The Newsletter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS WHEREIN CULTURAL AND RACIAL BARRIERS CAN BE OVERCOME.

CHAPTER EVENTS

MACT New York

E. Patrick Reads!
On Friday, January 4 our very own E. Patrick Harding, aka Rufusheap, read from his new novel, You Go, Girl.We know Patrick's work well; the last few issues of the Bulletin included an extended example.
Of himself, Patrick says: Born in Westmoreland, Jamaica, West Indies: August 27th, 1944. Schooled in Jamaica, Canada, and the United States of America. My mixed heritage, under situational variables, has been, and is, both a blessing and a curse. How many times did I look in the mirror for

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A "Position" on Position Papers

by Mark P. Behar, National Co-Chair (mpbehar@wisc.edu)

Many events constantly capture our individual and collective attentions. All of them demand something—knowledge and awareness, donations of money and skill, demands for change in law and policy, public displays of righteous indignation and nonviolent protest. But do they require a position paper by NABWMT leadership? Here are some recent news (and Facebook) items of terrible injustices that captured my attention, that you may also be aware of: (Continued on Page 3)

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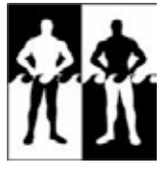
validation of who I was? How many hair stylists did I go to, to have my hair looking "more" Caucasian/white? Eventually, so as not to become glued to my percieved insufficiencies, I went on with my life. This life revolved then, and revolves now, around being picky with the people who I hang with; putting them on and taking them down from pedestals; seeking for a spiritual connection for living; reading literature, media, minds, plays, poems, short stories; traveling to Jamaica and particpating in the rhythms of the masses going about their lives and making the best use of their situations, admiring them, then becoming upset at them, writing fictions, poems and short stories on what/who I have formed an opinion on. These exigencies of mine lead me to create the mirror of You Go, Girl to exorcise my personal encounters with racism/skin color. In my next story, my personal experience with bullies is featured. Who knows what living issues I will next hold a mirror to? Maybe poems. Stay tuned.

BWMTSC EVENTS



Sunday January 20, 11am
Inaguration Brunch in Long Beach

Celebrated the coming Inaguration of President Obama's 2nd term and Martin Luther King Jr

If you are new to our group, contact Ken to find out how to get on our email list kbaron@bwmtsc.org.

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CONVENTION 2013

The 2013 NABWMT Convention, the 33rd, will be held at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel-Capital Square, 75 East State Street in Columbus, Ohio 9-13 July 2013. Telephone: 614-365-4100.

See historic Columbus landmarks and enjoy the progressive Short North arts and entertainment districts. Enjoy unique shopping and a wide range of dining selections.

Take advantage of our special February (Buddy Special) when you submit two registrations at a time. Pay only $222.00. Hurry! This special offer expires February 28!

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE LAST PAGE or

VISIT http://nabwt.org/convention.html

Yours in Brotherhood.
Ollie Lee Taylor | Michael Petta
Columbus Convention co-chairs

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Global:
Human's reported role in climate change and how our suspicions of science and our worship of profit at any cost, will have severe effect on weather everywhere
International:
Counterfeit malaria medications sold as real medications on African black markets endangering millions in malaria endemic areas for profit; Ugandan "Kill Gay People" legislation and the financial support for this genocidal pending legislation from some American evangelicals; Syrian and Iranian stockpiles of chemical weapons for any use against others; gay marriage and adoption rights in France; Vatican City (the Pope and Catholic Church) condemns gay people as a "…danger to society… that threatens justice and peace…." Devaluation of life for profit ; Ignorance with fear of thoughtful discourse and debate

Nationally:
Supreme Court to take up gay marriage; Voter suppression in the US; mass murders at schools, shopping centers, hair salons, temples, churches; wholesale availability of assault guns, ammunition, and protective equipment (or perhaps too many "gun free" zones to counter the effect of "bad guys with guns" with "good guys with guns"; lack of decent and sustaining jobs and availability of low cost higher education for motivated persons; lack of effective mental health interventions for dealing with the estrangement and alienation of perpetrators of mass murders; Sense of entitlements by the unworthy; Absence of loving and supportive parents and families for their straight and LBGT children; Actively avoiding the pursuit of formal knowledge through reading, traditional schools and classrooms, and other community activities; Bullying and senseless acts of violence; Availability of weapons with magazine munitions, including automatic military-style rifles; Reluctance of society to address mental illness such as insidious illnesses associated with alienation and estrangement from others, like paranoia, sociopathic and psychopathic disorders; Rigid, ultra-conservative religious interpretations and uncritical challenging of Judeo-Christian Biblical writings that diminish the lives and rights of LGBT people and that justify their discrimination and subjugation; Arbitrary exclusions of LGBT people and their partners from insurance benefits; Equity in receipt of domestic partner and marriage benefits; Federal exclusions of blood donations and organ procurements from gay people, which is; contrary to scientific evidence, even though people with hepatitis C, intravenous drug users, and people with prior contact with sex workers, have had such restrictions relaxed; Michigan's "Right to Work" legislation (at unsustaining wages); GLBT bashing and murders; Police abuse of those in custody in Cleveland, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and perhaps every other city in the country.

