



Archives and Research

Finding Aid

Collection No.: 54
Collection Name: **Black and White Men Together;
Men of All Colors Together**

Prepared for The History Project, Archives and Research (Jim Jacobs; May, 2017)

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator(s): The History Project
Title: *Black and White Men Together; Men of All Colors Together*
Extent: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)
Date Span: 1980 - 1996

SUBJECT TERMS

Subject Names:

National Association of Black and White Men Together (**NABWMT**)
National Association of Men of All Colors Together (**NAMACT**)
Black and White Men Together/Boston
Men of All Colors Together/Boston
Black and White Men Together/New York
Men of All Colors Together/New York

Subject Topics:

Segregation
Discrimination
Social service
Consciousness-raising
AIDS/HIV response
Social organizations
Black Identity
Black authors, artists, performers and leaders
Boston Bar Study

People Mentioned (partial list)

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Mike Smith | James Baldwin | Martin Duberman |
| Charles Shively | Bayard Rustin | Craig Allen Edwards |
| Tom Ferrick | Walter Nagle | Barbara Smith |

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| The Village Voice <i>The FIRE !!</i> The FIRE!! Press Gay Sunshine Press Philadelphia Gay News <i>Yemonja</i> The Blackheart Collective <i>Blacklight</i> The Blacklight Press <i>BLK</i> Blk Publishing Company | InterCultural Review <i>Black/Out</i> National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays <i>Sisters United</i> Woman Prints Enterprises <i>Black Male/Female Relationships</i> John E. Bush Henry Wiemhoff Mel Watkins Thomas H. Wirth | Mike Riegle Gay Community News Prison Book Program Stephen Matchett National Coalition of Black Gays Dykes Against Racism Everywhere (DARE) South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) |
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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Men of All Colors Together/Boston (**BWMT/Boston; MACT/Boston**), founded under the name "Black and White Men Together/Boston" in 1980 is the Boston chapter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (known as the "International Association of Black and White Men Together" at its inception). MACT/Boston is the second-oldest national chapter and the oldest interracial gay group on the East Coast³.

National Organization History

The first Black and White Men Together (BWMT) chapter was founded in San Francisco in January, 1980, as a result of an ad placed by Mike Smith, the first co-chair, "looking for other men interested in forming an interracial gay organization."³ Over the summer of 1980, groups emerged in Chicago, Boston, and New York, and by the next year, chapters had sprung up in 30 cities across the United States as well as in three international locations. The first BWMT conference occurred in San Francisco in 1981, out of which formed the International Association of Black and White Men Together (**IABWMT**). Renamed in 1986 as the National Association of Black and White Men Together (**NABWMT**), the organization, as of 2017, describes itself as --

"a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized."

NABWMT published periodic newsletters, which evolved into publication of the [BWMT/MACT] "Quarterly".

NABWMT continued (as of 2017) to engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with the racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV/AIDS discrimination and other inequities.

The Boston Chapter of BWMT

MACT/Boston has always been closely involved with this mission. It has actively participated in Boston's political campaigns, supporting openly gay and gay-positive candidates. Through the prominent involvement of several members, the chapter generated support for outreach programs for homeless lesbian and gay persons. The group produced and publicized a set of guidelines for AIDS activism within the BWMT framework. Moved by similar protests in New York City, the Boston chapter also campaigned for an end to racial discrimination at Boston nightclubs.

In addition to political work, the Boston chapter also was a social focal point for the interracial gay community in Boston. The stated aims of MACT/Boston (in 1989) were⁴:

- *To offer an opportunity for socializing between gay men of all colors and an atmosphere which is conducive to forming friend-ships and which provides support for ongoing relationships*
- *To encourage the examination of our personal feelings regarding race and to provide a supportive forum for exploring them together.*
- *To actively engage in the struggle for racial understanding in Boston and the New England area, especially in the gay community.*

From its inception, galas and outings were an integral part of the Boston chapter's program, encouraging interracial contact in a fun and welcoming environment. Monthly meetings were accompanied by dinner, major holidays were celebrated with theme parties, and members regularly organized outings to Boston's museums, parks, cultural events, and nightlife.

