



The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

March 2008

Challenger

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

Easter Pot Luck

Saturday
March 22
6:00 PM
to
10:00 PM



Larry and Tracy are opening their home for this Easter Pot Luck. This is the first time they have hosted a pot luck for the group so put together your best dish to share and head on over to their place.

See the directions on page 4

Someone said we should put articles about outstanding Black Philadelphians in our newsletter in preparation for having the 2009 convention here. Here is just about my favorite black Philadelphian.

Jeff K

Outstanding Black Philadelphian: Octavius V. Catto

(excerpt from article "The Triumph and Tragedy of Octavius V. Catto," on website www.ushistory.com)

Octavius V. Catto was born in Charleston, S.C. on February 22, 1839. His mother, Sarah Isabella Cain, was a descendant of one of Charleston's most distinguished mulatto families, the DeReefs. His father, William

See CATTO on page 3



We Remember Chris Blandford

From Jeff Keith

THANK YOU, CHRIS

You might say that Chris saved my boyfriend Mark's life (although Mark doesn't like to go to the doctor very much!). Chris saw us at the Convention in Philadelphia in 1999 and saw that there was a sign language interpreter with a few minutes free. He asked if we wanted some advice about HIV services in the city. We said yes. So Chris sat down with us and the interpreter and told us about where Mark could get good HIV treatment. We have been using the Lax Center on Locust Street ever since then. They are great people.

See CHRIS on page 3

Hi this is Stevie... So I'm going to get right to it but before I start, I want to wish everybody a happy spring. I'm glad it's finally beginning to get warm now. So anyway, that's enough about the weather report now about this organization. You all know we are having a convention in 2009 Aaron and Tyrone are the co-chairs and they are going to need a committee. If you want to be on it be sure to tell them. We have 62 members minus one because Christopher died. His funeral was very nice. He and his mother both loved old Gospel music. One of his friends sang "Precious Lord" and I sang "Swing Low Sweet Chariot". I sang at his mother's funeral so it was only fair for me to sing at his. The service was very uplifting. There were about 60 people there with our members making up a good percentage. It was really an uplifting

See STEVIE on page 6

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	Wayne C.	03/24

Directions to John Speer's home

FROM Center City, take the Schuylkill Expressway to City Ave (US 1) south. Follow City Ave. to West Chester Pike (PA3), turn right onto West Chester Pike (The apartment complex is about 15 miles along West Chester Pike). Follow West Chester Pike crossing Rt. 252 and Rt. 352 (at 352 there is a sign saying "West Chester – 4 miles" John's place is 2 miles past this point). Westtown Way is at a traffic light at the bottom of the hill with a Midas shop on the right. Cross Westtown Way (you will be making a U-turn at the third light). As you go up the hill from Westtown Way stay in the center lane. The second light is at Goshen Meadows Apts. on the right and Rose Hill Apts. on the left. After this light get into the left turn lane at the third light

(Ellis Lane on the right and Falcon Lane on the left) make a U-turn at this light. After making the U-turn you will see a white Avis sign, then a white Racquet Club sign. The driveway is between these two signs.

FROM Interstate 476, exit at Upper Darby at West Chester Pike (PA 3), west toward West Chester. Follow the directions above.

FROM US 202, exit at West Chester Pike (PA 3), east toward Newtown Square. At the light at Falcon Lane on the right and Ellis Lane on the left look for the white Avis sign, then a white Racquet Club sign. The driveway is between these signs.

Phone number is 610-429-5265 if you are lost.
 Address – 1308 West Chester Pike, Apt. L-1

The newsletter is always looking for articles. Send your stories, jokes or interests by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

E-mail to ajmartin-chester@juno.com or send to 627 Hamilton St., Apt. A, Norristown, PA 19401-4234

CHRIS continued from page 1

I did not know Chris that well. One thing I would say about him was that he dressed sharply with an unusual flair.

Corbett



This from John McNeill

I first met Christopher Blandford when I was at one of the first meetings or a potluck, I don't remember. Chris shook my hand and even gave me a hug, but he asked if it was all right to hug

me first. I said yes, I remember how warm and nice Chris was. Chris had a smile that lit up any room; from that time on Chris has been my friend.

When I had to go down to Florida to help take care of my mother, Chris was so concerned about her and he was even concern about my family and me. So when I came back to Philly, I couldn't wait to see Chris again. Christopher I think of you as a brother, I am going to miss you I just loved having you around.

