

# The South Orange Gaslight



## This holiday season, get artistic: Shop The Baird!

Do you want another stuffed bear dressed in your favorite sports gear? Or a giant tin of caramel popcorn to tempt you off your diet?

Of course not! So, this holiday season, give what you'd like to get: gifts with style!

Plenty of new artisans will be featured in Pierro Gallery's 13th annual Crafts at The Baird, taking place Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 7 to 10.

From the practical to the artistically sublime, there's something for everyone on your list. Choose from contemporary art quilts, jewelry, ceramics, hand-painted silks, wood and woven pieces, glass and wood ornaments, metal wall sculptures, hand-made paper journals and stationery.

The sale is Pierro's major annual fundraiser; buyers help support

gallery exhibits and special programs offered throughout the year.

Hours are noon to 8 p.m. daily. Admission is free.

Preceding the four-day sale will be the kick-off preview sale on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. For a \$5 admission fee, previewers will have first dibs on artistic buys while savoring a festive evening of hors d'oeuvres and conversation with the artisans. ▲

## Adena Traub heads Main Street South Orange



Adena Traub has been elected president of the Main Street South Orange Board of Directors. She succeeds Rob Fisch who held

the position for five years.

Traub is a professional event planner with a long list of corporate clients.

For the last year, she chaired Main Street's promotions committee, which develops many of the down-

town events the nonprofit is known for.

Traub, her husband Matt (who serves on the redevelopment committee) and their son Jonah have lived in South Orange for three years.

"South Orange is a wonderful community and I am thrilled to be working with such a great group of people to make it an even better place to live and work," she said.

Fisch will remain on MSSO's board, co-chairing the design committee. ▲

## Seasonal Events

### ■ 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, Nov. 30, 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. 10. 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.

### ■ S. Orange Illumination '07

On New Year's Eve, South Orange Productions will stage its five-year-old tradition of creating a luminous pathway into the coming year. If you did not receive a flier about the wax-paper-bag-and-candle luminaries, there's still time to join the fun.

Call for an order form at (973) 761-5970, or send e-mail to [soproductions@optonline.net](mailto:soproductions@optonline.net). Be sure to leave your name, address and phone number. ▲

## New parking lot coming

Now that demolition of the former Gulf gas station at Valley and Third streets is complete, the Village will be turning the site into a much-needed parking lot. More than 50 spaces will be created for a variety of uses.

The construction work will go out to bid later this fall. The start date will be weather-dependent. ▲

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

**November  
2006**

## Inside

■ Beth El celebrates its 60th

■ Three local theater companies offer December stage productions

■ SOPAC launches its inaugural season

■ PBS' David Brancaccio speaks at CHS on Nov. 15

■ Marilyn Lehren named Villager of the Month

## Village Web site offers new features

A search engine, better access to public documents and individual department pages have been added to the Village Web site: [www.southorange.org](http://www.southorange.org).

The search engine, located in the upper right corner of the home page, offers simple and advanced search options, in current and archived files.

A new weblink interface accesses public documents. Simply click the "public documents" section of the "government" drop-down menu on the home page, then search by word or phrase.

Individual department Web pages are being updated. Residents should check back frequently to see the additions. ▲

## Beth El celebrates a mighty milestone

It was 1946 when 20 families began gathering at the home of hardware store owners Stanley and Jennie Beck to hash out plans for a local house of worship and religious school. The fledgling synagogue held its first High Holiday service in that year in rented space at the old Masonic lodge, at Prospect Street and Irvington Avenue.

At first, with no rabbi or cantor, congregants conducted their own services for as many as 250 worshippers, including many from neighboring towns.

Now on its 60th year, Congregation Beth El, has grown to 525 families, many of whom gathered on Nov. 3 and 4 to celebrate the synagogue's proud history and bright future.

Within a year of organizing, the new congregation began planning for a permanent building with prayer space, a Hebrew school, a library and community room. They found a 60,000-square-foot site on Irvington Avenue and raised \$250,000 to build the permanent



## FLYING SHIP PRODUCTIONS

(973) 378-7754

### ■ Winter Wonderland -

Sunday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m.  
Join modern-day Alice as she searches for the real meaning of the holiday

season. This multicultural holiday musical based on Lewis Carroll's classic is recommended for ages 3 to 11. Tickets are \$8.

