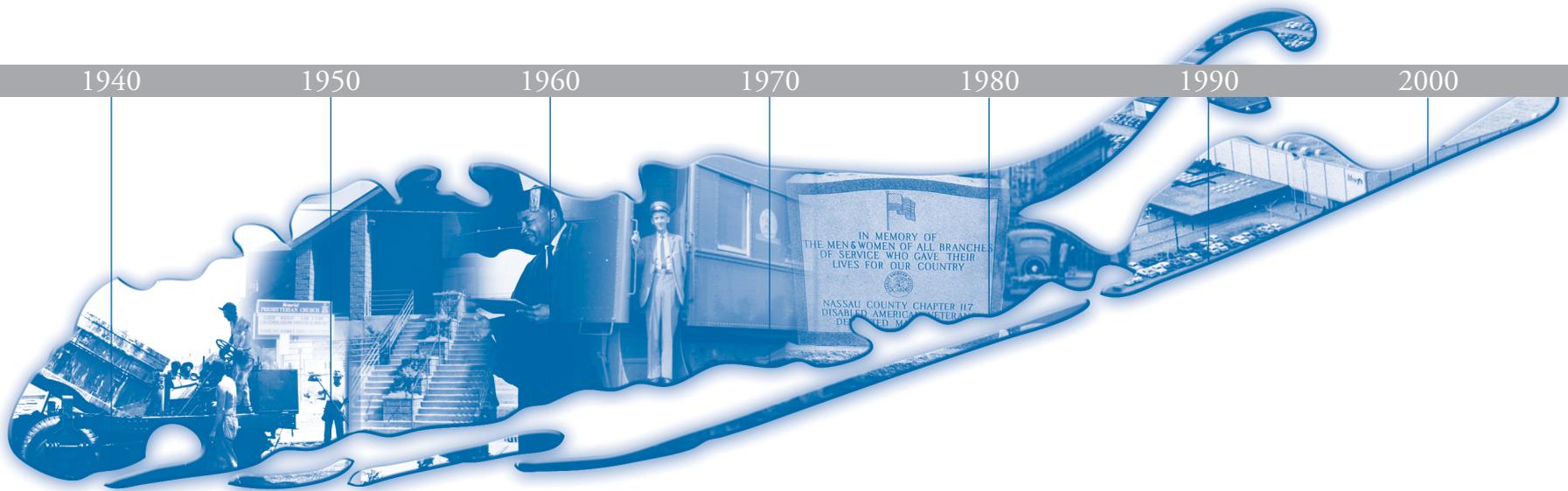


suburban diversity



a long island timeline



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SUBURBAN STUDIES AT
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY®

The Committee hopes that guests attending the Celebration of Suburban Diversity 2010 on October 26 will share this publication with others, especially educators and activists, who care about the role of diversity in Long Island's "suburban era." For more information, including additional copies, please contact Ina Katz at 516-463-9939 or Ina.Katz@hofstra.edu.



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SUBURBAN STUDIES AT
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY®

This “Long Island Diversity Timeline” is sponsored by the
Celebration of Suburban Diversity Committee 2010,
which helped organize this year’s
Diversity Banquet to support the work of the
National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University®.

The Committee wishes to thank
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Celebration of Suburban Diversity

Long Island

1940's to 2010

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 have lived on Long Island since well before the first Europeans "discovered" its native population, lush forests and fish-filled waters. Various peoples have made important contributions to the social and economic fabric that we salute. This "diversity time-line" 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.

1940's

1950

1960

1970

Dawn of Suburbia

1941-1946

Although the Armed Forces are segregated during World War II, the all Black Tuskegee Airmen have the lowest loss record in escorting the white fighter groups and are in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units. At least three Tuskegee Airmen would settle on Long Island.



Spann Watson: from Westbury, NY
One of the many Tuskegee Airmen,

1945

Disabled Veterans Force Policy Change

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

1947-1951

Levittown is Built

Returning GIs found 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 Catholics and Jews. Even government mortgage agencies practiced institutional racism by awarding additional qualification points to whites.