From Jerry Belew

Members of MACT lost a treasured friend and colleague on February 2, 2008 with the passing of Christopher Blandford. Chris had very few relatives. His MACT brothers, church friends, and a few other special acquaintances were his family. It was good to see this extended family supporting Chris during his final illness. Chuck McLean in particular deserves our gratitude and admiration for his untiring devotion and loyalty to Chris.

Several friends fondly recalled at Chris's funeral how he would call them from his hospital bed and request some very specific thing he wanted, usually a favorite food that he had a



See CHRIS on page 4

A personal comment on this year's Presidential campaign from Jerry Belew

I've enjoyed the fact that there has been a real contest this year, in both major parties. Although the Republicans now seem to have settled on McCain, at this point it could still go either way between Clinton and Obama, on the Democratic side. I really hope the final choice will not be made prior to the convention. I think that makes things more interesting.

I must say, however (as an Obama supporter since the very beginning), that it is exciting to witness the steady emergence of what seems to be an unstoppable momentum – and a genuine popular movement – in support of Barack Obama. (I don't want to jinx the outcome or become overly confident just yet. Because as I write this, the potential roadblocks of Texas, Ohio and yes Pennsylvania, are still ahead – as well as whatever "dirty tricks" party leaders may yet invoke, on behalf of Clinton, i.e. "Billary", to count the invalid and unrepresentative votes cast in Florida and Michigan.)

Obama's recent lopsided victories, and his ability to energize people and to inspire hope, feel to me like a replay on the national level of what we experienced locally with last year's mayoral race here in Philadelphia. Nutter rose from the bottom to the top – despite what all of the pollsters, pundits, and powerbrokers had predicted – because he was simply the best candidate (and for once, the voters "got it"). Obama seems to be doing the same thing (and hopefully the voters will once again respond with a decisive victory). It is very satisfying to see the people standing up to "just say no" to the dictates of the party machine and the special interests.

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.**

In about a year from now, 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 thing you can do to influence who occupies the White House. Register to VOTE. And on Election Day **VOTE.**

CATTO continued from page 1

Catto, was an articulate and prominent Presbyterian minister who later became a leader in the black church and worked across its various denominations.

William Catto brought his family north when Octavius was about five and finally settled in Philadelphia by 1850. In Philadelphia, Catto was afforded an excellent education; his last school being the Institute for Colored Youth, which later became the historic black college, Cheney University.

Catto graduated from the Institute in 1858 as valedictorian and, not satisfied with his level of skill, trained further in classical languages under a distinguished black scholar in Washington, D.C. Upon returning to Philadelphia, he was appointed to the Institute's teaching staff as assistant to the principal, Professor

See CATTO on page 4



Directions to Larry & Tracy's house

From Philadelphia take I-95 South to I-495 South in Delaware. Go across bridge to second exit #1, Dover. Stay in right lane, Lowe's on right which will be RT-13 South Dover. Keep in middle lane all the way until you see Dover Beaches. Move to the left lane, you will see Route 13 and 40 with an Exxon Station in center of the road. Stay in left lane which is 13 South. Go to second light and turn left into Beaver Castle Apt. (Salina Blvd.). Continue forward, go past the apartments over about 5 speed bumps. Continue until you see the single family homes and look for Southwyk Road. Turn right on Southwyk Road. The house is on the left, 214 Southwyk Road

Phone number 302-221-1945

CHRIS continued from page 3

craving for. No one could possibly deny these requests, as Chris had a way of expressing his gratitude so warmly that the giver felt truly blessed to have been asked.

In my own case, when I called Chris and told him I was coming to see him a few weeks back, he just happened to mention that he liked candy, cookies and stuffed animals. I took the hint, and showed up at Elkins Crest with some homemade candy and a small stuffed tiger. Chris was sound asleep when I arrived. Cuddled up in bed with him were a lion and a zebra (which, he proudly told me later, Regis D'Angiolini had given him during a previous hospitalization). Keeping watch nearby were a teddy bear and another furry companion (gifts from other friends, no doubt).

When Chris awoke and saw the tiger I'd brought, he held it close, and then tucked it in beside the lion and zebra. That handsome smile of his lit up the whole room, as he said, "I'm going to have a whole jungle in here if I keep going!" We both had a good laugh, and when I left I felt like I was the one who had received the gift. Chris truly knew how to surround himself with love.

