

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Join us on Zoom to engage in a conversation about Juneteenth.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 AT NOON**



Register: [ChesCoCF.org/explore/Food-for-Thought](https://ChesCoCF.org/explore/Food-for-Thought)

# THANKS TO OUR THOUGHT LEADERS



**Rev. Dr. Richelle Foreman Gunter** (she/her)

Associate Minister, St. Paul's Baptist Church of West Chester

Chair of Political Action & Religious Affairs Committees, NAACP West Chester



**Rev. Lawrence E. Claiborne** (he/him)

Youth Pastor, St. Paul's Baptist Church of West Chester



**Dr. Tracey Ray Robinson** (she/her)

Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, West Chester University

## SCHEDULE

**12 | Welcome & Intros**

**12:05 | Juneteenth Overview**

**12:30 | Juneteenth Video – 7 mins**

**12:40 | Discussion: Unfinished Business**

# THANKS TO OUR PROMO PARTNERS



- Please be respectful to all.
- Some may never have dealt with these topics before while others may have lived through traumatic experiences.
- Please unmute yourself + turn on your video to encourage open dialogue.
- Please mute yourself during the video streaming.
- Raise your hand or use the chat room to make a comment or pose a question.
- Tackle problems, not people.
- Discuss the undiscussable.



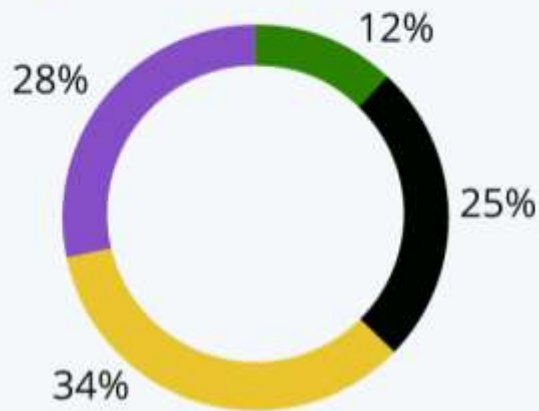


## Americans' Familiarity With Juneteenth Still Limited

Survey responses among U.S. adults about Juneteenth (2021)

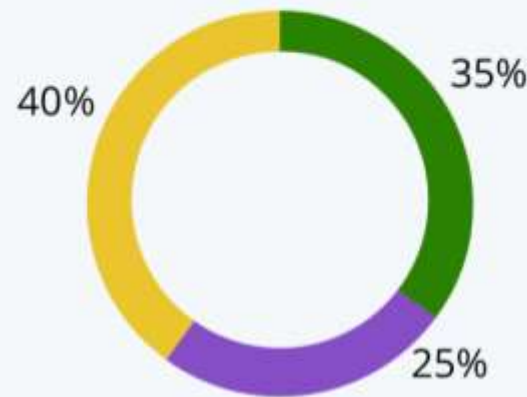
How much do you know about Juneteenth?

- A lot
- Some
- A little bit
- Nothing



Should Juneteenth be a federal holiday?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know





