



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

## July 2008

# Challenger

A Gay Multiracial Organization for All People – Now Celebrating 27 Years



### Hillside Camping July 3 – 6

This is a really big event weekend with non-stop action including a Parade and Stage Show.

Contact Aaron to reserve your camp site at 215-455-6038

### GRAND Marshal – Ron Sy



I would like to thank the community for bestowing this honor to me. I feel very blessed to be included in such company including my co-grand marshal, Tami Sortman, who is doing a fabulous job for the city of Philadelphia. I am also honored to be only the second ASIAN and the first Filipino GRAND MARSHAL

since Kiyoshi Kuromiya in 1996. He is another of our elders who I admire very much for his groundbreaking work in the field of HIV/AIDS.

When the pride parade committee told me a few weeks ago, that I was selected grand marshal, I honestly had mixed feelings. I thought there were a few other members of this community that deserved it better. However, a friend of mine told me, “this it is your time.” I reflected on this and thought, Yes, it’s my time but more importantly, it is our time. It is our time to shine.

I am proud of the fact, that we have come a long way as individuals, as communities, as a city and as a country. But have we done enough? NO!

The road is still far ahead of us. Not just our relationship with the straight community (foes and

See GRAND on page 4

### MACT Philadelphia Celebrates 27th Anniversary

by Regis D'Angiolini

More than 50 members of the Philadelphia LGBTQI community attended Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia's 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary May 2-4 in conjunction with the city's Equality Forum celebration.

MACT Philadelphia's weekend of events featured an opening reception at the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Command Friday, a banquet and awards ceremony at the OIC Culinary Arts Institute Saturday evening, and a closing brunch at the Reading Terminal Market Sunday. Members of MACT Philadelphia's parent organization, the National Association of Black and White Men Together, attended from as far away as Greensboro, N.C.

“It was exciting to see our membership turn out,” said 2007-2008 MACT Co-Chair Nate O’Neal. “People we haven’t seen before came out. It was also a good opportunity to inform our current membership about next year’s national [NABWMT] convention in Philadelphia.”

At the banquet, community service awards were presented to Irv Randolph, managing editor of the Philadelphia Tribune, in recognition of his newspaper's publishing of in-depth articles on HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQI

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**Pot Luck at  
Jerry & Charles’  
Saturday, July 19  
7:30 PM to 11:00 PM**

at 1255 Moore Street,  
Philadelphia



We always have a great time at Charles and Jerry’s home. So put together one of your best dishes and make it on over here.

# 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	Aaron L.	07/18
Tim M.	07/22	Ron C.	07/25
Dell B.	07/27	John S.	07/29

## Thanks to All Who Help with Pride!

Thank you to all who helped with MACT/Philadelphia's participation in this year's pride celebration. It was HOT, very HOT! And still, you hung in there and either marched (and it was a long slow march), set-up or broke-down the table site, or both. Art, Bob, and Chuck took care of set-up; Aaron, Allen & Les, Jeff & Mark, Stevie and Troy marched; Bob, Chuck, Corbett, Lennie, Mark & Jeff, Sam, Stevie, and Troy staffed the table. Troy and a friend, and Stevie broke-down.

There were several miscommunications on my part that caused problems with setting up, giving out wrist bands, and finding the site. I hope that next year I can improve on these items, such as having at least one person from the marchers knowing where the table site is to avoid the confusion we had this year, as well as having a checklist of things needed for those setting the table, calling ahead to the site as the parade nears, and a way to get the wrist bands to those who needed them. We also need a couple more volunteers for the end of the day.  
 John Speer

## 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.

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community, and philanthropist Perry Monastero for his personal efforts in assisting MACT Philadelphia and the LGBTQI community. "Perry has been a supporter of our organization over the past few years," O'Neal said, "and it was long overdue that he was recognized for his financial contributions."

The MACT Philadelphia Founder's Award was presented to local activist Michael Hinson for being a crucial link that increased services and awareness between the LGBTQI community and the city administration. The Dr. Gerald L. Mallon Resisting Racism Award was presented to HIV/AIDS educator Chris Bartlett for continuing to include all members of minority communities in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. "Chris has many years of dedication doing AIDS prevention and workshops," O'Neal said. "His award was well deserved."

MACT Philadelphia also elected new officers to its steering committee Saturday night, including Corbett Klein as its new co-chair and Chuck McLean, Jr., as its treasurer for 2008-2009. Klein urged members to think about what direction they would like to see the organization take in the future and whether it should embark further on political issues in addition to social and educational initiatives.

