

# Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community



Free

June 2010



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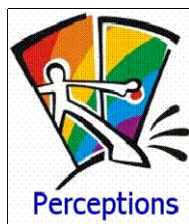
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*Mid-Michigan's  
leading  
resource for  
enriching and  
empowering  
GLBT individuals  
and their  
community*

Perceptions is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) charitable  
organization. Your contributions to Perceptions  
which exceed the minimum amount to qualify for  
membership are tax deductible.

***Mission Statement:***

Our mission is to provide superior  
educational programs, networking  
opportunities and services for the well  
being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and  
Transgender individuals and their  
community.



## The History of LGBT Pride

The Stonewall Riots of June 28, 1969, are widely known as the start of the LGBT Rights movement, but it was more a case of a tiny movement snowballing. The first Gay Pride Parades, or what we would now term LGBT Pride Parades, were held on the riot's first anniversary in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, on June 28, 1970, forty years ago this month.

The riots, spurred by a routine raid on the Stonewall Inn, a popular LGBT hangout in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City, were soon followed by the organization of more and more LGBT Rights groups and several LGBT Newspapers in New York and other major cities. The number of LGBT organizations in America went from about 50 before the riots to about 1500 two years later.

In the '60s and '70s, police raids on known LGBT establishments were common place and the mafia-owned Stonewall Inn was much frequented by the poorer members of the LGBT community, mostly drag queens, hustlers and young homeless LGBTs. Early in the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, police raided the establishment and quickly lost control of the situation, which soon turned into the now famous riots. Though there was a movement for equality on a small scale before this time, it quickly exploded.

Now every June, we flock to major cities for LGBT Pride Parades and Festivals, where people of all kinds celebrate the LGBT community in a variety of ways. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Ferndale will hold the annual [Motor City Pride](#) event, followed by [Michigan Pride](#) in Lansing on the 12th (the festival is at Old Towne Burchard Park, this time.) Closer to home, the Tri-Cities' second [Pride Awards Banquet](#) is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Andersen Enrichment Center in Saginaw.

I get sick of listening to straight people complain about, "Well, hey, we don't have a heterosexual-pride day, why do you need a gay-pride day?" I remember when I was a kid I'd always ask my mom: "Why don't we have a Kid's Day? We have a Mother's Day and a Father's Day, but why don't we have a Kid's Day?" My mom would always say, "Every day is Kid's Day." To all those heterosexuals that b\*@#! about gay pride, I say the same thing: Every day is heterosexual-pride day! Can't you people enjoy your banquet and not p@#\* on those of us enjoying our crumbs over here in the corner?

**Rob Nash**



I'm a supporter of gay rights. And not a closet supporter either. From the time I was a kid, I have never been able to understand attacks upon the gay community. There are so many qualities that make up a human being... by the time I get through with all the things that I really admire about people, what they do with their private parts is probably so low on the list that it is irrelevant.

**Paul Newman**

If Michelangelo had been straight, the Sistine Chapel would have been wallpapered.

**Robin Tyler**

Gay people ... were the first to find me, and they get everything, they're so sharp. I'll look out in the audience and I see three or four gay guys right in the front row, or a couple of lesbians, I know it's gonna be a good show.

**Joan Rivers**

*To Denver's Out Front*



It doesn't matter what you do in the bedroom as long as you don't do it in the street and frighten the horses.

**Daphne Fielding**

"It always seemed to me a bit pointless to disapprove of homosexuality. It's like disapproving of rain."

**Francis Maude**

I am reminded of a colleague who reiterated "all my homosexual patients are quite sick" - to which I finally replied "so are all my heterosexual patients."

**Ernest van den Haag, psychotherapist**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Pride Month is upon us and Pride is the theme of this month's newsletter. We all show our Pride in different ways.



From world famous pop stars, politicians and sports figures who have opened their private lives to the public and proudly told us who they are, to everyday doctors, lawyers and grocery store clerks who have chosen to live their lives openly. Some of us display rainbow stickers or fly the rainbow flag, while others simply choose to make it a non-issue in their lives, but not to deny their LGBT status when asked. Some have devoted themselves to helping the LGBT community through their paid or volunteer work. But I'd like to give a pat on the back to anyone who is reading these words. It takes pride in oneself to pick up a gay publication, to frequent a gay establishment, or just to walk proudly down the street with an LGBT friend or relative. Even the most closeted person is showing her pride when she decides to live her life the way she wants to when nobody is around. We all have different levels of being out, sometimes because of our job or our family relationships, but we are all demonstrating pride when we do anything that shows who we really are.

