

# Perceptions

Saginaw Valley

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community



Free

February 2010

## Board Elections

Results, Page 2

### Meet the New Board Members

Rick Farrand, Page 5

Randy Hasso, Page 8



Above: Jim Kleinsorge (left) hands out ballots at the General Membership Meeting, where Rick Farrand (right) and Randy Hasso (not pictured) were elected to their first term on the Board.

#### Features:

Election Results	2
AIDS Forum Set for February 16th	2
2010 Letter from the Chair	3
Bernadette Brown to Speak	5
Rick Farrand Joins the Board	5
This Doug's Life	6
Scholarship Acknowledgements	7
Randy Hasso Joins the Board	8
Membership Statistics	8
Job Announcement	11
Between the Lines Fundraiser	11
<b>Also Inside:</b>	
Announcements	5
Current Events	9
Calendar	10
From the Editor	11

*Perceptions*  
Saginaw Valley  
P.O. Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641  
989-891-1429  
[www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

*EDITOR*  
Brent Theisen  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

*AD SALES*  
[Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)

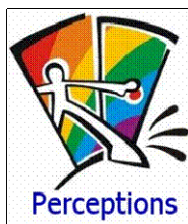
*Print Distribution*  
Jim Kleinsorge  
[Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org)

*Webmaster*  
[Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)

*LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

*SUBMISSIONS* are always  
welcome. Write to:  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

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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.

## Perceptions Board for 2010



The new board and its advisors: (Clockwise from top left) Brent Theisen, Nathan Brown, Roger Majeske, Rick Farrand, Jim Kleinsorge, Tim Atkinson, Brian Carstensen, Terri Jackson, Tom Brubaker, Alan Shinaver, Randy Hasso and Douglas Solosky. Not Pictured: Kay Sural, Gary Knight and Leo Romo.

Elections for Board members were held on Thursday, January 21st. Elected for a one year term: Rick Farrand. A two year term went to: Randy Hasso. Meanwhile, Kay Sural, Jim Kleinsorge, Alan Shinaver and Tim Atkinson were reelected for 3 year terms. We the Board are grateful to all those who contribute to Perceptions with their volunteerism. Without them, there would be no Perceptions. Thank you.

—Douglas D. Solosky  
(Perceptions Trustee)

### “Community Conversation” Forum Offers Gay Men Input on HIV and Prevention Services

*Tom Brubaker*

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Michigan Department of Community Health invites all gay men in Saginaw County to attend a forum to share their concerns regarding HIV, and offer ideas for improving services currently being delivered to reduce HIV infection rates. The forum, **Community Conversation**, will take place at the Andersen Enrichment Center on **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m.** This free event will feature door prizes, food catered by The Savoy Restaurant, and a raffle. In Michigan, over 18,000 people are infected with HIV/AIDS. Of those cases, 14,000 are men, and of those cases, the number of gay men – 50% !!!

**Your input is needed!!!**

If you would like to attend, please e-mail Tom Brubaker at  
[tbrubaker@sacredheartcenter.com](mailto:tbrubaker@sacredheartcenter.com)

# 2010 Letter From the Chair

[Alan Shinaver](#)

In retrospect, 2009 has been another year of growth for Perceptions as an organization, both in size and scope. Our scholarship is now endowed through the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#). By legal regulation, we had three years to contribute a minimum of \$10,000.00 to build the fund. Had we not contributed the full \$10,000.00 in the three year allotment, we would have had to give up whatever amount we had deposited. We met that requirement in only 15 months.

Perceptions Transgender group meets monthly. Their meetings and their [Yahoo Group](#) are open to all interested persons. Erin Moers headed up our Speakers Bureau this year, engaging in educational talks helping the general community better understand issues within our community.

Board Trustee Nathan Brown set up a [Facebook](#) site for Perceptions. This site allows Perceptions to reach out to a greater audience and gives people another outlet for learning more about the organization and our events.

One of our most profitable chocolate parties to date, hosts Kevin and Bill go over the top to make this event a huge success. They will be hosting again this year, so mark your calendars for March 13 and keep watching Perceptions publications for further details.

