



MACT/NY Information Bulletin

Men of All Colors Together/New York, Inc.

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August 2017

Striving to build a multi-cultural community.

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held at The LGBT Community Center at 208 West 13th St. unless otherwise indicated. During the evening we take up a collection (\$5.00 recommended) for the room rent and organizational expenses. Refreshments are served.

Friday, August 4 @8:00 pm: game night - Learn to Play Mancala. See the lead article for more information.

Friday, August 11 @8:00 pm: Board of Directors Meeting at the home of Arthur McLean, 159-34 Riverside Dr. West, #7C/90. Telephone (646)358-9453. Call for directions. This meeting is open to MACT members only.

Friday, August 18 @8:00 pm: restaurant outing - meet at Elmo at 7:45; see page 2 for location.

August 25, no meeting.

August 4th game night:

LEARN TO PLAY MANCALA!

Mancala is a family of board games played around the world, sometimes called "sowing" games, or "count-and-capture" games, which describes the gameplay. The word mancala comes from the Arabic word *naqala* meaning literally "moved." That is exactly what you do; you move playing pieces from one pit to another. The game of Mancala is among those ancient games that last and last because the rules to play are simple, but the subtleties of the game may take a long time to master.



Mancala players in Zanzibar

Many historians believe that Mancala is the oldest game in the world. Among the earliest evidence of the game are fragments of a pottery board and several rock cuts found in Aksumite in Ethiopia, which are dated by archaeologists to between the 6th and 7th century AD.

Mancala represents the diversity of Africa. Some version of Mancala is played in nearly every African country and it is enjoyed by royalty and commoners, adults and children, in cities and villages of every size. Mancala has lasted for many years because each past and present culture has been able to enjoy it in its own special way: as an important family game,

a ceremonial rite of passage, or a form of recreation among friends. The type of Mancala board varies, the wealthy may play on carved ivory boards covered with gold, or it could be just a few holes in the ground with pebbles as playing pieces.

Come out on August 4th for a night of fun and relaxation.



GAYDAR INTERNATIONAL

by Sean Ledden

“These Faggots Kill Fascists!”

So says a statement released on Twitter by TQILA, or The Queer Insurrection and Liberation Army. (TQILA is pronounced “tequila.”) TQILA is a newly formed military unit of the International Revolutionary People’s Guerrilla Forces (IRPGF) which is an anarchist force fighting against the Islamic State in Syria.

Unlike committing vandalism in places like Berkeley and Hamburg, which exist in functioning states and whose police forces show great restraint against masked protestors and hooligans, taking up arms in an actual civil war takes genuine courage. So for once I have something good to say about a group of armed anarchists.

Join us on August 18th for dinner at Elmo.

Meet at Elmo at 7:45pm – 156 7th Ave
New York, NY 10011– b/t 19th St &
20th St., Chelsea.



“Swanky, trendy décor and American ‘comfort’ cuisine, beautiful people and an achingly cool reputation make Elmo our pick for the best eatery of the year!” - **Instinct Magazine**

But I can’t help be perplexed at their priorities. What is their main goal in fighting the Islamic State? “[TQILA is] comprised of LGBT*QI+ comrades as well as others who seek to smash the gender binary and advance the women’s revolution as well as the broader gender and sexual revolution.” I see. They seek to “smash the gender binary.” How? By perfecting a form of asexual human reproduction? Very ambitious!

Their statement continues, “TQILA’s members have watched in horror as fascist and extremist forces around the world have attacked the Queer community and murdered countless of our community members... We want to emphasize that queerphobia, homophobia and trans*phobia are not inherent to Islam or any other religion.” So a fascistic gender binary, and not religion, stands in the way of gay and women’s liberation? Well, let’s just look at another other current news story to see if this holds up.

Jahed Choudhury became the UK’s first Muslim man to enter a gay marriage when he married Sean Rogan last month. Since then they’ve received much online blowback including Haithem Khalil’s observation that “They are not Muslims, we don’t have gays and lesbians.” Choudhury himself, during an interview with ITV, described a boyhood filled with homophobic insult and threats from fellow Muslims, and concluded that “he knew his religion would never accept homosexuals.”

Getting back to TQILA, they wrap up their statement by affirming their “commitment to struggling against authority, patriarchy, oppressive heteronormativity, queer/homo-phobia and trans*phobia.” Fighting FOR freedom of religion might be a good step in that direction people.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect any position on the part of MACT/NY.

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