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Price of Liberty Film Series 2023

Montclair, NJ – The Montclair History Center will host its 8th Annual “Price of Liberty” film and discussion series on issues related to race, segregation, integration, and Civil Rights. This 2023 series explores reparations and social justice sought for African American and Asian communities in two films *Free Renty* (2021) by filmmaker David Grubin and *Reparations* (2021) by filmmaker Jon Osaki.

Reparations explores the four-century struggle to seek repair and atonement for slavery in the United States. Black and Asian Americans reflect on the legacy of slavery, the inequities that persists, and the critical role that solidarity between communities has in acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in America. This story is told by Black and Asian Americans who believe that our collective liberation can only be achieved by standing with one another. *Reparations* seeks to raise awareness of the Black reparations struggle and how vital it is to healing this country.

This evening we will also be joined by Danielle Iwata, board member of AAPI Montclair and descendant of Japanese American internees during WWII. Danielle will share her family's experience and support for reparations from this perspective. Danielle wrote [‘Reparations are possible: they happened for Asian Americans](#). AAPI Montclair, founded in 2021, was the first AAPI organization in NJ to sign onto the NJISJ's 'Say the Word' campaign in support of establishing a reparations commission. Screenings and discussion will be led by scholars Leslie Wilson, PhD and Khemani Gibson, PhD

About the Scholars

Leslie Wilson, PhD, is a professor and associate dean in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Montclair State University. Dr. Wilson is the coordinator of social studies education for MSU's Teacher Education Program as and he teaches African, American, and African American history. He specializes in 19th century Antebellum

America and modern urban history. Dr. Wilson writes on a variety of subjects and his editorial pieces are often published in the local media.

Khemani Gibson, PhD, is a community organizer from Orange, NJ and earned a doctorate from New York University in history with a focus on the African Diaspora. Dr. Gibson's research looks at issues of identity and community formation as well as conceptualizations of freedom and citizenship in the late-19th and 20th century Caribbean region. While committed to his work as an academic, Dr. Khemani is deeply committed to bridging the gap between the academy and marginalized communities.

The screening—which is free to the public with no registration required—will both be offered in-person and via Zoom. The in-person screenings will be held at Montclair Film's Cinema 505 at 505 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair. Online participation will be offered via Zoom (visit www.montclairhistory.org to access the zoom link). Discussion of the screenings will be led by scholars Leslie Wilson, PhD and Khemani Gibson, PhD. This series is offered in partnership with Montclair Film, The Mark Montclair, The Mark Cares, Inc., Race Amity, and AAPI Montclair.

This event is sponsored by The Tamima Team. With award-winning service and infinite patience, it's easy to see why [The Tamima Team](#) puts the 'Om' in Home. Led by seasoned REALTOR® Tamima Friedman, her team represents residential buyers and sellers throughout Northern New Jersey and beyond!

The Price of Liberty series is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the Price of Liberty series do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

About the Montclair History Center: The Montclair History Center, formerly the Montclair Historical Society, is an independent not-for-profit organization that has been dedicated to preserving, sharing, and educating others about Montclair's history since 1965. For additional information, please visit the website www.montclairhistory.org or contact the Montclair History Center at 973-744-1796 or mail@montclairhistory.org.

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Photo Credit: Reparations



