a current or former officer of APG, AAGHSC, and the African American Military Museum, along with having served as curator of the African American Genealogical Collection in Chicago.

## The HRC, working for You

One year from now, on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol, our next President will be sworn in.

Will that day usher in an era of equality? Or will we be staring down another *four* years of anti-GLBT leadership? What if our next President is even more hateful toward our community than George Bush has been?

**For HRC, these are not idle questions.** They're what's behind our **unprecedented on-the-ground effort** around the state primaries. We've spent months pouring **staff, resources, materials** into key states – all to make sure we're positively framing the debate on GLBT rights.

**Who's driving it all? YOU.** You can help define what our struggle is about – instead of allowing the radical right to do it first. You can support our work in these states. And you can determine the future of our country in the process.

There's one simple act that makes it possible: **become a member HRC**

So what's going on in the states?

- In **Nevada**, HRC organized trainings and a rally for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights the night before the caucus.
- We're holding training sessions for the **Minnesota** caucus, just as we helped people prepare in **Iowa** and **New Hampshire**, ensuring that our community was out in force.
- We have field staff on the ground in **New Mexico** to help pass a state domestic partner bill.
- We're in the middle of a series of training sessions in **Florida** to help GLBT supporters make a difference in the primary and beat back a state anti-gay marriage amendment (that's right, this November they're trying to use gay marriage as a motivator for "values voters," just like in 2004).

When I say "positively framing the debate," it means a lot more, too. It means lesbian couples holding hands and asking questions at campaign events. It means banners and stickers and signs and t-shirts everywhere the candidates look – not letting them forget for a second that the issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans matter to voters.

When you support HRC, you become an active participant in the fight for GLBT rights. Please, **don't wait a day longer to add your voice, your conviction, and your strength** – so we can take back the White House in 2008.

This year, you'll have the opportunity to cast your ballot – twice. **But if you want to play a critical role in influencing this year's Presidential elections**, this is the way to do it.

Just one year from today, we'll face a new administration together. If we stand together starting now, we can make sure we're facing forward, entering a new dawn for GLBT rights.

There are two more thing you can do to influence who occupies the White House. Register to VOTE. And on election day VOTE.



**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  
Phone 610-355-0832

## STRAIGHT CUPCAKES

Rare Air G-Town brings quirky community radio to the Web.

by [Kate Kilpatrick](#)

Tune into G-Town radio and you might catch a flashback to Philly's house era—from the early '80s through the mid-'90s—



*House cat: Gary Hines named his show *The Catacombs* after a legendary underground Philly nightclub*

when the same high-energy tracks fueled all-night dance binges at steamy clubs like the Nile, the Wild Cherry, Allegro and unnamed speakeasies across the city.

The host/programmer behind the biweekly *Catacombs* show (airing Thursdays, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.) is "45-plus"-year-old Gary Hines, who plays house classics old and

new, like "Love Commandments" by Gisele Jackson or Robbie Tronco's "Walk 4 Me." "For folks of a certain age it brings back memories. It certainly does for me," says Hines, who remains enthusiastic about his gig whether he has 16 listeners or only one. (A count on the bottom of his monitor shows how many people are logged on to their computers and tuned into the station.) Hines is just the kind of programmer station manager Jim Bear had in mind when he placed an ad in the *Germantown Courier* a little more than a year ago seeking people interested in hosting their own local Internet radio show. After a series of false starts and minor setbacks, Bear says the station, online at [www.gtowntownradio.com](http://www.gtowntownradio.com), is finally hitting its stride.

"The vast majority of the programmers came with no radio experience. Now they're getting over the hump and doing entertaining shows," says Bear.

STEVIE continued from page 1

because we always supported one and other and that's the way it always was. The discussion with PFLAG was wonderful and maybe in the future we will have them back. We have a good line up of speaker this year. I don't know who we are having in February but I do know Mike Hinsen from the former Street Administration is coming in March, Project Home is coming in April and in May we have 'Dolph who is the executive director of WWCC. So that's the story on the General Meetings.

