



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

[Visit Our Website](#)

You've Always Wanted to Volunteer Locally...

Let us help you get started! As the SOMA organization that works on racial integration in all aspects of community life, we have many opportunities for you to make our towns truly inclusive. Our committees are a great way to meet new people, be active in community life, and use your talent in support of stable integration. Become one of the 100+ volunteers that makes the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race work! There's a volunteer role for every schedule and level of time commitment, from single projects to regular monthly committee meetings. We would be happy to talk to you about your volunteering interests anytime--just call our office or email us at info@twotowns.org.

Are you looking to cast a wider net and see more of what's available in volunteer options in SOMA? Then be sure to come to the [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Observance & Volunteer Fair](#) (details below). At the fair, you can meet with lots of local nonprofits and groups who can use your time and talent.

SOCO 49th Annual MLK Celebration

Sunday, January 6th, 3 pm

South Orange Middle School

Please join the South Orange Civic Organization for the 49th Annual MLK Celebration. Rabbi Jesse Olitzky is the speaker and the Beloved Community awardees are Dean Dafis, Stacey Borden, and Diane Grant.

[More details here...](#)



Panel Discussion on the Star Ledger's Force Report

Please join the Coalition on Race, SOMA Action, and SOMA Justice for this informative panel followed by a Q&A with the Star Ledger reporters;

Marc Morial, President of the National Urban League; Jennifer Sellitti Director of Training & Communications for the New Jersey. Office of the Public Defender; and Alexander Shalom, Senior Supervising Attorney at the ACLU-NJ:

Wednesday, January 9th, 7:30 pm, Morrow Church.

[Get details here...](#)



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.

[Click here to read the response and to access the reports.](#)



Join us for the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Observance & Volunteer Fair

Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, Sheila Y. Oliver, is the speaker at this year's observance:

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 Lighting at the high school.

[Read here for details and for information on donations to bring to the fair...](#)

**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

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 2,000 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.](#)



Luminary Decorating Party!!!

Sunday, January 13th, 3-5 pm

The Baird, South Orange

Are you looking for a way to engage your kids in Dr. King's message of solidarity, hope, and peace? Kids will learn about the significance of MLK Day and have fun decorating luminary bags. Markers and light refreshments provided. [Details here...](#)



SOMA Residents: Apply Today for Our Home Maintenance Loan

Plan now for your springtime 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...](#)

Homeowner
Repair Loans



SAVE THE DATES!

*We have some special programming during Black History Month in February
(details coming soon to our website!)*

Thursday, February 7th, 7 pm, Woodland Great Hall

Graham Russell Gao Hodges, author and professor of history and Africana & Latin American Studies at Colgate University, will discuss his recent book ***Black New Jersey:1664 to the Present Day***.

Saturday, Sunday, February 16th & 17th, Burgdorff Theater

The Coalition on Race will join the Progressive Theater Company, a new non-profit theater company formed by local actor Gregory Osborne, to produce ***The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin***, by Kristen Childs.

973-761-6116 | info@twotowns.org | www.twotowns.org

DONATE

