Bridgewater's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration

June 17th, 2023







Remembering the legacy of those who came before us.

"We will all, at some point, encounter hurdles to gaining access and entry, moving up and conquering self-doubt; but on the other side is the capacity to own opportunity and tell our own story." – Stacey Abrams

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SCAN ME

The Juneteenth Committee Welcomes Everyone To

Our Third Annual Juneteenth Celebration, June 17th, 2023

On the Grounds of the Bridgewater Middle School in Bridgewater, MA

Co-Chair Co-Chair

In Charge of Program Booklet

Logo Design Cover Design

Flyers Designs

Emcee

Video Production

Committee Members



Jenise Campbell-Means Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro

Letitia Bento Sherley Phillips

Tyre Blevins-Shoulders

Melvyn Purefied

Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro

Leticia Noel

Justin Means

Jeff Fowler

Letitia Bento Doris Campbell Jenise Campbell-Means

Debbie Drago

Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro

Jeff Fowler Justin Means Erik Moore Leticia Noel Sherley Phillips Melvyn Purefied

Antoinette Riley-Purefied Rev. Rachel Tedesco



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Bridgewater Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Brief History of Juneteenth

By Justin Means

Juneteenth is a holiday that is celebrated for the day the last slaves found out about the Emancipation Proclamation and gained their freedom in Galveston, Texas on June 19th, 1865.

On January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which granted freedom to all of the slaves in the Confederate army. News like this is expected to spread quickly across the country and be enforced, but that was not the case. Since the South's leader, Robert E. Lee, did not surrender to the North until 1865, many of the Southern states kept their slaves and did not grant them freedom. Once General Lee surrendered to the United States Union, U.S. Major General Gordon Granger traveled to Galveston, Texas, and told the slaves there that the Emancipation Proclamation proclaimed them to be free.

Slaves reacted in many ways once they found out. Some left their plantations immediately to find their family members, while others made negotiations with their former slave masters for work, and others began to party in the streets. Not all the former slave masters accepted the news, and some began to treat the new freed slaves with violence.

As years went on, communities in Texas began to celebrate this day as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, or Juneteenth (which is a combination of the words "June" and "nineteenth"). It was at first celebrated in churches where they would hold games, eat food, sing and dance, and the Proclamation would be read.

The holiday continued to spread, and in 1872 four men, Richard Allen, Richard Brock, Elias Dibble, and Jack Yates, raided money to buy land in Houston Texas for the purpose of celebrating Juneteenth. The Park is called Emancipation Park, and it is one of the oldest parks in Texas today. In 2021, President Joe Biden declared Juneteenth as a federal holiday to be celebrated across the country, and many Americans have embraced the holiday with open arms.



Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lyrics written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson (1873–1954)

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers died.
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Read a brief history of this poem and listen to Kierra Sheard's performance at https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/lift-every-voice-and-sing

All works published in the United States before 1924 are in the public domain Source: https://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/faqs/copyright-basics/

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Brent and Brittany Cordeiro.

Brian Cordeiro and Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro. Mazeltov on the 3rd Annual Juneteenth celebration in Bridgewater.

Craig and Amelia Cordeiro. Supporting Juneteenth, Bridgewater, and my Aunt Becky and Uncle Brian for their dedication and efforts for this important holiday. God bless and freedom for all.

DICE is happy to support Juneteenth, a time to celebrate the resilience and great strength of our Black community.

The Domingo Family.

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Bridgewater, Social Justice Committee.

Happy Frog Ink. East Bridgewater, MA.

Mindy Horvitz. In honor of Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro and her tireless work, along with Juneteenth committee members, to make the world a better place. With mountains of love and admiration from her cousin Mindy.

Thank You For Your Donations

Marilee Kenney Hunt and Carlton Hunt.

Natalie Johnson.

Just Claying Around. 552 Bedford Street, Bridgewater.

Joe and Mary Jane McCool. When in doubt, do the kindest thing.

Bridgewater Town Councilor Erik Moore and his wife Becki Moore proudly support Bridgewater's Annual Juneteenth celebration.

The Mulhern Family.

