



January 2003
Volume 2, Issue 1

Perceptions Newsletter

Perceptions Inc. P.O. Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641 (989) 891-1429
<http://www.perceptionssv.org>

Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Calendar Highlights:

Sun. Jan. 26th, Tri-Cities PFLAG Meeting 2-4:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Midland

Thurs. Jan. 30th, 7 pm, Perceptions Monthly Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Midland

Wed. Feb. 19, 7-9 pm, Meet and Greet at Bay City Coffee and Tea

To receive email alerting about upcoming events, send your email address to PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoogroups.com

Perceptions to host "Beginning the Journey"

The acclaimed presentation "Beginning the Journey" will be presented by Nicholas Linindoll on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at Perceptions' monthly meeting.

"Beginning the Journey" envisions a world where individuals in the business, educational, and civic realms have moved beyond uninformed biases that cause division and conflict, and instead celebrate diversity and accept all members of humankind in a community free of violence and discrimination.

Perceptions' monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the last Thursday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 6220 Jefferson Avenue in Midland, Michigan.

From the Desk of the Co-Chairs

Mindy Pennington

Looking back at 2002, we are so proud of what Perceptions' members have accomplished. We had a new name, some new board members, and new Co-Chairs but you all focused on our future and we accomplished so many great things.

Perceptions members organized a food drive, raised over \$800 in the silent auction, attended two fundraising parties that also benefited PFLAG, constructed a float for the Lansing Pride Parade, arranged several social events, heard about estate planning and wills, and learned about second parent adoption.

We also have a monthly coffee shop

social and we learn about all of these things via a monthly newsletter, the website, and email notification. Whew! It's amazing what we can accomplish when we all work together. Your commitment and enthusiasm about Perceptions is making a difference in our community.

Perceptions is starting its second year and we have over 150 members. Because we are growing so quickly and have many ideas, events, and projects to consider, the Perceptions Board is having an all-day Strategy Meeting this month to set our 2003 objectives and plans. The Board will report back to the

GLBT Calendar of Events

HIV+ support group meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at The Hearth Home, 732 Hoyt St., Saginaw, 2 PM to 4PM. Free testing for HIV and condoms are available. Contact Tim at (989) 894-2991.

Jan 20 "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" at 10 pm on PBS Rustin organized Martin L. King's 1963 March on Washington, the biggest protest America had ever seen. His open gayness forced him to remain in the background, marked a "brother outsider." This program is his story. Websites: <http://www.rustin.org> (Ferndale's Affirmations' Bayard Rustin library is named for him.)

Jan 22 Coming Out meetings Affirmations Lesbian and Gay Center offers an 8 week structured and professionally facilitated Coming Out group. The group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. First session begins on January 22. Reserve call 248-398-7105, ext. 22 or e-mail Michael Larson at Michael.Larson@GoAffirmations.org Affirmations, 195 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI, just off I-75 or I-696. [Map/Driving Directions](#)

Jan 24-31 Michigan's GLBT Film Festival, a project of the Triangle Foundation. Films that celebrate the diversity of the glbt and allied communities. 8 days, 16 screenings, 28 films. Main Art Theater, downtown Royal Oak. For a film festival guide, call toll-free 877-787-4264 or go to www.reelpridemichigan.com Film schedule only ---> <http://www.reelpridemichigan.com/films.htm>

Jan 26 Tri-Cities PFLAG meeting, UU of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland, MI 2-4:30 pm Nick Linindoll presents "Beginning the Journey To A Hate-Free Tomorrow." The program involves interactive activities to start dialogue about hate. The audience will view portion of the documentary, "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium."

Jan 27-30 The AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed at Central Michigan University's Finch Field House, Mt. Pleasant, MI Jan 27 at noon is the opening ceremony; 7-8 pm a presentation by Jeanne White's then a candlelight march to Warriner Mall. For January 28th, 29th and 30th the quilt is displayed 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Contact: (989) 774-3203 or <http://www.aidsquilt.org/natdisplayschedule.htm>

Jan 29 Homosexuality and Scriptures at University of Michigan in the Pond ABC room in the Michigan Union, 6:30-8 pm Christian and Jewish perspectives on the scriptures and homosexuality. Guest speakers include Dr. Selma Massey and Rev Greg Martin from the Wesley Foundation.

Jan 30 Perceptions meeting, UU of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland, MI 7-9 pm, Nick Linindoll presents "Beginning the Journey To A Hate-Free Tomorrow." The program involves interactive activities to start dialogue about hate. The audience will view portion of the documentary, "Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium."

Feb 14-16 Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Ally College Conference, Ohio State University campus, Columbus, OH. Cost: \$35 Website: <http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu/glbts/mblgtacc.html> Contact Charles Lisee at clisee48708@yahoo.com

Feb 19 Perceptions' Meet & Greet at Bay City Coffee and Tea Cafe, 7-9 pm 810 Saginaw St, Bay City, MI Informal get together in a non-smoking coffeehouse with hot and cold drinks, desserts, and sandwiches.

Other Affirmations Programs: 195 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI [Map/Driving Directions](#)

- **Domestic Partnership registry** The Domestic Partnership Registry will begin with a kick-off celebration at Affirmations on Feb. 14, 2003. Read more...<http://www.pridesource.com/cgi-bin/article?article=3842846&frames=yes>
- **Living with Depression** meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7-9 pm
- **Grief and Loss**, meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 12-2 pm
- **Single Again** (dealing with a break-up) 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 2-4 pm

Monthly Meeting Notes

Paul Wright

Dealing With The Holiday Blues: Anne Clevering

Our speaker for December involved Perception members in a discussion of Depression and the Holidays. Anne began by outlining the major indicators of depression. She pointed out the major factors that influence depression and the chief of these is Expectations. Her advice was to limit expectations to something real and let the rest of the season flow. For GLBT, it may mean resist expecting acceptance where none was before. Anne suggested forming a 'Family of Choice' for support and love, especially during the Holiday Season and grieve the loss that may be absent from your biological family.



Anne Clevering

Many questions from the audience helped make this a meaningful presentation. The point was made that Depression is anger turned inward and Ms. Clevering suggested ways to handle anger in a constructive manner. She emphasized that developing such skills as communication, trust, intimacy, etc., are the best tools to build effective outlets.

Loudest in her message was “minimize being responsible for someone else's happiness (codependence) and learn to be selfish, not self-centered.”

Anne practices in the Saginaw area in both couples and individual counseling.



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Meet a Board Member

Matt Turner

Matt Turner was born and raised in Frankenmuth and is a life-long resident of Saginaw County.

Matt was recently elected by the Executive Committee as the Perceptions Secretary. As a result, he is now on both the Full Board and on the Executive Committee.

Matt is a network administrator at Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth, and has been active various Saginaw County performing arts projects for many years. "I look forward to serving our area's GLBT community for a term on the Perceptions Executive Committee."