



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

## Deconstructing Racism Workshop Series

These workshops 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. [The videos of the first two sessions are available here.](#) All are invited to watch and then register for the upcoming workshops where you can be in productive conversations with other participants. [Register here today!](#)



## African American Genealogy Workshop is Back!

In collaboration with Durand-Hedden House & Garden, we honored Black History Month with a focus on African American genealogy. The workshop **In Search of Our Ancestors: How to Conduct Effective African American Genealogical Research** with Genealogist Janice Gilyard is being offered again on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm at the DeHart Center, 120 Burnet Ave., Maplewood. ([Registration required here](#))

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



## Integrated Art Circles Start This Month

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

**Painted Stone Paths with artist Roberta Melzl Begins March 6th**

Work with a diverse group of neighbors as you explore your creative side with local, professional artists. The Painted Stone Paths circle will formulate a shared vision in creating a designed path that will be in the Maplewood/South Orange community, easily accessible to public viewing. This will be a fun, creative workshop where no experience is necessary.



## Opera Enrichment with international performing artist and PhD educator 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.



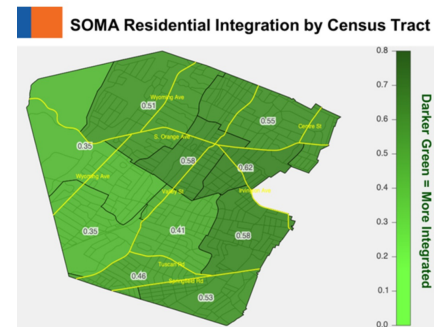
## SOMA Celebrates Women's History Month!



March is Women's History Month. Women's History Month began as a national week-long celebration in 1981 and in 1987 Congress passed the law designating the month of March as a time to honor and celebrate women. This is a time to celebrate the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity. [Click here to see the full calendar of SOMA Celebrates Women!](#)

## 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.](#)



## 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.](#)



## Coming Up This Spring—look for details soon on our website

**March:** Presentation on the SOMSD Preschool Program, hosted by the Schools Committee

**April:** Talking to Children about Race, hosted by the Schools Committee

**May:** Conversations on Race on the Racial Wealth Gap: what is it, and how can individuals and organizations work toward long-term solutions

DONATE



Visit our website

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