

A Year in Review



Columbia HS Students warmly welcomed Juan Williams

JANUARY 8TH BROWN V. BOARD: FIFTY YEARS LATER JUAN WILLIAMS AT COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

Author of the critically acclaimed biography, *Tburgood Marshall - American Revolutionary, and Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*, NPR Senior Correspondent Juan Williams joined us to discuss the legacy of the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education Supreme Court decision that ended the legal separation of black and white children in public schools and sparked the 1960s civil rights movement. In the afternoon, Mr. Williams addressed the students at Columbia High School. The auditorium was packed and silent as the students listened to this gifted speaker challenge them to live up to the legacy in their academic performance and civic involvement. That evening, his story telling equally entranced a standing-room only adult community, in this successful event sponsored by the Coalition's Schools Committee.

Partial funding for this event was provided by the Unitarian Church in Summit Social Action Committee and by a grant from New Jersey Department of State, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission.

JANUARY 19TH 3RD ANNUAL MLK DAY CELEBRATION: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND SERVICE

Neighbors packed the sanctuary of Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church for a time of reflection and service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Paula Tumayshu Dow, of Maplewood, the acting Essex County Prosecutor, spoke to us of some of the realities and challenges in our lives today. Morrow's music director Ms.

Young Pak, led a community choir, while few will forget the stirring closing song, *We Shall Overcome*, led by the Reverend Roy Butler.

Partial funding for this event was provided by a grant from New Jersey Department of State, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission and by a grant from the Outreach Committee of St. George's Episcopal Church in Maplewood.

FEBRUARY 26TH STUDY CIRCLES STAKEHOLDERS GATHERING

Representatives of neighborhood associations and community organizations came together to learn more about the Two Towns Study Circles Program and determine its future. While this program engaged many community residents during its run here in South Orange/Maplewood, the determination was made to put this program on hiatus for the remainder of this year.

MARCH 6TH COMMUNITY COALITION AUCTION!

Program Director Audrey Rowe and her team of wizards transformed the Maplewood Woman's Club into a most festive environment, as celebrity hosts James Curtis, and Kristen and Mitch Samu sang, joked, cajoled, and raised funds to support the Coalition's programming at this highly entertaining and successful event.



Composer Janet Albright and conductor Vicki Carter prepare for the July 3 premiere

MARCH 7TH THE COMMUNITY MEETS OUR COMPOSER

If you haven't already heard, the community of South Orange/Maplewood has been selected as one of only five in the country to participate in this year's Continental Harmony Project, an initiative of the American Composers Forum in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Continental Harmony Project brings composers and communities together for the creation of original musical works that are reflections of the unique history, culture and spirit of each community. After an intensive search and selection process, a committee of local musicians selected Janet Albright, a composer of international reputation, to write a composition that conveys the rich fabric of the many cultures, faiths, interests and talents represented in our community, and introduced her at a public meeting at the 1978 Gallery on Springfield Avenue.

A project of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, Two Towns in Harmony, as our local project is called, has as its dual goals the creation and performance of an extraordinary piece of music and the building of community around this endeavor.

YOU'LL WANT TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JULY 3, 2005 as the day will unfold as a community-wide block party—bringing together residents and friends to share food, hospitality, laughter, art and music. The celebration will be so big that Flood's Hill, at Meadowbrook Park in South Orange, is the only place big enough to hold it.

The music composed for the day will be brought to life by our many talented local musicians—professionals, amateurs and students from local schools. But this project involves *much* more than just the performance of our commissioned work itself.

Led by Program Coordinator Ron Carter and a committee numbering over two dozen, this day will have something for everyone. Volunteer artists—professionals, amateurs and students—will design and create a series of sculptures that will be thematically linked to Janet's composition and text. The participating performing organizations will give individual performances throughout the day, all leading up to the much-anticipated premiere of our commissioned work—in an environment adorned by the works of local artists and students. Then the day's activities will culminate with the spectacular world premiere presentation—including the combined musical talents of *over two hundred residents*, conducted by Vicki Carter.

Partners in this project thus far include Oheb Shalom Congregation, First Baptist Church of South Orange, Members of the South Orange Symphony, Congregation Beth El, Maplewood Community Swing Band, Maplewood Community Concert Band, Local jazz musicians, Stirling Chamber Orchestra, Prospect Presbyterian Church

Choir, The Strollers, New Jazz Trio, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, St. George's Episcopal Church, Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church, SO/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, Opera for the Young, Maplewood Glee Club, Wogbledoe, Dreamcatchers Repertory Theatre, the Rotary Clubs of South Orange and Maplewood, Voices in Harmony, SO/Maplewood School District Fine Arts Department, District Art/Music Teachers, District School Performing Ensembles, Maplewood & South Orange Adult School and SOMAcom.

