



# Perceptions

## SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT Community

**June 2011**

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

**Free**

**Your Guide to**

**PRIDE!**

**Where are the  
Festivals?**

**Who Will Be  
There?**

**What Should  
You Expect?**

**A Special 2-Page Guide**

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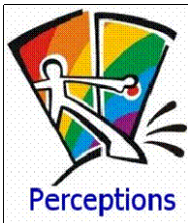
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Mid-Michigan's leading  
resource for  
enriching and  
empowering LGBT  
individuals  
and their  
community

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.

## Changes to Perceptions' Facebook Page

*Tim Atkinson*

Perceptions has made changes to its presence on Facebook. We first created a Facebook Group in January 2009. At its peak, the group had about 150 members. Facebook introduced a new Group product last fall, but continued to support existing groups in the old format as well. Facebook recently announced that our group would either have to be upgraded to the new format or it would be archived. If they archived it, most content would be preserved but all members would have been lost. Not all old format groups were allowed to upgrade and we did not initially know if we would be given the opportunity to upgrade or if they would just archive our group.

At that point, we created a Facebook Page for Perceptions Saginaw Valley and began learning about using it. Shortly after, the Group upgrade did become available and one of our administrators initiated the irreversible upgrade. The new group format has a different set of features than the old group. The new groups are really designed to allow members to interact with each other. For example, there's now a group chat option. Like the old

AOL chat rooms, if you enter group chat, you can see conversations between all group members at once. On the other hand, the new Page is a very effective way to allow Perceptions to get information to our fans. We can create events that allow you to RSVP, invite others, or post to your own wall. We use the Notes feature to post our Weekly Messages & Events.

For the time being, we will continue to operate both the Page and the Group, but all information from us will be posted to the Page. Become a fan of our Page by going to [facebook.com/PerceptionsSV](http://facebook.com/PerceptionsSV) and click on the "Like" button. After you "like" our Page, you will see notifications about activity on our Page in your news feed. You can use Facebook controls to select what information you actually want to see. We welcome your feedback on how we can best use our Facebook Group and Page to get information to you and allow you to interact with others. Post your thoughts in our Group, send an email to [info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:info@PerceptionsSV.org), or talk to any Perceptions Trustee.

## Garden Party Approaches *Kay Sural*



Save the date! Saturday, July 30th. Perceptions and PFLAG will join together to host the annual Garden Party. The party this year will be held in the beautiful gardens of Terry Z., 1609 5th street, Bay City. If you enjoyed the Chocolate Party this year at Terry's house, you will be just as impressed with the gardens that surround his home. Please join us from 6 to 9, enjoy snacks as you tour the garden and visit with old and new friends.

# Some Thoughts on Father's Day

Chip Smith

Being a "Father" is the toughest task that I have ever attempted. You see, I am a classic control-freak and my rating as a 'good father' rests entirely on the results of my 'fathering'; the observations and opinions of everyone else when they meet and deal with your kids. The way that everybody in the world relates to your children is the report-card of how you did at molding them into the human beings that they are. Not much room in there for me to control! But I got lucky! My kids are the most compassionate, loving, intelligent, beautiful human beings that have ever walked the earth! Just take my word for it. And they got there with minimal shaping from me. Thank Heaven for their beautiful Mom and some fantastic genetic history! My input was thankfully minimal; it's not that I didn't want to influence every aspect of my kid's development (remember that control-freak thing?), it's just that I was pretty slow at developing my 'good father' skills. That's not entirely my fault; I only had one prior example and I think my Dad did OK. But of course that can only be judged by how everyone else thinks of me and my siblings. Complicated, huh?

Anyway, the fact is obvious to me that my five kids are fantastic! It is probably obvious to any of you that have met any of them, that this is a true statement.

