



The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

September 2007

Challenger

From Aaron one of our Co-chairs

This is one article I've dreaded writing, but I feel the circumstances warrant it. Let me say from the outset that when Stevie and Art moved here it prevented this chapter from folding. After two years of bickering and losses they brought a fresh view and enthusiasm. But over the years problems have developed. At times they manifest themselves as competing for "power". Other times there is just a stubborn power holding (i.e. the post office key and reporting on its contents, the many sign-in sheets gathered at Pride and OutFest).

What precipitated this all was I had submitted a rebuttal letter to an article in the previous month's issue. This article, I felt, distorted our role and view. Art (and possibly Stevie) decided that my article shouldn't be printed and that I need not be informed of this. In all my years in this chapter I never heard of such high handed tactics. The newsletter is the chapter's property. If he had any problem with the content or formulations it was incumbent on him to contact me.

When we had a discussion of this at the July steering committee, Art apologized. I requested a front page apology explaining the wrongness of such tactics. Art asked if I still wanted my article printed since the other author resigned from MACT. I left that up to him.

So what did he do? He put an ambiguous paragraph on the bottom of page six. After many pleas for people- members and non-members- to send in articles and other contributions it is vital to see that such abuses never are repeated. I, personally, have no problem in acknowledging mistakes or apologizing for wrong things I may have done. Art, you should realize that this one incident doesn't speak for all the other good things you (and Stevie) do. Thus saying, I hope to put an end to this episode.

The Rainbow Social Club of South Jersey Pot Luck Saturday, September 29 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Again this year we have been invited to join the Rainbow Social Club for an enjoyable evening. Last year we all had a great time and I expect this year will be no different.

Hi this is Stevie... Hello again

everyone. Summer is over, how sad but my favorite season is coming up now which is the fall. Maybe, if you all agree we can take a field trip and look at the trees as they change color. Maybe we can go apple picking or go to a pumpkin patch. Art has a second job, he's now working at Kmart and I'm cleaning offices now on Sunday we haven't been able to go to many events lately. We haven't even been to the beach this year. Some of our friends in MACT/NY were wondering about that but there is always next year.

I'll tell you some things about what's happening with our members. Starting with, we now have 32 members. Because we are starting over again. Remember it's renewal time. So far the membership is going well. No complaints yet. I was talking to Bill Martin, one of our members from Reading and they had their first Gay Pride in Reading. He said it was wonderful, over 1000 people showed up. Perhaps next year maybe we can have a table there, I'll bring it up to the Steering Committee. That's something to look forward to in the future. He also told me he is getting "married". I'll get more details for the next newsletter. Tyrone is back and he is working as part of the Phone Tree. This season should be quite

See STEVIE on page 4

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

William G.	09/12	Victor R.	09/12
John B.	09/13	Les K.	09/14
Jerry S.	09/20	Alan B.	09/21
Patrick L.	09/22	Lenny S.	09/24

"Orientation" at UPenn

Orientation is to give new and returning LGBT students the opportunity to become familiar with the many resources available to them both on campus and in the greater Philadelphia community. In addition, the "Orientation" gives us a chance to introduce our organization to students, who are potential members or volunteers.

Directions to Aaron's home

Take I-76 to the Roosevelt Expressway North. Follow the expressway approximately 3 mile and turn slightly left onto North 9th street. Follow North 9th to Aaron's home, 4919 North 9th street.

Phone 215-455-6038 for other directions

Bill Newman collects eyeglasses for the Lion's Clubso, if you have an old pair of glasses give Bill a call at 215-877-5206.

David Torres and Norman Medina of APM will be speaking at our September 21st General Meeting

Before the creation of **Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha, Inc.** (APM, Inc.), basic social services were practically non-existent for Philadelphia’s Latinos. Few resources flowed into the community and residents were overlooked and politically marginalized. In the critical areas of child welfare, mental health, and mental retardation there were few caseworkers and therapists who could actually *speak* to many of their clients. In 1970, a group of Puerto Rican social activists sought to energize the community and help bring to it a fair share of resources from the majority culture. The success of **APM** is the result of those efforts. In its first year, the group sued the Commonwealth to provide group community living arrangements for Puerto Ricans and other Latinos with mental retardation living in Pennhurst State School and Hospital. Up until that point, little care had been offered. People were often ignored and with no Spanish speakers on staff, meaningful communication was de-prioritized. After winning a Consent Decree from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the agency established its first program in mental health and mental retardation.

On September 9, 1971, the small agency incorporated as a non-profit. Over the next thirty-five years, **APM** grew from a staff of five housed in a storefront on Germantown Avenue, to a broad network of social services offered at more than 23 sites throughout north Philadelphia. Today, it is an organization employing nearly 200 bilingual/bicultural professionals, serving more than 40,000 people every year.

