



- **WHAT IS JUNETEENTH? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**
- **HOW IS JUNETEENTH BEING COMMEMORATED THROUGHOUT CHESTER COUNTY THIS YEAR?**
- **HOW CAN I HELP?**

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

What Is Juneteenth?

- Juneteenth, or June 19th, is the anniversary of the day that commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S.
- On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3 upon his arrival in Galveston, TX
- This freed 250,000 enslaved Black Americans...2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation and 2 months after the end of the Civil War

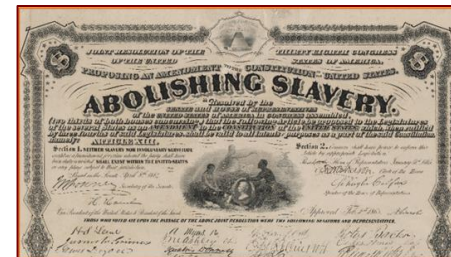
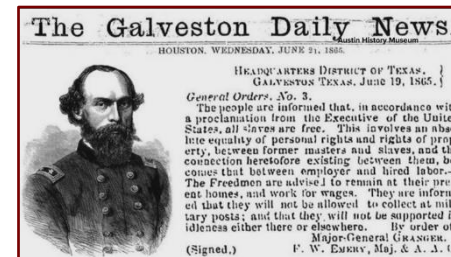
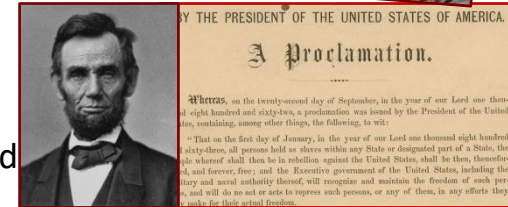
Why Is It Important?

- Juneteenth reminds us enslaved people celebrated the abolishment of slavery with excitement and great joy.
- It is a reminder to all Americans of the status and importance of African Americans as American citizens.



