



The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

July 2007

Challenger

Hillside Camping

June 29

through July 4



July 4th Party Weekend: This is a really big weekend and a way for owner Dave to say “thank you” for your support and friendship

over the years. Dave is not charging extra for this “six day” weekend — your rate is the same as any other holiday weekend. It doesn’t get any better than this. Events include the 8th annual Pride Parade, Saturday’s 13th annual Debutante Ball Party titled “*Divas of the Silver Screen*,” the holiday NNS Party and an evening Stage Show. **Show Weekend!**

Cost for the entire weekend will be – to the camp \$70.00 plus membership fee \$6.00; to Aaron for food \$30.00. You can’t beat that any where so call Aaron ASAP at 215-455-6038 to reserve your spot for the weekend.



Directions to Hillside Campground: from the Philadelphia area take I-76 W. toward Valley Forge to the Blue Route I-476 N. Continue on I-476 N. through the tolls. I-476 ends north of Scranton, PA and connects to I-81 N. Follow I-81 N. to exit 219. Make a right at the end of the ramp onto Rt-848 for 1.9 miles and turn left onto Creek Road (this is a sharp left at the bottom of a long hill). Continue on Creek Road for 8/10 mile to the camp on the right. This is the first driveway on the right.

AIDS Turns 25

Twenty-five years ago, U.S. public health officials reported the first known cases of a disease that would come to be called AIDS. Since then, AIDS has grown into a global pandemic that governments and donor agencies are spending billions of dollars to try to control. Medical science has delivered the tools to tame the virus, but its biological nature causes experts to fear it will not soon be eliminated.

It was 1981 and American doctors were mystified by what they saw. Young, previously healthy homosexual men were suffering from a rare and often deadly form of pneumonia. When the U.S. government’s disease tracking agency, the Centers for Disease Control, first reported the mysterious cluster of cases on June 5, 1981, two of the young men had died. These were the first reported fatalities of an illness initially

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Hi this is Stevie...

Summer is here and it’s finally getting hot again. I’m writing this on the first day of summer. It’s a very nice warm day, 80 degrees and low humidity. It would great if it could stay this way all summer but I know it won’t. I hope everything is well with all of you. I’d like to give you some highlights on things that happened in June. Art and I went to most of these events starting with the Jaded Lounge. As you all know Ron Sy is the producer and director of this show. He is usually the hostess with the mossiest but this time somebody else was host. It was a wonderful show as always. Our own Jacqueline DuPree alias James Coles, sang some really good songs, “It’s Raining Men” was one of them. You remember she performed that at the anniversary. James, who lives in New York but is a member of our chapter (we decided a long time ago that you

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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

Ron S.	07/01	Jay D.	07/07
Aaron L.	07/18	Ron. C. Jr.	07/25
Dell B.	07/27	John Sl.	07/29

Olympia, Washington... Four months ago, Janice Langbehn, her partner Lisa Pond and their children Katie, David and Danielle, ages 10 to 13, were set for a relaxing cruise from Miami to the Bahamas. But Pond, Langbehn's partner for nearly 18 years, was stricken in Miami with a brain aneurysm and died. The family says the way they were treated by hospital staff compounded their shock and grief.

Langbehn, a social worker, said officials at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital did not recognize her or their jointly adopted children as part of Pond's family. They were not allowed to be with her in the emergency room, and Langbehn's authority to make decisions for Pond was not recognized. "We

never set out to change the world or change how others accept gay families," Langbehn told the crowd at the Capital City Pride on Sunday. "We just wanted to be allowed to live equally and raise our children by giving them all the same opportunities their peers have." While Washington is one of a half-dozen states to recognize same-sex partnerships in some fashion, Florida is not.

Compelled to speak out

"I want people to be able to hold their partner's hand in their moment of death," she said.

"Pond suffered the aneurysm just before the R Family Vacations cruise ship left Miami for the Bahamas in February," Langbehn said. After Pond was taken to the emergency room, Langbehn said she was informed by a social worker that they were in an "anti-gay state" and that they needed legal paperwork before Langbehn could see Pond. Even after a friend in Olympia faxed the legal documents that showed that Pond had authorized Langbehn to make medical decisions for her, Langbehn said she wasn't invited to be with her partner or told anything about her

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DIRECTIONS to Steve and Ken's place.

