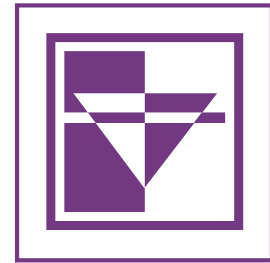


THE RACIAL EQUITY REVIEW

EMERGE



ERASE RACISM'S NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH, TRENDS, AND OUR WORK.

Fall 2006

You can support our work

Visit our website at
www.eraseracismny.org

- To make a contribution
- To get the latest news
- To view upcoming events
- To volunteer

NEWS FLASH!

As we are going to print, the Suffolk County Fair Housing Legislation passed the full Legislature! Visit our website for more information.

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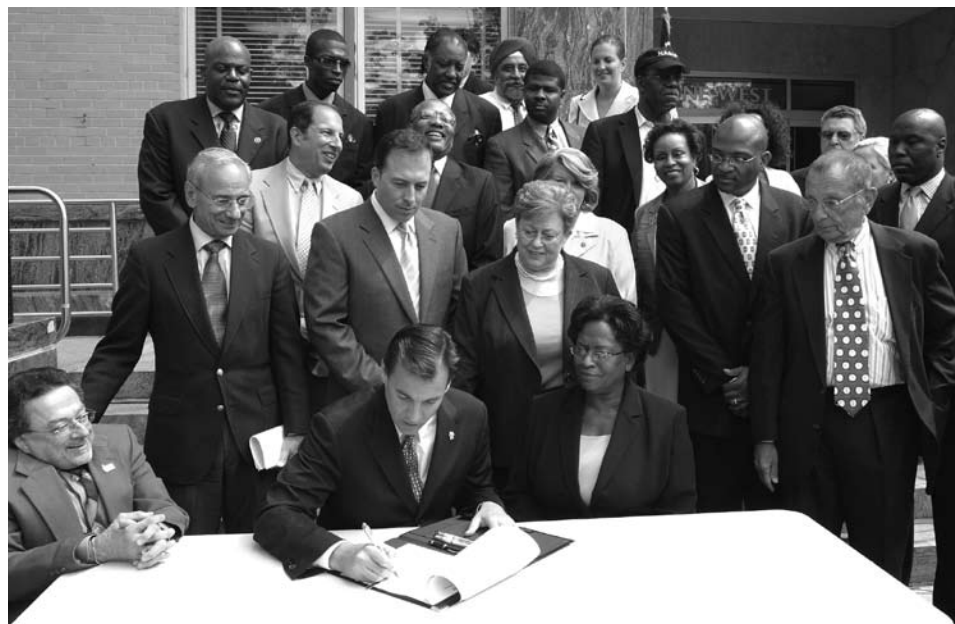
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NASSAU COUNTY FAIR HOUSING LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

On August 24, Nassau County Executive Suozzi signed landmark fair housing legislation into law. ERASE Racism applauds Nassau County Executive Suozzi's leadership and the Nassau County Legislature for taking a serious step toward dismantling segregation and ensuring that all Nassau residents have an opportunity to live in the neighborhood of their choice. A big thank you to Legislator Mejias for shepherding the legislation through the Minority Affairs Committee. Thanks as well to Presiding Officer Judy Jacobs and the full Nassau County Legislature for passing this landmark fair housing legislation.

In April of 2005 ERASE Racism released a report "Long Island Fair Housing: A State of Inequity" highlighting the dire need for effective fair housing enforcement on Long Island. One of the findings in the report was that both Nassau and Suffolk Counties had no local enforcement of their fair housing laws, relying solely on the State's dysfunctional enforcement system. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi courageously stepped up to the plate and collaborated with ERASE Racism's legislative team to devise new local fair housing laws and a local fair housing enforcement system. The work began in June 2005 and the new law will take effect January 1, 2007.

Visit ERASE Racism's website for periodic updates at www.eraseracismny.org and watch for ERASE Racism's alerts regarding the new law.

COLLEGE OF ADVISORS FORMED

ERASE Racism expanded its leadership team by adding **Amy Hagedorn** and **john powell** as the first two members of the newly formed ERASE Racism College of Advisors. As staunch advocates of racial justice, Mrs. Hagedorn and Professor powell were both enthusiastic about offering their special gifts to the work of ERASE Racism.



