



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

April 2008

# Challenger

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

## MACT/P Anniversary 2008 May 2 – 4

**Friday** – Reception on the 3rd floor deck at the 12th AirCommand from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM

**Saturday afternoon** – Equality Forum workshops  
see page 5 for some suggestions

**Saturday evening** – Hors d'oeuvre, cocktails and a sit down dinner

**Sunday morning** – Brunch

Details on Saturday evening & Sunday will be provided after registration has been received

Costs are as follows:

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Members     | \$60.00  |
| Couples     | \$100.00 |
| Non-members | \$65.00  |
| Couples     | \$110.00 |

**If paid by April 15**

**After April 15**

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Singles | \$65.00  |
| Couples | \$110.00 |

Excerpt from The Shalom Center writing on Social Justice and the Iraq war. Dated March 9, 2008



### **IRAQ IS A DOMESTIC SOCIAL-JUSTICE ISSUE**

Even before the US government invaded Iraq, The Shalom Center was warning that the war would have a disastrous impact on American society at home, as well as on our international relations and our security.

Five years later, Nobel Prize-winning economist

SOCIAL-JUSTICE continued on page 5

**Hi this is Stevie...** Well spring is finally here. My favorite time of year. I hope



everybody had a wonderful Easter, Art and I did. I also had a wonderful birthday. Art took me to Bob

Evans and we saw the movie *10,000 BC* a real interesting movie. I liked it. It was real nice at Bob Evans too, the wait staff sang me Happy Birthday with my desert. It was a very nice night. Thank you all who sent me birthday cards, I appreciate that.

Now about the group. I'd like to thank everyone who helped write the article about Christopher Blandford. Chris joined this organization in 1995. He had been head of an anniversary committee, a National Representative and a Co-chair of this group. He was a good example of a community minded person. I think I said this before but I'll say it again, I speak for this group as well

See STEVIE on page 3

## Spring Pot Luck

Saturday

April 19

7:30 PM

to 11:00 PM

at Jerry and Charles' home in South Philadelphia

It has been a few years since we have been to see Jerry and Charles. They have completed some remodeling and I understand it is fabulous. Put together your famous entrée and get on over here for a great time.

## 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

Jerry L.      04/19      Bob W.      04/29

### Directions to Art and Stevie's

Take I-76 West toward Valley Forge to I-476 North  
Follow I-476 North toward Plymouth Meeting to Exit 18B, Norristown  
At the end of the ramp turn right and then right again at the light onto Ridge Pike (Lukoil on far right corner)  
Follow Ridge Pike into Norristown (it becomes Main Street in town)  
Continue on Main Street over railroad tracks, up the hill...pass A-Plus on left  
At the traffic light with a CVS on far left corner turn right onto Hamilton Street  
Cross Airy Street (traffic light), continue to stop sign at Marshall Street (St. Francis of Assisi on far right corner)

Cross Marshall Street, our house is the seventh building on the left

Come up the walk on the right side of the building and enter on the side

627 Hamilton Street, Apt. A, 610-277-6595

### Public transportation:

From Center City take the R6 to the end, Elm Street Station and call us from the platform. or Take the Market line to 69<sup>th</sup> Street and take the 100 High Speed Line to Norristown Transportation Center. Call us from the station. We are only 5-10 minutes away. In either case be sure to let us know where you are.

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

E-mail to [ajmartin-chester@juno.com](mailto:ajmartin-chester@juno.com) or send to 627 Hamilton St., Apt. A, Norristown, PA 19401-4234



## None of us are home until all of us are home.

Project H.O.M.E. (Housing, Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care, Education) empowers people to break the cycle of homelessness, address the structural causes of poverty, and attain their fullest potential as members of society.

We will welcome representatives from Project Home at our April 18 General Meeting.

In an editorial in the St. Petersburg Times **Bill Maxwell** writes...

At last, thanks to Rev. Jeremiah Wright's "liberation theology" sermons, race has returned to center stage in the American conversation....

Perhaps now the non-sense that race is a thing of the past will stop. As Columbia University's Sig Gissler describes it race, "is America's rawest nerve and most enduring dilemma. From birth to death, race is with us, defining, dividing, distorting."

