



**Suffolk Center on the
Holocaust, Diversity and
Human Understanding, Inc.**

Press Release

**For Immediate Release
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October 27, 2005

**CHDHU TO SPONSOR “BUILDING A BETTER LI: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
IMMIGRANTS” PROGRAM and NEW CITIZENS EXHIBIT**

On November 2nd and November 16th, the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc. will be sponsoring a celebration of the immigrant roots of this nation and region. Designed to encourage appreciation for the benefits our society has reaped from the talents and diversity of immigrants, the program will feature presentations by immigrants and an exhibition of photographs taken by naturalized citizens. The schedule of events will also include a video produced by East Hampton High School on the transitional issues confronting students arriving from another country along with foods introduced to Long Island by immigrant groups.

The keynote presentation, “Educating on Human Rights,” will be given by Jacqueline Murekatete, the sole survivor in her family of the Rwandan genocide. She attended public schools in Queens and later went to Stony Brook University before transferring to NYU on a Seinfeld Foundation Scholarship. Ms. Murekatete often appears at speaking engagements with a Holocaust survivor; together they seek to educate our community about human rights and the need to work at avoiding further bloodshed. Quoted in the New York Times she said “Sometimes, students ask if they can help, and I say, The best thing you can do for me is to educate yourselves so this doesn’t continue to happen.” She will speak at 9:30 am on November 2, 2005 in the Shea Theatre of the Islip Arts Building (Ammerman Campus of Suffolk County Community College in Selden).

During the afternoon program, beginning at 12:30 pm, a panel of immigrants will speak about what brought them to this country and how they have enriched our society. The panel will be moderated by David Ochoa and will include County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, a medical doctor, Dr. Raja Jaber, a college professor, Ben Chen, and students.

On the Grant Campus in Brentwood, the program will be held on November 16, also starting at 9:30 am. There the keynote speakers will be Saad Sarwana and Dr. Sunita S. Mukhi. Mr. Sarwana is a graduate of Stony Brook University and a native of Pakistan. He currently works as a comedian and he will speak about the use of comedy in assimilation and acceptance. Dr. Mukhi is the director of Asian and

Asian American Programs at Stony brook University's Charles Wang Center. She will speak about the immigrant roots of this nation and how immigrants have contributed to its greatness.

The panel discussion that will follow will again be moderated by David Ochoa and the panelists will include Dr. Horst Saalbach, a corporate executive with Festo in Hauppauge, Chau Lam, a journalist with Newsday, artist Pura Cruz, Marianela Jordan, a Nassau County government official, and Werner Reich, a Holocaust survivor and tolerance educator.

Present during the programs will be an exhibit created by Bread and Roses, the non-for profit arm of Local 1199 SEIU, to offer cultural activities for union members. The exhibit, *New Citizens*, consists of photographs taken by union members together with their personal reactions. They present their aspirations, their fears, their joy and their perspective on their new home. The exhibit can be seen in the Shea Theatre and its lobby, Ammerman Campus, Suffolk County Community College, from November 2nd through November 8th. It will then move to the Grant Campus of the College and can be seen from November 16th through the 20th.