

The South Orange Gaslight



Villager Seth Abramson wins Grammy

Congratulations to South Orange resident Seth Abramson who accepted a Grammy Award on Feb. 13 for the best large jazz ensemble album.

Abramson, who is artistic director of Jazz Standard, a Manhattan night club, accepted the award on behalf of the entire ensemble that created "Mingus Big Band Live at Jazz Standard."



The album celebrates the 50th anniversary of the 1959 albums by legendary composer Charles Mingus (1922-1979). The contemporary album was recorded at Jazz Standard and aired on WBGO-FM in Newark. Abramson and Sue Mingus were co-producers.

Abramson lives in South Orange with his wife, Ondine Landa Abramson, former SOPAC executive director, and daughter. ▲

Municipal Election - May 10

A municipal election will be held Tuesday, May 10 to elect a Village President and three Village Trustees, all for four-year terms.

Candidates for Village President are Janine Bauer and Alex Torpey. Trustee candidates are Deborah Davis Ford, Howard Levison, and Mark Rosner.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Polling locations are listed on the Village website.

To vote by mail, download the "Application for Vote by Mail Ballot" available at www.essex-clerk.com/forms or apply in person at the Essex County Clerk's Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the county clerk's office before 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

For more information contact the Village Clerk's Office at clerk@southorange.org or call (973) 378-7715, x7724. ▲

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

**May/June
2011**

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Your comments wanted at Village Charter forum

Residents are invited to the second public forum of the Charter Review Committee on Thursday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall. This is your chance to weigh in on a preliminary report of charter recommendations.

At November's forum, residents provided input on possible amendments. The second forum will allow public comment on the committee's preliminary changes. The committee will use public feedback from the second forum in the final report to the Board of Trustees.

The nine-member volunteer committee, appointed last August, gathered data through interviews and surveys with past and present Village officials, as well as officials in comparable communities, to identify opportunities for improved Village government, and to consider whether an alternative form of government would be feasible. ▲

24 students to be selected for Junior Police Academy

South Orange and Maplewood youngsters in fifth to seventh grade are invited to sign up for the annual Junior Police Academy sponsored by the Youth Aid Division of the South Orange Police Department.

From Monday, July 11 to Friday, July 15, students will learn the basics of "working together toward one common goal," including respect, discipline, teamwork, motivation and dedication to a greater cause. Students start the week as 24 individuals and end as a single team.

Participants will get an overview of police officer training, the legal process, and drug and alcohol awareness. Officers from SOPD and other agencies will lead the course.

Space is limited to 24 students, first-come first-served, at a fee of \$75. For information, call Det. Mark Garrett, (973) 763-3000, x7789. Apply at SOPD, or online at www.southorangepba.com or <http://southorange.org>. ▲



The Squier/Redmond house will be a stop on the *Gems of South Orange* biennial house tour, to be presented May 21 by the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society. For more information, see page 4, or go to sohps.org.

Two reasons to be downtown on June 11

■ Celebrate South Orange

"Take this town and love it!" say the folks at Main Street South Orange who are planning the fifth annual Celebrate South Orange event on Saturday, June 11, from 1 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy live music and dance performances, shop the Sloan Street Market, which hosts local artists, businesses and organizations. Don't miss the CSO/Town Hall Deli Sloppy Joe Eating Contest, or the Community Supper featuring food samples from South Orange restaurants.

For the kids, there will be games and inflatables plus real trucks to climb on.

Come downtown to celebrate everything great about South Orange! ▲

■ Free Health Fair

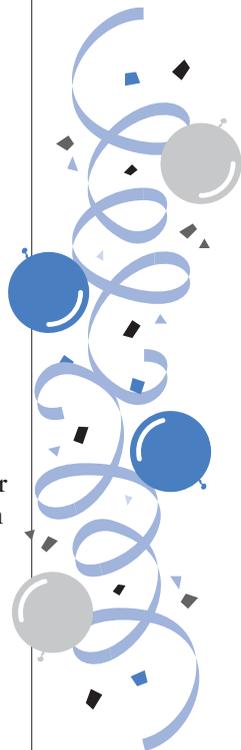
The Village Department of Health will host its annual free health fair on Saturday, June 11 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sloan Street firehouse. Stop by during Celebrate South Orange.