MACT/Boston was also involved in the community response to AIDS. It established an "AIDing Task Force" in order to educate on and combat the AIDS epidemic affecting the gay community. The task force was led by chapter member Tom Ferrick. The chapter's efforts included promulgating medical information in its newsletters, inviting members of the medical community to come and speak in open forums, and outreach to help inform the LGBT community about HIV/AIDS transmission and to stem the stigmatized association between the disease and the LGBT community. The chapter was particularly active conducting educational programs within the African American community as well.⁴

Men of All Colors Together/Boston originally bore the name "Black and White Men Together/Boston" following the lead of the San Francisco chapter. The name was deliberately chosen for its shock value, and initially did reflect the racial makeup of the organization. However, chapters swiftly incorporated men of many racial backgrounds, who were attracted by the organization's dual approach to fighting racism through political action and socializing. Despite lengthy and vocal discussion in 1987, the national organization resisted changing its name to the more inclusive "Men of All Colors Together", preferring to retain the political message of "Black and White Men Together"; nonetheless, many local chapters made the change in the next several years.³ As of 2017, the National Association of Black and White Men Together included within its affiliated organizations chapters that

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identify themselves as "Black and White Men Together" (BWMT), "Men of All Colors Together" (MACT), and "People of All Colors Together" (PACT) in keeping with the cultural dynamics of their respective areas. In December, 1989, the Boston chapter changed its name to "Men of All Colors Together/Boston".

MACT/Boston remained active at least through 2002.

The New York Chapter of BWMT

Men of All Colors Together/New York (**MACT/NY**) was founded in 1980, as "Black and White Men Together/New York" (**BWMT/NY**), and changed its name to MACT/NY in 1985. It is a "multiracial, multicultural organization of gay and bisexual men committed to addressing and combating racial discrimination in the lesbian and gay male community, and to providing a supportive environment for non-oppressive relating among gay men".⁵

Like MACT/Boston, MACT/NY organized a wide variety of activities, from social events through consciousness-raising and personal growth to overt political action. Drawing on its New York roots, MACT/NY had many distinguished guest speakers - authors, poets, activists, filmmakers, etc. The chapter's many prominent guest presenters included James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin.⁵

One of BWMT/NY's most prominent early activities consisted of its Discrimination Documentation Project, created to monitor cases of discrimination in gay establishments. Those bars or clubs which had discriminatory admissions or "carding" policies at the door were boycotted, which resulted in either financial settlements or the closing down of some establishments.⁵

Relationship Between National Organization and the Chapters

The difference over naming illustrates the unusual relationship between the national organization and its local chapters. In the early 1980s, local chapters, recognizing that a focused national presence could lend additional credence to their efforts to organize widespread social change, selected two men as national co-chairs. Although the national organization quickly became a visible political entity, the chapters were unwilling to develop a top-down hierarchy. The political program of the national organization is determined by a loose consensus, and promulgated by the two elected co-chairs. The national organization does not have the authority to set rules and regulations for the local chapters.

Conventions

NABWMT holds conventions annually in which all chapters are invited to attend and discuss the year's events and engage in seminars that aim to help improve the effectiveness of the individual chapters.

The eighth annual NABWT convention was held in the City of Boston in July 1988 at the Park Plaza Hotel. The Boston chapter created the symbol for the convention of two pandas holding hands. The convention was attended by 23 NABWT chapters from across the country. The MACT Boston chapter successfully lobbied to have the City of Boston declare the week of the convention, July 4-9, 1988, NABWMT Week in the City of Boston.⁴

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MACT/NY hosted NABWMT National Conventions in 1986 (New York) where Bayard Rustin addressed an outdoor rally during NYC's Pridefest and 2015 (Newark/New York) where Walter Naegle (Bayard Rustin's partner during last decade of Rustin's life) and historian Dr. Martin Duberman provided keynote addresses.⁵

Notes:

1. National Association of Black and White Men Together, "National Association of Black and White Men Together," (nabwmt.com/)(accessed May 17, 2017)
2. "Black and White Men Together records, 1981-2006; Coll. 2012.171". ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California. oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c87s7pb1, (accessed May 17, 2017)
3. "Men of All Colors Together Boston records, 1980-1999--M68." Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department. lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m68find.htm (accessed May 17, 2017)
4. Wikipedia [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_of_All_Colors_Together_\(Boston\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men_of_All_Colors_Together_(Boston)) (accessed May 17, 2017)
5. Wikipedia mactny.org/ (accessed May 24, 2017)

