



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

Visit Our Website

Celebrating Integration: Local Businesses Are Community Champions

Save the date for this year's annual dinner fundraiser honoring **Yanick Ranieri of Papillon 25** and **Julie Pauly of The Able Baker**, Saturday, October 13th, 7 pm, at The Woodland! This is an evening of food, fun, dancing, auction and, best of all, an evening to acknowledge our honorees for their commitment to intentional integration and true inclusion. It's a fun night and a great way to mingle with friends and neighbors who support the cause of integration in our community!

How can you support the Coalition's work? The dinner is our biggest fundraising event of the year! Please consider being a table host, becoming a sponsor, and/or placing an ad or message in the journal. [Get all the details by clicking here](#), or call our office at 973-761-6116.

Coffee House Discussion: Race and SOMA Latinx Community

September 25th, 7:30 pm
The Woodland Parlor

This year, the Community Coalition on Race will be exploring the experiences of SOMA emerging groups (Hispanic/Latinx, Asian and Mixed Race) in our Coffee House Discussions. The first group for discussion will be the Hispanic/Latinx Community and everyone is welcome to join in the conversation to expand our understanding and explore local opportunities and challenges.

[More details here...](#)



Forum on Integration & Equity in Education

Tuesday, October 2nd, 7:30 pm
Location TBD

New Jersey ranks as one of the best public education

systems in the country and yet there are wide disparities for students that are connected to race, place, and socio-economic status. Speakers Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and nationally-recognized expert in civil rights Professor Elise Boddie will discuss school integration efforts in the district over the last 30 years as well as in the region and the state: achievements, failures, visions for the near future. Come with your questions and ideas for achieving equity in SOMA and beyond.



Professor
Boddie



Assemblywoman
Jasey

Schools Committee Welcomes New SOMSD Teachers & Staff

Co-chairs Carol Barry-Austin and Meredith Sue Willis along with Executive Director Nancy Gagnier opened the new teacher orientation by introducing the group to our towns' commitment to racial integration and inclusion through the work of the Coalition on Race. [Read more here...](#)



Realtors: Coffee & Conversation About Schools

Local Realtors met with Interim Superintendent Dr. Thomas Ficarra to learn about upcoming changes in the school district. The Residential and Schools Committees organized this informative session to present updates on community demographics and the schools. [Read more here...](#)



SOMA Residents: Apply Today for Our Home Maintenance Loan

Summer is the season for home repairs! For residents who can't afford much-needed exterior work on their homes, the Community Coalition on Race is pleased to share that the Home Maintenance Loan Program is available and open for applicants with terms that will make you do a double-take. [Get the details here...](#)



Join Our Board of Trustees!

Looking for an opportunity to give back to your community? Looking to work with a diverse group of your neighbors? Interested members of the

SOMA community can apply to join our board (term begins in January 2019) by calling our office at 973-761-6116 or emailing us at info@twotowns.org with "Board of Trustees" in the subject line. [More information here.](#)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Other Upcoming Events

SOMa Integrated Playgroup

Sat. September 29, 10 am - noon
Ages 6 months thru 5 yrs.
Le Parc Place, Maplewood

Hola! Fest NJ

Sat. September 29, 12 noon - 6 pm
SOMA's first Hispanic Heritage celebration.
Click here for info <https://holafestnj.org/organizers>

Immigration: Know-Your-Rights

Sat. September 8, 4 pm
Immigration Specialist & Lawyer, Ian Godman
DeHart Center, Maplewood

South Orange Play Day

Sun. September 16, 1 PM to 6 PM
Downtown South Orange, South Orange Ave
<http://www.sovillagecenter.org/pub/event/story/728/>

South Orange Newcomers

Sun. September 23, 2 PM to 4 PM
New Residents Meet & Greet
South Orange Public Library, 65 Scotland Rd.

Luna Stage production of *Perira*

October 4 - October 28, 2018
The play explores how we bridge seemingly impossible cultural divides.
<http://www.lunastage.org/calendar.php?id=268>

Diwali Fest NJ

Sun. October 28 at 12 PM - 6:30 PM
South Asian Cultural Celebration
The Woodland, 60 Woodland Rd., Maplewood

For more information and updates visit www.twotowns.org

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