



## Freedom Festival

June 16, 2023

“Should white people celebrate Juneteenth?” *National Public Radio’s* Destinee Adams [asked](#) last year at this time, before advising, “Just don’t interrupt Black folks who are just trying to have a great time.”

I like to see folks have a good time.

“Each year,” offers The Wayside Youth & Family Support Network in Massachusetts, “Juneteenth is a day for Black people to celebrate freedom.”

The [article](#) sports the headline, “10 Things We Want White People to Do to Celebrate Juneteenth.”

Sounds like there’s a test.

In “The Caucasians’ Guide to Celebrating Juneteenth,” *The Root* [claims](#), “we created a CRT-free educational curriculum to help colonizer Americans resist the urge to gentrify this celebration.”

“Hold up, white people,” [urges](#) *The Root’s* Michael Harriot. “Before

hopping on the Juneteenth bandwagon, you first need to realize that you have no say in driving the narrative about this special day.”

Thank goodness I have my own commentary program.

Juneteenth celebrates enslaved people in Texas being freed on June 19, 1865 — the very last in our country to be held in bondage. Now that’s cause for jubilation for every man and woman who breathes free . . . of [every race](#).

How was that “peculiar,” perniciously evil institution of slavery stopped? To put slavery in its grave, [more than](#) 360,000 American men “gave the last full measure of devotion,” as Abe Lincoln [put it](#), to the “cause.”

These men, mostly white but of both races, deserve a moment on Juneteenth.

So do the abolitionists from Frederick Douglas and William Lloyd Garrison to John Brown and Harriett Tubman . . . and all those (white and black) who risked so much to run the Underground Railroad. And eternal thanks to the white juries who voted to nullify the Fugitive Slave Act, refusing to send slaves back.

Slavery is forever deserving of condemnation, certainly. But Juneteenth isn’t about slavery; it’s about emancipation, the triumph of freedom.

At my shindig, anyway.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.