African American workers building a Levittown

1980

1990

2000

2010

1948

President Harry S. Truman Desegregates the Military.

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

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County (UCPN) is founded.

The Association would move 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. UCP of Suffolk would broaden the trailblazing effort.

1949

Local Political Milestone is Set

Fank 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 would see Italian Catholics be the dominant voting block for decades. Several Italian Americans achieve powerful state and federal positions, including New York Assembly Speaker Joseph Carlino and U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato.



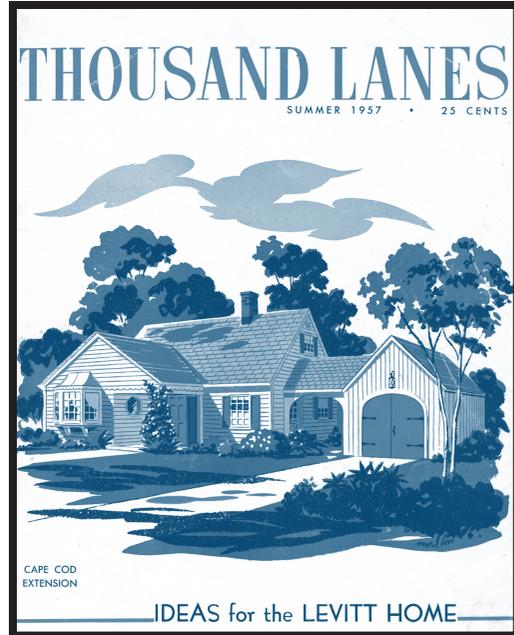
First Family to move into a Levittown home

1940

1950's

1960

1970



Thousand Lanes Magazine Cover

The Growth of Suburbia

The 1950's

The growing defense industry largely denies higher paying jobs to people of color. They are not able to enter various craft unions and increasingly find themselves shunted off to more menial vocations – such as maids in more affluent areas - and are forced to live in substandard housing in segregated neighborhoods.

1951

The Ethical Culture Society Comes to Long Island.

From its new Hempstead Village headquarters, the first issue the group addresses is aiding the first “Negro” family that wants to move to Levittown.

1952

Model Disabilities Organization is Formed

Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. becomes the Founder and President of Abilities, which evolves into an internationally acclaimed group that helps 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.

1980

1990

2000

2010

1953

Nassau's First Black Police Organization is Created.

New York City police Lt. William Bracey and Sgt. James Jackson meet 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.



Guardian Association Flag



The Brown Sisters

1954

“Brown vs. the Board of Education” Changes the Educational Debate

After the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Malverne School District becomes one of several test cases over the next couple of decades that leads to desegregation, voluntary and ordered, within Long Island school districts. But, virtually no progress is made in reducing racial disparities among Long Island's small independent school districts, as neither the state or federal government is willing or able to force mergers that will lead to integration. The legacy has led to a handful of nearly all minority districts that today are among the poorest and poorest performing.

1940

1950's

1960

1970



1955: Construction Begins on Roosevelt Field Shopping Center

1955

A Sea Change in Shopping Promises Stormy Seas for Hempstead Village.

Construction of the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center, followed a year later by Green Acres, draws shoppers from downtown villages that have been the mainstay of economic activity on Long Island. No village is harder hit than Hempstead, known as Nassau's shopping "Hub." The new mall sparks a steady decline in the village, hastened by institutional racism, such as block-busting, red-lining and diversion of services.

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



Hazel Dukes

1980

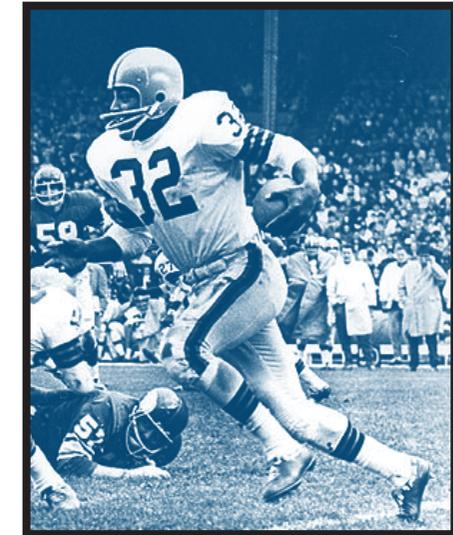
1990

2000

2010

1956

Jim Brown, after an incredible athletic career at Manhasset High School, is a unanimous first team All-American football player at Syracuse University. Brown would become one of the best National Football League running backs ever and a successful actor.



