

March, 2006
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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.

Inside this Issue:

Membership	2
What Does ACEH Do?	2
Anti-Racism Resources	3
Color-Blind	4

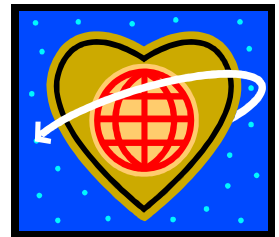
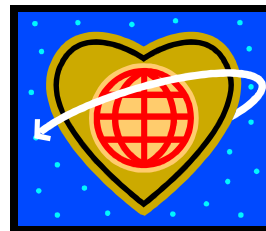
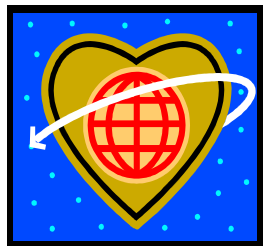
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Panelists Will Talk About Cross-Cultural Marriage and Families at Friday, March 10, ACEH Meeting

Cross-cultural marriages and families – how do they succeed? What special issues are there? What challenges do children face? How do contemporary forms of racism affect these families? At the Friday, March 10, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, three families will tell their stories. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland. The ACEH children's group, UNITY, for ages 4 to 14, also will meet.

Panelists are: Rose Butch of Grand Haven and her adult daughter; Rose was born in Viet Nam and met her American-born husband, William, when he was a marine in the Viet Nam war; Rose is a bilingual education assistant for West Ottawa Public Schools. June and Jay Martinez of Montague are European American and Mexican American and parents of eight children; he is a state police officer and she is working on a master's degree in counseling at WMU. David and Kim Douglas live in Holland with their two youngest daughters; his ancestry is African, English, and Native American; hers is Norwegian and German. David is lead diversity trainer and a counselor with West Ottawa; Kim teaches Encounter with Cultures and writing at Hope College. David Douglas is also the author of "Marriage Beyond Black and White," written with his mother, Barbara.





ACEH Welcomes New and Renewing Members

A warm welcome to new member **Felipe Ramirez!**

And thank you to renewing family and individual members **Kathy and Phil Beal, Stephen Hemenway, Lyn Raymond and Larry Helder, Bob and Sylvia Schrauger, Ruth Van Kampen, AC and Melanie VanderKolk**, and the nonprofit organization, **Center for Women in Transition**.

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.

What's ACEH All About?

ACEH is a nonprofit, grass-roots group of ethnically diverse people from Holland and nearby areas. It is a friendly organization, founded in January 1999, that welcomes all people and works to create the feeling that our communities belong to everyone. It is not affiliated with any political or religious group. It is supported by membership dues, donations, and grants. What does the Alliance do?

1. Holds monthly public meetings to talk about local and national justice and diversity issues, listen to speakers from different ethnic groups, and offer a safe and respectful place to share experiences of prejudice and racism and to work on solutions.
2. Works with ethnic and civic groups on projects to foster an inclusive community.
3. Supports public efforts to oppose discrimination, racism, and violence.
4. Offers resources of ideas, speakers, materials, and diversity training to schools, businesses, clubs, and religious organizations.
5. Publishes "In the Community," a twice-monthly email letter about diversity events in the community, and a monthly newsletter on ACEH programs and resources to combat racism.
6. Sponsors a children's diversity group, UNITY, for ages 4 to 14.
7. Holds twice a year social events with ethnic foods, children's activities, and entertainment.
8. Encourages patronage of ethnic businesses and events.

Read, Surf the Net, Learn More About History, Other People

One way each of us can help improve race relations is to learn more about this country's history and the experiences of other people. Check out a great book, two websites, and a useful local directory.

(1) "A Country of Strangers: Blacks and Whites in America," by reporter David Shipler was published in 1997 and is in paperback. Here are some reviews: "This book provides something that statistics alone will not: the rich fabric of the everyday workings of race in this nation." –*New York Times* Book Review. "Readers of all political persuasions are likely to come away from this book with new insights." –*Washington Post*. "This vivid account of America's racial situation will clarify your views of race and yourself." – *Southern Pines Pilot*, North Carolina. "Shipler picks apart our images and stereotypes..He illustrates the paradox that racism in America has become subtler and more civilized, but more difficult to erase...A must-read for anyone interested in becoming a more enlightened and compassionate human being." –Charleston, South Carolina *Post and Courier*.

Shipler also wrote "The Working Poor," and "Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land," for which he won a Pulitzer Prize.

(2) The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in Big Rapids is a 4,000-piece collection of racist artifacts collected and donated by sociology professor David Pilgrim. A *Detroit Free Press* article (Feb. 14) says, "Although the images are dehumanizing caricatures of African Americans, they are products of the white imagination that still have resonance today." The site also includes short essays on various topics related to race; letters from people who have visited the site or heard Pilgrim speak at events; and other information. Groups can arrange a tour by scheduling an appointment at (231) 591-5873 or by email to thorpj@ferris.edu. On your own, you can visit online at www.ferris.edu/jimcrow

Or...you can see for yourself for another week, in Grand Rapids. A traveling exhibit, "Hateful Things," from the Jim Crow Museum will be at Kendall College of Art and Design until March 10. It includes 39 objects and images from the late 1800s to the present day that show how African Americans were stereotyped and discriminated against after the Civil War, and also explores the violence directed toward them, according to the Grand Rapids Press. For more information, check the website, www.kcad.edu, or call (616) 451-2787.

(3) "100 Questions and Answers about Arab Americans" is a useful guide published by the *Detroit Free Press*, covering origins, language, demographics, family, customs, religion, politics, terminology, and stereotypes. Find it online at www.freep.com, by going to site index, then jobs for journalists and scrolling down to the booklet.

(4) A handy 2005/6 directory of Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses in West Michigan has just been released, covering Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids. You can pick up a copy at the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce, 272 East 8th St., Holland, or call (616) 392-7379.

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

***“I do not believe that this country has ever been color blind,
and frankly I do not believe that it ever will be,
but I also do not despair about that
because I do not see color blindness in and of itself as a goal.***

***“The question is not whether we see color or race or ethnicity.
The question is, having seen it, how do we treat one another?
This is not about blindness,
it is about seeing and then doing
justice.”***

**--Theodore Shaw, associate director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense
and Education Fund, quoted in Teaching Tolerance magazine, spring 2000.**

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