

The Spirit of Anne Frank Awards 2002 winners

LEAH AND ED FRANKEL SUPPORT FOUNDATION

2002 Outstanding Youth Scholarship

INNA SOKOLYANSKAYA and her family emigrated from the former Soviet Union because of religious persecution. As a student at Midwood High School at Brooklyn College, Ms. Sokolyanskaya dedicated a large portion of her time to programs aimed at promoting unity and putting an end to racism in our schools and neighborhoods. Her involvement in programs dealing with the problems of racism have included participation in LEARN (Let's End All Racism Now) and Kids Against Drugs and Violence. As a budding writer, Ms. Sokolyanskaya entered and won first place for an essay she wrote for the New York Times Education Update Contest. The essay discussed the benefits of diversity in New York City. Ms. Sokolyanskaya is currently attending Barnard College.

THE JAKOB DEKKER

2002 Outstanding Youth Award

At High Technology High School in Linwood, New Jersey, TAZNEEN SHAHABUDDIN involved herself in a myriad of extracurricular activities. She devoted much of her time to the Multi-Cultural Club, and for her last two years served as President of both the Key Club and the Model United Nations. She had noticed an increase in racial and religious tensions in her school involving students who practice Islam. Ms. Shahabuddin took it upon herself to approach the Principal and propose a plan to address this issue. The result was the realization of a cultural awareness workshop that was organized by Ms. Shahabuddin. It included a video segment that discussed Islam as well as a question and answer session that allowed students of other faiths to discuss religious and racial issues. She is currently attending Harvard University.

THE FRED AND CARRIE POLAK

2002 Outstanding Educator Award

GLORIA GLANTZ has dedicated her life to education in various settings. She has been teaching English as a Second Language for over thirteen years. In addition, she teaches about the Holocaust from her first hand experiences as a survivor. In 1993, she was awarded a Fellowship for Teachers to Study the Holocaust sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers and the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors. Ms. Glantz has spoken widely, and in 1996, led a workshop entitled Rescuers and Hidden Children During World War Two: Experiences of Children and the Effect on their Lives for the Department of Jewish and Christian Studies at Seton Hall University. Her personal experiences and professional dedication have educated and inspired a multitude of people.

THE PFIZER, INC.

2002 Outstanding Educator Award

BEA SVAMBERA is a consummate advocate for teaching about the history of the Holocaust. Each year she has her students produce a play which they direct, perform and write themselves. Her most recent play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, was performed for the

Houston Mayor's Anti-Gang Task Force as a lesson about discrimination. Other plays produced by Mrs. Svambera have been performed for the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, the Board of Directors of the Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston's Second Generation Brunch and the Jewish Community Center. In addition to leading her students' activities, Mrs. Svambera is also one of the state's most honored teachers. She has been recognized by many organizations and has received such coveted awards as Walmart's Teacher of the Year, the Sons of the Republic of Texas State Educator of the Year, and the Anti-Defamation League's Teacher Excellence Award. Her passion for the subject she teaches and for her students is infinite.

THE HARVEY AND MARGRIT POLAK SHIELD

2002 Outstanding Educator Award

COLLEEN TAMBUSCIO has been a teacher of the deaf for the past 17 years at Midland Park High School in New Jersey. Mrs. Tambuscio developed a full year course on the history of the Holocaust that became an elective course for special education and mainstream high school students. As an outgrowth of the course, students were afforded the opportunity to study at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and to participate in funded study missions to Germany, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, where they visited related Holocaust sites. Through this learning experience the students developed a greater understanding of the sanctity of human life, and they were challenged to examine their own personal attitudes and beliefs. Since 1998, Mrs. Tambuscio has been associated with the Mandel Teacher Fellowship Program of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., which has trained a national corps of teachers on the history of the Holocaust, and she continues to serve on the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education's Curriculum Revision Committee.

THE MR. AND MRS. EDMOND FARBER

2002 Outstanding Citizen Award

BARRY FEINSTEIN has been a Special Education Teacher and a Speech Pathologist in the Baltimore, Maryland school system for the past 25 years. In addition to his teaching career, he is also a theater director. He devotes much of his time to directing plays and workshops for children with handicaps and disabilities. Through this work, he has provided access to the arts to a group of people who have traditionally been excluded, both from the arts and from society as a whole. In 1995, Mr. Feinstein created an organization called the Fells Point Corner Theater (FPCT) Challenged Ensemble. Students of all ages and challenges work to create and produce plays telling their own stories. The program takes place in July and the group tours to organizations such as the Krieger/Kennedy Institute and the League for People with Disabilities. Indeed, Mr. Feinstein effectively helps to break down barriers for and misconceptions about challenged individuals.

