The Lakes Area Community Diversity Council (LACDC) is a group of local citizens, interested in offering programs that foster dialogue on a variety of current topics. The LACDC, first initiated in the early 1990s, is experiencing a strong revival with members who are committed to positive community interaction.

In October 2003, the Walled Lake Schools sponsored a dialogue series called ‘Different People, Common Ground.’ Parents, community and school members from around the lakes area met on three consecutive Monday evenings to explore the area of diversity throughout our community. During the meetings, we were able to reflect upon our own beliefs, personal biases and listen to our neighbors share a piece of their own personal histories. The time spent was precious as it afforded us the opportunity to think about our own perspectives and how we each impact others around us everyday. This experience inspired us to establish the Lakes Area Community Diversity Council.

The primary purpose of the LACDC is to focus on providing opportunities for diversity awareness within our community. We believe that we can learn from one another, strengthen understanding and build upon strong relationships as our neighborhoods evolve and grow.

The council brainstormed ways in which to celebrate diversity while fostering respect and understanding within the community. The council plans to offer a series of events each year to build strong interpersonal relationships to enrich us and unite us as a community.

**A brief history**

The Lakes Area Community Diversity Council

**LACDC 2007-08 Program**

The organizational meetings are held once a month and new members are always welcome. All meetings will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the Walled Lake Schools’ Educational Services Center, 850 Ladd Road, Bldg. D, in Walled Lake. This is near the intersection of Pontiac Trail and Maple Roads. Meeting dates are: Oct. 30, 2007, Dec. 10, 2007, Feb. 20, 2008, March 10, 2008, and April 30, 2008.

**Calendar of Events:**

- **Wed., Nov. 14, 2007 - Our Chaldean students and neighbors: What would YOU like to know?** Featuring Margaret Shamoun and Melody Arabo, Representatives from several Chaldean organizations, Walled Lake High School students, and an insightful video narrated by Mort Crim. 7-9 p.m., Walled Lake Schools’ Educational Services Center.
- **Mon., Jan. 21, 2008 - Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, “All Aboard the Freedom Train,” featuring Walled Lake students along with storyteller LaRon Williams in a performance related to the civil rights movement, and choirs from Oakley Park Elementary and Walled Lake Western High School. 5-8 p.m., Walled Lake Northern H.S.
- **Other events for 2008 will be listed on the Walled Lake Schools Web site.**

For more information go to Walled Lake Schools’ Web site at: www.walledlake.k12.mi.us. Click on “District,” then “Diversity Plan.”

**The Lakes Area Community Diversity Council Members**

**Co-Chairs**

- Shellye Dade, Keith Elementary parent, GM
- Cathy Ferguson, Bilingual/ELL/Title I Coordinator, Walled Lake Schools
- Marc Siegler, Walled Lake Schools Board of Education member
- Patricia Werner, Principal, Hickory Woods Elementary
- Alec Bender, Principal, Twin Beach Elementary
- Judy Evola, APR, Director of Community Relations and Marketing, Walled Lake Schools
- Barbara Griggs, O.C.C., and Walled Lake community member
- William Hamilton, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Walled Lake Schools
- Heidi Karell, Central H.S. Counselor; Community H.S. teacher
- Jill McDonald, Author, Keith Elementary parent
- Isabel Menendez, Walnut Creek M.S. and Central H.S. parent
- Nancy Merehouyias, WLS PTSA Council President
- Flo Smith, Community member
- Carol Trembath, Meadowbrook Elementary teacher
- Ida Turpin, Walled Lake Western High School counselor

**What topics are you most interested in having the LACDC host programs on:**

- [ ] Ethnic diversity
- [ ] Hate on the internet/cyber-bullying
- [ ] Religious diversity
- [ ] Socio-economic diversity
- [ ] What students think about diversity in the schools

Other: ______________________

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**LACDC plans for 2007-08 year:**

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The LACDC Mission

The Lakes Area Community Diversity Council strives to build and maintain a welcoming community which celebrates diversity and fosters respect and understanding.

Belief Statements

We believe each individual is unique and valuable.
We believe that knowledge leads to understanding and respect.
We believe that everyone benefits from the rich dimensions of diversity in our community.

Goals

Our goal is to provide opportunities for diversity awareness within our community.
Our goal is to provide a safe, positive environment in which to explore differences.

Lakes Area Community Diversity Council

For information, contact

Cathy Ferguson at 248-956-2093 or fergusc@walledlake.k12.mi.us

or

Marc Siegler at sieglem@walledlake.k12.mi.us

Lakes Area Community Diversity Council
Co-Chairs
2007-08
Shellye Dade
Cathy Ferguson
Marc Siegler
Patricia Werner

A personal invitation

The council would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in the Lakes Area Community Diversity Council.

Please clearly print the attached form with your contact information and your name will be included on the mailing list.

Name: ____________________________________________
Complete address with zip code: __________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________

Please give the LACDC names and contact information of other individuals you think would be interested in attending programs and/or serving on the LACDC planning committee.

Name: ____________________________________________
Complete address with zip code: __________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________

Please mail your responses to:
Ms. Cathy Ferguson
Educational Services Center
850 Ladd Road, Bldg. D
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Phone: 248-956-2093
Fax: 248-956-2090
E-mail: fergusc@walledlake.k12.mi.us