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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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## Art Ambassadors Speak at ACEH Meeting January 11

### ***From Holland to Andra Pradesh, India***

Marcia De Wild and Kathy Kingsley, who traveled to India last year with the sponsorship of the Holland Area Arts Council, will speak about their trip and the art and letter exchange under way between children of Holland and Dalit children of two villages—Pipe Village and Drum Village--in Andra Pradesh, India.

The meeting will begin at 7 pm, Friday, January 11, at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland.

The Holland women will show two videos and discuss the lives of Dalit people, formerly known as Untouchables. Although the Indian constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms for all Indians, Dalits generally are very poor and lack education and economic opportunity.

Ms. De Wild is a former teacher and social worker who founded Eagle Wings in 1989, a nonprofit offering housing and related services to people with developmental disabilities. She is a graduate of Central College, Pella, Iowa, and received a master's in social work from Grand Valley State University.

Ms. Kingsley, also a graduate of Grand Valley, has been an art teacher at Holland Heights elementary school for three years; she formerly taught art to high schoolers and adults for 25 years.

For more information, contact Kimberly at (616) 405-6761, email [aceh@harmonyalliance.org](mailto:aceh@harmonyalliance.org), or visit the website [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org)





## **Members Renew Commitment to ACEH**

Many thanks to these renewing members: **Liz Barveld, Bill and Audrey Bloemendaal, Dorothy and Jim Chamness, Sara DeRoo, Mary and Dean DeRidder, Chuck and Fonda Green, Carol McGeehan, Rev. Gerard Vanheest, Ruth VanKampen, Faith Van Popering, Joe Winger, and Mary Yedinak, and the Center for Women in Transition.**

Please consider joining with these ACEH supporters—becoming a first-time member or renewing your membership--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, c/o 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.

## ***Party Fills Hall, Warms Hearts***

More than 100 people—adults and children—filled Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church December 8 for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual ACEH holiday potluck and cultural sharing party.

The diverse crowd shared delicious food, enjoyed conversation with friends and newcomers, and created clay art with Annie Olson and holiday crafts with Natalie Avila. Marvin Younger was a great master of ceremonies and also led the group in singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth...and Let It Begin with Me," backed up by a chorus of Greg Hulsebos, Wayne and Ruth Coleman, Mary Yedinak, Kerry Shaffer, Heidi De Moss, and others.

Sharing their musical talents during the evening were the Beltrans--Michael, Nykko, and Brandon--on accordion and guitar; David De Moss, Indian flute; Bill Chen, violin; and Moses Mares and Kelvin Vasquez, keyboard and drums.

As the evening came to a close, people took part in the traditional ACEH sharing of thanks and thoughts; many spoke from the heart about their gratitude for diversity gatherings and friendship in Holland and West Michigan and their wish that these continue and expand.

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Special thanks also to Mary Yedinak, Liz Barveld, Eleanor Lopez, Becky Arenas, Bin Lim, Janie Briones, and Herb Weller; Mary and Dean DeRidder; Lee and Dianna Strelbel; and First United Methodist Church. Photos of the party can be found on the ACEH website, [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org). Two photos and a caption were printed in the Holland Sentinel December 27, 2007.

## Stretch Your Mind, Engage Your Brain!

Off the couch and into class is the mantra for the new year—opportunities to learn new things abound in the greater Holland area. Here are four of them: (1) Spanish and English computer classes; (2) Institute for Healing Racism, an extraordinary program that may change your life; (3) Holland First, looking at Holland through the eyes of diversity; and (4) a multiracial writing course.

--Computer classes: Free, eight-week sessions starting **Jan. 14, 2008**; classes meet once a week for three hours. Basic skills, Tuesday evenings, 6 pm; advanced, Mondays at 9 am or 6 pm; includes basic skills, Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Contact Val Molina at (616) 392-5058 to register or for more information; classes held at Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) computer lab, 100 North Fairbanks, Holland.

