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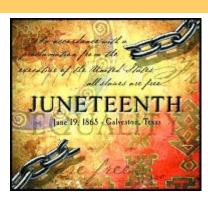
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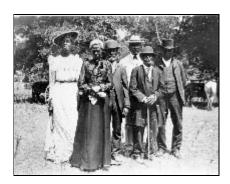
Metro and MWD Employees Team Up to Host Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Wednesday



(June 17, 2008) The Metropolitan Water District's Black Employees Association, the Metro Choir and Metro's African American Employees Association will present a barbecue luncheon and musical tribute in celebration of Juneteenth, an observance which commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas on June 19, 1865.

The program includes a performance by the Metro Choir, which will present the history of Juneteenth in gospel music and the spoken word.

The celebration will be held at noon on Wednesday, June 18, in the MWD Courtyard Patio, adjacent to Union Station. The Texas-style barbecue luncheon will be served for a nominal fee. Free to all comers, AAEA will serve traditional dessert -- strawberry soda and sweet potato pie.



A Juneteenth celebration on June 19, 1900 in Austin, Texas. More at **Wikipedia**

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day federal troops arrived on Galveston Island to take possession of the state of Texas and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. That day has since become known as Juneteenth, a name derived from the words June and nineteenth.

Though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had little immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control,

noted a report in Wikipedia.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond. -- from Gayle Anderson

More on Juneteenth at <u>www.juneteenth.com</u> and in <u>Wikipedia</u>

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