

SHINING STARS

Matthew D. Cohen, Esq. ***Gordon B. Nash, Sr. Public Education Award***

Matthew D. Cohen, Esq., a founding partner in the Chicago firm Monahan and Cohen, has been practicing law since 1981. He is well known for his work in healthcare and special education law, representing or consulting with: hospitals; residential treatment centers; community mental health centers; private health care providers; and education providers. Mr. Cohen has represented many children and families in special education and discipline disputes with public schools, and has been the principal litigator in special education cases in federal courts. He is the primary or collaborating author of amendments to the mental health and special education laws of Illinois, and a member of the Illinois Attorney General's Advisory Council on Disability Rights. He is also the author of *Barriers to Inclusion in Local Schools in Illinois: A Blueprint for Change*, funded by a grant from the Illinois Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities and provided expert testimony concerning his research in the *Corey H. v. ISBE* class action trial in the United States District Court. In recognition of his participation in the process leading to passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997, Mr. Cohen was invited to the White House to participate in the signing ceremony.

Mr. Cohen is a past President of the Board of Directors of the national Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (CHADD) organization, and continues to serve on the Professional Advisory Board of the Chicago Chapter. In 2001, CHADD established a scholarship fund in his honor. He was a founding member of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, (COPAA), a national special advocacy organization, and served as a convener for Friends of Special Education, an advocacy colloquium, located in Chicago. Mr. Cohen helped to organize the Children's Behavioral Alliance, a national umbrella group for children's mental health organizations. Under the auspices of the group, Mr. Cohen was one of the authors of its nationally distributed policy statement *In the Best Interests of All*. He is a Life Board member of Youth Organization Umbrella in Evanston, Illinois, and is a recipient of the 1993 Illinois-TASH Professional of the Year award.

Mr. Cohen received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1981, and is currently an adjunct faculty member at The Loyola University School of Law. Lecturing nationally on a wide variety of legal topics including special education, mental health and confidentiality, he has also authored numerous articles on these subjects. Mr. Cohen is a legal commentator for LDOnline, one of the largest online disability news services in the U.S., and has been a member of the editorial boards of *Ed-Law Briefing Papers*, and the *Disability Rights Compliance Bulletin*.

For Mr. Cohen's long record of devoted service to educating the public, and assisting children and families meet educational needs we are pleased to award Mr. Cohen the *Gordon B. Nash, Sr. Public Education Award*.

Judge Gordon B. Nash, Sr. had an illustrious legal career in Chicago from 1927 until his death in 1998. Judge Nash was a staunch believer in hard work as the key to solving any problem, which is a trait that he passed along to his daughter, NAMI of Greater Chicago member, Julie Burke. The Nash family have been strong supporters of NAMI of Greater Chicago, especially its efforts to educate the general public about serious mental illnesses. To honor Julie and the entire Nash family, we have named **NAMI of Greater Chicago's Public Education Award** in memory of Judge Nash.

Philip G. Janicak, M.D., ***John M. Davis, M.D. Researcher Award***

Philip G. Janicak, MD, is a Professor and the Medical Director at the Psychiatric Clinical Research Center of Rush Medical College and is a Fellow in the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Janicak's research interests are in the areas of assessment and treatment of bipolar disorder, major depression and psychotic disorders. He has conducted numerous

studies which have led to the approval of new medications and treatments, the most recent of which led to the approval of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in the treatment of depression. He has been an NIMH grant awardee, as both a principal and co-investigator.

He has authored or co-authored hundreds of publications in the psychiatric literature and is first author of *Principles of Practice of Psychopharmacotherapy*, now in its fourth edition. Dr. Janicak has been listed in the Best Doctors' of America since 1996.

Dr. Janicak has devoted his career to increasing the understanding of the major mental illnesses, to developing new and better treatments, and to providing excellent care to consumers and their families both on his inpatient research unit and in his outpatient practice.

Dr. Janicak received his M.D. degree from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine where he also did his Psychiatry Residency.

For the past fifteen years, Dr. Janicak has been a frequent speaker at our General Meetings, Educational Symposia, and other education events hosted by NAMI of Greater Chicago addressing a variety of issues including: depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar illnesses.

It is for his groundbreaking research efforts and his generous service to NAMI of Greater Chicago and our members that we are awarding him the *John M. Davis, MD Researcher of the Year Award*.

