

Free

Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



January 2009

Michaels Pie at Whites



L - R: Carolyn Denman, Diane Jackson, Tana Michaels

Who: Michaels Pie, with Outta the Belly
What: Acoustic entertainment
When: Saturday, January 17, 8pm
Where: [White's Bar](#), corner of State & Bay, Saginaw
Why: For the fun of it!
Admission: Free

heard Tana Michaels at Respect Fest 07, or Michaels Pie at a Respect Fest 07 fundraiser held at Whites Bar. The trio has decided to entertain us again with their vocal harmonies at White's in January.

Michaels Pie describes their music as, "*Mostly oldies most of the time.*" One thing is sure, you'll hear a variety of tunes that'll transport you back to the day. They sing everything from The Everly Brothers, CSN&Y and Fleetwood Mac to Gavin Rossdale.

To finish the night, Outta the Belly has graciously agreed to travel up to Saginaw from the Lansing area to treat us to original tunes written by lead singer Amy Timbers. She and Holly Brown are no strangers to White's having also played a Respect Fest 07 fundraiser there. You can check out the website at <http://www.myspace.com/outtathebelly>



Amy Timbers: Outta the Belly

A special night of ladies entertainment with *Michaels Pie* and [Outta the Belly](#).

Michaels Pie consists of Tana Michaels, Diane "Pie" Jackson and Carolyn Denman. Some may have

Perceptions Saginaw Valley

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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.



Annual Meeting and Election

Tim A

The organization's annual meeting will be Thursday, January 15th at St John's Episcopal Church. All members and friends of Perceptions are welcome to attend. The current Board will present brief reports on the State of the Organization. There will be time for questions and comments from the attendees. We will present the Slate of Candidates for the Board of Trustees and then there will be an election. You must be a registered member for 2008 or 2009 to vote. Membership forms will be available on site.

The Board of Trustees can have up to 12 members. The terms of one-third of the Board should expire each year. Current Board members Joe Nuncio, Joy Clark, Rob Cummings and Doug Solosky have completed their terms. Douglas Solosky has agreed to run for re-election for another term. Trustee Rebecca Dunn has announced that she will resign her position after the January Board meeting, creating another vacancy.

Returning Board members Kay Sural, Tim Atkinson, Jim Kleinsorge, and Alan Shinaver all have terms that expire in January 2010. Brian Carstensen and Gary Knight's terms expire in January 2011.

This leaves five open positions on the Board that may be filled at the election. It is not required that we have all 12 positions filled. We have been accepting nominations and trying to recruit potential new Board members for several months. We are excited to have several well-qualified people interested in serving as a Trustee. The Board will finalize the Slate of Candidates at its next meeting on January 8th. If you would like to be considered as a Trustee or you would like to nominate someone else, please contact Alan Shinaver (Alan@PerceptionsSV.org) or another Trustee before January 8th.

Come on out on January 15th to meet the candidates who have volunteered (or had their arms twisted) to serve as Trustees for your organization.

Friends and Members

Perhaps you've noticed that "*friends*" and "*members*" are invited to Perceptions events. To clarify, you are a "*member*" of Perceptions if you've paid your membership dues. Members also qualify for discounts at some events. You are a "*friend*" of Perceptions if you want to attend. That's it! That's all there is to it. No fuss. No muss. No hidden fees or small print. If you want to come to any event posted in the [Current Events](#) section, or announced on the calendar, or written about in an article just show up if you want to. If you have any questions about an event, contact info@PerceptionsSV.org for help.

2009 Membership Letter

Jim Kleinsorge

Friends,

It is again time for Perceptions to ask you to make or renew your commitment to our organization and our local LGBT community. You may ask 'Why should I join Perceptions?' Here are two members' responses to that question:

Perceptions was an organization I had heard about through friends for several years before I joined. I had been very involved with Dignity, a Tri-city gay organization in the 1980's, even going to conventions in San Francisco and Indiana. That organization ceased operation in the Tri-Cities & my job as an owner of a party store took over my life. I spent 65 to 70 hours a week running my liquor store and its day to day functioning became my life for 20 years. When I finally sold the store, I continued in my closed off, absence of a GLBT social life. When my friend Rick finally talked me into coming to a Perceptions Meet and Greet, I was very nervous and not prepared to be very social. The people at that first meeting were all so friendly and welcoming to me. I was surprised at how much I had missed being in a gay social setting. Being part of a GLBT community once more was eye opening and very beneficial. I loved the idea that there were available GLBT activities in the Tri-Cities. I am slowly coming out of my self imposed closure and Perceptions Saginaw Valley has helped me tremendously. I urge anyone floundering around in the Tri-Cities to check Perceptions out. They are an excellent support system, social arena, and source of new friends. If you want to feel connected to the GLBT in our communities, come to a meeting, a dinner, or a social event and see what I am talking about. Thank you to all those who welcomed me into Perceptions. It has made my life here in Saginaw a much easier and happy one.

