



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

## MARCH 2007

# Challenger



**Volunteer's needed**

**March 10, 2007**

**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**William Way LGBT Community Center**

**1315 Spruce Street**

**Meet in the lobby**

Please join us for a good time helping to clean-up our community center. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty. 'Dolph promises we will be "worked" but not to the point that we can't enjoy a little pizza when we're done.

### From the Co-Chair

By Aaron

Well spring will soon be here, and we can come out of hibernation. Plans are going ahead for our 26th anniversary. You should be getting your invitations this month. Members - please take advantage of the early reservation deal. Also note our use of Pay Pal for those who like to charge their reservations.

Also, this month will be at the national rally in D. C. against "don't ask-don't tell" on the 25th. It's time to remove this repressive legislation and allow lesbians and gays to serve in the military.

On the 10th of March MACT volunteers will meet at the William Way center @10a.m. to help spruce up the center. As 'Dolph explained to us in February there are exciting plans for expansion in the WWCC. Let's show what we can do!! Let me know if you are coming. Wear old clothes. Refreshments will follow.

The American Cancer Society (Philly) will be selling daffodils later this month. If you want to help sell them at the WWCC let me know.

WE NEED NOMINATIONS for new officers. Act now!!

We've extended our condolences in the passing of the  
See CO-CHAIR on page 2

### History of the Center

The William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center was formed in 1996, when a group of community leaders came together with the goal of creating a stronger, more stable community center out of Penguin Place, the community center at the time.



After an extensive search, the Community Center purchased the former Engineers' Club of Philadelphia in March 1997. Soon after, renovations began, and the

building opened to the public in July 1997. Since then, the Center has developed an array of programming and services that target LGBT groups, and community organizations have moved permanent offices into the Community Center. In addition, over 70 groups meet at the Community Center on a regular basis, and many more use the facility for special events. The building is open seven days a week and is currently used by over 2,500 people each month.

There are many ways to financially support the William Way LGBT Community Center. You can make gifts of cash or check, attend a special event, design a planned gift or stock donation, provide corporate sponsorship, donate needed supplies or services, or remember the Center in your will. Click on your preferred choice to make a gift.

WWCC continued on page 3

MACT/P's  
26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
May 4, 5 & 6  
Save the dates.  
More to come soon.

# 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

Carl W.      03/04      Stevie M-C      03/18  
 John S.      03/22

**Hi this is Stevie...** Hope everybody is well. It's still cold and the weather is bad but the groundhog didn't see its shadow, so I guess that spring is coming soon. A lot is happening this month. I hope you guys will come and volunteer at William Way. So far there's about five of us but we can always use more. We are suppose to be there at 10:00 AM. So please show up. The more the better. Lunch, pizza is included.

The February General Meeting went very well. 'Dolph was interesting. John Speer and Aaron asked him a lot of interesting questions. About the elevator, which is coming, they're also going to rearrange the first floor, as well as working on a coffeehouse on the first floor. I have a question for those members that were at the General Meeting. What did you think about what 'Dolph said? Did you believe him? Do you have any idea about what this organization could do with William Way? E-mail me. I'd like to know. Now I have another question. We're volunteering to work this month at the William Way. What other things can we do? Let's start with becoming

See STEVIE on page 3

CO-CHAIR continued from page 1

brave pioneer in equal rights, Barbara Giddings. She led the way for what we now take for granted.

Please note that this month's potluck is on a Sunday and the week before the general meeting.

Don't forget the convention of NABWMT in Cleveland this summer!

We have booked a camping weekend (5 days) at Hillside for the 4th of July-June 29th to July 4th. For further information or commitments let me know.



**The Jaded  
Lounge**  
Friday  
March 09  
at 12<sup>th</sup>  
**AirCommand**  
Show starts  
around 12:00 PM

Free entry before 11 PM with an invitation – Stevie will be at WWCC with invitation from 10:30 PM to 10:55 PM for those who want them.

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.

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STEVIE continued from page 2

a member of William Way. There is information in the newsletter about that. What about volunteering like at the front desk or something. I want to intertwine this organization and the community center. That's my answer, what's yours? Jeff Keith was working in the library but now he works in the archives. So if you have any old newsletters or picture you can sort them and give them to Jeff for the archives. A new committee is being formed at William Way, it's the Diversity Committee. That will probably be the committee that will be doing Theatre of Understandings. That's brand new, by the way. I just gave you guys a scoop.