Jim Brown



Joseph Carlino

1959

In a milestone for Italian Americans, Joseph Carlino is elected to the State Assembly. This would start him on a path to being chosen by fellow legislators as one of the state's most powerful officials, Assembly Speaker.

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

1940

1950

1960's

1970

The Civil Rights Front Expands

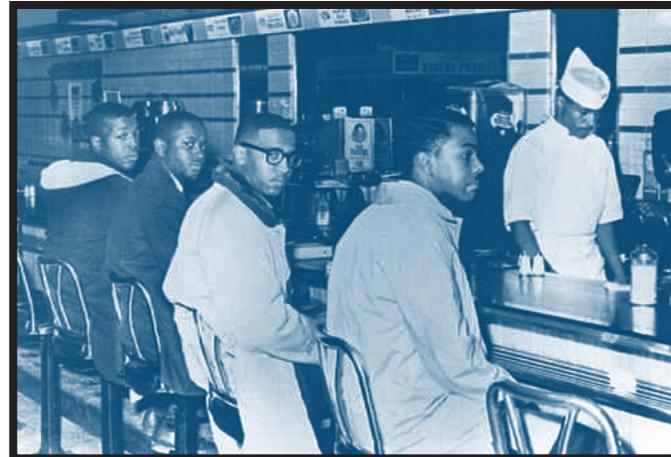
Long Island, which is fast on its way to becoming one of the nation's most segregated communities, throws itself into the Civil Rights movement. More and more people of color find themselves in jobs previously held only by whites, but often at the insistence of increasingly concerned and committed citizens.

Local human rights committees are formed all over Long Island.

They are concerned with conditions of low and moderate income families of all races, focusing often on housing, hunger and access to services. In an incident that gains world wide attention, Joseph McNeil of Hempstead is one of the four African-American college students arrested after refusing to leave a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

1961 Migrant Workers Receive Support

The Long Island Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), under the leadership of Lincoln Lynch, and Suffolk CORE, under Irwin Quintyne, campaign to achieve decent, safe housing and better working conditions for migrant workers on the farms in Suffolk County. Four decades later, activists will turn their attention to aiding low wage Latino workers, often denied fair wages and decent housing and subject to physical attacks.



The Greensboro Four

1980

1990

2000

2010

1962

The Civil Rights Front Expands

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

Julius Pearse becomes the first African-American Officer in the Freeport Police Department.

Eugene H. Nickerson is elected the first Democratic Nassau County Executive, paving the way for significant opportunities and policy changes affecting minorities.

1963-65

Activism Accelerates

The Nassau County Commission on Human Rights (NCCHR) becomes one of three local County Human Rights Commissions created in the United States and Farrell Jones is hired as its 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.



Freedom Summer Campaign

The "Freedom Summer" Campaign draws support from civil rights organizations, religious congregations and professionals on Long Island, who head South to lend their skills to the movement.

1940

1950

1960's

1970

1963-65 continued

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

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

Linda Leaf is hired to create and implement a housing program designed to help minorities find housing on Long Island. Called the Open Island, it is one of the first such programs in the country.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visits Hofstra University and several other Long Island 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 carries 1,200 persons to trains to the nation's capital.

Hofstra initiates "Negro Opportunities At Hofstra" (NOAH). Later changed to "New Opportunitites 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.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1980

1990

2000

2010

1966-69

Disabilities Fight Gains Support



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 joins Hofstra as a leader among colleges nationwide by addressing programs and services for undergraduates with disabilities.



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

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

Police Commisioner 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 and village Police Departments.

Mel Jackson becomes Founder and 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 in Uniondale.