The Alma College GSA students put together an amateur drag show to benefit the Perceptions Scholarship. A number of Perceptions members caravanned to Alma to give support and enjoy the show. They managed to raise \$221.00.

The garage sale has been an annual event for a few years now. Not only has it raised funds to support our sponsorship of the annual AIDS Walk, it has introduced a lot of people to Perceptions as an organization. It is a worthy event for more reasons than raising funds.

The Pride banquet; what an incredible success! Leo Romo worked diligently on this project. Being a new venture, it was not in our budget, but Leo, being Leo, managed to create an elegant, well planned and perfectly executed evening at the Anderson Enrichment Center. The Savoy catered the meals and the wines were provided by Oppermann's Cork and Ale. Kudos aren't enough. This was an incredible evening, a sold out event and a lot of hard work for Leo!

Terry Zajac's gardens continue to amaze and enthrall visitors. Terry has graciously opened his home and gardens for a number of years to Perceptions and PFLAG for an annual fundraising event. And not only are there pleasures for the eye, but always a huge variety of wonderful treats supplied by the members of both Perceptions and PFLAG for this event.

[Camp Out Michigan](#)'s annual bike tour selected Perceptions Scholarship fund as its designated charitable cause this year. The event, although rainy, didn't dampen the spirit or generosity of the campers. Nearly \$600 was donated this year.



**(Continued on Next Page)**

### Letter From the Chair (Continued)

A new event this summer, chaired by Joy and Becky, took us kayaking and picnicking at Haithco Park in Saginaw Township. What a great park! I had no idea it was so nice and so near by! Those who attended had a great meal and good times. It was a beautiful day for a picnic.

Rick Farrand has continued the task of organizing the Adopt A Highway program for the past two years and he's done a great job of it. The task can be a lot of fun on a good day, and the camaraderie built through working together is a bonus...as is the picnic at Rick's afterword.

Garnet Lewis offered to host a summer picnic for Perceptions friends and members two years ago while she was running for a political office. She enjoyed it so much she decided to make it an annual event. There are always new faces, lots of food, smiles and conversation. We've come a long way from the days when Perceptions shut down from June through September!

Thank you to Kay and Allison for making the arrangements for a day at the Dow Diamond. Baseball, entertainment, and my favorite: stadium food! It was a fun event, and I hope that we have another Dow Diamond outing this summer.

The wine tasting had to find a new venue this year. We needed a building with enough space to hold us, enough draw to attract people and enough convenience to make it easy for everyone. The Pere Marquette Depot, newly restored and remodeled fit the bill perfectly. PFLAG members helped staff the kitchen, Michaels Pie entertained, Oppermann's Cork and Ale provided the wine and everyone had a wonderful evening.

The annual AIDS Walk headed by Tom Brubaker was another huge success this year. Tom is a great organizer. Perceptions had a great team representing us this year and the weather was perfect for walking. Perceptions is proud to be able to continue to support the local AIDS Walk.

Another of Tom Brubaker's successes is the Men's Discussion Group. 2009 marked the third year for this group where men gather together in support to discuss ideas or concerns, ask questions you just can't ask anyone else, and support one another when in need. Congratulations for the successes.

Friday night dinners continue to be popular for reconnecting with friends, meeting new people, enjoying conversation, good food and friendships. Thanks to Jim for organizing this event each week.

Our annual November Potluck and Food Drive went well. I had to work this year and missed most of this evening, but the scraps I was able to scrape up when I arrived were most delicious. I understand that we had a generous food donation for [East Side Soup Kitchen](#) that was well received.

The 2009 Annual Holiday Party and Charity Auction was held this year at Bay Valley Resort. I know that I had a wonderful evening, and have heard a lot of positive comments about this year's event. It is a great way to start off the holiday season with friends and family. Again this year we had a number of attendees from across the state.

2009 has been a great year for this organization; I am sure I probably overlooked or missed something, but what a list! The year was full of challenges and rewards. It is hard for me to fathom that there is anyone in our community who could not find some Perceptions offering that appeals to them. We continue, as an organization, to learn, grow and change with the malleable needs of our community. Perceptions volunteers make all of this a reality for each of us. They are a remarkable team, doing incredible, selfless service for the community.

