

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

November theme: “I Will Survive” | Gloria Gaynor | (1978)

November Dates

- **November 7** = Election Day
- **November 11** = Veterans Day
- **November 17** = *Rustin* on Netflix (see article, page 2)
- **November 20** = National Trans-gender Day of Remembrance
- **November 23** = Thanksgiving Day

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, 1-2 luncheons, and closing banquet, and of course, the various speakers and workshop facilitators.

And it will be best to make your **hotel reservations** sooner than later:

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

Next Month

Dr. John E. Bush, NABWMT Co-Chair (1984-1986) and Lifetime Achievement Awardee (1989), will turn 96 on Dec. 8, 2023. He loves to receive cards, flowers, and phone calls:

John E. Bush
19 Oakshore Drive, #1
Bratenahl, OH 44108-1118
(216) 268-9924

Find us on FB, Instagram, and X.



GET OUT THE VOTE

The Personal Is Political

In one year we will need to vote in the 2024 Presidential Election, but between now and then, we need your help to **Get Out The Vote** (GOTV). As Congressman John Lewis famously said:

“The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument in a democratic society. We must use it.”

Voting is personal, and voters and potential voters and supporters respond best to other people, whether in their community, workplace, or friends and neighbors. As an individual, YOU can make a difference!

Many of us in NABWMT used successful tools in the 2020 elections such as letter writing, texting, and more to engage voters on issues and values at the heart of the NABWMT Statement of Purpose. The front line of the attack on democracy is not far from where you live! Help us GOTV — contact us at nabwmt@nabwmt.org — so Ken and Mack Scott-Baron can help you get “plugged in” to these most important efforts. Democracy as we know it is, indeed, at stake. It’s personal, it’s political, it’s time to get involved NOW!

Editor Tim’s note: For me, the most memorable speaker at our 2nd annual convention in Washington, DC, in 1982 was celebrated lesbian poet and activist Adrienne Rich. She is the first person that I ever heard say, “The personal is political!” Her words have stuck with me for over 40 years. Our community is strong, so know that no matter the obstacles placed in front of us, we WILL persevere.

We WILL Survive!

Reflections on November

“When the sky is magnificent like it is today and the sun adds the warmth that makes the day special, it is difficult to remember that this is November. The leaves have been falling for weeks, and there are many millions more in line waiting for their turn to descend and clutter, to be collected and hauled away while their descendants wait to be born in the process. Like everything else that lives and dies, they become part of something else. Although they all tend to be green in the summer months, in autumn, they become various colors of red and orange and yellow, revealing their differences and at the same time creating mosaics of different hues.”

— from *The Right Season: A Memoir* (2016), by John E. Bush

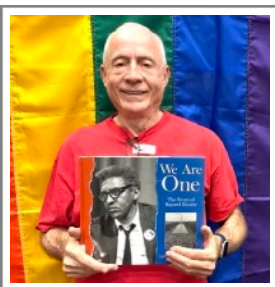


Ancestor: Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin attended NABWMT conventions in Los Angeles in 1985 and in New York in 1986, and was recipient of NABWMT's first Lifetime Achievement Award. Rustin died in 1987. He has often been overlooked or not given due credit for his significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement in this country, as well as numerous other causes. In 2013, however, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the US, accepted by his partner Walter Naegle, who has also attended a few NABWMT conventions.

