

First Annual  
*Celebration*  
*of*  
Suburban Diversity



Cover Image: Horizons, 2008, Milt Masur, bas relief/collage, overpainted with oil, on panel.  
From the Collection of Embracing Our Differences, Long Island: A Project of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc.

The National Center for  
Suburban Studies  
at  
Hofstra University®

Thursday, October 22, 2009





**CELEBRATES**

**MARGARET ABRAHAM**

**DON DREYER**

**RABBI BRUCE GINSBURG**

**MONSIGNOR THOMAS HARTMAN**

**DR. FAROQUE AHMAD KHAN**

**DAVID KILMNICK**

**NADIA MARIN-MOLINA**

**LAWRENCE MULVEY**

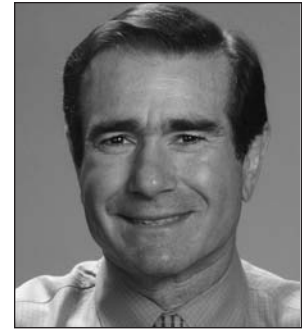
**REVEREND REGINALD TUGGLE**

**AND LONG ISLAND'S**

**WEALTH OF DIVERSITY!**



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

Welcome! On behalf of the *Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009* Committee and the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University - on behalf of everyone who believes that diversity is essential to our social and economic survival - welcome to a unique night of artistry, honors and ideas.

The two of us come from different cultures, but the Celebration started in our hearts with a shared idea - to "walk the talk" at the "Diverse Suburb" conference to which this banquet is connected. We'd hoped to do this by bringing together the racial, ethnic, religious and other groups literally changing the face of Long Island. And so we have: Just look around you at the new suburbia.

We found the community's enthusiasm for "celebrating" diversity to be so strong that we were able not only to cover our costs but to generate funds for scholarships and research into diversity-related issues. We were thrilled to find sponsors for the High School Diversity Essay Writing Contest and for academic studies of the new immigrants transforming suburbia. And with your generous support, we hope to hold this event for years to come.

Our stellar group of co-chairs have helped enormously. We are especially grateful to Robert Catell, who was the first Long Island stalwart to step up with what turned out to be the largest single contribution. Co-chair Linda Leaf, a local human rights activist, took on the immense task of organizing the Commemorative Journal.

For their expertise and time, we want to thank our exceptional corps of honorees and speakers, 11 men and women representing a multi-cultural cross section of life on Long Island. They honor all of us by allowing us to honor them. Please read their compelling biographies in the journal.

Among the many volunteers, the Nassau Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Freda Wagner, Esq., stands out for working with Martin Viette Nurseries, which donated all the floral arrangements, and with the Suffolk Center for the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding, which loaned us the impressive *Embracing Our Differences* canvasses.

Many members of the Hofstra community brought more than their usual professionalism to the *Celebration*. A special bouquet of kudos goes to Ina Katz, Assistant Director for Administration of the National Center for Suburban Studies. In the end, this evening would not have been possible without the encouragement of Hofstra President Stuart Rabinowitz and Provost Herman Berliner. It was their enthusiasm for initiatives to promote diversity, on and off campus, that inspired us to undertake the event.

**Please enjoy the evening, and let us know your ideas for *Celebration of Diversity 2010*.**

Sincerely,

*Mohinder Taneja*

Mohinder Taneja  
Founding Co-Chairman

Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009

*Lawrence Levy*

Lawrence Levy  
Executive Director

National Center for Suburban Studies  
at Hofstra University®

**The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University®**  
**Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009 Committee**

**Stuart Rabinowitz**  
*President*  
*Hofstra University*

**Herman A. Berliner, Ph.D.**  
*Provost and Senior Vice President*  
*for Academic Affairs Hofstra University*

**Co-Chairs**

**Mohinder Singh Taneja**  
*Banquet Founding Co-Chair*

**Henry Holley**  
*Henry Holly Group*

**Lawrence C. Levy**  
*Executive Director*  
*The National Center for*  
*Suburban Studies at Hofstra University*

**John Kominicki**  
*Long Island Business News*

**Jeffrey Kraut**  
*North Shore-LIJ Health Systems*

**Eric Alexander**  
*Vision Long Island*

**Rich Kruse**  
*Brookhaven IDA*

**Hon. Michael Balboni**  
*Navigators Global*

**Sarah Lansdale**  
*Sustainable Long Island*

**Robert B. Catell**  
*Advanced Energy Center,*  
*Stony Brook University*

**Linda Leaf**  
*LI Homan Rights Activist*

**Hon. Jon Cooper**  
*Suffolk County Legislature*

**Robert McMillan, Esq.**  
*Bee Ready*

**Resi Cooper**  
*Cooper Consulting*

**Maria Morales-Prieto**  
*The Hspanic Network*

**Matthew T. Crosson, Esq.**  
*Long Island Association*

**Dr. Shakir Mukhi**  
*American Federation of*  
*Muslims of Indian Origin*

**Don Dreyer**  
*Disability Rights Activist & Policy Consultant*

**David Ochoa**  
*NuAlliance*

**John R. Durso**  
*LI Federation of Labor*

**Christine Conniff Sheahan**  
*Networking Magazine*

**Thomas J. Garry, Esq.**  
*Jaspan Schlesinger*

**Rev. Reginald Tuggle**  
*Memorial Presbyterian*  
*Church of Roosevelt*

**Marianne Garvin**  
*CDC of Long Island*

**Tai Wang**  
*Asian-American Cultural*  
*Festival of Long Island*

**Arthur A. Gianelli**  
*Nassau Health Care Corp.*

**Roslyn D. Goldmacher, Esq.**  
*LI Development Corp.*

**Jessica K. Taneja, Esq.**  
*Shelter Rock Strategies*  
*Youth Committee Chair*

## Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009 Program

Master of Ceremonies .....	Lawrence Levy <i>The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University</i>
Audio & Visual Presentation: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Hofstra Commencement, May 1965	
Musical Presentations .....	Leonard Lehrman <i>Pianist</i> Jeannine Otis <i>Vocalist</i> Hempstead High School Concert Choir
Opening Remarks .....	Lawrence Levy Stuart Rabinowitz <i>President, Hofstra University</i>
Presentation of John L. Kearse Legacy Prize & Other Scholarships .....	Leone Baum <i>Nassau County Economic Opportunity Commission, Retired</i>
Invocation.....	Monsignor Thomas Hartman
Special Remarks .....	Dr. Christopher Niedt <i>National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University</i> Amy Liu <i>Brookings Institution</i>
Dramatic Performance .....	Teatro Experimental Yerbabruja <i>"Broken Identities"</i>
Dinner.....	Musical Interlude
Remarks .....	Mohinder Singh Taneja <i>Banquet Founding Co-Chair</i>
Introduction of Keynote Speaker .....	Stuart Rabinowitz
Keynote Remarks .....	Charles Wang <i>Owner, New York Islanders &amp; Co-Developer, The Lighthouse Project</i>
Dance Performance.....	Maria Liang <i>Peacock Dance, Classical Chinese Dance</i>
Recognition of Honorees.....	Herman Berliner <i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Hofstra University</i>
Honorees.....	Margaret Abraham Don Dreyer Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg Monsignor Thomas Hartman Dr. Faroque Ahmad Khan David Kilmnick Nadia Marin-Molina Lawrence Mulvey Reverend Reginald Tuggle
Dance Performance .....	Classical Indian Dance
Closing Remarks .....	Lawrence Levy



सत्यमेव जयते



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन  
न्यूयॉर्क

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
235 EAST 43RD STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10017  
Tel: 490-9660 • Fax 212-490-9656  
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October 7, 2009

Dear President Rabinowitz,

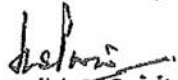
I understand that Hofstra University will be organizing a Diversity Banquet on October 22, 2009. As the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the world's largest democracy, which takes great pride in its diversity, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and of various other forms, I send my best wishes to the organizers of this event.

Multiculturalism, founded on respect for the diversity of other cultures is the foundation of social stability and economic prosperity. The fact that people from different races, religions and regions work together for everyone's good and contribute to generating prosperity for all is not only commendable but in fact a necessity in today's globalization. I am delighted to find that Long Island provides a robust example of such multicultural diversity.

I send my very best wishes and appreciation to the Suburban Diversity 2009 Committee without whose hard work and dedication, the forthcoming celebration would not have been possible.

*With best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

  
(H.S. Puri)

Mr. Stuart Rabinowitz  
President  
Hofstra University  
Hempstead  
New York NY 11500

CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
NEW YORK

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

COMMITTEES:  
JOINT ECONOMIC  
JUDICIARY  
FINANCE  
BANKING  
RULES

October 2009

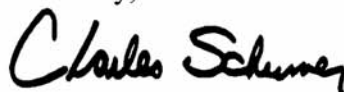
Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings as you gather for the Celebration of Suburban Diversity. I am pleased to recognize the fine work of this important conference and the organizers who have worked tirelessly in putting it together.

The Celebration of Suburban Diversity brings together Long Islanders from many different backgrounds and walks of life. The main focus of the conference is Long Island's multicultural diversity and its importance to building the future of our state. Multicultural diversity is the key to our social and economic survival. The ability of people from different races, religions and regions to live and work together is crucial to our prosperity. The work and relationships that begin today will allow Long Islanders to develop policy that is good for them but also good for New York. I applaud the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University for its dedication to promoting the objective, academically rigorous study of suburbia's challenges as well as the idea that we can be stronger for our differences if we come together to appreciate them.

Again, thank you for all your efforts on behalf of all New Yorkers. I know that the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University, along with the many Long Islanders attending the Celebration of Suburban Diversity will continue these efforts for years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**DAVID A. PATERSON**  
GOVERNOR

October 22 - 24, 2009

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings to all gathered for this Conference on Suburban Diversity hosted by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University.

New York's strength is its diversity of people, and we certainly take pride in the example of cultural unity that we present to the world. Our State is home to people of all backgrounds who benefit from life in this great democracy and, in return, have helped build many communities into thriving centers of social, cultural and family life.

Suburban communities represent unique areas that offer resources for business and commercial growth, affordable housing opportunities, and a sense of familiarity and neighborliness that brings security to the lives of residents. The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University focuses on concerns and policy issues that directly influence social, economic and environmental changes in New York's suburban areas. As a valuable forum for studying evolving trends in these communities, the Center examines existing strategies for growth and progress, and furthermore seeks to develop workable solutions for problems confronting suburban society through insightful analysis.

The vibrant lifestyle of any suburban region is generated by its surrounding areas and the people living in them, as the vast diversity of these communities is a cornerstone upon which many are built and upon which their future depends. Those affiliated with your Center are to be commended for their investment of time and attention in suburban study in an effort to better understand and identify current problems and, ultimately, develop viable solutions.

Through such work, we will undoubtedly see meaningful changes in these neighborhoods and at the same time, foster their broader appeal to individuals and families of varied backgrounds.

Warmest regards and best wishes for a successful and productive conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David A. Paterson'.

David A. Paterson



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
120 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10271

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Attorney General

(212) 416-8050

October 22, 2009

National Center for Suburban Studies  
Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549

Dear Friends:

Please accept my sincerest greetings as you gather for the National Center for Suburban Studies' first Celebration of Suburban Diversity banquet.

Since its establishment at Hofstra University in 2003, the Center for Suburban Studies has been at the forefront of examining the problems facing our state's and nation's suburbs. With nearby towns such as Levittown, William Levitt's model for post-World War II suburbs, serving as a convenient laboratory for the center's efforts, the research being performed at the Center will play a crucial role in improving the economic and social vitality of suburbs and, in turn, greatly enhance the quality of life for suburbanites nationwide.

As you gather for tonight's banquet, which is being held as part of The Diverse Suburb: History, Politics and Prospects conference, I want to take this opportunity to salute Lawrence C. Levy, the Center's Executive Director, for his efforts on this event and throughout the year. Larry and everyone associated with the Center can be proud of recognizing the importance of diversity to Long Island's future.

Again, welcome to Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009, and best wishes to the National Center for Suburban Studies for continued success.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AMC", written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI  
STATE COMPTROLLER



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

110 STATE STREET  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12236

October 22, 2009

Lawrence Levy, Executive Director  
National Center for Suburban Studies  
250 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, NY 11549-2500

Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this evening for the Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009 hosted by Hofstra University and the National Center for Suburban Studies. Recognizing that the suburbs are at the center of change in American life, the National Center for Suburban Studies has been devoted to the rigorous academic analysis of suburbia's problems and potentials since its founding in 2003.

Special congratulations are due to this year's honorees. They are all truly worthy of your recognition. Tonight's event kicks off Hofstra's international conference, "The Diverse Suburb," and reminds us vividly of the extraordinary resources for growth, innovation and cooperation represented by Long Island's diversity. The National Center for Suburban Studies has played a leading role in bringing suburban diversity to the forefront of scholarship and policy discussions, demonstrating that understanding and appreciating our differences is a key to building healthier, stronger communities.

I would like to commend Lawrence Levy, the Center's Executive Director, for his inspired leadership and for collaborating with the Office of the State Comptroller in hosting our first Local Government Leadership Institute at Hofstra this past June. I would also like to applaud University President Stuart Rabinowitz for his stalwart support of the Center over the years. Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom DiNapoli".

Thomas P. DiNapoli  
State Comptroller



Office of the County Executive  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501



October 22, 2009

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to join all of you who have gathered to celebrate the success of The National Center For Suburban Studies at Hofstra University on the occasion of the First Annual 2009 Suburban Diversity Committee Dinner.

The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University is a nonpartisan research institution dedicated to promoting an academically rigorous study of suburbia's challenges, working diligently to provide research, education and advocacy to embrace our differences and appreciate them.

I wish to extend hearty congratulations to this evening's honored guests, Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University Diversity Task Force; Don Dreyer, Disability Rights Activist; Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg, Congregation Sons of Israel, Woodmere; Monsignor Thomas Hartman, Diocese of Rockville Centre; Dr. Faroque Ahmad Khan, Islamic Center of Long Island; David Kilmnick, Long Island Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Services Network; Nadia Marin-Molina, The Workplace Project; Lawrence Mulvey, Commissioner, Nassau County Police Department; Reverend Reginald Tuggle, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Roosevelt, and to all of you who work toward forwarding the goals of this fine Committee throughout the year.

Best wishes for continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom".

