

# *2010 MA-Chapter Award Recipients*

*Greatest Contribution to Social Work Practice*

**Barbara Hauser**

*Social Worker with Less than 5 years post-degree experience*

**Michelle Butman**

*Public Citizen of the Year*

**Horace Seldon**

*Greatest Contribution to Social Work Education*

**Joan Berzoff**

*Beverly Ross Fliegel Award for Social Policy and Change*

**Lee Staples**

*Employer of the Year*

**David L. Hirshberg**

*Lifetime Achievement*

**Robbie Christler Tourse**

*Greatest Contribution to Social Work Practice*

**Barbara Hauser**



During her 35 years as Director of the Family Service Clinic, Middlesex Probate and Family Court, in Cambridge Barbara Hauser, LICSW, ACSW has steadily changed and expanded the clinic's focus from the financial issues of divorce to the children involved. She works extensively with judges, lawyers, psychologists, psychiatrists and has supervised students from all these disciplines as well as from social work. Her ability "to bring the subjective experience of children to the otherwise rule-bound environment" has made her a role-model for both staff and students.

Barbara Hauser has provided in-service training and consultation to numerous social work agencies, legislative committees, and community clinicians. She is the only social worker on the Massachusetts Bar Association/Governor's commission on the Unmet Needs of Children; Sub-Committee on Structure and Jurisdiction of the Courts and is a member of Massachusetts Special Commission on Violence Against Children. She has published articles in prominent publications, served as investigator on grants while also serving on committees and training seminars at Harvard Medical School and NASW's Ethics Hotline. Earlier in her career, she was one of the founding members of what has become the Cambridge Health Alliance.

Ms. Hauser has expanded the social work image to include clinician, activist, educator, researcher, community organizer, supervisor and consultant. Colleagues say her "remarkable skills of interpersonal affirmation and persuasion, her bright and disarming spirit along with her pesky determination have a transformative effect on the sometimes jaded and embattled participants in the room. When this diminutive person walks into the court, everyone recognizes that the child in this case has a powerful advocate." She has truly made an extraordinary contribution to social work practice.

## *Social Worker with Less Than 5 Years Post-degree Experience*

# **Michelle Butman**



Michelle Butman, LICSW is a May 2007 MSW graduate from Boston College School of Social Work. In her first year placement at a nursing home, Michelle exceeded her learning contract and created a New Spiritual Needs Assessment Tool and a Diversity Survey for staff. Since graduation, she has been employed at South Shore Mental Health as a program coordinator for TRACS (Transition Resource & Community Support.) She has been an integral person in the creation of Photovoice, which documents the experiences, struggles, and work of young adults diagnosed with mental illness. It is a multimodal outlet for teenagers/young adults and their parents/caregivers to receive support and to find meaning and connection to their lives in order to promote the recovery process.

Michelle Butman has produced many Photovoice exhibits such as *“Voices of the Unheard: Young Adults Learning to Overcome Emotional Challenges”* and *“A Walk in My Shoes: Parents’ Perspectives on Living with Mental Illness,”* which was presented at the State House where

Michelle spoke and presented a positive image for the profession and the mission. Michelle has skillfully blended clinical and macro practice and has excelled in service to others beyond her own professional goals.

## *Public Citizen of the Year*

# **Horace Seldon**



Many would consider Horace Seldon a man ahead of his time. After several years as a minister, Horace experienced a very clear calling to work on race relations. Horace helped quiet many angry voices that called for violence and spread racial fear and supported a movement of “rational thinkers” during Boston’s desegregation of Public Schools. He was one of only a few white men who were talking, writing, and teaching about systemic racism. *“Convictions about Racism in the United States of America,”* a collection of his essays written over 40 years, is used by activists and educators across the country.

Horace Seldon founded Community Change, Inc, (CCI) in 1968 and was Executive Director until 1995. CCI is a Boston based non-profit dedicated to national antiracism awareness and training. It works on issues relating to African American, Asian American, Latino and Native American communities. Horace was clear that his role was to respect and support the leadership of people of color while continuing his work with the white community. Horace continued to spread his influence by accepting an invitation to teach the History and Development of Racism in the U.S. at Boston College. From 1980 to 2006 he taught over 2400 students and impacted many lives.

Horace’s life is an unwavering commitment to racial and social justice. His intelligence, creativity and capacity to move people to action is exemplary. At 85, he is currently a National Park Service Ranger working for the Boston National Historic Society and leads tours up and down the streets of Beacon Hill. It is still a challenge to keep up with him.

## *Greatest Contribution to Social Work Education*

# Joan Berzoff



Joan Berzoff, MSW, EdD, LICSW has for over 20 years provided outstanding leadership in Smith College School for Social Work's MSW and PhD programs. She has also distinguished herself as a national and international leader in clinical social work. She served as the co-director of the Doctoral program at Smith School for Social Work for more than 15 years, only recently stepping down. Joan has influenced the Smith School of Social Work's curriculum and the development of many doctoral graduates.