RELATED COLLECTIONS

- "Collection 146 - Black Gay and Lesbian Collection", The History Project, Boston, Mass.
- "Collection 1 – Papers of Mike Riegler", The History Project, Boston, Mass.
- "Black and White Men Together, 1981-2003", The Rainbow History Project, Washington, D.C., rainbowhistory.omeka.net/collections/show/36
- "Black and White Men Together records, 1981-2006; Coll2012.171". ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California. oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c87s7pb1
- "Men of All Colors Together Boston records, 1980-1999 -- M68". Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department. lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m68find.htm

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Collection records relate to the activities of the BWMT/MACT/Boston from June, 1986 to June, 1996, and BWMT/MACT/NY from August, 1980 to March, 1989.

The collection includes an extensive collection of BWMT/MACT/NY information bulletins and BWMT/MACT/Boston newsletters, which contain news, calendars, editorials, and calls for both political and social involvement.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series I, BWMT/MACT Papers, contains ten folders. The folders contain announcements; publications, articles and clippings; papers; conventions materials; and a photograph, and are arranged in the same order (as possible) with the "Men of All Colors Together Boston records, 1980-1999--M68" held by the Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department. lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m68find.htm

Series II, BWMT/MACT National Publications, contains two folders, containing publications of the National the first containing certain newsletters of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, and the second containing certain editions of the [BWMT/MACT] "Quarterly", each with an index and arranged chronologically.

Series III, BWMT/Boston and MACT/Boston Publications, contains one folder, containing certain newsletters of BWMT/Boston and MACT/Boston, with an index and arranged chronologically.

Series IV, BWMT/NY and MACT/NY Publications, contains eleven folders, the first being an index and nine folders containing certain newsletters of BWMT/NY and MACT/NY for the years 1980 – 1989, arranged chronologically.

BOX, SERIES AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1:

Series I: BWMT/MACT Papers

Folder 1: Authors and Other Artists:

- Announcement of speaker talk by Craig Alan Edwards at Glad Day Bookshop, Boston (?) [undated]"
- Black Writers Illuminate Hidden Lives" article by Barbara Smith {some unidentified publication]
- "Additional Readings on Black Women's Lives and on Racism" [undated and unknown origin]
- Book review of Just Above My Head by James Baldwin (*Village Voice*, 10/29/79)
- "A Preliminary Bibliography and Resource Guide: Race, Racism and the Gay Male Community" compiled by Henry Wiemhoff, BWMT / NY

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(undated, distributed with Information Bulletin Vol. I, No. 4 of BWMT/NY, 8/24/80)

- "Hard Times for Black Writers" article by Mel Watkins (*The New York Times Book Review*, 2/22/81);
- Memoire concerning Langston Hughes and his publication, FIRE!! By Thomas H. Wirth (The FIRE!! Press, 1982)
- Interview with Bayard Rustin at BWMT / Philadelphia fifth anniversary meeting (*Philadelphia Gay News*, Vol. 10, No. 17 (March 7-13, 1986)
- Solicitation for material for publication by Gay Sunshine Press in an "anthology on Black and White men, with special emphasis on the Gay Black experience" [circa 10/1/82]

Folder 2: Publishers:

- Press release by The Blackheart Collective (New York City) announcing, and solicitation of work for, *Yemanja*, "a journal for radical Black Gay Men" (1981)
- Announcement by The National Association of Third World Writers of its association with the New York Book Fair (1982)
- Benefit announcement for Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press (1986)

Folder 3: Publications:

Folder 3A:

- *Black Male/Female Relationships*, front covers (only) of Vol. 1, No. 1 (Jun-Jul, 1979) and Vol. 2, No. 2 (Winter, 1981), cover and back, and subscription solicitation
- *Sisters United, A Lesbian Womyn's Magazine*, Vol., XX, No. 9 (Jan-Feb, 1981), 32 pages
- *Sisters United, A Lesbian Womyn's Magazine*, Vol., XX, No. 12 (Jul-Aug, 1981), 28 pages
- *Yemanja*, Vol. 1, No. 1 published by The Blackheart Collective Press (Spring, 1982), 58 pages⁺
- *Blackheart 2: The Prison Issue* published by The Blackheart Collective Press (1984), 58 pages
- *Blacklight*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (1984) published by Blacklight (Washington, D.C.), 40 pages
- *Blacklight*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (1985) published by Blacklight (Washington, D.C.), 40 pages

Folder 3B:

