



## The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition *on Race*

Visit Our Website

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### SOMA Celebrates Black History

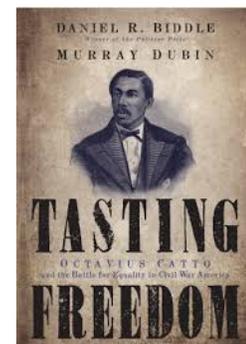
This February the Coalition is hosting and collaborating on programs honoring the history and contributions of African Americans and that offer ways for us to reflect on our mission to be a racially integrated and truly inclusive community. We are eager to hear from Nikole Hannah Jones on intentional school integration which is a particularly important issue at this moment in SOMA. Last year the Coalition shared demographic information about our schools and towns that showed our community needs change to support stably integrated schools and classrooms for the long run, and to deliver an education that serves all families equitably and well. We are also excited to hear from Jillian Johnson - Mayor Pro Tempore of Durham NC , who is active in the labor movement, Black Lives Matter, and the LGBTQ movement, about her racial justice work. Also this month we will join other social justice leaders in a statewide discussion about creating an anti-bias and anti-hate curriculum for all New Jersey students. Finally, our Schools Committee is hosting a discussion with the authors of *Tasting Freedom*-a new book about civil rights leader Octavius Catto. Read more below for dates, times and locations, and join us!

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### Coalition on Race Honors Black History Month with the authors of *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America*

Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
7 pm  
Maplewood Memorial Library

Join the Schools Committee for this chance to hear from and talk to the authors of this compelling period in civil rights history on February 28th, 7 pm, Maplewood Memorial Library. [Read more...](#)



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### Celebrating & Reflecting on Black Politics, Progressive Politics, and Black History

Join this guided discussion with Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem of

Durham, North Carolina on Saturday, February 10th, 11 am, at The Woodland. For more information on Johnson and to reserve seats, [click here](#).



Jillian Johnson

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## Giving Teens a Voice-Parents and teens gather to discuss racism

After viewing a short film, "Peanut Butter, Jelly, and Racism" middle school students met with trained high school student facilitators, while their parents and other adults met with Coalition facilitators to discuss how they define and where they experience racism. [Read more here...](#)



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## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Observance Highlights the Power of Community to Impact Change

Hundreds of people of all ages filled the auditorium to honor Dr. King through music, a sharing of interfaith readings, an affirmation of Dr. King's call to action and service, and to hear speaker Larry Hamm, chair of the People's Organization for Progress, deliver a speech extolling Dr. King that challenged all of us to take action.

[Read more here...](#)



Missed the event and want to watch the performances and hear Larry Hamm's speech?

[Click here](#).

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## SOMA Was Shining with Luminaries in Honor of Dr. King

Over 1000 SOMA homes put luminaries outside their homes at 5 p.m. on Monday in honor of King's life and legacy, as a sign of peace and our commitment to building the beloved community. As bells rang from local churches, the townships held lighting ceremonies in front of town hall in Maplewood and in Spiotta Park in South Orange. Many, many thanks to Luminary Project leader Patricia Canning, to all the teams who made and distributed kits, and to Able Baker, Words, and Sparkhouse for making them available in their stores. [For pictures and more information...](#)



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## Other Upcoming Events

Coalition's SOMa Integrated  
Playgroup

Sat. February 24, 10 am - noon  
Le Parc Place, Maplewood

**Black History Month:**

For a full list of community events throughout February, [click here](#).

**Health Awareness Screening**

Sun. February 11, 3 pm - 5 pm  
Hair Chalet  
1632 Springfield Ave., Maplewood

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