



Livingston Diversity Council

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2007

Spotlight shines on community heroes

Former Howell High School Diversity Club Advisor Cathy Capy, Holiday Inn Express employee Cathie Osdras, former Diversity Council board members Louis and Mary Morand and Howell Public Schools were honored for their service during the Livingston Diversity Council's annual meeting, Oct. 16.

Each year the council recognizes community members who exemplify the council's mission of creating an inclusive and tolerant community in



Louis and Mary Morand, Phil Westmoreland, Cathy Capy and Cathie Osdras with their awards at the annual meeting.

Livingston County.

Osdras was recognized for her "compassion and initiative." She helped a

woman whose home was marred by racist graffiti. A Holiday Inn Express employee who noticed the woman crying stopped to ask if there was anything she could do to help, Osdras said.

"I am proud and very hon-

ored to accept this award," she said, explaining that it was a team effort at the hotel. "It truly

was all of us that pitched in and helped."

The Morands have been involved with the Diversity Council since the early 1990s. They were recognized for "significant contributions to the council as directors, officers and champions of diversity and inclusion." Both have served on the board of directors and they retired from the board in 2007.

"It has been most satisfying to work with this group of friends and to create a community where you don't

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Jane Elliott presents 'Anatomy of Prejudice' Jan. 18

Educator Jane Elliott known for her classroom eye-color exercise in discrimination will be the keynote speaker at the Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day luncheon for the Livingston Diversity Council.

Elliott will present "The Anatomy of Prejudice" during a special luncheon starting at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Prior to the lunch, Elliott will meet with sponsors for a community presentation during a three-hour session. During the presentation she will explore the prob-



Jane Elliott

lems of racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia and ethnocentrism.

Elliott first conducted her exercise in Riceville, Iowa in 1968 in response to the assassination of

Martin Luther King, Jr.. In the years since she has led the exercise in many cities throughout the world.

Most recently, she has been featured on PBS's Frontline and in Smithsonian magazine.

Corporate sponsorships of \$1,000 and \$3,000 are available.

Current sponsors are St. Joseph Mercy Health System, the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus and First Impression Printing and Marketing.

Comcast awards \$6,000 grant

Comcast, as part of its ongoing community service and outreach efforts, presented a \$6,000 Focus Fund Grant to the Livingston Diversity Council in October. The Comcast Foundation grant will underwrite the Council's Cultural Awareness and Diversity Youth Program.

"We are continually challenged to address various types of diversity in our community: race, economics, religion, culture, and sexual orientation," stated Steve Manor, Diversity Council President.

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Why join the Livingston Diversity Council?

There are many reasons you should join the Livingston Diversity Council.

Here are a few from our membership chairperson Michelle Ounanian.

You can make a statement.

Your membership shows how you feel about diversity in your community.

“Your membership sets an example for your friends and family of where you stand on the issue of acceptance and diversity,” said Ounanian. “If you are a business owner your membership shows the community you care about your customers and their diverse backgrounds.”

You can make connections.

Celebrate diversity with people who are just as committed to community and equality as you are.

You can make a difference.

Support a mission you believe in.

Committees that need your help now!

- Programs
- Membership
- Web site/Communications
- Youth Activities

Mark your Calendar

Jan. 10, 2008

11 a.m. Livingston Diversity Council General Membership Meeting,
Noon Council Meeting,
Howell Schools Administration Building,
Howell

LDC Book Club

“The Native Guard”

7 p.m. Jan. 8, 2008

Location: TBA

Check web site for updates
www.livingstondiversity.org

County’s libraries host ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’

Back to school time offered a chance to remind students to look deeper when meeting new classmates with the “Don’t Judge a Book by Its cover” displays at all six Livingston County public libraries.

Candy Hinton, vice president of the Livingston Diversity Council, said all the libraries were support-

tive of the program. Bookmarks were created with a suggested reading list designed to help students discuss diversity issues. More than 500 bookmarks were handed out.

A number of the titles listed on the bookmark were displayed prominently in each library.



Livingston County libraries hosted displays in September.

Comcast Grant from page 1

“The Council is most appreciative of the interest and support given to this youth program by Comcast.”

