

Free

Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



June 2009



Perceptions Saginaw Valley

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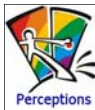
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SUBMISSIONS are always welcome. Write to:
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Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering GLBT individuals and their community

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.

Get Your Tickets Now!!

Saginaw Valley Pride Awards Banquet Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, MI.

6:00 pm Appetizer Reception
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Program & Pride Awards
recognizing local LGBT people & Allies.

Tickets: \$25 per person. Information: www.PerceptionsSV.org or 989-891-1429 or Pride@PerceptionsSV.org

Perceptions Facebook

If you have a Facebook account you can find our group by searching for "Perceptions" under Groups. If you don't already have a Facebook account but would like to create one, you can do so by going to www.facebook.com.



Perceptions Speakers Bureau

Erin Moers

The Speakers Bureau will consist of both members and non-members with certain qualifications. This new group will facilitate presentations to community groups and others.

Since its formation, there have been more than 15 volunteers joining the group. Some are from Perceptions membership, and some are not. We need more people with life or professional knowledge of a wide variety of subjects which involve the LGBT Community.

Anyone interested in participating in this worthwhile venture may contact Perceptions through the website, www.PerceptionsSV.org, or the Bureau Chairperson Erin Moers, erin.moers@yahoo.com.

Congrats 2009 Scholarship Winner Glenn Madigan

[Tim A](#)

The winner of the 2009 Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship is Glenn Madigan of Bay City. Glenn is one of 10 students who applied for the scholarship through the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#).

Many Perceptions members may know Glenn's name. He and Kaitlyn Skrzypczak helped to found the Gay Straight Alliance at Bay City Central High School. They spoke at a Perceptions meeting in April 2008 when we presented a GSA Forum. The forum featured representatives from Bay City Central, Carrolton High School, and the SVSU GSA. Glenn and Kaitlyn have also addressed the PFLAG Tri-Cities group.



Applications for the scholarship are evaluated by a panel of volunteers from the Saginaw Community Foundation and by the Perceptions Scholarship Committee. Each applicant is given a score in the areas of community service, leadership, and career goals. Plus, they must submit an essay telling how they currently promote respect and acceptance across borders of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in their community and how they will continue this work throughout their lives. Scores from the SCF and Perceptions committees are combined to determine the winner.

In his essay, Glenn wrote, "Every student has the right to earn a proper education in an environment in which they feel safe and are able to express themselves freely." He has recognized that physical and verbal bullying is a real threat to many students. He used his work with the GSA and with GLSEN to demonstrate how he has worked toward this goal. He concludes with, "My work as a human rights activist has only just begun and I look forward to the advancements waiting within our future."

Glenn plans to pursue a career as an Advertising Art Director and will study at Columbia College Chicago.

The scholarship award was formally presented to Glenn on May 18th at the Saginaw Community Foundation's Excellence in Education program held at the Castle Museum. Jennifer Zantow and Kay Sural, members of our scholarship committee, were there to represent Perceptions.

Stonewall Inn - 1:20 AM - June 28th, 1969

June is GLBT Pride Month --- The riots at the Stonewall Inn that began in the early morning hours of June 28th, 1969 are generally agreed to be the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. See how many words you can find relating to this monumental event in our history. For a complete account of the events, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonewall_riots.

For Web users: To print out the puzzle, right click on it, select Print, then in the box that comes up, click on 'Current Page', then 'OK'

Have Fun!

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- Acceptance
- Bisexual
- Civil Rights
- Demonstrations
- Drag Queens
- Equality
- Gay
- GLBT Rights
- Greenwich Village
- Lesbian
- New York
- Parades
- Police Raid
- Pride
- Protest Marches
- Riots
- Stonewall Inn
- The Last Straw
- Transgender



To contact the editor with thoughts, or suggestions for the newsletter, send an email to editor@PerceptionsSV.org and let us know what you're thinking.



Current Events

June 3, Wed - Saginaw Meet & Greet 7:00 pm. Magic Bean Cafe, [5789 State Street](#), Saginaw. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones. Enjoys hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment.

June 4, Thur - Men's Friendship Room 6:00 pm Men's Friendship Room is designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. It meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact David Younk at 989-771-9721 or davidy513@hotmail.com. The group is sponsored by [Divine Light Interfaith Ministry](#) but is not a religious gathering. This event repeats on the 1st Thursday of each month.

