

The South Orange *Gaslight*



FirstNight goes retro with Victorian ball

Step into the Victorian era when dance was the king of entertainment and everyone knew reels, quadrilles, jigs and waltzes.

This year, FirstNight of Maplewood and South Orange will hold a vintage Victorian ball for adults and children as the centerpiece of the 2009 New Year's Eve celebration. Two pre-ball dance workshops will be offered in November to bring the community up to speed on period dances (see page 2). In December, libraries in both towns will offer Victorian programs to get you in the mood.

Dancers are encouraged to dress in Victorian costumes, and musicians specializing in Victorian dance will be there live and in costume. Partners are not required for

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Calling all visionaries

The Village is developing a vision plan for its business districts — a roadmap for future land use and zoning, overall design strategy, traffic patterns, parking, and development in the central business district, and along Irvington Avenue and Valley Street.

A second public forum is set for Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:30 to 9 p.m., at the South Orange Performing Arts Center Loft. Two additional meetings will be held in early 2009. (The first forum was held Oct. 30.)

The facilitated community conversations and related workshops allow residents and other Village

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Sculpting our artistic cachet

Tony Smith's Tau will be installed Nov. 19 in Meadowland Park

What does South Orange have in common with The Whitney, The Guggenheim, The Hirshhorn and other major art museums? Very soon, a Tony Smith sculpture — this one called "Tau."

The large steel sculpture, valued at more than \$600,000, is scheduled to be installed with a "welcome home" toast on Wednesday, Nov. 19 (time to be announced). Its permanent home will be in Meadowland Park, on the slope between the Duck Pond and North Ridgewood Road.

The installation project will be filmed by PBS for a documentary.

A dedication and celebration will be held in spring after lights, benches and donor plaques have been added to the site.

The sculpture is coming to South Orange because Smith was born here in 1912 and lived and worked in the Village for much of his life. The acquisition is considered an affirmation of South Orange's reputation as an arts destination.

Tony Smith was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century and his sculptures can be found in major museums throughout the world. He was a sculptor, painter and architect who apprenticed with

Frank Lloyd Wright and reached international fame in the sixties and seventies as a sculptor. In 1967, he was dubbed "Master of the Monumentalists" on the cover of Time magazine.

Smith created many of his famous sculptures while living in his family home on Stanley Road in the Montrose district. Prominent artists of the day, including friends Barnett Newman, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Tennessee Williams visited him there regularly. Smith died in 1980.

In 2002, the Lennie Pierro Memorial Arts Foundation proposed a community partnership to the South Orange Board of Trustees to bring Tau to South Orange.

Smith created the original model in 1961 and 1962 using his signature process of joining small cardboard tetrahedrons. The fabricated final product is a black painted steel sculpture measuring 14 feet high by 21 feet wide and 12 feet deep. Another Tau is located in front of Hunter College in New York City where Smith taught.

Contributions to the Tony Smith Sculpture project are still being accepted. To learn more, visit www.tonymithsouthorange.org. ▲

The Gaslight is published 10 times yearly for the residents & business community of South Orange Village.

**November
December
2008**

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Victorian FirstNight

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the workshops or the ball and beginners are welcome.

Along with the ball, FirstNight 2009 will include the traditional celebration of entertainment for all ages — music, drama, comedy, crafts and more. This year's events, on Wednesday, Dec. 31, will take place at South Orange Middle School. Activities for younger children are scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m.; for older kids and adults, 7 to 11 p.m.

A fireworks display at Flood's Hill will be at 7 p.m.

FirstNight is a drug- and alcohol-free celebration, now in its 18th year. Celebrants can attend any and all entertainment venues by purchasing and wearing a FirstNight button — \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, free for children age three and younger.

For information about this year's acts or sites for button purchases, go to www.firstnightmwo.org. ▲

SHU announces Nov. 12 siren test

Seton Hall's emergency public notification system was installed on the campus in late October and the first audible test is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, Nov. 12, followed by another test in January.