After teaching early childhood education for twenty-three years and helping to start several pre-kindergarten programs, Mrs. Hagedorn hardly retired, but continued to work for the betterment of Long Island. She is currently president of the board for Sustainable Long Island, a regional non-profit organization that promotes economic development, environmental health, and social equity. She also serves on the advisory board of the Long Island Community Foundation, where she has been donor and advisor of the Horace & Amy Hagedorn Fund for the past ten years. And now, as the widow of Horace Hagedorn, the Founder of Miracle-Gro, Ms. Hagedorn has established the new Horace Hagedorn Foundation where she serves as the president. When asked why she would sit on this committee, Amy stated, "supporting ERASE Racism's mission is a top priority for me, and I am honored to join the College of Advisors."



Professor john a. powell is an internationally recognized authority in the areas of civil rights, civil liberties, and issues relating to race, ethnicity, poverty, and the law. He is the executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University. He also holds the Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Moritz College of Law. Professor powell has served as a consultant to the governments of Mozambique, South Africa, and India.

Professor powell has taught at Columbia University School of Law, Harvard Law School, University of Miami School of Law, American University, the University of San Francisco School of Law, and the University of Minnesota Law School. He joined the faculty at Ohio State in 2002. john stated that he joined the committee because, "Racism is predicated on the notion that we are not only not our brothers and sister's keeper but that we are not our brothers' and sisters' brother and sister. Working for racial justice is my life's work and I'm glad to have ERASE Racism as a partner."

ABOUT "RACE"

According to the consensus of geneticists and anthropologists, there are no biological human types to which "race" validly refers. When ERASE Racism uses terms such as "race", "racism" or refers to groups of people by commonly used "racial" descriptions we are acknowledging socially constructed categories of race but we are not endorsing racial classification schemes.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the third edition of *Emerge: The Racial Equity Review*. As our front page article suggests, new fair housing legislation has been signed into law on Long Island! Special thanks to my colleagues on the ERASE Racism Legislative Team who worked tirelessly to make this law a reality: ERASE Racism board member Howard Glickstein, Esq., Craig Gurian, Esq. executive director, Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York, and last but certainly not least Cathryn Harris, JD, project manager for the housing campaign. On pages 6 and 7 you will see some of the many individuals and organizations who provided valuable support for this campaign.

Abraham Krasnoff, the inaugural recipient of the ERASE Racism Courage and Commitment Award was surrounded by well-wishers at our Second Annual Spring Benefit, *A Common Thread: Celebrating People of the African Diaspora*. ERASE Racism's newest manager Debbie-Ann Chang deserves praise for her coordination of this successful event. Relive the excitement with photos galore.

Over 300 people have signed on to the ERASE Racism Partnership for Racial Equity. Many Partners were helpful with the fair housing campaign and they also came together for a special forum for Partners to discuss race. Don't miss out on the next partner event. Sign up today.

Elaine Gross

ERASE RACISM PARTNERS FOR RACIAL EQUITY ARE TALKING ABOUT RACE!



In September 2006 ERASE Racism's Partners for Racial Equity gathered at Reckson Plaza in Uniondale for a lively and informative discussion on RACE. The discussion was facilitated by ERASE Racism board member David E. McClean who is an adjunct professor of Philosophy at Molloy College in Rockville Centre. David has also taught courses in business and social ethics at Rutgers University and Hunter College. He writes and speaks frequently on issues surrounding race and culture. He has presented papers at The New School, Purdue University, University of Southern Maine, University of Oregon at Eugene, University of Colorado at Denver, Rutgers University, UC Berkeley, and Howard University. He is also the founder and director of the Interfaith Union for Progressive Religion (www.iunion.org).

David obtained his B.A. (summa cum laude) in comparative religious studies from the City University of New York's Hunter College. He holds a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from New York University, with a concentration in philosophy, and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the New School.

Clips from "Race: The Power of an Illusion" by Larry Adelman co-director of California Newsreel were shown and after viewing this documentary a lively discussion followed.

If you would like to become a Partner for Racial Equity and receive invitations to future Partner events, please complete the form on the back of this newsletter. You may also log on to our website and complete the partnership form online.



WASHINGTON MUTUAL GIVING BACK!

With its largest corporate gift of \$25,000 from Washington Mutual, ERASE Racism's education program gets a boost to continue advocacy for racially equitable public school education on Long Island. Washington Mutual Vice President & Corporate Giving Manager Mr. Allen Gomez stated, "Quality public school education for all students is tied to the future economic and social health of the Long Island region, and we are pleased to support ERASE Racism's public school education racial equity campaign."



