



# Perceptions Saginaw Valley

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT  
Community

March 2011

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

Free

**Saturday  
March 12  
6 pm**



**20th Annual  
Chocolate Party  
Will Benefit PFLAG  
& Perceptions,  
Again This Year  
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## **2011 Board Officers Elected**

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## **Perceptions Hosts Panel Discussion**

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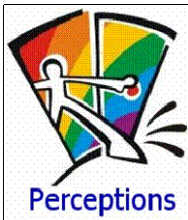
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SUBMISSIONS are always  
welcome. Write to:  
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Mid-Michigan's leading  
resource for  
enriching and  
empowering LGBT  
individuals  
and their  
community

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.

## FROM THE EDITOR

I got into an argument with my previous roommate a few weeks back. If you know me; you know him. But don't worry, he's given his approval for me to publish this. It wasn't the first time we had talked about this topic. I told him I wanted a rainbow sticker on my car. He said "no." Outing myself to the neighbors would out him, as well.

Now, it's easy for me to be out. I am unemployed and don't have to worry about being fired. My roommates have known I am gay, so I don't have to worry about losing my home. My picture is in this newsletter, along with my name, and it sits in various coffee shops and libraries around the Tri-Cities. What have I got to lose? My roommate said he had a lot to lose. He does a lot of volunteer work that helps a lot of people. If homophobic people were to start rejecting his help, a lot of people would lose out on all that he does for them. This is true. However, I told him that 678 million people benefit every time somebody comes



out of the closet. I'm not exaggerating, either. If everybody who can be out, was out, I believe the stigma would lessen and maybe we'd get a law passed so that you couldn't discriminate against us in housing and employment. That would allow most everyone to come out. That helps about ten percent of the world's population—678 million. Well, I did not win the argument.

Of course there are always risks. I am looking for a job and I know that potential employers like to investigate people on the internet, sometimes. I've been told not to come out in an interview and I don't plan to. However, it doesn't take much computer skill to look me up and see what I'm about. My life story is all over the internet. However, I can't imagine working with people who do not know that I am gay, anyway. I may have made my life more difficult by being out, but in some ways it's a lot easier, because I don't have to hide.

—Brent Theisen

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

TUTORING- K-12 & College  
Masters Level Teacher  
Call Terri Dinsmore  
810-639-3060

Send Classifieds to  
[Editor@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Editor@PerceptionsSV.org)  
(A \$5 donation is encouraged for those  
without a Perceptions Membership.)

## New Officers Selected for Perceptions Board

The Perceptions Board of Trustees met on February 3rd and has selected four officers for the coming one year term. Jim Kleinsorge will continue to serve as Secretary. Daphne Barkley will take over the position of Treasurer. Daphne has a background in accounting and has served on other boards, in the past. Thomas Brubaker has become the new Vice Chair and will support our new Chair. Kay Sural, who has been serving as Vice Chair, will also continue to help as much as possible.

Taking over the position of Chair from Alan Shinaver is Tim Atkinson. Tim has been the Webmaster for many years and will continue to serve in that capacity, as well. Let us all give a big thank you to these five dedicated individuals for all they do for the organization.



New Chair, Tim Atkinson

## 20th Annual Chocolate Party

Kay Sural

Dark chocolate, milk chocolate, white chocolate. It will all be at the **PFLAG/Perception Chocolate Party**. This annual event will be returning to Bay City this year.

[1609 5th Street](#) is the beautiful Victorian home of Terry Z, long time supporter of Perceptions and PFLAG. Terry hosted his first Chocolate Party in 1991 and asked to host this year's 20th Anniversary

party. Though proceeds have always gone to charity, the Chocolate Parties of recent years have become associ-



ated with PFLAG and Perceptions.

Donations will be accepted at the door. If you have attended this event in the past, you know you can count on a delicious variety of cook-

ies, cakes, candies and many other mouth-watering chocolate creations. Mark your calendars, **Saturday, March 12th, 6:00 to 9:00 pm.** If you don't like chocolate, (WHAT??)

come to tour Terry's beautiful home and visit with old and new friends. See you there!

