

The South Orange Gaslight



Spiffier façades create more viable downtown

Lee's Cleaners on South Orange Avenue wanted to replace its old signage to attract customers and to match the classic Tudor styling of the building it occupies. The restaurant New Great Wall was changing locations and wanted to launch a new look.

Both of them called Main Street South Orange for financial assistance through the FRONTS Façade program, a 10-year-old matching grants program that helps business and property owners improve their public faces.

FRONTS improvements can include signs, awnings, exterior painting, storefronts and lighting. The maximum assistance is \$2,000 per project, to be matched dollar for dollar by the recipient. The program improves business viability while enhancing the appearance and historic character of the Village.

Last year, three FRONTS projects were completed:

- New Great Wall (Chinese restaurant), 133 S. Orange Ave.
- Mia Cose Bella (gifts), 8 W. South Orange Ave.
- Eden Gourmet Market (not yet opened), 9 South Orange Ave.

Another four projects are nearing completion:

- Lee's Cleaners, 55 W. South Orange Ave.
- Calapaz (international trading), 6 Village Plaza.
- Bonte Waffles (not yet open),



Mia Cose Bella, a new gift store at 8 West South Orange Avenue, was one of this year's FRONTS grant recipients.

12 South Orange Ave.

• Barrel's Hot Dogs (not yet open), 50 South Orange Ave.

Main Street Director Carole Anzalone-Newman said applications are based foremost on need. In addition, "Applicants must describe the proposed improvement and how it will affect the appearance of the building."

Often, Main Street's team of designers and architects will suggest alternative designs, colors, and materials to enhance the proposal.

"Some businesses only need funding assistance, while others benefit from design advice from the volunteers," she said.

The program is "definitely not just for new businesses."

To apply call Main Street South Orange at (973) 763-6899 or e-mail Director@MainStreetSouthOrange.org. ▲

Happy Holidays!



Middle School forms O Ambassadors Club

South Orange Middle School has been accepted as a participant in the O Ambassadors Club, a joint project of Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network and Free The Children. The school was accepted in November, after a competitive application process.

In affiliated clubs all across North America, members raise funds to fight poverty in underdeveloped countries, working towards United Nations Millennium Development Goals. All projects are partnerships with local communities in East Africa, West Africa, South Asia, East Asia and Latin America. The clubs aim to abate poverty through improved education and health, and sustainable development projects. Club participants learn leadership and global compassion.

Look for more O Ambassadors news in the Gaslight as the club's plans unfold. ▲

Biz buzz

Ninth Wonder Sneaker and Apparel, at 313

Irvington Ave., opened July 11 offering the hottest

selections in urban apparel, such as Ed Hardy, Affliction, Sinful, Miskeen, X-Ray and Doctrine. Owners Thron Lane and Urban Carter rotate their clothing lines to stay on top of in-demand trends. Casual, sporty choices for women and men include sneakers and shoes. ▲

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

December 2007

Inside

■ Don't miss First Night, Dec. 31 at Columbia High!

■ SOMEF awards 49 education grants

■ Two MLK Celebrations: Jan. 13 and Jan. 21

■ Jewish book discussion series starts Jan. 9

■ Miriam Peretsman named Villager of the Month

■ Hold onto the 2008 Toter Recycling insert in this issue

MLK Club reaches out to Malawian school

In the east African nation of Malawi, there is a school, the Chilulu School, where orphaned children with HIV/AIDS are receiving supplies, clothing and medication from children at the South Orange Middle School.

The sister school arrangement came about in 1993 through the efforts of the MLK Cultural Horizons Club, founded by Johanna Wright. The club's mission is to develop student leaders while providing service to the home school and the global community.

The MLK Club is currently working on a fundraiser to send money to the Chilulu School, with a percentage also going to Haiti. The money is earmarked not only to buy clothes for Malawian students, but most importantly, to purchase AIDS/HIV medicine from India and ship it to Malawi. The club also runs an ongoing clothing and food drive to benefit other overseas connections.

To learn more about the club or make a donation, visit www.mlkclub.org. ▲

SOMEF awards 49 education grants

Forty-nine grants totaling \$35,000 have been awarded to local teachers by the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation. The awards are for classroom projects to be implemented this spring in all nine schools.

Awarded on Dec. 7, the grants range from \$160 to \$3,000. The diverse subjects include a study of New Jersey's endangered species, introductory computer skills for students and families, and broad-based assessment techniques for math.

SOMEF received 92 grant proposals. For a complete list of awards plus a list of approved projects still awaiting funding, call (973) 378-2055 or visit www.somef.org. ▲

Pianist & baritone win symphony's artist competition

The South Orange Symphony Orchestra held its annual Artist's Competition on Nov. 10 with 30 competitors in two divisions.

