



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

Visit Our  
Website

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### Coronavirus Pandemic Exposes Racism, Bias, and Conspiracy Theories

Old biases resurface and new scapegoats are created during times of fear and anxiety—especially when governmental leadership feeds those biases. We encourage everyone to promote correct information about the coronavirus, its risk and transmission, and the importance of not stigmatizing any person or group based on background or country of origin. According to the [ADL](#), "Contagious diseases often fuel scapegoating and xenophobia. As with any public health crisis, the fear of a pandemic leads to misinformation, conspiracy theories and scapegoating, especially on social media platforms and the internet." Many of us have seen the news regarding incidents of attacks against Asian and Asian Americans ([reports incidents here](#)). Moreover, there is an uptick in [white supremacist groups using the virus to attack Jewish people](#), shifting responsibility for the spread of the virus to them as a plot against white European-descended Americans. And, according to a [University of Southern California study](#), "a new form of discrimination and maltreatment resulting from fear of infection is rearing its ugly head and targeting both black Americans and Asian Americans at an alarming level." Knowing that those who perpetuate racial myths are still hard at work and even taking full advantage of the pandemic, we must continue our community's pro-integrative work and our activism. We will be with you in the coming months, arranging for virtual discussion and trainings, rescheduling some spring programs to the fall, and continuing our focus on educational equity, demographic reporting, and targeted marketing.

**Please share our [Viruses Don't Discriminate!](#) poster. [Click here for the PDF.](#)**

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### South Orange and Maplewood Keep Community Updated

If you need information on local businesses, social distancing practices in the towns, testing sites, and government services, please visit these sites. Thanks to our [South Orange](#) and [Maplewood](#) town leaders for these updates.



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### Community Resources as SOMA & NJ Follow the 'Stay at Home' Order

As we strive to stay safe and follow the state mandated

'stay at home' order, we will provide updates on services available and sites to find services. [Click here](#) for general COVID-19 resources and supports for businesses. For more information on housing and rental assistance, mortgage relief, and protections for eviction or foreclosure, [click here](#).



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## 'I Shall Not Be Silent' Documentary Available for Free Viewing!

From Sunday March 29th to Sunday April 5th, stream the documentary about civil rights activist and Newark legend Rabbi Joachim Prinz, I Shall Not Be Silent, for free.

[For more information click here](#) and [to view click here](#)



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## Complete Your Census Forms!

Maplewood and South Orange need an accurate count. The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade. It takes just a few minutes to fill out the forms mailed to your home.

[Click here](#) to fill out your information on line!



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## Conversations on Race in 2020

We have postponed our previously scheduled conversations on Race with author and professor Jelani Cobb from April 28th to this coming fall. We'll let you know when we have a new date. In the meantime, we are working to host a virtual Conversation. Stay tuned for topic and date.



Jelani Cobb

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## Juneteenth at Durand-Hedden House

Last June, the Durand-Hedden House, Maplewood's historic house museum, joined with the Community Coalition on Race and museum consultant Claudia Ocello of Museum Partners to create a celebration of African American history and freedom for our local communities.

The goal is to hold the event, including both outdoor activities and historical presentations on slavery

and abolition in NJ, again this year on **June 7th**. Last June, [To see pictures from last year's event](#),

[click here](#).



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## New Jersey Domestic Violence Hotline

Domestic violence often increases during high stress periods like economic downturns like the 2008 recession. Stay-at-home orders during the pandemic puts victims of abuse at greater risk. There is a

domestic violence center in every county of NJ. If you or someone you know needs help,



call 1 (800) 572-SAFE (7233), 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The New Jersey Domestic Violence Hotline provides confidential access to domestic violence information and services, including crisis intervention, referral, and advocacy. The hotline is bilingual and accessible to the deaf and hearing impaired. More information is available at <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/women/domestic/>.

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