From Phila. go west on West Chester Pike to Newtown Square. (Or, From the Blue Route intersection of the West Chester Pike 4 mi. W.) Go to the intersection of 252, go thru this stoplight and the next one, and then you will see a flashing yellow light, keep to the left and you will see a white picket fence on the right. Go about 3 blocks, on the right you will see a blue sign "Library" with an arrow pointing left. Turn Left here (Ellis) and make a Right at the second street (Chestnut). Follow this to the end 6 blocks, turn right, go 2 blocks, around the bend and the 2nd house on the right is 221 Hickory. Parking is on the street or in our parking area. From our house we can see the West Chester Pike.

From West Chester on the West Chester Pike as you approach Newtown Square, you pass a small shopping center (Genuardis) go up the hill to a stop light with SAP America on the left and Hill Auto sales and a gazebo place on the right. Turn right at the next street (College) go to Main (or Chestnut) make a right, go all the way to the end, make a right, go around the bend and 221 Hickory is the 2nd house on the right

Phone 610-355-0832

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considered by many to be one of only gay men and people who injected illegal drugs. But the chief of U.S. government AIDS research, Dr. Anthony Fauci, notes that they were only the vanguard of a pandemic that would sweep across continents.

AIDS Pandemic

"So now we fast forward 25 years and we see that what people were somewhat skeptical about, whether this was going to be anything but an epidemiologically restricted disease, has exploded into one of the most devastating pandemics in the history of civilization," says Dr. Fauci. "Since 1981, AIDS has infiltrated all segments of society and claimed the lives of 25 million men, women, and children. The United Nations AIDS Program says 40 million are living with it and eight-thousand are dying daily, mostly in developing countries,... which means that H.I.V.-AIDS has now transcended malaria and tuberculosis as the leading cause of microbial death in the world," says Dr. Fauci. "Remember, malaria and T.B. were the two big killers before then, and just a couple of years ago, H.I.V.-AIDS superseded them." Because the first AIDS patients were people with unorthodox lifestyles, politicians ignored the disease, but Fauci and other researchers strove to understand it. Within a few years, scientists identified the H.I.V. virus that causes AIDS and developed a rapid blood test to detect it. They also began revealing its molecular structure, a necessary step in designing drugs to block it. As a result of that work, current medicines can subdue H.I.V. to undetectable levels in the blood, extending patients' lives indefinitely from an initial life expectancy of two or three years. Dr. Paul Stoffels of Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Limited says that is the good news. "Today, H.I.V. patients theoretically should not die anymore from the disease if therapy is correctly administered and there is good infrastructure to do the follow up of the patient. So there was a massive evolution by making new drugs available from a deadly disease to a chronic

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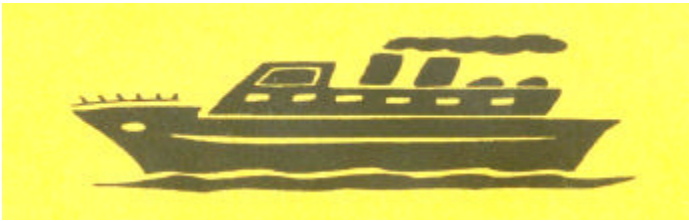
STEVIE continued from page 1