*I'm beautiful in my way,  
'Cause God makes no mistakes  
I'm on the right track, baby  
I was born this way*

*Don't hide yourself in regret,  
Just love yourself and you're set  
I'm on the right track, baby  
I was born this way*

—Lady Gaga, “Born This Way”

### Mixed Reaction to New Lady Gaga Song

Will Lady Gaga's new single join “It's Raining Men” and “We Are Family” as another iconic gay anthem? Or is it “just a pandering piece of pop,” as Jacob Bernstein reports on the *Daily Beast*. According to Bernstein, a gay party promoter in New York was quoted as saying, “I sort of liked Gaga more when she sang about dancing as opposed to trying to be the voice of a generation.” Others compared her look at the Grammys to Madonna's blonde ambition phase. “Born” has further been compared to Madonna's “Express Yourself.” Gaga says that Madonna's people sent her an email in support of the song, and Gaga quipped to Jay Leno, “if the queen says it shall be, then it shall be.”

Source: [www.thedailybeast.com](http://www.thedailybeast.com)



THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH



2:00 - 4:30 pm  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church,  
[2525 Hemmeter Road](#)  
Saginaw



## Panel Discussion on Being LGBT, Well-Attended

Brent Theisen

We were pleased to see a spectacular turnout greeting the six panelists who spoke on February 17th, at our General Meeting. The panelists, representing a broad spectrum of the LGBT umbrella, ranged in age from their 20s to their 60s. A variety of ethnic and gender identities were represented by the six members of the discussion panel. "Being LGBT in the Tri Cities," was the evening's theme, and the discussion started off with each speaker telling a little about themselves, using their personal comfort level as their guide.

**Arik Gottleber**, a student at Saginaw Valley State University,

identified as "gender queer," which he described as meaning he does not identify exclusively as male or female. He explained to the audience that he also views sexuality as a fluid spectrum, and not as rigid as some tend to view it. Later, the discussion turned toward the issue of experiencing the need to hide one's identity to avoid harassment. Arik explained that he had always felt as though he was unable to hide, because he has always displayed behaviors considered to be outside of society's expectations for males.

Senior citizen **Fred Eland**, on the other hand, had been married

until a few years ago, and has only recently come out. The discussions, at times, focused on the issue of the younger LGBT generation who seem to be more publicly visible than members of the older generation.

**Angelo Campos**, of Latino heritage, touched on the topic of his conservative religious upbringing and the effect it has on his public persona, while **Kathy Lloyd**, an out lesbian, spoke about fear preventing her from walking hand and hand down the streets of her hometown with a female partner.

Discussions also explored the lack of social interaction between



Top (from left) are Arik Gottleber, diedra m. knox, Fred Eland, Julie Almy, Kathy Lloyd, and Angelo Campos. Bottom: The crowd mingles, before the program.



men and women who are members of the LGBT community. **Julie Almy**, a transgender woman, expressed that she is comfortable among both gay men and lesbians. Julie also spoke about her experiences during her youth of feeling it necessary to conform to male gender roles because of society's expectations.

Panelist **diedra m. knox** spoke at length about her experiences as an African American. She shared that she felt more prejudice from others because of her skin color, than of her sexual orientation. Former Perceptions Chair, **Alan Shinaver**, in moderating the discussion, was quick to point out that none of the panelists could completely represent any one group of people. Instead, the panelists were asked to be themselves and speak about their own personal experiences.

Audience members asked the panelists a variety of questions and then spent the remainder of the evening enjoying the refreshments and socializing. New contacts were made and engaging conversations forged new friendships. Some attendees were moved to sign up for the mailing list or to renew their memberships with the organization. All in all, it was a well received event.



