

**City of Berea**

Berea Human Rights Commission  
Rev. Carla Gilbert, Chair

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(859) 986-0344

September 9th marks 200years since the birth of Rev. John G. Fee, abolitionist and founder of Berea College. Each year the Berea Human Rights Commission (BHRC) presents the John G. Fee Award to a Berea resident or group who has promoted human rights in the city based on nominations from the community.

The Commission is currently soliciting nominations for the John G. Fee Award until August 22, 2016. The BHRC encourages everyone in the community to nominate an individual or group whose support for human rights has made a significant contribution to maintaining, improving, or expanding the human rights of fellow Berea residents.

Nominations should include a clear statement of no more than 100 words describing the specific courageous or praiseworthy conduct on behalf of human rights that supports the nomination. Nominations must provide the full name, address and other contact information for the nominator as well as for the individual or group being nominated for the award. Nominations and inquiries should be posted no later than August 22nd and may be sent to the Commission via post-mail to Berea Human Rights Commission, 204 N. Broadway, Suite 20, Berea KY 40403 or by email to mharrington@bereaky.gov.

The BHRC will make the final selection from the full list of nominees. The award will be presented during a City Council meeting in September, and at this time, a complete list of nominees will also be shared. The winner’s name will be added to the plaque in City Hall that lists each year’s recipient.

The inaugural John G. Fee Award was given in 2013 to the “Concerned Citizens of Berea” organization. The group was established to resolve tensions within the community following a racial confrontation that resulted in murder in 1968. Robert Shaffer and Loyal Jones, two surviving members of the group, accepted the award on behalf of the organization. Relatives of founding African-American members of the organization were in attendance for the granting of the award as well.

In 2014, the award was given to Jackie and Virgil Burnside and a special commendation from the BHRC was conferred on Dori and Tom Hubbard. There was no award given in 2015.