

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

May theme: “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now” | McFadden & Whitehead | (1979)

## May Dates

**May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!** President Jimmy Carter first signed a resolution for this celebration in 1978.

- **May 1** = International Workers Day
- **May 5** = Cinco de Mayo
- **May 6**=Holocaust Remembrance Day
- **May 12** = Mother’s Day
- **May 27** = Memorial Day

## Registration + Hotel

**Registration** for our 43rd NABWMT Convention in Albuquerque July 1-7 has been adjusted to **\$299/person**:

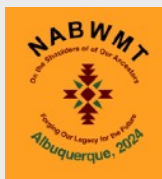
<https://www.nabwmt.org/>

From the home page, select “2024 Convention” in the menu bar.

**For hotel reservations, see details in “Book Your Hotel Rooms NOW” on page 2 of this newsletter.**

## 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  
**Photo Credits for Page 4:** Kelvin, Paul, and Tim, + the three individuals/ speakers depicted



Find us on FB, Instagram, and X.



## Reduced Registration Rate Announced; Three Plenary Speakers Confirmed

*Have you registered for convention yet?* You don’t want to miss out! Our convention program is coming together nicely. On our home page, <https://www.nabwmt.org/>, choose “2024 Convention” to register — and our CPC has decided to lower the “May 1” rate from \$325 to **\$299**, including four food functions, in effect with this newsletter’s distribution!

**We have now confirmed our three plenary speakers:**

- **Zack Quintero**, Executive Director, National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC), will be the speaker for our July 4th Holiday Luncheon. Others told us that Zack is one of the strongest allies for the LGBTQ+ community anywhere in New Mexico. Zack will also be leading us on a private group tour of the NHCC campus on the afternoon of Tues., July 2.
- **T. Michael Trimm**, Executive Director, Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico (TGRCNM), will be the speaker for our Co-Chairs Luncheon on Fri., July 5. Michael will also be facilitating a workshop that afternoon titled, “Transgender Cultural Fluency: We’ve Always Been Here, We Always Will Be.” Given the unending assaults on the transgender community in more than half of our state legislatures, we need to listen and learn all we can from this hard-working, inspiring activist.
- **Marshall Martínez**, Executive Director, Equality New Mexico (EQNM), which is in its 30th anniversary year, is a smart and savvy organizer. He will be the plenary speaker at our closing banquet on Sat., July 6. He will talk about the importance of building meaningful, lasting relationships for the long haul of our intersectional movement work, rather than thinking in terms of task forces and coalitions for short-term goals and gains.

### It’s AWARDS Season at NABWMT!

The NA Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations in nine categories, with a deadline of June 1. To get all the details, just send an email to Doug Reynolds: [dougr268@gmail.com](mailto:dougr268@gmail.com).

### Sponsorships and Program Ads:

#### YOUR LAST CHANCE to Honor or Remember

**Convention Sponsorships**, which include a program ad (plus recognition at various convention activities), and our traditional **Program Ads** both provide an opportunity to honor and/or remember someone who is or has been important in your life.

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

**Program Ads are:** \$250 **Full-Page** ad, \$125 **Half-Page** ad, \$75 **Quarter-Page** ad, \$50 **Business Card** ad, and \$500 **Inside Cover/Back Cover** ad. Convention program booklet editor **Mark Behar**/Milwaukee would like to receive as many ads as possible by May 15 — 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>



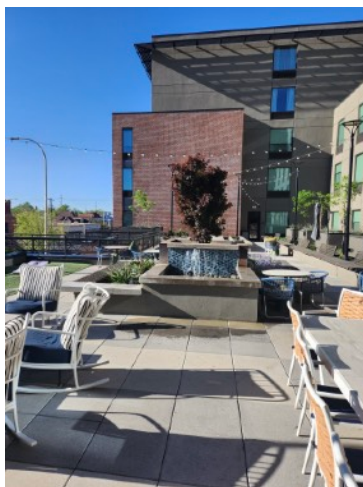
## Ancestor: Perry Watkins

**Perry Watkins** (Aug. 20, 1948–March 17, 1996) was an American soldier. An openly gay man, Perry was one of the first service members to challenge the ban against homosexuals in the United States military. Perry was in the Honor Guard for the massive 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. And Perry was also a member of MACCT-Seattle, and he attended an NA convention.

