



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

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### March 2017 News & Updates

#### Message from the Executive Director:

##### Immigrants in SOMa and Community Policing

We have had cause to issue two statements recently on issues that are of deep concern to our residents and to our mission of racial, social, and cultural integration and true inclusion.

The first was regarding the president's executive order restricting entry to the US from seven Muslim-majority countries and suspending refugee admissions programs ([read statement here](#)). The second statement is regarding concerns about racial profiling and the need for racially sensitive community policing in our community ([read statement here](#)).

We thank **Maplewood** ([read resolution here](#)) and **South Orange** ([read resolution here](#)), for adopting their resolutions that reaffirm the towns' commitments to "Equal, Respectful, and Dignified Treatment of All People, Regardless of Their Immigration Status, and to Remaining an Open and Welcoming Community."

We also thank the **Board of Education** for adopting its resolution that promises to honor the Constitutional obligation to educate all our children ([read resolution here](#)). We also thank the town leaders and police chiefs for being receptive to our outreach about policing practices and open to developing solutions that serve both the safety and the equitable treatment of all our residents and visitors.

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#### Coffee House Discussions: SOMa and Immigration

Who are today's immigrants? The Community Coalition on Race's 2016 Demographic Study found that 23% of SOMa residents are foreign born, and 41% of those are people of color. Come to the next Coffee House Discussion on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at Congregation Beth El, 222 Irvington Ave., South Orange from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, to explore in small groups the realities of our immigrant neighbors and how we can work to truly be a "Welcoming Community." [Click here for more](#)



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## Talking to Children about Race & Identity

The Schools Committee is hosting three workshops to help parents, teachers (professional development credits available), and anyone working with children, gain an understanding of the stages of racial knowledge and sense of racial identity. Dr. Diane Hughes, Ph.D. Professor, Applied Psychology, NYU, will lead the following workshops:

**Inter-racial Families: Racial Identity in our Society**

Tues., Mar. 14, SOMS Library, 7:00 PM

**Growing Our Understanding: The Language of Race and Identity**

Tues., Mar. 21, SOMS Library, 7:00 PM

**Talking to Your Pre-Schooler: The First Conversations**

Sat., Apr. 1, Montrose Early Childhood Center, 10:00 AM [Get more information here...](#)



Professor Diane Hughes

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## Lookbook: Two Towns, Many Faces



We are pleased to share the first 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.](#)

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## First Baptist Church of South Orange Honored Rev. Terry Richardson & Made Grants to Local Organizations

Rev. Richardson was celebrated for 20 years of pastoral service at First Baptist on Sunday, February 19th. We were honored to have been selected to be a grant recipient by him and his congregation on this special occasion. We thank Rev. Richardson for his advocacy for improvements in police-community relations; his leadership in the #NotinOurTowns event; the Coffee with a Cop outreach program; the vigil for the Charleston Church murder victims; and for his many years of being an integral part of our annual MLK Observance. To read more about the First Baptist and its ministries, [click here.](#)



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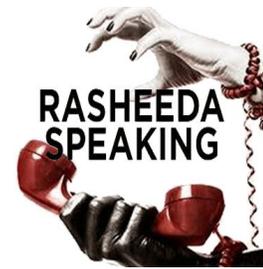
## 2016 Community Coalition Annual Report

Wonder what we did in 2016? Want to see our many sources of support?

[Click here to have a look at the 2016 Annual Report.](#)



## interACT Theatre Productions Presented *Rasheeda Speaking*



Thanks to interACT Theatre Productions for producing this thought-provoking and controversial play that questions race, workplace relations, stereotypes, and power struggles. We were thrilled to be granted the proceeds from this production! To learn more about InterACT, [click here...](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### **Maplewood Library Ideas Festival:**

The 2017 Maplewood Ideas Festival, celebrating the talent and creativity of our community, will take place March 18 - April 1. All programs are free and open to the public.

Khalil Gibran Muhammad will be in conversation with Angie Thomas. Muhammad is Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and the former Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Thomas is the author of the powerful and gripping new novel *The Hate U Give*. March 18, 2 pm at The Woodland.

[Details here](#)

#### **Meet American heroine Harriet Tubman at Jefferson School, Maplewood**

In honor of Women's History Month, the Durand-Hedden House presents inspiring actress and educator Dr. Daisy Century of the American Historical Theater who will bring the remarkable Harriet Tubman to life through her vivid historical interpretation. Sunday, March 5, 2pm. [More information here](#)

#### **Author Kwame Alexander at [words] Bookstore**

Newbery Medal winner author Kwame Alexander will be speaking at [words] Bookstore at 4 PM on Tuesday, March 7. [For information, click here](#)

#### **'The Story of Gospel' at CHS on March 26**

Seth Boyden Elementary School is hosting "The Story of Gospel: A Unique American Art Form" in the Columbia High School auditorium on March 26, 2017, from 4-5:30pm.

[Click here for tickets and information.](#)

**SOMa Integrated Playgroup:** March 25th To join, visit the [SOMa Integrated Playgroup](#)

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