--Institute for Healing Racism: Eight-week program on Tuesdays, 3 to 5 pm, beginning **Feb. 5** to help an ethnically diverse group of participants explore "development of racial prejudice and racism in U.S. culture, invisibility of racism, intentional and unintentional discrimination, institutionalized racism, effects of racism on all people, how to become "allies" in the fight against racism." With trained facilitators, the course includes discussion, videotapes, literature, and group exercises. Cost is \$100; tuition scholarships available based on need. In its fifth year, the Institutes are a collaboration of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA). Register by Jan. 29; contact Patricia Strachan, (616) 392-2389, ext. 110.

Holland First: Free, eight-week sessions on Tuesdays, 7:15 to 9 pm beginning **Feb. 26**, "to explore personal leadership and cultural concerns with focusing on area programs and resources. Guest speakers present information, keeping the cultural diversity of Holland in mind"; breakout sessions; discussions. Topics include community history, economic development/business; community resources; law enforcement; government; education; art/culture. Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year; a program of Holland Area Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Chemical Bank, and facilitated by Dante Villarreal. To take part, call Patricia Strachan, (616) 392-2389, ext. 110.

--Multiracial writing course: "Exploring the meaning of being multiracial through story," a nine-week autobiographical writing course; guided process explores life themes expressed as short stories; participants will share with others in a Storycatcher Circle. Open to biracial/multiracial adults of all ages; no previous writing experience needed. Participants will *not* receive feedback on their writing skills; course is not intended to improve writing ability. Cost is \$80, plus two course books. Meets Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm, starting **April 1** through May 27, at Howard Miller Library and Community Center, 14 South Church, Zeeland. To register or for more info, contact presenter Doug Schwentor, (616) 669-3833 or email [schwentor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schwentor@sbcglobal.net)



## Events Set for Civil Rights Celebration Week

Hope College and other community organizations will observe Civil Rights Celebration Week Jan. 15 – Jan. 21 with these events:

*The Alliance*

THE ALLIANCE FOR  
CULTURAL AND ETHNIC  
HARMONY

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WEB ADDRESS  
www.harmonyalliance.org

*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
Apart*

**Tues, Jan 15, 11:30 am to 1 pm:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon, with keynote speaker Kevin Stone, vice president of Creative Directors for GlobalHue, the nation's largest multicultural advertising agency. Cosponsored by Office of Multicultural Education and Herman Miller; **RSVP by Jan 4** to (616) 395-7867 or email [ome@hope.edu](mailto:ome@hope.edu). At Maas Auditorium, Columbia at 11<sup>th</sup>, Holland.

**Thurs, Jan 17, 4 to 5:30 pm:** Diversity in the Workplace Career Panel, followed by Networking Reception from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Panel facilitator Eva Aguirre Cooper, communications director for WOOD/WOTV/WXSP; panelists Franco Bianchi, president/CEO of Haworth Inc.; Tony Castillo, president/owner of Milagro Six McDonald's Franchise and chair, Holland Area Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Denice Logan, internal medicine, Spectrum Health Occupational Services; Debra Quade, diversity procurement specialist, Magna Donnelly. In collaboration with Hope's Career Services and Holland Area Chamber of Commerce. At Maas Auditorium, Columbia at 11<sup>th</sup>, Holland.

**Sat, Jan 19, 2 pm:** Gospel Fest with Hope College Choir and VIP young adult praise and worship team from New Hope Baptist Church, Grand Rapids. At Dimnent Memorial Chapel, College Ave at 12<sup>th</sup> St, Holland.

**Mon, Jan 21, 6 pm to 7 pm:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration: "Listening, Learning and Living the Legacy," with keynote speakers Dr. Rhonda Michelle Collier, director of the ACU Latin American Study Abroad Program and assistant professor of English, Abilene Christian University, Montevideo, Uruguay, and Dr. Robert L. Stevenson Jr., senior pastor, City of Hope Ministries, Grand Rapids. In collaboration with Holland community leaders. At Dimnent Memorial Chapel, College Ave at 12<sup>th</sup> St, Holland.

The Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony

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