

# Perceptions Newsletter

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

## Fall Kick-Off

Dear friends and allies,

The summer that never came is coming to a close. Hopefully each and every one of you had a safe and renewing summer! Perceptions has an exciting agenda planned beginning in September. Some of the events planned need coordinators, hosts, and volunteers to make them happen. The following is a sample of what you can look forward to and where you can get involved.

**Meeting Greeters:** We need greeters for September 30th, October 28th & November 18th Membership Meetings. General responsibilities include greeting guests, hand out name tags and verifying contact/ mailing information. If you are interested in being a meeting greeter, please contact Vanessa Marr at [vmarr@netzero.com](mailto:vmarr@netzero.com)

**Adopt A Highway:** We need a permanent "Event Coordinator" for this program as well as volunteers for the next pick up to occur on September 19th. Email [info@perceptionssv.org](mailto:info@perceptionssv.org) if you would be interested in being the event coordinator and/or volunteer for the next pickup.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive/Potluck:** This event is scheduled for Saturday, November 13th at Midland UU. We need an event sponsor to coordinate this event as well as volunteers to take the food to our designated food bank. Email [info@perceptionssv.org](mailto:info@perceptionssv.org) if you would like to be the event sponsor and/or volunteer.

Some other exciting initiatives you can look forward to:

**National Coming Out Day, October 11th** - This initiative will begin with the speaker at the September 30th Membership Meeting. There will be essays in the local newspapers distribution of HRC's "Coming Out" booklet, gay themed films at local libraries as well as the launching of a support group that will meet twice monthly. Watch for more details on these exciting events.

**Bring A Friend Potluck Membership Meeting:** Invite your friends, family and allies, to the October 28th Membership Meeting at the Midland UU. We're planning a potluck dinner and a speaker discussion regarding "Ethical Issues for Gay Marriage".

**Montague Holiday Gala and Auction:** We're going to keep with our annual tradition of the holiday party at the Montague Inn. The event will be held on Thursday, December 9th this year. This is the event that you won't want to miss. More details to come.

We encourage you to get involved and support the community. We could not have come as far as we have if it wasn't for the support from the community. Sign up today!



## Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Calendar Highlights:

- **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 - Unity Picnic** 2 pm in Wenonah Park, Bay City
- **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - Bay City Meet & Greet** 7-9 pm
- **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> - Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up** 10 am
- **Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> - PFLAG Meeting** 2-4:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.
- **Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> - Perceptions General Meeting** 7-9 pm. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland
- **Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> - Saginaw Meet & Greet** 7-9 pm

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



## September Speaker

In preparation for National Coming-Out Day in October, Harry Lenhart, M.S.W., M.D. will be addressing the Perceptions General Meeting about coming out issues that many in the GLBT community have dealt with. Coming out is a continual process for everyone. Whether you've started a new job, are considering coming out to friends and family or are having internal issues with your sexual orientation, you'll be sure to walk away with a feeling of acceptance and understanding..

Dr. Lenhart is a former high school teacher turned social worker turned psychiatrist. He works in Saginaw and, because he still likes teaching, often has a medical student or resident doctor in training following him around. He has given lectures on many topics related to psychiatry, but finds the interconnection between spirituality and medicine the most interesting.



## Summer Garden Party

The day of Saturday, July 31st turned out to be a beautiful day as well as bring beautiful people to Perceptions Garden Party hosted by Rick Rios. To everyone's delight, Rick gracefully opened his gracious garden to Perceptions and PFLAG members. Some wonderful food was to be had and many conversations were overfilled with joy. Thank you to all who supported Perceptions and PFLAG, this was a successful event! Thank you Rick!



## Day of Caring

Help change perceptions of the GLBT community and volunteer in a rewarding activity at the same time! The United Way and Volunteer Action Center of Midland County is hosting "Day of Caring". The twice yearly "Day of Caring" links volunteers with community projects that need to be done. The work ranges from raking an elderly person's yard to building a ramp for a person with a disability—and anything in between. Skills are not required, just a willingness to help. The activity starts at 8 am on Saturday, Sept. 18th and lasts until noon. E-mail Kevin Appold at [kjappold@hotmail.com](mailto:kjappold@hotmail.com) if you would like to be part of this community project.



## Get Out And Vote!

This November's election is important to all of us. Not only do we have the opportunity to elect our nation's next president, but we also have Proposal 2 on our state ballot. The "Gay Marriage Ban" proposal will have profound repercussions not only for the GLBT community, but also for our non-married straight allies if it is passed. We urge you to get out and vote.

What if you are not registered to vote? It's never been easier to do. Simply visit the Secretary of State's website to download the application form at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf). After filling it out, drop it off to either your city clerk, if you live in Bay City or Saginaw, or for elsewhere you can bring it or mail it to your county clerk. Do it soon, as you must be registered a full month before the election, by October 2<sup>nd</sup>.