didn't have to live in Philadelphia to be a member of the Philadelphia chapter). We didn't get to go to the bowling party but we heard it was good. We should do that again. You know Sam Fisher use to be in the bowling league. Gay pride was wonderful as always. My church, Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia won first prize, the Fruit Bowl and they also won for the Best Performing Theme. Every gay pride they put on something like a Broadway show. They were fun to watch. We were marching right behind them. We carried signs that said things like "Respect Human Rights" and "The Discussion Must Go On". We had 24 members who participated in gay pride this year. And I want to thank them personally starting with Aaron, Nate, John S., Patrick, Jeff I., Jeff K., Mark, Victor & Carl, Roger, Charles, Charles & Jerry, Lenny & Dennis, Sam, Dell & his grandson, both Mike D's., Christopher, Tony, and a wonderful surprise visit from Preston Shumaker from MACT/Chicago and Art and myself. Some put up the table and tent others marched. Some gave out information and talked to different people. It was a fun day like always. And it got me thinking that we can do better. We can have a bigger showing and we can get more members involved. So at the General Meeting I suggested having a float next year. We could have fund-raisers. We use to have an Italian Festival that would raise money for the national. We never raise any money for ourselves. I think we can do it. We have a whole year to do it. We already have some ideas for some fund-raisers. One was a bake sale. Another was making bouquets of silk flowers and selling them. One of the things I learned as a community leader, you always check the things you are involved with first. Finding out who can do different things. I know we have some talented cooks in this group. We have writers in the group, singers in the group, actors in the group, just to name a few. I think we could even put on a show. Those are some of the ideas that I thought of and was told to me. What are yours? I think we should try to raise \$600.00. I said this at the General Meeting and I was told that Art and myself should research how much everything costs so that's what we are going to do. Maybe \$600.00 isn't enough so we need to find out for sure. Our General Meeting was wonderful. And for the members who were there, do you think we should show the movie again so we can have a discussion about it? Nate was the one who brought the movie. He has a lot of good movies on race relations, AIDS, couples, community issues. I mean many different subjects. He tapes everything. E-mail me your answer.

There is a new surge that is happening in this group now which I like. Our new Steering Committee is full of ideas. For example, we have 12 guys on the Steering Committee and the last meeting that we had all but 2 members of the committee showed up and we had some members sit in on the meeting. For years I have been saying that all our meetings are open to the members. This is important because we want new leadership and if you are going to be a leader you need to know how the chapter works. And the best way to do that is to go to as many meetings as you can go to. So that's a new thing. I was happy to see that. Also, I want to say and I'm talking to the membership, if you want to come to a Steering Committee meeting please tell us in advance so we can make room for you.

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Join MACT/NY for SEA TEA



On the Queen of Hearts! Sunday, July 15

Pier 40 – West Side Highway at Houston Street

Cost \$20.00 in advance (no tickets will be sold at the pier)

Tickets include a sumptuous buffet and live show!

Music provided by DJ Michael Wilson

Entertainment By Flotilla De Barge

A cash bar will be available

(under **NO** circumstances can alcohol be brought on board)

For tickets send Check or Money Order payable to MACT/NY
To: PO Box 237107, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023

Mail order deadline – July 9

MACT/P talks to MACT/NY

Patrick Lewis, MACT/P Corresponding Secretary

During our recent Steering Committee meeting, it was mentioned that the current issue of PGN (Philadelphia Gay News) reported that the New York City pride festival was canceled because the city would not approve the new date and/or location. As one of the most noted Gay Pride celebrations in the U.S. and around the world, the cancellation of the festivities in New York represents the end of an era in an historical gay community.

While we do not have any evidence of political and/or socio-economic factors that may have influenced this cancellation, it has been observed by our newsletter editor (Art Martin-Chester) that there has been a shift in the demographics of the West Village over the last few years. He has noted that Christopher Street has seemingly undergone a “transformation” of sorts that has led to a more diverse neighborhood and that the gay white population, in response to the change, has begun to migrate to Chelsea. As a former New Yorker, I have seen many such neighborhoods shifts over the years and the changes, in and of themselves, are not necessarily a bad thing. A more homogeneous community not only promotes racial harmony but leads to a better understanding of and appreciate for the marvelous diversities of life while destroying the barriers that lead to hatred and intolerance.

The Village has always been a safe and comfortable haven for gay people of “all colors” in and around the New York metropolitan area as well as for its out-of-town visitors. If the festivities are being moved because Christopher Street is no

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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

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’.

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We don't want to have 30 people show up and only have enough room for 15. It's not fair to us and it's not fair to the host. Please remember that. We have as of right now 62 members. And now it's time to renew again and so far 11 have renewed.
So send your dues in!

We have a lot of good things happening this summer starting with the Hillside camping trip. Be sure to call Aaron about that if you are going. We are doing something new this year. We have a member who lives in Reading and he invited us to come to their first gay pride. Bill M. will be the contact person for this so call him at 610-313-7915 to get more information. Thank you Bill for participating.

I would like to welcome Tony F., Bill G. and Bill N. as new members to the group. That makes 15 so far. In November you will be getting an invitation to a party in your honor.