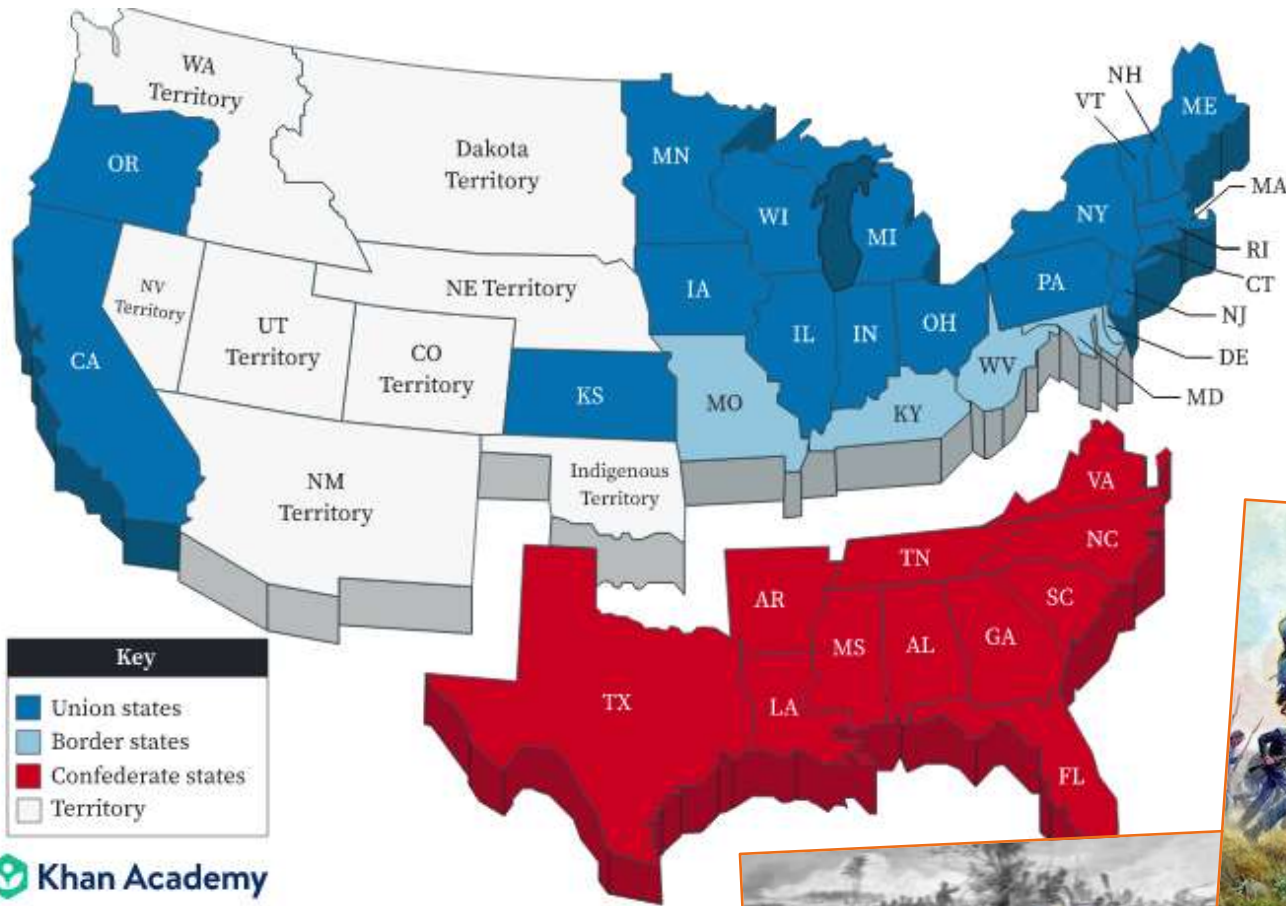
**American Civil War** – Four-year war (1861 to 1865) between the U.S. and 11 Southern states that seceded from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. The conflict began primarily as a result of the long-standing disagreement over the institution of slavery.



**Emancipation Proclamation** – The January 1, 1863 proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln declared “all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious (**Confederate**) states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

**13<sup>th</sup> Amendment** – Emancipation became **national** policy. 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 following the Civil War.

**Juneteenth** – Holiday celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup> to mark our country’s second independence day. Although it has long been celebrated, this monumental event has been unfamiliar to many people outside of the African American community.



<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/civil-war-era/reconstruction/a/juneteenth>



President Lincoln's **January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation**, which was issued during the Civil War, had little to no impact in Texas due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order.

~2.5 years later, the **April 9, 1865 surrender by General Robert E. Lee** of his 28,000 Confederate troops in Appomattox, VA to Union General Ulysses S. Grant meant the end of the Civil War. But enslaved people in far-away places still under Confederate control didn't know.

On **June 19, 1865 Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger** arrived in **Galveston, Texas** with news that the Civil War had ended. 250,000+ enslaved African American people in Texas were now free by executive decree.



The celebration of June 19<sup>th</sup> has been called

- Emancipation Day
- Freedom Day
- Jubilee Day
- the country's second Independence Day
- Juneteenth

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/juneteenth-day-celebration.html>

*Photo description: Crowds of formally enslaved people carry copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and celebrate*





# HONORING JUNETEENTH

1863

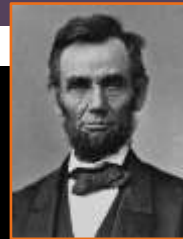
January 1 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation but slavery continued.

1865

June 19 In Texas, enslaved Africans learned of the Civil War's end and celebrated their emancipation.

December 6 The 13th Amendment of the Constitution was ratified, officially abolishing slavery.

