

# 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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## ACEH, Upward Bound Students Meet July 16, Then Attend LWV Forum For Three City Council Candidates

On **Tuesday, July 16, at 6 pm**, ACEH will join with the students of the Hope College Upward Bound program to hear **Dr. Fred Johnson**, associate professor of history, speak about "Making Your Vote Count"—an overview of the election process, the role of City Council members, and how to become informed about candidates running for office. A time for Q&A will follow.

This will be at Graves Hall, Hope College, 263 College Ave (the building with the anchor in front of it), Holland. Everyone is welcome.

**At 6:45 pm**, audience members will move to Holland City Hall (270 South River Ave) for a City Council candidate forum **at 7 pm**, hosted by Holland area League of Women Voters.

Three candidates are vying for an at-large seat on Holland's City Council this year: **Vicki-Lynn Holmes, Wayne Klomprens,** and **Lyn Raymond.**

(All registered voters living within the Holland city limits can vote for one of the three at-large candidates in the August 6, 2019, primary election. If one of the candidates receives more than 50 percent of the vote, that person wins the seat outright, and there will be no contest on the November 3 ballot.)

--**Vicki-Lynn Holmes** is an associate professor of mathematics and education at Hope College and holds doctorates in mathematics and religion. She serves on the Holland Human Relations Commission and has worked with several local nonprofit organizations.

--**Wayne Klomprens** has held an at-large seat on the City Council since 2011. He taught in Holland Public Schools for 36 years and is currently a member of the Holland Human Relations Commission and the Sustainability Committee.

--**Lyn Raymond** is director of Lakeshore Housing Alliance at Greater Ottawa County United Way, chair of the city's Neighborhood Improvement Committee, and a member of the city's Planning Commission. Her degree from Hope College focused on psychology, education, and Spanish.

## Here's How to Help Support ACEH in the Community

A warm ACEH welcome to new members **Anna Slenk** and **Andres Castro** and their children, **Levi, Oliver,** and **Wesley Castro-Slenk**. Please consider joining with the Castro-Slenk family and others working together for justice, equal opportunity, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity in West Michigan.



The dues are: **Individual: \$20 one year; \$35 two years. Family: \$30 one year; \$50 two years. Nonprofit: \$40 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. The ACEH membership year runs from **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](mailto:hpweller@comcast.net) or 396-2201.

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### News of Members

Congratulations to **Yadah Ramirez**, recently named programs director of Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP)! A graduate of Holland High School and the University of Michigan, she has worked for two years as a college advisor for Holland High. In high school, she was part of LAUP's Mas Adelante youth program and served for two years as an **ACEH** youth advisor along with her sister, Jen.

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**Ralph Kickert** of Holland died June 14 at the age of 77. He was a pioneer in social justice programs here, serving as the first full-time director of Good Samaritan Ministries and the first director of Community Action House; he was a long-time member of the Holland Human Relations Commission. Mr. Kickert worked for 32 years as chief probation officer of the Holland District Court, "where he strove to treat the people in his care with fairness and dignity." He and his wife, **Ruby**, have been volunteers at several ACEH events. Our sincere sympathy to Ruby, their son, daughter, granddaughter, and extended family.

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### Community Mourns Loss of Jeannette Schipper

Jeannette Ramos Schipper, a candidate for Michigan's 30th District State Senate seat in 2018, and the administrative assistant in Western Theological Seminary's admissions office, passed away very unexpectedly June 20, 2019, at age 42. She was a strong advocate for social justice in many areas of the community, and will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew and admired her for her character, resourcefulness, and determination. *This photograph was taken at the ACEH Potluck in the Park, August 2018.*



## Upward Bound Youth Win ACEH Scholarships

For several years, **ACEH** has funded the **Becky Arenas Scholarship** for a student in the TRIO Upward Bound program at Hope College, honoring a former ACEH board member who during her lifetime was a passionate advocate for education and for social justice.

This year, we were able to add a second award! **The ACEH Scholarship** was funded by money raised in the very successful annual ACEH silent auction and by generous donations from members and friends. The presentations were made in May at the Upward Bound banquet by ACEH president **C.J. Kingdom Grier**; ACEH president emeritus and Upward Bound teacher **Marvin Younger** also attended. Grier was an Upward Bound student at Grand Valley, and a UB teacher at Shaw University in North Carolina.

TRIO Upward Bound works with high school students from first-generation college and low-income families, helping them with motivation and academic skills to complete high school, enroll in a higher education program of their choice, and explore careers.

**The Becky Arenas Scholarship** was awarded to [Jessica Mendoza](#) of Fennville High School. Jessica is an Early College student, which means she's already taken classes through Lake Michigan College and will finish her "13<sup>th</sup> year" with an associate's degree. She plans to transfer to Ferris State University to pursue her dream of becoming an eye doctor. Through Upward Bound this year she had an internship at an eye doctor's office, and loved it. Her parents always told her she was "the future of the people," and as a result she has known since she was a young child that she wanted to help people. Congratulations, Jessica!

**The ACEH Scholarship** was presented to [Deven Calanchi](#) of West Ottawa High School; he will attend Grand Valley State University to pursue his goal of becoming a nurse. Deven did not think college was in his future until his freshman year in high school. Once he determined that he wanted to be the first in his family to graduate from college and be a role model for the younger members of his extended family, he decided that the first step to changing his path was to enroll in TRIO Upward Bound. Since then, he has never looked back. He describes the program's trip to Puerto Rico as the culminating experience of his time at Upward Bound because, he says, he was "able to walk in someone else's shoes."

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**Ottawa County has hired Robyn Afrik as its first-ever Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director.** She has more than 10 years' experience in similar work, most recently for Meijer, Inc., with government agencies, faith-based institutions, universities, and nonprofit organizations to develop strategic plans, promote inclusive leadership, and facilitate workshops on cultural competencies. The DEI office will lead development of an equity plan "for the entire range of human differences—identifying implicit bias in internal policies, procedures, and practices and in external service delivery." The county intends to extend assistance to local units of government that want to tackle similar objectives. Afrik said: "*When I think of Ottawa County can be in the next 10 to 15 years, I envision a community that honors its rich heritage while embracing the growing diversity of cultures that choose to make the county their home—a welcoming place where citizens of all backgrounds thrive, prosper, and contribute to improving life for us all.*" **Welcome, Robyn!**

**THE ALLIANCE FOR  
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Look under Groups:  
ACEH – Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony

*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds Apart*

The Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony  
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**Save the Date: ACEH Potluck in the  
Park will be Sunday, August 11**

Put it in your phone or tablet, mark your calendar, write yourself a sticky note—whatever you do to keep track of your life, please add Sunday, August 11, to your list. We'll meet at Dunton Park just south of Douglas/Ottawa Beach Road, 1 pm to 4:30 pm.

What to bring? A dish to share from your family's heritage and a lawn chair or two for extra seating. ACEH provides hot dogs, beverages, and table service.

There'll be activities and games for kids of all ages (Tug of Peace, musical tiles, bubbles, tattoos, a piñata, and more). Invite family, friends, new folks in town—let's build a community that cares about each other and welcomes everyone!

Can you lend a hand for the planning and/or for the afternoon of the potluck? Please contact Viola Jackson-Cleveland at [viackson25@gmail.com](mailto:viackson25@gmail.com) or call her at (616) 405-1832.