

June, 2005
Volume 7, Issue 6

The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony 616-335-8139

About Race Experiences and Feelings to be Shared At June 10 ACEH Meeting

When it comes to race, some people say there's nothing to talk about. Some say there's no point in talking any more—we should be acting. And some say we talk about it too much, and they're tired of it.

And yet...we learn more, understand more, and, we hope, act more positively on issues when we can talk frankly with people, listen to their stories, and share our own.

In June, the monthly meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony will hold this kind of discussion. We will talk together in small groups, led by David Douglas of Holland. He is a founder and past president of ACEH, a school counselor, a trained facilitator of numerous diversity and anti-racism workshops, and author of a book, with his mother, "Marriage Beyond Black and White."

The meeting will be Friday, June 10, at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland.

Homecoming of the Three Fires Traditional Pow Wow Is June 11-12

The 26th annual Homecoming of the Three Fires Traditional Pow Wow will get under way in Grand Rapids Saturday, June 11, at 1 p.m. The Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians will celebrate with Anishnabek foods, music, dance, arts, and crafts at Riverside Park, Monroe Ave., N.W.

Featured are dances, drumming, and music of the Potawatomi (Grand entry, Saturday, 1 p.m.), Odawa (Grand entry, Saturday, 6 p.m.), and Ojibwe (Grand entry, Sunday noon). Among the presenters are the Southern Wind drum, Teresa Magnuson, Anthony Genia, Paul Raphael, Nicole Shepherd, Tianna Shananaquet, Lisa Pimentil, and Joseph Genia.

The public is invited, the Pow Wow is free, and parking is free. Pets are not permitted, except for dogs assisting persons with disabilities. Alcohol is not allowed in the park. For more information, contact Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, phone (616) 458-8759; fax (616) 458-9039, or email grboi3fpw@yahoo.com.

Dedicated to promoting unity, justice, equal opportunity, ethnic awareness, cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity.

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WANT TO BECOME AN ACEH MEMBER? HERE'S HOW:

Make your commitment to diversity, anti-racism, and cross-cultural understanding in the greater Holland community, by joining with the dozens of other people who belong to ACEH. It's easy, it's rewarding, and you'll meet like-minded folks who want this to be a community where all are welcomed and respected.

Individual: \$20.00 one year; \$35.00 two years
Family: \$30.00 one year; \$50.00 two years
Nonprofit: \$40.00 one year
Business: \$75.00 one year

The membership year runs from October 1 – September 30. In lieu of, or in addition to, paying dues, you may make a pledge of service to ACEH. Checks should be made out to ACEH and sent to Treasurer Bin Lim, ACEH, Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007.

FAMILY, FRIENDS SAY FAREWELL TO GARY PEPE

On May 8, the Saugatuck Women's Club was filled to capacity with persons who came to say a warm farewell to Gary Pepe, former president of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, who died May 3 at age 55.

Led by Rev. Andy Fierro, the memorial service commemorated Gary and the many ways he impacted West Michigan, through his personality, his work, his community involvements, and his relationships with a wide variety of people. Both tears and laughter marked the stories told during the service, including reminiscences by ACEH members Jim Chance, Kim Douglas, Judy Essenburgh, and Annie Olson and by Gary's special friends Eddie Parach and Vicki Rosenberg and their children.

At the request of family and friends, an ACEH memorial fund has been established to honor Gary. The Alliance will develop special programming that reflects Gary's passion for justice, intellectual integrity, and appreciation for diversity. Contributions may be sent to ACEH/Memorial Fund, in care of treasurer Bin Lim, P. O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007.

ACEH People on the Move

A number of ACEH members have volunteered in various ways on projects for Friends of Pine Creek, a school- and community-based organization working to provide extra help to the West Ottawa elementary school. Pats on the back to **Becky Arenas, Liz Barveld, Jill Cooper, Phil Coray, Jeff Ebihara, Mike Jones, Bin Lim, Eleanor Lopez, Molly Phan, Kim Romero, Ned and JoLee Timmer, and Herb and Ann Weller.** If we missed naming someone, please let us know!

And thank-you also to those who walked and collected pledges for Lakeshore Center for Independent Living's Walk and Roll fundraiser: **Judy Essenburgh, Mike Jones, Bin Lim, Kim Romero, and Ann Weller.** Thanks, too, to members who contributed money to the fundraiser. ACEH was a partnering organization for this year's event.

Tino Reyes announces that Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) has moved its offices to 100 North Fairbanks Ave., Suite 3, in Holland; the location is across 8th St at the north end of Fairbanks. LAUP email is laup@sbcglobal.net and phone is 392-5058. And congratulations to LAUP on winning a grant from SBC to establish computer training to aid Hispanics in the labor market.

THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS: ACEH greatly appreciates recent presentations at monthly Alliance meetings. At the April program, "In Their Own Voices," Doug Schwentor, Fred Bables, Larry Latin, and Tammy Thompson spoke about their experiences as people with disabilities, and about current issues pertaining to disabilities.

In May, Nella Kennedy, a native of The Netherlands and a now a resident of Holland, discussed "From Tulips to Amsterdam: Dutch Stereotypes." Wearing her Tulip Time costume, she began by asking the audience to offer positive and negative impressions of the Dutch. She then talked about how the Dutch themselves, as well as people from other countries, have characterized or stereotyped the people of The Netherlands through history, and how those have changed over time.

Both meetings were well attended, with interesting questions raised after each presentation. All ACEH meetings are open to the public.

SAVE the DATE! Summer's almost here, and that means it's time for the annual ACEH **Potluck in the Park!** The 7th annual event will be Sunday, August 7, at Ransom Park (north of Quincy, on Ransom between 152nd and 160th), starting at 1 p.m. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you for a wonderful afternoon of activities, conversation, music, and great food.

6th ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION IS JUNE 18

The Holland area's 6th annual Juneteenth celebration will be held Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 8 p.m. at Kollen Park, Van Raalte Ave. at 10th St.

With the theme, "We Are Family," the event will feature a youth talent show of middle school and high school students, the reggae band Zion Lion, food, information booths, and vendors.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Irma J. Patterson Jones, director of the Bridges Poverty Initiative Mentoring Program, a faith-based community partnership program under the auspices of First United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids. She is a retired university adjunct faculty member, administrator, and counselor, with degrees from the University of Southern California, Santa Barbara, and University of Laverne, Anaheim, CA.

Core City, local sponsor of Juneteenth, invites everyone to come on over to the park for this special day. Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when the last slaves were freed in Texas, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and is celebrated in many cities across the United States.

For information, contact Wayne Coleman, 355-0071.

The Alliance

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

FAIR HOUSING CENTER TO HOLD LUNCHEON, WORKSHOP JUNE 14

People who care about housing opportunities and housing equality for all will gather Tuesday, June 14, for a luncheon and educational workshop sponsored by the Lakeshore Fair Housing Center. The event is 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Maas Auditorium, Hope College, Columbia Ave. and 11th St., Holland.

Dr. Joe T. Darden of Michigan State University will speak on “Predatory Lending: Understanding the Problem and Ways to Combat It.” He is nationally known for his research in urban social geography, residential segregation, and socioeconomic neighborhood inequality in multiracial societies.

Cost for the luncheon and workshop is \$30, payable to Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA). Checks made out to LEDA should be mailed to the Lakeshore Fair Housing Center, 665 North 136th Ave., Holland 49424-1897. Because space at Maas Auditorium is limited, you are asked to respond by Tuesday, June 7, 2005.

For more information, contact Charles Jones, executive director, Lakeshore Fair Housing Center, at (616) 994-6311.

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