

Perceptions Newsletter

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

Corvino Message Boosts Visibility of Perceptions in The Tri Cities

Last month's speaker, Dr. John Corvino spoke to a crowd of over 100 people at the Grace A. Dow Auditorium in Midland, MI. John was witty and expressive in his message about answering the moral questions that are general asked by anti-gay groups. In posing these questions, he proposed a basis for asking the questions and then proceeded to show the faults in their answers. He was particularly good at showing how, when the same question was applied to any other action or event, one can selectively rationalize a different answer.

The presentation brought many people from both the GLBT community and the community at large. Lots of questions were raised and Dr Corvino was very frank in answering them. He peppered both his presentation and answers with his own life experiences.

Perceptions would like to thank the Midland Daily News, and the Bay City Times for capturing the essence of this group and showcasing Dr Corvino in excellent articles published in their Sunday sections. Thanks also to the Saginaw News for providing notification of the talk.

This Month's Speaker

Mary Jo Hall, LPC.

One of the myths about homosexuality is that it is only about sex. That myth implies one and/or two things: We have no other dimensions to our partnered relationships. We have no other relationships.

Since we know that isn't true, we welcome Mary Jo Hall to share skills that can be applied to any relationship: personal, work, family, friends. Come to the meeting, ask questions, practice the skills. You and your relationships will be the better for it.



*Opening doors for the
Mid-Michigan GLBT
Community*

Calendar Highlights:

- Tues. July 15th 7pm
GLBT Volleyball Night,
Vet's Park, Bay City
- Wed. July 16th 7pm
Meet & Greet, Bay City
Coffee & Tea
- Fri. July 18th 7pm The
Womyn's Circle **Book
Exchange**, Bay County
YMCA
- Sat. July 19th 6:30-9pm
Perceptions/PFLAG
GARDEN PARTY, Terry
Zajac's, Bay City
- Tues. July 22nd 7pm
GLBT Volleyball
Night, Vet's Park,
Bay City
- July 25th – 27th Friends
North 12th Annual
Bike Tour

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

From the Desk of the Co-Chairs

Mindy Pennington, Paul Wright

Autofocus

John Corvino's talk brought out many different people in the tri-cities, young, old, gay, straight, women and men. This is exactly the type of programming that the community wants.

Are we offering educational, insightful, relevant programming and activities to the GLBT community and the broader community? We are getting there, but we still have some work to do. It's time that we focus our energies on the Perceptions strategy. The Board will be looking at our goals and action items for the year to see if we need to re-focus our energies in a slightly different direction.

One action item that is still open is the development of a **Women's Strategy** for Perceptions. Perceptions needs to understand why more women aren't attracted to our programs and events. Maybe women only want the social activities, maybe they don't want co-ed events, maybe they don't like our programming, and maybe they have other family obligations. I don't know the answer, the Board doesn't know the answer, only the members and non-members know the answer. The only way to find out is TO LISTEN.

That's why this column is dedicated to the women--Perceptions will be holding brainstorming sessions for lesbians in our area.

The first Women's Strategy Session will be Monday August 4, 2003 at 7:00 pm. The YWCA of Bay County has graciously offered Perceptions a conference room for no charge. Refreshments will be served. I hope you will join Perceptions for this significant event. **Please invite all your friends to attend as well**; the non-members are the ones we are trying to reach. We need your feedback and input to be successful!

The YWCA of Bay County is located at 3405 Midland Road, just west of Euclid Avenue in Bay City, and they are a BARRIER-FREE facility. For directions, you can call the YWCA at 989-686-4800. This is a working meeting; call it a strategy session, call it brainstorming, call it a bitch session. Whatever you decide to call it, just come and **tell us what you want**. We will compile all the input let you know the outcome. Equipped with this new information, we can move on to a more positive, cooperative future for this organization and the community as a whole.

Women's Strategy Meeting

August 4th, 7:00 pm, YWCA of Bay County. Snackies included.



FOCUS ON WOMYN



Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Perceptions
P.O. Box 1525
Midland MI 48641

Phone:
(989) 891-1429

Fax:
(989) 891-1429

Email: board@perceptionssv.org

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The Womyn's Circle is sponsoring a book exchange on July 18 at the YWCA of Bay County. The group meets at 7 P.M. on the third Friday of each month. The meetings are a low-key safe space for lesbians with a desire to discuss coming out, their lives as lesbians, or just plain life.