## Volleyball Moves Indoors!

After a season of varying weather, it's time to take volleyball INDOORS! Volleyball will be held on the upper level of the Pioneer Gym at Delta College. Daily pass is \$3.50 to Perceptions members. Make sure you mention you're with Perceptions to get your discount. We will play on Sundays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The group continues to grow with new faces every week. Come out and join the fun!



## Meet & Greet Expands

Perceptions is happy to announce the latest edition to our Meet & Greet series. The second Wednesday of every month will be the Midland Meet & Greet at Espresso Milano, 137 Ashman in downtown Midland. Come pay a visit to this trendy little coffee house, meet new friends and catch up with others.



### Perceptions

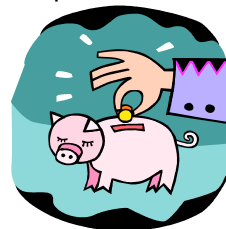
P.O. Box 1525  
Midland MI 48641

#### Phone:

(989) 891-1429

## The United Way Helps Perceptions

Did you know that as a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization, Perceptions is eligible to receive funds from the United Way? That's right, in order to donate money to Perceptions right from your paycheck, all you have to do is write Perceptions in on the United Way form. Under "Designation Options" on the form, it's number 3, "Specific Agency Designation." United Way does take their administrative fee out of the contribution but they will honor the write-in request and send the money to Perceptions. To help the United Way send along your contribution sooner, you should list our address: Perceptions, PO Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641, as well as our federal tax ID, which is 75-3028404. Thanks for considering us. Any contribution you give helps us to expand and better our services to all of you.



[WWW.PERCEPTIONSSV.ORG](http://WWW.PERCEPTIONSSV.ORG)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**Submit your event to** [calendar@perceptionssv.org](mailto:calendar@perceptionssv.org)

**Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - Bay City Meet & Greet** 7-9 pm. Join the 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.

**Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - United Way & Volunteer Action Center of Midland County Day of Caring** Help change perceptions of the GLBT community and volunteer in a rewarding activity at the same time! The twice yearly [Day of Caring](#) links volunteers with community projects that need to be done. Skills are not required, just a willingness to help. Groups typically range in size from 3 to 10 people. The activity starts at 8 am and lasts until noon. E-mail [Kevin Appold](mailto:Kevin.Appold) ASAP to get a head count. Kevin will send out a list of projects to choose from when we have an idea of our group size.

**Saturday, Septemeber 18<sup>th</sup> - Autumn Potluck & Bonfire** 5 pm at [Alan Shinaver's home](#) in Saginaw. Bring a dish to pass. Friends and family are welcome. RSVPs would be greatly appreciated to help make the planning easier. [Email Alan](#) or call 989-906-4735 to RSVP or for more information. At this event, we will be accepting free-will donations to support the [Coalition for a Fair Michigan](#) to assist in their efforts to defeat the proposed marriage amendment scheduled to be on the ballot November 2. All donations will require filling out a donor's form, and any donation in excess of \$20.00 must be in the form of a check made out to the [Coalition for a Fair Michigan](#).

**Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> - Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up** 10 am. This will be the last pick up for the season. We need all the volunteers we can get. Email Neil at [clocktower@chartermi.net](mailto:clocktower@chartermi.net) and let him know that we can count on you.

**Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> - PFLAG Meeting** 2-4:30 pm. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

**Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> - Perceptions General Meeting** 7-9 pm. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Please join us!

**Saturday & Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - AIDS Walk Michigan: One Step Toward A Solution** [AIDS Walk Michigan](#) will take place in six Michigan communities. The goal is to walk together to raise money and to demonstrate concern for those affected by HIV and AIDS. The money that is raised stays in the communities where it is raised; 100% of these funds go directly to support local programs and services. Support is sought from synagogues and churches, community clubs, social organizations, schools, small businesses and corporations, fraternities and sororities, and where ever people care about helping in the fight against this health crisis. Phone: 888-791-WALK (9255)

**Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> - "Women's Rights--Explore the Issues"** 7-9 pm. State and regional leaders discuss status of Title IX, lesbian issues, reproductive rights, and affirmative action. Panelists include leaders of American Association of University Women, Perceptions, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, and Michigan Women's Commission." This is a free event. [YWCA of Bay County](#), 3405 Midland Road, Bay City. Call the YWCA at 989-686-4800 for more information.

**Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> - Saginaw Meet & Greet** 7-9 pm. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones while eating fantastic baked goods. Enjoys hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment! Crumbs Gourmet Cookie Cafe is located at 4882 Gratiot just east of Center Road and behind Edward's Men's Shop. tel: 989-498-4010

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - National Coming Out Day** Perceptions has planned a slew of activities including the launch of the Coming Out Support Group, Gay themed films at the library and articles in local media. Check out the website for updates on the development of this day's events.

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