University officials are announcing the tests to all households within 3,500 feet of the siren site. Postcards announcing the November and January test dates will be sent to all residents within the radius, and newspaper ads will be placed in the Star Ledger and the News Record.

The siren system was installed to protect the 10,000 people who live, study and work on campus. The siren will produce a variety of alert tones, as well as short pre-recorded voice messages. It prompts people to go to other media for more information. ▲



Two Victorian dance workshops

Learn the steps and the etiquette in preparation for the FirstNight Victorian Ball on New Year's Eve. Internationally known Victorian dance teacher Loretta Holz will conduct two Sunday workshops, Nov. 9 and 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Baird. She will also call the dance the night of the ball.

Attend the workshops alone or with a partner. Adults and children are welcome. Bring comfortable shoes (no rubber soles). The cost is \$5 per session for individuals, and \$10 per family. For more information, call (973) 763-4778, or visit www.first-nightmapso.org.

Village buildings heading for improvement

Facilities improvements are in the works on three Village properties. Look for more information in the next Gaslight.

• **Village Hall** - An architect is now working on design improvements for exterior restoration and interior modification. Funding for final construction depends on a capital bond ordinance to be considered early next year. Interior upgrades will include new heating and air conditioning and a reconfiguration of the warren-like quarters.

• **Baird Center Entry** - An architect is redesigning the main entrance to eliminate the brick wall and ramp installed 20 years ago. A more aesthetic stairway, entry and better accessibility are planned. Asphalt extending from the parking lot to the main entrance will be replaced with an attractive walkway and landscaping. Construction is not yet funded.

• **Public Works Garage** - Roof replacement and solar panels to supply energy are in the works. A proposal from architects and engineers is in hand and the roof construction is partially funded. Grants and incentives are being sought from the state and the Board of Public Utilities for installment of the solar panels. ▲

More forms added to Village website

Several forms frequently requested from the Village Clerk's Office have been newly posted on the Village website:

- Voter registration form
- Absentee ballot application
- Records request form (OPRA)
- Garage sale application
- Filming application
- Block party application
- Vital records application

Three more forms will be added soon: Demonstration Permit application; the Hawkers, Peddlers, Solicitors, Canvassers, Distributors application; and the Multi-Dwelling Landlord Registration form. ▲

Library Events

(973) 762-0230

It's a Victorian tea party!

The Friends of the South Orange Public Library will host a Victorian Tea Party on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. Victorian-era music will be performed by piano virtuoso Lori Sender. Fancy dress is optional, but encouraged. Enjoy tea and period refreshments.

Lecture Series

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Nov. 6 - Professor John Wargacki, "The Poetry of Presidents and Patriots."
- Nov. 13 - New York Times reporter Andy Lehren, "A Toxic Pipeline: Chinese Counterfeit Drugs."
- Nov. 20 - Artists William Coronado and Matthew Lahm, "Hyperbodyism: The Body Signifier."
- Dec. 4 - "The Best of Broadway," musical entertainment by Dan Kram.
- Dec. 11 - New York 1 News host Budd Mishkin, "Profiles on Prominent New Yorkers."
- Dec. 18 - Holiday party.

Movies & Games

Movies are shown every other Wednesday at 1 p.m., as listed below. On in-between Wednesdays, seniors can enjoy Wii lessons and games.

- Nov. 12., "The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean"
- Nov. 26, "The Importance of Being Earnest"
- Dec. 10, "A Christmas Carol"

Regular Programs

- S. O. Book Review Group (adults) - Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m., "Disgrace," by J.M. Coetzee. Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m., "Red River," by Lalita Tademy.
- Children's Storytimes (through Dec. 11): Babies, Wednesdays 10 a.m.; Toddlers, Tuesdays 11 a.m.; Families (all ages), Thursdays 2 p.m.; Seton Stories (all ages), Fridays 10 a.m.

Kids' Holiday Events

- "Color a Turkey" contest. Pick up an entry Nov. 20, color and return by Dec. 1. Grand prize: tickets to SOPAC's production of "The Nutcracker" ballet.
- Victorian Crafts Drop-In. Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., all ages. Hear a reading of "The Velveteen Rabbit" and enter a drawing for tickets to SOPAC's upcoming production of the show.
- "The Secret Garden," a film, to be shown Dec. 26 at 1 p.m.

