

# Perceptions

## Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City area LGBT Community



November 2009

## A Time to Gather and Give Thanks

by Jim Kleinsorge

Perceptions will be holding its annual Thanksgiving potluck and food drive this year on November 19<sup>th</sup> at St. John Episcopal Church in Saginaw. This has been our most attended meeting of the year for several years now. It's a time to gather and share a meal and some fun activities with your Perceptions friends, while also helping give assistance to others who are less fortunate. This year, the recipient of our food drive will be Saginaw's **East Side Soup kitchen**. There will be a representative on hand to share with us what services they provide and how they help our local community. Please join us for a wonderful evening of food, fun, and fellowship. A dish to pass is optional and anything you can donate to the Soup Kitchen will be greatly appreciated. Here is a 'wish list' of things that are needed to allow them to provide the outstanding services they offer:



Canned Vegetables   Canned Fruit

Green Beans  
Corn  
Peas

Peaches  
Pears  
Fruit Cocktail



Gift Certificates for Sam's Club, Meijer's or Gordon Foods.

Monetary donations are also welcomed.

Pork & Beans  
Mixed Vegetables  
Yams/Sweet Potatoes



Soups



Tuna

Tuna and/or Salmon Chicken Noodle  
Vegetables  
Coffee



Beef Noodle  
Packaged cookies  
Applesauce



### Perceptions Saginaw Valley

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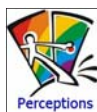
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**Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering GLBT individuals and their community**

For Additional Information:

Phone: 989-891-1429

Email: [info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto: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.

## Attorney Kimberly Hornik informs members about GLBT legal issues

by Roger M.

Attorney Kimberly Hornik visited Perceptions as our October speaker. She provided us with a wealth of information concerning legal issues faced by same-sex couples in the State of Michigan.

In Michigan there is no same-sex couple recognition and no protection from the law. Same-sex couples are not allowed to marry or co-adopt and do not have legal rights. Fortunately, there are things that can be done legally to ensure that everything is done the way you want. Unfortunately, statistics show 7 out of 10 Americans do not have a will, or trust in place. The cost of a will, or trust is a couple hundred dollars and up, depending on its complexity. It's a relatively small price to pay and well worth it, otherwise the State will take over and make the decisions regarding your estate. Having a will, or trust is something many people avoid doing. It's very important to have one in place whether you are partnered or single. It can avoid a lot of grief/hassles in the future and make sure everything is done according to YOUR wishes.



October speaker Kimberly Hornik

## Plea accepted in Darr Murder

by Tana Michaels



October 7, 2009 marked the end of an over 2 year journey for justice in the death of Perceptions member Charles "Chuck" Darr when Saginaw Judge Fred L. Borchard accepted the plea of Michael S. Kerr, the man accused of the murder. Kerr will serve 25 to 50 years with credit for time served for the murder charge, 10 to 20 years for the arson charge, and 23 to 50 years for the carjacking charge. Kerr will serve the sentences concurrently.

**Want to know more? Check out these websites 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

<http://www.perceptionssv.org/newsletter/2009-10.pdf>

page 4

[http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2009/10/judge\\_sentences\\_michael\\_kerr\\_t.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2009/10/judge_sentences_michael_kerr_t.html)

# Perceptions/PFLAG 3rd Annual Wine Tasting Success

by Alan Shinaver

Just what is a wine tasting? What should I expect if I were to attend next year's event? Is this something I would enjoy? Good questions that I am sure some are too timid to ask. I have to admit, I turned down a few invitations for wine tastings in the past. I didn't think that I liked wine. I wasn't sure what to expect, or if I would enjoy it at all. I have since become a fan, and have discovered a fondness for those sweet white dessert wines.



Well, there's food! No one told me that before, and (as those who know me are aware) I am all about good food. The first wine tasting I attended was a huge event at the Midland Center for the Arts. There was food everywhere and wine booths where samples of different wines were being served and described by wine experts. Some I liked, some I politely spat into the receptacle provided for unwanted wine. I was surprised that I actually enjoyed the evening, and more surprised that there were wines that I actually liked!

