



Los Altos Racial Equity <losaltosracialequity@gmail.com>

[test] Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue 28

1 message

LARE via ActionNetwork.org <info+community-members-info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 11:55 PM

Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

Hi Friend!



[Los Altos for Racial Equity's \(LARE\)](#) mission is to advocate for all people, especially Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who live, work, and play in Los Altos and surrounding communities, to be treated equitably in all aspects of their lives. We are a group of Los Altos residents who share a commitment to the work of social justice.

LARE is a Local Impact Collective Project that receives fiscal sponsorship from the [Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation\(LAMVCF\)](#). We receive strategic guidance and operational support from LAMVCF, including connections with other area non-profits and resources to ensure that we can successfully fulfill our stated mission. You can also support our work by making a donation! You can make a secure donation through LAMVCF directly to LARE [here](#). Thank you for your consideration.

Juneteenth and Pride Month - Issue 28

.Justice Vanguard 6th Annual Juneteenth Festival

Art - Wine - Beer - Fundraisers
Music - Food - Poetry -
Dancing - Games - Speeches!

**JUNE
TEENTH
FESTIVAL
HILLVIEW PARK
LOS ALTOS**

KNOW
JUSTICE
KNOW
PEACE

June 14th - 12 to 5p.m.
97 Hillview Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022

Featured Sponsors:

Community Sponsors

Justice Vanguard

We are excited to announce the **Justice Vanguard 6th Annual Juneteenth Festival!** With each year the Festival becomes bigger and better (if that is even possible?!). With over 3000 people in attendance throughout the day last year the expectation by **Justice Vanguard** is to welcome even more to this joyful day of community and celebration.

This free event is for everyone to celebrate progress, joy, and connections between communities across the Bay and to have a great time! There will be a number of Black owned vendors as well as celebratory speeches, performances, and music along with delicious options in food and drinks. It is a day not to be missed! Get your free tickets [here!](#)

What Is Juneteenth and Why Is it Celebrated?

On June 19th, 1865, **Union Army Major General Gordon Granger** arrived in Galveston, TX, declaring due to **General Orders No. 3** “the people of Texas are informed in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States all slaves are free.” This declaration came two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln which, in essence, freed those who were enslaved. 250,000 people who had been in enslaved in Texas were in effect freed. This Proclamation only applied to people enslaved in the states that were rebelling against the Union during the Civil War and were specifically listed in the Proclamation (South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia,

Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, and North Carolina). A few days after the Major General's announcement The Galveston Daily News printed a notice from the Major General to inform the public that “no persons formerly slaves will be permitted to travel on the public thoroughfares without passes or permits from their employers,” and “idleness is sure to be productive of vice, and humanity dictates that employment be furnished these people, while the interest of the commonwealth imperatively demands it, in order that the present crop may be secured.”

But what did this 'freedom' really mean? The formerly enslaved were policed with every step by newly created Slave Patrols. During Reconstruction, Slave Patrols were replaced by militia-style groups who were empowered to control and deny access to equal rights to freed slaves. They relentlessly and systematically enforced Black Codes, strict local and state laws that regulated and restricted access to labor, wages, voting rights, and general freedoms for formerly enslaved people. Their bodies and their free will remained very intertwined with the former white enslavers and how much freedom they wanted to give, or not. The formerly enslaved were encouraged to remain with their 'employers' to work for pay, “freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages.” This order also had a curious stipulation: that freedmen would “not be supported in idleness.”

The 13th Amendment was then ratified on December 6th, 1865, and applied to all enslaved people across the entire United States. It outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude, “except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted,” a loophole Southern states and businesses exploited when working with the jails to lease out incarcerated Black people as unpaid labor, which was not much different from being enslaved. The practice of using those who are incarcerated as cheap labor continues today, and most of those who are incarcerated today are disproportionately Black men. A report by the Associated Press entitled, 'Prisoners in the US are part of a hidden workforce linked to hundreds of popular food brands,' published on January 29, 2024, highlights the markets that still use the cheap labor of those who are incarcerated (you may want to check your cupboards and pantries to see if any of the products you bought are mentioned in the article and support this practice).

Corey Walker, the director of the program in African American studies at Wake Forest University, emphasizes the idea of freedom, particularly for Black people in this country, as continuously being negotiated and contested, so “Juneteenth marks a moment in the ever-evolving and expanding project of American democracy. It is a project that is never complete. It is never fulfilled, even at the moment of Juneteenth. And it's one that is ever evolving to this day.”

Despite the work of so many providing accurate historical context beginning with those who were kidnapped from across the ocean and seas and brought to the colonies as an enslaved workforce, Black men, women, and children today continue to face systemic racism, inequity, and violence.

But throughout the hundreds of years since 1619, *it is clear that Black joy cannot be stifled!* Dr. Opal Lee, aged 98 and known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth because of her dedication to ensuring that Juneteenth is recognized as a federal holiday, believed that by achieving this goal, the day would return to its original intent of educating, celebrating, informing, and bringing all people together.

June Is Pride Month



Hopefully you all remember the history of Pride Month from last year's June Issue (HINT: [Stonewall Riots](#)). So, instead of going into the history which exemplifies this year's themes ("Rise Up: Pride in Protest" in New York City, "Queer Joy is Resistance" in San Francisco, "Pride Marches On" in Los Angeles, and "The Fabric of Freedom" in Washington, D.C.) I'll share some joy!

From [Kate Schatz](#), a feminist author, activist, public speaker, and educator, I have a playlist she curated after she found herself dancing in her kitchen alone after the kids went off to school listening to [KEXP radio!](#) "...It woke me up, it cheered me up, it helped me shake off some funky stress-y life-overwhelm-y vibes." Schatz calls the [playlist](#) 'gay wave', though many of the songs/artists are not gay, it..."feels very gay-coded/gay-adjacent to me."

And happy!

[The Los Altos Mountain View Community Fund \(LAMVCF\)](#) is encouraging Pride In Action by spotlighting the [Rainbow Solidarity Fund](#) which advances equity and belonging for LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View. Recent federal cuts have left local LGBTQ+ programs underfunded impacting even in progressive regions of the country. The Rainbow Solidarity Fund helps fill that gap—supporting leadership, connection, and representation at the local level.

Important Events

6/14, Saturday, 11:30am - 5pm: [Justice Vanguard's 6th Annual Juneteenth Festival](#)

6/28-29, Saturday - Sunday: [55th Annual Pride Parade in SF](#)

Ongoing Events

- [Los Altos City Council Meetings](#): bi-monthly on the second and fourth Tuesdays
- [MVLA Board Meetings](#): bi-monthly on the second and fourth Mondays
- Every Other Friday, 8:30am: LACC Interview on [YouTube](#)
- First Fridays: First Friday of every month
- Everyday: **Dial 988** and ask for the [TRUST mobile team](#) if you, someone you know, or someone you see is experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. Responders include behavioral health trained staff.

Read more about LARE on our [website](#) and follow us on social media (Instagram, Facebook), [@losaltosforracialequity](#). Questions? [Email](#) us.

Please Donate Today!

Los Altos for Racial Equity (LARE) is a project of the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation's Local Impact Collective



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