THE ANTHONY AND AMY POLAK

2002 Outstanding Citizen Award

ARLEEN RICHTER has worked in the field of art education since 1960. She believes that art is a universal language that can be used to break down prejudice and mutual distrust among the world's cultures. Ms. Richter has educated children not only in New York, but she has worked extensively in Asia and Southeast Asia as well. She sponsored an art exchange

between children from the Republic of China and the United States. Both in China and in the United States, the children learned that geographical distance and cultural differences are not barriers to the process of building friendship and mutual respect. She also launched a program that brought the art of several Indonesian girls to the Paine Webber Gallery in New York City. The exhibition of their art in the United States was an enormous boost to their morale and it encouraged them to continue their studies in the arts. Ms. Richter also uses art as therapy. Creating art helps people to have a positive self-image, and it can help people overcome the effects of traumatic events. This is the basis for her work at The Children's Medical Center of Long Island in New York. Arleen's concern for her students after the events of September 11th inspired her to use her art therapy training to help them cope with their emotions after they saw the attack on the World Trade Center. In January of 2002, the New York Post selected Arleen Richter as one of New York's most outstanding teachers. Ms. Richter continues to be a leading proponent for using art as a tool to build global peace and understanding among the youths of the world.

THE ROBERT L. GIPSON

2002 Outstanding Citizen Award

CARLOS SOUSA, JR. has shown exceptional dedication in his service to his Milford, Connecticut, community. He began an active involvement in the community in January 1997, when, at the age of 16, he joined the Milford Police Department's "Exploring Law Enforcement Post". He has since taken a proactive role in improving the lives of young people not only through the Exploring Program but in a multitude of other community programs as well. Carlos has participated in numerous initiatives to end violence and to establish a safe haven for the youth of Milford, and he has assisted in expanding the Exploring Law Enforcement program nationwide. Mr. Sousa has volunteered with the Violence Intervention Project of Southern Worcester County to help victims of domestic violence. While continuing in these endeavors, Mr. Sousa also attends Worcester State College, where he is pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.

THE JACK AND INA POLAK AWARD

2002 Distinguished Service in Promoting Holocaust Education

SYLVIA WYGODA is Chairman Emeritus of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. She is Executive Director of the Commission and the Thomas B. Murphy Holocaust Teacher Training and Resource Center. She serves as chief spokesperson for Holocaust education for the State of Georgia, and she serves as the Commission's chief legislative liaison to the Georgia General Assembly, to public agencies, private sector organizations and to the public. Ms. Wygoda develops curriculum, coordinates Holocaust education conferences and teacher training workshops, and speaks extensively to school groups, churches, synagogues and civic organizations about the Holocaust. She is a frequent presenter at professional education conferences, and she coordinates and conducts the annual official Days of Remembrance observance for the State of Georgia and the State of Georgia Holocaust Art and Writing Contest. She is the Executive Producer and Director of the award winning video documentary, Prejudice and Hate: Georgians and the Holocaust. Ms. Wygoda is the recipient of the distinguished Legion of Honor Award presented by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. The Legion of Honor Award is presented to individuals whose lives reflect selfless service to community, nation or humanity without regard to race, religion or creed. This award has been presented since 1951 to several Presidents, Cabinet officers and members of Congress of this country,

foreign heads of state and various luminaries such as Bob Hope. Before her position with the State of Georgia in the field of Holocaust Education, Ms. Wygoda served as Assistant Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Resources. She is a former college administrator and classroom teacher. A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Ms. Wygoda holds a B.S. degree from Indiana University and a Masters Degree from Georgia State University in Education. Sylvia Wygoda is the daughter of Hermann Wygoda, a Holocaust survivor and author of the book, *In the Shadow of the Swastika*.

THE EMILY ULLMAN AWARD

2002 Distinguished Service in Promoting Holocaust Education

GAIL HIRSCH ROSENTHAL is Supervisor of the Holocaust Resource Center at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center is a joint project of the college and the Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties. In the last academic year, the Holocaust Resource Center offered teacher workshops, demonstration lessons, student presentations, and seminars to over 18,000 participants. Stockton's Holocaust Resource Center has been recognized as a Center of Excellence by the Jewish Foundation for Righteous Gentiles. Gail is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Holocaust Organizations and Treasurer of the Association of New Jersey Holocaust Organizations.