## DREAMCATCHER

(973) 378-7754, x2228 • [www.DreamcatcherRep.org](http://www.DreamcatcherRep.org)

### ■ A Very Special (Holiday) Special

- Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, at 8 p.m.  
Enjoy the kind of holiday specials they used to make, with seasonal songs, comic sketches and improv. Catch the spirit of good old-fashioned fun with this affectionate send-up of television's traditional holiday shows. All tickets are \$15. Call (973) 378-7754, x2228, or visit [www.DreamcatcherRep.org](http://www.DreamcatcherRep.org).

## PENNY PRETZEL PLAYHOUSE

(973) 378-7754

### ■ Super Circus Stuff with Mr.

**Fish**, Thursday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m. Mr. Fish, also known as John Lepiarz, blends circus skills, magic and music to amaze and amuse children, adults and occasionally cats. (You have to see the show!) Mr. Fish has performed in the ring of Big Apple Circus and theaters across the U.S., Canada and Asia. Tickets are \$8 each.

## REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL & KINDERENRICHMENT

(973) 378-7754 • <http://www.thebaird.org>

Applications for 2007-2008 Kinder-enrichment and Preschool at The Baird will be accepted Jan. 22 to 25. A random drawing of applications will determine who registers for the space-limited programs. Details and applications are on The Baird Web site.

The Baird Preschool program combines educational and recreational activities. Small classes are offered twice weekly for two-year-olds, three days a week for three-year-olds, and five times a week for four- and five-year-olds.

Kinderenrichment is available to South Orange children who will be entering kindergarten in the local school district next fall. Playful learning reinforces the kindergarten experience. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered, two and three times a week.

## PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE

(973) 378-7754, x3 • [www.pierrogallery.org](http://www.pierrogallery.org)

### Paintings Emerge

*Through Nov. 26*

Four artists - John Day, Sue Jin Jo, Judith Kalina, and Neil Korn - use layered surfaces, rich colors, and at times, groping forms, to represent a personal expose.

Visiting hours are Friday to Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., or by appointment.



home still used today. It was dedicated in April 1949 in a ceremony attended by Governor Alfred Driscoll.

By 1953, a more elegant sanctuary was added and The New York Times heralded its contemporary architecture and "richness of expression."

Beth El's rabbis have included Theodore Friedman for 16 years, Jehiel Orenstein for 35 years, and now Rabbi Francine Roston and Cantor Perry Fine.

Members reflect proudly on being a driving force in creating the annual South Orange-Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service; Voices in Harmony, a community interfaith vocal ensemble; and last year's rally for Israel. They also host a Holocaust survivors group and support a local food pantry.

To everyone at Beth El from the Village of South Orange, congratulations on your 60th anniversary! ▲



## David Brancaccio,

host of the PBS weekly news magazine NOW, will speak Wednesday, Nov. 15, on "The Death of Journalism and Why It Matters to Our Community, Our Country, Our World."

The 7:30 p.m. presentation at Columbia High School is sponsored by the South Orange Maplewood Adult School. Tickets are \$13. For information, call (973) 378-7620 or visit [www.somadultschool.org](http://www.somadultschool.org). ▲

### LIBRARY LIBRARY LIBRARY

(973) 762-0230

### WEB WONDERS

A world of cool resources is available to you 24/7 at [www.sopl.org](http://www.sopl.org). Download audio-books. Check the card catalog. Get information not available on the open Web, using the reference tab. Find a complete calendar of events. Get reading suggestions.

Or how about this? Gather friends or schoolmates and request your own custom-designed class, generally two to 12 people. Learn research techniques, how to create mailing lists, use PowerPoint, find out about digital photography, or whatever you'd like to learn.

### LECTURE SERIES

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Nov. 16 – "The Ethics of Writing for Children," Meredith Sue Willis.
- Nov. 30 – "Wall Street Journal Investigations: Profile on Warren Buffet, Worldcom and Others," WSJ investigative reporter and writer, Susan Pulliam.
- Dec. 7 – "Literature with a Capital L," Tom Henthorne and Jonathan Silver, Pace University English professors.
- Dec. 14 – "Fighting the Man: People vs. Multinational Companies in Equador and Colorado," Drew University anthropology professor Maria Masucci.

