



PERCEPTIONS

SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area's LGBT Community

December 2011

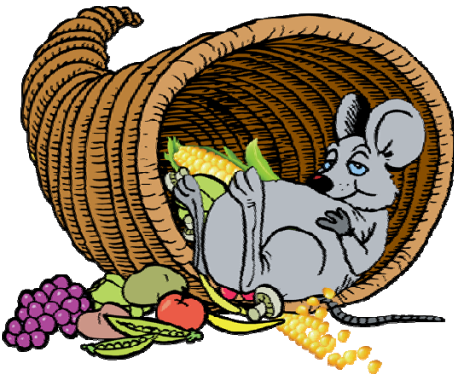
www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free

Thanksgiving Potluck & Food Drive

by Daphne Barkley

What do turkey, divine sides, yummy deserts, and great friends all have in common? All these elements were gathered at St John's Episcopal Church on Thursday, November 17th for



Perceptions' annual Thanksgiving potluck.

It has been a long-standing Perceptions tradition to depart from the typical format of the general meeting used during the rest of the year and to have a potluck and food drive on Thanksgiving.

As I sat down with my generous plate of food I couldn't help but look around and realize how many things I had to be thankful for. In a time where the economy is not the best and there are so many challenges in each of our lives, this was one of those moments in which all that could be forgotten for a few hours. I had great conversation with friends I hadn't had a chance to chat with in a while because of hectic schedules and got to meet some great new people as well.

The plethora of canned goods collected were donated to the [Underground Railroad](#), a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

A big thanks to everyone who contributed a dish, canned goods, or simply their presence in our annual celebration!

Michigan Transgender Teen Murdered



Shelley Hilliard, 19, of Detroit

On November 10th, Lyniece Nelson identified the burned torso of her daughter by the distinctive cherry tattoos that were still visible on her shoulder. Detroit police found the torso covered with a mattress near I-94 on October 23rd, only hours after she was last seen alive. Unfortunately, it took nearly 3 weeks to match the remains with the missing person's report. To whoever harmed her daughter, who she affectionately called "Treasure,"

INSIDE:

Calendar	4
Holiday Party	2
2012 Memberships	2
Current Events	3
Calendar	4
Corporate Equality Index.....	5
Campfire Stories II.....	7
Game Night	7

Continued on p. 6

Perceptions
Saginaw Valley
PO Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
989-891-1429

www.PerceptionsSV.org

GUEST EDITOR

Tim Atkinson
Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

AD SALES

Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

PRINT DISTRIBUTION

Jim Kleinsorge
Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION

Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

SUBMISSIONS are always
welcome. Write to:

Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Get your copy of the Newsletter sent to you free with your paid membership. The Newsletter is always free to view online. For more information visit www.PerceptionsSV.org

Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.

Tenth Annual Holiday Party is Right Around the Corner

Join us at Bay Valley Resort for Perceptions Tenth Annual Holiday Party & Charity Auction on Saturday, December 10, 2011, from 7:00 pm until midnight.

Proceeds from this year's Charity Auction will be divided between our Facilities Fund and the Perceptions Scholarship Fund, managed by the Saginaw Community Foundation. The [Perceptions Scholarship](#) is awarded to students who demonstrate a passion for working for equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, or religion. The Facilities Fund will help Perceptions furnish and maintain a multi-purpose space for our meetings, support groups, and office needs. A donation will also be made to Saginaw's [Underground Railroad](#), a shelter for women in crisis. They have demonstrated great support of the LGBT community and we would like to show our support to them.

The evening will include silent and live auctions where you can bid on a wide array of gifts donated by area merchants, Perceptions members and friends. Silent auction items will be on display for you to browse and place your bid from 7:00 pm until bids close at 9:30. During this time, a few select items will be sold by a live auction, which is always a lot of fun.

Tickets are available now and include a full 3 entrée dinner served from a bountiful buffet. Bay Valley always does an outstanding job on the dinner which is both beautiful and delicious. A cash bar will also be available. Music and dancing will round out the night. The tickets are \$30.00 in advance, \$20.00 for students with current ID, and a limited number will be available for \$35.00 at the door. They can be purchased from any board member or via PayPal with a major credit card on our website at PerceptionsSV.org/HolidayParty.

2012 Memberships Now Available

Perceptions memberships are a great way to support our community and build our organization. Becoming a member has many benefits, but the main one is a sense that you're helping make Perceptions all it can be. Whether you give financially, or with your time or both, your support helps us grow to our full potential as a group.

