

# Perceptions Newsletter

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

## From the Desk of the Co-Chairs

Mindy Pennington

### Summertime, and the Volunteering is Easy

Summer is almost here. Many of you have vacations and barbeques planned, graduations and weddings (or civil unions) to attend and volunteer work for Perceptions to do.

That's right, volunteering...DID YOU KNOW that Lansing Pride is only about a month away? The Scavenger Hunt is also next month, and the PFLAG/Perceptions Garden Party is in July. Summertime will fly by, and we want your help accomplishing our many goals.

Perceptions will have a booth at the Pride Festival, and we will have a float in the parade. So, if you are the creative type (or just like being with your people), the Social Committee would like to meet you at Bay City Coffee & Tea tomorrow evening, May 12, at 7:30 pm. Plans are underway for Pride and many other events throughout the year, so Perceptions will need lots of volunteers to help out. If you can't make the Monday meeting, never fear; just call us and give us your number. We will contact you!

Imagine yourself on a beautiful day in Lansing...stunning in your Perceptions t-shirt. There you are, **working it** at the booth, staying cool because we have a canopy...imagine all of the cool people you will meet while helping YOUR organization for an hour or two. It's all about shifts, baby. Work your shift, and then work the crowd. Tell Michigan about Perceptions and the great things that we are doing here.

I can see it all now--what a show of Mid-Michigan Pride we will put on. They won't know what hit them. It's all about effecting change in the broader community.

So, c'mon--will I see you at 810 Saginaw Street tomorrow evening? If you are unable to make this meeting, just give us a call at 989-891-1429 and leave us your phone number; we will contact you about upcoming opportunities. Thanks for all your enthusiasm and great work!

### American Friends Service Committee at May 29<sup>th</sup> Perceptions Meeting

Michael Gibson-Faith will talk about the **American Friends Service Committee Faith Action Network** at the May General Meeting.

The Michigan American Friends Service Committee's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Issues Program has been actively engaged in facilitating and growing its new initiative called the Faith Action Network (FAN).

The goal of FAN is to create a movement in Michigan led by people of faith/spirit/conscience that is both bold and imaginative with the intention of organizing, mobilizing, and training progressive people of faith to lift up a powerful and prophetic justice seeking voice for LGBT liberation. The meeting will be on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-9:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.



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

### Calendar Highlights:

- **Fri. May 16<sup>th</sup> 7-9 pm**  
The Womyn's Circle at  
Bay County YWCA
- **Wed. May 21<sup>st</sup> 7-9 pm**  
Meet & Greet at Bay City  
Coffee & Tea
- **Sun. May 25<sup>th</sup> 2-4:30 pm**  
PFLAG Meeting  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship in Midland
- **Thurs. May 29<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm**  
Perceptions Monthly  
Meeting, American  
Friends Service  
Committee, Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
in Midland.
- **Wed. June 4<sup>th</sup> 7-9 pm**  
Perceptions Meet &  
Greet in Saginaw (details  
TBA).
- **Sat. June 14<sup>th</sup> Lansing  
Pride Parade:**  
Perceptions will have a  
booth and float.

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

**Corvino to Speak at June 26<sup>th</sup> Perceptions Meeting. see page 2**

**Corvino to Speak at June 26<sup>th</sup> Perceptions Meeting  
Event to be held at the Auditorium of The Grace A. Dow Library in Midland**



John Corvino

John Corvino, Ph.D, teaches philosophy at Wayne State University in Detroit, where he specializes in ethical theory and applied ethics. He is the editor of *Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality* and a regular contributor to *Between the Lines*, Michigan's GLBT weekly. His articles have appeared in *The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide* and various anthologies, including *Do We Need Minority Rights?*, *Ethics in Practice*, and *The Philosophy of Sex*.

Corvino has been developing and presenting his lecture *What's Morally Wrong With Homosexuality?* for audiences around the country. Combining philosophical rigor with sensitivity and humor, the lecture examines and dismantles the most common arguments against homosexuality. Please join us for this insightful Perceptions-sponsored program.

This special event will be held at  
the Auditorium of The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library in Midland.  
1710 W. Saint Andrews Rd. (at Eastman), Midland, Michigan  
Doors open at 6:30, the lecture begins at 7:30.

**Curt Bitman, Gay Olympics  
April speaker**

Curt Bitman presented slides and video from the 2002 Gay Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Bitman first showed a video of practice and warm-up sessions, answered questions from the audience about qualifying for the Olympics, how he got involved, and how often he trains before the actual event.

For the finale, Curt showed a video of the opening ceremonies and a sampling of all the various countries that participate. Many audience members had questions, and everyone had a great time looking at the opening ceremonies and the competitors. Thanks, Curt, for providing us the opportunity to imagine ourselves at the Gay Olympics!



