

VISION AWARDS

Honorees

ANDREA KASPER

Vision Award, Jewish Heritage



As Schechter's Head of School, Dr. Andrea Rose Cheatham Kasper is committed to implementing a progressive educational approach and to making Jewish life and learning meaningful to younger generations. Andrea's visionary leadership continues to inspire all those touched by the Schechter experience and is committed to Schechter's on-going growth and evolution. She is humbled everyday by the incredible Schechter team who rise to every challenge, don't shy away from reflection and who all have a hunger to be the best in their field. It is because of them that Schechter students feel a deep sense of belonging and thrive.

Andrea has published on critical and necessary innovation in Jewish day schools and in 2011 Andrea won the international Jewish Futures Competition for her groundbreaking ideas in Jewish education. Andrea is a Fellow in the Day School Leadership Training Institute and was part of the PEP with RAVSAK. Additionally, she teaches a master's level course on Jewish day school education at Hebrew College. She currently serves on the Board for the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. A graduate of the Cohen Hillel Academy in Marblehead, MA, she received her BA at George Washington University and earned her master's degree in Jewish Education at Hebrew College. Last spring, Andrea completed her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at Northeastern University.

JEFFREY GREENE

Vision Award, Arts & Education



Jeffrey Greene serves as the Program Manager of Community Partners in Action's (CPA) Prison Arts Program. He joined CPA in 1991, teaching art workshops in local prisons, and continues this work today. Mr. Greene spends much of his time locked in prison dining halls, gymnasiums, libraries, and auditoriums, facilitating intense critiques and discussions with incarcerated artists across the state. He says that the program helps to give people a sense of control that is lost while incarcerated. The program provides an opportunity for incarcerated individuals to "express and confirm that they are still human, that they are still themselves" and, "send something out into the world that affirms that they still love and hope to be loved."

The Prison Arts Program works with over 250 artists in prison annually, and over 20 "alumni" artists in the outside community. Each spring, an Annual Show regularly features over 500 artworks from over 150 artists. Artists are able to sell their work, or have it mailed home to their loved ones at the conclusion of each year's show. The program has built a permanent collection, and work from this collection is shown, widely, in over a dozen shows a year. The program publishes posters and a journal of art and writing, and undertakes various mural, recording, and health education projects in prison and on the outside. Mr. Greene says of the program, "We hope to enable those in prison to transcend their present environment and to move past stereotypes." He has that same hope for those outside of the prison as well.

BERNADINE SILVERS

Vision Award, Social Justice



Bernadine Silvers was a founder of the Coalition to Strengthen Sheldon-Charter Oak Neighborhood (CSS/CON), which advocated for the interests of community residents and helped Sheldon Oak Central acquire and redevelop MLK Apartments, Twin Acres and Sheldon Oak Cooperative. She led CSS/CON's growth into one of the most effective of the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZ's), successfully pushing for the redevelopment of the Hartford Housing Authority's Dutch Point project into a mixed income community home-ownership and rental community. CSS/CON also helped ensure that residents had a voice in the design of the Convention Center and were hired to work on the construction of the entire waterfront development. Ms. Silvers has been a strong voice for Hartford residents as a founder of Hartford 2000, the city-wide coalition of Neighborhood Revitalization Zones. She has served on the board of many organizations, including Riverfront Recapture, the MetroHartford Alliance, the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Sheldon Oak Central and she is a member of the Hartford Redevelopment Agency. She is one of the matriarchs of Hartford and, specifically, of our Sheldon-Charter Oak neighborhood.