Eileen Musto.

Christina Nordstrom. I'm glad to be able to support Juneteenth.

Ocean State Job Lot, East Bridgewater.

Laurene and Steve Powers. Looking forward to our 3rd Annual Juneteenth.

Restoration Coffee. Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, & Whitman.

Bryanne and David Reynolds.

Rev. Rachel and Mr. David Tedesco.

Supporters of Bridgewater's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Health & Wellness Component

Contributors

Patricia Nunn, RN New England Regional Black Nurses Association, Inc.

Marie Felix, RN Old Colony Ombudsman Program Dottie Slack, Coordinator, Brockton Old Colony Outreach

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Nikita Thomas, Consultant - Healthcare Services, Columbus, GA

Hilary Lovell, Manager, Marketing Provider & Community Relations – Signature Healthcare

Vendors

Allie Donahue, American Red Cross

Susan Beaulieu, President, - Bridgewater Academy Lions Club

Irene Wise, Bridgewater Academy Lions Club

Diane Sears, Bridgewater Academy Lions Club

Rev Eugene Walker, Program Director, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW)

Samrana Bertrand, M.Ed, Program Manager – Boston University – Outreach, Recruitment & Education Core, Research Education Component Core, Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Organizers

Doris Campbell – Juneteenth Planning Committee Sherley Phillips – Juneteenth Planning Committee

Holmes Family









 $\label{thm:eq:holmes} \mbox{Hugh Holmes, Sr, and his wife Ruth moved to Bridgewater in the 60s. They raised two sons \\ \mbox{Hugh, Jr. and Howard.}$

Hugh, Sr. was the owner of Bridgewater Fruit and Produce.

Hugh, Jr. is also known today as the performer and musician – Professor Harp.

Johnson Family



Anne Beatrice Johnson was born June 12, 1928, in Coconut Grove, Florida. Anne passed away on September 10, 2022.

Rebert Elbert Johnson, III, was born June 10, 1927, in Galveston, Texas. Rebert passed away on May 10, 1990.

In 1952 they were married and started their life together in Brockton, MA. In 1964, they purchased their home at 741 High Street in Bridgewater, MA.

They were the proud parents of 8 children: Judith, Rebert IV, Michael, Kenneth, Paul, Phillip, Valerie and David.

They have 9 grandchildren who frequently visited on holidays and for playdates, playing in the beautifully landscaped yard

Both were members of Lincoln Congregational Church. Anne was a Deaconess and Rebert a Deacon (1988). Rebert was also on the Trustee Board; President of the Choir; President of the T. J. Bell 50 Club and a member of the Hallelujah Choir.

Rebert briefly attended Northeastern University. He worked for most of his adult life at Avon Sole Company in Avon, MA and Components Company in West Bridgewater concurrently. Rebert was a sports enthusiast. He never missed any of his children's games or practices. He enjoyed home improvement projects, cars, and history. He found joy being with his group of friends from church and work. Most of all he loved his children.

Anne, mother, homemaker and nurse's aide, went on to obtain her GED in 1968 and received her Licensed Practical Nurse degree in 1971. Anne was an avid gardener, seamstress and active member in her church. Anne's garden produced vegetables for her family from Summer to late Fall. She loved her large circle of friends. She enjoyed reading, puzzles, painting and art in other mediums. Her greatest love was being a mother and grandmother.

Rebert and Anne are remembered by their children as being loving, supportive and engaged parents. They were industrious, strong in their faith and instilled these sentiments in their children. Both felt blessed to have a home and yard big enough to contain their 8 children. They loved the beauty, peace, safety and quality of education that Bridgewater offered.

Their children feel so blessed to have had Anne and Rebert as their parents. Parents who had the foresight to move them to Bridgewater where they all thrived in their comfortable home with a half-acre of treelined land that included both flower and vegetable gardens!

Daniel Family









Robert & Catherine Maxwell Daniel, parents of Patricia, Beverly, Eric and Kevin. Catherine is pictured top left getting her Master's degree in teaching from Bridgewater State College. She became Bridgewater's first African American school teacher. She is holding Kevin, 17 months old, and Patricia, seven years old, is standing at her side.

