

The South Orange Gaslight



SOPAC movie theaters offer \$1 preview films

The South Orange Performing Arts Center officially opens Nov. 3, but for movie buffs, the fun starts early! Clearview Cinemas will host a preview celebration, "Hollywood Comes to South Orange," from Oct. 27 to 31, offering \$1 films plus \$1 popcorn and soda.

Seven films will be shown and Clearview will donate proceeds back to SOPAC.

Tickets can be purchased at the Clearview Cinemas South Orange 5 box office beginning Oct. 26. The complete preview schedule is:

- Indiana Jones. Fri-Sun: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. Mon-Tue: 5:00, 7:30.
- The Godfather. Fri-Sun: 1:00, 4:30, 8:15. Mon-Tue: 4:30, 8:15.
- West Side Story. Fri-Sun: 12:15,



3:15, 6:45, 9:45. Mon-Tue: 3:15, 6:45.

- Over the Hedge. Fri-Sun: 12:45, 2:45, 4:45. Mon-Tue: 4:45.

- Moonstruck. Fri-Sun: 7:00, 9:15. Mon-Tue: 7:00.

- Shrek. Fri-Sun: 11:45, 1:45, 3:45. Mon-Tue: 3:45.

- Garden State. Fri-Sun: 7:15, 9:30. Mon-Tue: 7:15.

On Nov 3, Clearview will begin featuring first-run mainstream, independent and arts films at regular prices. For more information, visit www.clearviewcinemas.com.

Tickets for SOPAC theater programming can be ordered now at (973) 313-ARTS, or online at www.sopacnow.org. The box office opens Nov. 1 at #1 SOPAC Way.

SOPAC is located adjacent to the downtown South Orange NJ Transit train station, behind the central business district. The full facility consists of one live-performance theater with 415 seats and the five-screen 600-seat cinema complex. ▲

Leaf removal season starts Oct. 23

This year's leaf removal season is Oct. 23 through Dec. 11. Pickup cycles are estimated at 11 days.

Any rake-out after Dec. 11 will be in violation of municipal ordinances. For more information, check the leaf collection Web page, www.southorange.org/leafcollection, or call the leaf removal hotline, (973) 378-7501. The information is updated daily.

If you live on a county road, call (973) 239-3366.

Leaf Collection Rules & Regs, page 2

Biz buzz

Welcome to the newest Village businesses!

- Terence Allen Catering & Eatery, 10 Sloan

Street. Create your own burritos, salads or wraps. Lunch and dinner plate and chef's specials change daily.

- Harrar Café, 11 Village Plaza. The Ethiopian cuisine features a wide selection of vegetarian dishes, as well as chicken, beef, lamb and seafood, all sautéed in abesha (Ethiopian) spices. Bring your own wine.

- South Mountain Yoga, 9 Scotland Road. Anusara-style hatha yoga is taught by nine teachers. Adult classes are offered seven days a week; children's classes three days, plus birthday parties.

- St. Clair Kitchen & Home Studio, 110A Valley Street (between 2nd & 3rd). The kitchen design boutique offers design, materials, construction, project management and interior decorating. Additional stores are in Maplewood, Short Hills, Millburn and West Orange.

- The Messy Artist, and Music Together, two existing art and music programs for children, have combined under one roof. The Kaleidoscope Center for the Arts opened in September at 60 Valley Street. ▲

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

October 2006

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- Rec. Dept. announces winter sports line-up.

- Is democracy a viable option worldwide? Adult School offers perspective.

- Villager of the Month: Mary Kay Mitchell.

4th neighborhood meeting, Oct. 25

Three recent neighborhood meetings with the Village Trustees have generated spirited dialogue on critical local issues.

Now the fourth meeting is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m., at The Baird, this time, with a focus on the community's volunteer civic groups. The meeting is open to all Village residents. One hour before, at 6:30 p.m., an "office hour" will be held so that residents can speak individually to any trustee. ▲

S.O. Symphony holds 2006 Artist Competition

Auditions for the South Orange Symphony's 2006 Artist Competition will be held Saturday, Nov. 11. Prizes of \$500 will be awarded in two categories: keyboard and non-keyboard (other orchestral instruments, or vocal). Winners will appear as solo performers at concerts during the 2006-2007 symphony season.

