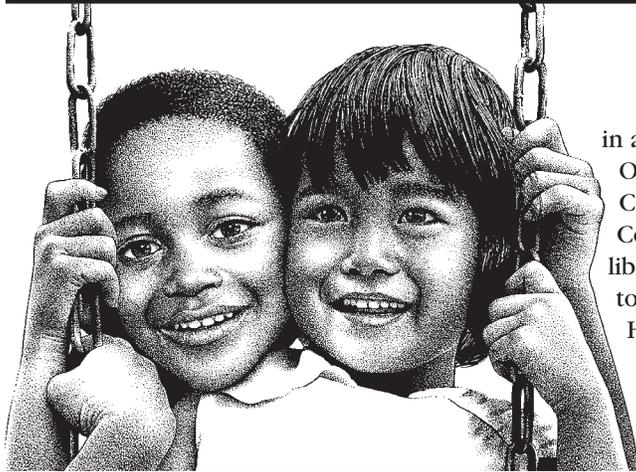


# The South Orange Gaslight



## How Race is Lived in America

### Two Towns / One Book announces its 2005 reading selection

**B**ack in 2000, the New York Times ran a year-long series called "How Race is Lived in America." A year later, the articles became a book by the same title and now that book is the 205 reading selection of Two Towns / One Book.

"A lot of people aren't interested in nonfiction," says South Orange Library Director Melissa Kopecky, "but this is very readable and very engrossing."

In the Times' original series, authors examined the effects of race on everyday life in settings across the country. The book adds the journalists' own stories, how they shaped their articles and what they learned about race in the process. One article by Tamar Lewin, "Growing Up, Growing Apart," featured the personal stories of three Columbia High School students.

For the fourth year in a row, the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition, the public libraries in both towns, and Seton Hall University are coordinating Two Towns / One Book, a community-wide reading program aimed at promoting racial harmony.

To kick-off the reading, two films, each included in this year's Black Maria Film Festival, will be

shown at the South Orange Library on Sunday, July 17. The films are "Hardwood," the story of a former Harlem Globetrotter with two families of two races, and "S.P.I.C.: The storyboard of my life." Audience discussions will follow each film.

More Two Towns events are planned in September:

- An evening of dessert and conversation on Sept. 14 at South Orange Public Library.
- "Let the Church Say Amen," a film and discussion at Maplewood Memorial Library. (Date to be announced.)
- A lecture at Seton Hall featuring journalists who contributed to the series. (Scheduling in the works.)
- A possible presentation by former Columbia High students in the Tamar Lewin article. (Scheduling in the works.)

*Cont'd on page 2*

## BUSINESS spotlight

■ **Niecy's Southern Exposure**, at 65B South Orange Avenue (in the Taylor Place parking lot) has opened for a la carte dining and catering.

Owner Niecy Hampton, a native of Little Rock, Ark., has owned the business for five years. She earned a nod from the New York Times when the restaurant was at its former location on Valley Street. Last summer, she moved across town and re-opened for take-out only.

Now, Hampton has completed renovations on her 7,000-square-foot dining facility, which features two a la carte dining rooms, a banquet hall and conference rooms. There's even a private room, where two to four romantic diners can bring cell phones to notify waiters when they're ready for the next course.

Niecy's features southern favorites like fried or hickory roasted chicken, stuffed pork chops, filleted catfish, and spare ribs - all in extra generous portions. Diners choose two side dishes from a selection of 12.

Current hours are Tuesday to Friday, 4 to 10; Saturday, 2 to 10; and Sunday, 2 to 9. Lunch hours and a weekend brunch will be added soon. For information, call (973) 275-1770.

■ **Pascal's Friends** is a year-old business owned by Tuxedo

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**The Gaslight** is published 10 times a year for the residents and business community of South Orange Village.

