

October 2005
Volume 7, Issue 10

The Alliance

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

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

Odawa Tribal Elder Speaks About “The Journey Back” Friday, Oct. 14

Lawrence “Pun” Plamondon, author of “Lost from the Ottawa – The Story of the Journey Back,” will speak to the Friday, October 14, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony. The meeting, open to the public, is at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland and is part of the Alliance’s honoring of Native culture in October. (See related story on Anishnabek Gathering, October 22, below.)

Born to an alcoholic father and an ill mother, both part-Native, he was adopted by a Traverse City couple who gave him his name. He was involved in the anti-war 60’s counterculture, including the White Panthers; was incarcerated; and “explored the depths of despair and alcoholism” until he met an Ottawa Indian who suggested he learn more about his culture. Sober for 22 years, he no longer considers himself a political activist, instead writing and presenting traditional Ottawa stories at colleges, schools, and community groups; his book was published in 2004.

The ACEH children’s group, UNITY, also will meet.

Anishnabek to Present Traditional Gathering

A traditional gathering will be presented by the Anishnabek of this area on Saturday, October 22, from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Pine Grove of Hope College, located in the center of the campus.

Dan Cornelissen says the gathering is “an invitation to all peoples to visit with and experience the culture of the Native peoples of this area. Native dancers, singers, Native drums, and traders from throughout the area will gather at Hope College to celebrate their historical and family traditions and values.”

Traders and vendors take part by invitation only; the Native food vendors contact is Mr. Cornelissen, (616) 403-6577; Native wares traders should contact Roger Williams at (616) 245-4316. The event is a drug- and alcohol-free gathering. In case of rain, it will take place in the Maas Auditorium, Columbia Ave. and 11th St., Holland.



ACEH Thanks Renewing Members; Annual Drive Begins

A big thanks to renewing members **Richard and Jean Allred, Liz Barveld, and Herb and Ann Weller.**

October is the month for ACEH's annual membership drive—for both new and renewing members.. Our year runs from October 1 to September 30, and you can join for one year or multiple years—see categories below.

Make your commitment to diversity, anti-racism, and cross-cultural understanding in the greater Holland community, by joining 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

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.

Becky Arenas Receives LAUP's El Camino Award

Three cheers for ACEH board member **Becky Arenas**, who received this year's El Camino Award from Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) and the Hispanic Leadership Conference on September 24. The award "recognizes individuals in our community who, through their involvement, have helped develop a better quality of life for all."

She has been involved in Tulipanes, Hispanic Service Providers, the Holland Human Relations Commission, Leadership Holland, Ottawa County Canvass Board, and numerous activities of St. Francis de Sales Church; has worked on many voter registration campaigns, and has been a candidate for political offices. She was one of five finalists for the 2005 Governor's Service Award and has received other state and local awards.

The daughter of migrant parents from Texas who worked in Holland's pickle fields, she has seven children, 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



Asian Center Moves To New Location

Douglas Chung, president of The Asian Center, announces a new office location for the organization: 1444 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Contact the group at (616) 301-3987; fax (616) 301-6937; email centera@gvsu.edu; website www.asiancenter.info. Elizabeth MacLachlan is the Center's officer manager.

The Center was established in 1994 and is involved in culturally sensitive human services among Asian Americans in West Michigan, including smoking cessation, natural health alternatives for various diseases, family counseling, workshops, employee assistance programs, and others. Its website provides links to information about Asian Americans in West Michigan.



Sister City Musical Group To Perform in Holland

The Estudiantina musical performance group from the University of Queretaro, Holland's sister city in Mexico, will be on stage at the Knickerbocker Theatre Friday, October 14, at 7 p.m.

The free concert in the lively "Tunas" style marks the tenth anniversary of educational exchanges between Hope College and the Mexican university. Estudiantina will also perform at the dedication of Hope's Martha Miller Center for Global Communication on , and at various local schools during their stay in Holland.

The 20-person group, formed in 1963, has given concerts around the world, including in Holland in 1998. The University of Queretaro, and the state and city of Queretaro, are funding the estimated \$15,000 cost of the trip. The Holland International Relations Commission is making the local arrangements; ACEH members **Bin Lim**, **Herb Weller**, and **Marvin Younger** are part of the IRC.

The Knickerbocker is located on 8th Street in downtown Holland.

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CULTURAL AND ETHNIC
HARMONY

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE:
616-335-8139

E-MAIL:
aceh@harmonyalliance.org.

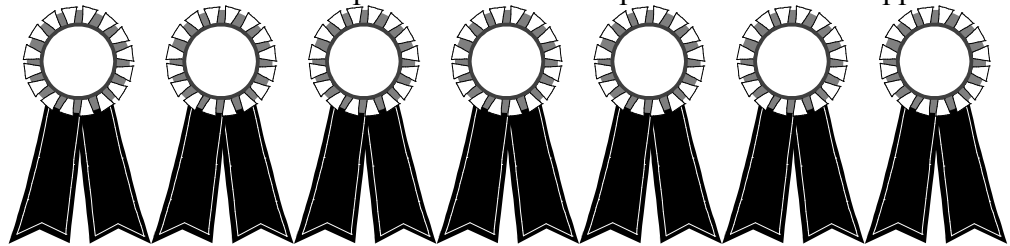
WEB ADDRESS
www.harmonyalliance.org

*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Pine Creek School Makes Improvements, Wins Praise

Congratulations to West Ottawa's Pine Creek Elementary School, which has been taken off the sanctions of the "No Child Left Behind" Act after making significant improvements for two years.

ACEH board member **Jill Cooper** was president of the school's Parent-Teacher Association, which worked very hard to get more parental and community involvement in the school. **Ned** and **JoLee Timmer**, several other members of ACEH, and a number of community and agency representatives formed the Friends of Pine Creek to help with activities and provide volunteer support.



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Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007