

# Peace & Justice Awards Luncheon

Saturday was a banner day for Dr. Edward Aberlin, a peace activist and retired Staten Island dentist, when he was presented with an award during the first annual Staten Island Council for Peace and Justice luncheon and award ceremony at the Dock of the Bay Cafe in Stapleton.

Aberlin, an octogenarian whose efforts for peace, civil rights and social justice started decades ago, was chosen for the Hechtman-Rosen Peace and Justice Award because of this longtime commitment to the movement. His interest in peace efforts began during World War II, when he served in the Army Dental Corps, and was reinforced when he later visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki where he saw the effects of the atom bomb.

In accepting his plaque, the Grymes Hill resident said that the most pressing issue facing the world is the "avoidance of nuclear war" and the major concern for the United States should be the need to give "jobs to the jobless and homes to the homeless ... there is no reason for there to be so many needy in the richest country in the world."

Over the years Aberlin has been active with the United Jewish Ap-

peal, and helped found the Staten Island Peace Coalition and the Staten Island Ads for Peace program. He was also involved with the boroughwide Peace Task Force.

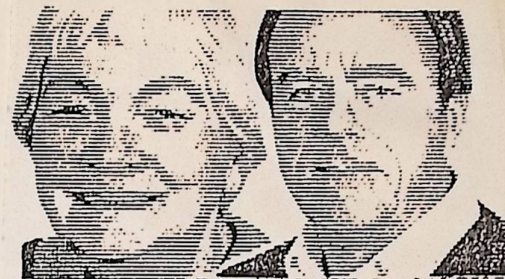
Aberlin's daughter, Betty, is an actress familiar to Islanders through her work in Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood and in the show "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking it on the Road." He is married to Daisy, who has been active in the Richmond Choral and St. Cecelia societies. They also have another daughter, Alice.

Among the other speakers at the luncheon was Geoffrey Jacques, editor of the U.S. Peace

Council's newsletter.

Daniel Weber, 18, a 1987 graduate of Curtis High School who has been involved in exchange programs with the Soviet Union, was another guest at the ceremony. Young Weber recently won an essay contest on how the U.S. and the Soviet Union could improve relations. His prize was a trip along the Mississippi River in the first annual Mississippi Peace Cruise. This summer he went on the Volga Peace Cruise in the Soviet Union.

The Hechtman-Rosen award is named for the late Fannie Hechtman and Jack Rosen, Islanders who were trade union or-

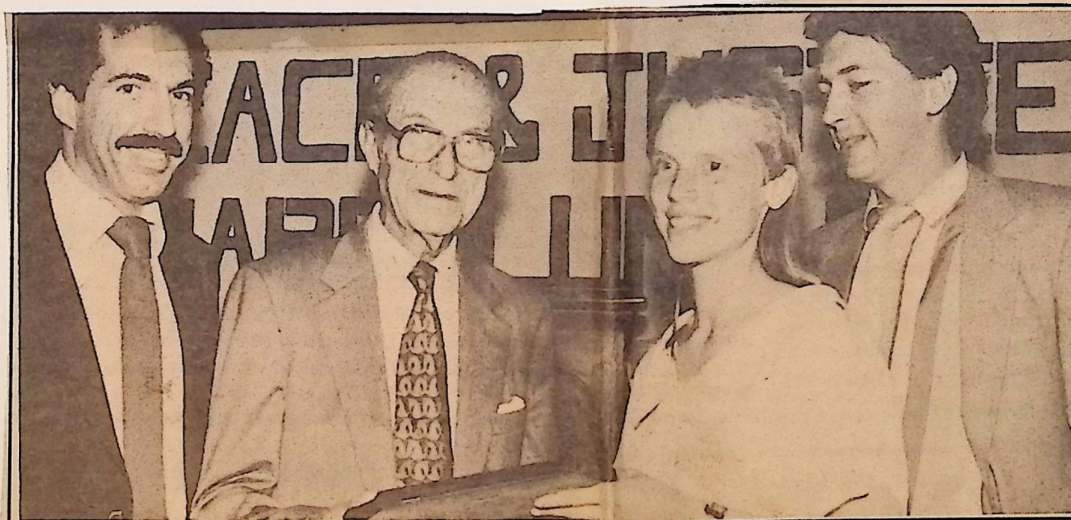


**Martha Bendix**

**and Tom Flannagan**

ganizers. Angelo D'Angelo, one of the event's organizers, was close to tears during his award presentation speech.

