



The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition *on Race*

Visit Our Website

January 2017 News & Updates

Message from the Executive Director:

What Can We Change in 2017?

'Welcome 2017 and good riddance to 2016' has been a common refrain over the last few weeks. While we always hold out hope for the future, we're also cautious. We can't wish away all that we witnessed and experienced over the last year. We heard racism, sexism, homophobia, misogyny, anti-Muslim sentiments, anti-semitism, and xenophobia out loud and often. [Read more...](#)

16th Annual MLK Observance & Volunteer Fair

Join us on Monday, January 16th, 2 pm, at Columbia High School for this inspirational, multi-faith event that includes music, dance, and featured speaker LaShawn Y. Warren, Vice President and General Counsel at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. For details, [read more...](#)

Local nonprofits & volunteer service groups: Register today to reserve your display table at the Volunteer Fair. This is a great way to get your message out to hundreds of people!

Elementary School Kids: Join the MLK Chorus and sing at the Observance. Rehearsals are January 7th & 14th at 11 am. To sign up, [click here](#).



LaShawn Y. Warren

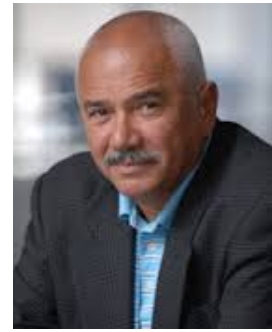
The Luminary Project

Light up the front of your home in honor of Dr. King's life and legacy at 5 pm on MLK Day, Monday, January 16th. Luminary kits contain 4 white 'peace' bags and 4 candles for a \$10 donation. [Click here to find out to get your kit...](#)



SOCO 47th Annual MLK Celebration

Join the South Orange Civic Organization in honoring 3 outstanding community members with the 'Beloved Community' Awards. The featured speaker is Wilfredo Caraballo, Professor Emeritus Seton Hall Law School. Sunday, January 8th, 3 pm. South Orange Middle School. [More details...](#)



Wilfredo Caraballo

Civic Engagement Institute-2017 Session

Register now for the 2017 Civic Engagement Institute and learn how to be an effective volunteer for the causes you care about. The session begins February 11th and meets for four Saturdays. 9:30-12:30. [Click here](#) for more information and to sign up.



Class of 2016

Welcome New Executive Committee!

At our Annual Meeting in December, the board approved the slate of officers for 2017 recommended by the Nominating Committee. We welcome Robert A. Marchman as our new chair and Indira Singh as a first-time member of the Executive Board. Thanks to David Harris, Len Grossman, and Sue Willis who will continue to serve as officers. Special thanks to Leila Gonzalez Sullivan for serving 2 years as chair. [Read more here...](#)

Executive
Committee

A Police Encounter Workshop- Saturday, January 14th, 12-2 pm

Presented by First Baptist Church of South Orange with the Caribbean American Business Association, this workshop will focus on your rights and your obligations when stopped by the police. It includes representatives from both the Maplewood and South Orange police departments, and criminal justice professor Theresa Andrews. [Details here...](#)



Volunteer for a Committee or Project

There are many ways to support racial integration and inclusion in our towns. Try joining a committee or project that meets your interests and talents. Qualifications include your enthusiasm for our mission of integration and a willingness to volunteer your time! We are especially in need of a volunteer graphic designer and WordPress developer. [Click here for volunteer openings.](#)



2016 Auction Encore

If you missed the 20th Anniversary dinner but want to participate in the great silent auction, here's your

chance! There are a few fabulous items and experiences available. [Check them out here...](#)



Upcoming Events

SOMa Integrated Playgroup: Jan. 21, Feb. 25. To join, visit the [SOMa Integrated Playgroup on Facebook](#).

Post-Election Parenting Panel Discussion: February 4th, 3 pm. Maplewood Library. For details, [click here](#).

Rasheeda Speaking, by Joel Drake Johnson, February 10-12, 2016, Directed by Margaret Leone. Produced by [Interact Theatre Productions](#). Read more about the play [here](#). We encourage our supporters to attend...Interact Theatre is donating a percentage of ticket sales to the Coalition!

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