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Volume 8, Issue 4

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

WOOD-TV News Anchor Brian Sterling To Speak at April 14 ACEH Meeting About Racism, Healing in West Michigan

Documentary "Race in Reality" Will be Shown

A November 2005 documentary produced by Grand Rapids' Channel 8 WOOD-TV on racism in West Michigan will be the focus of the April meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony.

Open to the public, the meeting is at 7 p.m., Friday, April 14, at the Maas Auditorium on the Hope College campus, Columbia Ave. and 11th St., Holland. The Hope College Office of Multicultural Life is co-sponsoring the event.

WOOD-TV anchor Brian Sterling will talk about the hour-long film, "Race in Reality," a 24 Hour News 8 special that documented West Michigan residents confronting issues of race and each other in an Institute for Healing Racism. The film explores issues fueling racism and how individuals can take steps toward healing race relations.

The station received a large number of emails and calls after the broadcast, according to station officials, who said their goal in hosting an Institute and producing the program was to further open dialogue. "There's a section of the population that believes racism exists, and there's a section that wants to say 'Get over it,'" the news director said.

Sterling is a native of metro Detroit, a graduate of Michigan State University, and a former morning news and sports anchor for the statewide radio organization, Michigan News Network. He joined 24 Hour News 8 in 1994.

He has been recognized by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters for breaking news coverage and received a regional Emmy for community service. In 1996, he won the "Eyes on Education" award.



ACEH Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Welcome to a new nonprofit member, **Ottawa County Mental Health**.

And thanks to renewing members **Alice Hirt** and family and **Jauanna Jackson**.

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.

The ACEH dues structure is as follows:

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 ACEH fiscal year runs 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 Liz Barveld, PO Box 3007, Holland, MI 3007-49422.

League Panel Speaks on Ways To Increase Minority Voting

“Get out the Vote,” “Your Vote Is Your Voice,” “Don’t Complain if You Don’t Vote”—there are lots of slogans, yet many people don’t vote, and a local group wants to explore ways to increase turnout, especially among people of color.

On Monday, April 24, from 7 to 9 p.m., the Holland Area League of Women Voters is sponsoring a public meeting at Herrick District Library on “Increasing Minority Voting.”

Panelists include Becky Arenas, Wayne Coleman, Dr. Fred Johnson, and Bin Lim. Arenas and Lim are ACEH board members; Coleman is an ACEH member; Dr. Johnson is a board member of the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA). They will present their ideas on the topic, followed by questions from the audience. Come listen and then share your views!

The library is located on River Ave., between 12th and 13th Sts. in Holland.

14th Annual Fair Housing Luncheon, Workshops To be Held in Grand Rapids April 20

"Changing the Landscape: Welcoming Everyone to Our Backyard" is the theme of the 14th annual Fair Housing Luncheon and Workshop Series, to be held from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 20, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5700 28th St., SE, in Grand Rapids. Sponsor is the Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids.

The three workshops are NIMBYism: The Implications of Prejudice in Our Backyard; Community, Industry and Advocates: Partners in Fair Housing; and Building Multi-Cultural Competence. Speakers, panelists, and discussion leaders will offer information and facilitate participation.

At the luncheon, keynote speaker Michael Allen, senior staff attorney for the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, will focus on "Making Room at the Inn: Housing for the Least Among Us," charting a course for rebuilding the social contract and reconnecting neighbors, in the context of vigorous enforcement of the right to "housing of one's choice in the community."

Cost is \$45 per person for one workshop and the luncheon; \$30 for luncheon alone, and \$30 for workshop only. A discount rate is available for students, retirees, unemployed persons, and nonprofits. Full payment must accompany registration, and checks should be sent to Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids, 1514 Wealthy SE, Suite 226, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Get a Move On! Have Fun and Help Fundraise With Your Feet for LCIL and the Alliance

Lace up your sneakers or get out your flip-flops, and walk, jog, or roll on April 22 for the annual Walk & Roll sponsored by the Lakeshore Center for Independent Living (LCIL). This year's fundraising event, called Lakeshore Luau, will be Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Zeeland West High School, 3390 100th Ave., Zeeland. Fun activities and food are part of the event, too!

Half of any funds raised by the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, through donations and pledges, comes back to ACEH to help with activities for our children's UNITY group. All donations are tax deductible. For a pledging envelope, please contact Kim Romero at LCIL, 396-5326.

The Lakeshore CIL helps youth, adults, and seniors in Ottawa and Allegan counties to educate people and develop leadership skills in the areas of transportation, long-term care, housing, transition from school to work, employment, and accessibility. In 2004, the agency worked with more than 2,500 people to remove barriers to their full community participation.

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Can You Switch from Snail Mail to Email for Your ACEH Newsletter?

ACEH is trying to cut back on its monthly cost for stamps to mail the Newsletter. If you have email and can receive the Newsletter that way, please let us know by calling 396-2201 or emailing hpweller@comcast.net and we'll switch you over. If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, just tell us. We want you to get it-- but only if you want to!

There's No Place Like Home: City Holds Housing Fair April 22

Holland's 11th annual Housing Fair will take place Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Holland Civic Center, Pine Ave between 8th and 9th Sts.

This is the place to be if you are thinking about buying a home. There will be lots of information about opportunities to become a home owner; mortgage lenders and Realtors will be on hand to answer questions, discuss options for financing, and talk about the variety of affordable housing on the market.

The Housing Fair, which celebrates Fair Housing Month, is sponsored by the city's Human Relations Commission. Admission is free, and there will be a supervised children's play area. For more information, call 355-1328 or 355-1322.

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