**Top Left: Former Chair, Alan Shinaver, speaks to panelist Julie Almy.**

**Top Right: Guests mingle before the program begins.**

**Left: Current Chair, Tim Atkinson talks to Drew Stoppels from Hearth Home.**

## Annual Spring Rummage Sale Details

Each year since the first local AIDS Walk was held in 2005, Perceptions has organized a Charity Yard Sale to raise funds to allow us to sponsor the Bay City - Midland - Saginaw AIDS Walk. Jim & Shawn have volunteered to host our 7th annual sale on **May 20 - 22**, in Bay City. We already have a few seasoned yard sale aficionados who have committed to help with this year's sale, but we can always use more. The 2011 AIDS Walk has been scheduled for Saturday, September 24th. For more information about the sale, people may

contact [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org)

Please think of Perceptions, as you are cleaning out the basement or the attic this Spring. (Tax receipts for donations are available upon request.) If you have large items that you wish to donate to the sale, but are unable to store them, Brent has made arrangements to store the items in Doug's half-empty antique store (the old D.A.D.'s store.). Simply contact [Brent@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Brent@PerceptionsSV.org) and arrange to drop them off at [3004 S. Poseyville Rd](#), six miles from both Midland and Freeland

# Mind Your Diversity Manners

Daphne Barkley

On Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, nine Perceptions members braved the impending blizzard to hear Dr Maura Cullen speak at SVSU on the topic of diversity. Her presentation titled **“Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say: 10 Skills to Increase Your Diversity Competence”** covered not only core concepts that we should be mindful of when communicating with others but also some phrases that we tend to say that although well intentioned, have quite the opposite effect.

We have all been in a situation where we have responded with “That happens to me too” or “I know exactly how you feel.” While we utter these phrases in support of the speaker, they actually end up taking away from the importance of what is being shared with us. For example if someone is relating how they were offended by an off-color joke and we say “I know exactly how you feel” it may make the speaker feel slighted because to be honest, we may be able to empathize but we never know exactly how someone else feels.

We also need to be mindful of the impact of our words, as Dr. Cullen spoke of the “pile on principle”. We are a culmination of our life experiences and therefore each experience we have draws upon our past and is not an isolated instance. When someone has a strong reaction to one particular situation, we must be mindful that is related to this culmination of life rather than the one instance taken on its own.

Dr. Cullen further spoke about perception and how that affects individuals’ outlook on various issues. For example I can look outside at night and think “wow its dark and scary out there” or I can look outside

and think “wow, how peaceful the night is and look at the little light shining off in the distance”. Either way, it is still night outside, yet my perspective dictates how I view and then react to the situation.

Dr Cullen also discussed the concept of bystander behavior. There have many cases in the news recently about bullying instances as well as physical assaults on individuals because of their sexual orientation or just because they were different. Bystander behavior is when these instances happen and no one reacts as everyone exposed to the incident assumes that someone else will call the police or take action. This is not the way we as humans should react when we see our fellow human suffering. It is important to not just keep walking by but do something, such as call the police.

It is important for each of us to take ownership of what we say and do and realize that our actions and words affect others, often, in unintended ways. We must find our inner conscience when it comes to communication and be mindful of what and how we say things. For more information on Dr Cullen and diversity issues, please visit her website at

[www.thediversityspeaker.com](http://www.thediversityspeaker.com)

## Date Is Set for 3rd Pride Banquet

Leo Romo

By demand, Perceptions is planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Saginaw Valley LGBT and Ally Pride Awards Banquet for Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – the 42nd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

The LGBTA Awards Banquet has several goals: remember the Stonewall Riots; educate the LGBT and other communities; honor individuals for their outstanding service to the Saginaw Valley LGBT community; and enjoy the evening – and you will. Known details so far: Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Saginaw's Andersen Enrichment Center at 6 pm, and catered by the Savoy Grill.

Other details will be planned by a committee – updated nomination/ sponsor forms, program, speaker, the Pride Banquet website, tickets, choices of food & wine/drink, cost, etc. The first Pride Banquet planning meetings are **Tuesday, March 1st** and **Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** at **Zauel Memorial Library**, 3100 N. Center Rd., Saginaw at 7:00 pm.

If you are interested in serving on the Pride Banquet Committee contact **Leo Romo**, Pride Banquet Chair, through 989-798-6660 or [Leo@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Leo@PerceptionsSV.org). Future details will be announced in the Perceptions Newsletter, Weekly Messages or on the [Perceptions website](http://Perceptions website).

