



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

Visit Our Website

We Have a New Website!

You can now find us at www.communitycoalitiononrace.org. On our new site, you will find ways to:

- **Sign up for events**
- **Register as a volunteer**
- **Make a donation**

and get news about our work, events, and programs. We hope you like the updated format!

Community Coalition on Race MLK Observance Inspires Community to Practice Dr. King's Principles

Keynote speaker Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver reminded us that Dr. King's movement was based on several principles: moral power, non-violence, appeal to faith, a call to civil disobedience of unjust laws and a plea for full equality-persuasion versus coercion. Hundreds of people of all ages filled the auditorium to honor Dr. King through music, dance, a sharing of interfaith readings and an affirmation of Dr. King's call to action and service. Thanks to all who organized, planned, & participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance, Fair, & Luminary Lighting! You are an inspiration to act according to Dr. King's principles. [Read more and see photos here...](#)



SOMA Glows with Solidarity

Thank you, SOMA, for shining the light of peace and solidarity with Dr. King's message about building the beloved community!

Here's how our community participated: luminary kit decorating party for kids, MAC scholars at Columbia High School and girl scout troupes assembling and selling the kits, youth of all ages speaking at the lighting ceremony their truth about Dr. King's message, Seton Hall University students lighting hundreds of lights, businesses in both towns offering the kits in their stores, residents lighting luminaries in front of their homes!



[Read more here about the people who make this project possible and have a look at some great pictures....](#)

Hear Professor Hodges Discuss his recent book "BLACK new jersey: 1664 to the Present"

Professor Graham Russell Gao Hodges, author and professor of history, Africana and Latin American Studies at Colgate University, will share historical accounts from his recent book, BLACK new jersey: 1664 to the Present documenting how African Americans in New Jersey fought for their freedom during slavery to build a Black middle class and continue to battle against racial discrimination today. The event is FREE and open to the public. Books will be available for signing and purchase while they last.

Date: Thursday, February 7, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: The Woodland Parlor, 60 Woodland Rd., Maplewood



SOUTH ORANGE/MAPLEWOOD
COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE

presents



LEARN ABOUT AND DISCUSS THE
STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS THAT SHAPED
NEW JERSEY'S AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY

WITH

GRAHAM RUSSELL GAO HODGES

Professor of History and Africana & Latin American
Studies, Colgate University

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

7 PM - 8:30 PM

THE WOODLAND PARLOR

www.twotowns.org info@twotowns.org 973-761-6116

See THE BUBBLY BLACK GIRL SHEDS HER CHAMELEON SKIN by Kristen Childs

Don't miss this coming-of-age story that shows us the challenges of being a young, Black, female artist in the US while entertaining us with toe-tapping song and dance. The cast was selected from 100s of auditions in NYC/NJ, so you get to see the best! The Saturday evening performance is followed by a talk-back reception in the Burgdorff Community Room and the Sunday afternoon talk-back at 3:30 pm will be led by South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. This production is brought to you by Progressive Theater in collaboration with South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race.

Date: Sat., February 16, 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Date: Sun., February 17, 2:00 PM
Location: Burgdorff Center for the Performing Arts,
10 Durand Rd, Maplewood NJ
General Admission \$20. Students/Seniors \$15
Tickets available at gregoryomasborne.com



Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver

Updates on SOMA Responses to the Force Report Database from the Star Ledger

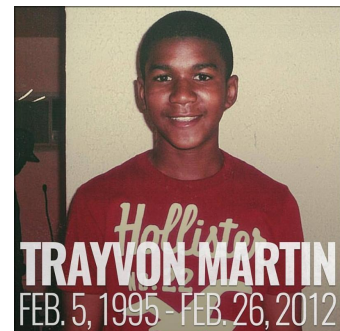
The statewide database on police use of force developed and published by the Star Ledger lays out racial disparities in police treatment throughout New Jersey. The Coalition on Race believes we must do better locally and throughout the state. Both townships have held public meetings to respond to the report's findings in SOMA. To read about Maplewood's Chief Devaul's and South Orange's Chief Kroll's responses click on these links: [Maplewood](#) and [South Orange](#). Maplewood is still seeking volunteers for its Community Police Board and South Orange is asking for volunteers for a new effort in community engagement with the police. Finally, Gov. Murphy took important step in assuring the public that law enforcement will be held accountable when deadly force is used in New Jersey, by signing the [independent prosecutor bill](#).



Trayvon Martin Birthday Party

Have kids? Looking for a way to honor Trayvon Martin's life and engage in a Black History-oriented event? We welcome you, whoever you are.

Please join us **Sunday, Feb. 10 @ 2pm-5pm, Maplewood Senior Center (106 Burnett Avenue, Maplewood, NJ)**, to celebrate Trayvon Martin's birthday at this kid-focused annual event put on by SOMA Justice and sponsored by the Community Coalition on Race.



Lydia Johnson Dance School Offers SCHOLARSHIPS

Lydia Johnson Dance School is located at The Burgdorff Center for the Performing Arts in Maplewood Village and has full and partial



scholarships available for children pre -school through high school who would like to study ballet, modern, contemporary dance or Hip Hop. We offer classes during the school year as well as weeklong Dance Camp sessions in July and have a Teen Internship program as well. **LJ Dance School** is a not-for-profit organization and alternative to commercial dance education. Our curriculum emphasizes the creativity in each young dancer. [Learn more by emailing \[ljdanceschool@gmail.com\]\(mailto:ljdanceschool@gmail.com\)](#) or calling or texting Lydia to set up a time to talk at 973-945-5526.

SOMA Residents: Apply Today for Our Home Maintenance Loan

Plan now for your home repairs! 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 with terms that will make you do a double-take.

[Get the details here...](#)

Homeowner
Repair Loans



UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Coalition on Race Integrated Play Group
Saturday, February 23rd 10:00 - Noon
Le Parc Place
195 Maplewood Ave., Maplewood NJ

973-761-6116 | info@twotowns.org |
www.communitycoalitiononrace.org

DONATE

