



October 2002
Volume 1, Issue 1

Perceptions

on the Saginaw Valley GLBT community

Saginaw Valley GLBT Group, Inc. P.O. Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641

Calendar Highlights:

- Bay City Coffee & Tea Meet and Greet, Oct. 16, 7-9 pm
- Monthly meeting, Oct. 24, 7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Midland
- Harvest Potluck, Oct. 26, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Midland--Pumpkin Carving Contest!

To receive email alerting about upcoming events, send your email address to PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoogroups.com

Full Calendar of Events on page 3

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Welcome from the Co-Chairs

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter. Terry King and Mindy Pennington are the new Co-Chairs of Perceptions

Perceptions is off to a fantastic start this fall! Our newly-elected board members are excited about our fresh start and are looking forward to all the upcoming activities.

Be sure to tell your friends about Perceptions. I have a proposal for each of you: I will bring home-made baked goods to the next meeting if you each bring at least one new person to the October 24th meeting. Terry and I are looking forward to seeing many new faces. As Perceptions grows we can

have a bigger impact on the Mid-Michigan community!

The Perceptions Board recently developed new membership options. We are pleased to announce that there are two kinds of membership to Perceptions, *Friends* and *Donors*. Read more about your options in Jeff Illig's column on page two.

Finally, as you tell your friends, neighbors, and colleagues about Perceptions, keep our mission statement in mind: "To provide visible leadership throughout the greater Saginaw Valley which promotes equality, respect, and understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals."

Monthly Meeting Notes

Paul A. Wright



Financial Coordination

Jeff Illig

“We hope all of you encourage your friends and associates to consider membership in Perceptions. We appreciate and encourage your participation at any level.”

Hello everyone and welcome to a new and exciting year with Perceptions.

I want to personally thank the new members who attended our September membership meeting. Nothing will help us succeed more quickly than the infusion of new friends and ideas. As our ranks continue to grow, it's important to understand the two levels of membership with Perceptions: *Friends* and *Donor* members. *Friends* are members who have registered at one of our monthly meetings and may actively participate in our educational, outreach, social, and other events. At this point, *Friends* constitute the bulk of our membership and represent our greatest resource for introducing Perceptions to the greater community.

Donor members have generously contributed a minimum of \$20 annually.

Besides enjoying the same privileges as *Friends*, *Donor* members may nominate, vote for, and become candidates for the Perceptions volunteer Board of Directors. *Donor* members seek more active participation in the operation of our group. And *Donors* may dedicate more time and hard work, realizing a higher level of satisfaction and internal gratification. In addition to these personal rewards, you receive a financial reward! Your contributions to Perceptions are tax-deductible because of our non profit designation under Another benefit of Donor membership is

Donor membership rewards each of us individually and personally. We gratefully acknowledge the 25 current *Donor* members.

We hope all of you encourage your friends and associates to consider membership in Perceptions. We appreciate and encourage your participation at any level. Thank you.



Communications Update

Charles Lisee

Lots of things to cover as far as COMMUNICATIONS go!

The board is working diligently to get the PerceptionsSV website up and running, before our next open meeting. The goal is to have one consistent location for the Perceptions affiliated events and projects with links to other resourceful websites. There is a renewed spirit in finalizing the Perceptions Logo. We're aiming to have this completed for the monthly meeting as well.

In preparation for the monthly meeting on Thursday, October 24th I ask each and every one of you to spread the word about PerceptionsSV. We need to unite and begin establishing our

identity within the community. Ask a friend or two or three to come to the next meeting. Let's mobilize our community and realize the wonderful resources that we hold in mass.

Come and enjoy the planned speaker Michael Mishic, an attorney from Midland who will be speaking in regards to legal issues faced by the GLBT community such as last wills and testaments, health care, partnership agreements and more. Make that commitment and join us for a pleasant evening on Thursday October 24th!

The best to you,
Charles Lisee
Communications Coordinator



October Harvest Potluck 10/26/02 UU Fellowship 5:00PM

Activity: Pumpkin Carving Contest with gift certificates going to the top 5 carvers.

November Thanksgiving Potluck 11/23/02 UU Fellowship 5:00 PM

Activity: Food Drive

**December Holiday Party 12/12/02 Montague Inn, Saginaw
7:00 PM**

Appetizers, soda and punch Cost per person \$15.00 Cash Bar Available

Activity: Silent Auction benefiting a local charity of our choice.

Instant Recipes

Mindy Pennington

Many of the Perceptions social activities revolve around food so we thought it would be a good idea to have a recipe column. Suggestions for this column are always welcome; actual samples at meeting and potlucks are even better.

We all know that "Instant" is all relative. Some people like to cook, some do not. Recipes here will have varying degrees of difficulty, but you can always contact Mindy's bakeline by emailing the [Perceptions](mailto:PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoogroups.com) group at PerceptionsSV-owner@yahoogroups.com. You are sure to get help from another member.

Our first recipe is one I came up with in desperation one evening. When all else fails, start sautéing butter and onion in a pan...then look in the fridge for other ingredients. Inspiration will follow.

Curried Rice Pilaf

1 onion, finely chopped
6 medium fresh mushrooms, sliced
chicken broth
curry powder
fresh ground pepper
¼ cup (or so) dried cherries

Cook sliced/chopped onion and carrot in butter on medium heat. Add sliced mushrooms and sauté. Add ½ cup chicken broth and curry powder (to taste). Add black pepper. Cook until the broth cooks down slightly and then add 1.5 cups cooked rice. Cook down until broth is absorbed by rice. Stir in some dried tart cherries.

Hints: cook rice the day before; add other vegetables like cauliflower



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Meet a Board Member: Charles Lisee

Each month we will highlight a Perceptions Board Member so you can learn our motivation for volunteering.

membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

Inside Story Headline

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headline is an important part of

the newsletter and should be considered carefully.

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.



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