

Perceptions Newsletter

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

Speaker Presentation

November 2003

No Gay Gene!?

So says Charissa Urbano from the Biology Department at Delta College. It is more than one. Dr. Urbano noted that complex human traits are more than likely governed by what is known as polygenic inheritance. In short, more than one gene is necessary for full expression of the trait. Skin color is a good example. There is a gene for the production of the coloring agent and another for the distribution of the agent. You can see where the amount produced as well as how much deposited could account for the range of skin colors among various peoples.

Nature or Nurture, is that the question? Charissa pointed out that both count as the answer, but that we should not underestimate the Nurture or environmental aspect of gene expression. Keep in mind that the Sun can play a big role in how our skin color turns out.

Thank You Charissa for giving us a glimpse into the complexity of what we all know is the beautiful truth about ourselves. After her talk, my genes are happy. How are yours?

dmknox

Next Month's Speaker

When asked if there should be a Perceptions meeting in the month of December, the NO show of hands was unanimous. Therefore, we will see you in January all perked from the Joy of the Holiday Season. Perceptions is poised to serve you in the new year.

The Perceptions Board wishes you the
Warmth of Christmas
and the
Gay-ity of the New Year!



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

Calendar Highlights:

**Sunday, December 14th P-Kids
Holiday Party** Jefferson
Avenue United Methodist
Church, 310 S. Jefferson Ave.,
Saginaw, 2-4 pm

**Wednesday, December 17th,
Meet & Greet at Bay City
Coffee and Tea**, 810 Saginaw
St, Bay City, 7-9 pm

**Friday, December 19th,
Womyn's Circle**. YWCA of Bay
County, 3405 Midland Rd., Bay
City 7-9 pm

**Tuesday, December 23rd,
Indoor Co-ed Volleyball**,
YWCA, 3405 Midland Rd in Bay
City. 7-9 pm

**Sunday, December 28th,
PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting**,
UU, 6220 Jefferson, Midland, 2:
4:30 pm

**Tuesday, December 30th,
Indoor Co-ed Volleyball**,
YWCA, 3405 Midland Rd in Bay
City. 7-9 pm

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 Chair

Mindy Pennington

I went to the grocery store a few weeks ago at 7:00 a.m. Now, most people who know me understand that I am not a morning person. What could possibly drive me to shower, dress and go so early? Butter for \$2.00 a pound. Seriously. I really wasn't counting while dumping those pale blue boxes into my cart. At lunch later with a group of friends, my partner Shelly and I were laughing about it and another friend asked how much I bought. "I didn't count," I said, "I just piled them in the cart." So, I pulled the receipt out and he counted 18 boxes. Yes, I bought 18 pounds of Land O'Lakes butter, mostly the unsalted variety. They all laughed, had a wonderful lunch and then did a little shopping around Bay City.

Those afternoons have been really special this year; partly because we all have less free time so we cherish the hours we do spend with our loved ones. Another reason this year was special was because of the new friends that Shelly and I made in Perceptions. We have many close friends already but the teamwork of the Perceptions Board has bonded us in a different way.

Why do we volunteer for Perceptions? People volunteer for many different reasons: to learn a new skill, to help the community, help their friends and make new ones, polish their resume, and increase their self-esteem. I have volunteered for many organizations over the years but this has been the most fulfilling for me. I am honing my leadership skills, making new friends, and partnering with local businesses to make Perceptions successful. One of my goals for Perceptions this year has been to increase the membership by 10% this year by promoting Perceptions in the media, through advertising, and by having the Perceptions booth at various events. Membership has, in fact, increased by at least 50% in the past year. It is personally gratifying to know that we are reaching out to so many people in the 10 counties.

I know there are many more potential members in the GLBT and allied communities. Keep spreading Perceptions' mission through your letters to the editors, conversations with friends, and volunteer work. I will be spending my time meeting with other organizations to understand each other's missions and collaborate on events. I hope to see new Board members and volunteers in 2004!

Happy Holidays!

Mindy Pennington

WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS

Several Board seats will be open for terms beginning January 1st, 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 \$2400 collectively each year for Perceptions.

If you are interested, contact a Board Member, 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

[Now through February 1st, 2004, Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933-1945](#) The Museum at Michigan State University, West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI. The official website: <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/hsx/>

[Sunday, December 14th P-Kids Holiday Party](#) 2-4 pm Jefferson Avenue United Methodist Church, 310 S. Jefferson Ave. in Downtown Saginaw. Wouldn't you like your kids to hang out with some other children who have gay and lesbian parents? This activity will give our "P-Kids" a chance to do just that! Bring your friends and their kids for a fun, free play date! Children and extended family of Perceptions members, prospective members and allies are welcome. The event is geared for those 12 and younger, but older youth can certainly attend (and help out if interested)!

[Wednesday, December 17th, Meet & Greet at Bay City Coffee and Tea](#), 810 Saginaw St, Bay City, MI 7-9 pm. This is an Informal get-together in a non-smoking coffeehouse with hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and desserts. Come from all around the Tri-Cities and enjoy a hot cup of coffee with friends.

[Friday, December 19th, Womyn's Circle](#). 7-9 pm Safe location for coming out, sharing lesbian issues, talk, etc. at the YWCA of Bay County, 3405 Midland Rd., Bay City. Contact Anita Bowden at 989-686-4800

[Tuesday, December 23rd, Indoor Co-ed Volleyball](#), YWCA, 3405 Midland Rd in Bay City. 7-9 pm. We'll accept donations for the \$10 cost of the gym. Open to all.

[Sunday, December 28th, PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting](#), UU, 6220 Jefferson, Midland, 2-4:30 pm

[Tuesday, December 30th, Indoor Co-ed Volleyball](#), YWCA, 3405 Midland Rd in Bay City. 7-9 pm. We'll accept donations for the \$10 cost of the gym. Open to all.

[Tuesday, January 6th, 2004 Indoor Co-ed Volleyball](#), YWCA, 3405 Midland Rd in Bay City. 7-9 pm. We'll accept donations for the \$10 cost of the gym. Open to all.

[Wednesday, January 7th, Meet and Greet at Freeland's The Coffee Gallery](#) 121 ½ S. Main, Freeland. 7-9 pm. This is an Informal get together in a non-smoking coffeehouse with hot and cold drinks. You can order items from Eudici's Pizza. Come chat with old friends and make some new ones!

[Saturday, April 17th, 2004 Perceptions Health Fair](#) YWCA of Bay County, 3405 Midland Rd., Bay City. This event co-sponsored by Perceptions, the YWCA and Hearth Home will provide access to healthcare experts in the areas of Fitness & Wellness, HIV Testing, Healthcare for Low Income Individuals, and much more. Mark your calendar now for this important event.

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