Blacks, as members of a real minority group, live race. The overwhelming majority of them are acutely aware that their race constitutes what sociologists refer to as a "master status." To whites and other non-blacks, black people's skin color, their most visible characteristic, is the most important piece of data about them. Blacks cannot, moreover, control someone else's interpretation of and reaction to their race. This reality is inescapable....

And so, here we are, having pretended for the last 15 months of the presidential campaign that Obama had left race behind. But last week in the Philadelphia speech, Obama came clean: "Race is an issue that I believe this nation cannot afford to ignore right now. The issues that have surfaced over the last few weeks reflect the complexities of race in this country that we've never really worked through."....

This from the **Shalom Center**

The Obama Speech: An Extraordinary Moment?

We have received a number of comments on Senator Barack Obama's speech on "A More Perfect Union," delivered across the street in Philadelphia from Constitution Hall, where the Constitution was written.

Among them were two public letters from two women with different outlooks on the Presidential campaign.

Lilly Rivlin is a journalist, writer, and filmmaker, co-founder of the original Feminist Seder, immediate past president of Meretz

See OBAMA on page 4

STEVIE continued from page 1

as the community, "he will be missed". Now on a happier note, I'd like to thank Larry and Tracy for carrying on the tradition of an Easter pot luck for this group. Their hospitality was wonderful and we definitely appreciate it. Maybe they will do it again next year, we will see. The General Meeting went well. Because of time problems, Michael Hinson had to cancel so we didn't have a guess speaker this time but as always we had



a wonderful in depth discussion. I had church at the same time so I was late getting there but I walked into them talking about Obama's speech and a discussion on race. Art said, "I was blown away by his remarks. I have been on the fence on who I was going to vote for in the primary on April 22 but Barack's speech made up my mind." I said that's a discussion that we as a community should have had a long time ago. I was remembering that Theatre of Understanding workshops always start with an introduction and in that introduction I say, "That the reason we still have racism in this country is because we don't talk about it. When the subject comes up people of color get angry and white people get nervous". And the discussion never goes any further than that. Now, there is actually a dialog. I thought it was going to take a longer time because change takes a long time. I thought Barack was going to open the door and make away for other people of color. Instead he's smashing down the door. A discussion like this isn't anything new for us. We have these talks all the time. And I have a feeling we are going to be asked to talk about this since this is one of the things we are about. We will see. I'm saying this so we can be prepared. Just keep it in mind. The anniversary is doing well. You should have received a registration form by now if not call John Speer (610-429-5265). Registrations are coming in. Don't forget to send yours. About the members, we still have 62 with a possibility of us having another member in Florida. I think he said he found out about us through the NA web site. The other four prospective members found us through William Way and the Philadelphia Gay News. We are getting together a convention planning committee. If you want to be on it call Aaron (215-455-6038) or Tyrone (215-726-6876). I would like you to write answers to this months question and send them to me so I can put some in the newsletter. I am going to ask again, "What are your thoughts on the 2008 elections". Email Art at [ajmartin-chester@juno.com](mailto:ajmartin-chester@juno.com). We are going to need marchers for pride in June and guys to work the table. Just keep that in mind also. The next Steering Committee meeting will be at our house in Norristown. All the Steering Committee meetings are open to members if they want to come. It's a good way to learn about leadership. You can see how we put things together. We are very organized that way. So if you are wondering, come and see for yourself. But if you do be sure to call. There are 13 members of the Steering Committee, it is only polite to let the meeting host know how many are going to show up. I think that is a good idea for all committee meetings that we have. For

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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 \$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.

Reserve your room at the Holiday Inn Select. Call the hotel directly at 314-421-4000, and ask for the NABWMT group rate.

See you in St. Louis!

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### Directions to Jerry and Charles' Home

#### From south of Philadelphia:

Take I-95 N to PA-611 N/ Broad St. exit, EXIT 17, toward Pattison Ave.

Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto S Broad St./ PA-611 N.

Turn RIGHT onto E Passyunk Ave.

Turn LEFT onto Moore St.

#### From north of Philadelphia:

Take I-95 S toward Central Philadelphia to Columbus Blvd. exit, EXIT 20, on the LEFT toward Washington Ave.

