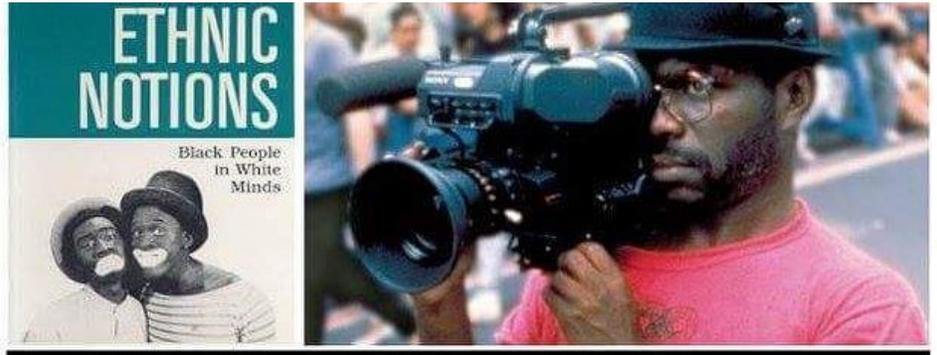


# The Alliance

*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**

#### **Board of Directors**

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Annette Manwell

Natalie Avila Martinez

Al Minert

Lori Joseph Shaw

**Past president: John Yelding**

**President emeritus: Marvin Younger**

**Board advisor: Al Serrano**

## ACEH February 8 Program: "Decapitating the Two-Headed Monster: Internalized Oppression and Implicit Bias"

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony invites you to join CJ and Denise Kingdom-Grier as they journey through portions of the film "Ethnic Notions," using racist memorabilia from their Black Americana collection—one of West Michigan's largest—to expose and illuminate internalized oppression and implicit bias.

This presentation will juxtapose early 20th century depictions of black people with true examples of blacks in America at the turn of that century. The Griers will invite listeners to examine how misrepresentation led to internalized oppression in African Americans and implicit bias toward African Americans in other ethnicities. Discussion will follow.

**The ACEH meeting is Friday, February 8, at 7 pm at Maple Avenue Ministries, 427 Maple Avenue, Holland. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.**

Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier is pastor of Maple Avenue Ministries. CJ Grier is associate director of admissions at Western Theological Seminary, director of the Hope College Gospel Choir, and president of ACEH.

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony was founded in Holland in 1999 to work for justice, equal opportunity, appreciation for diversity, and cross-cultural understanding. **(Please see Page 2 for information and your invitation to our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration March 16.)**



**YOU are warmly invited to  
the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ACEH  
Cultural Sharing Party  
and Potluck:  
"March into the Future."  
Saturday, March 16, 2019,  
5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Entertainment, silent auction, family activities,  
delicious foods, fun, and fellowship!**

**Please bring a dish to share, from your cultural background if possible. And donations of new goods and services to the auction are very much appreciated: gift cards, books, entertainment tickets, certificates for services, handmade crafts and clothing, sports equipment, etc.**

**To donate, please contact [apminerthm@att.net](mailto:apminerthm@att.net) or [editann@aol.com](mailto:editann@aol.com) by Feb 28, 2019.**

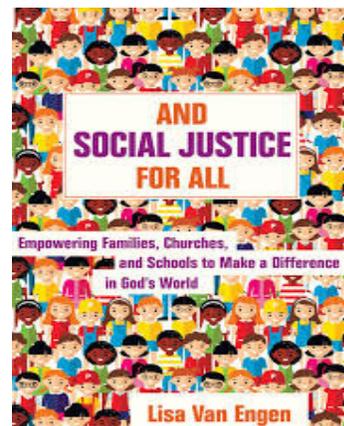


*Board members **Bin Lim** and **Annette Manwell** staff the **ACEH** table at the Holland Area Arts Council, following the January 19 Women's March that began at Kollen Park. Several social justice organizations warmly greeted the large group of walkers who came in from the cold. One of many such events around the country, the Holland March brought together some 400 people of many different backgrounds, to take a stand for women's rights, human rights, and our shared humanity.*

On Monday, Feb 25, local author and teacher Lisa Van Engen will hold a community launch party for her new book "And Social Justice for All: Empowering Families, Churches, and Schools to Make a Difference in God's World." The event will be 6:30 to 8 pm at Intersection Ministries, 136<sup>th</sup> Ave at Riley, Holland, with a scavenger hunt with nonprofits, photo booth, refreshments, and more. Her book includes conversation starters, age-tiered activities, organizations to invest in, and educational opportunities related to 14 social justice topics.

