

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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It's Party Time! Come celebrate the ACEH 20th anniversary with fun, food, fellowship, and a silent auction. PLUS: Entertainer Lori Teft and her Interactive Celebration & Dance

It's almost time! Time for what? Time to be part of the ACEH 20th anniversary celebration with your family and friends. Invite a newcomer to Holland to come along with you.

The ACEH Cultural Sharing and Potluck Party "March into the Future" will run from 5 pm Saturday, March 16, until 8:30 pm at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 57 West 10th St, Holland. Please bring a dish to share from your family's background, and a nonperishable item for a local food bank.

Besides delicious foods, you'll find special activities for kids and a **silent auction of goods and services**, which raises funds for a scholarship, programs, partnerships, and publications.

Donations include tickets to movies, concerts, and summer theater productions; gift cards to restaurants, coffee cafes, food vendors, and specialty shops; certificates for the Local First Fork Fest, overnight stays in area inns, a wine tasting, hair styling and makeup, and massages; arrangements for themed dinners—and much, much more!

A highlight of the party will be **entertainer Lori Teft of Grand Rapids** and her interactive, totally fun **Celebration & Dance** presentation with music to get everyone up and moving—from the youngest toddler to the oldest retiree.

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) was founded in Holland in 1999 to work for justice, equal opportunity, appreciation for diversity, and cross-cultural understanding. It is a grass-roots, membership organization that seeks to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected.

ACEH to talk about "microaggressions" April 12



What are microaggressions? How do we recognize them? Are they really a big deal? What can be done about them? At the next **ACEH meeting on Friday, April 12, at 7 pm**, you'll hear some answers, and together we will talk about ways to respond when you see or hear microaggressions. (Venue for the meeting will be announced in the next newsletter.) **Alan Headbloom** of Grand Rapids, a specialist in cross-cultural communications and creator of "Feel Like You Belong," a web portal and TV show, will be the presenter of "**Microaggressions: When Our Biases Show Up in the Community.**"

The Alliance Welcomes New Members to the Organization

A warm welcome to new members **Paul Belloni** and **John White, Patricia Denner, and Dr. Vickie-Lynn Holmes.**

Please consider joining with these community members who are committed to social justice and to 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 and follow the membership prompts. 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 or 396-2201.

News of Members

Lyn Raymond has announced her candidacy for an at-large seat on Holland City Council. She is director of the Lakeshore Housing Alliance at Greater Ottawa County United Way, chair of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee, and a member of the City of Holland Planning Commission. Her degree from Hope College focused on psychology, education, and Spanish. If needed, a primary election for city posts will be held August 6; the general election is November 5.

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Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Sandra Eaton**, who died February 11 at age 69. She had worked at Windmill Restaurant and Holland Rescue Mission. Sandy's health kept her from active participation in ACEH but she was always an interested supporter. She is survived by two sons and their families of Grand Rapids; close friends from First United Methodist Church of Holland were "like family" in their care for Sandy over the years.

City Council Hears News of Proposed Housing Development at Waverly Rd. and 24th Street

By Annette Manwell, ACEH Board Member

The concept for a housing development at the southeast corner of Waverly Road and 24th Street in the city of Holland is exciting, but what made the February 13 Holland City Council study session notable was that the proposal appears to have the blessing of the council at this point.



The study session was twofold: Housing Next Director Ryan Kilpatrick described the plan in detail, after which the council considered a scoring guide with predetermined criteria that city staff would use to evaluate future housing proposals. (The *Holland Sentinel* covered this aspect of the meeting.)

Three Sections: The proposed development, a mix of affordable and market-rate units, has three sections. The first, at the southeast corner of the intersection, would have four buildings around a center parking lot; they would house small-scale businesses that promote community such as a coffee shop, deli, bakery, and yoga studio, with apartments above and mixed in. The second section, east of the first, has a mix of apartments and townhomes with community green space and a playground. The third section, also built around green space, would have modest-size, single-family homes for smaller families or adults without children.

Much of the development would be buffered by raised gardens and fruit trees, again promoting community and smart use of the space. A walkway would connect it to a day care center already adjacent to the property. Existing roads, including Hope Avenue from 16th Street, would be extended. Residents would be within walking distance of the south entrance to Van Raalte Farm Park, Aldi, Meijer, and many other businesses.

Transportation and employment: Additionally, the development would be on the Max bus route and only one to two miles from Holland's industrial area and many major employers. It would also be a neighbor to another proposed development, east of Meijer. Both would add density to Holland Heights, but neither the council nor the Planning Commission was concerned about that.

"Ryan (Kilpatrick), your concept is spot on," said First Ward Councilman Myron Trethewey, who represents the Heights area on council. He added the design was "taking away my fears," referring to what, in the past, has been his staunch opposition to multi-unit housing. "Being a member of the Heights, well done," he said.

Fourth Ward Councilman Brian Lynn asserted that green space within the development wasn't the best use of the space, since one of the city's largest parks is nearby. However, his view was countered by others in the room who said it was a smart idea to have children able to play together within the common outdoor areas of the housing development, where parents and neighbors are on site and watching. Lynn then called the design--with green space next to such a park--a luxury that didn't speak to affordability.

The same problem remains for those waiting for affordable housing, though. This idea is a concept. At best, it would be three to five years before completion.

Tues, March 5, 6:30 pm: "Quality of Life: The Affordable Community." A public program by Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore to address "how housing issues affect us and our neighbors." Panelists are Ryan Kilpatrick of Housing Next; Laura Driscoll, Good Samaritan's director of housing services; Angela Maxwell of Community Action House; and Chad Frederick, Grand Valley State University geography department faculty. The free program will be at Herrick District Library auditorium, 300 South River, Holland.

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*Bringing People
Together from Worlds Apart*

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**Interfaith Allies to
Host Gathering
For Community on
March 25**

Interfaith Allies of the Holland area invite people to come to the organization's Interfaith Community Gathering on Monday, March 25, at 6:30 pm at Herrick District Library, Lower Level, 300 South River Avenue, Holland.

They say, "Come to connect and enjoy conversation with people from various traditions and world views. Refreshments of sweet and savory appetizers and desserts will be served.

"Everyone is welcome and the event is free."