I miss calling Chris now. Even when he couldn't answer the phone, I used to love hearing his voice mail message, which began with a few recorded lines from "Go Tell It On The Mountain." That always gave me such a lift, because it reminded me that Chris's faith remained strong, even as his body grew weak. Somehow, I know that beautiful smile of his is now lighting up heaven, turning it into an even brighter, warmer place than it already was.

Obituary from the Philadelphia Gay News

Corrected and edited for clarity

Christopher Blandford's friends described him as a quiet man whose passion, intellect and generosity left an indelible mark on his loved ones and the local GLBT community.

Christopher, a 52-year-old Army veteran and local photographer, died February 2 of heart disease.

Born December 12, 1955, Christopher grew up in West Philadelphia. He graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1974 and enlisted in the U. S. Army shortly thereafter.

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CATTO continued from page 3



Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, a highly regarded black scholar educated at Yale University and later ambassador to Haiti.

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:

All that he (the colored man) asks is that there shall be no unmanly quibbles about interesting to him any position of honor or profit for which his attainments may fit him. And that which is committed to him as a man, he will perform as no other than a man could perform.

His many intellectual pursuits included founding the Banneker Literary Institute and being inducted into The Franklin Institute, a scientific organization, which attracted inventors and scientists from around the world. His membership in this latter organization was met with rebuff by some. Catto also was an accomplished baseball shortstop and player-coach and was founder and captain of Pythian Baseball Club.

Catto attempted to break down racial barriers in baseball, when a group of whites formed the Pennsylvania Convention of Baseball Clubs in 1868. His aggressive nature and strivings for equality in this instance greatly offended many immigrant whites who enjoyed baseball as their pastime.

His boldest and greatest accomplishments, however, were in the political arena, as a staunch supporter of the Union cause and the Lincoln Administration. Catto worked in the inner circles of the Republican Party to gain civil liberties for blacks and in support of the war effort.

When the Confederates invaded Pennsylvania in 1863, culminating in the Battle of Gettysburg, Catto responded to the Call for Emergency Troops by raising one of the first volunteer companies. The company was officered by whites and comprised of black men. Catto continued to seek ways of raising black troops to fight for black emancipation. He joined with other leading blacks of his time, including Frederick Douglass, to raise troops under the U.S. War Department authority granted by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Catto also led efforts to gain equal access to public transportation using passive resistance and political influence. His war experience solidified his ardor for the Republican Party, which he saw as the only hope for black Americans to obtain equal rights. Catto joined the Pennsylvania Equal Rights League, begun by Republicans to help blacks gain the right to vote. In 1864, he and other black leaders from all over the country met at the National Convention of Colored Men in Syracuse, New York and established the National Equal Rights League (NERL) with Frederick Douglas as president. The NERL focused on removing racial barriers in Union states.

The Incident

See CATTO on page 5

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He spent five years in the service, stationed as a private in Germany. Gary Hines, who knew Chris since high school, said Chris told him he met the first man he ever fell in love with during his time in Germany.

After returning from overseas, Christopher translated his long-standing interest in photography into a career. After attending photography school, he began working for Vega Photography and continued to experiment with his own work on the side, specializing in male nudes.

Christopher was also an active member of the local GLBT community.

Nate O'Neal, co-chair of Men of All Colors Together, of which Chris was a member for over 10 years, remembered him for his passion and eloquence.

"Chris was pretty laidback, but he spoke from the hip and didn't hold back anything. When he talked about any issues or concerns, it came from his heart and was not frivolous," O'Neal said.

Hines echoed O'Neal's sentiments, also noting Chris' quiet demeanor.

"Chris was very reserved, but when he did have something to say, everybody paid attention," Hines said. "He didn't really talk a lot, but people were just drawn to him. He was wise beyond his years, even at a young age."

O'Neal said Chris' presence at MACT helped to strengthen the organization's presence in the local GLBT community.

"He cared about all communities in Philadelphia, particularly the black gay community, and he was interested in more integration of the white gay community," he said. "He was a good bridge for us to be involved with other organizations."

Christopher was also involved with Philadelphia FIGHT and Adodi, an association dedicated to the spiritual well-being of the black gay community.

