

Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



October 2009

PFLAG & Perceptions Wine Tasting

by Tim A.



Tickets are now on sale for the Third Annual PFLAG & Perceptions Wine Tasting.

This magnificent building, a stunning example of prairie architecture, reopened in June 2008 and is an attraction for railroad aficionados and fans of historic architecture.

Guests will listen to live music and mingle with friends in the depot's meticulously restored, two-story, grand waiting room while Oppermann's Cork 'N' Ale introduces you to a variety of fine wines. The wine steward will describe each wine, offer serving suggestions and answer questions. A selection of cheese, fruit and light hors d'oeuvres will be served to complement the wines. Following the event, Oppermann's will accept orders for your favorite wines at prices discounted for attendees.

Live entertainment will be provided by Michaels Pie. The band started when Tana Michaels and Diane "Pie" Jackson discovered that they had

musical chemistry. With Michaels' lead vocals and Pie's versatility with lead and harmony, the duo became an area favorite. Several years later, Carolyn (Denman) Simpson joined the duo, adding her vocals to complement Jackson's harmonies. The group is now semi-retired, performing



The event will be held on Saturday, October 17th at newly restored Pere Marquette Depot, 1000 Adams Street in downtown Bay City.

The Depot, originally opened in March 1904, was listed on the National Register of Historic Structures in 1982. A \$6.2 million restoration project was started in 2003.



Continued on next page

Perceptions Saginaw Valley

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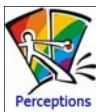
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For more information visit
www.perceptionsSV.org



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

For Additional Information:
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Email: info@PerceptionsSV.org

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.

Wine Tasting cont.

by Tim A.

only a few times per year. You will enjoy their vocal harmonies and acoustic guitar. While playing mostly oldies, the group de-



Michaels Pie

livers an eclectic assortment that varies from The Everly Brothers, CSN&Y, and Fleetwood Mac, to Matchbox Twenty and Coldplay.

Please plan to attend and support our two organizations; see Bay City's historic, architectural jewel; enjoy fine wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres; and listen to some great live music. You are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets in advance because we have to limit the number available at the door. Tickets are \$25 and are available online (<http://PerceptionsSV.org/WineTasting>), from PFLAG and Perceptions Board members, and at the Pere Marquette Depot Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is open Mon - Fri

from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm; Saturday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm; and Sunday from noon until 5:00 pm. Ask for Justin when purchasing tickets at the Welcome Center.



All attendees must be age 21 or older. A limited selection of non-alcoholic

beverages will be available for those who wish to join us and enjoy the event without consuming alcohol.

As members of every race, class, faith, and community, we see the struggle for LGBT equality as part of a larger movement for peace and social justice. - Cleve Jones.

National Coming Out Day: October 11

contributed by Erin

Hop a Bus to Washington for the March!



The Michigan Democratic Party's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Caucus has endorsed and is organizing buses to attend the 2009 National Equality March in Washington D.C. The event, hosted by Equality Across America (www.equalityacrossamerica.org), aims to mobilize the grassroots LGBT and Ally population in all 435 districts across the United States to push legislators to introduce and support equal rights legislation. "We're marching this October to demand action from the Federal government to protect our rights in all fifty states," said Kip Williams, one of the organizers. "Real equality can only come from the President, the Congress and the Supreme Court."

The Caucus is planning on organizing between 90 and 100 Michigan residents to attend the event on two buses, leaving the night of Friday October 9 and returning the morning of Monday October 12. Busses will pick up marchers in Kalamazoo, Lansing and Ann Arbor. Cost for the event is \$60 per person, plus lodging, and information on where to sign up and a tentative itinerary can be found at www.mdplgbt.org. The march and rally itself will take place on Sunday October 11, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will end at the west lawn of the Capital building. Saturday optional events include a wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery, media training and lobbying tactics workshops. For more info. <http://www.facebook.com/reqs.php#/event.php?eid=164863613624>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Coming_Out_Day

<http://gaylife.about.com/od/comingout/a/nationalcoming.htm>

Highway Cleanup

by Rick Farrand

It was a small but ambitious group that showed up for our last highway clean up of the season! The six of us started on the east side of I-75 and for the first time, we were able to complete the whole side! The weather was perfect and we had a great time doing it! We followed up with a cookout at my house where we roasted hot dogs and had homemade baked beans, coleslaw, spaghetti salad, and pineapple upside-down cake which was all just fabulous.

