



# The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

## October 2007

# Challenger

### Diversity: a MOSAIC in Motion The NABWMT convention 2007

James Credle, an active member in NABWMT and MACT/NY for 27 years writes, "The highlight of the convention for me was the granting of the Lifetime Achievement Award to MACT/Philadelphia's John Speer, a man so long and consistently behind the scenes making connections to together in behalf of the purpose and mission of the NABWMT and such a leader and supporter of MACT/Philadelphia... Congratulations John." We want to add our Congratulations to John. If it were not for John's support and consistent hard work we, MACT/P, would not have received many of our chapter awards. Thank you John and again CONGRATULATIONS.

CONGRATULATIONS also go out to Arthur Martin-Chester and **The Challenger** for being presented with the Best Newsletter Editor award. This is the second time he has received this award.

### The Jenna Six: add your voice!

It's a story that reads like one from the Jim Crow era, when judges, lawyers and all-white juries used the justice system to keep blacks in "their place"--but it's happening today.

The noose-hanging incident and the DA's visit to the school set the stage for everything that followed. Racial tension escalated over the next couple of months, and on November 30, the main academic building of Jena High School was burned down in an unsolved fire. Later the same weekend, a black student was beaten up by white students at a party. The next day, black students at a convenience store were threatened by a young white man with a shotgun. They wrestled the gun from him and ran away. While no charges were filed against the white man, the

See JENNA on page 4



### OutFest 2007 Sunday October 7 12 noon to 6:00 PM

The gayborhood will be alive with music, food, dancing, and lots of MEN. Come on OUT! Help with our table for a while then spend time walking the streets.

### Hi this is Stevie...

The leaves are beginning to change and as you all know fall is one of my favorite seasons. Spring is the other season. Summertime isn't too bad if it's not too hot and I love looking at the half naked men walking around. But enough of that. Let me tell you what's happening with the group. We now have 40 members in the group. I'd like to welcome our newest member Joe C. he says he was in the group years ago, so welcome back Joe. You'll be getting an invitation to the new members pot luck in November at Roger's house in New Jersey. I think that makes six new members counting from last November to now. Some news about our members, starting with my husband. He has a second job now working at Kmart and I have a part-time job working on Sundays. This is the reason why we haven't been going to many events. I want to make something perfectly clear, we're not angry with anybody, we're not avoiding anybody and we're not leaving the group. We both have invested a lot of time, lot of money and a lot of talent in this organization and it would take something real extraordinary for us to leave. So don't worry about it. Now after saying that, I don't want to hear any rumors about us. Because if I do it just means you're not reading the newsletter and that's your fault not mine. Now I hope that's clear! Now back to the news. Lenny is back on the Steering Committee. That's wonderful. We made a big hit at the convention. If you didn't know John McNeill is back from Florida. He is living in Philadelphia and you will be seeing him at meetings. Welcome back John.

See STEVIE on page 5

# 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

Mark W. 10/09      Arthur M-C 10/28

This year **Queer Cafe** at Temple University will be held on Thursday, October 11th, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in a brand new location. We will be in the "underground" cafe in the Student Center, located on 13th street, between Montgomery and Cecil B. Moore Ave. We will have a four piece jazz band to entertain all.

### Directions to Ron's home for the Steering Committee meeting

Address: 1943 South 12th Street, Philadelphia  
 Using public transit take the #23 bus or the Broad Street line to Snyder walk east to 12th and north to Ron's place.

**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.**

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results."  
 -Anonymous

# NABWMT Retreat 2007

November 2 – 4

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

The following few months are important to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender Philadelphians who are in pursuit of their rights. There is an election in November where we will have to vote for judges who could possibly make decisions about our right to civil unions, right to marry, or to even hold a job.

*Our rights are not just going to be given to us--we all need to get more involved*

That is why we hope to see you at this important Town Hall meeting where we will discuss the election, important legislation in Harrisburg and in City Council regarding LGBT rights, and dues-paying members will get a chance to vote for our General Election slate of candidates.

**Liberty City Town Hall meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 9th**  
**William Way Community Center**  
**1315 Spruce Street**  
**Social time: 6:00 PM**  
**Meeting: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

## MACT Co-chairs speak to M.U.R.L.

Colleen Dunn of the Temple School of Communications and Theater interviewed our co-chairs for an article in M.U.R.L (Multimedia.Urban.Reporting.Lab). What great exposure this gives us at Temple just before attending the “Queer Café”. Part of their interview is printed below.

