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
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
GROUND RULES

• 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.
MORE TO LEARN

https://www.statista.com/chart/25090/juneteenth-survey/
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.”

13th 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 19th 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.
THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - 1865

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

(610) 696-8211 • chescocf.org
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 19th 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
TIMELINE

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.

AOLU

The Galveston Daily News

Headquarters District of Texas

General Orders, No. 3

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 U. S. Grant.

(Signed.) P. W. Everts, Maj. & A. J. 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.

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 **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.

The **date** “June 19, 1865” was added.

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

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 Cabrал
Chester County History Center

Fredda Maddox Esq.
Chester County Sheriff

Timmy Nelson
Community Volunteer

Denise Velez
West Chester University
Office of Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion

Renee Washington
Charles A. Melton Center

Carol Weaver
Soba Enrichment Academy

Reginald Weaver
MRW Business Solutions

Karen Simmons
Lilly Mercado
Chester County Community
Foundation

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JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
www.culturechesco.org/juneteenth

https://www.culturechesco.org/
**JUNTEENTH**

JUNE 14-19 2023

**Journeying Towards Freedom**

**WED 14**
- FROM WHENCE WE CAME: GENEALOGY
  - 7PM
- AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILTING ART SHOW
  - 5:30PM

**THURS 15**
- WEST CHESTER AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS
  - 5:30 & 6PM
- WEST CHESTER AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS
  - 11 & 11:30AM

**SAT 17**
- KEYNOTER & PANEL DISCUSSION
  - 7PM
- RELIGIOUS SERVICES: WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH MORNING

**SUN 18**
- WEST CHESTER NAACP FLAG RECOGNITION CEREMONY
  - 10AM
- FREEDOM FESTIVAL
  - 3PM

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjmSnQ03J6M&t=83s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjmSnQ03J6M&t=83s)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjmSnQ03J6M&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjmSnQ03J6M&t=3s)

[https://www.culturechesco.org/](https://www.culturechesco.org/)
Juneteenth in 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

https://www.culturechesco.org/
Juneteenth Phoenixville

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 Ori - 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 Biddy
Face Painting by Sean Halloran
Caricatures by Schay

https://www.culturechesco.org/
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

Juneteenth Coatesville (as of 6/13/2023)

https://www.culturechesco.org/
Why All Americans Should Honor Juneteenth

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FX-lisvrij8
Brief Intros
• 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 4th relate to each other? How/can we respectfully, joyfully celebrate (and connect?) both holidays?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG_39v-Xa1Y

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Reverend Dr. Lawrence E. Claiborne
Dr. Tracey Ray Robinson