"Our real aim here is to attract college music majors and professional players" who aspire to solo careers, said Bob Renshaw, a member of the symphony's board of directors.

Since "there are plenty of venues/competitions for young players, South Orange seeks applicants who are 18 or older. "Very high-level nonprofessional players are also welcome."

To compete, instrumentalists must play from memory a movement of any standard concerto or composition. Vocalists must sing from memory two contrasting songs or movements from a cycle.

Closed auditions will be arranged for the first 24 applicants. Applications are available online at www.southorangesymphony.org, or call Colleen Helmacy at (570) 289-1090 or (973) 729-5275. Entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, Oct. 27. Judges will include Conductor Robert Helmacy and selected orchestra board members.



Leaf Collection Rules & Regs (Story, page 1)

1. Leaves should be piled no more than four feet from the curb and must not extend into traffic lanes.

2. Leaves in plastic bags will not be picked up.

3. No debris other than leaves is permitted in the streets. Improper placements could prevent pickups.

4. Avoid creating leaf mounds, which attract children and subject them to traffic dangers. Mounds also create potential fire and traffic hazards.

5. Do not place leaves within 10 feet of storm catch basins.



It's an Arts Open House!

It takes a Village to produce a thriving arts center, and South Orange has one of the best in The Baird, the Village's beloved community center on Mead Street.

"There's so much here that many people don't know about," says Judy Wukitsch, assistant director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs. "Yet for others, it's been an arts destination for years."

To tout The Baird's artistic diversity, an activity packed open house is planned for Saturday, Nov. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., offering art demonstrations, live music, and short stage and puppetry performances. For those curious about the effectiveness of The Baird's many arts classes and workshops, samples of student-produced beads, drawings, clay pots, paintings and more will be displayed.

Up to 300 visitors, from toddlers to senior citizens, are expected to explore the facility on their own, in guided tours, and in scheduled performances. Tours will include the gallery, the new print studio, the art room, and the theater. For more information, call (973) 378-7754, or visit www.thebaird.org.

Dreamcatcher

(973) 378-7754, x2228 • www.DreamcatcherRep.org

"Expecting Isabel," Oct. 27 to Nov. 12. New Yorkers Miranda and Nick want to have a baby – by any means necessary. Their attempts at conception lead them on a comic Alice-in-Wonderland-type odyssey through the fertility trade, the adoption industry and their own peculiar families. Call (973) 378-7754, x2228, or visit www.DreamcatcherRep.org

Penny Pretzel Playhouse

"Three Bears!" Friday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m. The three bears are featured in four short productions, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Why Bear Sleeps All Winter," "Bringin' Home the Bacon," and "The Two Fellows and the Bear." Tickets: \$8. Call (973) 378-7754.

Winter Sports

Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs
(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

Registration Begins Nov. 1

- Indoor Soccer, Sundays, all ages.
- Recreation Basketball, Saturdays, grades 3-8.
- Girls' Indoor Lacrosse, grades 5-12.
- Pee Wee Tennis, ages 4-8.
- Platform Tennis, grades 3-8.

Jaguar Indoor Track

A competitive track club for boys and girls ages 6 to 18. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening practices begin Nov. 14. Register in person at The Baird on Wednes-

day, Nov. 8, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; or Saturday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to noon. For information, call Maurice and Daneen Cooper (973) 763-0617, or Andrea Johnson (973) 762-0910.

Travel Basketball Teams

Tryouts for boys and girls teams, grades 6 to 8, are in late October. South Orange residents only. Players compete in the Suburban Essex League. Practices and games are on weeknights and Saturdays, November through February.

Learn to Ski

South Orange and Maplewood students, grades 3 to 8, travel by bus from The Baird to a nearby ski area on five consecutive Wednesdays, beginning in January. Registration begins Oct. 15.

Crafts at The Baird

Pierro Gallery's 13th holiday craft sale will take place Dec. 6 to 10 at The Baird – a great solution to your seasonal gift quandaries. Watch for more details in the next Gaslight.

PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE

(973) 378-7754, x3 • www.pierrogallery.org

Paintings Emerge

Oct. 22 - Nov. 26

Artists' Gallery Talk: Oct. 22, 2 p.m.

Opening Reception: Oct. 22, 3-5 p.m.

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.

Is democracy a viable option worldwide?