Catherine kept her family's home running smoothly while earning her graduate degree, working full-time, and as Patricia underwent cancer treatments.

Robert was the first black tenured faculty member at Bridgewater State College.

Kevin (pictured top right) as part of Bridgewater's Marching Band.

Time was often spent in the family's backyard playing badminton or simply relaxing.

Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD. is the author of the New York Times best-seller, "Why Are All The Blacks Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?"

Mann Family



Henry and Ruth Mann with daughters Doris Campbell and Yvonne Goss. Doris is sitting on her father's lap and Yvonne is sitting on her mother's.

Henry worked as a Pullman Porter and was a member of Tri-Water Realty, the first Black-owned company established in Bridgewater.

Henry and Ruth were affectionately called Big Daddy and Grandmama respectively by their loved ones.

Doris is presently a Bridgewater resident.

Campbell Family



George and Doris Campbell moved to Bridgewater in the 60s. Together they raised three children: Jenise, Joel and Joanna.

George worked as a printer in Boston and Doris as an accountant. She received her Associates degree from Massasoit Community College.

Taylor Family





Ernest, Sr. and Johnnie Taylor moved to Bridgewater in the 60s. They raised two children, Ernest, Jr. and Bernice.

Johnnie Taylor is the oldest Black woman living in Bridgewater and was honored at Bridgewater's First Juneteenth in June 2021.

Pictured top left is: Kim Williams (L), Doris Campbell (C), and Johnnie Taylor (R).

The Taylor's son Ernest, Jr. is pictured top right.

Johnson Family







Virginia and Thomas Johnson moved to Bridgewater in the 70s with their two children Jomo and Lisa.

Mr. Johnson is fluent in a few languages.

Pictured in top photo: Jomo (R), Thomas (Center), Lisa (L), Virginia (Bottom Center).

Phillips Family



James and Sherley Phillips moved to Bridgewater in 1968. They raised two children: Reba and Crispin.

Sherley is a retired teacher from East Bridgewater High School.

James Phillips was a Kappa and Sherley is a Delta.

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Mission Statement

Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights is a community-based organization dedicated to defending the rights of all persons, while fostering open communication, providing opportunities to examine issues of social justice, and advocating for the elimination of bias and racism.

https://www.bccrcivilrights.org/

https://www.facebook.com/BridgewaterCommForCivilRights https://www.facebook.com/groups/1546553015846034/?ref=share_group_link



Bridgewater Veterinary Clinic

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On this Juneteenth



Charlotte E. Ray

Charlotte was a trailblazer, becoming the first black American female lawyer in the United States when she graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1872 and was the first female admitted to the District of Columbia Bar.

Charlotte's father, Reverend Charles Bennett Ray, was a prominent figure in the abolitionist movement. Education was important to Reverend Ray, who made sure Charlotte and her two sisters all went to College.

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Community Coalition for Change (CCC) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit run by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Founded in East Bridgewater in 2019, we are a network of committed parents and individuals taking actionable steps to address diversity, equity and inclusion issues in our schools and communities.

https://communitycoalitionforchange.com/

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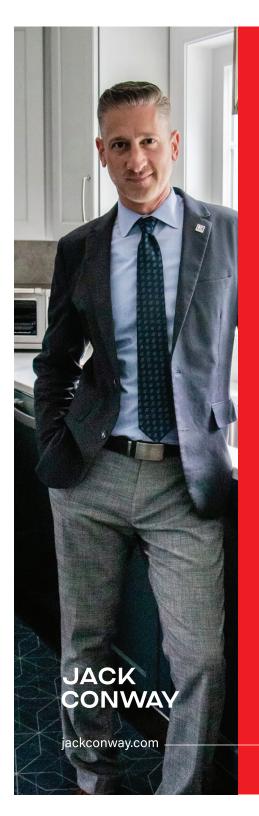
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Tuneteenth

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https://www.dotnews.com/2023/grove-hall-banner-array-will-honor-black-women-leaders-past-present

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Note: This program is not affiliated with the Bridgewater-Raynham school district

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