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

1940

1950

1960

1970's

New Faces and Groups Add Energy To Suburbia



Women's Liberation Rally

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. In the late 1960s, the civil rights movement morphs into the anti-Vietnam War movement, including the effort to “Dump Johnson,” as in President Lyndon Johnson. That effort is led by insurgent Democratic Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein from Long Island.

1973-77

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. Kearsse, would lead to important government change two decades later.



Rev. Reginald Tuggle

1980

1990

2000

2010

1973-77 continued

The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf and Blind Youths and Adults in Sands Point is founded, quickly becoming one of the most effective and lauded facilities of its kind in the world.

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

Harry Chapin, singer, songwriter, and philanthropist, is the keynote speaker at the first Nassau-Suffolk volunteer conference held at the Suffolk Developmental Center. A network of hundreds of organizations is created along with a handbook of volunteer opportunities on Long Island.

1974

The Ronald McDonald House opens in 1974 on the campus of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center, adjacent to Schneider Children's Hospital

1978

More Firsts on Several Human Rights Fronts.

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



Harry Chapin

1940

1950

1960

1970's

1978 Continues



Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk, known as “the most significant gay official ever elected in the United States,” is assassinated in his San Francisco City Supervisor’s office. Although he grew up in Woodmere and Bay Shore, he does not become active in the gay rights movement until after he moves to San Francisco in 1972.

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

The Office for the Physically Challenged in Nassau is established as one of the first local government agency of it’s kind.

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 United States. Eventually, under the leadership of Mayor Thomas Suozzi, Glen Cove would set up a center where low-wage workers could meet prospective employers, instead of congregating on streets in numbers that often caused community concern.

1979

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



Coretta Scott King

1980's

1990

2000

2010

Opening New Suburban Fronts

As Long Island grows more and more diverse, activists step up their efforts on numerous issues that affect the social and racial challenges on Long Island - politics, poverty, disabilities, housing and education, to name a few.



Alfonse D'Amato

1980-82

Hempstead Town Supervisor Alfonse D’Amato, of Island Park, is the first Italian American elected to the United States Senate from New York.

Father Thomas Hartman and Rabbi Marc Gellman form the God Squad, an interfaith team that uses the power of the media and personal charm to promote understanding and tolerance around the world.



The God Squad

The Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services is created to provide opportunities and support for people with disabilities.

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

1983

Barbara McClintock is awarded the Nobel Prize for work at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where she expanded on fundamental genetic thinking.



Barbara Patton

1940

1950

1960

1970

1983 continued

Lakeland County Park in Suffolk offers the first fully accessible boardwalk trail through marshlands, audio tape nature descriptions, and raised letter signage for the blind and other visually impaired individuals.

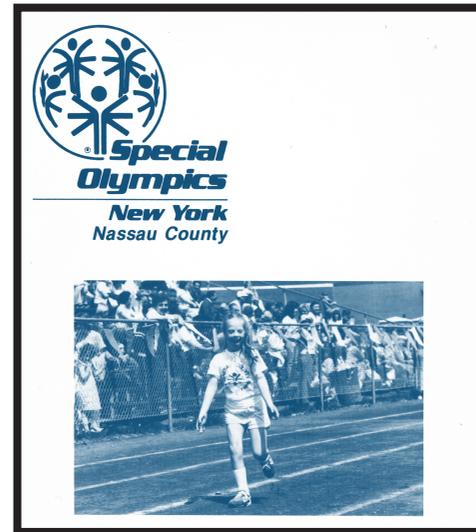
Suffolk and Nassau Counties collaborate on Handi-Capable Day, the region’s first major Disability Expo featuring participation by businesses, schools, non-profit agencies, community groups, local organizations and chambers of commerce.

The Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) is founded in a Hempstead Village church. INN would expand to open emergency shelters and currently operates 19 “soup kitchens” serving more than 5,500 meals per day.

1984-86

Suffolk Office of Handicapped Services establishes a pilot program to issue parking permits to qualifying persons with disabilities. The program becomes a model for the State

The International Games for the Disabled is hosted in Nassau, offering accessible sports venues for 2500 athletes from over 40 nations in a two -week event attended by dignitaries from around the world. President Ronald Reagan delivers the opening remarks.