The South Orange-Maplewood Adult School offers the Eva Samo Lecture Series, four Mondays, 7:30 p.m., at Columbia High School. Tickets are \$13 per event, or \$45 for the series.

- Oct. 16 - What Are the Core Values of Democracy?
- Oct. 23 – Democracy in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks.
- Oct. 30 – Promoting Democracy Abroad: A Neoconservative Perspective.
- Nov. 6 – Are Religion and Democracy Compatible?

For information, call (973) 378-7620, or visit www.somadultschool.org.

South Orange / Maplewood
Community Coalition
(973) 761-6116, x6,
www.twotowns.org

◆ **10-Year Anniversary Gala**, Saturday, Oct. 21, at Seton Hall's Bishop Dougherty Center. A wine and cheese reception and art auction preview begin at 6:30 p.m. The main event, with dinner and dancing, begins at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$75 for reception and main event; \$60 for main event only.

◆ **Pre-School Open House**, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m., at Columbia High School. Parents with children ages 2.5 to 5 can weigh the merits of nearly 25 area pre-schools and specialty learning centers.

Wizards Vs. Teachers & Parents

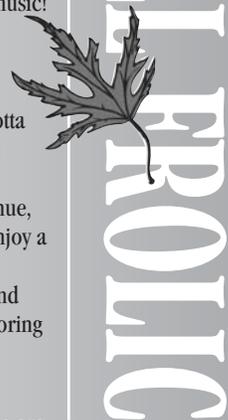
The Harlem Wizards Basketball Team will compete against teachers, administrators, and parents on Sunday, Oct. 22, in a 3 p.m. benefit at South Orange Middle School. Proceeds will fund programs in kindergarten through 12th grade. The event is co-sponsored by the South Orange Maplewood Education Foundation & The Columbia High School Scholarship Fund.

Adult tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Seniors and students under 18: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call Meryl Levine, (973) 763-6535.

• **Main Street South Orange Fall Festival**, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2006, 4 to 6 p.m., at the duck pond. Celebrate the arrival of fall and the last day of the Farmer's Market with a fun-filled afternoon of pumpkin decorating, face painting, and live music! All free.

• **Halloween Party & Parade**, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 4 to 6:30 p.m., at Spiotta Park on South Orange Avenue. Kids can meet and greet the Friendly Witch, play games, parade down South Orange Avenue, trick-or-treat at local businesses, and enjoy a costume contest and candy apples. The South Orange Chamber of Commerce and Main Street South Orange are co-sponsoring all the fun.

For more information:
(973) 763-6899 • mssso@southorange.org



Bid for Charity!

South Orange Rotary's second annual charity auction on Friday, Nov. 10, will support the Community FoodBank of NJ, the South Orange Rescue Squad and other local charities. Enjoy beverages, hors d'oeuvres and dessert while acquiring art, jewelry and memorabilia. Tickets are \$25. The auction preview is at 7 p.m. For tickets or information contact Dr. Gregory La Morte at (973) 762-1881, or gregdds@verizon.net.

Library Events

For info call (973) 762-0230

Lecture Series

- Thursdays, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 19 – “No Work, No Women, No Worries; Deer Hunting Camps in Vermont.”
 - Oct. 26 – “World Political Update.”
 - Nov. 2 – “Terrorism: The Impact on Our Lives.”
 - Nov. 9 – “Fraud Protection.”

Regular Programs

- S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. “Ben Franklin,” by W. Isaacson. Dec. 4, “Cider House Rules,” by John Irving.
- Open Stage Teen Poetry Reading (9th grade and up) – Oct. 19 and Nov. 9, 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. • PJ Storytime, Monday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.

Block captains needed for “Illumination 2006”

South Orange Productions and community volunteers will host this annual event to brighten Village streets on New Year's Eve. Block captains are needed. To volunteer, call (973) 761-5970 or send e-mail to soproductions@optonline.net.

SHU

• “End of Life Decisions,” Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m., at Jubilee Hall Auditorium. Legal and medical experts are joined by Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schiavo, for an exploration of faith and reason. For advance registration, call (973) 378-2600, or send e-mail to universityevents@shu.edu.

• “As You Like It,” the timeless Shakespearean comedy, Oct. 20-22, and 27-29. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m., at Bishop Dougherty Center. For tickets and information, visit www.artsci.shu.edu/arts council.

• Count Basie Jazz Orchestra, Oct. 24, 8 p.m., Jubilee Hall. Call (973) 313-6338.