I realize that these are not written as well articulated "position statements," but merely the preambles to public statements commonly offered by other national leaders and organizations. Do these really deserve our time and effort to articulate a point of view, when we may not have the resources or gumption to go to the next level? What is that next level? And how do we choose which of these terrible injustices to write a position statement about?

Earlier this autumn, the NABWMT, in conjunction with the MATC New York chapter, donated money with a letter of support to The Ali Forney Center, a GLBT center for homeless and troubled youth in New York City after the carnage of natural disaster Hurricane Sandy. THAT WAS A STEP TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

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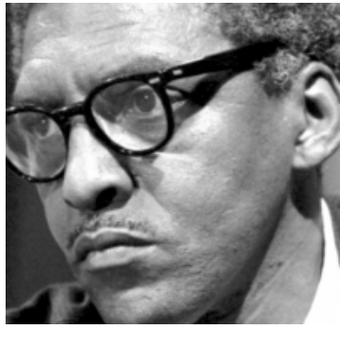
Continued from Page 3 **MARK BEHAR**

So much injustice everywhere that needs to be addressed, confronted, healed. Tikkun olam is a Hebrew phrase that means "healing and restoring the world" which suggests humanity's shared responsibility (with the Creator, if you believe in one) "to heal, repair and transform the world." How far will we go as individuals, as local chapters, and as a national organization for "tikkun olam"? Let's all stand for action and measurable outcomes. Does our responsibility mean only to address such problems with a position statement , or to implement what we stand for from positions into actions that may help to heal and restore our very flawed and imperfect world?

The BMI of NABWMT, and BWMTSC are co sponoring a showing of the Movie "Brother Outsider" at the
ONE ARCHIVES
in Los Angeles.



ONE Culture Series
Sunday, February 17, 2013, 2-4pm

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
909 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Admission is free – suggested donation of
$5

Telephone: (213) 741-0094
Fax: (213) 741-0220

Email: askone@onearchives.org

THE NA DONATES TO THE AL FORNEY CENTER

In a letter to:

Ali Forney Center
Carl Siciliano, Executive Director
224 W. 35th Street, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Dear Carl,
On behalf of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, and Men of All Colors Together/New York, we are pleased to contribute $500.00 to the Ali Forney Center, to acknowledge the great work you are doing for LGBT homeless youth, and to help you rebuild after the devastation you sustained from Hurricane Sandy. You will receive the check directly from our bank.

Your courage and strength to rebuild, and continue your valuable work for the LGBT Community, serves to inspire all of us in the face of such adversity. Thank you!.

Sincerely,
Paul Cloutier, NABWMT Treasurer
Mark Behar, NABWMT Co-Chair
Darryl Fore, NABWMT Co-Chair

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BWMT-Atlanta

We hang out and get to know each other, and of course bowl! FUNTIME BOWL has "Cosmic Bowling" every Saturday Night with black lights & awesome music!

Whether you are a competitive bowler, bowling for the first time, or you want to just hang out and watch, FUNTIME BOWL with BWMT is the place to be. Come hang out and see what everyone is talking about! See you at FUNTIME! And remember, if you don't bowl and just want to hang out, come on over! You'll have a great time with some great people.

Funtime Bowl is located at 3285 Buford Hwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30329.

You can call Funtime Bowl at 404-636-7548 or you can e-mail bwmtatlanta@gmail.com for more information or directions.

WILL MARRIAGE SAVE US?

By Anthony Carter

Marriage, any type of commitment, and being truly, terrifyingly, unabashedly, emotionally intimate is for grown ups. This is the reason we now have this insane obsession with marriage.

