

# The Alliance

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

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## One Community Celebrates Two Cultures as Fiesta, Tulip Time Get Under Way



The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Fiesta (formerly Cinco de Mayo), sponsored by Latin Americans United for Progress, kicks off at the Holland Civic Center Friday, May 4, at 6 p.m., with music by Latino Cuatro, followed at 8 p.m. by the band Cabildo. There will be great food, too, served up by a variety of vendors. **NOTE: The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony will not hold its regular meeting in May; instead, members and friends will meet in front of the Civic Center (Pine and 8<sup>th</sup> St) at 7 p.m. Friday, May 4, and attend Fiesta. Everyone is welcome to join us!**

On Saturday, May 5, Fiesta continues with the theme "Un Pueblo, Un Futuro; One People, One Future." The King and Queen contest runs from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by entertainment, including salsa, tango, mariachi, Caribbean, Tex-Mex, cumbia, and more; lowrider car show; a carnival. Community groups will have booths for information, fun, and prizes. Admission is free. The website is [www.laup.org](http://www.laup.org); phone 392-5058.



The annual Tulip Time Festival, celebrating Dutch heritage and culture, begins Saturday, May 5, and runs through the next Saturday, with a week of three parades, concerts, performances, Klompen dancers, food booths, Dutch market, art and craft fair, children's activities, trolley tours, fireworks—and millions of tulips. The May 9 concert features Salvador, and Los Lonely Boys band. For information on events, locations, and tickets, check the website [www.tuliptime.com](http://www.tuliptime.com) or call (616) 396-4221. (See also Page 4 about the New Dutch Galleries at the Holland Museum.)



## Alliance Thanks New and Renewing Members

A warm welcome to new members **Vanessa Greene** and **Mary Yedinak**. And thanks to **Ned Pierson**, who has renewed his membership.

The Alliance can use your support as it works for social justice and appreciation for diversity, to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. Will you join with Ned, Vanessa, and Mary to renew your membership or become a first-time member? 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, ACEH, P. O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007. To pay by credit card, go to our website [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org), click on “Join Us” and use the secure Pay Pal system.

## Local Educator Joins ACEH Board

ACEH has a new board member—Mary Yedinak, who taught for 29 years in the Holland Public Schools. During her career she taught physically or otherwise health-impaired elementary students, sixth grade science, and communications arts before retiring in 2000. She holds a BA from Eastern Michigan University and did graduate work at Grand Valley and Aquinas. She has been a tutor and board member of Core City’s middle-school Learning Enhancement Achievement Program (LEAP) and currently is a candidate for the Holland school board.

Mary was born in Grand Haven, is single, and has an extended family of five sisters, one brother, nine nieces and nephews, and “a whole bunch of ‘greats,’” she says. Asked about her interest in joining the board, she said, *“I truly believe in equality and want to work at moving toward true harmony among all people—beyond ethnic and cultural. I have been discriminated against as a single woman, and because of my religion, and I’ve seen how disabled people are treated in society. I want to help.”* Welcome, Mary!

Dan Cornelissen has left the ACEH board. He contributed significantly to the community through his work on the Native American Pow Wows that have been held in Holland in the last two years. Thank you, Dan!

## Parenting: Beyond the Golden Rule

By Dana Williams, Parenting columnist  
Excerpted with permission from [www.TeachingTolerance.org](http://www.TeachingTolerance.org)

*To truly teach tolerance to children, parents must promote more than the Golden Rule.*

The first conversation my mother initiated with me about tolerance happened the night before I started 1<sup>st</sup> grade. ...I sat between my mother's knees while she braided my hair...and I chatted on about what I planned to wear, how I would have the prettiest outfit and hair and the best shoes of all the girls in my class.

My mother pulled a section of hair extra hard, one of her ways of expressing displeasure with something I'd said or done. I winced, and she told me something I've never forgotten: "You're not any better than anyone at that school, and don't you ever behave like you are. And no one at that school is any better than you, and don't you ever let them make you believe they are."... I didn't know it then, but that statement was her attempt to introduce the concept of tolerance to me, long before it was the buzzword it has become today. She was teaching me to resist the notion of supremacy—both my own and others'.

I have a child of my own now, and my mother's words come back to me. And I know this: Teaching tolerance must begin with the Golden Rule, but it certainly does not end there. Too often, simply advising a child to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is insufficient.

There are times we as parents must explain things that are painful and unfair—racism, sexism, stereotypes, hate. Times when we must comfort our children, times I have had to help my 8-year-old son learn that what some would do unto him isn't always kind or fair. Here are some lessons I've found that apply in nearly any situation:

- **Be Honest.** When parents speak openly and honestly, they help prepare children to face and challenge issues of bigotry, sexism, and stereotypes when they arise. A child who knows the racial history of the Confederate flag, for example, is less likely to brandish that symbol out of ignorance.
- **Lead by example.** We are our kids' first teachers. When it comes to teaching tolerance, actions speak louder than words. When you tell your children boys and girls are equal but refuse to buy a particular toy for your son because it's a "girls' toy," what message does it send?
- **Speak Out.** Take a stand when you witness injustice. Challenge racism, bigotry, and stereotypes, and encourage your children to take action, too. They can hold a petition drive, write an editorial in the school paper, talk to friends about it...do *something* to make a difference.

These conversations are rarely easy, and sometimes we don't have answers. What we do have is time, patience, and the desire to help our children grow into adults who value and honor diversity.

So that, someday, they might remember what we said the night before they started 1<sup>st</sup> grade—and be better people for it.

*The Alliance*

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*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
Apart*

## New Dutch Galleries Open at Museum

In April, the Holland Museum opened its New Dutch Galleries on the second floor of the building, using four exhibit spaces to display fifty-five 17<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch paintings and more than 150 cultural objects—fine furniture, Delftware, silver, original Dutch costumes, and other items that reflect the history and culture of the Netherlands and the Dutch who settled in West Michigan.

Many of the paintings were gifts of Dr. Jan and Mary Ann Beekhuis, former residents of Michigan who now live in California.

The museum's first floor exhibits materials from diverse cultures of the Holland area, as well as displays of different aspects of community life.

The museum, at 31 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Holland, across from Centennial Park, is open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday hours are 2 to 5 p.m. It is closed on Tuesdays. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 seniors; \$4 students; under age 6, free; family with schoolkids, \$14. Mondays are free to all visitors. For more information, [www.hollandmuseum.org](http://www.hollandmuseum.org) or call (616) 392-9084.

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