

March 2008
Volume 10 Issue 3

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
Hearts in Harmony	2
Member News	3
Focus on Ireland	3
Summit on Racism	4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

ACEH to Hear Contemporary Composer and Poetry of Langston Hughes March 14

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, at the invitation of the Holland Chorale, will attend a special free program of the chorale, "Meet the Composer—Poetry and Music," featuring contemporary composer Dr. Gwyneth Walker of Vermont and the poetry of the late Langston Hughes.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. (note earlier time) on Friday, March 14, at the Holland Area Arts Council, 150 East 8th Street, Holland. There will be no other ACEH general meeting in March.

Dr. Walker is a former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, who resigned from academic employment in 1982 to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She has composed more than 160 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus, and chamber ensembles and has traveled across the United States to work with musicians—from professional soloists to high school players and singers-- as they premiered and recorded her works.

Langston Hughes, who was born in 1902 and died in 1967, was a leading writer of the Harlem Renaissance, the African American artistic movement of the 1920s, producing poems, novels, plays, essays, and children's books that "promoted equality, condemned racism and injustice, and celebrated African American culture, humor, and spirituality. One of his most famous poems was "The Negro Speaks of Rivers."

On Saturday, March 15, the Holland Chorale will perform two sets of Hughes/Walker music, "Harlem Songs" and the world premiere of "I've Known Rivers," at Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Holland. Concert tickets are \$14 seniors, \$17 adults, \$5 students; call (616) 494-0256 or go to the website: www.hollandchorale.org or the chorale office at the Holland Area Arts Council.





Members Renew Commitment to ACEH

Thank you to renewing members **Rich and Jean Allred** and **Phil and Kathy Beal**.

Please consider joining with Rich, Jean, Phil, and Kathy and other 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: \$75.00 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. If you want to pay by credit card, please go to the ACEH website www.harmonyalliance.org, click on "Join Us" and use the secure Pay Pal system. If you are not sure whether your membership is current, please contact database manager Herb Weller at 396-2201 or hpweller@comcast.net

New Board Members to be Elected

ACEH will hold an election for new board members at its Friday, April 11, meeting; terms are for two years. Those on the ballot, to date, are Natalie Avila, Jack Hyde, Norma Luna, Angela Taylor Perry, and Mary Yedinak (nominations also can be made from the floor at the meeting). Mary was appointed to the board last year to fill the unexpired term of Dan Cornelissen and Natalie has been a non-voting youth representative. Continuing on the board for 2008-09 are Becky Arenas, Linda Blauwkamp, Janie Briones, Kim Romero, and Marvin Younger. Leaving the board after several years of service are Liz Barveld, Bin Lim, and Eleanor Lopez.



Hearts in Harmony Program

Rev. Angela Taylor Perry, pastor of reconciling ministries at Faith Christian Reformed Church in Holland, led a lively February ACEH meeting, as people shared information about their varied ethnic backgrounds and stories of a time when they felt different from those around them. Rev. Taylor Perry's program, Hearts in Harmony, partners people of different ethnicities to engage in frank conversations over a year's time. Many thanks, Rev. Taylor Perry.

News of ACEH Members

The youth representative on the ACEH board, **Natalie Avila**, is in the running for Queen of the annual Fiesta sponsored by Latin Americans United for Progress, May 2 and 3, at the Holland Civic Center. Good luck, Natalie!

Linda Blauwkamp of the Leaf and Bean coffee shop at Columbia and 19th St. has been named by the city of Holland to a four-year term on the first Columbia Art District Advisory Board.

After serving 11 years as executive director of the Center for Women in Transition, **Donna Cornwell** has announced her resignation effective March 31. ACEH wishes her well and thanks CWIT for opening its building to ACEH meetings for the last several years.

Dr. Charles Green was honored by Hope College for 25 years on the faculty; he is a professor of psychology and head of the Phelps Scholars program.

Vanessa Greene, director of the Office of Multicultural Education at Hope College, was among 11 community members and two organizations receiving a Giants award January 26 in Grand Rapids; each award is named for someone who pioneered change that fostered the inclusion of minorities into all walks of life. Ms. Greene received the Phyllis Scott Activist Award, named for Phyllis Scott, "who fought for the rights and dignity of minority students at a time when many inequalities were prevalent in the Grand Rapids public schools."

Parlez vous Français? **Greg Hulsebos** recently spent a month in Lyon, France, and was featured at Le KinoClub singing and playing a guitar duet to accompany the documentary film Bluesland, about African American jazz and blues artists.

Eleanor Lopez is serving on the board of the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation.

Adults and children alike have been fascinated to watch—and participate with--artist **Annie Olson** as she creates polymer clay seashells and animal sculptures. Now she's developed a new product, a "try-it-yourself" kit with clay, instructions, and two finished shells to use as guides. See her guiltless shells catalog, www.anniesarc.com.

Congratulations to **Alexander "Kofi" Washington** and his group, the Jah Kings, who have signed with Tropical Records, a new reggae label of Sunset Records; their CD "African Diaspora" will be released in May. Washington, who is lead vocalist, guitarist, and songwriter for Jah Kings, has played for ACEH potlucks at Ransom Park and presented a program on his travels to Ghana.

* * * * *

Our condolences to **Stephen Hemenway** on the death of his father, J. Russell "Russ" Hemenway, on December 11, 2007, in Massachusetts. Mr. Hemenway was 94 years old.

And sympathy to **Herb Weller** on the deaths of his brother Peter in Colorado January 22 and his brother John in Holland on February 14.

April 11 ACEH Meeting to Focus on Ireland

John Johnston, a native of Northern Ireland, will speak to ACEH on Friday, April 11 on "Peace at All Costs—How to Love Your Enemy." His mother converted from Catholicism to Protestantism when she met Johnston's father; he will speak about the impact of "the Troubles," the religious civil war that affected the country for many years. There will be more information in the April newsletter.

Summit Changes Name, Makes Plans for May 20

"Our future depends on inclusion...and inclusion depends on all of us."

The 2008 Summit on Racism will be held at Hope College in Holland on Tuesday, May 20. Formerly called the Ottawa Area Summit on Racism for its first five years, the name has been changed this year to Lakeshore Region Summit on Racism, reflecting a broader perspective and geographic focus.

Sponsored by the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance and hosted by Hope College, the 2008 Summit offers a way for people to learn why increasing racial segregation leads to social and economic decline for the entire region, to understand how racial inclusion benefits everyone, not just a few, and to develop tools needed make a positive difference in Lakeshore communities.

Keynote speakers will be David Rusk, internationally known urban policy consultant and author, and George Herrera, president and CEO of the Herrera Group and former president of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony is one of some 20 organizations collaborating on this year's Summit. ACEH members and friends are encouraged to volunteer to help with preparations for the Summit and also on the day of the event.

The Alliance

THE ALLIANCE FOR
CULTURAL AND ETHNIC
HARMONY

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE:
616-212-7159

E-MAIL:
aceh@harmonyalliance.org.

WEB ADDRESS
www.harmonyalliance.org

*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007