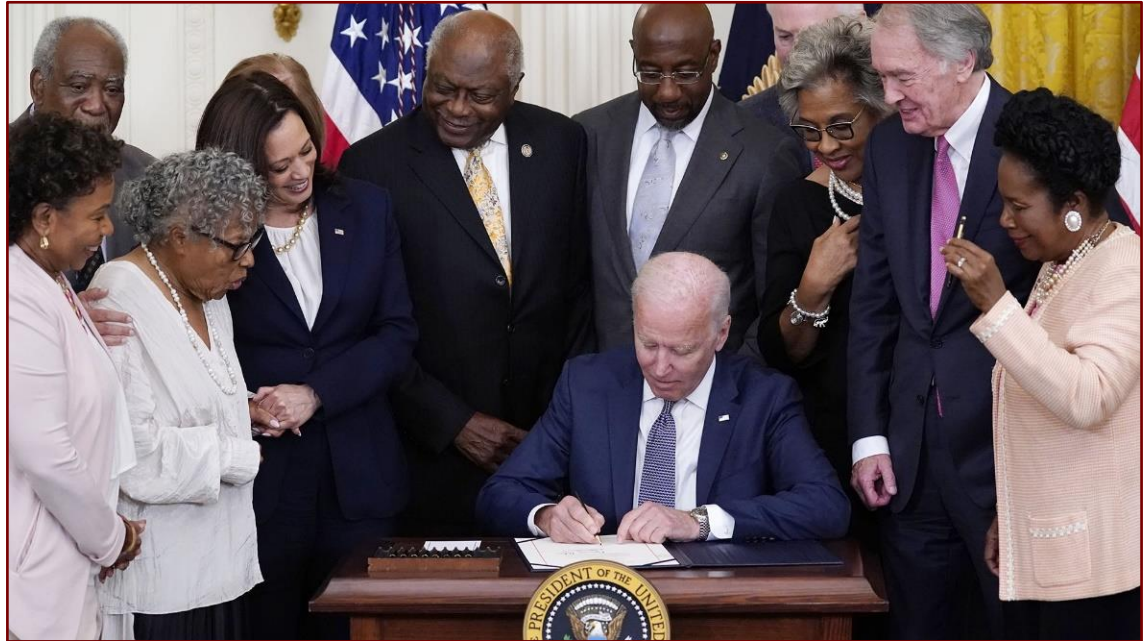
JUNETEENTH: A QUICK HISTORY LESSON

- From **1861 to 1865** the **American Civil War** between the Union and Confederate states was fought, primarily over the long-standing disagreement over the institution of slavery.
- **President Lincoln's January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation**, issued during the **Civil War**, declared "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious (*Confederate*) states "are, and henceforward shall be free." This had little to no impact on enslaved people's freedom in Southern states, as it couldn't be enforced.
- **1864-1865 Emancipation** became national policy with the passage of the **13th Amendment**. It was passed by the Senate on April 8, 1864 and by the House on January 31, 1865. The joint resolution was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on February 1, 1865. It was the first of three Reconstruction Amendments of the Civil War.
- The **April 9, 1865 surrender by Confederate General Robert E. Lee** in Appomattox, VA to Union General Ulysses S. Grant meant the end of the Civil War. But enslaved people in far-away places under Confederate control didn't know.
- On **June 19, 1865 Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger** arrived in **Galveston, TX** with news that the Civil War had ended. 250,000+ enslaved African American people in Texas were now free by executive decree that was enforced by Union soldiers. Union troops reached other outlying states on different days, and they celebrated as well. But Texas' celebration that year and thereafter was big.
- Over the years, the celebration had various names: **Emancipation Day - Freedom Day - Jubilee Day - U.S. second Independence Day – Juneteenth**. Although it has long been celebrated, this monumental event has been unfamiliar to many people outside of the African American community.



JUNETEENTH DECREED OFFICIAL HOLIDAY

- **January 1, 1980:** Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator.
- **June 17, 2021:** President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

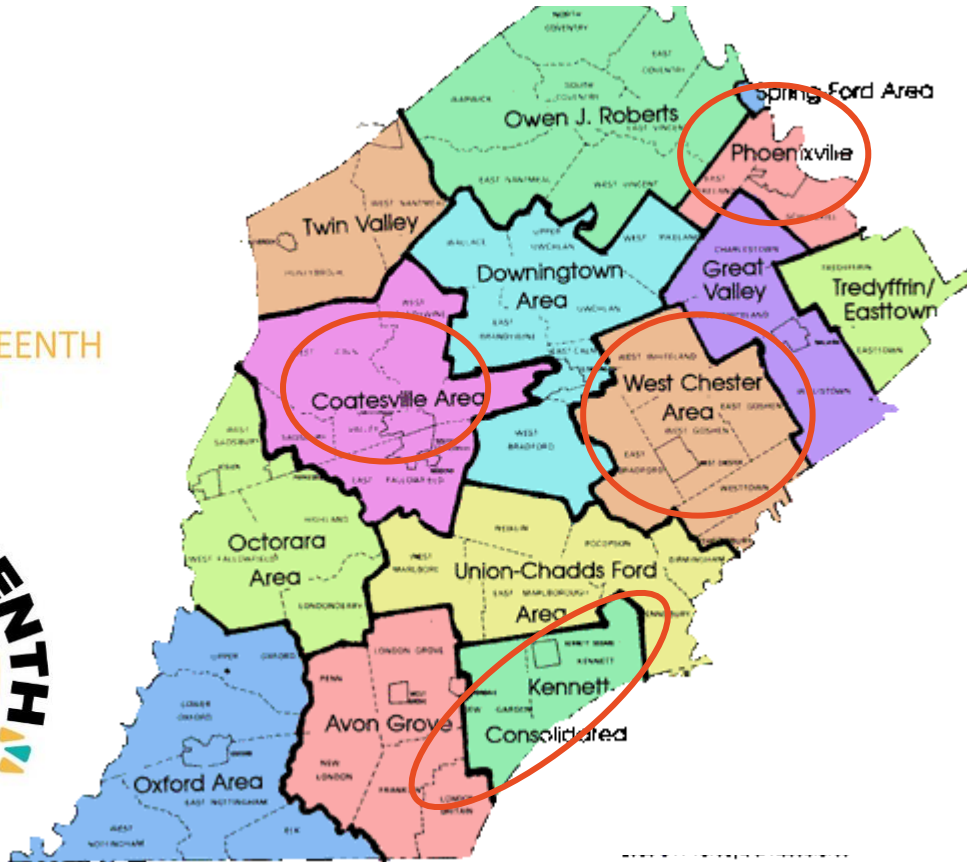


Lawmakers gathered around President Joseph Biden as he signed the Juneteenth bill include Democratic Senators Raphael Warnock of Georgia and Tina Smith of Minnesota, and Rep. Joyce Beatty of Ohio, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. Also present was Opal Lee, a 94-year-old activist from Texas who has long-campaigned for the holiday's recognition. Vice President Kamela Harris put her arm around Lee as Biden signed the bill.