The keyboard division winner was pianist Jin-Kyung Park, who performed George Gershwin's Concerto in F. The non-keyboard winner, baritone Joseph Flaxman, performed arias by Verdi, Mozart, and Leoncavallo.

Runners up were Hee-Kyung Lee, piano, and Sungi Kim, soprano.

Park holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, and is currently pursuing a doctorate at Rutgers University. The winner of several prestigious competitions, she has performed with the New Jersey Symphony and many New York area venues. In May, she will perform the Concerto in F with The South Orange Symphony.

Flaxman is working on a master's at Manhattan School of Music. He has performed with several professional opera companies, earning great reviews from the New York area press. He will perform his competition arias with the South Orange Symphony in March.

The annual Artist Competition is open to performers 18 and older who live or study in New Jersey. Each winner receives a \$500 prize and a performance with the orchestra. ▲

Don't Miss *1st Night*

**Dec. 31st
at Columbia
High School**

Afternoon Program
3-6 p.m.
Circus, walk-about
balloon, face painting
and more

Fireworks
6:30 p.m.
Maplewood
Memorial Park

Evening Program
7-11 p.m.
Drama, music,
acrobats, circus,
line-dancing, story-
telling, origami,
crafts, balloon-
twister and more

Tickets
• \$10 pre-event
• \$15 at the door
• Free for kids two
and younger

Website
firstnightmws.org
▲



Change A Light, Change The World

Get a free compact fluorescent light bulb by pledging to use five more CFLs in your home. Energy Star-qualified light bulbs use 75% less energy than standard bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Pledge forms are at the library or The Baird through Dec. 31. For details, visit www.energystar.gov.

Clean Power Choice Program

South Orange is a community partner in the CleanPower Choice Program sponsored by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Office of Clean Energy. The statewide program lets you choose clean, renewable sources of energy like solar, wind or small hydro power, all without switching from PSE&G. Get your mail-in form at the library or The Baird, or sign up online at www.njcleanenergy.com.

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

AT THE BAIRD

DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATER

Save The Date!

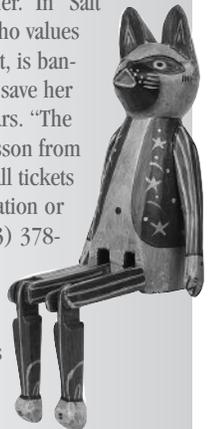
Dreamcatcher's annual gala, "Fireside Follies," will be an evening of good food, good friends and good fun. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m., at the Fortnightly Club in Summit. Catch more details in the next Gaslight. Until then, call (973) 378-7754, x2228 for information.

PENNY PRETZEL PLAYHOUSE

New Puppetry Season!

The antique Czech marionettes will be on stage Thursday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. Puppeteer Vit Hoes tells the Czech stories of his father and grandmother. In "Salt Over Gold," a princess who values her father as much as salt, is banished. But she returns to save her father when salt disappears. "The Stinky Tailor" learns a lesson from the water spirit Vodnik. All tickets are \$9. For more information or advance tickets, call (973) 378-7754.

Coming Jan. 26 – "Woodland Wonders." Visit Ms. Greyson Bunny's Meadow where Little Ted Hedgehog and other friends share fun adventures. For children ages 3 to 7 with sing-along music.



S. ORANGE RECREATION

Register for '08/'09 Preschool and Kinderenrichment

Applications for returning students will be accepted Jan. 14. New students will apply Jan. 22 to 24 and a random drawing on Friday, Jan. 25 will determine the registration order.

• *The Baird Preschool.* Small classes, twice a week for 2-1/2-year-olds, three days a week for 3-year-olds, and five times a week for 4- and 5-year-olds.

• *Kinderenrichment.* For children entering a fall 2008 kindergarten class in the local school district. Morning and afternoon sessions, two and three times a week. ▲

South Orange/Maplewood Adult School

- Registration for spring 2008 classes will begin in January.
 - Registration for free ESL and GED classes will be Feb. 12.
 - Keep fit during the winter months. Take a class in belly dancing, yoga or jazzercise.
 - The writer's support circle will meet throughout the winter.
- For information or registration, visit www.somadultschool.org or call (973) 378-7620.

A Night of 100 Dinners

A few hundred friends will be coming over for dinner on Saturday, Jan. 26, when the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation holds its fourth annual Night of One Hundred Dinners.

