

June 2008
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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

Becky Arenas
Natalie Avila
Linda Blauwkamp
Jack Hyde
Bin Lim
Norma Luna
Rev. Angela Taylor Perry
Mary Yedinak
Marvin Younger

ACEH June 13 Meeting to Feature "Blue Eyed" Video, Discussion

At its Friday, June 13, meeting, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) will view the video, "Blue Eyed" and take part in discussion led by ACEH board member Rev. Angela Taylor Perry, who is director of reconciling ministries for Faith Christian Reformed Church in Holland. The public is invited.

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

The 30-minute "Blue Eyed" video is the most concise version of teacher Jane Elliott's "blue eyed, brown eyed" exercise, in which she arbitrarily assigned eye color to participants and treated them differently—as inferior or superior--based only on that feature.

For over 30 years, Jane Elliott was America's most highly acclaimed diversity trainer. Her powerful and controversial "blue eyed/brown eyed" exercise has had a life-changing impact on thousands in schools, corporations, and government. "No one who sees it will ever turn a blind eye to racism again," said one person in the audience.

A former student said: "I thought I had learned everything I need to know about discrimination until I heard Mrs. Elliott--she has turned my life around."

The ACEH children's group, UNITY, for ages 4 to 14, also will meet to view the video or take part in separate activities.





Members Renew Commitment to ACEH

A warm welcome to new members **Linda Brooks** and **Shannon Garrett**.

Thank you to renewing members **Jim** and **Donna Brooks** and the **Ottawa County Mental Health Department/Kellie Sall**.

Please consider joining with Linda, Shannon, Jim, Donna, and Kellie 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 Bin Lim, 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.

ACEH Board Names Officers for 2008

Marvin Younger is the new president of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, Mary Yedinak will serve as vice president, and Jack Hyde as secretary. Bin Lim will be treasurer, succeeding Janie Briones, who has resigned.

Committee chairs are Events, Linda Blauwkamp; Fund Development, Mary Yedinak; Outreach, Marvin Younger; Membership Coordinator, Rev. Angela Taylor Perry; Communications, Becky Arenas. The children's program, UNITY, will be led by Natalie Avila, Linda Blauwkamp, and Norma Luna.

Ken Cooper is webmaster, Ann Weller, newsletter and In the Community editor, and Herb Weller, database manager. David Douglas handles newsletter layout and graphics.

News of Alliance Members

Bill Bloemendaal was reelected to the West Ottawa School Board May 6, receiving the largest number of votes. He's served on the board since 1992.

Best wishes to **Bin** and **Lisa Lim** on the birth of their third grandchild—Sylvia Grace—to their son Indra and his wife Jackie in Ann Arbor on May 1.

ACEH board member **Natalie Avila** was third runner-up in the Queen and King contest at the 2008 Fiesta May 3, sponsored by Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP).

Shannon Garrett is the Michigan director of The White House Project, a national program that encourages and trains women to run for public office; a training was held in Lansing May 30-31, attended by ACEH board member **Linda Blauwkamp**.

Personal Bias: A Reflection Exercise

The following questions are from www.tolerance.org/parents/tips, the website of Teaching Tolerance, a program of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Consider sharing these questions with family, friends, co-workers, or members of your religious organization.

Explore your experiences with and attitudes about difference by asking yourself these questions:

1. The first time I became aware of differences was when
2. As I was growing up, my parent(s) taught me that people who were different from us were
3. As I was growing up, my parent(s) taught me that people who were like us were
4. A time when I was mistreated because of my own difference was when
5. A time I mistreated someone for being different was when
6. I feel most comfortable when I am around people who
7. I feel least comfortable when I am around people who
8. The memories I have of differences affect me/my parenting by

Maple Avenue Ministries Seeks MAC-REC Volunteers

Maple Avenue Ministries needs volunteers for its multicultural summer MAC-REC program, an afternoon and evening recreation program for children in Holland's central city. Hours are 4:30 to 8:30 pm, Monday to Friday, until Labor Day. Volunteers can work in the clubhouse serving drinks and snacks or outside in the parking lot to play and help supervise recreation; commitment is two hours once a week (same time each week). Help build relationships with children and families in Holland. Contact Brittnee Longwell at (616) 886-6345. Maple Avenue Ministries is located at 427 Maple Ave, corner of 17th and Maple, Holland.

Annual Juneteenth Celebration Takes Place Saturday, June 21

The Alliance

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

The Holland area's seventh annual Juneteenth celebration will be Saturday, June 21, from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Kollen Park on Lake Macatawa, Holland.

The focus is on educating youth, with a keynote speech by Rev. Wayne Coleman and representatives of area colleges present.

Music will be performed by a Gospel group, The Silver Star Singers, from Chicago; Kevin Kollins and his African drummers; and Holland's own Lakeshore Idol winner LaSondra Leffler. Local groups, including ACEH, will have information tables or items for sale, and there will be activities for children. Groups wishing to have an information table should apply by June 10.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; from its origin in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, the observance as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

For information, see www.juneteentholland.org or contact wcoleman@corecityleap.com

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

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