Screenings will be conducted to test eyes, blood pressure, spines, lung capacity, prostate and hearing.

Get a figure analysis, give blood, or find out more about reiki, nutrition, cancer or domestic violence.

Parents can get children's ID kits from the Masons of New Jersey. Free smoke alarms and radon test kits will be distributed. Kids can enjoy coloring books.

Participating agencies will include Total Hearing Screening Care, the Blood Center of NJ, South Orange's fire, police and rescue personnel, South Orange Chiropractic Center, the Essex County Rape Care Center, NJ CEED (St. Michael's Medical Center), Jespy House, the Jewish Federation, East Orange General Hospital, Spa Lady of South Orange, Nutritional Tables, the Lions Club, a pediatrician, and East Orange WIC. ▲



Farmers' Market

The Main Street South Orange Farmers' Market starts June 29.

Shop for Jersey Fresh produce, flowers, prepared foods and more, every Wednesday from 2 to 7 p.m. in the Sloan Street parking lot. For details, go to MainStreet-SouthOrange.org.

Two Towns covered by Alternative Press

South Orange and Maplewood are now included in the online news coverage of The Alternative Press, a growing outlet for community journalism, already established in 12 other New Jersey towns.

In a "groundbreaking" arrangement with Seton Hall University, undergraduates provide much of the South Orange and Maplewood content under the guidance of Seton Hall adjunct professor Adam Nichols, who edits the two sites.

The students cover government, sports and town events, all supplemented by calendar listings, reader columns, and business news.

To check it out, visit online at www.TheAlternativePress.com. ▲

Cooking seminar teaches better health

A free nutritional cooking seminar, "Blood Pressure and Cholesterol," will be presented by the South Orange Department of Health and Giorgio's Ristorante on Wednesday, May 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Giorgio's, 52 Vose Avenue. Watch a cooking demonstration while learning how to control the cardiovascular risk factors of blood pressure and cholesterol. Space is limited and registration ends on May 18. To sign up, call the Health Department at (973) 378-7715, x7710. ▲

West Nile testing has begun

New Jersey's West Nile Virus surveillance is under way to help control the spread of the disease. The South Orange Department of Health began collecting and testing dead crows, blue jays, hawks and robins on April 25. Tests help determine where the virus is circulating and where enhanced mosquito control activities may be needed. If you find a dead bird of the correct species, call the Animal Control Officer at (973) 378-7715, x7711. For more information, visit www.state.nj.us/dep/mosquito. ▲

Is a gas lamp near you not working?

If a gas lamp near your property is malfunctioning, the Village asks you to report the outage to PSE&G.

A light should be reported if:

- One or more of the three glowing mantles is not operating 24 hours a day.
- If the globe is not clean and clear.

To report a problem, be sure you have the location of the street light or gas lamp, the nearest cross street and the pole number (located on a metal strip attached to the pole). Then go to the Village website, www.southorange.org. Under "Easy Access," click on "Report Streetlight Outage." You'll be linked to PSE&G Customer Service. Or call 1-800-436-PSEG (7734). ▲

Order teacher thank you notes now

Teachers love year-end thanks from their own students. For a minimum donation of \$5, the Achieve Foundation will print your child's message of appreciation for a teacher, counselor, bus driver or other school staffer on a special card, then deliver it to the recipient the last week of school.

Personalized Honor Your Teacher & Staff tribute cards not only recognize the good works of our school personnel, they also help fund classroom grants for special teaching projects. In the current school year, teachers in all nine schools of the South Orange/Maplewood School District received \$43,000 through Achieve for 50 classroom grants.

Help fund next year's grants by ordering your Teacher & Staff tribute cards. To order by June 1, go to www.achievefoundation.com or call (973) 762-3758. ▲

Want to find out when Village meetings are held?

