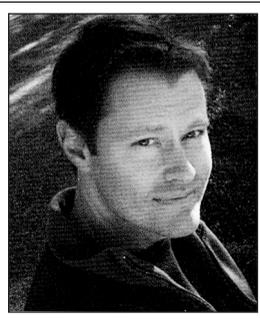


# The South Orange Gaslight



## Acclaimed author sets latest novel in South Orange

One morning a few years ago, when Villager Will Allison went out to get his newspaper, "a car came flying down the street, going probably twice the speed limit," he said. "I remember picking up the paper and thinking, I'd like to chuck it at the guy's windshield, give him a scare. Then I thought, 'You're an idiot, Will. You could kill someone.' Then I thought, 'But what if no one saw?'"



Author Will Allison

That thought (not carried out) was the seed of Allison's second novel, which takes place on the familiar streets of South Orange Village. "Long Drive Home," published by Free Press on May 17, is the author's second novel, and like his first opus, it is quickly garnering critical acclaim.

Allison's previous novel, "What You Have Left," was selected in 2007 for Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers, Borders Original Voices and Book Sense picks.

Long Drive Home is a portrait of an American family that explores how one bad decision made by an average man on an ordinary day changes everything. It probes the ways in which people justify their own morally ambiguous choices. One reviewer called it "an emotional and psychological masterwork that confirms Will Allison's growing reputation as a prodigious talent."

Allison, the former executive editor of Story magazine, was born in Columbia, S.C. and has lived in South Orange for six years. He said he set the story here because, "I've always enjoyed writing about places where I live or have lived. It helps me feel more connected to the material, more invested." ▲

## Celebrate the 4th!

It's America's birthday! Come celebrate the spirit of our nation!

South Orange's annual Fourth of July festivities will include a host of traditional activities for the whole family on Monday, July 4.

■ **9:30 a.m., Bicycle Rodeo** - Kids will learn about bicycle safety on a course created at Flood's Hill.

■ **11:30 a.m., Village Parade** - Bring your decorated bicycles, strollers, wagons or anything else on wheels (except cars) and march, roll or stroll from Floods Hill to the community pool. Prizes will be awarded for "Most Creative," "Most Patriotic," and "Zaniest." (No pets please.)

■ **Noon, July 4th Ceremony** - Our Village President will offer a greeting, and parade prizes will be awarded at Cameron Field.

■ **1- 4 p.m., Model Boat Exhibit** - The South Orange Seaport Society will display model boats at the Duck Pond.

■ **1- 4 p.m., Hambone Kelly Banjo Band** - Enjoy an afternoon of patriotic picking in the shade of the evergreens near the pool entrance. Requests welcome!

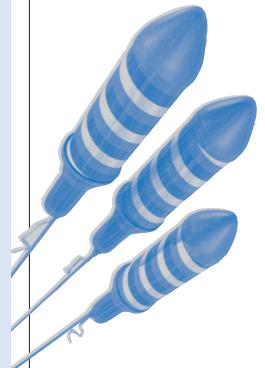
## Fun at the Community Pool

The pool will be open on July 4th to ALL South Orange residents from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Recreation ID badge, driver's license or utility bill will be required as proof of residency. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Enjoy July 4th specials at the concession stand. Events will include a clown walk-about, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; puppet shows at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.; and magic shows at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.▲

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

**July/August  
2011**



## Inside

■ **It's Nat'l Night Out, Aug. 2!** Join your neighbors at Flood's Hill

■ **Adult School** offers summer art classes (see Happenings)

■ **Three new downtown businesses** move in

■ **Two CHS grads** named Villagers of the Month: Alyse Royal and David Hoffman

## Library offers job seeker computer classes

Want to search for jobs online but don't know where to start?

Need help e-mailing your resume and cover letter?

Instructors from the Corporate and Business Training Center of Essex County College will teach job seekers how to navigate the Internet, conduct web-based job searches, polish a resume and cover letter on Microsoft Word, then e-mail

them to prospective employers.

Each two-hour class starts at 6:30 p.m. in the library meeting room. Registration is limited. The schedule is as follows:

- Internet - June 14 or June 28.
- Microsoft Word - July 5 or 19.
- E-mail Basics - Aug. 2 or 16. ▲



## Join neighbors for a night out against crime

South Orange will participate in the 28th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Flood's Hill (70 North Ridgewood Road). The event is a night of support for local emergency responders, with a program including a public safety fair, dunk-a-cop, kids zone, live music, and plenty of food.