### REGULAR PROGRAMS

- S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. "Cider House Rules," by John Irving.
- Open Stage Teen Poetry Reading (9th grade and up) – Dec. 21, 7 p.m.
- Children's Storytimes: Kindergarten, Mondays, 11 a.m.; Toddlers, Tuesdays 11 a.m.; Preschool, Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.; Babies, Wednesdays 10 a.m.; Families, Wednesdays 2 p.m. ▲

## SOPAC launches its inaugural season

The South Orange Performing Arts Center will launch its inaugural season with "Music of Two Worlds," a fundraising gala on Thursday, Nov. 16, featuring a global list of musicians: Latin jazz saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera, Chinese cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the wind ensemble Imani Winds, Israeli pianist Alon Yavnai and soprano Brenda Feliciano. Tickets are \$250, \$500 or \$750.

Upcoming stage performances at SOPAC include:

- ☛ Christine Lavin & Friends (folk music), Nov. 18.
- ☛ Dirty Sock Funtime Band (children's music), Nov. 19.
- ☛ Stacey Ken, cabaret vocalist (holiday music), Dec. 10.
- ☛ Leon Redbone, blues, ragtime and jazz, Dec. 14.
- ☛ Bergen County's Pro Art Chorale, "The Messiah," Dec. 16.
- ☛ The Western Wind (a cappella vocal sextet), "A Chanukkah Story," Dec. 17.

For the complete schedule or tickets, call (973) 313-ARTS, visit [www.sopacnow.org](http://www.sopacnow.org), or go to the box office at 1 SOPAC Way. ▲

## Benefit for Angela Bofill



Three years ago, jazz vocalist Angela Bofill performed in front of a packed house at the Seth Boyden Demonstration School to raise funds for the school's music department. Her generosity in behalf of the school endeared her to the local audience. Since then, she has suffered a stroke and has no medical insurance.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m., a benefit concert will be held at Maplewood Middle School to support the school and the Angela Bofill Recovery Fund. The night's performers will include Melba Moore, jazz and R&B star Phil Perry, Ray Goodman & Brown, flutist Dave Valentin, jazz guitarist Jeff Golub, and sax man Marion Meadows. South Orange resident John Lee, along with Nat Aderly, will perform as part of the Angela Bofill Band. The event will be hosted by WBSL personality Vaughn Harper.

Bofill herself will be in the audience but will not perform.

Tickets are available online at [www.liveatnight.com](http://www.liveatnight.com). To charge by phone, call (973) 761-6801. ▲

## Mozart & More!

The South Orange Symphony's first concert of the 2006 – 2007 season will be Saturday, Nov. 18, at 8:15 p.m., at South Orange Middle School's Sterling Hall. On the program are works by Mozart and Schubert, Weber's "Oberon," and Strauss' "Tales from the Vienna Woods." Admission is free. Arrive early for pre-concert chamber music in the lobby at 7:45 p.m. For information, call (973) 378-2772, or visit [www.southorange-symphony.org](http://www.southorange-symphony.org). ▲

### Multicultural Film and Lecture Series

Each free presentation begins at 6:30 p.m., in the Beck Room of Walsh Library. Call (973) 761-9385.

- Nov. 13 – NYU cinema studies Professor Ed Guerrero, "The Burden of Representation."
- Nov. 20 – Film, "Brokeback Mountain."
- Nov. 21 – Film, "Broken Flowers."
- Nov. 27 – Film, "Lone Star."
- Dec. 4 – Film, "Control Room."

■ Nov. 14 - The chamber music group, Musicians from Marlboro, will perform works by Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart and Bartok, at SOPAC. Visit [arts.shu.edu/artscouncil](http://arts.shu.edu/artscouncil).

■ Nov. 15 - Poetry-in-the-Round hosts poet, author and mortician Thomas Lynch, 7 p.m., Walsh Library. Admission is free. Call (973) 761-5105.

■ Nov. 28 - The Dick Hyman and Ray Kennedy Jazz Piano Duo performs at 8 p.m. in Jubilee Hall. Call (973) 313-6338.

■ Dec. 1-3 and 6-9 - "The O'Connor Girls," a Christmas comedy by Katie Forgette. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m., at SOPAC. Regular admission is \$15; \$12 for seniors. Visit [arts.shu.edu/artscouncil](http://arts.shu.edu/artscouncil).