Looking for a place to socialize with other LGBT people and their allies? Why not attend the

**FREELAND MEET & GREET**

Wednesday  
March 9th at 6:00 pm

Riverside Restaurant  
8295 Midland Rd

(M47)



# CURRENT EVENTS PAGE

## ▼ **March 4th - Friday Night Dinner**

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at **G's Pizzeria**, [1005 Saginaw St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

## **March 5th, Saturday - Michigan Lesbian & Gay ComedyFest**

Two Shows: **6:00 & 9:30 pm.** Comedians: Carlease, Sandra Valls, Owen Alabado, and Poppy Champlin. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. The 15th Annual [Michigan Gay & Lesbian ComedyFest](#) is a community event is produced by Equality Michigan. The event is fully accessible and an ASL interpreter is provided. Tickets are \$30 in advance. Purchase tickets online, call 313-537-7000 (during business hours Mon. - Fri.), or visit Just 4 Us Bookstore, Five15, or Common Language Bookstore.

▼ **March 9th, 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.

**March 9th, 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.

▼ **March 11th - Friday Night Dinner** **7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at **Super Buffet**, [3823 Bay Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday

**March 11th to 20th - "Sex Please, We're Sixty"** **Friday & Saturday at 8:00 pm, Sunday at 3:00 pm.** This charming farce proves that life can begin at sixty and that men and woman can laugh at each other if they do it gently. Appropriate for mature audiences. [Pit & Balcony Community Theatre](#), 805 N. Hamilton St., Saginaw. Tickets: \$18. Box Office: 989-754-6587

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

## ▼ **March 12th, Saturday - Chocolate**

**Party 6:00 - 9:00 pm.** Annual fundraiser for Perceptions and PFLAG Tri-Cities. Enjoy a variety of chocolate treats while admiring the unique decor of Terry's beautifully restored Victorian home. Free will donation at the door. [1609 Fifth Street](#), Bay City.

## **March 13th, Sunday - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting**

**2:00 - 4:30 pm.** The topic is: "Seven Passages: Bible Versus That Condemn Homosexuality." 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).

▼ **March 15th, Tuesday - Men's Discussion Group** **7:00 to 8:30 pm.** **Zael 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.

**March 16th, 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).

**March 16th, 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).

▼ **March 17th, Thursday - Perceptions Monthly Meeting** **7:00 pm.** **St. John's Episcopal Church**, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#) All are welcome. **Denise Brogan-Kator** of Equality Michigan will speak. Refreshments will be served.

## ▼ **March 18th, Friday Night Dinner**

**7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions friends at **Pat & Jerry's**, [963 West Midland Rd.](#), Auburn. If you plan to attend, please respond to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) by 3:00 pm Friday.

## **March 19th, Saturday - Big Bash 2011: Cirque du Soiree**

**6:00 pm to Midnight.** Affirmations proudly presents its 12th annual fundraising event. Diamond Center Ballroom, 46100 Grand River, Novi. Gourmet dinner; silent and live auctions; photo booth; After Party with DJ, dancing, aerial performance artists, raffle, and cash bar. VIP admission \$250; General admission \$175; After Party admission \$35. Tickets available at [www.GoAffirmations.org](http://www.GoAffirmations.org). More information, contact Jeannine Simpson at 248-398-7105 or [JSimpson@GoAffirmation.org](mailto:JSimpson@GoAffirmation.org)

**March 20th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting** **2:00 - 4:30 pm.** Meeting at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, [2525 Hemmeter Road](#) in Saginaw.

**March 24th to 26th - "One Hit Wonders"** Presented by Saginaw Choral Society. Gaus, Grefe, Gaus, Gottlieb and Roberts perform Billboard Top 40 songs by one hit wonders. [Pit & Balcony Community Theatre](#), 805 N. Hamilton St., Saginaw. Information: 989-753-1812.

▼ **March 25th - Friday Night Dinner** **7:00 pm.** Join Perceptions members and friends at **Los Cabos**, [7467 Gratiot Rd.](#), Saginaw. Please respond by 3:00 pm Friday to [Jim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org) if you plan to attend.

