

# 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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*Diversity, Unity, and Justice Are at the Heart of ACEH*

### A 501c3 organization

#### Board of Directors

Bobbie Brown

Belinda Coronado

Chris C.J. Kingdom Grier

Viola Jackson-Cleveland

H. Bin Lim

Eleanor Lopez

Kim Lillibridge Ludwig

Al Minert

Lori Joseph Shaw

Past president: John Yelding

President emeritus: Marvin Younger

Board advisor: Al Serrano

## **What Time Is It? It's Time for a Party!**

**The Alliance for Cultural & Ethnic Harmony invites you to its  
19th annual Potluck in the Park:**

**Sunday, August 13, 1 pm to 4 pm  
at the Kollen Park Band Shell at  
Lake Macatawa, Holland**

**Please bring a generous dish to share  
from your cultural background,  
and lawn chairs/blankets for extra seating.  
ACEH provides beverages and table service.**

**Family activities, music, piñata,  
fun, fellowship, and fabulous food!**

**Meet new folks in our community  
and widen the network of people  
who care about diversity,  
inclusion, and social justice.**

**Let's be a place where all are  
welcomed and respected.**

**Please also see Page 4**





## Members on the **move**™

ACEH board member **Viola Jackson Cleveland** is the new volunteer enrichment coordinator for The Commons of Evergreen in Holland. She formerly was life enrichment coordinator at Appledorn.

Former ACEH secretary and board member **Rev. Kenita Harris** has been accepted into the Master's of Community Development program at the University of Detroit, concentrating on economic and organizational development. She serves as minister of social engagement at Detroit Bible Tabernacle and is a manager at Jefferson East, Inc., which works to grow Detroit's East Jefferson corridor and neighborhoods "through facilitative leadership, collaborative partnerships, and innovative and impactful programming."

**Rev. Angela Taylor-Perry** and her husband, Ray, are moving from Kalamazoo to Texas, where they have many family members. Rev. Angela served as vice president of ACEH for several years and incorporated her purposeful Hearts in Harmony relationship-building program into the work of ACEH. In Holland, she was a minister at Faith Christian Reformed Church.

Former board member **Anitha Prasad** is now living in Seattle, where she is a lead teacher at a Montessori preschool, a school attended by her twin grandchildren. Many here will remember her creative activities for youngsters at local festivals where ACEH was a partner.

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A big thank-you to former board member **Pat Bradford**, who did the design and layout of the new ACEH brochure. We appreciate you and your work! Pat served as board secretary for several years.

## *Leadership changes at LEDA*

**Gail Harrison**, founder and executive director of the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA), retired in July after leading the organization for 21 years. Her successor will be **Latoya Booker**,



who has been a member of the LEDA board and director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.

LEDA Board Chairperson Zahabia Ahmed-USmani said: "Ms. Booker has shown her dedication to diversity and inclusion in every facet of her life. We are confident she has the heart, passion, skill set, and potential to lead the organization into the future."



Founded in Grand Haven in 1996, in the aftermath of a cross-burning at a local pastor's home, LEDA is now housed in the Macatawa Resource Center, Holland Township, and operates throughout West Michigan and beyond. Its aim is to dismantle barriers to ensure that "people of all ethnic backgrounds have equal access to participate fully in the life of the community." Its programs include the Summit on Race and Inclusion, workshops and seminars, Calling All Colors, Migrant Mentoring, Spanish language classes, and consultations for businesses, schools, nonprofits, and religious entities.

The ACEH board expresses appreciation to Gail for her years of leadership for racial equity and offers a warm welcome to Latoya. Gail will be recognized at the Alliance Potluck in the Park on August 13.

## ACEH, Upward Bound Partner on “13th” Documentary and Discussion of Schools, Discipline, & Action Steps



Tuesday, July 18, found dozens of Upward Bound students and some community members together in Graves Hall, Hope College, to view excerpts from the award-winning documentary “13th” – followed by exercises to illustrate students’ views of schools, discipline, fairness, and action. “13th” shows the history and current status of the School-to-Prison Pipeline, in which some schools become virtually militarized, with zero tolerance for infractions, with disciplinary actions that fall more often and more harshly on students of color. Students talked about what they could do to improve the system and also were given these ideas:

### **ACTION PLAN: DO SOMETHING**

- Read the school’s student handbook to learn more about the discipline policy and critically analyze how it does or does not contribute to the School-to-Prison Pipeline.
- Write a letter to the school or community newspaper about your position on the School-to-Prison Pipeline.
- Make an infographic on some of the facts you learned about the School-to-Prison Pipeline and share with others.
- Interview your friends and classmates and make a video of their responses to questions you pose about the School-to-Prison Pipeline.
- Create a survey about the School-to-Prison Pipeline for students, parents and school staff. Compile and distribute the results.
- Organize a forum on the School-to-Prison Pipeline to take place in school or the community.
- Research your state’s school disciplinary rates and analyze them for disproportionality for students of color, disabled students and LGBTQ students.
- Research your state’s laws on school discipline. Write an essay or create a chart that responds to the following questions: Are there any laws that criminalize behavior in school? Are there laws about when schools must, can or cannot suspend or expel students? Are there any state laws that dictate what kind of school discipline policies each school must create? If so, what are they?
- Use social media channels to share information with others, share your point of view and encourage activism.

**[A reading list about these ideas is on the ACEH website: www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org)**

### **Upward Bound Director Liz Colburn sent this note to ACEH:**

*“During our staff meeting yesterday, the teachers said their students told them that they really liked the documentary and CJ’s (ACEH president C.J. Kingdom Grier) discussion. They said that the documentary pointed some things out that they had never thought of before and that it was an eye-opening experience. Thank you for providing this opportunity for the UB students!”*

**THE ALLIANCE FOR  
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ACEH – Alliance for Cultural  
and Ethnic Harmony

*Bringing People  
Together from Worlds Apart*

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and Ethnic Harmony  
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**Can You Lend a Hand at the ACEH  
annual Potluck Party August 13?**

We can always use volunteers, before and during this event at the Kollen Park Band Shell. If you would like to help with planning, set-up or clean-up, greeting people, or helping with activities for children of all ages, please email [aceh@harmonyalliance.org](mailto:aceh@harmonyalliance.org) or call 396-2201.

Kollen Park is located at 240 Kollen Park Drive along Lake Macatawa. The parking lot closest to the Band Shell is at the west end of 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Holland.

