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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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Panelists to Speak About Hispanic Worker Issues at Friday, Sept. 8, ACEH Meeting

"Hispanic Immigrants: Their Lives, Their Challenges, and the Impact of U.S. Policies," is the topic of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) meeting Friday, September 8.

The program, a recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, will be at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland. The public is invited. The three panelists are:

- Martha Cerda, regional supervisor/manager for the Holland field office of Telamon Corporation, and a former migrant farm worker. She is active in several community organizations and was named one of the 50 Women of Influence in West Michigan in 2006.
- Pedro Ledesma, a case worker who has been with Telamon for 14 years, and a former farm worker. Telamon offers employment information, resources and guidance to migrant and seasonal workers and direct assistance to employers.
- Danny Upton, an attorney for an national immigration ministry sponsored by the United Methodist Church; he is assigned to clinics at Methodist churches in Holland and Grand Rapids.

UNITY, the Alliance group for youngsters between ages 4 and 14, also will meet at the same time and place as the adult program. For information, call 786-0829 or check the website, www.harmonyalliance.org

Querétaro Fountain Bench to Honor Gary Pepe Sept. 2

Six commemorative benches will be dedicated during Tulipanes on Saturday, Sept. 2, at 1 p.m. in Kollen Park (10th and Van Raalte, on the Holland waterfront). An initiative of the city's International Relations Commission, the benches were manufactured in Mexico and inscribed with the seals of both sister cities. They will complete the fountain area, Plaza Santiago de Querétaro. One bench, funded by memorial contributions to the Alliance, will honor the late Gary Pepe, a past president of ACEH. Gary, who died in May 2005, was a community activist and advocate for justice, equal opportunity, and cross-cultural understanding.



ACEH Thanks These Members, Invites YOU to Join

Thanks to new members **Andree Keneau** and **Eugene Biegelman** and renewing members **Phil** and **Jan Coray!**

Please consider joining with Andree, Eugene, Phil and Jan and other members of the Alliance 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.

A Child's Thoughts on Diversity

Eight-year-old Halla Jones wrote the following article when she was learning about Core Democratic Values at her West Ottawa elementary school. From the list of CDVs, Halla chose diversity:

“Diversity is the most important Core Democratic Value to me because a lot of people in this country and others are in need of a loving and caring family and if there was no diversity in this country then nobody in this country would be adopted or be able to teach us about being adopted.

“Another reason is that only the very first people and their families that came here would be here and they would all believe the exact same thing!

“Also, not having diversity, if we ever went to a different country, it would be hard because we wouldn't be used to being around different cultures!

“Now you know why I like diversity the best!”

Halla is the daughter of Alecia and Mike Jones; Mike is the past president of ACEH, and he and Alecia are long-time members.

Movies, Dance, Music, Art, and Food: 6th annual Tulipanes Starts Sept. 1!

Holland's 6th annual Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival kicks off at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 1, and runs through 6 o'clock on Sunday, Sept. 3. Events will be held at Centennial Park, Park Theater, Herrick Library, Knickerbocker Theatre, and the Holland Area Arts Council, all within walking distance of downtown Holland. For a complete schedule of films and events, visit the Tulipanes' website, www.tlaff.org or see the insert in the August 24 Holland Sentinel.

Film highlights include "Crossing Arizona," (10:30 a.m. Saturday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Knickerbocker; 3:15 p.m. Saturday at the Park Theatre), and the family feature "Goal: The Dream Begins" (6 p.m. Friday at Herrick, 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Park Theater, and 6:10 p.m. Saturday at the Knickerbocker). A dozen other movies will be shown at Herrick Library, the Park Theater, or the Knickerbocker.

Music, dance, and performances at Centennial Park include Evolucion, Ballet Folklorico Sol Azteca, Tierra, Orquesta Sensacional, Amazonas Music from the Andes, Quintet, Rene Mauve, Los Bandits, Jinga Capoeira, and Cabildo. Salsa and tango lessons will be offered on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, and "salsa night" will start at 9 p.m. Friday at the Holland Area Arts Council. Art exhibits open at 10 a.m. Saturday at Centennial Park, and a giant piñata will be ready at 11 a.m., also in the park.

A panel discussion on immigration will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Park Theater, with Daniel DeVivo, director, and Laurie MacMillan, story editor of "Crossing Arizona"; Mike Wilson, humanitarian; and Alfredo Gonzalez of Hope College, moderator.

A faith and worship celebration will be at noon on Sunday in Centennial Park, and the film awards ceremony is at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Knickerbocker.

Food from a variety of vendors will be available at Centennial Park starting at 11 a.m. on Friday, and continuing during the day on Saturday..



LAUP Offers Free ESL Classes at New Community 4th Reformed Church

Spanish speakers who want to learn English, or improve their English skills, can take free ESL classes offered by Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP), beginning Thursday, September 7. All classes will be at New Community 4th Reformed Church, 238 West 15th St. (corner of Washington), Holland. People interested in the classes can come to the church on Thursday, September 7, or Friday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Funded with a \$20,000 grant from Boar's Head Provisions and other donations, the sessions will give more than 100 adults an opportunity to learn English in a non-intimidating atmosphere, in small classes that focus on different comprehension levels.

Two, 16-week programs will run from September through May, meeting Monday, Thursday, and Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There are five main levels—basic literacy, basic 1, intermediate, advanced, and conversational—and students will be given a placement test to determine the appropriate classes for them. Instructors are bilingual, aided by Hope College Spanish student volunteers.

For more information, contact Poema Weller, LAUP's project coordinator, at (616) 392-5058, or at Laup@sbcglobal.net

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