- *BLK, The National Black Lesbian and Gay Newsmagazine*, Vol. 4, No. 3, Whole No. 37, 1992, published by Blk publishing Company
- Entry concerning *BLK* in *Library Journal*, Jan. 1992

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- Entry concerning *BLK* in *InterCultural Revies*, Jan. 1992 (Vol. 1, Number 1)
- *Black/Out, The Magazine of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays*, Summer, 1986 (Vol. 1, No. 1)
- *Black/Out, The Magazine of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays*, Fall, 1986 (Vol. 1, No. 2)
- Various clippings, mostly from *The Village Voice*

Folder 4: "Boston Bar Study" (1984) compiled and edited by John E. Bush for BWMT/Boston

Folder 5: IABWMT and NABWMT Conventions:

- News Release announcing "first international convention", San Francisco (June, 1981)
- Press Release: "2nd IABWMT Convention Addressed by D.C. Mayor Mario Barry (1982?)
- Promotion and Fact Sheet, announcing IABWMT [4th] Convention, Atlanta/ Memphis (July, 1984) , together with envelope addressed to Charles Shively
- Promotion, Registration Application and program description for 6th Annual Convention, New York City (June-July, 1986)
- 8th Annual Convention, Boston (July, 1988) – Convention Program (36 pages)

Folder 6: Photographs

- Photograph of four men carrying a Boston BWMT banner (on photo reverse: "GCN" (presumably *Gay Community News*), "Susan Bernstein '86"

Folder 7: Consciousness Raising

- "Topics List for Consciousness-Raising on Racism and Related issues", prepared by BWMT/NY (undated, distributed with Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 3 of BWMT/NY, 8/3/81)
- "We Have 'No Problem' Again", an essay (2 pages) by Horace Seldon, Community Change, Inc., Boston [undated]
- "Racism and Prejudice: How Did We Get This Way?", an essay (4 pages) by Delmo Della-Dora [undated]
- A partial-page fragment of a document concerning communication by interracial communicators [undated]
- SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization] Women's Council (Luanda, Angola) request for donations of clothing, etc. [undated]
- Dykes Against Racism Everywhere [DARE] request for donations of clothing, etc. in response to the above-described SWAPO solicitation

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- Petition to defend the (1965) Voting Rights Act, by Dykes Against Racism Everywhere [DARE]
- Flyer/invitation to attend the "second community meeting to form a new Lesbian and Gay Male coalition in New York" to be held at NYU [April 3, year unstated]
- "Face-To-Face, Day-To-Day – Racism CR" by Tia Cross, Freada Klein, Barbara Smith and Beverly Smith, published in *Sojourner* (page 11, May, 1979)
- Alert from BWMT/NY concerning a community "incident [police action] ... at "BLUES", a black bar located on West 43rd Street" on 9/29/82
- Call to action to write legislators to express support for Nicaraguan revolution, by Dykes Against Racism Everywhere [DARE] (12/5/83)

Folder 8: Members and [NABWMT] Chapters

- Oral history (interview) with John [E.] Bush, founder of BWMT/Boston, 11/12/83, recorded by The History Project (transcript)
- Members' names and addresses, with handwritten title "Members of BWMT 'Activists Roundtable' (NYC – 1986)"
- "National Association of Black and White Men Together: Chapters", listing with addresses [undated]

Folder 9: Prisoner Support

- (Presumably), op/ed submitted to NABWMT Newsletter authored by Mike Riegle, urging prisoner support
- Speaker's [Mike Riegle's] preparatory notes in preparation for a presentation: "Things I'd like to 'cover' (mention) for sure", etc.
- Appeal to engage in prisoner support by BWMT Activists' Roundtable, and invitation to meeting [undated: "July 5"]
- Appeal to engage in prisoner support together with extensive copies of articles and other materials promoting and discussing the GCN Prison Project operated by Gay Community News (Boston), together with invitation to meeting [undated: "Thursday... White Hall"]
- Appeal to engage in prisoner support, from the GCN Prison Book Project and Mike Riegle
- "Draft of 'How-To' Brochure", presumably authored by Mike Riegle, about establishing books-for-prisoners programs, including copy of the Prison Book Program's "What We Do" letter and the communication which the Prison Book Program encloses with the materials it ships to prisoners
- Copy of a page from *Resist Newsletter* detailing a Resist grant to MACT/Boston (May, 1988)
- Op/ed by Mike Riegle submitted to and published [in BWMT/NY Newsletter?] by MACT/NY

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Folder 10: Other Items

- "Report on Activities and Accomplishments 1987-88" from Stephen Matchett to the Board of Directors of the NABWMT, including mention of the prisoner support program operated out of BWMT/Chicago.
- Press release [undated] detailing the restructuring and change of address and publications by the National Coalition of Black Gays, Inc.

