

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
No. 21/03-04

January 12, 2004

Press Contact: Dennis Wrynn 451-4822

***SUFFOLK CENTER ON THE HOLOCAUST, DIVERSITY AND HUMAN
UNDERSTANDING IS ESTABLISHED***

Suffolk County Community College has announced the formation of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding (HDHU), a non-profit organization created to assist in the College's community-wide efforts to teach tolerance and human understanding. In making the announcement, Michael Hollander, Chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, said, "The events of 9/11 were a wake-up call for every institution in our society to step outside the box and develop new and innovative strategies for eliminating prejudices, bigotry and racism...and the mission of HDHU works to accomplish just that." The mission of HDHU is to develop learning programs and projects that will help students and residents to more fully understand their role in creating a bias-free workplace and society.

Last year, Holocaust historian Andrew Liput donated an extensive collection of Holocaust memorabilia to the College. Eventually the collection will be broadened to include material related to the Civil Rights Movement, Apartheid, the Armenian, Bosnian, Rwandan, Kurdish Genocide, and the China and Soviet Union political purges. A goal of HDHU is to find a permanent museum site to showcase the Holocaust artifacts and similar collections. The site will include a research/study center that will feature an interactive wing containing exhibit space, a library and screening rooms.

The first showing of the Holocaust collection to the public will take place on *Yom Hashoa*, April 18, 2004, in the Sagtikos Building on the College's Ammerman Campus in Selden and will coincide with a three day program of events for residents and students. *Yom Hashoa* is the national day of mourning and remembrance of those lost in the Holocaust.

The officers and members of the HDHU Board of Directors are Dr. M. Vicki Wacksman - Chairperson, Dr. Eleanor Kra - Vice Chair and Secretary and Dr. Henry Laufer - Treasurer. Dr. Wacksman is the President of Wacksman Associates, Ltd. and Trustee of Suffolk County Community College, Dr. Kra is the Assistant Dean for Administration at the School of Health Technology at Stony Brook University and Dr. Laufer is Chief

Scientist for Renaissance Technologies. Other members of the board are Andrew Liput Esq., who donated the collection, Steve Schrier Esq., Vice President of Legal Planning and Information Services at Suffolk CCC, Rabbi Steven Moss of the Oakdale Synagogue, Dr. Shirley Pippins, President of Suffolk County Community College, Michael Hollander, President of the LI Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, James Buller, Vice President of Marjam Supply Company, Dr. Stephen D. Shapiro, corporate development and investment consultant, Rabbi Morris Shapiro, Rabbi Emeritus of the South Huntington Jewish Center and Angela Martinez, co-owner of Utopia Home Care, Inc., a national home care business.

Photo caption

Members of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity and Human understanding are (left to right) Steven Schrier, Andrew Liput, Rabbi Steven Moss, Dr. M. Vicki Wacksman, Dr. Shirley Pippins, Dr. Eleanor Kra, Michael Hollander and Dr. Henry Laufer.