**July/August  
2005**

## Inside

■ Dreamcatcher workshops prepare you for fall's audition season

■ Check out our summary of fall sports & cultural programs at Baird

■ Happenings aplenty this summer, including 4 more outdoor concerts

■ CHS students win journalism emmies

■ South Orange Maplewood Baseball Committee named July Villagers of the Month

## Get an edge on theater auditions

Theater audition season is coming again this fall. If you'd like an edge on the competition, Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre is offering its help. Four acting workshops for adults and two for teens – all taught by theater professionals – are offered in July and August.

Registrations may be sent to Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, Baird Center, 5 Mead Street, South Orange, NJ 07079. Or for information, call (973) 378-7754, ext. 2228.

**Audition Success Workshops for Adults** is offered on four Tuesdays. Each unit is \$50, or \$175 for all four.

■ **Presenting... You!** Tuesday, July 19, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Learn to hone the message in an audition or interview. "What are my strengths, my inherent personal qualities? What parts am I most right for? How can I communicate who I am quickly and compellingly?"

■ **Performing A Song.** Tuesday, July 26, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Work with an accompanist and an experienced performer/instructor on one selection of your choice. Learn optimal vocal expression and effective character portrayal through the emotion of song.

■ **The Cold Reading.** Tuesday, Aug. 2, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Learn to make quick, powerful choices when handed an unfamiliar script.

■ **Performing A Monologue.** Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Work on a monologue of your choosing and bring it to life.

**Summer Theatre Slam for Teens** includes two Saturday workshops, each divided into four instructional periods. The fee for each workshop is \$100, or \$175 for both.

■ **The Musical Theatre Blitz.** Saturday, July 16, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Classes include Jazz Dance, Song Performance, Scene Analysis, and Putting It All Together. Current Broadway musicals will be used for material.

■ **The Drama Blitz.** Saturday, Aug. 20, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Using a well-known American play as material, the day's instruction will include Physical Characterization, Voice and Speech, Scene Analysis, and Putting It All Together. ▲



## A sample catalogue

### FALL PROGRAMS AT THE BAIRD

Offered by the South Orange Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs

Registration for most programs begins Aug. 1. For complete listings, log on to <http://southorange.recware.com>

#### CULTURAL ARTS

More than 25 cultural arts classes for adults and children will be offered this fall. Arts professionals in each field provide exceptional guidance at great value.

For adults, the highlights include "Art with a Master," taught by Philip Sherrod whose careful critiques help beginners and advanced students; glass bead making with a torch; book arts workshops; and flamenco dancing.

For high school students, there will be drawing and bas-relief sculpture; for pre-schoolers, art classes, dance, sing-alongs and creative movement.

Classes begin the week of Sept. 19 and registration starts in August. Details on these and other programs will soon be available on the Web. Also, more info will be printed in the next Gaslight. ▲

#### Two Towns / One Book

*Cont'd from page 1*

Copies of "How Race Is Lived in America" can be borrowed at the South Orange and Maplewood libraries, or purchased at discount at Goldfinch Books in Maplewood. Other pass-around copies will be available this summer at the South Orange pool and train stations.

"When you pick up the book," said Kopecky, "pick up the Two Towns / One Book 2005 button to show what you are reading."

For more information call the South Orange Library at (973) 762-0230, or send e-mail to [librarian@sopl.org](mailto:librarian@sopl.org). ▲

#### SPORTS

Programs for adults and children include baseball, basketball, adult softball, flag football, karate, soccer, yoga, tennis and senior fitness. Get details on these and other programs on the Web.

#### Soccer & Basketball registration already underway

• South Mountain Soccer. Sign-up deadline, Aug. 1, or when the program is fully enrolled, whichever comes first. Play begins the week after Labor Day. A modified program for kindergartners is included for the first time, beginning in late September.

• Three one-week basketball camps are offered from late July to early August for first to eighth graders.

#### New B-Ball Courts

New basketball courts located next to The Baird will soon be ready for play. Boundary lines, backboards and fencing are still to come. When renovations are finished, outdoor programs for children and teens will begin. They include Saturday basketball clinics for children in first to sixth grades and evening three-on-three leagues for middle school and high school. ▲

#### Bring home summer's best food

The Main Street South Orange Farmers Market is open every Wednesday from 2:30 to 7 p.m. Four farms offer fresh New Jersey produce, flowers, pies and baked goods. Two specialty vendors offer prepared foods, breads, cheese, pickles and pickled vegetables.