HOW IS JUNETEENTH BEING COMMEMORATED THROUGHOUT CHESTER COUNTY THIS YEAR?



COATESVILLE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION



<https://www.culturechesco.org/>

<https://www.vuproject.org/juneteenth>



KENNETT JUNETEENTH EVENTS in process as of 4/13/23

SUNDAY JUNE 11, 2023

| | | |
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| 3pm | "A Pilgrimage to Freedom - Tracing the Steps of Harriett Tubman from Maryland to Canada" with Ken Johnston. Presented by Kennett Heritage Center. tix at www.xxx.org | Kennett Friends Meeting House 125 W. Sickle St, Kennett Square 19348 |
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FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

| | | |
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| tbd | Kennett Square interfaith-faith sunset Worship Service | To be confirmed |
| 8pm | Fashioning Freedom lecture & fashion show curated by Dr. Kimberly Jenkins. Presented by Voices Underground. tix at www.xxx.org | Longwood Gardens |

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

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| | JOURNEY TO FREEDOM CELEBRATION | |
| 10am | Kennett Juneteenth Walk with Ken Johnston. Presented by Kennett Heritage Center. Signup for free at www.xxx.org | Departs from Kennett Heritage Center 120 N. Union St., Kennett Square 19348 |
| 11am | I Matter Poetry Slam organized by BellaHanson in conjunction with Voices Underground | Anson B. Nixon Park Bandstand 405 N. Walnut Rd., Kennett Square 19348 |
| Noon | Lunch w/BBQ & Food Trucks | Nixon Park Bandstand |
| 1pm | Kennett Community Gospel Choir , conducted by Leon Spencer | Nixon Park Bandstand |
| 1:45pm | Freedom Walk from Nixon Park through East Linden Street to Friends Meetinghouse with stations curated by Kennett Underground Railroad volunteers | From Nixon Park to Friends Meetinghouse |
| 2:15pm | Think Emancipation. Think June 15. The Hensonville Heroes. Talk with Dr. Cheryl Gooch and Re-enactors from Company B of the Massachusetts 54 th Infantry Regiment, the "Glory Regiment" of African American soldiers during the Civil War. Presented by Kennett Heritage Center. Signup for free at www.xxx.org | Kennett Friends Meetinghouse 125 W. Sickle Street, Kennett Square 19348 |

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

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|---------|---|--|
| Morning | Various religious services with message of Juneteenth & Father's Day | various |
| 1pm | Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tour Tix for \$20 at www.xxxxx.org | Departs from CCCVB at Longwood 200 Greenwood Rd, Kennett Square 19348 |
| 3pm | Journey to Freedom Open Mic , hosted by Syde Two & Leon Spencer. Presented by The Kennett Flash. Signup for open mic at www.xxxxx.org . Reserve your seat at www.xxxxx.org | Kennett Flash 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square 19348 |
| 6pm | Freedom's Table Dinner of Friendship. Presented by Voices Underground. tix at www.xxx.org | Lincoln University 1570 Baltimore Pike, Lincoln University 19352 |

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023

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| | Juneteenth Holiday. Nothing planned. | |
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JUNETEENTH: SPREAD THE WORD

- ❖ Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.
- ❖ Juneteenth celebrates community, unity & understanding.
- ❖ The importance and history of Juneteenth is vital to our healing and to our advancement as a community and as a country.
- ❖ Juneteenth serves as a reminder that it's up to all of us to be part of the solution.
- ❖ There's still so much work to do.



SPREAD THE WORD

<https://tabernaclecoatesville.com/f/what-to-the-black-millennial-is-juneteenth> June 18, 2021

Rev. Dr. Kyle J. Boyer, Senior Pastor

What to the Black Millennial is Juneteenth?

