



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

Visit Our Website

Looking Ahead to 2018

In late 2017, the trustees elected five new members to the board: Colleen Breslin, Catherine Cronin, Tegan Cullen, Rhea Mokund-Beck, and Reynaldo Tapia. We welcome them and look forward to a productive year in 2018! All of our trustees put a great deal of time, effort, and talent into making racial integration, equity, and inclusion a reality. But they can't do it alone. We have a growing need for support in 2018 as we bring to the community the programming that serves our mission. This includes community engagement efforts to help people develop relationships across racial barriers and develop anti-bias and cultural competency strategies for successful integrated living. It includes pro-integrative residential efforts that help build strong neighborhoods. It includes advocacy and support to resolve community policing issues and to achieve integrated schools and classrooms--along with excellence and equity for all students. And it includes further demographic research and marketing efforts that support pro-integrative moves. We invite you to volunteer with us...[click here for more info.](#)

17th Annual MLK Observance and Volunteer Fair

This year is the 50th commemoration of Dr. King's assassination

Join us on Monday, January 15th, 2 pm, at Columbia High School for this inspirational, multi-faith event that includes music, dance, and featured speaker Larry Hamm, the founding chairman of the People's Organization for Progress in Newark. [For more information, click here...](#)



The Luminary Project

Light up the front of your home in honor of Dr. King's life and legacy at 5 pm on MLK Day, Monday, January 15th!

We invite everyone to participate. The light is symbolic of our hope to create a beloved community where justice, equal opportunity and one love prevail for all in our SOMA community.

Luminary kits contain 4 white 'peace' bags and 4 candles for a \$10 donation.



[Click here to find out how to get your kit...](#)

SOCO 48th Annual MLK Celebration

Sunday, January 7th, 3 pm. South Orange Middle School

Join the South Orange Civic Organization in honoring outstanding community members Ondine Abramson and Peri Smilow with the 'Beloved Community' Awards. The featured speaker is Barbara Heisler, CEO of GlassRoots-Newark. [More details...](#)



Barbara Heisler

Giving Teens a Voice

We are teaming with Maplewood Memorial Library and host South Orange Public Library in the second of its popular gatherings for middle school students and other teens. On Wednesday Jan. 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., teens will gather with parents and community members to identify common race issues and brainstorm on creating supportive environments for community youth. FREE Pizza and drinks will be provided. To register, contact Keisha Miller at (973) 762-0230 or kmiller@sopl.org.



Other Upcoming Events

Coalition's SOMa Integrated Playgroup Sat. January 27, 10 am - noon
Le Parc Place, Maplewood

Black History Month: *Tasting Freedom* Wed., February 28, 7 pm, Maplewood
Memorial Library
A presentation with the authors of this true story about Octavius Catto, a 'free' black man from Philadelphia, who was a leader of the Civil War-era struggle against slavery and for equal rights for blacks.

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