She previously hosted children's justice events in Kollen Park and kids' activities at an **ACEH** Potluck in the Park.

<https://www.facebook.com/aboutproximity?ref=bookmarks>



## Microsoft's Leap into Housing Illuminates Government's Retreat



Here's a link to an interesting article (*New York Times*, Jan 18, 2019) on Microsoft pledging \$500 million to address the issue of affordable housing in Seattle.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/18/upshot/microsoft-seattle-affordable-housing-plan.html>

And excerpts from the article:

...“Microsoft is trying to help fix a market failure—a job government typically does....**The government spent about three times as much on housing programs in the 1970s as it does today**, according to the National Low Income Housing coalition. Since then, the government has gotten out of the business of building public housing. And **capital funds to repair the remaining public housing stock have been cut in half over the last 15 years...**

“Over this time, federal resources have increasingly shifted away from subsidizing the construction of affordable housing to subsidizing renters who find housing in the private market. And now most new below-market-rate housing is built not by public agencies, but by nonprofit developers leveraging tax credits. And **the value of those credits has declined recently, as a result of changes in the tax bill passed in 2017.**” (Emphasis added)

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## County Moves Ahead on Racial Healing, Equity Initiatives

Last month, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners proclaimed January 22, 2019, as the National Day of Racial Healing for the county. Residents were urged to:

- Find ways to reinforce and honor our common humanity and create space to celebrate the distinct differences that make our communities vibrant;
- Acknowledge that there are still deep racial divisions in American that must be overcome and healed; and
- Engage people from all racial, ethnic, religious, and identity groups in genuine efforts to increase understanding, communication, caring, and respect for one another.



Ottawa County  
*Where You Belong.*

County administrator Al Vandenberg said, “Ottawa County is committed to ensuring all people feel welcome to live, work, and visit here.” The county’s Cultural Intelligence Initiative began in 2012 and “progress has been made through training, participating in community events with a variety of diverse groups, and through the efforts of the Cultural Intelligence Team.” The county’s recently created Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will be implemented this year.

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## City Presents Social Justice Awards to CWIT, Local Student

On January 16, Holland’s Human Relations Commission presented its 2018 Social Justice Award to the Center for Women in Transition’s Coaching Boys into Men program. The Youth Social Justice Award winner, chosen by the Holland Youth Advisory Council, was Kyla McCallum, a senior at Holland Christian High School.

CWIT’s program, led by Seth Mika, “seeks to engage men and boys as leaders and allies in promoting healthy relationships as a means of preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.” Kyla McCallum was involved in many justice efforts in the community and helped form a Social Justice Awareness organization at Holland Christian.

**THE ALLIANCE FOR  
CULTURAL AND  
ETHNIC HARMONY**

Box 3007  
Holland, MI 49422-3007

PHONE: (616) 886-4758  
(616) 396-2201

E-MAIL:  
[aceh@harmonyalliance.org](mailto:aceh@harmonyalliance.org)

WEB ADDRESS:  
[www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org)

FACEBOOK:  
Look under Groups:  
ACEH – Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony

*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds Apart*



**Welcome!** to new members **Amy Devanney** and **Lyn Raymond** and **Larry Helder**. **Thanks!** to renewing member **Jane Cronkite**. And **much appreciation** to the folks who made donations to ACEH on Facebook via the Network for Good, during December 2018.

Please consider joining with these community members who are committed to social justice and making West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. The dues are:

**Individual: \$20 one year; \$35 two years**  
**Couple or Family: \$30 one year; \$50 two years**  
**Nonprofit organization: \$40 one year.**  
**Business: \$75 one year.**

In lieu of, or in addition to, paying dues, you may make 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 online, go to [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org) and follow the membership prompts. You may also join at any ACEH event. If you are not sure if your membership is current, contact database manager at [hpweller@comcast.net](mailto:hpweller@comcast.net) or 396-2201.

The Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony  
Box 3007  
Holland, MI 49422-3007

