



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

[Visit Our Website](#)

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### Annual Appeal 2018

#### We Need Your Support!

Persistence is key especially at a time in our nation when racism, hate, and bias crimes are increasing - sadly a trend in New Jersey over the last year as well. In this climate, it is even more important for us to join together to make our SOMA community welcoming and truly inclusive.

**In the spirit of ensuring a thriving, racially integrated community, please consider making a donation of \$100, \$250, \$500 or more this season to support the Community Coalition on Race.**

As recently showcased on the WABC-Channel 7 program, "Here and Now," we are driving both national and local conversations about the importance of racial equity in America. Over the past year, members of our community, including people like you, have raised concerns that need the Coalition's attention and focus: lack of equity and integration in the schools; classroom segregation at the high school; not enough social integration opportunities for people of all ages; need to include people of color on municipal boards and PTAs; ongoing biases reflected in community interactions - among neighbors and people in critical roles like police officers - and so much more. The Coalition will always be there to keep Maplewood and South Orange inclusive and welcoming for all groups to live in and raise a family - as we have done for the last 22 years - **but we need your help too!**

[You can make a secure online donation here...](#)

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### Coalition Board of Trustees Announce Initiatives for 2019

Throughout 2018, a task force of the trustees worked on streamlining the Coalition's work so that the trustees and volunteers could focus on the most pressing issues confronting successful integration and inclusion. A well-defined plan and focus on the mission is critical to creating long-lasting change.

[Read about our plans for 2019 here...](#)

strategic

initiatives



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### The Coalition's Response to the Star Ledger Force Report

The statewide database on police use of force developed and published by the Star Ledger lays out racial disparities in police treatment throughout New Jersey. The Coalition on Race believes we must do better locally and throughout the state.



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## Our Annual Holiday Party

Join us to celebrate!

**Tuesday, December 11th, 6:30 pm**

**Boccone South, 59 S. South Orange Ave., South Orange**

\$30 per person for dinner. [Make Reservations here](#)



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## Join us for 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance & Fair

Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, Sheila Y. Oliver, is the speaker at this year's [observance](#) on Monday, January 21st, 2 pm, Columbia High School. This event includes music, readings, a Special Dance Company performance, and is followed by the Volunteer Fair as well as the community-wide Luminary Display. If your organization would like to participate in the Volunteer Fair, call 973-761-6116, X6 and leave the organization name, email address and contact information by January 11th.



Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver

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## The Luminary Project 2019

Help us light up SOMA with luminaries on the evening of Monday, January 21st as a sign of peace and solidarity with the Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community. The goal is for 1,500 homes and businesses in SOMA to be lit up as a sign of hope, sanctuary, and peace. [Read more here about the project and how you can participate.](#)



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## Letters from Anne and Martin

**Tuesday, December 4th, 7:30 pm**

Developed with excerpts from Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" and Dr. King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," this piece evokes important messages from these legendary figures as they write of their hopes and plans for a peaceful and unified world. This performance is offered by The Parenting Center. [For free tickets, reserve your seats here.](#)



## In Case You Missed It WABC's *Here and Now* Features Coalition on Race

Chair Robert A. Marchman and Program Director Audrey Rowe visit *Here & Now* on ABC 7 NY to discuss the mission of the Coalition for the past 20 years, sustaining integration in the South Orange/ Maplewood community and the importance of racial equity in America. [Click here.](#)



## Parents Attend Preschool Open House

[Read](#) about the event, our sponsors - Suki & Heather Realtors - and get a listing of local preschool and childcare programs...



Co-sponsors Suki & Heather Realtors with Schools Committee co-chairs Barry-Austin and Willis

## SouthNEXT Hosts Discussion on Community "Mindfulness"

Coalition Trustee David Harris moderated this essential [panel discussion](#) that closed the SouthNEXT festival.



### Other Upcoming Events

SOMa Integrated Playgroup

CANCELLED FOR DECEMBER

For more information and updates visit [www.twotowns.org](http://www.twotowns.org)

973-761-6116 | [info@twotowns.org](mailto:info@twotowns.org) | [www.twotowns.org](http://www.twotowns.org)

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