Perceptions member, Randy Hasso

The best thing about being a Perceptions member is you don't have to pretend. You can be yourself because everyone else here can relate and know what you have been through and are going through. Its a chance to mingle with people just like you, who have had some of the same experiences you have. It doesn't matter if you are out, closeted, or thinking about coming out, no one here judges you and you can just relax and maybe make a friend or two. So if you are thinking about com-

ing to a meeting or one of the many functions Perceptions offers, take the plunge and drop in. You will be glad you did and will be welcomed with open arms. This will be one step you'll be glad you took and it can really change your life and give you a much needed way to get away and escape for awhile. I know times are tough, but this will be the best \$25.00 you'll spend and who knows, maybe you'll even meet that special someone.

Perceptions member, Rick Farrand

Like so many others, both Randy and Rick have found something special in Perceptions.

And although the social aspects of our group are beneficial to so many people, Perceptions also provides education, a sense of community, and a channel for activism. While we've come a long way for LGBT equality, let's not kid ourselves. Although TV characters like Will & Grace, or Kevin & Scotty on Brothers and Sisters may give us a warm fuzzy feeling, people are still being kicked out of their homes for being gay, people are still being kicked out of their families for being lesbian, and it is shameful the things some people say and do to transgender members of our community. **The people who seek to oppress us are not idle and neither should we be.** Perhaps you're not comfortable being out on the front lines of the fight for LGBT equality, but please consider supporting those who are. We need to stick together. Your financial support allows us to continue the work we do throughout the year here in our local area, providing a safe place for everyone to be comfortable being who they are. We need you to make that happen.

To join us in our mission to make a better life for all LGBT people in our area, go to www.PerceptionsSV.org/member.html and become a member today.

Sincerely,

[Jim Kleinsorge](#), Secretary

Perceptions Saginaw Valley



“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily difference we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.” - Marian Wright Edelman

**“If gay and lesbian people are given civil rights, then everyone will want them!”
Author unknown**



**“Justice is indivisible. Like Martin, I don’t believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others”
-Coretta Scott King**

Life After Death: **This Doug’s Life**

Douglas Solosky



Anger and hate---what horrible wastes of energy.

My partner died four and a half years ago. I went through the 5 stages of grief. Anger is one of them. It stems from the French for hate. Yes, I hated the loss I had experienced, but I got over it.

I met and was with a man for a year afterward. That relationship was rocky at best. I loved him dearly but because I had only been with one man in my life, I was not emotionally equipped to handle it.

Since then I have had several 'encounters.' In each of them, I was sure I had found my new life partner, only to be disappointed.

One of them was a man from the deep South. I was with him for one glorious week. In my naive way I thought, "this is the one." Well, it wasn't. Then there was that one in New Zealand. A hunky black

man. Again, I was sure he was the one. No, not him either. The one in England, now that has to be the one. Nope!

I was getting a little frustrated. Nothing for three. I know, says I, I'll stick closer to home. Only those in Michigan. That ought to do the trick. Ah yes, Michigan. I changed my profile on the site I was using and bingo a hit. One hundred and ten miles from me. About a 2 hour drive. What could be better? We emailed, spoke on the phone (a lot) and met once. There were no negatives. All was right in the world. I had found my counterpart. Then, you guessed it, I received an email from him. A most cordial email with overtones. In it, I could see the handwriting on the wall. Our "committed relationship" (his words) was coming to an end.

I was very upset and cried over the impending break up.

See “ANGER” pg 7



Scholarship Available

Tim A



Perceptions will present its second annual scholarship in May. The scholarship will be awarded to a Michigan resident who has demonstrated a passion for promoting mutual respect and acceptance across borders of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Please encourage deserving students to apply through the Saginaw Community Foundation (www.SaginawFoundation.org). Qualifications for the scholarship include a minimum GPA of 2.5; the applicant must be a resident of Michigan; a high school senior, college student or non-traditional student pursuing vocational training, a graduate or undergraduate degree; and the applicant must have demonstrated a commitment to promoting respect and acceptance of diversity across all borders including race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Both full-time and part-time students may apply. In the scoring process, additional points will be awarded to members of PFLAG Tri-Cities and Perceptions and their immediate families. All electronic applications must be submitted by midnight on February 1st.



Current Events

January 7th, Wed - Saginaw Meet & Greet
CANCELLED Bambi's has closed her shop in the Green Acres Plaza. We will be searching for a new venue to resume meetings in February.

January 9th, Friday Night Dinner 7 pm
Savoy Bar & Grill, [127 S. Franklin](#), Saginaw
 Join Perceptions Members and Friends this week. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

January 14th, Wed - Freeland Meet & Greet
6:00 - 8:00 pm. (Note new time) Riverside Restaurant, [8295 Midland Rd.](#), Freeland. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. Enjoy a full dinner or their famous homemade pies. Private room. All are welcome.