We are working on more workshops. I think I said this before but I just wanted to make sure that you know. We are going to have a part two on Immigration and also do one on the Queer Agenda. I want to take this to the colleges if that's possible. I want to just remind everybody about something, not to worry too much about a title of an event. Sometimes it's deceiving for example – we had a discussion at a General Meeting with a guest speaker, Barbara Montgomery. Corbett put this thing together. I was talking to one of our members, his name is not important but he said, “I wasn't going to go because I thought it was going to be boring. I live in Philly and I here about guns all the time. So what!” Well, the topic was about guns and Barbara gave a wonderful lecture on it. He was telling me how glad he was that he decided to go. The point I'm making is that it's very

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infection,” Dr. Stoffels.

Little Hope for a Cure

But the bad news is that drugs cannot yet cure H.I.V. Stoffels says patients will probably have to take them for decades to stay alive, an enormous challenge even in the most highly developed societies. Anthony Fauci's studies have showed that it can hide for years at undetectable levels, but is never gone and is ready to multiply at high levels again if drugs are stopped. He holds little hope that drugs will ever cure AIDS. “I'd have to say that you never say never in biology, but if in fact we do it, it's going to be very, very tough to do. So I am not totally optimistic that we are going to be able to truly eradicate virus from huge numbers of infected people. We may do it rarely in an individual at first, but I don't see this happening as a routine phenomenon,” says Fauci.

The Quest for a Vaccine

As a result, the search for an H.I.V. vaccine assumes tremendous importance. Many experimental vaccines are in development, with some being tested in Africa and Asia. But vaccine research is another big challenge, according to Mitchell Warren the Executive Director of the AIDS Vaccine and Advocacy Coalition. “Every time we think we've learned one more piece of the puzzle around this virus, and we have unlocked and uncovered many of those puzzle pieces over 25 years, every time we do that, we continually are defied in turning that information into a vaccine,” says Warren. But Warren says vaccine research is coming to an important juncture. He believes that within three to five years, scientists will have discovered which vaccine concept works best and will focus on that. But don't hope for a vaccine for at least another decade. “I can tell you we won't have the ultimate vaccine, the one that we really long for -- a safe and efficacious vaccine delivered once, ideally without a needle, delivered cheaply with 100 percent prevention. That won't happen within the next decade. We might be further along the way. That may sound rather cynical, but what I want to make very clear is I think we are at a really critical turning point in the search for an AIDS vaccine,” says Warren. But even if a vaccine becomes available, Warren says it will not be a panacea because the H.I.V. pandemic will not be stopped by one technology or any other single approach, be it therapeutic or behavioral. The chief of the World Health Organization's H.I.V. Department, Dr. Kevin De Cock, foresees a world still fighting AIDS 25 years from now. “I don't think we will have this problem solved. This is a problem that is going to take generations to address. All of us talking about it now, like you and I, will be gone before the story is finished.”

OLYMPIA continued from page 2

condition. She said she wasn't allowed to see Pond again until a priest arrived to give Pond the Anointing of the Sick, also commonly known as Last Rites. “I was shocked. It never would have been on my radar that we wouldn't be allowed to say goodbye,” Langbehn said. “When I was an emergency room social worker at Mary Bridge (Children's Hospital and Health Center in Tacoma), if someone had said they were an aunt or a partner, I would have let them say their last goodbyes.” Langbehn says she still has not been given Pond's medical records from the hospital nor her death certificate directly from

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longer a “gay” environment, then the change is certainly understandable and even justifiable. But if Christopher Street and the West Village remain largely gay and the decision is based solely on the change of “color” in the neighborhood, it would be a sad commentary on the Heritage of Pride organization and the state of race relations within the New York City gay community.

Are you aware of any connection between the change in location and the change in demographics? If so, do you anticipate that the next change will be to move the festivities to Chelsea to follow the gay “white” population? Has your organization voiced any concerns over the cancellation or held any discussions?

Any feedback/insight you can provide would be greatly appreciated and passed on to our membership.

Response from Tom Wirth, MACT/NY newsletter editor

Please note that THE MARCH HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED, only the “festival” afterward--ie, the gathering at the end of the parade with food & other concessions. The cancellation will probably not materially affect the March, except to increase congestion in the Christopher Street area.

