

Perceptions Newsletter

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

Speaker Presentation

March 2004
Women in Art



Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Look at these wonderful pieces of art and make a list of the dramatic differences in the way the woman is depicted. What sense do you have of the role she plays in the art (look at everyone in the painting and what they're doing)? Which of these is more influenced by the development of Christianity?

Gina Dominique, art professor at Delta College, was remarkable in her presentation as she explained how Christianity influenced the depiction of women in art from the early Greeks and Romans to Post Modern art. Christianity emphasized very specific characteristics of women, and Gina talked about how those ideals mixed society's expectations of women as art progressed. Her discussion of the middle picture was so telling of that mix. Take a look at that picture and see if you can notice the obvious Christian and secular expectations. Gina's discussion of that picture was very eye opening. It sets the tone for a good discussion, doesn't it?

Even more thought provoking was the discussion of the so called secret society that believed that Mary Magdalene was the wife of Jesus and bore his child. The red x in paintings or this Mary in red pointed to the members of that society. Interestingly, others say the red points to her as a prostitute. Her talk provides a great background for reading the John Brown stories like "The DaVinci Code"

Thank you Gina for an artful and thoughtful evening!

dmknox



April's Speaker

Saginaw attorney Barbara Klimaszewski will speak to us about the practice of filing agreement papers that protect both parties in a domestic partner relationship. She will give information about the types of documents that should be filed and the legality of such papers. Come listen to her presentation and see if this works for you while the battle of same sex marriage still rages on.

Calendar Highlights:

- [Saturday, April 17th, Perceptions' Health Fair 11a-5p](#)
- [Wednesday, April 21st Bay City Meet & Greet 7-9 pm](#)
- [Sunday, April 25th PFLAG Meeting 2-4:30 pm](#)
- [Thursday, April 29th Perceptions General Meeting 7-9 pm](#)
- [Wednesday, May 5th, Saginaw Meet & Greet 7-9p](#)
- [Saturday, May 22nd "Together in Faith: Journey into Inclusiveness"](#)

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

Speaking Demographically

I'll get right to the point--your email address is not sufficient. I have mentioned this fact at a few meetings and at the Valentine's Dance. If you missed it, let me tell you how important your information is to your legislators, your health, our membership and our visibility.

Your legislators

I am not talking about releasing your name, age, salary range, and ZIP code to our legislators--I am talking about our membership demographics as an organization. In February, Charles Lisee and I visited Representative Jennifer Elkins' office about the constitutional amendment. They called me back later in the day because Rep. Elkins wanted to know how many of our members she represented in her district. *I couldn't answer the question.* I didn't know because Perceptions has only an email address for most of our members. If we had your mailing address we could sort by ZIP code and provide a number. Now, if you are wondering why this is important, imagine your state senator or representative in Lansing voting on a bill that can change your life. *They don't know how it affects their GLBT constituents--because I can't answer the question, "Can you tell me how many Perceptions members are in my district?"*

Your Health

Perceptions is sponsoring the Health Fair on April 17th at the YWCA of Bay County. We sent letters to various health care organizations and some responded with questions like, "What is the average age of your members? Many of these service organizations target by gender (like breast cancer organizations) or by age (like hospice care), and we need to be able to sort our membership data to get that kind of detail.

Membership

Another reason we need to know is for membership. I thought it would be a good time to review the benefits of a membership in Perceptions: a monthly newsletter, free events, calendar of events, speaker programs, social events, local news monitoring and response, and legislative monitoring and response. I also want to be able to state the number of Perceptions members and be able to measure the increase in our membership. We need to start somewhere to know that we have an accurate number of *current* members.

Visibility and Legitimacy

Finally, a tangible benefit of all of these reasons is the *visibility and legitimacy* of our community and our organization as a whole. Again, we are not "marketing" you as an individual, but stating facts about our members as a collective number of people. Did you know that we have over 300 members? Astounding, isn't it?! Have you completed a membership form so we have your actual address?

How You Can Be Counted

What is your age range? Where do you live? These and other questions will be asked in our [online survey](#) so you can fill in the information. Be counted--be visible as a community!

Privacy Concerns?

Perceptions has a strict privacy statement that is posted on our website: *We value your privacy. Your name, address, and other personal information will always be kept confidential. Perceptions will never share or sell your information.*

Mindy





Mark your calendars for the April 17th Health Fair!

As I write this article, we are finalizing all the last minute details that make an event successful. This project has been exciting from the beginning. On Saturday, April 17th it all comes to fruition. We are planning on over twenty exhibitors to fill the gym of the YWCA. We'll have participation from four of the local Health Departments, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, as well as low cost and no cost clinics. The Bay County Health Department will be administering the first inoculation in a series of three for the Hepatitis B Vaccination. There will be no cost for this vaccination the day of the Health Fair. In addition, we have a panel of speakers whose members are eager to present their professional perspective in the areas of Meditation, Stress Management, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault, HIV for men and women, as well as presentations by The American Cancer Society and The American Heart Association.

