



# Perceptions Saginaw Valley

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT  
Community

October 2010

[www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

Free

## Tri-City AIDS Walk Raises \$46,810

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Search for a  
Permanent  
Facility**

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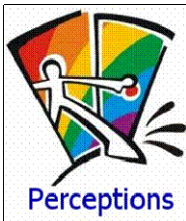
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Mid-Michigan's leading  
resource for  
enriching and  
empowering  
LGBT individuals  
and their  
community

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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Brent,

I enjoyed your article, "*A Rich LGBT History in the Saginaw Valley*," published in the September issue of the newsletter. It appears that you're saying Dutch's bar started in the early '80s. It's not really clear if this was your intent or not, but for many years Dutch's was the only place for gay people to go to be with other gay people in "public." The earliest I know of people going there for the gay nightclub scene was in the early '60s. Even though at that time, Dutch served lunch to area businessmen during the day. I'm trying to find out more about that and will write more at a later time. The importance of that bar cannot be underestimated. It was a life saver for many.

Take Care,  
-Rhyder-

## CLASSIFIEDS

Do you have a job you need done and don't want to do it? Then give me a call!

PAINTING, CARPENTRY WORK,  
CLEANING, RUNNING ERRANDS,  
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CALL TERRI DINSMORE  
810-639-3060

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Send Classifieds to  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

## FROM THE EDITOR

### National

**Coming Out Day** is October 11th, and it's a nice sentiment, but coming out is not always simple. It can get you kicked out of the military, out of your home or cause you to lose your job. In some countries it can get you imprisoned or killed. I'm not trying to talk anybody out of coming out. Coming out to yourself, close relatives and friends, or anyone else you can is important, for your own peace of mind first, and for the good of the cause second. Today though, I simply wish to stress the importance of creating an atmosphere where everyone *can* be themselves, without fear of consequence.



Repealing **Don't Ask, Don't Tell** would be a huge step in the right direction. What does it tell people when the government is telling us it's okay to be gay as long as you don't tell anyone or get caught, even in the privacy of your own home? Another big step is passing the **Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA)** (see page 3.) Of course, marriage equality is important, as well. The government needs to tell its citizens that same sex relationships are just as valid as opposite sex relationships. Let's just make sure that when we *can* start referring to our beloved as spouse, it's not only in "certain situations." Let's celebrate this year's National Coming Out Day by making a commitment to work toward fostering an atmosphere in this country, and around the world, where everyone can be. Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't need this particular day, because the "closet" was a thing of the past? —**Brent Theisen**

# Perceptions Facilities Committee To Seek Site and Funding for Multi-purpose Center

Tom Brubaker

At the August Perceptions Board of Trustees meeting, board members voted to establish a Facilities Committee. This committee, under the chairmanship of Perceptions Board Advisor Leo Romo, will explore a variety of different locations in the Great Lakes Bay Region where Perceptions can rent physical space to serve as a multi-purpose center. This facility will serve as office and meeting space for Perceptions, as well as a meeting location for Perceptions' various support groups. The committee will also explore various options

for funding to support the facility. Since Perceptions was first formed eight years ago, it has had to rely on a variety of meeting places to hold its meetings. In addition, the multi-purpose facility will serve as secure space to store membership and financial information, as well as equipment and supplies.

The Facilities Committee will form in a few months. The establishment of this committee and its future activities is an important step in the growth and evolution of the Perceptions organization. By securing a

physical space in our community, it will also help strengthen Perceptions, and thus the LGBT community's, identity in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Stay tuned to future issues of the Perceptions newsletter for updates on the facilities project.

If you would like to donate money for the specific purpose of funding a facility, send a check to:

**Perceptions  
P.O. Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641**

Be sure to write "facilities fund" on the memo line.

# The Time to Act on ENDA is Now

Brent Theisen

The first bill introduced in Congress that would have banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was drafted in 1974. Thirty-six years later, there is still no law protecting LGBT people from losing their jobs. The fight for equal treatment has lately focused on gay marriage and Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but protecting LGBT people from losing their jobs, based on their gender identity or sexual orientation, is paramount, as well. Having secure employment is a basic right that others take for granted.

