

22nd Annual CIRC Awards

The Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition held their 22nd annual awards ceremony at the State Capitol building in the Old Judiciary Room on April 17th.

Nineteen members of the immigrant community in Connecticut were honored, including three from Hartford. Not surprisingly, Georges Annan Kingsley from Asylum Hill was one of them.

The Coalition, which began in 1996, consists of 18 organizations in Connecticut that foster the assistance of either immigrants in general, or specific groups such as the Polish American Foundation of CT. Asylum Hill is well represented in the Coalition as both JFACT (Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut) and the World Affairs Council of Connecticut are located here, and long time Asylum Hill partner, The American Place at the Hartford Public Library, is also a coalition member.

The award ceremony was especially meaningful as it concluded with the presentation of a new award, The Salma Khatoon Farid Award “given to a remarkable educator who had dedicated years to teaching immigrant children and youth.” The honoree was our own Nancy Caddigan, who has been the driving force behind the AHNA partnership with Hartford Public Library in creating the Welcoming Committee and all of our efforts to include immigrants and refugees into the neighborhood. That Georges Annan Kingsley is

an Asylum Hill resident today is just one of the many reasons for us to be grateful to Nancy.

She continues her work in the neighborhood on Saturday’s in the morning at West Middle School with both citizenship classes and Spanish language classes. Both are attracting a large following of adults looking to improve their lives through education.



Senator Richard Blumenthal presenting an award to Georges Annan Kingsley.



Asma Farid, Nancy, Tariq Farid and Senator Saud Anwar