The market is located at the Meadowland Park duck pond. For more information, contact Main Street at (973) 763-6899 or visit [MSSO@SouthOrange.org](mailto:MSSO@SouthOrange.org). ▲

# Happenings

## **E**njoy a tasting sensation!

For just \$3 a plate, you, your family and friends can sample some of the world's great cuisines during "A Taste of South Orange," the annual showcase for the Village's growing diversity of restaurants. Main Street South Orange is sponsoring the event, which kicks off at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, at Spiotta Park and South Orange Avenue.

The Tomoko Ohno and Andres Boiarsky Quartet will perform during the tasting. For more information, visit Main Street's Web site at [mssso@southorange.org](mailto:mssso@southorange.org) or call (973) 763-6899.

## **T**wo comedies at Seton Hall

Two comedies will be presented this summer by Seton Hall Theater in the Round. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for children under 12.

- "Come Blow your Horn," a Broadway comedy by Neil Simon. July 8, 9, 10 and July 15, 16, 17.

- "Out of Sight, Out of Murder," a mystery comedy by Fred Carmichael. July 29, 30, 31 and Aug. 5, 6, 7.

## **PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE**

(973) 378-7754

**May 29 - July 17**

### **Realities of Our Times: A Closer Look**

Four artists examine social issues of the past and present. Their themes include urban living, mass media, war and the homeless.

- Marcia Annenberg - painting
- Tim Gaydos - painting, drawing
- Shakeh Sassoon - painting, drawing, mixed media
- Helen Stummer - photography

*The Baird presents*

## **2005 SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES**

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to Flood's Hill for four remaining musical evenings under the stars. Sample the fare of our local restaurateurs. Dining begins at 7 p.m. each night. Rain Site: South Orange Middle School, adjacent to the park.

**July 13, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Jonny Rosch and Friends**

They'll be stompin' in the grass with this hottest of R&B groups.

**July 20, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Crooked Still**

Enjoy the sounds of bluegrass and traditional/contemporary folk, styled with unique vocals, cello, banjo and double bass.

**July 27, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Dave Stryker and Trio Mundo**

Groove to a funky and eclectic blending of jazz, Latin and world rhythms.

**August 3, 7 p.m.**

### **Tango Tonight!**

**Presented by The Baird, SOPAC and Teatro Si**

The passion of Argentine tango comes to life! Beginner instructions, 7 p.m.; dance performance, 7:30 p.m.; music and freestyle dancing, 7:45 p.m.



*Hudson Shakespeare Co. presents*

## **S**hakespeare in the Park

- **July 19, Richard III**
- **August 23, Love's Labour's Lost**

Both shows at 7:30 p.m. Meadowland Park • No rain site [www.hudsonshakespeare.org](http://www.hudsonshakespeare.org)

## **S**OMBI meeting July 14

The South Orange Maplewood Business Incubator will meet July 14 and Aug. 12, at 7 p.m. SOMBI is a networking and mentoring group for at-home entrepreneurs - those in business and those preparing to start up. Meetings are at Here's 2 the Arts, 97 Baker Street, Maplewood. A \$5 donation is requested. Call Ed May (973) 761-1774 or Liz LeClair (973) 378-8465. Or visit [www.Sombi.org](http://www.Sombi.org).

## Village children's author honored

Villager Sudipta Bardhan has been honored by "Highlights for Children," the largest-circulation children's periodical in the country. Her article, "The Osage Firebird," published in June 2004, was named "Best Biography Feature of the Year" by the Highlights editorial, art and production staff.

Bardhan is a freelance writer and mother of two toddlers who holds bachelor and master degrees in biology from the California Institute of Technology. Her book "Champion Science Fair Projects" was published this spring by Sterling Publishing. Her first picture book, "Tightrope Poppy," will be published in Spring 2006. ▲

## Want a voice in nat'l voting policy?

If you'd like a voice in developing national guidelines on public voting systems, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission is soliciting your comment. The EAC has just released its proposed Voluntary Voting System Guidelines and will accept public comments for 90 days.

