

# 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**

## **Alliance Partners with Holland's Herrick Library on March 5 Immigration Panel**

Three local women will talk about their experiences in immigrating to the United States on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m. The meeting is a partnership of Herrick District Library and the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH), and will take place in the library's downstairs auditorium, 300 South River, Holland.

Speaking are Dr. **Annie Dandavati** of India, who is a professor of political science at Hope College; **Nereida Garcia**, who was born in Cuba and is principal of Holland's K-8 East Middle School, and **Renata Fernandez-Dominguez**, who is from Mexico.

The panel program is one of the events connected with Read Along the Lakeshore/One Book One Community, which features the memoir, "Stealing Buddha's Dinner," by Bich Minh Nguyen of Grand Rapids.



**PLEASE NOTE: There will be no general meeting of ACEH this month; please attend March 5 to hear these outstanding women panelists talk about "coming to (North) America."**

## **Here's How to Join ACEH or Renew Your Membership**

We warmly welcome a new member, **Bill Camden**. Please consider joining with Bill and other 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 Bin Lim, 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.

If you are not sure whether your membership is current, please contact database manager Herb Weller at 396-2201 or [hpweller@comcast.net](mailto:hpweller@comcast.net)

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### ***Alliance to Elect New Board Members in April***

ACEH will elect four new board members at its Friday, April 10, meeting. Could you be one of them? The Alliance, an all-volunteer organization founded in 1999, is governed by officers elected by the nine-member board of directors. The board meets once a month to plan educational programs and social events, oversee the group's finances, and advocate for cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity. Interested? Want more information before you throw your hat in the ring? Contact president Marvin Younger at [marviny@hotmail.com](mailto:marviny@hotmail.com) or at 392-5086.

### **Cultural Competence in the Workplace: What it is and How it Happens**

To operate effectively, a diverse workplace has to take into account that "both subtle and obvious cultural perspectives influence how *all* people think, interact, and make choices." Find out how one financial organization works on cultural competence, and what its results have been. Panelists Francine Gaston, Sherry Kasper, Patrick Lonergan, and Christopher Macon, all from Fifth Third Bank, will speak at **7 p.m, Tuesday, March 3**, at Maas Auditorium, Columbia Ave at 11<sup>th</sup> St, Holland. The program is sponsored by Hope College Phelps Scholars and the Department of Economics, Management and Accounting.

## **Movie Night Set to Raise Funds for Youth Partnership Program**

A community program that offers mentoring, after-school activities, and leadership opportunities to some 400 Holland, West Ottawa, and Zeeland "at-risk" middle-school students is raising funds by sponsoring a movie, "The Hobart Shakespeareans," on **Tuesday, March 10**. The film begins at 7 p.m. at the Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 East 8<sup>th</sup> St, Holland. Tickets, for a suggested donation of \$20, are available from organizations named below or at the door.

"The Hobart Shakespeareans" shows how one teacher's uncommon commitment and resourcefulness opened up worlds of opportunity for his 'disadvantaged' students.

The event is sponsored by the Faith in Youth Partnership/AmeriCorps through Good Samaritan Ministries. The collaborative effort involves Calvary Reformed Church, Hardewyk Ministries/Neighbors Plus, Maple Avenue Ministries, Rose Park Reformed Church, The Bridge Youth Ministry Center, and Urban Youth Ministries. Tickets to the fundraiser can be purchased at any of these churches and agencies or from Good Samaritan Ministries at 513 East 8<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 25, Holland; office hours are Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm (closed over the noon hour). For information, contact Deborah Vogel at [Dvogel@goodsamministries.com](mailto:Dvogel@goodsamministries.com) or by phone at 392-7159.

The goal of the collaborative is to improve academic achievement and "promote a sense of well-being in participants by fostering caring, trusting relationships between adult volunteers and middle-school students. Nine AmeriCorps members coordinate resources in the neighborhood churches to meet the needs of the students. Youth may be considered "at risk" because of academic standing, poverty, or household dynamics.

**WHAT:** "The Hobart Shakespeareans"

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 10  
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Knickerbocker  
Theater, at  
86 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street

**COST:** Suggested donation  
of \$20, at theater,  
from churches,  
agencies, Good Sam



*The Alliance*

THE ALLIANCE FOR  
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HARMONY

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*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
Apart*

**"THEM: Images of Separation"  
on Exhibit at Fountain Street  
Church Gallery in Grand Rapids**

Thirty items from the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, will be on display at Fountain Street Church Keeler Gallery, 24 Fountain St, NE, Grand Rapids, from March 5-31. Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri and 9 am-1 p.m. Sundays. "THEM: Images of Separation; the Power of Hate" includes items of popular culture that reflect society's biases against women, people of various races, homosexuals, and other groups.

Free Sunday lectures at 9:45 a.m. are: Mar 8: "The Other as Psychological Archetype"; Mar 15, "The Others Write Back," victims of oppression, racism, and colonialism write their own stories; Mar 22: "Hateful Things: the Material Culture of Discrimination," how material objects as simple as cookie jars and advertisements affect our attitudes; Mar 29: "The 'Other' in Art." On Mon, Mar 30, at 7 pm, the "Act on Racism" theater group will present a performance at the church. For more information, call (616) 459-8386.

The Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony

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