—Brent Theisen

## Michigan Pride

Rest assured that Saginaw, Midland and Bay City will make their presence known at the Michigan Pride Parade in Lansing June 12th. As usual, we will be meeting around 11am to carry the Perceptions banner through the streets of the capital to show not only our gay pride but our Perceptions pride, as well. The parade staging area will be on Grand Avenue between Shiawasee St and Saginaw St. The festival is in Old Towne Burchard Park, this year, which is right next to the old park, so come and make a day of it, or start early by coming down for the White Party the night before. Event organizers are encouraging out-of-towners to park in designated parking areas downtown, then take the shuttle buses to Old Towne. For maps and a complete list of events visit

[www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

## Motor City Pride

Motor City Pride is just days away, so plan to kick off June in Ferndale, Michigan on Sunday, June 6th from Noon to 7pm at the usual location on 9 Mile Rd, between Woodward Ave and Planavon. In contrast to Lansing's Pride event, there's no parade, just booths and entertainment, and of course, the fun extends beyond the festival with events around town all weekend, so check out [www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org) for all the details. Hope to see you there.

## Jay Kaplan to Speak at Pride Banquet

The second Saginaw Valley Pride Awards Banquet is just weeks away, on Tuesday **June 29<sup>th</sup>**, but there's still time to order tickets, sponsor the banquet or nominate those deserving individuals, however tickets are limited to 105 individuals and the deadline for nominations is **June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Details are on the web at [www.perceptionsSV.org/pride/](http://www.perceptionsSV.org/pride/)

Jay Kaplan will be the speaker for the night, where he will discuss "the Importance of the Michigan Supreme Court Elections and LGBT Equality." Jay Kaplan has been the staff attorney for the [ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project](http://www.aclu.org/michigan) since it began operations in 2001. Prior to that, he worked for Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, specializing in disability rights, founding the first HIV/AIDS legal services program for Michigan. He has been selected by the National Education Association to receive the 2010 LGBT Civil Rights Award for work on behalf of LGBT students.



Jay Kaplan

[Sponsorships](#) will help to fund the banquet, and all sponsors will be made visible on the website and in the program, unless they wish to remain anonymous, provided they meet the **June 20** deadline for inclusion in the program. Sponsorships are as follows:

- \$10 Patron
- \$25 Advocate
- \$50 Ellen DeGeneres
- \$100 Harvey Milk
- Anonymous Donations

Charissa Urbano is the host again this year, and the Savoy Grill will cater once more. The banquet will be held, as before, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, [120 Ezra Rust Drive](#) in Saginaw. Tickets are \$25, can also be purchased by calling 989-891-1429, and include a complimentary glass of wine at the reception only. The evening will break down as follows:

- 6- 7 pm - Reception
- 7 - 8 pm - Buffet Dinner
- 8 - 9 pm - Program & Awards



# Perceptions Chooses Two Deserving Scholarship Recipients

Tim A

On the evening of Monday, May 17th, Perceptions presented scholarships to two individuals at the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#)'s Excellence in Education awards ceremony at Horizons Conference Center. Perceptions' scholarship was one of 145 that were awarded by SCF this year. Kay Sural and Tim Atkinson represented Perceptions at the ceremony and presented certificates to this year's winners on stage.

Fourteen students applied for the Perceptions scholarship this year. The applications were reviewed and scored by five volunteers from SCF and four members of the Perceptions Scholarship Committee. Scores from SCF and Perceptions were combined to determine the winner. Fifty percent of the applicant's score is based on an essay they must write explaining how they currently promote respect and acceptance in their community across borders of race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity and how they will continue this work throughout their lives.

Our first winner was Mackenzie Reagan, a senior at Swan Valley High School. Mackenzie plans to attend SVSU where he will study Psychology and Journalism. He will focus on becoming a clinical psychologist.