WINTER SPORTS & ARTS

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Athletic Program Highlights

Programs begin in December. Registration for most is in November. Details online.

- Lacrosse Clinics
- Sunday Indoor Soccer
- Saturday Recreation Basketball Leagues
- Learn to Ski at Mt. Peter, NY
- Pee Wee Tennis
- Platform Tennis
- Jaguar Indoor Track
- Tae Kwon Do

Cultural Arts Program Highlights

More than 30 classes in cultural arts are offered starting the week of Jan. 5. Registration starts Dec. 1. Full details online.

- High School and Adults: Jewelry Making with PMC, Printmaking
- Middle School: Art Expressions, Guitar, Comic Book Capers
- Pre-Elementary: Concocting in Clay, Rhythm Sticks

DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATER

(973) 378-7754, x2228
www.dreamcatcherrep.org

■ *"You Miss Them When They're Not Around."* Jill Olson is broke, pregnant and desperate to start her life over. She has just been offered a lot of money for her broken-down wreck of a house. All she has to do is get rid of the ghost. A spirited comedy about letting go, by Suzanne Bradbeer, author of the 2006 acclaimed production of "Full Bloom." Oct. 31 to Nov. 16. Tickets \$10-\$25.

■ *A Very Special (Holiday) Special.* Celebrate the holidays with an affectionate send-up of traditional holiday television shows. The performance includes music, comedy and general goofiness. Dec. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$15.

2009-2010 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

The Baird's preschool program for South Orange children combines educational and recreational activities. Small classes are offered twice weekly for 2 ½ year olds, three days a week for 3-year-olds, and five times a week for 4- and 5-year-olds. Applications will be accepted Jan. 2 through Jan. 15. A random drawing on Friday, Jan. 16 will determine the order of applicant registration. Details and applications are available at The Baird and online at www.thebaird.org.

PIERRO GALLERY

(973) 378-7754 • www.pierrogallery.org

Crafts at The Baird

Pierro's fabulous holiday museum shop will open Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 4 to 7, from noon to 8 p.m. daily. Buy unique handmade gifts for friends and relatives, or treat yourself to a gift of beauty!

A private preview and sale reception will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. For \$5, get first dibs on the merchandise while savoring hors d'oeuvres and conversation with the artisans. (Free for Friends of the Arts members.)

Book art trip to Newark Library

Take a bus trip with The Baird to "More than Words: Artists' Books and Book Art from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library," on Tuesday, Nov. 18. The bus leaves The Baird at 9 a.m. The \$10 tab includes round-trip transportation. Pre-registration is required.

Librarian and exhibit curator Jared Asch will guide visitors on a tour, allowing them to turn pages and examine the books up close. The dialogue will continue during lunch at a local restaurant (separate fee). The bus will return to The Baird at 1 p.m.

iPaint, iDraw, iSculpt, iPhotograph

Through Nov. 23

Get back to the basics, the sheer joy of creative head and heart expression. Curated by Marco Munoz, the exhibit includes artists Bonnie Maranz (painting), Drew Knapp (drawing), Barbara Wallace (sculpture), and Evonne Davis (photography).

Gallery hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

PENNY PRETZEL PLAYHOUSE

(973) 378-7754

• *Just So Stories* - Thursday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m., performed by Robert Rogers Puppet Company. Enjoy fanciful Rudyard Kipling tales about how animals came to be. Tickets are \$9.

• *Magnificent feats of circus skills* performed by the circus/vaudeville team of Lisa Lou and Liz Bolick, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. Lisa and Liz are members of The Big Apple Circus. Join them for their family fun act. Tickets are \$9.

• *Punch's Magic Lamp* is a puppet show loosely based on the classic tale of Aladdin. Many of its characters and routines are found in traditional Punch & Judy shows. Geared for children of all ages, it will be shown Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$9.