Many Womyn's Circle participants are just coming out and do not have access to women's bookstores or to materials at gay and lesbian community centers—or are simply afraid to frequent such places. These women may be unfamiliar with authors such as Katherine V. Forrest, Rita Mae Brown, Isabel Miller, Dorothy Allison, and others.

Meanwhile, books by these authors are surely collecting dust in the homes of other area lesbians. The book exchange is an effort for those who've read lesbian fiction and nonfiction to share their books with those who have not. Women also are encouraged to bring copies of periodicals such as *The Advocate* or *Lesbian Connection*.

Those who bring books to donate may also take books—the event is truly an exchange. And it is not necessary to bring a book to attend the meeting. All are welcome in this confidential, comforting space.

The Womyn's Circle is sponsored by Perceptions, a mid-Michigan gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender organization, and by the YWCA of Bay County. For more information, contact Mindy Pennington at board@PerceptionsSV.org, or call Anita Bowden at the YWCA at 989-686-4800. More information is available on the Perceptions website at www.PerceptionsSV.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Submit your event to board@perceptionssv.org

Tues. July 15th 7pm GLBT Volleyball Night casual co-ed gathering at Vets Memorial Park in downtown Bay City. The courts are located between the ball diamonds and the community center.

Wed. July 16th Bay City Meet & Greet 7-9 p.m. Our exciting social gathering at the Bay City Coffee & Tea, 810 Saginaw St., Bay City. This non-smoking coffee house has a variety of drinks, innovative sandwiches, and dessert for those with a sweet tooth.

Friday July 18th - The Womyn's Circle (3rd Friday of every month) - Come to the July Womyn's Circle to share your lesbian fiction and non-fiction because we're having a **book exchange!** If you have some books or magazines that you want to give away, bring them on **July 18, 2003** to the meeting at the YWCA of Bay County. **PLEASE NOTE: You do not have to bring a book to attend the meeting 7-9PM** for more information, contact the YWCA at 989-686-4800.

Sat. July 19th PFLAG/Perceptions Annual Garden Party ... Terry Zajac graciously opens his exquisite garden bursting with color and wonder for this special fundraiser benefiting PFLAG & Perceptions. Donations accepted at the door. The host organizations will provide light appetizers, drinks and an ambience that will be talked about for days. Please come to support the great work that continues to take place in the Tri-Cities.

Tues. July 22nd 7pm GLBT Volleyball Night casual co-ed gathering at Vets Memorial Park in downtown Bay City. The courts are located between the ball diamonds and the community center.

July 25-27 -- Friends North 12th Annual Bike Tour -- A biking, camping and canoeing/kayaking weekend for G-L-B-T persons and their friends is planned on 15 acres of secluded private property in Benzie County. Registration includes rustic camping, two dinners and two breakfasts catered on site, road support on the bike tours, and T-shirt. Weekend package costs \$85. For more info contact: Kirk Mallow. 231-922-8913, MallowKi@chartermi.net , or Rose Clement: 231-276-8018, RSCNGC@aol.com

July 24-27 Hotter than July, Detroit..."Catch The Spirit" ...Offering educational, social, political and cultural resources to lesbian, gay, bi-attractional and transgender men and women of African descent in Southeast Michigan. The schedule of activities: <http://www.hotterthanjuly.com/htj2003/Schedule.htm>

Saturday, July 26, 5th West Shore GLBT Pride Picnic, Mason County Picnic Area south of Ludington, Michigan. 2 - 8 pm. For additional information, access the West Shore Pride Committee web page at: <http://community.webtv.net/dahawley/TheresUNITYin/> or e-mail: WSPride@webtv.net.

Sunday, July 27th PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting 2-4:30 pm, UU, 6220 Jefferson, Midland Guest speaker is Tom Patrick, a Canton, MI teacher. He and another teacher were asked to disassemble gay educational bulletin boards by their superintendent. They did but later grieved thru their union and won. Their case is a precedent for other MI teachers and administrators. Tom speaks about changing his experience at our next meeting!

Tues. July 29th 7pm GLBT Volleyball Night casual co-ed social gathering at Vets Memorial Park in downtown Bay City. The courts are located between the ball diamonds and the community center.

Thurs. July 31st Perceptions General Meeting 7-9 pm, UU, 6220 Jefferson, Midland Guest speaker is Mary Jo Hall, a local therapist who specializes in interpersonal relationships. Mary Jo will focus on sharpening relationship skills so that each and every one of us develop the tools needed for the utmost healthy and happy relationships.

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