Mackenzie participated in a student-organized Day of Silence at Swan Valley. He believes that the event brings attention to the pain and suffering caused by acting out prejudices against gays and lesbians. Mackenzie chose to do his senior project on homosexuality and how difficult it can be for teens to come out. For the project, he gave a presentation to a panel of teachers, community members, and other school officials. He hopes that he gave a voice to the entire younger gay community and brought to the surface the hardships that gay teenagers must face.

Mackenzie concluded his scholarship essay by referencing Martin Luther King, Jr. "Dr. King once said that he had a dream that all people would be treated equally, regardless of race; I have my own dream. I have a dream that one day all people will be accepted for who they are regardless of any circumstances, especially their sexual orientation. This is my dream and I will do all that I can to make it a reality."

Our second winner was Megan Flattery, a senior at Freeland High School. Megan hopes to attend the Illinois Institute of Arts in Chicago to earn a fine arts degree. Her dream job is to become a fashion designer.

Megan has promoted acceptance by teaching others by example. She also works to shatter stereotypes. She credits her non-traditional family with giving her the foundation to lead an accepting life. A typical holiday gathering for Megan would include her mom and step dad along with her dad and dad's boyfriend, a lesbian couple who are close family friends, plus siblings and step siblings. Megan is one of two openly gay students in her class of 147 at Freeland. Megan writes, "This year I have my senior prom. I am not afraid to bring my girlfriend and dance with her. I will not be afraid to be myself."

We wish Mackenzie and Megan every success as they begin their college careers and we are proud to be able to offer a little assistance in the form of scholarships. The scholarships that we presented are possible only because of the generosity of our donors and the hard work of our volunteers who have helped with our many fund raising efforts. Please consider a contribution to our scholarship fund. Donations may be made through Perceptions or directly to the Saginaw Community Foundation. If you have any questions about the Scholarship, please contact [Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)



The new organization formed by the merger of Michigan Equality and the Triangle Foundation has a name: Equality Michigan. [Equality Michigan](#)'s mission is to work to "achieve full equality and respect for all people in the state of Michigan, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression."

## May 20th General Membership Meeting

Roger M.

Due to a scheduling conflict with our previously announced May speaker, Alan put together a program for Perceptions members and friends to participate in an interactive workshop based on materials from the Southern Poverty Law Center through their Teaching Tolerance program.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education and other forms of advocacy, they work toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality. This is truly a site worth checking out. [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

After our workshop, we enjoyed playing 2 rounds of "Gay Jeopardy", hosted by our own Jim "Trek" . Thank you Jim! For each correct answer, the contestant won a candy bar, and the contestant with the most candy bars at the end of the show was our "Grand Prize Winner", receiving a \$25 gift certificate to the Savoy. Congratulations!

That's Entertainment!	Trans America	Jock Straps	20 <sup>th</sup> Century History	Alphabet Soup
<a href="#">\$100</a>	<a href="#">\$100</a>	<a href="#">\$100</a>	<a href="#">\$100</a>	<a href="#">\$100</a>
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## Delta College Hosts Its Own Harvey Milk Day of Action

The Tri-Cities marked Harvey Milk Day of Action on Saturday with a gathering at Delta College. The event was organized by last year's Perceptions Scholarship Winner, Glenn Madigan, who also won the "Rising Star" Award at the first Pride Banquet. He was helped by Stuart of the Delta Prism Alliance, and the event was to everyone's knowledge, the only recognition of the holiday in all of Michigan.

The evening started with a showing of "Fish Out Of Water," a documentary by Ky Dickens on her efforts to gather a defense against the religious bigotry she encountered upon coming out to friends in college. The film dissected the handful of Bible passages that supposedly condemn homosexuality and was able to find fault with all of them. It featured interviews with many religious figures, as well as people on the street. The film was entertaining and informative. If you would like to arrange a screening or simply purchase a copy for your own use, visit [www.fishoutofwaterfilm.com](http://www.fishoutofwaterfilm.com)

The second portion of the evening was devoted to a speaker panel, which included Glenn himself and Perceptions' own Terri and Erin. A fourth speaker, Ricci, detailed her efforts to start a gay friendly organization at her high school and the extreme resistance with which it was met. After jumping through many hoops, she finally got her organization, but was asked by school officials not to talk openly about it, making it difficult for the group to be as useful as she had hoped. Erin spoke about activism and told everyone that they did not have to be all that vocal, but could simply stand up to others who would put down the LGBT community. She also encouraged everyone to join in the fight against AIDS, which largely affects blacks and heterosexual women, but which is still widely seen as a gay problem. She also spoke of the invisibility of the transgender community, and although she put the blame on Trans people themselves for staying out of sight, reminded us that Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals face all the same problems and it is also up to them to reach out to their Trans allies.

