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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
Judy Essenburgh
Bin Lim
Eleanor Lopez
Kim Romero

June 20 Forum Planned to Help Public Understand Immigration Bills

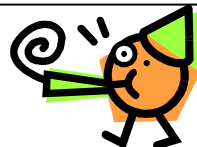
Immigration is talked about on the news and in the community. The U.S. House of Representatives in December 2005 passed one bill to address the issue; the U.S. Senate on May 25, 2006, passed a quite different bill.

What is in these bills, and what happens now?

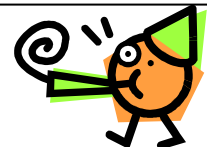
An educational forum, "Understanding the New Immigration Bills," will be held Tuesday, June 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Francis de Sales Church, Maple Ave. and 13th St., Holland. It is free and open to the public; child care will be provided for infants and youngsters up to age five.

Panelists are immigration attorneys Danny Upton, Robert Alvarez, and Jose Sandoval; Paul Troste of Sen. Carl Levin's office, and Jon DeWitte, district director for Congressman Peter Hoekstra. A question and answer session will follow their presentations.

The forum is sponsored by Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, Community Action House, Crossroad Chapel, Justice for Our Neighbors, Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, Latin Americans United for Progress, and St. Francis de Sales Church, all of Holland.



Save the Date for
Summer Party Time!



Save the date! Sunday, August 13, from 1 to 4, ACEH will hold its 8th annual potluck and family gathering at Ransom Park on Holland's north side. Bring your food specialty, maybe something from your culture, to share. ACEH will provide beverages and table service, plus games and entertainment. See you there!



ACEH Welcomes New and Renewing Members

Thanks to renewing members **David and Kim Douglas** and **Barbara Schwentor**. Please consider joining with David, Kim and Barbara 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 at Box 3007, Holland, MI 49423-3007.

City Will Rename Park To Honor Rosa Parks, at June 16 Event

On Friday, June 16, the late civil rights activist Rosa Parks will be honored with the renaming of College Avenue Park, College Ave. and 19th St., in Holland. The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. It is being organized by the Juneteenth Committee, which is also preparing the annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 17. (See story on Page 4.)

The Holland City Council voted unanimously on Wednesday, May 24, to rename a city park in honor of Mrs. Parks after a request by local leaders in the African American community. The new Rosa Parks Green is in a diverse area of the city and is used by many families and young people.

Mayor Al McGeehan was quoted in the *Holland Sentinel's* account of the meeting, “Rosa Parks lit a light in America, a light that had been out since the Civil War. She did not know at that time that that simple act of defiance would change her life and would change her nation.”

In December 1955, Mrs. Parks was sitting in the legally mandated “colored” section of a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus when she refused the driver’s order to give up her seat to a white man who was standing. She was arrested, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott began, under the inspirational leadership of E. D. Nixon and 26-year-old Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. African Americans refused to ride the buses, walking miles to work and school or finding alternate transportation. More than a year later, as the community continued to walk, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the segregation of Montgomery's buses and the modern-day civil rights movement gathered strength.

Mrs. Parks died in Detroit in October 2005.

Alliance Leaders Receive Awards

Congratulations to ACEH board members Becky Arenas and Eleanor Lopez, who were named among the "50 Women of Influence" in West Michigan in April by *I* Magazine for their many contributions to the community. Becky is a social worker for Life Services Systems and Eleanor directs Holland Hospital's Health InfoSource library. Several ACEH members are among the other 48 women honored, who are Christina Baer, Lisa Bancuk, Tamra Bowman, Nancy Beelen, Donna Brooks, Debbie Brunsting, Martha Cerda, Amanda Chocko, Jane Clark, Ruth Coleman, Donna Cornwell, Andrea Crossman-Ortman, Nancy De Boer, Becca Dernberger, Janet DeYoung, Jacqueline King Donnelly, Bria Ebels, Elizabeth Smallegan Ebihara, Pat Eldean, Jeanette Emenheiser, Rosemary Ervine, Deb Feenstra, Mimi Fritz, Dina Gonzalez, Coco Gramer, Jamie Grasman, Gail Harrison, Lynn Kobes, Darcy Komejan, Lynn Kotecki, Sally Laukitis, Lisa Luckey, Marti Martin, Kate Moynihan, Fabienne Munch, Danielle Revillon Nguyen-Quang, Tina Perry, Lynnelle Pierce, Cindy Pocock, Ann Query, Lupita Reyes, Patricia Switer Fitzpatrick, Carolyn Stich, Maribeth Van Zalen, Laura Vos, Robyn Wennersten-Vriesman, Helen Weykamp, and Judie Zylman.

ACEH data base manager Herb Weller was named Outstanding Advocate for Minority Business in April at the first annual awards luncheon of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce Business Connections Committee (BCC). He owns Weller Language Services for translation, interpretation, and instruction in Spanish. And honored by the BCC as Minority Businessperson of the Year was Tony Castillo, who has three McDonalds' franchises in the Holland area; he is an ACEH member. On May 6, at Fiesta, Tony and Herb were honored by Latin Americans United for Progress for their community contributions.

ACEH Board Invites New Directors

There are two openings on the board of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, following the resignation of elected members for personal reasons. The two posts are for outreach, working with community groups on events; and resource development. The term ends in January 2008; the board meets once a month to plan programs and carry out other work. Plus, they have a good time together! If you are interested, please contact Jill Cooper, ACEH president, at 786-0829 or email her at jillcooper@charter.net



The Alliance

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Juneteenth to be Celebrated June 17 in Kollen Park

Holland's 7th annual celebration of Juneteenth will take place Saturday, June 17, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Kollen Park, on the waterfront at VanRaalte Ave. and 10th St.

With the theme of "Keeping the Legacy Alive," there will be a dynamic speaker, activities for youth and families, music, games, a local talent contest, step dancers, and other entertainment, as well as "mouth-watering barbecue and soul food."

Holland's Juneteenth Committee aims to educate the community on the importance of this holiday and to build cross-cultural relationships. Many local groups will have information booths or items for sale.

Juneteenth, which is celebrated in many cities across the country, marks the date of June 19, 1865, when Texas became the last state in the union to free its slaves, after news of the Emancipation Proclamation was finally circulated there.

(See related story on Page 2 about the pre-Juneteenth renaming of College Avenue
Dutchess County, Virginia, Dutchess County, Virginia)

The Alliance for Cultural
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