*Aaron says of the group, “One of the problems that we face now is how to keep renewing ourselves – how to reach into the next generation.” Limited awareness of the group is not the only topic of discussion. There has been debate among members about whether to change the name of their chapter to appear more inclusive toward women. Although, they currently have no female members, they have welcomed women in the past. Aaron speaks about this issue, “Though our name says Men Together, we have had women members. We are non-discriminatory and some of us (himself included) would rather see it (the title of the organization) say ‘People of All Colors Together’.” Nate agrees, explaining the group’s current by-laws are not so stringent that they cannot evolve into something else, “I welcome it. I welcome anything that’s going to make the organization grow. We need to be expanded...And the issue of sexism, you know, we constantly need to be educated, and not having women members is something that tells me we got issues there.”*

Great work Aaron and Nate.

This coming Election Day, we will not let the right wing judge us.

**At the Liberty City Town Hall meeting, you will learn about our plan to elect judges to protect our interests. We will talk about an effort to eliminate the unfair local transfer tax same-sex couples pay on real estate. A representative from Equality Advocates PA will be on hand to update us on the fight in Harrisburg to end employment discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. And, as always, paid members of Liberty City will vote on candidates seeking our endorsement for the General Election.**

Please RSVP to attend this important Town Hall Meeting:

[www.libertycity.org/forms/LGBTtownhall](http://www.libertycity.org/forms/LGBTtownhall)

In addition to learning more about the important issues in our community, endorsing candidates, and taking action for LGBT rights, our Town Hall meeting will also be a chance to reconnect with people you know and meet new people.

JENNA continued from page 1

students were arrested for the theft of the gun.

That Monday at school, a white student, who had been a vocal supporter of the students who hung the nooses, taunted the black student who was beaten up at the off-campus party and allegedly called several black students "nigger." After lunch, he was knocked down, punched and kicked by black students. He was taken to the hospital but was released and was well enough to go to a social event that evening.

Six Black Jena High students, Robert Bailey (17), Theo Shaw (17), Carwin Jones (18), Bryant Purvis (17), Mychal Bell (16) and an unidentified minor, were expelled from school, arrested and charged with second-degree attempted murder. Bail was set so high -- between \$70,000 and \$138,000 -- that the boys were left in prison for months as families went deep into debt to release them.

The first trial ended last month, and Mychal Bell, who has been in prison since December, was convicted of aggravated battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated battery (both felonies) by an all-white jury in a trial where his public defender called no witnesses. During his trial, Mychal's parents were ordered not to speak to the media and the court prohibited protests from taking place near the courtroom or where the judge could see them.

Mychal is scheduled to be sentenced on July 31st, and could go to jail for 22 years. Theo Shaw's trial is next. He will finally make bail this week.

The Jena Six are lucky to have parents and loved ones who are fighting tooth and nail to free them. They have been threatened but they are standing strong. We know that if the families have to go it alone, their sons will be a long time coming home. They will lose precious years to Jena's outrageous attempt to maintain a racist status quo. But if we act now, we can make a difference.

Please add your voice to the voices of these families in Jena, and help bring Mychal, Theo, Robert, Carwin, and Bryant home. By clicking below, you can demand that Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco get involved to make sure that justice is served for Mychal Bell, and that DA Reed Walters drop the charges against the 5 boys who have not yet gone to trial.

[www.colorofchange.org/jena/?id=1796-176426](http://www.colorofchange.org/jena/?id=1796-176426)

## Creative Access

**Experience a new kind of visual in the arts  
Deaf Arts & Culture  
PaH!**

**Celebrate**...the beauty of American Sign Language & the extraordinary artistry of a seeing culture as we welcome acclaimed Deaf actors, dancers, poets & mimes, authors, theater companies, rappers & bands to the mainstream stages, galleries & cultural hotspots of Philadelphia between October 19 and November 20, 2007. Go to [www.creativeaccess.org](http://www.creativeaccess.org) for more information and a schedule of events.

## Gay Men Should Be Checked for Anal Cancer, Experts Say

WebMD Medical News

May 31, 2000 -- Gay and bisexual men are at significant risk for developing anal cancer, and testing them for the disease would save many lives, says a new study in the *American Journal of Medicine*.

Anal cancer in gay men is as common as cervical cancer was in women before the use of the Pap smear, the test used to screen for precancerous spots on the cervix. Both types of cancer are caused by the human papilloma virus, or HPV, which also causes genital warts. The researchers involved in this new study say that Pap smears, which have saved the lives of many women, should also be used to look for anal cancer in gay and bisexual men.

Study author Sue Goldie, MD, MPH, tells WebMD that screening for anal cancer in gay men would provide the same, if not greater, life-saving benefits as cervical cancer screening in women. Goldie is assistant professor of health policy and decision sciences, Harvard School of Public Health.

