

Perceptions Inc. P.O. Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641 (989) 891-1429

## Bay YWCA Develops Lesbian Initiative

The Bay County YWCA has received funds that will support an initiative intended to promote communication between the lesbian community and the general community in which it exists. The program is designed to reach out to foster tolerance and understanding through a community awareness campaign that will include Diversity training, public speaking and information tables at YWCA events and other venues.

Anita Bowden, Executive Director, is confident of the merits of this initiative and hopes to get a number of volunteers to put this into action. Help make this wonderful effort be a positive and supportive one for your community by calling the Bay County YWCA at 989-686-4800 at or email Ms. Bowden at <mailto:bayywca@earthlink.net>.

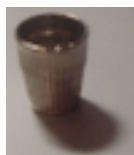


**Opening doors for the  
Mid-Michigan GLBT  
Community**

### Calendar Highlights:

- Sat, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>  
Perceptions Valentine's  
Dance
- Thurs. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-9  
pm, Perceptions Meet  
& Greet at Bay City  
Coffee & Tea
- Sun. Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2-4:30  
pm PFLAG Meeting  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship in Midland
- Thurs. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm  
Perceptions Monthly  
Meeting, Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
in Midland

## Learn To Fill Your Thimble



*"Find ways to fill your thimble with the good things about you, so I won't have to worry about you." Linindoll*

Many people think of Diversity as having something to do with someone else's differences. Perceptions' January speaker, Nicholas Linindoll says think of your own differences, think about ways you have been singled out because you don't have, don't do, don't think or don't act in a way someone else defines as normal. Think about how that makes you feel and know, if but for an instant, the pain that caused then and may still cause now.

Information about Hate Free Journey and contact with him can be found at these links:

E-mail: [hatefreejourney@yahoo.com](mailto:hatefreejourney@yahoo.com)

Web: <http://beginningthejourney.cjb.net>

To receive email alerting about upcoming events, send your email address to [PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoo.com)

## From the Desk of the Co-Chairs

Mindy Pennington

# Gardening 101

I am taking some one-hour gardening workshops with a friend. During the first class, we learned about some design elements of landscaping such as unity, variety, and balance. We are learning about minerals in the soil, preparing flowerbeds for planting, and doing your research to decide what plants to include.

All of these classes got me thinking about the strategy meeting that the Perceptions Board just had on January 25 and how Perceptions has similar elements as an organization. Board members are a balanced, yet diverse group of people, five women, seven men, young and old(er), straight and gay. Perceptions members are from various cities and small towns have all kinds of jobs, some are single, some are coupled, some have children.

Because of this diversity, the Board plans a variety of programs. Having regular meetings and events helps to create unity among the members. However, there are still some needed elements for Perceptions to grow and the Board is hoping that members will step up to the task. We have ideas from our January strategy meeting, but we still need your input. As a result, *I am proposing a call to action for the spring planting season:*

1. **At the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, a survey will be distributed for you to complete.** Please bring your friends to the meeting so we can get your input and ideas.
2. **Ask not what your organization can do for you; ask what you can do for your organization.** The Board can't do everything, and we don't want to. This is YOUR organization--how can you contribute your skills? Can you donate one hour a month? Can you help compile survey data? Do you have writing and communication skills--can you help with public service announcements or grant writing? Can you coordinate the snacks for the monthly meeting? Are you a public speaker--can you carry the Perceptions message to an audience?

Our next workshop is preparing the beds for planting--I hope the Strategic Plan is finalized and we have our list of "annual and perennial" goals. Are you ready to invest your time to make Perceptions a successful and sustaining organization? At the January meeting, Nick Linindoll asked if you were ever picked for the team. Raise your hand to volunteer by emailing the board at [board@perceptionssv.org](mailto:board@perceptionssv.org). We promise to pick you.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Perceptions Board met on January 21, 2003. Several issues were presented, discussed, and decided. First, Perceptions events will continue to be publicized via email to Perceptions members. Local community and GLBT events, however, will be sent in one document as GLBT News and Activities. The Programming Coordinator presented upcoming monthly speakers as detailed below.

January: Nicholas Linindoll "Beginning the Journey: A Diversity Presentation"

February: Curt B., Professional skater to talk about experiences at The Gay Games (Invited)

March: The Cranes & Kormelinks, "PFLAG's Safe School Program"

April: TBD

May: TBD

June: Dr. John Corvino "Morality of Homosexuality"

July: Anne Clevering "Relationship Skills"

The Social Coordinator outlined the upcoming Perceptions events for 2003. These are published on page four of this issue of the Newsletter. The Communications Coordinator is investigating "Between the Lines" advertising as well as local public service announcements to raise awareness of Perceptions as an organization. Finally, the Speakers Bureau Coordinator will be speaking at an MSU grad level social work course on March 18. The board further identified the need to develop and sustain a list of speakers with a varied repertoire and to market the speakers to various organizations, schools, universities, etc.



