

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 hosts BIG READ discussion Friday, Nov. 8, at Holland Museum

ACEH will host a community discussion of this year's Big Read book on Friday, Nov 8, at 7 pm at the Holland Museum, 31 West 10th Street. Everyone is welcome. Hope associate professor and former Hamilton High School teacher **Bill Moreau** will be the facilitator.

"In the Time of the Butterflies," by Julia Alvarez, is the fictional story of four real persons, the Mirabal sisters of the Dominican Republic. In 1960, three of the sisters—known as *mariposas*, or butterflies-- members of the underground movement opposing the regime of the dictator Rafael Trujillo, were ambushed on a lonely mountain road and assassinated.

Born in New York City and raised in the Dominican Republic, Alvarez is a noted author, poet, and essayist who rose to prominence with the novel "How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents," followed by "In the Time of the Butterflies." She will speak at the Jack H. Miller Center at Hope College on Tuesday, November 12, at 7 pm.

The full schedule of Big Read events is at www.hope.edu/bigread: book discussions, art and photography, workshops, family programs, and much more. There also are little Read programs for elementary children and for middle-school youth www.hope.edu/littleread



"The butterflies are not 'naturally' brave, but are ordinary women who made the choice to be brave."

People Speak Up at Housing Rally



On a chilly evening at Centennial Park October 25, some 60 people turned out for the ACEH Right to Housing



Rally/No More Tents to advocate for affordable housing and housing choices. We put up tents and signs as visual reminders, and ACEH board member **Viola Jackson-Cleveland** (l. above) told of being homeless in her early years in Chicago and difficulties finding a home for her family here after her husband died in 2018. She offered the mic to people in the park and, one by one, singles and families began to speak up—telling of the stress they face with rising rents, few choices, and overcrowding.



Lakeshore Housing Alliance director Lyn Raymond shared LHA's continuing commitment to preventing homelessness and providing services.

As the event wound down, we mingled with each other, talked about the stories people offered, provided a list of housing resources, and shared cookies and cups of hot cocoa. ACEH intends to keep the affordable housing crisis front and center in the community in the months ahead. Thanks to First United Methodist Church, Hope Church RCA, Maple Avenue Ministries, Grace Episcopal, and First Presbyterian for support. **No one should have to live in a tent or a car—ever.** (Also see Page 4: Housing Matters)

Thanks to New, Renewing Members

A warm welcome to new members **Arika, Chris, and Zeke Theule-Van Dam; Angela Matsuiak and Matt Slack; and Debra Sikanas and Russell Redford.**

And thank you to renewing members **John and Mary Buttrey, Linda DenUyl, Dean and Mary De Ridder, and Bob and Joan Williams.** Our appreciation to **First United Methodist Church** and **First Presbyterian Church** for donations to the Right to Housing Rally, and to Debra Sikanas and Russell Redford for a generous contribution to the work of ACEH.



Please consider joining ACEH as we work together to make West Michigan a place where all are welcomed and respected. Your support lets us continue our outreach, programs, publications, advocacy, scholarships, and two social gatherings where people of all cultures can come together.

The ACEH dues structure is: **Individual: \$20 one year; \$35 two years; Couple/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 should be made out to ACEH and sent to Treasurer Al Minert, c/o ACEH, Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007. To pay online, go to www.harmonyalliance.org and follow the prompts. To check if your membership is current, contact Herb Weller at hpweller@comcast.net

Holland Museum Opens Exhibit from Jim Crow Museum, Offers Community Programs



THEM: Images of Separation

November 15 - February 22

THEM is a traveling exhibit from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, that showcases items from popular culture used to stereotype groups of people. Through six three-dimensional and 32 framed pieces, **THEM** tackles “contentious, hot-button cultural issues: anti-Arab sentiment, Holocaust denial, ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ and immigration,” as well as items demeaning to African Americans.

Holland Museum Executive Director Ricki Levine said, “We feel it is important to bring this exhibit to West Michigan. As a cultural leader in the community, the museum has an opportunity and a responsibility to bring awareness to social justice issues, including racism, and we have the space to have meaningful discussions about these issues. We ask people to explore this exhibit and programs with an open mind and heart.” There will be free programs for children, families, and adults during the exhibit, which will run from November 15, 2019, to February 22, 2020. For a schedule, go to www.hollandmuseum.org The museum is located at 31 West 10th Street in Holland.

Exhibit sponsors are DeNooyer Chevrolet, HermanMiller Cares, MiHumanities, The Meijer Foundation, Milagro Six, Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital, and David and Carol Myers. Resources from community organizations, including **ACEH**, will be available to visitors.

Ottawa County and City of Holland Host Diversity Forum

The 4th annual Diversity Forum, sponsored by the county and the city, will take place **Friday, Nov 15, from 8 am to 4 pm at the Holland Civic Center**. Its focus is “to create a collaborative network and open source sharing among public servants working in cities, townships, and county institutions”; employees and members of public boards and commissions also are invited.

Journeys to Equity in Public Service will showcase speakers on best practices in equity and inclusion, what inclusive leadership looks like, importance of pursuing equity and inclusion in government, how DEI operates for front-line employees to executive leaders and elected officials, and education and advocacy on core DEI topics.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Mira Krishnan, a neuropsychiatrist from the Grand Rapids area, who will share her story as a healthcare provider in West Michigan who came out as transgender. She will talk about challenges faced by the LGBTQ community, including risk of violence, homelessness of youth, and impacts of minority stress on mental and physical health. **Registration is \$40**, at www.miottawa.org



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HOUSING Matters

HELP END HOMELESSNESS IN OTTAWA COUNTY

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, and the week before Thanksgiving is known as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Locally, four organizations have teamed up with free programs and events for all ages around the topic "Housing Matters": films and a book discussion, an art exhibit, story times, a "how can we help" event for tweens and teens, and a housing resource fair.

Find more info and a schedule at
<https://www.ottawaunitedway.org/local-organizations-collaborate-raise-awareness-about-homelessness>

Hosting these are Greater Ottawa County United Way's Lakeshore Housing Alliance, Holland Area Arts Council, Herrick District Library, and Loutit District Library (Grand Haven). Sponsors include West Michigan Lakeshore Association of Realtors, Grand Haven Eagles, Elzinga & Volkers, and the Holland Human Relations Commission.