# CURRENT EVENTS PAGE

## ▼ June 2nd, Wednesday - Saginaw Meet & Greet

**7:00 - 9:00 pm.** An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. Join us at the **Magic Bean Cafe**, [5789 State St.](#) All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones. Enjoy hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment.

▼ June 4th - Friday Night Dinner **7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **The Mixx**, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 6th, Sunday - Motor City Pride **Noon to 7:00 pm.** Street festival in downtown Ferndale featuring entertainment on two stages, dance pavilion, beer garden, food, and over 120 exhibitor booths. Visit [motorcitypride.org](http://motorcitypride.org) for more information.

June 8th, Tuesday - Isabella Area LGBT Community Group **7:00 pm.** The group is established for the purpose of connecting, networking, and social support for the entire LGBT Community. All are welcome. St. John's Episcopal Church, 206 W. Maple St., Mt Pleasant. For more information contact Erin Moers (989-317-0811 or [erin.moers@yahoo.com](mailto:erin.moers@yahoo.com)) or Rev. Wayne Nicholson (989-773-7448). Repeats on the 2nd Tues of each month.

▼ June 9th, Wednesday - Freeland Meet & Greet **7:00 to 9:00 pm.** Join us at **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

▼ June 11th - Friday Night Dinner **7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Lone Star Steakhouse**, [2255 Tittabawassee Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 12th, Saturday - Michigan Pride **March, Rally and Festival** in Lansing. The March (parade) kicks off at **noon**. Rally at **1:00 pm** on the Capitol steps. Diversity Festival in Old Town Burchard Park. \$5 admission. Visit [michiganpride.org](http://michiganpride.org) for more information. Please see page 4 if you plan to march with us.

June 13th, Sunday - Genesee Co. PFLAG Meeting **2:00 - 4:30 pm.** The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more info., contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com).

▼ June 15th, Tues - Perceptions Men's Discussion Group **7:00 - 8:30 pm.** Zael Memorial Library, [3100 N. Center Road](#), Saginaw Township. This gathering is facilitated by Thomas Brubaker and intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. You may contact him at [Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org) for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided. You may bring your own beverage into the library as long as the container has a cover or cap.

June 16th, Wednesday - Womyn's Room II **6:00 pm.** Designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. It meets at the **Magic Bean Cafe**, 5789 State Street, Saginaw, in a private room. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy 989-401-2348 or [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com).

## June 16th, Wednesday - Men's Friendship Room **7:00 pm.**

Designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization, Men's Friendship Room meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact David at 989-771-9721 or [DavidY513@hotmail.com](mailto:DavidY513@hotmail.com).

▼ June 18th - Friday Night Dinner **7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at the **Greek Festival**, [4970 Mackinaw](#), Saginaw. This annual outing is a popular one for Perceptions. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 23rd, Wednesday - Open Hearts **6:30 p.m.** Positive thinking group for members of the GLBT community who are **disabled or anyone having issues they are dealing with**. Come for discussion, speakers and support! Magic Bean Cafe 5789 State St, Saginaw in a private room, facilitated by Kathy VanBuskirk and Carm Audas. For info call 989-401-2348

▼ June 25th - Friday Night Dinner **7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Gulino's**, [1406 N. Henry St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 27th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting **2:00 - 4:30 pm.** The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#), Midland.

▼ June 28th, Monday - Perceptions Transgender Group **6:00 pm.** Meeting at the **Magic Bean Cafe**, [5789 State Street](#), Saginaw, the group offers an informal gathering, taking a more lighthearted approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. If you have any questions, contact Rachel Prenzler at [Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org).

▼ June 29th, Tuesday - Saginaw Valley Pride Banquet **Andersen Enrichment Center.** Tickets \$25. Please see the article on page 4 or visit the website at [www.perceptionsv.org/pride/](http://www.perceptionsv.org/pride/)

## Be informed about upcoming events

**Simply send a blank email to:**

[PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## NEXT MONTH

▼ July 9th, Friday - Loon's Game Perceptions will attend another home game at **Dow Diamond**. Last years baseball outing was a big success, so please join us again. Details next month.

