

November 2007
Volume 9, Issue 11

Page 1 of 4

The Alliance

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

Inside this Issue:

Membership	2
Board Election	2
Email & Snail Mail	2
Fair Housing Lunch	3
Justice Awards	4

Board of Directors

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

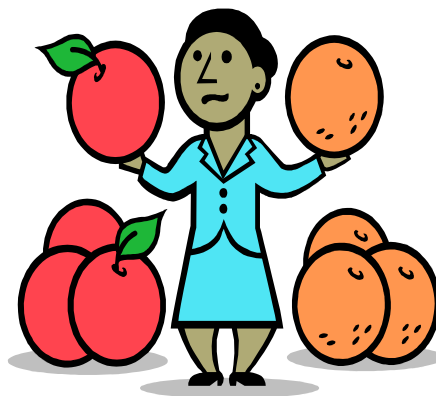
Who Is "Them" and Who Is "Us"? Let's Talk About It on Friday, Nov. 9

We're all prejudiced about prejudice. We're biased about our biases. We create people types called "Us" and "Them".

At its Friday, November 9, meeting, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) will explore the processes we use to deal with cultures, with people who do not fit our category of "Us".

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

Eleanor Lopez, ACEH vice president, will show the "Them and Us" video and help facilitate the discussion. "This is not about specific minority groups, but about how we all develop definitions of other people," she said.



SAVE THE DATE! ACEH Holiday Potluck will be Saturday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10th Street, Holland. Everyone is welcome!



Members Support Diversity in West Michigan

Welcome to new member **Walter Honor**, and thanks to renewing members **Frances Hamilton**, **Mary Jo Henretty-Jornales**, **Herb** and **Ann Weller**, and **Robert** and **Leslie Wessman**.

Please consider joining with these 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:

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.

ACEH Board Needs New Members

Do you support the work of ACEH? Are you willing to spend some time helping it continue its programs, growth, and networking in West Michigan?

There will be four openings on the Board of Directors for 2008-09. The Board meets once a month to plan programs, discuss community projects, and oversee communications and financing. There's no pay in this volunteer organization...but you'll have the personal satisfaction of knowing you've helped carry out the ACEH mission of being a welcoming group that works for justice, equal opportunity, appreciation for diversity, and cross-cultural understanding. ACEH was founded in 1999, so it's coming up to its 10th year—that would not have happened without the dedication of many people who share the same vision.

The board will be elected at the January 11, 2008, meeting. Please contact Kim Romero, president, at (616) 405-6761 if you'd like to be on the ballot.

Are You a Snail-Mail or an E-mail Person?

ACEH is asking for your help. If you currently receive the monthly Newsletter via postal mail—and you are able to get it by e-mail instead--please let us know. You'll need to be able to open an "attachment" in Microsoft Word. Postage costs for mailing the Newsletter are significant—but we are quite willing to keep sending it that way for anyone who does not have email. But if you **can** switch, please let us know. Send your e-mail address to aceh@harmonyalliance.org or directly to database manager Herb Weller at hpweller@comcast.net. Thank you!

Fair Housing Center Celebrates, Asks for Support in West Michigan

Did you buy a house or rent an apartment where you wanted to? Do you agree that everyone should have that same important right, which can affect where we work, shop, play, and send our children to school?

On Monday, November 19, there will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act, which gives individuals and families the right to choose where they live, within their means, free from discrimination.

Friends of Fair Housing: Celebrating Images of Hope will host a luncheon and program in Grand Rapids to benefit the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan and to recognize local efforts to eliminate housing discrimination.

The Center will honor Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers and the Center's former director, Lee Nelson Weber, for their leadership in fair housing.

Bernie Kleina, executive director of the HOPE Fair Housing Center in Wheaton, Illinois, will give a keynote presentation and share rarely seen photographs and footage documenting the 1965-66 Chicago Freedom Movement, a peaceful demonstration at which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called for open housing.

Phil Coray, a past president of ACEH and a member of the Center's advisory board, is hosting a table at the luncheon and invites ACEH members and friends to join him. People who attend are asked to consider a gift of at least \$100, which can be paid by check, credit card, or a pledge of payments during the year. Please contact Phil at (616) 396-2060 by November 9.

The luncheon will take place from noon to 1:30 pm at Western Michigan University's Graduate Center, 200 Ionia NW, in downtown Grand Rapids.

If you can't attend the luncheon, but would like to give any amount of financial support to the work of the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan, call (866) 389-FAIR or contact the website www.fhcwm.org; Liz Keegan is the administrative assistant. The Center is located in Grand Rapids at 20 Hall St SE.



HRC Seeks Nominees for 2007 Social Justice Awards

The Holland Human Relations Commission is looking for a few good groups—or individuals—to present with its 2007 Social Justice Awards next January, during the week of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday.

THE ALLIANCE FOR
CULTURAL AND ETHNIC
HARMONY

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE:
616-405-6761

E-MAIL:
aceh@harmonyalliance.org.

WEB ADDRESS
www.harmonyalliance.org

*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Awards are given in the areas of Education, Employment, Government/Community Relations, Housing, and Youth and recognize exemplary service to the community in working for equality and justice. If you know an organization or individual that you'd like to nominate, here's what to do:

--Write a letter to the HRC that covers these areas: Category of nomination; services provided that make a difference in the lives of the people served; needs met by the program, agency, or person that make our community a better place to live; the extent to which the program, agency, or person values diversity and how that is demonstrated; involvement in other programs and activities to promote equal opportunity and social justice for all.

--Mail the letter by November 30 to the Human Relations Department, City Hall, 2nd floor, 270 South River Ave, Holland, Michigan 49423.

For more information, call (616) 355-1328 or contact hrc@cityofholland.com

In 2006, the Social Justice Awards were given to ACEH, the City of Holland Fire Department, Tino Reyes, Jubilee Ministries, and Dominique Maria Vargas of All for One dance group.

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007