



# PERCEPTIONS

## SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area's LGBT Community

January 2012

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free

# Happy New Year!



### Perceptions Marks 10th Anniversary in 2012

From its beginning as the Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Triangle Foundation, Perceptions has sought to improve the lives of the Tri-Cities' LGBT population by offering programs to enrich and empower individuals and by working in the community to eliminate negative stereotypes and build strong allies.

Our organization has survived for 10 years due to the dedication of numerous individuals who believed that sexual orientation and gender identity should not be reasons to deny dignity, respect and equality.

Our group would have never been able to get started without the support of many straight allies, including members of the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland and many PFLAG parents.

To survive and prosper in the next ten years, we will continue to rely on the generosity of individuals with that same conviction. Great things are possible in our future if we can continue to engage those people who wish to make things better for themselves and for others.

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Perceptions  
Saginaw Valley  
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[www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org)

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#### 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](http://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.

## 10th Annual Holiday Party & Charity Auction

by Kay Sural

Going, going, gone! Perceptions 10th Annual Holiday Party was the best one yet. The party was held at beautiful Bay Valley Resort and Conference Center on Saturday, December 10th, 2011, and more than 100 people attended. If you missed it, start thinking about next year because you missed a great opportunity to be a part of the premier event for the LGBT community in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

The Holiday Party and Charity

Auction was once again, a sell out. Beautiful Christmas lights and bountiful items for auction were a delight to the eye. Over 90 items in the silent auction and 12 live auction items made for some great fun. Auctioneer Janis Russell, with help from Tammy (a.k.a. Vanna), brought out bidders for a Nikon Camera, Hotel H and Cafe Zinc package, Bay Valley Golf package, a collectable Longaberger Basket and more. A big thank you to all of our donors.

*Continued on Page 3*

People browse the selection of items available to bid on in the Silent Auction. See the list of donors on page 3.



Party-goers took to the dance floor after the conclusion of the silent and live auctions. DJ Lou from Jay Samborn Entertainment provided the music.

Bay Valley again served a wonderful meal, including London Broil, salmon, chicken, roasted potatoes, spring mix salad, vegetable medley, hot rolls and delicious desserts.

Thank you to everyone who came to support Perceptions Scholarship Fund, Facilities Fund and Underground Railroad. The Charity Auction raised at least \$3,000. Also thank you to all the committee members whose hard work helped make this event a wonderful success. Tim, Fred, Shawn, Chris, Greg, Tom, Rick, Randy, Kay, Dann, Leo and especially Jim Kleinsorge worked tirelessly, not just on this event but to help make Perceptions the best LGBT group in the state!



## Our Gratitude to Everyone Who Donated to the 2011 Charity Auction

[ACLU of Michigan](#)

[Abele Greenhouse](#)

AesymmetRicks<sup>2</sup>

Floyd Andrick

[Avivage Spa](#)

Doug Barron & Brian Goff

[Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center](#)

Lee Berkobien

[Big Apple Bagels - Bay City](#)

[BodyZone - Detroit](#)

[Dean Boivin](#)

Brady Massage Therapy

[Café American](#)

[Diamond Jim's - Midland](#)

[Dow Event Center](#)

[Dow Gardens](#)

Fred Eland

[Fantastic Baskets](#)

Shirley Jean Farrand

Dann Federico

Bill Giorgis & Russ Inman

[Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe](#)

[H Hotel & Café Zinc](#)

[Hairy Paws Dog Center](#)

[Harvey's Grill and Bar](#)

Randy Hasso

[Eric Himan](#)

[Hopfensperger Hair Design](#)

[Idzior Furniture](#)

[Jeuter Insurance](#)

[Independence Village - Frankenthuth](#)

Jim Kleinsorge & Shawn Nicholes

Chris Lauckner & Greg Gwaltney

Dan LeVay

[Macy's - Fashion Square](#)

[Magic Bean Café](#)