▼ **March 28th, 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 Prezler at [Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rachel@PerceptionsSV.org).

Be informed about upcoming events  
Simply send a blank email to:  
[PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

# MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
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# Denise Brogan-Kator of Equality Michigan to Speak

Denise Brogan-Kator will speak at the March General Meeting. Her topic will be “The Path to Equality for LGBTQ People in Michigan.” The event begins at 7:00 pm at St. John’s Episcopal Church, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#), in Saginaw. Denise is the Interim Executive Director at [Equality Michigan](#).

Denise has an extensive business background. She has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Metropolitan State College and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Colorado, Executive Program. She is a member in good standing of the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bar Association, National Lesbian and Gay Law Association and the Michigan chapter of the Stonewall Bar Association.

Denise has been a participant and a leader in the transgender rights movement since the mid 1990s. During that time, she co-founded a national organization focused on outreach, education, and timely intervention on behalf of its transgender membership. She previously served as the President and Board Chair of the Board of Trustees for Michigan's state-wide advocacy organization, Triangle Foundation. She is an active



member of [Transgender Michigan](#), GenderPAC, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign, and more.

She has appeared on national television (*20/20* and the Discovery Channel's *Transgender Revolution*). She has walked the halls of the US Congress and met personally with Senators and Representatives from around our country. Through these efforts and others less public, she has personally helped people keep their families together, retain their jobs, and find peace with themselves and those around them.

Source: [www.rainbowlawcenter.com](http://www.rainbowlawcenter.com)

## MOVIE REVIEW:

### *The Kids Are All Right*, But What About the Parents?

Reviewed by Brent Theisen

At press time, the gay themed *Kids Are All Right* was up for Best Picture, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actor at the Academy Awards on February 27<sup>th</sup>. *Kids* tells the story of two female partners, who each have a child by the same anonymous sperm donor. 18 year old Joni, played by Mia Wasikowska (*Alice In Wonderland*) looks up the birth father one day, at the urging of her younger brother Laser, played by Josh Hutcherson (*Bridge To Tarabithia*.) The father turns out to be a college drop out named Paul, played by Mark Ruffalo (nominated for an Oscar) who immediately clashes with Annette Benning’s character Nic, a tightly wound doctor, who drinks too much. Paul has more in common with Jules, played by Julianne Moore, who is the only one of the three parents who did not receive an Oscar nod. Jules drifts from job to job, and has a hard time sticking with things. I can’t reveal much more, but it’s immediately clear that the adults in this movie have issues to work out. As the title says, however, the kids are, well, all right. It’s an unconventional family that any straight family can relate to. The family conflicts are no different for this clan than for most families that are lead by heterosexuals. I highly recommend it.



Above: Annette Bening, winning a Golden Globe for *The Kids Are All Right*

## Do You Know Your Status?

Please make an appointment to get tested for HIV at one of the following locations:

### Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center

301 East Genesee Ave., Suite 201  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
Phone: (989) 776-6000

OR

1106 N. Washington Avenue  
Bay City, MI 48708  
Phone: (989) 776-6000  
(Please call to make a testing appointment)

### Hearth Home, Health Delivery

732 Hoyt Avenue, Saginaw  
Phone (989) 753-9011  
(Appointments Are Encouraged)

### Bay County Health Department

1200 Washington Avenue, Bay City  
Phone: (989) 895-4003

### Saginaw County Health Dept.

1600 N Michigan, Saginaw  
Phone: (989) 758-3880

## IN BRIEF

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

**7-year old gives 70 dollars to Homeless LGBT Youth:** The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center received a letter, the other day from a 7-year-old boy named Malcolm, with two letters and a check for \$70. Malcolm wrote: *I am sending you this money because I don't think it's fair that Gay people are not treated equally.* Also enclosed, was a letter from the boy's mother, which read: *To teach the importance of improving the world around him, Malcolm was given \$140 to give away to the charity of his choice. After hearing a story on the radio about the mistreatment of gays and lesbians, Malcolm became both upset and curious about the issue...to help, he chose to split his money between the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.* His mother encouraged the Center to use Malcolm's story in an effort to raise \$27,000 in his name. This amount is enough to provide an entire year of care in the Center's Transitional Living Program for one homeless LGBT youth. That amount will buy three meals a day, hot showers, a safe and warm bed, clothing, mental health care and other vital services. To contribute, go to <https://secure2.convio.net/laglc/site/Donation/>