June 5, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Vinny's Stockpot**, [1007 Washington Avenue.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 5 & 6 - Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus 8:00 pm. Dart Auditorium at Lansing Community College. Tickets available at door, \$10 to \$25 sliding scale. www.glgmc.org

June 6, Sat. Women's Golf OUTing Triangle Foundation's annual women's golf outing, St. John's Golf Course. Contact [Triangle Foundation](#) or Myra Walman at 313-304-9393.

June 7, Sun. - Motor City Pride Michigan's largest LGBT event. Downtown Ferndale. www.motorcitypride.com

June 10, Wed - Freeland Meet & Greet 7:00 pm. Riverside Restaurant, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies. This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

June 10, Wed - Perceptions Transgender Group 6:00 pm. 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.

June 11 & June 25, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Butman Fish Library, 1716 Hancock St., Saginaw. The group is facilitated by Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk and Carm Audas and sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministries. It is open to couples or anyone who is single and has a disability. If you have any questions, contact rev_kathyv@yahoo.com or 989-493-6866.

June 12, Friday Night Dinner 7pm. Savoy Grill, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. 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

June 13, Sat - Michigan Pride Noon to 7:00 pm. Adado Riverfront Park, Lansing. (www.michiganpride.org) Perceptions will be marching in the parade from the park to the Capitol. The Michigan Chapter of Rainbow RV (www.RainbowRV.com) will once again be camping at a nearby campground and they've extended an invitation to Perceptions members & friends. If you'd like to pitch your tent or pull a camper down to Lansing and join them, contact Michigan@RainbowRV.com

June 17, Wed - Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet 6:00 pm. Please join us in this historic and memorable evening recognizing local LGBT people and allies. See article on page 2 for ticket and sponsorship information.

June 17, Wed - Women's Room II 6:00 pm. Women's Room II is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. It meets at Rev Kathy and Annie's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy 989-493-6866 or rev_kathyv@yahoo.com. The Group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry, but it is not a religious gathering. This event repeats on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

June 19, Friday Night Dinner 6:00 pm (Note earlier time) Greek Festival, [4970 Mackinaw Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 20, Sat. Lesbian & Feminist Womyn's Potluck 7:00 pm. Church of the Incarnation, [3257 Lohr Rd.](#), Ann Arbor. Book swap, open mic. Contact Vanessa (vlmarr@gmail.com) or Dawn (dawn.renee4@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up for open mic.

June 20, Sat. - West Michigan Pride 2:00 pm - 10:00 pm. John Ball Park, Grand Rapids. www.westmipride.org

June 23, 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

June 25, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Butman Fish Library, Saginaw.

June 26, Friday Night Dinner 7pm. El Mexicano, [3593 Center Ave.](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

June 26, Fri. - "The Laramie Project" 7:00 pm. Final Friday FilmFest & Discussion, sponsored by [Genesee County PFLAG](#). Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy](#)

June 26, Fri. Jason & deMarco in Concert 7:00 pm. [MCC of Detroit](#), Ferndale. Free-will offering.

June 28, Sun. PFLAG Meeting 2:00 pm. UU Fellowship of Midland, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#)

JUNE 2009

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Perceptions Summer

Jim Kleinsorge



Summer is finally upon us. After a long, cold winter, it is time to begin planning our summer activities. Perceptions has many things on the agenda for this summer. Along with the usual Friday Night Dinners, Meet & Greets,

Transgender meetings, and the Men's Discussion Group, we have some additional things planned.

Michigan Pride in Lansing – Saturday, June 13th we can look forward to **Michigan Pride**. This event is a long-standing celebration of the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Everyone is invited to enjoy Pride day! During Michigan Pride our statewide community gathers at the Capitol for a massive outpouring of love, fun, education and activism. Perceptions will be there with our banner, marching in the parade. For more information, visit www.michiganpride.org or email Jim@PerceptionsSV.org if you have any questions.

Thanks to the vision, dedication, and hard work of Leo Romo, the first annual **Saginaw Valley GLBT Awards Banquet** will be held. This event will take place on **Wednesday, June 17th** at 6:00 pm. See page 2 for details. What a wonderful way to celebrate GLBT Pride month in our area during June which will also be the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. How far we've come!

