

? The 9th Annual “World on the Square” Family Festival in Corydon Highlights Cultural Diversity in Southern Indiana.

Enjoy international exhibits, see cultural performers, and sample ethnic foods at the ninth annual “World on the Square” Festival on Saturday, August 9 from 4-8p.m. on the historic town square in Corydon, Indiana.

This free annual family-oriented festival highlights the diverse heritage of the Kentuckiana region, which historically includes not only settlers from many European countries, but also the Native American and African American presence. The festival also feature the arrival of Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico and the rest of Central and South America, and newcomers from the Middle East and Far East.

“World on the Square” is hosted each year by Community Unity, a community group that promotes respect and dignity for all people, the broadening of understanding among different population groups, and the peaceful resolution of conflict. The festival is free and sponsored by the Harrison County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Horseshoe Southern Indiana, The Arts Council of Souther Indiana, Youth Philanthropy of Indiana, and many other businesses and citizens of Harrison County.

“When I moved from Lanesville to Indiana University in Bloomington in the early 1970's, I entered into a multi-cultural environment that was overwhelming at first,” said Allen Lopp, one of this year’s festival co-chairs. “I had classmates, professors, and fellow dormitory residents from all over the world. All major universities are like that today, and moving to a large city, like when i moved to Los Angeles, is a similar experience.

Young people need to prepare themselves to operate in a world that often does not have the cultural ‘look-and-feel’ of Harrison County. This festival plays a very important role in that learning process.”

Exhibit booths will represent over 30 nations and cultures, and live entertainment will feature music and dancers from all over the world, such as Anthony Redfeather Nava and the Raqia Belly Dancers. Children receive a festival “passport” which they can take to the many international exhibits, collecting answers to questions that will then earn them a prize. They can also participate in international games and art projects. This year’s art project will be making African masks.

In case of unfavorable weather, the festival will be held at the Corydon Central High School, south of downtown Corydon. For more information and directions to the festival, please visit www.worldonthesquare.org or call Beth Bell, Publicity Chair, at 812-952-3237