

Jim Toy Will Be Guest Speaker at September General Meeting

Following our summer break, monthly General Meetings will resume on Thursday, September 18th at Saint John's Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan Avenue](#), Saginaw. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings begin with 15 to 20 minutes of social time when light snacks and refreshments are served. Our guest speaker or featured program begins following a welcome message and general announcements.

Perceptions is excited to announce that our guest speaker for September will be Jim Toy of Ann Arbor. Jim's message is entitled, "Forward Together - We Carve a Path to Build a Road." For the past 40 years, Jim has been doing just that: he has dedicated his career to carving a path for LGBT equality.

Jim was a founding member of the Detroit Gay Liberation Movement in 1969, and later the Ann Arbor Gay Liberation Front. The Ann Arbor group petitioned the University of Michigan to open a staff office for lesbians and gay men. In 1971, Jim Toy and Cyndi Gair were hired as the co-coordinators of the Human Sexuality Office which was later named the Lesbian, Gay Male Programs Office. Over the years, Bisexual and Transgender were added to the name and it recently became known as [The Spectrum Center](#).

When the Human Sexuality Office opened, it was the first staff office in a United States institution of higher learning to respond to sexual orientation concerns. Jim served as its Co-Coordinator from 1971 until 1994.

Another historic first for Jim came in 1972 when he co-authored for the Ann Arbor City Council the first official "Lesbian-Gay Pride Week Proclamation" by a governing body in the United States. He was also co-author of the City's non-discrimination policy regarding sexual orientation.

From 1994 until his retirement in July of this year,

Jim worked for the University of Michigan's Human Resources/Affirmative Action Office as the Diversity Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity, providing training on diversity concerns and responding to complaints of harassment and discrimination. He also served as the OIE's liaison to the University's transgender/bisexual/lesbian/gay constituency.



News of Jim's retirement from the University of Michigan was recently featured in an article in the August 21st issue of *Between the Lines* entitled

["An Activist's Work Is Never Done."](#)

A guiding principle of Jim's work has always been

Everyone deserves a life free of harassment, discrimination, and assault—a life filled with acceptance, understanding, and support.

that everyone deserves a life free of harassment, discrimination, and assault—a life filled with acceptance, understanding, and support. Through Jim's tireless efforts and dedication, the University, our state and the nation are more welcoming and supportive for everyone.

Looking back on his career, Jim says that the most rewarding part is many the messages he has received from students and others who have survived their self-hatred -- self-hatred engendered by homophobic families, peers, co-workers, and our educational, religious, legal, medical, and governmental systems: "If I hadn't come to you for counseling and hadn't had the support of the office at the University of Michigan, I would have killed myself."

Although retired, Jim does not plan to be idle and he points out that we still have a lot of work to do. "Broadly put, I would like to see disappear the sexism and the racism, the homophobia the bi-phobia and the trans-phobia within our so-called LGBT community itself."

Twenty-nine LGBT & Ally Organizations Gather at CMU

Alan Shinaver

The 2nd Annual Summit of The Association for Michigan LGBT & Ally Organizations was held at the Bovee University Center on Central Michigan University's campus. The Summit, held on Saturday, August 2, 2008, was an effort to report back to the LGBT & Ally community on the progress of the creation of The Association. The Association for Michigan LGBT & Ally organizations is a project developed by The Peninsula Group (TPG). TPG was formed in the spring of 2005 by a concerned group of LGBT community leaders following the passage of Proposal 2 (Michigan's Constitutional ban on same-sex marriage). The Summit was a strategic effort to intentionally include the voices of prospective charter members in the creation of The Association. The three areas that were focused on were the membership process, recruitment and selection of launch team members and the board of directors.

Forty two people representing twenty nine Michigan LGBT or Ally Organizations attended the Summit. Perceptions was represented by Alan Shinaver and Tim Atkinson. The all day summit included a general discussion of where we are, and where The As-

sociation needs to develop, followed by three presentations of Michigan area groups who have collaborated on projects.

The Association is still in the concept stage and has not established a Board of Directors. During the summit, participants worked on strategies and processes for launching the organization. A launch team will be assembled from a list of people suggested by participants and other volunteers. The launch team will organize the search for prospective board members and establish the first election to take place in November with the Board of Directors established by December 15, 2008.