But a few years ago, my oldest son told me something about himself that caused me to believe that I had not done a good job of fathering him at all. Derek confided in his Mom and me that he was gay. My immediate reaction; "What did I do wrong?" I

sure found it easy to come up with answers to that question in my head. But I never for an instant felt any less love for Derek over this one factor of who Derek is. I did however go into an ever-narrowing crash-dive of questioning myself and all of life itself. Inside, I was a train-wreck. Outside, I loved my son just as much as I ever have, but I was so confused by my son's realization of who he would love. My wife aided her own confusion with a visit to the meeting of our local [PFLAG chapter](#). She always has been a lot smarter than me. I struggled on; not admitting, not seeking knowledge, not doing real well.

A few years later, my wife finally got through to me that I too could benefit from the support and understanding of the PFLAG family. I swallowed my stoicism hard and went to a meeting. I found other people who understood and accepted who my beautiful son Derek is. Most of all, I found out that no matter who my son loved, it was not a difficulty for me anymore. Somewhere in this time is when I discovered that my love for all my children was unconditional. Nothing that my kids do, think, or say can diminish my unconditional love for them! Since this enlightening of mine, I've been informed that my other sons are gay; I'm happy to say that this knowledge has again not diminished my unconditional love for each of them. PFLAG and my dear wife are responsible for my unconditional love. I hope that PFLAG can help you find your unconditional love.

## FROM THE EDITOR: Why We Still Need Pride

Attendance at area Pride Festivals seems to have waned in recent years. There could be many reasons. For

one, the younger generations are beginning to accept the LGBT community more. There are fewer reasons to segregate ourselves, as



gays, lesbians, trans and bi people mix with straight people more often. But is it time to abandon these festivals?

The political aspects of Pride are actually more important than ever. Especially in states like Michigan, with strict anti-marriage amendments, it is important to show solidarity and strength of conviction as the fight for equality heats up. Marching on the capitol to energize ourselves for the coming battles is especially important. Even [Motor City Pride](#) has a rally this year and a march through Detroit, instead of just a festival.

LGBT people are still being fired for their sexual orientation or gender identity. They still cannot marry whomever they choose. The health industry still often doesn't serve our community effectively and little statistical data exists about us. With support for equality on the rise among every age, political and religious group, now is the time to come together and push for full equality. Pride is still an important way to show the world we are here.

—Brent Theisen

# A Guide to **P R I D E** 2011

## Motor City Pride

**When:** Saturday, June 4th & Sunday, June 5th.

**Where:** Downtown Detroit

**What:** Motor City Pride Festival 2011

Saturday morning kicks off at 10 am with a Woman's Golf Outing. The festival opens at 3 pm in Hart Plaza, Woodward Ave. at Jefferson Ave., downtown Detroit. Sunday starts at 11 am with a Parade down Griswold St from Lafayette to Hart plaza. The festival will then be open from noon to 7 pm. The Main Stage will feature Kimberly Cole, Kerli Koivi, Alex Jordan, God-Des & She, Erika Jayne and Chris Willis.

Ferndale, which has hosted Motor City Pride in the past, has some complimentary activities planned, as well. A "We Are Family" LGBT pride parade is scheduled for June 3 at 6 pm starting on the north side of West Nine Mile Road, and ending at City Hall lawn for "a social, cultural and political rally." A "Night March" is planned for 8:30 pm and the Second Annual "Dyke March" will take place on Saturday morning. 10 area bars will host events between Friday and Sunday, as well.

For More information visit [motorcitypride.org](http://motorcitypride.org)

For Ferndale activities, see <http://ferndale.patch.com/>

## Michigan Pride

**When:** Saturday, June 11th

**Where:** Downtown Lansing

**What:** 2011 Michigan Pride March, Rally & Festival

The fun begins Friday with the annual White Party. This year, an outdoor pre-party in downtown Lansing from 6 pm—11 pm will kick off the usual "4 bars for one cover" event.

Saturday begins with a march to the capitol (staging starts at 11 am), followed by a rally, a commitment ceremony and a festival at Old Town Burchard Park. Finish the day with an after-party at downtown area bars. Sunday, wrap things up with the afternoon T-Party. For times and further details, see the website listed below.

Entertainment will include Pop Goes the Gio Show, DJ John Cruz, Kim Sorter, Baby Gaga. Sean Ensign, Melissa Totten the World famous Madonna Impersonator, Sista Otis, and headlining: Dawn Robinson from En Vogue.