Joan has made significant contributions to the profession by developing a widely known certificate program in End of Life Care. The program, now ten years old, has trained practitioners from all over the country in palliative care, providing classroom instruction and supervision for one year. She has also published extensively in the field of palliative care. In addition to her book "*Living with Death*," she published another book "*Inside Out, Outside In*," used by many schools of social work as a primary text on psychodynamic theory.

Joan Berzoff has a long career in social work education, field advising, administration, and an extensive list of presentations and publications. Her work on women's friendships, women in groups and women in organizations has appeared in the New York Times, and several national women's magazines.

## *Beverly Ross Fliegel Award for Social Policy & Change*

# Lee Staples



A community organizer for over 40 years and on the faculty of Boston University School of Social Work for 30 years, Dr. Staples has been a mentor to practitioners and students alike with his passion for justice, inclusion, activism and advocacy for the dispossessed. Lee Staples is described as someone who "...embodies social work's core values of working effectively and tirelessly for social justice and the empowerment of oppressed groups whether they are public housing tenants, residents of disenfranchised inner city neighborhoods, victims and survivors of civil war, the institutionalized mentally ill, or refugees and immigrants."

He has consulted and given workshops in over 150 organizations locally, nationally, and internationally on a wide range of issues, including community organizing, strategic planning, campaign planning, conducting effective meetings, building sustainable coalitions, and developing inter-agency collaborations. He has written countless articles and book chapters, book reviews, and other educational materials, and is the author of the widely used text, "*Roots to Power: A Manual for Grassroots Organizing*", currently in its second edition. He is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* and the *Journal of Community Practice*. Lee has served on the Governance Boards of Chelsea Collaborative and Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). He recently worked in Croatia helping to establish NGOs. He has remained active in the Massachusetts Chapter of NASW chairing committees including the Symposium 2006 Program Committee.

Each year the Massachusetts Chapter of NASW gives its ***Beverly Ross Fliegel Greatest Contribution to Social Policy and Change Award*** to honor the memory of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter's first Executive Director. Beverly Ross Fliegel was an outstanding social worker who cared tremendously about what happened to disenfranchised people. Beverly died of cancer at the untimely age of 42. This award helps keep alive the memory of a very special social worker, and reaffirms NASW's commitment to social justice and social change.

## *Employer of the Year*

# **David L. Hirshberg**



For the past thirty years, David Hirshberg, MEd, EdD, has been the Executive Director and the driving force behind Germaine Lawrence, Inc, the largest residential treatment center specifically for adolescent girls in New England. Germaine Lawrence operates a fully accredited school, in a structured, nurturing residential environment with full time, around-the-clock supervision. It employs over 20 social workers who provide case management and individual, group and family therapy. David Hirshberg provides the staff training, supervision, and support needed to excel and stay in the field. He keeps staff focused on improving treatment for clients and demonstrates true caring and concern for staff and clients alike.

To meet current demands, Germaine Lawrence has developed new partnerships such as the collaboration with Arlington Public Schools where they have staff in the schools during the day to provide therapeutic support for the girls. As a result of David Hirshberg's vision and support, and personal attention to the residents, Germaine Lawrence has become a leader in the field in protocols for treating sexual abuse, trauma, sexual aggression, fire-setting, sexual exploitation and long term eating disorders.

## *Lifetime Achievement*

# **Robbie Christler Tourse**



Robbie Welch Christler Tourse has made exemplary contributions to the profession of social work and to the NASW-Mass Chapter. Robbie has a long list of affiliations, awards and honors, presentations and publications. She is an alumna of historic Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, Simmons College School of Social Work, where she earned the Alumni Special Recognition Award in 2009, and the Boston College School of Education where she earned her doctorate. She retired from the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work in 2008 after 29 years.

Robbie earned this recognition for her “dedication and work on behalf of her students, the social work profession, NASW-Mass Chapter and her community over the course of her distinguished career.” She served on the NASW-MA Board of Directors and served on a number of NASW planning committees for Symposium. Her contribution to the profession through scholarship over her career is evidenced in part through the book she co-edited entitled *Collaborative Practice: School and Human Service Partnerships*, a comprehensive and pioneering effort in a national movement that correctly perceives that serious problems in school systems—particularly for students with special needs—require the expertise of people from a range of disciplines.

Robbie has been a mentor, a scholar, and an activist. She has been able to help students explore themes and situations in which advocacy, empowerment and social justice for clients are important. Her understanding and appreciation of the value of individuals is the embodiment of the best of what a professional social worker should be.