Needed: Volunteers to coordinate the two best parties of the year. The Valentine's day party and the Holiday party. Contact volunteer@PerceptionsSV.org if you can donate your time to either of these events!



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However Glamorous or Natural you want to look...

What the L?

Joy D Clark

L is for lines. My original topic this month was intended to be laser hair removal; however, I was on my way back from Walt Disney World in Florida when it hit me - all of those long lines that Becky, DJ, and I stood in start with an L so here we go:

You can really tell a lot about a person's character by how they stand in lines. We observed many different types of "line standers." There was the excited variety, the grumpy variety, the tired variety, and my personal favorite, the rolling exhausted-enthusiastic variety.

These are the kids that have been dragged around 20 square miles of amusement park and have been waiting all day for this particular ride. They can hardly hold their eyes open but every 30 seconds or so you see this wave of excitement come over them. First they shudder a bit, then their head snaps up and they dance a little jig, then they revert to their comatose alter ego.

The angry "line standers" are most certainly my least favorite of all. These people have been in the amusement parks for days and they know that there will be a line for "their" ride, yet they are surprised that there is a long line and even more surprised when they are told by the park personnel that they will have to stand in the line to ride the ride. They actually think that if they complain enough, the park personnel will personally escort them onto the ride ahead of everyone else.

The most outrageous example of the angry "line stander" was a gentleman who wanted to gain access to the Soarin' ride at Epcot. When we got in line for the ride, he was arguing and complaining that he spent 7 days and a couple thousand dollars in Disney parks and he deserved to get on THIS ride ahead of everyone else. He refused a fast pass when the staff offered him one. He just continued to yell and curse Walt Disney and all of his minions for longer than he would have waited in line. We got in line, rode the ride (I chickened out but DJ and Becky rode it), and returned to the lobby to see the angry "line stander" continue his tirade.

Sigh, how exhausting he must be to live with.

In addition, there are the European "line standers" who require much less personal space than we do. They like to sneak up on you when you are not expecting them. I would glance over my shoulder to see a strange person right up in my face - talk about startling! Oooooo, we can't forget about the smelly "line standers." These come in two flavors: B.O. and Fart. Come on now, who waits until they are in a tight space with 100 other people to fart?

Beck, DJ, and I made a pact with each other that we would be considerate "line standers." We smiled at the angry ones, giggled with the enthusiastic ones, let the anxious ones cut ahead of us, and always made a point to get to know at least one family in each line. We met lots and lots of new people, had loads of fun, and learned a lot about patience. As we all stand in the line waiting for LGBT equality, what type of "line stander" will you be?

2nd Annual Perceptions & PFLAG Wine Tasting



Saturday, October 18th @ 7:00 pm.

Fine wines, hors d'oeuvres & music

Tickets on sale soon. \$25

(\$5 refund at door for members.)

PFLAG Tri-Cities to Host State Conference

You're invited!

By Leo Romo



PFLAG Tri-Cities is honored and excited to host the Michigan PFLAG State Conference, September 20, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

8am Breakfast;

9am to 5pm Conference.

\$25 for adults; \$10 for students.

Cost includes breakfast and lunch.

As PFLAG Vice-President Denise Malosh says, "If you have never attended a PFLAG conference you will be surprised by the energy and love in one room as we share our stories and common mission."

Speakers and topics:

- **Collette Beighley**, West Michigan Field Organizer of the [Triangle Foundation](#), will present how she came to her position in "Evolution of an Activist."
- **Charissa Urbano**, Professor of Biology at Delta College, will discuss current scientific theories concerning biological factors in gender development and behavior.
- **Elizabeth Brown**, of [PFLAG National](#) will help us learn how to use "Straight for Equality" materials to spread our message. She will also discuss topics to improve our chapter effectiveness in "leadership and Membership Development" and "Media Training."
- **Michael Brancheau** will lead us in awareness exercises that are always enlightening.

Charissa and Michael are Perceptions members.

Conference attendees are invited to the Perceptions Friday Dinner on Friday, Sept. 19 at China Palace, [1908 S. Saginaw Rd.](#), Midland. 6pm.