*John M. Davis, M.D. is the Gilman Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Davis developed the first neurotransmitter-based theory of mental illness which ushered in the modern era of biological psychiatry. His career has been dedicated to the development of safer psychotropic drugs and to the development of young researchers in psychiatry. It is because of his role as a mentor to hundreds of young researchers that NAMI of Greater Chicago has named its **Researcher of the Year Award** in honor of Dr. John M. Davis.*

Starbucks Corporation

Mike Flannery Community Service Award

Jorge Arza, Starbucks Regional Manager, became involved with NAMIWalks Chicago in 2007 bringing a dozen or more Starbucks employees and 2,000 cups of coffee to warm the walkers during the drizzly rain that preceded that walk. Jorge and the Starbucks employees not only donated the coffee and their time that day, they also donated their own dollars and Starbucks Corporation provided matching dollars for these donations.

For NAMIWalks 2008, Jorge hung posters advertising the Walk in all of the local Starbucks stores. On the day of the Walk, Jorge came back with many of the same employees who had participated the previous year and many new folks who volunteered to work at the Walk. This time, the employees donated their tips from the previous day as well as writing their own checks which the Starbucks Corporation matched.

We understand that Starbucks is now partnering with NAMIWalks in other places in the country and we are pleased to have started a trend.

It is for their dedication to the community in general and to our cause in particular that we honor Jorge Arza and the Starbucks Corporation this evening with the *Mike Flannery Community Service Award*.

*Mike Flannery is the Political Editor for Channel Two News. Mike has been a strong supporter of NAMI of Greater Chicago since the mid 80's. As a reporter, Mike has regularly covered stories of interest to those with serious mental illness and provided the Chicago community with accurate information about mental illness. It is because of Mike's consistent dedication to informing the public about serious mental illness that in 1997, NAMI of Greater Chicago named its **Community Service Award** for Mike, and honored him as its first recipient of the award.*

Police Officer Margaret Murphy-Webb ***Lt. Jeff Murphy CIT Officer of the Year Award***

Margaret Murphy-Webb is a Chicago police officer. She has been a Chicago police officer for 15 years. In the fall of 2004, she volunteered to participate in the first class for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for Chicago police officers. A little skeptical about the utility of the training on the first day of the 40 hour program, Margaret became a total devotee of the training by the end of the week. About the CIT training, Margaret says, "It is the best thing the department has done since I became an officer. I use the skills everyday on the job."

Margaret also volunteered to participate in the Chicago police department's training video on Autism.

It is for her dedication to assisting consumers of mental health services that we honor Police Officer Margaret Murphy-Webb this evening with the *Lt. Jeff Murphy CIT Officer of the Year Award*.

Lt. Jeff Murphy, CIT- Crisis Intervention Coordinator, began his career with the Chicago Police Department in 1969. When his son became ill, Jeff and his wife took NAMI of Greater Chicago's Family to Family Education Course, and Jeff became passionate about advocating for persons with mental illness. He joined the Mental Health Planning Council's committee on police education and soon had the group revising the training curriculum for recruits at the Chicago Police Academy. The success of this program led to the creation of the 40 hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for experienced Chicago police officers which was launched in October of 2004, making Chicago the largest urban area in the country with CIT training in place for its officers.

Peter Eklund ***Shirley Starr Volunteer of the Year Award***

Peter Eklund has been a regular volunteer at the NAMI of Greater Chicago office for more than 10 years. He is an amazingly fast worker, reliable and consistent, always cheerful and willing to delve into any task. Mr. Eklund assisted in developing the Pathways in Living Education Course for consumers and taught one of the first sets of the 8 weeks of classes. A welcome and regular attendee and participant at NAMI of Greater Chicago's Consumer Club events, Peter brings his warmth and charm to enhance everyone's level of comfort.

For his many years of service to NAMI of Greater Chicago, we award Peter Eklund the *Shirley Starr Volunteer of the Year Award*.

Shirley Starr was the first President of NAMI of Greater Chicago (then called AMI-Illinois) from 1979 to 1984. In 1984, with the formation of the state coalition, the name changed to the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Greater Chicago (AMI-GC), and Shirley Starr was hired as the first AMI-GC Executive Director and served in the role until 1986. In 1979, Shirley became the first President of the newly formed national organization (NAMI), and in 1986, she became the first Executive Director of NAMI. Shirley's dedication to the formation of the family movement prompted NAMI-GC to initiate the **Shirley Starr Volunteer of the Year Award**, which has been given each year since 1986.