PROUDLY HONOR

JERRY MITCHELL

AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE

2022 SALEM AWARD FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022, 6:30-9 PM
PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM, SALEM
Program

Land Acknowledgment

Welcome
Sara Moore
VAI Chair

The Salem Witch Trials
Dan Lipcan
VAI Treasurer and Memorial Committee

REMEMBER

Voices Against Injustice
Fara Wolfson, VAI Co-Chair
Honorary Co-Chairs:
Mayor Kim Driscoll
President John Keenan, Salem State University

Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice
Ana Brea
Awards Committee Chair

HONOR

Presentation of Award
Fara Wolfson

Remarks
Jerry Mitchell
Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting

Closing
Voices Against Injustice Board

ACT

Reception in the Main Atrium with Live Music by Wangari Fahari

In addition to Jerry Mitchell, we welcome Reena Evers-Everette, Executive Director of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute, and express gratitude for her presence, her power, and her lifelong commitment to justice. We thank all of you for your presence and your commitment to remember, honor, and act. We invite you to join us in 2023 and beyond.
Each year Voices Against Injustice recognizes and honors an individual or organization that is speaking out and taking action to confront discrimination and to stand up for human rights and social justice. In recognizing them, we publicly celebrate the significance and impact of their deep and meaningful work. They embody the integrity and courage of those who dared to support the individuals jailed and executed as witches in 1692.

The recipient of the 2022 Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice is Jerry Mitchell. As a reporter for the *Clarion-Ledger*, Mitchell spent three decades investigating civil rights cases that had gone cold. In 2018, he founded the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, the mission of which is “to improve lives, bring reform, expose injustices, give a voice to the voiceless, shine the spotlight on fraud, corruption and wrongdoing, and highlight the unseen champions of what is right.”
Jerry Mitchell

“I’m humbled and honored by this award, which encourages people to speak up against injustices even when no one else is speaking up,” he said. “Justice is impossible without truth, and that is why we so desperately need truth.”

Mitchell received multiple nominations for the award, including one from Reena Evers-Everette, Executive Director of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute, which seeks to fulfill the Evers’ dreams of empowering youth through education. In her letter, she wrote, “Jerry’s work inspired others. To date, there have been 24 convictions in cold cases from the Civil Rights Era. My mother and I believe that this would not have happened without Jerry.”

In his nomination for Mitchell, Wisconsin high school teacher Erik Shager recognized the journalist as “a true firebrand for justice, whose actions speak louder than his words.” Shager first met Mitchell in 2013 at a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Landmark Institute in Jackson, Mississippi. Shager offered a comprehensive timeline of Mitchell’s career in his nomination and highlighted Mitchell’s courage to speak up for many who have been “silenced in the most horrifying way,” drawing important parallels to the lessons of the Salem Witch Trials.

Mitchell’s investigations have helped put four Klansmen and a serial killer behind bars. His stories have also helped free two people from death row, exposed injustices and corruption, prompting investigations and reforms as well as the firings of boards and officials. He is a Pulitzer Prize finalist, a longtime member of Investigative Reporters & Editors, and a winner of more than 30 other national awards, including a $500,000 MacArthur “genius” grant.

His memoir for Simon & Schuster, Race Against Time, details how some of the nation’s most notorious murderers came to be punished decades later. The New York Times made it an Editors’ Pick, and NPR selected it as a Best Book of the Year.

After working for three decades for the statewide Clarion-Ledger, Mitchell founded the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, a nonprofit that gives voice to the voiceless and raises up the next generation of investigative reporters. The stories of MCIR have already led to two separate Justice Department investigations and can be found at www.MississippiCIR.org.

In addition to his writing, Mitchell is an inspiring speaker. He regularly shares his stories of justice and redemption, speaking at the Kennedy Center, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and colleges and universities across the United States.
Voices Against Injustice

The lessons of the Salem Witch Trials compel Voices Against Injustice to celebrate today’s champions of human rights by presenting the annual Salem Awards, stewarding the Salem Witch Trials Memorial and inspiring members of our worldwide community to confront fear and social injustice with courage.

**The Salem Award** honors present-day champions of human rights and social justice.

**Rising Leader Awards** recognizes local high school students who have demonstrated a social conscience through community service.

**Panel Discussions** build and deepen understanding of significant issues.

**VAI Newsletter** features significant dates in human rights and social justice as well as upcoming events. Subscribe at voicesagainstinjustice.org

**Stewardship of the Salem Witch Trials Memorial**: VAI works with the City of Salem and the Peabody Essex Museum to maintain the Memorial and ensure that it is treated as a place of reflection and respect.

**Partnerships**
- City of Salem: The City provides funds through a 25-cent surcharge on tickets for the City-owned Jonathan Corwin House (The Witch House) and also shares stewardship of the Salem Witch Trials Memorial.
- Salem State University
- House of the Seven Gables

**Salem Film Fest**: VAI sponsors a film with a theme related to human rights and social justice.

"Welcome to 1692": VAI coordinates production of a flyer featuring 1692 related sites.

**African-American History of Salem Tour App** guides visitors through Salem's African-American history.

**Quarterly Regional Meetings** offer information-sharing and networking opportunities to local organizations with programming related to 1692 or human rights and social justice.
The Salem Witch Trials Memorial honors those who unjustly lost their lives in 1692. A quiet place of reflection and contemplation, the Memorial offers visitors a chance to think about the twenty individuals who were put to death and hundreds more accused and imprisoned due to ignorance, intolerance and a dangerously flawed justice system.

In Remembrance

**Hanged, June 10, 1692**
Bridget Bishop, Salem

**Hanged, July 19, 1692**
Sarah Good, Salem Village
Rebecca Nurse, Salem Village
Susannah Martin, Amesbury
Elizabeth Howe, Ipswich
Sarah Wildes, Topsfield

**Hanged, August 19, 1692**
George Burroughs, Wells, Maine
John Proctor, Salem Village
John Willard, Salem Village
George Jacobs, Andover
Martha Carrier, Andover

**Pressed, September 19, 1692**
Giles Corey, Salem Farms

**Hanged, September 22, 1692**
Martha Corey, Salem Farms
Mary Easty, Topsfield
Alice Parker, Salem
Ann Pudeator, Salem
Margaret Scott, Rowley
Wilmot Redd, Marblehead
Samuel Wardwell, Andover
Mary Parker, Andover
Rising Leader Award

The Rising Leader Award recognizes students from our local community who exhibit a strong interest and commitment to advancing the cause of human rights and social justice.

This year’s Rising Leader Awards go to Alexis Eveleth from Salem Prep High School and Emely Foe from Salem Academy charter School.

“At first I was hesitant. I knew I’d have to go public with my story, and speak in front of large groups, which scares me. I also knew I’d have to work in collaboration with other kids, which has also been hard. But then I thought about it. I wanted to help people like me who were struggling to get through the school system. When I realized that what I do could help other people, it made it easier to take on the challenge. If I wanted change, I’d have to learn how to do these hard things.”

Alexis Eveleth

“Growing up, using the bus as our main transportation wasn’t something I perceived as strange. Irritating? Definitely. However, it never crossed my mind to question why my parents chose this. It had become such a routine that it became a habit; habits aren’t questioned. Little did I know that being undocumented was the rationale behind this choice. As I got older, I started to realize how this one circumstance completely impacted many aspects of our lives.”

Emely Foe
Past Recipients of The Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice

2021
Cosecha MA

2020
The Massachusetts Bail Fund

2019
Ana Maria Archila and the Center for Popular Democracy

2017/2018
Charles M. Sennott and The GroundTruth Project

2016
Anne Driscoll (contributions in overturning wrongful convictions)

2015
Jose Antonio Vargas (advocacy for immigrant rights)

2014
Brian Concannon and Mario Joseph (human rights in Haiti)

2012-13
Thomas Doyle and Horace Seldon (lifelong contributions)

2011
City Life/Vida Urbana (fighting for social and economic justice)

2010
Dr. Jonathan Shay (PTSD in soldiers and veterans)

2009
Greg Mortenson of the Central Asia Institute

2008
Coalition of Immokalee Workers (fighting human trafficking)

2007
Eric Reeves (champion for human rights and peace in Sudan)

2006
Charles Swift and Neal Katyal (fighting for detainees at Guantanamo Bay)
Past Recipients, continued

2005
Paula Donovan (HIV/AIDS and women’s rights activist)

2004
Fahima Vorgetts, Afghan Women’s Fund

2003
Jane Elliott (teacher, lecturer, diversity educator)

2002
James C. McCloskey (fighting to overturn wrongful convictions)

2001
Robert W. Raiche (building international relationships among youth)

2000
Jane Schaller (documenting human rights abuses around the world)

1999
Leonard P. Zakim (civil rights activism and anti-bias education)

1998
Barbara Vogel (educator and anti-slavery advocate)

1997
Vicky Guzman (providing health services and training in El Salvador)

1996
Aaron Feuerstein (labor advocate, Malden Mills)

1995
Harry Wu (Chinese dissident and political prisoner)

1994
William Johnston (identifying and investigating hate crimes)

1993
Morris Dees (founder, Southern Poverty Law Center)

1992
Gregory Alan Williams (Los Angeles riots hero)
Past Recipients of the Rising Leader Award

2021
Jackinia Andre, Salem Academy Charter School
Jimena Pueyo-Garcia, Salem High School

2020
Carol Kasule, Salem High School
MaeRose Cheresnowsky, Salem Academy Charter School

2019
Anyfern Gonzalez, Salem High School
Shannon Murphy, Salem Academy Charter School

2018
Elise Boehm, Salem High School
Angelica Pierce, Salem Academy Charter School

2017
Tayla O’Leary, Salem High School
Sia-Linda Lebbie, Salem Academy Charter School

2016
Jhonel Roberts, Salem High School
Evan Aryoko, Salem Academy Charter School

2015
Cole Jermyn, Salem High School
Adesuwa Eghe Izogie, Salem Academy Charter School

2014
Chase Duffin, Salem High School
Edwina Shakleton, Salem Academy Charter School
In Appreciation

We exist as an organization to honor the lessons and legacy of the Salem Witch Trials. In doing so, we pay tribute to those whose lives were taken or transformed by the events of 1692 and their descendants. We remember, honor and act in THEIR memory.

We honor our current and past award recipients who inspire us by example and remind us that we each possess the power, not just to understand, but to act.

We are grateful to past Board members whose vision and energy started the Salem Award Foundation and supported the transition to Voices Against Injustice. We are grateful to our donors and supporters for their generosity since our inception. We could not do our work without the support of individuals, businesses, and organizations in the Salem community and beyond. We thank all who play a role in amplifying voices and advocating for change in the fight for social justice.
Partners

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll
City of Salem and Honorary Co-Chair

President John Keenan
Salem State University and Honorary Co-Chair

Peabody Essex Museum

Board Members

Maile Black, Executive (Clerk), Newsletter, Awards

Ana Brea, Awards (Chair)

Steven Carey, Marketing, Programming

Mathew Chetnik, Marketing (Chair), Programming

Dan Lipcan, Executive (Treasurer), Memorial

Sara Moore, Executive (Co-Chair), Programming, Board Recruitment (Chair), Newsletter

Elsabel Rincon, Programming

Jill Willis, Marketing

Fara Wolfson, Executive (Co-Chair), Programming (Chair), Board Recruitment, Newsletter
Voices Against Injustice Donors 2022

Katelyn Adams  Michael W. Lebednik
Nancy Anderson  Monica Leisey
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Thomas Benway  Dan Lipcan
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Erminia Brandler  Kathleen Lique
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Kent Buesseler  Jodie Mather
Theodora Burbank  Nicole McLaughlin
Gregory Carcione  Alice Merkl
Steven Carey  Sarah Morrill
Mathew Chetnik  Roberta O'Connor
Hannah Diozzi  Catherine Parham
Stephanie Diozzi  Nicole Robbins
Gilligan Donald  North Shore Juneteenth Association
Karen Gahagan  Maureen Roberts
Gayle Goff  Julie Rose
The Hawthorne Hotel  Emily Saenz
Galen Ho  Salem Witch Museum
Patricia Ho  Ellen Soares
Stephen Immerman  Mary K. Speare
Wolfgang Koch  Fara Wolfson

Please Support Our Work

The annual Salem Awards, Rising Leader Awards, the Salem Witch Trials Memorial, and our many local programs and events are funded by your donations. VAI’s work is carried out by an all-volunteer board with minimal paid staff and no office. Your support is vital.

Please donate at
- www.voicesagainstinjustice.org
- PayPal at https://voicesagainstinjustice.org/donation
- By check to Voices Against Injustice, P.O. Box 8484, Salem, MA 01971.

Your contribution is tax-deductible. Thank you!