

“On the Shoulders of Our Ancestors, Forging Our Legacy for the Future”

September theme: “On the Shoulders of Our Ancestors ...”

Convention Dates

In the coming months, you will see both July 3-6 and July 1-7, 2024, as the dates for next year’s convention. July 3-6 reflects what has been most common in recent years, with primary programming on Wed. through Sat. Because we want to take advantage of Albuquerque’s unique offerings, we will be planning auxiliary activities on Mon. and Tues. and the Sun. after (and maybe the Sun. before, too), so that’s why we show July 1-7. We will be presenting the various options and requesting feedback early next year.

Note: Convention REGISTRATION is now **\$225** through the end of January: <https://www.nabwmt.org/2024-convention-registration/>

ABQ = Albuquerque

We will often use the airline code ABQ instead of spelling out Albuquerque. The more times one types out the word “Albuquerque,” the longer the word seems ... plus we sorta like the sound of A-B-Q (as opposed to BBQ).

It’s Vaccine Season!

Just a friendly reminder that it’s time for seasonal vaccines for the flu and COVID, as well as for RSV for those 60+. Here is an excellent, detailed article about [these three vaccines](#) by Milwaukee and CPC member **Mark Behar**, PA-C: [Vaccines](#).

Check with your local health provider to schedule your vaccine appointment. You can also check out the CDC web-site for information on [all vaccines](#): cdc.gov/vaccines/.



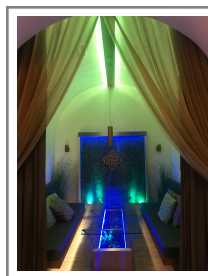
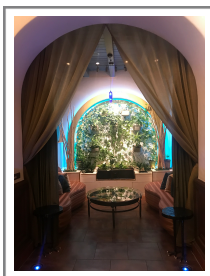
Albuquerque’s Hotel Andaluz Is a Gem!

Hotel Andaluz, Conrad Hilton’s 4th hotel, built in 1939, is in the heart of downtown Albuquerque. This will be home base for Convention 2024. The lobby is gorgeous, as shown in this photo taken by **Paul Cloutier** in June. On one side of the lobby (*right side in this view*) there are six “private casbahs” (*3 small photos below*), each with a different decor, which can be reserved for small groups at no cost.

We’ve worked through a few glitches, and the hotel link is now up and ready for reservations (choose “Edit Stay” to get started):

<https://www.nabwmt.org/hotel-andaluz-albuquerque-hilton/>

We recommend reserving sooner than later, because there are only 12 rooms with 2 double beds; the rest of the rooms have 1 queen or 1 king bed. Make sure that you’re getting our “NABWMT” convention rate of \$121 for 1 person or \$141 for 2 persons. Our special rates are available from June 28 check-in through July 11 checkout.





Dean James Credle

Born in 1945 in Mesic, NC, **James Credle** graduated from an all-Black school in 1962. After moving to Newark, NJ, he worked at a veterans hospital. As an Army medic in Vietnam (1965-1967), wounded in battle, he still helped evacuate other injured soldiers — he received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry, and Army Commendation Medal. While earning a sociology degree at Rutgers University-Newark, he was a 4-year starter and twice captain of the Scarlet Raiders basketball team. As a member of the Black Organization of Students, he supported a 72-hour occupation of Conklin Hall to demand better opportunities for minority students, staff and faculty; today, Rutgers-Newark consistently ranks as one of the most diverse schools.

After graduation, James became director of the university's Office of Veterans Affairs, and in 1976, he was promoted to Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. James was very involved in the local community: He helped found the Newark LGBTQ Center, served on the board of the Newark Pride Alliance, and raised thousands of dollars for scholarships for those in Newark's ballroom scene and beyond. On Oct. 21, 2013, James and **Pierre Dufresne** were married by then-Mayor Cory Booker at Newark City Hall. James died earlier this year, on April 15. Our condolences go out to Pierre as he navigates his life without James.

And of course, James helped found what we now know as the National Association of Black and White Men Together. After he went to the first convention in San Francisco (June 1981), he then attended all 40 of the conventions after that, through 2022 in Minneapolis. James served as National Co-Chair 1986-1988 and was involved in the creation of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, which received the first ever CDC funding for an openly gay organization in 1988. James was a dynamic and inspirational leader in our organization, as well as in all of the other involvements in his life. **James Credle is now one of our Treasured Ancestors.**

— *Appreciation and credit given to Mason Funk and his Outwards Archive for much of the detail above; Mason interviewed James on Aug. 11, 2016, and he spoke at our convention in Washington, DC, in 2019.*

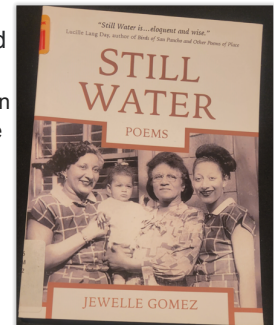
Reading Spotlight on Ancestors

(Courtesy BLF Press and Wikipedia)

Reading Spotlight: **STILL WATER**, by Jewelle Gomez

Gomez honors her ancestors in an exquisite collection of poetry that explores the legacies of family heritage, history, and identity. Gomez's multi-ethnic ancestry includes African American; Cabo Verdean, an African island off of the northwest coast near Senegal; Wampanoag, a Native American tribe of the Northeastern Woodlands based in southeastern Massachusetts and historically parts of eastern Rhode Island; and Ioway, a Native American Siouan people who today are enrolled in either of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. Gomez contemplates her sexuality, multi-ethnic, and class identities, and what it means to experience love, loss, grief, friendship, and solidarity with other women during times of political upheaval. Gomez's poems are a gift: at times sumptuous and impassioned, and always striking in their clarity.