South Orange will be among 15,000 communities across the U.S. and Canada holding Night Out events as encouraged by the National Association of Town Watch. The local program is co-sponsored by the South Orange Citizens Public Safety Committee and PBA Local 12. Last year, more than 500 residents gathered for the celebration.

To volunteer for the program committee, contact Sheena Collum at [scollum@mac.com](mailto:scollum@mac.com). To learn more about NNO visit: [www.nationalnightout.org](http://www.nationalnightout.org) ▲

## Achieve boosts math education

Mathematics instruction in the local schools is getting a boost from the Achieve Foundation of South Orange & Maplewood.

Tuscan School teacher Sue Donatelli and Jefferson teacher Lorraine Sudol will attend the Singapore Math Strategies Conference in Las Vegas in July thanks to an Achieve Administrator's Grant.

Another grant pays for electronic tablets for algebra I students in the Columbia High Bridge to Success program.

Five Clinton School teachers — Ann Bodnar, Joseph Ferriero, Yolande Fleming, Shea Levin and Marian Power — received the foundation's Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowship and will attend the Algebra Readiness for Every Student Summer Institute in Baltimore. ▲

## Downtown concerts continue through August

Come downtown on Friday and Saturday evenings this summer for live music performed by local talent. Investors Bank and the Village of South Orange are sponsoring the "Downtown after Sundown Concerts" through Aug. 27. Performances run from 7:30 to 10 p.m., weather permitting, at Spiotta Park and the corner plaza at Sloan Street and South Orange Avenue. Grab some food or an ice cream, bring a blanket and enjoy the sweet sounds of summer in South Orange. ▲



## DPW Services

**Saturday Container Drop-Offs**  
*July 23, Aug. 27 and Sept. 24*  
8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Clear out your extraneous stuff! DPW provides disposal containers at the DPW Yard at 300 Walton Avenue. Please arrive before 1:30 p.m.

Two proofs of residency are required. Commercial or industrial companies are excluded. Call DPW for questions about permissible drop-offs.

## Electronic Drop-Offs

Four Saturdays remain in the 2011 schedule for free electronic drop-off in South Orange or Maplewood. Villagers can drop off at the Public Works Yard in South Orange or the Maplewood Recycling Center. Proof of residency is required. Call DPW for questions about permissible drop-offs.

Hours: 8 a.m. - noon

- July 16, Maplewood
- Sept. 17, South Orange
- Oct. 22, Maplewood
- Dec. 17, South Orange

If you cannot drop off on a designated Saturday, call for alternative drop-off: in South Orange, the prior Thursday; in Maplewood, the prior Friday. (Drop-off locations remain the same.) For details, call Maplewood at (973) 762-1175, or South Orange at (973) 378-7741, x221.

## Recycling Center Hours

The DPW Recycle Center is at 300 Walton Avenue.

Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. It is closed to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. ▲

## Farmers Market begins

Another season of Jersey Fresh produce, flowers, pickled vegetables, baked goods and prepared foods begins June 29 and every Wednesday until Oct. 26. Hours are 2 to 7 p.m. in the Sloan Street parking lot. ▲

## Biz buzz

Welcome to South Orange's new and "evolving" businesses.

### • Investor's

### Bank has opened

at 81 South Orange Avenue. Branch manager Omari Frazier is ensuring a great addition to the South Orange community.

• **Heather Barranco Dreamcakes** (inside Eden Marketplace) offers custom specialty cakes and wedding cakes.

• **Colonial Cleaner** at 136 South Orange Avenue is open seven days a week.

• **South Mountain Yoga** has moved to the second floor of 18 South Orange Avenue.

• **Grid Iron Coffee House** is the new name (same great café) of the formerly titled Bonte Wafflerie. ▲

## Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • [www.sopl.org](http://www.sopl.org)

### Book Review Group

• July 25, 7:30 p.m., "Bride of Sighs," by Richard Russo.

• Aug. 22, "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen. (Movie based on the book to be shown)

### Library Discussion Group

*Thursdays, 1 p.m.*

• June 30 - "Shakespeare: Page and Stage," with Rutgers Professor David Baker.

• July 14 - "Words and Music of Ringo Starr," with Seton Hall Professor John Wargacki.

• July 28 - Musical entertainment with singer/songwriter Peri Smilow.

• Aug. 11 - Caldwell College Professor Rosann Bar, topic to be announced.