For LGBTQ History Month in 2019, an excellent in-depth article by Michael Bedwell appeared in the Oct. 2 edition of online newsletter [lgbtqnation.com](http://lgbtqnation.com) titled: “Meet Perry Watkins, the gay soldier the Supreme Court wouldn’t let the Army discharge,” with the tag line: “After 16 years of serving his country in the Army and 9 years fighting his country in court, Perry Watkins finally won.”

[photo credit and some content: Wikipedia]

### THURSDAY, JULY 4TH



2nd floor patio, HGJ/Homewood Suites, site of our July 4th Holiday Social. — photo: **Kari Bryan**, Director of Sales

## Book Your Hotel Rooms NOW!

Three members of our convention planning team — Paul Cloutier, Kelvin McAdory, and Tim Wilson — made a third trip to Albuquerque April 10-14. We stayed at Homewood Suites by Hilton, 222 Central Ave. SE, which shares this location with Hilton Garden Inn (HGI). We met with Director of Sales **Kari Bryan**, who is excited and happy to be hosting members of NABWMT the first week of July. This property is just 5-6 blocks (10-12 minutes walking) from Hotel Andaluz, and their shuttle will provide transportation to Hotel Andaluz each morning, if requested, for those not wishing to walk, and for the return later in the day. Kari has already taken a few reservations from our group, and hopes to hear soon from those who have not yet booked a hotel stay for convention. Our NA group rate is \$125 for 1-4 persons; Kari is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am till 4:00 pm, at **505-808-1038** (group “NABWMT”). If you need a double room, HGI has rooms with two queen beds; Kari will explain other distinctions in this shared property when you call to make your reservation.



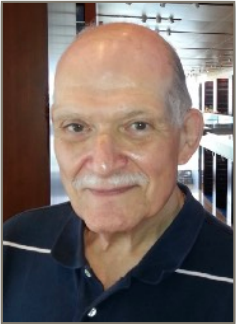
**Range Café** on Central Ave. SE (Route 66), one block east of our over-flow hotel, Hilton Garden Inn/Homewood Suites, which can be seen in the background on the right. — photo: Kelvin McAdory

We loved the **Range Café**, one block east, because of reasonable prices and good service, and we ate there twice; they have an in-house bakery, and Kelvin was brave and ordered their specialty — green chile apple pie! The **Artichoke Café** is two blocks east; last November, Kelvin went there with fellow Board members Derek Crider and Tim Springer for a more upscale dining experience.

### July 4th Holiday Social for NABWMT

HGI/Homewood Suites will be hosting our July 4th Holiday Social on their beautiful 2nd floor patio, which has a central fountain and two fire pits for evening atmosphere, individual seating for about 50, plus a lot of additional bench seating. The first floor restaurant will be adding a hosted bar to the patio for the summer months. Shuttle from/to Hotel Andaluz will be available. [Note: We will not have “exclusive use” — other hotel guests and the public will have access, too — but they will have more fun with us there, right?!]

## Forging Our Legacy for the Future – Irwin Rothenberg and the BMISJ



Born at a time before any kind of tolerance for being openly gay, **Irwin Z. Rothenberg** came out in his mid-20s. He considers himself a member of the Silent generation (pre-dating the Boomers), but says, “You’d never think to attach ‘silent’ to my identity!” After graduation from Brooklyn College, he spent the 1960s in grad school in Ft. Collins, CO, while still hiding his gay identity. But Irwin had his first true romantic encounter with his Latino roommate on a trip to Salt Lake City on the weekend of July 19-20, 1969 — the same weekend Apollo 11 astronauts first landed on the moon. Memorable weekend!

In 1979, Irwin moved to Memphis, TN, where he became politically active in the Memphis Gay Coalition, and in October that year, attended the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Already aware that he was attracted to men of color, and now in a majority Black city, he knew Memphis was “home.” In 1981, a close friend, Joseph Calhoun, told him about an article by Michael Smith about the formation of a new gay organization that brought Black and white men together. When they learned of a convention in Washington, DC, in 1982, they decided to go and check things out. Returning to Memphis fully energized, Irwin and Joe founded BWMT-Memphis. Growing to about 25 members, the chapter held regular potlucks, consciousness-raising meetings, and cultural activities, and they went as a group to both predominantly Black and predominantly white bars and participated in all local gay community activities.