Get green ideas you can use

Summit Avenue resident Ginny Brown has a new solar-panel array atop her home and she has some vital statistics to prove how efficient it is.

Gabe and Meaghan, two 14-year-old Villagers, have started a quiet, hand-powered lawn care service in their neighborhood. They say business is booming.

These "Green Giants" of South Orange are featured on the new website Environment South Orange. Check it out at www.southorange.org/Environment. ▲

Biz buzz

Welcome to four new downtown businesses:

C's Grocery & Produce

307B Irvington Avenue

If you like Caribbean cuisine, now you can get the region's authentic groceries at C's, open since late June. Among the store's unusual specialties are ackee (a fruit that requires cooking), saltfish (often served with ackee), breadfruit, roots juice (akin to peanut punch or sea moss) and sorrel drink. Familiar American fruits and vegetables also are available.

Fusha Home Accents

2-4 West South Orange Avenue

Home decoratives are Fusha's specialties, items such as consoles, mirrors, lamps, candleholders, picture frames, pedestals and more. The store opened in mid-October and the grand opening is scheduled for Nov. 18.

Rita's Ices

121 South Orange Avenue

Opened in late October, this sit-down Rita's will remain open year-round. Treats include regular and sugar-free Italian ices and custard, plus custard-and-ice blends.

Aristocrat Then and Now

320 Irvington Avenue

Opened Sept. 13, the store offers a selection of second-hand furniture, watches, electronics and clothing.

Give us your opinion

Your thoughts on the desired mix of commercial tenants, products and services in South Orange are requested in a 15-question online survey at MainStreetSouthOrange.org. Please take a few minutes to provide your opinion. ▲

friends

of the South Orange Public Library

Dear South Orange Residents,

A warm thank you to all South Orange residents who became members of the Friends of the South Orange Public Library during the last year. We hope that you were able to participate in some of the activities we sponsored and took pleasure in your support of the Library.

The Friends is a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteers devoted to stimulating and enhancing library services for its patrons. The public library does more than provide a place for leisure reading, research and getting answers to homework questions. There are computers for patron use, specialized databases on numerous subjects, meeting space for community activities, stimulating programs for all — seniors, adults, teens and children. We even offer books to download for listening in your car or on your iPod. Along with the Library's trustees, we support activities to renovate and use the town's first library, the Connett building next door to the present library on Scotland Road.

Today, we encourage you to support our organization and the library by becoming a member of the Friends or by renewing your membership. Your tax deductible financial

contribution will help us expand on our past activities, including the annual BOOK BONANZA EXTRAVAGANZA book sale and sponsorship of Big Jeff, a popular children's performer. When you join the Friends, you will support our planned 2009 initiatives, such as:

■ **Children's Room Resources & Activities** – programming support, equipment, books and other materials, including prizes for the summer reading program and a new set of blocks.

■ **Local History Center** – a resource area that documents and catalogues South Orange history with archival services coordinated with the South Orange Historical Society and other groups.

■ **Library Advocacy** - demonstrate your support for the library and its value to South Orange residents.

It's easy to join! Just complete the membership form below and return it to the Friends. Your tax-deductible contribution will directly enhance the activities planned for the South Orange Public Library. Thank you for your support!

Friends of the
South Orange Public Library



Join the Friends of the South Orange Public Library!

Choose your membership level. Note: Pre-school, Student and Lifetime are one-time payments. All other membership levels are yearly dues payments.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school (to age 6) \$3	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (age 7-16) \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member \$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member \$300

☐ **New member** ☐ **Renewal**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Payment Method

☐ Cash ☐ Check

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:
Friends of the South Orange
Public Library, P.O. Box 874,
South Orange, NJ 07079

Contact Us

Email: friends@sopl.org
Phone: 973-762-0230

Thank you for supporting us!

Leaves

A User's Guide to Leaves

by the Environmental Commission, Village of South Orange

We devote enormous amounts of labor, money and pollution to the suburban ritual of removing the leaves and other moisture-retentive organic matter from our lawns, and then replacing it from other sources. Instead, leaves can be mulched in place.

