



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

MAY 2007

Happy 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Challenger

## 2007 NABWMT Convention

Tuesday, July 31  
Sunday, August 5  
Cleveland, OH

Plan to join us for the  
27th Annual Convention

Cost until May 15 is \$160.00 after  
that cost increases to \$175.00

The convention will take place in Cleveland, Ohio at the Wyndham Hotel in Playhouse Square

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'.

**Hi this is Stevie...** Hello everybody. Happy Anniversary. I'd like to be the first to say "congratulations" to the Anniversary Committee for doing such a wonderful job.

We still have 60 members in the group. I got only three calls this month about wanting to be a member. We had a wonderful time at Patrick's house for the pot luck. Patrick's hospitality is always wonderful. At the pot luck, I was talking to Lenny and he told me that he and his boyfriend have been together for a year and five months. Isn't that wonderful. Lenny is hoping to be elected to his second term on the Steering Committee this year. By the way don't forget, if you haven't voted already you will be able to vote at the anniversary. More about our members. Christopher Blandford is out of the hospital and he surprised us by coming to Patrick's pot luck in Delaware. He looks

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Are you looking for a long-term relationship, hoping that someday soon you will have a man by your side that will love and honor you for the rest of your lives? Well, I suggested you keep your search engine confined to US websites because the man of your dreams from another country may not be able to join you here in your home for long or perhaps at all. This was just one of the facts we learned at the Theatre of Understanding on Saturday, April 7.

*"Immigration on a Whole and How It Affects The LGBTQ Communities"* was a very interesting topic of discussion where only a few of MACT/P members bothered to show. Of the sixteen attendees, we only had five members of this organization in attendance, very disappointing turnout.

We had three very knowledgeable speakers, Fernando Chang-Muy for UPenn, Rev. Zulma Martinez an immigration law specialist and Vanessa Cardinale from CATA a Farm Workers Support Organization. Each presenter had his or her unique style. Fernando gave us a quick course on immigration law (it usually takes fourteen weeks) with an overview of the processes involved in becoming a US citizen pointing out the difficulties, exclusions and the reasons for being deported. Did you know that if a young gay man comes to the US on a Student Visa and while here becomes HIV Positive, he could be deported? If the man of your dreams is a resident of another country and is HIV Positive or has any other communicable disease he will not be allowed to step foot into this country.

Zulma gave us impassioned stories of some of her clients and the trials and tribulations of the immigrant population in this country. She spoke to us the deplorable conditions some of these people live in because of the impoverished wages paid by the companies employing them. Twenty farm workers crammed into a 12 by 12 shack without heat or running water every night after working 12 to 14 hours picking vegetables. Workers being paid less than minimum wage to

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# 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

Kirk S.	05/11	Al R.	05/13
Gregg S.	05/16	Andy F.	05/22
Chuck McL.	05/24		

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process the chicken you eat each week.

Our third presenter, Vanessa brought us to the everyday reality of immigrants legal and illegal. She reminded us that the labor laws in this country do not allow unionization of domestic and farm workers. These were the jobs of slaves. Today, the illegal immigrants are performing these jobs. She implored us to get involved, to help change the laws regarding immigration and to march on May 1 for Immigrant Rights.

## OUR PREJUDICES, OUR SELVES

by HARVEY FIERSTEIN

AMERICA is watching Don Imus's self-immolation in a state of shock and awe. And I'm watching America with wry amusement.

Since I'm a second-class citizen — a gay man — my seats for the ballgame of American discourse are way back in the bleachers. I don't have to wait long for a shock jock or stand-up comedian to slip up with hateful epithets aimed at me and mine. Hate speak against homosexuals is as commonplace as spam. It's daily traffic for those who profess themselves to be regular Joes, men of God, public servants who live off my tax dollars, as well as any number of celebrities.

In fact, I get a good chuckle whenever someone refers to "the media" as an agent of "the gay agenda." There are entire channels, like Spike TV, that couldn't fill an hour of programming if required to remove their sexist and homophobic content. We've got a president and a large part of Congress

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**Directions to John Barefield's**

Address – 4943 North 12th Street, Philadelphia  
Phone – 215-455-3860

From Center City, take Broad Street north (approx. 5.2 miles north of city hall). Turn right onto Rockland Street then left onto North 12th

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wonderful. Also, our hearts go out to Jerry Mitchell and his family, who's mother died in April.

The General Meeting went very well. Barbara Montgomery, is a fantastic person as well as a fantastic speaker. The "Million Mom March" members that attended the meeting were wonderful also. Art wrote an article about it that you can read in this issue. We are going to do a Theatre of Understanding workshop with them sometime next year. We need to educate the community about guns and something else that came up, gangs.