Since its inception, **APM** has worked to implement and maintain initiatives in the following key areas: primary health; behavioral health; low income housing; home ownership; substance abuse treatment for youth and adults; emergency and transitional shelter; support services for the family and individuals; head start and daycare services; and child welfare.

APM is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia area through programs that assess and institute meaningful remedies for the many societal problems prevalent in today’s world. The agency is also committed to promoting and supporting the civil rights of the Puerto Rican/Latino community. **APM’s** mission and purpose is as multifaceted and diverse as the people it serves. By creating job opportunities, aiding people with debilitating illnesses, supporting families and individuals with caring and compassion, and providing a comprehensive array of life-improving social services, **APM** has become an indispensable asset to Philadelphia and all of its residents.

In 2005, **APM** began a new chapter in its history. Under the dynamic leadership of Philadelphia-born Nilda Ruiz, the agency has seen its budget increase to \$13 million. Additional projects are already underway, including a host of housing and community development initiatives; the implementation of a financial services component; and a partnership with Camden **APM** to offer technical assistance that will benefit a broader client base. An advisory board comprised of corporations, foundations and influential leaders promises to bolster the agency’s visibility and help identify additional funding sources. As the 21st century commences, **APM** is developing and expanding in new and exciting directions - not only for Philadelphia, but beyond.



**Joshua’s Farm
BYOP**

**Monday, Sept. 03
2:00 PM to Dusk**

The farm is one of our favorite places to visit this time of year. Peaceful surroundings, animals to watch, late summer and early fall flowers abound and we always have a great crowd. So pack your picnic basket full of good food and head on over here on Labor Day, Monday, September 4. We will get the grills going as soon as people start arriving.

**NABWMT Retreat 2007
Holiday Inn Express
Hotel & Suites**

What is included: To encourage participation, NABWMT is subsidizing all attendees.

Your \$35.00 registration includes: Entrance to all retreat sessions, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, dinner and evening recreation, and Sunday lunch. Saturday and Sunday breakfast is complimentary to all hotel guests.

Hotel Reservation: Call 412-788-8400 and ask for “National Association of Black and White Men Together” rate. Reservations must be made by *October 10, 2007* to get the discount rate of \$72.00 per night.

To Register for the Retreat, please send check or money order (in US funds) for **\$35.00** payable to:

NABWMT, P.O. Box 81236, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-4236

Registration must be postmarked by *October 10, 2007*

Name

Address

Phone

STEVIE continued from page 1

interesting. This organization has a lot of things planned. I want to remind you about the "orientation" at UPenn the date and time are in the calendar. One more thing we need members to have pot lucks and to help do other things. You can talk to the Co-Chairs about that they will tell you what we need.

Tyrone and I had a long talk about the NABWMT Retreat that will be happening in November. Some of the questions that we will be dealing with are for long range planning. I won't talk about all the questions because you will be getting more information about this next month. The thing I thought about was the question where they ask about taking an honest look at the member and the chapter perception of the NABWMT. Art and I both have busy schedules but we are going to try our best to go to this Retreat. Like I told Tyrone, if I can't I will e-mail my thought and my ideas and Art will also. I think it's a good idea for all of you to do the same thing.

The questions the NA is asking reminded me of what I first thought when I got involved with this organization in Connecticut in 1982. I had friends in New York so I went there often and some of my friends worked at the Oscar Wilde Book Store. It's a gay and lesbian book store like Giovanni's Room here in Philadelphia. On the wall was a poster talking about Black and White Men Together an organization that deals with racism and homophobia. That was written in big letters on the poster and that caught my eye. I read the statement of purpose for the first time and I said "I like that, I can work with that." So I called the numbers and talked to James Credle and Lydel Jackson. We spoke for hours about the group. They said "Stevie you are asking so many questions, do you want to start a chapter?" Of course I said yes and my walk began. I helped start the first chapter in New Haven Connecticut. That led me to come to my first convention in Washington DC where I finally met all these guys I've been talking to. By this time everybody wanted to meet me. We paid chapter dues and got a bar to change its policies within the first year of our existence. They were quite impressed with that. The NABWMT founder, Mike Smith even called to congratulate me. I met him, Tim Wilson from Denver, James and Lydel from New York and of course Dr. Bush who was from Boston at the time. I admired all these men. They are/were great leaders and they taught me how to be a leader. It also reminded me of things we used to have way back there in the day. They were called Regionals. I think we had two a year plus convention. They were wonderful. We learned a lot about chapter development and leadership. All this brings me to a question. If we had a Regional, would you go to it? Let me explain about a Regional. It's like a mini convention. Members from New York, Baltimore and DC would join us for the weekend to talk about our chapters. Would you go? There are two answers – if you would go – WHY and if you would not go – WHY NOT. I think you would agree that this is an

