

The Alliance

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

Inside this Issue:

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|----------------------|---|
| Membership | 2 |
| New Board Member | 2 |
| Members in the News | 2 |
| Transportation Needs | 3 |
| Bilingual Magazine | 3 |
| Holland Pow-Wow | 3 |
| Walk On for Kids | 4 |

Board of Directors

- Becky Arenas
- Liz Barveld
- Linda Blauwkamp
- Janie Briones
- Bin Lim
- Eleanor Lopez
- Kim Romero
- Marvin Younger
- Mary Yedinak

Bosnian Sanel Fazlic Speaks at October 12 ACEH Meeting

Sanel Fazlic, president of the Bosnian Cultural Center in Grand Rapids, will speak about his journey to the United States and his experiences here, as well as the activities and goals of the Center, at the Friday, October 12, meeting of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony.

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

Fazlic estimates that several thousand Bosnians live in the area, including many who fled the former Yugoslavia during a four-year war that ended in 1996, the same year the capital Sarajevo was once again united.

The Bosnian Cultural Center seeks to preserve cultural heritage and help new residents become part of American society; it offers English classes, has held soccer tournaments, produces a radio show on Sundays, and encourages its members to give back to the greater Grand Rapids community with food drives, humanitarian efforts, and other activities. The Center also includes a mosque and religious instruction, so that those local Bosnians who are Muslim can worship in their own language.



FLAG OF BOSNIA

"The three tips of the yellow triangle epitomize the three nations of Bosnia as Serbs, Bosniaks, and Croats. The color of Blue signifies truth, dedication, justice and integrity, when Yellow suggests liberality." ...
www.mapsofworld.com/flags/bosnia-flag



Members Support Diversity in West Michigan

A warm welcome to new member **Elizabeth Van Ark**.

Please consider joining with Elizabeth and other ACEH supporters in Lakeshore communities 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.

News of ACEH Members

Congratulations to **Tony Castillo**, new chair of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce board and the first Latino to hold the post. Tony was quoted as saying, "It's not important that I'm the first; what's important to me is that I'm not the last."

Robert Engle was featured on the front cover of the Sept. 28 *Holland Observer* newspaper; he plays a street organ and the accordion and can often be found at the Eighth Street market in Holland on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The first annual Columbia Art District Festival Sept. 22 was a lively, fun event. Planners included ACEH board member **Linda Blauwkamp** and **Annie Olson**.

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The Alliance extends sincere sympathy to **Bin** and **Lisa Lim** on the death of Bin's mother, Sioe H. Lim, in Houston, Texas, on September 4. Mrs. Lim was 91 years old.

Holland High Student Joins ACEH Board

Natalie Avila is the newest member of the ACEH Board of Directors. Natalie, a 16-year-old Holland High School junior, is a graduate of Holland's Neighborhood Leadership Academy, is active in the choir and as a child care volunteer at Resurrection Life church, works as a cashier at Family Fare on Washington Avenue, and takes part in Dutch Dance. Her favorite subjects in school are history, science and choir. Natalie is the youngest in a family of three brothers and another sister; her mother operates Gina's Beauty Salon on 17th Street. She says, "I want to contribute to my community and be a link to other young people." Welcome, Natalie!

Disability Network Needs Input on Local Transportation Needs

Do you need a ride? Don't have a reliable car or access to transit? Is gas too expensive? Are friends and family not always reliable in giving you a ride? Are there days and times you need a ride but can't find transportation? Are there places you need to go but can't get to? If you answered Yes to any of these questions, the Disability Network/Lakeshore would like to talk with you. DN/L is partnering with other community members and the Frost Research Center at Hope College to study unmet transportation needs in Holland and Zeeland and in the townships of Holland, Zeeland, Park, Laketown and Fillmore.

You can add your input and opinions in a quick 3- to 5-minute phone survey: Please call Laurie Van Ark at (616) 395-7556 by October 12.

Bilingual Magazine Enterar Debuts in Area

Enterar, a bilingual magazine, made its first appearance in Holland in September, fulfilling a dream of three area Latinos: Pedro Ledesma, Martha Cerda, and Rene Rodriguez. Enterar, which means "to inform" in Spanish, has as its mission "to educate, engage, foster, and promote a healthy inclusive dialogue and provide an access point to the Latino market and a holistic understanding of the Latino community."

Articles, printed in both Spanish and English, will highlight success stories of local Latinos in education, entrepreneurship, community, and health. Featured in the first issue were Holland Public Schools superintendent Frank Garcia, WOOD-TV community newsperson Eva Aguirre Cooper, and poet and artist Oswaldo Garcés, in addition to financial and other articles.

Planned for eight issues a year, Enterar will be available in local news outlets, markets, and restaurants, as well as by subscription. Information is available from the website www.enterarmagazine.com or by calling (616) 886-9609 or (616) 405-0482.

Third Annual Pow Wow Set for Saturday, October 20

The third annual Anishnabek Nodin Traditional Pow Wow "Honoring Our Ancestors" will be presented in Holland on Saturday, October 20, by the local Anishnabek community and Hope College at the Holland Civic Center, 8th Street at Pine Ave. Doors open at 10 a.m., and Grand Entries are at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. A variety of Native vendors will be present, and dancers and drummers from Michigan and other states will take part.

Head veteran is Deuce Miller; master of ceremonies, John Bush; arena director, Odel Chalifoux; head male dancer, Rodney Loonsfoot; head female dancer, Angel Jackson, and host drum, Southern Wind.

Everyone is welcome. Cost for adults is \$5; students, \$3; families, \$8; elders and preschoolers are free. Money collected at the gate will help defray travel costs of the volunteer dancers and drummers. For information, call Daniel Cornelissen (616) 403-577, d.cornelissen@yahoo.com; Rose Austin (616) 355-0558, rosalieaustin@sbcglobal.net; or Lisa Knapp (616) 395-7373. The website is www.hope.edu/phelps.

The Alliance

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Walk On, Walk On, and Help L.E.A.P.'s Middle Schoolers

"Let's walk for education" is the theme of an upcoming fundraiser for L.E.A.P. West Michigan (Learning Enhancement Achievement Program), formerly Core City CCD. The 4.7-mile walk starts at 8 a.m., Saturday, October 20, at West Ottawa's Harbor Lights Middle School, 1024 136th Ave on the north side and ends at West Middle School, 500 West 24th St, Holland.

Money from walkers and sponsors will support three sites (Fourteenth Street CRC, Montello Park CRC, and Harvest Time International Fellowship) offering after-school tutoring twice a week for middle school youth in the Holland area. The goal is to raise \$20,000.

Wayne Coleman, executive director of L.E.A.P. West Michigan, says, "Our aim is to help parents, youth, schools, and the community become more aware that after-school tutoring helps to build self-esteem and confidence and assists students in reaching their potential by building on their strengths. Academic support after school also helps to keep youth in school and out of gangs, crime, and drugs."

Want to walk? The cost is \$20. Volunteers, contributors, and corporate sponsors also are needed. Call L.E.A.P. at (616) 355-0071 to register for the walk or make a contribution; you can also mail checks to L.E.A.P. at 21 West 16th Street, Holland 49423.

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

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