Thomas R. Suozzi  
County Executive

ONE SCHOOL SHOWS HOW

# Integration serves LI students well

**M**y old neighborhood school never looked so good — or so different.

Early last fall, as an old friend and I drove to the Mill Brook section of Valley Stream for the building's 50th anniversary, the hedges were thicker and better groomed than when we swarms of little Baby Boomers bounced through them to go from house to welcoming house.

And Forest Road School, our safe haven within a haven for refugees from New York City, looked as fresh and inviting as it did the day we entered kindergarten a year after it was built.

But, as familiar as it all seemed, the school and neighborhood right on the Queens line had changed in ways that would have been unimaginable — and, yes, frightening — to my parents and playmates a generation ago.

A dynamic demographic makeover has turned the school and neighborhood into a cornucopia of racial and ethnic diversity. And more: As an increasing number of Long Island communities see moving vans pull up with black- and brown-skinned families, this neighborhood has become a test case of character not only for many who now live there but for all of Long Island.

Do whites flee before the now unstoppable wave of new arrivals (whose parents were blocked from coming a generation ago), even if many are solidly middle class?

Do whites run and hide in fewer and fewer enclaves of privilege, denying both white and black children a better chance (as I was denied) to prepare for living and working in a multicultural world?

Do whites continue to consign minority children to schools that don't have the political support or money to deliver a qual-



LAWRENCE C. LEVY

ity education, even if it means producing a future workforce less able to help the region prosper?

Or do they welcome the newcomers and make the inevitable changes work for everyone's selfish best interests?

Right now, with test scores high and the neighborhood a gem, there really wouldn't be many good reasons for a white family with school-age kids to leave or not consider buying there.

When we were growing up, the neighborhood was called Green Acres. The new split-levels and ranches were the first houses most of our parents ever lived in, much less owned. They were city kids themselves, raised in the crowded Jewish ghettos of New York City. It was a place of generational dreams. But even with the government loans earned against the armies of fascism and communism, the cost of buying there — from \$14,000 to \$21,000 — also made this a place of sacrifice.

Now, at upwards of \$400,

000, this is still a neighborhood of sweat and striving for another wave of suburban settlers.

On the day of the school's silver anniversary celebration, I stood next to Booker T. Gibson, who had been the only black teacher in my high school for decades. And he was stunned. As he scanned the faces in the crowd of parents and students, he said sardonically, "I see an awful lot of 'blood' in this 'hood.'"

And so there was. A school that had been all-white and nearly all-Jewish still had a prosperous, high-performing student population, but one that now was black and yellow and shades of brown — and less than half white.

Mill Brook has become that rarity of among rarities in America's most segregated suburb — a truly integrated neighborhood with a great school and growing property values. It is at once a vivid snapshot of Long Island's past and its future.

Along with the elderly remnants of my parents' circle and young white families still moving here, the houses now are filled with families, many of them including

professionals, from India, Pakistan, Korea, China, Jamaica, Guyana, El Salvador and dozens of other countries. This was proudly evident last month when I returned for the food and pageantry of the school's first international diversity fair.

The younger the grade on stage, the fewer the whites. The little blond girl who sang a ballad, wearing a green dress covered with shamrocks, stood out like a minority child would have in my day — had there had been any.

Annette Miller, who is white, acknowledges that she and her husband thought of leaving. "So many of our friends just fled," she said. "But I've met people from so many other countries. I'm thrilled for myself and for my children. It's a wonderful way for them to grow up."

"I'm really hoping that it stays a mixed community," Dwight Edwards, a Jamaican-American, told me after he watched his son do an Israeli folk dance on the tiny stage. "My kids really enjoy the blend. But it's really up to the whites to decide if they want to stay and accept the change."

That is an open question. For every long-time resident like Connie Schwartz, whose son Ira was my classmate and who says she loves the way the newcomers have livened up her block, there are others who leave or quietly express their displeasure. And it has turned Mill Brook into a challenge for the people who live there — and who might live there — to overcome racial, ethnic and social fears.

"Lots and lots of play dates," said attorney and international night organizer Theodora Egeonu-Egbuchulam when I asked her how Mill Brook can preserve its racial balance. "A Jewish mom just sent her son to play at my home with my Nigerian-American son. Another mom had Greek, Filipino and Nigerian kids over to make Chinese pencil dolls."

No doubt it will take more than that. The authorities will have to ensure that realtors don't engage in blockbusting or racial steering. Police must see that the community remains safe, in reputation and reality. And school officials must make sure that the district continues to get a fair share of funding.

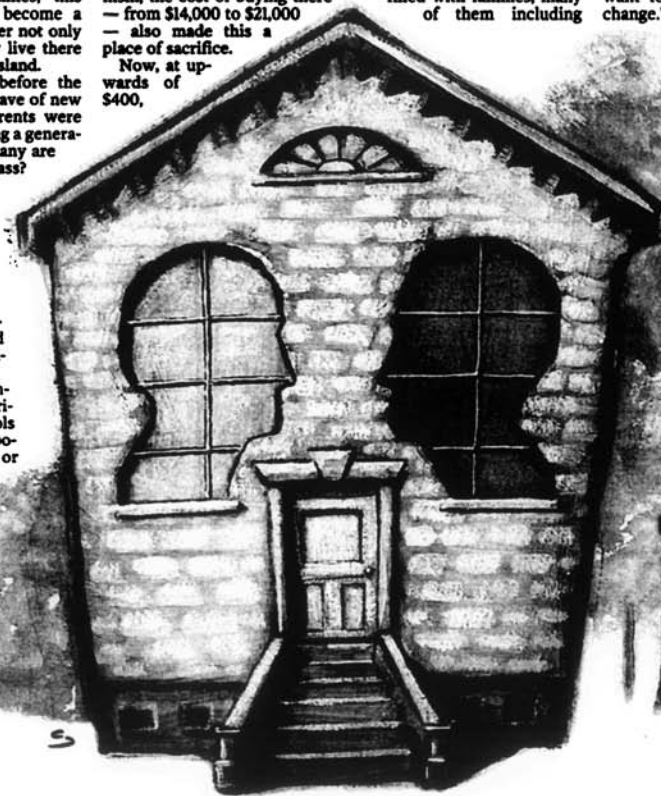
Understand this: There's no reason a school or community must have whites to be successful.

But the reality is that minorities who attend integrated schools perform better than those in segregated ones. And that overwhelmingly minority communities tend to be poorer and less politically potent. In cases where a community is majority white but the school system is not, the old guard without children in the classroom often doesn't approve adequate funding.

Then everything starts to fall apart. And that could be a disaster — for all of Long Island. That's because more and more schools and neighborhoods will face the challenge of Forest Road as both poor and middle-class minorities pursue their dreams to Long Island in far greater numbers than whites. Putting aside the moral argument, if these schools lag for lack of resources that were plentiful when whites filled the desks and if the kids can't read, write and compute up to snuff, then who will do the high tech jobs to keep the economy thriving?

The children of Forest Road must be made ready, just as they were — as I was — in a blissfully easier and more ignorant time.

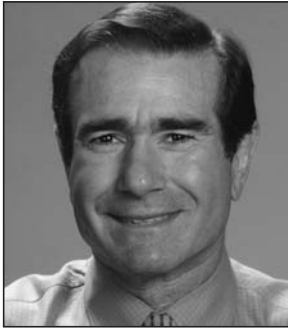
Lawrence C. Levy is a columnist and member of Newsday's editorial board.



CHRISTOPHER SERRA

OPINION

www.newsday.com NEWSDAY WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 2008



## Lawrence C. Levy

Executive Director, National Center for  
Suburban Studies at Hofstra University®

During his 30 years as a reporter, editorial writer, columnist and PBS talk show host, Pulitzer finalist Lawrence Levy has won many of journalism's top awards for in-depth works on suburban politics, education, taxation, housing and other key issues. He is known for his blending of national trends and local perspectives and has covered six presidential campaigns. In his leadership role at the NCSS, he has given it a truly national profile. He works with Hofstra's strong academic community to shape an innovative agenda for suburban study; forge alliances with other institutions, not-for-profit groups and government agencies; and promote the study of the suburbs nationwide. Mr. Levy is a member of a Brookings Institution advisory panel and was a keynote speaker at Brookings 2008 Metro Policy Summit in Washington, DC. He also led a collaboration between Hofstra and Boston College to create a first-in-the nation suburban ecology initiative. Before joining Hofstra, he was senior editorial writer and chief political columnist for *Newsday*, and he remains involved in the world of journalism and politics. Mr. Levy is a guest contributor to the New York Times.com, writes a regular column on politics for the Albany Times Union, and appears regularly on local and national television programs.

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## Mohinder Singh Taneja

Director, Outreach Initiatives  
Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs  
Banquet Founding Co-Chairman



Mohinder Singh Taneja is an active and dedicated community advocate who has worked tirelessly to network and bring together people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds and religions.

Mr. Taneja, a proud Indian American, was appointed by Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi in 2002, and is currently director of outreach initiatives in the Office of Minority Affairs in Mineola.

Mr. Taneja has been associated with planning and participating in the celebration of a variety of programs, including but not limited to: Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month; Women's History Month; Sikh art exhibitions and film festivals, India's Republic Day; restarting India-Fest in 2004 with India Association of Long Island; India Day and Sikh Day parades in New York City; sports awards with Nassau County Sports Commission, where as a director on the board he has been very actively working with some elected officials and community leaders to bring a dedicated "Cricket" stadium in Long Island.

Mr. Taneja is a graduate of Nassau and Suffolk Civilian Police Academies and is on the board of directors of the Nassau County Law Enforcement Explorers. Since the tragic events of 9/11, he has worked very closely with various law enforcement agencies. He has also helped the Police department recruit Sikhs with turbans and beards. He has also been appointed a colonel in a voluntary disaster relief organization, United States Disaster Relief Command.

Mr. Taneja was featured in *Newsday* in their "Everyday Hero" column, referred to as the "Mayor of Sikhs" of Long Island by Congressman Peter King, and as a "Goodwill Ambassador" of Sikhs by New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, and has been recognized and honored for his community leadership and advocacy by a variety of organizations, community leaders and elected officials.



Speaker

## Amy Liu

Deputy Director, Metropolitan Policy Program,  
Brookings Institution

Amy Liu is the Deputy Director and co-founder of the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. The program produces trend analysis, research, and policy ideas that advance the health and prosperity of cities and metropolitan areas. The program focuses on the role of federal, state, and local policies, in partnership with the private sector, to achieve prosperity in these communities.

Ms. Liu is a frequent speaker to national, state and local elected, business and non profit leaders on reforms that advance the competitiveness of metro areas. These include the intersected policies leveraging innovation, infrastructure, human capital and quality places

Ms. Liu also serves as a co-author of select Brookings publications, including "Moving Beyond Sprawl: Toward a Broader Metropolitan Agenda" which appeared in The Brookings Review; she was the principal author of A Region Divided: The State of Growth in Greater Washington, D.C. She has also been a frequent speaker and commentator on the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans and southern Louisiana post-Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She is the co-author of the frequently-cited "The New Orleans Index: Tracking Recovery of New Orleans & the Metro Area." She has authored several other papers related to the post-disaster rebuilding effort including: "Building a Better New Orleans: A Review and Plan for Progress One Year After Katrina," and "Housing Families Displaced by Katrina: A Review of the Federal Response to Date."

For Brookings Opportunity 08 initiative, Ms. Liu wrote "Pathways to the Middle Class: Ensuring Greater Upward Mobility for All Americans" with Hugh Price, which puts forth ideas on how best to help working families achieve and maintain the American dream of middle-class prosperity.

Prior to Brookings (1993-1996), Ms. Liu was Special Assistant to Secretary Henry Cisneros at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where she served as the principal aide on a number of public housing and other reform efforts. Ms. Liu has also worked for the U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Metropolitan Planning Council in Chicago.

Amy Liu currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Alexandria Community Trust, a community foundation in Northern Virginia and on the Board of the Hopkins House, a pre-school and comprehensive education center that serves low- and moderate-income children and families.

Keynote Speaker  
**Charles B. Wang**

*Co-Developer, Lighthouse Project; Owner, New York Islanders*



Charles B. Wang is an entrepreneur, visionary, author and philanthropist. As founder of Computer Associates International, Inc. in suburban Long Island, Mr. Wang became known as one of the most successful leaders in the technology field over the past three decades.

Technology has not only been the basis of Mr. Wang's business but also played an integral role in the success of his professional ventures. His two books, **Technovision** (1994) and **Technovision II** (1997), became leading guides for business leaders seeking to parallel their organizational and technology goals. He continued his commitment to technological advancement and has been instrumental in the development and growth of several technology companies in the United States and China.

In 2000, Mr. Wang expanded his interests into the field of professional sports by purchasing the New York Islanders of the National Hockey League, and set about revitalizing the once legendary organization. His effort to rejuvenate the Islanders brought to light the need for not only a transformation of their home arena but a destination for Long Island's commerce and development.

In 2003, Mr. Wang founded and became the principal developer of the visionary Lighthouse at Long Island project. This next generation, mixed-use development will pioneer the new suburbia, with the use of green, smart growth initiatives. It is anchored by a state-of-the-art home arena for the Islanders and includes an athletic complex, as well as residential, office, Five-Star Hotel and retail space.

His success in the business world has allowed Mr. Wang to support many important charitable foundations. Among those is the expansion of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center in New York City and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Wang's gift of more than \$50 million to Stony Brook University was the largest private gift in the history of the State University of New York. The Center celebrates Asian and American cultures. In addition, Mr. Wang's donation to Soochow University in Suzhou, China, established a new building to house the University's law school.

Of all his philanthropic ventures, the one project that is most rewarding to Mr. Wang is the Smile Train. The Smile Train provides free surgery to the 4.7 million children in underdeveloped countries around the world who suffer from cleft lip and cleft palate. The Smile Train's mission is documented in the film, **Smile Pinki** which was the **2008 Academy Award Winner** in the category of **Best Documentary Short**.

Charles B. Wang was born in Shanghai, China and moved to the United States with his family in 1952 at the age of eight. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Queens College. He resides on Long Island with his family.



## Margaret Abraham

Hofstra University Diversity Task Force

Margaret Abraham is professor of sociology at Hofstra University and special adviser to the provost for diversity initiatives. In this advisory role, Professor Abraham works directly with Provost Herman Berliner, the Provost's Office and the deans on developing strategies to increase faculty and administrative diversity. Professor Abraham played a critical role in furthering the agenda of the Provost's Task Force on Faculty Diversity. In this capacity, she has presented on the importance of diversity and community building at various forums. She has also served as chair of Department of Sociology and as director of the Women's Studies Program.