Volunteer hosts will wine and dine friends and guests in their homes in Maplewood and South Orange. Themes and menus will run the gamut from casual to formal, buffet to birthday party, and couples-only to girls' night out. Last winter, 25 families opened their homes to 300 guests, raising more than \$20,000 for SOMEF.

The foundation's mission is to enhance the educational experience for all district students and staff by funding educational enrichment programs. To learn more or to volunteer for 100 Dinners, visit www.somef.org.

On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

- Jan. 9, 7 p.m. – Juilliard @SOPAC, Konstantin Soukhovetski (piano), \$15/\$12/\$10.
- Jan. 12, 8 p.m. – Mose Allison, pop/blues singer-songwriter, \$35/\$28.
- Jan. 19, 8 p.m., New Jersey Tap, Ellington Legacy, \$45/\$38.

Donate a coat & get a ticket discount

Throughout the month of December, bring a coat for SOPAC's winter coat drive and receive a \$5 gift voucher good toward a ticket purchase for the show of your choice! (One voucher per household.)

Join Seton Hall on a trip to Spain!

Seton Hall invites Villagers to join alumni and friends of the university for its Pirate Adventures travel program to Spain. From June 13 to 22, the group will visit Madrid, Torremolinos, Granada, Seville and more. Sightseeing will include the Prado Museum, the Church of Santo Tomé, Alhambra, Water Gardens of the Generalife, Columbus' tomb and the Mosque of the Caliphs. While traveling, learn from SHU faculty and alumni.

To reserve your spot or for additional information, contact Elizabeth Bakes at bakeseli@shu.edu or (973) 378-9849.

Martin Luther King Day Celebrations

■ *The South Orange Civic Organization* will present its 38th Martin Luther King celebration on Sunday, Jan. 13 at 3 p.m. at the South Orange Middle School. Brian Osborne, superintendent of the Maplewood South Orange School District, will be the keynote speaker at the free public event.

Osborne is currently working on a doctorate from Harvard University. He holds master's degrees in policy administration and education.

This year's program is dedicated to Dr. Edward W. Verner, a long-time South Orange resident who died in October. Dr. Verner was a SOCO founding member and president, a physician and minister. He was widely recognized for his commitment and leadership in health care and social justice.

This year's Beloved Community awardees will be Sandra Karriem of South Orange and William "Chip" Madsen of Maplewood.

■ *The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race* will host the seventh annual "Make It More Than A Dream" celebration on Jan. 21 at Congregation Beth El. The event is co-hosted by the African American Jewish Coalition.

Celebrants will enjoy an inspirational address, interfaith readings, music by the Voices in Harmony Chorus and the King Traveling Photo Exhibit: Hand in Hand.

Imam Wahy ud-Deen Shareef of Masjid Waarith ud Deen in Irvington will be the keynote speaker. He was a member of Newark Mayor Cory Booker's transition team.

The program begins at 3 p.m., a volunteer fair runs from 4 to 5 p.m., and food pantry donations will be collected from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (973) 761-6116, x6, or visit www.twotowns.org.

Library Events

(973) 762-0230

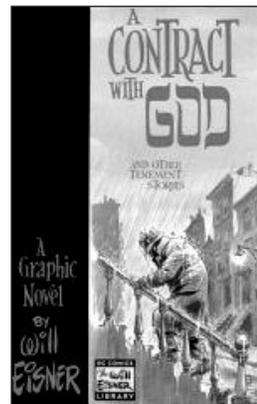
Jewish discussion series features graphic novels

A five-part reading and discussion series, "Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel," will begin in January.

Graphic novels are the latest in comic books, with complex novel-like storylines aimed at mature audiences.

The leader for all five talks, Eddy Portnoy, is a scholar now completing his Ph.D. in modern Jewish studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He holds a master's in Yiddish from Columbia University, has taught and lectured throughout the United States, Israel, and Europe, and is widely published.

The series, funded by the American Library Association, will begin Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. with a review of the graphic novel, "A Contract with God: And other Tenement Stories," by Will Eisner.



Will Eisner's thought-provoking graphic novel is the first in a new library discussion series starting Jan. 9.

Other dates and topics are:

- Jan. 30 – "The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale," by Art Spiegelman.
- Feb. 20 – "Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories," by Ben Katchor.
- Mar. 12 – "The Quitter," by Harvey Pekar.
- April 28 – "The Rabbi's Cat," by Joann Sfar.

The series is open to all Village adults and registration is required.

Acclaimed new author to appear at Book Club meeting

South Orange author Will Allison will make a special appearance at the Dec. 17 meeting of the South Orange Book Review Group. His critically acclaimed debut novel, "What You Have Left," will be the featured topic at the 7:30 p.m. discussion.

