

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

October theme: “I’m Coming Out” | Diana Ross | (1980)

October Dates

October is LGBTQ History Month!

And there are other important dates in October, as well.

- **October 9** (2nd Mon.) = Indigenous Peoples’ Day (and Columbus Day)
- **October 11** = National Coming Out Day (NCOD)
- **October 15** = last day of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on Sept. 15

Have You Registered?

Registration for our 43rd NABWMT Convention, to be held in Albuquerque, NM, the first week of July 2024, is **\$225** through January 31:

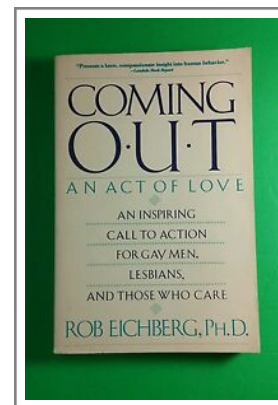
<https://www.nabwmt.org/2024-convention-registration/>

Registration will include a welcome reception, one or two luncheons, and the closing banquet, and of course, the various speakers and workshop facilitators. We compared registration pricing with other national organizations, and we do offer above average benefits for the dollars spent.

Thank You to Contributors

THANK YOU to these contributors to the September issue of our convention newsletter: **Wendell Reid** for the book review on page 2 and most of the content on page 3, and **Paul Cloutier** for the article about the Madam X No Talent/Talent Show on page 3. Thanks to **Nate O’Neal** for his insights (page 3) on this issue’s featured “ancestor.”

Find us on Facebook & Instagram!



National Coming Out Day Has New Mexico Roots

National Coming Out Day was founded by **Robert Eichberg**, PhD, and **Jean O’Leary** on Oct. 11, 1988, on the anniversary of the 2nd National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, when the AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed for the first time on the Washington Mall on Oct. 11, 1987. Rob moved from New York to New Mexico in early 1998, where he lived until his death from AIDS in a suburb of Santa Fe in 1995. Rob, a psychologist, was founder of the personal growth workshop “The Experience,” which was based in New Mexico, and author of the important 1990 book, *Coming Out: An Act of Love*. Jean, a lesbian political leader and long-time activist from New York, was at the time the head of the National Gay Rights Advocates in Los Angeles.

For detailed information about NCOD, just do an internet search for National Coming Out Day.

“Most people think they don’t know anyone gay or lesbian, and in fact, everybody does. It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes.”

— Rob Eichberg in 1993

The logo (above, left) was designed by Keith Haring for the Human Rights Campaign’s advocacy of the day. From 1999 to 2014, HRC announced a theme to go with each year’s NCOD. — Content for this article was culled from Wikipedia.



Ancestor: Jerry Mallon

Dr. Jerry Mallon was the founding Chair of the Philadelphia chapter in 1981. At the first convention in San Francisco in June 1981, Jerry was elected to a six-member Interim Steering Committee to oversee the election of officers for the International Association of Black and White Men Together, chaired by Tony Souza of Toronto. A postal strike in Canada made it impossible for Tony to continue in that role, so Jerry was chosen to lead the interim group, and officers were in place in Feb. 1982.

Jerry was the 2nd white National Co-Chair, serving with **Charles Stewart** of LA (1983), and as the National Treasurer (1985), he was on the founding Board of Directors of the renamed National Association of Black and White Men Together when it became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

NABWMT's Bush-Mallon Institute for Social Justice (BMISJ) is named for **Dr. John E. Bush** and Dr. Jerry Mallon, in large part because of Jerry's groundbreaking 1984 manual, *Resisting Racism: An Action Guide*, which now has a place in the US Library of Congress. In a section titled, "Racism, The White Problem," Jerry wrote: "Racism, relying on a base of hatred and fear, exists as one of the most, if not the most, destructive forces in our society. It is extremely complex, pervasive, and deeply entrenched in our everyday lives, and although often referred to as the 'Black Problem,' it is in reality a function both consciously and unconsciously of White society."

Born in 1952, Jerry grew up in Croyden, PA and was a 1974 graduate of West Chester University, where he received a degree in elementary education and later a doctorate in education. For 17 years, he was Planetarium director for Methacton School District, where he developed a K-12 program in astronomy and science. He was a member of the International Planetarium Society, where he served as both president and secretary. Jerry was the 1988 recipient of a \$5,000 Challenger Seven Fellowship in memory of the crew that had died in the Jan. 1986 space shuttle explosion; for this, he was profiled in a feature story in *The Advocate* in Jan. 1989. Jerry died Nov. 5, 1991, from complications related to AIDS.

Requesting Additional Information

We would like to obtain additional information to correlate with your convention registration, in order to enhance our planning process. This was not in place for early registrants:

Convention Registration Update:

We wish to make your 2024 trip to the Albuquerque Convention the best possible experience!

Please help us with your trip information so that we can plan accordingly. You may have filled out our form along with your online registration, **but if not, please visit this [LINK](#).**

That same link can be used if you sent in your payment by mail, or plan to do so.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete our info form!