For More information visit [www.michiganpride.org](http://www.michiganpride.org)

### Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few individuals to help man the Perceptions booth at Lansing Pride on Saturday June 11th. If interested please contact [daphne@perceptionssv.org](mailto:daphne@perceptionssv.org)

## West Michigan Pride

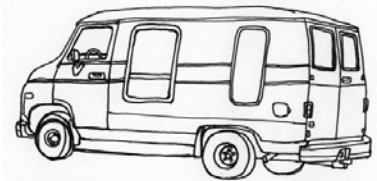
**When:** 1:00 - 9:00 pm Sunday, June 18th

**Where:** Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe St. NE, Grand Rapids.

**What:** The 23rd Annual West Michigan Pride Festival.

Vendors and entertainment were still being lined up at press time. Watch the website for details.

For More information visit [www.westmipride.org](http://www.westmipride.org)



### Carpooling Available for Motor City Pride

Rick is organizing transportation to Motor City Pride on Sunday, June 5th. He will be driving a van that comfortably seats seven. If you are interested in riding along, contact [Rick@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rick@PerceptionsSV.org). If more than seven are interested, more than one vehicle will be arranged.

## Tri-City Pride

**When:** 1:00 - 7:00 pm

Saturday, June 25th

**Where:** Ojibway Island, 121  
Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw

**What:** The First Annual Tri-City Pride Festival

There is no cost to attend this festival—the first of its kind. Many area businesses will have booths and there will be food, activities and information. For the kids, expect face painting, helium balloons, and coloring. Arts and crafts will be set up, as well.

## Chicago Pride

**When:** Friday, June 24th and  
Saturday, June 25th

If you don't mind the long drive, Chicago has scheduled its Pride event for the last weekend of June.

See <http://chicago.gopride.com> for details.

The stage will host guest speaker Alicia Skillman, and feature the music of both Tana Michaels as well as the Mel-Tones. There is expected to be a drag show, as well and possibly karaoke.

Sponsors of the event include Perceptions, PFLAG and Dow. The latter has put up \$1500 for the event.

For More information visit <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=189687361053940>

## Toronto Pride

**When:** Friday, June 24th  
through Sunday July 3rd

Finally, if you want to experience Pride in nearby Canada, Toronto hosts a 10 day celebration.

See [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com) for details

## Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Banquet

**When:** 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, June 28th

**Where:** Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw

**What:** The 3rd Annual Saginaw Valley LGBT & Ally Pride Awards Banquet

The evening kicks off with a reception featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres in the gardens (weather permitting) followed by dinner catered by the Savoy. Jan Stevenson (see below) will speak and a presentation will follow, with Pride Awards given for Business, Individuals, Political, and Lifetime Achievement. The evening is hosted by Charissa Urbano.

The deadline for nominations is June 9th. See page 12 to participate in the nomination process or purchase tickets.

For more information visit [perceptionsSV.org/pride/](http://perceptionsSV.org/pride/)

## Jan Stevenson to Speak at Pride Banquet



Jan Stevenson, is the vice president of Pride Source Media Group, publisher of [Between The Lines](#), Michigan's largest weekly publication for the gay and lesbian community, and the Pride Source Yellow Pages, the state-wide LGBT sourcebook.

Originally from Ohio, Jan has Masters Degrees in both business and music, graduating from The University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, Yale University and Drexel University in Philadelphia. She spent 10

years as a corporate banker in Philadelphia (1981-87) and Detroit (1987-90). In 1990, she became president of the board of Detroit's then-new gay and lesbian community center, Affirmations, and in 1993 became its first executive director. She led Affirmations from its inception to an organization with a budget of just under \$500,000 and a staff of eight.

Stevenson served on the board of the [National Gay & Lesbian Task Force](#) from 1993 to 1996. She was a co-chair of Michigan's first Human Rights Campaign Dinner in 1990. In 1994, she helped found the HOPE Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, now the largest funder of gay and lesbian projects in Michigan.