About the membership, it's doing well. We have an ad in the WWCC newsletter and we got two phone calls from that. We are always working on publicity so word of mouth is the best way. So members tell everybody. Our membership right now is 61. We have a committee working on the anniversary and if you want to get involved with that call Aaron. We received information from the national about the Long Range Planning Committee, a summary of it is in the newsletter and we will have copies at the General Meeting this month. So come get your own copy. If any of you want to put something on the agenda for the Steering Committee e-mail or call Nate or Aaron. And if any of you want to have a pot luck call them about that too. Speaking about pot lucks, the first one of the year was at Jerry Winokur's house. We combined it with the Rainbow Social Club from New Jersey. It was nice, with a lot of food and good conversation. Thank you Jerry for doing that. I've been doing some checking and it seems like we are starting a tradition. It seems like the first pot luck of the year is at Jerry's house. That's kind of nice.

What do you guys think about the James Credle story that was in the newsletter? I think he is wonderful. He is a real good friend of mine. We met 25 years ago at the Washington DC convention. He taught me a lot about leadership. He is really one of the pioneers and I'm glad I know him.

Congratulations to us, we are going to have our second convention in 2009. This one should be a lot easier. Not to say that the convention in 1999 was difficult. It really wasn't. We had a lot of support then and I think we have even more now. Mayor at the time, Rendell spoke in '99, maybe he'll come and speak in 2009. Just a suggestion.

You know I wrote last month about Christopher Blandford and at that time he was in rehab but now he is back in the hospital again. He is such a treasure and such a wonderful person. He needs our love and our support and most of all our prayers. I don't think any other members in the group are sick. Speaking about support, it was so wonderful of Jerry Belew to bring a get well card to the General Meeting for us to sign. We had a lot of members there that night so they all signed it. This is one of the things that keeps me in this organization. It's wonderful how we support one and other. Not just in the good times but also in the troubled times too.

It's funny, to get back to James Credle, about him being a hero. They are right. He is my hero too. And so is Christopher. If I start writing a list about heroes in this organization as well as heroes in this community this newsletter would be a book.

Corbett talked to Ed from Giovanni's Room about setting up a  
See STEVIE on page 5

# NABWMT Long-Range Planning Committee

Report from the National Retreat, November 2 – 4, 2007

## Retreat common themes and observations

### Discussion starting concerns

- Lack of clear organizational focus
- Decreasing local chapters
- Importance of conventions
- Engaging volunteerism
- Failure to implement long-range planning
- No coherent financial strategy or fundraising plan

The following bullet points list what we felt were the most common themes arising from the NA retreat.

**Organizational Structure** – The structure of the organization (i.e. our mission, our current programming, the make-up of our membership, the number of active chapters and their programs and goals) needs to be critically and intensively reviewed by the National membership with a focus on organizational and programming relevance and expansion.

**Organizational Communications** – The overall mechanisms for communication, both internally and externally, need detailed review and revision so that there is central or one-point source for all organization (current and historical).

**Organizational Programming** – The NA membership needs to review the current programming of the organization with focus on program function and relevance for both National and individual chapter members.

**Organizational Funding** – The current methods of fundraising for the organization need review, revision, and development with a focus on expanding our current donor base to include significant corporate sponsorship of organizational programs.

For the complete report, become a member of the National.

# National Member Application / Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I want to be a member of the NABWMT!

Enclosed is \$30.00 to cover my annual dues.

I am enclosing a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help support the NABWMT Statement of Purpose.

Please mail your completed form along with a check or money order payable in U.S. funds to:

**NABWMT, P.O. Box 81236  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-4236**

STEVIE continued from page 4

night so we can have readings and poetry. Ed is another hero. If you have never been to Giovanni's Room you should go. It's a wonderful place. It's named after the book that James Baldwin wrote. James and Ed are friends. Ed never says no to us. He is very supportive and that is way we support him. I remember the last time I was in his office, he received many awards from us. So, that's the news on what's happening so far.

