



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

## Rowe & Gagnier to Receive Award *Weds., April 19, 7 pm, Maplewood Town Hall*

As part of the Maplewood Library's 2023 Ideas Festival, the **2023 Carol Buchanan Award for Outstanding Contribution to Civic and Intellectual Life** will be presented to Audrey Rowe and Nancy Gagnier, for their work with the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. The Ideas Festival also includes another member of the Coalition on Race: **Robert A. Marchman** will be part of the **The ACLU and American Life** panel discussion on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:00 PM, Maplewood Town Hall. For more information on the amazing line-up of events and speakers, [visit the Maplewood Library site here](#).



**IDEAS  
FESTIVAL 2023**  
Celebrating the Talent & Creativity of our Community



**AUDREY ROWE  
& NANCY GAGNIER**



## Integrated Art Circles Continue *Register Today!*

### Opera Enrichment with artist Lori Brown Mirabal Begins April 3rd

This multifaceted course begins with an intriguing recounting of the history and essentials of opera through the unique lens of racial diversity. Together, participants will view, listen to and discuss operas written and performed by diverse composers and artists. This knowledge will be used to create and present personal Life-Poems set to music. No singing is required at all.



### Theatrical Improvisation with actor Clark Jackson begins May 6th

Are you ready to try Improv? Through this experience, you will work with an award-winning stage, television, film actor and educator to play theatre games, learn acting basics, make new friends, build group trust and work on scenes for performance.



Reserve your spot for the April or May Circles today! Future monthly Art Circles include mosaics, theater, murals, shekere percussion, and more. [For details on each circle and to register, click here.](#)

## Deconstructing Racism Series *Videos & Upcoming Sessions*

These workshops explore how our society is infused by racist conditions and systems that impact us all behaviorally and psychologically as well as what we can do to disrupt it. If you missed any of the first four sessions, the [videos are available for viewing here](#). Still interested in joining the discussions? [Register here today!](#)



## Attention Realtors & Lenders: *You're Invited to Learn about Our WGEL Loan Program May 2nd*

The Residential Committee is excited to introduce realtors and lenders to the Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan, a new, unique financing solution designed specifically to help qualified Black and non-white Hispanic applicants overcome common barriers to homeownership in SOMA. Join us for a brief presentation where we will introduce WGEL and provide more information about its benefits and requirements. [Click here to register for this event.](#)



## Conversations on Race: *Rethinking the Racial Wealth Gap* Tues., May 16, 7:30 pm, The Woodland

The 2023 Conversation will be held in person at The Woodland and the focus of our learning and discussion will be Rethinking the Racial Wealth Gap. We will learn what the racial wealth gap is; how it has been created and is perpetuated by laws and policies; and, how we witness this gap in our personal experiences. We will also think through the narratives that mask the racial wealth gap and consider ideas for sustainable solutions. [Advance registration here.](#)



## Schools Committee Voices Support of Integrated Schools

The Schools Committee of the Community Coalition on Race reaffirmed its commitment to the Intentional Integration Initiative, and its expectation that the current Board of Education and SOMSD Administration will do the work necessary to make the initiative a success for all families. [Read the full statement here.](#)



## District Preschool Program Explained

The Schools Committee welcomed Mr. Leroy Johnson who oversees the SOMSD preschool program to provide an update. Attendees got a wealth of information on the placement process and waitlist; the different preschool sites; and the Tools of the Mind curriculum. [The video is available here.](#)



## African American Genealogy Workshop

On Sunday, March 26, genealogist Janice Gilyard held a follow-up workshop on African American genealogy at the Maplewood Senior Center in response to the high interest generated by an earlier session during Black History Month. Many thanks to Durand-Hedden House & Garden for hosting this encore session in partnership with the Community Coalition on Race. [Learn more about Durand-Hedden here.](#)



## Painted Stone Path at DeHart Gazebo

Stop by the Gazebo on Springfield Ave. and Newark Way in Maplewood to see the Painted Stone Path that was created by Integrated Art Circle participants! Many thanks to artist Roberta Melzi who led the group over a 4 week period in art, design, and building relationships. This was the first of 8 Integrated Art Circles, the Coalition's 2023 **Integration through the Arts** program which is funded by Essex County Local Arts. [See pictures here...](#)



## **SOMA Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance**

***April 23rd, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel,  
432 Scotland Road, South Orange***

This year's Remember & Tell event begins at 3:15 pm with a rally on the lawn of Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, with South Orange Village President Sheena Collum, Maplewood Mayor Dean Dafis, Sviatoslav Hot of Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Ascension, and others. The rally is followed by an interfaith service inside at 4 pm that includes a special speaker and music. [For more information, click here](#)



## **Ethical Culture Society Capital Campaign**

The Ethical Culture Society has been on the front lines for social reform and social service and has advocated for human cultural expression for over 150 years. The Essex County location at 516 Prospect St. is the world's first Peace Site, hosts many group meetings and performances, and is the location of the Coalition on Race's office. The chapter is raising funds to pay for necessary building repairs. Please consider supporting this important site that is home to social activism, the arts, and so much more. [Read more here...](#)



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Visit our website

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