## Small group makes a BIG difference!

*Jim Kleinsorge*

\$738 was raised during the Perceptions Yard Sale. All the proceeds will go toward our sponsorship and participation in the Saginaw-Midland-Bay City AIDS Walk being held Sept 24<sup>th</sup> in downtown Bay City.

The weather was beautiful the first two days of the sale, but by Saturday evening, with all the treasures having been purchased and the forecast telling of Thunderstorms on Sun-

day, we decided to cancel the last day of the sale.

Shawn and I cannot begin to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the preparation before the sale, the actual sale day itself, and the cleanup afterward. We couldn't have done it without the help of everyone who volunteered and those who donated items. Fred supplied a hearty lunch on both days and Kay brought morning donuts and muffins. Daphne made sure we were all well hydrated. Dave let us use his canopy to make sure everything stayed dry. We wouldn't have had anywhere to display things had it not been for Randy's tables and Rick's clothes rack. Rick, Daphne, Joel, Brent, Dave, and Fred helped us get everything in and out of the garage, and they'll never know how much we appreciated them! I especially want to thank my partner Shawn for not only doing so much work, but also for putting up with me. I'm sure it wasn't easy!

Major donors of sale items were Tim & Alan; Randy; Gary; John & Don; Brent, his cousin and his mom; Rick and his mom; Shawn, myself, and

my mom; Fred; Kay & Janis; Deanna; Eugenia, Bruce and Patrick; and Tom.

I hope I haven't left anyone out. If I did, I can only plead temporary exhaustion...it was a lot of work for all involved, but it was more than worth it to raise money for [AIDS Walk Tri-Cities](#). Knowing that the money will go to help people right here in our area live with and fight HIV/AIDS makes it a great thing to be involved in. Thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone!!!

I want to extend a very special thank you to Jim Kleinsorge and Shawn Nichols, along with their team of volunteers, for doing such a terrific job of raising funds for AIDS Walk Great Lakes Bay Region. Their hard work and caring hearts led to a very successful fundraising event. To all of you who came to the yard sale to buy something, or just show your support, I thank you and so do the many clients we serve who are living with HIV/AIDS.

I am proud to be part of a community- the LGBT community- which continually demonstrates its love and support for so many causes in the Great Lakes Bay Region. I hope to see many of you at the AIDS Walk on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Tom Brubaker,  
AIDS Walk Coordinator,  
Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center  
Perceptions Member since 2002



# CURRENT EVENTS PAGE

▼ **June 3rd - Friday Night Dinner**  
**6:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at the **Savoy**, [127 S Franklin](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**June 4th & 5th, Saturday & Sunday - Motor City Pride** The festival moves to downtown Detroit, this year. See Page 4 for details.

▼ **June 8th, Wednesday - 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.

**June 8th, 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. Discussion, speakers and support. The group meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw, and is facilitated by Rev. Kathy and Carm Audas. For info call 989-755-2618.

▼ **June 10th - Friday Night Dinner**  
**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at **Mandarin House**, [3000 W Center Rd](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday

**June 11th, Saturday - Michigan Pride** The festival will take place at Old Town Burchard Park again, this year. See page 4 for details.

**June 12th, Sunday - Genesee County 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).

Be informed about  
 upcoming events

Simply send a blank email to:  
[PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**June 15th, 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. The group meets at **Butman Fish Library** in Saginaw. For more info contact Rev. Kathy at 989-755-2618 or [Rev\\_KathyV@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com).

**June 15th, 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, 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).

▼ **June 17th, Friday Night Dinner**  
**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at **St Demetrios Greek Festival**, [4970 Mackinaw Rd](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

**June 18th, Saturday - West Michigan Pride** Grand Rapids will host the 23rd annual event. See page 4.

**June 19th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting** **2:00 - 4:30 pm.** Meeting at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, [2525 Hemmeter Road](#) in Saginaw.

▼ **June 21st, Tuesday - Men's Discussion Group** **7:00 to 8:30 pm.** **Zaue 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.

▼ **June 24th - Friday Night Dinner**  
**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Fuzzy's Restaurant**, [1924 Court St](#), Saginaw. Please respond by 3:00 pm Friday to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org)

**June 25th, Saturday - Tri City Pride** The first ever Pride festival in Saginaw takes place from 1-7 pm at Ojibway Island. See page 4.