Source: [www.wehodaily.com](http://www.wehodaily.com)

**"Trans Rights Bill" Passes in Canada:** Bill C-389, an Act to Amend the **Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code** to include the terms gender identity

and gender expression, passed the House of Commons at Third Reading, on a vote of 143 for to 135 against. There have been successful human rights complaints launched by trans people using the current law's provisions on "sex" and sometimes "disability," but until now, there was no specific mention of gender identity or expression. Bill C-389 now goes to the Senate, which has recently become more conservative.

Source: [www.bilerico.com](http://www.bilerico.com)

**The Born This Way Project:** "Born Gay Born This Way" is a blog project that is collecting photographs of LGBT individuals at a young age and publishing their "story" in 300 words or less. The point is to show that everyone was once an innocent child. If you wish to participate, choose one picture that speaks for itself, or that reveals something about you and/or your childhood. Go to [borngaybornthisway.blogspot.com](http://borngaybornthisway.blogspot.com) and click "Submit Here" for instructions on how to submit your photo and your story. Please be brief. Your submission may be edited. Required info is as follows:

- Your first name
- Your age in the photo
- The year the photo was shot (it can be approximate)
- Your city/state in the pic (or where you spent your childhood)

**ACLU Brief Argues That School Counselors Cannot Refuse To Counsel Gay And Lesbian Clients:** The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Michigan filed a friend-of-the-court

brief on February 11th, supporting Eastern Michigan University's (EMU's) right to remove from its counseling program a graduate student who refused to counsel LGBT clients on any issues relating to same-sex relationships during her clinical training. The graduate student, Julea Ward, was in training to become a school counselor. "While counselors are certainly entitled to their own religious beliefs, EMU correctly took steps to prevent Ms. Ward from imposing those beliefs on her clients in the university's training program," said Daniel Mach, Director of the ACLU Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

Source: [www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/](http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/)

**Red State, Blue State, Equality Can't Wait—Civic Engagement for LGBT Equality: Saturday March 26, 2011 from 9am-4pm at the Affirmations Community Center, 290 West 9 Mile Road in Ferndale.** Grassroots organizers are an invaluable resource in the fight for LGBT Equality. Come together with other activists from LGBT Resource and Community Centers across the state to share best practices, tips and tricks for effectively educating and engaging with elected officials. This day-long summit will empower participants to utilize communication and organizing strategies that have been effective in other communities. Together we can win the fight for LGBT Equality! We ask that each school or center sends a team of 2-3 people maximum. Please RSVP by March 11, 2011 via phone: 248-398-7105 x210 or email: [gwojcik@goaffirmations.org](mailto:gwojcik@goaffirmations.org)

**IN BRIEF CONTINUED**

**U of M Study on Internet Dating for YMSM:** Researchers have explored the role of the Internet for casual sexual encounters, yet we know little of the HIV/AIDS risk-taking behaviors of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) who use the Internet to meet romantic partners. The distinction between casual and romantic partners is vital to contextualize YMSM's sexual behaviors. U of M has proposed a study to explore why and how YMSM use the Internet to meet partners (i.e., "e-dates") and to describe the demographic characteristics and HIV/AIDS risks of these YMSM. In the absence of any data on online romantic pursuits among YMSM, they will carry out 30 interviews to explore when and why YMSM use the Internet to meet romantic partners, what characteristics are pursued from these partners, and how online dating contextualizes YMSM's HIV/AIDS risk behaviors.

**You may be eligible to participate in this study if you are a male:**

- Between the ages of 18-24.
- Who uses dating websites to meet guys.
- Who has sex with other men.

Call **734-615-8414** or visit [www.sph.umich.edu/sexlab/vlove/](http://www.sph.umich.edu/sexlab/vlove/) to verify your eligibility! Participants will receive a **\$30 VISA e-card**.

