

The South Orange Gaslight



Main Street S.O. morphs into S.O. Village Center Alliance

There's a new kid on the block named "SID." For downtown business and property owners, SID is a welcome addition, bringing greater financing for services such as downtown publicity, cleanup and facades.

Main Street South Orange has evolved into a "Special Improvement District" called the South Orange Village Center Alliance. Downtown promotional programs formerly run by Main Street, such as Celebrate South Orange and the Farmers Market, are now continuing under the Alliance.

On July 10, the Village passed an ordinance creating the SID and the Alliance was launched Oct. 29.

"It's really a way for the downtown development organization to become economically sustainable," said Executive Director Carole Anzalone-Newman.

Starting the first quarter of 2013, each business and property owner in the improvement district will pay a portion of a quarterly assessment to cover services such as district publicity, downtown cleanup, event marketing, façade and design services, and business recruitment.

The first-year assessment will be \$36,000, according to Matt Glass, a five-year Main Street board member who now chairs the Alliance. Some shares will be \$100 or less. For everyone, the assessment will be higher in subsequent years.

"This structure helps us put more resources and more people in the game," said Glass. "The people investing in our success will get the most return on that investment."

The Alliance has a 12-member board made up of four business owners and four property owners

within the district, two Village residents not within the district, and one representative each from the South Orange Parking Authority, SOPAC and the Village Administrator's Office.

"We did amazing things with Main Street," said Glass, "but we were limited financially." Under the Alliance, "our number one goal is to use people's money as wisely as possible." ▲

BiZ BUZZ

The economic tide is turning in South Orange! Seven new downtown businesses are proof of the prosperity. South Orange Village Center Alliance announces these recent openings:

- *Bayonne Community Bank, 200 Valley Street - a community bank that prides itself on knowledgeable customer service.*
- *Valley Portuguese BBQ, 311 Valley Street - dine in or take out. Lunch and dinner, BYOB.*
- *Spa Next Door, 55 Academy Street - co-ed cycling, cross-training and high-intensity training studio.*
- *Stuff Village Mercantile, 50 West South Orange Avenue - antique glassware, homemade jewelry and furniture.*
- *Kimaya Kama, 108 West South Orange Avenue - gifts, clothes, jewelry, footwear, home accessories and furnishings.*
- *Pandang Asian Bistro, 12 Village Plaza - Thai, sushi, hibachi and more. Lunch and dinner. Got to www.pandangssouthorange.com.*
- *First Class Nails, 129 South Orange Avenue.* ▲

Village News Roundup

Kudos to **Columbia High School**, recently ranked 47th best out of 238 public high schools in the state, according to New Jersey Monthly magazine. Columbia came in 6th in Essex County . . . **Rhonda Johnson and Carol Petrallia** are the new co-presidents of the South Orange Maplewood Adult School. They succeed **Roy Eismann** who presided for three years. Petrallia, a former high school English teacher, has been with the adult school since the 1970s. Johnson, an art therapist, joined the adult school board in 2007 . . . **Linda Onorevole**, SOPAC's former director of development, has become interim executive director of arts center. She succeeds **Michael Bollinger** who led the center for two years . . . And more congrats to **Village President Alex Torpey**, honored in September with a NJFOG LIFT Award. The New Jersey Foundation for Open Government recognizes people who encourage more transparent government. Torpey's initiatives have put more information online, including budgets, agendas, minutes, ordinances and resolutions, all searchable. ▲

Flick a Switch and help improve community safety. The Village Trustees encourage residents to leave porch lights on all night, especially during the long nights of fall and winter. ▲

Help Maintain Our Signature Gas Lamps - All South Orange gas lamps should have three glowing mantles 24 hours a day, and globes should be clean and clear. If you spot a malfunctioning burner or a dirty globe, please report it by calling (800) 436-PSEG (7734). You'll be asked for the location of the lamp and the nearest cross street. You can also report online at <https://extsecure.pseg.com/webformsWeb/resources/jsp/psegcom/streetlight-outage.jsp>. ▲

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

**November
December
2012**

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Happenings

■ Come to the So. Orange Holiday Open House!