**June 25th, Saturday - DTMC Spring Concert** **7:30 pm.** *Applause!! Applause!!* Lamphere High School Auditorium, 610 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Madison Heights. [www.dtmc.org](http://www.dtmc.org)

▼ **June 27th, Monday - Perceptions Transgender Group** **6:00 to 7:30 pm.** Meeting at the **Magic Bean Café**, [5789 State Street](#), 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. Contact Rachel Prenzler at [Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org).

▼ **June 28th, Tuesday - Pride Awards Banquet** The Tri Cities will once again honor their own. **6 - 9 pm** at the **Andersen Enrichment Center**, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw. The Savoy will cater and Charissa Urbano will emcee. Jan Stevenson will speak. See page 4. [www.PerceptionsSV.org/pride](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org/pride)

## Upcoming Events

**Garden Party**  
 Saturday, July 30th

**Bay City-Saginaw-Midland AIDS Walk**  
 Saturday, September 24th

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

# JUNE 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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<b>5</b>  Motor City Pride Detroit	6	7	<b>8</b>  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Rd. 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>9</b>  Perceptions Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>10</b>  Friday Night Dinner Mandarin House 3000 W. Center Rd. Essexville 7:00 PM	<b>11</b>  Michigan Pride Lansing																																																																																											
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# Scholarship Winners Announced

Tim Atkinson

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Perceptions presented scholarships to two recipients at Saginaw Community Foundation's Excellence in Education event, held at Horizons Conference Center. This is the fourth year that Perceptions has been able to award scholarships to deserving college students who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting mutual respect and acceptance across borders of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

We received 13 applications this year from all across the Saginaw Valley region. Each application was scored by five volunteers from the SCF and four volunteers from the Perceptions Scholarship Committee. All applicants were very deserving, but two clear winners emerged. With 160 possible points, the top two scores were separated by less than two points. The largest part of the score is 50 points for an essay they must write explaining how they have promoted respect and acceptance within their community and how they will continue that work through their lives. Other scoring categories include leadership, community service, and career goals. Our scoring process includes 10 bonus points for members of Perceptions and [PFLAG Tri-Cities](#) and their immediate families. None of our applicants this year were eligible for the bonus points.

Our top winner was Jacob Gorski, a senior at Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy. Jacob plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall and major in English with the ultimate goal of becoming a teacher or professor. He has won numerous awards for creative writing. In his essay, Jacob states that he's a proud gay male and as such he has experienced varying degrees of acceptance and respect. He has learned how to deal with contempt and prejudice. He writes:

*Acceptance and respect from others will be earned once you accept and respect yourself. Day by day, I am gaining this confidence within myself. By being who I*



*am without doubts or apologies, more and more people are accepting me. ... To promote acceptance and this kind of respect in my community, I encourage others to be themselves by treating them with respect and accepting them for who they are without judgment.*

*Still, there remains a percentage of people who disregard all logic and the human condition in order to hate the gay community. These people do not accept us for who we are and do not appreciate individualism. In order to encourage acceptance, we must have the courage to approach these people and talk to them about who we are in a respectful way. I know with every fiber of my being that my sexual orientation was never a choice and that I am not a second-rate person for being a homosexual. Since I have lived this way and it is so inherent to who I am, I have the ability to share my story with those who*

*are prejudiced. If I speak to them with respect, this will only serve my case across in a more effective fashion. One of the most exciting things about life is that every person has the ability to touch another's life. It has been and will continue to be one of my life's goals to educate those on the gay experience and being myself throughout it all. I firmly believe that acceptance and respect within any community can be achieved in this way.*

Our second winner was Lakyn Miller, a senior at Swan Valley High School with a 4.0 grade point average. Lakyn plans to attend SVSU in the fall, but her major is still undecided. She is considering a career in either graphic design or forensic science. Lakyn has won awards for excellence in Science and Mathematics as well as Graphic Design Promotion. Lakyn explains that she promotes respect and acceptance within her community by leading by example. She hopes that judgmental people can be influenced to accept others if they see her making

the effort. Lakyn has learned to look at each individual as a new learning experience, a way to explore the world and its diverse ways. She says that she's able to place herself in the shoes of another which inspires her to stand up or say something when the other is being judged unfairly.