Is there anybody interested in starting the Health Education committee? If you remember on your application there are five committees. Through the past few years we have worked with all the committees except this one. We don't talk very much about health. A couple months ago we had wonderful discussions on health issues and it just made me wonder about starting the committee again. What does that entail? Having a spokesman for it; getting information; perhaps writing something for the newsletter or doing a Theatre of Understanding. Keeping the group up on health issues; you know – AIDS – HIV – Prostate Cancer – safe sex – and stuff like that. If you are interested call the Co-chairs about it.

Speaking about education – we have another Theatre of Understanding coming up May 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday at 3:30 PM and now I know the room number, it's 320 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of 1515 Market street. Usually the Theatre of Understanding lasts three hours but we only have 75 minutes. The topic is "The Queer Agenda – Creating Our Own Table and Solutions". We always have Theatre of Understandings in May at Equality Forum and because it's a short time we can only have an introduction. So I decided we'll make a workshop, it will be fun and we'll probably have the full Theatre of Understanding on this subject in the fall. One more thing about the Theatre of Understanding, we are going to have another one about immigration. So those of you that didn't come to the first one can get to the next one. We always love to hear your input about things. And you know you can't have an opinion if you don't participate. If you have any ideas on a discussion or workshop please tell the Steering Committee. Your ideas are important.

Now I have another question for you members. Have you called somebody yet? Some of you call me almost everyday. If you can do that, you can call someone else also. I want to make this perfectly clear, I'm not talking about crank calls, sex calls, calling 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning or calling every hour. I'm talking about a simple call. You can say something like (I'll be

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## America's Gun Violence Epidemic

If you didn't attend the General Meeting in April you missed the opportunity to meet and hear Barbara Montgomery. A dynamic woman with a passion to help save lives. The facts are staggering.

In 2000, 3,365 young people aged 1 – 19 were killed by a gun in the United States.

Teenagers are more likely to die of a gun injury than all other natural causes combined.

In 1999, Pennsylvania ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the highest percentage of handgun homicides.

These were just some of the facts Ms. Montgomery brought to the group of sixteen that assembled April 20<sup>th</sup> in the classroom at William Way. She said, "We are not trying to stop people from



purchasing guns, we are talking about stopping the violence". In today's cities guns replace the fist fights of yesterday. A brush against a schoolmate in the hall might get you

killed later in the day. A flip of a finger at a passing vehicle on the highway might get shots fired back. We need to STOP THE VIOLENCE.

For more information see

The Brady Center to prevent gun violence [www.bradycenter.org](http://www.bradycenter.org)

Americans for gun safety [www.americansforgunsafety.com](http://www.americansforgunsafety.com)

Men United for a better Philadelphia [www.menunited.org](http://www.menunited.org)

From Kevin Shaw, group organizer for Montgomery Country Democracy for America

In the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, even as the first stories were breaking in the media outlets, a call went out in the media to not start-up the inevitable discussion of gun control. In the NYTimes, we find an article describing the weapons Cho Seung-Hui used to wreak havoc and how he obtained them through legal means. Here's one part of the article that confuses me:

But Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, who is also running for president, said, "This brutal attack was not caused by nor should it lead to restrictions on the Second Amendment, which guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms."

Some commentators who oppose what they see as

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unconstitutional limits on gun ownership said they feared gun control advocates would successfully use the Virginia tragedy to bolster their position, especially with Democrats' new power in Washington. "We see calls for gun control but we may not see as much empathy for calls for armed self-defense," said David Codrea, a blogger and a columnist for Guns Magazine.

What confuses me is why these same people that will not budge on the defense of their second amendment rights, seem to be able to sleep through the suspension of *habeus corpus* included in the Military Commissions Act and the dilution of the Bill of Rights by the PATRIOT Act and continue to support the politicians that recommend, pass, and enact into law such legislation. Of what possible use is a basement full of assault weapons without the right to peaceable assembly or freedom from warrantless searches? Where is their righteous indignation when rights cherished by **all** Americans are infringed. It also never seems to occur to these second amendment supporters that it's very difficult to find anyone who has been victimized by someone using a firearm that is equally as adamant in their support for gun-rights. In the same NYTimes article we find:

"In Congress, perhaps the strongest response to the Virginia shootings came from Representative Carolyn McCarthy, a New York Democrat whose husband was killed and son was seriously wounded by a gunman on the Long Island Rail Road more than a decade ago. Ms. McCarthy pushed House leaders on Tuesday to move quickly on a bill, stalled in previous Congresses that would improve databases used to conduct criminal background checks on gun purchaser."

And, of course, the strongest Federal legislation ever passed to control trafficking in firearms is the Brady Bill, inspired and fought for by James Brady, another shooting victim. Is this what has to happen? Tens of thousands of people have to be shot with a legal firearm until all the gun-rights folks have a family member that's been killed? All this death and misery just to keep a few manufacturers of products the single purpose of which is to kill human beings rolling in profits? Is empathy so impossible for them?

