

The Alliance

ACEH to Visit Local Exhibit of African American Art Friday, Feb. 9

Dedicated to promoting unity, justice, equal opportunity, ethnic awareness, cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity.

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The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) will hold its Friday, Feb. 9, meeting at the Holland Area Arts Council, for a special tour of the new exhibit "Who Am I? African American Images." The meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. and the Arts Council is located at 150 East 8th St., near Columbia Ave., in Holland. The ACEH children's group, UNITY, will not meet separately but families are encouraged to bring their children to the event.

The exhibit showcases paintings, sculpture, quilts, and other original art from local artists and collectors and from those who live elsewhere in Michigan and the Midwest. Books, sand paintings, and items from Jim Crow collections are part of the exhibit, according to Lorma Freestone, director of the Arts Council. Mrs. Freestone, and perhaps other people connected with the exhibit, will lead the tour for people at the ACEH meeting and explain the various pieces; many are from the collection of C. J. Grier and Rev. Denise Kingdom-Grier of Holland.

Parking is available on 8th Street or behind the Arts Council building, entering





Alliance Thanks These Renewing Members

A big thank-you to renewing individual and family members **Becky Arenas, Priscilla Atkins, Andrew and Christina Baer, Linda Blaukamp, John and Mary Buttrey, Jim and Barbara Chance, Jeff and Elizabeth Ebihara, Stephen Hemenway, Jack and Elsa Hyde, Eleanor Lopez, Tino and Lupita Reyes, Bill and Maura Reynolds, Kim Romero, Barbara and Tim Schipper, Lee and Dianna Strebel, Gerard Van Heest, Ruth Van Kampen, and Marvin Younger**, and two organizations, the **Center for Women in Transition** and the **Holland Area Chamber of Commerce**.

Please consider joining with these ACEH supporters as we work together for social justice and appreciation for diversity, 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 or service pledges should be made out to ACEH and sent to Treasurer Janie Briones, P. O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007. To pay by credit card, go to our website www.harmonyalliance.org, click on “Join Us” and use the secure Pay Pal system.

Alliance Board Elects New Officers for 2007

Kim Romero has been elected president of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony for 2007. Other officers are: Vice president, Eleanor Lopez; secretary, Liz Barveld; and treasurer, Janie Briones. Bin Lim is membership coordinator.

Committee chairs are: Outreach, Marvin Younger; events, Linda Blaukamp; and communications, Becky Arenas. Ken Cooper is webmaster; Herb Weller, database manager; Ann Weller, newsletter and In the Community editor; David Douglas, newsletter layout and graphics; and Jill Cooper, UNITY leader.

Discrimination Can Affect People's Health, Study Reports

People who have experienced racial discrimination report greater difficulty in achieving their goals, greater personal discomfort, and a perception that they aren't getting the best health care, according to a new study reported in the October 2006 issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

Blacks and Latinos who reported experiencing discrimination were more likely to score lower on an assessment of their mental health, which was not influenced by such factors as access to health insurance, education, employment, income, age, or gender.

"Policies that strengthen civil rights, reduce discrimination, or encourage multiculturalism aren't just 'feel-good' programs," said Gilbert Gee of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, the study's co-author. "They might have an important effect on health outcomes as well."

More than 650 blacks, Mexican Americans, and other Latinos living in New Hampshire, which is 95 percent white, were surveyed in a study funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Half reported that discrimination impeded their ability to achieve their goals, half reported that they felt discomfort in the way others treated them because of their race or ethnicity, and one-quarter reported encountering discrimination in health care.

"As a provider of community mental health services, we are witness to the negative impact discrimination has on a person's mental health," said Peter Janelle of the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester (New Hampshire). "Not only does it aggravate the symptoms experienced but it is often a barrier to seeking help and complicates the process of establishing therapeutic relationships. We need to become a more culturally aware society, and mental health providers need to avail themselves of cultural competence training."

The study's authors are Gee; Andrew Ryan, Brandeis University; David Laflamme, University of New Hampshire; and Janie Holt, New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition.



City Taps ACEH for Social Justice Award in Education

The Alliance

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony has won the 2006 Social Justice Award for education from the Holland Human Relations Commission. The award states:

"In recognition for advancing the cause of social justice and human dignity. Bringing together people of many cultural backgrounds and providing multicultural programs to bring understanding and harmony to our community."

Jill Cooper, ACEH president in 2006, accepted the award, which was presented by HRC member Marvin Younger at a city council meeting January 17. Press coverage of the awards can be found at www.harmonyalliance.org/media.

ACEH received a congratulatory letter from Sen. Wayne Kuipers, stating in part: "The work Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony does to educate and promote unity in the Holland area is noble and deserves this recognition."

Also recognized by the HRC were Jubilee Ministries, for its work in renovating housing and generating neighborhood revitalization; the Holland Fire Department, for hiring its first female firefighter; and Tino Reyes, former director of Latin Americans United for Progress and longtime activist in the community; he is an ACEH member. Dominique Maria Vargas, a Holland High School student, won the youth award for promoting fitness with her dance group, All for One.

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

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