A memorial candle lighting recognized more than 35 members of the organization who were lost to HIV/AIDS and other causes. Also, a special call for donations and volunteers was made as the organization prepares to host the national convention of NABWMT during the summer of 2009.



## Hi this is Stevie...

It's summer again and things are really heating up, starting with gay pride. It was very, very hot but successful and I'll tell you what I mean when I say successful. I'm talking about our attitude and how we looked. We had younger

members holding the banner, to older members holding signs about voting and leadership, another one proudly holding a rainbow flag, and the rest marching. I loved the way we looked.

I also loved, when we walked up to the judges stand after getting announced, and by the way I liked the announcement. We got announced and we marched through. We didn't say a word, we didn't even look at the judges, we just marched through, and then I screamed "27 years and we are still here". It was simple and to the point. It inspired our new pride committee that is being formed to do a lot of interesting things for next year. You are going to read about that later. This is going to be part of the new structure. Friday at the last General Meeting for the summer (we will be back in September) was really incredible. This time we used two rooms. We paired up



See Stevie on page 4

## Bring Your Own Picnic

to Art and Stevie's home in Norristown  
Saturday, July 12  
2:00 PM to 8:00 PM



Pack a picnic basket for you and your friends and come on over. We will have the grill all warmed up and ready for your food. We will supply the grills, plates, cups, napkins and plastic ware.

### Directions to Art and Stevie's

#### From Philadelphia:

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.

## Georgia Congressmen Proposes Constitutional Amendment

Congressman Seaborn Roddenverry of Georgia, in 1912 proposed a constitutional amendment that would have prohibited interracial marriage. I read as follows:

*That intermarriage between negroes or persons of color and Caucasians or any other character of persons within the United States or any territory under their jurisdiction, is forever prohibited; and the term 'negro or person of color', as here employed, shall be held to mean any and all persons of African decent or having any trace of African or negro blood.*

41 years ago on June 12, 1967 in LOVING vs VIRGINIA the Supreme Court of the United States struck down all laws against interracial marriage. Up until that time it was illegal in 16 states for persons of African decent or any person of color and a Caucasian to marry.

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allies alike) but also with each other. In my ultimate vision of a truly grand parade, I would like to see our communities not leave anyone behind. Not leave our lesbian sisters behind because we can't acknowledge sexism in our communities. Not leave our transgender brothers and sisters because it may be politically easier to do so. Not leave people of color because some people within our communities are afraid to deal with issues of race. Not leave people who are living or affected with HIV because we are tired of hearing about it. Not leave people because they are living with addiction. Not leave people because they are poor. Not leave people because they can't speak English very well or not at all. Not leave people because they are straight and they have a hard time getting it. Finally, not leave anyone because of our need to be accepted and "mainstreamed" or straight acting.

I always hear about this need to have our place at the table. I know it's important. But if the cost is leaving someone behind and if the rest of the world does not let us have our place at the table.... Then I suggest we buy a table in Ikea and make it prettier.

Thanks your letting me speak and let's celebrate pride not just today but everyday in the way we treat each other and ourselves in the truly fabulous rainbow of our diversity.

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#### **A brief history of Loving vs Virginia:**

In June 1958, two residents of Virginia, Mildred Jeter, a Negro woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, were married in the District of Columbia pursuant to its laws. Shortly after their marriage, the Lovings returned to Virginia and established their marital abode in Caroline County. At the October Term, 1958, of the Circuit Court of Caroline County, a grand jury issued an indictment charging the Lovings with violating Virginia's ban on interracial marriages. On January 6, 1959, the Lovings pleaded guilty to the charge and were sentenced to one year in jail; however, the trial judge suspended the sentence for a period of 25 years on the condition that the Lovings leave the State and not return to Virginia together for 25 years. He stated in an opinion that:

"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and He placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that He separated the races shows that He did not intend for the races to mix."