Congratulations to Ken and Steve on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We gave them a little surprise at the Red Party. Ken showed us pictures of them when they were younger. We have pictures in our scrapbook of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They're very modest about it. Just two guys in love trying to live. No big deal, that's what they say. I say, they're pioneers. It gives people like Art and myself hope that it's possible. They are walking testimony of what can happen if you choose to live positively in a world that isn't positive. I mean this is something I try to do by myself as well as with Art. That brings me to something else. About a month ago on the Oprah Winfrey Show, she introduced us to an author and her name is Rhonda Byrne. She wrote a book called the "Secret". There is also a video about it. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. The book talks about ways to do that. The book goes into depth as to how that works. I love it because this is something that I've been doing all my life. I just didn't think that there would be a book about that. I recommend this book to everyone.

Now let me tell you more about the members. It's been a slow month, this month. We had maybe two calls about the group.

See STEVIE on page 5

## Theatre of Understanding

### Immigration as a whole and how it effect the LGBTQ communities

We are please to announce that Fernando Chang-Muy will be one of our distinguished panelists at the Theatre of Understanding on April 7. Chang-Muy is a Thomas A. O'Boyle Lecturer in Law. His expertise is in AIDS Policy, Immigration Law and Non-profit Organizations. He directs the Philadelphia site of the Funders' Collaborative for Strong Latino Communities, an association of foundations that seek to strengthen the organizational capacity and leadership of Latino organizations. He also teaches Immigration and Refugee law at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Law.

Chang-Muy has served as Legal Officer with two United Nations agencies: the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) and the World Health Organization (WHO), serving as the human rights officer for its Global Program on AIDS.

He is a frequent speaker on Immigration rights, and is the author of various articles dealing with immigration and refugees, human rights, and public health.

He is the recipient of a 1982-83 Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship awarded by Congress through Howard University to law school graduates committed to civil rights; a 1990 21st Century Trust Fellowship from the United Kingdom; the 2001 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Social Justice Award from the Rutgers University School of Law, and the 2002 Michael Greenberg GALLOP award for leadership, activism and legal advocacy.

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### Donate Online Using a Credit Card

**Network for Good** is the Internet's leading e-philanthropy site where individuals can donate, volunteer and get involved with the issues they care about. The organization's goal is to connect people to charities via the Internet. You can donate online now by going to [www.waygay.org](http://www.waygay.org), click on support us and follow the [donate online now](#) link.

### Cash or Check

Giving cash or check is the easiest way to support the William Way Community Center. Your support helps the center pay basic expenses that many institutional funds will not cover; such as mortgage, utility bills, and staff costs. You can make an unrestricted gift or a program-related gift.

### You can mail your gift to:

William Way Community Center  
1315 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

### Give Through the United Way

If you wish to give to The William Way Community Center through the United Way, our [Campaign Code](#) is #1016.



The launch of Africa's first large-scale, "test-of-concept" HIV vaccine efficacy trial was announced by the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative today. This trial is known as *Phambili*—"going forward" in Xhosa—and will be conducted jointly by the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) and the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) of the US National Institutes of Health.

AVAC welcomes this news as an important step for the field and has assembled a range of resources to help advocates understand and explain the significance of this decision, and the rationale behind this study and the vaccine candidate under investigation. These are listed at the end of this update.

*Phambili* is the second test-of-concept trial of this vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 which has been developed by Merck. The candidate is already being evaluated in a trial called the Step study. *Phambili* has been launched before the data from Step are known. This is an example of strategic trial sequencing: by conducting two trials concurrently, the sponsors have shortened the time frame for getting clear answers about whether and how the candidate works.

Importantly, *Phambili* will speed the progress of gathering data on this vaccine in sub-Saharan Africa. The Step study is being conducted in various sites in North and South America, the Caribbean and Australia.

Three thousand (3000) participants will be recruited from four South African provinces -- Gauteng, North West, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. The vaccine trial sites are located in Soweto, Cape Town, Klerksdorp, Medunsa and Durban.

Both *Phambili* and the Step study are designed to determine whether the vaccine candidate protects people against HIV infection or reduces HIV viral set point in people who receive the vaccine and go on to become HIV infected. As with all other HIV vaccine candidates in development, MRK-Ad5 itself cannot cause HIV.