▼ July 17th, Saturday - Garden Party Mark your calendar's for the annual PFLAG/Perceptions Garden Party, to be hosted this year by Phil and Ginger at **Lisik Gardens**, [1445 N. Iva Rd.](#), in Hemlock.

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

# JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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## Rummage Sale a Huge Success

The Perceptions Rummage Sale raised a whopping \$846.87 for this fall's [Tri-City AIDS Walk](#), thanks largely to the dedication of Randy Hasso. Randy's been collecting items for the sale since winter and storing them in his garage. Early on, it appeared that there was going to be a short supply of things to sell, but Perceptions members and allies came through at the last minute, especially Steve and Jim of the Savoy, who donated the most items, by far. Randy had a busy week, pricing all of the last minute donations, but heavy rain on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, caused the day to be canceled, allowing more time to get ready. After full days Friday and Saturday, the sale was extended to most of Sunday. Perceptions would like to thank Randy for all his time and effort, as well as anyone else who helped in the pricing and preparation or helped out on sale day. Further thanks go out to anyone who donated items. The following is a list of everyone who helped make the sale our biggest ever. Apologies if anyone has been forgotten.



**Randy, and his sisters Wendy & Debbie**

**Jim & Steve, of the Savoy**

**Brent, his mother, and cousin Jeanna**

**Alan & Tim**

**Bruce & Patrick**

**Chas & Mike**

**Don & John**

**Julie & Joe**

**Jim & Shawn**

**Mark & Eugenia**

**Dave S**

**Doug S**

**Floyd A**

**Fred E**

**George**

**Joel P**

**Kay S**

**Mark P**

**Mike F**

**Ralph F**

**Richard S**

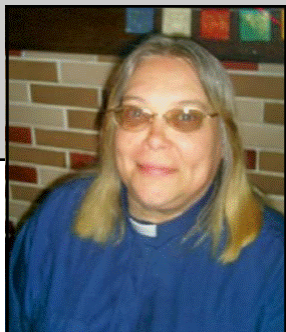
**Rick F**

**Roger M**

**Synde**

On behalf of the nearly 160 people living with HIV/AIDS that we help in the Great Lakes Bay Region, I'd like to send a tremendous THANK YOU to Randy Hasso and his team of volunteers who made this year's Perceptions Yard Sale for AIDS Walk such a success!!! I also want to thank all of those individuals who donated items to the yard sale. I attended the yard sale on Saturday and couldn't help but find five or six items to buy. I admire the hard work and the caring that all of you showed through this event. The dollars raised will provide vital support services for our clients and free HIV testing and HIV prevention education in our community.

**Thomas R. Brubaker**  
**Community Relations Coordinator**  
**Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center**  
**301 E. Genesee Avenue, Suite 201**  
**Saginaw, MI 48607**  
**Phone: 989 776 6000 Ext. 7514**  
**Fax: 989 776 1710**



## REV. KATHY VANBUSKIRK

### “Commitment Not Determined by Sexual Orientation”

I have performed weddings for the last few years and it is always exciting for me. I love it!!! Last month I performed one that was even more exciting for me. It was for a lesbian couple. Even though it is not yet legal in this state, the vows were just as sincere. The commitment as strong.

While performing the ceremony, the mother cried tears of happiness. The guests were respectful. There were beautiful flowers and an eloquent wedding cake. One of the brides cried as she said her vows. It was a heartfelt and important day for everyone. From the members of the GLBT community present, I felt a sense of pride emanating at sharing this day with the couple.

I also went to a funeral last month for my step mother. She was 88 years old and her and my father had been together for 38 years. I don't think I had seen my father cry before that day. This latest wedding was going on the day after my stepmom died.

While performing the wedding ceremony I thought of my father and stepmother and the love they shared. It was obvious to me that the love this new couple possessed had the potential of lasting 38 years. The love could possibly be as strong. The tears will be just as true for one of the lovers when the other passes. The loss they feel and the loneliness will be just as painful. But also the beautiful memories of the life they shared will be just as meaningful and a treasure they will hang on to.

