

Letters to the editor

Representative Sims announces reelection campaign

(Continued from page four.)

works for everyone.

This is only the beginning. I'm asking for my district's votes so that I can keep fighting for a Vermont where:

Rural communities can attract and retain residents with affordable housing, high-speed internet access, cell reception, and transportation.

Small businesses can thrive because regulation is easy to navigate and balances environmental concerns with economic interests.

All Vermonters have a safe, warm house, good food, a good job, and affordable healthcare.

I want to keep listening. I want to keep leading on the issues that matter to my constituents. I want to keep my constituents informed about how policies impact you.

I need support to secure our district's only seat in the House. I hope your readers will join us. Together, we can bring the voices and values of rural Vermonters to the State House. Find more information about my campaign and how to join it at katherinesimsforhouse.com.

Representative Katherine Sims
Craftsbury

Opinion

Juneteenth — solemn history and new point of view

by Molly Veysey

Juneteenth represents the day in 1865 that Union officers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and told the 250,000 enslaved black Americans in Texas that they were free. That was actually two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation issued by United States President Abraham Lincoln (which was signed on January 1, 1863) went into effect.

Each year we mark this solemn occasion at the Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village. This year we will also celebrate the opening of our newest exhibit, *In a Different Hue: Race and Representation*. Our collections team used artifacts found at the Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village as a portal for deeper exploration into issues of race and representation.

Our new exhibit examines the themes of politics, narrative imagination and racial stereotypes in relation to Orleans County history. In the process, it offers a broader context for understanding the complexities of shared memory and meaning making — especially in times of political polarization and partisanship when there are no agreed-upon facts.

For us, this includes celebrating the life and legacy of Alexander Lucius Twilight, the nation's first African American college graduate. Born September 23, 1795, Mr. Twilight led a life devoted to education and faith. As the

headmaster of the Orleans County Grammar School and minister of the Brownington Congregational Church, he taught a vibrant student body. He also designed and led the construction of the museum's impressive granite hall.

In 1836, Mr. Twilight became the first African American to serve in the Vermont state legislature. This May his portrait as painted by Vermont artist Katie Runde was hung in the Vermont State House in recognition of his many accomplishments.

But it's not enough to simply recognize this man. On this Juneteenth, the board of trustees for the Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village will mark the occasion by welcoming all at the museum from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a short ceremony with words from our curator about the new exhibit and then a museum open house and light refreshments. Kids are welcome with families for fun activities and ice cream. All free.

Mark this new holiday and join us if you are able. Our new exhibit is guaranteed to engage you and provoke new ways of thinking.

Molly Veysey is the executive director of the Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

The answer is on page 10.





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