Go online to: southorange.org/calendarGovi

Renew Your ID Badge Now

It's more than just a pool badge! The 2011 South Orange Recreation and Cultural Affairs ID badge brings discounts on many Baird classes and programs. The fee through May 15 is \$30 per person, with a maximum family fee of \$120. Beginning May 16, the fee will be \$35 per person, with a maximum family fee of \$140. (A family is "parent/s and dependent children living in the same household.")

Badges are issued at The Baird with two proofs of residency. Details online.

Summer Help Needed

The Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs hires seasonal staff to work at the pool and as camp counselors. Applications are available at The Baird and online.

Preschool at The Baird

Limited openings remain for the 2011-2012 Baird Preschool, a state licensed program for South Orange and Maplewood children ages 2 ½ to 5 (as of Oct. 1, 2011). Details and registration online.

PIERRO GALLERY

www.pierrogallery.org

Booked 8 - "Rescue/Reveal"
Through May 21

The Book Arts Roundtable presents a popular exhibition of artists' books created by roundtable members and built around the theme "Rescue/Reveal." For a prospectus go to www.bookarts-roundtable.com.

Sneak a peak at this year's Artists Studio Tour

The annual South Orange, Maplewood Artists Studio Tour will take place Sunday, June 5 (see page 4), but you can get a "Preview/Post View" during the two-week exhibition surrounding the tour, from May 26 to June 11. Pierro will exhibit one work of art from each studio tour participant. Opening reception May 26, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Spend Time Among Art and Artists

Pierro Gallery needs volunteers to help make public access to art a priority. The gallery presents six openings a year plus special events. Volunteers help with hospitality, mailing lists, hanging exhibitions, special events, graphic design, publicity, grant writing, and fundraising. Hours are flexible. To inquire, contact Sandy Martiny at smartiny@southorange.org.

SUMMER RECREATION**Summer Playground Program -**

Limited openings are available in the Summer Playground Program, grades K-8, South Orange residents only. Dates for the half-day (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), seven-week camp are June 27 to Aug. 12. Children meet daily in age/grade groups, enjoying games, sports, music, dance, art, swimming, special events and field trips, plus self-directed play under counselor supervision.

Cool Rocket/Science Camp - Send your kids to a fun-filled one-week camp where they can explore the science of flight, construct unique paper airplanes and learn to build their own model rockets for launch. For children ages 6 to 11. Two sessions offered, starting July 25 or Aug. 1, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fee: \$175 per week.

Cougar Baseball Camps, directed by coaches Larry Busichio and Chris Henry, will be offered in three sessions: the weeks of June 27, July 11 or July 18. Children ages 7 to 14 will focus on fundamentals: throwing, fielding, base-running, hitting, catching, and pitching. Details and registration online. Fee: \$300/week (\$240 for week of June 27, which is only 4 days).

U.S. Sports Institute Multi-Sports Camp will take place at Meadowland Park Aug. 15 to 19. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com. Offered for three age groups:

- Ages 3-5: From 4 to 5 p.m. Soccer, t-ball, basketball, lacrosse and hockey.
- Ages 5-14: Half-day camp, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., OR 1 to 4 p.m. More than 10 sports in one week.
- Ages 6-14: Full-day camp, 9 a.m. to

4 p.m. Many sports and daily challenges.

U.S. Sports Institute Beginner Golf Clinics for boys and girls, Aug. 22 to 26. Ages 5 to 7, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Ages 8 to 11, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Details and registration at www.USSportsInstitute.com.

South Mountain Soccer is for South Orange and Maplewood children, grades 3 through 8, all skill levels. The 10 week-session includes professional training one day a week and a game each weekend. No tryouts. Fee \$175. Registration starts June 1.

Adult Soccer - South Orange and Maplewood adults meet for informal soccer games at New Waterlands Park on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Rule modifications accommodate a range of fitness, ages and skills. Maintain conditioning, improve skills and have fun. Fee: \$35. Registration starts June 1.

DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATER

www.dreamcatcherrep.org
973-378-7754, x2228

■ **Meet the Artist.** Enjoy free readings of scripts in development, then give feedback in an open discussion with the playwright, actors and director. Readings are at 7:30 p.m. at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., in Summit.

• May 11 - "Random Horrible Thoughts about Love," five short comedies by David Lee White.

• May 25 - "Shakespeare in Vegas," a comedy by Suzanne Bradbeer.

■ **Summer Theater Conservatory starts June 1.**

The 2011 Summer Theatre Conservatory will be offered July 1 to 29. Students will learn acting technique, improv, voice, and dance while developing a stage show. Young people ages 10 to 17 can apply. Classes are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Baird. All classes are taught by theater professionals. Costs range from \$250 for one week to \$800 for all four weeks. For the weekly curriculum, contact the theater.

River Day, May 1

South Orange River Day is an annual community gathering to clean up the Village section of the Rahway River and promote environmental awareness. The volunteer cleanup runs from 11 a.m. to noon. Additional activities include a walking tour of the watershed, live music, a model boat rally on the duck pond, bicycle maintenance instruction, yoga demos and more. Events center around the skate house off Mead Street. For more information go to www.soriverday.org.

Fun summer learning for kids and adults



Want to learn about science, crafts and letters? How about sports and musical theater camps, Suzuki violin, clay animation, or film-making? There's something for everyone this summer at the South Orange-Maplewood Adult School. For a PDF version of the catalog, go to www.somadulthoodschool.org.

Adult School touts YouTube channel

Visit www.youtube.com/SOMAdultSchool to see clips of classes in action. Like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SouthOrangeMaplewoodAdultSchool>.

3 Events - Community Coalition on Race

www.twotowns.org
info@twotowns.org
 973-761-6116

■ **Conversations on Race** - Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth El in South Orange. An exchange about the benefits of intentional integration and challenges in our community. A film, "The New Metropolis," will kick off the discussion.

■ **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner:** Friday and Saturday June 10 and 11. Racially integrated fundraising dinners held throughout the two towns. Go online and complete a contact form to host or attend.

■ **Through The Lens of Integration** - Free integration-themed photography workshops taught by local professionals, Saturdays, May 7, 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Selected photos to be displayed in the annual Artists Studio Tour. Register online.

Cougar Boosters hold golf outing

The 13th annual Cougar Boosters Golf Outing will be held May 2 at Maplewood Country Club. The popular annual event raises funds for Columbia High School extracurricular activities such as frisbee, fencing, softball, lacrosse, the marching band, Midnight Madness, and the Shakespeare Festival. For more information and online registration, visit www.CHSCougarBoosters.org, or e-mail Al Farah at CHSGolfOuting@gmail.com.

Live music, downtown

"Downtown after Sundown" concerts feature live music and local talent starting May 6 (weather permitting). Concerts run from 7:30 to 10

p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays in two locations: Spiotta Park and the plaza at Sloan St. and South Orange Ave. Hosted by Main Street South Orange, sponsored by Investors Bank and the Village of South Orange. (Additional sponsorships available.) For details go to MainStreetSouthOrange.org.

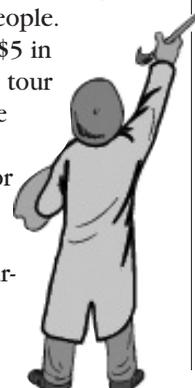
S.O. Symphony performs May 21

The symphony will present a free concert on Saturday, May 21 at 8 p.m. at South Orange Middle School. The 2010 Artist Competition winner Hye-woon Kate Lim will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2. Other performances by the orchestra will include Stravinsky's "Firebird" and Weber's Overture to Turandot. For more information, visit www.southorangesymphony.org or call (973) 729-5275.

