

DANVERS UNITED

Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee



HAPPENING IN AUGUST

09 | ISLAMIC NEW YEAR

12 | INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
DAY

19 | WORLD HUMANITARIAN
DAY

28 | ASHURA

As always, your feedback is welcome and encouraged! If you have questions or ideas, please email Dee Djoko at djokojd@gmail.com, or Eileen Page at epage@danversma.gov.



CONGRATS, GRADS!

Each year, the Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion committee presents scholarships to Danvers High School seniors who exemplify the mission of the Committee and not only "talk the talk" but "walk the walk." The HRIC is pleased to have awarded scholarships to the following four members of the Class of 2021:

Maximillian Leete will be attending American University and studying to become a Civil Rights Lawyer. Max is an active participant in the Best Buddies program and the founder of the Anti-Discrimination Club.

Hannah Golden will be focusing on plant science and botany and hopes to become a member of the Peace Corps. Hannah is an active volunteer in the community, an active demonstrator at rallies and protests related to human rights, and a member of the Anti-Discrimination Club.

Sarah Cashman will be focusing on the fields of criminal justice, law, and psychology, and was chosen to receive a scholarship due to her activism in the Anti-Discrimination Club. She is also an active participant in the Best Buddies program, and her teachers describe her as a caring, compassionate, independent thinker.

Mary Pellicio will be pursuing a degree in Speech Pathology. Mary is an active participant in the Best Buddies program and volunteer for Service Dog Project and Cradles to Crayons. Mary strives to be an ally in the disability community and took it upon herself to learn American Sign Language through the Beverly School for the Deaf when her family became fosters to four children with disabilities.

We're Back, Baby!

The HRIC held its first in-person meeting in over a year on June 17 at the Danvers Police Department. The evening began with a round of applause as the current Committee met in person for the very first time.

Newly appointed **Police Chief James Lovell** and **Captain Ashley Sanborn** expressed their support for the Committee. Both have been strong advocates for acceptance and justice throughout their careers, with Captain Sanborn serving as the Police Liaison for several years, and Chief Lovell serving as the sexual assault investigator for the department.

It has also been confirmed that Captain Sanborn is the first woman to reach the rank of Captain in Danvers history.

The Committee will continue to meet in-person so long as COVID-19 conditions permit. The public is invited to attend and participate provided they follow the Town's "Masked or Vaxxed" policy.

Upcoming Meetings: August 12; September 16; October 21 7 PM at the Danvers Police Department, 120 Ash Street



Photo: Off. Justin Ellenton

Back Row: Eric Crane; Jorge Sanchez-Salazar; Bob Gamer; Amanda Symmes; Deb Gesualdo; Bill Graham; Rev. Douglas Vooyo; Kristen Perkins
Front Row: Eileen Page; Donna Hopkins; David Mills; Paul Pawlak; Chief Jamie Lovell; Dr. Daltrochet Djoko; Cpt. Ashley Sanborn; Rep. Sally Kerans; Lt. Rob Sullivan
Not Pictured: Dr. Charles Desmond; David McKenna



Photo: Kelley Rayos-Teixeira

HRIC Hosts First Annual Juneteenth Community Celebration

On June 19, nearly 100 residents gathered on the lawn of the Peabody Institute Library to celebrate Juneteenth.

Committee Chair **Dr. Daltrochet Djoko** addressed the crowd before turning the mic over to high school students **Amanda Larson, AnnLauren Djoko, Caitlin Emery, Dan Hnatowicz, and Katie Miraglia** for a music performance.

Community members took turns reading sections of the Emancipation Proclamation, followed by **Select Board Chair Dan Bennett** reading a proclamation declaring June 19, 2021 to be officially recognized as Juneteenth in the Town of Danvers.

Fellowship and a community art project followed at Kaffmandu Coffee House thanks to the ongoing generosity of **Om Shrestha**.

Planning for next year's event will begin in January 2022! To find out how you, your family, or your business can get involved, email epage@danversma.gov.

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Catching Up With



Photo courtesy of Colby Thomson

Colby Thomson was one of two recipients of the 2020 HRIC Scholarship, awarded each year to Danvers High School seniors who exemplify the values of the Committee. As a high schooler, Colby partnered with the Life Skills class at DHS to teach retail skills in the School Store, and in her freshman year of college, took her work international. We caught up with Colby to hear how her work has continued.

Tell us what you've been up to over the last year!