• Aug. 25 - Piano recital by Benjamin Cooper.

### Summer Programs, All Ages

• Gaming, Wednesdays, 1 p.m., July 6, 20, Aug. 3, 17.

• Movies, Wednesdays, July 13, 27, Aug. 10, 24 — at 1 p.m.

• Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey presents "Love's Labours Lost," Tuesday, July 12, 7:30 pm.

• The South Orange Public

**CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS**

**Love Your River: The Rahway River Project**

Fiber artist Michelle Loughlin will teach finger knitting techniques to sunbathers at the South Orange swimming pool. The informal instruction allows Loughlin to continue her work on "Love Your River: The Rahway River Project," a Pierro exhibition that closed on June 11. The exhibit was a representation of the eastern branch of the Rahway River, created in yarn and found objects. It celebrated the community's relationship to the river. Check The Baird's website for times and dates of the ongoing poolside knitting sessions.

**Fall Arts Classes**

The Baird is gearing up for fall arts classes. Check www.thebaird.org frequently for updates on new and old favorites including animation, landscape painting, comic book capers, Middle Eastern dance, ballet, guitar and more.

**Summer Enrollment Still Possible**

■ *Rhythm Sticks* - For infants and children up to age 4 (with caregiver). Children learn the musical scale, pitch, notes and rhythm through games, instruments and singing. Pauline Barrett teaches four classes, Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 and 10:30. Classes began June 27. Call (973) 378-7754 to inquire about late sign-up.

■ *Tae Kwon Do* - Enrollment may still be accepted in this course that began June 21. Instructor Steve Safran teaches traditional Korean martial arts and practical self-defense, emphasizing self-confidence and stress reduction. He is a 5th-degree black belt who has taught tae kwon do for more than 20 years. A beginners class, for ages 5 to 10, is offered Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.; adults, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

*Library cont'd*

Library Players free workshops, 2 p.m. Aug. 16 and 17; performance Aug. 19. All ages can join the troupe. Or just come for the performance.

**Children's Programs**

- Mondays: Family Nights, 7 p.m., July 11 to Aug. 22.
- Tuesdays: Toddler story-time and craft, 11 a.m., 2 ½ and up with adult. Legos and games, 3:30 p.m., all ages.
- Wednesdays: Babies story-time, 10 a.m., birth to 2 ½ with adult. Book group, 4 p.m., July 13 and Aug. 10, ages 7 to 11.

- Thursdays: Art at 2 p.m., all ages, July 7 to Aug. 19.
- Fridays: Popcorn Movies, 1:30 p.m.

**Teen Programs**

- Mondays: Filmmaking Club, 3:30 p.m., age 14 and up.
- Fridays: Anime Club, 3:30.
- Aug. 18: Mehndi with Shilpa Shah, ages 12 and up (pre-registration required).

**Summer Reading Wrap-Up**

Aug. 22, 2 to 9 p.m., festivities for all ages, including arts and crafts and a magician. ▲

**SPORTS PROGRAMS**

**Baird Summer Camps**

- Learn more or register at The Baird or www.thebaird.org.
- *Cougar Baseball Camp*, ages 7-14, weeks of July 11 and July 19.
  - *Cougar Softball Camps for Girls*: grades 5-7, week of July 18; grades 7-9, week of Aug. 1.
  - *Cool Rockets & Science Camp*, grades 1-6, weeks of July 25 and Aug. 1.

**U.S. Sports Institute Camps**

- For details or to register, visit www.ussportsinstitute.com.
- *Multi-Sports Camps*, ages 3-14, week of Aug. 15.
  - *Beginner Golf Camp*, ages 5-11, week of Aug. 22.
  - *Tennis Camps, ages 3-15*, weeks of July 11 and July 18.

**Fall Soccer**

Register NOW for the fall season of South Mountain Soccer. Boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 participate at all skill levels in fall and/or spring. Each 10-week season includes professional training one day a week and a game each weekend. There are no try-outs. Register at The Baird or online at www.thebaird.org.

**DREAMCATCHER JUNIOR**



Students in Dreamcatcher's Summer Theatre Conservatory will soon stage an original production created from

folk stories and global music. The show is designed for family audiences to showcase the creativity of the young acting ensemble, ages 10 to 17. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29 at The Baird. Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit www.dreamcatcherrep.org, or call (973) 378-7754, x2228. (Students from last year's workshop are shown above.)