"And don't let anybody make you think that God chose America as his divine, messianic force to be, a sort of policeman for the whole world. God has a way of standing before the nations with judgment. And it seems that I can hear God saying to America, you're too arrogant. And if you don't change your ways, I will rise up and break the backbone of your power and place it in the hands of a nation that doesn't even know my name. Be still, and know that I'm God."

– Martin Luther King, Jr., April 16, 1967

MEET THE LADIES OF JADE LOUNGE...

12th AIR COMMAND  
254 S. 12th Street  
Philadelphia, PA

Featuring performances by  
MaDame X from Chicago  
Arnaldo from Seattle  
Jacqueline DuPree from New York City  
and more...

Schedule of Events  
10:00pm Doors Open  
10:30pm Human Buffet & Go-Go Boys  
12:00am Showtime

Free entry for 1 before 11pm with this invitation  
21 and older with proper ID  
For mail invitations or more info call 215 563 2424

Produced by the Gay Asian Community Health Empowerment Project (GACHEP) of AIDS Services in Asian Communities (ASAC). Funded by the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACO) of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

AIDS Services in Asian Communities  
www.asiac.org

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willing to change the Constitution so they can deprive of us our rights because they feel we are not "normal."

So I'm used to catching foul balls up here in the cheap seats. What I am really enjoying is watching the rest of you act as if you had no idea that prejudice was alive and well in your hearts and minds.

For the past two decades political correctness has been derided as a surrender to thin-skinned, humorless, uptight oversensitive sissies. Well, you anti-politically correct people have won the battle, and we're all now feasting on the spoils of your victory. During the last few months alone we've had a few comedians spout racism, a basketball coach put forth anti-Semitism and several high-profile spoutings of anti-gay epithets.

What surprises me, I guess, is how choosy the anti-P.C. crowd is about which hate speech it will not tolerate. Sure, there were voices of protest when the TV actor Isaiah Washington called a gay colleague a "faggot." But corporate America didn't pull its advertising from "Grey's Anatomy," as it did with Mr. Imus, did it? And when Ann Coulter likewise tagged a presidential candidate last month, she paid no real price.

In fact, when Bill Maher discussed Ms. Coulter's remarks on his HBO show, he repeated the slur no fewer than four times himself; each mention, I must note, solicited a laugh from his audience. No one called for any sort of apology from him. (Well, actually, I did, so the following week he only used it once.)

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you), "Hi my name is Stevie. How are you? You may not know me but I'm also a member of MACT. I've been a member for twenty-five years. I'm married and I live with my husband Art in Norristown. I love MACT. It's a wonderful organization." Now do you understand what I mean? Now try it. We have a lot of members that live in the same neighborhood. Like for example, Kirk S., John O., Gene R., and Nate O. They all live in the Mt. Airy / Germantown area. That's one example. Our founder, Jerry Mallon used to live five blocks away from where I live now. Don't be afraid to talk to one another. While we are on the subject about phone calls, Christopher Blandford wanted me to tell everybody that he appreciates the card and phone calls. He loves you all and he wants you to call him. His cell number is 267-312-5332. His address and e-mail are in the directory.

Just a reminder, we are going camping at Hillside and we will be going to the beach this summer. We will be marching in gay pride in Philadelphia and New York. Plan to be there. Art and I are very happy, we bought a new grill. We hope to use our backyard this summer. So you are all invited when we do.

Well, once again, Happy Anniversary. This is our 26<sup>th</sup> year. I hope to see you all at John Barefield's. Good bye for now. Stay positive and stay strong. Stevie

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## Jellyfish Bad Day

Rob is a commercial saturation diver for Global Divers in Louisiana. He performs underwater repairs on offshore drilling rigs. Below is an E-mail he sent to his sister. She then sent it to radio station 103.2 FM dial in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, who was sponsoring a worst job experience contest.

Hi Sue,

Just another note from your bottom-dwelling brother. Last week I had a bad day at the office. I know you've been feeling down lately at work, so I thought I would share my dilemma with you to make you realize it's not so bad after all. Before I can tell you what happened to me, I first must bore you with a few technicalities of my job.

As you know, my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office. It's a wetsuit. This time of year the water is quite cool.

So what we do to keep warm is this: We have a diesel powered Industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of equipment sucks the water out of the sea. It heats it to a delightful temperature. It then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose, which is taped to the air hose.

Now this sounds like a darn good plan, and I've used it several times with no complaints. What I do, when I get to the bottom and start working, is take the hose and stuff it down the back of my wetsuit. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a Jacuzzi.

