

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

March theme: “She Works Hard for the Money” | Donna Summer | (1983)

March Dates

March is Women’s History Month.

Remember to lift up the women who are/have been important in your life!

- **March 8** = International Women’s Day
- **March 10** = Daylight Savings Time begins (most states)
- **March 17** = **St. Patrick’s Day**
- **March 31** = Transgender Day of Visibility
- **March 31** = Happy Easter!

Registration + Hotel

Registration for our 43rd NABWMT Convention in Albuquerque July 1-7 is now **\$275/person** through April 30:

<https://www.nabwmt.org/na-conventions/>

For **hotel reservations** (at \$125/night for 1-4 persons) at our overflow hotel, Hilton Garden Inn/Homewood Suites by Hilton Downtown, 222 Central Ave. SE, call **Kari Bryan** (M-F, 8am-4pm): **505-808-1038** (for group “NABWMT”).

Convention Newsletter Team

Editor: **Tim Wilson**, Denver, CO
Assistant Editor: **Wendell Reid**, Wilton Manors, FL
Proofreaders: **Paul Cloutier**, Los Angeles, CA, **Kelvin McAdory**, Long Beach, CA, and **Wendell Reid**
Distribution Wizard: **Ken Scott-Baron**, Long Beach, CA



Find us on **FB**, **Instagram**, and **X**.



THE CPC NEEDS YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!

Sponsorships and Program Ads

Your convention planning team — Kelvin, Ken, Mack, Mark, Paul, Tim, and Wendell — needs **YOUR help** and **support!** In the mid-1980s, when **Tom Horan**/Los Angeles was first on the NA Board, Tom was adamant and very clear that anyone with both the desire and commitment to serve our organization as an officer or director should be given that opportunity, regardless of that person’s ability to pay (for travel to Board meetings, convention, etc.). He spoke with conviction and led by example, giving financial support to individuals when/where needed.

NOW we need **YOUR financial support** to make sure that our 43rd annual convention in Albuquerque the first week of July is successful on multiple levels. That is to say: those who are able, please step up by becoming a Sponsor or placing an ad in our convention program; note that Sponsorships include a program ad. — NOTE: Registration fees cover no more than 75% of the cost of producing a quality convention.

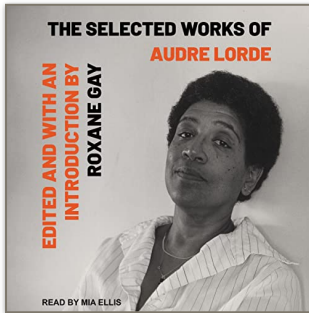
Considering all of the above, we have created Convention Sponsorship Opportunities, which include a program ad **plus** recognition at various convention activities, in addition to the program ads that have traditionally been offered in our printed convention program.

SPONSORSHIP levels are: \$1,000 **PLATINUM** (incl. Full-Page ad), \$500 **GOLD** (incl. Half-Page ad), \$250 **SILVER** (incl. Quarter-Page ad), and \$200 **BRONZE** (incl. Business Card ad).

Regular program ads are: \$250 **Full-Page** ad, \$125 **Half-Page** ad, \$75 **Quarter-Page** ad, \$50 **Business Card** ad, and \$500 **Inside Cover** ad/**Back Cover** ad. The earliest responses will get the best placement in the convention program. Program book Editor Mark Behar/Milwaukee would like to receive as many as possible by May 1 — but June 1 is the absolute deadline.

To support **YOUR** convention, click here:

<https://www.nabwmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CPC-ABQ-Sponsorship-Opportunities.pdf>



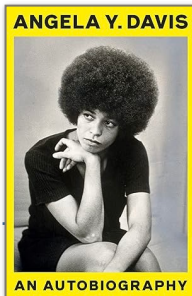
POISE and POWER!

**Women’s History
Ancestor: Audre Lord**

**Selected Works of Audre Lorde,
Audiobook Edited by Roxane Gay**

Self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet" **Audre Lorde** (1934-1992) was an unforgettable voice in 20th-century literature, and one of the first to center the experiences of black, queer women. This essential collection showcases her indelible contributions to intersectional feminism, queer theory, and critical race studies in 12 landmark essays and more than 60 poems — selected and introduced by one of our most powerful contemporary voices on race and gender, Roxane Gay (1974-), American writer, professor, editor, and social commentator who is most famous for her *NY Times* best-seller, *Bad Feminist*.

