



ART CONTEST WINNERS

Sofia Alami
 Gregory Andrews
 Tess Barbato
 Grace Barrett
 Briana Berardi
 Stephanie Breitman
 Amy Brookbank
 Kaitlyn Brown
 Caitlyn Burke
 Kathryn Digilio
 Deanna Esposito
 Angela Fattarusso
 Lucas Foglia
 Jennefer Garcia
 Felicia Giaccone
 Adam Glickman
 Maya Gouw
 William Grabowski
 Diane Gregov
 Nick Gresio
 Chris Grisolia
 Joy Jaworski
 Anna Johnson
 Kate Kelly
 Julien Malet
 Ian Marquit
 Danielle Nir
 Erica Portnoy
 Doris Rowe
 Eva Salgado
 Jessica Schmidt
 Ashley Smith
 Michelle Tassone
 Melissa Volkis

For further information
www.chdhu.org/eod

photo by William Grabowski

Diversity Report Cited by Media

Newsday (reprinting an article from the *Los Angeles Times*), the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe* and other major publications recently reported on a scholarly study written by Robert Putnam, a highly regarded political scientist at Harvard. Unfortunately, the published reports do not do justice to Dr. Putnam's findings and conclusions. His work is so compelling that I would like to summarize it for you and relate it to our Embracing Our Differences project.

Dr. Putnam analyzed

data that found increasing levels of ethnic diversity in most of society, and predicted a continuation of the trend. Diversity was found to have significant short and long term consequences, including enhanced creativity, rapid economic growth and technology transfer to underdeveloped nations. Dr. Putnam also discovered that, while "ethnic diversity is an important social asset," in the short run there is a reduction in community cooperation, trust and

civic participation. The long term is very promising, with diverse communities forging "new, more encompassing identities."

The paper Dr. Putnam wrote is not, as some commentators thought, about whether there should be diversity. The findings recognize that there will be diversity and that the outcome is beneficial to society. There is a recognition that there is some discomfort with diversity, and that there are initially some negative effects. **See p. 2**



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Worldwide Voices

Artwork by Ashley Smith

In the Media

The media have caught on to the importance of *Embracing Our Differences* and several stories have appeared. Channel 55 carried a story and, if you have Quicktime, you can view it on our Web site at <http://www.chdhu.org/eod/media.html>. There has also been coverage by *Newsday*, *Suffolk Life*, *Islip TV* and the *Suffolk Lawyer*, all of which can also be viewed on our Web site.

We are working closely with an independent filmmaker on creating a short documentary based upon our 2007 exhibition. The film will be ideal for promoting the 2008 exhibition and stimulating artists to submit works for the next competition.

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The lesson of the study is that we must continue to

reinforce values that embrace differences and find common ground. The goal is to develop shared identities through meaningful interaction. Our efforts, and those of our partners, through the *Embracing Our Differences* project, are well suited for moving us along in achieving this goal.

Educational Opportunities

The Education/Programs Committee, under the leadership of its co-chairs, Dr. Asberine Alford and Sonia Palacio-Grottola, has been coordinating the development of partnering programs and school visits, all with the objective of maximizing the learning that will occur in every segment of the community.

An educational guide is being developed for teachers and families through the joint efforts of

Steven Klipstein, professor at Suffolk County Community College and curator for CHDHU, and Joy Weiner, Director of Education for the Heckscher Art Museum. The guide will provide activities to reinforce the values fostered by the artwork.

The Heckscher Art Museum will also be providing training for its own docents and ours on giving guided tours of the art exhibition.

The docents will be available on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. and by appointment.

The exhibition is scheduled to open on September 26 on the Village Green (Park Ave.) adjacent to Heckscher Park, and continue there until October 8. It will then move into the Park, which is at the intersection of Prime Ave. and Route 25a in Huntington, from October 11 to 24.