EAC's existing guidelines are being updated and proposed changes include issues such as accessibility for the disabled, voting security, and best practices for voting officials. Final adoption will be in October.

To review the proposal, go to [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov), then e-mail your comments to [votingsystemguidelines@eac.gov](mailto:votingsystemguidelines@eac.gov). For a hard copy of the proposal, call EAC at (866) 747-1471. ▲

## Final 'Container Days'

The season's final Saturday Container Days are July 23, Aug. 27 and Sept. 24. The South Orange Public Works Department encourages residents to discard unwanted household items at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 378-7741. ▲

## Library Groups

■ S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. "Gone with the Wind," by Margaret Mitchell; Sept. 12, "Birth of Venus," by S. Dunant.

■ Star Book Group (grades six and up) – Sept. 9, 4 p.m., book to be announced.  
• Young Adults Book Discussion - July 28, 7 p.m., "Eragon," by Christopher Paolini.

■ Open Stage Teen Poetry Reading (9th grade and up) – June 21 and Aug. 18, 7 p.m.

■ Creative Writing Class with local author Holly Scalera – third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. No experience necessary.

## CHS students win journalism Emmies

Columbia



High School students have won two of seven national awards for outstanding television journalism among high school students. The awards were given in June by The Foundation of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

In the public service category, Ashley Good won for her video, "Eat Your Vegetables." In the Excellence in News category, Rebecca Hilton and Alessandra Bellizia won for "Silent Night."

Honorable Mentions went to Michael Rubin and Campbell Morrissy for "Gambling Your Life Away" (sports category) and to Anna Robilotta and Maura Flanagan for "Studio Soap" (arts and entertainment).

## Student volunteers honored

Thirteen CHS seniors have been honored for volunteer service by the Village Club of South Orange and The Unity Club of Maplewood. They are Elizabeth Anyanwu, Alissa Cooper, Jordan Filko, Rebecca Hilton, Angela Holtz, Sarah Holzman, Claire Hyman, Alissa Lance, Bara Levitt, Hilary Neher, Sara Okin, Alexandra Robinson and Neema Roshania.

## In The Schools

## Girls track team named county champs

The Columbia High School girls' track and field team has captured the Essex County Championship for the second year in a row. Their total score was 134 points, compared to second-place West Orange at a distant 59 points.

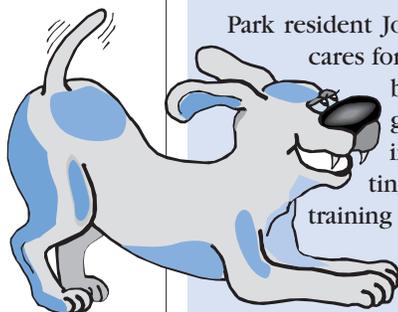
Ogechi Nwaneri won two first-place awards in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Other first-place winners were Elana Cooper, long jump; and Ariel Duncan, Bianca Stewart, Elana Cooper and Ashley Newby, the school's 4x400 team.

## Best school nutrition program in the state

The School District of South Orange and Maplewood was recently named the top nutritional school district in the state by Governor Richard Codey. The governor visited South Orange Middle School to announce the state's new school nutrition policy to be implemented in the 2006-2007 school year. Food services manager Pat Johnson created the program, now largely adopted in the state's new lunchroom policy. Johnson is one of 12 members of the national Alliance for School Foodservice Leadership and also chairs the Essex County chapter of the School Nutrition Association of New Jersey. ▲

## BUSINESS spotlight

Cont'd from page 1



Park resident Joanne Kent, who cares for dogs, cats, birds, and even gerbils. Services include pet sitting, grooming, training and transportation to doctor appointments.

The business is named after Kent's dog Pascal. "I love animals and it's

very important to me that every pet I care for is treated with the same love that I give Pascal."