Irwin welcomed the opportunity to meet new friends from all over the country, as well as members from Brazil and Canada. Once HIV/AIDS appeared, he became active with our National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (late 1980s), serving on its Board and also facilitating prevention workshops (along with others, including Ed Dillard and Joe) throughout the “mid-South,” including rural Mississippi and Arkansas. After first serving as a chapter delegate to the NA House of Delegates, Irwin joined the NA Board during the 1990s and served through the early 2000s.

During this time, another important development was the formation of the Multiracial Multicultural Institute, the brainchild of NA Co-Chair Les Everett/Chicago, as the educational arm of the NA to present in-depth workshops on racism, homophobia, and all other isms our organization is dedicated to fight. Renamed the Bush-Mallon Institute for Social Justice (BMISJ) in honor of Dr. John Bush and Dr. Jerry Mallon, this work has continued to the present, becoming ever more a central part of our organization’s existence. During the 1990s, Irwin participated as the NA Board Liaison to the project under the leadership of Paul Hawkins/Pittsburgh, and with contributions from many other presenters. Today, having recently moved from DC to Chicago, Irwin is proud to be Co-Chair of the BMISJ, serving with Gavin Morrow-Hall/San Francisco, and he looks forward to the BMISJ workshop in Albuquerque. *[Gavin will be featured in our June newsletter.]*

IRWIN: “I am proud of my many years with the NA, and the fantastic memories of these past 40+ years with my BWMT family. The NA has been a tremendous influence in my life. My closest friends, my deepest experiences, and my understanding of the world would never be what it is today without that decision in 1982 to attend our convention in Washington, DC.”



## NM Holocaust and Intolerance Museum

By **Nathan Johnson**, Director of Programs

Founded in 1998 and opened in 2001, the New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance Museum (NMHIM) is dedicated to eliminating hate and intolerance by educating and inspiring “upstanders.” Our exhibits illustrate — through artifacts, memorabilia, pictures, documents, videos, and books — historical conflicts caused by local, national, and global prejudice, culminating in the most unspeakable of all horrors, the Holocaust.

Sixty percent of exhibit space is dedicated to the Holocaust, while 40 percent features other genocides and atrocities throughout history, including Native American history, Black history, the genocide of Christian Minorities in the Ottoman Empire, and Chinese exclusion. Two new interactive exhibits tell stories of those who died in the Holocaust depicted by 11 million seeds and artifacts from Dorothy Adams Greene, a clerk stenographer at the Nuremberg trials. Another new exhibit on queer history in New Mexico was developed in conjunction with a local high school class.

The museum has long been involved in the community, organizing and sponsoring a wide variety of events, including lectures, panel discussions, visual art exhibits, film screenings, plays, visual art exhibits, and dance performances. In addition to the hundreds of students who visit the museum each year, we also welcome a substantial number of walk-in visitors from NM, other states, and other countries.



NMHIM, April 14, 2024: **Alexander King**, intern from University of NM; **Kelvin McAdory** (taking the selfie); **Nathan Johnson**, Director of Programs; **Tim Wilson**.



Beautiful historic **Kimo Theatre** (right) on Central Ave. NW; **Central Food Hall** (left) is a multi-restaurant food court just four blocks from Hotel Andaluz.



City tours offered Wed.–Sun. in an open-air trolley by the **ABQ Trolley Co.**, starting from the central plaza/park in Old Town Historic District – you must reserve well in advance during a holiday week.



“Pueblo Baseball,” special exhibit at the **Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**, included with admission, **Sat. morning, July 6.**



In-house bakery at **Range Café**: salted caramel cheesecake (Paul), green chile apple pie a la mode (Kelvin), and chocolate cranberry pecan pie (Tim) — all delicious!



A specialty at **Range Café**.



**Sidewinders Bar & Grill**, 4200 Central Ave. NE in Nob Hill neighborhood; Karaoke: **July 2 @8pm.**



**Paul Cloutier** contemplates a stack of blue corn encrusted onion rings at the Indian Pueblo Kitchen, served with green chile ranch dressing.

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH	FRIDAY, JULY 5TH	SATURDAY, JULY 6TH
 <p><b>Zack Quintero</b>/National Hispanic Cultural Center will speak at our Holiday Luncheon; also, he will lead a private tour of the NHCC campus for our NABWMT group on Tuesday, July 2.</p>	 <p><b>T. Michael Trimm</b>/Transgender Resource Center of NM will speak at the Co-Chairs Luncheon and also facilitate a transgender workshop afterward.</p>	 <p><b>Marshall Martínez</b>/Equality NM will be the speaker at our Closing Banquet.</p>