Thank you to all who said "I'll do it!" Because you made this past year the success that it was.

## Bernadette Brown to Speak About “Issues Facing the LGBT Communities in 2010”

Bernadette Brown will speak at the Perceptions General Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw. Bernadette was born and raised in Detroit and joined the [Triangle Foundation](#) as the Director of Policy in August 2008. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Columbia University, graduating on the Dean's List and was a two-time recipient of the Robert A. Quittmeyer Scholar Award. While at Columbia, she collaborated with a nurse-midwife on the creation of a postpartum support program for low income women in Harlem, NY and completed a fellowship at Latino Family Services in Detroit, where she worked as a youth counselor.



Bernadette received her Juris Doctorate from Boston University School of Law, and was an Edward F. Hennessey Scholar. While in law school, Bernadette was a Student Advocate for Ending Domestic Violence and a member of Out-law, BUSL's LGBT student organization. She completed an internship with Judy Norsigian at the Boston Women's Health Book Collective, where she researched legislation on reproductive cloning and pharmaceutical direct-to-consumer advertising. She worked with Massachusetts Representative Kathleen Teahan and drafted legislation to protect a parent's right to refuse to administer ADHD medications to his/her child. At law school, Bernadette was one of the lucky few people allowed admittance to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to witness the oral argument in the landmark case that legalized same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. Bernadette became a public defender with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and was an attorney in the Litigation Department at the prestigious law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, in New York City. Bernadette is a member of the New York State Bar Association. For a more complete biography of Bernadette Brown or for more information on the Triangle Foundation visit <http://www.tri.org/>



### New Board Member Rick Farrand

*Each potential nominee for the board was asked to submit a bio explaining how they could make an impact on Perceptions. The following excerpt is from Rick Farrand's submission:*

“Being on the board and part of a great team would be an honor, and I hope I could help make a positive difference for the LGBT Community. I have been a paid member with Perceptions since the group first started, and look forward to going the distance with the group. I have been more of an active member the last couple of years and have enjoyed working on the different projects I have been involved in, such as Highway Clean-up and the Activities Committee. I hope that I can be an active board member and hopefully we can all grow and learn together, so that we can all make a difference.”

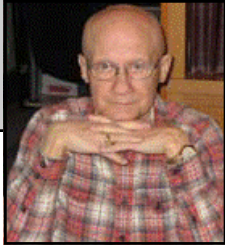
**Above:** Rick at one of the Highway Clean-ups that he has organized over the past two years. After the clean-up, the participants usually gather for a picnic at Rick's home.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin and Bill will once again graciously host the **Chocolate Party** at the historic [Wolfarth House](#) in Saginaw. The date is set for **Saturday, March 13**. If you haven't attended a PFLAG/Perceptions chocolate party, you're in for a treat, literally, as the theme is chocolate. There will be an abundance to go around, so come and indulge your sweet tooth and support a worthy cause, as you enjoy touring this beautifully restored 1893 Queen Anne Victorian home. More details to come next month.

**February 7th is Black AIDS Awareness Day.** This year's theme is “HIV/AIDS Prevention—A Choice and a Lifestyle.” No local events had been determined at press time. Keep watching the Current Events page at [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org) for announcements. For more information go to [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org). Get educated. Get tested. Get involved. Get treated. For local testing and other information call

BASIS/Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center 989-894-2991  
The Hearth Home/Heath Delivery, 989-753-9011  
Saginaw Co. Health Dept., 989-758-3880



## THIS DOUG'S LIFE

by Doug Solosky

### “Articulating My Thoughts” PART I

On Sunday, October 26, 2008, I gave a speech to PFLAG at the UU church in Midland. I was asked to speak about my life as a gay senior. (I was 74.) At first, I didn't know where to start. Should I tell of Don and our experiences when we were together? About how I felt after his death? What it's like to be gay in a straight world? Then I remembered what I said to a close friend with a similar question. I told him, “Give your speech chronologically.” So here goes.