These test-of-concept trials have been designed by statisticians to provide an initial indication of whether or not a candidate is effective. If the candidate does show efficacy in these studies, it will need to be confirmed in additional efficacy trials, including studies which meet regulatory agency standards for vaccine licensure. (For more information about these types of trials and the vaccine development process, see "Vaccine Development: From Concept to Licensed Product" in AVAC's *AIDS Vaccine Handbook*, [http://avac.org/pdf/primer2/AVH\\_CH06.pdf](http://avac.org/pdf/primer2/AVH_CH06.pdf).)

Together, the *Phambili* and Step studies will shed light on whether this vaccine candidate has the potential to be a new, global tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

#### ADDITIONS / CHANGES / NEW MEMBER To the 2007 Directory

Change – Carl Williams & Victor Reyes Jr.  
7200 Marion Bldg. 400, Apt.4-11  
Levittown, Pa. 19055  
E-mail – Blkpapi1959@aol.com



## Pot Luck

At Carl and Victor's home  
7:30 PM to 11:00 PM

They have a comfortable one bed room apartment in Levittown. It might be small but it's just right for them and a few guests.

#### Directions to Carl and Victor's

Address – 7200 Marion Ave., Bldg. 400, Apt. 4-11  
Levittown, PA  
Phone – 215-547-4691

From the Philadelphia Area, take I-95 north toward Trenton to exit 40 Rt-413 south. Then turn left onto US-13 Bristol Pike. Approximately 2.7 miles turn slight right onto Beaver Dam Rd. then Left onto Edgely Rd. and right onto Marion Ave. Building 400, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at top of the stair, 1<sup>st</sup> door on the right #11.  
Parking is very limited so it is best to carpool.

## WET PANTS

#### Come with me to a third grade classroom....

There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet. He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives. The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, "Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat." He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that say he has been discovered. As the teacher is walking toward him, a classmate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap. The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, "Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!" Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out. All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. The sympathy is wonderful. But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else - Susie. She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. You've done enough, you klutz!" Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?" Susie whispers back, "I wet my pants once too." May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do good. Remember.....Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car. I not only love the story --- I love this last quote!! Standing up for your friends is a quality within itself. I only hope that in the coming years there will be many people with fish bowls around me!!!

Its that time of year once again! Please join **The Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus** at 8 PM on March 16th and 17th at the Lutheran Church Of The Holy Communion (2110 Sansom Street) for our **Sounds Of the Silver Screen** March concert. Whether your practicing your *Sister Act*, working *Nine to Five* or heading to the *Moulin Rouge* this concert has something for everyone. Get your tickets now! Ticket price ranges from 15\$ to 30\$ and they can be purchased online at: [www.pgmc.org/tickets.htm](http://www.pgmc.org/tickets.htm) Tickets are also available from PHAG, Giovanni's Room or from a PGMC choir member. Seats are limited so get yours now!

STEVIE continued from page 3

We still have 58 members. I hope you guys go to the Jaded Lounge this month. Ron does a wonderful job putting that together. Ron is Asian and a dive bomber. He should have been in this group twelve years ago but he was busier then. I am so glad he's a member. I hope this opens the doors to other Asian guys, who could be interested in this group. The anniversary this year is going to be real exciting. But I'm going to let the committee tell you about that. Hope to see you all at Carl and Victor's pot luck. It is on a Sunday this time because of their schedule. The Steering Committee always needs members to volunteer for pot lucks. Chris Blandford was in the hospital. Keep him in your thoughts and prayer. Gary Hines sent a note thanking us for our thoughts and prayers. Art and I didn't go to the funeral but I know Chuck and Chris went. Chris told me it was packed. I also want you to be thinking about our leadership which means elections. Nominations for the Steering Committee are going on now and it will be time to vote in April. Read your by-laws and learn about the chapter positions. Like I said in the last article, get involved. I would like to see all our members involved is some way in this group. Being involved is easy. When we ask you to do something, please do it.

I was talking to Ed at Giovanni's Room and he wants us to do some more readings. We are also talking about more Theatre of Understandings. I'm doing some more work on the topic "Queer Agenda". That's going to start in May at Equality Forum. Since we will only have 75 minutes I thought what we could do is put a workshop together there. Do some brainstorming. I spoke to four people who will be there already. They are interesting. Two women are from MCCP, another woman is a mother of twins and another person is transsexual. These people are just the beginning. Ron Sy gave me the idea. I mean he is right, we need to be talking to people who may never get a chance to be at the table.