Turn RIGHT onto S Columbus Blvd.

Turn RIGHT onto Tasker St.

Turn LEFT onto S 12th St.

Turn RIGHT onto Moore St.

#### From Center City:

Follow S Broad St/ PA-611 toward South Philadelphia

Turn LEFT onto Mifflin St.

Turn LEFT onto E Passyunk Ave.

Turn LEFT onto Moore St.

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USA, a support group for the Israeli progressive Zionist party.

Rabbi Phyllis Berman founded and directs the Riverside Language Program, a 28-year-old English-language school for adult immigrants and refugees from all over the world, and is the co-author of two books of Jewish thought and practice.

I will comment after their letters. Shalom, salaam, peace - Arthur  
3/19/08

From Lilly Rivlin

*I was sent a link to Barack Obama's extraordinary speech. I had not heard it in its entirety. And, as I've made clear, I support Hillary Clinton. However, I took the time to listen, and I urge you to make the time, for it is inspirational and substantive, and worthy of today NYTimes editorial caption, it is "Mr. Obama's Profile in Courage."*

*Whatever happens in the next few months as Hillary and Obama make their way through the rest of the states, at the end, we will all have to come together, we will have to choose, we will all have to understand each other's point of view, and Obama's speech goes a long way to making this possible.*

From Rabbi Phyllis Berman

*No matter who you are supporting for president, Obama's speech on race and other subjects yesterday in Philadelphia is a must-read*

*Oh how I've hungered to be inspired like this by a politician;*

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**Saturday  
May 3**

**Temple University Center City  
1515 Market Street, 3rd Floor  
COST - FREE**

Below are just a few of the workshops offered. See the entire listing at [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com)

**12:30 p.m. - Room 325**

**All the Days of Our Lives: LGBTQ Relationships across the Lifecycle**

Sponsored by [Council of Relationships](#)

Join us for a dynamic workshop with Council for Relationships therapists to learn how to navigate the roadmap of life, with all its bumps and beauty.

**2 p.m. - Room 322**

**Building a Movement: Grassroots Organizing in Your Community**

Sponsored by [Equality Advocates PA](#)

Come learn from seasoned activists proper organizing and lobbying techniques to become a more effective advocate for LGBT issues in your local and statewide community.

**3:30 p.m. - Room 315**

**Cross-Generational Collaboration and the Future of Community**

Sponsored by [Sister Space of the Delaware Valley](#)

A community discussion on how cross-generational communication can improve community through sharing the journey of SisterSpace's ODYQ (Old Dyke Young Queer) cross-generational forum.

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*may he have many allies, and may we soon live in a time of recommitment to building a more perfect union by expanding our vision of "we"...*

*Obama says in this speech that, "for the African-American community, this path means embracing the burdens of our past without becoming victims of the past."*

*He also took the trouble to recognize the resentful feelings of many white working-class Americans who feel their own hardships are overlooked when our society tries to redress the racism of the past.*

Let me add my own two cents. Long before I became a rabbi, I was a professional historian of the US, with a special interest in race relations. I wrote my Ph.D dissertation on a series of race riots in 1919, and it became part of one of my early books, called FROM RACE RIOT TO SIT-IN. And the racial volcano that erupted in the days from the murder of Martin Luther King to the first night of Passover in 1968 changed my life - opened up the path that has made me a rabbi.

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SOCIAL-JUSTICE continued from page 1

Joseph Stiglitz believes the overall costs of the war will reach \$3 trillion - not just the immediate costs to taxpayers but also costs to our country of medical care for a generation of maimed veterans, interest on the immense national debt rolled up to pay for the war, etc. .

"For a fraction of the cost of this war," said Mr. Stiglitz, "we could have put Social Security on a sound footing for the next half-century or more."

Yet there are some social-justice organizations that will not deal with the war at all.

These groups do excellent work - but limit not only their work but, it seems to me, the impact they can have on American society by defining social justice as stopping this side of the water's edge.

For of course spending a trillion dollars in Iraq (let alone three trillion) has meant massive shortfalls in desperately needed spending on this side of the water. It also sets up enormous federal deficits for the future, which will keep handcuffing other efforts to heal America. And this war (like most) has also handed much greater power to those who already held great power, and has greatly weakened civil liberties -- not the ingredients of social justice.