We encourage you to bring friends and family: gay, str8 and allied. This is an event for everyone. Perceptions' mission is to "provide visible leadership which promotes equality, respect and understanding of LGBT individuals". This Health Fair is in direct support of our mission, and we look forward to this successful event on Saturday, April 17th from 11 am until 4 pm at the Bay County YWCA. Remember to bring your workout clothes and swim suit, as we'll have free reign of the facility. Bring the kids too; childcare is FREE!!!!

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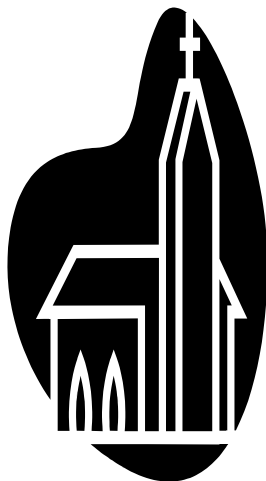


Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Interfaith Conference

"Together in Faith: Journey into Inclusiveness"

Eastern Michigan University

May 21-22, 2004



The American Friends Service Committee, an international Quaker organization founded on principles of justice and equality, is hosting a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender-affirming Interfaith conference at Eastern Michigan University May 22. The conference, "Together in Faith: Journey into Inclusiveness," will bring together many races, ages, genders, sexualities and walks of life.

"Together in Faith" is in response to recent church questioning of whether or not to ordain and whether or not to accept LGBT people into church communities. There will be nationally renowned, local, and activist speakers presenting at the conference. There will also be two dramatic performances, movies playing throughout the day, and a resource fair.

More information on how to register, volunteer or contribute to the conference is available online at www.togetherinfaith.com.

Contact:

Conference Coordinator, Amanda Sharrai, 734.260.0517, conference@afsc-fan.org
Conference Intern, Casey Frazee, 734.904.5757, conference@afsc-fan.org, for volunteering opportunities.



Women's Issues

Health: Women and Heart Attacks

This month we want to take a look at health issues that are of concern to women. One such condition is Myocardial Infarct or Heart attack. Why do more women die of Heart Attacks [Myocardial Infarcts (MI)] than Men?

Consider some facts taken from a study by Chandra, N.C. et al (1998):

- More than 1/3 of all patients with acute MIs are women.
- The time between symptom onset and presentation is longer for women than men.
- Women are less likely to undergo follow-up procedures (cardiac catheterization, angioplasty, or bypass surgery).
- Women are more likely to die following an acute MI. Even when patients are matched for age, women have a poorer outcome than men do.
- Women are less likely to die from an arrhythmia and more likely to die of cardiac rupture.

Consider this information (webpage source)*

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| <p>Classic Symptoms of Angina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exertional chest pressure / tightness radiating to neck and arm • Fatigue or Lightheadedness • (Usually) Exertional dyspnea | <p>Atypical Symptoms of Angina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May mimic anxiety / panic disorder (tachycardia, nervousness) • Abdominal upset or nausea • SILENT (asymptomatic) <p>Most often the presentation in women</p> |
|--|---|

Both sets of findings suggest that the recognition and follow up procedures are usually not as specific in the treatment of women as in men. The facts don't exclude other conditions that might be responsible for the poor recovery of women, but it does add to the general knowledge that heart attacks present differently in women. In addition, many physicians do not know how to recognize the onset.

Taking this information down for our own heart health can help reduce these margins. When we are mindful of some of the ways MI presents itself in women, we can become more proactive in our own health care. We will seek help faster and insist on follow up procedures. Some other ways we can be proactive about our health is to quit smoking, lower cholesterol, reduce obesity and stress, exercise sensibly, educate ourselves about ourselves, and talk with a doctor who will talk back and answer your questions. Take note that hormone replacement therapy (HRT), usually given to prevent MI, seems to reduce the chances of death if a woman suffers an MI (Shlipak, et al.). Be mindful of the risk of breast cancer though. Now here's one of the conversations you can have with your physician. You go girl!

- Chandra, NC, Ziegelstein, RC, et al. Observations of the treatment of women in the United States with myocardial infarction. ARCH INTERNA MED. 1998:158-981-1988.
- Michael G. Shlipak, MD MPH; Brad G. Angeja, et a. Hormone Therapy and In-Hospital Survival After Myocardial Infarction in Postmenopausal Women.
- Taken from: <http://webcampus.med.drexel.edu/whp/cvd.htm>

dmknox

Public Service Advertising Campaign Strive To Break LGBT Stereotypes



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Just one of the many exciting activities Perceptions will be launching this year is the broadcasting of a public service advertising campaign in our eastern mid-Michigan area which will strive to break stereotypes some people may have of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons. Tom Brubaker, Perceptions communications coordinator, will soon begin work on four, 30 second public service announcements for television/ cable broadcast, as well as a series of four posters which will be distributed throughout our coverage area. Public service announcements are similar to commercial advertisements with the exception that, as a not-for-profit organization, Perceptions will not buy advertising time. The public service advertising campaign will run free of charge through our local television and cable channels during the second half of 2004 and into the 2005 year.