The Employment Non Discrimination Act has been introduced into every congress but one, since 1994, but has never passed. If it is reintroduced next year, it will face a new congress, which may or may not be as friendly.

Prior to 2007, the bill did not have a clause protecting transgender

people. This has been a major sticking point, as some congressmen refuse to support the bill with a transgender clause, while others refuse to support a bill without the clause.

Transgender people would benefit greatly under the bill. A protest to demand its passage was held this past month in San Francisco, one of our most LGBT friendly cities, where 60 percent of transgender people make under \$15,300 and 25 percent have no job at all.

Opponents of the bill claim that schools should not be forced to have transgender people teaching children or that LGBTs will become a protected class with "special rights." Some groups, such as the American Family Association, have gone so far as to say that LGBTs are not discriminated against in the first

place. They point to the fact that there are plenty of well-off and influential LGBTs already, unlike some racial minorities that may be economically disadvantaged.

All the bill actually does is prohibit the firing of someone based on their LGBT status for any civilian, non-religious employer with more than 15 employees. It does not force any church or even the military to change their views toward LGBT individuals.

Former President Bush had threatened to veto the bill, if passed, while Current President Obama has stated support for the bill. If the legislation does not pass in the next two years and the next president is opposed to the bill, we could suffer through another 6-10 years without protection. The time to act is now. Please tell your congressman you want ENDA passed by the next congress.

## PFLAG Tri-Cities Celebrates 20 Years & Looks to the Future

[PFLAG Tri-Cities](#) celebrated its twentieth anniversary on September 26th with a potluck, cake and the election of a new president. Leo Romo was picked to head the organization, as it enters its third decade of service to family and friends of the LGBT community. The organization ate together and shared its final meeting at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Midland, where it has met for all of its twenty years. Next month, meetings will commence at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, at [2525 Hemmeter Road](#) in Saginaw. Members swapped stories of the first PFLAG meeting and prepared for the move to Saginaw.

## Tri-Cities Citizens Walk for a Good Cause

Shawn Nicholes

Cold temperatures and strong winds didn't keep about 450 people from gathering at this year's AIDS Walk. Team Perceptions was a great success! The challenge was made and the challenge was met. In these tough economic times, Team Perceptions still managed to collect a lot of money for a worthy cause. More than \$1,000 was raised by Team Perceptions and \$46,810 was the total for the entire walk. It's a great feeling to have performed a good deed for people who have lived on the hopes that others respond to

their needs. The members of Perceptions' AIDS Walk team should all feel proud of the time they have spent to help make this a great team this year.

Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center provides counseling, emergency funds for housing and utility shutoff, doctor visits, help with prescription drugs, and also provides 9 free testing sites.

I hope that we all look forward to AIDS Walk 2011.

—Team captain Shawn Nicholes.



*Terri's Fantasy Creations*

Featuring:  
Custom Cake  
Designs

**Terri Jackson**  
Owner

All Organic  
Ingredients  
Available

1204 Robert St. Mt.  
Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone 989-317-0811  
Cell 989-621-9414  
Email [terrij08@gmail.com](mailto:terrij08@gmail.com)

# Out & Proud: LGBT & Ally Dance

## October 9th

### 7-11pm

Unitarian Universalist Church  
2474 S. Ballenger Hwy... Flint

#### Admission

Single: \$10 @ door  
Couple: \$15 @ door

Music, Refreshments,  
Friends & FUN!!!

Sponsored by:

**The Alliance**





Top Left: One of the AIDS Walk organizers, Tom Brubaker. Top Right: Shawn Nicholes accepts an award on behalf of Perceptions. Above: A trophy given out. Right: The Perceptions Walk team. Below: A crowd shot.