Roger Majeske & Greg Kimball

[Michigan Insurance](#) / Nate Smith

[Midland Center for the Arts](#)

[My Secret Garden](#)

[NGC Movie Theater - Midland](#)

[Northwestern Mutual Financial Network](#)

Panda House

Pasong's Cafe

Mitch Reno & Barry Kulick

Barry Rindhage

John Rolando & Don Kephart

Leo Romo

Janis Russell

Russell Insurance

[Rusty Saw Smokehouse BBQ](#)

Savoy Bar & Grill

[Sears - Midland Mall](#)

Darrell Sheets

Alan Shinaver & Tim Atkinson

Richard S.

[Soaring Eagle Casino](#)

[Starbucks - Saginaw](#)

[Stock Pot Diner](#)

[Strawberry Dip Cake Shoppe](#)

Kay Sural

[Temple Theatre](#)

Touch of Light Therapeutic Massage

Kris Waugh

[Windover Women's Resort](#)

## 2012 Membership Drive

Dear Friends and Members of Perceptions,

Your membership is important to this organization. Perceptions has been able to continue to provide quality programs of support, education and advocacy at a local level, and is recognized at a state level as a reputable and outstanding organization. Most of the services Perceptions offer to our community have been offered without a direct cost to those who use our services and offerings. So, you may be asking “Why should I pay membership dues if I can enjoy it for free?” We have often heard this question, and have struggled with the option of restricting events to paying members; this isn’t an option we believe is in the best interest of the community. We welcome everyone to as much as we can offer without charge.

So, why should you pay the dues for membership? My only answer is an honest “It is the right thing to do for the community, even if you chose to never attend a Perception event or activity.” Perceptions has flourished, even in a bad economy, primarily due to the hard work, dedication and financial support of those individuals who believe and recognize that the organization is an asset to our community. Annual membership dues comprise the very base of our existence. It is from these funds that we invest in materials, supplies and promotion for fund-raising events that in turn generate the larger sums of monies that are necessary to continue offering high quality programs and events free or at minimal costs.

We put your contribution to work for the community by working harder ourselves. Over the years we have continued to grow and offer more to the community. Your annual membership dues are stretched as far as we can possibly stretch them. There are no paid positions in Perceptions. Each activity, program, and event is the work of dedicated volunteers who serve to provide high quality programs and events at little or no costs for you and others like you. Your annual dues provide community support in many more ways than you can imagine. Your dues are not going to a small group of people, but are going to provide as much, to as many as possible. We make your dues contribution work for our community by working harder for you. We need you, and we need your contribution.

Sincerely,

Alan Shinaver

Each year, Perceptions asks a member to write the cover letter to kick off our annual membership drive. Alan Shinaver is a lifetime member and served as the Chair of the Perceptions Board of Trustees from 2006 through 2010.

To begin or renew a membership, go to [www.PerceptionsSV.org](http://www.PerceptionsSV.org) and click on ‘Membership’ in the navigation bar on the left.

**Membership Options:**

Individual .....	\$25
College Student .....	\$15
Family .....	\$40
Lifetime.....	\$250

Annual memberships are based on the calendar year, and will expire on December 31, 2012.

In addition to the knowledge that you are supporting your local LGBT community, members receive the following benefits:

- Nominate and vote on candidates for the Board of Trustees.
- Become a candidate and serve on the Board of Trustees.
- Discount tickets for most 2012 Perceptions Events.
- Get \$5 off the price of a Perceptions t-shirt (while supplies last).
- Membership card.
- Your personal copy of our Newsletter.



## Current Events

events.PerceptionsSV.org

▼ **Fri., January 6th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **The Savoy Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. Please respond to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday, if you plan to attend.

▼ **Sunday, January 8th - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 m. The meeting takes place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more information, contact [pflagflint@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagflint@yahoo.com).

▼ **Tuesday, January 10th - 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. Email [Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org) for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks provided.