"He had so much compassion for other people," Hines said. "It didn't matter what kind of background they came from; he'd embrace them. He was just very trustworthy, honest and sincere."

Christopher was survived by his brother Charles McLean, Jr., Betty Davis and predeceased by his mother, Corrine; father, Willie.

Funeral services were held at Christ Calvary Covenant Church on February 9, 2008.

Donations are being accepted by MACT to help defray the cost.

Please send donations to:

MACT/P at P. O. Box 42257, Philadelphia, PA 19101

Write on the memo line Funeral Donation.

CATTO continued from page 4

With the passage of the 15th Amendment, Catto's life took another turn. Catto pledged that black men would vote republican and worked tirelessly to get Pennsylvania to ratify the 15th Amendment. This was accomplished in October 1870.

The elections that followed became alarming to most whites, as it became apparent that blacks, enfranchised by the Amendment, would vote in large numbers. In Catto's own political ward, it was likely that blacks could change the balance between Democrats and Republicans in local offices.

On Election Day, October 10, 1871, violence and murder had started early and continued throughout the day, as gangs of white thugs roamed the black community, seeking to discourage residents from voting. Local police, many of whom were Irish immigrants and supporters of the Democrats, fueled the situation by not providing protection for black residents.

As he nearly reached his doorsteps, Catto was confronted by Frank Kelly, a Democratic Party operative and associate of the Party's boss, who recognized Catto as he walked down the street. Kelly fired several shots at Catto with one bullet piercing his heart.

Catto was pronounced dead at a local police station, where his body had been carried. Catto's murder produced both a public outcry and revealed the paradox of justice in a community still steeped with racism.

A backlash against the violence turned out a large majority for the Republican ticket. However, Frank Kelly was never convicted of Octavius Catto's murder.

MACT/P Anniversary

2008
May
2 - 4



Details in the next newsletter but here are the costs.

Members	\$60.00
Couples	\$100.00
Non-members	\$65.00
Couples	\$110.00
If paid by April 1	
After April 1	
Singles	\$65.00
Couples	\$110.00

The registration form will be out in mid-March



About Us

Equality Advocates' mission is to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals in Pennsylvania through direct legal services, education and policy reform. Founded in 1996, Equality Advocates is the only organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offering direct legal services for the LGBT community. Equality Advocates is home to the country's only law student clinic dedicated to LGBT issues. The clinic, founded in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Public Service Program, is also an official clinical program of the Temple University Beasley School of Law and includes students from law schools throughout the country. In addition to our legal services, Equality Advocates speaks to thousands of individuals yearly through panels, forums and workshops to educate the LGBT community, our allies and the larger community about issues of importance to LGBT people. We also participate in grassroots and organizational coalitions to create systemic change and policy reform for the LGBT community. Our alliances include the Equality Federation, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects (NCAVP), the Value All Families Coalition, and the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition (SPARC), among others. Find out how we can help you by providing you with legal services. Look through our list of publications to educate yourself about the legal options available to LGBT people in Pennsylvania. Check our news list or events calendar to see if Equality Advocates is participating in an event near you. Get involved through our Action Center, go to www.center4civilrights.org/about/aboutmain.php.

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 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.

One Day = \$720 Million Imagine what else those dollars could do

The American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) has just released a new 1 minute and 45 second video to help people understand the amount of money that is being spent daily on the Iraq war -- at the expense of meeting human needs.

go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wng6cD5jk1Q

The Center for Disease Control has issued a medical alert about a highly contagious, potentially dangerous virus that is transmitted orally, by hand, and even electronically.

This virus is called Weary Overload Recreational Killer (WORK). If you receive WORK from your boss, any of your colleagues or anyone else via any means whatsoever - DO NOT TOUCH IT. This virus will wipe out your private life completely.

If you should come into contact with WORK you should immediately leave the premises. Take two good friends to the nearest grocery store and purchase one or both of the antidotes - Work Isolating Neutralizer Extract (WINE) and Bothersome Employer Elimination Rebooter (BEER).

Take the antidote repeatedly until WORK has been completely eliminated from your system.

You should immediately convey this medical alert to five friends. If you do not have five friends, you have already been infected and WORK is controlling your life.