Your family will glow with seasonal spirit on Saturday, Dec. 1, when the South Orange Village Center Alliance presents a day of special events.

• **Shop South Orange** - Great gifts (and deals!) are right here in town. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., downtown merchants will offer in-store promotions, restaurant specials and refreshments.

• **Santa Arrives** - Have your child's picture taken with Santa between 3 p.m. and 5

p.m. at the Sloan Street fire-house. The Village and the Alliance will serve hot cocoa and refreshments. Enjoy a dance performance and live music too.

• **Tree Lighting** - Santa joins Keller-Williams of Maplewood at 5 p.m. for the annual tree lighting (location to be announced).

■ Coalition hosts Pre-School Open House

The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race is hosting its annual Pre-School Open House, a free program on Nov. 14 for parents in South Orange, Maplewood and neighboring communities. Get tips on selecting a school and

visit with dozens of school representatives. It all starts at 7 p.m. at the Columbia High cafeteria. Details at (973) 761-6116 or www.twotowns.org.

■ Acclaimed author to speak on China

Michael Levy, author of the memoir "Kosher Chinese," will speak on Wednesday, Nov. 14 about his two years in the Peace Corps. His book detailing the experience was chosen as a Barnes & Noble best book by a new writer in 2011. SOMA Adult School is sponsoring this Redpath Lecture at Columbia High School library, starting at 7:30 p.m. Fee \$10. Details at www.somadultschool.org or (973) 378-7620.

■ Go back to college, just for a day

A day of stimulating college classes with award-winning teachers is on tap Saturday, Nov. 17 at Columbia High School's Black Box Theater. Register for a full day (\$82, including lunch) or a half-day (\$45). For class offerings, visit www.somadult-school.org or call (973) 378-7620.

■ Learn how video can enhance your business

Professionals in Media will host a workshop, "Conveying Your Brand Message Using Video," on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Ethical Culture Society in Maplewood. Two TV

producers and a marketing expert will lead the discussion.

Admission is \$10. Bring a light snack or beverage to share. Enjoy networking after the session. For details: Jacqueline@jacquelinehershships.com, (973) 763-7555; or Michele@petnewsandviews.com, (973) 762-3854.

■ On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

• Nov. 3, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. - Golden Dragon Acrobats, \$25/\$40.

• Nov. 4, 7 p.m. - Mike Lee Family, Jazz in the Loft, \$15.

• Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. - Carolyn Forche and Alexander String Quartet, presented by SHU Arts Council, \$8-\$25.

• Nov. 9, 8 p.m. - Stephanie Mills, pop, R&B, Broadway, \$30-\$75.

• Nov. 11, 7 p.m. - Midtown Direct Rep presents "By and By," \$15.

• Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. - Jazz Knights of West Point, present-

ed by SHU Arts Council, free.

• Nov. 17, 11 a.m. - Humpty Dumpty and the Big Book of Nursery Rhymes, \$11-\$16.

• Nov. 17, 8 p.m. - Jessica Kirson and Friends, stand-up comedy, \$20-\$25.

• Nov. 18, 7 p.m. - Shari Pine, blues concert, \$15.

• Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. - "A Chanticleer Christmas," \$40-\$70.

• Dec. 2, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - "The Nutcracker," \$25-\$40.

• Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. - Soprano Sarah Shafer and pianist Richard Goode, presented by Seton Hall Arts Council, \$8-\$25.

• Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. - A Winter Holiday Concert by the Seton Hall University Orchestra and Choir, free.

• Dec. 8, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. - "It's a Wonderful Life," a radio play, \$15-\$30.

• Dec. 9, 3 p.m. - The Juilliard Jazz Ensemble featuring Carla Cook, \$15-\$20.

• Dec. 16, 2 p.m. - Youth Orchestra of Essex County, \$5-\$15.

