

The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony is dedicated to promoting unity, justice, equal opportunity, ethnic awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity

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Historian William Cohen Speaks to ACEH on "Writing History from the Bottom Up" Friday, November 12

Most of us learned something about history in school—but whose history did we study? And from what point of view?

Dr. William Cohen, professor emeritus of history at Hope College, will speak to the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) on Friday, November 12, on "Reflections on Writing History from the Bottom Up." The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland; the public is invited.

"My talk will focus on the issues and opportunities that arise as we try to write history that is both inclusive and historically accurate," Cohen said. He has written on Thomas Jefferson and the problem of slavery and on African American migration from the Civil War to World War I.

Cohen was a Fulbright lecturer in Japan on U.S. history; served as research associate and an acting project director at the Center for Urban Studies, University of Chicago; and has written widely in African American history.

ACEH was founded in Holland in January 1999 to work for justice, equal opportunity, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity. For more information, you can visit the website www.harmonyalliance.org or call president Marvin Younger at (616) 392-5086.

***"The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."* Harry S Truman**

**ACEH Holiday Potluck:
5:30 p.m., Saturday, December 4,
First United Methodist Church, 57 W 10th,
Holland
Please see Page 2 for more information.**



Come Party with ACEH on December 4

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony is holding its annual Holiday Potluck on Saturday, December 4, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10th Street, Holland.

Everyone is warmly invited—bring your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, someone who's recently moved to town. It's a time to greet old friends and meet new people, to help make greater Holland a welcoming place.

Please bring a dish to share, preferably one from your cultural background, to add to the amazing array of wonderful food that people contribute. ACEH supplies beverages and table service. And bring along a non-perishable food item that we will deliver to the Community Action House food bank.

There will be crafts and activities for children, musical entertainment, a time for sharing, and a silent auction of goods and services contributed by local businesses and individuals. ACEH president Marvin Younger will be master of ceremonies.

Many people have told the Alliance that they really look forward to this special evening each year. We hope you will be part of it!

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Renewing Members Support Work of the Alliance

A big thank-you this month to renewing members **Kathy Beal, Dean and Mary DeRidder, Marcia DeWild, Sandra Eaton, Alan Headbloom, Greg Hulsebos, Jack and Elsa Hyde, Bin and Lisa Lim, Bill and Judy Parr, Bill and Maura Reynolds, Gisela Strand, and Gerard Van Heest.** Please consider joining with them as we work to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. Dues are 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, click on "Join Us" and use the secure Pay Pal system.

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The Alliance sends sincere sympathy to board member **Victor Orozco**, whose mother, Maria, died in Holland on October 14 at age 85.



Report by ACEH President Marvin Younger

In September, I represented the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony at the MI Response to Hate 2010 conference in Lansing. ACEH is part of the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes (MIAAHC), a statewide coalition of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, civil rights organizations, community groups, educators, and anti-violence advocates who work to ensure a consistent and effective response to hate crimes and other incidents that create tension and unrest in Michigan communities. The coalition is led by a partnership of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and the U.S. Attorney's offices for the Eastern and Western districts of the state.

In Holland, the city Human Relations Commission's Multicultural Network, ACEH, and the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance comprise the Holland [Hate Crimes] Community Response System, and I'm pleased to report that **this year the Holland organization was awarded the MIAAHC Champions Award for its work.**

Because the city of Holland has been considering expanding its anti-discrimination ordinance, I decided to attend the workshop on **Responding to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Victims of Hate**. There were many questions, like:

- *Why should any group have special privileges?* Civil rights are not special privileges. Communities have to decide whether they want to have an environment of intolerance that creates a climate of being unwelcoming.
- *Why can't we just do nothing?* The lack of an ordinance is a symbol; it gives people permission to act out. Hate crimes are on the rise in America. Almost any issue will be used by the "equal opportunity bigot." Michigan has a long list of hate groups, often funded and supported by individuals and groups from outside the state.

The second workshop was **Hues of Hatred: The Anti-Immigrant Ripple Effect**. Holland has many immigrants and foreign visitors. Unfortunately, some people treat anyone who doesn't look like them as an "illegal alien." The discussion centered on effects of racial profiling and immigration litigation in Hazelton, PA, a once-thriving small city; immigrants were a third of its population. Residents complained illegals were taking all the jobs, and anti-immigrant ordinances were passed. A type of "witch hunt" ensued and people quickly left the area. Residents did not fill jobs, businesses closed, and markets, barbershops, and rental properties are now vacant. The anti-immigrant movement had a ripple effect on all the residents, even those who thought they were safe from the fall-out.

Plenary sessions at the conference covered the FBI's Civil Rights program, Hate Crimes, and Human Trafficking, with emphasis on hate groups in Michigan. I was reminded once again that the work of ACEH is far from over. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who wrote from his jail cell in Birmingham, AL: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

**THE ALLIANCE FOR
CULTURAL AND
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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds
Apart*

Nominations Are Due Dec. 3 for Annual HRC Social Justice Awards

The City of Holland Human Relations Commission is accepting nominations for its 2010 Social Justice Awards, which exemplify the virtues of social justice by promoting equal opportunity and equal access for all citizens in the categories of Housing, Education, Employment, Government/Community Relations and Youth. Persons between the ages of 13 to 19 can be nominated for the Youth Award.

To nominate a person, program, agency, business, or employer, submit a letter indicating the award category and describing the following: (1) The involvement and or services provided to a diverse population; (2) how diversity is valued and demonstrated; and (3) involvement with programs and activities promoting equal opportunity and social justice.

Nominations are due by Friday, December 3, 2010, and can be mailed to the Human Relations Commission, City Hall, 270 S. River Ave, Holland, MI 49423 or sent by email to Erin Nyholt, Administrative Assistant, at e.nyholt@cityofholland.com.

ACEH received a Social Justice award in 2006 for its work in Education.

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and Ethnic Harmony
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