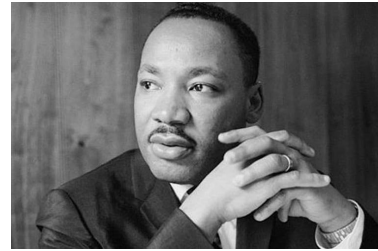




SOUTH ORANGE | MAPLEWOOD
**COMMUNITY
COALITION
ON RACE**

Creating Community in the Face of Discord Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance and Luminary Lighting Monday, January 16th, 2 pm

We will be back together again in the auditorium at Columbia High School for this community-wide, interfaith moment to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and the ways we create an integrated community. This year's speaker is **Robt Martin Seda-Schreiber, Chief Activist of the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice**. As always, there will be music, dance, and fellowship. The day ends with a community-wide luminary lighting. [More details here...](#)



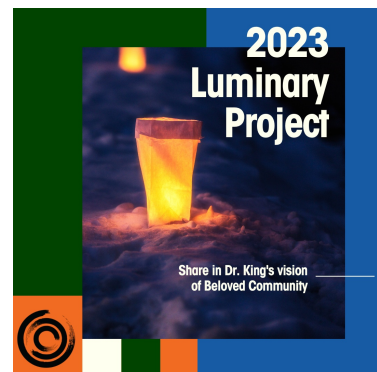
Luminary Decorating Party 2023 Sunday, January 8th, 3-5 pm, Monella Community Center, 133 Fairview Avenue, South Orange

Join us along with hosts South Orange Village President Sheena Collum & Maplewood Mayor Dean Dafis for an afternoon of art and fun at our 3rd annual Luminary Decorating Party. Learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and decorate luminaries to place outside your home at sunset on MLK Day. Snacks will be provided. [Details here...](#)



The Luminary Project

Hosted each year since 2013 at sunset on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, we ask people to light up the outside of their homes or businesses with Luminaries, white bags with votive candles inside that can be decorated. The goal is for thousands of homes in SOMA to be lit up as a sign of hope, sanctuary, peace, and solidarity with Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community. The Luminaries come four in a pack for a donation of \$10 and are available at local businesses. **Maplewood:** The Able Baker; [words] Bookstore; True Salvage Café; General Store Cooperative; A Paper Hat. **South Orange:** Pet Wants; Sparkhouse Toys; D&I Fitness; Oh! Canary. [More information here...](#)



MLK Day Canned Food Collection...it's back!

On MLK Day (Monday, January 16), the Meadowland Park Conservancy will be lighting 200+ luminaries around the Pond in Meadowland Park (aka the Duck Pond, by SOMS) in partnership

with the Community Coalition on Race's annual luminary project. Each luminary is weighed down by donated canned goods. [Here's how you can donate canned food to support local food pantries.](#)



Deconstructing Racism Workshop Series Starts in February

These workshops, beginning February 12th, 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. [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.](#)



Honoring Black History Month with a Focus on African American Genealogy

Exploring African American Genealogy

Sponsored by the Durand-Hedden House & Garden and the Community Coalition on Race

- Presentation: African American Genealogy: The Joy of Discovery with Barbara Velazquez

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 at 2:00 pm

- Workshop: In Search of Our Ancestors: How to Conduct Effective African American Genealogical Research with Genealogist Janice Gilyard

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm

[Get details here...](#)



2023 Integrated Art Circles Meet new neighbors as you explore your creativity

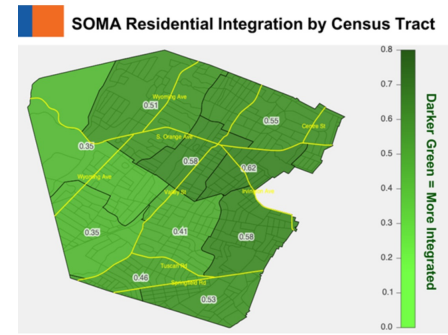
Local professional artists will lead small groups of racially diverse SOMA residents to create individual art projects called *Circles* that include a public, colored-stone pathway, opera enrichment through diversity, theatrical improvisation, a public mosaic project, juggling, a public mural, journey to percussion/shekere, and abstract art & movement. Participants will learn new art skills as they get to know one another. Space is limited. [Learn more about each circle, see the schedule for the year, and register for your favorite\(s\) here now!](#)



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. [Watch the video and see the report here.](#)



The Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan Is Available

Spread the word about this new financial incentive to support integrative moves into SOMA! In an effort to address racialized housing inequities, the Community Coalition on Race has launched a loan program—the Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan (WGEL)—with the goal of supporting a new generation of Black and non-white Hispanic homebuyers in SOMA. [Learn more here and find how to apply today.](#)



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