Elaine Gross, president ERASE Racism & Allen Gomez, VP and corporate giving manager WaMu



(L-R) Peter Visconti, Valerie Cartright, Howard Glickstein, Marge Rogatz, David McClean, Suzy Sonenberg, Scott Williams, Elaine Gross, Christina Vargas Law, Aldustus Jordan and sitting-honoree Abraham Krasnoff.

COMMON THREAD GALA RAISES \$140,000

With the help of over 100 sponsors and our very first honoree—Abraham Krasnoff—this year's "A Common Thread: Celebrating People of the African Diaspora" raised \$140,000 towards ERASE Racism's operating expenses.

The crowd of over 270 enjoyed an evening with a distinctive Caribbean flair: music by Ex-Zib-Its Steel Orchestra and a selection of Island culinary treats. The Marketplace was back again, featuring local artists Bob Carter with his sculptures and paintings, and Panchita Carter with her handmade jewelry. Zawadi fiber art studio provided wearable art for your body and interior art for your home, Bernie Rohe offered scarves, and Shimoda displayed fantastic jewelry. To top things off, guests could purchase ERASE Racism's custom designed, handmade kente cloth portfolios.

Denise Richardson, co-host of the *Pledge Drive* on WNET Thirteen, once again emceed the event. ERASE Racism Board Chair, Dr. Aldustus Jordan of Stony Brook University School of Medicine, president Elaine Gross, and event co-chairs Gini Booth and Scott Williams spoke briefly before turning the evening over to our honoree. Mr. Krasnoff received the

ERASE Racism Courage and Commitment Award with grace, humility, and poignant words of praise and thanks. To further honor Mr. Krasnoff, the award has been named the Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award.

1. *Courage and Commitment Award Honoree*
Abraham Krasnoff & spouse Julienne Krasnoff.

2. *Deirdre Parrish Williams, Newsday; Lori Andrade and Sarah Lansdale, Sustainable Long Island.*

3. *Gini Booth, Literacy Suffolk Inc.-Event Co-chair*
Scott Williams,
Changing Our World Inc. / ERASE Racism Board Asst. Secretary & Event Co-chairs

4. *Dr. Lawrence Scheer, North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System; Dr. Robert A. Scott, Adelphi University; Abraham Krasnoff, Courage & Commitment Award Honoree; Jeff Kraut, North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System.*

5. *Miriam Couch, Educational Consultant; Elaine Gross, ERASE Racism President; and Suzy Sonenberg, Long Island Community Foundation & ERASE Racism Board Treasurer.*



6. Lawrence Davidow, Davidow/ Davidow/Siegel & Stern, LLP; Suzy Sonenberg, Long Island Community Foundation & ERASE Racism Board Treasurer and Elaine Gross, ERASE Racism President & spouse Jess Gross.

7. Marge Rogatz, Community Advocates Inc. & ERASE Racism Board Secretary and Debbie-Ann Chang, ERASE Racism.

8. George Meyer, Stony Brook University and Dionne Walker-Belgrave, Farmingdale State University.



9. Abraham Krasnoff-Courage and Commitment Award Honoree; Elaine Gross, ERASE Racism President and Dr. Aldustus Jordan, Stony Brook University & ERASE Racism Board Chair.

10. Rachelle Cokely and Dr. Lindamichell Baron, Harlin Jacque Publications.



11. Vanessa Green, Long Island Community Foundation; Betty Schlein, Long Island Community Foundation Board Member and Dr. Luis Valenzuela, Long Island Immigrant Alliance.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION TAKES MANY FORMS

The new Nassau County fair housing law, due to take effect on January 1, 2007, will protect individuals who are discriminated against in housing based on any of the following protected classes: race, creed, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, religion, source of income, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, and disability.

Housing discrimination is most familiar as “steering.” Steering occurs, for example, when a realtor denies a person of color access to a rental or purchase of a home in a predominantly white neighborhood, or when families with children are prevented from renting in a building where single professionals live.

However, there are other forms of housing discrimination to watch out for:

- Charging a tenant a larger security deposit and/or rent based on the tenant being a member of a protected class.
- Segregating apartment complexes’ floors or units by race or ethnicity.
- Only allowing people with disabilities to live on the first floor.
- Refusing to do repairs or provide services to tenants based on their membership in a protected class.
- Offering unequal terms in mortgage rates, services, or home insurance based on the inquirer’s membership to a protected class.
- Neighborhood hate campaigns aimed at intimidating new neighbors based on their membership to a protected class.
- Current residents intimidating real estate professionals who show homes to people belonging to one of the listed protected classes.

