

The South Orange Gaslight



Four newcomers and one incumbent elected by Village

A new Village president and four newly elected trustees were sworn into office on May 21.

With a 36% voter turn-out, the May 8 municipal election resulted in a near-clean sweep by political newcomers.

Candidates were divided into two teams. "A Village United" had four incumbents and one newcomer, while the "Pure Progress Team" had four newcomers and one incumbent.

All five Pure Progress candidates were winners including

The New Board

- Douglas Newman - Village President (4 years)
- Deborah Davis Ford – Trustee (4 years)
- Michael Goldberg – Trustee (2 years)
- Stacey Jennings – Trustee †
- Howard Levison – Trustee (4 years)
- Terriann Moore-Abrams - Trustee †
- Mark Rosner – Trustee (4 years)

† Already seated

Douglas Newman, the new Village president. He succeeds 16-year President Bill Calabrese, who was a trustee for four years before his presidency.

Also elected from the Pure Progress Team were Trustees Deborah Davis Ford, Howard Levison and Michael Goldberg.

Trustee Mark Rosner was re-elected, the only incumbent from the Pure Progress Team.

With one exception, all winning candidates were elected to four-year terms. Goldberg won the two-year remaining term vacated last year by former Trustee Eric DeVaris.

Trustees Stacey Jennings and Terriann Moore-Abrams will continue on the board until 2009. They were elected in 2005.

Along with Calabrese, the Village United team included incumbents Janine Bauer, Allan Rosen and Arthur Taylor, and newcomer Frank Rodino. ▲

CHS named to Newsweek's top 5% list

Columbia High School has been named by Newsweek magazine as one of America's top 1,200 high schools, putting it in the highest 5%.

In the May 28 edition, Newsweek writers Barbara Kantowitz and Jay Mathews declare, "Some postgraduate schooling has become essential to earning a middle-class income." On that basis, Newsweek recognizes schools that do the best job of preparing average students for college.

CHS was one of 43 New Jersey

high schools that made the list. The tally was developed by researchers who divided the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken at a school by the number of graduating seniors to measure how committed the school is to helping kids take college-level courses.

"Just taking the course and the test mattered more than the score because even struggling AP students learned a great deal," said Mathews, who developed the rating system. ▲

We need your opinion on Smart Growth

The Village will conduct a public workshop to obtain comments on its Smart Growth Strategic Plan, a long-range vision for South Orange's future development. The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20 at 7 p.m. in Village Hall. Public comments are being sought prior to review by the Village Planning Board.

The growth plan builds on the significant downtown redevelopment that has occurred since 1999, calling for bicycle and pedestrian paths, historic and neighborhood preservation, a Village-wide recreation and open space plan, and restoration of the east branch of the Rahway River. The draft plan consists of time schedules, responsibilities and funding strategies while stressing proactive cooperation among property owners, developers and the Village.

To view the draft, go to <http://southorange.org/development/SmartGrowthPlan.asp>. ▲

Doug Newman, our newly elected Village President, aims to leverage community talent. (Page 2)

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

June 2007

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■ World-class flutist & soprano to perform symphony benefit

■ Special Inserts: 2007 outdoor concert series, Friends of the Arts appeal, summer at the library

■ Villagers of the Month: Anna Toledano & Alex Hirschberg, two graduating CHS seniors

From the Desk of the Village President

As I start my term as South Orange Village President, I'd first like to thank former Village President Bill Calabrese and former Trustees Allan Rosen, Art Taylor, and Janine Bauer for their years of service and dedication to our community. I look forward to their continued involvement in the Village.

On behalf of re-elected Trustee Mark Rosner and newly-elected Trustees Deborah Davis Ford, Michael Goldberg, and Howard Levison, we'd like to thank voters for turning out in record numbers for South Orange's May 8th election, demonstrating so clearly how engaged a community we've become.

To a large extent, community engagement defines the unique character of South Orange. Volunteers, sharing their time, expertise and enthusiasm, leverage and multiply the efforts of our government, educational, cultural, and recreational institutions, non-profit and service organizations, and houses of worship.