On May 22, 2008, Congressman Paul Broun of Georgia introduced the Marriage Protection Amendment of 2008. This Joint Resolution has been referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. The resolution reads as follows:

**Section 1 – This article may be cited as the 'Marriage Protection Amendment'.**

**Section 2 – Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents**

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and talked about what we'd like to see, what we're going to do and the future of this organization. Some of the things that came up are more workshops and discussions on racism, volunteer with soup kitchens, work with schools, and of course I talked about the Theatre of Understandings. We also talked about working with health organizations, about AIDS, syphilis, and other problems. We talked about the elderly and us getting older. Questions like, 'I'm eighty years old, where do I fit in this organization?' We talked about publicity. The way we did this was we counted off in one's and two's and split up to brainstorm. I hope that Corbett will write a summary and the next step. It just goes to prove the point that our members can be involved, it's not that hard. There will be more about this in further newsletters. It's really going to be a challenge to work on the next 27 years. Jerry Mallon left a legacy, what are you going to leave. I was talking to somebody the other day and he said when an organization becomes older than ten years it becomes an institution and that is what I think we are. Look at all we've done already. One more thing about the General Meeting on Friday, we also recognized our members who are deaf.

Now let me tell you about members. We have 62 members so far. We have eight prospective members. This is between gay pride and phone calls. We have eight renewals so far. Yes guys, it's that time again. I'm sorry that I didn't remind you last month about membership time. Remember you can also donate to help us with putting on the 2009 NABWMT convention. If you haven't gotten a pledge form please call John Speer at 610-429-5265. There is also going to be more information about our committees. Corbett will be reporting about that too. Do you like camping? Do you want to go to Hillside? Well, call Aaron and tell him because there is a trip planned for the Fourth of July weekend. He needs to know ASAP. You are reading this now, call him now. If you've never been camping with us try to go. It is truly wonderful. We have pot lucks set up for the summer. Now remember our member who moved to Denver, Shelton West. He is back and I'm going to let Tyrone fill you in about what happened.

*Shelton is out of jail. He is currently staying with Fannie on Pine St., but can be reached by cell at (303) 396-3506. His plans are dictated by the terms of his release--details of which I am short on--however, he will be moving to another friend's home shortly, but does has long range plans of returning to Colorado. I do know that he was given probation, the terms of which need to be accepted by Probation Dept in CO (for reporting, monitoring, etc) before he can move there permanently. Since he did identify himself as a resident of CO, he is entitled to apply for a pass/permission to stay there for a short period of time (7 days initially) and if successful (he returns, reports to probation officer, doesn't get into trouble), he can apply for longer stays (up to 30 days). Those are the only restrictions keeping him in the Philadelphia area, but otherwise, he is well and can begin to put his life in CO back together. I assume that there is also some sort of restitution that he may have to pay. I am also assuming that he accepted a*

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*plea bargain to get his release.*

It just proves the point that how important it is to have a lawyer and to get things down on paper. To make sure that everything is legal. Make sure there are more than one copy. You keep one and another goes to your lawyer. I spoke to Shelton, I called the number Tyrone gave us. He said you all can call him also. He would love to hear from you. He is kind of stuck here right now but it's not like he doesn't know anybody. And it's not like he's chained to the. He filled me in on his bother and sister-in-law. Shelton has been in this group since 1994. He was one of the members that helped to make this chapter the way it is today. He never said no and was always willing to help. He took over the tradition of having Easter dinner at his house and his mother was there also. There are at least 25 members in this group that can testify that he took good care of his mother. I mean, he took her to a lot of our events, like the picnic at Joshua's Farm, pot lucks, bar parties. He told me that his bother is jealous of his relationship with his mother. You know that sometimes in families there is a good child and a bad child. Well, Shelton is the good child. It's hard for him because he is always fighting with his brother. I didn't know this until now. But now it makes sense, this is why Shelton didn't talk about him. I didn't know that they lived down the street from each other. I didn't know that the neighbors were calling his brother telling him what is happening at the house. I didn't know that his bother was into drugs. So, that explains the madness. His bother even asked him to come back and take care of his mother. Of course he is not going to do it. And I don't blame him, would you? He told me he had a car and a job in Denver and he lost that now. He was in jail for six months. So like I said before this is a good example of how mean a family can be especially when they think you have money. I guess they figured that because everything got paid he had a lot of money. His mother was always dressed well and he was always taking her places. His attitude now is there is a message in this somewhere. He said maybe God is trying to tell me something. I can definitely understand that being a Christian myself. God talks to me all the time. So, I'm glad he is out so we can talk to him. Welcome back Shelton.

One more thing I want to remind everybody. I have a committee myself. That's the Membership Committee. I need help with getting out information about the group. We are going to have more newsletters for publicity. This special newsletter will be at the Community Center, Giovanni's Room book store and perhaps other book stores and bars. We are going to try to cover every facet of the community. So, think about that. I will see you around this summer.