The goal of the Cultural Awareness and Diversity Youth Program series is to broaden the context of diversity discussions and cultural presentations throughout Livingston County. This grant will assist the Council in reaching a larger audience with the result of deeper impact on public policies, economic growth, community and youth diversity education, county image and

community life.

“Through building a relationship with the Livingston Diversity Council, we realized that our two organizations share many common values,” said David Buhl, Regional Senior Vice President for Comcast in Michigan. “We are working to promote diversity in the communities Comcast serves, like the Livingston County community, where the Diversity Council is able to foster a positive environment for all.”

“The Livingston Diversity Council has been a leader in addressing diversity issues to our children,” said

Sen. Valde Garcia, R-22nd District and council member. “Comcast’s generous contribution supporting this program will enable the Council to accomplish its mission of making the Livingston County community a welcoming, harmonious and prosperous place.”

This program will incorporate students from across the county to participate in diversity programs and forums with the goal of creating youth who will lead the charge in diversity awareness.

Book club, other activities revitalize group

Movie nights, book clubs and fun activities for children are some of the events that have been planned in recent months through the



"Diver's City" creators show their books at the Brighton Area District Library.

Livingston Diversity Council's programs committee.

A dozen students attended a workshop at the Brighton District Library in September where Brighton school teacher Valerie Rietzel led students through an exercise where they created their own books. Rietzel hopes to soon create a diversity club for elementary students in Brighton.

A Diversity Council book club has been meeting for several months and will continue to meet every other month next year. The club will meet at coffee houses throughout Livingston County.

There are also plans for informal movie nights or other casual gatherings.



Book Club participants discuss "We are All Welcome Here" at Colorado Coffee in Genoa Township.

For more information about the committee, contact Candye Hinton at www.livingstondiversity.com. She welcomes new ideas for programs.

A new name is approved for council

Livingston Diversity Council is the new name of the group previously known as Livingston 2001 Diversity Council.

The council approved the new name at its July 2007 meeting. When the group began in 1988 it was first named Livingston 2001 to reflect the year of high school graduation for those entering kindergarten in 1988.

One of the group's goals was to educate the community on diversity issues and promote Howell as a welcoming community. In 2000, the board changed the organization's name by adding Diversity Council to Livingston 2001.

"We are known for our work in the area of diversity," said Steve Manor, president of the organiza-

tion. "However, the inclusion of 2001 in the name became confusing to many, and in this technology-dependent world, it caused problems for search engines on the Internet and raised questions about why we were still stuck back in 2001."

"The name Livingston Diversity Council says what we do and what we stand for," said Manor.

Awards from Page 1

judge people and you accept others," said Lou Morand.

Current Howell Board of Education President Phil Westmoreland and Superintendent Chuck Breiner accepted the award presented to the Howell Schools. The school district was recognized for creating an atmosphere of inclusion for its students.

Westmoreland said the credit for it goes to Breiner who worked with the board to help create the atmosphere of inclusion in the schools.

Capy, planning her wedding which was only a few days away, made a 4-hour round trip with her fiancé to Howell for the ceremony. Capy was honored for "outstanding work developing student leadership in the field of diversity and inclusion."

She said her ties to her Howell students remain strong and she is in contact with several of them.

"The pictures of the kids from the club are plastered all over the walls of my new classroom," she said.

Do you have a 2008 nominee in mind? Tell us at www.livingstondiversity.org.

Arab American Chamber Chairman Visits Council



Nasser Beydoun attended the Sept. 6 council meeting and spoke about ways his group is creating greater awareness of Arab American culture.



Livingston 2001 Diversity Council
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Web site: www.livingstondiversity.org
E-mail: membersite@Livingstondiversity.com

10 things you can find on our web site

Here's a quick rundown of what's available at www.livingstondiversity.org.

1. Downloadable membership forms and information about the council. We welcome new members!
2. A list of current sponsors and sponsorship levels
3. Our next book club pick. Come join us!
4. A link to make a donation to our organization on-line. It's fast and safe.
5. A sign-up for e-mail updates about our events.
6. A list of the council's executive board.
7. Our mission statement. Learn what we're all about.
8. The date for our next board meeting. We'd love to see you there.
9. A round-up of the council's previous notable events.
10. The council's message board. Tell us what's on your mind.

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