Kent differentiates her business from what she terms "mass walkers," pet caregivers who walk five to ten dogs at a time. She promises never to care for more than one pet or an existing family of pets at the same time. Yet, "Our rates are competitive with the mass walkers." For information, call (973) 763-9073, or send e-mail to [PascalsFriends@aol.com](mailto:PascalsFriends@aol.com). ▲

## In Touch

with  
Village  
Government

**General Info.**  
(973) 378-7715  
**Emergency, 911**  
**Clerk's Office, x1**  
**Administrator, x2**  
**Construction, x3**  
**Tax Collector, x4**  
**Assessor, x5**  
**Welfare, x5**  
**Finance, x6**  
**Engineer, x7**  
**Parking Auth., x8**  
**Health Officer**  
**x2012**  
**Animal Control**  
**378-7745**  
**Fire Dept.**  
**378-7751**  
**Library**  
**762-0230**  
**Police Dept.**  
**378-7775**  
**Public Works**  
**378-7708**  
**Recreation &**  
**Cultural Affairs**  
**378-7754**  
**Recycling Info. &**  
**Street Dept.**  
**378-7741**  
**Water Service**  
**266-8869**

To submit  
information for  
**The South  
Orange  
Gaslight**,  
send to Editor  
Robin Patric,  
c/o Village Hall

### Villagers of the Month

## The South Orange Maplewood Baseball Committee

One thousand children, 80 teams and 200 volunteer coaches. Those are whopping numbers for a youth baseball league serving just two small towns, and that's how successful the South Orange Maplewood Baseball Committee is.

Formed in South Orange in 2003, the dynamic 17-member committee is the unseen drive behind all youth baseball scheduling, facilities, tryouts, coaching, umpiring, registration, communication and fund-raising.

In fact, they are such a well-oiled machine that their template of operations will soon be used to re-energize community basketball.

"The overwhelming achievement of this group has been to keep the kids first and foremost," said South Orange Recreation Director Andy Brady. "There are no personal agendas. Each person has a role and gets the job done."

From the start, the committee decided to combine the two towns' involvement as a way to increase participation. The result has been exciting shared experiences and closer ties across town borders.

The committee affiliated with the national Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth organization, which provides a framework of skills, standards, and enjoyment for children ages 5 to 15: T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, Majors and Babe Ruth.

All coaches must complete a Rutgers training course and the committee has its own umpire training program.

Their Web site has received 55,000 hits from parents and players who regularly check schedules, league standings, upcoming events and photos.

Ongoing raffles and sales of league shirts and hats have allowed the committee to purchase a new batting cage and two pitching machines. Their next fund-raising

foray will be a snack bar to accommodate spectators.

With so many teams participating, 90 percent of the competition remains within the two towns. The playing season is April through June, with registration, tryouts and drafting from January through March. A carefully selected all-star team competes in surrounding communities in June and July.

In recognition of their extraordinary devotion, 12 volunteer members of the South Orange Maplewood Baseball Committee were recently honored as July Villagers of the Month.

From South Orange are Charles Tamayo, vice president; Craig Gruber, secretary; Bonnie Tessler, Web master; Steve Coleman, scheduling; Frank Rodino, facilities; Stony Johnson, tryouts; Rob Ozer, coaching; and Mark Elman, umpiring.

From Maplewood: Mike Lashinsky, registration and publicity; Peter Schmidt, summer program; Randy Faust, fund-raising; and

Gary Walz, member at large.

Five additional committee members are hard-working Village employees not eligible for the volunteerism award.

Our thanks to all members for positively impacting the lives of so many youngsters in our two communities. ▲

**Committee secretary and volunteer coach Craig Gruber teaches Villager Montana Timpson how to properly swing a bat.**



**Township of South Orange Village  
South Orange, NJ 07079**

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South Orange, NJ

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Local 07079**



**Village Web Site:** [www.southorange.org](http://www.southorange.org)  
**E-mail for Village Administrator:** [jgross@southorange.org](mailto:jgross@southorange.org)