Congratulations to our two winners. We are sure that they will go on to do great things. Thanks to the generosity of our members and other donors, we've been able to award scholarships to six students in the past four years. Donations to the Scholarship Fund are always welcome. You can make designated donations through Perceptions or send your donation directly to the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#). Contact [Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org) for additional information.

# Legal Issues and the LGBT Community

## May speaker concludes program year with informative, timely discussion

*Thomas Brubaker*

Perceptions was pleased to host Saginaw Attorney Barbara Klimaszewski on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Unity of Bay City as our featured monthly speaker as she discussed legal issues affecting our community. Klimaszewski, who has practiced law in Saginaw since 1976, discussed a variety of legal topics with the audience, including power of attorney for financial and healthcare decisions, wills, and partnership agreements.

Klimaszewski's presentation became more of a dialogue with the audience as she answered a variety of questions. Klimaszewski stated that while federal and state laws may not be particularly friendly to the LGBT community, there are a variety of legal instruments that can help ensure that a partner can visit their loved one in the hospital, plan funeral arrangements, make decisions regarding their loved ones' financial and health care, and use their will to have their particular wishes carried out.

Klimaszewski stressed the importance of having power of attorney papers drawn up for financial and health care decisions. She also advised that if two partners have merged their finances together they should have an agreement drawn up on

how financial matters will be carried out, including real estate should the partners own a home together. She advised that if a couple were to break up, that arbitration is the best route to go to settle the dispute. She added that the courts are not always a particularly friendly place for LGBT persons and that to avoid the courtroom is advantageous.

Klimaszewski also added that it is important to take out your legal papers every year or so to make sure that they are current.

The evening was filled with a wealth of information that all of us should consider. If you have any legal questions, or would like to schedule an appointment with Barbara Klimaszewski, you may contact her at 989 752-5406.



## IN BRIEF

Newshound **Joel Payne** is surfing the net, each month, to find us interesting stories. Thanks, Joel.

### Will Congress See Its First Out Senator?

Sources close to Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., have told the [Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund](#) she is very likely to run for the U.S. Senate seat now occupied by Sen. Herb Kohl, who has decided not to run for reelection in 2012. If Baldwin runs and wins, she would become the nation's first openly LGBT member of the U.S. Senate. "This would be a remarkable milestone for LGBT Americans. Congresswoman Baldwin is one of the most admired public officials I know. She would have the strong support of those who want to see our economy work for all Americans, and who believe that all voices deserve a place at the table," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which has endorsed Baldwin repeatedly.

### Michigan Continues To Lead the Nation In Its Discrimination To- ward LGBT People

The Michigan House has approved an amendment to the education budget that would penalize state universities 5% for offering benefits to same-sex couples and unmarried partners. "Colleges can't say they are short of money when they skirt the law and give such benefits," said State Rep. Dave Agema. The bill was heavily backed by Republicans. The approved budget also cuts millions of dollars from K-12 education and shifts some of it to state community colleges. Both bills will now head to a conference committee where they will be combined into a

## IN BRIEF CONTINUED

final bill. Source: [www.advocate.com/News/](http://www.advocate.com/News/)

### **The ACLU “Don’t Filter Me” Initiative Targets Columbus**

The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Ohio urged Columbus City School officials to stop censorship of web content geared toward the LGBT community. The ACLU has sent similar letters to schools across the country as part of the organization’s national “Don’t Filter Me” initiative, which seeks to combat illegal censorship of pro-LGBT information on public school computer systems. The campaign asks students to check to see if their schools’ web browsers block LGBT web content, and then report instances of censorship to the ACLU LGBT Project. “Filters were designed to keep students from accessing pornographic or adult material on school computers, but this technology censors much more,” said ACLU of Ohio Staff Counsel Carrie Davis. “Students are prevented from accessing material such as instructions on creating a gay-straight alliance, support for students questioning their sexuality, and support for friends and family of LGBT students. In an age where many young people experience bullying and harassment, this information could be life-saving.” Source: [www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/](http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/)

