



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

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May 2017 News & Updates

Message from the Executive Director:

We invite you to this year's Conversations on Race: Race & Privilege. The topic is an extension of issues like implicit bias, micro-aggressions, and systemic racism that we have been talking about in groups and workshops over the last few years. Dr. Beverly Daniels Tatum in her presentation to the community last spring noted that everyone has some form of privilege, but that to ignore white privilege is to shy away from acknowledging race as the primary factor determining opportunity and experience. According to Dr. Tatum, understanding the totality of systems of privilege is useful for people of color as well: "The task of resisting our own oppression does not relieve us of the responsibility of acknowledging our complicity in the oppression of others." [Read more...](#)

Conversations on Race

Race & Privilege: Raising Consciousness to Address Inequities

Wednesday, May 10th, 7:30 pm

The Woodland, Maplewood

We are pleased to welcome four distinguished panelists:

David Troutt, professor of law and the founding director of the Rutgers Center on Law in Metropolitan Equity (CLiME); Khadijah Costley White, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Rutgers; Demelza Baer from the NJ Institute of Social Justice; and Bleasdale, professor at the University of San Francisco. Following the panel discussion, attendees will participate in facilitated discussions. [Read more here for details...](#)



Coalition Session on School Integration at **SOMSD Town Hall Weds., May 3rd, 7 pm,** **Columbia High School**

The 2nd SOMSD Town Hall on Equity and Inclusion will include five workshops with open discussions. The Coalition will present the Schools section of its Demographic report so the community can

see the demographic changes in our schools over the last 20 years and consider opportunities for improving school integration. For full information, [click here](#).



SOMSD TOWN HALL
2nd in our Continuing Conversation
ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION
Wednesday, May 3, 2017
7:00pm - 7:00pm
Columbian High School Cafeteria
17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood

- Community Dialogue
- Update on what SOMSD is doing to create an anti-bias environment
- Update on efforts underway to infuse more cultural competency in the curriculum
- Tools for discussing race, diversity, social justice, inclusion and integration with children of varying ages

Our community. Our schools. Our voices.

Free. Children Available—Ages 3 & up. Co-sponsors: NJ Faculty Diversity Assn

Film Viewing of *I Am Not Your Negro*

Saturday, May 6th, 10 am, Bow Tie Cinema, South Orange
To register for this event on Eventbrite, please [click here](#).

We are pleased to share this opportunity to watch and discuss the film 'I Am Not Your Negro,' Saturday, May 6th, 10 am, South Orange Bow Tie Cinema. Space is limited-please sign up through Eventbrite below. The discussion after the film will be led by President of the Essex County Freeholders, Britnee Timberlake; South Orange Village Trustee Deborah Davis Ford; founding Director of Emerge NJ, Karen Hilton; founder of the Black Parents Workshop, Walter Fields; and Executive Director of the Community Coalition on Race, Nancy Gagnier.



Film Viewing of *Before the Trees Was Strange*

May 30th, 7 pm, CHS Auditorium

Before the Trees Was Strange is a feature length documentary about the director's family and how they dealt with the issue of racism growing up with a Mother whose fears of being perceived as black caused her to reject her children's choices in their lives. The film will be introduced by Superintendent Dr. John Ramos and will be followed by a "talk back" moderated by Budd Mishkin (NY1-TV) along with film maker Derek Burrows and historian Khalil Gibran Muhammad. For more information on the film, [click here](#).



XRootsFest 2017 is June 24th in South Orange!

Plan to spend the day (12 noon 'til 5 pm) at Floods Hill in South Orange to enjoy multicultural entertainment representing the region's diversity. It's a day filled with music, dance, food, vendors, and hands-on activities to learn more about different cultures. [Click here](#) for more information



Talking to Children about Race

The 'Talking to Children about Race' workshop series included three sessions focused on multiracial families, having the first conversations about race with preschoolers, and a general session on 'intentional parenting' for including candid talk about race in family life. Special thanks to Dr. Diane Hughes, the Montrose Early Childhood Center PTA, the panelists, and the Schools Committee! For more information and resources, [click here](#).



Coalition Presents Demographic Report to Board of Education

Executive Director Nancy Gagnier presented the Schools section of the Coalition Demographic study before the Board of Education, prior to report given by the consultant hired by the district to study population trends in SOMa. The report was well received and generated questions about school integration. For the full report, [click here](#).



Robert A. Marchman to be honored with Mapleleaf Award!

The trustees of the Community Coalition on Race are proud to announce that our Chair, Robert A. Marchman, will receive the Maplewood Civic Association's Mapleleaf Award. The awards ceremony will take place on Sunday May 7th at 1:30 pm. Details about the award and to RSVP for the event are available by [clicking here for the form](#).



Save the Date! Celebrating Integration will be October 14th at the Woodland

We are pleased to announce the date of our annual dinner fundraiser, Celebrating Integration, is October 14th. Put it on the calendar now and plan to join us for this evening of good food, fellowship, auction, dancing, and awards. Details coming later this spring...



Coffee House Discussions

June 15th, 7:30 pm Maplewood Memorial Library, Memorial Hall Want to go deeper on *White Privilege* than just the sound bite? Then, come out for coffee and further discussion on this topic that impacts the entire community, regardless of race.

[Complete a Contact Form here to RSVP.](#)



Other Upcoming Events

SOMa Integrated Playgroup: May 20th. To join, visit the [SOMa Integrated Playgroup](#) on Facebook for details.

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