All photos this page taken by **Christi Raines**





## Rana Elmir of ACLU to Speak at the October General Meeting

Rana Elmir will speak at the October 16<sup>th</sup> Perceptions General Meeting. Rana joined the [ACLU of Michigan](#) as the Communications Director in May 2006. She works in conjunction with the ACLU's legal, legislative and development departments to increase understanding and appreciation of the Bill of Rights and the ACLU's mission. In addition, Rana is responsible for all ACLU publications and the organization's web site.

Rana is a graduate of Wayne State University's Journalism School and the Journalism Institute for Minorities. She speaks fluent Arabic and is the winner of a number of awards including the Chips Quinn Scholars Program, Wayne State Media and Ethics Scholarship and Helen Thomas Spirit of Diversity Inaugural Scholarship and the Rosa Parks Scholarship.

In 2004, she was a member of the North American Media Justice Delegation to the U.N. Conference on Information Society in Tunisia. Before joining the ACLU of Michigan, Rana served as the Media Coordinator for LIFE for Relief and Development and Director of Programs and Outreach at the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at the usual meeting place, St. John's Episcopal Church at [123 N. Michigan Avenue](#) in Saginaw. Following twenty minutes of snacks and social time, we will have announcements and then Rana will speak. If you've never attended a general meeting, this is a good month to start.

## Meet Perceptions Member Christi Raines

Christi Raines

Hello. My name is Christi and I am 26 years old. In May, I will graduate from Saginaw Valley State University with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry. I have been happily married to my husband, Travis, for over 7 years.

When I was in third grade, my life turned upside down. My mom and stepfather got a divorce. My mom and her friend took me out for ice cream and told me that they were lesbians and that the friend would be moving in with us. Honestly, I didn't really know what to think. I wasn't upset or excited.

Once I went to middle school and high school, I was in a panic. I was accepted into an elite program for gifted students and many of those students had happily married parents, a mom and a dad. As far as I knew, none of them had gay parents or relatives or gay friends. I struggled to fit in and to keep my secret.

When I was 16, I was dating a guy named Derrick. We'd been dating for about six months and one summer night we were sitting on my front porch and I just blurted out "My mom is gay". I was ready for him to be appalled, for him to break up with me, for him to freak out. He just said "I know" and gave me a hug. I got a similar response from my best friend, Jenny.

I met Travis when I was 17. One of the first things I told him was that my mother is a

lesbian. He didn't care either and proved to be a great person to talk to about my insecurities. I am lucky to have him.

In adulthood, I have talked to a few more people I knew in high school. Not only did they know all along, but none of them cared. Seems like the only person who was worried about it was me.

During the summer of 2009, I attended the Garden Party at Terry Zajac's beautiful home in Bay City, with my mom and Travis. People in attendance seemed to be having a great time. Who doesn't love a gorgeous garden and snacks?

When the first Perceptions day at the beach at Haithco Recreational Area was held, she asked me to take her. It was a wonderful event. I had the chance to meet so many people and really felt like part of the group. Everyone was friendly and relaxed.

I have found Perceptions to be a fantastic group where I could visit with new friends and take pictures, one of my favorite activities. Since last summer, I have attended a number of events and had the opportunity to be part of the newsletter through photography and writing.

I am looking forward to the AIDS Walk in Bay City on September 25th. It'll be nice to get together with Perceptions members to walk for a good cause.

# CURRENT EVENTS PAGE

## ▼ October 1st - Friday Night Dinner

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Panda House**, [1010 N. Niagara St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

## October 2nd, Saturday - Genesee

**County AIDS Walk** The walk takes place in downtown Flint. Contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com) or visit [www.aidswalkmichigan.org](http://www.aidswalkmichigan.org) for more information or to join the PFLAG Striders walk team.

## ▼ October 6th, Wednesday - Saginaw

**Meet & Greet 7:00 - 9:00 pm.** An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' LGBT community. Join us at the **Magic Bean Café**, [5789 State St.](#) in Saginaw. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones. Enjoy hot and cold drinks, baked goods and gelato.