important subject. If you are wondering what the subject is it's all about the future of the chapters in attendance as well as the future of the national. So what do you think about that? Remember our first General Meeting which is Friday, September 21 at 7:30 PM in William Way. Our National Reps. will be talking about the convention. Maybe after you here what they have to say it will help you answer the questions I asked. Remember to pay your dues if you haven't paid them already. If you have any problems call or e-mail me. So that's it for now. Stay positive and Stay strong. Stevie

Larry Is in Room #233

Larry gets home late one night and, Linda, his wife says, "Where in the hell have you been?"

Larry replies, "I was out getting a tattoo."

"A tattoo?" she frowned. "What kind of tattoo did you get?"

"I got a hundred dollar bill on my privates," he said proudly.

"What the hell were you thinking?" she said, shaking her head in disgust.

"Why on earth would an accountant get a hundred dollar bill tattooed on his privates?"

"Well, one, I like to watch my money grow.

Two, once in a while I like to play with my money.

Three, I like how money feels in my hand.

And, lastly, instead of you going out shopping, you can stay right here at home and blow a hundred bucks anytime you want."

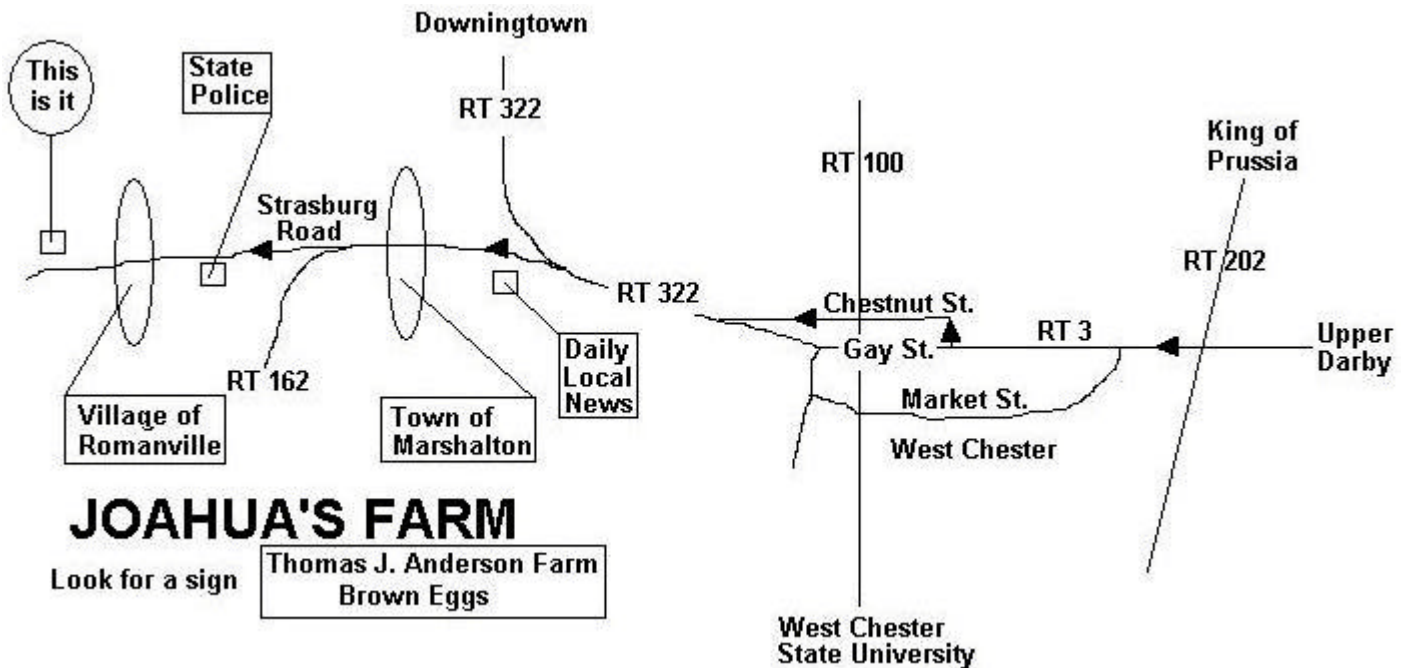
Larry is recovering in room 233 at the local hospital.

