



SOUTH ORANGE | MAPLEWOOD
**COMMUNITY
COALITION
ON RACE**

Visit our Website

"Bloody Sunday": Memories of a Civil Rights Prodigy

On Thursday, February 4th at 7:30 PM, the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, SOMA Action Racial Justice Committee, and SOMA Justice will partner to bring Black History to life through a virtual presentation and conversation with Civil Rights activist, Joanne Bland. For more details and to register [Click Here](#)



Black Health Matters: COVID19 Vaccine and the Black Community

The Coalition is pleased to present its first Coffee House Discussion of 2021 during Black History Month on Sunday **February 28th**. In partnership with the Village of South Orange, we invite community members across the Two Towns to learn from community health experts, physicians, and those who have received vaccinations in order to build COVID vaccine confidence among vaccine hesitant people in SOMA. Details will follow shortly on the [Coalition's website](#) and social media.



Black History Month 2021

Our towns have Black History Month activities for people of all races and ages throughout February! For a full list of all the amazing community events happening, please visit the [Maplewood Arts & Culture page here](#) and the [South Orange Arts & Cultural Affairs page here](#).



IT Volunteers Needed!

Passionate about supporting integration in our towns and have a knack for technology, an eagle eye for systems, or great skills with Zoom and other video platforms? The Coalition's Tech Committee needs you! We are seeking folks who can help us with:



- reviewing the IT platforms and systems that currently support the Coalition's work
- assessing our tech needs and contributing to decisions about how best to meet those needs
- creating and managing our virtual events via Zoom and other platforms and more!

Programming expertise NOT required (although definitely welcome). To volunteer or for more information, please fill out a [Volunteer Form](#) and we will reach out to you.

We Celebrated Dr. King, Jr. at the Community Coalition's 20th Annual Observance

This year marked the Coalition on Race's 20th Annual MLK Observance, and it took place virtually during the ongoing pandemic restrictions and in the aftermath of a white supremacist insurrection in our nation's Capitol. We are so grateful to the students who shared their powerful and provocative ideas, to speaker Andrea McChristian of the NJ Institute for Social Justice, to the singers and performers, and to our town leaders for providing this important opportunity to reflect on what community means in times of crisis. Many thanks go to our MLK planning committee and to the [Allison Ziefert Real Estate Group](#) for sponsoring the event. We reached nearly 2000 viewers—if you missed it, you [can watch the observance here](#).

20th ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OBSERVANCE & LUMINARY PROJECT

Community in Times of Challenge & Controversy
With Andrea McChristian, Esq.
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

MONDAY, JAN 18, 2021
2:00PM-3:15PM

Virtual Community Observance
Via YouTube Live Stream
<https://youtu.be/hkh365YKlm8>

LUMINARY PROJECT
Purchase kits for a suggested donation of \$10 of Spookhouse Kits, Abe Baker, True Solange, A Paper Hat, The Wrens, and General Steve Cooperate or email MLKLuminaryProject@gmail.com. Place lit luminaries in front of your home at 4:45 PM to show solidarity with Dr. King's vision of Beloved Community.

Sponsor

Community Coalition on Race.org
info@twotowns.org
973.761.6116

Thousands of Lights Shine in SOMA as part of the Luminary Project

Since 2013 SOMA has been lighting luminaries in front of homes and buildings as a sign of solidarity and a commitment to Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community. This year the towns hit a whole new level of participation: Over 2600 luminary kits were lit throughout neighborhoods, at Seton Hall University, all around the Meadowland Park pond, and in front of buildings and businesses. The Luminary Project team did amazing work creating the kits and getting them out to all those who wanted to participate, including kits donated to COVID 19 vaccination centers. [Have a look here to see the messages of hope for peace](#) and healing in time hurt and loss.



Coalition Youth Collective Gives Voice to SOMA Youth

Save the Date of Thursday, **March 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM** for "Dear MapSo" – The Conversation' –a candid, virtual, race-related discussion between SOMA Youth and our community. This free and open event will be hosted and facilitated by the Community Coalition Youth Collective. Register in advance [Here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For updates, check [Here](#) later this month.

JOIN THE COALITION YOUTH COLLECTIVE!

Calling all youth activists to make a change in our community!

Message from the Community Coalition's Schools Committee

In our continuing effort to advocate for a staff that is racially & culturally diverse, the Schools Committee has received the latest report on ethnicity and gender of all new hires along with the 2019-20 demographics of faculty and administrative staff from the school district. While the number of teachers of color hired by the District in recent years has been disappointingly static, the Committee looks forward to working with the new Director of Human Resources and Assistant Superintendent for Access and Equity to achieve more robust diversity hiring and retention. The Committee is also planning a community-wide discussion event in April around the podcast "Nice White Parents". Details will be available in the near future.



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

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