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The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony 616-786-0829

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

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Board of Directors

Becky Arenas
Liz Barveld
Jill Cooper
Dan Cornelissen
Judy Essenburgh
Bin Lim
Eleanor Lopez
Kim Romero

Fred Johnson Speaks to Feb. 10 ACEH Meeting on Racism, KKK

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III will be guest speaker at the Friday, February 10, program of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH), discussing "Flying Beneath the Radar: Racism in America and the KKK in Michigan."

The event, which is open to the public, is at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland.

Dr. Johnson has been an assistant professor of American history at Hope College since 2000. He is the author of scholarly research and two novels, and is working on a film documentary about the Ku Klux Klan. In 2002, the Hope student body chose him for the "Favorite Faculty Member" award, and in 2005 the graduating class selected him for the 41st Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) Award. Dr. Johnson is a member of the Holland Human Relations Commission, has been a board member of the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, and serves as a facilitator for local Institutes for the Healing of Racism.

The ACEH children's group, UNITY, also will meet. For more information, contact Jill Cooper at jillcooper@charter.net or call 786-0829. The ACEH website is www.harmonyalliance.org.

Museum to Show Award-Winning Rosa Parks Video February 11

If you've never seen it—or even if you have—here's your chance to view the outstanding and prize-winning documentary, "Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks." Produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the film will be shown Saturday, February 11, at noon at the Holland Museum, 31 West 10th St. The showing is cosponsored by ACEH and there is no charge. The video covers the history of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and the contributions of Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as the commitment of black, and a few white, citizens of Montgomery to end segregation on city buses. It is suitable for upper elementary-age children, as well as teens and adults.



ACEH Welcomes New and Renewing Members

A warm welcome to new members **Ken and Jill Cooper** and family, **Carol McGeehan**, and the **Holland Area Chamber of Commerce**.

And thanks to renewing members **Eric and Tonia Lans**, **Carol Anne Peterson**, **Marie Singer**, and **Gerald Van Heest**, and **Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails**.

Please consider joining with these ACEH members as we work together for social justice and appreciation for diversity, and to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. 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 Liz Barveld, ACEH, Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007.

New Directors Elected To Lead Harmony Alliance

Jill Cooper will serve as ACEH president in 2006, and Kim Romero will be vice president. Other officers are Eleanor Lopez, secretary; Liz Barveld, treasurer; Becky Arenas, events; Bin Lim, membership; Judy Essenburgh, communications; and Dan Cornelissen, outreach.

Lopez and Cornelissen are new to the board and will serve until January 2008, along with reelected board members Barveld and Lim. Victor Orozco, who also was elected at the Jan. 13 meeting, had to withdraw because of scheduling conflicts.

The board will meet for planning sessions at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the Lakeshore Center for Independent Living. Any ACEH member is welcome to attend. Check the website for schedule information.

Assisting the board are Ken Cooper, webmaster; Ann Weller and David Douglas, newsletter, and Herb Weller, database manager. Mike Jones is immediate past president. For photos and information about board members, go to the ACEH website www.harmonyalliance.org and click on Directors.

Holland First, Institutes Open for Registration

If you've ever asked "What can I do?" to be an advocate for diversity or to confront racism and prejudice in yourself and in the community, here are two opportunities:

- (1) Holland First is a free, eight-week program of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce to look at our community and its institutions through the eyes of diversity. About 25-30 people of different ethnic backgrounds take part each year; it's fun and a great way to meet neighbors of other cultures and to find out more about Holland (even if you've lived here for years). The facilitator is Dante Villarreal. Holland First is on Tuesdays from 7 to 9:15 p.m. starting Feb. 28 through Apr. 25. You can be a student, a homemaker, a retiree, a businessperson, or unemployed—there are no restrictions about occupation. To register, call Cindy Pocock at 392-2389; www.hollandchamber.org.
- (2) Institutes for the Healing of Racism are weekend or 8- to 10-week programs with trained facilitators who use videos, readings, and discussions to help diverse people learn more about the history of racism in this country and confront their own prejudices. Institutes, which many participants have called "eye-opening and life-changing," have been held in local churches and agencies and at the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce.

The next eight-week series will run from 3 to 5 p.m., starting Thursday, March 2, at the Chamber of Commerce. The facilitators are Fred Johnson and Carla Vissers of Hope College.

For information or to register, contact Pat Strachan at Pstrachan@hollandchamber.org or call her at 392-2389.

*"In a many colored garden we are growing side by side,
We will rise all together, we will rise.
From our children to our elders from all nations we will rise,
May respect for all our differences enhance our common ties.
We will build a global family strengthened by our common threads.
We will rise all together, we will rise."*

--Pat Humphries, quoted in Southern Poverty Law Center card, 2005.

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HARMONY

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WEB ADDRESS
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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

New ACEH Website Features Aid People with Physical Challenges

Our ACEH webmaster, Ken Cooper, has added some new features to help people who have certain physical problems accessing the site, www.harmonyalliance.org

(1) If you or someone you know has trouble using a computer mouse, we now have “no mouse” navigation on the website. An access key system gets you to each page of the site, depending on the computer operating system you use. For example, Windows systems generally require the “Alt” key plus a number. If you press Alt and the number 1, at the same time, you’ll access the ACEH website Home page. Alt and 2 take you to the Events page; Alt and 3, Photos; Alt and 4, Media; Alt and 5, Translating; Alt and 6, Lending Library; Alt and 7, Directors; Alt and 8, Links to the community, and Alt and 9, Join Us! Using Alt and 0 (zero) returns you to the top of any page.

(2) Visitors to the site who are visually impaired may be able to view the site in high contrast. This feature is available in modern browsers that conform to W3C standards (the folks who invented the internet). Unfortunately, Internet Explorer, the most broadly used browser, is not standards compliant and doesn’t support this feature. However, you can obtain the Firefox browser, which is free and does support the high-contrast feature, by going here: www.getfirefox.com If you use Firefox to access the ACEH website, clicking on the Tool Bar (View>Page Style>High Contrast) will transform the page you are viewing into across-the-room readability.

Thanks, Ken, for adding new features so that more people can enjoy the website.

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