Dr. Abraham is co-president of the International Sociological Association - Research Committee on Women and Society from 2006 to 2010. Her areas of research and teaching interest include ethnicity, migration, gender, globalization, domestic violence and the South Asian Diaspora. She is the author of the award-winning book *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Among South Asian Immigrants in the United States* (Rutgers University Press, 2000). In 2007 she was the co-recipient of a Community Action Research Grant from the American Sociological Association's Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Public Policy for the project "Seen and Sheltered: Effective response to NIMBYism."

Dr. Abraham has presented papers at many conferences and published in a number of journals. She has a forthcoming co-edited book on gender diversity and citizenship (Ashgate, 2010). She has served on the board of directors of Sakhi for South Asian Women, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA) and Westbury Friends School on Long Island. She has been appointed to journal editorial boards and has been an advisory board member and consultant on national projects related to issues on violence against women.

Dr. Abraham has been involved in research and activism in the field of domestic violence in the South Asian immigrant community for two decades. She has been honored for her work by Sakhi for South Asian Women, Indus Women Leaders, the Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center, and the Office of the Executive, Nassau County, State of New York. Her work has been profiled and quoted in *the New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Newsday*, *India Abroad*, *Malayalam Pathram*, *India Today*, *Indiathink.com*, and *Rip Rap: The Academic Book Program*.

# Don Dreyer

Disability Rights Activist and Policy Consultant



Don Dreyer served for three decades as Director of the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged, gaining regional and national recognition for his leadership and involvement in disability rights advocacy. His legislative initiatives led to passage of significant laws encouraging consumer access by persons with disabilities, and major public policy developments affecting issues such as transportation, housing, employment, education and health care systems access. His efforts have served some 250,000 children and adults with disabilities residing in Nassau County and 54 million citizens with disabilities nation-wide whose lives have become more independent and productive as a result of the private-public sector partnerships he has established to remove barriers to inclusion.

Included in these efforts have been appearances before legislative and public policy forums leading to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) where he received a Presidential invitation to the July 1990 White House signing ceremony. Since that historic occasion, he has worked to implement regulations governing this Federal civil rights law, remove attitudinal and architectural barriers to the work-place, stores, schools, transportation and other institutional settings. Overall, he has created an awareness that society must shift its emphasis from generational fear and pity to proactively harnessing the talents and capacities of persons with disabilities.

In 1996, Nassau County received a special designation by the National Association of Counties as a "Model ADA Program." His leadership to establish this unique governmental commitment to remove structural and communications barriers affected more than one hundred facilities and sites encompassing 56 individual county departments and agencies, and led to the construction of almost 9,000 curb-cuts throughout the county road system.

In 1984 he developed the first known Police Academy curriculum on "Police Inter-Action With People With Disabilities" which he has taught to every class of Nassau County police recruits since that time. He has been the recipient of many local and national awards.

Don Dreyer also has an extensive background as a teacher and lecturer. He is currently a member of the Adjunct Faculty at Hofstra University's School of Communication. He has been key-note speaker and lecturer in local, regional and national forums including appearances, and serves on many boards, panels, and advisory groups important to Long Island and the nation.

Don Dreyer lives with his wife Barbara in Rockville Centre, New York.



## **Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg**

Congregation Sons of Israel, Woodmere

Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg has served the community of Long Island for the last thirty years. Arriving in 1979 as the spiritual leader of the Bethpage Jewish Community Center, he assumed the pulpit at Woodmere's Congregation Sons of Israel in 1991 where he has presided ever since.

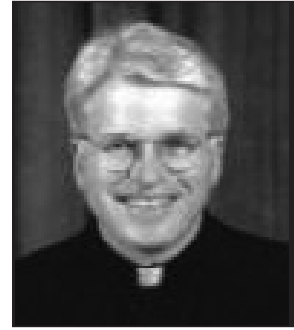
A past president of the prestigious Long Island Board of Rabbis, he has striven to build bridges within the Jewish community and is known for his decades-old activism on behalf of Soviet Jewry and the State of Israel.

Rabbi Ginsburg's respected bridge-building skills have also been applied beyond Jewish circles. During his years in Eastern Nassau County, he served as Chaplain of the Bethpage Fire Department, helped establish the Hicksville INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network), which serves food to hundreds of hungry families, and developed joint educational and cultural programs with the Bethpage United Methodist Church and St. Martin of Tours. In more recent years, he has furthered understanding and tolerance in serving on Nassau County's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee, participating as a panelist in programs at Molloy College's Institute for Interfaith Dialogue, and sensitizing Muslim and Hispanic Pentecostal leaders to the Jewish passion for Israel as a speaker for the American Jewish Committee's Project Interchange.

A product of Boston University, New York's Jewish Theological Seminary, and Jerusalem's Hebrew University, Rabbi Ginsburg holds a doctorate in Hebrew literature as well as ordination. He has shown further devotion to scholarship as the immediate past president of the Union for Traditional Judaism - a national movement with a rabbinical school, professional religious association, and a publications department. His essays and letters have appeared in Newsday, the Christian Science Monitor, the Jerusalem Report, Moment, and other periodicals. His wife, Rachel, and he are blessed with children and grandchildren living in New York and Israel.

# **Monsignor Thomas J. Hartman**

Diocese of Rockville Centre



A beloved figure on Long Island and beyond, Father Tom is known for his popular television show, the "God Squad," co-hosted by Rabbi Marc Gellman. The "God Squad" recently celebrated its 20th year on television. He has appeared as a commentator on such programs as "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer" on CNN and "The O'Reilly Factor" and "Neil Cavuto" on Fox Cable News. Fr. Tom also has hosted and created productions for Long Island on Telecare (Cablevision-Channel 29).

As an author, Father Tom has written *Just a Moment - Life Matters* with Father Tom and *The Matter of Life and Death*. He has co-authored four books with Rabbi Gellman for both children and adults, titled *Where Does God Live?*, which won the 1991 Christopher Award, *Lost and Found*, *Bad Stuff in the News* and *How Do you Spell God?* (with a forward by the Dalai Lama). This book was made into an HBO animated special which won the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award. Their most recent book is *Religion for Dummies*. The rabbi and Fr. Tom were named as "Long Islanders of the Century" in the category of Leaders & Activists in a poll taken by Newsday.. Father Tom and Rabbi Gellman wrote a nationally syndicated column for the Tribune that appeared in Newsday.

Father Tom has been recognized for his professional and pastoral work by winning four Emmy Awards, several Telly Awards, and numerous "Man of the Year" citations, and honorary doctorates. Father Tom organized and initiated the Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Inc. in November 2003 after publicly announcing he had Parkinson's disease.

Monsignor Hartman is the Founder and President Emeritus of Telecare, the television center for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He was ordained on May 29, 1971 and holds an undergraduate degree in Philosophy and a graduate degree in Theology. In 1970, he received a Master of Divinity degree from Our Lady of Angels Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley in 1979.



## **Faroque Ahmad Khan,**

**M.B. (Kmr), M.A.C.P**

Islamic Center of Long Island

Faroque Ahmad Khan, M.B. (Kmr), M.A.C.P, was born and educated in Kashmir and obtained his post graduate training in medicine in New York. After specializing in Pulmonary diseases he was program director and chairman of Medicine and responsible for supervising the education of hundreds of Internists and Pulmonologists who are now settled in many parts of the globe. Dr Khan has published extensively-three books, over 150 articles and several hundred presentations. He was the first International Medical Graduate Regent of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and received the New York State ACP Laureate award in 1998 and the coveted Mastership in ACP. Dr Khan was one of the lead researchers in Fluoroquinolones, in particular Ciprofloxacin, and holds rank of professor on Medicine at the State University of New York in Stony Brook. Dr Faroque Khan and his wife Arfa were the founding members of the Islamic Center of Long Island (ICLI) in Westbury, New York, a center known for its innovative trend setting programs and initiatives. One such initiative-American Muslims and Jews in Dialogue (AMJID)-received the 2004 Faith Fellowship award. AMJID was used as a model at the 1993 biennial conference of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in San Francisco.

Dr. Khan's book, "Story of a Mosque in America," chronicles the growth and development of ICLI. Dr Khan completed a three year term as president of ICLI in Dec. 2005 and then served as chairman of ICLI board of trustees till 2008.

Dr Khan has served as president of Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA) and also served on its Board of Regents and represented IMANA on the executive committee of Federation of Islamic Medical Associations-FIMA-which has representation from thirty countries. From 2002-2008 Dr Khan served on the Majlis Shura (Governing Board) of Islamic Society of North America. Currently Dr Khan is helping King Fahd Medical City in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with its research development and international collaborations with institutions in the east and west.

Dr Khan was a frequent guest on the PBS -WLIW TV program Forum 21 and Face Off, and was the advisor for Telecare TV program: Our Muslim Neighbor.

# David Kilmnick

Long Island Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender  
Services Network



David Kilmnick, Ph.D., MSW has nearly 20 years of experience working in and for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community. Since the creation of Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth in 1993, David has led this pioneering organization from his master's project to a comprehensive network of three agencies that serve 60,000 GLBT youth, adults and seniors annually with a full time staff of 14 and a budget of over \$1.4 million. ([www.liglbtnetwork.org](http://www.liglbtnetwork.org)) Kilmnick currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of The Long Island GLBT Services Network and its three affiliate organizations, Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth, The Long Island GLBT Community Center and Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders Long Island.

David has been widely recognized for his work on Long Island, throughout New York State and across the country. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the New York Civil Liberties Union Equality Award and the Lawrence Timpa Humanitarian Award for Professional Service from the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission. He is a board member of CenterLink, formerly known as The National Association of LGBT Community Centers and in 2009, was appointed to the prestigious and important Suffolk County Hate Crimes Taskforce.

In addition to his innovative work in the GLBT community of Long Island, which is widely seen as breaking down walls of misunderstanding and intolerance, David is a professor at several colleges and universities, including Stony Brook University in the Graduate School of Social Work program, Nassau Community College, Walden University in the School of Public Administration and Public Policy and the University of Maryland University College in Nonprofit Management. David received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Center at the City University of New York in Social Welfare, where his dissertation focused on heterosexist attitudes and changes following contact with an openly gay instructor.

David resides in Centereach, NY with his partner of 8 years, Robert, and their two Yorkshire Terriers.

# Nadia Marin-Molina

## The Workplace Project

Nadia Marin-Molina is the energetic Executive Director of the Workplace Project, or Centro de Derechos Laborales, a non-profit membership center for Latino immigrant workers on Long Island. The center and Marin-Molina herself have been at the epicenter of some of the most turbulent immigration and worker's rights debates in the area's recent history. Founded in 1992, as part of what she calls "an on-going war for Latino immigrants' rights", the Workplace Project has successfully helped pass a domestic workers bill of rights in Nassau County, defeated anti-immigrant legislation in Suffolk County, helped workers recoup hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid wages annually, and developed educational workshops for immigrants around topics as diverse as workers rights, rights during a raid, housing, taxes, the political system and English as a Second Language.

A grass-roots organization, the Workplace Project works closely with unions, government agencies, attorneys, and many local allies to build the power of the immigrant community on Long Island. It is respected locally and statewide and is recognized nationally as a model of cutting edge immigrant organizing. Nadia welcomes this award but emphasizes that many people in the organization have played important roles in protecting the rights of immigrant workers and their families. She accepts this award in abstentia -- her own group's benefit dinner is tonight -- on behalf of the organization and the people it serves.



# Lawrence W. Mulvey

Commissioner, Nassau County Police Department



Lawrence W. Mulvey a decorated veteran of the Nassau County Police Department with 30 years of police experience was appointed Nassau County's 12<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of Police on July 1, 2007.

During his career with the NCPD, Commissioner Mulvey spent 11 years in uniform patrol and rose through the ranks, serving in narcotics, auto crime and as Hostage Negotiations Team Leader. Before he retired from the NCPD in 2001, with the rank of Inspector, Commissioner Mulvey also served as an assistant to the Police Commissioner, representing the department in all matters pending before the Nassau County Legislature and he was the department's liaison to the County Executive's office. In addition, Commissioner Mulvey worked to resolve issues with the department's four labor unions.

In 1981, Commissioner Mulvey was awarded the department's Purple Heart when, as a patrolman in the Sixth Precinct, he sustained three knife wounds to his chest while attempting an arrest of a burglary suspect. In addition, he received a Medal of Commendation for a residential burglary investigation; the "Cop of the Month" Award in 1988; a Congressional Award; and an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for innovation in policing.

After retiring from the Nassau County Police Department, Commissioner Mulvey served as security site manager at the United States mission to the United Nations. He also co-founded a private security-consulting firm, Executive Protection Strategies LLS, based in Westbury. Most recently, he has worked as a security contractor to the Homeland Security Department (FPS/ICE), in New York.

Commissioner Mulvey received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and a master's degree in Criminal Justice from Long Island University's C.W. Post campus. Furthermore, he attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and is an FBI Certified Hostage Negotiator and a New York State Certified Police Instructor. Commissioner Mulvey is a recent graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Executive Institute. Moreover, he has served as an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Molloy College and at LIU.

Commissioner Mulvey is a lifelong Nassau County resident, and lives in Westbury with his wife, with whom he has college-age twin daughters.



## **Reverend Reginald Tuggle**

Memorial Presbyterian Church of Roosevelt

Rev. Tuggle has devoted his life to helping others and visibly standing for human and civil rights and against racism and political and social exclusion. Born in Denver, Colorado, Rev. Reginald Tuggle came to New York after graduating from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Psychology. Reg. Tuggle received a Master of Divinity degree from New York's Union Theological Seminary in 1972, where his studies focused on systematic theology and Christian ethics. He went on to study for the Ph.D. degree at Yale University on the subject of ethical implications of multinational corporate investments in third world countries. Rev. Tuggle also studied in the Phillipines and Ghana.

Since coming to Roosevelt in 1973 as the pastor of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Rev. Tuggle believes he has been used by the Lord to assist in the Church's growth from about 50 members to well over 900; and Memorial has become one of the leading community involved churches in Nassau County. Memorial's ministry is the home of the Alcoholics Anonymous organization, the Girl Scouts, two sororities and others. But the most significant ministry is the Manhood Training Program for boys ages 8 to 16.

Presently, Rev. Tuggle is Associate Vice President for College Relations at Nassau Community College. He worked at Newsday as Director of Public Affairs for 14 years until March, 1995. In 1987, Rev. Tuggle attended the first world's peace conference in Jordan and Israel. In 1989, he was invited on a fact-finding mission to Russia for ten days.