**Gay Characters Well-Received on Television:** ABC's "Modern Family" has topped the season-to-date ratings, among all scripted series, with a 5.0 rating and a 13 percent share. The sitcom is presented without a traditional laugh track and features characters talking to an unseen interviewer, as if they are part of a documentary. It follows three families: Phil and Claire Dunphy and their three children; Claire's brother Mitchell, gay partner Cam and their adopted child; and Claire and Mitchell's father Jay, who is remarried to the younger Gloria. She also has a child. Mitchell and Cam's daughter is Vietnamese, while Gloria and her son are Columbian. The top 4 shows on TV so far for the 2010-2011 Season are all reality shows or sports broadcasts. "Modern Family" is number five. Also doing well is the FOX series "Glee," which features three gay or questioning teen characters: Kurt, who has been bullied into switching schools; Blaine, his friend at the new school; and Karofsky, a football player whose bullying has forced Kurt to leave. "Glee" is in sixteenth place, for the season. It is FOX's most watched scripted series, after "Family Guy."

Source: [insidetv.ew.com](http://insidetv.ew.com)

**Highway Clean-Ups Resume on April 17th**

It's that time of year again to start thinking of the Highway Clean Up! We had a year off, due to construction, so we should be raring to go. This year's date will be Saturday, April 16th and rain day will be Sunday, April 17th. So please keep those dates in mind!! If you have never been to a Highway Clean Up, now is the time to sign up. We always have a great fun time and a cook out always follows. More info will be coming in the April edition of the Perceptions newsletter. You can also contact me at [Rick@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Rick@PerceptionsSV.org). See you there!!! Thank you, **Rick Farrand**

**"This Is Doug's Life" Is Now Online!**

**Douglas D. Solosky's** first several articles from 2007 are now online at [thisisdouglife.blogspot.com](http://thisisdouglife.blogspot.com), with the



remainder of his archive to follow. Over the years, Douglas has written 38 columns for the Perceptions News-

letter. It has been a great run but now he has taken the next step and will publish the column on his own blog. Doug will continue to update his blog with new writings. If you'd like to keep up with "Li'l Doug," use Blogspot's "Follow" feature. You can sign up to receive updates with your Google, Yahoo, Twitter, AIM, Netlog, or OpenID account. The blog also gives you the ability to post comments about Doug's musings and reflections on life.

GENNESSEE COUNTY PFLAG

## *Seven Passages*

*Bible Verses Used to Condemn Homosexuality*

### Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

### 2-4:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint

[2474 S. Ballenger Hwy](#)

## Touch of Light Therapeutic Massage

1015 Court St  
Saginaw MI, 48602  
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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.

The Perceptions Newsletter reaches over 600 LGBT people and their allies every month, through email, postal mail and limited local distribution.

**WHY NOT ADVERTISE?**

Contact  
[Tim@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Tim@PerceptionsSV.org)

PERCEPTIONS

## MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP



7:00 - 8:30 pm  
**ONCE A MONTH**  
(Week Varies)

Tuesday, March 15th  
Tuesday, April 19th  
Tuesday, May 17th

Facilitated by [Thomas Brubaker](#)  
Light snacks provided  
Drinks allowed, provided they have a cover

Zauel Memorial Library,  
[3100 N. Center Road,](#)  
Saginaw Township



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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Fax: 866-700-2270

[nate@choosemichiganinsurance.com](mailto:nate@choosemichiganinsurance.com)  
[www.choosemichiganinsurance.com](http://www.choosemichiganinsurance.com)

**Nate Smith**  
Producer



## Support Those Who Support Us

This month's featured [Rainbow Referrals](#) listing is:

### The Strawberry Dip Cake Shoppe

Category: Bakeries

398 S. Main St. #6

Freeland, MI 48623

tel: 989-692-CAKE (2253)

The [Strawberry Dip](#) does all occasion cakes: weddings, commitments, birthdays, baby showers, retirements, etc... The [Strawberry Dip](#) also sells cookies, cream puffs, petit fours and more. Free consultation for wedding or commitment cakes by appointment.