Although I have never really had the desire to marry, I am keenly aware of what it signifies and why it is significant. It is my belief that we have a hunger to grow up.

In this culture, the union between two people is one major way of stating that we are adults.

Is this the only way of taking on full adulthood? In this quest to be seen as a well-adjusted (normal) members of society have we truly taken a look at what this may cost us?

I recently heard someone state that who we are and what we do be considered "normal." I was bothered by this for a couple of reasons.

Placating people's fears and judgments only leads to more of the same. Rather than try to prove how much we are like the masses, why not say "Screw it, this is who I am and I am so busy living my life I really don't have time to worry or concern myself with your insecurities or lack of acceptance."

Before anyone decides to label me the arbiter of gloom and doom, let me explain. When I was a great deal younger, I hungered for three things: a life of the mind, a promising career in the arts, and men.
Continued on Page 7

My immediate and always helpful family did not support the first two desires and are still waiting for me to outgrow the third.

We (as a community) have an insatiable need to be seen and accepted. This is a longing so prevalent and so virile that we will accept anything that remotely looks like inclusion. But is marriage the answer?

Do we need full, basic, no question about it rights? Most definitely.
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Given that more than 50% of heterosexual marriages end in divorce, is this a system we should buy into unexamined and unquestionably? Considering the percentages of failures among the folks that dreamed up this institution, is this the best star on which to hitch our wagons?

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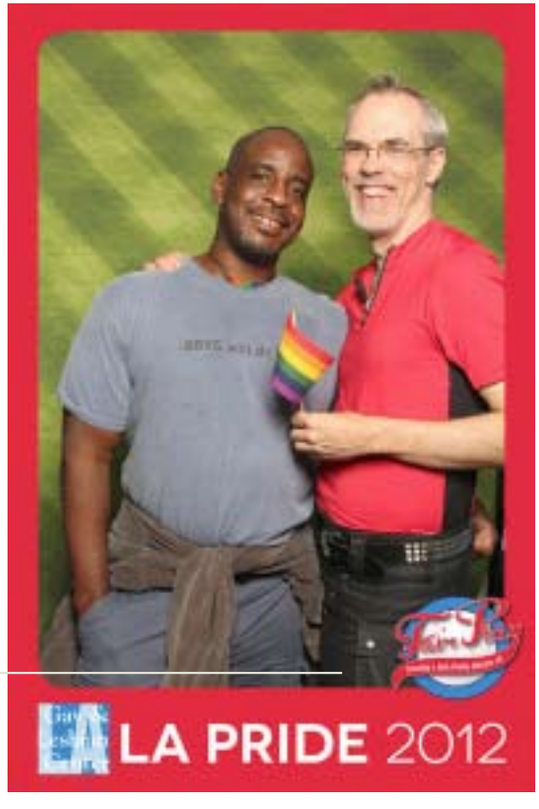
My History with the (LA) Center
Spice69man is a Los Angeles-based writer and designer.

The eBook, A View from the Cheap Seats, can be downloaded from Lulu, Amazon and the iBookstore. It can be read on any computer, smartphone, or tablet. I came to the Center back in 1984 as a scared college student. I was 20 years old. I was going to Cal State LA at the time and was trying to come to grips with being gay.

I went to see a therapist on campus, she referred me to the Gay and Lesbian Center in Hollywood on Highland Avenue. I started to see a therapist there, his name was Bob. I saw him for a few months, and started to feel better about myself. He then suggested that I check out of the rap groups happening at the Center.



Dan and Rasheed-Gary Pride 2012

At that time, there was a Young Gay Men's Rap Group meeting on Friday nights at 7 PM. I got up the courage to go and was I glad I did. Sure there were cliques like most groups, but there were also some nice people there that I enjoyed getting to know. After the rap groups, we even met up afterwards at Yukon Mining Co. and Wendy's. When I was old enough, we even went out to some dance clubs and bars.

Suddenly I was seeing things differently, I was not alone. Here was a group of vibrant individuals dealing with a lot of the same issues that I was. I started to get invited to some parties, I even met my first boyfriend there. His name was Kevin… a fun, and sensitive guy who was a bit popular even. We didn't date that long, but he opened my eyes to the beauty of a black man, something I hadn't considered before.

Other important friends I made during this time were Damon, Dominique, Alfred, and this guy named Rasheed, who later became my life partner.

