

A YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 12TH PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

This was the first of two Preschool Open Houses that were sponsored by the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race in 2005. The evening opened with a brief presentation by local school administrators discussing kindergarten readiness and the importance of finding a quality preschool. Then, attendees were free to visit with exhibitors from local preschools.

JANUARY 17TH 4TH ANNUAL MLK "MAKING IT MORE THAN A DREAM" CELEBRATION

The Coalition Interfaith Outreach Committee celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through an interfaith service at First Presbyterian and Trinity Church in South Orange. The Reverend Sandye A. Wilson, Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew and Holy Communion in South Orange, spoke, along with other guests. Each year, we also urge residents to make the MLK holiday a day of involvement rather than just a day off from work or school and the Annual MLK Celebration is a wonderful way to do that! This year, in addition to bringing food donations for the MEND Food Pantry, residents had the opportunity to participate in a volunteer fair where they learned about volunteer service needs in our community.

APRIL 21ST COMMUNITY DISCUSSION SERIES: I SIT WHERE I WANT

The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race was pleased to present a screening of the important film I SIT WHERE I WANT: *The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education* on April 21, 2005 in the Columbia High School New Cafeteria. The film examined the state of race relations and social integration 50 years after the Supreme Court decision that outlawed racial segregation in public schools, by following a racially diverse group of high school students in Buffalo, New York as they attempted to integrate their lunchroom. After the screening, filmmakers Marco Williams and Whitney Dow led an assembly for the high school students during the day and a discussion for the community that evening, each discussion was followed by a question and answer segment. This event was presented by the

Schools Committee of the Coalition in association with Facing History and Ourselves at Columbia High School and the Allstate Foundation. Our thanks and acknowledgement to The Allstate Foundation for underwriting this event.

MAY 5TH COMMUNITY DISCUSSION SERIES: UNDERSTANDING THE MINORITY ACHIEVEMENT GAP: 4 THURSDAYS IN MAY

The Schools Committee of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition hosted an exciting series of facilitated reading groups and short presentations based on the latest research on the Minority Achievement Gap. The four-session series was held every Thursday in May at the South Orange Middle School library. Discussions explored possible solutions for this major issue facing many school districts including our own. The series was offered free of charge with reading materials provided.

JUNE 8TH FAMILY NIGHT AT THE NEWARK BEARS

South Orange/Maplewood families enjoyed a fun night out at Newark Stadium, with all profits going toward the Two Towns in Harmony CD. Musicians participating in the Two Towns in Harmony project actually performed during pre-game entertainment!

JUNE 10TH THE ACTORS NIGHTMARE!

The Strollers Theater Company and Here's 2 the Arts Cafe partnered for three performances of "The Actors Nightmare". This was a community building evening of music and laughter to benefit the Two Towns in Harmony project.

JUNE 24TH DANCE & SWING!

This event was another excitement builder and fund raiser for the Two Towns in Harmony project. The evening of Swing Dance for Couples featured Swing Town, Maplewood Community Music's 19-piece swing band. Dance instruction was provided by Ann Biddle, local owner of Stories in Motion.

JULY 3RD TWO TOWNS IN HARMONY WORLD PREMIERE: AN AMERICAN DALE: BECOMING A PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE

The Community of South Orange and Maplewood was proud to be one of only five communities in the United States, and the only one in New Jersey, selected for participation in this year's national Continental Harmony project. The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race actually wrote the grant in partnership with local musicians. The grant provided partial funding to commissioned composer, Janet Albright, to create an original, truly remarkable nine movement orchestral and choral piece to celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of our two towns. Over 250 musicians and singers, professional and amateur, performed the piece live on July 3, 2005. Local artists created and displayed fabric sculptures and murals on Flood's Hill and students from the local Middle and High Schools created a sculpture garden and art exhibit "An American Dale: Becoming A Place For All People". Several thousand residents gathered to participate in the community wide block party which included browsing for volunteer opportunities among the participating civic organizations or shopping the vendors who comprised the Two Towns Village for that day only. In Addition to the funds received from the American Composer's Forum Continental Harmony Project, corporate and foundation grants were received from Allegiance Community Bank, Maplewood Rotary Club, ReMax Village Square Realtors, Robert Northfield-Burgdorff ERA, The Fraentzel Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, St. James Gate, Valley National Bank, and New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

SEPTEMBER 27TH AIM HIGH WORKSHOP!

