

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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A 501c3 organization

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This year our favorite summer get-together—Potluck in the Park--will be held at Holland Township's beautiful Dunton Park Pavilion on the north side of Lake Macatawa, north of downtown Holland (290 Howard Ave). **The date is Sunday, August 11, from 1 pm to 4:30 pm.**

Everyone is invited to this event designed to encourage people to get to know others and celebrate our wonderful diversity! Please bring a dish to pass, maybe from your own family's background. ACEH will provide beverages, hot dogs and fixings, and table service.

The potluck is free, but donations will be accepted to help us expand the number of scholarships we can offer to graduating high school seniors.

Drew Pierce, director of Good Samaritan Ministries, will update us on the outlook for affordable housing, an issue the area struggles with and one that ACEH continues to advocate for. **(See more about Drew on Page 2.)**

We've invited two young women recently named to local leadership positions: **Robyn Afrik**, director of Ottawa County's new Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and **Yadah Ramirez**, program director for Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP), to tell us something about their plans.

During the afternoon, you'll find fun things to do for people of all ages—including clay art with Annie Olson and social justice activities with Lisa Van Engen—as well as bubbles, tattoos, and some surprises. Our popular "Tug of Peace" and musical tiles will be on hand for our 21st Potluck in the Park!

Bring your family; invite your friends, neighbors, coworkers, ... the more the merrier. Please especially invite anyone who might be new to town.

Good Sam's Leader to Speak at Potluck in Park



At ACEH's August 11 Potluck in the Park (see Page One), **Drew Peirce**, executive director of Good Samaritan Ministries in Holland, will share his thoughts on what's currently being done about **affordable housing**, what's anticipated, and what we as local folks can do to further the cause. Before he joined Good Sam, Peirce spent 15 years with Kids Hope USA, developing more than 1,000 church-school mentoring partnerships across the country. He's originally from Washington, DC, and has a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and a master of divinity from Western Theological Seminary. He's lived in the Holland area for over 20 years so, he says, "It's very much home for me and my wife and our three daughters."

News of Members: In his first run for public office, Rev. Bryan Berghoef, pastor of the Holland United Church of Christ, has announced he is a 2020 Democratic candidate for Michigan's 2nd District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, currently held by Rep. Bill Huizenga. Berghoef, 44, has been a leader in a number of social justice and peace issues. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Calvin Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Christy, have four children. Holland UCC is a nonprofit member of **ACEH**. Michigan's 2nd District includes Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Lake, and Newaygo counties as well as parts of Mason, Allegan, and Kent counties.

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Several **ACEH** members will hold leadership positions at HASP (Hope Academy of Senior Professionals) next year: **Barb Stegink**, vice president; committee chairs **Andree Keneau**, communications; **Sharon Arendshorst**, curriculum; **Carla VerSchure**, membership; and **Maura Reynolds**, service. **David Blatt** joins the board as a new member-at-large.

Dues Support ACEH Community Outreach, Advocacy



A warm welcome to new members Dawn Dotson and Larry and Marilyn Lynn!

Please consider joining with Dawn and the Lynns and others working together for justice, equal opportunity, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity in West Michigan. The dues are:

Individual: \$20.00 one year; \$35.00 two years.

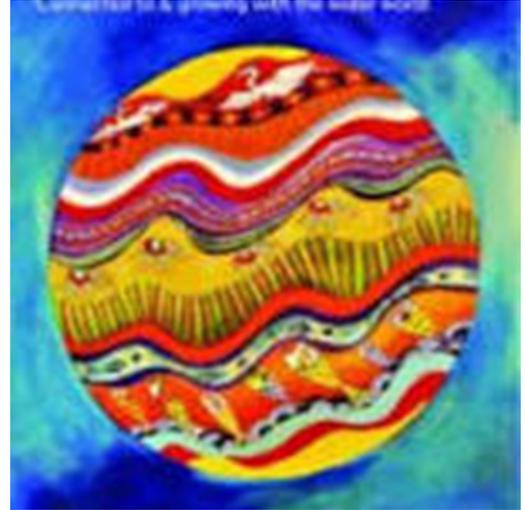
Family: \$30.00 one year; \$50.00 two years. Nonprofit: \$40.00 one year.

Business: \$75.00 one year. 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. The membership year runs **Oct. 1 to Sept. 30**. You may also join at any ACEH event. To find out if your membership is current, contact database manager Herb Weller at hpweller@comcast.net or 396-2201.

Plans Under Way for IRC 2019 International Festival

The City of Holland's International Relations Commission will host its first International Festival on Saturday, August 17, from noon into the evening at Civic Center Place, Pine Avenue between 8th and 9th Sts. (See related article, below.)

The event is free and family-friendly and will feature dancers, musicians, storytellers, and visual artists representing the peoples and cultures of Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia, as well as South, Central, and North America.



Among the main-stage performers will be the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Chinese Association of West Michigan, Samuel Nalangira, Compañeros Flamenco, Ballet Folklórico Sol Azteca, Taiko Drus, Surabhi Ensemble, and more. The children's stage, on the second floor, will include SPARK! Lab hosted by the Holland Museum, a Mancala competition, and a drumming workshop.

The Mercado/International Market, open 1 pm to 5 pm and possibly later, will feature international cuisine and a variety of international goods.

Holland artist Delaney Ann Prins created the festival's logo, seen above, "based on the diversity of our world," she says. "I look at colors and designs and find so many common elements across our world that weave together to make the world as we know it."

To see the Festival schedule and get updates, go to www.internationalfestivalholland.com



Kollen Park Fountain to be rededicated on August 17

Leading into the International Festival, at 11 am a ceremony rededicating this beautiful fountain from our sister city, Querétaro, Mexico, will take place at the park. The fountain, constructed by artisans from Mexico, was gifted to Holland in the spring of 1999. In turn, Holland donated children's playground equipment to Querétaro. At least 80 cross-cultural exchanges—tourists, musicians, health workers, educators, students, and more—have taken place between residents of the two cities.

**THE ALLIANCE FOR
CULTURAL AND
ETHNIC HARMONY**

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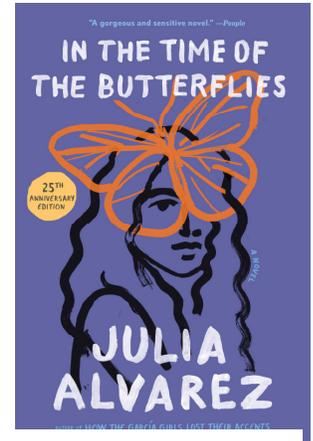
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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds Apart*

The Big Read: 2019

*“A novel is not, after
all, a historical
document, but a way
to travel through the
human heart.” —In
the Time of the
Butterflies *postscript**



Ready, Set, Read: This year’s Big Read Lakeshore is “In the Time of the Butterflies” by Julia Alvarez, “a historical account of courage, love and the human cost of political oppression.” First published 25 years ago, the paperback novel is in English and in Spanish. Middle-schoolers will read Alvarez’s title “Before We Were Free.” Both are set in the Dominican Republic during the time of dictator Rafael Trujillo. The Little Read Lakeshore book for children is “The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet,” by Carmen Agra Deedy.

Organized by Hope College and partners, the Big Read kicks off **Oct. 28, with some 25 community events in November, including keynote addresses by the authors.** ACEH will host a book discussion at the Holland Museum on Friday, Nov. 8.

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