PROBLEMS

Once we burned them. When those hazards became clear, and the Clean Air Act banned leaf burning, the Village began picking up residents' leaves from the street. Now, unfortunately, those costs and hazards have also become clear.

Leaves Pollute the River

Everything that enters our storm-drains eventually flows into the East Branch of the Rahway River, the main stream in our village. Downstream, the river provides drinking water to residents of Rahway and Elizabeth before joining the seashore ecology. But curbside leaves clog the storm drains; bacteria from leaf runoff into the drains pollutes the river; and too many decomposing leaves take oxygen out of the water, suffocating the aquatic life.

Because of runoff pollution to the river, the N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection is severely limiting South Orange's practice of composting our collected leaves at the Recycling Center next to the river. Runoff pollution from leaves is also the reason why you can't put your leaves out for a long period of time now—they must be put out close to pickup day.

S. Orange Leaf Pick Up Budget Items	Current Estimated Annual Costs
5,000 Gallons of diesel fuel	\$20,000
Labor—Regular Time	\$351,023
Labor—Overtime	\$20,000
Private contractor leaf removal	\$71,400
Machine parts	\$2,000
Total	\$464,423

It's Expensive

The Village currently devotes thousands of work-hours and over half a million dollars every year to dispose of the mountains of leaves that residents and their landscapers put in the street. The Village's Department of Public Works (DPW), using trucks and frontloaders, burns thousands of gallons of diesel fuel to do this job, adding soot and other pollution to the air.

Each year, 2500 truck-loads of leaves are picked up by Village from our streets. They bring 16,000 cubic yards of leaves to the Recycling Center. About 12,000 cubic yards of the leaves are then removed from the center by a private contractor, and hauled to an off-site disposal yard. The disposal contract expires in Spring 2010, when our leaf disposal costs are expected to

triple. It's in our best interest to reduce the volume of leaves put out on the street, any way we can.

Traffic Safety

Leaves piled in the streets create multiple hazards for drivers and children. Drivers swerve to avoid leaf piles, endangering pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers. Leaves washed down the street become slick masses at intersections, hindering braking ability. Children play in leaf piles, and drivers can't see them.

For legal, environmental, financial, and safety reasons, we must all work together now to vastly reduce the Village's curbside collection of residents' leaves. There are a variety of ways that you can help by recycling leaves.

Compost Bin Sale Day

Purchase compost bins at cost (\$20 or \$50). Pre-order or request more information by clicking the "Contact Us" box at southorange.org/Environment.

To pick up, buy, or learn about composters, come to the South Orange train station Gazebo on **Nov. 15 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm.**

SOLUTIONS

We devote enormous amounts of labor, money and pollution to the suburban ritual of stripping the leaves and other loose, moisture-retentive organic matter from our lawns and then replacing it, at great expense, from other sources. *Cleanairgardening.com* estimates that 30% of our water usage goes to servicing such landscaping methods.

Is this the best solution for the environment or our pocketbooks? What are the alternatives?

Mowing leaves and letting them mulch into the turf, thereby returning organic matter to the soil, is an environmental triple play—eliminating water pollution and the expense of fertilizing; saving money from reduced lawn watering and eliminating pollution from leaves piled in gutters; saving the Village labor costs and pollution from vehicle exhaust.

Creating perennial garden and shrubbery areas where leaves can remain where they fall is a huge environmental benefit for you, your neighbors, the Village, the river and the sea—eliminating water pollution from fertilizing and from leaf-piles in gutters; saving the money and labor of fertilizing, leaf-blowing, watering, and Village leaf collection and disposal; and eliminating the noise, cost, and air pollution from trucks, mowers and blowers.

Compost leaves in bins to create mulch and gardening humus that correctly replace spent nutrients—eliminating the cost and transportation pollution of re-importing topsoil, the cost and pollution of village leaf collection/disposal, and the water pollution from leaf-pile runoff. Mix nitrogen-rich grass clippings with carbon-rich

dead leaves, to speed the composting process.