She says her study was motivated by three facts: that the number of cases of anal cancer is rising in gay men; that changes in the cells lining the anus that indicate cancer is likely to develop are easily identified with a Pap smear; and that development of this type of cancer is linked to infection with the common virus HPV. "So a study on screening seemed in order," she says.

By analyzing scientific data, Goldie and colleagues found that screening gay and bisexual men every three years would identify many cases of anal cancer early -- when they can be treated successfully -- at a cost that compares favorably with other widely used tests such as mammography for breast cancer and Pap smears for cervical cancer.

"This study clearly shows the benefit of doing anal cancer screening in gay men," Joel Palefsky, MD, the study's senior researcher, tells WebMD. "It's really very easy for clinicians to learn to do an anal Pap smear."

The reason the researchers didn't come right out and call for doctors to immediately begin offering the screening is that the health care system doesn't yet have the ability to deal with abnormal results, he says. "Physicians need to be trained to ... evaluate the lesions, and surgeons need to be trained to treat them," says Palefsky, professor of laboratory medicine and of medicine at the University of California at San Francisco.

Stephen Goldstone, MD, who was not involved in the study, tells WebMD he's been screening and treating gay men for anal cancer for several years and has found that 2.5% of these men have the disease.

"That's huge," he says. "We're trained to provide Pap screening for women but not for gay men. Contributing to the problem is the fact that gay men don't tell their physicians they're gay, and physicians don't ask. We need education on the part of the physician and the patient that this is a serious disease." Goldstone is clinical assistant professor at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

HPV vaccines offer the best hope for keeping anal cancer rates in check in the future, Goldstone says. "Several vaccines are under development, but for now, men need to know that condoms will not protect them against HPV infection, and that genital warts are not the most serious consequence of infection," he says.

GIOVANNI'S ROOM BOOK SIGNING, OCT. 17, 5:30 P.M.

Book: Walk With Us: Triplet Boys, Their Teen Parents, and Two White Women who Tagged Along, by Elizabeth K. Gordon-----  
-- This is a heartwarming story set in North Philadelphia in which two white lesbians share a household with a young black Muslim family. This memoir brings home the joys and tribulations of reaching out across race, class, and culture. At the beginning of the end of "welfare as we know it," Tahija, an effectively homeless teenaged girl, finds herself pregnant. With triplets. Her boyfriend Lamarr turns to one of the few resources in his North Philly neighborhood, Kaki and Kathryn (Elizabeth), two white women who left the suburbs to live in a multiracial community and work for peace.

STEVIE continued from page 1

Congratulations are in order for John Speer, who became a Life Time member of NABWMT. I would have loved to have been there when he got the award. Nate says his face turned red. John is a man that is a dear friend of mine and Art's he supports what we do and we support what he does. He's a good example of a gay man working in the community. That makes two from this chapter who received this award, John and Bob Williams. In our own chapter we have three Life Time members, Bob Williams, Jerry Lester and Chuck McLean. Aaron and I went to the "orientation" at UPenn. That went well and I came to a couple of realization behind that. I've been thinking about this for a while and I've been looking and asking questions. Remember the last newsletter when I talked about "regionals"? I asked the question, "If we had one would you go?" I didn't get any response. Maybe you guys didn't realize I was asking a question but I was. Something I've learned being in organizations for 30 years, no response is a response. You are telling me it's not important. This is one of the reasons why the NABWMT retreat in November is very important. So even if you can't go, please give your opinions.

Another thing I found, apparently marching in gay pride isn't that important to our members so I guess we need to find another way to show our pride. If we're going to present ourselves, we have to do a better job. We talked about this at the Steering Committee. And this was hard for me to hear but it is true, John said the six of us looked pitiful out there walking. We can get away with that in New York because MACT/NY is very different. They are involved in everything and they are well known. I remember the last time we marched with them there were about 12 of us and people cheered and clapped and everything. It's an amazing response. But that's New York. Gay people in New York live their diversity so it's no big deal but Philadelphia is a conservative city and sometime we stick out like a sore thumb.