The next **Highway Cleanup** is scheduled for **Saturday, July 11th** (rain date July 12th). Rick F. will once again coordinate the effort and also hold a cookout afterwards for all the work the volunteers do to keep our stretch of I-75 beautiful. If you haven't participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program before, check it out. Its really much more fun than it sounds like and you get to meet and work with some great people you might not otherwise know.

Traditionally, we have always had a June picnic since we don't have summer General Membership meetings, but since there is so much going on this year in June, we have decided to have our **summer picnic** in July. The cookout/potluck will graciously be hosted by Garnet and Vicky at their home in Freeland on **Tuesday, July 14th**. Mark your calendars for this one folks. They did an outstanding job last year and made it a very enjoyable evening for all.

CampOut Michigan Bike Tour will be the weekend of **July 24th – 26th**. This will be the 18th annual weekend of camping, biking, and outdoor fun for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their friends in Northern Michigan. Bike routes are designed for every skill level, or you need not bike at all and still fully enjoy the atmosphere of support and friendship. You can choose to take part in some or all of the scheduled activities. Visit www.CampOutMichigan.org for more information.

Bringing the summer to a close, the 5th annual **AIDS Walk Michigan** will be held in our area on **Saturday, September 26th** at Wenonah Park in downtown Bay City. Proceeds benefit BASIS, a service of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, Inc. BASIS/Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center provides quality, client-focused, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS services including education, prevention, testing, treatment, and case management. BASIS offers services in collaboration with other community agencies and will offer assistance to anyone in need. Contact BASIS for more information at (989) 894-2991. **Note: All proceeds from the Bay City / Saginaw / Midland walk stay in our local area to provide assistance to those in need our community.** Perceptions will be organizing a team to participate in this worthy cause. The Perceptions team did an outstanding job last year, and I know we can do even better this year, with your help.

18th Annual LGBT Bike Tour

Tim A



July 24 - 26, 2009, will mark the 18th annual gathering of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender outdoor enthusiasts in Northern Michigan. The weekend of outdoor fun centers around a bicycle tour for riders of all ability levels. Although, not all participants will actually ride a bicycle. In its most successful years, attendance has passed 100 campers. Participants come from all over Michigan and even surrounding states and Canada. Many of last year's participants had attended 10 or more previous events.

The first 15 years of the Bike Tour were organized by Friends North, a GLBT organization based in Traverse City. The event was a fund raiser for Friends North and other GLBT organizations in Northern Michigan.

Not wanting to see the Bike Tour tradition come to an end when Friends North dissolved in 2006, a small group of Bike Tour veterans formed Camp Out Michigan to continue to organize the yearly event. The weekend continues to be a fund raiser for GLBT causes, but the primary objective is to bring together GLBT people and their friends for a weekend of camaraderie and fun. In 2008, Camp Out Michigan split proceeds from the event between the Perceptions Scholarship Fund and Michigan Equality. Bike Tour participants also made additional contributions directly to these two charities.

The first 16 years of the event were held in Leelanau, Grand Traverse or Benzie County. For the second year, our home for 2009 will be near Mio in Oscoda County. The family who owns the campground is very welcoming and is looking forward to hosting the again. There is a small motel and rental cabins adjoining the campground, so those who prefer electricity and indoor plumbing to a tent may easily participate in all of the group activities that are centered in the campground.

Camp Out Michigan organizers decided that since participants come from all over Michigan, the charities selected should service all of Michigan. Lansing-based Michigan Equality was chosen as a new

partner for a second year. Michigan Equality is a statewide organization dedicated to building and using political power to promote equality and eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. They are changing the face of politics in Michigan by fighting for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families and individuals. The Perceptions Scholarship Fund will also receive a portion of this year's proceeds. Any Michigan resident may apply for the annual scholarship which is dedicated to promoting respect for diversity across all borders including race, religion, sexual orientation and gender expression.

