



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



Embracing Our Differences Long Island

**For Immediate Release
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**SUFFOLK CENTER ON THE HOLOCAUST, DIVERSITY & HUMAN
UNDERSTANDING, INC. (CHDHU) PRESENTS
EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES
BRIEFING ON JUNE 20TH**

Brentwood, NY...June 20, 2007 Hosted by the Honorable Frank Petrone, Town of Huntington Supervisor, and Dr. Shirley R. Pippins, President of Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), today's informational briefing held for over 100 community and business leaders, the media, and public officials at SCCC's Grant Campus explained the *Embracing Our Differences* project and included a preview of the art work submitted for the competition portion of the program. Guests were entertained by *Ballet Long Island's* Multicultural Celebration dance performance.

The *Embracing Our Differences – Long Island (EOD-LI)* project is a first for Long Island. Its objective is to build a better community by reinforcing values that respect human dignity and foster freedom. The project consists of a phenomenal outdoor art exhibit complemented by a variety of locally sponsored activities that will be carried out during the month of October 2007.

EOD-LI is modeled after a project initiated in Sarasota, Florida in 2004. Richard Bergman, who as Director of the Sarasota-Manatee Arch Family Education Center of the Florida Holocaust Museum produced the *Embracing Our Differences* project in Florida, spoke at the briefing and told the audience that "in Sarasota, our experience has been that *Embracing our Differences* truly changes the way children and adults think about other people." CHDHU Chair, Dr. M. Vicki Wacksman, who has visited the Sarasota exhibition, believes it will "provide our government, businesses, schools, civic and religious organizations a great opportunity to promote goals for diversity and provide residents life-changing benefits to grow socially and culturally."

EOD-LI activities will include panel discussions, workshops, seminars, films, dramatic presentations, training programs and concerts. The juried art exhibition, consisting of billboard-size (16' x 12') panels, will be hosted by the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc. (CHDHU), and will take place in Heckscher Park in Huntington. This central attraction is designed to provoke public discussion and encourage a climate in which there is understanding and acceptance of difference. As Supervisor Petrone put it, "It is unfortunate but undeniable that Long Island needs to do more to address the prejudice that persists in our society. The Town of Huntington is proud to be affiliated with the *Embracing Our Differences* project and the hope that it holds for the future."

photo captions

Pictured : The *Ballet Long Island* dance company performing their Multicultural Celebration.

Pictured (l to r): Huntington Town Supervisor **Frank Petrone**, Suffolk County Community College VP **Mary Lou Araneo**, **Richard Bergman**, CHDHU Chairperson **Dr. Vicki Wacksman** and CHDHU Executive Director **Steven Schrier**.