This Parent Advocacy Workshop was designed and conducted by the Schools Committee of the Coalition to help bridge the Academic Achievement Gap. Parental involvement has been isolated as an important factor related to the gap, so the Schools Committee developed this program to assist and empower parents to effectively participate in their children's education through meetings with teachers and administrators. The event was held at South Orange Middle School Library.

OCTOBER 11TH REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

The community came out to hear what the Coalition was up to at the annual South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race Report to the Community held at the Baird Center in South Orange. Committee co-chairs reported on the activities of their various committees and outlined their plans for the future. Residents then responded with their opinions and suggestions. This event is always a highlight of our October Coalition Month.

NOVEMBER 1ST PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The Neighborhood Association & Civic Life and the Schools Committees of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race jointly hosted approximately ninety interested residents at their sixth annual Pre-School Open House featuring twenty-six local preschools, daycare, aftercare programs, and related programs providing services in and around Maplewood and South Orange. The program began with a brief presentation by local teachers and administrators discussing kindergarten readiness and the importance of finding a quality preschool. Participation was free and children's activities were provided by The Art Garden.

NOVEMBER 18TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Our annual fundraising breakfast, held at the Woman's Club of Maplewood, got commuters off to a great start with a continental breakfast, background information about the work of the Coalition and brief testimonials by residents, including students, on how the Coalition impacted their moving to and living in South Orange/Maplewood.

NOVEMBER 20TH TWO TOWNS ONE BOOK FINAL EVENT

The Two Towns One Book project was originally started by the Community Coalition as a tool to create community through shared discussion about a specific book that touched on the subject of race, integration or related themes. This year's project, a collaboration between the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition

on Race, South Orange Public Library, Seton Hall, and Maplewood Memorial Library was jointly led by the South Orange and the Maplewood Public Libraries. The book, HOW RACE IS LIVED IN AMERICA: *Pulling Together, Pulling Apart*, started as a series of articles in the *New York Times*. One of the articles, "Growing Together, Growing Apart" is about local Maplewood/South Orange students.

DECEMBER 14TH ANNUAL COALITION VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY

Coalition volunteers and financial supporters celebrated another year of successful committee projects, community wide events and just enjoying working side by side at the annual Coalition Holiday Party at Cryan's Restaurant, South Orange.

They point to the link between economic isolation and racial segregation and challenge us to recognize that there are patterns of re-segregation inching up all over this country, requiring us all to think not only critically but intentionally about how to address it. That is exactly what the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race has been working toward for the past 10 years!

So, to those of you who have been loyal supporters throughout our 10 year history, I say thank you! And to those of you who are newly acquainted with the Coalition, I invite you to join us for the years to come!

Robin

ROBIN BURNS SAUNDERS
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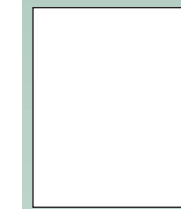


South Orange/Maplewood COMMUNITY COALITION on Race



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR A COMMUNITY
THAT IS TRULY INCLUSIVE AND RACIALLY INTEGRATED—
FREE OF SEGREGATION IN HOUSING PATTERNS AND
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2005—DECEMBER 31, 2005



On February 1, 2006 I joined the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race as Executive Director. ~~Having been in the non-profit field for many years~~

I had always hoped to find personal common ground with the vision of the organization that I would come to lead. The Coalition's vision for a "community that is truly inclusive and racially integrated—free of segregation in housing patterns and community involvement" could not have been closer to my own personal vision.

~~Not unlike many of the residents of South Orange and Maplewood, our decision to move to this community five years ago was also tied to this vision.~~

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. Over the past 10 years ~~through the hard work and vision of dedicated staff, board leadership and volunteers~~ our two towns have benefited from the many innovative programs that have helped to continue the open dialogue around race relations and the challenges and opportunities of living in a community that values racial integration. A friend of mine once asked "if this is such a great place to live why do you need a Community Coalition on Race?". ~~A look at the recent NY Times~~ article discussing the Nebraska Governor's decision to sign into law a bill that calls for dividing the public schools into three racially identified districts; one black, one white, and one Hispanic is just one example of why!