## ▼ October 8th - Friday Night Dinner

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **The Savoy**, [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.

## October 9th, Saturday - Out & Proud:

**LGBT & Ally Dance 7:00 - 11:00 pm** UU Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) \$10 individual/\$15 couple. Sponsored by The Alliance. Dancing, refreshments, friends, and lots of FUN!!!

## October 10th, Sunday. - Genesee Co.

**PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm.** The meeting takes place at the **UU Church** of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more info contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com).

## October 12th, Tuesday - Isabella Area

**LGBT Community Group 7:00 pm.** The group is established for the purpose of connecting, networking, and social support for the entire LGBT Community. All are welcome. **St. John's Episcopal Church**, [206 W. Maple St.](#), Mt Pleasant. 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). Repeats on the 2nd Tues of each month.

## ▼ October 13th, Wednesday - Free-

**land Meet & Greet 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** Join us at **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

## ▼ October 15th - Friday Night Dinner

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Maria's**, [6090 State St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

## October 15th, Friday - Chocolate

**Party Fundraiser 6:00 - 9:00 pm** at **Buckham Gallery** in Flint. Sample many chocolate goodies, bid on silent auction items, mingle with friends and view amazing artwork in the current show. Proceeds will benefit PFLAG Genesee County.

## October 20th, Wednesday - Womyn's

**Room II 6:00 pm.** Designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. This month it will meet at **the Savoy** at 127 South Franklin St, in Saginaw. For more info contact Rev. Kathy 989-755-2618 or [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com).

## October 20th, Wednesday - 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).

## ▼ October 21st, Thursday - Percep-

**tions General Membership Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm.** **St. John's Episcopal Church**, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#) All are welcome. Rana Elmir of the ACLU will speak. See article on page 6. Please note that we are returning to our regular meeting place.

## ▼ October 22nd, Friday Night Dinner

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **the Mixx**, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

## October 23rd, Saturday - Halloween

**Party 8:00 to 11:00 pm** Brent Theisen invites Perceptions members, friends and family to a party at Dave's house in Midland. Free pop and snacks. Costume is optional. You may BYOB, but it is not heavily anticipated. Contact Brent at [bptheisen72@yahoo.com](mailto:bptheisen72@yahoo.com) for directions and to RSVP by October 16th.

## October 24th, Sunday - PFLAG Meet-

**ing 2:00 - 4:30 pm.** The meeting takes place at its new location, **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, [2525 Hemmeter Rd](#) in Saginaw.

## ▼ October 26th, Tuesday - Men's Dis-

**ussion Group 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** **Zauel Memorial Library**, [3100 N. Center Road](#), Saginaw Township. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group 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) for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided. You may bring your own beverage into the library as long as the container has a cover or cap.

## October 13th, Wednesday - Open

**Hearts 6:30 pm.** Positive thinking group for members of the LGBT community who are disabled or anyone having issues they are dealing with. Come for discussion, speakers and support! The group meets at **Butman Fish Library**, Saginaw, and is facilitated by Kathy Van-Buskirk and Carm Audas. For info call 989-755-2618

## ▼ October 29th, Friday Night Dinner

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Grand Traverse Pie Company**, [2600 N. Saginaw Rd.](#), Midland. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

## Saturday, December 4th - Percep-

**tions 9th Annual Holiday Party**  
Mark your calendars. See article on Page 12.









## Be informed about upcoming events

Simply send a blank email to:

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

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

# OCTOBER 2010

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# Dr. Marvin Alviso Talks to Perceptions Members

Rick Farrand

Our guest speaker for our September meeting was Dr. Marvin Alviso. He spoke for about an hour on how he hopes to be able to treat and take care of the GLBTQ & I community. He highlighted not only what we should be doing about our own health and safety, but also what we should be talking with our doctors about. If our doctors don't know about our

sexuality, how will they know how to treat us and what tests we should have done. He brought up the fact that men who have anal sex should really have an anal pap smear. Also women who have not had babies are at greater risk for breast cancer, since breast feeding helps reduce the incidence of breast cancer in women.