- Jewelle Gomez, playwright, novelist, poet, and cultural worker, is the author of eight books and three poetry collections. She is an activist, having been on the original boards of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Astraea National Lesbian Foundation. She was a Lifetime Achievement Grand Marshall for the 2019 San Francisco PRIDE Parade. — *Editor Tim's Note:* I met Jewelle at a Creating Change Conference or when I was living in San Francisco (memory doesn't serve me well); we talked for a couple of wonderful hours — she loves NABWMT!



CPC Team Member First-Person Spotlight #1

by Tim Wilson, CPC Co-Chair

I am a 1948 native of Charleston, WV, but the only member of my family not born in Colorado. The day after my high school graduation in 1967, my family moved to Montreal, Quebec, Canada — talk about culture shock for the hillbilly from WV! I came out in Montreal and in Columbus, OH, where I attended the Ohio State University (Go, Buckeyes! Yes, I love college football!). I moved to Denver in 1972, where I have resided ever since, except for seven years on the West Coast (1984-1991).

The year 1980 was a pivotal one for me, because I got actively involved with both PFLAG and BWMT. I came out to my mother in 1979, went to my first PFLAG meeting in 1980, started volunteering and organized my first fundraiser in 1981, and then, after many years as a volunteer leader, I became paid staff for the Denver chapter for nine years (1993-2002). On Halloween 1980, I flew to San Francisco and spent a full week learning about BWMT, then returned to Denver excited and energized. In Jan. 1981, I became the founder of the Denver chapter.

I served three one-year terms as NA Co-Chair, alongside **ABilly S. Jones-Hennin** in 1984 and **Dr. John E. Bush**, 1985-1986. I became less active in BWMT after chairing the Program Committee for our 10th anniversary convention in San Francisco in 1990 and serving on the Advisory Committee for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (1989-1991). **Gavin Morrow-Hall** inspired me to be on the CPC for ABQ 2024.

My passions include waterfalls (I have been to Victoria Falls in Africa and twice to Iguazú Falls in South America), butterflies, hiking in the mountains, travel, and college basketball (spectator only).



See you in Albuquerque!!

One Last Look Back at Convention 2023 in Atlanta: “Good Trouble. Good Friends.”

NABWMT conventions offer a great variety of activities and opportunities, and Atlanta in late July was no exception:

- The Co-Chairs Luncheon featured words of wisdom from retired local TV news anchor, journalist, and public speaker **Monica Kaufman Pearson**, Atlanta's first woman and first minority to anchor an evening newscast.
- The Bush Mallon Institute for Social Justice, NABWMT's educational arm, presented "The History and Politics of Racism in America," including both historical content and a look at the current political climate. Members were reminded that we and our allies have the potential to play a significant role in the education and preparation of voters leading up to the 2024 elections, both locally and nationally.
- Engaging workshops covered the diverse topics of aging, allyship, PACT Atlanta's history, gay couples raising a mixed-race child, and voices of bi and trans men.
- The long-standing Black, White, and Combined Caucuses, as always, generated some lively and thoughtful discussion among the attendees.
- The closing banquet featured nationally recognized grassroots organizer and activist **Mandy Carter** from Durham, NC, as the keynote speaker.
- Also at the banquet, one Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Nat Martin** of Atlanta, and another announced for **Mark Behar** from Milwaukee, who was unable to attend this year's convention. CONGRATULATIONS to both these men for their well deserved recognition!



Bernadine Chambers of Chicago delivers an always dynamic performance at the Madam X No Talent/Talent Show, July 28, 2023.
— photo by Benny Roman

Madam X No Talent/Talent Show

NABWMT's Madam X No Talent/Talent Show this year was one of the highlights of the Atlanta convention. The show included veteran performers of more than a dozen previous shows, and new first-time performers. A tradition was begun this year of greater audience participation, which included couples narrating when and where they met, and how long they had been together — some together more than 30 years! One member also spoke on behalf of the single members, saying that he was “single and undateable”! This tradition will be continued into the Albuquerque and other future convention shows.

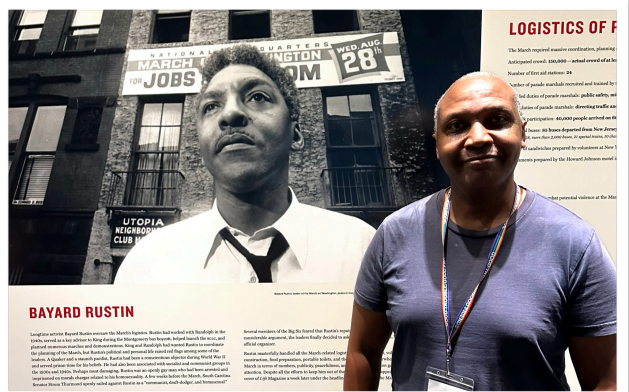


Ray Lockley of Ft. Lauderdale (newly elected to the NA board) standing in the footsteps of Congressman John Lewis, July 27.
— photo by Paul Cloutier

Remembering

Our Remembrance Service is always a poignant but uplifting celebration of the lives of members who have passed. Facilitated by **Les Everett** of Chicago, special attention was paid to those who had died since convention 2022.

Loving, heartfelt tributes were given in memory of “**Mother James Credle**” of Newark, (the only member who had attended every convention from 1981 through 2022), **Paul “Low Rent” Sears** of Detroit (who co-emceed the talent show for many years), and several others. Chapter by chapter, 700+ names were projected on the screen.



Lance Times from Chicago, first-timer at an NABWMT convention (and newly elected to the NA board), in front of the Bayard Rustin display at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in downtown Atlanta, July 27, 2023. — photo by Paul Cloutier