The Board of Trustees absolutely is committed to further leveraging our community's extraordinary pool of talented volunteers. To jump start this process, we'll examine the mission, role, and activities of over 50 committees, boards, groups, task forces, councils, commissions, partnerships, coalitions, and coordinators – including active, dormant, and forgotten initiatives. Our goal will be to align our community's most pressing needs with the work of volunteers. And, we'll recruit new volunteers to fill vacant positions, so the Board of Trustees has

access to their expertise and passion; and the public has direct influence on the work of Village government.

While community engagement may have facilitated our recent election, I appreciate that the residents of South Orange now expect us to fulfill our pledge to run an open, transparent, inclusive, and respectful government. Towards this end, I pledge that we will:

- Maintain the highest ethical standards in all aspects of governing.
- Conduct all public meetings in a respectful, orderly manner.
- Treat all residents, students, business and property owners, and Village employees with respect and dignity.
- Solicit, encourage, and accept public and Village employee feedback.
- Provide timely, easy access to accurate information about the Village and its operations.
- Be accountable to the public.

I take very seriously the compact we've made with the public, and expect the public to hold us to it.

In future issues of the Gaslight, I periodically will communicate with residents about the work of our government and volunteers, and about the state of South Orange. Enjoy your summer.

*Douglas Newman
Village President*

Now, pay tickets online

The state's Administrative Office of the Courts has enhanced its Web site for municipal court use. NJMCdirect.com now offers convenient online payment and search services, including the following:

- *Single payment for multiple tickets.*
- *Payment for a suspended license.*
- *A link to the Motor Vehicle Commission for license restoration.*
- *Ticket payment on a court-ordered time payment schedule.*
- *Ticket search (works only if you have an outstanding ticket).*

Online payment avoids in-person or mailed payments. It is available seven days a week. Check the site for exact hours. ▲

Public meeting on revaluations set for June 21

A public meeting to discuss ongoing property revaluations in South Orange will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 21 at Village Hall. Representatives of Appraisal Systems, Inc. (the company conducting the field inspections) will make a progress report and answer any questions.

Revaluations began in February and are expected to continue through October, as mandated by the Essex County Board of Taxation and the state of New Jersey. The last Village revaluation was in 1991.

So far, Appraisal Systems has reported the following progress:

- 1,500 residential properties, or 34%, have been inspected.
- 195 commercial and industrial properties, or 95%, have been inspected.
- 100% of all property improvements have been photographed.
- Income and expense forms have been sent to all commercial building owners.

The revaluation process ensures that the local tax burden is fairly and equally distributed among all property owners. It also ensures that all properties are assessed at 100% of their true market value. ▲

Four More Container Days

Monthly DPW container days continue on these Saturdays: June 30, July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 29. South Orange residents (only) may discard unwanted household items at the Department of Public Works Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Two forms of ID are required for proof of residency. No commercial vehicles are permitted. For information call (973) 378-7741.

Branch Pickup: From now through Sept. 21, pickup appointments are required. Branches must be four inches or less in diameter. For more information, call (973) 378-7741. ▲

Jitney schedule revised

Evening departure times have been adjusted on all South Orange jitney routes. Riders are encouraged to check schedules for changes.

Newstead/North Wyoming

Route: A stop at the Newstead Condos on South Orange Avenue has been added.

Irvington/Prospect/Academy Route: The Garfield/Summit stop has been deleted. ▲

S.O. RECREATION

(973) 378-7754 • www.thebaird.org

This Summer's Outdoor Movie: 'TO CATCH A THIEF'

The 1955 classic thriller will be shown under the stars at 8:45 p.m. on Friday, June 29 at Flood's Hill. Enjoy the timeless elegance of Cary Grant, Grace Kelly, and John Williams, and the seamless direction of Alfred Hitchcock. (Rain site: Baird Center)

SUMMER SPORTS

Summer tennis camps

Weekly tennis camps for children ages 3 to 15 will be offered all summer. The program includes instruction and competitive play. Sessions are held Monday through Thursday, with Fridays reserved as make-up days. For program details, visit <http://southorange.recware.com>.