CPC Team Member First-Person Spotlight #2 by Wendell Reid, CPC Co-Chair

I currently live in Wilton Manors, near Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I became active with NABWMT when I lived in Chicago during the 1980s and was a member of the BWMT/MACT Chicago chapter, including serving as a Co-Chair. My first national convention was San Francisco in 1990, where I met many of our "ancestors" and members of our BWMT/MACT/PACT family nationwide. The Midland Regionals during that time also allowed me to meet many in the midwestern cities that had chapters. Elected NABWMT Co-Chair in 2002 at the convention in Miami Beach, I served with current Board member **Paul Cloutier** for two years, and I have also served on the Board as a Director.

In 2021, I retired after 32 years of service with the Federal government. I currently volunteer at the Stonewall National Museum Archives and Library (SNMAL) as front desk and special events help. We just hosted a fundraiser featuring Billy Porter for our Stonewall National Education Project, which ensures LGBTQ+ students have a safe and welcoming school environment and that our history and culture are taught. Due to the paucity of items by/for BIPOC, I have donated NABWMT materials and all the national and chapter T-shirts I had collected. I donated other NABWMT materials to the Gerber/Hart LGBTQ Library in Chicago, with papers from "ancestor" **Kenneth Allen** of Chicago. *Queer Legacies: Stories from Chicago's LGBTQ Archives* by John D'Emilio included chapters on antiracism and HIV/AIDS featuring information from these papers.

I am an active supporter of the Point Foundation's national LGBTQ+ scholarship fund, which supports over 550 students (over 80% are BIPOC). I have sponsored community college scholarships and have reviewed applications for their scholarship programs. Most recently, I have enjoyed two retreats at Easton Mountain, a multi-faith retreat center and spiritual community of men who love men in the woods in upstate NY, near Albany. I also enjoy traveling and large ship cruising.

Looking forward to seeing you in ABQ!



Wendell Reid with Billy Porter at the SNMAL fundraising event in Ft. Lauderdale on Sept. 21, 2023. — photo from Wendell Reid



New Mexico is the chile pepper capital of the United States. If you like spicy food, then Albuquerque is the right destination for you! — photo credit: [VisitABQ.org](https://www.visitabq.org)

Personal Insights on Jerry Mallon

Nate O'Neal, MACT Philadelphia, shared some of his personal insights about **Jerry Mallon**:

Jerry was extremely organized ... and a forward thinker who was always 2-3 steps ahead of everyone else. His outreach on behalf of the chapter was "legendary!" (Nate said Philly members will understand.) Jerry was also Nate's mentor who encouraged Nate to serve as chapter Co-Chair; Nate said he learned so much from Jerry. And Jerry was always concerned about others before himself, especially witnessed at the 1990 convention, when he was already showing signs of poor health ... but still checking in to see how Nate was doing.

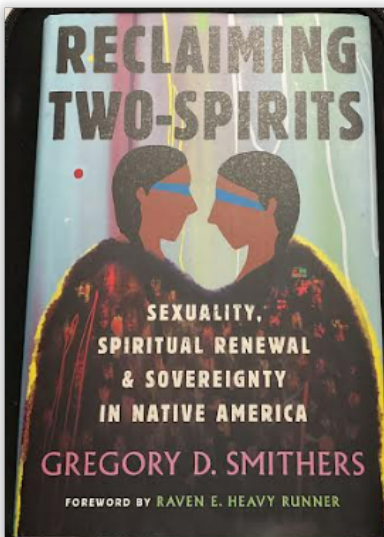
Albuquerque Is Fun in Autumn!

October in New Mexico means chile pepper harvesting and roasting, but spicy pepper-infused cooking is a year-round tradition. Next July, plan to indulge some of ABQ's spicy dining options — hot food to go with the hot weather! We hope to be able to give you some restaurant recommendations closer to convention.

And of course, October means the annual world famous **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**. This is also an activity not limited to the festival. In fact, **Mack Scott-Baron** is already researching options for hot air balloon rides for NABWMT convention attendees — maximum number of individuals in each balloon, cost per person, which day to schedule (perhaps the Tuesday of convention week), etc. **Stay tuned:** We plan to include details in our December newsletter.



*The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is in its 51st year, Oct. 7-15, 2023. — photo credit: **Raymond Watt**, via [VisitABQ.com](https://www.visitabq.com)*



Reading Spotlight — In Honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day

Reclaiming Two-Spirits: Sexuality, Spiritual Renewal & Sovereignty in Native America (2022), by Gregory D. Smithers

Before 1492, hundreds of Indigenous communities across America included people who were called *aakii'skassi*, *miati*, *okitcitakwe*, or one of hundreds of other tribally specific identities. These individuals identified as neither male nor female, but as both. Covering 500 years of history and using archaeological evidence, art, written sources, and oral stories, Gregory Smithers takes readers on a harrowing journey into the violence and systematic persecution that European colonizers enacted to imperil the existence of people who call themselves Two-Spirits. Two-Spirits is an umbrella term that Native American LGBTQ+ persons first adopted in 1990 at an annual gathering to celebrate their diversity. They chose this term derived from a Northern Algonquin Native word, *niiz manidoowag*, that acknowledged the masculine and feminine qualities in a single person. *Reclaiming Two-Spirits* reveals how colonists used violence and labels such as "hermaphrodite" and "berdache" in their attempt to degenerate and erase Two-Spirit people from Native history. Yet Gregory shows that the colonists failed in the face of heroic acts of Native resistance, and Two-Spirit people are now reclaiming their Native traditions, identities, roles, and in some communities, their sacred status.

[from Beacon Press, submitted by Wendell Reid]