



# PERCEPTIONS Newsletter

March 2005

Volume 4, Issue 3

PO Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641 989-891-1429

## LeT's ChaT AboutT

-Leo Romo

[TransGender Michigan](#) offers LeT's ChaT AboutT , an educational workshop for area GLBT and allies for the March 31st Perceptions meeting. [Rachel Crandall](#) ,Executive Director of TransGender Michigan, will facilitate with mid-Michigan gender variant people who participate.

LeT's ChaT AboutT is an educational workshop about awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the transgender community.

Mid-Michigan transgender, significant others, families, friends, and allies (SOFFAs), and those who are perceived as **gender variant community** are invited to be involve in this unique educational program.

Trangendered people are individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristics, or behaviors differ from stereotypes about how men and women are "supposed" to be.

IF you are interested in being part of LeT's ChaT AboutT contact:

Rachel Crandall at 517-420-1544 or [tenofnine@hotmail.com](mailto:tenofnine@hotmail.com) or Leo Romo at 989-798-6660 or [Leo@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Leo@PerceptionsSV.org)

### ♣ Inside this issue:

- 1 LeT's ChaT AboutT: Transgender Workshop
- 1 Sean Kosofsky: February Speaker Summary
- 2 Chocolate Party Review
- 2 Event Highlights/Coming Attractions
- 3 Spotlight: National Women's History Month
- 4 Calendar of Events

## Triangle Foundation's Sean Kosofsky ACTs Up at February Perceptions Meeting

-Leo Romo

Sean Kosofsky is never boring. The Triangle's Director of Policy wore two hats when he talked at the Feb 24th Perceptions meeting.

**Teacher Hat** - Sean explained three crucial issues that affect our community.

- The words "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" must be added to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Without these words, GLBT people are discriminated legally in Michigan.

- 2nd Parent Adoption Rights – This would allow two people, regardless of relationship and gender, to become legal co-parents and provide a stable, loving home for children in need of adoption. The scope includes not only GLBT persons, but reaches out to other would-be alternative families in our state.

- Bullying Bill - House Bill 4746 combats harassment and bullying in Michigan's public schools. School districts develop a policy for identifying, deterring and dealing with bullying in public schools.

**Politics Hat** - Put our energies in Lansing, not Washington. Local issues, like the issues above, will be our future victories. Know, meet, call and write to your state house rep and senator - even if they disagree with our issues. Teach them.

Sean Kosofsky writes a political column in *Between the Lines* . Read it thru [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

## Chocolate Decadence

Troy Rhyan

A fine time was had by all at this year's Perceptions Chocolate Party, which was held March 5, at the beautiful Victorian Home of Terry Zajac in Bay City.

This group effort, co-hosted by PFFLAG, featured a decadent feast of chocolate goodies for all to enjoy, free of charge. Attendees were asked to make charitable donations, which were split between the two host organizations.

These funds help support our group's activities, as well as provide funds needed for supplies, postage and the like.

Our deepest appreciation to Terry for hosting this event, as well as providing the beverage selections. If you were unable to attend, we hope that we will see you at next year's party.



### Contact us!

By mail:  
Perceptions  
PO Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641

By phone:  
989-891-1GAY

By e-mail:  
[info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:info@PerceptionsSV.org)  
[Paul@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Paul@PerceptionsSV.org)

### Find us!

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

## How Refreshing!

Refreshments will now be provided and hosted by friend and member volunteers!

The next meeting is Thursday, March 31st. Come and meet our refreshment hosts each month and prepare to network with friends and allies in your community!

## Special Events/Coming Attractions

Emerge from your cocoons, you social butterflies. Spring is almost here!

**Sunday, March 20th - Bay City St. Patrick's Parade** Michael Bracheau will be opening up his home on Center Ave. for Perceptions members. This is a prime location to view the parade. Come on out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the parade with family & friends. More details coming soon.

**Saturday, March 26th - Ninth Annual Michigan Lesbian and Gay ComedyFest** Two shows, 6:00 and 9:30 pm. Five national comedians. A rip-roaring event for GLBT and allied folks! Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, MI. Tickets available at [comedyfest.org](http://comedyfest.org)

**Sunday, April 3rd - An Afternoon at the Opera House** [Friends North](http://FriendsNorth.org)'s big spring social event will be at the Traverse City Opera House from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The afternoon includes live music by the [Neptune Quartet](http://NeptuneQuartet.org); dancing; hor d'oeuvres; tapas-style dinner and dessert; silent auction; and gathering with friends. (Formal attire is optional.) Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Make checks payable to "Friends North" and mail to Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562. Contact [board@friendsnorth.org](mailto:board@friendsnorth.org) for more information.



