

November, 2006  
Volume 8, Issue 11

# 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.*

## Inside this Issue:

Membership	2
Board Members Needed	2
Members in the News	3
Ballot Proposals	3
Annual Potluck	4

## Board of Directors

Becky Arenas  
Liz Barveld  
Jill Cooper  
Dan Cornelissen  
Judy Essenburgh  
Bin Lim  
Eleanor Lopez  
Kim Romero

## Hear Fred Stella: Hindu Dharma in the West November 10 ACEH Meeting

Fred Stella, president of the Interfaith Dialogue Association of Grand Rapids, and host of the weekly radio program "Common Threads" on WGVU/Grand Rapids, will speak to the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony on "The Hindu Dharma in the West."

The program, which is open to the public, is at 7 p.m., Friday, November 10, at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland. The children's group, UNITY, also will meet.

Stella began his spiritual search within the Hindu tradition at age 15, and has spent time in temples and ashrams in the United States and India. He has held leadership positions in the local chapter of Self Realization Fellowship, a worldwide society rooted in the Hindu/Yoga system of teaching. In 2005, he completed a 30-city lecture tour in India, and he is on the adjunct faculty of Muskegon Community College as an instructor of Hatha Yoga. In Hinduism, dharma signifies the "ultimate law of all things, and individual right conduct in conformity to this law."



\* Click on the box if the graphic does not appear in your e-copy of the newsletter.



## ACEH Welcomes New and Renewing Members

A warm welcome to new member **Rebecca Long**.

And thanks to renewing members **Liz Barveld, Dean and Mary De Ridder, Marie Singer, and Barbara Stockman**.

Please consider joining with Rebecca, Liz, Dean, Mary, Marie, Barbara, and other members of ACEH as we work for social justice and appreciation for diversity, to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected.

We are a volunteer group with a modest budget, relying on dues, donations, and occasional grants to support our work. Funds go toward educational programs, postage, paper, printing, the children's UNITY group activities, contributions to local events, maintaining the website, and so on.

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 or service pledges should be made out to ACEH and sent to Treasurer Liz Barveld, P. O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007. To pay by credit card, go to our website [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org) and use the secure Pay Pal system.

## Alliance Needs More People for Its Board

Come on board! Come join us! That's the message from the directors of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony.

Several new Board members are needed to join with current directors for the 2007-08 term, to help with planning programs, community outreach, fund development, and special events. The Board meets once a month, at a time selected by the Board members.

Interested? Want more information? Contact [aceh@harmonyalliance.org](mailto:aceh@harmonyalliance.org) or call Jill Cooper at 786-0829. The ACEH website is [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org)

## News of Alliance Members

Congratulations to Dr. Chuck Green, who recently received the 11<sup>th</sup> annual “Favorite Faculty/Staff Member” award at Hope College. Dr. Green is a professor of psychology and director of the Phelps Scholars Program and First-Year Seminar program.

The Alliance sends its sincere sympathy to Greg Hulsebos, whose mother, Ruth Ellen Hulsebos, died October 5 at age 82, and to Shirley Porter, whose husband, Fred Thomas Porter, died on September 20.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Alice Pepe of Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ, mother of the late Gary Pepe, sent the following note after ACEH purchased a memorial bench that was dedicated in September at the Querétaro fountain in Kollen Park. Gary, who was ACEH president in 2003, died at age 55 in May 2005. Mrs. Pepe’s card shows diverse people enjoying themselves in a park, with a circle of children dancing around a tree.

*“This card expresses how I feel about the bench dedicated in Gary’s honor. It represents how Gary felt about the world, to live in peace. His love touched so many people....Our family wants to thank everyone for all the thought and effort that was put to remember Gary. I know he will always be with us in spirit. Gary was that kind of person who loved everyone. I was so proud of him. ... My greatest wish is to visit, hope my health will permit it in the near future*



## ACEH Board Opposes Proposition 2, Supports MAX Bus Millage on Nov. 7 Ballot

At its meeting October 25, the ACEH Board of Directors voted to oppose Proposition 2 on the statewide ballot November 7, and to support the MAX Transportation mileage proposal, which will be voted on in the City of Holland and Holland Charter Township.

(A) Proposition 2, called the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, would amend the state Constitution to ban affirmative action and outreach programs in local and state government, K-12 public schools, and public universities and colleges that involve “discriminating against or giving preference to” any person or group on the basis of race, gender, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the fields of public employment, public education, or public contracting. A wide variety of current programs could be affected.

In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court said affirmative action, which provides equal access to qualified individuals, “is necessary (so) that the path to leadership be visibly open to talented and qualified individuals of every race and ethnicity.” Because ACEH was founded to promote justice, equal opportunity, and appreciation for diversity, and because discrimination against people of color and women still exists, we believe affirmative action efforts should be continued.

We support a NO vote on Proposition 2.

(B) The MAX transportation proposal would increase funding for an expansion of the MAX bus service in Holland and Holland Charter Township. Because public transportation is necessary for many people, including people with disabilities, to continue their employment and to participate in the community, we support a YES vote on the MAX proposal.

## ACEH Invites Community to Annual Holiday Potluck Dec. 2

Save the date, and come have a great time at the annual holiday potluck of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony. The annual gathering will be Saturday, December 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10<sup>th</sup> St., Holland.

Please plan to bring a dish to share, and a nonperishable food item that will be donated to a local food bank. Beverages and table service will be provided by ACEH.

There will be children's activities—balloon animals, clay art, face painting, along with music, a special event, a chance to meet new people, and, of course, wonderful food.

Invite family and friends, co-workers, and new people in the community—we'll be waiting for you!

*The Alliance*

THE ALLIANCE FOR  
CULTURAL AND ETHNIC  
HARMONY

Box 3007  
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE:  
616-786-0829

E-MAIL:  
aceh@harmonyalliance.org.

WEB ADDRESS  
www.harmonyalliance.org

*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
Apart*

The Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony

Box 3007  
Holland, MI 49422-3007