In January, 1996, Rev. Tuggle was installed as the Moderator of the Long Island Presbytery.

Also, on January 4, 1996, Rev. Tuggle was the keynote speaker for NATO's Martin Luther King, Jr. observance day celebration in Brussels and Belgium. In February, 2000, Rev. Tuggle visited Kenya reviewing the Presbyterian Church missions. Twice Rev. Tuggle has been the keynote speaker in Havana, Cuba. In 2001, he spoke to 20,000 people in Haiti.

Rev. Tuggle has served on a number of human services agencies and has received dozens of awards in recognition of his service. He was awarded "Pastor of the Year" by the Nassau County African-American Historical Society. He has served on dozens of not-for-profit corporations.

Rev. Tuggle is married to Evette Beckett-Tuggle and they have three daughters, Karleena, 29, Regine, 25, and Lauren, 22.

The Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009  
is proud to exhibit the

***Embracing Our Differences - Long Island:  
A Project of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust,  
Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc.***

***Steven Schrier, Executive Director***

*“Beautiful Song”* by Shanilk Acosta & Emily Saen

*“Coexist”* by Ashley Smith

*“Common Ground”* by Kate Kelly

*“Connecting Cultures Around the World”* by William Grabowski

*“Countries Coming Together”* by Adam Glickman

*“Diversity”* by James Schultz

*“Education = Power”* by Arielle Glick

*“Harmony in the Song”* by Erica Portnoy

*“Horizons”* by Milt Masur

*“Open for Opportunity”* by Ivette Mercado

*“Painting the World”* by Kaitlyn Brown

*“Profiles of Diversity”* by Diane Gregov

*“Quilt”* by Seeds of Change

a partnership of Adelante of Suffolk County & Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center

*“Towards One Goal”* by Grace Barrett

*“Try Harder”* by Grace Barrett

*“Voices of Hope - Beacons of Light”* by Studio class Commack Middle School

*Embracing Our Differences* is a dynamic outdoor art exhibit modeled after a project initiated in Sarasota, FL where it "has truly changed the way children and adults think about other people." The *Embracing Our Differences - Long Island* project is "designed to provoke public discussion and encourage understanding and acceptance of difference." The canvasses are on loan from the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding, Inc. We thank Steve Schrier, their Executive Director for his cooperation and generosity.

Special thanks to Leslie Boritz, Commack Middle School Assistant Principal, for her cooperation and loan of the several student artists' canvasses on display. In partnership with the *Embracing Our Differences - Long Island*, Grace Barrett, Commack Middle School teacher, should be recognized for her dedication to the project. Her passionate work with students and the community has resulted in creating art that shows respect for our differences and recognition that diversity enriches our lives.

# Celebration of Suburban Diversity Essay Contest



## FIRST PRIZE

**Marisa Su**

Garden City High School, 10th Grade (submitted during 9th grade year)  
Born October 15, 1993, Taipei, Taiwan to Helen Su and Glen Su  
Teacher: Marie Nuzzi

At my completion of first grade in Taiwan, my parents decided to continue my education in America. And so at the age of eight, I immigrated to the United States. Here, I attended Hampton Street Elementary School for second and third grade before moving to Garden City, where I finished my elementary education at Stewart Elementary School. After three years at Garden City Middle School, I graduated to Garden City High School, where I hope to achieve the academic goals I have set for myself.

On most days I can be found lingering in school hallways long after the dismissal bell has rung. I spend my afternoons attending H.O.P.E. (Help Our Planet Earth) Club, *Inkspots* (my school's literary magazine), Math Team, and Latin Club before my weekly kickline practices. And during the summer, even when I have no scholastic obligations, I find hospital volunteering to occupy my time.

At the age of thirteen I was already sure of my answer to the age old question: "What would you like to be when you grow up?" "A doctor." I would reiterate. And as the years passed, my answer has only narrowed down to the specifics. Now, I would say, "A doctor of dermatology. Or, a job in the field of dentistry." Everything I do now, every minute I spend slaving away at a desk, bent over a book, is for the sole purpose of fulfilling my own ambitious prophecy. And, as far as I am concerned, it will be worth it.

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## SECOND PRIZE

**Tim Batura**

Bay Shore High School, 9th Grade  
Teacher: Joanne Dineen

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## THIRD PRIZE

**Kwaku O. Owusu**

Bay Shore High School, 9th Grade  
Teacher: Nicole Cochrane

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## HONORABLE MENTION

**Talha Muhammad**

Brentwood High School, 11th Grade  
Teacher: Andy Cowan

**Meena Yoo**

Herricks High School, 11th Grade  
Teacher: Alan Semerdjian

## Marisa Su - First Place Essay Scholarship Award

*"Community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers'." - Howard Thurman*

*Suburb.* Even the sound produced by its six letters invokes an image of neat rows of houses confined to the standard building model of square conformity. To outsiders, suburban residents epitomize xenophobia, the bland hum of monotony, and cookie-cutter families that exhibit only transparent differences from their neighbors. Thanks to reruns of sitcoms from decades past, and also novels such as Richard Yates' *Revolutionary Road*, the phrase, *suburbs of Long Island* conjures up instantaneously assumptions of the ignorant lifestyle inside the bubble. However, this is far from the truth of suburban reality.

New York City, with its wide representation of various backgrounds and ethnicities from around the globe, is considered to be the nation's diversity melting pot. What many don't realize is that just a short drive away lays another community with its own rich blend of worldly cultures: Long Island. It is true that years ago this southern strip of New York gave birth to the term "Levittown," later coined as a reference to the iconic suburbia, but like many aspects of society, it has changed with passing time. A man living in the suburbs can walk down a street and greet not only the neighbors that are similar to him in race or descent, but also the ones that carry foreign roots. A class of merely ten students in one of the most close-knit villages of Long Island consists of more than a dozen ethnicities, including minorities such as Romanian, Iranian, and Taiwanese.

Is the blond-hair, blue-eyed Jones family still an accurate symbol of suburban life in our present day? No. The diversity of the more than three million residents of Long Island is simply impossible to showcase with such a tiny representation. In my years living here, I have learned to make Italian risotto, *arroz con pollo*, a trademark food of Latin America, and home-style mashed potatoes all from the kitchens of my friends. But this seemingly trivial aspect of cultural exchange is not completely centered on mouth-watering gastronomy. Without the widely ranging cultures that exist around me, I would have been molded into a girl living in that metaphoric bubble, and unfortunately, blind to the blossoming society outside of the shiny, protective shell.

The peaceful coexistence of people of different religions and backgrounds is the key to eventual world peace. Diversity contributes more to society than just a worldlier neighborhood; it promotes tolerance of differences and prevents racism and prejudice, from which only violence can grow. Throughout history, numerous crimes against humanity have resulted from the hatred that stemmed from ethnocentric ignorance, and though nothing can be done to erase these atrocities, we *are* able to stop history from repeating some of the bloodiest events written in its pages. The solution may be as simple as accepting those around us with a different skin color or an accent.

In 1895, English naturalist Charles Darwin shook the foundations of science and religion by declaring to the world his theory of evolution on the *Origin of Species*. One of the main principles of Darwinism is that diversity among members of the same species is beneficial in that it helps the species to evolve, to achieve even more success in its ever-changing environment. This theory, applied to finches and tortoises, may seem obsolete in today's world, where humans control their surroundings as well as organisms of seemingly lesser intelligence by means of advanced technology. However, there is wisdom in Darwin's words about diversity that is applicable to our times.

Simply being part of a minority group can grant an automatic advantage on a college or employment application. Even if ability is of no relation to ethnic background, schools and companies strive to have diversity. Why? The answer is that institutions with a higher percentage of diversity gain a competitive edge. The saying "Two heads are better than one" might reign supreme in the world where progress is directly dependent on creativity and the rate of which one could generate fresh ideas, but two heads, similar in thought, might as well be one. The key to success lies in the cohesive effort of distinct minds, uniquely shaped by the experiences of radically different lives, because this union is crucial to creating lasting resolutions to the many problems that are present or will arise in the future.

Over fifty years have passed since the time when black and white entertainment still truthfully reflected real life. The days of identical Chevy's parked on the driveway of every Cape Cod type house on the block are gone, presently replaced with an assortment of modern architecture that is home to families who live in loving harmony despite the numerous differences that separate them apart. Although Long Island is only a small part of the globe, the diversity that lives within its towns and neighborhoods should not be deemed insignificant in the eyes of the world. The social acceptance of diversity, even in this small region, plays an important role in purging humanity, as a whole, of racism and replacing it with tolerance. Diversity is also a fundamental part of economy. The deciding factor of our economic survival lies not in luck or the amount of gold bullion in our banks, but rather in the diverse mix of both students sitting in the classroom and workers diligently bending over their toils. Swimming in their minds are millions of ideas, one of which can be the cure to the current economic crisis or an advancement that will bring us into a new era of prosperity. All that surrounds us is evidence that Darwin's century old knowledge still rings true: *diversity, in all species, renders success.*

# *Chalk Marks on the Sidewalk*

by Langston Hughes

Music by Elie Siegmeister

*(Performed by Leonard Lehrman, piano &  
Jeannine Otis, vocal)*

Carmencita loves Patrick,

Patrick loves Si-Lan-Chen.

Xenophon loves Mary Jane

And Hildegarde loves Ben.

Lucienne loves Eric, Giovanni loves Emma Lee,

Natasha loves Miguelito

And Miguelito loves me!

Ring a-round-a-rosey,

Round and round we go,

Chalk marks on the sidewalk,

Gee, I love you so!

Carmencita loves Patrick,

Patrick loves Si-Lan-Chen.

If everybody loved everybody,

We'd all be happy then.



# ***Long Island Just Isn't Long Enough***

by Marcia L. McNair

(Performed by: Leonard Lehrman, piano &  
Jeannine Otis, vocal)

They call it Long Island, but  
it's just not long enough to  
keep moving to where there  
are no black people, no yellow people, no brown people,  
speaking in two languages, living in two Americas, blending two cultures.  
Rikers is a gated community but  
I wouldn't want to live there.  
Rikers and Hempstead have the same racial composition.  
I escaped here, merely finding my carefully planned,  
secretly executed tunnel led to the prison cafeteria instead of outside  
of broken dreams  
And you sold the house in Brooklyn for this?  
And you left your country for this?  
And you spent your life's savings for this?  
The schools still suck and now there's no one to babysit  
Ayesha  
wasn't it they who taught you: taxation without representation just  
isn't fair?  
He says, "Everywhere we move, white people move away"  
I ask him, "Why?"  
He says, "They don't like us."  
Everywhere I move, white people move away  
like lemmings to the Long Island Sound.  
I am close on your heels,  
first walk, then run, now swim  
because Long Island just isn't long enough  
since you can't have an ark without me  
you can't have an ark without me

"Long Island Is Just Not Long Enough," by Nassau Community College Professor Marcia McNair, is the 4th in a cycle of 10 songs, dedicated to the memory of Susan Blake, and based on the collection, *Songs of Seasoned Women*, ed. Patti Tana, Quadrasoul, 2008.



## Leonard Lehrman

Composer, Conductor and Pianist

Leonard Lehrman, composer/conductor/pianist, is the most prolific composer living on Long Island today, and was the youngest and longest composition student of Long Island's most prolific composer in history, Elie Siegmeister (1909-91), Hofstra's first composer-in-residence and founder of the Hofstra Symphony. Elie was a charter member of the Long Island Composers Alliance, founded in 1972 at Hofstra; Leonard became its first and longest President, 1991-98, and remains its Archivist Emeritus. Elie's works included more settings of texts by Langston Hughes than any other composer. Leonard's 195 works, to date, include 10 operas, 6 musicals, 88 pieces for chorus, 59 for instruments, 19 song cycles, and 237 individual pieces for solo voice, plus numerous arrangements, adaptations, translations, and completions of works begun but left unfinished by Marc Blitzstein and Elie Siegmeister. Founder/Director of The Metropolitan Philharmonic Chorus, Co-Founder of The Elie Siegmeister Society and Court Street Music in Valley Stream, Leonard is currently Music Director/Composer-in-Residence at United Methodist Church Huntington/Cold Spring Harbor and Associate Organist at Temple Avodah in Oceanside.

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## Jeannine Otis

Songwriter, Singer and Actress



Jeannine Otis, songwriter, singer and actress, is an internationally renowned recording and performing artist who moves effortlessly and effectively in classical, pop, jazz, R&B, gospel and rap. A native of suburban Detroit, where her mother worked with Martin Luther King, she is a graduate of Wellesley College, a former student of Hofstra voice teacher Edgar Dittmore, and Director of Music at St. Marks-in-the-Bowery in Manhattan. Donald Byrd, Joe Chambers, George Fishnoff, Eliot Goldenthal, Robert LuPone, Heikki Sarmanto, Pete Seeger, Mimi Stern-Wolfe, Liz Swados, Grover Washington, and the New Shirelles are among those with whom she has collaborated in plays, concerts, and films. She toured Europe as The Strawberry Woman in *Porgy and Bess*, and this past year earned the Reggie Award from The Staten Island Register for her portrayal of Ella Hammer in Marc Blitzstein's *The Cradle Will Rock*. It was a performance that the New York Times said "stopped the show."

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The Choir performs regularly at churches, schools and civic functions throughout Long Island.

Writings concerned with the importance of civic space support Yerbabruja's vision that physical, social, and cultural spaces are necessary for affirming a community's future and well-being. Creating spaces in which residents informally converse while participating in various programs allows social barriers, misperceptions and stereotypes to be peeled away and, by using theatrical arts and strategies, replaced with cultural awareness, an appreciation for diversity and for the arts in general. Yerbabruja believes that artistic enrichment and social revitalization go hand-in-hand to build strong, sustainable communities. In doing so, it reaches out to residents of all ages and backgrounds, and encourages each individual to value and use their experience in contributing to the vibrancy of the community as a whole.