Gary Orfield and Chungmei Lee of the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University remind us that non-integrated communities will always lead to unequal opportunities and will produce "both ignorance and damaging racial stereotypes in the minds of both the segregated and the segregator".

As we move into 2006, I look back over the past year and am astounded, as I usually am, by the enormous amount of energy that the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race has to put forth. The citizens of Maplewood and South Orange have much to be proud of. We could not do our work without your support. The passion and dedication that our volunteers bring to each event is shown by the caliber of the programming that we present annually and for which we have become nationally recognized.

We began 2005, with our Martin Luther King Jr., Interfaith Outreach Program with Rev. Sandye Wilson as our guest speaker. In the spring, our Schools Committee presented a Columbia High School assembly and evening community forum entitled "I Sit Where I Want," in partnership with the Allstate Foundation and a New York based organization, Facing History and Ourselves. In addition, the Schools Committee hosted a four-week discussion group focusing on the Minority Achievement Gap. And, who can forget our July 3rd extravaganza, Two Towns in Harmony? In the fall of 2005, the Schools Committee presented a Parent Advocacy Workshop—Aim High, to assist parents in navigating the school system. The Neighborhood Association and Civic Life Committee, along with the Schools Committee, hosted our annual Preschool Open House for parents seeking the best environment to meet the needs their youngsters. We continue to support Two Town One Book- a community wide reading sponsored by our town libraries. On the following pages, you will read more about the public activities that have given us national, as well as local recognition.

We are excited that Robin Burns Saunders has joined us as our new Executive Director. As many of you know, our past Executive Director, Barbara Heisler Williams has moved on to become the Executive

Director of Fund for an OPEN Society. We will continue to enjoy a relationship with OPEN that affords us the opportunity to further our work towards stably integrated communities. Our fundraising efforts continue to center around Point of Entry gatherings, where neighbors come together to discuss the work of the Coalition. These attendees are then invited to a culminating fundraising breakfast, where they are asked to affirm the Coalition mission with generous multi-year donations. We continue to self assess to meet the needs of our ever changing communities. We are embarking on a strategic planning process to better assist us in framing the coming years. I am excited and privileged to continue my work on behalf of the organization. I am honored to work with a talented staff - our Program Director, Audrey Rowe, and of course, Robin, our new Executive Director. In addition, I am humbled by the responsibility entrusted to me by our Trustees to move the Coalition forward in a collaborative manner.

And lastly, we continue to be a work in progress. I welcome you to sit with us and become a part of the conversation. Join us in rededicating ourselves to a tomorrow where we live in an inclusive community that values maintaining stable integration and schools where all children are valued and expected to excel. I believe that focusing our energies on the Schools in 2006 will bring us even closer to fulfilling our mission of an inclusive community, free of segregation in all aspects of life in these two towns. I leave you with these closing words from Dr. King, Jr. "If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation. No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, we must either learn to live together as brothers or we are all going to perish together as fools..." Please join us as we continue our efforts to create communities of choice for all.

In peace,

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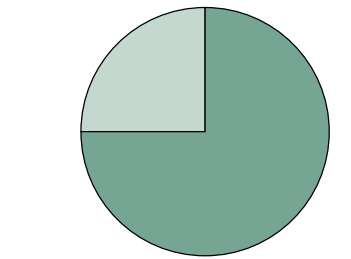
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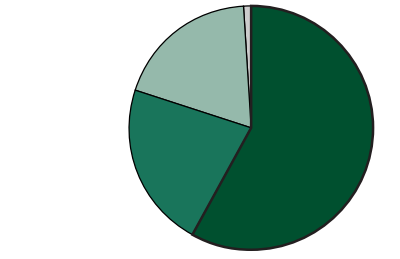
Program Expenses—00%
 Operating Expenses—00%



TOTAL \$000,000

Income Summary

Gifts Received—00%
 Village of South Orange—00%
 Township of Maplewood—00%
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TOTAL \$000,000

These figures are unaudited. A copy of our audited financial statements will be available for inspection and on file with the Town Clerks in early spring.

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