**ACLU**



THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

## The Galveston Daily News.

HOUSTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1865.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TEXAS. }  
GALVESTON TEXAS, JUNE 19, 1865. }

General Orders, No. 3.

The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor.— The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere. By order of

Major-General GRANGER.  
(Signed.) F. W. ENKRV, Maj. & A. A. G.





## Emancipation Day Celebration June 19, 1900 Eastwoods Park, Austin TX



### Civil War re-enactors

*Photo taken by  
Grace Murray Stephenson*

*Photo Credit: Austin History Center*



**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.



Al Edwards, Texas State Representative  
"Mr. Juneteenth"

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.



The Juneteenth flag was created in 1997 by activist Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation. The flag was revised in 2000 into the version we know today:

The **star** represents Texas, the Lone Star State. It also represents the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

The **curve** represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.



The **red, white and blue** represents the American flag, a reminder that enslaved people were and their descendants are all Americans.

The **bursting outline** around the star is inspired by a nova, a term that astronomers use to mean a new star. This represents a new beginning for African Americans.

In 2007, the **date** "June 19, 1865" was added.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/17/us/juneteenth-flag-meaning-explainer-cec/index.html>



In the early years, few outside of the African American community participated in Juneteenth.

Today, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.



# Juneteenth West Chester



## JUNETEENTH WEST CHESTER PLANNING PARTNERS

Honorable  
Lillian L. DeBaptiste  
*West Chester Borough Mayor*

Mary Gazdik  
*Chester County Library &  
District Center*

Alice Hammond  
*West Chester NAACP*

Conor Hepp  
Pachy Banks-Cabral  
*Chester County History Center*

Fredda Maddox Esq.  
*Chester County Sherriff*

Timmy Nelson  
*Community Volunteer*

Denice Velez  
*West Chester University  
Office of Diversity, Equity &  
Inclusion*

Renee Washington  
*Charles A. Melton Center*

Carol Weaver  
*Seba Enrichment Academy*

Reginald Weaver  
*MRW Business Solutions*

Karen Simmons  
Lilly Mercado  
*Chester County Community  
Foundation*  
\*Fiscal agent  
28 W. Market St, West Chester  
[www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)  
610.696.8211  
EIN 23-2773822

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

[www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth](http://www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth)



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



# JUNE TEENTH

JUNE 14-19 2023

## Journeying Towards Freedom

WED	14	FROM WHENCE WE CAME: GENEALOGY
		7PM
THURS	15	AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILTING ART SHOW
		5:30PM
15-16		WEST CHESTER AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS
		5:30 & 6PM
17-18		WEST CHESTER AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS
		11 & 11:30AM
SAT	17	KEYNOTER & PANEL DISCUSSION
		7PM
SUN	18	RELIGIOUS SERVICES: WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH MORNING
MON	19	WEST CHESTER NAACP FLAG RECOGNITION CEREMONY
		10AM
MON	19	FREEDOM FESTIVAL
		3PM

[www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth](http://www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth)



"JOURNEYING TOWARDS FREEDOM"

### FREEDOM FESTIVAL June 19th

**10AM - 12noon**  
WC NAACP Flag Recognition Ceremony & Reception  
featuring "The 20 Men Project"

**12noon - 2:30pm**  
Family Fun Crafts, Movie and  
Snacks  
[Therese@uptownwestchester.org](mailto:Therese@uptownwestchester.org)

**3pm - 6pm**  
Kick-Off and Welcome to Afternoon Activities

- o Juneteenth Unity Day Choir
- o Scavenger Hunt
- o Family Friendly Large Group Games
- o Food Trucks & Vendors
- o Family Friendly Large Group Dances
- o Old School Bop Challenge
- Melton Center Dance Team Performance
- West Chester Dance Works Performance
- Drum Circle
- Juneteenth Proclamation & Benediction

*Come Celebrate with us!!!  
The Melton Center  
501 E. Miner St.*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjmSnQ03J6M&t=83s>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjmSnQ03J6M&t=3s>

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



# Juneteenth Kennett

(as of 5/8/2023)

