

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

Deconstructing Racism Workshop Series Starts in February--Sign Up Today!

These workshops, beginning February 12th, explore how our society is infused by racist conditions and systems that impact us all behaviorally, economically and psychologically as well as what we can do to disrupt it. [Register here today!](#) To learn more about the issues to be raised and discussed in the four-part workshop, [watch the Coalition's Anti-Racism Committee video presentation here.](#)



Black History Month Events

In collaboration with Durand-Hedden House & Garden, the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race is honoring Black History Month with a focus on African American genealogy with two events ([more details here](#)):

- Presentation: ***African American Genealogy: The Joy of Discovery*** with Barbara Velazquez Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2:00 pm ([Registration required here](#))
- Workshop: ***In Search of Our Ancestors: How to Conduct Effective African American Genealogical Research*** with Genealogist Janice Gilyard ([Registration required here](#)). Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2:00 pm at the DeHart Center, 120 Burnet Ave., Maplewood

For other Black History Month events in SOMA, [click here for South Orange](#) and [here for Maplewood](#).

Artwork: "The Garden of Life" by local artist Gwen Verner



Integrated Art Circles Begin this March: Workshop 1: Painted Stone Path

Work with studio artist Roberta Melzl and build connections as the group formulates a shared vision in creating a designed path using painted stones as the material. The painted stone path will be located in the Maplewood/South Orange community, easily accessible to public viewing. This will be a fun, creative workshop where no experience is necessary. Future monthly Art Circles include mosaics, opera, theater improvisation, public mural, shekere percussion, juggling, and abstract art & movement.

[For details on each circle and to register, click here.](#)



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance & Luminary Lighting Bring People Together

We returned to an in-person observance this year which brought out hundreds of people to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The messages delivered by all were stirring calls to activism, volunteering, and making progress on the mission of racial integration, equity, and inclusion. Special thanks to Robt Martin Seda-Schreiber, chief activist at the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice in Princeton for his thoughtful keynote address. [Read more and see pictures here...](#)

Luminaries were shining throughout MAPSO! Many thanks to the team of volunteers and the businesses who help each year: The Able Baker; [words] Bookstore; True Salvage Café; General Store Cooperative; A Paper Hat; Pet Wants; Sparkhouse Toys; D&I Fitness; Oh! Canary. Also thanks to the Meadowland Conservancy for hosting a spectacular lighting and canned food drive in the park.



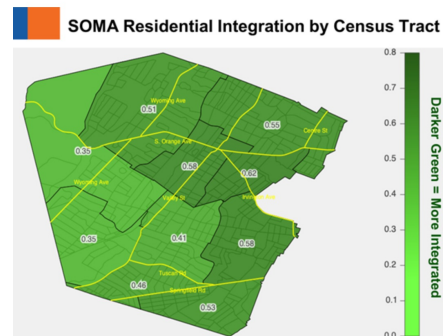
Welcome to Our New Board Members & the 2023 Leadership Team!

The Community Coalition on Race's board of trustees welcomed 5 new trustees each of whom will serve a three-year term. **Judy Bernstein, Terry Martin, Melissa Miller, Megan Tejada**, and returning trustee **Shelley Slafkes**, bring a variety of skills to the board as well as enthusiasm for serving the mission of intentional integration. This year's executive committee includes **Kelly Quirk** once again as chair, vice chairs **Carol Barry-Austin, Jeremy Dobrish, John Kerner, Robert A. Marchman**, and **Mikki Murphy**.



Community Coalition on Race 2022 Demographics Report: Presentation & Video

The MERT Committee of the Community Coalition on Race presented its 2022 Demographics Report to the community. Updating previous reports from 2016 and 2019 that relied on 2010 the US Census and subsequent American Community Survey polls, the report focusses on racial integration and diversity trends in South Orange and Maplewood over 20 years with 2020 US Census information. This report focuses on neighborhoods, census tracts, and comparisons to comparable suburbs. [See the video and the report here.](#)



Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan Issued to Three New SOMA Residents

The Residential Committee supported 3 first-time homebuyers in SOMA in 2022 with this loan program. The Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan (WGEL) is intended to support a new generation of Black and non-white Hispanic homebuyers in SOMA and to address racialized housing inequities. [Learn more here and find how to apply today.](#)



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