

## *The Spirit of Anne Frank Awards 2003 winners*

### THE LEAH AND ED FRANKEL SUPPORT FOUNDATION

#### *2003 Outstanding Youth Scholarship*

JACOB ANDERSON, is a senior at Sharon High School, Sharon, MA. For four years, Jake has participated in (and is now a leader of) the Sharon Interfaith Youth Leadership Program, which brings Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Hindu teens together to learn about each other's religions, build friendships and bridges between people, gain facilitation skills and take the lead in combating stereotypes and intolerance in a town that has seven synagogues, six churches, an Islamic Center and a sizeable Hindu Community. Jake, who will enter Dartmouth College in Fall 2003, has co-facilitated classes on prejudice and homophobia at a local middle school and was the only young person in his town to help plan the second annual Martin Luther King celebration. Mr. Anderson believes passionately in educating himself, and members of the community about the ramifications of stereotypes and how each individual can make a difference. He intends to continue this work when he attends Dartmouth.

### THE CARRIE AND FRED POLAK

#### *2003 Outstanding Youth Award*

CLARA LOKSHIN is a senior at the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway, Cedarhurst, NY. Ms. Lokshin has been committed throughout her school years to tolerance and bridge building. As president of her school's Anti-Bias Task Force, she was instrumental in working with school administrators to heighten awareness among students about Ethiopian Jewry, which resulted in a drive she led to collect shoes on behalf of Ethiopian Jews. For three years she has participated in the Nassau County Human Rights Awareness Symposium at Hofstra University, Garden City, Long Island, and has campaigned at her school for understanding of and appreciation for the Sikh culture. "On a daily basis, in every class," writes the faculty advisor of the Anti-Bias Task Force, "Clara has the courage to speak up about racial intolerance, even when she has to go against the tide to do so."

### THE MARGRIT POLAK SHIELD AND HARVEY SHIELD

#### *2003 Outstanding Youth Award*

DANE RAHAMIM is a junior at the Susan E. Wagner High School, Staten Island, and a peer educator and group facilitator in anti-bias and anti-violence education. Mr. Rahamim has taken an active role in breaking down barriers between many groups of students, and participated in three award-winning video workshops that deal with issues of tolerance and sexual harassment. As a member of ACRES, a program where students come together to promote the ideals of the civil rights movement and bring back their knowledge to their respective schools, he participated in a ten-day trip through the Deep South to meet national civil rights leaders. During the development of a video workshop on the Holocaust, Mr. Rahamim focused on the concept of 'peace as a virtue' and related this to the uses of genocide as tools of destabilization and destruction. He is a bridge builder who has facilitated numerous workshops for his peers on stereotyping, discrimination, and bias.

## THE AMY AND ANTHONY POLAK

### *2003 Outstanding Youth Award*

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, is a senior at the Susan E. Wagner High School, Staten Island, NY, and a skilled peer mediator as her peers turn first to her in the mediation center seeking her skills to resolve their conflicts. She has settled scores of conflicts at her school, and contributed in large measure to creating a caring school community. Ms. Rodriguez has conducted workshops at school, in her community and throughout the tri-state area on racism, anti-Semitism, sexual harassment of teenage students, civil rights, the Holocaust, and coping with the aftermath of 9/11, some of which resulted in presentations to multiple organizations, as well as national television coverage by 20/20 John Stossel Special Reports and an ABC News Special. Ms. Rodriguez was a spokeswoman at the United Nations Interfaith Center closing ceremonies on the importance of modeling behavior to educate for peace.

## THE INA AND JACK POLAK

### *2003 Outstanding Educator Award*

DAPHNA BASSEWITCH GINZBURG co-founded the Jerusalem YMCA Integrated Peace Kindergarten in 1981, and has served as its director for the past 8 years. It is a unique educational setting where Jewish, Muslim, and Christian preschoolers ages 2-5, learn together in an intercultural environment that promotes mutual respect. An inspired leader, Ms. Ginzburg collaborates with educators whose backgrounds mirror those of the student body. All work toward the common purpose of helping young children appreciate and understand each other's culture, language, and religion. The interaction between the parents at the school has engendered understanding among families whose community ties previously had been, at best, tenuous. This climate of good will is not without risk in times of social and political upheaval in Jerusalem, and the role of the Peace Kindergarten has been instrumental in overcoming fears and suspicions. Registration increased in the years subsequent to the declared intifada in 2000. Ms. Ginzburg's motivation in the face of conflict and controversy is found in her forthright reaction. "The hope. At least here you see hope. Outside you don't. It is better to come here. You see the children get along together; you see the parents get along together. It is hope."

## THE WILLIAM AND DR. JANE BRAM

### *2003 Outstanding Citizen Award*

CAPT. GEIA M.C. BARRETT had been aware the U.S. Air Force espoused cultural, racial, and gender sensitivities as a standard, and realized the military offered a natural environment to seek even higher ground. Without a blueprint, she created large scale, multi-faceted month long events honoring specific minorities involving both military and civilians for the purpose of creating unity from diversity during her tour of duty in Malmstrom, Montana, and Mountain Home, Idaho. Capt. Barrett exhorted committees of military personnel and community members to focus on cross-cultural education to nurture understanding. She spearheaded the structure and content of these month long observances. The results included a diversity program with the Montana Children's Museum to target 150 schoolchildren in the community. Other programs included African-American Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage History Month, and Native-American Month, involving the Shoshone-Piaute people. Col. Bruce Wong, Capt. Barrett's immediate commander, describes this honoree as "... a role model, community leader, and bridge builder."

## THE JUDITH M. VALE

### *2003 Outstanding Educator Award*

#### for THE WHITEWELL PAPER CLIP PROJECT

In 1998, in order to promote the teaching of tolerance and diversity in the Whitwell Middle School of Whitwell, Tennessee, the principal, LINDA HOOPER, charged the assistant principal and 8th grade history teacher, DAVID SMITH, to attend a multicultural workshop. As a result, Mr. Smith decided to initiate an after-school project that would teach the importance of tolerance and mutual respect among cultures. Mr. Smith and the 8th grade language arts teacher, Sandra Roberts collaborated to teach the Holocaust to help students identify and combat hate, prejudice, and racism by using the lessons of the Holocaust and linking those with related issues of today. The homogeneous student population read about Hitler's ultimate goal to exterminate the Jewish people, but six million was a number too vast to comprehend. The students learned that Norwegians had worn paper clips on their lapels in silent protest during the years of the Holocaust. They decided to collect six million paper clips, and build a Children's Holocaust Memorial to honor the victims of the Holocaust. The project generated forty thousand letters from individuals and organizations worldwide, received the attention of prominent people and celebrities who brought paper clips to the school, and eclipsed even the imagination of the founders of this project, when inundated with thirty one million paper clips. Linda Hooper, David Smith, SANDRA ROBERTS began their collaboration to promote tolerance through Holocaust education among the student body. They succeeded in bringing messages of understanding, peace, love, and hope to their students in a community predominantly white and Christian, and to others worldwide who visit the first permanent Children's Holocaust Memorial outside the school in the form of a railroad car filled with paper clips. Invitations to the dedication ceremony included a paper clip. The invitations read, "As you hold it in your hand, remember to mourn not only the loss, but to celebrate the life. Changing the world . . . one class at a time."