**Women’s
Future
Legacy:
Angela
Davis**



**Angela Y. Davis:
An Autobiography**

Angela Davis (b. 1944) has been a social and political activist at the cutting edge of the Black Liberation, feminist, queer, and prison abolition movements for more than 50 years. First published and edited by Toni Morrison in 1974, *An Autobiography* is a powerful and commanding account of Angela’s early years in struggle. “An activist. An author. A scholar. An abolitionist. A legend.” notes Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*.

[Courtesy of Amazon and Wikipedia]

**Who were the Knights of the Clock, the
1950s Los Angeles ancestor to BWMT?**

by **Wendell Reid**

In researching pre-Stonewall history, I came across the names Marton L. Bird, an African-American, and W. Dorr Legg, who was white. Both were instrumental in founding Los Angeles’ ONE Inc. in the early 1950s, one of the first US gay rights organizations, whose archives are at the University of Southern California. Legg had mostly Black lovers: some sources hold that Bird and Legg met in Michigan, drove around the US looking for a comfortable place for interracial gay couples, and landed in LA, but other sources say they met after Legg had moved to LA with another Black guy.

Bird is mostly credited with founding the Knights of the Clock, which most sources date to May or June 1951. Bird was an accountant, but not much else is known about him. Legg gives Bird all the credit in his 1994 book, *Homophile Studies in Theory and Practice*, stating: “Hostility and harassment were the daily lot of interracial same-sex couples in 1950... [Bird’s] idea was that by coming together to form a mutual aid society, the group could at the very least offer each other encouragement...”

The Knights held monthly business meetings and had two or three social events each year, which usually drew many interracial couples. ONE’s archives mention a Knights event planned in June 1951 at the Wilfandel Club. This club, founded in 1945 by two black women to provide a venue for people of color to gather in LA due to racial discrimination, is still in business today (<https://www.wilfandelclub.com/>). Another Knights event planned for Aug. 4, 1951, was to be a “midsummer frolic beginning at 9 pm with spaghetti and beer.”

Another ONE archive document shows listings for a Loan Fund, Housing and Employment Committee, Membership Committee, Entertainment Committee, and the Legal Aid Committee, which was chaired by Bird. One of the Knights’ missions was to help interracial gay couples secure employment and suitable LA housing due to rampant racial discrimination. The last ONE document contains a Feb. 15, 1952, list showing 14 Knights members, including Legg and Bird, and a \$14.15 bank balance [about \$165 in 2024].

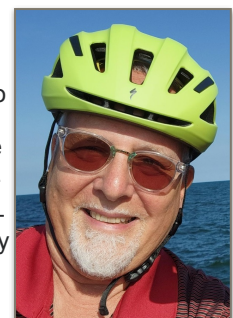
According to some ONE Inc. founding notes, Bird offered to merge the Knights into ONE Inc. at the time of ONE’s incorporation, but that offer was not accepted, and by 1953, Knights of the Clock was mostly defunct. Nevertheless, many LGBT historians concur that Knights was a forerunner to promoting fellowship and understanding among gays of all races, and to supporting interracial gay relationships. As such, it is NABWMT’s “organizational ancestor” that we should be proud of.

[Sources: *Pre-Gay LA: A Social History of the Movement for Homosexual Rights* by C. Todd White, University of Illinois Press, 2009; *Unearthing the “Knights of the Clock”* by Martha E. Stone, *Gay & Lesbian Review Magazine*, May-June 2010; *Wikipedia*; ONE Inc. history]

CPC Team Member Spotlight #7: Mark Behar

Former NA Co-Chair **Mark P. Behar** (2012-2016 with Darryl Fore) likes to keep active, even though he is retired from being a physician assistant (PA) in family practice at Milwaukee Health Service. He continues to volunteer as a PA at Repairers of the Breach Medical Clinic for the homeless, and the Bread of Healing free clinic which serves the undocumented and uninsured.

Late in 2022, Mark joined the Older Adult Member Advisory Committee for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, and later was appointed to serve on the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, which offers services for 5,000-15,000 queer adults over 60.



(continued on next page)

Forging Our Legacy for the Future — Featuring Mandy Carter

(3rd in a series focusing on the 2nd half our our convention theme)

Mandy Carter is a southern African-American lesbian social justice activist with a 57-year history of social, racial, and LGBTQIA+ justice organizing since 1967. Raised in two orphanages and a foster home for her first 18 years as a ward of the state of New York, Mandy attributes the influences of the Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee, the former Institute for the Study of Non-violence, and the pacifist-based War Resisters League for her sustained multi-racial and multi-issue organizing.



