

# Hats Off!

## They stood up for diversity

Some 26 people were recognized by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council at Monday's first-ever Rainbow Awards Breakfast.

They included city officials, educators, students, and founders.

"Thank you for sticking your neck out into unchartered territory to make this area inclusive for all peoples," said Karen Bolsen, co-chair of the council's steering committee.

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*Karen Bolsen  
co-chair of the council's steering committee*

Educators and students honored include:

■ **Faroune Alameddine** — He recently retired as director of Bilingual Education for Farmington Schools. Alameddine was a representative on the community council from the onset.

■ **Richard Eaton** — He is a Farmington High social studies teacher, who has taught cultural awareness and offered it as an open topic of discussion to students.

■ **Yashiko Gingerich** — She is a bilingual aide at Eagle Elementary. She is often the first contact Japanese families have when their children join Engle. Gingerich offers a telephone "hot line" for incoming families. She is also a strategic member of the Eagle staff, helping them understand Japanese culture and providing interpretation services when needed.

■ **Carl Gippert** — He is the director of the North Farmington High band and orchestra. Gippert creates a respectful and warm environment for students, nominators said. He also uses music originating from diverse sources.

■ **Michael Gruber** — He is a Mercy High School English instructor who helped develop and incorporate two courses, "The South in American Literature" and "Race Relations in America." Gruber has also served as a moderator on Mercy's Human Relations Council.

■ **Helene Habib** — She is coordinator of International Studies at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Habib has served as a friend, mentor and model for many international students at the college, nominators said.

■ **Patricia Jean-Louis** — She is a Farmington High sophomore and

and Moscow native, who was one of the first Russian immigrants to Farmington Hills. Lomberg and her mother have discussed their cultural background in classrooms. In addition to multicultural works, she also helps AIDS organizations and people who are homeless.

■ **Jaclyn Lossia** — She is a North Farmington High senior and a member of the school's Multicultural Round Table. Lossia has also been a contributor as a student representative on the community multicultural council.

■ **Sara Martinez** — She is a Harrison High senior and an aide and guest speaker Spanish classes. Martinez is considered an outstanding ambassador of Mexico, nominators said.

■ **Joyce Morden** — She teaches instructor who teaches "Life Management" courses at Harrison High. Morden is involved in the school's conflict peer mediation efforts and helps students of every background feel equally appreciated, nominators said.

■ **Donald Phillips** — He is a senior at Farmington High and a two-year student representative on the community council. Phillips has been a consistent force in uniting different groups at the school, nominators said.

■ **Connie Quselman** — She teaches fifth graders at Forest Elementary. Quselman helped develop a curriculum and bibliography, "Teaching Children to Be Peacemakers." She is also the co-founder of A Community Organization Recognizing Diversity in Northville.

■ **Norma Jenkins, Barbara Johnson, Kristi Krupa and Pat Mobley** — All four East Middle School staff and multicultural committee members created a

member of the school's Multicultural Round Table group. **Jean-Louis served as a student panelist at the community council's forum discussion Nov. 14.**

■ **Bin Lee** — She is a North Farmington High senior who speaks four languages, Korean, English, French and Japanese. Lee takes a deep interest in cultural awareness issues, nominators said.

■ **Marina Lomberg** — She is a North Farmington High senior



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHANNON LEMIRAK

**Rainbow speaker: The Rev. Nicholas Hood III: "I think it's great you are multicultural and multiracial, but we need to be multidimensional."**

quilt reflecting diversity that hangs in the school's lobby.

The following city and school officials were recognized for their support of the Farmington area multicultural initiative:

■ **Bill Costick** — Farmington Hills' City Manager was one of the founding members of the community council. Costick has helped developed procedures and policies to embrace multiculturalism and racial equity in the city.

■ **Mike Flanagan** — The former Farmington Public Schools superintendent was one of the district's first supporters of the community council. Flanagan, who is superintendent of the Wayne Regional Education Service Agency, helped develop the Farmington district's policies and procedures on diversity issues.

■ **Helen Prutow** — The Farmington Board of Education trustee was part of the core group that provided leadership to establish the community council. Prutow was on the council's planning team at its inception and first chairwoman. She is still active in the community council.

■ **Shirley Richardson** — As Farmington mayor, she gave her support and assistance in developing the community council. Richardson encouraged city officials to understand its diverse population and to get involved with the council.

Three citizens were honored for their involvement during the council's formation. They include:

■ **The Rev. Brewster "Budge" Gere** — The pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington has been a longtime member of the council. Gere was instrumental in planning the council's first public forums on diversity. As president of the Farmington Area Ministerial Association, he coordinated that group's year-long study on valuing diversity.

■ **Larry Maloney** — He has served on the council in numerous capacities, including the present position of treasurer. Maloney has been on the programming committee that presents monthly discussions as part of the council's community forum series.

■ **Ann-Therese O'Sullivan** — She is a former chairwoman of the council who organizers said has been a tireless promoter of tolerance and understanding. O'Sullivan has been involved in increasing awareness about the many issues surrounding multiculturalism. She remains an active member of the council's steering committee.



**Smiling winners: The Rev. Brewster (Budge) Gere (center) receives his Rainbow award with Larry Maloney and Ann-Therese O'Sullivan.**

## Celebration from page 1A

tween rich and poor, Hood said. King would also inspire people to examine their values, Hood added.

"We have to ask ourselves how can we provide the type of educa-

**'We can't afford to pit ourselves against our suburban neighbors... We don't have time for that. Frankly, I don't think the suburbs do either.'**

*the Rev. Nicholas Hood*

tion to our young so we can eliminate and reduce the disparities between people," Hood said.

"I think it's great you are multicultural and multiracial, but we need to be multidimensional.

"We have to say to ourselves, 'I have to do something more than paying my bills and keeping my body clean.'"

Detroit and the suburbs depend on one another, especially economically.

A new vitality exists in Detroit, he said.

More housing starts have occurred in the past two years than in the 10 years previous to that. New development is also on the rise.

"We can't afford to pit ourselves against our suburban neighbors," Hood said. "We don't have time for that. Frankly, I don't think the suburbs do either."

"We are in a global economy, and have to begin to see the points of unanimity."

While recognizing past contributions to the multicultural council's cause, Tuesday's breakfast allowed for new members to join. Nineteen signed up, said steering committee co-chair Karen Bolsen.


"We were hoping for a few more," Bolsen said.


Attendance at the first-ever event exceeded expectations. Organizers thought 75 to 100 would attend but were pleasantly surprised that 250 turned out.

Said Hood: "I believe in what Margaret Meade said, 'You can transform the world with a handful of people who have a common vision.'"



**She's recognized: A happy Jaclyn Lossia of North Farmington High holds her award.**





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