

# The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony 616-396-2201

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

## *Inside this Issue:*

Membership	2
Join the Board	2
Holiday Party	2
Happy 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	3
Ethnic Group Guide	4

## **Board of Directors**

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

## Imagine Fellowship Sponsors January 19 Community March, Film, and Panel Discussion To Celebrate Dr. King's Birthday

A march, a movie, and a community discussion will mark a local celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sponsored by Imagine Fellowship, a candlelight march, with the theme "Unity in the Community," begins at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at Rosa Parks Green (College Ave. at 19<sup>th</sup> St) and ends at Imagine Fellowship, 167 West 20<sup>th</sup>, Holland. Refreshments will be served following the march.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship, followed from 7 to 7:45 p.m. by a community discussion panel.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929, and died April 4, 1968.

Imagine Fellowship is led by Rev. Wayne Coleman; for more information, call 392-2919.

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*Happy Birthday, ACEH! The Alliance  
was founded in January 1999.  
Please see Page 3.*

**The next general ACEH meeting will be on  
Friday, February 13, 2009. Program and place  
to be announced.**

## **New, Renewing Members Kick Off New Year**

ACEH extends a warm welcome to new members **Marcia DeWild, Kent** and **Joyce Fry, David** and **Julia Marckini**, and **Mary Jo Waters**.

A big thank-you goes to renewing members **Liz Barveld, Jim Chance, Gene** and **Mary Heideman, Felipe Ramirez**, and **Faith Van Popering**, and contributor **Trudy Berkel**.

Please consider joining with Marcia, Kent, Joyce, David, Julia, Mary Jo, Liz, Jim, Gene, Mary, Felipe, Faith, Trudy, 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](http://www.harmonyalliance.org), click on "Join Us" and use the secure Pay Pal system.

### **Positions Available on ACEH Board**

There are open positions on the ACEH board, which meets once a month to plan activities and oversee finances and membership. What's needed: a commitment to diversity and social justice and a willingness to share ideas and make community connections. The term is for two years. Are you interested? Your participation is invited and welcome! Please contact ACEH vice-president Mary Yedinak at 392-5549 or email [myedin3@gmail.com](mailto:myedin3@gmail.com).

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### ***Seventy-five Folks Enjoy ACEH Holiday Party***

On the cold and very snowy night of December 5, 2008, seventy-five adults and children shared the warmth of community fellowship and good food at the annual ACEH Holiday Potluck and Cultural Sharing Party, held at First United Methodist Church in Holland.

Many thanks to these entertainers: Maciek Bielzinski, of Magic by Maciek, whose magic tricks and sleight of hand had the audience amazed time after time; musician Rev. Luis Ruiz Jr, and the musical Beltran Cousins. Thanks also to polymer clay artist Annie Olson and to children's crafts leader Natalie Avila, to the decorating committee, and to Dean and Mary DeRidder and Lee and Dianna Strebel for their help with clean-up. ACEH president Marvin Younger was master of ceremonies.

## Happy 10th Birthday, ACEH! ¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine...and ten! ACEH is ten years old this month!

Growing out the vision of David and Kim Douglas and others, ACEH began in January 1999 with a public meeting at the American Red Cross building in Holland Township.

Today the grass-roots organization has more than 100 dues-paying members and regularly partners and participates with area organizations on community forums, fiestas, ethnic celebrations, and the Summits on Racism. The Alliance has held at least 90 monthly programs of speakers, films, and discussions about area ethnic and cultural groups and justice issues, and has sponsored 20 community get-togethers (Potluck in the Park each August and a Holiday Potluck and Cultural Sharing Party). ACEH also organized a group, UNITY, for younger children; sponsors Hearts in Harmony to facilitate one-on-one cross-cultural relationships; and maintains networking connections throughout the community. To provide information about diversity events and issues, the Alliance created a website [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org), publishes monthly ACEH Newsletters; and emails twice-monthly In the Community listings of events to hundreds of people in West Michigan.

In 2006 ACEH received a Social Justice Award for its efforts in Education, from the Holland Human Relations Commission. A fund in the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland was established to honor the late Gary Pepe.

Presidents of the Alliance have been David Douglas, Ann Weller, the late Gary Pepe, Phil Coray, Mike Jones and Bin Lim, Kim Romero, Jill Cooper, and Marvin Younger. Other founding or elected board members include: Becky Arenas, Natalie Avila, Liz Barveld, Linda Blauwkamp, Janie Briones, Jeff Burris, Dan Cornelissen, Deb De La Torre, Sara DeRoo, the late Doug DeRoo, Kim Douglas, Judy Essenburgh, Mary Jo Henretty-Jornales, Greg Hulsebos, Odessa Hurd, Jack Hyde, Alecia Jones, Utsab Khadka, Eleanor Lopez, Norma Luna, Anna Marie Martinez-Muirhead, Marianna Maver, Jasiu Milanowski, Lloyd Newson, Annie and Phil Olson, Jan Ruvalcaba Villanueva, Kerry Shaffer, Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry, Herb Weller, and Mary Yedinak. Ken Cooper is webmaster.



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**Bringing People Together  
from Worlds Apart**



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CULTURAL AND ETHNIC  
HARMONY

Box 3007  
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE:  
616-396-2201

E-MAIL:  
aceh@harmonyalliance.org.

WEB ADDRESS  
www.harmonyalliance.org

***Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
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**Museum Publishes Field Guide  
To 50 Ethnic Groups in West Michigan**

Issues of ethnicity, identity, and immigration are explored in a new book by two curators of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Historical Commission. The "Ethnic Field Guide to West Michigan" briefly describes over 50 separate ethnic groups, including country of origin, homeland geography, politics, and map, as well as population size and settlement areas here. It is available for \$12.95 from the museum's Curiosity Shop, at Amazon.com, and at [www.historygrandrapids.org](http://www.historygrandrapids.org) Call (616) 456-3555 for more information.

The book was originally a gallery guide for the museum's permanent exhibit, "Newcomers: The People Of This Place," developed with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A team of museum staff, nationally recognized scholars and designers, and local community stakeholders worked on themes for the exhibit, which may serve as a national model for exhibits dealing with issues of cultural identity and ethnic diversity.

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Holland, MI 49422-3007