Membership dues remain the same as last year. They are \$25.00 for individuals, \$40.00

for families, \$15.00 for students, and lifetime memberships are \$250.00. Go to PerceptionsSV.org/member.html for further details or contact Jim@PerceptionsSV.org or any board member.

Remember...YOU are the key. Member support is what makes us strong!



Current Events

events.PerceptionsSV.org

Thursday, December 1st—World AIDS Day Call to Action Program

Noon. Saginaw County Court House, Michigan Ave., Saginaw. All area residents are invited to this free program to better equip residents with understanding of HIV/AIDS and how they can combat this disease at a local level. Presented by Saginaw Community HIV/AIDS task Force in conjunction with Health Delivery Inc.

Thursday, December 1st - World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil

6:00 pm. Remembering all of the lives lost to AIDS. The service will include music, prayer, the recitation of the names of some of the people lost to AIDS, and the lighting of candles. This is a free event and open to the public. Sandwiches and beverages will be served by The Savoy Grill immediately following the service. Presented by Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center HIV/AIDS Care Services. **Andersen Enrichment Center**, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw.

▼ **Friday, December 2nd - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions this week at the **Savoy Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Tuesday, December 6th - Christmas Around the World 7:30 pm. Saginaw Bay Orchestra's holiday concert features *Troika* from Lieutenant Kijé, *Adoration of the Magi* from Trittico Botticelliano and many popular carols Brett Mitchell, Music Director. **Temple Theatre**, 201 N. Washington Ave., Saginaw. Call 989-754-SHOW for tickets.

▼ **Friday, December 9th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions this week at **Super Buffet**, [3823 Bay Rd.](#), Saginaw. Please reply to

Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday if you plan to attend.

Saturday, December 10th - A World of Carols 3:00 pm. Join the Saginaw Choral Society and explore the world's holiday traditions and sing together the carols that we've come to know and love. Glen Thomas Rideout, Artistic Director and Conductor. **Temple Theatre**, 201 N. Washington Ave., Saginaw.

▼ **Saturday, December 10th - Holiday Party & Charity Auction** Buffet dinner, cash bar, entertainment, and silent & live auctions. Bay Valley Resort, 2470 Old Bridge Road, Bay City. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$20 for college students with ID. For online ticket sales or additional information, go to PerceptionsSV.org/HolidayParty.

Sunday, December 11th - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy. For more information, contact pflagflint@yahoo.com.

Sunday, December 11th - LGBT Movie Night 7:00 pm. Movie and refreshments presented by Divine Light Interfaith Ministry. 301 Cass St., Saginaw.

▼ **Wednesday, December 14th - Freeland Meet & Greet** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Riverside Restaurant, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

▼ **Friday, December 16th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions at **Rusty Saw Smokehouse BBQ**, [6907 Westside Saginaw Rd.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

December 16th & 17th - Holiday of Lights 8:00 pm both nights. Winter

concert by Sistrum, Lansign Women's Chorus & LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus. Tickets are \$20 to \$12 sliding scale. ASL interpretation provided. **Dart Auditorium** at Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.holidayoflights.org

Saturday, December 17th - DTMC Holiday Concert [Detroit Together Men's Chorus](#) presents "Christmas Rebooted." General seating tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door, or \$15 for students and seniors. Preferred seating is \$25. Lamphere High School Auditorium, 610 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Madison Heights.

Saturday, December 17th - "Baby It's Cold Outside" 7:30 pm. Holiday concert by [Sing Out Detroit](#), directed by Todd Ballou. Suggested donation \$10. First United Methodist Church, 320 W. Seventh St., Royal Oak.

Sunday, December 18th - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Rd., Saginaw. For more information contact pflag@pflag-mbs.org or 989-941-1458.

▼ **Tuesday, December 20th - Men's Discussion Group** 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The Alderton, [301 Cass St.](#), Old Town Saginaw. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. Contact him at Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided.