This could not have been done if it weren't for the help of a dedicated crew, so I would like to thank Darrell, Bob, Allison, Brent and Randy for a job well done. I would like to give a special thanks to Bob for his monetary donation towards food, Allison for supplying water and assorted pops, and Randy for bringing a cheese and relish tray and for the delicious watermelon. It was just a perfect day and a perfect ending to a day filled with hard work. My appreciation to all who helped out...Thank you. Hope to see everyone in the spring of 2010!



If you have a facebook account you can find our group by just searching for Perceptions under groups. If you do not already have a facebook account but would like to create one, you can do so by going to www.facebook.com.

Kerr Enters Plea in Darr Murder

by Tana Michaels



We may never know the true story, of what led to the August 2007 murder of 69 year old, Perceptions member, Charles "Chuck" Darr, of Saginaw, if Michael S. Kerr has his way.

Kerr, 37, of Pinconning met with his attorney, Eldor R. Herrmann, and Judge Fred L. Borchard in closed chambers where Kerr sought to strike a deal. Kerr will plead No Contest to second degree murder, Arson to a Dwelling and Carjacking, in exchange for a 25 year sentence. The original 1st degree and felony murder charges carried life sentences. If the court doesn't agree with the sentence, Kerr will be allowed to withdraw the plea and proceed to trial.

Preliminary trial testimony placed the defendant and Darr naked in bed together in what original defense attorney, Edward Czuprynski, painted as a sex for drugs story. An idea that Darr's best friend, Gary Knight, has always objected to.

"As well as I know Chuck, I cannot believe that." Knight said in a recent interview. "I heard from Chuck constantly about his total disdain for drugs."

The then 35 yr old Kerr, admitted to officers that he had an altercation with Darr after changing his mind about having sex with him. He returned to the house days later and lit a fire to destroy evidence and commit suicide. He was found in the smoke filled, first floor bathroom.

Darr's naked body was found, by police, wedged between the bed and the wall of his bedroom. Autopsy reports show strangulation as the cause of death.

Czuprynski thinks the judge will grant the plea bar-

gain. "I think the court will approve the deal because it's reasonable under the circumstances." He said. The court "will see it as a drug induced crime." He concluded.

Barb Arbuckle worked with Darr where he volunteered at the Greenhouse Gathering Place, 723 Emerson St, in Saginaw. "Chuck didn't sell drugs. He's the guy that brutally died and they're making him into the bad guy." She said.

For those close to Darr, 25 years doesn't seem at all reasonable.

"We all miss Chuck every day and that he's [Kerr] able to plea out for less than pre-meditation is hard for me, but I'm glad that there's some kind of closure." Said Arbuckle.

Knight agreed. "Strangling somebody to death sounds so brutal, so vicious that I can't believe that 25 years is sufficient punishment."

Sufficient or not, if judge Borchard accepts the arrangement, it will conclude a very long wait for justice for the friends and family of Charles Darr. Sentencing is scheduled for October 7, 2009.

Want to know more? Check out these newsletter archives for more on the Darr murder.

<http://www.perceptionssv.org/newsletter/2007-09.pdf>

<http://www.perceptionssv.org/newsletter/2007-10.pdf>

<http://www.perceptionssv.org/newsletter/2007-11.pdf>
pages 1 & 11

"We love this country, even when subjected to harassment, discrimination and violence at the hands of our countrymen. We love God, even as we are rejected by our pastors, imams, priests and rabbis. And we continue to love democracy, even when we see the ballot box used to strip us of our rights."

- Cleve Jones.



Current Events

Oct 1, Thur - D.L.I.M. Men's Friendship Room 7:00 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.

Oct 2, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Vinnie's Stock Pot Diner**, [1007 Washington Ave.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Oct 6, Tues - Perceptions 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

Oct 7, 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. Enjoy hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment.

Oct 8, & 22, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The group is facilitated by Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk and Carm Audas and sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministries. It is open to anyone who has a disability. Partners and significant others are welcome too. For meeting location or additional info, contact Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com.

Oct 9, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Lonestar Steakhouse**, [2255 Tittabawassee Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Oct 11, Genessee County PFLAG Meeting 2:00 -4:30pm. Terri Dinsmore will present "Reflecting on your own Coming Out." The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#)

Oct 11, National Coming Out Day See article on page 3.

Oct 13, Tues - Isabella Area LGBT Community Group 7:00 pm. St. John's Episcopal Church, 206 W. Maple St., Mount Pleasant. The group is being established for the purpose of connecting, networking, and social support for the entire LGBT Community. All are welcome. For more information contact Erin Moers (989-317-0811 or erin.moers@yahoo.com) or Rev. Wayne Nicholson (989-773-7448).