Publicity for the group is good but it needs to get better. One of our award winners, Frannie Price, is now the owner of Spruce Street Video and she wants to put one of our posters on her bulletin board. Maybe we will do some kind of membership drive. But I don't know what that's going to look like. Maybe you guys can help me with that. I think that's it for now. Stay positive and stay strong. Stevie

## About SLDN

### Our Mission

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) is a national, non-profit legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and related forms of intolerance.

### Facts & Statistics Ten Years of "Don't Ask, Don't

**Tell:" A Disservice to the Nation** The decade under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has been a disservice to our country and to the people who serve in our Armed Forces.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has deprived our Armed Forces of the skills, talent, experience and commitment of nearly 10,000 personnel discharged under the law.

It has deprived us of untold numbers of young Americans who have chosen not to serve or who have cut short their careers in the military because of the ban. The ban demands self-denial far beyond the already substantial sacrifices expected of uniformed personnel and their families.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" forces gay military personnel to live a lie as a condition of service. The law denies others the opportunity to know and learn from their gay colleagues.

The history of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is complicated. A comprehensive account of the policy, its genesis and application, would require volumes to tell. On this tenth anniversary, however, we review some of the defining moments of the past decade.

We review how the initial promise of a more benign policy toward gays actually created mass confusion about the policy and backlash against lesbian, gay and bisexual service members.

We review how, over time, the new law showed its true colors as a gay ban, just like its predecessors, not a step forward for our nation, our military or our military personnel.

We review the epidemic of anti-gay harassment in the ranks and the inadequate response of our military leaders. In particular, we review the brutal murder of Private First Class Barry Winchell at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, exposing six years of harassment and violence against gay service members left unchecked by military leaders.

Lastly, we examine the significant shift in public opinion post September 11th in support of gays serving openly in the military. The American people and some military leaders are beginning to acknowledge that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was bad policy when it became law, and it is bad policy today. It is time for change.

Join SLDN for Lobby Day Sunday March 25 and send Congress a clear message: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has to go!  
Contact: Jill Raney, Grassroots Organizer, 202-328-3244 x103

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## MARCH 2007

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- Friday 02**      **Steering Committee Meeting**  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
at Stevie & Art's house
- Friday 09**      **The Jaded Lounge**  
11:00 PM to 1:00 AM  
See page 3 for details
- Saturday 10**    **Volunteer at William Way LGBT Community Center**  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
We will spend some time helping to cleanup the center  
pizza will be provided
- Sunday 11**      **Pot Luck at Carl & Victor's**  
5:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
7200 Marion Bldg 400, Apt.4-11, Levittown, Pa.  
See page 4 for details and directions
- Friday 16**      **General Meeting at WWCC**  
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
Video – Big Tom

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## APRIL 2007

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- Saturday 07**  
Theatre of Understanding  
Immigration as a whole and how it effects the LGBTQ communities  
UPenn LGBT Center  
Carriage House, 3907 Spruce St.  
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Friday 13**  
Steering Committee meeting  
7:30 to 9:00 PM
- Friday 20**  
General Meeting  
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
- Saturday 21**  
Pot Luck at Patrick's home in Delaware  
7:30 PM to 11:00 PM

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## 2007 NABWMT Convention

Tuesday, July 31 - Sunday, August 5  
Cleveland, OH

Plan to join us for the 27th Annual Convention

The convention will take place in Cleveland, Ohio at the Wyndham Hotel in  
Playhouse Square August 1 – 4, 2007

The theme for this convention **DIVERSITY: a MOSAIC in MOTION** was chosen to reflect the realities that the LGBT community in its entirety is like a mosaic that reflects the multiracial and multicultural beauty of its members and allies. However, unlike the so often one dimensional, static nature of a painted mosaic, the LGBT community is a living, ever growing group of people of all colors, it is a 'mosaic in motion'.

### 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  
Stevie Martin-Chester      610-277-6595

Newsletter Editor  
Arthur Martin-Chester      610-277-6595

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>

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## COMING EVENTS

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### Theatre of Understandings

May 5 at Equality Forum... Topic –  
The Queer Agenda: Creating Our  
Own Table and Solutions

May 26 at WWCC... Topic –  
Immigration as a whole and how it  
effects the LGBTQ communities

Watch the newsletter for  
more details