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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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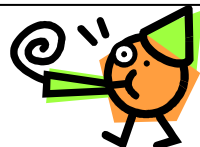
Holland Woman Speaks July 14 About Journey to Philippines

Marife Vander Schuur, a native of the Philippines, will speak at the Friday, July 14, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony. The event, which is open to the public, is at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland.

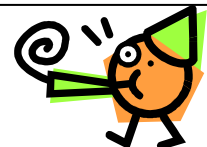
Her talk, "My Journey," will include her recent trip to the Philippines to visit her parents, her experiences in West Michigan, and the activities of a local Filipino organization, Bayanihan Filipino-American Outreach, founded two years ago.

Mrs. Vander Schuur is now a U.S. citizen and a facilities designer at Haworth and takes part in the company's diversity efforts, receiving a Diversity Change Agent award from the company in early 2006. She came to the United States in 1988 and to Holland in 1995; she and her husband, Kelly, who was born and raised in Grand Haven, have a blended family of two daughters and a son.

The Alliance children's group, UNITY, for ages 4 to 14, also will meet, at the same time and place as the adult meeting.



**Make a Plan...
and Plan to Party!**
Everybody's Welcome



What: 8th annual ACEH Potluck in the Park

When: Sunday, August 13, 1 to 4 p.m.

Place: Ransom Park, 16500 Ransom St., north of Quincy between 160th and 168th Avenues.

Bring: Friends and family, a dish to pass. ACEH provides beverages and table service. Games, music, children's activities, too!



ACEH Invites YOU to Join

Please consider joining with the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony 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.

Educational Forum Draws Many People To Hear about Immigration Bills

More than 175 people turned out at St. Francis de Sales Church on June 20 to hear about immigration bills that recently passed U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

Panelists were Jon De Witte, district director for U.S. Representative Pete Hoekstra; Paul Troste, district office of U.S. Senator Carl Levin; and immigration attorneys Danny Upton, José Sandoval, and Robert Alvarez. At this time, it is not known how, or when, a joint conference committee of the House and Senate will act to reconcile the two different bills. The president cannot sign an immigration bill into law unless it is agreed on and passed by both houses of Congress.

Sponsors of the educational forum were Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, Community Action House, Crossroad Chapel, Justice for Our Neighbors, Latin Americans United for Progress, St. Francis de Sales Church, and the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony.

A reprint of a Washington Post.com summary of differences between the two bills is on Page 3 of this newsletter. Both English and Spanish versions of the summary are posted on the ACEH website, www.harmonyalliance.org

Immigration Bills Compared

Highlights of the House and Senate and border security measures
(from the Washington Post.com)

U. S. Senate Bill, S. 2611	U. S. House Bill, H.R. 4437
<p>Border enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes 370 miles of new triple-layer fencing plus 500 miles of vehicle barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border. • Authorizes hiring an additional 1,000 Border Patrol agents this year, for a total of 3,000 more agents this year. • Authorizes an additional 14,000 Border Patrol agents by 2011 to the current force of 11,300 agents. • Authorizes additional detention facilities for apprehended illegal immigrants. • Limits National Guard tours of duty on the U.S.-Mexico border to 21 days. 	<p>Border enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires building double-layer fencing along 700 miles of the 2,000-mile border between Mexico and the United States. • Requires mandatory detention for all non-Mexican illegal immigrants arrested at ports of entry or at land and sea borders. • Establishes mandatory sentences for smuggling illegal immigrants and for re-entering the United States illegally after deportation.
<p>Policy affecting those interacting with immigrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires employers and subcontractors to use within 18 months an electronic system to verify that new hires are legal. Increases the maximum fine on employers for hiring illegal workers to \$20,000 for each worker and imposes jail time for repeat offenders. • Declares English the country's national language. 	<p>Policy affecting those interacting with immigrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes it a felony to assist, encourage, direct or induce a person to enter or attempt to enter or remain in the United States illegally. • Beginning in six years, all employers would have to use a database to verify the Social Security numbers of all employees. • Increases the maximum fine for employers of illegal workers from the current \$10,000 to \$40,000 per violation; establishes prison sentences of up to 30 years for repeat offenders.
<p>Policy affecting immigrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows illegal immigrants who have been in the country five years or more to remain, continue working, and eventually become legal permanent residents and citizens after paying at least \$3,250 in fines and fees, paying back taxes, and learning English. • Requires illegal immigrants in the United States between two and five years to go to a point of entry at the border and file an application to return. • Requires those in the country less than two years to leave. • Illegal immigrants convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors would be deported no matter how long they have been in the United States. • Creates a special guest-worker program for an estimated 1.5 million immigrant farm workers, who could also earn legal permanent residency. • Increases the number of H1-B visas for skilled workers from 65,000 to 115,000 annually, beginning in 2007. Immigrants with certain advanced degrees would not be subject to the caps, which could rise by 20 percent depending on labor market demands. • Provides 200,000 new temporary guest-worker visas a year 	<p>Policy affecting immigrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes illegal presence in the country a felony and increases penalties for first-time illegal entry to the United States. • Makes a drunken driving conviction a deportable offense

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Migrant Appreciation Event Set for Saturday, July 29

West Ottawa South High School will be a busy, exciting, and fun place from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, for the annual Migrant Appreciation Event. There will be a taco dinner, games, face painting, piñatas for the children, door prizes, music, entertainment, and voting for favorite artwork in the "Safe Families and Health Relationships" contest.

From 6 to 9 p.m., agencies will offer educational and health information. A dance with traditional Mexican music will entertain everyone from 9 to 11 p.m.

West Ottawa South is located at 3600 15nd Ave., Holland. Sponsors of the event are Allegan Ottawa Barry Migrant Resource Council, American Cancer Society, West Ottawa Public Schools, the Delta Project, and Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Volunteers are still needed, as well as additional donations for door prizes. Contact Lesley Coghill at (616) 494-1741 or email Lesleyc@aplaceforwomen.org

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