Make local schools a cause célèbre

District schools need your support. The Achieve Foundation of South Orange & Maplewood offers three ways you can help.

• *Dec. 1 - Jan. 31, Teacher Grants* - Contribute to a specific grant requested by a teacher at your child's school. Check the website below for project descriptions.

• *March 2, Night of 100 Dinners* - Invite your guests for the soiree of your choice to support Achieve tutors, teacher grants, professional development and more.

• *March 16, Columbia High School for a Day* - Sample courses taught by CHS faculty, from physics to Shakespeare. Learn more at www.achievefoundation.org.

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At The Baird

Book Arts Roundtable Holiday Show & Sale

Artists with a passion for books and paper will hold their second annual Book Arts Roundtable Holiday Show & Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Baird. Choose from handmade books, etchings and relief prints, as well as original fabrics, scarves, weavings, photographs and silk-screened clothing. All artists will be present.

People 16 and older can enjoy demonstrations and a paper art make-and-take session. Details at www.bookartsroundtable.com, bookartsroundtable@gmail.com or check the blog at <http://bookartsroundtable.blogspot.com>.



Cultural Arts Classes

(973) 378-7754, ext 1 • www.thebaird.org

This winter, The Baird offers new and traditional courses for the whole family, from infant to adult. Visual and performing arts classes are taught by professionals in their fields. Selected offerings are listed below. For the full array, plus class descriptions and registration, visit www.thebaird.org on and after Nov. 1. Most classes begin the week of Jan. 9.

For Kids

- Clay Time - ages 3-6, Saturdays 9:15-10 a.m.
- Cereal Box and Cardboard Rolls - grades 2-5, Thursdays 4-5 p.m.
- Art Studio I - grades 1-3, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.
- Art Studio II - grades 4-6, Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
- Drawing - middle school to high school, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m.

For Adults

- Yoga in Winter - Mondays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Beginning Ballet, Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.
- Medieval Manuscript Illumination, Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

La Cinémathèque Film Club

(973) 378-7754, ext 1 • www.pierrogallery.org

- Nov. 18, 2 p.m. - "8 1/2," directed by Federico Fellini
- Dec. 16, 2 p.m., "L'Avventura," Michelangelo Antonioni
- Jan. 13, 2 p.m. - "Seven Beauties," Lina Wertmuller
- Feb. 10, 2 p.m. - "Death in Venice," Luchino Visconti

Italy's most talented filmmakers are taking the spotlight at The Baird's La Cinémathèque Film Club, continuing monthly through February. Educator, artist and filmmaker Gerard Amsellem introduces each film and leads a post-screening discussion. The films are \$12; \$10 for students. Tickets are available at www.thebaird.org, or in person at The Baird.

SPORTS & FITNESS

(973) 378-7754
www.thebaird.org

Beat the cold with winter athletic programs like the ones highlighted below. For details and registration visit www.thebaird.org, or drop by The Baird.

- Lacrosse Clinics for Girls, grades 3-12, Wednesday nights beginning Dec. 5.
- Sunday Indoor Soccer, adults and children grades 3-8, beginning Dec. 2.
- "Learn to Ski" at Mt. Peter, N.Y., grades 3-8, five Wednesdays beginning Jan. 2.
- Jaguar Indoor Track, ages 7-16. Register in person at The Baird, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m., or Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to noon.
- Tae Kwon Do - all ages

and skill levels.

- Tae Kwon Do for Special Needs Students - Saturdays.
- Tennis Squirts, ages 3-5.
- Platform Tennis, ages 8-12.

Middle School Basketball League - Saturdays are fun and competitive for South Orange and Maplewood youngsters (grades 6 to 8) who enjoy basketball. No tryouts required; evaluations will create evenly matched teams. Registration begins Nov. 1. Enrollment is limited.

Sciensation Workshops for Kids, ages 7-12. School's out Nov. 8 and 9 when the "Build Your Own Robot" workshop comes to The Baird.