**Natalie Colletti Farrell**  
 REALTOR  
 Cell: 917-514-7541  
 mnfarrell@verizon.net

**KELLER WILLIAMS** 

**Call or email me for a Free Market Analysis!**

## HAPPENINGS

### Adult School Summer Classes

The South Orange Maplewood Adult School offers a variety of summer art classes for people age 14 and older. To register or for information, visit [www.somadultschool.org](http://www.somadultschool.org), or call (973) 378-7620.

**Painting** - Enjoy an introduction to color and composition with some art history. At The Baird, Monday through Friday, July 11 to 22, 4 to 6 p.m. Fee: \$155 + \$40 for materials.

**Portfolio Development** - Expand the focus and concentration of your portfolio. Classes meet at The Baird, Monday through Friday, July 11 to 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$190 + \$40 materials fee.

**Acrylic Painting** - Learn how to mix and blend colors, and use

brushes. Meet at Geryl's Art Studio, four Tuesdays, July 12 to Aug. 2, 7 to 9 p.m. Fee: \$72.

**Glassblowing Workshop** - A two-day intensive class on basic techniques takes place at Glassroots Studio, Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fee: \$280.

**Scrubs, Lotion and Sprays** - Create sugar and salt scrubs to exfoliate and brighten the skin, and lotions and sprays to moisturize. Class meets on two Tuesdays, July 12 and July 19, 7 to 9 p.m. Fee: \$65.

### Wine & Food Pairing at Coda

Instructor Diane Letulle will conduct a discussion and sampling of summer wines from multiple countries. Each wine will be paired with foods from Coda restaurant in

Maplewood, where the event will be held on Tuesday, June 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost: \$63 per person. For details or registration, contact the Adult School at [www.somadultschool.org](http://www.somadultschool.org) or (973) 378-7620.

### Expert Bloggers Share Know-How

Local media professionals can get tips on blogging from leading practitioners at the summer networking party of Professionals In Media, or PIM. Learn what makes a blog popular, how to grow it and make it profitable.

The discussion panel will include Janice Harayda of "One-Minute Book Reviews," recently named one of the best bloggers in the state by New Jersey Monthly.

Villager Michele C. Hollow, author of the popular animal welfare blog,

"Pet News and Views," will moderate.

The date is Friday, July 22, at 7 p.m. at Les Saisons, 304 Elmwood Avenue in Maplewood. Admission is \$10. Bring a dessert, hors d'oeuvres, or beverage to share. RSVP to Jacqueline Hershops, (973) 763-7555 or Michele Hollow at [michele@petnewsandviews.com](mailto:michele@petnewsandviews.com).

### Heads Up for Education Supporters

Mark your calendar for the ninth annual Newstead 5K on Sept. 24 at South Mountain Annex. Last year's race generated \$12,000 for the Achieve Foundation of South Orange and Maplewood, which raises funds for educational programs in local schools.

To preregister or to be a sponsor, visit [www.newstead5k.com](http://www.newstead5k.com), or contact Nancy Cohen at (973) 821-5384 or [cohenj@optimum.net](mailto:cohenj@optimum.net).

### Masquerades & Comedy

The South Orange Performing Arts Center will hold a gala Black Tie Masquerade & Comedy Show on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. Partial proceeds go to The Autism Society. Tickets range from \$70 to \$125. For information, visit [SOPACnow.org](http://SOPACnow.org) or call (973) 275-1114. ▲

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# FREE SUMMER FREE CONCERTS in the park

Presented by the Village of South Orange  
and the South Orange Performing Arts Center

**July 6 - Matthew Friedman and Stiletto**

Performing the music of Billy Joel

**July 13 - Ray Rodriguez Y Swing Sabroso**

Hot Latin music with a 10-piece band

**July 20 - Dub Proof**

Funky Roots Reggae band with a dub influence  
and New Jersey attitude

**July 27 - South Orange International Blues Festival Revue**

With Mike Griot, Michael Hill's Blues Mob and others

**Aug. 3 - Rock The Hill**

Local garage bands

Rain Site  
South Orange Performing  
Arts Center

More Information

- Village: (973) 378-7457  
[www.southorange.org](http://www.southorange.org)
- SOPAC: (973) 313-2787  
[www.SOPACnow.org](http://www.SOPACnow.org)

No alcohol

Artists and schedules  
subject to change

Wednesdays  
7:30 p.m.  
Flood's Hill  
Meadowland Park

# June Villagers OF THE MONTH

Our June honorees are 2011 graduates of Columbia High School, two young people who have distinguished themselves in school and in the community.

