Eight years ago, a Castle Scholars Seminar organized Human Rights Awareness Day (HRAD) as part of a class project. Today, HRAD has become one of the most important events at the college, as it showcases the tradition of service and social action that has characterized the institution since it was founded. It serves as an outlet to unite students, faculty, and other members of the community to engage in discussions regarding global issues affecting humankind. The event is yearly organized by the Castle Scholar Honors Program, led this year by Professor Cherry, along with a group of Castle Scholar students.

**Organization Committees**

**Head**
Professor Liz Cherry

**Public Relations**
Reem Ahmed, Arsalan Danish, Valeria Ricciulli

**Art and Graphic Design**
Arnet Balaj, Irena Curanovic, Julia Furlipa

**Technology and Equipment**
Arsalan Danish, Gabriella Napoli

**Table and Poster Session**
Danielle DiNapoli, Jacqueline Kerner, Gabriella Napoli

**Spoken Word Event**
Alexa Aparicio, Christine Pluchino

**Introduction and Discussion Moderators**
Irena Curanovic, Danielle DiNapoli, Julia Furlipa, Valeria Ricciulli

**Hospitality**
Reem Ahmed, Jacqueline Kerner, Gabriella Napoli
Event Program

Location: Berman Student’s Center

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Poster and Table session

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Shant Mardirossian, Near East Foundation

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Diversity Training session led by Big Apple Playback Theatre

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Nick Lombardi (‘17), Autism Awareness

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Spoken Word and Music event

7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Food Break

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Film and Discussion of Persepolis

Shant Mardirossian, Near East Foundation

Shant Mardirossian is the Chairman of the Near East Foundation (“NEF”), an international development organization founded in 1915. NEF is affiliated with Syracuse University, where its headquarters are located and operates in seven countries, which include Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, the West Bank, Sudan, Mali and Armenia. Mr. Mardirossian is also a Partner and the Chief Operating Officer at Kohlberg & Company, L.L.C., a leading U.S. middle-market private equity firm. He received his B.B.A. and M.B.A. from the Lubin School of Business at Pace University.

Nick Lombardi (‘17), Autism Awareness

A current Sophomore at Manhattanville College, Nick Lombardi has promoted Autism Awareness since his freshmen year through the sale of a button he created with the slogan, “I’m not misbehaving, I have Autism. Please be Understanding.” His inspiration is his young brother who was diagnosed with Autism at an early age. Last semester he installed a booth in the Commuter’s lounge and with the help of the Duchesne Center, he sold buttons to fundraise for Autism Speaks.

Playback Theatre
BAPT Actors/Facilitators
Danielle Levanas
Christine Witmer

Playback Theatre is a form of social action theatre that uses life stories volunteered by audience members. True experiences are shared, cast, and then enacted on the spot by a team of actors/dancers and a musician. Be they comic or tragic, our life stories are full of important moments worth sharing and remembering. Telling our stories to each other in a theatrical context is both redemptive and invigorating. Listening to the stories of our community is crucial as we strive towards a world without hate and violence. The mission of Big Apple Playback Theatre is to: address systemic oppression, invite dialogue, build community, and create compelling theatre. It lives on the cusp between art and social change and provides opportunity for laughter, reflection, and connection.