“Shredded leaves make great mulch around trees, shrubs and perennials. Leaf mulch is an attractive dark brown and slowly decomposes, releasing nutrients to the plants. A lawn mower with a bag attached is an easy way to chop and pick up leaves simultaneously. After the soil freezes in late November, insulate roses and perennials with crinkly dry leaves instead of straw.” (“Recycling Leaves in the Yard” *www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/hortihints/0010a.html*)

Bag leaves before you put them out by the curb. Many towns in New Jersey require residents to bag their leaves in large biodegradable brown-paper bags. Bagging leaves reduces pickup time and costs, and keeps them from contaminating the river. If you can’t recycle your leaves on site just yet, try brown-bagging your leaves this Fall before putting them out for curbside pickup. Branches, stones, dirt, or other debris, however, may not be bagged with leaves.

SUPPORT

The Environmental Commission encourages in-yard composting through the distribution of small composting units. **Residents interested in purchasing a composter at cost** (\$20 or \$50) can pre-order or request more information by clicking the “Contact Us” box at *southorange.org/Environment*, or come to the Village’s compost-bin sale at the train station Gazebo on Nov. 15 from 9:00-2:00.

At *southorange.org/Environment*, you may ask about **Village homes that model the environmental solutions** that interest you. We will put you in touch with fellow Villagers

who can share their experiences and help you find ways large and small to achieve your own goals for a “greener” lawn and garden.

Need help filling your compost bin? Habitat for Humanity’s chapter at Seton Hall University will rake leaves for South Orange residents—pollution free!—in return for a donation to support their annual trip to create low-income housing for those in need. Contact Karoline Stankiewicz at *stankika@shu.edu* or 973-761-9197.

Of course, there is also the tried-and-true method—our own local **teenagers with rakes!** The money that we spend on noisy, polluting, mechanized landscaping can make local teens with rakes very, very happy!

To learn more, see “Home Composting” at *www.state.nj.us/dep/stormwater/tier_A/pdf/rutgershomecompost.pdf* or visit the South Orange Environmental Commission website at *www.southorange.org/Environment*.



This Gaslight insert is taken, in part, from a larger report, the “2008 Seton Hall University Environmental Studies Senior Capstone Project on the South Orange Recycling Center,” underwritten by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region II.

S.O./Maplewood Adult School

schoolinfo@somadulthoodschool.org • (973) 378-7620

• *"Resurgence of the Left and Democratic Governance: Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia,"* a lecture by Dr. Robert Kaufman, part of the Latin America lecture series, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Columbia High School. Kaufman is a Rutgers political science professor and former member of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study.

• *Elizabeth Brown Pryor* examines the life of Robert E. Lee, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. at Columbia High. Pryor is an award-winning historian and senior diplomat in the American Foreign Service. Her most recent book, "Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee through His Private Letters," has won several prestigious awards.

• *College For A Day*, Nov. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Columbia High. Enjoy a day of stimulating college classes with award-winning teachers and no tests. The day's scholars include Dr. Petra Chu, art history and museum professions, Seton Hall University; Dr. Barry Qualls, English, Rutgers University; Dr. Richard Wolin, history, CUNY; and Tricia Tunstall, author of the critically acclaimed "Note By Note: A Celebration of the Piano Lesson."

On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

• Nov. 7, 8 p.m. — Comedian Paula Poundstone, \$45/\$38.

• Nov. 8, 8 p.m. — Simone Rachael Price, jazz and vocals, \$35/\$28.

• Nov. 9, 3 p.m. — Juilliard@SOPAC: Attacca Quartet, \$15/\$12/\$10.

• Nov. 15, 8 p.m. — Singer/songwriter Suzanne Vega, \$55/\$42.

• Nov. 16, 4 p.m. — Russian American Kids Circus, \$35/\$28.

• Nov. 22, 8 p.m. — Comedian Pat Cooper, \$50/\$45.

• Nov. 23, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., singer/songwriter Judy Collins, \$98/\$78/\$58.