## 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**  
x7710  
**Animal Control**  
x7711  
**Fire Dept.**  
378-7751  
**Library**  
762-0230  
**Police Dept.**  
378-7775  
**Public Works**  
378-7741  
**Recreation &  
Cultural Affairs**  
378-7754  
**Rescue Squad**  
762-3410  
**Recycling Info. &  
Street Dept.**  
378-7741  
**Water Service**  
266-8869

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Orange  
Gaslight**, send  
to Editor Robin  
Patric, rpatric@  
comcast.net,  
or call (908)  
823-9001



**"I'm a  
really quiet  
person,"  
declares  
Alyse Royal.**

That said, *quiet* has never kept her from *accomplishment*. In fact, it may be her tendency to listen instead of talk that has made Alyse so expressive, in writing and in good deeds to others.

"I have to talk somewhere," she says, "so why not through writing."

As a Columbia High student, Alyse wrote three plays for her drama class, all of them performed on stage and all of them focused on her observations of relationships between young people.

She had plenty of experience to draw on. In the Peer Leadership program, she helped other students achieve their own potential. She was a varsity cheerleader who coached Pop Warner cheerleaders on the side, and she was an active member of her church youth group, even serving as a counselor for summer church camp. She also belonged to the community-based Women's Choral Ensemble and the Martin Luther King Association.

With an impressive 3.9 GPA from Columbia, Alyse is taking her superior scholarship to Howard University, where she hopes to expand her writing interests through studies in radio, TV and film. She is considering teaching or screenwriting/filmmaking as possible careers.

Alyse says she is excited about college in part because of the inspiration of her own grandmother, "one of the first people in my family to go to college."

She also admires an aunt who eagerly embraces new experiences. One day I want to be like her," says

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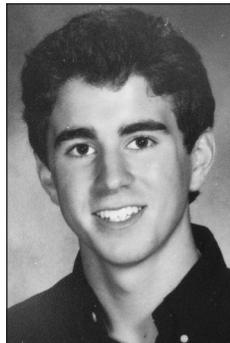
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E-mail for Village Administrator: [jgross@southorange.org](mailto:jgross@southorange.org)

Alyse, "put my best foot forward in whatever I'm going to do."

Alyse is the daughter of Stacy and Susan Royal, who have guided their daughter to embody a strong ethical perspective with genuine concern for others.

"I love to help people," says Alyse. "There's just something about feeling needed and the sense of accomplishment I get. Any time I can help someone, assist in doing anything, it makes me feel that I'm trying to be the best that I can be." ▲



**Three  
years ago,  
when David  
Hoffman**

told his supportive family he wanted to go to the British Virgin Islands for a summer of community service, they thought it was a great idea. And why not? VISIONS programs build awareness among teens of the disadvantaged in our global community.

The next two summers, when David told his parents Andrew and Jamie Hoffman and Claire Gertz that he wanted to make REAL contributions by going to Ghana and Ethiopia, they became a bit concerned.

"They weren't so happy about Africa at first," said David. "But now they know how passionate I am" about helping neglected children.

In Africa, David was assigned as a teacher, but "I was really more of a caregiver, being a parent" to kids in downtrodden orphanages. He taught basic English, played with the kids, made food with them, and helped them do chores.

In both orphanages, "Once I got there and saw how life was there, I realized this was something I'd want to do for the rest of my life. I didn't know how passionate I'd be. Once I got there, there was no turning back."

Not surprisingly, during his high school years, David was part of the Columbia High Peer Leadership program, helping fellow students to achieve their own potential. He tutored one student with Asperger's Syndrome and developed such a connection to the boy that the relationship continued beyond the official program.

"When I first met him, I could barely get a hello out of him." But with David's caring and tutoring, the boy's parents and teachers began to notice the child's growing abilities in socialization.

David's aspiration is to work in international children's rights. He is undertaking a five-year program at Northeastern University in Boston, a school that specializes in experiential learning. The curriculum includes multiple short-term jobs, either stateside or abroad, all of which will count toward his credits. David hopes to work for nonprofit organizations like Save the Children.

Starting in September, he will spend his first semester studying in London. Throughout his studies, he will concentrate on international relations with a minor in business and documentary production.

David's film chops were cultivated at Columbia High where he produced a video on the boys' soccer team as part of his work with the school television station.

"I get a good feeling out of community service," says David, especially when it comes to the cause of neglected children. ▲