Box 2:

Series II: National BWMT/MACT Publications

Folder 1: NABWMT Newsletters –

- Vol. I, Issue 3 – Summer 1982
- Vol. VI, No. 3 - Summer 1987
- Vol. VIII, No. 4 – Fall 1988
- Vol. IX, No. 3 – Spring 1989
- Vol. IX, No. 5 – Winter 1989
- Vol. XI, No. 1 – Winter 1993

Folder 2: NABWMT and NAMACT "Quarterly" –

- Quarterly 17 and Quarterly 19 - Spring and Fall 1983
- Quarterly 20 through 24 - Winter 1983 through Winter 1985

Series III: BWMT/MACT/Boston Papers

Folder 1: BWMT/MACT/ Boston Papers –

- Index
- Vol. V, No. 8 June/Aug 1986
- Vol. VI, No. 7 Jan 1987
- Vol. VI, No. 8+ Feb 1987
- Vol. VI, No. 10 April 1987
- Vol. VII, No. 2 Aug 1987
- Vol. VII, No. 3 Sep 1987
- Vol. VII, No. 5 Oct/Nov 1987
- Vol. VII, No. 6 [A] Dec 1987
- Vol. VII, No. 6 [B] Dec 1987
- Vol. VII, No. 8 Feb 1988
- Vol. VII, No. 10 April 1988
- Vol. VII, No. 11 May 1988
- Vol. VII, No. 12 June 1988
- Vol. VIII, No. 1 July 1988
- Vol. VIII, No. 5 Nov 1988
- [no volume number] Dec 1988
- Vol. VIII, No. 7 Jan 1989
- Vol. VIII, No. 8 Feb 1989

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- Vol. VIII, No. 9 March 1989
- Vol. IX [sic], No. 11⁺ May 1989
- Vol. XIV, Issue X April 1, 1995
- Vol. XVI, Issue XII June 1, 1996

Series IV: BWMT/MACT/New York Papers

Folder 1:

- Index
- MACT Brochure [undated]

Folder 2 (1980):

- Information Bulletin #4
- Information Bulletin #6

Folder 3 (1981):

- Information Bulletin #8
- Information Bulletin #10
- Information Bulletin #11
- Information Bulletin #12
- Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 1
- Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 2
- Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 4
- Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 5
- Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 7
- Information Bulletin Vol. II, No. 8

Folder 4 (1982):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. II, Nos. 9, 10⁺, 11 and 12
- Information Bulletins, Vol. III, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5⁺, 6⁺, 7⁺ and 8

Folder 5 (1983):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. III, Nos. 9, 10⁺, 11⁺ and 12⁺
- Information Bulletins, Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2⁺, 3⁺, 4⁺, 5, 6⁺, 7⁺ and 8⁺

Folder 6 (1984):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. IV, Nos. 9⁺, 10, 11⁺ and 12⁺
- Information Bulletins, Vol. V, Nos. 1⁺, 2⁺, 3⁺, 4⁺, 5⁺, 6, 7, and 8⁺

Folder 7 (1985):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. V, Nos. 9⁺, 10⁺, 11 and 12⁺
- Information Bulletins, Vol. VI, Nos. 1⁺, 2⁺, 3⁺, 4⁺, 5⁺, 6⁺, 7⁺ and 8⁺

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Folder 8 (1986):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. VI, Nos. 9⁺⁺, 10, 11 and 12
- Information Bulletins, Vol. VII, Nos. 1⁺, 3⁺, 4⁺, 5⁺, 6⁺, 7 and 8

Folder 9 (1987):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. VII, Nos. 10, 11 and 12⁺
- Information Bulletins, Vol. VIII, Nos. 1, 2⁺, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8⁺

Folder 10 (1988):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. VIII, Nos. 10, 11 and 12
- Information Bulletins, Vol. IX, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Folder 11 (1989):

- Information Bulletins, Vol. IX, Nos. 8⁺, 9 and 10

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