## March is National Women's History Month

To address the absence of information about women in America's schools, the National Women's History Project led a movement to have Congress designate a celebration to recognize women's historic achievements. The goal was to ensure that information about the myriad ways women have changed America would be part of our children's education.

In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and that same year, Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

This March, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the multicultural women's history movement. Designated by Joint Resolutions of the House and Senate and Proclamations by five American Presidents, March has become a huge opportunity for the nation to recognize women as a force in history.

This year's theme, "Women Change America", celebrates and honors the role of American women in transforming our culture, history, and politics.

"Women Change America" also recognizes the 85th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote.

The purpose of women's history is not to idealize women. On the contrary, the stories of women's achievements present a full view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life. Learning about the extraordinary achievements of women helps diminish the tendency to dismiss and trivialize who women are and what they accomplish. In celebrating women's historic achievements, we present an authentic view of history. The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

How are our children --girls and boys alike --going to understand the importance of women to American culture and history if their education includes little or nothing about the significance of women's contributions?

We know from research and from anecdotal studies that learning the stories of women's success, talent, and accomplishments expands a sense of what is possible for girls and women. Information about women and their successes gives males and females alike a perspective that challenges some of our cultures' most unconscious and archaic assumptions about women.

Thus, women's history becomes a story of inspiration and hope. A story of courage and tenacity. A story of promise, possibility and purpose.

Women's history is our nation's story. It is the story of how Women have Changed America and how they will continue to do so.

### For more information contact:

Web: [The National Women's History Project](http://TheNationalWomen'sHistoryProject.org)

Email: [nwhp.org@aol.com](mailto:nwhp.org@aol.com)

Call: 707-636-2888

## Treasurer's Report

Rob Cummings

The new Board has spent several hours working together to develop Perceptions' vision and mission which provide the framework for our organizational activities. Now, the Board is beginning the process of allocating and budgeting financial resources to achieve these goals.

Part of the budgeting process is to analyze historical financial results. The Board now has the

(continued on page 4)

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

(continued from page 3)

financial results from previous years and will finalize a 2005 budget using this data. The 2006 budget will be determined in the fourth quarter of this year in conjunction with the annual membership drive.

It's important that as a Board, we report to the membership how we are allocating resources. The Board will publish quarterly summarized operating results beginning in April. A complete financial report will be presented at the January membership meeting.

---

## Calendar of Events

Do you have an event you'd like added to Perceptions' calendar?

Submit your event to [calendar@perceptionssv.org](mailto:calendar@perceptionssv.org)

**Friday, March 11th - "Friday Night Dinner"** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members on Friday nights for dinner at a local eatery. Each week we meet at a different restaurant for food, fun and conversation. An email is sent through our Yahoo Group every week to announce the week's venue. Sign up for our email list on [Yahoo Groups](#), email [info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:info@PerceptionsSV.org) or call 989-891-1GAY.

**Tuesday, March 15th – Womyn's Circle** 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This program provides support to Tri-County lesbian women and facilitates community awareness projects in partnership with Perceptions and PFLAG. It has provided safety and help to many women and their families experiencing hostility, abuse and isolation. The free, confidential support group sessions are facilitated by Mary Jo Hall, MSW, CSW, ACSW. Meets at the YWCA located at 3405 Midland Rd. in Bay City.

**Tuesday, March 15th – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball** 6:30 - 8:30 pm. [Delta College](#). Go in P wing to the Fitness Center and you'll be directed to the "hyper" gym on the second level. Perceptions discounted cost is \$3.50 per person and your pass is good all day with access to the entire fitness center. Show up early and take advantage of all that your day pass has to offer. Make sure you let the gym staff know that you are with "Perceptions" to get your discount. Bring a friend and join us for some fun, volleyball excitement. In order to anticipate how many will attend, we are asking each person who plans to attend to RSVP to [volleyball@perceptionsSV.org](mailto:volleyball@perceptionsSV.org) by Monday evening. For additional information or last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

**Wednesday, March 16th - Bay City Meet & Greet** 7:00 - 9:00 pm. An informal gathering of the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome in this smoke-free environment. Located at 810 Saginaw Street (between Center and Fifth Aves.), the Bay City Coffee and Tea offers a variety of delicious drinks, sandwiches and desserts.