▼ **Wednesday, January 11th - Freeland Meet & Greet** 6:00 to 8:00 pm. **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

▼ **Fri., January 13th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Mandarin House**, [3000 Center Ave.](#), Essexville. If you plan to attend, please respond by 3:00 pm Friday to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org)

▼ **Sunday, January 15th - 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](mailto:pflag@pflag-mbs.org) or 989-941-1458.

▼ **Wednesday, January 18th - 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 come for support and socialization. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy Van-

Buskirk at 989-755-2618.

▼ **Wednesday, January 18th - 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 Rev. Kathy Van-Buskirk at 989-755-2618.

▼ **Thursday, January 19th - Perceptions General Meeting** 7:00 pm. Annual Meeting and election of Trustees. All are welcome. **The Alderton**, [301 Cass St.](#), Old Town Saginaw. For more information, contact [Perceptions](#). See article on page 7.

▼ **Friday, January 20th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Sullivan's Food & Spirits**, [5235 Gratiot Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ **Saturday, January 21st - Open House at Perceptions New Facilities** 7:00 pm. **The Alderton Building**, [301 Cass St.](#), Old Town Saginaw. Please RSVP to [Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org) or 989-891-1429 by January 14th. See article on page 9.

▼ **Wednesday, January 25th - Saginaw Meet & Greet** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **The Mixx**, [115 N. Hamilton St.](#), Saginaw, for food and conversation and perhaps try your luck at a board game or cards.

▼ **Fri., January 27th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at **Midland Street Pub**, [610 E. Midland St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond by Fri. at 3:00 pm to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org)

▼ **Saturday, January 28th - Fabulous Fem Clothes Swap** 10:00 am -

1:00 pm. A safe space for transgender women (MTF) to swap clothes. Come with nothing or bring things to share. Informative presentations on Erotizing Safe Sex, Make Up 101, and An Open Discussion on Living Transgender. **The Hearth Home**, [732 Hoyt St.](#), Saginaw. Call 989-753-9011 for more information. To arrange free transportation in the Saginaw area, call or text 989-751-3740.

▼ **Monday, January 30th - Perceptions Transgender Group** 6:00 pm. Meeting at **Magic Bean Café**, [5789 State Street](#), Saginaw, the group offers an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. If you have any questions, contact [Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org).

▼ **Friday, February 3rd - Michigan SOGI Education Conference** 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Michigan's first state-wide conference on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) issues in education will be held at **Oakland University** in Rochester. The conference objectives are to promote dialogue about important issues involving sexual orientation and gender identity in schools and universities; provide staff, teachers and administrators with opportunities to inform and influence how colleges of education are preparing teachers and administrators to effectively address these areas of difference; and to identify ways that colleges of education and community-based resources can assist practitioners in effectively meeting the needs of their LGBT students, staff, faculty and administrators. For more information, visit [www.oakland.edu/sogi](http://www.oakland.edu/sogi)

▼ = An Event Sponsored or Endorsed by Perceptions.

To be informed about upcoming events, simply send a blank email to: [PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

# JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Perceptions Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>6</b>  Friday Night Dinner The Savoy Grill 127 S. Franklin St Saginaw 7:00 PM	<b>7</b>																																																																																				
<b>8</b>  Genesee Co. PFLAG Meeting UU Church of Flint 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint 2:00 - 4:30 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Perceptions Men's Discussion Group 301 Cass, Saginaw 7:00 - 8:30 PM	<b>11</b>  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Road 6:00 - 8:00 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Friday Night Dinner Mandarin House 3000 W. Center Rd. Essexville 7:00 PM	<b>14</b>																																																																																				
<b>15</b>  Tri-Cities PFLAG Meeting Our Savior Lutheran Church 2525 Hemmeter, Saginaw 2:00 - 4:30 PM	<b>16</b> ML King Day	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Perceptions Annual Meeting & Elections 301 Cass St., Saginaw 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>20</b>  Friday Night Dinner Sullivan's 5235 Gratiot Rd. Saginaw 7:00 PM	<b>21</b>  Perceptions Open House The Alderton 301 Cass St, Saginaw 7:00 - 9:00 PM																																																																																				
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  Saginaw Meet & Greet The Mixx 115 N. Hamilton St 7:00 - 9:00 PM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Friday Night Dinner Midland Street Pub 605 E. Midland St. Bay City 7:00 PM	<b>28</b>																																																																																				
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Transgender Group The Magic Bean 5789 State St. 6:00 - 7:30 PM	<b>31</b>																																																																																								
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## Friday Night Dinners: Change Is in the Air