Oct 14, 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.

Oct 14, 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.

Oct 15, Thur - Perceptions General Meeting 7:00 pm. St John's Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan Ave](#), Saginaw. Our guest speaker, attorney Kimberly Hornik, will discuss legal issues caused by the inability to marry. See article on page 10.

Oct 15, Thur - HIV/AIDS in the Latino Community 7:00 pm. Please join your colleagues, neighbors and friends in our community who want to stop HIV/AIDS for a public discussion and educational reception. Andersen Enrichment Center, [120 Ezra Rust Dr.](#), Saginaw. Appetizers, refreshments, no cost. Sponsored by Saginaw Community HIV/AIDS Task Force.

Oct 16, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Super Buffet**, [3823 Bay Road](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Oct 17, Sat - Percetions/PFLAG Wine Tasting 7:00 pm. Pere Marquette Depot, 1000 Adams St., Bay City. 3rd annual Wine Tasting sponsored by Perceptions and PFLAG Tri-Cities. (<http://PerceptionsSV.org/WineTasting>) See article on page 1.

Oct 22, Wed - D.L.I.M. 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.

Oct 22, Thur - GLBTs with Disabilities Group 6:30 - 8:30 pm. For meeting location or if you have any questions, contact Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com.

Oct 23, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Levi's**, [5800 Brockway Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Oct 25, Sun. PFLAG Meeting 2:00 pm. UU Fellowship of Midland, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#)

Oct 30, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **El Mexicano**, [3593 Center Ave.](#), Bay City. 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

OCTOBER 2009

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Perceptions Attends Fairness Leadership Summit

by Kay Sural

I had the privilege of representing Perceptions at the Michigan Fairness Forum Leadership Summit on September 11 and 12. The forum was held at the Lexington Lansing Hotel. The MFF is an association for the LGBT and ally organizations, a self-described "think tank" for LGBT issues in Michigan.

LGBT people representing groups from all over Michigan attended. There were seminars on Building Membership, Successful Collaborations and Creating Sustainability. Speakers included Jay Kaplan (ACLU), Alicia Skillman (Triangle Foundation) and Susan Horowitz (Between The Lines).

I had the incredible opportunity to share ideas with representatives from Detroit groups, KICK, SPICE and the GLBT Association of Middle Eastern Americans. There were also representatives from Houghton, Kalamazoo, Mt. Pleasant and Berrien County. In next month's newsletter I will share the specific concerns and goals of many of the LGBT organizations in Michigan.

Support

One of the most important items we talked about was how LGBT organizations tend to devalue themselves. How important is Perceptions to you? Many organizations have a small number of "boots on the ground," the members who actually do the work of the organization and then a

large number of "members" who want to have Perceptions exist but don't know how to help. Perhaps they want to remain in the background. That is fine, but then they must lend their support in other ways. Money is a good way of showing your organization that you want it to exist, that you believe in its value. Join as a paying member. Sponsor an event like the wine tasting. However much you can afford to do, do it. If you believe, as I do, that Perceptions has a real value to the Tri City Area.

Service . . . Can't donate money, donate your talent. Make calls or send emails for upcoming events. Come to a meeting, come to a dinner, come share yourself.

Service was an important word at this seminar. Can't donate money, donate your talent. Make calls or send emails for upcoming events. Serve your community. It makes you feel good.

The personal touch is always important. Come to a meeting, come to a dinner, come share yourself with others. Believe in what you are doing. Know that the LGBT community in our area is so important that it must not just exist but flourish, which it can only do with your support and service.

I wish I could bottle the enthusiasm and energy of the LGBT people and our allies at this event. Wonderful people, wonderful ideas. I know we have people just like them here, in the Tri Cities and I want you at our next event. Come meet the Perceptions board members and share with us your ideas, your money, because all organizations need that to exist, and your enthusiasm for making Perceptions an even greater organization than it is now. It is that valuable. Believe it!

AIDS Info Provided by September Speaker

by Jim Kleinsorge



Tom Brubaker was the speaker for our September 17th Friends and Members meeting.

Tom is the Outreach Coordinator for B.A.S.I.S. (Bay Area Social Intervention Services) which is a part of Sacred Heart Substance Abuse Treatment Center, based in Memphis, Michigan, just outside of Lapeer. BASIS has been affiliated with Sacred Heart since January of 2006. They have 8 locations and BASIS is the most northern of those. In

Tom's agency, there are currently 6 people. There are 3 case managers, a person who does prevention education, Tom as the Outreach Coordinator, and a housing specialist.

