

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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<i>Diversity, Unity, and Justice Are at the Heart of ACEH</i>	

A 501c3 organization

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Festivals Liven Up June in Grand Rapids and Holland

Saturday, June 10, 10 am to 9 pm:

Grand Rapids Asian Festival: First time ever for this event hosted by the West Michigan Asian Association at Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids. Showcases wide range of countries in Asia and explores experiences in contemporary Asian life in West Michigan. Music performances, traditional dances, participatory activities in yoga, tai chi, martial arts, paper folding, calligraphy. Food vendors with traditional dishes and Americanized fare; local and Asian beers.
www.Grasianfestival.com

Friday, June 23 – Sunday, June 25:

PRIDE: A weekend of events "to encourage pride in the LGBTQ+ community and to celebrate inclusion, diversity, and contributions made by LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies." Everyone is welcome. PRIDE starts with a **Friday** night Murder Mystery Dinner and silent auction (7-10 pm at Holland Area Arts Council; tickets \$50).

Saturday, June 24: Outdoor celebration (noon–4 pm at Window on the Waterfront) with music, kids' area; vendors; food; information booths, including **ACEH; Saturday** Sock Hop and silent auction (7:30-10:30 pm at Park Theatre; tickets \$10).

Sunday, June 25: Unity and Faith Gathering (noon-2:30 pm at Centennial Park) with Pastor Bryan Berghoef of Holland United Church of Christ; goodwill message; kids' craft area; refreshments; bring a picnic lunch and chairs/blankets for seating. www.hollandpride.org

Saturday, June 24, 10 am to 2 pm:

HerrickFest: Herrick District Library invites you to celebrate community and all things book at Kollen Park on the Lake Macatawa waterfront. Live music, book bike, face paint, henna tattoos, Critter Barn, therapy dogs, Gem & Mineral Club, farm to table demos, barrel rides, yoga, photo booth, **book giveaways, free ice cream & popcorn.** Food available for purchase. **ACEH will have an information and activity table.** www.herrickdl.org

NOTE: There will not be an ACEH general meeting in June; the next one is in July. Please check out the festivals listed above, and the list of upcoming ACEH events on Page 2 of this Newsletter.



Outstanding Women Receive Degrees

Denise Kingdom Grier, pastor of Maple Avenue Ministries in Holland, was awarded the doctorate degree at Western Theological Seminary on May 8^l. She is the first African American woman to receive this degree from Western Seminary.

Her doctoral dissertation focused on systems of apartheid that have been perpetuated in outreach efforts of the evangelical church, for which she proposed a different way: "Outreach to Embracing: A Johannine Model for Community Engagement." You can listen to a talk she gave about her thesis, work, life, faith, and community by clicking on the link below.

Many congratulations to the **Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier!**

<https://www.facebook.com/chris.c.grier/videos/10156217039193569/?fref=mentions>



Yadah Ramirez of Holland graduated from the University of Michigan in April with a degree in biopsychology, cognition, and neuroscience (BCN), religion, gender and health with a focus on public health policy and Latina/o Studies. She says "I want to work in the community that has invested so much in me, so that I can do the same for upcoming generations of students. I ultimately want to conduct biomedical research in a university-funded lab." Yadah was an active member of Mas Adelante youth program at Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) and is shown in this U-M graduation photo with Roberto Jara,

LAUP director. When they were students at Holland High School in 2011-13, Yadah and her sister, Jen, served as **ACEH** youth advisors. All best wishes to this accomplished young woman!

Looking Ahead: Save the Dates!

Tuesday, July 18: Joint meeting with ACEH and Upward Bound and other local students, plus community members. Everyone is welcome for a showing of the documentary film "13th" and interactive exercises with audience members. At Winants Auditorium, Graves Hall, College Ave at 11th St, Holland. In the evening; time to be determined.

Sunday, August 13, 1 pm: Annual ACEH Potluck in the Park. Fun, fellowship, food. Everyone is welcome. Park location will be announced soon.

Friday, November 10: ACEH will be part of Holland's Big Read events (Nov 1-17) again this year by hosting a discussion of "When the Emperor Was Divine" by Julie Otsuka, the story of one family's experience in a Japanese internment camp in World War II. Time: 7 pm; location to be determined. More information about the book is available at <http://www.neabigread.org/books/whentheemperowasdivine/readers-guide/>



Holland High Grad Awarded 2017 ACEH Scholarship

The **ACEH Scholarship** was established in 2013 to honor the late Rebecca "Becky" Arenas, an ACEH board member in 2005-09. This year's award went to **Vanessa Parra**, a graduate of Holland High School who took part in the Upward Bound program at Hope College. She's shown here with her parents Luis and Claudia and siblings Luis A. Jr., Melissa, and Julissa. **Marvin Younger**, ACEH president emeritus, presented the scholarship at the annual Upward Bound dinner in May. Vanessa plans to attend Grand Rapids Community College and later transfer to a four-year institution. Enjoying her work at Freedom Village has solidified her desire to pursue a degree in social work.



Liz Colburn, director of Upward Bound, said: "Becky Arenas was a strong advocate of education and a leader within the Holland community. Her daughter Maggi said that her mom would be honored to know that her passion for education continues to positively offer opportunities for the youth of Holland.... This year's recipient has demonstrated leadership skills among her peers, always offering insight and support when it is most needed. She has persevered even when it has not been easy to do so and looks forward to earning her degree in order to help others overcome life's obstacles and difficulties. This gift for helping others, along with the desire to make the world a better place for all to live in are the traits that characterized Becky's life."

Photo by Viola Cleveland Jackson



Please Support ACEH: Join or Renew

Thank you to **John and Mary Buttrey**, who have renewed their membership. We hope you will consider joining with the Buttreys and other individuals and organizations committed to social justice, appreciation for diversity, and making West Michigan a place where all are

welcomed and respected. The dues structure is:

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

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, at P. O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007. **The ACEH membership year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.** To pay by credit card, go to <http://www.harmonyalliance.org/join.html>, click on "Join Us" and use the Pay Pal system. You may also join at any ACEH event. If you are not sure if your membership is current, contact database manager Herb Weller at hpweller@comcast.net or 396-2201.

**THE ALLIANCE FOR
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ACEH – Alliance for Cultural
and Ethnic Harmony

*Bringing People
Together from Worlds Apart*

*Why do people say "I don't see color"?
Color-blindness is not the goal: Justice is*

"I do not believe that this country has ever been color blind, and frankly, I do not believe that it ever will be, but I also do not despair about that, because I do not see color blindness in and of itself as a goal. The question is not whether we see color or race or ethnicity. The question is, having seen it, how do we treat one another? This is not about blindness. It is about seeing and then doing justice." From an article in *Teaching Tolerance magazine*, by Theodore Shaw, formerly counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"Not seeing race does little to dismantle racist structures or improve the lives of people of colour. In order to do so, we must see race: who benefits from their race, who is affected by negative stereotyping of theirs, and on whom power and privilege is bestowed—not just because of their race, but also their class and gender. Seeing race is essential to changing the system." From "Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race," by Reni Eddo-Lodge.

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