Artists Studio Tour, June 5

The eighth annual South Orange and Maplewood Artists Studio Tour will be held Sunday, June 5, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists will open their studios to visitors in a day-long celebration of the local art scene. Presented by the 1978 Maplewood Arts Center and the Pierro Gallery of South Orange, the self-guided tour includes more than 50 participating painters, sculptors, photographers, printmakers, jewelers and craftspeople.

Tickets are \$5 in advance (\$7 on tour day). Tickets are available beginning May 22. For purchase locations, visit www.studiotour-soma.org.



See four centuries of homes on 'Gems' house tour

"Gems of South Orange," the biennial house tour of the South Orange Historical and Preservation Society, will include homes from the 18th to the 21st centuries, from the valley to the heights of First Mountain.

Six months in the planning, the event takes place on Saturday, May 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. In keeping with tradition, organizers will not identify the actual homes until tour day.

One house, termed the "queen of the show," has pre-Revolutionary roots dating to 1774. Other stops include an unusual Art Moderne home, a turreted Victorian with stable, and a mountain-top Grand Tudor.

Complimentary nibbles and live music will be offered at some homes.

The tour will begin at the South Orange-Vailsburg Methodist Church, 150 South Orange Avenue, where tickets must be picked up. Cost: \$20 in advance or \$25 on tour day.

Buy tickets through PayPal, or call (973) 324-9351 to reserve. Only cash and checks will be accepted on tour day.

Bicycle Coalition rolls into action

Time to roll the bikes out of the garage! The South Orange Maplewood Bicycle Coalition is filling its spring calendar with family friendly biking opportunities. Rides are planned for May 28, June 12, and June 25, all at 10 a.m. Check the website for details, www.sombike.com

Library Events

(973) 762-0230 • www.sopl.org

Popular Children's Author at SOPL

Dan Gutman, author of the "Weird School Daze" series and other popular kids' titles, will be at the library on Friday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m., and afterward, at Sparkhouse Studio for a book signing.

South Orange Library Discussion Group

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

May 5 - "Mothering Across Cultures."

May 12 - Discussion of Toni Morrison's "Jazz."

May 19 - Spring Symposium, lunch and entertainment at The

Baird. Registration required.
June 2 - Discussion with S.O. Patch Editor Marcia Worth.

June 16 - "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Honeybees."

June 30 - "Shakespeare: Page to Stage."

Conversations on Environmental Justice

Provided by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities

• May 5, 7 p.m. - "Crude: The Real Price of Oil," an award-winning documentary.

• June 2, 7:30 p.m. - book discussion, "American Earth," with Rutgers Prof. Frank Popper.

Special Classes

• Drop-In Computer Classes - May 9 and 23, June 6 and 27, 10 a.m. to noon.

• Knitting Workshop - May 16 and June 20 at noon.

• Creative Writing - May 4 and 18, June 1 and 15, at 1 p.m.

Wed. at the Movies

May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22. All shows at 1 p.m.

Book Sale, May 14

Books, DVDs, CDs and children's games will be sold during the library book sale on Saturday, May 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot behind the library. Proceeds will help fund library programming and acquisitions. To help with the sale, e-mail friends@sopl.org,

call (973) 762-0230, or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/friendsofsopl>.

Summer Reading Sign Up

June 23 and 24 are sign-up days for the children's Summer Reading Program. The opening day program is June 27, from 2 to 8 p.m.

Children's Room

No registration required

• Monday Lego Club, 3:30 p.m.: ages 6 to 8, May 9 and June 13; ages 10 and up, May 23 and June 20.

• Storytimes run through May 11 and return with summer reading. Ask staff for details.

• Tuesday Chess & Games, 3:30 p.m., all ages.

• Wednesday Book Group, ages 7 to 10, May 11 and June 8, 4 p.m.

• Thursday music, 10 a.m.: May 5 and June 2 with Ms. Marilyn; May 12 and June 9, Banjo Music.

• Drop-In Crafts, April 21, May 13 and June 10 at 3:30 p.m.