Growing up, my schooling was largely void of the perspectives of people who looked like me, but there were three historical Black figures I could count on to hear about every year: Martin Luther King, Harriett Tubman, and Frederick Douglass.

On July 5, 1852 the last of those individuals, being the powerful abolitionist, preacher, teacher, and orator that he was, delivered a now-famous speech titled "[What to the Slave is the Fourth of July.](#)" In his remarks, Mr. Douglass reminded the Rochester, NY audience that not everyone had reason to celebrate the fourth of July.

Students of history know that even as Mr. Douglass was speaking slavery was still anchoring America. In fact, it would be well over a decade before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, and even longer before true emancipation was realized.

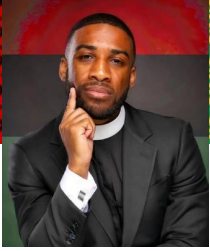
There, 76 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Douglass delivered a stinging oration on the inconsistency of the fourth of July holiday. *"What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim."*

The victimization to which Mr. Douglass was referring was the slavery in which most Americans who looked like him were still bound. The same Declaration of Independence being celebrated had never really been intended for Black men like Douglass. It was the presence of such inconsistencies that led Douglass, a noted lay preacher, to deliver what was effectively a sermon highlighting the undercurrent of hypocrisy overshadowing the whole gathering.

A little less than 13 years later, after years of kicking the can of slavery down the road, and ultimately fighting a bloody Civil War, the word of emancipation finally reached the farthest corners of the nation--Galveston, TX. That day, June 19, 1865, is the foundation for what we now celebrate as Emancipation Day or Juneteenth.

In fact, remarkably, Texas is the state that has done the most to elevate this holiday. It was in 1938 that then-Governor of Texas James V. Allred proclaimed June 20 (the 19th fell on a Sunday) a day of observance. In 1979 Texas made Juneteenth a paid state holiday. In the years since, every single state except South Dakota has recognized Juneteenth as a day of significance.

Such recognition culminated in President Biden's June 17, 2021 signing into law of Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Certainly, recognition of the *announcement* of slavery ending is a good thing, of that there should be no question.



SPREAD THE WORD

<https://tabernaclecoatesville.com/f/what-to-the-black-millennial-is-juneteenth> June 18, 2021

Rev. Dr. Kyle J. Boyer, Senior Pastor **What to the Black Millennial is Juneteenth?**

The problem is, too often America leans heavy on announcement at the expense of true *atonement*. Even as millions of Black Millennials prepare to, in various ways, partake of celebratory festivities, there remains the evil presence of unhealed wounds and new streams of bigotry that run counter to everything the original Juneteenth proclaimed.

- It is hard to celebrate the declaration of freedom when student loan debt disproportionately ensnares the finances of Black Millennials.
- It's hard to commemorate physical chains falling from the last of the chattel slaves when, due to the iron grip of mass incarceration, one in four Black Millennials, and almost one in three younger Black Millennials, had an immediate family member imprisoned while they were growing up.
- Not to mention the ongoing images of police brutality,
- the under funding of schools that serve communities of color, and
- the current efforts at resisting equity-based efforts in curriculum.
- Worst of all, many of the same members of Congress that helped make Juneteenth a federal holiday continue to resist efforts at securing voting rights for the historically marginalized and disenfranchised people of our Republic.

In his day, Frederick Douglass was simply asking for consistency. He wasn't saying that the fourth of July was a bad day, but rather challenging America to ensure that all its citizens had cause to celebrate.

In the same manner, this Black Millennial would never say that Juneteenth is a bad thing, but that a better thing would be a day in which the descendants of the freed slaves could observe freedom from all forms of slavery.

- What if we could announce that mass incarceration no longer tore apart Black communities?
- What if we could proclaim from the hills that our schools received fair funding and that zip codes serving people of color didn't by default have less sufficient public schools?
- What if Black Millennials could joyfully get behind the wheels of their vehicles and trust that there wasn't a greater chance of them being pulled over by law enforcement than their White peers?

Until such a day that those conditions represent reality, we continue on.

Celebrate Juneteenth!

- Do so by patronizing Black-owned businesses.
- Do so by gathering in community and telling the story of the resilient people who overcame centuries of subjugation.
- Gather children and allow them to experience the pride and richness of their cultural heritage.

Celebrate Juneteenth! Just make sure you do so, recognizing that we still have far to go.

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