I have a message now for the members. Your input is very important, especially now. Since we are planning a convention we're going to need ideas on themes, speakers, and workshops and stuff like that. If you have never been to a General Meeting you should get out and go to one. Or a pot luck, or a Theatre of Understanding or Steering Committee meeting. You should go because by going you'll find out how this organization is run. Getting involved is easy. We are always looking for new leaders. A lot of times you don't know what you can do until you do it. The opportunity is always open. This is what I did. This is what I was told to do. Through the advise of John Bush, James Credle, Jerry Mallon and Mike Smith. These were leaders and very good ones. That's not even all of them, there are many more. I always like to leave you with some words of wisdom. This has been said before but I'm going to say it again. This is your chapter, don't put off tomorrow what you can do today. We have some real good and interesting things coming up this month and we have our annual Red Party at Ken and Steve's. They're my heroes too. You know they have been together for 40 years. They inspire Art and myself. They are walking testimony that it is possible to love one person for a long time. Well, that's it for now. Hope to see all of you this month. You all stay well and remember the work is just beginning, be a part of it. Stay positive and stay strong, Stevie

# FEBRUARY 2008

- Friday 01**      **Steering Committee meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**  
 at ASIAC office 1201 Chestnut St., Suite 501
- Friday 08**      **The Jaded Lounge**  
**11:00 PM to 1:00 AM**  
 at the 12th AirCommand
- Saturday 09**      **A Lunar New Years Banquet**  
**6:00 PM to 11:00 PM**  
 at Joy Tsin Lau, 1026 Race St., Philadelphia  
 to benefit ASIAC  
 Call Aaron for tickets at 215-455-6038  
 See details on page 1
- Wednesday 13**      **Researching Your African American Family History**  
**5:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust St.  
 See details on page 3
- Friday 15**      **General Meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 10:00 PM**  
 at William Way Community Center  
 The American Cancer Society will present  
 information on Colon and Rectal Cancer
- Saturday 16**      **RED Party Pot Luck**  
**7:30 PM to 11:00 PM**  
 at Steve and Ken's  
 See details on page 1 and directions on page 4
- Sunday 24**      **Giovanni's Room**  
**5:30 PM to 7:00 PM**  
 Tom Wirth from MACT/NY will be reading and presenting  
 See page 3 for details

# MARCH 2008

- Friday 07**  
 Steering Committee meeting  
 at John Speer's home  
 7:30 to 9:00 PM
- Friday 21**  
 General Meeting  
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
 Mike Hinsen, former LGBT liaison  
 to the former Street Administration  
 will be our special guest
- Saturday 22**  
 Pot Luck at Larry & Tracy's  
 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM

## Get involved

Voting is not just something to put at the bottom of your to-do-list it is a privilege that only a few countries afford their citizens. Take the time to learn about where the candidates stand on important issues and get involved with an organization promoting your ideals. Last year I started working with a national progressive

## Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

PO Box 42257  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
2007-2008 STEERING COMMITTEE

### Co-chairs

Aaron Libson            215-455-6038  
Nate O'Neal            215-848-8532

### Recording Secretary

Ron Cropper            215-806-5016

### Corresponding Secretary

Patrick Lewis            302-762-6166

### Treasurer

Corbett Klein            609-530-1726

### NA Reps.

Nate O'Neal            215-848-8532  
John Speer            610-429-5265

### Social Chair

Steering Committee

### Political Action

Steering Committee

### Membership Chair

Stevie Martin-Chester    610-277-6595

### Newsletter Editor

Arthur Martin-Chester    610-277-6595

### Members-At-Large

Sam Fisher            215-542-8665  
Ron Sy            215-563-2420  
Bob Hooks            215-765-2882  
Steve Gilmour            610-355-0832  
Lenny Stanton            Relay 1-800-654-5988  
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Email address:

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Web site:

<http://www.mactphila.org>

## UP COMING SPEAKERS at General Meetings

**April** – Project Home

**May** – 'Dolph Goldenberg WWCC executive director

grassroots organization "Working Families Win" (WFW). Stevie and I made calls to prospective voters to remind them of the issues. On Election Day, WFW, HRC, Move-on and others worked together forming teams to canvas neighborhoods. I was teamed with a student from Temple and sent out to remind people to vote. This experience was thoroughly enjoyable. I got to meet new people, make a few new friends and helped to elect people that are changing the way things are done in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.