

Well, I'm not surprised because people are still learning about it. In school, we didn't learn about it either; I learned about Juneteenth through my community and their annual celebrations. Juneteenth is also known as Independence Day or Freedom Day and commemorates the June 19, 1865 abolition of slavery in Galveston, TX where 200,000 Texan slaves were the last to be informed that they were freed by President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation two years prior. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863, but it did not apply to all states in the USA. The 13th Amendment brought an end to slavery.

Massachusetts began to recognize Juneteenth in 2007, but it was celebrated within the community for many years prior to 2007. Family, friends, and communities come together for a day of fun-filled activities. Serving red food and drink—such as red punch and red velvet cake—is the tradition at cook-outs whereas red symbolizes that our blood has been spilled across America. In Boston, Franklin Park is a popular location where people celebrate with food, games, parades, music, and dancing.

This year, the annual celebration will take on new meaning for many as we still deal with systemic racism and police brutality 400 years later. There is also a national campaign to make Juneteenth a national holiday. As many will celebrate virtually due to Covid-19, others will protest to fight for justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others.

Thank you for sharing this with me! Juneteenth is clearly such an important event in the history of America. People should be talking about it more, starting with this conversation. As a way to honor and observe the day, let's share this and ask others to share it too."

Yes! That's a great idea. And thank you for asking the question. This is why I'm so thrilled that BSC has formed the Multicultural Employee Resource Group. The more we all learn about each others' cultures the more appreciation we will have for one another.

Hi Tanya, tomorrow, June 19th is Juneteenth. I am wondering what we could do for the Multicultural Committee to observe it?

Wait, if you don't mind, can I ask what Juneteenth is? As I didn't grow up in this country, I never heard of this term before. Also, I didn't read about it as part of American history at school in my country.



Wow! I had no idea. Will it feel the same this year in light of recent events?