Pierro Gallery

(973) 378-7754, ext 1 • www.pierrogallery.org

On Display Nov. 8 - Dec. 20

Ugo Giannini: "Drawing D-Day, an Artist's Journey"

In the heat of battle, during the 1944 invasion of Omaha Beach, West Orange artist Ugo Giannini (1919-1993) made 27 on-the-spot drawings. He was among the first wave of soldiers to land in Normandy on D-Day and his gritty style, in pencil or pen, depicts the scenes that haunted his life. Giannini's family discovered the 27 war drawings after his death. His later works also will be featured.

Related Events

- *Opening Reception*: Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m.
- *Book Signing, Reading and Curator's Talk*: On Saturday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m., meet Maxine Giannini, the artist's widow, who compiled her husband's war drawings and letters in "Drawing D-Day: An Artist's Journey Through War." Maxine will read from the book and discuss the drawings with curators Cathleen McCoy Bristol and Gary Parks.

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To submit information for **The South Orange Gaslight**, send to Editor Robin Patric, rpatric@comcast.net, or call (908) 823-9001

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Library Discussion Group

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

- Nov. 1 - New York Times investigative reporter Andy Lehren speaks on a topic to be announced.
- Nov. 8 - "Change Your Budget, Change Your Life," with Tiffany Aliche, author, speaker, and founder of CLD Financial Life Co.
- Nov. 15 - "Picasso's Women," with artist, singer, songwriter Matthew Lahm.
- Nov. 22 - Closed for Thanksgiving.
- Nov. 29 - "Show Business Stories," with radio and television personality Lee Leonard.
- Dec. 6 - "Alaska, The World and Wally Hickel," with film producer Ken Mandel.
- Dec. 13 - "The Lyrics of Winter," with Seton Hall English professor John Wargacki.
- Dec. 20 - Holiday party, featuring entertainment by the Harrington family.

Foreign Film Series Continues

Viewers can enjoy lively post-screening discussions during the library's fall/winter foreign film series hosted by educator, artist and filmmaker Gerard Amsellem. The series continues with these two 7 p.m. screenings:

- Nov. 27 - "La Grand Illusion"
- Dec. 18 - "The Bicycle Thief"

Recurring Events

- Book Review Group - Nov. 26, "The Good Earth," by Pearl Buck; Dec. 17, "Buddha in the Attic," by Julie Otsuka. Both sessions are at 7:30 p.m.
- Creative Writing Workshop - Nov. 7, Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 at 1 p.m.
- Knitting Workshop led by Nan Samons, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17, at noon.
- Wednesday afternoon film series - Nov. 14, "Moonrise Kingdom." Nov. 28 and Dec. 12, to be announced. Shows at 1 p.m.

Children's Programs

- LEGO Club - ages 5 and older, Nov. 5, 26, Dec. 3, 17, 3:45 p.m.
- Book Bunch - age 8 and older, Nov.

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Village Web Site: www.southorange.org

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How to nominate a Villager of the Month

The Villager of the Month Award is presented to individuals (and occasionally groups) who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in South Orange. They are people who live or work in the Village, whose achievements warrant

recognition by their home town. (Village employees and committee members are eligible for other types of awards, but not the VOM award.)

To nominate a VOM, send a letter explaining why the person should be considered. Provide contact information for the nominee and nominator (phone, e-mail and street address for both). Send to the Village Clerk, rkline@southorange.org, to any CRC member, or to ktjdz@aol.com. ▲

Photo: At the recent Newcomers Day, past VOMs gathered for a group photo. A hearty thanks to all of you, the "people pieces" of South Orange's cohesive mosaic.

- 14, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.
- Music with Ms. Marilyn and Friends - (Nov. date TBA), Dec. 27 at 11 a.m.
- Seton Stories - Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, at 10:30 a.m.
- Drop-In Crafts - Nov. 16, Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m., all ages.
- Homeschooling Social - Nov. 16, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m.



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