■ Dec. 10 - Seton Hall Touring Choir will perform at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, at 4 p.m. Suggested donation, \$5. Call (973) 761-9417. ▲

## South Orange artist featured in SHU exhibit

The image of a politician is more than just a portrait. So says Village artist Florence Weisz whose artwork is displayed in a Seton Hall exhibit called "Inter-Aktiv." The juried show at Walsh Library includes 11 artists working in collage, digital art, sculpture and painting.

One example of Weisz' art, "BushBush Interactive," mirrors, multiplies and reassembles George Bush's image to express the confusion and distortion of public personas.

Her "Presidential Manipulations" also include "face part" studies of Ronald Reagan, Ross Perot and Bill Clinton. The public is invited to rearrange the parts as part of the participatory intention of the exhibit.

The show extends through Dec. 15. Call (973) 275-2033 or visit [www.library.shu.edu/gallery](http://www.library.shu.edu/gallery). ▲



## Villager of the Month

# Marilyn Lehren

There's magic in the Village on Thursday mornings. People are forgetting themselves and living in the moment. They're singing, clapping, stomping, wiggling and dancing.

Rows of preschoolers, nannies, stay-at-home moms and dads; tenors, sopranos and excited wee vocalists. They're ringing out in chords of joy.

"I often don't even sing," says magic-maker and guitarist Marilyn Lehren. "I just let the voices fill the room."

"Songs and Stories," Marilyn's one-hour weekly program has bolted to the top as one of the South Orange Public Library's most popular programs.

When she started three years ago, Marilyn sometimes brought her own nieces and nephews just to fill the room. Now, as she drives into the neighborhood, "I see people pushing strollers and I get a little nervous."

Fortunately, "I have reserved parking on Thursday mornings. That's very cool."

A Village resident for eight years, Marilyn is a former journalist for the Trenton Times and Philadelphia Business Journal. When she and husband Andy began a family six years ago, she started volunteering at the library.

"They do so many good programs. I had time. I asked if they'd be interested in someone with a guitar coming in doing stories and singing songs."

Pretty soon, "It evolved into rock and roll for little readers," jokes Marilyn, but there really aren't stories any more.

The music is Bob Marley, the Beatles, Tom Chapin, Dan Zanes, Rebecca Frezza - all "great children's song writers.

"I borrow," says Marilyn. "It's a



library."

She strums a guitar called "Walter," named after her father, and knows that "the kids connect to that" because "they name their dolls and trucks. They may not know my name, but they know Walter."

Her talents also have provided unexpected public benefits. Often, at the end of her library session, she opens her guitar case and people drop in quarters and dollars bills. She raised more

than \$100 for a New Orleans library damaged by Hurricane Katrina and contributed toward a new sound system for the Village library.

Though she downplays her musical talents - "I play four chords and I play them really well" - Marilyn has segued from journalism to a new career. She teaches music to children and young adults at Jespy House, and to preschoolers at The Baird. She also helps lead the children's choir at St. Andrew and Holy Communion Church.

"I don't ever want to have to give it up," she said. "I'm doing something joyful." ▲

## Mucci & Toledano named scholarship semifinalists

Columbia High School seniors Sarah Mucci and Anna Toledano have been named semifinalists in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. Their high scores on last year's Preliminary SATs allow them to compete for this year's 8,000 college scholarships sought by 16,000 semifinalists nationwide.

Another 18 CHS seniors received letters of commendation for their high PSAT scores and exceptional academic promise. ▲

## Two Towns sing-in

Singers from novice to professional are welcome to join the South Orange-Maplewood Community Coalition on Race for an evening of American choral music on Monday, Nov. 13, at the Burgdorff Cultural Center, 10 Durand Road, in Maplewood. For time and other details, visit [www.twotowns.org](http://www.twotowns.org). ▲

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**Administrator, x2**  
**Construction, x3**  
**Tax Collector, x4**  
**Assessor, x5**  
**Welfare, x5**  
**Finance, x6**  
**Engineer, x7**  
**Parking Auth., x8**  
**Health Officer**  
**x2012**  
**Animal Control**  
**378-7775, x7745**  
**Fire Dept.**  
**378-7751**  
**Library**  
**762-0230**  
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**Cultural Affairs**  
**378-7754**  
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**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

Township of South Orange Village  
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