Cougar Baseball Camps

Columbia High School Varsity Baseball Coach Larry Busichio will direct this camp for children ages 8 to 13. He'll focus on fundamentals: proper throwing, fielding techniques, base running, hitting, catching, and pitching. Two four-day camps are offered: July 9 to 12 and July 16 to 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. The fee is \$210 for one week, or \$390 for both weeks. Details are online at <http://southorange.recware.com>.

U.S. Sports Institute comes to South Orange

This summer, South Orange will host two USSI youth programs at Meadowland Park. For program details, or to register, call (908) 534-5305, or visit www.USSISportsInstitute.com.

Multi-Sports Camp: Aug. 13 to 17. Camps in three age groups will be offered.

- Ages 3 to 5: Sport Squirts Camp, soccer, t-ball, basketball, lacrosse and hockey. Sessions from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Ages 5 to 7: Half-day camp (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), more than 10 sports in a week.

• Ages 7 to 14: Full-day camp (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), multiple sports and daily challenges.

Beginner Golf Clinics - Aug. 27 to 31. Ages 5 to 7, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Ages 8 to 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Renew your ID badge now!

Badges are issued at The Baird from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday to Sunday. Two proofs of residency are required. New or updated badges are \$20 per year. For details, check our Web site.

PIERRO GALLERY OF SOUTH ORANGE

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

Singularity in the Communal Tide

(Culture + Identity in the Moment)
Through July 15

This blockbuster exhibition features an international group of 31 contemporary artists whose work examines the individual in the ever-increasing world collective. Some artists embrace their background, ancestry, country and religion while others reflect popular culture or historical context. Artists include Fred Wilson, the United States' representative in the Venice Biennale 2003; Victor Ampliev who represented Russia in the Berlin Biennale 2006; and prominent South African artist Nicolos Hlobo. A four-color catalogue is available.

A curator talk and artist panel discussion is set for Monday, June 25 at 3 p.m. Meet curator Rupert Ravens and some of the artists.

Call for Entries ESSEX EXPOSED 5

A Juried Exhibition of County Artists

The bi-annual exhibition will be open Sept. 9 to Oct. 22. The artist entry fee is \$15 for three slides and \$5 for each additional slide up to six. The submissions deadline will be Aug. 6. The exhibition juror will be curator, writer, artist and educator Judith Page, who also directs Emerge, a professional development fellowship program for emerging artists.

In The Schools



Cycling World: here comes Carter Jones!

CHS senior Carter Jones recently competed in three European cycling races as a member of the elite USA Cycling Junior National Team. In May, he rode in the five-day, six-stage Course de la Paix ("Peace Race") in the Czech Republic, as well as races in Belgium and the Netherlands. Jones is captain of the Colavita Junior Racing Team, the largest junior cycling program on the East Coast.

Kudos for A. Ogundipe

CHS senior Akinyemi Ogundipe was selected by the Leadership Education and Development Program in Business for the Summer Business Institute at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. LEAD was created by top American corporations and business schools to encourage outstanding high school juniors from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in business.

Ogundipe was also appointed to the eight-member inaugural student steering committee of Mercy Corps, a nonprofit organization that works across the United States to empower young people to fight global poverty.

Fencing teams excel

The CHS Boys Fencing Team won the state championship for the third time in five years. The Girls Fencing Team placed second in the state championships.

Give the gift that supports our schools

It's time for the end-of-the-year gift for your child's teacher. How about something that gives back to all children in our school district?

"Honor Your Teacher and Staff" tribute cards, personalized with your child's special message for the recipient may be ordered for any teacher or staff member in the district at a minimum of \$5 per card. All proceeds support SOMEF Teacher Grants.

The tributes are a program of the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation. Simply send the completed form to SOMEF at P.O. Box 84, Maplewood, NJ 07070, with a donation of \$5 or more per card by June 15. The cards will be delivered to recipients this month.