### **The Trevor Project Sees a 400% Increase in Requests for Suicide Prevention Kits:**

The Trevor Project recently filled 2,500 requests for in-school suicide prevention kits that have occurred since the start of the It Gets Better Project. This represented a 400% increase in demand and they were able to fulfill all re-

quests because of the generous support and donations of people like you. Please visit the website and take the “It Gets Better” Pledge: *Everyone deserves to be respected for who they are. I pledge to spread this message to my friends, family and neighbors. I’ll speak up against hate and intolerance whenever I see it, at school and at work. I’ll provide hope for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and other bullied teens by letting them know that “It Gets Better.”*

Website: [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org)

### **The 50 Most Influential Gays and Lesbians:**

The four openly gay and lesbian members of Congress, as well as Houston Mayor Annise Parker and New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, have been named to *Out Magazine’s* prestigious “Power 50” list, announced recently. These elected officials joined media moguls, celebrities, CEOs and financial professionals on the annual list of “the most influential gays and lesbians in America,” as determined by *Out*. Some other recognizable names included Anderson Cooper, Ellen DeGeneres, Jodi Foster, Adam Lambert, Ryan Murphy (creator of “Glee”) and Dan Savage (of the “It Gets Better” project.) A complete list can be found at: [www.out.com/power50/](http://www.out.com/power50/)

**Progress in Texas:** Texas house members recently passed a version of anti-bullying legislation. The bill would put a preventative approach in public school districts across the state. If passed, the bill would change current policy to add more accurate training and response for school staff. It would also allow the district to transfer a bullying student, rather than the victim, to another school. The bill also changes

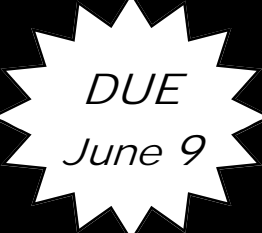
the language to envelop bullying as both on school grounds and through technology. If passed, it would take effect next school year on September 1st. The Senate version of the bill that passed, includes similar prevention and punishment policies. It passed on a 30 to 1 vote. Meanwhile, by a vote of 3 to 2, the Dallas County Commissioners Court passed employment protection for Transgender people who work for the county. After a five-week struggle, both sexual orientation AND gender identity and expression are now protected classes under the law for the county’s approximately 7,000 workers. According to the *Dallas Voice*, the vote of 3 in favor of Court Order 21, and 2 opposed fell along party lines, with Democrats Judge Clay Jenkins, John Wiley Price, and Dr. Elba Garcia in the majority, and Republicans Maurine Dickey and Mike Cantrell in the minority. Sources: [www.weareaustin.com](http://www.weareaustin.com) and [www.unfinishedlivesblog.com](http://www.unfinishedlivesblog.com)

### **Massachusetts Makes History**

Appeals Court Judge Barbara A. Lenk today was confirmed to the Supreme Judicial Court, making history as the first openly gay justice in Massachusetts. Lenk was confirmed by a 5-3 vote by the Governor’s Council after being nominated by Gov. Deval Patrick. She married her wife, Debra Krupp, after the state legalized marriage equality in 2003. Lenk holds degrees from Harvard Law School and Yale, and has 18 years of experience as an Appeals Court judge. Source: [www.sdgl.com](http://www.sdgl.com)

"How many more gay people does God have to create before we ask ourselves whether or not God actually wants them around?"

**Minnesota Representative  
Steven Simon**



# PRIDE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

## for The LGBT & Ally Pride Awards Banquet

June 28, 2011

Andersen Enrichment Center

Nominate people who have helped the Saginaw Valley LGBT community.  
Read the award descriptions below and use as a guide.  
Follow the directions in the black box (bottom).

**Lifetime Achievement Award** The highest award given to an individual who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to help gain a better life for LGBT people and who has demonstrated effectiveness at reaching the goal for equality, fairness and justice for all LGBT community.

