



The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition *on Race*

Visit our Website

Community Coalition on Race Response to Anti-Black Violence and the Killings of George Floyd & Breonna Taylor

The South Orange Maplewood Community Coalition on Race remains resolute in its commitment to intentional integration. That goal will forever remain elusive if we do not all, especially our white neighbors, commit to combating anti-Blackness specifically, alongside all other forms of racism. White people must step up and be allies in transformative ways that dis-empower the structures that work in their favor against Black people. Our energy cannot be spent in periodic outrage: we must use our collective outrage to change the structures that give rise to each and every act of violence and murder perpetrated against Black and Brown bodies.

This organization remains steadfastly committed to addressing this on two fronts: first, through consistent advocacy and holding those in positions of power accountable, from the police to the board of education; second, through providing continued opportunities to bring the community together in community building and dialogue. Our dialogue needs to start from a place of accepting and acknowledging that our laws and society remain profoundly racist in impact. Black Lives Matter. Today and every day.

[Read more here for ways you can take action today...](#)

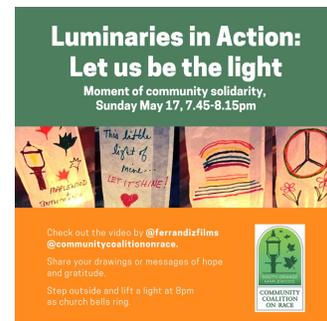
Food, Housing, and the Digital Divide Discussed at Coalition on Race Coffee House

We held our first virtual Coffee House Discussion with 47 people who were able to listen to panel presentations and go into private break-out rooms for small group discussions. Food, housing, and education inequities have been exacerbated by the current crisis. For the video and printable versions of the presentations by Dean Dafis, Government Representative at the NJ Department of Community Affairs, Kate Cahill, of the Our Lady of Sorrows Food Pantry, and Dr. Ronald Taylor, Superintendent of SOMSD, [click here](#).



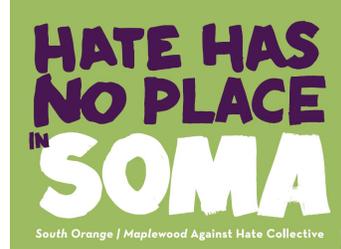
'Luminaries in Action' Brings SOMA Together

Blocks and neighborhoods throughout South Orange and Maplewood came out with candles and lights in hand on the two month anniversary of the pandemic quarantine to share a moment of community solidarity. [Read more, see pictures, and watch the amazing video produced by Columbia High School student Alex Ferrandiz that captures how we can be the light here.](#)



SOMA Against Hate Collective's Statement in Response to Racist Attack in South Orange

We were outraged to hear about an incident in South Orange in which two Black people, one a business owner and the other his daughter who was raised here, were verbally attacked as they tried to give a jump start to one of their cars. This incident is especially unsettling as the nation has witnessed how the hatred that fuels verbal attacks can turn into violence. The Collective has written a joint statement that the Coalition on Race has signed. [Click here to read the statement.](#)



Response to SOPD Use of Force Incident

South Orange has released a statement acknowledging the inappropriate use of force against a Black man by a member of the SOPD in January of 2020. To see the video and the SOPD response [click here](#). To see the Coalition's request for specific actions in response, [click here](#).



COVID19 Resources: Help, Support, Advice

In order to support the SOMA community during the pandemic, we have compiled essential information to help people access critical resources like food, virus testing, unemployment support, home foreclosure prevention, rent forgiveness, and housing assistance information. We are distributing 3000 copies of this 36-page guide in key locations so that it reaches those most in need. [You can see the complete PDF here.](#) We also have posted food and housing resource flyers throughout the towns in English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish to help people access support. Click on the links for the [Food Resources flyers](#) and the [Housing & Rental Assistance flyer](#).



We're Asking for Your Support

Our 24-year long commitment to facing race issues and challenging new impediments to racial integration and true inclusion is needed as much now as ever. During the pandemic we have adapted to meet community needs and we have kept our focus on the issues and the actions that will allow our towns to be the integrated and equitable community it aspires to. [Would you please consider making a donation right now to support our important work?](#)



Upcoming Events

Event: BLACK Friday: An Online Celebration in Conjunction with Juneteenth
Friday, June 19th 2020 12:00 am - 11:59 pm

Hosted by Progressive Theater to commemorate the delayed announcement of the emancipation of slaves on June 19, 1865. This full day of activities will highlight Black Brilliance, Liberation, Appreciation, Consciousness, and Knowledge through song, dance, spoken word, photography, art and more.

Artists interested in participating [click here](#)

To RSVP for the 24 hr. celebration [click here](#)

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