



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

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Visit Our Website

### April 2017 News & Updates

#### Message from the Executive Committee:

Although the recent incidents of racist and anti-Semitic graffiti are fresh in everyone's minds, they are consistent with our organization's longstanding concerns about how we face race and racism individually and in all our local institutions--particularly in the schools and in the police departments. The Coalition on Race's planned programming is and has been designed to work on those issues: Talking to Children about Race; Coffee House Discussions on community policing; Schools Committee advocacy for equity for students and diversity hiring practices; cultural competency and anti-bias education training for teachers, and more. We are committed to working systematically on the root causes that lead to the racism and hate we have seen on display. For our complete statement on these issues, [click here...](#)

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#### Conversations on Race

##### *Race & Privilege: Raising Consciousness to Address Inequities*

Wednesday, May 10th, 7:30 pm

The Woodland, Maplewood

We are pleased to welcome four distinguished panelists:

David Troutt, professor of law and the founding director of the Rutgers Center on Law in Metropolitan Equity (CLiME);

Khadijah Costley White, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Rutgers; Demelza Baer from the NJ Institute of Social Justice; and Bleasdale, professor at the University of San Francisco. Following the panel discussion, attendees will participate in facilitated discussions. [Read more here for details...](#)



got  
privilege?

#### Talking to Children about Race

The 'Talking to Children about Race' workshop series included three sessions focused on: multiracial families; having the first conversations about race with preschoolers; and a general session on 'intentional parenting' to support parents in having ongoing,

candid talks about race in family life. Special thanks to Dr. Diane Hughes, the Montrose Early Childhood Center PTA, the panelists, and the Schools Committee! [For more information and resources, click here.](#)



Dr. Diane Hug

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## Coalition Meeting with SOMa Police Chiefs

Chair Robert A. Marchman and Executive Director Nancy Gagnier met with Chief Cimino and Mayor DeLuca of Maplewood to take action on some issues of concern to the community about community policing, including anti-bias training, more interaction with youth, reporting of hate crimes, and transparency in bias incidents involving police. A similar conversation with the South Orange police department is being scheduled. The Maplewood police have participated in the state's program called [Fair & Impartial Training, described here.](#)



Chiefs Kroll and Cimino

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## Coffee House Discussions: SOMa & Immigration

How can we support immigrants in our towns? That was just one of the questions explored by attendees at this informative session. Special thanks to **immigration lawyer Ian Grodman** for framing this special session and to Congregation Beth El in South Orange for hosting. [Read more here...](#)



Ian Grodman

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## Robert A. Marchman to Receive Mapleleaf Award!

The Maplewood Civic Association presents the awards to special community members for their high degree of citizen participation in volunteer work. The event will take place Sunday, May 7th at 1:30 pm. For more information on the award and to attend the brunch and the awards presentation, [click here.](#)



Robert A. Marchman

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## XRootsFest 2017 is June 24th in South Orange!

Plan to spend the day (12 noon 'til 5 pm) at Floods Hill in South Orange to enjoy multicultural entertainment representing the region's diversity. It's a day filled with music, dance, food, vendors, and hands-on activities to learn more about different cultures. [Click here for more information...](#)



## Save the Date! Celebrating Integration Annual Dinner will be October 14th at The Woodland

We are pleased to announce that the date of our annual dinner fundraiser, Celebrating Integration, is October 14th. Put it on the calendar now and plan to join us for this evening of good food, fellowship, auction, dancing, and awards! Details coming later this spring...



## Coalition Participated in SOMSD Town Hall on Equity & Inclusion

Members of our board participated in the planning meetings held by Superintendent Ramos to organize a meeting for the community members to voice their concerns about recent racist and hate expressions and to discuss the 5th grade history assignment that produced slave auction posters. The goal was to suggest ways for the district to be responsive and transparent regarding hate incidents, and to work on curriculum issues to improve the teaching of the history of slavery and African American history overall. Get details in the [Village Green](#). The Coalition will continue to support the district in the work that follows. Our next effort will be to work with teachers on anti-bias training.



## Lookbook: Two Towns, Many Faces



We are pleased to share the fourth postcard from the Lookbook: Two Towns, Many Faces project by the Coalition on Race. This collection of digital cards features SOMa residents sharing what SOMa means to them and why they chose to live here. You and your family's story (families of all configurations, including singles) would be a wonderful addition to this new project! [Click here to learn more and to enter your postcard information.](#)

## Upcoming Events

**SOMa Integrated Playgroup:** April 22nd and May 20th. To join, visit the [SOMa Integrated Playgroup](#) on Facebook for details.

**SOMA Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance,** Sunday April 23rd, 3 pm, Morrow Church, [click here for more information.](#)

**The 2nd SOMSD Town Hall on Equity & Inclusion** will be held on May 3rd. Check the School District website for details. <http://www.somdsd.k12.nj.us/>

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