I'm majoring in Entrepreneurship at Babson College in Wellesley. This past spring I had the opportunity to travel and teach entrepreneurship to high school and college-aged students at an orphanage in Tanzania. We focused on building steady businesses that will have a positive impact on their community. The pandemic hit them heavily, restricting food access, so some students focused on building gardens from recycled materials. Tanzanian girls also miss an average of 3-5 days of school per month because of a lack of access to sanitary products during their menstrual cycle, so one student focused on creating reusable sanitary pads. So many everyday things that we don't think about are considered a luxury there.

This summer, I'm working with a transitional program with North Shore Consortium and Salem State University that

provides job and life skills training to students ages 18-22. Today we were at the North East Animal Shelter doing laundry, walking dogs, and taking care of the animals. Other days we're at a hardware store, Appleton Farms, or the Breakaway. There are eight job sites total that give students the opportunity to try out different fields. I work as a guide between the students and supervisors when we're on site.

What's the most important thing you learned this year?

To be thankful for what I have. I am lucky just to have the basic necessities.

What was the best book you read this year?

Becoming by Michelle Obama. I read it in a day. I couldn't put it down!

What advice would you give to the 2021 Danvers High School seniors?

Go out and give everything your best shot! Be yourself, and don't be afraid to take a chance. If your first plan doesn't work out, there is always a different path.



This Month in History

August 11, 1841 | Frederick Douglass spoke publicly for the first time to a white audience of abolitionists on Nantucket. At the time, he was a fugitive of slavery. Douglass would not be a legally freed man until 1847, when supporters purchased his freedom for \$150 (almost \$16,000 today.)

August 1, 1944 | Anne Frank penned her last diary entry. Three days later, the 15-year-old and her family were arrested by Nazi officers. Frank died on March 15, 1945 at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

August 4, 1961 | Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 2009, Obama would be sworn in as the first Black President of the United States.

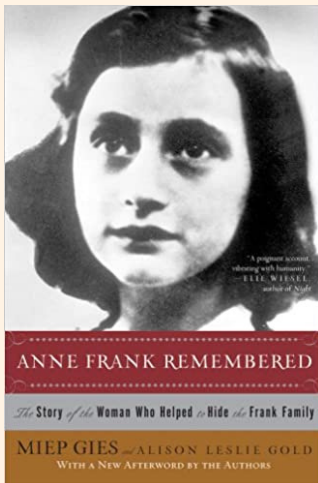
August 28, 1963 | Over 250,000 people attended the March on Washington in Washington, DC. Attendees gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to hear Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. make his now-famous *I Have a Dream* speech. It was later revealed that the second part of the speech was completely improvised.

August 4, 1964 | Civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were found murdered outside Philadelphia, MS after being detained by police officers for speeding. Investigation later found that the individuals involved in the murder and cover up included members of the Ku Klux Klan, Neshoba County Sheriff's Office, and the Philadelphia Police Department. For more, turn to page 3.



August 6, 1965 | The Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, suspending literacy, knowledge and characters tests designed to prevent Black people from voting in the south.

Read All About It!



A poignant, heartbreaking accompaniment to Anne Frank's original diary, *Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family* is the autobiography of Miep Gies, who, with her husband, hid the Frank family in a secret annex of their home for over two years. From her own remarkable childhood as a World War I refugee to the moment she places the recovered diary - Anne's legacy - in the hands of Otto Frank, Miep Gies remembers her days with simple honesty and shattering clarity.

Writes Gies, "People ask me what it is like to have outlived almost everyone whose history I have shared. It is a strange feeling. Why me? Why was I spared the concentration camp after being caught helping to hide Jews? This I will never know."

Each page rings with courage and heartbreaking beauty.

Find reading, viewing, and listening suggestions
for all ages and interests on our website at
DanversMA.gov/Suggested-Reading/

History You Might Not Have Learned in School: THE MISSISSIPPI BURNING MURDERS



In the summer of 1964, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were working as civil rights activists, traveling through Mississippi to register Black voters. The men worked for the Congress of Racial Equity (CORE), a student-led activist group, responsible for the Freedom Rides of 1961. Recognizing the men's station wagon as a CORE vehicle, the trio was pulled over by local law enforcement in Philadelphia, Mississippi and detained at the local police department for hours on speeding charges. They were finally released under the condition that they leave the county immediately.



While attempting to leave Neshoba County, the men realized that they were being followed by Deputy Sheriff Cecil Ray Price in his patrol vehicle, and later by Officers Harry Jackson Wiggs and Earl Robert Poe in a Mississippi Highway Patrol vehicle. Civilian vehicles soon joined the pursuit, and the men were eventually abducted and shot. Their bodies were buried in an earthen dam, and their car was left by a river in along Highway 21 and set on fire.

Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner were reported missing when they failed to arrive at the Meridian CORE office. When the smoldering station wagon was discovered, the FBI initiated searches of the nearby swamp. These searches turned up the bodies of Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie Moore, college students who had disappeared a month earlier, 14-year-old Herbert Oarsby, and five other identified Black people.

The FBI advertised a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the men, which led to a tip offered by "Mr. X," revealed 40 years later to be Officer Maynard King of the Mississippi Highway Patrol. The tip led to the discovery of the activists' bodies on August 4, 1964.

21 men were accused of conspiring to murder the activists, but after Mississippi officials refused to charge them, the federal government stepped in and charge 18 with conspiracy to deprive the activists of their civil rights by murder. A US Commissioner dismissed the associated confessions as hearsay. In February 1965 indictments were secured by grand jury, but Federal Judge William Harold Cox (a known segregationist) threw out all but two. It was two years before the federal government would secure reindictments.

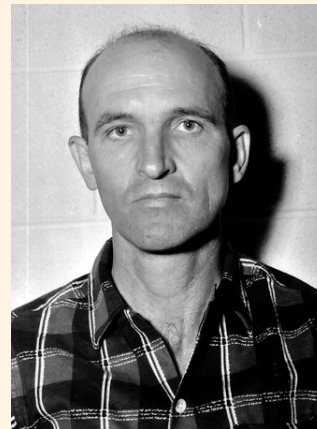


On October 20, 1967, seven men were found guilty: former Deputy Sherriff Price, Kalm Imperial Wizard Samuel Bowers, Alton Wayne Roberts, Jimmy Snowden, Billy Wayne Posey, Horace Barnette, and Jimmy Alredge. Judge Cox handed down prison sentences ranging from three to ten years, but none served more than six.



Sherriff Lawrence Rainey and E.G. Barnett (a candidate for Sherriff) were acquitted of all charges. Charges against Edgar Ray Killen, a local minister and Klan member, were dropped when the jury came to a deadlock. The one lone juror explained her decision by stating that she "could never convict a preacher."

Journalist Jerry Mitchell continued to write extensively on the case, and secured an interview with Killen. This taped conversation was submitted to investigators, who deemed worthy of being considered new evidence, and reopened the case. Because of the interview, Killen was determined to have been the mastermind behind the organization and direction of the killings. On June 21, 2005, more than 40 years after the murders, Killen was convicted on three counts of manslaughter, and sentenced to 60 consecutive years in prison, 20 years for each death. Killen served 13 years before dying in prison at 92.



James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014 by President Barack Obama. Their deaths are also credited with contributing to the Congressional passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Learn More



Summer in Mississippi | 1964

A 27-minute documentary in which filmmakers travel to the south to interview the friends, relatives, and oppositionists of the victims.

Murder in Mississippi | 1990

A television film that examines the events leading up to the murders of the activists.

Neshoba | 2008

A documentary detailing the murders, investigation, and 2005 trial of Edgar Ray Killen.



Attack on Terror: The FBI Against the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi **Don Whitehead**

A nonfiction book detailing the events a week before the assassinations, and concluding with the federal trial of the conspirators.

The Mississippi Burning Trial: A Primary Source Account **Bill Schepler**



***Someone Knows Something* Podcast**

Season 3 focuses around the discovery of the bodies of Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie Moore during the search for Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner. Dee and Moore are believed to have been murdered by the Klan two months prior.

A Crash Course In...

PRONOUNS

Via @SoYouWantToTalkAbout on Instagram

Using someone's correct personal pronouns is a way to respect them and create an inclusive environment. Common pronouns include *she/her* (traditional feminine), *he/him* (traditional masculine), *they/them* and *xe/xem* (gender non-specific).



Pronouns are not new!

The singular *they* was common until the Victorian era, when gender-neutral pronouns defaulted to *he* as encompassing both the masculine and feminine. People quickly recognized the limits of *he* and agreed that it was insufficient, as anyone who read *he* would immediately think of men, and not women.

The pronoun *hir* was coined in 1920 by *The Sacramento Bee*, and was used off and on until the 1940s. *Ze*, often assumed to be a more recently coined term, was created by a writer identified only as J.W.L. in 1864. Only eight years early, composer Charles Crozat Converse invented the pronoun *thon* (short for *that one*). *Thon* even made it into Webster's Second New International Dictionary in 1934, but never quite caught on in popular usage.