Everything was going well until all of a sudden, my butt started to itch. So, of course, I scratched it. This only made things worse.

Within a few seconds my butt started to burn. I pulled the hose out from my back, but the damage was done.

In agony I realized what had happened. The hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it into my suit. Now, since I don't have any hair on my back, the jellyfish couldn't stick to it. However, the crack of my butt was not as fortunate.

When I scratched what I thought was an itch, I was actually grinding the jellyfish into the crack of my butt. I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the communicator. His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he, along with five other divers, were all laughing hysterically.

Needless to say I aborted the dive. I was instructed to make three agonizing in-water decompression stops totaling thirty-five minutes before I could reach the surface to begin my chamber dry decompression.

When I arrived at the surface, I was wearing nothing but my brass helmet. As I climbed out of the water, the medic, with tears of laughter running down his face, handed me a tube of cream and told me to rub it on my butt as soon as I got in the chamber. The cream put the fire out, but I couldn't poop for two days because my butt was swollen shut.

So, next time you're having a bad day at work, think about how much worse it would be if you had a jellyfish shoved up your butt.

Now repeat to yourself, "I love my job, I love my job, I love my job." Now whenever you have a bad day, ask yourself, is this a jellyfish bad day?

May you NEVER have a jelly fish bad day.

This is even funnier when you realize it's real! Next time you have a bad day at work .. think of this guy. Needless to say, she won.

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Face it, if a Pentagon general, his salary paid with my tax dollars, can label homosexual acts as "immoral" without a call for his dismissal, who are the moral high and mighty kidding?

Our nation, historically bursting with generosity toward strangers, remains remarkably unkind toward its own. Just under our gleaming patina of inclusiveness, we harbor corroding guts. America, I tell you that it doesn't matter how many times you brush your teeth. If your insides are rotting your breath will stink. So, how do you people choose which hate to embrace, which to forgive with a wink and a week in rehab, and which to protest? Where's my copy of that rule book?

Let me cite a non-volatile example of how prejudice can cohabit unchecked with good intentions. I am a huge fan of David Letterman's. I watch the opening of his show a couple of times a week and have done so for decades. Without fail, in his opening monologue or skit Mr. Letterman makes a joke about someone being fat. I kid you not. Will that destroy our nation? Should he be fired or lose his sponsors? Obviously not.

But I think that there is something deeper going on at the

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# MAY 2007

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## 26th Anniversary Celebration

- Friday 04 Welcoming Reception at John Barefield's**  
4943 N. 12th Street, Philadelphia  
7:30 PM to 11:00 PM  
See directions on page 3
- Saturday 05 Theatre of Understanding at Equality Forum**  
1515 Market Street, 3rd floor, room 320  
3:30 PM to 4:45 PM  
Topic – The Queer Agenda  
All are welcome, no cost for this event
- AND Chinese 10 Course Banquet and Awards Dinner**  
6:00 PM to 11:00 PM  
**Reservation Required**
- Sunday 06 Sunday Brunch**  
12:00 noon to 2:00 PM  
**Reservation Required**
- AND The food continues at**  
**241 – 243 Chestnut St.**  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
where we will join  
ASIAC and GALAEI  
Cash bar and complimentary food
- Friday 11 The Jaded Lounge**  
**11:00 PM to 1:00 AM**  
See page 4 for details
- Friday 18 General Meeting at WWCC**  
**7:30 PM to 10:00 PM**



## 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

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Web site:

<http://www.mactphila.org>

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## JUNE 2007

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**Friday 01**  
Steering Committee meeting  
7:30 to 9:00 PM

**Friday 15**  
General Meeting  
7:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
Our last meeting of the season

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Letterman studio than coincidence. And, as I've said, I cite this example simply to illustrate that all kinds of prejudice exist in the human heart. Some are harmless. Some not so harmless. But we need to understand who we are if we wish to change. (In the interest of full disclosure, I should confess to not only being a gay American, but also a fat one. Yes, I'm a double winner.)

I urge you to look around, or better yet, listen around and become aware of the prejudice in everyday life. We are so surrounded by expressions of intolerance that I am in shock and awe that anyone noticed all these recent high-profile instances. Still, I'm gladdened because our no longer being deaf to them may signal their eventual eradication.

### After 40 years, interracial marriage flourishing

It was only 40 years ago – on June 12, 1967 – that the U.S. Supreme Court knocked down a Virginia statute barring whites from marrying nonwhites. Since that landmark Loving v. Virginia ruling, the number of interracial marriages has soared.

The real point is that you cannot harbor malice toward others and then cry foul when someone displays intolerance against you. Prejudice tolerated is intolerance encouraged. Rise up in righteousness when you witness the words and deeds of hate, but only if you are willing to rise up against them *all*, including your own. Otherwise suffer the slings and arrows of disrespect silently.