Our event is a bit smaller scale than that at the MCA, but entirely as enjoyable, and there is food (I make sure of that). Attending our event you can expect to check in at the registration table, obtain a wine glass and a wine list with descriptions and event wine prices. You will help yourself to a buffet of cheese and snacks, and as the wine tasting begins, the wine steward will come around and fill your glass about one third with the first wine as a description of the wine is announced to the crowd. Mingle, mingle, sip, nibble, sip, mingle and appreciate the live music. Then, it begins again with the next wine selection, and so on through the evening until all six wines have been tried. You have an acute sense of pleasure (I don't think it is just the wine) and a feel-

ing that your evening was spent satisfactorily. You may choose to purchase a bottle of your favorite right then and there, or you may take the order sheet home with you to consider your selections. It is just an enjoyable evening well spent with friends, both known and new.

Attendance at the third annual wine tasting hosted by Perceptions and PFLAG showed an increase over the past two years, marking this event another successful venture. The wine tasting event was held at the beautifully restored Pere Marquette Depot in Downtown Bay City on the evening of Saturday, October 12, 2009 from 7 until 9 p.m..

Cork and Ale from Saginaw Township, once more, served as the wine stewards for the evening, providing six varieties of wine ranging from mellow reds to sweet dessert whites. A large selection of domestic and imported cheeses accompanied by assorted crackers, fruits, warm dips, and sweet treats pleased a crowd of over seventy in attendance.

As guests mingled, nibbled, and sipped, they were entertained by the soothing and mellow music of Michael's Pie as the trio (Tana, Carolyn and Diane) performed their acoustic selections which set a perfect mood for the evening.

# *Perceptions 8th Annual Holiday Party and Charity Auction*



*Saturday, December 12th  
Bay Valley Resort.*

*The Resort is centrally located for the Tri-Cities area, just off I-75 at the M-84 exit.  
Hotel room discounts for party attendees!*

*Advance tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at [www.PerceptionsSV.org/HolidayParty](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org/HolidayParty)*

*Please plan to attend and help us make this the biggest and best Holiday Party yet.*



*We can really use your help in soliciting and collecting donations for the Charity Auction. If you're willing to make a donation or if you know of an area business that would make a contribution, please contact us at 989-891-1429 or [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org).*

*Proceeds of the Charity Auction will benefit the Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund has so far awarded two scholarships to local individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting respect and equality for all forms of diversity, including race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. The next scholarship will be awarded in May 2010.*



## Current Events

**Nov 4, 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.

**Nov 5, 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](mailto:davidy513@hotmail.com). The group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry.

**Nov 6, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Savoy Bar & Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Nov 8, Sun - Genessee County PFLAG Meeting 2:00 – 4:30pm.** "Transgender 101 and How to be a Good Ally." The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#)

**Nov 10, Tue - 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](mailto:erin.moers@yahoo.com)) or Rev. Wayne Nicholson (989-773-7448).

**Nov 11, 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](mailto:rebecca@perceptionsSV.org). This event will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month.

**Nov 11, 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 2nd Wednesday of each month.

**Nov 12, 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. For meeting location or if you have any questions, contact [Rev. KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev.KathyV@yahoo.com) or 989-493-6866

**Nov 13, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Café American, [1525 Washington St.](#), Midland. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Nov 17, 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](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org)

**Nov 18, Wed - D.L.I.M. Women's Room II 6:00 pm.** Women's Room II is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. Meeting at Magic Bean Café, Saginaw. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy 989-493-6866 or [Rev. KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**Nov 19, Thur - Perceptions General Meeting 7:00 pm.** St John's Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#), Saginaw. Annual Potluck and Food Drive. A dish to pass is optional and everyone is welcome. Donations to the Food Drive will benefit the East Side Soup Kitchen of Saginaw. See article on page 1.

**Nov 20, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Chen's Mongolian BBQ, [4837 Bay Road](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Nov 22, Sun. PFLAG Meeting 2:00 pm.** UU Fellowship of Midland, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#)

**Nov 26, Thur - Thanksgiving**

**Nov 27, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** G's Pizzeria & Deli, [1005 Saginaw St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Dec. 1 - World AIDS Day** BASIS/Sacred Heart AIDS Care Program will host a candlelight service at Andersen Enrichment Center in Saginaw. All are welcome.