After a few years, and another boyfriend for me, Damon suggested that Rasheed and I go out. He was never that close of a friend, more on the periphery than anything. Someone I was familiar with, but didn't really know that well. He called me up, we went out and the rest is history so to speak. We started going out in January 1989.

Damon and Kevin both succumbed to AIDS… it was a terrible loss for me. Kevin I had lost touch with and heard the news from an acquaintance. Damon I watched decline in health over several months. This was back in the days when AIDS was pretty much a death sentence. Rasheed and I were dating at the time, even living together, so we weren't as close of friend's as we used to be. But it was still very devasting to us. Continued on Page 7

In 1990, we started going to a new group at the Center called Black and White Men Together. Needless to say we fit in. Again, we made some great friends

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and had some interesting discussions. I even served as the Social Co-Chair for the organization for one year. The group didn't survive the move to the new location. But the friendships did survive, some were even from the youth group too!

When CA finally OK'd Domestic Partnerships for gays and lesbians we were one of the first to sign up. We waited in line a couple of hours at the Village to fill out the paperwork and get it notarized.

The Gay and Lesbian Center has been life changing for us. It was there when I needed help with coming out, when I was first finding my way in the gay world, and when I wanted to become domestic partners with my lover. Not to mention the life long friends I made in the youth group and BWMT. Thanks for all that you do. You made a difference in our lives and the lives of all gay and lesbian people in the LA area.

Continued from Page 5 **MARRIAGE**

We most definitely need full access to all the rights, privileges, and rewards that our straight allies accept as birthright. What is very fascinating to me is how we are assigned certain roles that keep us confused and infantile.

As a group, we are the only ones defined by what we do in bed and with whom. Making this legal means not only does the world at large have to respect us it also provides the world at large with an unabashed look at relationships and unions.

In other words, having full rights makes everybody fully responsible for reexamining their prejudices and thinking.

Do we want equality or marriage? Are they one and the same? Must we limit our thinking to an either or limited view of what people need? Where do gay folks go who long for heart in the throat, life changing, soul shaking love and commitment and don't want to enter into marriage? I have yet to hear any discussion about that.

What are the action plans once this glorious day arrives? So much energy is going into gaining this right that there seems to be very little planning regarding what will occur once this goal is achieved.

This, my friends, is a recipe for disaster.

Many movements have been egregiously derailed because there was no plan of attack once the "big bad" was defeated and the goal achieved.

I would strongly encourage the folks who have the most to gain by this and who are adamantly pushing for this social change to find and or cultivate some progressive, forward allies who have more experience in this arena. Do you know a great loving couple who has some coupledom years under their belt?

Start dialing now. The change will be here before we all realize it.

Buddy Special

2013 NABWMT Columbus Convention Registration Form

Still Our Purpose, Still Our Organization, Still Our Pride

Get ready for the 2013 Convention in Columbus, Ohio!! July 9 - 13, 2013. See historic Columbus landmarks and enjoy the progressive Short North Arts and Entertainment District. Enjoy unique shopping and a wide range of dining selections.

Host Hotel: **Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square**

All information is considered strictly confidential and will not be released without your permission. Please make sure your information is written CLEARLY.

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Chapter: _____

Special needs (dietary, Wheel chair, visual handicap, hearing impaired, other) Please specify below:

Take advantage of our special February Buddy Special when you submit two registrations at a time. So get your partner or friend to register with you and pay only $222.00 for both of you. Hurry! This special offer expires February 28th!

NABWMT Convention 2013
P.O. Box 589
Hollywood, CA 90078-0589

Convention Refund Policy:
Requests for refunds must be in writing via email or letter to the National Co-chairs: Darryl Fore or Mark Behar at fore@mailcity.com or mpbehar@wisc.edu

60 days or more written notice - you will be refunded 100% of Convention fees minus any PayPal fees.
30 - 59 days written notice - you will be refunded 50% of Convention fees minus any PayPal fees
Less than 30 days notice - 0% of convention fees will be refunded.

Convention fees may be transferred to another member by written request to the National Co-chairs up until the start of Convention.

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FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Chapter: _____

Special needs (dietary, Wheel chair, visual handicap, hearing impaired, other) Please specify below:

Single Registration for the entire convention is $129.

Daily Registrations (Please circle)	**Rate**
Wednesday July 10th	$60.00
Thursday July 11th	$60.00
Friday July 12th	$60.00
Saturday July 13th	$60.00

NABWMT Convention 2013
P.O. Box 589
Hollywood, CA 90078-0589

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