**Thursday, March 17th - Transgender Lobby Day** 9:00 to 4:00, Capitol Building, Lansing. Sponsored by the [Triangle Foundation](#) and [TransGender Michigan](#). No experience necessary. Lobby training and lunch provided. All transgender individuals, significant others, families, friends, and allies are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Kirstin Leiby at [kirleiby@umich.edu](mailto:kirleiby@umich.edu).

**Friday, March 18th - "Friday Night Dinner"** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members on Friday nights for dinner at a local eatery. Each week we meet at a different restaurant for food, fun and conversation. An email is sent through our Yahoo Group every week to announce the week's venue. Sign up for our email list on [Yahoo Groups](#), email [info@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:info@PerceptionsSV.org) or call 989-891-1GAY.

**Sunday, March 20th - Bay City St. Patrick's Parade** Michael Bracheau will be opening up his home on Center Ave. for Perceptions members. This is a prime location to view the parade. Come on out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the parade with family & friends. More details coming soon.

**Tuesday, March 22nd – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball** [Delta College](#). Cancelled tonight because the gym is unavailable. For additional information email [volleyball@perceptionsSV.org](mailto:volleyball@perceptionsSV.org) or visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

**Saturday, March 26th - Ninth Annual Michigan Lesbian and Gay ComedyFest** Two shows, 6:00 and 9:30 pm. Five national comedians. A rip-roaring event for GLBT and allied folks! Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, MI. Tickets available at [comedyfest.org](http://comedyfest.org)

**Sunday, March 27th - PFLAG Meeting** 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

**Tuesday, March 29th – Perceptions Indoor Co-Ed Volleyball** 6:30 - 8:30 pm. [Delta College](#). Go in P wing to the Fitness Center and you'll be directed to the "hyper" gym on the second level. Perceptions discounted cost is \$3.50 per person and your pass is good all day with access to the entire fitness center. Show up early and take advantage of all that your day pass has to offer. Make sure you let the gym staff know that you are with "Perceptions" to get your discount. Bring a friend and join us for some fun, volleyball excitement. In order to anticipate how many will attend, we are asking each person who plans to attend to RSVP to [volleyball@perceptionsSV.org](mailto:volleyball@perceptionsSV.org) by Monday evening. For additional information or last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

**Thursday, March 31st - Monthly Membership Meeting** 7:00 pm. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson Ave. [TransGender Michigan](#) presents **LeT's ChaT About ... Being Transgender in Michigan**, a educational workshop about awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the transgender community. Mid-Michigan transgender individuals, significant others, families, friends, and allies, and those who are perceived as gender variant are invited to be involved in this unique program. Rachel Crandall, Executive Director of TransGender Michigan, will facilitate. If you are interested in being part of LeT's ChaT About contact Rachel at 517-420-1544 or [tenofnine@hotmail.com](mailto:tenofnine@hotmail.com) or Leo Romo at 989-798-6660 or [Leo@PerceptionsSV.org](mailto:Leo@PerceptionsSV.org). For more information, contact [Perceptions](#).

**Sunday, April 3rd - An Afternoon at the Opera House** [Friends North](#)'s big spring social event will be at the Traverse City Opera House from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The afternoon includes live music by the [Neptune Quartet](#); dancing; hor d'oeuvres; tapas-style dinner and dessert; silent auction; and gathering with friends. (Formal attire is optional.) Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Make checks payable to "Friends North" and mail to Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562. Contact [board@friendsnorth.org](mailto:board@friendsnorth.org) for more information.

**Tuesday, April 5th – Womyn's Circle** 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This program provides support to Tri-County lesbian women and facilitates community awareness projects in partnership with Perceptions and PFLAG. It has provided safety and help to many women and their families experiencing hostility, abuse and isolation. The free, confidential support group sessions are facilitated by Mary Jo Hall, MSW, CSW, ACSW. Meets at the YWCA located at 3405 Midland Rd. in Bay City.

**Wednesday, April 6th - Saginaw Meet & Greet** 7-9 pm. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones while eating fantastic baked goods. Enjoys hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment! Crumbs Gourmet Cookie Cafe is located at 4882 Gratiot just east of Center Road and behind Edward's Men's Shop. tel: 989-498-4010