

Perceptions Newsletter

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

Speaker Presentation

September 2003

More at Stake When Gay Marriage is Banned

Jay Kaplan, noted attorney for the ACLU faced a Perceptions audience and said "More is lost than you know when gay marriage is banned." Consider the following: your partner is injured in an auto accident and you rush to the hospital to give support. You run in worried and concerned and before you can get there to touch or hold a hand, someone is pushing you away from your loved one insisting that only "close" or "real" family are the only ones who can have visitation rights. You know your partner does not wish to be put on life support, but that wish is denied because you can't make the decision about that and time is too precious to wait for someone who might support what you know to be true. The two of you have made a commitment to each other and wish to extend that commitment in an adoption of a child to love and support, but only one of you is allowed to adopt and the legalities rage on and on in supporting that other person's rights.

According to Kaplan, once the issue of gay marriage is banned, there is no need for further discussion of rights. All the other efforts at providing equal rights, privileges, etc to GLBT are done. Jay noted that it is no longer necessary to have a discussion because the premise of marriage is gone. There have been a number of successful resolutions, particularly the Lapeer Marriage Resolution, that have surfaced. Attorney Kaplan noted that it is the first time such language has appeared that would support changing the constitution to limit rights as opposed to supporting or broadening the rights of a disenfranchised group.

Jay wanted to emphasize that it is not the religious ceremony that is at issue. A church can deny or support the ceremony. It is the issue of civil marriage rights that are important to GLBT and others affected by such a ban. So the next time you think that a marriage certificate means nothing except a piece of paper, remember that that piece of paper may be the one thing that keeps a memory or a moment intact.

Keep
America
Safe AND
Free



<http://www.aclu.org>

October's Speaker

Dr Thomas Haller was scheduled to speak at October's Perceptions meeting, but will have to cancel. His topic was of particular interest to our community "Internal Homophobia" and he has promised to present at another time or work with the Program Director to find a replacement. If not, rest assured a speaker will be provided for the Thursday meeting. We so appreciate your patience with this. We trust you know that we will update you on speaker and title for the October meeting. Thank You!



Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Calendar Highlights:

- Sunday, October 12th,
5th Anniversary of
the Death of Matthew
Shepard
- Wednesday, October
15th, Bay City Meet &
Greet
- Saturday & Sunday,
October 18th & 19th,
Living Nonviolence -
Intensive Weekend
Retreat Workshop
- Saturday, October, 18th
Great Lakes Regiona
PFLAG Conference
- Saturday, October 18th,
Come OUT & Laugh
with Karen Williams!
- Sunday, October 26th,
PFLAG-Tri-Cities
Meeting
- Tuesday, October 28th,
Out of the Past: The
Struggle for the Gay
and Lesbian Rights
in America
- Thursday, October 30th
Perceptions General
Meeting

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, Paul Wright

General Board Minutes Tuesday, September 16th, 2003.

Meeting called to order promptly at 7:00 pm in the Bay County YWCA. All members present with the exception of: Lynn Jahr, Paul Wright, Matt Turner, Doug Barron, and diedra knox.

1. **GSA**
 - a. Per Chris Brennan, SVSU GSA is in need of \$100.00 for their October 11th Movie Night. Discussion was had regarding Perceptions policy on donating to organizations. It was decided that the policy would be slated for discussion at the Board Retreat.
 - b. The SVSU GSA is holding a Talent Show at Bambi's on Sat. 09/27/03 to help raise the needed funds.
 - c. Discussion was had regarding an initiative sponsored by Perceptions that would network the local GSA's for their sustained success. It was reflected that Delta being a two-year school faces the largest challenge maintaining a sustainable organization.
 - d. Jeff Illig suggested representative from the local GSA's be invited to the Sept. 27th Board Retreat.
2. **Financial**
 - a. Grant received from The Dow Chemical Company's GLAD employee network for \$3,500.00
 - b. Scott Batcke memorial of \$100 sent
3. **Programming**
 - a. Confirmed dessert auction set for December 18 General Board Meeting to be held at UU in Midland.
4. **Social**
 - a. Montague Holiday Party & Auction: email Doug Barron and/or Mindy Pennington with business to be mailed our letter asking for donations to our annual event.
 - b. Halloween Party
 - c. Thanksgiving Potluck Food drive
 - d. January Health Fair
5. **Other Business**
 - e. Hearth Home HIV Intervention program to receive funding the beginning of October.
 - f. Ricardo requested and received fifteen minutes at the October general meeting to present the program. This is a joint venture with Hearth Home and Perceptions.
 - g. Motion passed to make board member terms congruent with calendar year. All voted in favor, motion passed.

WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS**Several Board seats will be open for terms beginning January 1, 2004.**

Qualities desired include enthusiasm, hard work, decision-making, having time for meetings, and fun with a great group of people!

Requirements: you must be a donor member to be on the Board. In addition, according to the Bylaws, the Board as a whole has to raise \$2,400 collectively each year for Perceptions.

If you are interested, contact a Board Member or send an email to Board@PerceptionsSV.org or call us at 989-891-1429. We would love to give you more information!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE ADDED TO PERCEPTIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS?
Submit your event to board@perceptionssv.org

Calendar of Events & Activities

Wednesday-Sunday, October 8th-12th, The Laramie Project, Bush Theater, 1999 East Campus Drive, Mt Pleasant, MI
Wed-Sat Showtime: 8PM Sunday Showtime: 2PM. Ticket Site: University Theatre Box Office Cost: \$5/General Public and \$3/students and senior citizens Contact: (989) 774-3874 or Pamela Dingman at dingm1pa@cmich.edu Tickets: <http://centralboxoffice.cmich.edu/> Map: <http://centralboxoffice.cmich.edu/directions/directions.htm>

Sunday, October 12th, 5th Anniversary of the Death of Matthew Shepard, the 21 year old college student who was tortured and left to die out of Laramie, WY. "...I get angry. Because the blood of Matthew Shepard is not just on the hands of the two men who committed the heinous crime...his blood is on a lot of people." **Blood on Our Hands** <http://www.g21.net/gp7.html>

Monday, October 13th, CMU's GSA & CHI Alpha Christian Fellowship Present HBO's THE LARAMIE PROJECT & Talk Back Session. You've seen the play, now watch the movie and get a chance to discuss it with experts in the field of Hate Crime Prevention and local religious leaders. FREE at the Park Library Auditorium, 300 East Preston Street, Mount Pleasant 7-9:30 PM

Tuesday, October 14th, Latino LGBT Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the George Fadiga Rainbow Pride Building, 429 Livernois Street in Ferndale (North of 8 Mile Road, between Woodward and Coolidge). Speakers include *Sally Green*, Field Organizer for the Human Rights Campaign, *Michael Odom*, Project Coordinator for La Comunidad, and *Jay Kaplan*, staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan....**and...**A screening of the film, ***De Colores***, a bilingual documentary about how Latino families and communities are replacing the deep roots of homophobia with the even deeper roots of love and tolerance, is also planned in the agenda.

Wednesday, October 15th, Bay City Meet & Greet 7-9 pm An informal gathering of the Tri-Cities' GLBT community sponsored by Perceptions. All are welcome in this smoke-free environment. Located at 810 Saginaw Street (between Center and 5th Aves.), Bay City Coffee and Tea offers a variety of delicious drinks, sandwiches and desserts.

Saturday & Sunday, October 18th & 19th, Living Nonviolence -Intensive Weekend Retreat Workshop, Highscope Retreat Center, Clinton, MI, Cost sliding scale, Contact: (734) 761-8283 or mgibson-faith@afsc.org
Details: <http://www.webspawner.com/users/pflagjacksonoct24>

Saturday, October, 18th, Great Lakes Regional PFLAG Conference Family voices for Equality, Pontiac, MI
<http://www.pflagdetroit.org/GreatLakesRegional.htm>

Saturday, October 18th, Come OUT & Laugh with Karen Williams!
Come out of the closet laughing... see the *hilarious* Karen Williams, live at the Majestic Theatre in Detroit on Saturday, October 18th! Tickets on sale now - get them before they sell out. One show only at 8pm. Call the Center at 248-398-7105 to buy your tickets or purchase online at Boxofficetickets.com

Sunday, October 26th, PFLAG-Tri-Cities Meeting, UU, 6220 Jefferson, Midland, 2-4:30 pm, Guest Speaker: Ann Arbor's **Tim Retzloff**, Historian of Michigan's LGBT community. He was involved in the creation of a website titled *Michigan's LGBT Heritage*. Check out the website <http://www.lgbtheritage.org>

Tuesday, October 28th, Out of the Past: The Struggle for the Gay and Lesbian Rights in America, Zaul Library, 3100 N. Center, Saginaw Township, 7 pm. This film has two topics: the problems in creating a Gay-Straight Alliance in Salt Lake City AND a **400 year history of gays and lesbians in America**. PFLAG-Tri-Cities sponsors this free film.

Thursday, October 30th, Perceptions General Meeting 7-9 pm Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Speaker will be announced at a later date.

WWW.PERCEPTIONSSV.ORG