

The Alliance

Founded in January 1999, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony is dedicated to promoting unity, justice, equal opportunity, ethnic awareness, cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for diversity.

Inside this Issue:

Membership	2
Member News	2
Board Ballot	3
“Did I Say That?”	4

Board of Directors

Yessenia Ordaz Aguirre

Jack Hyde

Jauanna Jackson

Bin Lim

Norma Luna

Victor Orozco

Francisco Panuco

Lucia Rios

Rev. Angela Taylor Perry

Mary Yedinak

Marvin Younger

When “Hello” Just Isn’t Enough: ACEH Meets Friday, April 9, for Hearts In Harmony Program

This month’s Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) meeting will focus on the group’s Hearts In Harmony program, which pairs people from differing backgrounds in an intentional way. The public is invited.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m., Friday, April 9, at Faith Christian Reformed Church, 85 West 26th Street (across Michigan Avenue from Holland Hospital). **Note location change.**

Hearts In Harmony partnerships equip participants with communication tools that help create relationships of greater understanding and deeper friendship.

Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry, pastor of reconciliation at the church and developer of the program, said: “Only when we take the time to meet each other beyond the initial ‘hello,’ do we truly begin to walk in each other’s shoes. Hearts In Harmony works in a way that builds trust and fosters community.”

Discussions at the meeting will move from the whole group to smaller groups to one-on-one exchanges, and a film clip from the HBO series “Black/White” will be shown. People who have been taking part in Hearts In Harmony will share their experiences.

In addition to the program, four people will be elected to two-year terms on the ACEH Board of Directors (see Page 3).

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony was founded in Holland in January 1999 to promote cross-cultural understanding, appreciation for diversity, equal opportunity, justice, and unity in the community. For more information, call 392-5086.

Hello **Guten Tag** HOLA *Bonjour* Goeiendag

Здравствуйте *Halo* Ciao **Jambo** Privet Salam, Apa kabar

Kutaa Ahnyong **O’siyo** *Merhaba* Namaste *Chao*

New, Renewing Members Support Alliance

A warm ACEH welcome to new members **Anthony** and **Dr. Vicki-Lynn Holmes, Dr. Greg T. Lawton,** and **Suzanne Rich.** And thank-you to renewing member **Greg Hulsebos.**

Please consider joining with Anthony, Vicki-Lynn, Greg, Suzanne, Greg, and other ACEH members as we work together to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. You can join or renew your membership 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 Oct 1 – Sept 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 www.harmonyalliance.org, click on "Join Us" and use the secure Pay Pal system. If you are not sure whether your membership is current, contact database manager Herb Weller at 396-2201 or hpweller@comcast.net

News of ACEH Members

The Committee to Honor César Chávez gave **Becky Arenas** the Golden Citizen Hispanic Excellence Award in Grand Rapids March 31. Congratulations, Becky!

Marvin Younger joined the board of the Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

Norma Luna's daughter, Dominique Vargas, was accepted to the Elgin (Ill.) Community College Ballet Folklórico Huehucoyotl; she founded the ALL FOR ONE dance troupe here.

Jauanna Jackson and **Liz Barveld** are dancers in the Evergreen Commons 2010 Tulip Time Show.



On March 9, Eleanor Lopez and Marvin Younger presented information about the Alliance to participants in the Holland First program of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce; the program looks at area organizations and activities through the eyes of diversity.

**The election for new board members will take place
at the Friday, April 9, meeting.**

BALLOT FOR ACEH DIRECTORS 2010-12
Vote for no more than 4

_____ **Patricia Bradfield** worked as an administrative assistant and in corporate information technology. A survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault, she became a volunteer for the Center for Women in Transition and Ginny's Place, a shelter for battered women and their children. By 2006, she had logged more than 7,000 volunteer hours with CWIT. She is interested in being a board member because *"I would like to do my part to achieve the goals of the ACEH mission statement, helping to achieve harmony in a world with equal rights and opportunities for everyone, everywhere."*

_____ **Jack Hyde** is a retired special education teacher and freelance writer. He and his wife, Elsa, have lived in Holland for 10 years; their roots are in Illinois, New Jersey, and central Europe. Their three children and eight grandchildren live from Kansas to New York to Florida. Jack is running for a second term on the board because *"Organizations such as ACEH enhance our community by bringing people together to learn from one another and celebrate what each has to share. The more active one is in such organizations, the closer and stronger our community becomes, and I want to continue to serve."*

_____ **Norma Luna** is the dance coordinator for the ALL FOR ONE program in Holland and currently works for Hope College dining services; she is a licensed nurse. She has volunteered with local groups such as the Holland Human Relations Commission, Heights of Hope, and Ottawa County Victim Services. Elected to the board two years ago, she would like to serve another term. Norma says: *"Being on the ACEH board has taught me so much about other cultures, their beliefs, practices, and celebrations that I wasn't aware of. To me, this is the only organization that truly represents the Holland community and the beautiful rainbow of people who live in it."*

_____ **Martha Reyna-Gonzalez** has held several positions with the Ottawa County Michigan Works! program, working with job seekers and employers, especially in the areas of career assessment and management and training. She has lived in Holland since 1980 and attended Grand Rapids Community College and Grand Valley State University. Martha wants to be an ACEH board member *"to educate myself and others on ways to improve community relations with all populations of my community. The ACEH Mission statement mirrors how I feel about my role as a community member."*

_____ **Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry** is pastor of reconciliation at Faith Christian Reformed Church in Holland. She created the Hearts in Harmony program that matches two people of different backgrounds to develop deeper relationships over a year's time. She is an artist and writer, is married to Ray, and is a 22-year survivor of multiple sclerosis. Angela was elected to the board in 2008 and says: *"My desire is to continue my commitment to be an effective member of the Holland community. I choose to remain available and to use my gifts to equip others to gain courage to become honest bridge-builders across gender, disability, culture, and race."*

_____ Nominees from the floor _____

Continuing on the board this year will be **Jauanna Jackson, Victor Orozco, Lucia Rios, and Marvin Younger** and youth representatives **Yessenia Ordaz Aguirre** and **Franciso Panuco**.

The Alliance

THE ALLIANCE FOR
CULTURAL AND ETHNIC
HARMONY

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE:
616-392-5086

E-MAIL:
aceh@harmonyalliance.org.

WEB ADDRESS
www.harmonyalliance.org

*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

"Did I Really Just Say That?"*

We've all heard about how to respond if someone tells a racist joke, makes an inappropriate comment, or perpetuates a stereotype at work, in the family, or elsewhere. But what if...oops, the comment came from YOU? What do you do now?

Your best bet is to apologize: A simple "I'm sorry" to everyone who heard your comment or joke is a great start. The sooner, the better.

Be open to feedback: Make a request: "Help me understand how this offended you." Listen attentively.

Put it in writing. An honest, sincere letter can mend many wounds, especially if you were so embarrassed you were lost for words to apologize right away.

Offer to make amends: Ask what you can do to correct the situation and make it better.

Become the person who speaks up!

*Adapted from Graybridge/Malkam winter newsletter, <http://graybridgemalkam.com>.
Thanks to Alan Headbloom for forwarding.

The Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

Box 3007
Holland, MI 49422-3007