Wednesday, December 21st - Womyn's Room II 6:00 pm. This women's group is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																						
				1  World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil Andersen Enrichment Center 120 Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw 6:00 PM	2  Friday Night Dinner Savoy Grill 127 S. Franklin Saginaw 7:00 PM	3																																																																																						
4	5	6	7	8	9  Friday Night Dinner Super Buffet 3823 Bay Rd. Saginaw 7:00 PM	10  Perceptions Holiday Party & Auction Bay Valley Resort Bay City 7:00 PM																																																																																						
11  Genesee Co. PFLAG Meeting UU Church of Flint 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint 2:00 - 4:30 PM	12	13	14  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Road 6:00 - 8:00 PM	15	16  Friday Night Dinner Rusty Saw Smokehouse 6907 WS Saginaw Rd. Bay City 7:00 PM	17																																																																																						
18  Tri-Cities PFLAG Meeting Our Savior Lutheran Church 2525 Hemmeter, Saginaw 2:00 - 4:30 PM	19	20  Perceptions Men's Discussion Group 301 Cass, Saginaw 7:00 - 8:30 PM	21 Chanukkah	22 Winter Solstice	23  Friday Night Dinner Vinny's Stock Pot 1007 Wasington Ave. Bay City 7:00 PM	24 Christmas Eve																																																																																						
25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins  Transgender Group The Magic Bean 5789 State St. 6:00 - 7:30 PM	27	28	29	30  Friday Night Dinner Harvey's Grill & Bar 3055 Tittabawssee Rd. Saginaw 7:00 PM	31 New Year's Eve																																																																																						
		November 2011 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				January 2012 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>Th</th> <th>F</th> <th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					Notes: 1-Perceptions Board Meeting will be Nov. 30 14 - Freeland Meet & Greet (NOTE TIME) 15 - No General Meeting this month 28 - No Saginaw Meet & Greet this month
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																						
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																						
27	28	29	30																																																																																									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																						
29	30	31																																																																																										

Use Your Buying Power to Promote LGBT Equality

The Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index report, released each fall, provides an in-depth analysis and rating of large U.S. employers and their policies and practices pertinent to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees.

Businesses are rated on a scale from 0 to 100%, based on whether or not they have policies that support LGBT employees. These include anti-discrimination protections, domestic partner benefits, diversity training and transgender-inclusive benefits.. The number of major U.S. businesses that earned a score of 100% increased from 305 last year to 337 in the 2011.

Consumer-oriented businesses are included in HRC's "Buying for Equality" guide. The 2011 Buyer's Guide is even available as an App for your iPhone (www.hrc.org/iphone). Whether you're buying a cup of coffee or renovating your home, by supporting businesses that support workplace equality, you send a powerful message that LGBT inclusion is good for the bottom line.

The total buying power of the adult U.S. lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender population is estimated to be \$743 billion. We hope that you'll use this guide as one component when determining if a business's social practices

make it worthy of your dollars.

It is legal in Michigan and 28 other states to fire someone for being lesbian, gay or bisexual. It is legal in 38 states to fire an employee for being transgender. We should recognize and reward those companies that have implemented policies affirming that they will not discriminate against employees (or customers) based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.



Here is a sampling of the businesses that are rated in the *Buying for Equality* guide:

Office Supplies

Staples	100%
Office Max	95%
Office Depot	45%

Restaurants

Chili's	100%
T.G.I. Friday's	100%
Starbucks / Seattle's Best	100%
McDonald's	85%
Olive Garden / Red Lobster	80%
Burger King	73%
Taco Bell / Pizza Hut / KFC	65%
Domino's Pizza	60%
Cracker Barrel	55%
Wendy's/Arby's	30%
Qdoba Mexican Grill	15%
Bob Evan's	15%
Dairy Queen	15%
Outback Steakhouse	0%

Gas & Oil

Shell Oil	100%
Chevron / Texaco	100%
BP	100%
Marathon	20%
Sunoco	15%
ExxonMobil	0%

Clothing & Accessories

Abercrombie & Fitch	100%
Elder-Beerman / Younker's	100%
J.C. Penney	100%
Sears	100%
Macy's	100%
Polo Ralph Lauren	30%
Neiman Marcus	30%
Saks	30%
Nautica / The North Face	15%
Hanes / Champion	0%

Travel & Leisure

The Walt Disney Co.	100%
Hilton / Doubletree	90%
Royal Caribbean / Celebrity	80%
AirTran	15%
Carnival	0%

Technology

AT&T	100%
Sprint Nextel	100%
Verizon / Alltel	70%
T-Mobile	50%

See the full *Buying for Workplace Equality* guide at www.hrc.org/buyersguide.

Share this information with your friends, family and co-workers. Help them become supporters of workplace equality by factoring this information into purchasing decisions.

Touch of Light Therapeutic Massage

1015 Court St
Saginaw MI, 48602
989-574-8097

BRIAN M., LRT, CMT

Offering Therapeutic Massage and Body Work,
Medical Massage, Hot Stone Massage, Reiki
and Other Energy Work.

By Appointment. Mention This Ad and Receive a 10% Discount.



Jay Samborn Entertainment will be providing music, DJ, lighting, and sound system for the Perceptions Holiday Party.

NOT FOR COUPLES ONLY!!