Remember you must experience discrimination based on being a member of a protected class to be protected under the fair housing laws. The new law does not cover basic landlord/tenant disputes.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you think you have experienced housing discrimination or have a landlord/tenant problem call

LONG ISLAND HOUSING SERVICES

1-800-660-6920 or go to www.lifairhousing.org

THANK YOU

ERASE Racism is grateful to everyone who testified in support of the Nassau County Fair Housing legislation. Testimony came from a wide variety of individuals representing many different constituencies on Long Island. Praise and thanks to the following individuals for your stellar contributions:

- Roger Clayman, *executive director, Long Island Federation of Labor*
- Don Dreyer, *director, Office for the Physically Challenged*
- Patrick Duggan, *deputy county executive, Nassau County Office of Economic Development*
- Renaire Frierson, *executive director, Nassau County Commission on Human Rights*
- Howard Glickstein, *dean emeritus Touro Law School & vice chair of ERASE Racism Board*
- Craig Gurian, Esq., *executive director, Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York*
- Amy Hagedorn, *commissioner, Nassau County Planning Commission*
- Marianela Jordan, *executive director, Nassau County C.A.S.A.*
- Jacqueline Terry Lee, *president of North Shore NAACP*
- Prof. John Logan, *professor of Sociology, Brown University*
- Rev. Delores Miller, *member, ACORN*
- David Raff, Esq., *founding partner, Raff & Becker, LLP*
- Marge Rogatz, *president, Community Advocates & board member of ERASE Racism*
- Kate Rossi, *president & COO, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage*
- Michelle Santantonio, *executive director, Long Island Housing Services*
- Harriet Spiegelman, *project facilitator, Long Island Housing Services and*
- Jeannie Waters, *disability and community advocate, Rockville Center.*

Your testimony was invaluable!

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

By calling your legislators and attending the various public events surrounding the introduction and passage of the Nassau law you showed our elected officials that residents wanted a change. Thank you.

- 100 Black Women of Long Island
- 100 Black Women – Suffolk Chapter
- ACORN
- American Jewish Committee
- Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York
- Brown University American Communities Project
- Cameron Engineering
- Central Islip UFSD
- Citibank
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
- Community Advocates
- Community United Methodist Church in Massapequa
- ERASE Racism's Partners for Racial Equity
- Five Towns Community Center
- Hofstra University School of Law
- Jobs With Justice Long Island
- Kathryn Marshall & Associates
- Latino Jewish Council of Long Island
- Long Island Center for Independent Living
- Long Island Community Foundation
- Long Island Council of Churches
- Long Island Federation of Labor
- Long Island Housing Partnership
- Long Island Housing Services
- Long Island Immigrant Alliance
- NAACP – Multiple Long Island Chapters
- Nassau County
 - CASA
 - Commission on Human Rights
 - Office of Economic Development
 - Office of Housing & Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Office of Physically Challenged
 - OHIA, Section 8 Housing Program
 - Planning commission
 - Senior Affairs
 - Housing Initiative
- Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless
- North Shore LIJ Health Systems
- Peace Valley Haven
- Power Express
- Raff & Becker, LLP
- Rauch Foundation
- Stony Brook University School of Medicine
- Sustainable Long Island
- Touro Law School
- Workplace Project



FAIR HOUSING IN THE MEDIA

ERASE Racism's drive to change fair housing policies on Long Island garnered significant media attention, with 17 articles published to date on the new legislation in regional papers including the New York Times, Newsday and Suffolk Life. Movement with both the Nassau and Suffolk Legislation was reported on local television news and radio, along with ERASE Racism president Elaine Gross' guest appearance on Diverse Long Island aired on Channel 12.

Elaine Gross, president ERASE Racism and Cathryn Harris, project manager ERASE Racism.

E·R·A·S·E



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ERASE RACISM'S PARTNERSHIP FOR RACIAL EQUITY BECOME A PARTNER!

ERASE Racism is always eager to find people who believe in our mission. We are proud to introduce a new way for you to follow our progress and get involved in our work. Becoming a Partner is free.

People who sign up for the Partnership for Racial Equity receive:

- Updates on our work and upcoming events
- The latest news and trends relating to race & racial equity
- Invitations to forums and events that will connect partners with others committed to social change.
- Opportunities to participate in policy campaigns.

Yes! I am interested in supporting ERASE Racism as a Partner for Racial Equity.

Mail to: ERASE Racism
6800 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 109W
Syosset, NY 11791-4401
Fax: 516/921-4866
Phone: 516/921-4863
or register on our website
www.eraseracismny.org

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Title: _____

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