The AIDS care program at BASIS started in 1988 with just a few people, back when there were only 1 or 2 HIV meds on the market and the program

AIDS INFO continued from previous page

was more a form of support because Ryan White federal funding didn't come around until 1991. There were a lot of people dying from HIV/AIDS during that time. It was a matter of providing support and helping them get their affairs in order and being able to reach out to others. But that was only for the first couple of years. Once the federal money kicked in, in the form of the Ryan White Care Act, there were assistance programs available and everything really started to change. As new drugs were developed, people starting living longer.

Of the services the organization provides, one of the main things they do is care case management. They make sure clients get the medications they require and help them navigate through all the piles of paperwork necessary to get the help they need.

Another service they provide is a food pantry, which is available twice a month and includes non-perishable food items, fresh food vouchers, personal care items, and nutritional supplements.

HIV testing and prevention education is now being done in 5 locations in the area. They test at SVSU, Northwood University, East Side Soup Kitchen in Saginaw, Neighborhood House homeless shelter, in their main office in Bay City, and at their satellite office in Saginaw next to TV5. They do the most testing of any organization that does not receive funding for testing in the state of Michigan. Along with the testing, they also distribute educational materials and answer questions on HIV/AIDS, and make referrals to other area agencies.

Monthly support group meetings are also held, where a meal is served, a program or speaker is presented, and people are able to come together and meet others in the same situation. Many times they are rejected by friends and families, which is very heartbreaking, and the support group gives them a chance to reach out to others for support. The money raised at the AIDS Walk makes these meetings, and many other things, possible.

BASIS also maintains a 'client emergency fund.' This is used for things that other agencies are unable to assist with. It is a way for clients to get assistance when no other help is available and for those situations that are out of the ordinary, yet critical to their well-being.

It was evident right from the start how proud Tom is of their program, and rightly so. In this article, I can only scratch the surface of what services BASIS/Sacred Heart provides. Without their HIV testing and education, infection rates in our area would undoubtedly be higher. Without their compassionate care to the people living with HIV/AIDS, many people would not be able to get the much needed assistance that keeps them healthy. They are truly a lifeline to people living with HIV/AIDS in our area.

Stats and Trends

- In 2003 BASIS had 95 clients. Today they have over 150.
- There are over 18,000 Michigan residents living with HIV/AIDS, over 200 in Saginaw County, and about 360 in BASIS' coverage area.
- Its estimated that ¼ of those people don't know they have HIV because they haven't been tested, which means that potentially, 90 people in our area could be infected and not know it, spreading the virus in our area. That's why its so important for people to use prevention and know their partner's status before engaging in sex.
- Of their caseload, about 63% are gay men. This is a disease that directly impacts our community. Getting tested is SO important!
- The biggest threat with HIV/AIDS is complacency. Once we get lulled into a sense that we are getting a handle on the problem, that's when infection rates begin to rise. That's when we stop thinking about testing and prevention.

Tom can be contacted at BASIS at
(989) 894-2991.

This Doug's Life: Jared & Me

by Douglas Solosky



About 10 months ago, I advertised for a roomer. Jared, a 27 year old, ex-army man answered the ad. I interviewed him. We talked for about 45 minutes. I had really good vibes about this young man. He came on as honest, genuine and intelligent. We went over the rental contract. I told him what the rent was and when it was due. I also told him what his rent entitled him to: laundry, kitchen and garage usage. Then I told him, "I'm gay; if you have a problem with that now's the time to say so." His expression was surprise and quickly disappeared. He told me that he liked the arrangement but wanted to check out another place first and would let me know.

I said, "Why bother. You like this place, the rent is good and you're from a farm. What could be more ideal?"

"None the less, I told them I'd check it out," and he was off. Not more than 5 minutes later, he phoned and said, "You're right. I like the place and I'll take it."

He moved in 3 days later.

I made only one mistake. A close friend of mine, well versed in rentals, said to always ask if the potential renter has a job. I hadn't done that.

He never missed paying the rent on time.

He is a shy, introspective young man. He told me that he almost never carries on conversations with anyone. I felt complimented. We would talk for extended periods of time on numerous subjects. I pride myself as being a good listener.

I'm reminded of the time when he was doing a project for school. It had to do with the principle of the Frisbee. As we know, the Frisbee is thrown from one person to another. The lesson from the Professor was: imagine the Frisbee had 3 lights equal distance on its perimeter. With the use of small magnets producing an electric charge, demonstrate and explain how this procedure works.