STEVIE continued from page 1

tribute he will definitely be missed. We are still taking donations to defray the cost of the funeral, send them to the P.O. Box. I also must say the PGN wrote a wonderful article about him. I thought that Gary Hines, his high school friend, wrote it but he didn't. A reporter from PGN wrote it. She interviewed some members and wrote the article. Art took the picture of him in the article on the boat ride we had at the 25-year anniversary. Christopher loved boat rides. He really was a trooper in every sense of the word. If you want an example of leadership, dedication and community leadership that was Christopher. I'm not saying this because I liked the man; I'm talking to the members who didn't know him, the member that do, know this. It is such a shame when we loose community leaders. We don't have that many of them. There were beautiful flowers at the funeral but we gave him his flowers while he was alive. There's a story that I always relate to when it comes to honoring somebody, "Give me my roses while I'm alive so I can smell and enjoy them." I will never forget that and you should never forget to say thank you and appreciate somebody when they are around. Never take anybody for granted. We are all worthy and we are all worth it. Now that's my "Stevie Ism" for this month.

Now back to the organization. The group has been doing a lot this month. I was told that the Chinese New Years banquet went very well. Ron Sy, who is part of ASIAC and a member of our group told us about that and invited us. Aaron helped put that together. I think 12 from our chapter went. So that was good. The general meeting went very well also. We need to reschedule our talk on colon cancer. We want the American Cancer Society to give a presentation. When they can, they will. In other words, when we know you will know. The Red party went well also. Thank you Ken and Steve for your hospitality. Everybody always has a wonderful time when we go there. That brings us to Tom Wirth, who is a member of MACT/NY. He was here at Giovanni's Room talking about the book he edited on

See STEVIE on page 7



Wed, Jul 23 - Sat, Jul 26

St. Louis, MO

28th Annual Convention Heads to Gateway City

sponsor: National Association

By Paul H. Hawkins

NABWMT Office Manager

Film buffs may remember a World War II era black and white film titled "Meet Me in St. Louis." It's a musical about four women coming of age in St. Louis early in the twentieth century. Well, early in the twenty-first century, NABWMT is also meeting in St. Louis. And like the film, the story line will mainly be about our coming of age.

Like the twenty-seven NABWMT conventions to precede it, next year's convention will be a family-style gathering. Yes, there will be some of the usual family events, like the Madam X "No Talent" Talent Show, a memorial to our deceased loved ones, and food: plenty of delicious food.

But most of all, this year's convention will be structured to support a family conversation. Our intent is to build on the results of the NABWMT retreat that was held this November, and by adding to the dialogue, position ourselves to make important decisions about the future of our organization. The Quarterly readers can expect more details about this in upcoming issues.

I would like to share thoughts of why St. Louis will be an ideal convention destination. For starters, every major U.S. airline flies to St. Louis. And since no airline has the market cornered, that means fares are competitive. Even better, everyone will love our convention hotel. We have chosen the Holiday Inn Select Downtown/Convention Center.

Two things about the hotel name indicate why this is a great choice. First, it is a Holiday Inn "Select," which means the hotel is in a quality tier above standard Holiday Inns. Having stayed there in April, I can attest that the rooms are spacious and beautifully decorated. There are also ample public spaces, including an onsite bar, indoor swimming pool, game room, and several locations for hanging out with friends.

Second, because this is a downtown hotel, many of St. Louis's famous landmarks are within walking distance. Interested in a trip to the top of the Gateway Arch? You can walk there. Want to see the courthouse where Dred Scott sued for his freedom? You can walk there, too. Want to shop or grab a quick bite? There are plenty of both nearby. Want to catch the subway to another part of town? It's just three blocks away. Also, the St. Louis Visitor's Center is located around the corner, where helpful staff offers advice on everything from dining to entertainment options.

Although the Holiday Inn Select is a great hotel in a great location, folks need not worry about paying an inflated price to stay there. We have negotiated a great (pre-tax) room rate of just

See CONVENTION on page 8

STEVIE continued from page 6

the Harlem Renaissance called "Gentleman Jigger". Tom knew Richard Bruce Nugent and talked to him about his experiences. Tom told us how different it was to be black and gay back then and read some excerpts from the book. There were about 25 people there, which is a packed house in Giovanni's Room. Thank you very much members for that. Tom appreciated the support. Go to Giovanni's Room and buy the book. Now about some more members, Roger T. is putting together a bookmobile for gay youth in South Jersey. He contacted all the Gay, Straight Alliances in South Jersey and will be bringing books for the students to enjoy reading. Ed from Giovanni's Room is helping him out with books. Roger is retired now so this is a new job for him. If you want to help Roger out with money to purchase books e-mail him at dodger244@verizon.net for more information. We have dates for Hillside and we are planning a beach trip to Sandy Hook also. I would like to welcome a new member Troy B. He already jumped right in and is helping the Convention Planning Committee with their hotel search. Troy, your New Members Party will be in November.

