

# 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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## February 10 ACEH Meeting to Feature "A Time for Justice" Film, Discussion, and Tour of New CAAAH Center

In observance of Black History Month, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony will meet Friday, February 10, at 7 p.m. at the new Center of African American Art and History, **21 West 16<sup>th</sup> St**, Holland. Everyone is welcome at ACEH meetings. A freewill collection will be taken to benefit the Center.

On the program are an Academy Award-winning documentary "A Time for Justice: America's Civil Rights Movement," followed by discussion facilitated by Hope College history professor Dr. Fred C. Johnson III.

The 38-minute film depicts the battle for civil rights as told by its foot soldiers, who "rode where they weren't supposed to ride; walked where they weren't supposed to walk; sat where they weren't supposed to sit...and who stood their ground." Produced by Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, the film recalls crises in Montgomery, Little Rock, Birmingham, and Selma and "reveals the heroism of individuals who risked their lives for the cause of freedom and equality."

After the film and discussion, Ruth Coleman, founder of CAAAH, will conduct a tour of current art and history exhibits at the Center. The website is [www.caaaholland.org](http://www.caaaholland.org); (616) 836-8559.

ACEH was founded in Holland in 1999 as a grass-roots organization to work for cross-cultural understanding, justice, equal opportunity, and appreciation for diversity. Call 396-2201 or go to the website [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org) for more information.



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## ACEH Thanks these New and Renewing Members

A warm ACEH welcome to new ACEH members **Martin** and **Marjorie Amon**, **Larry** and **Linda Den Uyl**, **Donald Martin**, **Linda Sievert**, **Lou** and **Mary Wagenveld**, and the **City of Holland Ourstreet Program/Sue Harder**.

Thank you to renewing members **Linda Brooks**, **Jack** and **Elsa Hyde**, **Tino** and **Lu Reyes**, and **Gerard Van Heest**.

Please join with these new and renewing members as we work together to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. ACEH dues are:

**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 is 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](http://www.harmonyalliance.org), click on "Join Us" and use the secure Pay Pal system. You may also join at any ACEH meeting or social event.

To find out if it's time to renew your membership, please contact database manager Herb Weller at [hpweller@comcast.net](mailto:hpweller@comcast.net) or 396-2201.

## ***Spring Dates Set for ACEH Programs***

Mark your calendar, put it in your smart phone or I-pad, or jot it down on a scrap of paper—however you keep track of things, here are some dates for you. Invite a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker!



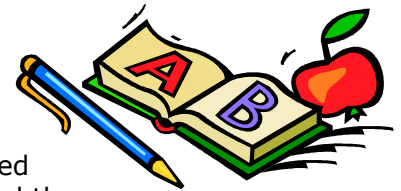
- **Friday, March 9, 7 pm: From Around the World: International Students at Hope College.** They will share their experiences in college and in this community. At Martha Miller Center, Columbia Avenue at 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Holland.
- **Friday, April 13, 7 pm: (Rescheduled from January) Passport to Vietnam.** Local Vietnamese interpreter Ngoc Mong Pham talks about her country of origin, its history, traditions, and culture. At Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut, Holland.
- **Friday, May 11, 7 pm: Hearts in Harmony.** Interactive program led by Rev. Angela Taylor Perry, who developed Hearts in Harmony as a way to create intentional relationships between people of different backgrounds. Location to be determined.

## LAUP Holds Hispanic Youth Conference February 14

More than 400 area students have signed up through their schools to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Hispanic Youth Leadership Conference organized by Latin American United for Progress (LAUP) on the campus of Hope College February 14. Keynote speakers are Angela G. Reyes, founder and executive director of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, and Ethriam Cash Brammer, associate director of the Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies at Wayne State University.

Students also will take part in workshops designed to help them set a positive course for their lives, including taking steps to get into and finance a college education, career exploration, and life skills such as managing time and money. The event includes a College Fair with representatives from many Michigan colleges and universities. Title sponsors for this year's conference are Herman Miller and Meijer.

## Dad Suggests Smarter Ways To Talk to Kids about Diversity



Writing recently for Huffington Post, David Valdes Greenwood reported with some dismay about how his daughter's kindergarten had handled the subject of diversity on Martin Luther King Jr Day, and he made these suggestions:

- **Don't wait till Martin Luther King Jr. Day to discuss diversity.** Halfway through the school year is hardly the time to discover the topic. Keying it to one month implies it is not an ongoing issue and keying it to this one specific day makes it inescapably linked to violence.
- **Don't use race as the sole definition of diversity.** Diversity of ethnicity, country of origin, socioeconomic status, family configuration, religious belief, physical status—there are a lot of points of entry reflecting the diverse lives of the children who make up a class. And with younger students, one approach is to begin even more simply, examining differences of any kind (house color, preferred breakfast cereal, kind of car) and talking about why those differences don't divide us. **(ACEH editor's note: It would be even better not to assume that all the children are in families that live in a house, eat cereal for breakfast, or own a car. Find other "differences" that don't depend so much on income.)**
- **Focus on the twin values of the civil rights movement: fairness and possibility.** By helping children focus on how they and their culture can be most fair, and **encouraging them to dream** about what actions they can take to better their world, you encourage active citizenship.
- **Model diversity when not talking about it.** From the names of children used in sample sentences to the characters who are featured in storybooks and activity sheets, you can make sure diversity becomes part of the fabric of learning—even (and especially) when diversity is not the topic.
- **Remember that diversity is not an "us" versus "them."** Teaching diversity is not about making some kids feel included while educating the rest about "others"; it's about finding language to acknowledge the real world as it already is and making all children feel at home in sharing it.

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To read the entire article, go to [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-valdes-greenwood/talking-to-kids-about-diversity\\_b\\_1193801.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-valdes-greenwood/talking-to-kids-about-diversity_b_1193801.html)

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*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds  
Apart*

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## Sign up Now for Holland First

Holland First, an 8-week program of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce, is open for applications to the Spring 2012 class until Friday, February 10. Classes start Tuesday, February 21, and run once a week from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. until April 17 (there is no class on April 3).

The goal of Holland First is to help people understand the community through the eyes of diversity. Guest speakers, breakout sessions, and discussions focus on local history, economic development and business, area resources, law enforcement, government, education, and art and culture, always keeping the cultural diversity of the community in mind.

Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, Holland First is free; participants must agree to attend all eight sessions. This year's program is sponsored by Chemical Bank and Blue Cross/Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan.

For information or to sign up, call the Holland Chamber at (616) 392-2389. The Chamber's website is [www.hollandchamber.org](http://www.hollandchamber.org)

Whether you are new to Holland, or an "old-timer," Holland First is a great way to get better acquainted or to gain a fresh perspective on the community.