



# The PFLAG Link

MIDLAND, BAY CITY & SAGINAW CHAPTER  
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[www.pflag-mbs.org](http://www.pflag-mbs.org)

April 2010

Meeting This Month  
 Sunday, Apr. 25 2-4:30 PM  
 Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship  
 6220 Jefferson at Wackerly, Midland

## The PFLAG Statewide Meeting: Great Success

Sponsored and hosted this year by PFLAG of Jackson, the PFLAG Annual Statewide Meeting was a great time of learning and togetherness. We heard Mike Neubecker, our Regional Vice President and President of PFLAG Detroit Downriver, share his personal story of growth from dismay and skepticism to support after his son came out. Dr. Julie Nemecek, with her wife Joanne, told the story of her process of understanding her own sexual identity - and being misunderstood by her former employer, Spring Arbor College. Brian Baker, PFLAG TriCities Vice President and this newsletter's editor, summarized what non-profit groups must do to stay legal in Michigan. And Brooke Smith, Field Coordinator from PFLAG, and Dan and Nancy Tepfer, our Regional Directors, shared about "What National Does for You." Heartfelt thanks go to Lorraine and everyone at Jackson PFLAG who worked so hard to provide a great day of learning and sharing for all of us!

## This Month: Activism with Attitude!

*We can deal better with "now" when we know the struggles of "then"*

<p>This month our Guest Speaker is Penny Gardner, PhD., and we'll let her describe herself: "Old feminist lesbian, teacher of freshpeople, president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights, and a Commissioner on</p>	<p>Michigan's Commission on Services to the Aging. As an activist Gardner is involved with Second Parent Adoption, as well as involving LGBT people in issue of aging, and getting those who serve old people to consider</p>	<p>LGBT Old people in their work." An "activist with an attitude - and a history," she will weave a presentation around these issues. We promise it will be both very informative and entertaining at the same time!</p>
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## Remember how GREAT High School was? Me neither.

*STRUTS helps teens - but now needs YOUR help.*

<p>Through the STRUTS program, Central Michigan University's Psychology Department provides a safe place for area teens to talk under expert, unbiased supervision. A separate, safe place outside the</p>	<p>normal social pressures of high school can be vital. But STRUTS, which is one part of a program conducting research on behalf of GLBT teens, is in need of support. This program is both a resource</p>	<p>for area teens and shows the need for institutions to act on behalf of people in need. To support this great program, click on its webpage (struts.cmich.edu) or call Rachel Prevatt at 989-400-6947.</p>
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## Power Works for ALL - Including Transgendered

*Join Transgender Day of Empowerment*

<p>Transgender Detroit, partnering with several other groups, will hold its Fourth Annual "Transgender Day of Empowerment" on Saturday, May 15 at Affirmations in Ferndale. With sessions including "Transgender Legal Issues" and "Coming Out</p>	<p>at Work," the event begins at 11 AM and ends at 6 PM. With the purpose of empowering the transgender community and educating people about transgender issues, speakers and guests include Jessica Manko, Tina Seitz, Jay Kaplan,</p>	<p>Dr. Julie Nemecek and Burnadette Brown. Snacks and vendors from local organizations - not to mention an atmosphere of warmth and fellowship! - will all be important parts of the event. Affirmations is located at 290 W 9 Mile Road in Ferndale.</p>
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