It was her participation in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired 1968 Poor People’s Campaign, organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (and King’s last project before his assassination on April 4, 1968), that solidified Mandy’s sustained commitment to nonviolence. During the 50th anniversary year, she participated in the 2018 Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

Mandy helped co-found two groundbreaking organizations — Southerners On New Ground (SONG) in 1993 and the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) in 2003. Throughout the South, SONG creates transformative models of organizing that connect race, class, culture, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity. Mandy served as SONG’s Executive Director 2003-2005.

In 2013, Mandy was national coordinator of NBJC’s Bayard Rustin Commemoration Project to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate Black gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, including the many activities marking the 50th anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Again representing NBJC in 2015, Mandy helped organize diverse broad-based participation in the 50th Anniversary of 1965 Selma-To-Montgomery Voting Rights Act activities that moved Congress to pass the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Underscoring the importance of electoral politics in social change movements, Mandy was one of five national co-chairs of Obama LGBT Pride — national LGBT infrastructure for Barack Obama’s historic 2008 presidential campaign and win. She had done the hard work of organizing grassroots networks, especially people of color, throughout the South. She is also a former member of both the Democratic National Committee’s Black Caucus and its LGBT Caucus.

Mandy’s awards and recognition include:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** (2003) from NABWMT
- **“Vicki” Sexual Freedom Award** (2013) from the Woodhull Freedom Foundation (award’s namesake Virginia Woodhull was an American suffragist born in 1838)
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** (2013) from the Bayard Rustin Coalition’s inaugural Civil Rights Awards
- **Union Award** (2015), the highest honor for NYC-based Union Theological Seminary, a progressive entity for social justice
- **Harvey B. Milk Legacy Award** (2018, on the 40th-year commemoration of Milk’s Nov. 27, 1978, assassination) from the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast Coachella Valley

(*Mark Behar: continued from previous page*)

In his BWMT life, Mark got involved around 1984 with a very active Milwaukee chapter, and he attended his first national convention in New York in 1986, where Bayard Rustin spoke during NY’s Stonewall Pride Celebration. Mark was a member of the CPC for the Milwaukee convention in 1987, along with Alyn Hess, Luther Carlisle, DA Leonard, Michael Ross, Michael Lisowski, and other members now long gone. That was the year of Joseph Beam’s seminal presentation following the publication of *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*, and Thomas Kochman’s presentation about Black and White distinctive styles of communication. Both presentations were provocative and thoughtful, and have influenced the NA’s political and social activism ever since. And Mark remembers being impressed with Tom Horan, Tim Wilson, Charles Stewart, and others who exhibited visionary leadership and oratory. Mark and several of his BWMT-MKE buddies were also producing TV programming for the local public access cable channel.

Mark started attending national conventions again in St. Louis in 2008, was elected to the NA Board of Directors, and served through and beyond his Co-Chair administration. One of the highlights of his Board participation in 2017 was leading the team that created the *Resisting Racism* app for Android smart phones. He now serves on the CPC for the 2024 Albuquerque convention, and he will be in charge of producing the printed convention program booklet.

Mark’s favorite song during his administration was Eminem’s “Lose Yourself” — some of the lyrics still ring true:

*Look, if you had one shot or one opportunity
To seize everything you ever wanted in one moment
Would you capture it or just let it slip? ...*

*You better lose yourself in the music
The moment, you own it, you better never let it go
You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to blow
This opportunity comes once in a lifetime, yo!*

Mark and his partner Demetrius Mack enjoy biking and hiking on MKE’s lakefront, cooking, and watching TV together. They’ve zip lined at Lake Tahoe, periled themselves at Noah’s Ark Water Park, and are planning hot air ballooning this summer in Albuquerque prior to convention. Not bad for a 74-year-old!

Convention Workshop: “Our Past, Our Future: Defending Democracy”

Mandy Carter, Walter Naegle, and founding BWMT-Southern California members **Ken and Mack Scott-Baron** will facilitate this workshop on Thursday morning of convention week, after the Annual Membership Meeting and before the Thursday Luncheon. This workshop title is still a working title subject to change, but the facilitators will have us look at parts of our exciting and inspiring past before looking at current threats to our freedoms and democracy. The workshop’s second half will provide some action-oriented, participatory opportunities.