As of January 2005, grants to support this program have been received from The American Composer's Forum, the Puffin Foundation, the Fraentzel Foundation, the Essex Co. Art Council and many residents of our two towns.

APRIL 13TH RALPH BUNCHE—CHAMPION OF PEACE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

August 7, 2003, kicked off the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of a great American and a great international civil servant, Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche. A scholar, educator, civil rights advocate, and world statesman, Bunche received international recognition as the first person of color to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. We were pleased to join with the Adult School to present Dr. Benjamin Rivlin, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Director Emeritus of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, and a former associate of Dr. Bunche, who discussed Bunche's contributions in domestic and international affairs and share with us his intellectual brilliance, rigorous scholarship, and acute sensitivity to human relationships.

JULY 3RD 5TH ANNUAL IOC: CELEBRATION OF VISION

For some, the favorite annual Coalition event is this community-wide interfaith service, "A Celebration of Vision", which was held this year in the Amphitheatre in Maplewood Memorial Park.

This interactive, casual service included readings and meditations from clergy and lay representatives from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Humanist and Buddhist traditions, along with musical selections from Voices in Harmony that embody a vision of community.

Community members lined the lawn with their lawn chairs and blankets and joined the Coalition for this moving celebration.

SEPTEMBER COFFEES KICK OFF

Lots of people have been getting together lately to talk about the Coalition. Gossip sessions? No, these are sessions to build life long supporters for the mission of our organization! Under the leadership of Coalition Trustees Burt Liebman and Geraldine Mehu, co-chairs of our Finance & Development Committee, and Trustee Margaret Prentice, the Coalition has begun an outreach program to bring information about our mission, program and achievements directly to community members through a series of evening coffees. We are working hard to build relationships with residents throughout the community—and of course, in the process, build supporters.



THE CREATIVE PROCESS— COMPOSING MUSIC TO REPRESENT OUR TWO TOWNS

An exciting part of the Two Towns in Harmony project is the outreach and education possibilities. Our composer, Janet Albright, has conducted master classes with our high school and middle school musicians, visited elementary classes, and on October 5 led a group of adults in a class to further understanding of the creative process at a special program hosted by the Adult School in the South Orange Middle School Little Theater. Proceeds of this class benefited the Two Towns in Harmony project.

MEHNDI AND MUSIC...

Was just one of the activities for participants in this year's Two Towns: One Book. Community members read Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, gathered in discussions at The Dancing Goat, Here's to the Arts, in

each of our public libraries, and in private homes to discuss this book with themes of immigration, difference, assimilation, identity and community. From a feast of Indian foods and a lesson in Indian cooking provided by Maplewood residents Gautam and Sheila Gujral at the Neelam Restaurant to learning about the beautiful art form of mehndi, this year's program was rich and full of activity and conversation.

OCTOBER 21ST CONFERENCE: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Community Coalition speakers joined the likes of Honorable William Johnson, Mayor of Rochester, NY; Gary Orfield, Harvard Civil Rights Project and Harvard Graduate School of Education; Myron Orfield, Institute on Poverty & Race, University of Minnesota's School of Law; John Powell, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State; David Rusk, Urban Policy Consultant and Margery Austin Turner, director of the Urban Institute to talk about pro-integrative policies and practices. This national conference focusing on residential integration, the only gathering of its kind, drew participants from throughout the mid-Atlantic, northeast and Midwest.

DECEMBER 9TH OUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY PARTY

We closed the year with a gathering of committee volunteers and contributors for our fourth annual Coalition Holiday Party, held at Cryan's Restaurant, South Orange. This celebration reminds us that, as a volunteer driven organization, all we are, and all we will be, is in the hands of our dedicated volunteers and supporters. For each and every one we are grateful.



Trustees Natalie Thigpen and Margaret Prentice organize a Coalition event



Two Towns: One Book 2004 brought together community



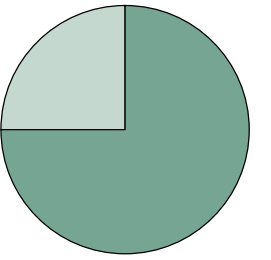
Coalition trustees and committee members host tables at public events to share information



Residents of all ages enjoy the annual Celebration of Vision

Expense Summary

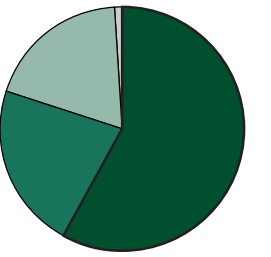
Program Expenses—75%
Operating Expenses—25%



TOTAL \$142,967

Income Summary

Gifts Received—58%
Village of South Orange—22%
Township of Maplewood—19%
Other Income—1%



TOTAL \$151,020

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.

2004 Board of Trustees

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