Directions for Rainbow Social Club Pot Luck

From Pennsylvania, take the Walt Whitman or Ben Franklin Bridge to New Jersey. Once in New Jersey follow 76 or 676 to Route 42. Take the exit for 295 North and exit @ 29(Berlin Lawnside) Go to the 5th light(Warwick Road) and turn right. Follow Warwick to the 3rd street to the right and turn right onto Brooke Ave. You will notice a sign that says one-way. The one-way is only for the weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, it is a two-way street.

Donald Mapp's house is on the left side. It is yellow with brown shutters(#226)

Donald's phone number is 856-566-2122.



YOU'RE INVITED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Big Brothers Big Sisters SEPA needs help recruiting Big Brothers for the 1000+ boys waiting for a Big Brother! So, we are turning to you; our current Ambassadors, current Big Brothers and Friends (**men** that are considering their involvement in the program); **men** who know **men** that may want to help; **men** that want to be a part of something that can truly transform and strengthen our communities and improve the lives of children. **Men** who will help us recruit more Big Brothers by connecting us to individuals, organizations and/or companies that have **men** who would be suitable **mentors**.

Since its conception in March of this year, the Ambassador Program has grown steadily. The original core group of 8 has grown to over 20 Ambassadors and counting. Since our last meeting in June, through contacts and referrals, the group has been directly responsible for several volunteer applications. This is good progress, but there is much more to be done to find suitable Big Brothers for all the boys on our waiting list.

Please join us for an informal, yet informative meeting where you can share your ideas and meet other **men** that are passionate about making a difference. It is said that innately **men** have a drive to "fix" things. Well it's time for us to "fix" our communities by supporting one-to-one mentoring; a proven solution that works.

The agenda will include: a short DVD and slide show about BBBS, recruitment tips and materials, a general discussion about the deficient amount of male **mentors** and what we can do about it, specific discussion about what you and/or your organization can do to help and a final discussion about an Ambassador Program outing; specifically for the Ambassadors (sponsored by BBBS) to celebrate our anticipated success.

Complimentary food and drinks will be provided. The meeting will last for 1 hour.

WHEN: September 12th, 2007, 6:00 PM

WHERE: Big Brothers Big Sisters Center City Office- 123 South Broad Street, Suite 2180, Philadelphia, PA 19109

RSVP: by September 10th by replying to this e-mail or calling Spencer Wright 215-701-8110

For additional information and any questions, please contact Spencer Wright.

Your input and ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Put the "MEN" Back in MENtoring

We have hundreds of boys waiting for a Big Brother of their own.

Tell the men you know that we need them to become mentors.

www.bbbssepa.org or 215-701-8100

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Monday 03** **Labor Day BYOP on the farm**
 2:00 PM to Dusk
 at Joshua's farm
 See details on page 3 and directions on page 5
- Thursday 06** **"Orientation" at UPenn Carriage House**
 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
 at 3907 Spruce Street
 see details on page 2
- Friday 07** **Steering Committee meeting**
 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
 at Aaron's home
 See directions on page 2
- Friday 14** **The Jaded Lounge**
 11:00 PM to 1:00 AM
 at the 12th AirCommand
- Friday 21** **First General Meeting of the new season**
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
 at William Way Community Center
 We will have a report from our National Reps. on
 Convention 2007 and a presentation from APM
 (see article on page 3)
- Saturday 29** **MACT will join the Rainbow Social Club
 of South Jersey for a time of food and fun**
 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 in Magnolia, NJ
 See details on page 1 and directions on page 4

OCTOBER 2007

- Friday 05**
 Steering Committee meeting
 7:30 to 9:00 PM
 place TBD
- Sunday 07**
 OutFest
 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM
 in the Gayborhood
- Friday 19**
 General Meeting
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
- Sunday 21**
 AIDS Walk Philly
- Video night at Nate's date and time TBD
 Pot Luck at Trace & Julian's date and time TBD

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
 Stevie Martin-Chester 610-277-6595
- Newsletter Editor
 Arthur Martin-Chester 610-277-6595
- Members-At-Large
 Sam Fisher 215-542-8665
 Ron Sy 215-563-2420
 Bob Hooks 215-223-1688
 Steve Gilmour 610-355-0832

Email address:
ajmartin-chester@juno.com
 Web site:
<http://www.mactphila.org>

**July was 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**

Editor's note: I am always looking forward to articles written by members and non-members for this newsletter. Please e-mail me at ajmartin-chester@juno.com or snail-mail me at **627 Hamilton St., Apt. A, Norristown, PA 19401** so that submissions reach me by the 15th of the month.

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) _____

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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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Membership ♦ Rap/CR ♦ Social

Newsletter ♦ Political Action ♦ Health Education