“The goal of the public service advertising campaign is to break long-held stereotypes, myths, and misconceptions which some members of the general public may have toward the LGBT community,” Brubaker says. “It is essential that as a community we work toward increasing a better understanding that we are all important, successful, contributing members of the community regardless of our differences, in particular, sexual orientation and identity,” Brubaker says.

Look for more information on the upcoming public service advertising campaign in the Perceptions newsletter.

Rainbow Referrals



While out doing business in our local communities, it is important to remember to patronize those establishments that are either gay-owned or gay-friendly. You think to yourself, “How do I know which businesses fall into those categories?” Well, worry no more! Perceptions is compiling a directory of local businesses that are supportive of the GLBT community. The businesses not only include places to shop, but also restaurants, recreation & fitness, real estate, pet care, HIV/AIDS services, and others. You can check out these businesses at our website <http://www.perceptionssv.org/> and following the link to Rainbow Referrals. When you patronize these establishments, be sure to mention that you heard about them through Perceptions. Also, if you know of additional businesses out there that are gay-owned and gay-friendly, please let us know. We would love to contact them and have them listed with us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE ADDED TO PERCEPTIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS?

Submit your event to board@perceptionssv.org

Friday, April 16th – Saturday, April 17th SVSU GSA – Relay For Life 8pm-8am at SVSU.

Saturday, April 17th, Perceptions' Health Fair 11a-5p at Bay County YWCA. Many vendors will be on hand to provide free basic health monitoring. There will be seminars specific for woman and teen as well as men's issues. Anyone attending can workout free at the Y for the day. Swim, use the gym, play ball. More information to come.

Sunday, April 18th - Central Michigan Branch of the ACLU of Michigan Annual Meeting and Dinner

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the LGBT Project of the ACLU of MI, is the featured speaker. He will be talking about Same Sex Marriage-across the country and in Michigan. The evening will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a social time and cash bar followed with a buffet dinner at 6:00 PM. There will be a short business meeting at 7:00 P.M. followed by the speaker. Buck's Run Golf Course, 4 miles east of the Soaring Eagle Casino north of M-20. For reservation information go to <http://www.aclumich.org/modules.php?name=Sections&op=viewarticle&artid=26>

Wednesday, April 21st - Bay City Meet & Greet 7-9 pm. An informal gathering of the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome in this smoke-free environment. Located at 810 Saginaw Street (between Center and Fifth Aves.), the Bay City Coffee and Tea offers a variety of delicious drinks, sandwiches and desserts

Wednesday, April 21st - John Corvino delivers "What's Morally Wrong with Homosexuality" 7pm. SVSU, Rhea Miller Recital Hall at Groening Commons, 7400 Bay Rd. Sponsored by SVSU's [Gay-Straight Alliance](#)

Sunday, April 25th - PFLAG Meeting 2-4:30 pm. Guest speaker is Mike Neubecker, founder of PFLAG Detroit Down River. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

Thursday, April 29th - Perceptions General Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Please join us!

Saturday, May 1st – Progressive Festival 6pm-midnight Located at the Wesley Foundation Building, Mount Pleasant.

Sunday, May 2nd - 10th Triangle Annual Dinner at the Ford Conference & Event Center, 1151 Village Rd., Dearborn, MI. Formal attire optional. Cost \$150 Buy Tickets thru Triangle Foundation, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219-2721 or call 313-537-3323 x103 or e-mail Stephanie@tri.org

Wednesday May 5th, Saginaw Meet & Greet 7-9p Crumbs Gourmet Cookie Café, 4882 Gratiot Road. Meet your old friends and make some new ones while eating fantastic baked goods. Enjoy hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment.

Tuesday, May 11th, We Are Family Lobby Day From 8am-3pm in the Mackinac Room of the House Anderson Building, Lansing, MI. The Coalition for Adoption Rights Equality, American Friends Service Committee LGBT Issues Program, and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation will all be coming together to advocate for all our families, for all our children. For more info, check out <http://afsc-fan.org/familylobby.html>

On-Going Programs

HIV+/AIDS support group meets every Tuesday in Bay City from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Contact Tim Neal at 989.894.2991 for locations for the meetings.

Anonymous and confidential HIV testing is available at The Hearth Home in Saginaw. Gay men who participate will receive a Meijer's gift certificate if they choose to test. Contact Ricardo Bowden or Ric Nelson at 989.753.9011 for further information.

Perceptions' Volleyball continues Friday evenings in April from 7-9p at the YWCA on Midland Road, Bay City.

WWW.PERCEPTIONSSV.ORG