



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

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June 2017 News & Updates

Message from the Executive Director:

In the beginning of 2017 we noted how difficult the road ahead would be to create change in a world that is increasingly open to overt racism and anti-inclusionary practices. We promised to stay true to our mission and spend the next few months engaging people in thoughtful, safe dialogue and workshops about race; providing the means for people to build authentic and lasting relationships across racial and cultural barriers; and advocating for equitable policies and practices for all members of our community.

What have we done so far in 2017 to move us closer to our goals? [Read more here...](#)

Our Spring Appeal - Asking for Your Support

Donate today and help us to work toward our mission: to build and sustain a community that is racially, culturally and socially integrated and truly inclusive where there is equity and equality for all.

[Read our spring appeal letter here](#)



It's easy to give on line...

XRootsFest 2017 is June 24th in South Orange!

Plan to spend the day (12 noon 'til 5 pm) at Floods Hill in South Orange enjoying multicultural entertainment and learning more about the different cultures that represent the region's diversity. You don't want to miss this day filled with music, dance, food, vendors, prizes, shaded canopies (limited), interactive activities and more. [Click here for more information...](#)



Be a XRootsFest Ambassador



Help 2017 XRootsFest to be the best ever by becoming a promotions ambassador or cultural ambassador. **Promotions Ambassadors** help promote XRootsFest by putting a lawn sign in front of their home. Just [click here](#) to complete the form for a lawn sign, and we will arrange quick, easy delivery to your home by our volunteers.

Cultural Ambassadors are SOMA residents or neighbors from the Caribbean, West Africa, Asia or Hispanic countries who are willing to showcase and share customs and traditions from their homelands on the day of the festival. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, call Audrey Rowe at 973-761-6116 BEFORE June 14th.

The Race and Privilege Conversations on Race Topic Rallied Residents to Discuss Solutions for Change

This year's Conversation's on Race brought together over 140 people to hear about and discuss race & privilege. Thanks to our excellent speakers for their insights: David Troutt, Khadijah White, Demelza Baer, and Jane Bleasdale. [Read more here and get a link to the video...](#)



Coffee House Discussions: Going Deeper on Race & Privilege

June 15, 7:00 pm

Maplewood Memorial Library, Memorial Hall

Want to go deeper on 'white privilege' than just the sound bite? Then, come out for coffee and further discussion on this topic that impacts the entire community. Complete a [Contact Form](#) here to RSVP.



Coalition Schools Committee Addresses Equity Issues before the BOE

The Coalition's Schools Committee co-chairs presented a set of challenges to the Board of Education on problems with school integration, addressing the failures of the Access and Equity Policy, and committing to building a diverse teaching staff. [Read the full statement here...](#)



Coalition Led School Integration Session at SOMSD Town Hall

The 2nd SOMSD Town Hall on Equity and Inclusion included five workshops with open discussions. The Coalition presented the Schools section of its Demographic report and a brief history of racial integration efforts by the school district since the 1980s. We had a lively discussion about potential

solutions to the current integration problems. For the full Demographic Report, [click here](#)

SOMSD TOWN HALL
The Conversation Continues ...
ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION
Wednesday, May 3, 2017—7:00pm-9:00pm
Columbia High School Auditorium
17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood
Workshops and Open Discussions
(Note: Participants Can Attend Two Workshops)

- **How Restorative Practices Can Prevent and Address Bias Incidents:**
Led by **Keith Hickman**, Director of Continuing Education, International Institute for Restorative Practices
- **A Taste of Anti-Bias Professional Development:**
Led by **Dr. Myatt Jashi**, Associate Professor of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University
- **Community and School Demographics:**
Led by **Nancy Gagnier**, Executive Director of the Community Coalition on Race
- **Culturally Responsive Curriculum:**
Led by **Susan Grierson**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- **Brainstorming on Communications - Transparency, Alternative Facts and Rumor Control:**
Led by **Audrey Rowe**, Program Director of the Community Coalition on Race

Free Children Available—Ages 3 & up in CHS Family Dining Room

Film Screenings Provoke Intense Discussions

The Coalition partnered with local groups including the Parenting Center, SOPAC, SOMA School District, the Essex County Freeholders President, and Bow Tie Cinema in South Orange to bring two moving and provocative films to the public: *I Am Not Your Negro* and *Before the Trees Was Strange*. [Read more here...](#)



Post film discussion leaders Hilton, Fields, Timberlake and Gagnier

Meet us at the SOMA Farmers Markets to Learn about our Home Maintenance Loan!

Representatives of the Coalition on Race will be available at the South Orange and Maplewood Farmers Markets to share information about this opportunity for qualified residents to receive low interest loans for home improvements. [Learn more about the Home Maintenance Loan here...](#)



Save the Date! Celebrating Integration 2017 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...



2016 Annual Dinner

Other Upcoming Events

SOMa Integrated Playgroup*	June 24	10am - noon	LeParc Place 195 Maplewood Ave., Maplewood
Dismantling Privilege Workshop	June 8	7 pm - 9 pm	Maplewood Memorial Library 51 Baker St., Maplewood Sponsored by St. Georges Church

*To join, visit the SOMa Integrated Playgroup on Facebook for details.

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