

Juneteenth Celebration, Saturday, June 21, 2008

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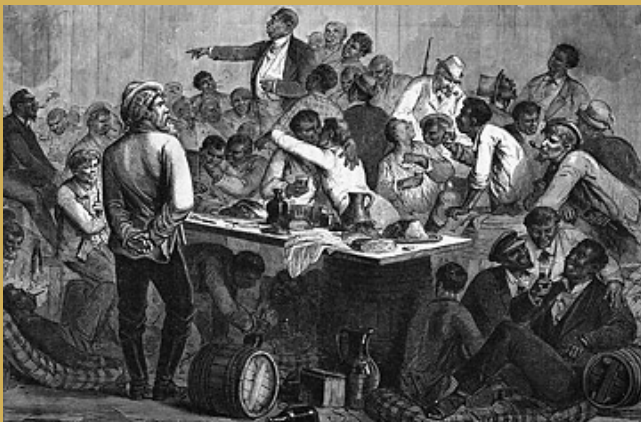
Juneteenth, the nation's oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery, will be celebrated with a full day of activities Saturday, June 21, Douglass Community Center, 1111 Avenue H, 972-941-7174. The event is free to the public. Information, booths, numerous games for all ages, face painting, food, fun and music are highlighted by an annual basketball tournament (activity schedule below).



Dating back to 1865, it was not until Major General Gordon Granger landed with his Union troops on June 19, in Galveston, Texas that Texans learned for real the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free.

While word may have traveled slowly around the still predominately unsettled portions of our country, this particular news arrived an incredible two and one half years *after* President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation back in 1863.

Attempts to explain the delay in getting the word to Texas has spawned several versions, one being the military messenger was murdered en route, others being that federal troops purposefully withheld the information in order to prolong the workforce on large plantations and farms.



General Order No. 3, issued by General Granger, however, made no bones about it. Slavery had ended. "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

The anniversary of "Juneteenth" (June 19, 1865) soon became an annual celebration in Texas, and as former slaves now created new lives in other parts of the country, they began celebratory traditions in those areas, furthered by their descendents. Today, Juneteenth is celebrated across our nation and quickly

spreading beyond, encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

Saturday, June 21 Events

11am-3 pm Food, Information Booths, Music

1pm-3pm Talent Showcase

3pm-4pm Domino Tournament, Face Painting

1pm-5pm Youth Basketball Invitational

6pm-7pm Old Schools vs. New School (women)

7pm-8pm Old School vs. New School (men)

8pm-11pm Live Music Featuring the R&B Sounds of the Clay Trio