Order forms can be printed from the SOMEF Web site, www.somef.org, or call (973) 378-2313 to request a mailed form. ▲

Why the all-night lights?

Question: *Why is the NJ Transit parking lot lit all night? Doesn't it cost residents money? Most concert- and movie-goers are gone by 10 p.m. and most transit riders are finished traveling.*

Answer: *Lights around the train station are paid for by NJ Transit. On the advice of the Parking Authority, they are left on for safety reasons since people use the underpass at all hours.*

It's Summer at the Adult School

(973) 378-7620 • somadultschool.org

■ **Summer Fun for Adults** - Why should kids have all the fun this summer? Choose from an array of summer classes for adults, including beaded jewelry, drawing and upholstery, photography, singing, golf, jazzercise, karate, aerobics, meditation, swimming, tennis, yoga, sailing, language and computer courses. Special trips include a visit to the Brooklyn Museum and a weekend in the Berkshires/Tanglewood. Call for a complete schedule.

■ **Filmmaking and Clay Animation** - Award-winning filmmaker and teacher Boris Gavrilovic offers two special programs for students entering grades 9 to 12. Dates are June 25 to July 20, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Columbia High School.

- **Filmmaking** - Write, direct and edit three or more short films in documentary, narrative or experimental form. Cost: \$750 including materials and film processing.

- **Clay Animation** - Create characters, write stories, design sets and direct two animated films on video cameras. Edit and add soundtracks on computers. Cost: \$700 including materials.

On Stage at SOPAC

(973) 275-1114 • www.sopacnow.org

Scarab-Blues celebrates freedom through heartfelt and soul-filled blues, June 30, 7 p.m., Tickets are \$35, \$20 and \$10 (kids under 12).

Cougars Golf Outing

The Columbia High School Cougar Boosters will hold their 9th annual Golf Classic on July 30 at Maplewood Country Club, to support the school's extracurricular activities. (The prior date of April 30 was postponed due to bad weather.) Donations are \$200 per person, including the day of golf, brunch and dinner. Nongolfers can sponsor tee signs or donate prizes. For details, visit www.CHSCougarBoosters.org, or contact Al Farah at (973) 763-6817 or a7892@aol.com.

The Art of William Coronado

Seton Hall's Walsh Library Gallery will highlight the unconventional vision of this young artist through Aug. 16. Paintings are combined with installation and digital formats. Call (973) 275-2033.

Flutist Gilmore & Soprano Wefer to perform in symphony benefit

The South Orange Symphony will sponsor a benefit recital featuring two internationally acclaimed musicians: flutist Inna Gilmore and lyric soprano Victoria Wefer. The event takes place Sunday, June 24 at 7 p.m. at Morrow Memorial Methodist Church in Maplewood. All proceeds will benefit the symphony.

Ms. Wefer has performed operatic roles and classical art songs at venues throughout the world. Ms. Gilmore has been a concert soloist with Russian and U.S. symphonies and has collaborated with renowned composers. Both women have won multiple international and domestic performance awards.

Tickets are \$25 each, or \$90 for a package of six tickets. Call (973) 376-6349.



Flutist Inna Gilmore



Soprano Victoria Wefer

Main Street Events

(973) 763-6899

www.mainstreetsouthorange.org

- **Lunchtime Concert Series** - Every Wednesday in June, grab a bag lunch from your favorite Village restaurant and dine outdoors with live music at Spiotta Park, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Coming up June 20: Richard Stillman. June 27: Dave Rimelis and Ted Brancato. (June 13: to be announced.)

- **Main Street Farmers' Market** - This year's market will be located on the circle in front of the South Orange Performing Arts Center. Dates are every Wednesday, from June 27 to Oct. 31, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- **CELEBRATE SOUTH ORANGE!** - Sometimes we don't appreciate the great things about our town. On Saturday, July 14, friends, family and neighbors will gather downtown to do just that. From first responders to performing arts, from delicious restaurants to diverse neighborhoods, learn about your home town while enjoying great activities and feasting on a community supper prepared by local restaurants.