Special Olympics Program

1980's

1990

2000

2010

1984-86 continued

The Long Island Community Housing Resource Board (LICHRB) publishes the first comprehensive Housing Handbook aimed at assisting minorities looking for housing on LI. Copies are widely distributed to groups, individuals and libraries across Long Island.

1986

Vincent Testaverde of Elmont becomes the 52nd winner of the Heisman Trophy.

Nassau’s Office for the Physically Challenged works with Congress to create federal tax incentives for businesses to remove architectural barriers in the workplace and consumer arenas.



Vincent Testaverde



Dorothy Goosby

1988

Dorothy Goosby is the lead plaintiff in a ground breaking 12 year legal challenge aimed at forcing the Town of Hempstead to scrap its at-large voting system, which, disenfranchises minority voters and disregards the principals of “one-man, one- vote”. Attorney Fred Brewington and his legal team ultimately prevail.

1980's

1990

2000

2010



Special Olympics Program

1988 continued

Suffolk's 'Polaroid Posse' is the first regional effort utilizing local volunteers to assist law enforcement agencies in issuing summonses for violations of handicapped parking laws.

The Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, founded by Ed Diaz, Elizabeth Medina and George Herrera, is incorporated as the first business group on Long Island to promote Hispanic business with Corporate America.

Coretta Scott King is the honored keynote speaker at the Long Island Board of Realtors event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

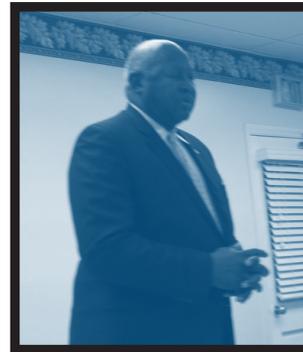
1989

The first Sikh Temple on Long Island is formed in Plainview.

James Garner is elected Mayor of the Village of Hempstead becoming the first African-American to be elected to such an office on Long Island. He would go on to become President of the National Association of Mayors.

"Not In My Back Yard" (NIMBY) After a lengthy neighborhood struggle that attracts national media attention, Community Advocates, a small not for profit based in Roslyn Heights, establishes the first rental apartments for homeless families in Nassau.

Lutful Hogue Chowdhury, a Bangladesh born pharmacist, forms the Long Island Muslim Society. Even before the inception of this group, which is dedicated to continuing their religious practices in a new land, thousands of muslims from dozens of countries have been bringing their faith to mosques and community centers on Long Island for years.



Mayor James Garner

1980

1990's

2000

2010

A Suburban Mosaic Emerges

The 1990's brought a significant surge in minority and women - owned businesses and elected officials. The decade also saw a substantial growth in the population of south and east Asian and Latino immigrants.

1990-91

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) becomes law.

Long Island Inter-Racial Alliance for a Common Future is founded to promote quality and justice primarily in education. Most minority students on Long Island are and continue to be, packed in a handful of regions poorest districts, leading to unequal academic opportunity and outcomes.

The First Gay Pride Parade is held in Huntington. Originally greeted with strong protest, now it is a well attended and widely accepted event in the community



Peter King

1992

Peter King, the Nassau County Comptroller and a leading Irish rights activist, is elected to a Congressional seat in Nassau.

The Work Place Project is created 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.



Jennifer Gordon

1940

1950

1960

1970

1995

The “one-man, one vote” suit succeeds in eliminating the Nassau County Board of Supervisors and establishing legislative districts.

1996

The Chinese-American Association is founded and receives IRS approval. The association works to unite the Chinese Americans of the Long Island and provides them with social and economic opportunities.

1997

Noreen Carro is elected the first Hispanic as president of the Valley Stream Chamber of Commerce and of the American Business Women’s Association “Sunrise East Chapter”. This reflects both an increase of Latinos and women in Long Island business and culture.



Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy is the first women to be elected to Congress from Long Island

1998-99

Dorothy Goosby is elected to the Hempstead Town Board as the first African-American woman to hold the post.

