

# Newsday

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### CENTEREACH

#### Puppet show teaches social skills, diversity

The puppets look innocent and funny, but they have a purpose: to teach children social skills and an appreciation of diversity.

The Sunshine Center puppets are among myriad products to be showcased at the fifth annual Women's Expo today in the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach.

The expo has a serious purpose, too: to provide a marketplace for Long Island women and promote economic independence for them, said Bar-

bara Jordan, the library's assistant director for community relations. This year's expo will feature the work of 71 women from Nassau and Suffolk, who create or distribute multicultural products, art, jewelry, clothing, pottery, and other items.

More than 1,200 annually attend the benefit event, a joint venture of the library and the Long Island Fund for Women & Girls, which provides grants for women entrepreneurs.

"Prevention through Puppetry" will be part of a booth by the Sunshine Prevention Center of Port Jefferson Station, which also will offer other education material, said center director Carol Carter. The center provides services, workshops and a summer camp for children from preschool to teens. "The ultimate goal is the prevention of substance abuse and violence," Carter said.

The expo is from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the library at 101 Eastwood Blvd. in Centereach. For more information, call 631-585-9393, ext. 296 or 224. — RHODA AMON