Now I have a "Stevieism" for you... Life is like standing in a line, somebody is first, somebody is second, and somebody is third. The question is which one are you? Always remember someone has to be first. That's it for now, stay positive and stay strong. Stevie

## Things We Remember

A few things I remember about BWMT/MACT over the years:  
 Being blessed with the friendship of Sam F., Regis D., Nate O. and John S., to name a few.  
 The anniversaries in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Pittsburgh  
 The crab fests in Baltimore  
 Being privileged to serve as co-chair with Nate O. for two years  
 Meeting and working with people who are no longer with us like Jerry M., Marvin K. and Chris B. to name a few  
 All the wonderful potlucks that were provided by such gracious hosts  
 The holiday dinners I had at my house  
 All the learning experiences at various meetings and functions

**John Orandosh**

I remember the early days of BWMT/Phila. when we met at the former Seamen's institute. There was wine for sale at the general meetings.  
 Many of our activities took place on Parkside Ave. at the home of Len and John.  
 There were also a wide range of special interest committees; gourmet, drama, trains, etc.  
 One of the negatives was the apparent cliques. If you weren't part of them you were an outsider.  
 I have fond recollections of the volleyball games at Josh's farm as well as the bathing in the Brandywine.

### Aaron Libson

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*thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.*

The American Family Association (AFA) has called for ACTION saying, "As you know, Massachusetts has already legalized marriage of homosexuals, while the California Supreme Court has ruled all laws restricting homosexual marriage illegal. In both places, the court has ruled by a one vote margin. The homosexual activists are determined to force homosexual marriage on America by using activist liberal judges, like those in Massachusetts and California. A federal Marriage Amendment will finally put an end to activist judges tampering with the will of the people."

As the AFA is gearing up to promote this amendment progressive and correct thinking people are countering their mobilization with ACTIONS of their own. Go to the HRC Action Center at [www.hrcactioncenter.org](http://www.hrcactioncenter.org) and click on Millions for Marriage. It only takes a few minutes, even with a dial-up.

As we work on convention 2009 it would be great if also we took the time to look back. I invite all to send your own  
**"Things We Remember"**  
 to [ajmartin-chester@juno.com](mailto:ajmartin-chester@juno.com) or mail it to  
 627 Hamilton St., Apt. A, Norristown, PA 19401-4234

# JULY 2008

- Thursday 03 thru Sunday 06** **Our first outing to Hillside this year**  
Call Aaron at 215-455-6038 to reserve your space  
See details on page 1
- Friday 11** **Steering Committee meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**  
at ASIAC office  
340 N. 12th Street, Suite 205 (12th & Callowhill)
- Saturday 12** **First of the Summer BOYPicnic**  
**2:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
at Art and Stevie's in Norristown  
See details and directions on page 3
- Saturday 19** **Pot Luck at Jerry & Charles'**  
**7:30 PM to 11:00 PM**  
at 1255 Moore Street, Philadelphia  
See details on page 1 and directions on page 2
- Monday 21 thru Saturday 26** **NABWMT Convention in St. Louis**  
NABWMT General Membership meeting will be on Wednesday, July 23 at 10:00 AM

# AUGUST 2008

- Friday 01**  
Steering Committee meeting  
place Aaron's home
- Friday 15 thru Sunday 17**  
Hillside camping  
Call Aaron to reserve your spot
- Saturday 16**  
Pot Luck  
At Patrick's home in Delaware
- Tuesday 19**  
Gay Community Night at the Phillies  
Phillies vs Washington Nationals  
Game starts at 7:05 PM  
Order ticket through [www.phillygaydays.com](http://www.phillygaydays.com)

## Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia PO Box 42257 Philadelphia, PA 19101 2008-2009 STEERING COMMITTEE

- Co-chairs  
Corbett Klein 609-530-1726
- Recording Secretary  
Troy Bandel 267-402-0669
- Corresponding Secretary  
Ron Cropper 215-806-5016
- Treasurer  
Chuck McLean 610-918-0828
- NA Reps.  
Tyrone Harvey 215-726-6876  
John Speer 610-429-5265
- 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  
Nate O'Neal 215-848-8532  
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>

## Up-Coming Events to put on your calendar

- Labor Day BYOPicnic at Joshua's Farm, September 1  
Pot Luck at Troy's home on September 20

## SISTER MARY ANN'S GASOLINE

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting homebound patients when she ran out of gas.

As luck would have it, a Shell gasoline station was just a block away. She walked to the station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas. The attendant told her that the only gas can he owned had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned.

Since Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the gas into her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, 'If it starts, I'm turning Catholic.'