KENNETT AREA JUNETEENTH COMMITTEE

Honorable Leon Spencer

*Kennett Community Volunteer*

Joan Holliday

*Chester County Public Health Nurse (retired)*

Crystal Crampton

*Saving Hallowed Grounds*

*Bucktoe Cemetery*

*Kennett Underground Railroad Center*

Deborah Burston

*Kennett Underground Railroad Center*

D. Lynn Sinclair

*Kennett Heritage Center*

Sheila Tekavec

*Anson Nixon Park*

*Kennett Friends Meeting*

Mary Hutchins

Joe Mulry

Amanda Murphy

*Kennett Library*

Sonia Hanson

Bella Hanson

*Kennett Community Volunteers*

Michael Hahn

*Kennett Flash*

Karen Simmons

Lilly Mercado

Timmy Nelson

*Chester County Community Foundation*

## JUNETEENTH 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



### SUNDAY, JUNE 11

**3:00pm** "A Pilgrimage to Freedom" w/ Ken Johnston

*Kennett Friends Meeting House, 125 W. Sickle St.*

### FRIDAY, JUNE 16

**8:00pm** Fashioning Freedom lecture and fashion show

*Curated by Dr. Kimberley Jenkins, Longwood Gardens*

### SATURDAY, JUNE 17

**9:30am-2pm** Abolitionists, Conductors and Underground Railroad Stations Exhibit

*Presented by Kennett Underground Railroad Center, 120 N. Union St.*

**10:00am** Walk with Ken Johnston: Kennett's First Free Black Community

*Departs from the corner of East State & Race Streets*

**10am-1pm** Journey Toward Freedom: QR-Guided Walk of Underground Railroad Activity

*Maps at Kennett Underground Railroad Center, 120 N. Union St.*

**11am-4pm** Feed Your Soul Box: Pre-order \$15 Lunch by calling 302-750-1926

*To benefit the New Garden Memorial UAME Church, 309 E. Linden St.*

**11:15am** Slam Poetry

*Presented by Kennett Library, Anson B. Nixon Park Bandstand*

**11:00am** Juneteenth Dedication: Journey to Freedom Opening Remarks

*Anson B. Nixon Park Bandstand*

**12:00pm** Lunch with BBQ Food Trucks

*Anson B. Nixon Park Bandstand*

**1:00pm** Kennett Community Gospel Choir with Leon Spencer

*Anson B. Nixon Park Bandstand*

**2:00pm** Think Emancipation! and Juneteenth: Talk with Dr. Cheryl Gooch and Reenactors

*Kennett Friends Meeting House, 125 W. Sickle St.*

### SUNDAY, JUNE 18

**1:00pm** Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tour: \$23 at [KennettUndergroundRR.org](http://KennettUndergroundRR.org)

*Departs from CCCVB at Longwood, 200 Greenwood Rd.*

**3:00pm** Bayard Rustin by People's Light and Theatre

*Presented by The Kennett Flash, 102 Sycamore Alley*

**3:30pm** Journey To Freedom Open Mic hosted by Leon Spencer

*Presented by The Kennett Flash, 102 Sycamore Alley*

**6:00pm** Freedom's Table Dinner of Friendship

*Presented by Voices Underground, Lincoln University, 1570 Baltimore Pike*

<https://www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth-kennett-square>



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



# Juneteenth Phoenixville

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-phoenixville-juneteenth-celebration-tickets>

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

ALL ARE WELCOME

Presented by: **Black Light Projects** • **Diversity in Action** • **Phoenixville**  
**Forever Changer** • **The Colonial Theatre** • **Phonixville Community Health Foundation**

entertainment, inspiring words, storytelling, colorful re-enactments, African dancing, dancing & much more

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth, FREEDOM DAY, commemorated since 1863, celebrates the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved people in the United States.



### SUMMER OF SOUL (2021)



Jun 4 at 4:00 p.m. & Jun 7 at 7:00 p.m.  
 Questlove's directorial debut exploring the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival.

### THE WIZ (1979)



Jun 11 at 1:30 p.m. | FREE  
 Sponsored by Black Light Projects.

### AMAZING GRACE (1972)



Jun 15 at 6:00 p.m. | FREE  
 Forward Impact Life Ministries Choir performs before the Aretha Franklin concert film.

### ILLUMINATING BAYARD



Jun 19 at 2:00 p.m. | Pay What You Wish  
 Play excerpt of "Bayard Rustin" presented by People's Light & Theatre.