Author Will Allison



Actress and CHS graduate Elisabeth Shue

Call for Entries!

Want to see your verse displayed in Poetry Alley during Celebrate South Orange? Send Main Street your short poem, haiku or limerick about why South Orange is special to you. Winning poems will be published in a future Gaslight and online. Or, be on stage during Celebrate South Orange! Send an advance audio or video tape of your vocal, instrumental or dance skills. To learn more, visit Main Street's Web site and click on Celebrate South Orange.

RENOWNED VILLAGERS

■ **Author Will Allison**

"What You Have Left," the first novel of Villager Will Allison has been published by Free Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

Allison is an acclaimed author whose work has been shortlisted in "The Best American Short Stories" and "Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses."

He lives in South Orange with his wife and daughter, is a former executive editor of Story, and a current staff member at the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. His short stories have appeared in major literary magazines.

Catch Allison on his book tour in two New York appearances: June 10 and July 12 at KGB Bar, 85 East 4th Street. Or for more information, visit www.WillAllison.com. ▲

■ **Actress Elisabeth Shue**

The movie "Gracie," based on the life of former Villager Elisabeth Shue, opened June 1 to critical acclaim. Shue, an Academy Award-nominated actress, is a graduate of Columbia High who helped bring girls sports, particularly soccer, to the school.

"Gracie," set in 1978, is based on the real life of Shue and her family. It is an inspirational film about a teenage girl who overcomes the loss of her brother and fights the odds to achieve her dream of playing competitive soccer at a time when girls' soccer did not exist.

The film co-stars Andrew Shue, Elisabeth's brother, and is directed by Academy Award-winning director Davis Guggenheim, her husband.

Elisabeth Shue, now 44, is the mother of three children. Among her movie roles are The Karate Kid, Adventures in Babysitting, Soapdish, The Marrying Man, Leaving Las Vegas (best actress nomination, 1996), The Saint, Deconstructing Harry, Palmetto and Hollow Man. ▲

SOUTH ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

65 Scotland Road South Orange NJ 07079 librarian@sopl.org
973/762-0230 fax/973/762-1469 www.sopl.org

Opening/Re-opening celebration! June 25th Celebrate the beginning of Summer Reading and the completion of our roof/hvac project with activities for the whole family between 11am and 7pm.

Get a Clue

Summer Reading 2007

The Summer Reading Program is beginning again.

Kids and teens can read books, magazines, newspapers, ebooks, listen to audiobooks or do their own writing to earn prizes all summer long.

Programs for children will include family nights, crafts, storytimes for all ages, book groups, chess and games, art projects and movies with popcorn.

Family programs are held on Monday nights,

including Mehndi – the art of henna tattooing, a visit from a mime, Bobaloo, an interactive puppet show and more.

Every Thursday is art in the afternoon, with projects like tie-dye, papier-mache and printing.

Your booklist choices are at the library, too.

There are **events for middle-schoolers and teens**,

including video gaming, open stage poetry, and an animation club. And ask about volunteering.

Opening Day Festivities will be held on June 25th.

Drop in anytime between 11am and 7pm for games, crafts, and other fun activities for the whole family.

This is just a sampling of programs...

come to the library for a full listing and to join the reading club.

Library Summer Hours:

Adult Services: M 9-9 T 9-9 W 9-6 Th 9-9 F 9-6 Sun 2-5

Children's Services: M 9-9 T 9-6 W 9-6 Th 9-9 F 9-6 Sun 2-5

Kids and Teens

Bring this ticket into the library any time after June 25th for an additional Summer Reading prize!!



Adult Programs and Events

Summer Lecture Series:

Thursdays, 1pm

6/14 Karen Gevirtz: Jane Austen and Film in Literature

6/28 Naoma Welk: South Orange, Past and Present

7/12 Marilyn Lehren and Friends: Musical Entertainment

7/26 Dr. Donald Kent: Stem Cells – What's All the Fuss?