• Dec. 5, 8 p.m. — The Roches, folk, adult contemporary, \$35/\$28.

• Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. — Musicians from Marlboro, classical and chamber music, \$25/\$15/\$8.

• Dec. 10, 7 p.m. — "The Nutcracker," New York Theatre Ballet, \$35/\$28.

• Dec. 11, 8 p.m. — The Lettermen, vocal pop, \$45/\$38.

• Dec. 12, 8 p.m. — Imani Winds, classical and jazz quintet, \$42/\$35.

• Dec. 14, 3 p.m. — Juilliard@SOPAC: Violin and Piano, \$15/\$12/\$10.

• Dec. 19, 8 p.m. — The Duprees, Christmas, Romance and Greatest Hits, \$53/\$48.

• Dec. 21, 1:30 p.m. — The Paper Bag Players, 50th Birthday Show, family theater, \$19.

South Orange-Maplewood Community Coalition on Race

www.twotowns.org • (973) 761-6116, x6

• *Pre-School Open House* - Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Columbia High School Cafeteria. Get help choosing the right school for your youngster.

• *Two Towns Sing-In* - Sunday, Nov. 23, 4 p.m. at South Orange Middle School. Mixed musical traditions combined to strengthen the community. Acclaimed mezzo-soprano Lori Brown Mirabal of Maplewood will be guest soloist. Interested singers can attend three remaining rehearsals, Nov. 5, 12 and 19.

• *MLK Re-enactment* - Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., at Columbia High School cafeteria. Performance and break-out discussions.

• *2008 Holiday Party* - Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at Cryan's Beef & Ale House. Includes buffet dinner, wine and dessert, \$25 per person. Call to reserve.

• *Achievement Gap Study Series* - Facilitated readings, presentations and discussions. Four Thursdays, Jan. 22 to Feb. 12, 7:30 to 9 p.m., at South Orange Middle School Library. No cost; registration and commitment to all four sessions required. Reading list provided upon registration. Professional development hours available for teachers. Register by Jan. 7.

Main Street South Orange

www.MainStreetSouthOrange.org • (973) 763-6899

This holiday season, enjoy three Thursday late-nights, "South Orange Holiday Open House," Dec. 4, 11 and 18. Come downtown and enjoy music and refreshments while you shop. And park for free!

South Orange Symphony

www.southorangesymphony.org

The South Orange Symphony's principal players will perform Saturday, Nov. 22 in the group's season opener. The program includes the "Romanian Rhapsody" #2 by Georges Enescu, Shostakovich's "Festive Overture," Debussy's prelude to "The Afternoon of a Faun," and Beethoven's third symphony, "Eroica." Robert Helmacy will direct the 8:15 p.m. performance at South Orange Middle School.

Events At Seton Hall

• *Three Multicultural Films*, at Walsh Library, all at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10, "Boys Don't Cry." Nov. 24, "The Insider." Dec. 8, "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee." Call (973) 761-9385.

• *"Paperwork,"* a forum to display the wide variety of artistic techniques and materials. Nov. 10 at Walsh Library Gallery, (973) 275-2033 or <http://library.shu.edu/gallery/>.

• *The Jazz Knights*, the renowned West Point jazz band, performs a free concert Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at SOPAC. (973) 313-2787.

• *Paquito D'Rivera* performs Dec. 16, 8 p.m., at SOPAC to launch the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute.

Harvest Ball to benefit Middle School and SOMEF

An evening of fine food, dancing, two live bands and a silent auction is planned for Nov. 14, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., at the second annual South Orange President's Harvest Ball at Orange Lawn Tennis Club.

The ball will benefit the South Orange Middle School's after-school program, as well as enrichment programs of the South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation.

The after-school program allows students to explore interests in science, cooking, art, fashion and music. This year's proceeds also will help establish a Wii fitness room where students can develop good health in the fun, interactive way that many kids prefer.

Harvest Ball tickets are \$125. For reservations, contact Diane Mathews, (973) 327-4078, e-mail the4Mathews@optonline.net or download a registration form at www.SOHarvestBall.org.