The mathematics he used went over my head like a rocket. He said he had the entire math correct and yet the lights (small electric charges conducted to 3 "arms" at the perimeter of a makeshift Frisbee) would not work.

To produce these electrical charges, small magnets were employed. Every time he spun it, nothing happened. The magnets would go to the ends of the arms but would not come back. I suggested he drill a hole in the wood connecting the 3 arms and place a magnet in it thus drawing the other ones back to the center.

"I'll be darned. It works!"

On January 16th. I had a 3-way heart bypass. Jared

along with a number of the friends did all the lifting and hauling until I was more fit. On February 8th. I had renal failure. Had it not been for Jared, I'd be dead today. He called 911, kept my friends informed and saw to my "children" - my cats. My recovery from that, and other health related problems, was slow. As a result, several of my gay friends helped me. This afforded me the opportunity to introduce him to my "familiar," He took us all in with great alacrity.

Shortly before he was to depart for his home in the Thumb, we had a commemorative dinner in his honor. There were 12 of us in all. He was nervous and shy. At one point a man told of how he defended himself during an altercation. The story was quite lengthy and involved.

Jared was seated at the head of the table and the man to his left quietly said, "And he hit him with his purse." an expression that Jared had apparently never heard. He laughed out loud.

Later that evening, we were seated in the living room. Jared was sitting at the end of the couch and again the same man was seated beside him. The conversation centered on the fact that the host has a cat. The man said, "See, Jared, we don't always talk about sex we talk about pussy, too." Jared laughed so hard I thought he was going to fall off the couch.

Jared left for his home in the Thumb. I thought I'd never see nor hear from him again. Four weeks ago he called and asked if he could stay at my place. He had signed up for summer classes at Delta and needed a place to stay. Of course I said yes.

In lieu of rent, he has agreed to do work around my place. Due to my health, I've been unable to do what was necessary. His help has been invaluable.

His classes are over on August 13th at which time he said he'd be leaving. "Oh no your not! You have to stay for my annual party on the 15th. There will be a number of people wanting to see you."

He'll be here.

This, his second stay has been wonderful. We talk, watch T.V., go to restaurants and generally enjoy each other's company, that is of course when he's not in class or studying.

It is a most wondrous thing. Those on the outside think us in the gay community are only interested in sex. The mere thought of us having a close friendship with a straight person is an anathema to them. That could not be further from the truth.

When talking about the Gay Community, Jared said, "It's just a different culture."

Third Annual Wine Tasting

Saturday, October 17th at 7:00 pm.

Our venue is the beautifully restored, historic **Pere Marquette Depot** in downtown Bay City. The Depot, originally opened in March 1904, was listed on the National Register of Historic Structures in 1982.



Listen to live music while **Oppermann's Cork 'N' Ale** introduces you to a variety of fine wines. The wine steward will describe each wine, offer serving suggestions and answer questions. A selection of cheese, fruit & light hors d'oeuvres will be served to complement the wines.



<http://PerceptionsSV.org/WineTasting>

Proceeds will benefit the work of PFLAG Tri-Cities and Perceptions Saginaw Valley. Both are 501(c)(3) organizations.



- Sample a variety of wines from Oppermann's Cork 'N' Ale
- Cheese, fruit and light hors d'oeuvres served to complement the wines.
- Place an order for your favorite wines at special discount pricing for attendees.
- Live music by the acoustic trio "Michaels Pie"

Advance Tickets \$25

For Additional Information:

Phone: 989-891-1429

Email: info@PerceptionsSV.org

Attorney To Speak in October



Kimberly J. Hornik is a resident of Grand Blanc, Michigan. Originally from Florida, Kimberly received her Bachelor's degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and her Juris Doctorate from The Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

She is admitted to the Michigan bar and is licensed to practice in Michigan. She is a member of the Genesee County Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She has a solo practice in Grand Blanc, Michigan, and serves clients in the surrounding areas.

She resides in Grand Blanc with her partner Kathleen and their 9-year-old son Matthew. In her spare time she serves on the board of the Grand Blanc Youth Football League.

Kimberly will be discussing legal issues caused by the inability of same-sex couples to legally marry, how legal documents can be used to memorialize the relationship and how courts may limit enforcement of those documents.

Please join us at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 15th to hear Kimberly's discussion at the Perceptions General Membership Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of St. John's Episcopal Church, **123 N. Michigan Ave.**, Saginaw. All are welcome. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