So it seems to me that the war will have to end before our country can address the deep needs of healing the wounded earth, creating decent schools, building railroads, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, treating immigrants and refugees decently. And out of the history of the ineffective war-ending efforts of the last year, it seems clear that it will take the united efforts of all of us who care about social justice to bring about an end to the war.

For here the bottom line of financial reality really is the bottom line: [Spending one trillion dollars to destroy, leaves very little left over to create.](#)

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STEVIE continued from page 3

example you don't want to be expecting 13 people and get 25. It is only fair to any committee that we might have. I've always been all about leadership. That was one of the discussions I had at the Easter dinner 'cause one of our prospective members was curious about that. I told him that you don't have to be in the community just like me. There are many things you can do in this group and in the community. You have to find your own way. If you have any questions you can always ask. I have some more news for you. Art and I now have a digital camera so we will be able to put more pictures in the newsletter. So I guess that's it for now. Hope to see you all this month. We always have good things coming up. I'm excited and I hope you will be too. Stay positive and stay strong, Stevie

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# APRIL 2008

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- Friday 04**      **Steering Committee meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**  
at Art & Stevie's home see directions on page 2
- Friday 11**      **The Jaded Lounge**  
**11:00 PM to 1:00 AM**  
at the 12th AirCommand
- Friday 18**      **General Meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 10:00 PM**  
at William Way Community Center  
Project Home will open our eyes to the needs  
of the homeless community in Philadelphia
- Saturday 19**      **Spring Pot Luck**  
**7:30 PM to 11:00 PM**  
at Jerry & Charles' home in South Philly  
1255 Moore Street, Philadelphia  
See details on page 1 and directions on page 4
- Saturday 26**      **Rainbow Social Club Pot Luck**  
**6:00 PM**  
at Ed Kaminsky's, 11 Maybrook Avenue., Swedesboro, NJ  
Call 856-467-4567 to RSVP and get directions  
**RSVP NO LATER THAN April 19**

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# MAY 2008

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**Friday 02 thru Sunday 04**  
MACT/P 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend  
See page 1 for details

**Friday 16**  
General Meeting  
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
Speaker – 'Dolph Goldenberg WWCC executive director

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sorts, especially those on the issue of race.

And I have only read about ten speeches of ANY type or person or topic in all of US history that I feel equal or surpass that speech of Obama's yesterday. That includes one of Jefferson's, two of Lincoln's, one of Roosevelt's, two of Martin Luther King's.

What makes the speech astounding is its ability to embrace what seem in ordinary politics to be opposites, without turning wishy-washy. Lifting a vision that embraces real change, specific changes, deep change, difficult change, without rejecting large parts of the body politic that will have to change. Which means, will have to grow beyond where they, we, now are.

Astounding! Arthur Waskow, Shalom Center

### Editors note:

Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia, as a non-profit organization cannot endorse a candidate for any office but we can agree with and speak out on issues that are brought up in a campaign. Race has been brought into this year's presidential campaign subtly and overtly and we feel that to be silent on the issue would be a travesty. When a candidate takes the time from heated campaigning to make a major address on race we must speak out. Barack Obama, in his speech

## 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

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Arthur Martin-Chester      610-277-6595

### Members-At-Large

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Ron Sy      215-563-2420  
Bob Hooks      215-765-2882  
Steve Gilmour      610-355-0832  
Lenny Stanton      Relay 1-800-654-5988  
Phone 215-222-5035

### Email address:

[ajmartin-chester@juno.com](mailto:ajmartin-chester@juno.com)

### Web site:

<http://www.mactphila.org>

Voting for Steering Committee positions will begin at the April General Meeting, and continue at each event until Saturday evening, May 3 at the Anniversary Banquet. The New Steering Committee will be presented at the Banquet.

here in Philadelphia spoke eloquently on the subject. For that reason, I have attached this speech to the newsletter so that you may read for yourself his extraordinary words. When other presidential candidates write words this profound I will be delighted to attach them to this newsletter. As always, your comments would be appreciated. Send them to me at [ajmartin-chester@juno.com](mailto:ajmartin-chester@juno.com)