## Maria Liang

Professional Dancer, Singer and Model

Maria Liang, an 8th grader at Hunter College High School, is a professional dancer, singer and model with an international resume that includes an appearance on Broadway and success in a major international competition. She started to learn to sing and dance when she was 4 years old. Three years later, she won 1st runner-up in traditional dance in the "Chinese Youth Dance Competition", one of the most important official dance events in China. Soon after, Maria attended Ballet Tech with full scholarship. She then transferred to the prestigious School of American Ballet. She was in the cast of "King & I" Broadway show in 2004 and performed in "Nutcracker" at Lincoln Center in 2005 and 2006, when she also won first place in "Outstanding Talent Show for Overseas Taiwanese Teenagers." Other honors include the "most potential" award in "New York Asian Music 1st Annual Singing Competition" and champion of the "Chinese New Year Karaoke Singing Contest" in 2007. A popular performer, Maria had participated in numerous performances in NYC and Lincoln Center and had been invited to perform in all major Chinese holiday events from the Better Chinatown Society.

---

## Preya Patel

Trained Indian Dancer



Preya Patel is a trained Indian dancer specializing in North Indian Classical dance, Kathak. She is a disciple of Guru Jamuna Mitcham (SHRADDHANJALI Indian Dance Academy) who trained under the famous Late Guru Chaubey Maharaj & Late Shri Atma Rao.

Preya has been dancing since childhood, involved primarily in various forms of Indian dance, classical as well as Folk and Bollywood. She has performed at various venues in the US as well as in the UK and taken part in various competitions.

Preya is involved in many forms of art. As a disciple of Guru Kinnar Seen (SANGEET VILAS Kinnar Cultural Center), she takes vocal and sitar training and also is a graphic artist and painter.

Residing in NY, Preya has her own graphic design & printing business. She also takes time out to teach others classical dance in both Queens and Long Island in hopes of inspiring future generations through various forms of art.

# Soh Young Lee-Segredo

Soprano & Celebration of Suburban Diversity  
Music Coordinator



Soprano Soh Young Lee-Segredo sees herself as a cultural ambassador. She is a storyteller, director of the Multicultural Peace Mission Choir, a freelance program coordinator, and a founding member of 'Soh Young Ensemble' and 'Soh Young and Friends'. She has been performing different genre since the age of five. The 'Soh Young Ensemble' is the winner of Artists International and the Special Presentation Winners Series. Many of her fans called her 'Song Bird' especially after her debut at Carnegie Hall Weil Recital Hall. She is also a recipient of five annual NYS Arts Grants. She debuted at Madison Square Garden at the age of 20, singing both the American and Korean National Anthems in the International Tae Kwon Do Competition. She and members of her family were original members of the NYC Presbyterian Peace Mission Choir to Prague, Budapest and Vienna in 2003 and are members of the MCPM Choir and soloists. She has received numerous awards. She has been a storyteller for the last ten years, including an appearance last spring at the 92nd St Y. She was the program coordinator of Korean American Night in Eisenhower Park with over two hundred performers. She is a Nassau County Human Rights Commissioner since 2007 and all her performances reflect her life of faith, hope, and love.

---



## Danielle Reed

Soprano/Melodica/Oboe/Baritone Sax Player

Danielle is a junior at Hofstra University and is majoring in music and education. A versatile performer, her repertoire ranges from Opera to Jazz. Danielle can sing and play folksongs in several languages including Korean, Hindi and Punjabi. She is heard in many events throughout Nassau County as a soloist. She plays several instruments; learns new songs in different languages as she challenges herself as a musician. She has been a part of Multicultural Peace Mission Choir and Soh Young and Friends for several years. She performed on KBS, Seoul, Korea in December 2007 and won Koreans' heart, including the 80- year -old original and current MC Korean Idol. She was Miss Nassau County Italy 2007 for the Sons of Italy.



## Wang Junling

Professional Guzheng Performer

Wang Junling is a professional guzheng performer, and the third generation of "Chao" Style guzheng. She is also a member of China's Henan Musician Association, The Art of Music Association, Chinese Orchestra Music Association and a panel judge for The Instrumental Music Level Assessment Exam Association.

Wang studied with her father, Wang, Chongrui whose guzheng instructor was the Master of Guzheng - Mr. Chao, Dongfu. She also studied with guzheng masters Chao, Guifun, Liang, Yifu and Zhao, Manqin (the creator of the special "super speed" guzheng finger technique). Concentrated in classical but merged with modern performance techniques, Wang creates a style of her own.

Wang's many national and international awards and performances include a live performance at Channel 13 in New York, a performance at Carnegie Hall with the Chinese music group "CBA - Bao An Art Center," numerous performances at Lincoln Center and a performance at the World Cultural Art Festival in Italy. Wang has recorded and published a music CD titled "Guzheng Level Exam - New Songs & Lessons" and recorded a solo CD as well titled "Wang, Junling - Guzheng."

---

## Jorge Carrera Subia

Guitarist

Mr. Subia is a multi-talented musician who performs on a variety of instruments. He described himself and his work thus: "Su amor por la música viene como una herencia genética su familia materna llena de grandes y talentosos artistas quiens lo motivaron permanentemente."



---

## Mr. Keshwar Mohan

On Sitar

## Mr. Omesh Mohan and

## Mr. Nitin Mohan

On Tabla



# John L. Kears

Legacy Prize

John L. Kears

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- Leone Baum, EOC retired

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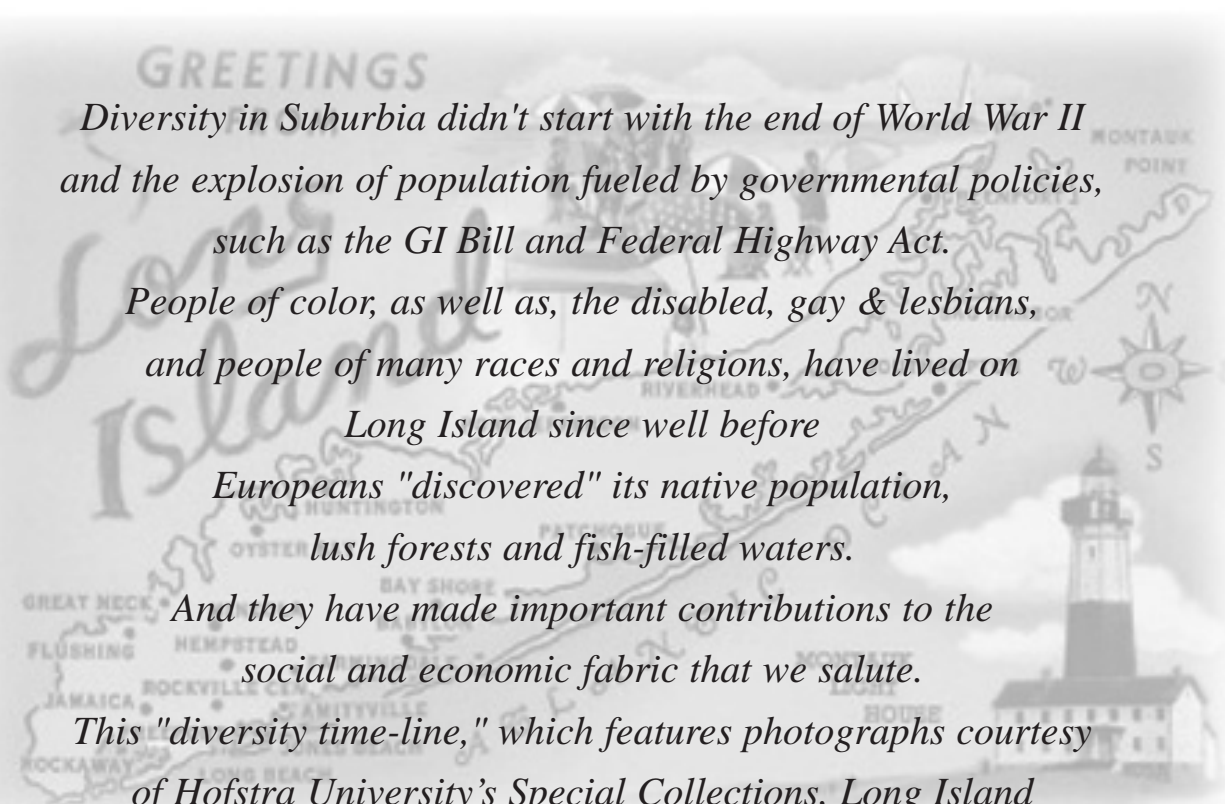
Pam Winter

### *The Diverse Suburb: History, Politics and Prospects*

is made possible, in part, through the generous support of the Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs,  
New York Power Authority, and New York State Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel.

# *Celebration of Suburban Diversity*

## *1940 to 2000*



*Diversity in Suburbia didn't start with the end of World War II and the explosion of population fueled by governmental policies, such as the GI Bill and Federal Highway Act.*

*People of color, as well as, the disabled, gay & lesbians, and people of many races and religions, have lived on Long Island since well before Europeans "discovered" its native population, lush forests and fish-filled waters.*

*And they have made important contributions to the social and economic fabric that we salute.*

*This "diversity time-line," which features photographs courtesy of Hofstra University's Special Collections, Long Island*

*Studies Institute, focuses on Long Island's "suburban era." It is not complete. Rather, it is intended to be a work in progress to which we encourage additions, clarifications and (we apologize in advance) corrections.*

# Long Island Diversity Celebrities

(born, raised or recently arrived)

Criss Angel (illusionist, magician)  
 Kyle Casey "KC" Armstrong  
 (radio personality)  
 Alec, Daniel, Stephen & William  
 Baldwin (actors)  
 Steve Buscemi (actor)  
 Mariah Carey (singer)  
 Frank Catalanotto (baseball)  
 Speedy Claxton (basketball  
 Hofstra alumni)  
 LL Cool J (rapper/actor)  
 Billy Crystal (comedian)  
 Jennifer Capriati (tennis player)  
 Rodney Dangerfield (comedian)  
 Taylor Dayne (singer)  
 James Dolan (CEO-Cablevision)  
 William "Flavor Flav" Drayton (rapper)  
 Meredith Eaton-Gilden (actress -  
 Hofstra alumni)  
 Julius Erving - "Dr. J" (basketball)  
 Boomer Esiason (football player)  
 Jay Fiedler (pro-football coach - past  
 Hofstra coach)  
 Deborah Gibson (singer)  
 Leroy Grumman (aeronautical  
 engineer)  
 Joey Heatherton (actress/entertainer)  
 Christopher Higgins (ice hockey)  
 Sarah Hughes (figure skater-  
 gold medalist)  
 Bob Iger (CEO- till 2005 -  
 Walt Disney)  
 Chris Jericho (wrestler)  
 Joan Jett (singer)  
 Billy Joel (singer)  
 Christine Jorgensen (1st trans-sexual)  
 Bob Keeshan - "Capt. Kangaroo"  
 Harvey Keitel (actor)  
 Jackie Kennedy Onassis  
 (former first lady)  
 Mike Komisarek (ice hockey)  
 Michael Kors (fashion designer)  
 Ron Kovic (war activist)  
 Saul Kripke (philosopher/logician)  
 Jonathan Larson (play writer  
 "Rent"-Pulitzer Prize winner-Drama)  
 Patti LuPone (actress)  
 Ralph Macchio (actor)  
 Method Man (rapper)  
 Harvey Milk (Politician)  
 Eddie Money (singer/song writer)  
 Eddie Murphy (comedian)  
 Michael Patrick Murphy (former Navy  
 SEAL-medal of honor/purple heart)  
 Rosie O'Donnell (comedian)  
 Bill O'Reilly (commentator)  
 John Petrucci (guitarist)



Steve Park (race car driver)  
 Matt Serra (martial arts)  
 John Savage (actor)  
 Telly Savalas (actor)  
 Brian Setzer (guitarist)  
 Dee Snider (singer)  
 Howard Stern (radio host)  
 John Tesh (pianist/talk show host)  
 Vinny Testaverde (football player)  
 Walt Whitman - (author)  
 Carl Yastrzemski (baseball player)  
 David Baltimore (biologist)  
 Pat Benatar (singer)  
 Jim Brown (football player)  
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 Elaine Chao (24th Secretary of Labor)  
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 Kenneth Cole (clothing designer)  
 Francis Ford Coppola (movie director  
 Hofstra Graduate)  
 Al D'Amato (politician)  
 Tony Danza (actor)  
 Brian Dennehy (actor)  
 Doris Kearns Goodwin (Pulitzer Prize  
 winner - biographer)  
 Sean Hannity (commentator)  
 Kemp Hannon (politician)  
 Donna Karan (fashion designer)  
 Andy Kaufman (comedian)  
 George Kennedy (actor)  
 Peggy Lipton (actress)  
 Steve Madden (CEO)  
 CJ Ramone (bassist)  
 Busta Rhymes (rapper)  
 Don Rickles (comedian)  
 John Sebastian (singer)  
 Jerry Seinfeld (comedian)  
 Stuart Weitzman (shoe designer)  
 Marc Anthony (singer)  
 Raoul Barré (Cartoonist)  
 Harry Chapin (singer)  
 John Coltrane (saxophonist)  
 Perry Como (singer)  
 Nelson DeMille (author)  
 Francis Scott Fitzgerald (author)  
 Willem de Kooning (painter)  
 Guy Lombardo (band leader)  
 Jennifer Lopez (singer/actress)  
 Mario Puzo (screen writer)  
 Theodore Roosevelt (former president)  
 Robert Sobel (American professor  
 Hofstra)  
 Tazz (wrestler)  
 James Dewey Watson  
 (molecular biologist)

partial list of information obtained from longislanders.com

# 1940's



## 1940's

Dawn of the Suburban Dream

## 1945 - 1950

Disabled Veterans Force Policy Change.

Thousands of injured veterans of WW II, and later of Korea and Vietnam, settled in fast-growing Nassau. Their numbers hastened the establishment of governmental policies encouraging the hiring of people with disabilities and eventually greater access to public

## 1947-51

Construction of Levittown

Returning GIs found the new neighborhoods in the nation's first mass-produced suburb to be a refreshing change from the crowded and costly city - as long as they were white people. William Levitt included racial covenants in the Levittown deeds, a practice not uncommon in many communities, some of which also barred Jews and other groups. Even government mortgage agencies practiced institutional racism by awarding additional qualification points to whites.



## 1948

President Harry S. Truman desegregates the Military.

Nowadays the U.S. military is one of the most egalitarian of organizations. Back then, whatever the presidential order, GIs continued to face discrimination in the service and especially in housing practices, because of racism when they returned to Long Island.

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County (USPN) is founded. It moved into its building in Roosevelt in 1952. Located on 14 acres, it was the first comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation center for people with Cerebral Palsy.

## 1949

Local Political Milestone is Set.