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin (2003) is a multi-award-winning biographical documentary co-produced and co-directed by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer. It recounts Rustin's activism for racial equality, gay rights, socialist issues, and organizing the 1963 March on Washington. Appearing in footage and interviews are Rustin, A.J. Muste, David McReynolds, Bob Dylan, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Robert F. Kennedy. — *content for this paragraph from Wikipedia*

A new film, **Rustin**, opened in theaters Nov. 3. — *See article in next column.*



Paul Cloutier with **Bayard Rustin** book at the Stonewall National Museum Archives and Library, Aug. 1, 2023. — *photo by Wendell Reid*

Bayard Rustin Biopic Coming to Netflix

Courtesy Washington Blade / used with permission:

RUSTIN (Nov. 3 Theaters / Nov. 17 Netflix)

Probably the most high-profile piece of queer filmmaking of the upcoming season is this biopic about the gay Black architect of 1963's world-changing March on Washington, Bayard Rustin. Starring Emmy-winner Colman in the title role and helmed by five-time Tony-winning director George C. Wolfe, this ambitious fictionalized portrait of an extraordinary, history-making queer hero shines a long overdue spotlight on a man who, alongside giants like the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr., and Ella Baker, dreamed of a better world and inspired a movement by marching. Notably, it also comes from Higher Ground, a production company founded by Barack and Michelle Obama, and its August premiere at the Telluride Film Festival resulted in a 100% (so far) approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes from the critics who were there to see it. Besides the powerfully charismatic Domingo, the film features an all-star cast including Chris Rock, Glynn Turman, Aml Ameen, Gus Halper, CCH Pounder, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Johnny Ramey, Michael Potts, and special appearances from Jeffrey Wright and Audra McDonald. — *by John Paul King, Sept. 14, 2023* — for John Paul King's full *Washington Blade* article, [Read More](#).

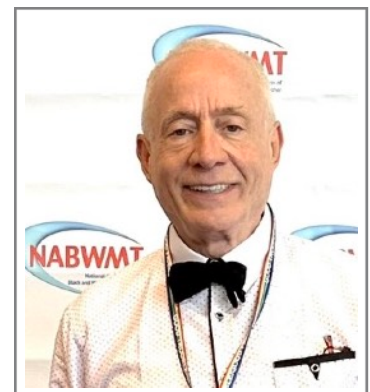
CPC Team Member First-Person Spotlight #3 by Paul Cloutier (NA Co-Chair, 2002-2004)

The members of the Convention Planning Committee for Albuquerque are all being asked to give a brief bio for this newsletter. I am happy to do so; however, I choose to focus my bio as it relates to NABWMT and all its chapters, particularly BWMT/LA and BWMT/SC. In 1982, at the age of 30, I moved to Los Angeles to attend graduate school at UCLA. Living in Seattle prior to moving, I had heard of this organization called Black and White Men Together in its nascent stage. At the same time, I was feeling my attraction to Black men. (I can no more explain my attraction to Black men than I can explain my attraction to men).

Within a month of moving to Los Angeles, I heard of and attended the BWMT/LA Consciousness Raising Rap at the *good old* Gay and Lesbian Center on Highland. I continued to attend the raps and other BWMT/LA sponsored events. Eventually, I became very involved in the chapter and served various positions on its Board of Directors. I later began attending National Conventions and began serving various positions on its Board of Directors. At the same time, I was dealing with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis. I came out to NABWMT as HIV+ at the Dallas Convention in 1992. One of my proudest moments was when I spoke at the Memorial Service that year and insisted that the NA help its HIV+ members, who were many, and create a supportive environment to tell their truth.

Today, I know that the support from NABWMT has been an integral part of my "cocktail treatment" to survive AIDS. A huge portion of my family of friends comes from people I have met through BWMT, including people I met way back at that first contact in 1982. Furthermore, this organization has helped me deal with my own racism, and shown me that eliminating racism is an ongoing process for me, for life.

In 2010, I was very honored to receive NABWMT's Lifetime Achievement Award. I said then — and I say now — that NABWMT has done far more for me than I have for it!



Paul Cloutier at the closing banquet of the NABWMT convention in Atlanta, July 29, 2023. — *photo from Paul*

Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico (TGRCNM)

[Note: This is the first in a monthly series about nonprofits in ABQ and NM.]

