



The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition *on Race*

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November 2017 News & Updates

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 7th!

Many of us who watch electoral races closely know that voter turn-out for local elections is notoriously low. And yet we all know that having a voice in local decisions begins in the voting booth. There's still time to become informed on the issues and the candidates for all the open positions coming this Tuesday in SOMa, in the district, and in the state, including three open positions on our Board of Education. Plus, there are two ballot questions, including one about providing grant funds to public libraries- [click here](#) to read the ballot measures. We encourage all of our readers to use local news sources like the [News-Record](#), [Village Green](#), and [TAPintoSOMA](#) to learn about the candidates: there's a wealth of information available on candidate websites, statements, endorsements, and videos of candidate debates and forums. Make voting a habit and a family affair-take your kids with you into the voting booth to raise future voters!

Polls are open from 6 am until 8 pm. To find your polling place, [click here](#).

A Spirit of Gratitude Filled the Coalition's Awards Dinner

Over 150 people gathered at The Woodland in Maplewood to honor community members who have exemplified the Coalition on Race's integration and inclusion mission and to celebrate the work accomplished over the last year. [Read more...](#)



**Marchman, Jasey, Anderson,
Buchanans and Gagnier**

BOE Candidates Share Plans for Integrated Schools, a

Diverse Staff, and Academic Support

The Schools Committee of the Community Coalition on Race hosted its 12th Annual BOE Candidates' Forum for the eight people running for three open positions. To see the video of the forum, to access candidates' information resources, and to find your polling place for the November 7th election, [click here](#).



Baker, Smith, Baker, Cuttle, Mazzochi, Julien and George. Shidnia attended but not pictured

Annual Preschool Open House is Monday, November 13th

One of the most important decisions that we make as parents for our young children is selecting a high quality pre-school program. On Monday, November 13, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. till 8:30 p.m., the Schools Committee of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race will sponsor a pre-school open house at the Montrose Early Childhood Education Center, 356 Clark St., South Orange. This event will provide the opportunity for parents to explore many local options in one evening, and to hear a presentation on what to look for in a pre-school. [Read more...](#)



Interact Theatre Produces Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity* December 15-17



[Interact Theatre](#), which is committed to "building strong ties within the community by producing thought-provoking plays and musicals that challenge stereotypes and prejudices," is once again donating the proceeds of one of their excellent productions to the Coalition. Save the date to see poet and playwright Langston Hughes' **Black Nativity** - the Christmas story in dialogue, narrative, pantomime, gospel song and folk spirituals. **Your attendance supports two community nonprofits! December 15-17, The Baird, South Orange.** For tickets, visit the [Interact Theatre website](#).

Deadline Extended for MLK Contests

The October 27th deadline for submissions to the MLK poster, essay and spoken word contests has been extended until **November 15th**. SOMA youth from elementary through high school are invited to express their personal struggles or experiences with confronting racism and the change that they hope to see using the theme "change is gonna come". [Click here for elementary](#) school details and [here for secondary](#) school details.



SOMa Residents: Apply Today for Our Home Maintenance Loan Program

For residents who can't afford much-needed exterior work on their homes, the Community Coalition on Race is pleased to share that

the Home Maintenance Loan Program is available and open for applicants. Get the [details here](#).



Other Upcoming Events

Nikki Giovanni

Diversity as Art: Art is Diversity

Weds., November 15 7:30 pm

Columbia High School Auditorium

Coalition's SOMa Integrated Playgroup

Sat., November 18 10:00 am - noon
Le Parc Place, Maplewood

Preschool Open House

Mon., November 13 7:00 pm - 8:30
Montrose Early Childhood Education
Center, South Orange

Coalition Holiday Party

Monday, December 11 7:00 pm
Location TBA \$35 per person

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