Frank Gulotta becomes the first Italian American to hold county-wide office in Nassau. His appointment by Gov. Thomas Dewey reflects a shift in population that saw Italian Catholics become the dominant voting bloc for decades and several Italian Americans achieve powerful state and federal positions, including New York Assembly Speaker Joseph Carlino and U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato.



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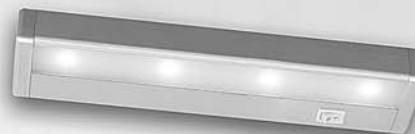
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to all the honorees for their contributions*



*Let's not simply tolerate diversity...  
lets celebrate it!*

Thomas R. Suozzi  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi**  
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As the Center celebrates its first Diversity Conference,  
we salute all those who made this event a reality.

**Office of Minority Affairs Staff Members:**

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# 1950's

## THOUSAND LANES

SUMMER 1957 • 25 CENTS



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IDEAS for the LEVITT HOME

## THE 1950's

The explosion of the defense industry largely denied higher paying jobs to people of color, who also could not gain entrance to various craft unions, and women increasingly found themselves shunted off to work in more menial vocations - such as the "Thursday night ladies" who cleaned homes in more affluent areas and were forced to live in less than "desirable" neighborhoods.

### 1951

The Ethical Culture Society Comes to Long Island.

From its new Hempstead Village headquarters, the first issue the group addressed was aiding the first "Negro" family that wanted to move to Levittown.

### 1952

Model Disabilities Organization is founded.

Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. becomes the Founder and President of Abilities, which evolved into an internationally acclaimed group that helped private industry train and employ adults with disabilities. Now located in Albertson, Abilities runs a fully chartered school for children with disabilities, and recruitment, training and employment programs for qualifying adults.

### 1953

Nassau's first Black Police Organization is formed.

New York City police Lt. William Bracey and Sgt. James Jackson met with the nine African American members of the Nassau County Police Dept. to help them form a chapter of the Guardians Association. Forty-seven years later, one of the Nassau Guardians' founding members, then a rookie named William J. Willet, would become the department's first black commissioner.

### 1954

"Brown vs. the Board of Education" changes the educational debate.

After the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Malverne School District became one of several test cases over the next couple of decades that led to desegregation, voluntary and ordered, within Long Island school districts. However, because of Long Island's small districts, virtually no progress was made in reducing the dozens of nearly all white districts. The legacy has led to a handful of nearly all minority districts that today are among the poorest and poorest performing; a failure by adults of their children.

## 1955

A sea change in shopping promises stormy seas for nearby village of Hempstead. Construction of the Roosevelt Field Mall, followed a year later by Green Acres Mall, drew shoppers from downtown villages that had been the mainstay of economic activity on Long Island. No village was harder hit than Hempstead, then known as Nassau's shopping "Hub," which became a steady decline aided by institutional racism, such as block-busting, red-lining and diversion of services.

Hazel Dukes becomes the first "Negro" to obtain a lease for an apartment in the Edward Street garden apartment complex in Roslyn Heights, after being turned down in a clear case of racial discrimination investigated by Farrell Jones, then director of the New York State Division of Human Right's Long Island office. A civil rights pioneer on LI, Mrs. Dukes eventually became head of the state NAACP.

## 1959

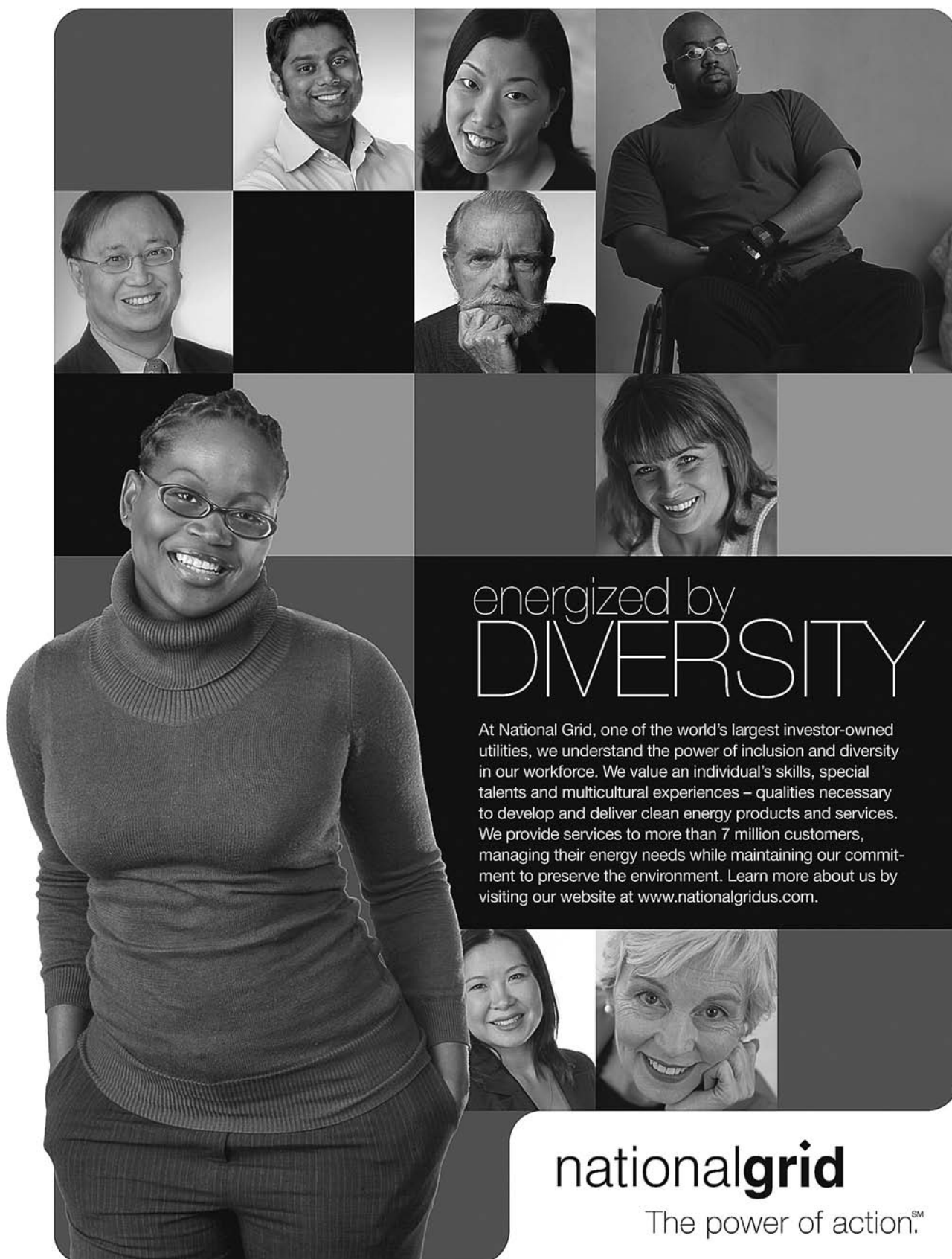
State Political Milestone set for Italian-Americans, Local Mark for Fighting Housing Discrimination.

Joseph Carlino is elected from LI to the State Assembly, which started him on a path that led to his election by fellow legislators as one of the state's most powerful officials, Assembly Speaker.

The Long Island Council for Integrated Housing was founded to lobby for passage of the Metcalf-Baker Law which outlaws most housing discrimination in Nassau and Suffolk.



*"The New Macy's Store at Roosevelt Field"*



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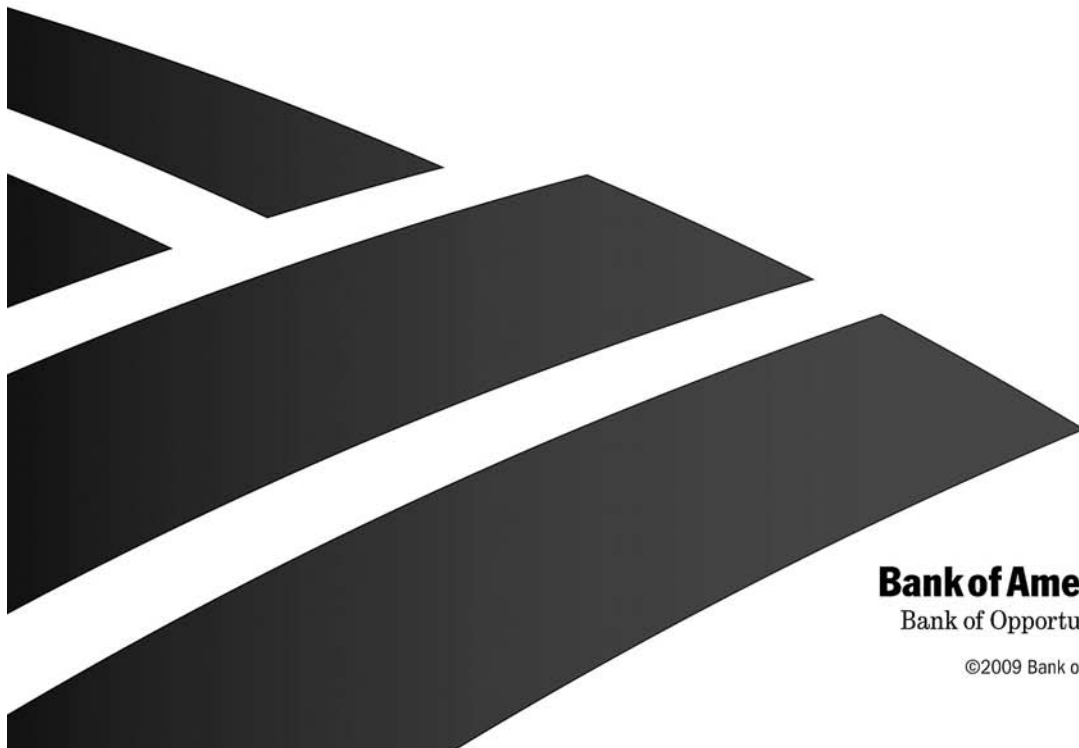
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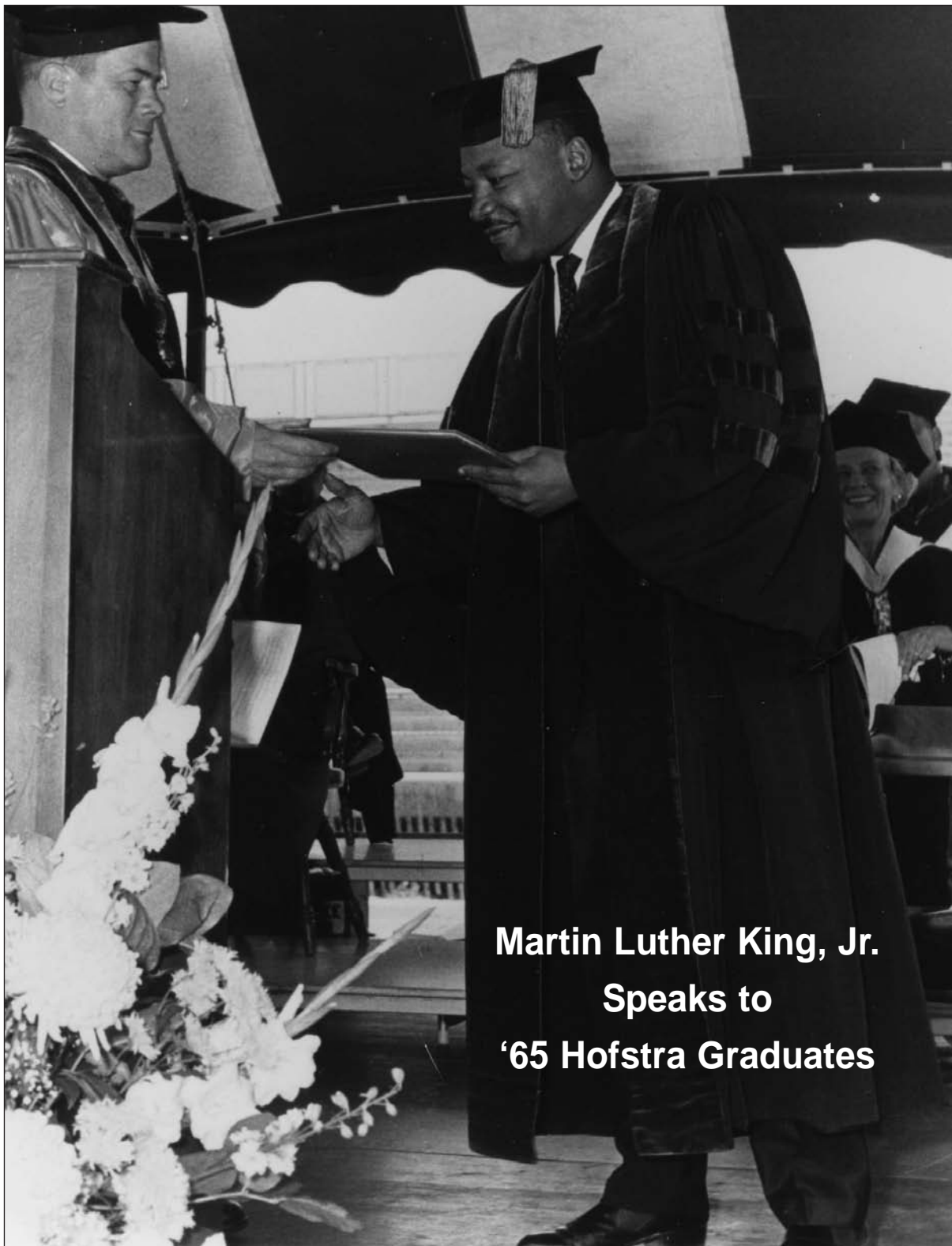
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# 1960's



**Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Speaks to  
'65 Hofstra Graduates**

## The 1960's

Long Island, which was fast on its way to becoming one of the nation's most segregated communities, threw itself into the Civil Rights movement both here and around the country. More and more people of color found themselves in jobs previously held only by whites, but often not without a fight of increasingly concerned and committed citizens.

### 1960

Activism Rises.

Local human rights committees began being formed all over LI. They were concerned with conditions of low and moderate income families of all races, focusing often on housing, hunger and access to services.

Joseph McNeil of Hempstead was one of the four African-American college students who refused to leave a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

### 1961

Migrant Workers Receive Support.

The LI Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), under the leadership of Lincoln Lynch, and Suffolk CORE, under Irwin Quintyne campaigned to achieve decent, safe housing and better working conditions for migrant workers on the duck and other farms in Suffolk County. Four decades later, activists will turn their attention to aiding low wage Latino workers, often denied a fair wage and decent housing and sometimes physically attacked.