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

**Perceptions**  
 P.O. Box 1525  
 Midland MI 48641

**Phone:**  
 (989) 891-1429

**Email:**  
 board@perceptionssv.org

**Board Meeting Highlights**  
 April 2003

1. Executive Committee Report
  - i. Womyn's Circle group increasing in numbers each month.
  - ii. Paul presented the budget.
  - iii. Moderated discussion group for the website discussed and approved.
  - iv. Speaker's Bureau and Key Messages approved. Chris presented to members at April meeting
2. Retreat Action Items. Document presented outlining organizational goals and corresponding timeline.
3. Programming Update. Changes to existing schedule are as follows:
  - i. May, "American Friends Service Committee"
  - ii. June, (John Corvino), library auditorium booked
4. Social Update. Doug presented the following updates to the social calendar:
  - i. Hearth Home organization volunteers are scheduled
  - ii. Lansing Pride booth paid for, scheduled. Doug working on getting booth volunteers.
5. Communications Update. Charles has two new volunteers to write and work with the media.
6. Other business:
  - i. Rainbow Referrals decided as name of business/yellow pages listings for website


**Perceptions Key Messages**

Experience as a Perceptions speaker could give more OOMPH to your resume!

Are you a good speaker? Would you like to learn?

The Perceptions Board created a PowerPoint presentation to explain who we are, our mission statement, our strategic partnerships, and how we are a part of every community.

If you would like to present Perceptions' Key Messages to a targeted audience, learn how by contacting us at 989-891-1429.



195 West 9 Mile Road  
 Ferndale, Michigan 48220  
 Phone: 248.398.7105  
 Fax: 248.541.1943  
 Email: Info@GoAffirmations.org  
 Website: www.GoAffirmations.org  
 HelpLine: 1.800.398.GAYS (4297)

*Everyday People. Building Community.*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> - Volunteers for Social Committee Meeting at the Bay City Coffee & Tea, 810 Saginaw St. in Bay City at 7:30 PM. We need volunteers for different tasks and events like Lansing Pride, the Scavenger Hunt, the Golf Outing, being a greeter at the meetings, etc.

Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month**) - The Womyn's Circle - sponsored by the YWCA of Bay County and Perceptions. A low-key "safe space" to talk about coming out, life as a lesbian, and just plain life. From 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. For more information, contact the YWCA at 989-686-4800. <http://www.bayywca.com>

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Perceptions Meet & Greet 7-9 pm -- Our traditional social monthly gathering at the Bay City Coffee & Tea, 810 Saginaw St., Bay City. This non-smoking coffee house has a variety of drinks, tasty innovative sandwiches, deliciously fresh sushi and desserts for those with a sweet tooth. Come join the fun!

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> - PFLAG Meeting, 2-4:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> - Perceptions General Meeting 7-9 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Guest speaker is AFSC – American Friends Service Committee. For more info on how AFSC affects change in the LGBT community visit their website at <http://www.afsc.org/issues/index/LGBT.HTM>.

Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - Perceptions Meet & Greet – SAGINAW – 7-9pm. Our latest addition to our active social calendar. You asked and we deliver! More details to follow. Mark your calendar!

Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Womyn's Potluck - 7pm Karin & Tara's House in Saginaw (close to the mall). Bring labeled dish to pass; tableware and dishes are provided. BYOB; pop and coffee provided. Call (989) 497-0242 for further details or directions

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. Contact <mailto:board@perceptionssv.org> if you'd like to volunteer to work at the Perceptions booth or ride on the float in the parade.

June 20<sup>th</sup> – (**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month**) The Womyn's Circle - sponsored by the YWCA of Bay County and Perceptions. A low-key "safe space" to talk about coming out, life as a lesbian, and just plain life. From 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. For more information, contact the YWCA at 989-686-4800.

June 26<sup>th</sup> Perceptions General Meeting 7-9 pm, "What's Morally Wrong with Homosexuality?" will be delivered by **John Corvino at Midland's Grace A. Dow Library, 1710 W. Saint Andrews Rd. (at Eastman), Midland, Michigan on Thursday, June 26, 2003**. Corvino teaches ethics and philosophy at Wayne State University in Detroit and edited *Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality*. Corvino's lecture replaces the Perceptions General Meeting. Note the different location. **Doors open at 6:30, lecture begins at 7:30**. More information on John Corvino is available at <http://www.indegayforum.org/authors/corvino/index.html>

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.

July 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> - Friends North 12th Annual Bike Tour - A biking, camping and canoeing/kayaking weekend for GLBT persons and their friends is planned on 15 acres of secluded private property in Benzie County. Registration includes rustic camping, 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts catered on site, road support on the bike tours, and T- shirt. Weekend package costs \$70 if registered before June 1. Cost \$85 after June 1. For more info contact: Kirk Mallow: 231-922-8913, [MallowKi@chartermi.net](mailto:MallowKi@chartermi.net) or Rose Clement: 231-276-8018, [RSCNGC@aol.com](mailto:RSCNGC@aol.com)

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

November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Perceptions Thanksgiving Food Drive and Potluck – Your non-perishable contributions will be gathered and donated to the B.A.S.I.S. food pantry. Plan to bring your favorite homemade dish to share with others. Beverages, plastic-ware and cups will be provided.

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!