When we were born, my twin and I weighed only 3 lbs. and 2 lbs. respectively. We were born at home and Ma had a helper from the old country (Poland), named Lena Washoleski. At first, neither he nor I would nurse and Ma was afraid that we might starve to death. Lena told her to give us a highly weakened solution of whiskey and water to sharpen our appetites. It worked and for the first time in a week, or so I was told, we slept. But not without some concern on Ma's part. Because Thomas and I were so small, Ma had us in bed with her for body warmth. That night she woke up screaming, “They're dead!” Lena came in and said, “Let me look at them. Hell, they're not dead. They're asleep!”

So began the first days of my life.

Pa would come home after working a 16-hour day in his grocery store. Back in the late 30's and early 40's, you worked long days if you expected to succeed. He would make a lot of noise coming home and Ma would say, “Leo, be quiet. You'll wake up the kids.” He did quiet down but by then the ‘damage’ was done. Thom and I were up and in the kitchen. Pa would have us sit down at the kitchen table, give us a small cheese spread, a glass of beer, some pickled bologna, cheddar cheese and crackers - it was wonderful!

Later, when I was in grade school, I began drinking an average of 2 beers a week. Pa always had beer in the refrigerator and let his 5 sons have some anytime they wanted. By the time I reached high school, I was up to 48 bottles of beer a week.

You are probably wondering why I've brought up my alcoholism. It wasn't until I was to give my speech that I realized that I had been in denial about my sexuality. All through my formative years I was attracted to boys. Being

raised in a Catholic family where these kinds of thoughts were considered sinful, I found it easier to be at peace with myself knowing I could relax with booze.

One day my mother said about Thom and me, “Boy, are you boys queer!” I thought, “Oh my God, she knows.” I found out the use of “queer” then meant different, not homosexual.

My drinking continued to escalate until I was drinking a 5th of whiskey, a 5th of wine and a 6 pack of 16 ounce bottles of beer a day. To add to my problem, I worked in my brother's liquor store. He was also an alcoholic. (He died from a massive coronary arrest at age 69.) I had access to all the booze I could want while working in his store.

My drinking continued to grow until one day I experienced delirium tremors, or D.T.s. Eventually, I saw a Psychiatrist, about my drinking problem, not my sexuality. On that subject, he was not helpful at all. But curiously, he explained why I have no ability for time reference. To me, something that happened 15 years ago might just as well have happened yesterday. And, something that took place yesterday seems to have taken place at an earlier time.

It turned out he was a Neural Psychiatrist. He explained that the small amounts of whiskey I was given as an infant and my equally small premature size (I was one month early) caused the engrams (that part of the brain that stores thoughts) to burn out.

Later, I admitted myself to St. Luke's Hospital Ward A for alcoholics for 10 days. That didn't help a whole lot either. Finally, I entered A.A. where I remained for 5 years. By then, I was in my early 30's

It was there that I met Don Murray. I rented a room in his mobile home. After a few months, he told me, “There are people who can live alone and be perfectly happy, and there are those who need someone in their lives. You need someone.” Although he and I did not stay together, that thought stayed with me.

Shortly after that I bought a mobile home of my own.

To this day, I don't remember how I came to be sent to Don's house in Midland. For want of a better

explanation, I chalk it up to a form of an alcoholic black out. I spent the night and upon leaving for work the next morning, I saw him standing in the doorway. The look on his face can only be described as wonderful. He was 25 and I was 34. I decided there and then that he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. He was kind, gentle and genuine. I pursued him relentlessly. We moved into my mobile home shortly after that and were together for the next 36 years.

Our life was sort of mundane. Not a whole lot happened. We never went to a movie, restaurant, or the theater. He was an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse). I worked at Giant Super Market in Mt. Pleasant. One day, when I came home, he was there when he should have been at work. He told me he'd quit. Without so much as a hiccup, I took on the role of the "bread winner" and he the

"home maker." Eventually we moved to where I live now. We opened an Antique Shop. It was there that Don blossomed. An inveterate reader with great recall, he did the research, pricing, and furniture stripping and refinishing. We had 535 reference books. He knew where to find almost anything in all of them. Me? I would take hours to find something.