**Be informed about upcoming events**

Simply send a blank email to:

[PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

# NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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## This Doug's Life: Twilight

by Douglas Solosky



Now that I'm in the twilight of my life, the chances of meeting someone and having a lasting relationship are fading. I've been looking for the last 5 years and nothing has materialized, not even from Silver Daddies.

Oh, I've had my respites. One night stands. But, that is not the same as having someone in my life. Several times I thought I'd found someone only to be disappointed.

Then, Jared, a 27 year-old Delta college student came into my life. He rented a room from me and at first was not all that communicative. As time went by, he loosened up. Ultimately, we became good friends, watched TV together, shot the breeze and played the piano. He learned *Lean On Me*, by Bill Withers and proceeded to teach me how to play it. We even played duets. He'd play the right hand and I'd play the left. We were bonding. He is straight and I'm gay. That did not bother him. In fact, he embraced the camaraderie of our group wholeheartedly.

He has left for the Thumb where he lives. His summer classes at Delta are over. This fall he is going to Farris State to pursue a degree in Manufacturing Industrial Technology.

The Sunday he left was bitter sweet. He had helped me with my picnic. In fact he had done about 80% of the work. I was happy for the help and sad to see him leave. That night, I knew I would not sleep. I took 2 Sominex, an over the counter sleep aid. The next morning I was sad. I'd become used to his company. I sat on my chair alone again - a little depressed wondering what I was going to do that day. Being a self-starter, I immersed myself in chores, played the piano, watched TV and wept a little.

His leaving brought back memories of Don, my partner; of the joys we experienced, our life together.

A friend I met in A.A. told me I was the type of person who needed someone in his life. I'd just moved out of my mother's house and was renting the small bedroom in his mobile home. At first I thought he was wrong, but time has proven him right.

My health has been anything but good in the last 7 months: bypass surgery, renal shut down and now a double inguinal hernia. In fact if it had not been for Jared, I'd most likely be dead today. He called 911 when I had my renal shut down. I was out of it for 3 days and 3 nights.

I wake up each morning wondering what I'm going to do that day - a little sad, a little depressed. It would be so much nicer if that day included someone in my life. Apparently that is not meant to be. I've pretty much given up on finding someone. I still see the glass as half full, not half empty, with a good sense of humor I'm sure I'll get by.

**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](http://www.facebook.com).**



**The Perceptions SV Transgender Group has opened its Yahoo Group to anyone who wishes to join whether TG, friend, family, ally, or simply those who desire to learn more about TG issues. Those who want to join can do so at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSVTG/>.**

# 2009 AIDS Walk Michigan

by Jim Kleinsorge

**Just a note to once again thank you so much for Perceptions' support of the AIDS Care Program through AIDS WALK Bay City Midland Saginaw both as a sponsor at the \$500 level and the participation of your walk team. We would especially like to thank Jim Kleinsorge for organizing your walk team, as well as Chas and Michael for holding the yard sale in May to raise funds toward your sponsorship.**

**We had another very successful AIDS Walk with a total of \$41,623 raised – the most dollars raised this year among the seven participating cities in AIDS Walk Michigan. These funds will provide vital support services for the 150 clients we serve in the AIDS Care Program at BASIS Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center.**

**We hope that you will partner with us again in 2010 as an AIDS Walk sponsor.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**Tom Brubaker,  
Coordinator,  
AIDS Walk Michigan**

The 2009 AIDS Walk was a great success again this year! Although overcast skies loomed, the rain stayed away, and 331 walkers attended and raised \$41,623 to fight HIV/AIDS in our area. The Perceptions team raised a total of \$780 along with a sponsorship of \$500. **Great job team!** Also, congratulations to Kevin Appold for being this year's top fundraiser and the Dow Employees Family and Friends team for being the top fundraising team! Thank you to all those who walked, those who donated, and those that volunteered their time and resources to make this great event happen. A special thanks goes to Tom Brubaker for coordinating the Walk and making it such a success! Please show Tom your appreciation by planning on participating in the 2010 Michigan AIDS Walk.



Tom Brubaker with Perceptions chair, Alan Shinaver

