

MHAM Award of Recognition to the Segal and Anselmo Families

by Margaret O'Neill Escabi



Peter Thelen, MHAM Board President, presents Susan Segal with the MHAM Award of Recognition for the Segal family.

THE SEGAL FAMILY

Over her 10 years in the legislature, State Representative Gloria Segal transformed the way people with serious mental illnesses are treated in Minnesota. Perhaps Rep. Segal's most noteworthy achievement was her instrumental role in passing the 1987 Comprehensive Adult Mental Health Act, the first such legislation in the country. She was also responsible for mandating coverage for mental health treatment in group health insurance plans, as well as the creation of the mental health division at the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Ombudsman's Office for Mental Health, and the State Advisory Council on Mental Health.

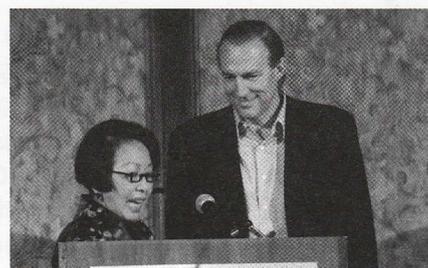
After passing the laws, she fought to enact the guidelines and allocate the funding to make her vision of community-based care a reality.

Rep. Segal's husband, Martin, and two of their children have taken up the mental health cause. Martin Segal endowed the Gloria Segal Chair in Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota Medical School and started a fund in Gloria's name at Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis to be used for clients with mental illnesses. Susan Segal, the Minneapolis City Attorney, served for many years on the board of MHAM, including three years as president from 2001 to 2003. She also taught Mental Health Law at the University of Minnesota Law School and William Mitchell College of Law and worked on mental health issues at the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. Tom Segal has served the community as a member of the State Mental Health Advisory Council and the board of directors of Jewish Vocational Service. He is an advocate for many who suffer from severe mental illnesses.

THE ANSELMO FAMILY

Arthur Anselmo has publicly shared his experience with bipolar disorder and been an inspiration for people with mental illnesses. Judge Anselmo had a successful career, beginning with his 1952 election as Minnesota's youngest special municipal judge, through his appointment as a Minnesota District Court Judge, and culminating with his time as special assistant to the Minnesota Attorney General until his 1990 retirement. In between these impressive positions, however, Judge Anselmo experienced an episode of bipolar disorder so severe that he became homeless and jobless for five years, from 1966-1971. Thankfully, Judge Anselmo found help and began the journey of recovery from mental illness. In his role as a mental health advocate, Judge Anselmo served seven years on the national board of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA).

Judge Anselmo's son, Dario, continued his father's involvement with mental health advocacy and education, serving as chair of the DBSA Minnesota board. Dario also served several years as a board member of MHAM, during which time he helped MHAM become the sponsoring organization for the Minnesota DBSA support groups. Dario and his wife, Jeanne, have been members of MHAM's special event planning committee for several years and are generous supporters of MHAM.



Yin Simpson, Event Chair, presents Dario Anselmo with the MHAM Award of Recognition for the Anselmo family.

MHAM is pleased to honor the Segal and Anselmo families with the MHAM Award of Recognition for all they have done to support mental health in Minnesota. The families received the award at the Taste of China event on Saturday, November 8.