When we visited my mother she would call me Don and him Doug. We would correct her and she'd say, "What difference does it make. You're like two peas in a pod."

**"Articulating My Thoughts" will conclude  
in the March 2010 Newsletter**

## Perceptions Wishes to Thank Scholarship Donors

*Tim A.*

2010 will mark the third year that the Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship has been awarded. The deadline to apply for this year's scholarship was February 1st. Each applicant must demonstrate a commitment to promoting respect and acceptance of diversity across all borders including race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. They must also write an essay telling how they currently promote respect and acceptance in their community and how they will continue this work throughout their life. The essay is worth 50% of their total score.

The scholarship committee is looking for volunteers to score the applications. If you'd be willing to volunteer to read the essays and score the applications, please contact [Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org). Volunteers must sign an affidavit that they do not have a conflict of interest due to a relationship with any of the applicants.

This year, we will award at least \$1,000 in scholarships. As of this writing, the exact amount has not been determined and depends on the income that our endowment fund earns. We may be able to award scholarships to two individuals. Our awards were \$500 each of the first two years.

Perceptions would like to acknowledge all of the people who donated directly to the scholarship fund in 2009.

Alma College Pride	Paul Hayes
Anonymous Donors	Elizabeth Kreston
Floyd Andrick	Charles F. Laundra
Tim Atkinson	Mike Mercer
Pamela Blondin (in honor of Leo Romo)	Gretchen Sauvage
Camp Out Michigan	John Stratton
Jay & Leisa Crane	John Truitt
Alan Harrow	

Thanks to the generous support of donors like these, nearly \$16,000 has been contributed to our scholarship fund at the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#) and we have a permanently endowed scholarship fund that will continue to award scholarships to deserving students every year.

# A Little Bit About Randy Hasso

*Brent Theisen*

If you already know Randy Hasso, you know that he will bring a great deal of personal and professional experience to the Perceptions board. From working on his family farm as a child, to his three years in the Peace Corps, to owning his own party store, Randy has had a full life. Now he plans to continue his service to the LGBT community by serving as one of two new board members who were elected this January.

Randy's father was a commercial fisherman in the sixties, and he remembers helping him make fishing nets growing up. He helped plant Christmas trees on the farm every Easter and sold them in Pinconning and Bay City every Fall. He also worked summers picking pickles along side migrant workers to earn money that paid for his education at MSU, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture.

Next came the Peace Corps, where he spent almost three years in Tunisia, North Africa. Randy says that he "started a class at a school in Bizerte, Tunisia for handicapped children. I taught them how to plant and maintain a garden, raise rabbits and build hutches for them, raise chickens for meat and eggs. I also learned the Arabic language, Tunisian dialect while living in the Sahara desert, no one spoke English."

Randy went on to own the Short Stop Depot party store for 20 years, where he learned to do payroll, hiring, ordering and many other things. Three years at Walmart followed. He was also quite active in Dignity, a local LGBT group that was around in the eighties. He continues to serve the LGBT community by volunteering for the things like the AIDS Walk, Highway Cleanup, and Pride Banquet. Perceptions is lucky to have him on the board.



Randy at the 2009 AIDS Walk

## Perceptions Stats At A Glance



Farthest	Ann Arbor, MI
In State	89
Out of State	0
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>89</b>
Oldest Member	76 (x2)
Youngest Member	21 (x2)
Average age of Perceptions Members	<b>49.42</b>
# of people in Perceptions Database	722
# of People in Perceptions Yahoo Group	596



Male 67%    Female 26%    Transgender 7%

Saginaw 49% - Bay 28% - Midland 18% - Other Counties 5%

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Number of Members</b>					
53	74	92	108	103	89
<b>Average Age</b>					
56.88	56.07	52.78	52.38	52.57	49.42

### # of 2010 Members (so far)

**35**





## CURRENT EVENTS

### **Feb 3rd, Wed - Saginaw Meet & Greet 7:00 - 9:00 pm.**

An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. Join us at the **Magic Bean Cafe**, [5789 State Street](#). All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones. Enjoy hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment.

