



Livingston 2001 Diversity Council

Web site makes its debut



Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2007

The Livingston 2001 Diversity Council has a new presence on the web.

The new web site livingstondiversity.org went on line in November. Diversity Council Vice President Candye Hinton took on the project to make it easier to locate information about the organization.

When she was a new Livingston County resident she was appalled by news reports of the hate memorabilia auction in Howell. She'd heard of

Livingston 2001 Diversity Council in news reports about the auction and was frustrated by the lack of information for the group.

"We were nowhere to be found," she said of the searches she did on the Internet. "This way we can take our first steps to let people know who we are and what we stand for."

Hinton would like to include links to other sites, a calendar of events for the council and the council's newsletter.

"I would like to have links to other organizations, libraries and chambers of commerce," Hinton said.

The site includes information on the diversity council, current programs, links to high school diversity groups and a downloadable membership form.

The site offers a way for people to join the council, renew a membership or make a donation online using a PayPal account.

Livingston 2001 Diversity Council Board Meeting

12:15 p.m. March 1, 2007

Howell Schools

Administration Building,

411 N. Highlander Way

Board of Education Room

A \$5 donation is suggested for lunch

Mosaic Youth Theater presentation on Jan. 29 at Howell High School

The Mosaic Youth Theater will present "Speak for Yourself" a candid play about race and hope on January 29 at 7 p.m. at the Howell High School Auditorium.

The play is a portrayal of

what teenagers of African, Asian, European, Hispanic/Latino, and Middle Eastern descent experience living in Metro Detroit. It is sponsored by the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council and the Howell

High School Diversity Club.

This 45-minute interactive performance offers a way to continue a community dialogue about racial stereotypes in southeast Michigan.

Facilitators from the University of Michigan will lead a discussion after the performance.

Donations will be accepted at the door.

Letter from the President

As the newly elected President of Livingston 2001 Diversity Council let me welcome you to this new edition of our newsletter. You'll find useful information as well as directions for becoming a member, which I strongly encourage you to do.

What is our mission? We believe that everyone has the right to be judged, rewarded, and held accountable on the basis of individual action, regardless of race, creed, gender or sexual orientation. We are committed to upholding these rights for all. Please join us in our efforts.

I want to extend my appreciation to Past President Lee Reeves for her many years of service and commitment to Livingston 2001, including the past two years as President. Lee served as the President of the

Howell Area Chamber of Commerce for many years. She also has been an active participant on the Board of Livingston 2001 since its inception in 1988. Lee, thank you for all your work, all your ideas, and all of the good things you have done for the cause of equality, equity, and fair and just treatment of all people in our community.

In 1988 the President of Citizens Insurance, Roy Westran, issued a call to the community to respond to a cross burning that had occurred that fall. Out of that response was created Livingston 2001. Roy Westran and Citizens Insurance have remained committed to our mission ever since. Unfortunately, Roy passed away this past fall. We are forever indebted to his leadership in bringing to the attention of this community the need to embrace the issues of diversity,

for both social and economic reasons.

In many ways he was well ahead of his peers. This was reinforced for me when I read Thomas Friedman's *The World Is Flat*. He noted that embracing diversity requires a high degree of tolerance of those who are different from oneself. "It is simply too easily forgotten that when it comes to economic activities, one of the great virtues a country or community can have is a culture of tolerance," he wrote." When tolerance is the norm, everyone flourishes – because tolerance breeds trust, and trust is the foundation of innovation and entrepreneurship."

Again, welcome to our newsletter and to Livingston 2001 Diversity Council.

Steve Manor, President

2007 officers, board members

Board members and new officers were elected during the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council's January 4 meeting.

The new officers are President Steve Manor, Vice President Candye Hinton, Secretary Kathi Cartwright, and Treasurer Vic Lopez.

Board members are Chuck Breiner, Doug Edema, Michelle Ounanian, Maria Holmes, Ann Hill, Marcus Moore, Pat Convery, Shea Charles, Kathy Goetsch, Mary Morand, Lou Morand, Diane Vance, Pete McNenly, Maya Patel, Vicki Hartman, and Jeri McKeon-Andersen.