Long Island Board of Rabbis is formed to bring together leaders of different branches of Judaism and establish closer relations with other religious organizations.

### 1962

The Civil Rights Front Expands.

Activists picket and stage sit-ins to fight for desegregation and equal education in the Malverne School District.

Julius Pearse becomes the first African-American member of in the Freeport Police Dept.

Eugene H. Nickerson becomes first Democratic Nassau County Executive, paving the way for significant opportunities and policy changes affecting people of color.

### 1963-65

Activism Accelerates.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 requires employers to pay equal wages to men and women doing the same work. The changes in the law allowed families to then purchase homes on a two income basis and also encouraged more suburban women to go into the work force.

The Nassau County Commission on Human Rights (NCCHR) becomes one of three local County Human Rights Commissions created in the country and Farrell Jones is hired as it's first Executive Director.

James D. Rice of Lakeview is hired as the director of the newly established Nassau County Job Development Center, created under the auspices of the NCCHR to assist minority job applicants.

The "Freedom Summer" Campaign drew support from civil rights organizations and religious congregations on LI, including doctors and lawyers who went South to lend their professional skills to the movement.

## 1963-65 continued

James Farmer, National Director of CORE, spoke at Roslyn High School.

Charles Hayes becomes the first African-American principal of a public school in Nassau County, Prospect Elementary School in Hempstead.

Linda Leaf is hired by the NCCHR and becomes director of "OPEN ISLAND," one of the first Fair Housing programs created by a local Human Rights Commission in the U.S. The program is designed to assist minorities to find housing on LI and become part of local, state and Federal Housing efforts.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visits Hofstra and several other LI communities. Nassau and Suffolk residents would take part in major marches on Washington for peace and civil rights, including the LIRR's "Green Ferry" that in 1968 carried 1,200 persons to trains to the nation's capital.

Hofstra initiates "Negro Opportunities At Hofstra", (NOAH). Later changed to "New Opportunities At Hofstra," it is one of the nation's first programs to recruit and assist nontraditional students whose educational experience and economic status would not otherwise have gained them admissions.

The first Korean Church on Long Island is built on Lakeville Road in Lake Success, one of many Korean congregations to expand to Nassau and Suffolk.

## 1966-69

Disabilities Fight Gains Support.

Steven Lloyd's African-American Dance Ensemble introduces the first specifically created African-American holiday of "Kwanzaa" to Long Island.

Police Commissioner Francis B. Looney incorporates Human Rights training by the NCCHR in the NCPD Police Academy and assigns Linda Leaf to conduct the sessions for all county & village Police Departments.

Aided by the implementation of the Federal Architectural Barriers Act, and local activists, businesses and government agencies begin to make their facilities more accessible.

After seven years of work, Hofstra University fully implements campus policies to create accessibility for all students with disabilities, becoming one of the only three universities in the nation with accessible learning environments and active recruiting of disabled students.

Nassau Community College becomes a leader among community colleges nationwide by addressing programs and services for undergraduates with disabilities.

Mel Jackson becomes Founder & CEO of the Leadership Training Institute based in Hempstead, a minority-led agency dedicated to the delivery of services to "marginalized" individuals, families and communities.

President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Twenty years later the Long Island Board of Realtors invites Coretta Scott King to celebrate that anniversary at the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale.

## 1969

The National Organization of Women establishes a Long Island chapter three years after the national group's inception.



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In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (Not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (He who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things). (al-Quran, Chapter 49, Verse 13)

## **The Islamic Center of Long Island Appreciates Hofstra University's Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009**

Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) said  
“[Archangel] Gabriel continued to recommend to me about treating  
the neighbors kindly and politely so much so that I thought he  
would order me to make them as my heirs.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Book 73, Hadith 43)

To all participants, with best wishes from:

General Membership, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees

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**Assemblyman Charles D. Lavine  
and Staff**

**Wish to Congratulate the Committee  
for the**

**Diverse Suburb Conference  
and**

**The Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009 Banquet**

***On a Job Well Done***



*Congratulations*  
*to*  
*All Those Responsible For This*  
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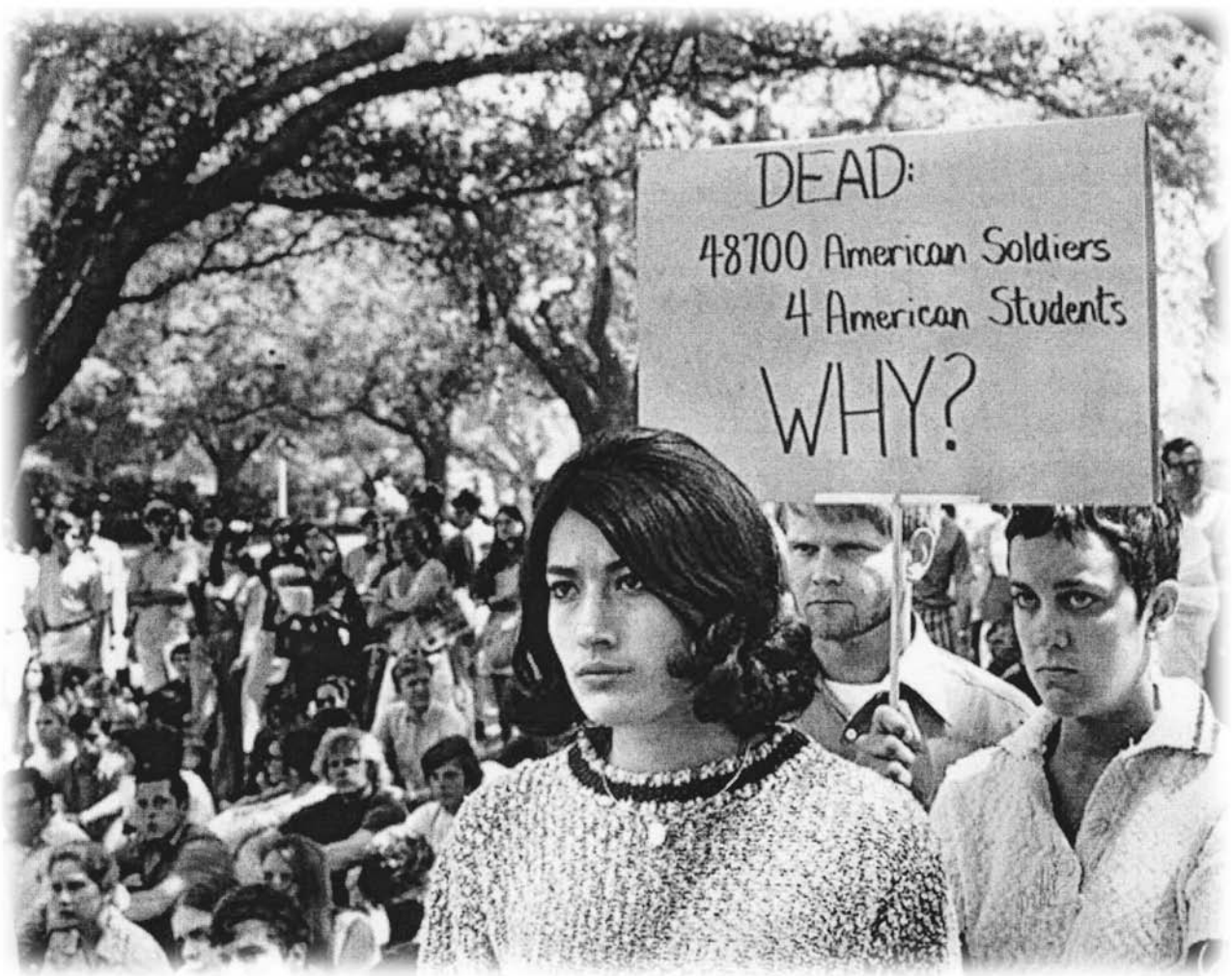
Executive Director  
Lawrence Levy

for

Long Island's First  
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*May it be the first of many!*

# 1970's



## The 1970'S

After the heady "Civil Rights Era" decade of the 1960s, which saw so many ground-breaking achievements, efforts turned to solidifying and expanding the hard-won gains - such as access for blacks to volunteer fire departments -- and to turning the words of landmark laws into action that could change the lives of people. In the late 1960s, the civil rights movement morphed into the anti-Vietnam War movement, including the effort to "Dump Johnson," as in President Lyndon, led by insurgent Democratic Congressman Allard Lowenstein from Long Island.

### 1973-1977

New Faces, Groups Add Energy to Protest Efforts.

Rev. Reginald Tuggle comes to Roosevelt as pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church, beginning a career of spiritual and social leadership that continues today.

The Economic Opportunity Commission is founded, beginning a critical period of development and political action that, under the leadership of Chairman John L. Kears, led to important government change two decades later.

The Helen Keller National Center in Sands Point for Blind, Deaf, and Deaf-blind adults opens, quickly becoming one of the most effective and lauded facility of its kind in the world.

Hazel Dukes is elected President of the New York State Conference of the NAACP for the first time.



## 1973-77 continued

Singer, songwriter Harry Chapin keynotes the first Nassau-Suffolk volunteer conference held at the Suffolk Developmental Center. A network of hundreds of organization throughout LI is created along with a handbook of volunteer opportunities on LI.

The LI Bail Bond Commission, attacks the disproportionate number of minority inmates in local, state and federal prisons and addresses deep concern on the effect that incarceration has on the families.

## 1978

More Firsts on Several Human Rights Fronts.

After years of campaigning by local rights activists, the Malverne School District finally provides busing for students who live in the predominately Afro-American neighborhoods.

The Urban League Office of Long Island opens in Hempstead with Rev. Tuggle as its first director.

Nassau County establishes the Office for the Physically Challenged.

LaFuerza Unida, United Force of Glen Cove, is established in affiliation with the national Council of La Raza, the largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S. Eventually, under the leadership of then mayor Thomas Suozzi<sup>1</sup>, Glen Cove would set up a center where low-wage workers could meet prospective employers, instead massing on streets in numbers that often caused community concern.

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Finny Varghese is the President and owner of Nexus Staffing, Inc. He has over 12 years of experience working within the IT sector as well as managing and directing IT projects, staff, clients and vendors. He like many Americans believes in the importance of hard work coupled with a 'Can-Do' attitude; a valuable non-credit life experience lesson he learned in college working full-time and attending school full-time. Today, as a leader and owner of a business, he understands first hand the importance of your time and the value it holds in you day-to-day life. When many companies and departments are asking their associates to do better with less, he wants you to know we are here to help. He believes that our associates will strive to do their best at what they love—helping other people. "We value our reputation and build on it daily – We are ready to do the hard-work required to make that happen." He welcomes the opportunity to start a long lasting relationship with you today.

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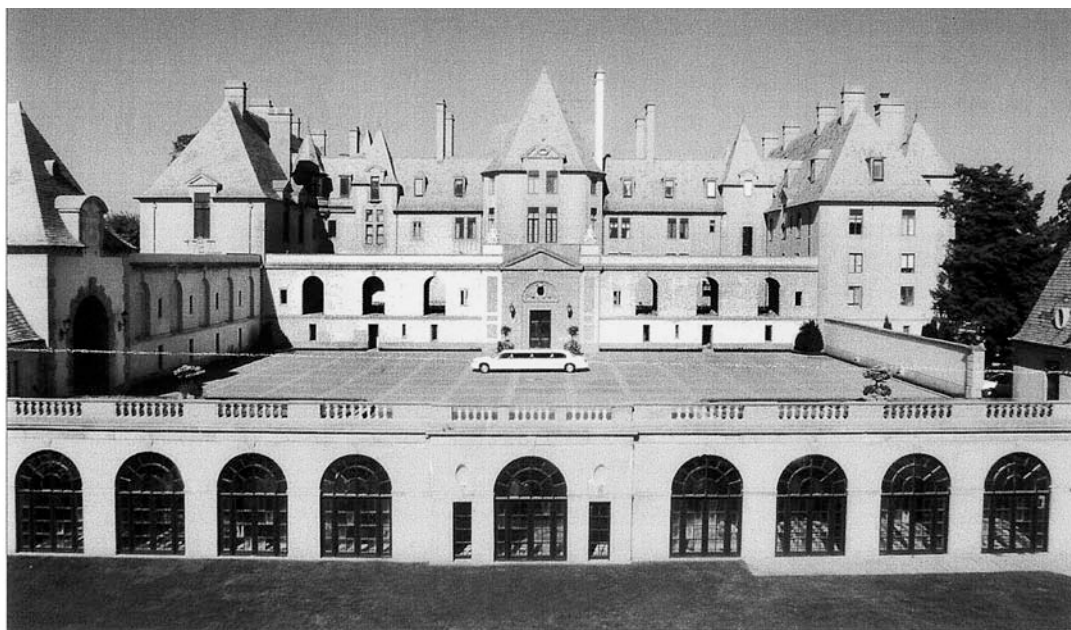
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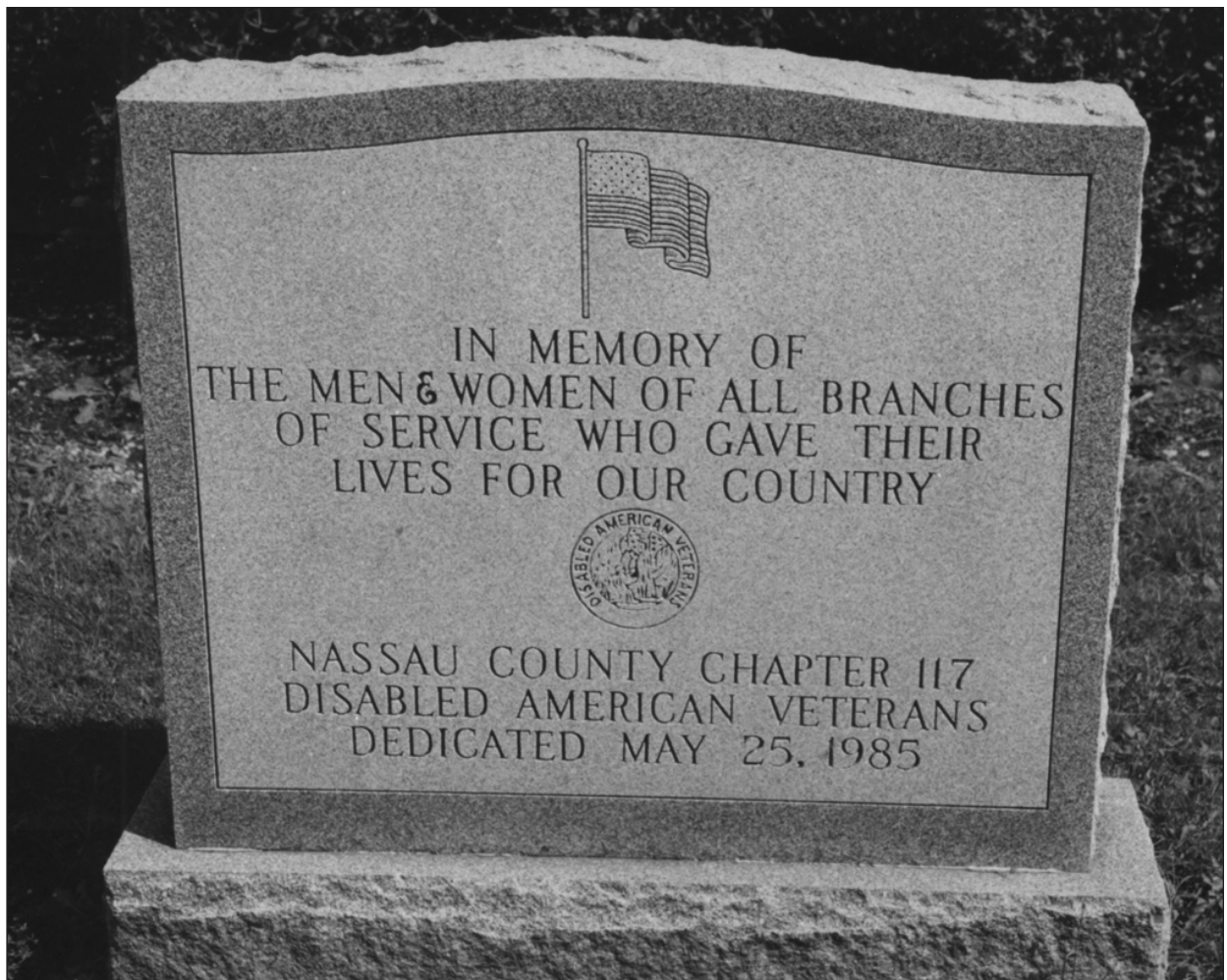
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# 1980's