Space is limited so plan to register soon. Register by email to Denise Malosh, malos1dm@charter.net, or call 989.941.1458

More details: http://perceptionsSV.org/PFLAG_state_conf_2008.pdf

The Saginaw Meet & Greet Returns to Bambi's

Bambi's by Java Dave located in the Green Acres Plaza in Saginaw, welcomes Perceptions' members and friends to the Saginaw Meet & Greet Wednesday, September 3rd, 7pm - 9pm. This is the most well-attended Meet & Greet that Perceptions offers. Come see your old friends and meet new ones!



Camp Out Michigan



Our fabu dinner consisted of roasted pork tenderloin, HOME MADE mac & cheese, grilled veggie kabobs, corn on the cob and a gourmet salad featuring raspberries and blue cheese. Dessert was fresh baked pies. After dinner, awards were passed out for Best Decorated Campsite: John Truitt; First to Register: Vickie & Diane; Most Distance Traveled: Greg & Ipunk; and Largest Group Registration: [Windy City Cycle Club](#) from Chicago. After we rolled ourselves to the campfire, Marilyn and Giselle entertained us with a Signature/Scavenger Hunt that had us all laughing.

Sunday found most of us up bright and early to prepare for the River Battle Royale. We had more than a bus load on the river this year for our two and half hour ride down the Au Sable. Fred and Carl didn't disappoint us again this year. Even with Marilyn campaigning for extra warriors against the fearless duo, those two water gun experts were able to soak just about every one of us.... After a very wet river trip, many of us stopped at the local restaurant for one last group meal. After such a magical weekend, many of us didn't want it to end.



The best part of this event is the ability to visit with old friends and to make new friends. Year after year, it just keeps getting better. Again, we are so grateful to all participants for allowing us to continue one the best LGBT events in Michigan.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to our charities this year. Designated donations totaled \$465 for [Michigan Equality](#) and \$225 for the Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship Fund. Camp Out Michigan will make an additional contribution



to the charities with our proceeds from this year's event once we close the books.

The 18th Annual GLBT Bike Tour will be held July 24 - 26, 2009. Visit www.CampOutMichigan.org to sign up for the mailing list to receive updates.

Bay County Chapter of GLSEN Forming

Students from [Bay City Central High School Gay-Straight Alliance](#) announce plans to form a Bay County Chapter of the [Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network](#). "The main goal of **Bay County GLSEN** will be to create safer environments within schools for all students, and to eliminate every form of bullying and discrimination." They hope to elect a permanent steering committee within six months. In order to create this organization, they need to know that there is interest within the area for this group and they must find a reliable and dedicated group of people to continue the chapter after they leave the area to attend college in the Fall of 2009. If you would be interested in joining Bay County GLSEN, attending monthly meetings, and possibly becoming a part of the steering committee, please email chgsa@bcschools.net

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
	1 Labor Day	2	3  Saginaw Meet & Greet Bambi's by Java Dave 4632 State Street 7:00 - 9:00 PM	4  Womyn's Circle 5:30 - 7:00 PM ----- Perceptions Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 PM	5  Friday Night Dinner Pasong's 114 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw 6:00 PM	6																																																																																																		
7  Unity Picnic Wenonah Park Downtown Bay City 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	8	9	10  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Road 7:00 - 9:00 PM	11	12  Friday Night Dinner Savoy 127 S. Franklin Saginaw 7:00 PM	13  Adopt-A-Highway 1-75 Rest Stop 10:00 AM																																																																																																		
14	15	16  Men's Discussion Group 7:00 - 8:30 PM	17	18  Womyn's Circle 5:30 - 7:00 PM  General Membership Meeting St. John's Episcopal Church 7:00 - 9:00 PM	19  Friday Night Dinner China Palace 1908 S. Saginaw Rd Midland 7:00 PM	20  PFLAG State Conference UU of Midland 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM																																																																																																		
21	22	23	24	25	26  Friday Night Dinner The Mixx 115 N. Hamilton Saginaw 7:00 PM	27  AIDS Walk Michigan Wenonah Park Downtown Bay City Registration 9:30 AM																																																																																																		
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