### **Feb 4th, Thurs. Men's Friendship Room 7:00 pm.**

Designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization, Men's Friendship Room meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact David at 989-771-9721 or [DavidY513@hotmail.com](mailto:DavidY513@hotmail.com). The group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry but is not a religious gathering.

**Feb 5th- Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at the **Savoy Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

### **Feb 10th, Wed. - Freeland Meet & Greet**

**6:00 to 8:00 pm.** Join us at **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

### **February 10th, Wednesday - Perceptions**

**Transgender Group 6:00 pm.** Meeting at The Mixx / Metro Grille, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw, the group offers an informal gathering, taking a more lighthearted 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).

**Feb 12th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **El Mexicano**, [3593 Center Ave.](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

### **Feb 14th, Sunday - "Standing on the Side of Love"**

**10:30 am.** Service at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#) UU Congregations across the country on Feb 14th are considering what it means to take a moral stance in favor of marriage equality. This requires more than favoring equality privately in our hearts. It means witnessing boldly in our families and schools and work places, in Lansing and the halls of Congress. After the service you are invited to convene to explore shared aspirations and commitment.

### **Feb. 14th, Sun. - Genessee Co. PFLAG Meeting**

**2:00 - 4:30 pm.** Discussion of domestic violence and sexual assault in the LGBT community. The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#)

### **Feb 16th, Tues - Community Conversation**

**6:00 to 9:00 pm.** Andersen Enrichment Center, [120 Ezra Rust Dr.](#), Saginaw, The Michigan Dept of Community Health is hosting a gathering to discuss the prevention of AIDS among men who have sex with men. There will be food, door prizes and a raffle. If you would like to attend, please contact Tom Brubaker at [tbrubaker@sacredheartcenter.com](mailto:tbrubaker@sacredheartcenter.com)

### **February 17th, Wednesday - DLIM's Women's**

**Group 6:00 pm.** Womyn'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 989-401-2348 or [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com). The Group is sponsored by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry but is not a religious gathering.

### **February 18th, Thursday - Perceptions General**

**Membership Meeting 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** Bernadette Brown of the [Triangle Foundation](#) will speak. St. John's Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#), Saginaw. All are welcome.

**Feb 19th- Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Harvey's Grill & Bar**, [3055 Tittabawassee Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**Feb. 19th, Friday - BTL's Mardi Gras Party 7:00 pm.** Benefit for Between The Lines newspaper. Tickets \$75. The Roostertail, Detroit. <http://bit.ly/7Q4gh7>

**Feb 26th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Lone Star Steakhouse**, [2255 Tittabawassee Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

### **Feb 28th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm.**

The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, [6220 Jefferson Ave.](#), Midland.

### **Be informed about upcoming events**

**Simply send a blank email to:**

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

**NOTES:** The February meeting of Perceptions Men's Discussion Group has been cancelled so that participants may attend the special Community Conversation on HIV/AIDS. DLIM's Disabled LGBT Support Group will not meet in February, but meetings will resume in March.

# FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Michigan Fairness Forum Seeks a Project Manager**

Interested applicants for this half-time independent-contract position should submit a resume with references and a cover letter (via email only) by February 8th to Pat Horton at [hobay810@charter.net](mailto:hobay810@charter.net). The selection committee will bring the top candidates before the Fairness Forum Board on February 20th with an expectation of hiring by March 1st.

Michigan Fairness Forum is seeking a Project Manager with a diverse set of skills to advance and coordinate an innovative inclusive program to improve the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout the state of Michigan. The Project Manager will implement, refine, support and expand the infrastructure to support the organization's mission, vision and key initiatives. She or he will also provide resources, technical assistance and support to current and future members. The Project Manager will plan and coordinate all Board and regional meetings, state workshops, strategic collaborations, and the annual Summit.

Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- 1) Identify and recruit LGBT and ally organizations for membership.
- 2) Coordinate collaborations between and among member organizations that support the key initiatives.
- 3) Provide technical assistance to member organizations as identified by member organizations and key initiative dictates.
- 4) Identify research and resources to support member organizations.
- 5) Maintain and update Michigan Fairness Forum website. Ensure relevance and usability as a tool for networking and resources procurement for member organizations.
- 6) Provide progress reports to the board of directors and member organizations
- 7) Attend meetings throughout the State of Michigan
- 8) Organize and attend all Board and regional meetings of the MFF. Plan and coordinate workshops and annual Summit.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- 1) Familiarity with LGBT and ally issues in Michigan
- 2) Experience working with grassroots groups.
- 3) Reliable transportation and willingness to travel throughout the State of Michigan
- 4) Event planning experience.
- 5) Demeanor and strategies to identify and network with grassroots LGBT and ally organizations
- 6) Experience providing capacity building assistance to new and established organizations.
- 7) Experience managing collaborations and volunteer groups/individuals to complete short term projects.
- 8) An exceptional level of problem solving, time management, organization, interpersonal and resource development skills.
- 9) Familiarity with research design.
- 10) Reliable computer and high speed internet access
- 11) Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite.
- 12) Web management experience
- 13) Database management and bookkeeping experience

The ideal candidate for this unique position will possess education and/or experience necessary to effectively fulfill the requirements. The candidate must have excellent oral and written expression abilities, is a self starter and intrinsically motivated to work independently. The Project Manager reports to the Board of Directors and serves the member organizations.

## Between the Lines Fundraiser

*Leo Romo*

*Between the Lines* (BTL), like other LGBT newspapers nationally, has been hit with the bad economy. Please support Michigan's outstanding weekly LGBT and allies newspaper. The **Because We Can Party** is a Mardi Gras-themed night of festivities to support *Between the Lines*.

The event is Friday, February 19, 2010, 7 pm to 12 am at the Roostertail, 100 Marquette Drive, in Detroit. The night includes a roving Cajun dinner, live music, a silent auction, dancing, door prizes and prizes for best mask.

Tickets are \$75 per person. Proceeds will benefit your LGBT community newspaper. To purchase tickets go to <http://bit.ly/7Q4qh7> or mail a note and check to: Because We Can Party, Pride Source Media Group, 11920 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Tickets will be at the Will Call table the night of the event. Make your \$75 check payable to Pride Source Media Group. You can also call 888-615-7003 ext. 32, toll free.

If you cannot attend, any donations are welcome.



## FROM THE EDITOR



Thank you for reading the latest newsletter of Perceptions Saginaw Valley. After almost four years of hard work and dedication, Tana

Michaels has ended her run as editor and the job has passed to me. But thankfully, I still have Jim Kleinsorge and our Webmaster, Tim, who see that this publication gets to you, as well as a dedicated board, pumping out the articles that you are reading.

However, my job this month is to give you an introduction to myself. My passions growing up were writing and art, anything I could do with a pencil. My first instinct during my time at CMU was to go for an English Degree, and maybe even study Journalism, but circumstances intervened and I ended up in retail.

Over the last several years, however, I've become more and more involved with computers and have developed an interest in the computer-driven arts. I have now learned to publish my writings on the internet and am taking classes at Delta College, in hopes of earning a degree in Graphic Design. My current goal is to be a web designer, which will allow me to better publish what I write in my spare time, while I design for others as a career.

So editing this newsletter is more than just a hobby for me, it's good experience for the future. I only hope that I can edit this publication with the skill we've come to expect from Tana.

—Brent Theisen

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 18,000 CASES OF HIV/AIDS IN MICHIGAN  
OF THOSE 18,000 CASES 14,000 ARE AMONG MEN.  
OVER 50% OF MALE CASES OCCUR AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN  
SAGINAW COUNTY HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF HIV AMONG MSM

**DOOR PRIZES**

**FOOD & RAFFLE**

**AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY RESPONSE IS NEEDED.**

WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR CONCERNS REGARDING HIV AMONG MSM AND  
IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SERVICES AIMED AT REDUCING HIV-INFECTIONS RATES.

*Community*  
CONVERSATION

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010  
6-9 p.m.**

**Andersen Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601-2875**