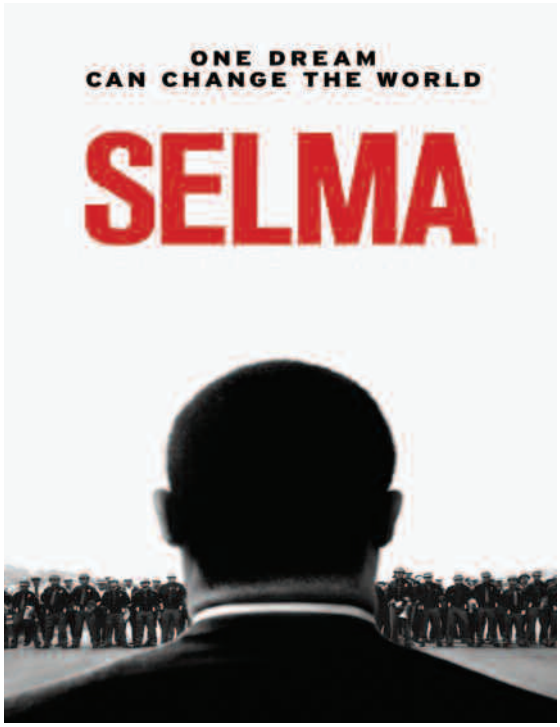

The Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, introduced several Holocaust survivors to each other during an event in May 2013. In November, they were invited back to continue a dialogue about their diverse experiences as victims of the Nazi effort to exterminate the Jewish people and how the Holocaust shaped their lives. The participants were Werner Reich, now of Smithtown, who was born in Germany, moved to Yugoslavia, and was sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, and Mauthausen; Hannah Robinson, now of Sound Beach, who was born in Germany, and at nine years old her parents sent her with her brother to England; and Ruth Minsky Sender, now of East Setauket, who was born in Poland and forced to live in the Lodz Ghetto, was then sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, two work camps, and a displaced persons camp in Germany.

For our students, the Office of Multicultural Affairs continued to schedule Diversity Workshops for College Seminar classes; scheduled a screening and discussion of the film *"Selma",* coordinated a trip to Gettysburg to participate in a Bicycle Challenge for Disabled Veterans, and facilitated an Intercultural Festival with Irish Step dancers, a Jazz flutist, and Native American dancers.

This Office also launched and implemented the Minority to Majority Leadership Academy. This Academy teaches women and underrepresented students leadership skills, assigning them the responsibility for taking the skills they have acquired and applying them at the College or within their community. As part of the Academy experience, instructors and guest speakers dialog with students on perceptions and the reality regarding what it's like to be a minority or a woman vying for a leadership role. This program has yielded tangible results to the campus, most specifically in finding effective student peer mentors. To be selected as a campus peer mentor, students complete a process that includes a rigorous interview. As a result of the leadership skills developed through the Academy program, students shine in this endeavor. Almost 50% of the peer mentors on the Eastern Campus have participated and completed the Leadership Academy. A new Academy group will start this fall and we plan to expand the Academy to the Ammerman and Michael J. Grant campuses.



The Office of Multicultural Affairs has also developed other programs to support inclusion and dialog among members of the college community and student body. Interested students were invited to participate in the Synergy program, which offers opportunities to engage in conversations with community members, including undocumented immigrants, in an effort to enhance communication with area law enforcement. The office also provided a Disability Awareness program that was offered to the general campus population. This program required students to utilize durable medical equipment, such as a wheelchair, and navigate the campus to experience what it is like to be differently-abled. Students are then required to write a summative report on what the experience was like. This session took place in October, which is Disability Awareness Month.

I have reconvened the college-wide diversity advisory committee. Composed of faculty, administrators, and counselors who have an interest in diversity, the committee is charged with advising the Office of Multicultural Affairs and making suggestions for planning one special program each semester.

I was happy to join the Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) on our Eastern Campus, as the Club hosted a networking luncheon for its club members and members of the campus community. The program included Latin music, food, and demonstrations of Latin dances.