The book was chosen this fall for Barnes & Noble's Discover Great New Writers, for Borders' Original Voices in July, and it was a Book Sense Pick in June.

Publishers Weekly reviewed last April and wrote: "Loss and redemption take center stage in story writer Allison's beautifully written debut novel . . . Characters' tension-fraught relationships are well played, and Allison is adept at navigating a labyrinthine



South Orange author Will Allison will be at the library's Dec. 17 Book Review Group meeting.

Cont'd on page 4

January Villager of the Month

Miriam Peretsman

When your bright, motivated daughter dies at the mere age of 16, how do you cope with the loss? If you're Miriam Peretsman, you do it by honoring her memory and all that she cherished in her short stay on earth.

It was April 2004 when 16-year-old Hannah Peretsman Breene died of cancer. She was an honor student, a theater buff, an aspiring chef and an avid reader. She was also strongly committed to community service. Initially motivated by a 10-hour community service requirement at her high school, Hannah performed more than 75 hours of community service in 2002 and 2003 while undergoing rigorous cancer treatments and full-time schooling. She volunteered at a community food bank, an interfaith homeless coalition, and at St. Barnabas Medical Center, where she received most of her cancer treatments.

When Hannah died, Miriam focused on her daughter's giving nature. She and her husband, Paul, established The Hannah Peretsman Breene Foundation to carry on Hannah's interest in helping others. The foundation's mission is to provide fun and distraction for youthful cancer victims during their hospital stays.

In the last three years, 50 volunteers, adults and teens, including friends of Hannah's, have provided more than 1,200 hours of organized games, crafts and cooking lessons for young patients in the Child Life Program at St. Barnabas.

In addition, Miriam volunteers as coordinator of the monthly kosher food pantry at Oheb Temple and as an aide to homeless mothers and children seeking short-term shelter through the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Essex County.

For Miriam Peretsman, volunteerism is a lifelong conviction. "No matter how busy we are, each of us has an opportunity and a responsibility to make the world a better place, to think about others and to

share our unique gifts and talents," she says. In Hannah's memory, Miriam has strengthened that belief with a vigor that transcends this mortal existence. ▲



Who in S. Orange has inspired you?

The Villager of the Month award is given 12 times a year to residents and business people whose significant voluntary contributions (generally over many years) benefit South Orange and positively reflect the quality of people who live and work in our community.

Now, the Community Relations Committee invites your suggestions for nominating future VOMs, either an individual or a group. To do so, send a letter with two or three sentences detailing your reasons for making the nomination. Include contact information for yourself and your candidate and mail to: Clerk's Office, Village Hall, 101 South Orange Ave., South Orange, NJ 07079. For information, contact the CRC's Jan Zaveri at (973) 762-0110, or KTjdz@aol.com. ▲

Library Events

Cont'd from page 3

web of psychological underpinnings. The nonlinear narrative gives Allison a trove of angles, and he nails all of them."

Lecture Series

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Dec. 20 – annual holiday party with entertainment by Jim and Christie Harrington.
- Dec. 27 - no program.
- Jan. 3 – "Isaac Newton Writes a Novel," with Seton Hall English professor Karen Gevirtz.
- Jan. 10 – "Whatever Happened to Primary Research?" with Shawn Grain Carter, marketing professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology.
- Jan. 17 – "Give 'Em Hell, Harry," with Stephen Schoeman, political science professor at Union County College.
- Jan. 24 – "Clinical Ethics: Right and Wrong in the Real World," with Jo Ann Middleton, Drew University English professor.

Regular Programs

- S. O. Book Review Group (adults) – Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. "What You Have Left," by South Orange author Will Allison.
- Open Stage Poetry (teens) – Dec. 20, 7 p.m.
- Animation Club (teens), Mondays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Children's Storytimes – Babies, Tuesdays 10 a.m.; Toddlers, Tuesdays 11 a.m.; Stories for Families (all ages), Wednesdays 2 p.m.; Songs and Stories, Thursdays 10 a.m.; Seton Stories (all ages), Fridays 10 a.m. ▲

In Touch

with
Village
Government

General Info.
(973) 378-7715
Emergency, 911
Clerk's Office, x1
Administrator, x12
Construction, x3
Tax Collector, x4
Assessor, x5
Finance, x6
Engineer, x7
Parking Auth., x8
Health Officer
x2020
Animal Control
x7711
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, rpatric@patmedia.net, or call (908) 823-9001

Township of South Orange Village
South Orange, NJ 07079

Bulk
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
South Orange, NJ



Postal Customer
Local 07079

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