The Pride Committee in fact tried to get the festival moved to the heart of Chelsea (8th Avenue between 14th & 23rd). This was the proposal rejected by the City. The Committee also wanted to change the day to Saturday--the day before the March. The rationale was that the current location is in the boondocks and that conducting two events on the same day had become a very difficult burden for which they were having trouble recruiting enough volunteers.

We have not taken a position on the issue. It's not clear at all that there's racism involved. The Washington St./Greenwich St. location is basically industrial, not residential.

See the Committee's position at www.nycpride.org/home/

The gay flight from the West Village to Chelsea is in an advanced stage, and was probably due in part to racism. There was/is also a strong element of gentrification at work--gradually forcing up prices and making the West Village less gay-friendly. Christopher St. and the pier there, now part of Hudson River Park, has become a late-night and weekend destination for gay youth of color from throughout the boroughs and, indeed, even from New Jersey and Connecticut. The gays who have left are being replaced by affluent (mostly white) professionals who want suburbia in the city. There was a nice article in the LA Times on May 18

We have been involved with FIERCE, a group devoted to organizing lgbt youth, in fighting the efforts of white residents to close the pier at night and otherwise exclude queer youth of color from the West Village.

the county or the state, which affected their children's Social Security benefits. But she has received support from the local community and from former talk show host Rosie O'Donnell, who has e-mailed her to offer support and said she was angry over the way the family was treated. O'Donnell's partner, Kelli O'Donnell, is a co-founder of R Family Vacations.

JULY 2007

Friday June 29 through Wednesday July 04 **Hillside Camping**
Call Aaron at 215-455-6038 to reserve your spot
See details and directions on page 1

Friday 13 **Steering Committee meeting**
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
at Steve and Ken's
See directions on page 3

Sunday 15 **MACT/NY SEA TEA**
Board at 6:00 PM
Advance tickets ONLY cost \$20.00
See details on page 4

OR **Reading Pride Celebration**
12 noon to 6:00 PM
located at Centre Park in the Reading Historic District.
This is a first for the city.
On-line for more information at www.readingpridecelebration.com

AUGUST 2007

Tuesday, July 31 thru Sunday, August 5
NABWMT Convention in Cleveland, OH
See page 4 for details

Friday 03
Steering Committee meeting
7:30 to 9:00 PM
at Art and Stevie's

Saturday 18
BYOP – BBQ at Jerry's home in Brigantine
12:00 noon to Dusk

Friday thru Sunday, August 23 – 25
Camp Oneida and Lodge

STEVIE continued from page 4

important for us to support one another. If I ask for suggestions give them to me. If Aaron and Nate ask for help, help them. And if I'm doing a workshop, come to it. It's all necessary and it's all important. This is what I mean being around for 26 years speaks for it self. We would not be around this long without support. I think sometime there is a misunderstanding when we do something and the community sees a small number of us when we have a much larger membership. I was asked one time, was the group dying? And of course I said no. But that's the problem with people, they assume. I don't like to assume. I was taught this a long time ago, when you assume you make an ass out of you and me. Guys are still joining. We are now beginning to get answers on the website. We had an anniversary that went Chinese. The bar, thanks to the Jaded Lounge is beginning to recognize us now. And we are thinking about doing fund-raisers for gay pride. Most important we are getting new blood into the organization. It's wonderful. I don't have any news about any members this month. From what I'm hearing everybody is doing well. So, remember what I said. Happy Forth of July and that's it for now. Stay positive and stay strong. Stevie

Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

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Philadelphia, PA 19101
2007-2008 STEERING COMMITTEE

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Ron Cropper 215-806-5016

Corresponding Secretary
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Steering Committee

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Bob Hooks 215-223-1688
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Save These Dates

September 03

Labor Day BYOP at the farm

September 21

First General Meeting of the new Season
with a report from our National
representatives on Convention

July is renewal month
Please complete the enclosed
renewal form, mail it with
your check or money order
to:
MACT/P at PO Box 42257,
Philadelphia, PA 19101

MACT/P Membership Renewal Form

Membership costs \$30 per year
or \$45 a year for couples
(same address).

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 MACT/P full year membership
when you also become a member of the NABWMT**

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 and the NABWMT.

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Newsletter ♦ Political Action ♦ Health Education