

# The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony 616-392-5086

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

*Inside this Issue:*

Membership	2
ACEH News	2
Salsa Showdown	2
Iraqi Refugees	3
Hearts in Harmony	4

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- Becky Arenas
- Natalie Avila
- Linda Blauwkamp
- Jack Hyde
- Bin Lim
- Norma Luna
- Rev. Angela Taylor Perry
- Mary Yedinak
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## Summertime in the Park: Food, Fun, Fellowship at 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ACEH Potluck on Sunday, August 10

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Potluck in the Park will be Sunday, August 10, starting at 1:30 p.m.

**The place:** Ransom Park on the north side of Holland. The park is on Ransom Street between 160<sup>th</sup> and 168<sup>th</sup> streets. It is west of Butternut, north of Quincy, and south of New Holland.

**What happens there?** Fun, great food, good conversation, a chance to meet new people and see old friends. There'll also be music, and children's activities including a piñata and balloon animals.

**What should I bring?** Please bring a dish to pass, from your own family's ethnic background if you can. ACEH provides beverages and table service. Extra lawn chairs are always welcome, too.

**Who can come?** Everybody! Invite your family, your friends, your neighbors, people from your work or your faith community, people who are new to West Michigan, and people who have lived here "forever," students, seniors, and all ages in between. Together we will celebrate the diversity of this area and create a welcoming and friendly community.





## Dues Help Support ACEH Activities and Outreach

A warm welcome to new member **Kyle King**.

Please consider joining with Kyle 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, 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.

## ACEH Member News, Upcoming Local Programs

The Alliance sends its sympathy to former board member **Dan Cornelissen**, whose mother, Karen, died Monday, July 14. Dan is now living in Toledo and working as an assistant manager at Menard's. While he was in Holland, he helped organize local Pow Wow celebrations.

\* \* \* \*

**SALSA SHOWDOWN:** Bring your taste buds to the Holland Farmers Market Saturday, August 16, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and take part in a competition by amateur and restaurant chefs for the best salsa in these three categories: mild! hot!! and inferno!!! For \$3, you get tortilla chips, salsa tastes, and a judging form. Proceeds go to Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP).

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** There will be no regular general meeting of the Alliance in September; instead, members are encouraged to attend events of the 2008 Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival, which has been set for September 12 to 14 in Holland. When the Tulipanes schedule is ready, we will publicize it and choose an event that ACEH members might attend together. There will be more information in the September ACEH Newsletter.

**OCTOBER MEETING:** Check out Page 4 of this Newsletter for information on an exciting new program ACEH will launch on Friday, October 10, in partnership with Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry.

## "Leaving Home Because of War": Refugees Share Experiences

Sixty ACEH members and friends met July 11 to hear a moving presentation, "Leaving Home Because of War," by Elsa Hyde and Kamal Habib; discussion and many questions followed. ACEH is grateful to them for sharing their stories and history with us.

Mrs. Hyde, of Park Township, was born in a German displaced persons camp in World War II and lived in an Austrian DP camp until she was 11; her father was murdered and, with her mother, sister, and two brothers, Elsa immigrated to New Jersey, where the family received a mixed reaction—not always supportive—from their sponsoring church and from local residents.

Mr. Habib and his family were resettled in Grand Rapids this spring under the auspices of Bethany Christian Services and Plymouth Congregational UCC Church. The parents, both working professionals, and their three children left Iraq for their personal safety and lived for two years as refugees in Syria before being granted refugee status in the United States. Kamal, an electrical engineer, served as an interpreter/translator for U.S. military forces in Iraq until death threats caused the family to flee their homeland. He and his wife, an office manager, are seeking employment; the family receives formal support for just five months after they are resettled.

A great deal of interest was shown at the meeting about the situation of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP, those forced to leave their homes and move within the country); the following websites, articles, and books are offered for people who would like to learn more:

### RESOURCES

- 1) "[Iraq's Refugee and IDP Crisis: Human Toll and Implications](#)": A wide-ranging collection of essays that explore challenges facing Iraqis, the international community, and the refugees. Fifteen experts and practitioners from around the world consider factors that triggered the refugee flow; the response of the U.S., Iraq, and the international community; prospects for the refugees' return; impact on Iraq's neighbors; and more; includes maps and statistics about the state of Iraq's millions of refugees and IDPs, a bibliography, and testimonies of refugees. Published by Middle East Institute's Viewpoint series, 2008. PDF file at [www.mideasti.org/publications/iraqs-refugee-idp-crisis](http://www.mideasti.org/publications/iraqs-refugee-idp-crisis)
- 2) "[The Iraq Displacement Crisis](#)": Article includes statistics and policy recommendations. Published by Refugees International, which also has a report "[Uprooted and Unstable: Meeting Urgent Humanitarian Needs in Iraq](#)." 2008. [www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article](http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article)
- 3) "[Fact Sheet: Iraqi Refugee Processing](#)": Covers the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, including statistics; procedures for Iraqis in the U.S., living outside Iraq, or in Iraq; special visas for those who assisted the U.S. in Iraq after March 2003. Updated July 15, 2008. Issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office of communications. PDF file at [www.uscis.gov/files/article/Iraqi\\_Refugees\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_Update\\_20080705.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/Iraqi_Refugees_Fact_Sheet_Update_20080705.pdf)
- 4) "[Guide to International Refugee Law Resources on the Web](#)": Includes history, human rights and humanitarian law references, international law collections, relevant international bodies, national legislation, case law, periodicals, experts, networks, bibliography, research guides. Updated May 2007. Prepared by Elisa Mason, published by Law and Technology Resources for Legal Professionals. [www.llrx.com/node/292/print](http://www.llrx.com/node/292/print).

*The Alliance*

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*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
Apart*

## What Do You Say After You Say Hello?

In today's diverse world, we need to know how to live harmoniously with many kinds of people; if we stay in "little boxes," never venturing outside of our own culture and traditions and people just like us, we short-change ourselves and our children in the global economy and we miss the gifts that other cultures contribute to our community. But from shyness, or fear, or lack of knowledge, we may have a hard time getting beyond those "boxes."

Many people would like to make friends across cultures, but aren't sure how to go about it. When we meet a person from an ethnic background different from our own, what do we say after we say "hello" or "hola" and "how are you/como está usted"? How do we get beyond chit-chat and small talk and get to know someone on a deeper level? Can we talk openly and honestly about difficult issues?

On Friday, October 10, ACEH will help answer these questions by launching a partnership with Hearts in Harmony, a program developed by ACEH board member Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry that enables people to connect with others in a safe and caring way.

Hearts in Harmony pairs two people of different ethnic backgrounds, who agree to meet once a month for a year to talk together over coffee or a meal about their views and feelings on race, prejudice, and other topics, including their own history; the program provides a structure of questions and activities.

Everyone is welcome to attend the ACEH general meeting at 7 p.m. October 10, at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, to find out more about Hearts in Harmony. There will be more information in the September Newsletter.

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and Ethnic Harmony

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