



HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS

A W A R D S

AWARDS PRESENTED BY

the Human Relations Committee

at the Human & Civil Rights Annual Awards Banquet

JULY 27, 2025

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Do you know an individual or a group in your local, school or community deserving of recognition for:

- Promoting equal opportunity for women and people of color?
- Improving the lives of people traditionally excluded by society?
- Helping to eliminate racism and sexism?
- Demonstrating creativity in providing and improving opportunities for children, families and underserved members of the community?
- Promoting an appreciation of diversity?
- Community service and volunteerism?

The MTA Human and Civil Rights Awards were established in 1983 to recognize individuals and groups working to advance civil rights and human relations. The awards are named for two longtime MTA members whose lives and legacies reflect their extraordinary dedication, perseverance and idealism.

- **LOUISE GASKINS LIFETIME CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD** — This award is named for Louise Gaskins, a pioneer for the involvement of women and people of color in education, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Education Association. Nominees for this award should embody the qualities of humility, leadership and tenacity that Louise Gaskins has brought wherever she has served.
- **KATHLEEN ROBERTS CREATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD** — This award is named for Kathleen Roberts, a former MTA president whose extraordinary commitment to service made her a tireless advocate for public education, communities and the profession of educators. Nominees for this award should exemplify the volunteerism and leadership that characterized Kay Roberts' selfless contributions through political action, community organizing and mentoring.

The MTA will make a substantial charitable donation in the name of each recipient.

Award Recipients will be recognized at the Human Relations Committee's 2025 Human and Civil Rights Awards Banquet on Sunday, July 27. Please plan to attend this year's awards ceremony – and encourage your local and school colleagues to join you!

Submitting Your Nomination for an Award

HOW DO I SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR A HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD?

1. Complete the nomination form.
2. Indicate which award category your nomination is for — Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award **OR** Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award
3. Prepare a description explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award.
4. Include two letters in support of the nomination in the selected category. Additional information or documentation may be requested at the discretion of the Human Relations Committee. The committee reserves the right to nominate and select award recipients. Please email or mail the completed application. Emailing nominations is strongly encouraged.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD?

- Nominees may be individuals (students, educators, administrators, public or community officials, parents), school associations, groups or agencies working in the area of human and/or civil rights.
- Nominees are not required to be MTA members unless they are eligible for membership.

WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE?

- Nomination materials must be received no later than April 21, 2025.
- Awards will be presented at the MTA Human and Civil Rights Banquet on July 27.

NOMINATION FORM

1 Complete the form.

NOMINEE INFORMATION (Please check one)

Member of _____ Association or MTA Retired.

Not Eligible for MTA membership.

Name of Individual or Group _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

SUBMITTED BY

Name _____

Local Association _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

2 Include two letters in support of the nomination in the selected category. Email or mail the completed application.

MTA HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS AWARDS

Email the form at

MTAGovernance@massteacher.org

Division of Governance & Administration

2 Heritage Drive, 8th Floor

Quincy, MA 02171-2119

Materials must be
received by the
MTA no later than
April 21, 2025.



massteacher.org/hcr

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AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024

Inclusive Eats, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award, Raising Multicultural Kids, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2023 No award made during 2023.

2022 No award made during 2022.

2021

Mareatha Wallace, Northampton Association of School Employees, and the Cambridge Education Association's Educators of Color Coalition leadership team, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Arlington High School Asian American Coalition, Alice Arena, president of Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station, and New Bedford Coalition to Save Our Schools, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2020

Candace Shivers, Mount Wachusett Community College (MCCC), Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Black Student Union, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, and Connections Program, Sutton High School, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2019

Audrey Murph-Brown, Springfield, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Robin Mallory, Dracut, and Elizabeth Travis, Bristol-Plymouth, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2018

Belmont Against Racism, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Jessica Lander, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2017

Mary E. Custard, Amherst, and Margaret Costello, Billerica, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Kevin Dua, Amber Jackson and Cynthia Massillon, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2016

State Rep. Ellen Story, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Lois Ahrens, Frederik Bommer, Barnstable, and Rosemary "Betsy" Sawyer, Groton-Dunstable, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2015

Alicia Lopez, Amherst, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Diane Turco, Retired, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2014

George R. Spivey, Cape Cod, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Kelvin Ing & Amy Lipkind, Cape Cod and Caitlin McCarthy, Worcester, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2013

Sister Ann Fox, Boston, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Mick Carlon, Barnstable, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2012

Zachary Galvin, Natick; Douglas Riebesehl (posthumously), Greg Gilbert, Falmouth; Julia Monteiro Johnson, Dennis-Yarmouth.

2011

Susan Mendoza Friedman, Barnstable; Ann Marie Dooley, Harwich; Caroline Hunter, Cambridge.

2010

Anne Wass, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award; Mary Gilmore, Kathleen Roberts Creative Leadership Award.

2009

Jacqueline M. Coogan, Everett; Horace Selden, Community Change, Inc.

2008

Boston Gay Men's Chorus; Nantucket S.T.A.R Program.

2007

Genoveffa Grieci, Framingham; Joseph Petner, Cambridge.

2006

Sadiqa Basiri, Omid Project; Maria de Lourdes Serpa, Lesley University.

2005

José Pinheiro, Brockton; Roger L. Rice, Multicultural Education, Training and Advocacy, Inc.

2004

Karen Swartwout, Thomas DeVito, Malden; Arline Isaacson and Gary Daffin, Co-Chairs, Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus; Paul and Carolyn Hebert, Champ Homes, Hyannis.

2003

Dale Forest, Barnstable; Karen Horner, MTA Staff Organization.

2002

Maria D'Arcangelo, Quincy; Steve Sinnott, National Union of Teachers, UK.

2001

Dr. Alice Axelrod, Norwood; Lucy Myers, Belmont; Cambridge Youth Peace and

Justice Corps; Fred Andelman, MTA, Director of Professional Development, Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award, awarded posthumously.

1999

Dr. John W. Stuart, Manchester by-the-Sea; Peter Vuno, Worcester; Edith Cannon, Randolph-Taunton; Rosanne Bacon Meade - 1st Louise Gaskins Lifetime Civil Rights Award.

1998

James Wilcox, Fall River; Louise Gaskins, Ayer; Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Harvard School of Public Health.

1997

Inez Dover, Newton; Dr. Maxine Elmont, Mass. Bay Community College; Susan Somner, R.N., Southbridge; Coalitions for Asian Pacific American Youth, Boston.

1996

Dr. Lorna E. Chambers-Andrade, R.N., Mass. Bay Community College; William Dyson, Longmeadow; Joyce Freeman, Worcester.

1995

Al Ferriera, Cambridge; Mary Jo Mason and Joyce Rogean, Barnstable; Dr. Rosanne Perlmutter, Newton; Warren Emerson Priest, Newton; Virginius Bray Thornton, III, Mass. Bay Community College.

1994

Kenneth F. Caulfield, Randolph; Edna P. Spencer, Worcester.

1993

Josephine E. Bernard, Randolph; Christine E. Woods, Brockton; Mary L. Pottle, Braintree; John L. Reed, Barnstable; Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, Mount Holyoke College.

1992

Edmund G. Grogan, Quincy; Kathleen R. Roberts, former MTA President, NEA Director.

1991

Ronald Adams and Eileen Sadof, Quincy; Robert Glover, WHDH-TV; Peter Nien-chu Kiang, UMass Boston; The Haymarket People's Fund, Boston.

For a complete list of past award recipients, visit [massteacher.org/hcr](https://www.massteacher.org/hcr)



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