Mark your calendars now for the
Perceptions Valentine's Day Dance

Saturday, February 11, 2012
7:00 pm

Stay tuned for more details.

Questions?

Contact

Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org

CURRENT EVENTS continued

come for support and socialization. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

Wednesday, December 21st -

Men's Friendship Room 7:00 pm. Men's Friendship Room is designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. It meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more information, contact David Younk at 989-771-9721 or DavidY513@hotmail.com or Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-755-2618.

Friday, December 23rd - Friday

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

Friday, December 30th - Friday

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

To be informed about upcoming events, simply send a blank email to: PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoo.com

SHELLEY HILLIARD continued

Nelson said, "Just continue to look over your shoulder for the rest of your life. Know that she is loved and we will not stop until you pay dearly for what you've done."

[Equality Michigan](#) is working with the homicide investigator to make sure that this case gets the attention it deserves. They have also asked the FBI to investigate this case as a possible hate crime.

Campfire Stories II

By Daphne Barkley

A while ago I wrote an article entitled "Campfire Stories." This is a continuation in that same vein. A few weeks ago my partner and I met up with another couple at Labry's Wilderness resort in Honor, Michigan, about 45 minutes away from Traverse City. We were spending the weekend in a cabin which had all the amenities (except for a shower which was located in the shower house). There are 4 cabins on the premises and we were in the one that offered a direct view to the lake and the beach. Tokens such as rocks and pieces of birch documenting thoughts and experiences lined the cabin shelves. There were collective journals which proved an interesting read. The surrounding beauty and creative vibe allowed my left brain to take the weekend off.

I know what you are thinking, dear reader: What did this not-so-handy-I'd rather be at a musical kind of lesbian do this time. Well...Let me start by saying a wood stove is deceptively difficult to get started. No I did not catch the cabin on fire, however I did slightly smoke us out.

When we arrived late Friday evening, the proprietor had the fire fully stoked so all we had to do was keep it going (piece of cake). After running around for the day on Saturday and having dinner with friends who live up in Traverse City we returned to a pile of glowing embers.



In theory this should have been relatively easy to restart. In reality, think of who is telling this story.

Fast forward about 45 minutes after returning to the cabin and this was the scene: I am sitting in front of the wood stove with the door open trying to fan the embers with a magazine, uttering curses under my breath, while the cabin starts to fill with smoke (which I realize

at the point I can no longer see the kitchen). My dog has this look on his face that says "seriously, what is wrong with you?" Eventually (and admittedly with assistance) the fire was going (note to self, bad idea to stuff several pieces of wood directly into the wood stove in hopes they will magically light and create a roaring fire).

All in all even with the wood stove mishap, the weekend was great. I did freak out a bit when I discovered a bug on me after getting out of the shower. It appeared orange and fuzzy-bristly, any ideas? This induces a bit of screaming and entertaining the thought of running through the grounds clad only in my towel (which did not occur). The location was great for day trips to the surrounding towns, dunes, and lighthouses. The weather was fairly good for November and we only had rain on the Sunday we left. The only regret was not being able to spend a longer amount of time there. If you happen to make your way to Labry's for your own getaway, look for the really smoky cabin and you'll know I'm there.

**Proud Sponsor of the 10th Annual
Perceptions Holiday Party & Charity Auction**



WINDOVER
WOMEN'S RESORT

www.WindoverWomensResort.com

Game Night at The Mixx is a Fun Night Out

Euchre anyone? So began game night on the night before Thanksgiving. Cards seemed to be in demand that night and everyone who didn't play Euchre filled a long table and played Rummy. Everyone agreed that a friendly game of cards would be a hit and it was. Who knows what kind of games we'll play next time. If you have a favorite game, bring it along to share. As they say, it's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game, and we *always* do it *fabulously!*

Watch for game night to return in January and come for a night of fun and maybe even a few surprises!

**10th Annual
Perceptions
Saginaw
Valley**

Holiday Party

**& Charity
Auction**



**Saturday,
December 10, 2011**

7:00 pm - Midnight

@ Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center
2470 Old Bridge Rod, Bay City, MI 48706

**Buffet Dinner
Cash Bar
Live & Silent Auction
Music
Dancing**

Funds raised will support the Perceptions
Scholarship Fund, Facilities Fund, & Underground Railroad.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$30 per person/ \$20 Students.
A limited number of tickets will be available @ the door for \$35

To purchase tickets on-line go to www.PerceptionsSV.org using Pay Pal or
a major credit card, or purchase tickets from any Perceptions board member.

For more info, call 989.891.1429, or go to www.PerceptionsSV.org

Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult to the
holiday party.



Perceptions

