



Rainbow Recognition Award winners gather for a photo after the Thursday morning awards breakfast.

HONORED

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Zurvale chairs the MCMR's Education and Training subcommittee, which is part of a community-wide effort to create a new strategic plan for the organization. She has co-chaired a mini-conference on religions to kick off the council's Heritage Week and chaired a two-day conference for the community entitled, "Many Faces, One Future," in which 400 people participated.

"Anyone who knows Sue is familiar with how seriously she takes her role on the Multicultural Multiracial Community Council," Hall said. "She has given generously not only of her professional time, but of her personal time."

Zurvale said she was "truly and deeply honored" to be recognized for something she cares deeply about. Keynote speaker for the event, Detroit Free Press publisher Heath Meriwether, shared examples from a recent trip to Israel and the West Bank that showed how Jewish and Arab citizens work on a daily basis to deal with the affects of the war that divides their peoples.

DISTRICTS

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Leach said she had anticipated cuts in the 2003-04 budget, but Gov. Jennifer Granholm's executive order slashing \$40 per pupil came as a surprise. Granholm's administration faced a \$130 million shortfall in the state's School Aid Fund.

"Thank goodness we do have some fund equity," Leach said. Clarenceville's business and support services director Dave Bergeron said that balance is high right now, at \$2.2 million. "Historically, for our district, I've been here six or seven years and this is the highest it's ever been," he said.

But the district is currently wrestling with the idea of how much a percentage of its budget should be saved. Auditors at Plante Moran have said 10 percent is a target for most school districts, Bergeron said.

Maxfield also shared "best practices" the Free Press uses in both its workplace and news coverage, which included auditing the content of the newspaper, holding diversity training sessions that cover age, sexual orientation and even politics.

ANEKONO

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business tax breaks during that September meeting. Council members later apologized for their behavior, saying Akebono was the unintentional target of their anger at the state for continually dipping into the city's tax base.

nothing is finalized," he said. However, a Northville official said the township board of trustees did approve an eight-year, 50-percent tax abatement on personal property and any expansion to the building. Thelma Kubitsky, assistant township manager and finance director, said Akebono told Northville officials the company is running out of room in Farmington Hills and "they didn't sound like they had a chance to expand there."

RESCUE

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toward the veterinary bill. However, many cats don't come that route. The rescue specializes in purebred cats, but Klein is not one to turn down an animal in need.

is sprayed and declawed." The veterinary bill for Chilly will climb even higher because Carron discovered three broken teeth, which will need to be removed. "She was either gnawing on something in the cold or she was kicked," Klein said. Ella, a 5-year-old Persian, is also available for adoption. She was found running around a trailer park, Klein said.

SCHOOL

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spot. It focused on a number of criteria, including quality of teaching staff which Jones said is maintained by staff development, infusion of technology, small group instruction and parent involvement.

really supportive parent community." Jan Colliton, assistant superintendent for instruction, said she was thrilled. "They are getting significant recognition that is totally deserved," Colliton said. "They have a wonderfully collaborative learning community."

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