



## **Exhibit on Civil Rights Movement At Pelham Middle School in April**

*Soles of the Movement*, an art installation telling the story of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1970s, is coming to Pelham.

The Pelham Education Foundation, in coordination with the Pelham Middle School, is sponsoring the powerful and thought-provoking educational art exhibit by artist and teacher Chris Burns, who will also work with Middle School faculty and provide a curriculum guide.

*Soles* will be installed in the front entrance hallway of Pelham Middle School on April 10 and be open for viewing on school days for a four week period. The entire Pelham community is invited to view the exhibit and meet the artist at an Open House on Thursday, April 19 from 7:00-9:00pm. A 20 minute presentation will begin at 8:00pm and include a video.

Kathy Shea, vice president of the Pelham Education Foundation, explained, "I saw this exhibit recently at another Westchester school and have experienced first-hand the compelling nature of Chris' work. The Foundation is very pleased to be able to bring this unique exhibit to our middle school and to the entire community."

Pelham Middle School's 8th grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on the American Civil Rights Movement during the final quarter of the school year. "The timing for this wonderful exhibit is perfect," said teacher Thomas Tobin. "Our students will participate in the installation of the exhibit, will see a tangible example of what we teach in the classrooms and will see first hand how art and history can be brought together to educate and enlighten."

Artist Chris Burns, an educator in New York City schools, utilizes nontraditional materials to present the historical narrative. *Soles* uses historical music, photographs, film footage and memorabilia, especially shoes, to create and support the environment. The exhibit was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott, which was one of the first major events of the Civil Rights Movement.

"I chose shoes as a symbol of the relentless and undying spirit of the African American community as it marched in a quest for social justice," Mr. Burns said. "Collectively, our shoes symbolize this theme and bear witness that the movement continues."



Pelham Middle School Principal Joe Longobardi said, "The 8th grade will benefit from this unique multimedia exhibition, but so will our entire school and the community at large. The exhibit will remain in place for one month and we invite all the residents of Pelham and all our school children to share the experience."