I wish I could have had more people there...or the media so they could have seen the truth I saw on that couple's happy day. That truth is Love is Love. Commitment is commitment. Neither is determined by gender or sexual orientation. This will be seen eventually by our world and we will gain the same rights to legally wed. I anticipate it with joy. In the meantime, I will continue to join people together with vows of love knowing they are just as important...and just as committed.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## Garden Party

Be sure to come out on Saturday, July 17th for the annual Perceptions/PFLAG Garden Party hosted by Phil and Ginger at **Lisik Gardens**, [1445 N. Iva Road](#), in Hemlock, Michigan. They have 500 types of hostas and hundreds of other plants to show off. You won't want to miss it. The event starts at 6:00 pm, so come enjoy their beautiful garden, while you mix and mingle with friends, new and old.



# THIS DOUG'S LIFE

by Doug Solosky

## “On the Side of Love”

This morning I received a call from Leo Romo. He asked me if I wanted to go to the Unitarian Church in Midland. There was to be a guest speaker. Her topic: “Standing on the Side of Love.” At first, I thought, “I don’t want to”. Then I thought, “Why not”. I arrived for the 10:30 mass ten minutes early. I was cordially met. I knew 3 people: Leo, R.G. and Jackie. The mass was well attended.

I confess I am not a religious man. I believe in God but as a rule do not go to church. In route, I listened to a C.D. by Susan Boyle. She came in second in last year’s contest *England’s Got Talent*. Her voice is inspiring to say the least. She sings, “I Dreamed A Dream” from the musical *Les Miserables* to a standing ovation.

That song, “I Dreamed A Dream” epitomizes all that we in the GLBT community have been striving for. Her life is a testament to dogged determination. At 47, she accomplished the impossible—world recognition.

In the late 1800s, Sir William Osler stated, “It is not our task in life to do that which lies at a distance but to do that which lies clearly at hand.”

The entire mass dealt with that premise. We have made strides to equality but have a long way to go.

Jackie, a lesbian, and a straight man pointed out the differences between married couples and we in the GLBT community. We are almost at the mercy of “straight society.” Many of the things that married couples take for granite are denied us. A case in point: visiting our mate in the hospital. We are not allowed. There are ways to get around that. One is to tell the Nurse in charge, “If you expect to get paid, you’ll deal with me.” Another, “As conservator of her estate, I have the legal right to see her (him).

That leads to what to do in the case of death. There too provisions can be made. One: Revocable Trust, followed by date, with your Will. In your Will, you leave everything to your mate except those items you want others to have stating, “If anyone contests my Will, they are automatically disinherited.”

I was pleased to learn that Jackie and her partner have made just such arrangements. Oh, what a wonderful world this would be if America would grow up and accept everyone on the side of love. Of course this is not going to happen over night. Not until politicians can put protecting their office at the expense of the people they says they represent to one side and honestly represent their constituents.

We all can further our cause. I was visiting a friend. She is an antique dealer and was to do a show over the weekend. A friend of hers, a heterosexual male had come to see her about the show. In his conversation, he related a story about a man, a football player who became a woman. The story was on a popular T.V. show. His voice and attitude were very derisive. He had snide innuendo and sarcasm in his demeanor the entire time saying how he “accepted” the man’s decision.

I felt he was lying. How to say something and not offend my friend was something of a challenge. I told him that any more this man’s act was acceptable. That society has grown to the point that changing ones sex is not out of the ordinary.

His demeanor changed when he was “confronted” by someone who disagreed with him. I do not know if he knows I’m gay. Quite honestly, I don’t give a damn. People like him need to be brought up short. There are too many homophobic heterosexuals out there that need to be educated about the simplicity of the all-encompassing concept of love.

Even Christ preached love. These fools need to go to church with an open mind and actually hear what is being preached.

**Note:** This article was written before the executive order from President Obama, which now allows all hospital patients to choose who can visit them.





### **Perceptions & Motor City Bears Meet In Flint**

Perceptions members made the journey to Taboon's at the Valley in Flint to meet members of the Motor City Bears, for Friday Dinner on April 30th. Despite the longer travel distance than usual, there were around thirty people in attendance, over half of them from Perceptions. The food was excellent and we were treated to live entertainment, to boot. Thanks go out to Jim Kleinsorge for keeping the Friday Dinners fresh and exciting, year after year.