8/9 Jack Chance: My Favorite Outdoor Sculptures in New Jersey

8/23 John Wargacki: Styles of Poetry

Summer at the Movies: Every other Wednesday, 1pm

6/20 Annie Hall

7/11 In Her Shoes

7/25 Pleasantville

Book Review Group

6/25 7:30pm Memoir - *Dispatches from the*

Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters and

Survival by Anderson Cooper

8/27 7:00pm Fiction into Film –

The Painted Veil

by W. Somerset Maugham

Movie screening with popcorn

Twelfth Night

8/5 2:30-3:30pm Performed by the

Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey



Anna Toledano



Last year when the local school board considered reducing the course load from nine to eight periods, Anna Toledano

took it as a personal affront. At a public meeting, she spoke eloquently about the matter, using her own research to back up her developed opinion.

Anna was also part of a lobby to help save the NJ Governor's School when budget constraints threatened its cancellation. Her efforts paid off and she spent a month last summer in the program's sciences school.

With an extraordinary grade point average and SAT score, Anna is remarkable not because she's intellectual, but because she's intellectual AND well-rounded.

"The Yankees," she says, "are my religion." Watching them play "is exhilarating and a stress reliever." She also captained the varsity tennis team in her senior year, played piano for nine years and served as editor-in-chief of "Guildscript," Columbia High School's art and literary magazine.

A dual citizen of the U.S. and Israel, Anna has a lifetime goal of visiting 100 countries. At age 18, she already has 50 countries stamped into her passport because twice a year she and her family make a point of traveling "to somewhere new in the world."

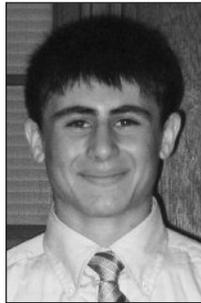
CHS guidance counselor Dave Frick calls Anna "one of the most selfless individuals I have ever met." He presented her with a scholarship opportunity at a prestigious university, but Anna declined "since her parents have the means to pay for her college and she would not want to take a scholarship away from someone who really needs it."

In high school, Anna's favorite subjects were an eclectic mix of

art history, Spanish and physics. Her career options are open, but she's leaning in three directions: journalist, professor, and "person not confined to a cubicle."

Soon enough, the choices will be refined as Anna proceeds with her studies at Princeton University. As counselor Frick says, Anna "might just teach the professors a thing or two." ▲

Alex Hirschberg



Some students do community service "because their parents tell them to, or they want to better their college resume." But neither

thought motivates Alex Hirschberg. "I enjoy doing community service," he says, "and being involved in my community has broadened how I view the world."

Alex's extraordinary breadth of service includes volunteerism with the South Orange Rescue Squad on Monday nights and part of his weekends. He has assisted with charitable food drives during holi-

days and helped raise funds for Israelis affected by terrorism.

Through a school-based peer counseling program, he has mentored younger students with academic and social problems. Using team-building and one-on-one conversation, he has helped elementary students and middle schoolers conquer issues of alcohol, drugs and school social dynamics.

Outside the local community, Alex has taken his willingness to California where he worked in a community garden for the homeless and at a food bank; to Alaska, where he helped build and repair wilderness trails, gardened at a center for abused women, and cared for rescued birds at a raptor center; and to a Blackfeet reservation in Montana where he helped build a new playground and restore a ranch.

At Columbia High, Alex excelled in soccer and lacrosse for three years. "I take pride in playing as hard as I can and being a good sportsman," he said. He also served as sports director for the CHS television studio and was a youth soccer referee.

Quite simply, "there is no better feeling than helping someone in need," says Alex. ▲

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

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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
- Finance, x6
- Engineer, x7
- Parking Auth., x8
- Health Officer x2012
- Animal Control 378-7711 or 7710
- 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, rpatric@patmedia.net, or call (908) 823-9001



**Postal Customer
Local 07079**

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