It's Girls Night Out - "Shop Sharey"!

The sixth annual Shop Sharey Holiday Gift Bazaar takes place Thursday, Nov. 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, 432 Scotland Road. Shoppers will enjoy tasty treats and wine, while checking out private label brands of jewelry, clothing and bags. All proceeds will benefit the Iris Family Center for Early Childhood Education and the preschool program.

SOCO celebrates MLK

The South Orange Civic Organization will present its 39th annual Martin Luther King celebration, a free public event, on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 3 p.m., at South Orange Middle School. This year's guest speaker is Linda Epps, president and CEO of the New Jersey Historical Society.

During the celebration, SOCO will bestow its annual Beloved Community Award, given to civic leaders who carry out Dr. King's vision. The two recipients are:

• *Audrey Rowe*, program director of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, a long-time community activist.

• *The South Orange-Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Committee*, an organization that brings together South Orange and Maplewood residents of all faiths and families, and honors Holocaust survivors, their liberators, saviors and descendants.





DECEMBER TRADITIONS

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to Editor Robin
Patric, rpatric@
comcast.net,
or call (908)
823-9001

Tree Lighting

Enjoy local choirs, a visit from Santa, hot chocolate and cookies at the Holiday Tree Lighting sponsored by the South Orange Chamber of Commerce. The ceremony starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4 in front of 76 South Orange Avenue.

Village Aglow

Meet your neighbors by the pond at Meadowland Park for Village Aglow. More than 500 luminaries will grace the pond and walkways for six hours on Sunday, Dec. 14. The fun will begin at 4 p.m. with a visit from Santa, followed by seasonal music, cookies, hot chocolate and the lighting of the luminaries at 5:30 p.m. A short fireworks display will begin at 5:45 p.m. ▲

Main Street S.O. wins statewide contest

Congratulations to Main Street South Orange. By signing up the most businesses in a marketing training program, Main Street South Orange became the winner of a statewide Main Street NJ contest. "Destination University" teaches business owners how to increase sales and customer traffic.

As the contest winner among 32 Main Street communities, South Orange has won an in-person visit with Destination founder Jon Schallert, who will meet with all local businesses participating in the training.

The online workshops are available 24/7 and monthly interviews with top business authors and marketing experts are part of the program. Other local businesses can still participate. Call MSSO at (973) 763-6899 for the access code. ▲

New commission would protect S.O. historic buildings

The Village is creating a historic commission to preserve South Orange's historic architecture, a move that will likely affect residents' home improvement planning. A \$40,000 research effort, funded by a matching grant, is being geared up to examine the plan.

The Village is seeking to hire a consultant to conduct five public workshops in the first half of 2009, plus related research in the second half of the year.

The \$40,000 grant includes \$20,000 from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and \$20,000 from the Village.

The need for a historic commission arose during South Orange's ongoing Smart Growth planning effort (see "Visionaries," page 1).

In addition to the public workshops, the research will include consideration of the Village's existing historic character and current uses of various buildings, existing ordinances, the Village master plan and zoning.

Public meeting dates and locations will be announced on the Village website, in local newspapers and in the Gaslight. ▲

Don't forget to vote!

The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 4. If you have a problem at the polls, call the Clerk's Office, (973) 378-7715, or drop by Village Hall to report the incident. The building will be open all day. ▲

Visionaries

Cont'd from page 1

stakeholders to participate in the visioning process. Together, "we can harness everyone's talent and ideas, and collectively steer South Orange toward a bright, vibrant, and environmentally sustainable future," said Village President Douglas Newman.

The vision plan is being modeled on New Jersey's "Smart Growth" principles, which support mixed-use development, walkable town centers, mass transit accessibility, sustainable development and preserved green space.

To produce the plan, the Village is working with a Boston-based planning and design firm, The Cecil Group, which is also conducting workshops and interviews with Village government, neighborhood associations, schools, businesses, property owners, and volunteer groups.

For more information, go to www.southorange.org/vision. ▲

Township of South Orange Village South Orange, NJ 07079



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