He has just a little under a year to go as Chief Resident with Synergy Medical before hopefully setting up a clinic here in the Tri-Cities. He also spoke of the importance of having a Medical Power of Attorney.

So if you don't have a doctor yet, he is going to be the one to choose, because he is really in our corner.



## Halloween Party

**What:** A costume-optional party with snacks, music, and friends.

**When:** Saturday, October 23rd from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

**Where:** The home of Brent & Dave in Midland.

**Who:** Open to any member of Perceptions, their friends and families.

**RSVP:** Please notify Brent at [bptheisen72@yahoo.com](mailto:bptheisen72@yahoo.com) by October 16th, if you plan to attend.

**Contact:** Brent at [bptheisen72@yahoo.com](mailto:bptheisen72@yahoo.com) for address and travel directions.

# A Fun & Easy Perceptions Fund Raiser

[Alan Shinaver](#)

We're Doing It Again! **Community Day 2010 through Bon-Ton Stores.** Bon-Ton stores include Elder-Beerman, Younkers, and Detroit-area Parisian

We're selling coupon booklets; each booklet costs \$5, and we keep the entire \$5! By purchasing a coupon booklet you are able to take advantage of single regular or sale price merchandise item of \$10 or more and receive \$10 OFF, which means that you've been doubly paid back for your donation. It's a fantastic deal! DONATE \$5, GET \$10. Coupons are valid on regular and sale price merchandise. (Excludes Door Busters and Bonus Buys.)

Each booklet also includes:

- One 30% off Early Bird to use from 7:00 am-10:00 am (exclusions apply.)
- Six 20% off coupons (exclusions apply.)
- Five bonus offers -Customers must present their coupon to receive special pricing on the bonus offers.

Stores open early and stay open late for convenient shopping times.

Customers can also select their purchases in advance and pick them up by Monday, November 15, 2010.

Here's how it works: Customers select merchandise beginning on Sunday, November 7. Associates ring the sale on November 13 using any applicable Community Day coupon and will have it ready for the customer to pick up anytime November 3 through November 15. No waiting in lines!

Perceptions has already sold seventeen booklets just one day after picking them up. That is \$85.00 for our organization. It doesn't get any more risk free than this.

to buy, booklets to sell, to volunteer, to organize a day at the store, to donate or if you have questions. This year we have 100 booklets available to sell and can get more if we reach that goal. Visit the web site:



Please, volunteer to sell a few booklets, or possibly you are willing to organize a team to conduct in-store sales? As a participating organization in Younkers Community Day event, Perceptions is invited to sell coupon booklets in the Bay City store. There are limited spots available and requests are taken on a first come, first served basis. Let me know!

Contact Alan at [alan@perceptionssv.org](mailto:alan@perceptionssv.org) for booklets

[www.communitydayevent.com](http://www.communitydayevent.com) and see if you can get motivated enough to help Perceptions continue to make a difference in your community.

One shopper wrote us after last year's sale. "Thank you for sharing information about Community Days at Bon-Ton stores. I used my coupon at Parisian in Rochester Hills yesterday. It's a nice upscale store. I saved \$500 on the 9 items that I bought. I am a happy camper!"

# THIS DOUG'S LIFE

Douglas D. Solosky



## “Little Joys of Life”

This morning, as I was seeing to my cats' needs, my attention was drawn to movement in my parking lot. It turned out to be a flock of birds 'bathing' in puddles of water left by the day's previous rains. I estimate there were upwards from fifty of them. I'm not much of an ornithologist, but I think they were Sparrows. They'd bathe for a while and then fly into my pine trees, come back, bathe some more and back again into the pines.

At first, I thought they're behavior was due to passing cars, but it wasn't. It was they're "method of operation", to quote Sam Spade. Back and forth they cavorted, gaily frolicking in the water.

