

Social justice gathering at Landmark

Community members come together to promote cultural diversity and support for minority groups

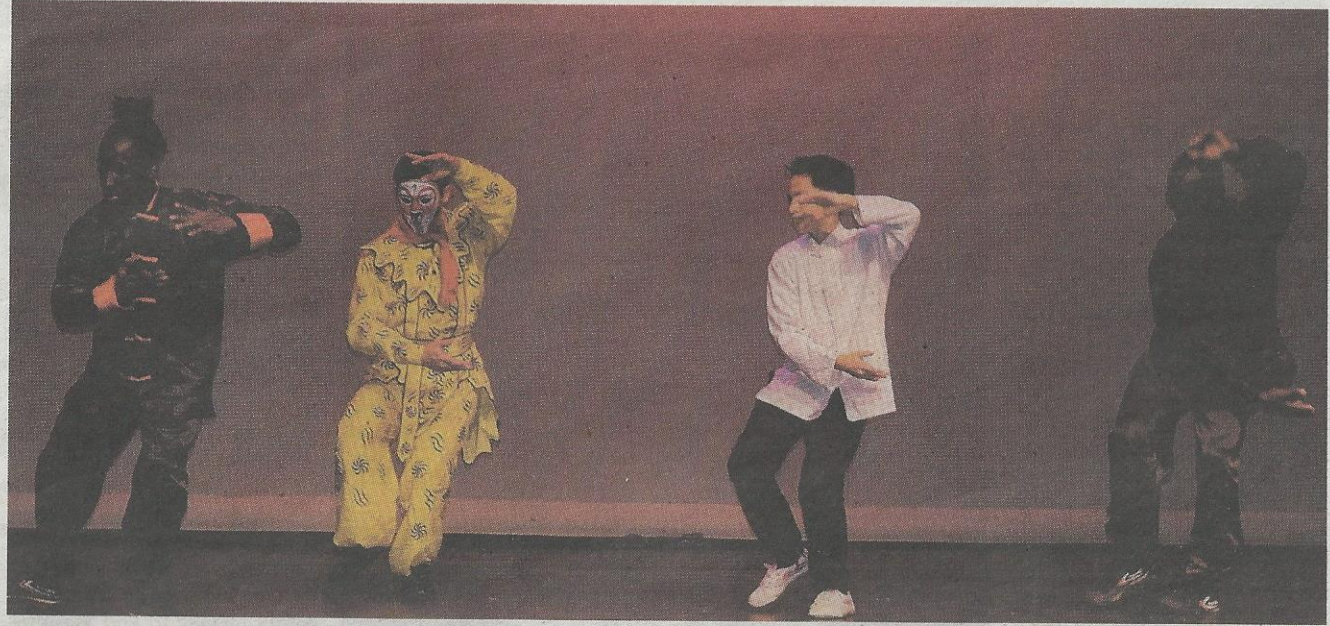
BY DAVID LEVIN

Some local nonprofit organizations fear the inauguration of the new president this week will cause progress toward social justice for many groups to backslide, representatives told a crowd of about 100 people Sunday at the Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street in Port Washington.

Elise May of Port Washington, one of the founders of Long Island Together, a new educational alliance, said she is concerned that progress on rights for people of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and people with disabilities will be rolled back, and that a new era of discrimination will begin after Republican President-elect Donald Trump is inaugurated.

Long Island Together sponsored Sunday's event, titled "... and Social Justice for All," to create an exchange of thought between the Port Washington community and local groups that advocate for social justice.

May and Sonia Arora, the co-founders of Long Island Together,



A cultural performance at "Social Justice for All," a activist gathering at the Landmark on Main Street on Sunday.

er, both teach in Port Washington schools and use the arts to teach students how to express themselves, in theater and in poetry, respectively.

"Our mission is to reach out

to people who feel threatened by changes that may be coming in the government," May said.

Several other activists took to the stage Sunday to express their concerns over groups who

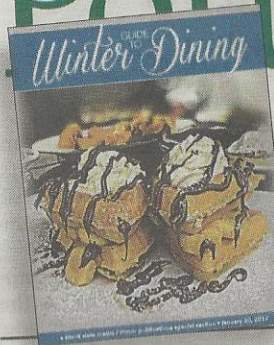
could be vulnerable under the Trump administration, such as immigrants, public education advocates and environmentalists.

Hip-hop artist and social

activist Farbeon Saucedo performed a piece about social participation and education that he performs in schools.

A representative from

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COMING TOGETHER



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE HALL

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Planned Parenthood spoke about efforts by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to defund the group, which provides healthcare services to millions of women and men around the country, including about 45,000 out of the group's Hempstead offices.

Immigration attorney Michael Mandel, a Port Washington resident, discussed possible grave changes to U.S. immigration policy that would affect many who want to immigrate legally.

Trump has proposed stiffer enforcement to limit illegal immigration and the construction of a wall along the American border with Mexico.

Allison Breidbart White, a representative of the Port Washington Advocates for Public Edu-

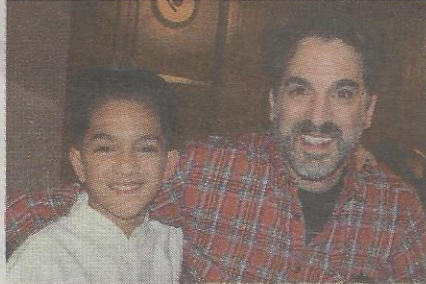
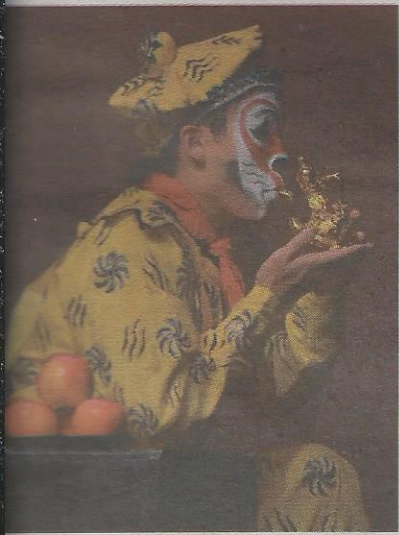
cation and the Parent Leadership Interactive, warned that public school funding could be under attack from the new administration in Washington.

Trump has nominated Betsy DeVos, a proponent of charter schools and vouchers that would pay private school tuition with public money, as his secretary of education, a pick teachers unions have opposed.

Local resident Bob Grubin attended Sunday's event and said he is concerned about Trump's cabinet picks.

"I don't like any of the Trump appointees, especially the environmental," Grubin said, referring to the president-elect's nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt. "I'd like to see what we can do about it."

"...And Social Justice for All" gathering



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE HALL AND ANNABELLE MAY

Residents gathered at the Landmark on Main Street on Sunday for "...and Social Justice for All"...