TGRCNM is a trans-led, trans-centered community-based nonprofit organization, serving transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people and their loved ones throughout New Mexico and the Southwest region through advocacy, education, and direct services. No-cost services include: peer-led social support groups, food justice programs (meals and food distribution), counseling, non-medical case management (including emergency financial assistance), long-term item storage/mail access/laundry access/shower access (within community drop-in center), rapid HIV and syphilis testing, syringe services and exchange, overdose prevention education, “inside advocacy” outreach (for those living in correctional facilities), and coming in 2024, transitional housing program. WOW!

TGRCNM is also home to a renowned education and outreach program featuring their transgender cultural fluency series of workshops and trainings. Since 2008, the organization has conducted more than 4,000 of these trainings in NM and across the country with small groups, businesses, other organizations, houses of faith, and more. In partnership with Equality NM, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, ACLU-NM, and others, TGRCNM’s advocacy efforts include testifying as expert witnesses in the state legislature and working with school districts to create affirming and inclusive policies for students in their care. They not only provide immediate relief for those in need, but also advocate for change in systems — to push towards freedom, liberation, joyous lives, and thriving for all transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people.



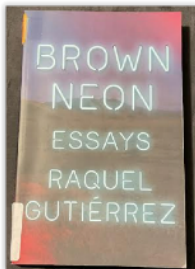
T. Michael Trimm

A native of Cincinnati, **T. Michael Trimm** (he/him/his/sir) now calls ABQ, NM, home, where he serves as TGRCNM’s Executive Director. Since beginning his transition in 2005, he has been an advocate for equity, justice, and freedom for Black and brown transgender people, as well as for expanding visibility for trans masculine people. On-stage as drag persona “Teddy Michael,” and also off-stage, he has worked with Cincinnati Pride, Trans Family (Cleveland), Trans Alive (Akron), and PRIDE! Kent at his alma mater, Kent State University. In 2009, Michael was featured on MTV’s “True Life” series as he navigated gender-affirming surgery. “Teddy Michael” won several local, state, and national pageantry titles, and used those platforms to increase awareness of, and support for, transgender communities.

Michael moved west to Phoenix in 2014, and he immediately became involved in Phoenix Pride, Imperial Court of AZ, and RipplePHX, raising funds for, and attracting visibility for, programming that positively impacts and empowers LGBTQ communities, especially transgender, Black, brown, and indigenous people. Michael is the co-author/presenter of two educational series created in 2019: “How to be a Trans Ally” and “From Allies to Accomplices: LEAP-ing into Action.” In Nov. 2020, he relocated to ABQ to work professionally with TGRCNM.

> > > **T. Michael Trimm** is the first confirmed local presenter for our 43rd NABWMT convention in ABQ next July.

Reading Spotlight



***Brown Neon: Essays*, by Raquel Gutiérrez** (Coffee House Press, 2022)

Part butch memoir, part vivid and dramatic travel diary, part queer family tree, Raquel Gutiérrez’s debut ***Brown Neon*** gives us insight on understanding how our life stories relate to the land we live on and the spaces where our relationships unfold. This essay collection offers a meditation on southwestern terrains, intergenerational queer dynamics, and surveilled brown artists crossing physical and conceptual borders. Whether contemplating the value of adobe as both functional architecture and commodified art object, or highlighting the feminist wounding and transphobic apparitions haunting the multigenerational lesbian social fabric, Gutiérrez traverses complex questions of gender, class, identity, and citizenship with curiosity and nuance. “*Brown Neon* is a work of Latinx mysticism. With beauty and unmistakable care for person and place, Raquel Gutiérrez maps life’s butchest, sweetest, and saddest mysteries,” states Myrian Gurba, American author, editor, and visual artist. — *Wikipedia*

November Is Native American History Month

The designation of November as Native American Heritage Month goes back to a joint Congressional resolution signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, with similar proclamations being issued every year since 1994. This is a time to celebrate the traditions, stories, and languages of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities. — *from PFLAG National online newsletter*

< < < < **Two-Spirit Pride Flag**