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**Email:**  
board@perceptionssv.org

### Meet a Board Member: The Crane's

#### Leisa Rose Crane

School Social Worker - Bridgeport Spaulding School District (22 years), Three children Sarah (23) Brett (19), Jared (19), Involved with PFLAG (four years), Involved with Perceptions since it's inception, Attended Midwest GLBT Power Summit Sept 2001 (trained as a speaker), Attended National PFLAG conference Sept 2002, Active with the Safe Schools Project, Presented (GLBT issues from a parents perspective), Bay City Public Schools-counselors & support personnel, Bridgeport Spaulding Schools - counselors & support personnel, State Conference for Social Workers, Universal Unitarian church. Interests: running, sewing, spending time on the beach in S.C., and supporting our lesbian daughter.

#### Jay Allen Crane

Director of Special Education Bay City Public Schools (5 years), Children: Sarah (23), Brett (19), Jared (19), Involved in PFLAG (4 years), Involved with Perceptions since it's inception, Attended GLBT Power Summit (Chicago) Sept 2001 (trained as a speaker), National PFLAG conference (Columbus, Ohio) Sept 2002, Active with the Safe Schools Project, Presented GLBT issues from a parents perspective, Bay City Public Schools counselors & support personnel, State Social Workers Conference, Universal Unitarian Church. Interests: biking, cooking, gardening, and supporting our lesbian daughter

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

**Feb 15th – Perceptions Singles & Couples Valentine's Dance -- 8 - 2 am**, Enjoy a wonderful mix of music with Dance by Carla, Free dance lessons 1 hour before it starts, Buffet and BYOB (Mixers provided) at Tittabawassee Township, 220 Church, Freeland, MI Tickets cost \$35 per couple, \$20 single, reserve tickets at [board@perceptionssv.org](mailto:board@perceptionssv.org) or pay at the door. Your invitation: <http://www.perceptionssv.org/vcard.html>

**Feb 19th – Perceptions Meet & Greet – 7-9 pm**. Our traditional monthly social gathering at Bay City Coffee & Tea, 810 Saginaw St., Bay City. This non-smoking coffee house has a wide variety of drinks, tasty innovative sandwiches and dessert for those with a sweet tooth. The coffee house even has a baby grand for anyone musically inclined. Come join the fun!

**Feb 23rd - Tri-Cities PFLAG meeting -- Transgender Panel**, 2-4:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Five members of the Transgender community will share information and experiences of the Transgender community. Come learn and share this wonderful experience.

**Feb 27th – Perceptions Meeting – 7-9 pm**, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Professional Skater Curt B. has been invited to share his recent experience at the Gay Games in Sydney Australia.

**March 22nd - Delta College Gay Prom - 8 pm – 12 am** at Delta College Midland Center. A professional photographer will be available for that picture perfect moment, DJ will provide the tunes, also includes light refreshments and drinks. No alcohol permitted. Tickets are \$10 per person and \$15 per couple. Send your name, address, number of tickets and money to: David Bailey, Biology Dept., c/o GLBTA ALLIANCE, 1961 Delta Road, University Center, MI 48706 Envelopes must be postmarked by March 1, 2003, otherwise an additional \$5 charge at the door per ticket. Email questions to Delta GLBTA Alliance at [GLBTAPROM@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GLBTAPROM@YAHOO.COM)

**April 12<sup>th</sup> - PFLAG/Perceptions Annual Chocolate Party –** Fundraiser to benefit PFLAG & Perceptions held at Terry Zajac's beautiful home in Bay City. For further details email [board@perceptionssv.org](mailto:board@perceptionssv.org).

**June 14<sup>th</sup> – Michigan Pride Parade –** Perceptions sponsored float and booth will represent the Mid-Michigan GLBT community at the festival in Lansing.

**June 28<sup>th</sup> – Perceptions Car Scavenger Hunt –** Imagine how much fun a scavenger hunt throughout the Tri Cities area would be with a bunch of your friends.

**July 19<sup>th</sup> – PFLAG/Perceptions Annual Garden Party –** Terry Zajac graciously opens his exquisite garden bursting with color and wonder for this special fundraiser benefiting PFLAG & Perceptions. For further details email [board@perceptionssv.org](mailto:board@perceptionssv.org).

**September 13<sup>th</sup> – Perceptions Annual Charity Golf Outing -** Fundraising event at Maple Leaf Golf Course.

**December 11<sup>th</sup> \_ Perceptions Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction –** We'll have total access to the Montague Inn for a wonderful Holiday Party and Silent Auction with some very enticing Silent Auction items!

We're on the web at [www.perceptionsSV.org](http://www.perceptionsSV.org)