Speaking of "gaily", that brings me to Dr. Marvin Alviso who spoke at our September General Meeting. A mild-natured, sensitive, somewhat shy man, he is very personable, outgoing and very intelligent. His thoughts centered on statistics about the GLBTQI community. The general thrust of his speech was: "let your doctor know if you are gay." In so doing, he/she can better treat your needs.

The statistics he gave pointed out that some groups are vastly more disproportionately affected by the AIDS problem than others. This is not to

suggest that we all shouldn't be careful. To paraphrase a Second World War phrase, "A slip of the lip could sink a ship," meaning to be stupid about sex could kill you.

Our meeting was well attended. About 25 of us were there ranging in age from 22 to 76.

Twenty-two years old. Now that brings me to another issue: how to feel young when you are old.

When I was a teenager, my mother hated being around people her own age. She would much rather be among the young. Being of the same mindset as others at that time, I thought Ma was wrong. What's the problem? People of the same age should coalesce, that is, get together with one another.

A few years ago (when I was 72) I was invited by a close friend of mine to attend a Serendipity Meeting. I went out of courtesy to him. The meeting lasted about an hour. Afterward, he asked me what I thought. As diplomatically as I could, I told him never again! I explained that from the time we entered until the time we left, I had never felt so old. No one there had a positive outlook on life. I now fully understand Ma's attitude.

Despite my health problems, I have a positive outlook on life. I do cardiac rehab 3 times a week and will be doing pulmonary rehab in October. I know I will never get back to where I was 2 years ago but damn it, I'm going to do the best I can.

Just this week, I changed Realtors. I felt that my former Realtor was too negative. I'm hoping to sell my place and move into something a lot smaller. I know the change will be difficult, but I feel it is best for me.

So, for now, "That's about all folks".

# QUOTES

"I believe all Americans who believe in freedom, tolerance and human rights have a responsibility to oppose bigotry and prejudice based on sexual orientation."

—Coretta Scott King

"I don't understand why it is considered by some people to be a threat to heterosexual marriage to allow it by gays and lesbians. Shouldn't we be promoting that kind of faithfulness and loyalty to one's partner regardless of sexual orientation?"

—Al Gore

"Sure, there are plenty of hateful people who will always hold on to their bigotry like a child to a blanket. But there are also good people out there, Christian and otherwise that are beginning to listen."

—Melissa Etheridge

"I still find it personally disappointing that people kind of go out of their way to voice their disgust or their opinions against the ways in which two people choose to love one another."

—Heath Ledger

"I'm homosexual... How and why are idle questions. It's a little like wanting to know why my eyes are green."

—Jean Genet





# Holiday Party Set for December 4th

Kay Sural

Mark your calendars now! Saturday December 4th, the date for Perceptions Holiday Party. This dinner, dance and charity auction is an annual Perceptions event not to be missed! It will be held again this year at the beautiful Bay Valley Resort.

A special auction item will be featured this year: A one week stay in a Key West condo during [Fantasy Fest](#) 2011. The condo is a two bedroom, two bath with pull out sofa. Bid on this item worth

\$2,400 yourself, or get your friends together now and split the cost for a fun filled week in Key West. Remember, Saturday, December 4th, 2010 for an amazing evening.



## Help Us Find Those Auction Items

It's time again to round up auction items for the live and silent auction at the Holiday Party. Please ask those businesses you frequent to donate gift baskets or gift certificates or anything else of value that will fetch a good price. We need small items for the silent auction and big ticket items for the live auction. You can also donate your own items. Please contact someone from the holiday party committee.

**Kay Sural:** [Kay@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Kay@PerceptionsSV.org)  
**Rick Farrand:** [Rick@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rick@PerceptionsSV.org)  
**Roger M:** [Roger@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Roger@PerceptionsSV.org)  
**Brent Theisen:** [Brent@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Brent@PerceptionsSV.org)

Top: Bay Valley Resort. Middle Right: Modus Rock, who performed last year and will be performing again. Bottom: Last year's silent auction items.

Or let any Perceptions board member know what you've got. Thank you for your help!