Although billed as the "Bike Tour," you do not need to be an avid cyclist to enjoy the weekend. In fact, a few regular attendees don't even bring their bikes. Less experienced cyclists can make arrangements to do a shorter route. Or at anytime you decide that you can't complete the route, one of our support vehicles will take you back to camp. If you don't care to attempt a ride, there are plenty of alternative activities to enjoy during the time on Saturday when most people are pedaling. A few volunteers will be needed to work as support crew for the riders. Some people will choose to explore the area by car or motorcycle. Camp Out Michigan will provide information about local points of interest.

The Bike Tour is an all-inclusive weekend. Your registration includes two nights of rustic camping, evening meals served at the campsite on Friday & Saturday, continental breakfast on Saturday & Sunday, your choice of bicycle rides with road support, group activities, entertainment and evening bonfires. A Sunday canoe trip is a popular optional activity. *À la carte* registration options are available to suit individual needs. Register by June 10th to qualify for the early bird discount prices. Visit the Camp Out Michigan web site at www.campoutmichigan.org for additional information and registration options.

Web Links:

www.campoutmichigan.org
www.michiganequality.org
www.PerceptionsSV.org

Perceptions Meeting a Walk in the Woods

Rick F

Perceptions last General membership meeting for the season, held at Green Point Nature Center on May 21st, was very well attended by 16 enthusiastic nature lovers. Ranger Becky did a great job of putting this all together and gave us a very well informed program. We all learned a lot, and her knowledge and expertise was greatly appreciated.

We couldn't have had a better day. The walk on the nature trails was a nice added touch after the presentation. There was a meet and greet before and after the program where

good food and drinks were enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Mike and Chas for supplying a great feast. I'd also like to thank Tim and Al for all that they supplied too. Sarah, who was there representing Michigan Equality,

distributed information and brochures about the organization. Hopefully we will see more of her and members of her group at future functions. A great day was had by all and I want to give a BIG thank you to Ranger Becky, for all of this would not have been possible without her. Oh yeah and thanks to me for remembering the bug spray – we kept the bites to a minimum.



Ranger Becky



This year's **Yard Sale** produced
\$328.33 for



AIDS WALK MICHIGAN!

Special thanks to Chas, his family, and Mike for all of their hard work, and to the friends and members of Perceptions who helped make this event a success!

Pride in Community

Rev Kathy VanBuskirk



Question: Rev. Kathy, what is pride to you and how do you approach gaining that pride?

I hear things about GLBT pride. I hear of family pride. I hear of self pride. What pride means to me is loving and accepting myself, or whatever I have pride in, and being willing to express my love openly.

Part of our goal is equal rights. It is being accepted, and having others be proud of us as members of the community. To achieve these goals, I think we should start on a personal level. In order for others to respect me and be proud of me, I need to respect and be proud of myself. I also need to expect that from others.

The next step is to be proud of others in the GLBT community. This, in my opinion, would entail being not backbiting or criticizing, but instead being loving and compassionate to our "FAMILY!" This would include showing others that we are respectful and supportive of each other in every way.

Next, be proud to be part of the general community. Showing people we meet while walking down the street, or people we are standing in line with in the grocery store, respect. Show the person who cuts you off in traffic respect. This may not always be easy. But when you think about it, it may not always be easy for someone else to

show you respect either, but maybe they do because they know that's the way we should treat each other in order to have a peaceful, pride-filled world.

So I challenge you to do this. Have pride in yourself and treat yourself and your body with respect. Be proud of your GLBT friends, and show them by defending them when necessary, and lending them a helping hand when it's needed...even if they don't ask for it! Show pride in your community by volunteering, show them they have reason to be proud of us as members.

Lastly, think proud thoughts about your world, treat others with respect, and in the end that's how we will be treated...that's how you will be treated...that's how I will be treated. What goes around comes around...I'm sure you've heard that expression before.

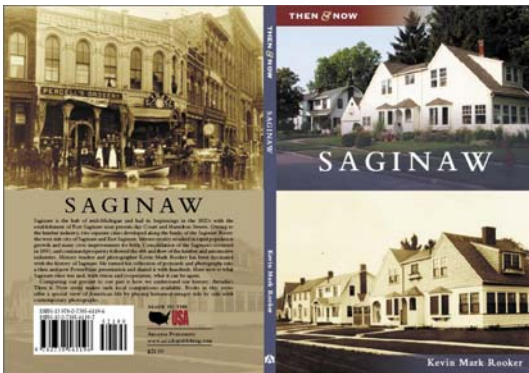
I am proud to be me. I am proud to be part of the GLBT community. I am proud to be part of Saginaw. I am proud to be part of this world we live in.