"I just wish they (Hechtman and Rosen) could be here to see this ... but I know they're here in spirit and would approve of the recipient of their award," he said, pointing to Aberlin.



Dr. Edward Aberlin (second from left) receives the first annual Hechtman-Rosen Peace and Justice Award from Roth Schwartz of the S.I. Council for Peace and Justice at its award luncheon. Schwartz, as well as Angelo D'Angelo (l) and Michael Tormey (r) formed the group's award committee.



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# Dentist Receives Peace and Justice Award

BY STEVE MENAPACE

The Staten Island Council for Peace and Justice today awarded its Hechtman-Rosen Peace and Justice Award to Dr. Edward Aberlin of Silver Lake. The 84 year old retired dentist, 81 years a resident of Staten Island, was the first ever to receive the annual award. Presentation was at a luncheon at the Dock of the Bay Restaurant in Stapleton attended by 52 peace leaders and activists.

In presenting the award, Council Chairman Angelo D'Angelo praised Aberlin for manifesting the spirit of the late Fanny Hechtman and Jack Rosen, Staten Islanders whose leadership in the peace and progressive movement led to the establishment of the award in their names. Thanking his wife, Daisy, for her support in his endeavors and the Council for its tribute, Aberlin passed directly to a plea for a more rational and humane U.S. policy toward Latin America, with an end to economic exploitation, an end to support for repressive regimes, and an end to military intervention.

Ed Rothberg, who with Aberlin co-chairs the Ads for Peace organization, recalled Aberlin's vision and energy when the two men, as Council members several years ago, created "Ads." Using the same advertising methods that have become a powerful influence in other aspects of American life, Ads for Peace has brought its message to millions of Americans, hammering home the theme that "Nuclear weapons threaten every person

on earth" and explaining how Cold War psychology extends human misery and edges mankind toward nuclear holocaust.

Aberlin played a leading role in "Letters for Peace," a campaign to encourage "pen pal" relationships between U.S. and Soviet citizens; the highly publicized 1986 Mississippi River Peace Cruise, which joined a cross-section of 52 visiting Russians with American counterparts for a leisurely river boat; and the People's Peace Treaty, a people's appeal for peace that garnered over 200,000 signatures in the U.S. and over six million in the U.S.S.R. He is currently involved in an effort to pair U.S. and Soviet groups. Newspaper advertisements will offer assistance to this end to any U.S. group that subscribes to the principle of building understanding for the sake of peace. Rothberg suggested that arranging for the pairing of an organization one belongs to would be another fine way to pay tribute to Aberlin.



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Other speakers included Howard Fraser, Coordinator of Promoting Enduring Peace, a national religious organization, who thanked Aberlin for his long and continuing service as a member of that organization's board of directors. Also, Jeffrey Jacques, editor of *Peace and Solidarity*, national newsletter of the U.S. Peace Council, who cited as evidence of the success of Aberlin's efforts the growing peace concern among working people and, in the march of more than 100,000 people in Washington last April, the first major peace demonstration led by U.S. labor unions. Jacques also cited Staten Island opposition to "the barbarous plan to turn our very homes into a nuclear weapons base in the form of the so-called 'Homeport' for a nuclear-armed battleship." He noted that the New York Post had attacked the Homeport opposition, using the terms "Communist" and "traitorous." "The Post," Jacques said, "says we stand for peace and traitors. We say the Post stands for war, supports the arms merchants, and acts as an enemy of democracy."

Joyce Duncan, Chairperson of the Task Force Against Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence, New York City Chapter, National Alliance Against Religious and Political Repression, quoted the writer Bertold Brecht: "There are those who struggle for a day, and they are good; there are those who struggle for years, and they

are better; there are those who struggle all their lives, and they are indispensable." "Dr. Aberlin," she said, "is indispensable."

"An octogenerian," she said, "he continues to struggle for the right of people to live in peace, free of the threat of nuclear holocaust; for the redirecting of resources from militarism to human needs; and for tolerance in place of blind hate."

Master of ceremonies Mike Torney, former chair of the Council for Peace and Justice and of the Staten Island Committee for a Nuclear-Free Island, added, as his own comment on the award, that "Without justice there can be no peace; without peace there can be no justice."



Mrs. Daisy Aberlin (left) and Dr. Edward Aberlin (right) accepting local Peace Council annual award.

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