I have found that when guys call and they want to know information about the group and I ask them if they ever heard of the group before and they say no I wonder where have they been. How come they don't know that we have been around for 26 going on 27 years. How come they don't know that we are couples friendly. How come we are stuck getting guys who are 35, 40, 50 and up. I've been checking the ages of our members and our perspective members and that's what they are, nobody

younger they are always older. I think it's time to revamp ourselves. We did this fifteen years ago and it might be time to do it again. Women are not the issue. Women were never the issue and transsexuals aren't either. They are not banging down the doors to get into this organization. Since I've been in this group we have had problems interesting youth in this organization. This is the thing that John Bush always talks about and I'm sure it came up at this convention too. Where are the youth? When I first joined this organization in 1982 I was 32 years olds. When I was younger the bars were it. The lights, music and all the men were exciting and interesting. But I also realized, quoting a song from Peggy Lee, "Is that all there is?" I'm also a Christian and the Bible says "seek and you shall find". So I found Black and White Men Together and that turned into Men of All Colors Together. I would like to find guys who are at that stage life. We don't go to bars that much. We try to go to the Jaded Lounge because we like it and it's a good cause and we are supporting our member Ron Sy.

I thought of maybe having another float and having fund raisers to get money for it but I'm not really hearing any enthusiasm about that. So guys, I don't know what we are going to do about gay pride. If you don't want to march then what do you want to do? I've been looking at this for a while and I think it's time for us to take the hint. I'm not angry about it or anything. Understand what I'm saying, you're the members of the chapter. I'm talking as the membership chair now. You have to tell the Steering Committee what you want. I'm going to start working on this. I have some members starting to help me with this. Hopefully there will be more news next time.

Remember I told you about Lidell Jackson, from the New York chapter. He's one of the guys in New York that got me involved with this organization. I learned a lot about how to be a leader from him. He formed a group called Jacks of Color. And he put together a video called "Abolish the 'N' Word". It's very powerful. I'm not going to go in to it but I think that title thinks for itself. You can hear it for yourself at [www.jacksofcolor.com](http://www.jacksofcolor.com) and you can buy it for \$5.00 through PayPal. We plan to show it at a General Meeting but it's not scheduled yet. It will be announced. So, that's a lot for you to think about. That's it for now. Stay positive, stay strong. Stevie

AIDS Services In Asian Communities (ASIAC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing culturally sensitive and language appropriate HIV-related services to Asians and Pacific Islanders and their partners, friends, family members, and service providers in the Philadelphia area.

The organization is a recognized authority on HIV/AIDS issues in Asian & Pacific Islander communities demonstrated by our professional expertise, research, community organizing efforts, participation in policy & planning activities, advocacy activities, and track record for quality services.

Jaded Lounge is the gay Asian party experience of Philadelphia. It's an event for gay Asian men and their supporters. It's a mix of dancing, entertainment mixed with education and just a place to connect with friends or make new ones. The Jaded Lounge occurs every 2nd Friday of the month at the 12th Air Command Bar, 254 South 12th Street, from 11 PM to 1 AM.

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# OCTOBER 2007

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- Friday 05**      **Steering Committee meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**  
 at Ron's home  
 See directions on page 2
- Sunday 07**      **OutFest**  
**12:00 noon to 6:00 PM**  
 in the Gayborhood  
 see details on page 1
- Thursday 11**      **Queer Café at Temple University**  
**5:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
 see details on page 2
- Friday 12**      **The Jaded Lounge**  
**11:00 PM to 1:00 AM**  
 at the 12th AirCommand
- Friday 19**      **General Meeting**  
**7:30 PM to 10:00 PM**  
 at William Way Community Center
- Sunday 21**      **AIDS Walk Philly**  
 the walk kicks off at 9:00 AM  
 it begins and ends at Eakins Oval in front  
 of the Philadelphia Museum of Art  
**See John Speer or Jeff Keith if you would like to make a donation**
- And**      **A Pot Luck Happy Birthday Party for Scott Conlan**  
**The party starts at 6:00 PM**  
 MACT/P has been invited to another Long Yang event  
 Address 419 Carriage Lane, Philadelphia  
 Phone 215-382-0795
- Saturday 27**      **Halloween Party Pot Luck**  
**7:30 PM to 11:00 PM**  
 at Regis' home in New Jersey  
 See details and directions on page 3

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# NOVEMBER 2007

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- Friday 09**  
 Steering Committee meeting  
 7:30 to 9:00 PM  
 Steve & Ken's
- Friday 16**  
 General Meeting  
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
- Thursday 22**  
 Thanksgiving dinner Pot Luck  
 at Art and Stevie's

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# DECEMBER 2007

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- Thursday 25**  
 Christmas Dinner Pot Luck  
 at Joshua's Farm

## 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
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>

**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**

If you are receiving this through Snail Mail and not renewed or contacted Stevie by September 30, 2007 you will be placed on our inactive list and this will be your last newsletter. Those receiving by e-mail have until December 31, 2007 before they are placed on the inactive list.

# 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.

**Members are encouraged to join one or more committees.  
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**Newsletter ♦ Political Action ♦ Health Education**