I was talking to Nate and we were having a discussion about the 2008 election. Because of our 501c3 we can't campaign for a candidate but we can ask questions. Now I thought because we're having an Afro-American and women candidate they wouldn't get in, they would just make the path for the future. Remember what I always say, "Life is a line, somebody's first and somebody's second and somebody's third, which one are you going to be?" Well, they both decided to be first. I was surprised that it was going to happen so quickly but now when I think about it this was a long time coming. This is going to be a very, very interesting election. If you're not registered to vote, please go and do so. Be part of history. This month's question is – **What are your thoughts on the election in 2008?** I want to put your answers in the newsletter. So as soon as you read this e-mail me and I will give it to Art. Well guys, that's it for now. Hope to see you at the events this month. Always remember to be stay positive and stay strong, Stevie

The Center for Disease Control has issued a medical alert about a highly contagious, potentially dangerous virus that is transmitted orally, by hand, and even electronically.

This virus is called Weary Overload Recreational Killer (WORK). If you receive WORK from your boss, any of your colleagues or anyone else via any means whatsoever - DO NOT TOUCH IT. This virus will wipe out your private life completely.

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Take the antidote repeatedly until WORK has been completely eliminated from your system.

You should immediately convey this medical alert to five friends. If you do not have five friends, you have already been infected and WORK is controlling your life.

MARCH 2008

- Friday 07** **Steering Committee meeting**
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
at John Speer's home see directions on page 2
- Friday 14** **The Jaded Lounge**
11:00 PM to 1:00 AM
at the 12th AirCommand
- Friday 21** **General Meeting**
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
at William Way Community Center
Mike Hinson, former LGBT liaison to the
Street administration will be our special guest
- Saturday 22** **Easter Pot Luck**
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
at Larry & Tracy's
See details on page 1 and directions on page 4

APRIL 2008

- Friday 04**
Steering Committee meeting
at TBA
7:30 to 9:00 PM
- Friday 18**
General Meeting
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
Representatives from Project Home will
speak on the many undertakings of this program
- Tuesday 22**
Primary Voting in Pennsylvania

UP COMING SPEAKERS at General Meetings

May – 'Dolph Goldenberg WWCC executive director

CONVENTION continued from page 7

\$94/night single, or double, occupancy. Considering how much hotel prices have risen over the years, we are very fortunate again to find a high-quality hotel with rates under the \$100/night benchmark.

So, while it is on your mind, why not pause right now and reserve your room at the Holiday Inn Select Downtown/Convention Center? Just dial the hotel directly at 314-421-4000, and ask for the NABWMT group rate. Although our convention officially runs from Wed., Jul. 23 – Sat., Jul. 26, our group rate begins five days earlier, and runs three days afterward, to accommodate those who want to come early, or stay longer. If you decide not to reserve your hotel room now, please know that you have until Sat., Jun. 21, 2008 to do so. After that date, all rooms under our block will be released for sale to the general public.

See you in St. Louis!

Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

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

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Ron Cropper 215-806-5016

Corresponding Secretary

Patrick Lewis 302-762-6166

Treasurer

Corbett Klein 609-530-1726

NA Reps.

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Steering Committee

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Steering Committee

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Hillside 2008

We are planning two trips to Hillside this year. Our first trip will be the Forth of

July weekend, July 3, 4, 5, 6. This is a really big event weekend with non-stop action including a parade and Stage Show. August 1, 2, 3 is Illumination Weekend: This must-attend event is not like any other you'll see at any camp. The weekend, dedicated to Harvey, Hillside's first bunny, is glowing with candles and lights beginning with the lighting of the Memorial Garden. Campers spend much of Saturday getting their sites ready for the evening's spectacular light show in the hills of Pennsylvania. Arrive early to get a parking place since this is a very busy weekend.