

July 2007
Volume 9, Issue 7

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The Alliance

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

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Board of Directors

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Alexander Washington Shares Music and his Journey to Ghana on July 13

Holland musician Alexander Washington will share both his music and the story of his recent trip to Ghana at the Friday, July 13, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony.

The meeting, open to the public, is at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland.

Washington recently returned from Ghana, where he participated in The Joseph Project, a program of the Ghanaian government to bring people of African descent there for a public acknowledgment of the country's role in the African slave trade from the 15th to the 19th centuries. Former Western Theological Seminary student Emmanuel Konuah Quarshie, a native of Ghana who leads a mission and a school in the country, had told him about The Joseph Project.

Washington says he was so determined to travel to the West African country that he sold the 1976 Les Paul guitar his late father had given him. He and his wife and his musical group, JAH KINGS, will return to Ghana in August for a concert.

"I wrote my family's name on the 'Door of No Return' at the Ghanaian cells and dungeons where slaves were made ready for the horrific journey to America," Washington says. He says his visits there were "very emotional," but healing for him. "As I did return to complete the circle, I'll never be the same," he told the *Holland Sentinel*.

In Ghana he wrote a number of songs that he will perform with a guitar and Djimbe drum at the ACEH meeting. This will be a special event, so please invite others for the July 13 meeting.





New Members Wanted!!

There are no new or renewing members to thank this month, but we encourage you to join with 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 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.

News of ACEH Members and Friends

Congratulations to ACEH board member **Marvin Younger**, who received the 2007 Juneteenth Community Service Award from Core City CCDC, on June 16. Marvin was recognized for his years of service to education, for his positive influence on learning and children, and his volunteer efforts with many community groups in Holland. He was also recognized as a pioneer, because he was the first—and for 28 years, the only—African American teacher in the Holland Public Schools.

A shout-out of thanks to **Jorge Gonzalez**, community development officer for Macatawa Bank and his co-workers who donated to the Disability Network/Lakeshore and ACEH at Walk and Roll, the Network's June 14 fundraiser; ACEH was an event partner. Thanks to other collectors and contributors as well; your help is very much appreciated. Ten ACEH members took part in the downtown walk.

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Our sincere sympathy to **Greg Hulsebos** on the death of his father, Henry, who passed away in Holland on June 17 at the age of 94. A memorial service will be held later this summer.

Tulipanes Kicks Off 7th Annual Event with Night of Salsa Dancing July 14

The 7th annual Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival will be under way in Holland on Thursday, August 30, and run through Sunday, September 2. To keep up to date on the schedule and events, check the website www.tlaff.org

And put on your dancing shoes for a pre-Tulipanes event on Saturday, July 14, when Salsa Night returns to Holland, featuring live music by the seven-piece Orquesta Sensacional and lessons if you need a little coaching on your salsa and Latin dance moves. Tickets are \$10, from the Holland Convention and Visitors Bureau, or \$15 at the door. The event will be at Holland Armory on 9th St between Central and College, starting at 8 pm. (There will be an encore, too, with a repeat of Salsa Night on Saturday, September 1.)

Tulipanes itself is featuring:

- Soprano Martha Juliana Ayeck Rodriguez, from Holland's sister city Querétaro, Mexico, in concert at the Knickerbocker Theatre at 7 p.m., Thursday, August 30.
- Several art shows
- Tulipanes Cantina, with food from Mexico, Cuba, Spain, and other countries
- Giant Piñata
- Children's mural production, with Erik Pichardo
- Cuban storyteller Carman Agra Deedy
- Outdoor showing of "Happy Feet" movie
- Paso Fino Stallion Exhibition

Tulipanes concludes with a Faith and Worship Celebration in Centennial Park from 3 to 4 p.m., Sunday, September 2. It will be bilingual in Spanish and English; prayer will be simultaneous in both languages to "demonstrate unity in faith."

If you'd like to lend a hand, Tulipanes can use more volunteers for two- to four-hour shifts. You could be a stagehand, staff an information booth, usher at events, help with setup. Contact Angie Hanks at volunteer@tulipanes.org

Summit Planning Meeting Set For Tuesday, July 24

A planning meeting for a 2008 Ottawa Summit on Racism will take place at 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 24, 2007, at the office of the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, Macatawa Resource Center, 665 136th, Holland.

The Summit will be May 20, 2008, on the Hope College campus.

People interested in helping to plan the Summit are asked to RSVP to Gail Harrison at leda@ethnicdiversity.org

The Alliance

THE ALLIANCE FOR
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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

SAVE THE DATE!
save the date!
SAVE THE DATE!

What date?

Sunday, August 5, from 1 to 4 p.m., for the 9th annual ACEH Potluck in the Park.

What's that?

It's an afternoon of fun, children's activities, music—and delicious food! It's a time to greet old friends, meet new people, share conversation, and help the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony create a welcoming community in the Holland area.

Who is it for?

Everyone is welcome—invite your family, your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

What should I bring?

Please bring a dish to pass, preferably from your own ethnic background. ACEH will supply beverages and table service.

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

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