by Jim Kleinsorge

There is going to be a change coming for Friday Night Dinner attendees beginning this month. Mike M. will be setting up dinners for us and collecting the RSVPs to ensure the restaurant has an accurate head count. Beginning with the first dinner of the year on January 6th at The Savoy Grill, you'll be sending your RSVPs to [RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org) instead of to me.

I have enjoyed setting up the dinners for the group but after nearly six years, it's time to pass the reigns on to someone else. I know Mike will do a wonderful job, so please support him by getting those RSVPs to him whenever possible. It really does make a much more enjoyable dining experience for everyone. We have such a wonderful group of people that attend the dinners, and whether a long-time attendee or someone coming for the first time,

everyone is always welcomed with open arms. If you haven't joined us before, please consider it, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. And if you have, well... you already know how wonderful they can be. That isn't going to change.

Friday Night Dinners are one of the longest continuously running programs of Perceptions. They serve not only as a social and networking opportunity for the attendees, but they help to make us visible to the business community. For the owners and staff and even the other customers of the establishments that we patronize, we put a human face on the local LGBT community and build relationships that promote understanding and increase tolerance. We make it more difficult to discriminate against us. We've identified many allies and even a few members because of these dinners.

## Perceptions Annual Meeting & Elections

The Perceptions General Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, is designated as the Annual Meeting of the organization. The Annual Meeting will feature "State of the Organization" reports from the Board of Trustees including a Treasurer's Report of our finances, membership statistics, and a summary of our activities and accomplishments over the past year plus some of our goals for the future and the challenges that lie ahead.

Another important part of our Annual Meeting is the election of individuals to serve on our Board of Trustees. Members who have paid 2011 or 2012 dues will be given a ballot. The nominating committee is still accepting nominations of individuals to serve on the Board of Trustees. The continued success of our organization depends on identifying individuals who are willing to donate their time and talents to further our mission of providing superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of LGBT individuals and our community.

We could elect up to six people to the Board of Trustees, which is limited to 12 seats. Kay Sural, Jim Kleinsorge and Tim Atkinson are serving terms which expire in January 2013. Daphne Barkley, Thomas Brubaker, and Dann Federico are serving terms which expire in 2014. Roger Majeske, Randy Hasso and Brent Theisen have completed their terms and will not seek re-election. We are grateful for the contributions that they have made to the organiza-

Perceptions Saginaw Meet & Greet:

## Game Night at The Mixx



Wednesday, January 25th

7:00 - 9:00 pm

The kitchen at The Metro Grille will be open and serving up sandwiches and snacks. In addition to coffee and soft drinks, The Mixx offers a full bar with drink specials during our Meet & Greet.

Join us just for the company and conversation or participate in a game of Euchre, a board game, or other activity.



*Continued on Page 8.*

## ANNUAL MEETING Continued

tion and pleased that all three will continue to be involved as volunteers at some level. Rick Farrand, who has served as a Trustee since 2010, will run for re-election for an additional one-year term.

