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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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Local Author to Show and Tell Story of Holland's History at May 12 ACEH Meeting

Long-time Holland resident Randy Vande Water will be featured speaker at the Friday, May 12, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH).

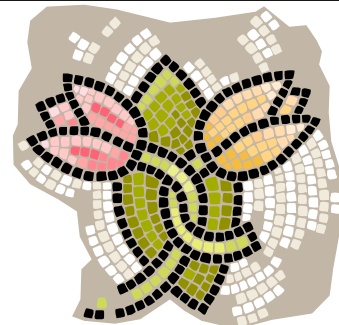
The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland. It is free and open to the public.

Vande Water will take an informal look at Holland's 159-year history, "interspersed with several quirky incidents about personalities and places." His presentation will include slides of local sites, buildings, and people.

He spent 40 years as an editor at the Holland Sentinel, retiring as managing editor, and has written a dozen books on Holland history. His latest, "On the Way to Today," Volume 2, was published in April.

Vande Water also wrote "Tulip Time Treasures," "A Walk Through Time" about Zeeland, and "100 Years of Hope College Basketball," as well as histories of local businesses Heinz and the Holland Furnace Company, and the Holland American Legion Band.

The ACEH children's group, UNITY, for youngsters ages 4 to 14, also will meet.





ACEH Thanks Renewing Members

Thank you to renewing members **Tino** and **Lupita Reyes** and two nonprofit agencies, the city of Holland's Human Relations Commission and the International Relations Commission.

Please consider joining with Tino and Lu and other 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.

ACEH Will Honor Gary Pepe With Special Park Bench

In 1996, the city of Holland and the city of Queretaro, Mexico, established a Sister City relationship. In the 10 years since, residents have exchanged many visits—including college and high school students, football players, hospital personnel, musicians, teachers, and government officials. Holland gave Querétaro equipment for a children's playground. Querétaro gave Holland the beautiful canterra stone fountain in Kollen Park on Lake Macatawa.

Now the city of Holland and its International Relations Commission are arranging for wrought iron benches at Kollen Park, so visitors of all ages can sit and enjoy the fountain and the people who come to see it. The ACEH board has voted to purchase one of the benches, which are made in Puebla, Mexico, and will place on it a plaque honoring the late Gary Pepe, who was Alliance president in 2003.

Gary died at age 54 on May 3, 2005. He was an advocate for justice in the greater Holland community, worked for cross-cultural understanding and an appreciation for diversity, and mentored young people. He had lived in the Dominican Republic and Mexico and was fluent in Spanish.

An educational program memorial is also being planned for the future. Contributions in Gary's memory may be sent to the Gary Pepe Fund, c/o Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area, 70 West Eighth Street, Holland 49423.

“White Like Me” Author Tim Wise Offers Thoughts on Racism

In March 2005, anti-racism author and lecturer Tim Wise spoke to a large audience at Grand Valley State University. Wise is the author of “White Like ME: Reflections from a Privileged Son,” and “Affirmative Action: Racial Preferences in Black and White.” He talks to groups throughout the U.S. about the need to combat institutional racism, gender bias, and the growing gap between rich and poor. The following are excerpts from his talk, compiled by ***Grand Rapids Press*** reporter Rick Wilson and published in the ***Press*** March 25, 2005:

The message: Americans need to change not only the way they think about racism but the language they use to describe it in order to more accurately reflect and address the problem.

--“The way a lot of people think about diversity treats the lack of it as though it’s just a numbers problem, as though inequalities just happened. It’s as if we woke up one day and 83 percent of all tenured faculty of campus were white men and we’re asking ourselves how the (heck) did that happen?”

--The vast majority of American executives honestly believe they hire the best candidates for jobs, despite evidence that color plays an integral if only subconscious role in hiring decisions.

--“Colorblindness is not a progressive stance in a society where color has had and continues to have such profound consequences....First of all, it’s a lie but more importantly misses the point that some folks just aren’t going to walk through your door.”

--Wise trashed the stereotypical notion that minorities are lazy, while noting that critics of affirmative action often claim underqualified minorities often get hired over whites. “What gets me about racists is that they’re so intellectually lazy,” Wise said. “If you’re taking all the jobs, then you’re sure not lazy, and if you’re lazy, you’re sure not taking even one of them.”

Fiesta! ¡Fiesta! Fiesta!

Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6 . Viernes y Sabado, Mayo 5-6:
The 41st annual Fiesta (formerly called Cinco de Mayo) sponsored by Latin Americans United for Progress is the vehicle the Latino community of Holland uses to share its rich and diverse heritage, representing Mexico, Central America, South America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. This year’s theme is "Festival of Colors and Cultures." Events include Queen and King Contest, Lowrider Car Show, variety show, carnival rides, arts, crafts, and delicious food. It will be at the Holland Civic Center, Pine Ave. between 8th and 9th Sts. ¡Bienvenidos todos! Everybody’s welcome!



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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Ballet Folklorico SOL AZTECA Offers Dance Recital, Lessons

1) The Ballet Folklorico SOL AZTECA, a project of the Holland Chorale Community Enrichment Program, holds its first anniversary dance recital from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 20, at Cityside Middle School, Lokers Auditorium, 320 East Main, Zeeland. Free-will donation at the door. For information, contact Marti at 403-6617 or bfsahh@hotmail.com

2) The dance company has started open enrollment for its Tuesday-Thursday summer classes, June 6 to August 17. Children 4 and 5 years old meet from 5:30 to 6 pm, 6 to 12 year olds from 6 to 7 pm, and 13 years and older, 7 to 8 pm. Dancers should wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle. Enrollment forms are available now on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Crossroad Church, Lincoln Ave at 12th St., Holland. Ask for Tony Sanchez or Marti Gonzalez.

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