1980

1990

2000's

2010

Suburban Dreams and Reality

Long Islanders of all backgrounds increasingly come together and join to aid their fellow Americans and others around the world who suffer devastating natural disasters. However, signs of old prejudices continue to erupt, sometimes violently.



William J. Willett

2000

Direct actions and demonstrations 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 who were lured, with the promise of work, 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 is recognized by Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, and in the rarest of honors, by both the Catholic and Anglican Churches.



Gary Krupp

1980

1990

2000's

2010

2001-03

Elaine Lan Chao, who attended Syosset High School, is named U.S. Secretary of Labor by President George W. Bush. She is the first Chinese American to be appointed to a cabinet.

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

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

2005
The Domestic Workers Bill of Rights is approved by Nassau, requiring employment agencies to advise prospective workers of their employment rights.

2006
Taiwanese American Association of Long Island, Inc. (TAALI) is incorporated. Tai Nin Wang a Chinese, business woman, co-founds the Long Island Asian-American Cultural Festival.

2008
David Paterson, who grew up in Hempstead and graduated Hofstra Law School, becomes the first black and visually impaired Governor of New York.



David Paterson

1980

1990

2000's

2010

2008 continued

Presidential Debate between Barack Obama and John McCain is held at Hofstra University.



Presidential Debate at Hofstra

Marcelo Lucero, an Ecuadorian immigrant, is murdered by a gang of teens who had gone out looking for Latinos to beat. 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.

Barack Obama is elected the first black President of the United States with a surge of support in suburban communities.

2009
Hazel Duker is re-elected President of the State NAACP



Hazel Duker

1980

1990

2000

2010

2010

A Medford teenager is sentenced to five years in prison for his role in the fatal stabbing of Ecuadorian immigrant Marcelo Lucero in Patchogue.



Vigil for Marcelo Lucero

The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University holds its second annual "Celebration of Suburban Diversity." The first celebration was organized the prior year as part of a major international conference on the changing suburbs, directed by NCSS Academic Director, Christopher Niedt. Each of these events draws nearly 500 people and raises tens of thousands of dollars for diversity related scholarships, internships, research and community grants. The Celebration is sponsored by some of Long Island's most influential businesses, organizations and individuals, a sign of diversity's broadening appeal.

Disaster Relief unites Long Islanders of all backgrounds. Many individuals and groups help Haitian-American and other immigrant neighbors in efforts to aid those who suffered natural disasters throughout the nation and the world.

Other Notable Long Island Diversity Celebrities

(born, raised or recently arrived)

Steve Buscemi (actor)

Mariah Carey (singer)

LL Cool J (rapper/actor)

Billy Crystal (comedian)

Billy Joel (singer)

Christine Jorgensen (1st trans-sexual)

Ron Kovic (war activist)

Eddie Murphy (comedian)

Rosie O'Donnell (comedian)

Bill O'Reilly (commentator)



Telly Savalas (actor)

Carl Yastrzemski (baseball player)

Francis Ford Coppola (movie director)

Hofstra Graduate)

Jerry Seinfeld (comedian)

John Coltrane (saxophonist)

Willem de Kooning (painter)

Guy Lombardo (band leader)

Jennifer Lopez (singer/actress)



Partial list of information obtained from longislanders.com
Let us know who else should be mentioned for our next publication.

Comments

1970's

1980's

1990

2000's

2010

*The following entries were inadvertently omitted during the editing process.
They (and other good suggestions) will be included in the next printing.*



Joan Saltzman

1972

Philanthropist Joan Saltzman and Hofstra Law Prof. David Kadane create a not-for-profit group called Community Advocates (CA) to aid the poor, especially in the area of housing rights. Currently headed by human rights activist Marge Rogatz, CA remains an effective advocate for a variety of causes.

1986

Salvadoran exiles and refugees on Long Island establish CARECEN to address the needs of Central Americans who are fleeing the region amid the civil wars, political repression and counter-insurgencies of the 1980's. The group remains actively engaged in employment, housing and other issues.

2001

ERASE Racism is created by the Long Island Community Foundation, which hires Elaine Gross to develop and lead an organization that would fight all forms of racism by driving public policy change with sophisticated data, public conferences and other tools.



Elaine Gross