## 1980

Al D'amato of Island Park, NY is elected NYS Senator.

Monsgr. Tom Hartman & Rabbi Marc Gellman form the God Squad.

Susan Andrews is the founder and Executive Director of The Court Intervention Project and the first program on LI that develops alternatives to incarceration.

## 1981

Suffolk County opens an office of Handicapped Services.

## 1982

Barbara Patton of Malverne becomes the first African-American to represent a suburban district in the NYS Legislature.

## 1983

Barbara McClintock is awarded the Nobel Prize for work she had done at Cold Spring Harbor Labs.

Lakeland County Park is designed to include the first fully accessible boardwalk trail to marshlands, audio tape nature descriptions for blind and visually impaired individuals, and raised letter signing.

Suffolk and Nassau Counties collaborate on Handi-Capable Day, region's first major Disability Expo featuring participation by non-profit health and disability services organizations, local, civic organizations and chambers of commerce, colleges and etc.

The INN is founded in a church in Hempstead as a single soup kitchen then expanded to become an inter-faith network. In 1984 it opened their first Emergency Shelter. Today there are 19 Soup Kitchens feeding more than 5,500 per day. The Hempstead Soup Kitchen has grown into a multi-faceted effort that remains ground in the principal "that everyone be treated with dignity and respect."

## 1984 - 1986

A model program is established by Suffolk County's Office of Handicapped Services to establish and implement handicapped parking requirements county-wide and issue permits to qualifying persons with disabilities, eventually replicated by New York State government.

Nassau County hosts the International Games for the Disabled, only the second such international event in history, with accessible sports venues created for 2500 physically disabled world-class athletes from over 40 nations in a two-week event attended by dignitaries from around the world. President Ronald Reagan attended and made the Opening Remarks at the start of the event.

Don Dreyer develops the first known Police Academy curriculum in the nation on "Police Inter-Action with People with Disabilities".

The Long Island Community Housing Resource Board (LICH RB), an organization comprised of agencies and organizations, the housing industry and the Long Island Board of Realtors work together to publish the first comprehensive handbook aimed at assisting minorities looking for housing on LI. Copies are widely distributed to groups, individuals and the entire LI Library System.

## 1986

Vinny Testaverde becomes the 52nd winner of the Heisman Trophy.

Nassau County's Office for the Physically Challenged works with the U.S. House of Representative's Ways and Means Committee to create Federal tax incentives for businesses to remove architectural barriers in the workplace and consumer arenas.

Julius Pearse becomes President and Founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee of Nassau County, which continues to honor people who personify the ideals and goals of Dr. Martin Luther King and to raise scholarship monies for graduating seniors going on to college.

## 1988

Dorothy Goosby is the lead plaintiff in a ground breaking suit aimed at forcing the Town of Hempstead to change from an at-large voting system, which disenfranchised minority voters to a "one-man, one-vote" system. Fred Brewington, Esq. was the lead attorney. It took 12 years to settle the suit.

The Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services develops the "Polaroid Posse", the first regional volunteer handicapped parking enforcement program utilizing local applicants to assist law enforcement agencies in issuing summonses for violations of handicapped parking laws.

Then Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was founded by Ed Diaz, Elizabeth Medina and George Herrera to be the first business organization in Nassau and Suffolk to promote Latino firms with Corporate America.

Coretta Scott King, is the honored keynote speaker at the Long Island Board of Realtors 25th Anniversary Program at the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale marking the landmark United States Supreme Court decision of Brown v. The Board of Education.

## 1989

The first Sikh Temple is started in Plainview.

James Garner is elected Mayor of the Village of Hempstead becoming the first Afro-America to be elected Mayor on LI. He went on to become President of the National Association of Mayors.

After a lengthy NIMBY struggle that attracted National Media attention Community Advocates, a small not for profit based in Roslyn Heights, establishes the first rental apartments for homeless families in Nassau County.

Lutful Hug Chowdhury, a Bangladesh born pharmacist, formed the Long Island Muslim Society. Even before the inception of this group, dedicated to continuing their religious practices in a new land, thousands of muslims from dozens of countries had been bring their faith to mosques and community centers on Long Island since the 1970's



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*Micah 6:8*

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# 1990's



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## 1990

The Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) becomes law.

## 1991

Long Island Inter-Racial Alliance for a Common Future is founded to promote quality and justice primarily in education.

First Gay Pride Parade is held in Huntington.

## 1992

Peter King, the Nassau County Comptroller and a leading Irish rights activist, is elected to a Congressional seat that he continues to hold to this day.

The Work Place Project is founded by Jennifer Gordon, who would go on to win a coveted MacArthur "genius" grant, to protect the rights of low-wage Latino workers and others being preyed on by unscrupulous employers and landlords. It is now run by Nadia Marin-Molina.

## 1995

The "One-Man, One-Vote" suit succeeds in eliminating the NC Board of Supervisors and establishing councilmatic districts.

## 1996

Chinese-American Association is founded and received IRS approval.

## 1997

Noreen Carro was elected the first Hispanic as president of the Valley Stream Chamber of Commerce and of the American Business Women's Association - Sunrise East Chapter.

## 1998

The Working Families Party is founded to promote political candidates who support issues with a progressive stance on better jobs, more affordable housing and fairer taxes.

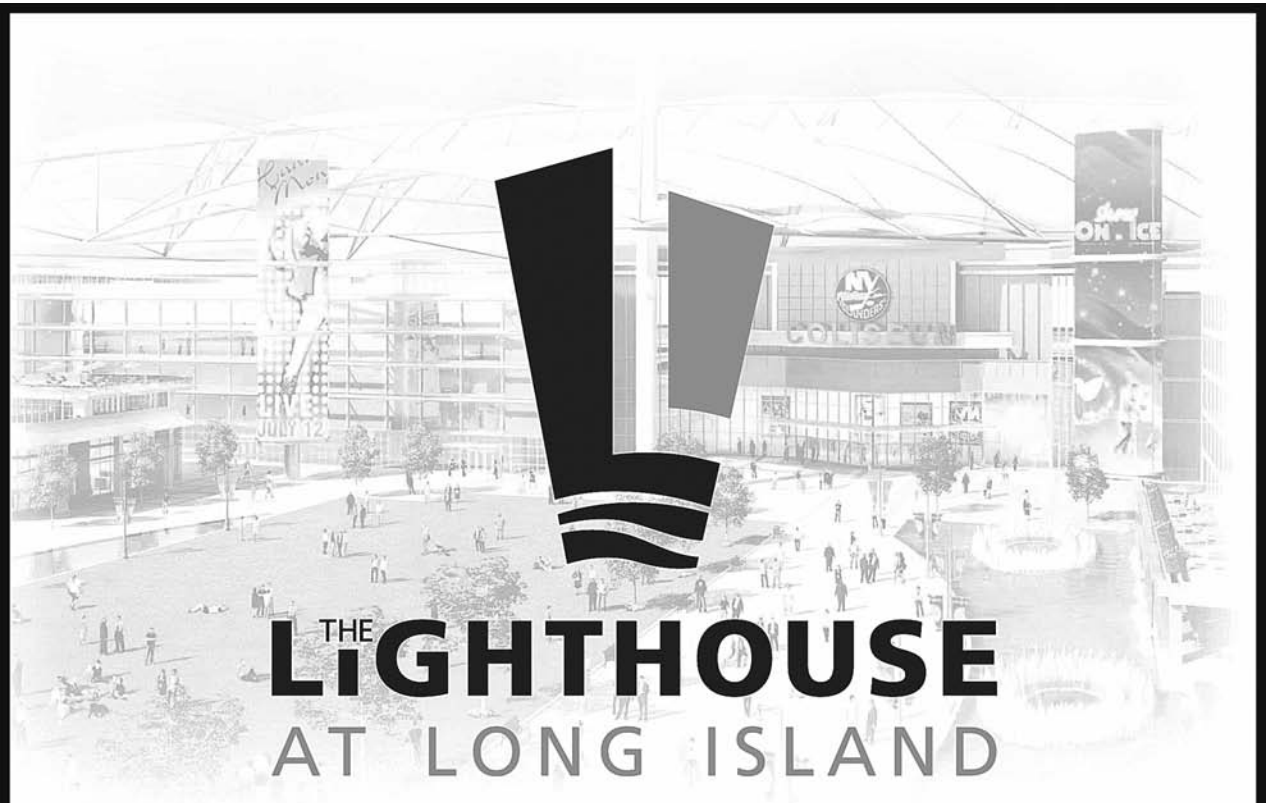


# **Nassau County Comptroller Howard Weitzman**

## *Congratulates the honorees of* **Hofstra University's Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009**

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Don Dreyer  
Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg  
Monsignor Thomas Hartman  
Dr. Faroque Ahmad Khan  
David Kilmnick  
Nadia Marin-Molina  
Lawrence Mulvey  
Reverend Reginald Tuggle

If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.--Margaret Mead.



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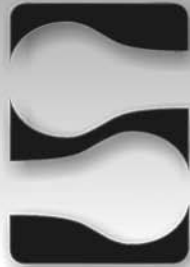
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at

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*Upon the occasion of their first  
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Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2009

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I would like to take the opportunity to thank the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University for their dedication and commitment for advocating for equality and promoting tolerance and understanding throughout Nassau County.

Sincerely,

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Nassau County Legislator Judy Jacobs  
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and  
The Celebration of Suburban  
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---

**Pavneet, Jessica, Satinder  
&  
Mohinder Singh Taneja  
(Banquet Founding Co-Chair)**

# 2000's



Williams J. Willet

## 2000

Direct actions and demonstrations that lead to the hiring of people of color by the Town of Southhampton.

The attackers of two immigrant workers in Farmingville, a hot-bed of anti-immigrant sentiment, are sentenced to long prison terms after attempting to murder the men after luring them to an abandoned home.

William J. Willett becomes the first black Police Commissioner of Nassau County.

Gary Krupp, a Jewish man from Long Beach, founds the Pave the Way Foundation, an organization whose mission is to remove obstacles between religions. His work was recognized by both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, and in the rarest of honors by both the Catholic and Anglican Churches.

Brooke Ellison becomes the first quadriplegic to graduate from Harvard University. Within years she would run unsuccessfully for State Senate.

## 2001

Long Island Immigrant Alliance is started to aid exploited workers with employment, housing and other issues. Luis Valenzuela is the director.

## 2003

David Mejias becomes the first Latino elected to a county office in Nassau when he won a hotly contested seat in the Nassau Legislature.

## 2005

Nassau County approves the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, which required employment agencies to advise prospective workers of their employment rights.

## 2006

Taiwanese American Association of Long Island, Inc (TAALI) is incorporated.

## 2008

Ecuadorian immigrant Marcelo Lucero is murdered by a gang of teens who had gone out looking for Latinos to beat in vicious practice call "beaner bashing." The event galvanizes the immigrant rights movement as 1000 people attend a rally to express their outrage at the treatment of low-wage Latino workers.

## 2009

Hazel Dukes is re-elected President of the NYS NAACP.

Maria Morales-Prieto establishes the Hispanic Network to help Long Islanders make connections with the burgeoning Latino business community.

***DIVERSITY CONFERENCE AND BANQUET IS HELD.***



The Reverend Reginal Tuggle's Roosevelt church expands.

The Celebration of  
Suburban Diversity 2009 Committee  
and  
The National Center for Suburban Studies  
at Hofstra®

Wish to Thank the

*Generous Banquet Donors*  
*Co-chairs*  
*Volunteers*  
*and*  
*Hofstra Staff*

Who Captured the Spirit of this  
Special Evening  
and  
Worked so Hard to Make it a Success!



# *Embracing Our Differences*



*"Beautiful Song"*

by Shanilk Acosta & Emily Saen



*"Common Ground"*

by Kate Kelly



*"Countries Coming Together"*

by Adam Glickman



*"Diversity"*

by James Schultz



*"Education = Power"*

by Arielle Glick



*"Painting the World"*

by Kaitlyn Brown



*"Profiles of Diversity"*

by Diane Gregov



*"Towards One Goal"*

by Grace Barrett



*"Voices of Hope - Beacons of Light"*

by Studio class Commack Middle School

The collection of *Embracing Our Differences, Long Island:*  
A project of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc.