



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

TASK FORCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION – 9-25-25

LWV Marblehead Observer: Nancy Powell

Members in Attendance: Helaine Hazlett, Diane Gora, Reece Dahlberg, Jean Guastaferrri, Chief King, Maura Dartley-Rocco, Chris Bruell, Jay Morrison, Deacon Joe Whipple

Guests in Attendance: Luca Tedesco (Marblehead Current)

Update on Marblehead Police Department: No active incidents to report. Chief King attended North Shore Advisory ADL group meeting where Peter Gomes of Marblehead Racial Justice Team received a community service award. TFAD will consider making a charitable donation in his name.

Discussion re: immigration and citizenship status: MPS has developed protocols for dealing with ICE should they show up at K-8 schools in town using guidance from AG Civil Rights Division website. Chief King noted he hopes ICE is held to same standard as MPD, however, local police cannot enforce federal immigration laws and he had no notice that they were coming to Marblehead when they showed up recently and detained landscapers.

Discussion re: possible speaker on antisemitism: Helaine will reach out to David Schribman, former Washington Bureau Chief at the Boston Globe, about being keynote speaker at an upcoming (January 2026) Abbot Hall event honoring Holocaust Month. The group discussed his recent article about gratuitous antisemitism in the Jewish Journal entitled "Is the Golden Age of American Jews Ending?".

Discussion re: book group, "When We Flew Away: A Novel of Anne Frank Before the Diary" by Alice Hoffman. Seventy-five copies have been donated to MVMS and Charter School 7th and 8th grade students in anticipation of the author coming to speak on 11/18.

Update on Farmer's Market: Members noted there were not many children in attendance at the TFAD booth and in general it seems t fewer people and booths this year. They will try to book an activity for children next August.

Update on Marblehead Public Schools: Maura noted the new principal at MVM principal, Matt LeVangie, has a fourteen-year special ed background, is a good communicator and is supportive. Reese reports that clubs are forming at the high school. There are six heritage flags approved under the new flag policy and a flag will be displayed from 10/15-11/15 in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Reminder re: Open Meeting Law Training 10/15 and Conflict of Interest Law Mandatory Training Requirements: All members, having participated in these trainings (except for Chris Bruell) were sworn in.

Update from Marblehead Racial Justice Team: Jay noted TFAD will underwrite the MLK Breakfast which will be held at the Old North Church on 1/19/2026 from 9:30-11:00.

Next meetings several meetings are scheduled for 10/23, 11/20, and 12/18. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.