



June 2009

The PFLAG Link

MIDLAND, BAY CITY & SAGINAW CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 834, BAY CITY, MI 48707
989-941-1458

www.pflag-mbs.org

This Month: Sunday, June 28, 2 p.m., Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson at Wackerly, Midland 2:00-3:00 Support Groups, followed by a light snack

Next Month's Meeting: Sunday, July 26 at 2 p.m.

Hospitality Request! At each monthly PFLAG meeting, we offer refreshments to help us offer a warm welcome to our guests and visit with friends. If you are able to help us out by providing the snacks for a meeting, please call us at 989-941-9458.

Need help? PFLAG is here.

PFLAG TriCities supports families with GLBT children at all ages and all stages of life. We can help with

- ▶ Bullying or harassment problems
- ▶ Family Support
- ▶ Issues Awareness and Education

Each monthly meeting has room to address all three. Join us Sunday at 2 p.m. For help anytime, call 941-1458. Calls and meetings are always confidential.

"LINK up" early! Send your email address to the [Editor](mailto:Editor@lineweaver1080@charter.net) at lineweaver1080@charter.net and get the *LINK* up to two days earlier than the postal version. Our email list is confidential and is never shared.

Camp Out Michigan Bike Tour

The 18th Annual Bike Tour in Northern Michigan for LGBT people and their friends will take place on July 24-26, 2009. Proceeds will be split between Michigan Equality and the Perceptions Scholarship Fund. Register by June 1 for an early bird discount. See www.CampOutMichigan.org

Bringing Vital LGBT Awareness to Delta College

It has been said that those who teach help shape the future. And the college years are both formative and affirmative, bridging (for most of us) the closure of childhood and the start of true independence. So efforts toward equality in area colleges are worth exploring.

Stuart Barbier, Denise Hill, and Spring Schafer, Delta College faculty members, will discuss three recent initiatives they are involved in to improve campus life for LGBT students, faculty, and staff: The Delta Prism Alliance (a faculty and staff LGBT/allies group), the

Safe Space Program, and Unison (a student LGBT/allies group). Stuart and Denise are Assistant Professors in the English Division at Delta; Spring Schafer teaches Psychology in the Social Sciences Division.

Barbara and Richard Kormelink: Looking Back Yet Moving Forward

Our chapter was founded through the efforts of **Richard and Barbara Kormelink**, for whom the PFLAG *Link* was named. Their love for their own gay daughter has served as inspiration and encouragement for so many GLBT people, and families with gay children. Richard passed away last year,

leaving behind much love and warmth in the hearts of all who knew him. So for many of us, the Pride Banquet was a great opportunity to honor both Richard's memory and his widow Barbara with a heart-felt award and standing ovation. While we look forward with

pride and unwavering commitment to bringing change to our state, we can look back with equal pride and joy at dedicated friends like Richard and Barbara, whose courage and strength helped us - and every gay child we encounter - to keep moving forward.



Leo Romo, Barbara K. at Pride Banquet



Barbara, Leo & Alan Shinaver share the podium

Birds Do It, Bees Do It - Let's Do It: Party Down Among the Flowers

"The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses." - Hanna Rion. Save Saturday, July 18, 6:00 - 9:00 pm at 1609 Fifth St., Bay City for **PFLAG/Perceptions Annual Garden Party**. Come delight in **Terry Z's** striking

gardens surrounding his Victorian home. Visit with friends and enjoy hors d'oeuvres as you help provide operating funds for both Tri-Cities PFLAG and Saginaw Valley Perceptions. New friends are welcome! Donations

will be collected at the door, or you can mail them to PFLAG Tri-Cities, PO Box 834, Bay City, MI 48707, designated for Garden Party. For more information, see www.perceptionssv.org or <http://pflag-mbs.org>.

Take Me "Out" to the Ball Game

The Perceptions Activities Committee is organizing a group outing to see a Great Lakes Loons baseball game at Dow Diamond on Friday, August 7th. This event will take the place of a Friday Night Dinner. There is lots of good food available at the ball park. Contact Kay@PerceptionsSV.org for more information.

Warner & DeMarco in Concert

Friday, June 26th - Jason & deMarco in Concert 7:00 pm. Jason Warner and deMarco DeCiccio are life partners and comprise this popular adult contemporary / pop duo. Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, 2441 Pinecrest Ave., Ferndale. Free-will offering.

Laramie Project Film

Friday, June 26th - "The Laramie Project" 7:00 pm. Sponsored by Genesee County PFLAG. Refreshments and discussion following the film. UU Church of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy. Free will donation.

Anti-Gay Killings Highest Since 1999

As reported by [CBS](#) and [AP](#)

A national advocacy group says the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people killed in bias-motivated incidents increased by 28 percent in 2008 compared to 2007.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs released its report Tuesday.

It says last year's 29 killings is the highest it has recorded since 1999. It documented the same number of slayings then.

The New York-based coalition says the overall number of victims who reported gay bias violence

in 2008 increased by 2 percent. The coalition says its figures are more accurate than those from law enforcement agencies. As an example, the group says the FBI doesn't record bias crimes against transgender people because gender identity isn't covered by federal hate-crime law. The report comes as gay groups show increased frustration at President Obama's gay rights agenda. On Monday, **Joe Solmonese**, president of advocacy group **The Human Rights Campaign**,

sent an angry letter to Mr. Obama criticizing a Justice Department brief filed in support of the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. DOMA prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages and doesn't mandate states to recognize those marriages performed elsewhere in the country. Mr. Obama vowed to repeal DOMA as a presidential candidate but he has not taken any action to do so since becoming president.