227 BRIDGE ST. PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460  
 Tickets at [thecolonialtheatre.com](http://thecolonialtheatre.com)  
 (610) 917-1228

# PHOENIXVILLE CELEBRATES Juneteenth

Sun, June 18



Presented by:



## Schedule of FREE Events:

- 2:00 Welcome & Proclamations - Bridge Street
- 2:20 Positive Movement Drum Line - Bridge Street
- 2:45 Story Village with Auntie Oni - Reads & Company
- 2:50 Brandon Albright, Hip Hop - Bridge Street
- 3:30 Hidden Treasure Jazz Band - Bridge Street
- 3:30 Magician Ran'D Shine - The Colonial Theatre
- 4:20 Mlanjeni Magical Theatre - Reads & Company
- 4:20 Millicent Sparks as Harriet Tubman - The Colonial Theatre
- 4:50 Iron Age Street Theatre - Bridge Street
- 5:15 Moshé Jenkins, The Spin Therapist - Bridge Street
- 5:50 Closing on Bridge Street

## Featuring:



Merch, Vendors, Activities & Food



Quilting with Evangelia Bidy



Face Painting by Sean Halloran



Caricatures by Schay

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

# Juneteenth Coatesville (as of 6/13/2023)



## COATESVILLE JUNETEENTH PLANNING COMMITTEE

- James Logan, Coatesville City Manager
- Donna Rowland, NAACP Coatesville Area Branch President
- Jeff Deacon, Coatesville Historical Commission
- Mary Kyle, City of Coatesville Codes / Coatesville NAACP
- Anna Bond, Coatesville NAACP
- Kaye Coleman-Smith, Coatesville NAACP
- Vincent Miles Jr., Coatesville Public Affairs Representative
- Ajene Livingston, Artist & Organizer

**NAACP**  
Coatesville Area Branch

CHESTER COUNTY  
**SIC**  
Historical & Cultural Commission

**JUNETEENTH**  
Coatesville, PA  
Celebrating Freedom In 2023

**Community Events**  
June 16 - 19th

**Friday**  
June 16th  
7PM

**Saturday**  
June 17th  
1PM & 7PM

**Sunday**  
June 18th  
12PM & 6PM

**Monday**  
June 19th  
10AM  
107 S. 17th Avenue  
Coatesville

Second Baptist Worship Center Presents...  
857 Lumber Street, Coatesville  
Rev. Dr. James L. Smith, Senior Pastor

**THE WIZ**  
Admission Tickets \$10  
Advanced Ticket Purchase:  
secondbaptist.ticketleap.com/thewiz/

**Juneteenth Freedom Festival**  
at Ash Park

**SPOKEN WORD**  
Amanda Winkey  
Ajene Livingston

**ME.WE.CITY COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
DJ DREMONEY & BOP & CHA CHA CONTEST

**BASKETBALL & Horseshoes with**  
Chuck Brewer, Ricky Campbell &  
Friends

Ritchie's  
"Juneteenth"  
Water Ice

**MISTR GRUBB**

**Women Destined for Change**  
Juneteenth Jubilee Breakfast

Reservations Are Free & Necessary  
RSVP: WEAREWDFC@GMAIL.COM  
C.Arvilla Hunt - 454-889-2147

**Funding by: Voices Underground &  
The Chester County Community Foundation (CCCCF)**

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



## Why All Americans Should Honor Juneteenth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FX-lisvrj8>



## Brief Intros

<https://extension.harvard.edu/blog/dce-juneteenth-panel-a-discussion-of-our-past-present-and-future/>

- Who are you? What brought you to today's Community Conversation?
- What did you want to learn? What have you learned?

## Discussion Questions

- How can we **increase awareness** about the meaning, history and importance of Juneteenth?
- How do we make sure that Juneteenth becomes more than a moment, more than a monument, and becomes a **call to action**?
- Freedom is just the beginning. It's the bare minimum. So..
  - What are the **biggest challenges** we still face in our society related to **racial justice**?
  - What can an **individual** do to fight for true equality and true equity?
  - How can we **help our children** to understand, respect, and aim for a more equitable society?
  - What are best practices for how our **communities** can ensure equal treatment for everyone without bias?
- How do **Juneteenth and July 4<sup>th</sup>** relate to each other? How/can we respectfully, joyfully celebrate (and connect?) both holidays?



Rev. Dr. Richelle  
Foreman Gunter



Reverend Dr.  
Lawrence E.  
Claiborne



Dr. Tracey  
Ray Robinson

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG\\_39v-Xa1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG_39v-Xa1Y)