January 14th, Wednesday - Perceptions Transgender Group 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Meeting at The Mixx/Metro Grille, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. The group offers an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' 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 Rebecca at Rebecca@PerceptionsSV.org. This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

January 15th, Thurs - Perceptions Annual Membership Meeting 7pm. Election of the Board of Trustees, "State of the Organization" reports. **St John's Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#), Saginaw.** All are welcome.

January 16th, Friday Night Dinner 7 pm
Los Cuatro Amigos, [4570 Bay Rd.](#), Saginaw. Join Perceptions members and friends this week. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

January 23rd, Friday Night Dinner 7pm
G's Pizzeria & Deli, [1005 Saginaw St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

January 24th, Saturday - "Prayers for Bobby" 9:00 pm on Lifetime TV. Sigourney Weaver co-produces and stars in this emotional true story about a 1970s religious suburban housewife and mother who struggles to accept her young son Bobby being gay. What happens to Bobby is tragic and causes Mary to question her faith; ultimately this mom changes her views in ways that she never could have imagined. Based on the book "Prayers for Bobby" by Leroy Aarons.

January 25th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting
2:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, [6220 Jefferson Ave](#), Midland.
 Guest speaker to be announced.

January 27th, Tues - Men's Discussion Group 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Zael Memorial Library, [3100 N. Center Rd.](#), Saginaw. Discussion and informal support for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. You may contact him at 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 as long as the container has a cover or a cap.

January 30th, Friday Night Dinner 7pm
Beijing BBQ, [2945 Bay Road](#), Saginaw. Join Perceptions members and friends this week. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Be informed about upcoming events
Simply send a blank email to:
PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

JANUARY 2009

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11	12	13	14  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Road 6:00 - 8:00 PM  Transgender Group The Mixx 6 - 8 PM	15  General Membership Meeting / Elections St. John's Episcopal 7:00 - 9:00 PM	16  Friday Night Dinner Los Cuatro Amigos 4570 Bay Road Saginaw 7:00 PM	17																																																																																				
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Womyn's Circle to End?

We are sad to announce that The Arcus Foundation's grant for Womyn's Circle through the YWCA has come to an end. We would like to thank Perceptions, PFLAG, The Arcus Foundation, The YWCA, Anita Bowden, Janelle Hemingway, Mary Jo Hall, and all the incredible women involved in giving us a space to connect to others and to meet new friends.

We encourage participants of Womyn's Circle to attend Perceptions and PFLAG meetings and events to continue to connect with the wonderful resources they have provided to bring together the GLBT community in our area. Again, thank you to everyone who helped create, maintain, and promote Womyn's Circle.

Watch the newsletter and weekly messages for updates. Perceptions is currently working on securing a meeting place for the Womyn's Circle.

Perceptions mailing list on [Yahoo Groups](#) has over 500 subscribers! Don't be left out. Subscribe now! Send a blank email to PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Top 10 LGBT stories of 2008



1. Obama is elected President
2. California legalizes Gay Marriage
3. Gay Marriage is legalized in CT
4. Oregon's gay rights bills
5. Thomas Beatie gives birth
6. CA's prop 8 passes-gays protest
7. Ellen Degeneres marries
8. Rachel Maddow gets MSNBC show
9. Wanda Sykes comes out
10. Activist Del Martin dies

[Gospel of Jesus Christ](#)
[Metropolitan Community Church](#)
meets Sundays at the United Church of Christ, 4100 Chestnut Hill Dr., Midland, MI, 4:30pm. MCC is a Christian Church established to provide special outreach to the GLBT community.

ANGER continued from pg 4

A short time later, he informed me that due to his job and family pressures, a committed relationship was furthest from his mind at this time. A little later, I emailed him asking whether we would be getting together after his life had settled down. He said no.

I thanked him for his prompt answer and said, "Now I can get on with my life."

Because of these encounters, I have been asked if I hate any of these guys. I don't. We are all friends, except the ones in New Zealand and England. They are 'scammers.'

Animosity is not part of my nature.

The lesson of anger akin to hate was driven home one afternoon when I was 9. My mother, twin brother, and I were going to go somewhere. Ma was backing out of the garage at a very slow speed. I was in the car with her. We were waiting for my brother. He came toward the slowly moving car and literally ran into it. Mind you, Ma was backing out at a rate less than one mile an hour and he was not paying attention to what he was doing.

Thomas was so angry that he actually threw-up and with vehement hate verbally lit into my mother. The scene was acrimonious to say the least.

He remained angry for days afterward.

That incident taught me the futility of anger and hate. I vowed right there and then that I would never get that angry. When I do get upset over anything, I get over it quickly. Life is too short to waste energy on the self destructive emotions of anger and hate.

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Photo Credits and special thanks to: Jim Kleinsorge, Rick Farrand