We have some big shoes to fill, as we must identify somebody to serve as Secretary of the Board. Jim Kleinsorge has filled this role for several years but due to personal circumstances he must find somebody to take over. Jim will be available to work with the new Secretary to insure a smooth transition. We also would like to find people to work on the communications team, including our newsletter and web site. It is not necessary to be elected to the Board to work on the communications team, but it seems to work well to have those in key roles also serve as Trustees or Advisors. We'd also like to identify people with grant writing experience to serve on the Board or work closely with the Board. Individuals with project management experience would also be valuable additions to the Board to oversee development of programs or projects such as facilities improvement.

Finally, the Annual Meeting will provide you with a forum to ask questions of Perceptions leadership, provide feedback about existing programs, and make suggestions for our continuous improvement and growth.



*Join Equality Michigan in their mission to achieve full equality and respect for all people in Michigan, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.*

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

*Valentine's Day Dance*

*Not just for Couples!!*

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

*Saturday,*  
*February 11, 2012*  
*7:00 pm*

*301 Cass Ave.*  
*Old Town Saginaw*

*Music, Food, and Fun*

*For more information or to get in-*  
*olved*

*Contact [Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Daphne@PerceptionsSV.org)*

## 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.**

## Survey on Domestic Partner Benefits

Please take a short survey on domestic partner benefits to help Daphne Barkley, who currently serves as Treasurer on the Perceptions Board of Trustees, complete her thesis ("Domestic Partner Benefits and Their Importance to LGBT Employees") as the final requirement in her Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University. The survey is completely anonymous and your responses will be held in the utmost confidence. Your participation is purely voluntary and greatly appreciated. Please go to the following URL to launch the survey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6K7ZC2T>



January 21st  
Open House at  
Our New Facility  
by Tom Brubaker

Please join us on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm when Perceptions will host an open house and fundraiser at our new "home" at The Alderton Building, [301 Cass Street](#) in Old Town Saginaw.

If you have not already visited our new facility, come see what we have planned for the new year. If you have already seen the new facility, come join us and share in the celebration of our new facility and relax with friends and enjoy the evening. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine will be served.

The new facility space is made possible through the generosity of local philanthropists Bill Giorgis and Russ Inman. We are very grateful to Bill and Russ for helping give our local LGBT organization a place to call home.

We look forward to sharing with you how the new facility will serve as a place to hold Perceptions meetings, support groups, and other activities. Our open house also provides all of us with an [opportunity to give](#), either financially, by volunteering, or by choosing to donate an item on the new facility wish list. A brief presentation will take place at the event explaining how we can all support our new meeting space

**Are you living with HIV ?**

**Are you a Man who has Sex with Men?**

**Trying to deal with it all?**

**Need Some support?**

**If you are looking for encouragement,  
lasting friendships, fun, and a good time**

**CALL 989-753-9011**

This casual setting offers help for those Living with HIV!

Group participants share information and stories, provide support, and discuss coping strategies.

The next Group will start on  
January 21st

So don't wait to sign up!

## Status Matters



**Text Lilianna for  
more information**

**989-751-3740**

**Free Food, Prizes, and a Safe Confidential Environment**

through a donation of time, money, or a [wish list](#) donation. We will also provide both printed and electronic information explaining the needs of the new facility and how we can all support the new "home" for Perceptions.

We would appreciate receiving your RSVP by January 14th. If you plan to attend the January 21<sup>st</sup> open house, please email [Thomas@perceptionsSV.org](mailto:Thomas@perceptionsSV.org) or call 989-891-1429.

Mark your calendar!

You Are Cordially Invited To:

# Perceptions New Facility Open House & Fundraiser

Saturday, January 21, 2012  
7 to 9 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres & beverages

@ The Alderton Building,  
301 Cass Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602

Please RSVP  
your attendance  
by Saturday,  
January 14, 2012  
by sending an email to  
[Thomas@perceptionsSV.org](mailto:Thomas@perceptionsSV.org),  
or calling 989.891.1429

HELP  
SUPPORT  
our facilities project



The Alderton Building



Perceptions