New Officers (from left) Secretary Kathi Cartwright, Treasurer Vic Lopez, Vice President Candye Hinton, and President Steve Manor.



In Memoriam

Livingston 2001 Diversity Council Founder

Roy Westran

Leader, Visionary, Friend To All

1925-2006

Community Conversation about Diversity

More than 150 community members participated in four sessions in the Spring of 2006 during the "Community Conversation About Diversity."

"We had extensive coverage on that program and comments from people who said they saw a real change as far as perceptions in this county. We were able to get the word out past our borders," said Lee Reeves, past president of Livingston 2001 Diversity Council.

Desiree Cooper of the *Detroit Free Press* featured the Community Conversation about Diversity in one of

her newspaper columns and commended Livingston 2001 for its work.

Outreach groups addressing the community needs were created as part of the program. The outreach groups include media relations, creating connections, business, community culture and youth.

Vicki Hartman, Vice President of National City Bank and the leader of the youth outreach group said she hopes to see activities involving students of all ages in the Howell Schools in the coming year.

The purpose of the activities, she said, would be to have students "get



Participants work with a facilitator during a session.

to interact with other students that are not part of their day-to-day circle of friends."

"Hateful things" spurs discussion



A visitor views one of the exhibit pieces in "Hateful Things." Photo courtesy of Gillis Benedict, Livingston County Daily Press & Argus.

In January 2006, the Livingston County 2001 Diversity Council hosted the exhibition "Hateful Things".

Approximately 1,500 people visited the 39-piece traveling exhibit of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University, on display at The Opera House, Howell.

The display included advertising, historical artifacts, drawings, posters and other items depicting racist images.

More than \$1,000 was raised during the week-long exhibition

"The money we raised will go back into our programming budget so we can bring other enlightening programs to our community," said President Steve Manor. An online look at the exhibit is available at ferris.edu/News/jimcrow/traveling/grid/.

Black History Month Film "Something the Lord Made" on Feb. 22

In partnership with Comcast and The Michigan Group of Realtors, the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council will host, for the first time, a community Black History Month Film Review at 6 p.m. Thursday Feb. 22.

Community residents and leaders will be invited to view the film "Something the Lord Made" at the Michigan Group's theater at 6870 Grand River Avenue, Brighton.

Following the movie, a panel discussion will take place to discuss the film and the impact of African Americans in history.

The film dramatizes the relationship between heart surgery pioneers Alfred Blalock and Vivien Thomas. Blalock (Alan Rickman) is chief surgeon at Johns Hopkins University. He meets Thomas (Mos Def), a carpenter hired to work at the University, and discovers a man of keen intelli-

gence who has a great interest in medicine. However, as a poor black man in the Jim Crow South, Thomas lacks the financial resources to obtain a medical degree, though he certainly has the knowledge and the desire. Blalock takes Thomas on as his lab assistant, and together they develop a technique that allows them to correct a common congenital heart defect in children.



Livingston 2001 Diversity
Council
P.O. Box 202
Howell, MI 48844-0202

Web site: www.livingstondiversity.org
E-mail: membersite@Livingstondiversity.com

Want to support our vision of diversity in our community?

The Livingston 2001 Diversity Council is a grass-roots organization made up of business people, educators, private citizens, government officials, and clergy who live or work in Livingston County. We embrace and advocate the virtues of diversity within and for our community.

Individual memberships are \$10, family memberships are \$25 and several levels of corporate membership are available starting at \$100.

For more information or to join Livingston 2001 Diversity Council see our web site at www.livingstondiversity.org or contact our president at (517) 546-6382.

Thanks to our Sponsors

Hanover Insurance/Citizens Insurance
Platinum Corporate Member

St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital
Silver Star Corporate Member

Comcast Cable
Corporate Member

Brighton Garden Improvement Association
Corporate Member

Howell Education Association
Corporate Member

Howell Public Schools
Corporate Member

WHMI Radio 93.5
Corporate Member

Ann Arbor Acquisitions
Corporate Member

Dawn Westran
Gold Star Member

Jill and Mark Hilla
Gold Star Members