

# 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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***Diversity, Unity, and Justice Are at the Heart of ACEH***

***A 501c3 organization  
Board of Directors***

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## ACEH & Upward Bound to View, Talk About Documentary "13th"

Together with the Hope College Upward Bound/TRIO Program, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) will show excerpts from the award-winning documentary "13<sup>th</sup>" on **Tuesday, July 18, at 6 pm in Winants Auditorium, Graves Hall** (College Ave at 11th St, Holland; accessible entrance and elevator at rear of building). Community members are invited to attend and take part in the program. Refreshments will be provided by Upward Bound.

The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the U.S." Following the documentary, ACEH president **C.J. Kingdom Grier** will lead interactive exercises and discussion with the Upward Bound students, ACEH members, and people from the community. **Liz Colburn** and **Andrea Mireles** head the Upward Bound program for high school students.

The title refers to the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which formally abolished slavery more than 150 years ago. An exception clause, however, states that slavery and involuntary servitude are illegal "except as a punishment for crime." That clause allowed the South to rebuild its economy through prison labor, as African Americans were arrested in large numbers, usually for minor crimes.

Directed by Ava DuVernay ("Selma") for Netflix, the critically acclaimed film has been called "a powerful look at how the modern-day prison labor system links to slavery," and includes current conversations about the criminal justice system and fatal police shootings of African Americans. The number of prisoners in the U.S. rose from fewer than 400,000 in 1970 to over 2.3 million in 2014.





## Potluck Party! Save the Date!

ACEH will hold its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Potluck in the Park on **Sunday, August 13, from 1 pm to 4 pm**. This year we'll be at the Kollen Park Band Shell for fun, fellowship, music, family activities—and great food.

ACEH provides beverages and table service. Please bring a generous dish to share from your cultural background, and lawn chairs or blankets for extra seating.

We can always use volunteers, before and during the event. If you would like to help with planning, set-up or clean-up, greeting people, or helping with activities for children of all ages, please email [aceh@harmonyalliance.org](mailto:aceh@harmonyalliance.org) or call 396-2201.

Kollen Park is located at 240 Kollen Park Drive along Lake Macatawa. The parking lot closest to the Band Shell is at the west end of 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

## News of Members

Holland City Manager **Ryan Cotton** has resigned from his position, effective June 30. He will continue as a consultant for the city for up to a year; he also plans to teach. He became city manager here in 2012, after holding a similar post in Spring Lake.

**Ryan** and his wife, **Karen**, have been positive supporters of ACEH through their membership and their participation in ACEH events. We thank them both, and wish them well in the future.

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Former ACEH Youth Adviser **Yadah Ramirez** has returned to Holland after her recent graduation from the University of Michigan and will serve as a full-time College Adviser at Holland High School for the 2017/2018 school year. She is a member of the U-M's College Advising Corps.

In high school, **Yadah** also was involved in the LAUP Adelante/Mas Adelante programs and with Destination Education's efforts "to move first-generation youth to completion of post-secondary degrees and credentials."

Congratulations, **Yadah!** We are grateful for your commitment to give back to the community.

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A pat on the back to ACEH folks who staffed our tables at the June 24 HerrickFest and PRIDE events: **Lori Joseph Shaw, Bobbie Brown, Belinda Coronado,** and **Bob and Joan Williams.** And to helpers **H. Bin Lim** and **Al Minert.**

**It's Summer in West Michigan:**  
*Take Time to Rest, Go to the Beach, Get Together with  
Friends and Family, Eat Some Ice Cream--*  
**AND** *Learn More about the History, Lives, and Experiences  
of Your Fellow Human Beings*

**The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, Big Rapids:**



Free and open to the public, this outstanding, nationally known museum uses "objects of intolerance to teach tolerance and promote social justice." It features six exhibit areas: Who and What is Jim Crow, Jim Crow Violence, Jim Crow and Anti-Black Imagery, Battling Jim Crow Imagery, Attacking Jim Crow Segregation, and Beyond Jim Crow. The Museum also offers a comprehensive timeline of the African American experience in the U.S.: Africa Before Slavery, Slavery in America, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Post Civil Rights. On the campus of Ferris State University, 1010 Campus Drive, Big Rapids. Group tours can be arranged.

Contact (231) 591-5873 or <https://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow> for more information.

**The Holland Museum: "Nuestra Comunidad Hispana"**

Come see this collection of over 40 portraits and stories from local Hispanics of various ages, careers, backgrounds. It celebrates "the community's diversity through the voices of Hispanic residents." [www.hollandmuseum.org](http://www.hollandmuseum.org) (616) 392-9084. At Holland Museum, 31 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St, Holland. (hours vary) #StoriesMW

**The Muskegon Museum of Art: North America Indians**

**"Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian."** The exhibit showcases Curtis' photographs and audio recordings that document the history of 80 Native American tribes. Dozens of events, lectures, and educational programs will be held in conjunction with the exhibit, which runs into September. (231) 726-2570. [www.muskegonartmuseum.org](http://www.muskegonartmuseum.org) At Muskegon Art Museum, 296 West Webster, Muskegon.

**"GR Walks" app:**

This is a brand-new, self-guided walking tour of **11 black historical landmarks** in downtown Grand Rapids. Download the free app to your smart phone at Google Play (search for GR Walks), follow its map, listen to the narration, and discover some things you probably didn't know about African Americans who lived and worked in Grand Rapids.

**NOTE:** Future issues of the ACEH Newsletter will include information about other sites like these in Michigan. If you have suggestions, please email them to [aceh@harmonyalliance.org](mailto:aceh@harmonyalliance.org)

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

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## ACEH Works for YOU: Please Join or Renew

A big thank-you to renewing members **George** and **Alice Ward** and **Hope Church**.

Please consider joining George and Alice, Hope Church, and the many other individuals and groups committed to justice, appreciation for diversity, and making West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. 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 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 Al Minert, c/o ACEH, at P. O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007.

To pay by credit card, please log onto our secure website at <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, please contact database manager Herb Weller at [hpweller@comcast.net](mailto:hpweller@comcast.net) or 396-2201.

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