

Juneteenth (a combination of "June" and "nineteenth") is an annual celebration of the abolishment of slavery in the United States. Even though Juneteenth is not taught in many schools, did you know it's celebrated in one form or another in just about every state?

on June 19, 1865

Approximately 250,000 slaves in Texas were toiling on plantations in stifling heat. Those doing the back-breaking work of picking cotton and tobacco look up over the fields to see a messenger approach on horseback. Some slaves are awakened by loud knocks on their tiny shack's door with someone shouting the news. Wherever they hear it, the message is finally delivered—the Civil War has ended, General Robert E. Lee has surrendered, and they are free.

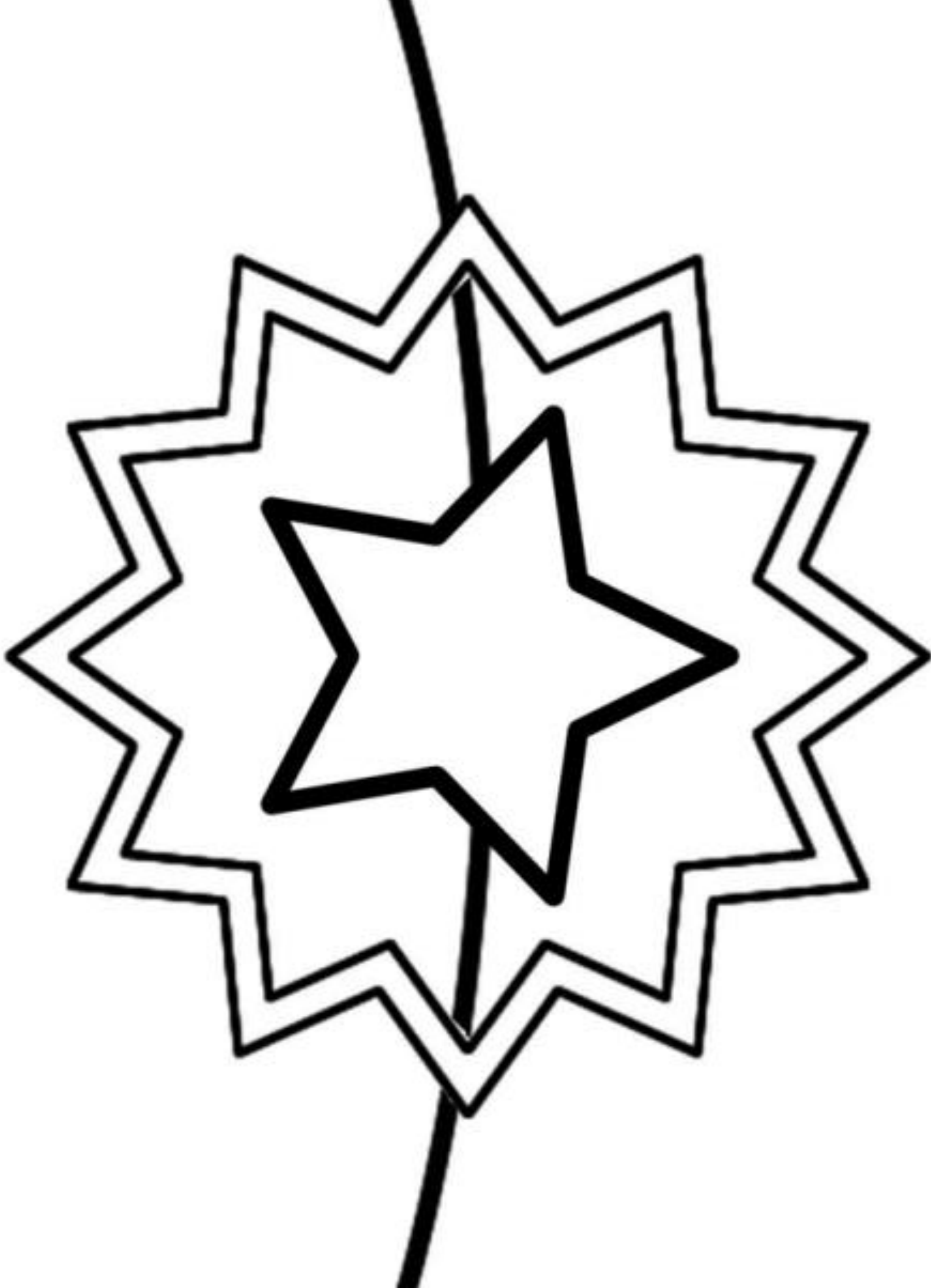
Even though Blacks were still hunted and not seen as free immediately following the news delivered to them on June 19, 1865, they remained steadfast at celebrating their freedom and the celebrations continue today.

Schenectady has been celebrating Juneteenth for 20 years, mostly in Central Park but this year because of the virus, we are celebrating online. We hope we'll be back in the park next year.

Celebrate Juneteenth!

Celebrate Freedom!







Slaves learn of their freedom