• “Chinese Music of Silk & Bamboo,” a free concert, 7 p.m., on Oct. 27, at Jubilee Hall. Call (973) 275-2714.

• “Form, Function, Faith,” an examination of the arts and crafts movement in church design, 1900-1940. On exhibit until Oct. 27, at Walsh Gallery. Call (973) 275-2033, or visit www.library.shu.edu/gallery.

Poetry-In-The-Round

Free admission. Call (973) 761-5105.

• Poet Azar Nafisi, author of “Reading Lolita In Tehran,” Oct. 24, 7 p.m., at Bishop Dougherty University Center.

• Former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, Nov. 8, 7 p.m., Walsh Gym.

Multicultural Film and Lecture Series

Free showings at Walsh Library, 6:30 p.m. Call (973) 761-9385.

- “In the Year of the Pig,” Oct. 23.
- “Native America: A History of Genocide,” Oct. 31.

Piano Instruction

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(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
378-7775, x7745
Fire Dept.
378-7751
Library
762-0230
Police Dept.
378-7775
Public Works
378-7741
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

Villager of the Month

Mary Kay Mitchell

When Mary Kay Mitchell and her young family moved to Ralston Avenue 30 years ago, it wasn't long before she became interested in the Old Stone House, across her back yard and just over the creek.

At the time, the town-owned building served as the school board office, and Mary Kay, the mother of five, had a few occasions to go inside and look around. It was enough to whet her curiosity.

By 1980, after the school board moved out, a developer made plans to raze the old house and make way for senior citizen housing.

That's when Mary Kay sounded the alarm.

"No one thought it had historic value," she said. But "I started doing research. There were a zillion things about that house in the library."

She found neighbors and friends who "knew it was wrong" to tear down the house.

"I wanted to put it on the state and national historic registers but I didn't have a clue how to do it."

Ultimately, she was asked to speak at a meeting of the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society. She swallowed her lifelong fear of the limelight and her passion instantly caught fire.

She and former SOHPS President David Gassman began a half-dozen years of research that took them to libraries throughout Essex County and to the historic vaults of Princeton, Columbia University and Seton Hall. "I really enjoyed that," said Mary Kay, who did much of the research on her own with Gassman's knowledgeable tutelage.

An initial rejection by the state registry was a crushing disappointment, but the society persevered until achieving a state designation in 1991 and a national designation in 1992.

For fellow Villagers, Mary Kay's inspirational advocacy for the Old



Stone House is a resonating example of local volunteerism. But Mary Kay herself sees it as a single slice in a life full of community giving.

"I had five children and I was involved in everything they did" - schools, girl scouts, sports fundraising, you

name it.

She was also a founding member of the Newcomers Club, helped initiate the annual Montrose in May House Tour, and, after five years, still serves as vice president of SOHPS.

Mary Kay also helped campaign for her husband Jim's election as a Village trustee, a position he held from 1988 to 1992.

"My goal in life was to be a good mom," says Mary Kay. And part of that is to "get to know your village and help your kids become part of it, because they will learn from your involvement."

As to her ongoing historic interests, Mary Kay challenges future parents and volunteers "to make history more interesting, so kids become more interested. It is our responsibility to pass it on. That way people can learn more about each other, our collective history and our differences." ▲

In The Schools

Senator Byrd honors five at CHS



Five Columbia High graduates - Victoria Fox, Rebecca Hausner, Ryan Thompson, Ariana Witkin and Allison Zimmer - recently received the 2006 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, an annual award of \$1,500 for four years of college. They were among 192 New Jersey seniors so honored.

Brainy middle schoolers recognized

Thirteen students from South Orange Middle School have been recognized by the Johns Hopkins Center for Academically Talented Youth for high scores on preliminary SATs. The center identifies the most academically gifted youths in the country and encourages them to take the test. The South Orange students, all seventh and eighth graders, are Conor Albino, William Barkalow, Whitney Braunstein, Marques Brownlee, Cydney Chestnutt, Priya Duvvuri, Elijah Graves, Estefania Hechtotl, Carlyn Messinger, Meredith Pitkoff, Rebecca Wenokor, Caleb Williams, and Scott Zimmer. ▲

Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079

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Village Web Site: www.southorange.org
E-mail for Village Administrator: jgross@southorange.org