While pronouns are a popular subject in conversations surrounding genderqueer and gender-nonconforming individuals, you don't have to identify as such in order to self-identify your pronouns. Cisgender allies can help normalize self-identification to avoid misgendering. This can be done by adding your pronouns to your email signature or social media profiles, or when introducing yourself - "Hi, my name is Taylor. My pronouns are he/him."

How do I ask someone what their pronouns are?

Set the standard! By introducing yourself with your own pronouns, you invite others to do the same. When you do this, you're signaling to the other person that you are familiar with the concept of pronouns, and are a safe person to share theirs with.



What if I make a mistake regarding somebody's pronouns?

If you use the wrong pronouns and you immediately realize your mistake, simply apologize, correct yourself, and move on with the conversation. Apologizing profusely creates unnecessary attention to the mistake and can make the misgendered person feel uncomfortable. If you hear somebody else using incorrect pronouns for another person, you can correct them in private later, or, if you have been given permission to speak up in the moment, a simple, "Actually, Taylor goes by he/him, not she/her" will suffice.

How can I integrate gender-neutral language into my everyday life?

Practice makes perfect! When addressing a group of people whose pronouns you haven't been told, using gender-neutral group terms is most appropriate. At work, consider addressing group emails with *Team*, *Folks*, *All*, or *Everyone*.



If you need to identify someone whose pronouns you don't know, consider non-gendered physical descriptors. Instead of saying, "Can you give this paper to the girl over there?" try "Can you give this paper to the person sitting over there, wearing a white t-shirt with short brown hair?"

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Letter of Commendation Issued to Danvers Middle Schooler

The Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee issued a letter of commendation to eighth-grader Marishka Burnett for her support of the LGBTQIA+ community. Via Danvers Patch:

As schools and communities all across the North Shore celebrate Pride Month with ceremonies and flag-raising events in June, Danvers eighth-grader **Marishka Burnett** had an idea for an even longer-lasting show of encouragement for her LGBTQ+ classmates.

The Holten-Richmond Middle School student is using her talents to make bracelets, anklets and keychains as part of a small business she hopes will make her school a more inclusive place where students and staff can be themselves and know they have the support of the whole town.

"It was mostly because I have been seeing a lot of Pride people coming out and I want them to show their true colors," she told Patch in an interview from school this week. "I was just starting to think more about the community and LGBTQ and that people might not know it's that broad. So why don't I start making Pride bracelets, and sell them, and show them the community is bigger than what people think?"

The items are made from the colors of the LGBTQ+ flag with Burnett saying she will customize them to feature certain colors based on how someone identifies or wants to show support for someone else in how they identify themselves.

She said through word of mouth around school the orders started coming in and that she intends to keep making the items beyond Pride month.

"This way people can wear them and show that this is what I am so they can be happy," she said.

DanversCARES Youth Leaders and the Holten-Richmond staff have been among those helping promote the efforts that Burnett said her classmates have embraced as well.

"When I started telling people I was doing it they asked me why and then they got excited about my cause," she said. "Then they wanted to join me."



Photo: Danielle Larocque



Our Mission

The Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee is a cohesive task force against anti-Semitism, homophobia, intolerance, racism, sexism and bigotry. We partner with police, school administration and several community partners on events to create a positive atmosphere for a multi-cultural community. We stand against hatred and support those who experience marginalization due to their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

Dr. Dutrochet Djoko, Chair

Paul Pawlak, Vice Chair

Dr. Charles Desmond

Robert Gamer

Deb Gesualdo

William Graham

Donna Hopkins

David McKenna

Kristen Perkins

Jorge Sanchez-Salazar

Amanda Symmes

Eric Crane, School Liaison

David Mills, Select Board Liaison

Eileen Page, Town Liaison

Lt. Rob Sullivan, Police Liaison

Rev. Douglas Vooy, Interfaith Liaison

Get Involved!

Meetings

The HRIC meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Danvers Police Department, 120 Ash Street. The public is welcome to attend!

In accordance with Town policy, unvaccinated individuals must remain masked for the duration of the meeting.

Volunteer

The Committee is always looking for volunteers to assist at programs throughout the year. Volunteers of all ages and skillsets are welcome! To get added to our volunteer email list, send your name, contact information, and areas of interests to epage@danversma.gov.

Visit Us Online!

Find resources for parents, teachers, young adults and children and stay in the know for upcoming events!

Explore our website at www.DanversMA.gov/Departments/Danvers-Committee-Diversity.



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