

# Environmental Quality Awards President's Environmental Youth Awards



**Region 2**

**April 24, 2003**

**Federal Building - 290 Broadway - New York City**

**Arnold P. Wendroff, Ph.D.**

Brooklyn, New York

While teaching a special education class in 1989, Arnold Wendroff learned from a student that his mother was in the habit of sprinkling elemental mercury on their apartment floor to ward off witches. He investigated the assertion and learned about the widespread, ritualistic use of mercury in many Caribbean and Hispanic communities - a use that causes exposure to developmentally neurotoxic levels of mercury vapor. Since then he has called upon EPA and other government entities to address the problem. His leading role in the cause is documented in the EPA Task Force on Ritualistic Uses of Mercury Report: "We acknowledge with gratitude the hard work of Dr. Arnold Wendroff ... who first brought national attention to this issue; without him this Task Force would not have existed."