

Juneteenth Commemoration:

Reparations Now!

The North End Men's Breakfast Club & SisterNet



*Imani Bazell
Aaron Ammons
Sundiata Cha-Jua*

**Wednesday, June 18, 2014
6:30-9:00 P.M.
Douglass Center Annex
512 Grove Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820**

*Amira Davis
Lou Turner*

The question of reparations for African Americans is rapidly returning to the forefront of discussions concerning the condition and future of African Americans. One bit of evidence of this is the impact of Ta-Nahisi Coates recent article, “The Case for Reparations” in the *Atlantic* (May 21, 2014). Indeed, reparations have moved to the top of African descendant people’s the agenda. CARICOM, the union of Caribbean nations has issued a “Ten Point Action Plan” for reparatory justice (http://ibw21.org/commentary/caricom-reparations-ten-point-plan/?doing_wp_cron=1402522869.0068280696868896484375). In association with the CRICOM initiative, the *Journal of African American History* and *The Black Scholar* have launched a call for African Americans to formulate their own 10-Point Action Plan.

In commemoration of Juneteenth, The North End Men’s Breakfast Club and Sister.Net are sponsoring a film viewing and discussion. **Imani Bazell** will moderate a viewing of the documentary *Banished* by director Marco Williams and a discussion by **Aaron Ammons, Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, Amira Davis, and Lou Turner**.

Banished recovers the forgotten history of racial cleansing in America when thousands of African Americans were driven from their homes and communities by violent, racist mobs. The segment of *Banished* discussed at the Juneteenth Commemoration explores the racial history of Forsyth County, Georgia, now a prosperous suburban sprawl north of Atlanta. In 1912, African Americans were violently driven out; today there is still a saying among black folk: “Don’t let the sun go down on you in Forsyth County.”

In 1987 a bi-racial Martin Luther King Celebration tour was met by angry mobs, led by seven white supremacist groups and a melee ensued. In response, the governor set up a commission to investigate the incident and to respond to African Americans’ call for the return of the stolen land. *Banished* raises this larger question: will the United States ever make meaningful reparations for the human rights violations suffered, then and now, against its African American citizens? Can reconciliation between the races be possible without them?

For more information contact Imani Bazell, thinkandfeel@gmail.com or Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, schajua@gmail.com.

For more on African American Reparations see:

Joe Fagin, “A Legal and Moral Basis for Reparations,” *Time* May 28, 2014, <http://time.com/132034/a-legal-and-moral-basis-for-reparations/>

Alfred L. Brophy, *Reparations Pro and Con* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Raymond A. Winbush (ed.), *Should America Pay? Slavery and The Raging Debate on Reparations* (Amistad Press, 2003).

Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua, “Slavery, Racist Violence, American Apartheid: The Case for Reparations,” *New Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (Summer 2001): 60-76.