



Nominating Form
Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership

CRITERIA

The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine seeks nominations for the 2018 Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership. Nominees should have demonstrated excellence in the fields of human rights education and leadership. The following criteria will be considered by the committee when determining the recipient of the 2018 Gerda Haas Award:

Impact: How has the nominee helped, reached, touched people, in his or her work?"

Need: What were the needs of the people who were helped? Were they displaced, homeless, starving, sick? Or simply in need of education, awareness, and understanding?

Longevity: How long has the nominee been performing his or her humanitarian work?

Reach: Has the effort been local, regional, or global?

Maine: How has the nominee's work affected Maine communities?

HHRC's strategic goals: How do the nominee's priorities and/or actions in the community align with the mission and goals of the HHRC?

For nominees to be considered, completed award nominations must be received by the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine by April 6, 2018.

Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine

Michael Klahr Center
University of Maine at Augusta
46 University Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (W) / (H) /: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Job classification/Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the individual been informed of his/her nomination? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Please provide a brief biographical sketch. Include personal and professional information that conveys why this individual is a good candidate to receive the Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership.

The recipient of the Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership will be honored at the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine's annual meeting on June 3rd, 2018 in Falmouth.

## Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine will honor students and individuals who are doing excellent works in the fields of Holocaust and human rights awareness and education.

The program will be held on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 – 3 p.m. at the Woodlands Club in Falmouth. In addition to a luncheon, the event will include the presentation of our annual Spiegel Scholarship Award, Schlossberger Student Awards, and an overview of the year of the HHRC's programs and special events.



*Gerda and her granddaughter, Tali Rackner*

Gerda Haas, founding mother of the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, has inspired many with her passion for human rights education. A Holocaust survivor originally from Germany, Gerda worked for many years as the librarian at Bates College. In the late 1970s, Governor Longley appointed Gerda to the State School Board of Education. While serving on the board, she learned that students weren't being taught about the Holocaust in Maine schools. Gerda not only identified a critical educational void, she took action to rectify it. In 1985, thanks to Gerda's determination and leadership, the Holocaust and Human Rights Center was born. The HHRC was housed in an office at the Maine State Library for many years. Gerda, and after her, Executive Director Sharon Nichols conducted workshops and visited classrooms throughout Maine. Thanks to the groundwork of their efforts, the HHRC's current home,

the Michael Klahr Center at UMA was built and opened in 2008. Dr. Robert Bernheim, a longtime friend of the organization, became Executive Director until August of 2013, at which time Elizabeth Helitzer was then named Executive Director.

The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine welcomes the opportunity to recognize and honor an individual who, like Gerda Haas, has demonstrated excellence, determination and initiative in the field of human rights education and leadership. We are currently seeking nominations from the public, center staff and board members. The recipient will be recognized on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the HHRC's Annual Meeting.

Sponsorship opportunities for the Annual Meeting are also available and range from \$250 to \$5,000. For a full list of sponsorship opportunities and benefits please contact the HHRC at [infohhrc@maine.edu](mailto:infohhrc@maine.edu) or by calling 207-621-3530!