• Homeschooling Families, May 13 and June 10, 11 a.m. ▲



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Villager of the Month **Jackie Herships**



In Touch

with
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Government

General Info.
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Emergency, 911
Clerk's Office, x1
Administrator, x2
Construction, x3
Tax Collector, x4
Assessor, x5
Finance, x6
Engineer, x7
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Cultural Affairs
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Rescue Squad
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Recycling Info. &
Street Dept.
378-7741
Water Service
266-8869

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

We've all met the guy who spawns an endless stream of ideas scribbled on paper napkins, who shares them excitedly with friends, then tosses them on the trash heap of abandoned brilliance.

Jackie Herships isn't related to that guy. Instead, she publishes her ideas and they get notice. Lots of it. Because she has a nose for what's intrinsically interesting.

Back in the 70s, in her Manhattan days, Jackie founded one of the earliest recycling groups to promote "understanding of recycling and why we should do it."

For four years she wrote fascinating feature stories about obscure Jerseyans for the Star-Ledger.

She was a key player in producing an award-winning documentary with the League of Women Voters, a musical comedy fantasy about garbage (Yes, all that!) for children called "Last Days of Maplewood," a one-year volunteer project.

From that fertile mind, about eight years ago, came one of Jackie's best ideas — PIM, or Professionals in Media — an ever-growing group that gathers six times a year to chat about all things media.

It started with Jackie and her good friend Michelle Hollow, another South Orange writer. "We were talking and I said, I don't really know any media people around here any more. And Michelle didn't either. So I said let's do something about that."

A notice appeared in the Gaslight for a meeting of media professionals at Jackie's house, an opportunity to share and learn. Thirty writ-

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South Orange, NJ 07079

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

ers, filmmakers, editors, designers and marketing types showed up and soaked in the professional good will.

Today, PIM has no members. "We're not that official," says Jackie. "We have a list. About 300 people want to be on the list." Meetings attract 20 to 30 people, more if there is a pot luck party, which happens once or twice a year at Les Saisons B&B in Maplewood. In between, there's an active PIM discussion forum on LinkedIn.

PIM meetings always entail a learning element. One early meeting was a live demo on sound editing by noted public broadcast journalist Nancy Solomon of South Orange.

A session on hyper-local media helpfully occurred when the trend first became evident. "It was the beginning of the new order in newspapers," said Jackie.

"Another speaker was Pulitzer Prize-winning former Newsday foreign editor and South Orange resident Dele Olojede, who spoke about covering Rwanda.

Two recent programs were on self-publishing and Ebooks, one by award-winning food writer Linda Eckhardt, the other by Ebook strategist Elaine Bloom of South Orange.

PIM has become part of the South Orange-Maplewood landscape of art, culture and near-urban energy. Jackie, a 20-year Villager, is the piston that keeps it pumping.

Aside from her PIM volunteerism, Jackie is a PR professional who helps companies and individuals with strategic communications and new business development. She loves working with clients in the arts, environmental causes, and whatever satisfies her endless curiosity.

And now, Jackie is having another meeting in her home.

The topic? Home sharing.

"I want to talk about diminishing revenue in people's lives," she says, "because it affects how we live and who we live with."

Jackie believes shared living is the wave of the future, whether renting or buying a home. "Like Golden Girls," she says, but not always single gender.

If you think you might be on the same sharing wavelength, contact Jackie at (973) 763-7555 or jacqueline@jacquelineherships.com



CHS grad named California energy commissioner

Carla Peterman, a Rhodes Scholar and Columbia High School graduate, was recently appointed as a commissioner of energy by California Governor Jerry Brown. She began her duties in March.

Peterman is finishing doctoral studies this year in energy and resources at the University of California at Berkeley. She has worked and written on a wide range of California energy and policy issues including cap-and-trade, efficacy of local environmental regulations, climate change and communities of color, clean energy subsidies, and energy security. Peterman holds a B.A. in history from Howard University, an M.S. in environmental change and management and an M.B.A. from Oxford University.

She is the daughter of long-time Villagers Phylis and Carl Peterman. ▲