



## OBSERVER REPORT

**Marblehead Task Force Against Discrimination:** March 1, 2021

LWVM Observers: Shari Pressman and Katharine Redmond

Members in Attendance: Helaine Hazlett, Anne Marie Hunter, Deacon John E. Whipple, Loren Weston, Christopher Bruell, Scott Marcus, Esther Darling Mulroy, Alexis Earp, Candace Sliney

### **Juneteenth and Jodi Smith**

Jodi Smith, a member of the Marblehead Racial Justice Team, introduced Nicole McClain, who spoke about the North Shore Juneteenth Association, founded in 2017.

Juneteenth is an American holiday that commemorates June 19, 1865, the date that enslaved black people of Galveston, Texas learned that President Lincoln had freed enslaved people in Confederate states two and a half years earlier.

Nicole has visited celebrations in Boston since she was a child and wanted to bring Juneteenth events to North Shore communities to encourage positive awareness of black freedom, contributions to American history and accomplishments and black life

Two events are planned:

- 1) Hats and Heels Tea, this year called the Hats and Slippers Tea because it is virtual, to be held on May 8. Carol Boyce Davies, a scholar in African American Diaspora, will speak on Black Women and the Desire for a Transformed USA

2) A virtual or live celebration of Juneteenth with a 45 minute to one hour presentation sometime in June to include:

- a Juneteenth African American flag-raising overseen by someone from ROTC or experienced in the ceremony; cost of a flag would be about \$250; the flag would fly for a week
- playing of the Black National Anthem
- speaker
- festival activities

Nicole will present a proposal to the Board of Selectmen

### **Update on Incidents in Marblehead**

No update. Chief Picariello was not present at the meeting but will attend future meetings.

### **Report on Black History Month and Indigenous Peoples Committee**

Chief Picariello and Louis Meyi engaged in a one-hour discussion on the history of African Americans in Marblehead

TFAD supported student Mabel Sliney's video about Agnes' gravesite; memorial stone cost is estimated to be about \$7000.

Indigenous Peoples Day events are planned for October 10

### **TFAD Book Read**

Members will read and discuss the first five chapters of This Will Be My Undoing, a collection of essays by Morgan Jerkins

**Next Meeting Date:** April 13 at 7:00 pm