**Business Pride Award** Given to a business that has contributed its share of support to the success and progress of the LGBT community.

**Political Pride Award** Given to an outstanding leader who has worked to improve the quality for LGBT people through the political or electoral process.

**Pride Award(s)** Given to an individual(s) who has shown outstanding leadership and commitment through their advocacy of acceptance, equality and respect for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The nominee has been a model for other LGBT people and allies. The Pride Award Selection Committee may select one or more individuals for the Pride Award.

**Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of leadership, impact and commitment to the LBGT community.** Pride Award Selection Committee members are ineligible for an award.

To help us to evaluate the nominees, please answer the following questions thoroughly and succinctly.

1. Describe the nominee's involvement in the LGBT community. Be as specific as possible.
2. Briefly describe why this nominee deserves an award at the Saginaw Valley Pride Banquet.
3. Describe how the nominee's participation in the LGBT community has made a difference in the Saginaw Valley, or at the state or national level.

I NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_  
First & last name of the nominee or organization.

Nominee's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Award: \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

My phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this form & one typed page that describes the nominee.**

Mail, or scan & email to:

**PRIDE Nomination Committee  
c/o Perceptions  
P.O. Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641**

**Or [Pride@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Pride@PerceptionsSV.org)**

**DUE: June 9, 2011 by midnight**

**Saginaw Valley LGBT & Ally  
Pride Awards Banquet**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2011  
Andersen Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust, Saginaw**

**6 pm Reception  
7 pm Dinner and Program**

**Tickets or info: [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)  
or 989-891-1429**

**Cost: \$25 (\$15 for students)**

# Saginaw Valley LGBT & Allies Pride Awards Banquet Sponsorship & Ticket Form

Yes, I will support the Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet to be held on June 28th at the Andersen Enrichment Center!

## Sponsorship

Names of contributors will be printed in the evening program unless instructed otherwise. Select your level of sponsorship below.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Patron           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Advocate     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Ellen DeGeneres  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Harvey Milk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____ |  |

Clearly PRINT the exact name(s) for the program: \_\_\_\_\_

Anonymous Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

*Sponsorships must be received by June 25, 2011 to be included in the program.*

## Tickets

- I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$25 per person.  
 I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ discount tickets @ \$15 each for students or persons with limited funds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Perceptions** with the notation "Pride" in the memo.

Mail to: Perceptions  
PO Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641

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✂  
Cut & Save

**Saginaw Valley LGBT & Allies Pride Awards Banquet**  
Tuesday, June 28, 2011  
Anderson Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw, MI.

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

Tickets: \$25 per person (\$15 for students).

Information: [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org) or 989-891-1429 or [Pride@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Pride@PerceptionsSV.org)



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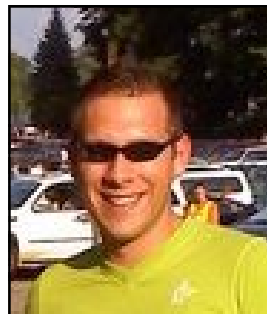
### Family Dentistry

Darrell M. Sheets, DMD, PLC  
Ansuya Patel, DDS

1480 West Center Ave., Suite 7  
Essexville, MI 48732  
(989) 895-7475

### Orthodontics

Bobby Jones, DDS, MS



Save hundreds on your home and auto insurance with Michigan Insurance & Financial. With several top insurance carriers, let me do the shopping for you. We can compare your coverages with several companies and place you with great coverage at a great price. Shop independent and start saving today. [Contact me](#) for a free quote.

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Citizens Insurance Company  
of the Hanover Group

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Fax: 866-700-2270

Nate Smith

[nate@choosemichiganinsurance.com](mailto:nate@choosemichiganinsurance.com)

## Touch of Light Therapeutic Massage

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Two story business with living quarters, 3200 sq. ft. for \$99,900, located at 3004 S. Poseyville Rd., Midland. Phone: 989-835-7483 or email [DouglasSolosky@yahoo.com](mailto:DouglasSolosky@yahoo.com)

Send Classifieds to

[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)

(A \$5 donation is encouraged for those without a Perceptions Membership.)