"BE PROUD AND ENJOY WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN AND WHERE YOU ARE GOING!"

Rev Kathy facilitates a women's support group for LBT women, sponsors a men's support group for GTB men, and co-facilitates a support group for disabled members of the GLBT community. For info contact her at rev_kathyv@yahoo.com

Wolfarth House Owner Authors Book

Kay Sural



Professional photographer turned history teacher provided the perfect blend of careers for Kevin Rooker. From that blend, Kevin has authored "Saginaw Then & Now," recently published by Arcadia Publishing. Rooker, who graciously hosted the Perceptions/PFLAG Annual Chocolate Party, lives in the historic [Wolfarth House](#) on Hoyt Avenue in Saginaw.

Rooker, who has a collection of 700 historic postcards and photographs of Saginaw decided to match up the postcard images with precise images depicting the same scene today. The postcards and photographs date from between 1888 and 1927. The result is a beautiful book with 96 pages of wonderful photographs of, among others, the Castle Museum, the Potter Street Railroad Station and his own historic home.

Signed copies of the book can be purchased at The Savoy at a discount off the cover price. Otherwise, it can be purchased from [Barnes & Noble](#), Walden Books, Walgreens, and Amazon.com.

We Did It!

Jan Timm & Chris Brennan



We struggled with what to call it. Commitment ceremony? No, that didn't quite fit after 20 years. Anniversary? Well, we never got "married" in the first place. And

"wedding" sounded too heterosexual. "Holy Union?" well, that sounded...too holy! Chris wanted to call it a "shindig", but Jan thought that sounded too much like the Beach Boys. It ended up being all of that. We decided to formally tie the knot.

It wasn't as though we didn't feel married. We believe that God blessed our relationship without a formal ceremony. But we wanted to make it public and we wanted to make it joyous.

Then there was the issue of who to invite. Do you invite family? What if those closest to you don't come? We had to accept that that was a possibility and that it would be alright. Still, we also had to let our family know that this was a significant event for us, and that we really wanted them there. Do you invite people from work? Even though we're out to some, it's still an uncertainty of how people will respond to an invitation. And then there's the issue of your worlds colliding, the friends, family and colleagues all in the same room and all focused on you.

And how about the issue of what to wear. We're not into the "butch" and "femme" thing so the wedding gown and tux combination was out. Neither of us wear dresses much, so that left us with the option of pant suits. Since we are about the same size, we could do some mixing and matching to complement our attire without looking like Twinkies. Jan said "No" to the black high top sneakers. Chris compromised and only wore them to the reception.

Planning started last October. We started with a hall and we asked from the start if there would be an issue with having a same sex reception. As it turned out, the owner's sister was lesbian and the owner assured us the staff would be accepting. Fortunately, that was a non-issue.

In fact, we were open in all of our planning. Our photographer, Ari Lapine (www.photosbyari.com), was wonderful. We were out to our florist, the cake lady knew, and we told the ladies that sold us our jewelry. It was refreshing. No one even blinked. In fact, they wished us well.

As members of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Metropolitan Community Church (service at UCC Church Midland, Sundays at 4:30), we have a ready-made, affirming church family. We wanted to include elements from our Catholic background, our ethnic influences, and readings that reflected the love and courage that was necessary to sustain our relationship. It came together.

Our children and grandchildren were the most significant part of our ceremony, as they stood with us as witnesses at the altar. Friends and family served as readers and hostesses, and our brothers were ushers.

The Church was full. Jan's Aunt Tessie, who was never in a non-Catholic church before, was there. People from out of state came. Chris' mom came home from Florida to attend. We had never felt so much love in one place.

The reception was a blast. The food was good, the cake was great, and our grandson Ryan, age 4, stole the dance floor.

It was well worth the time, money, and effort it took to put it together. Did it change our relationship? No. Did it change how we feel? We'd have to say "Yes".



Chris Brennan & Jan Timm

They Did It!



The Brides' family Patrick , Jessica, her husband Tim and their son, Ryan, round out the wedding party.

