

# The South Orange Gaslight



## Informal "Town Hall" meeting set for June 18

Got a topic of interest or concern about South Orange? The Village Board of Trustees will hold an informal "Town Hall" meeting on Wednesday, June 18 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Baird, #5 Mead Street. The relaxed session is not a standard board meeting; it will enable residents to openly discuss topics of their choosing. Afterward, trustees will be available to meet individually with residents.

Additional Town Hall meetings are scheduled for Sept. 17 and Jan. 21. For more information, call the Village Clerk's Office at (973) 378-7715, x7724. ▲

## It's only a test!

### Village to check emergency siren system

On Saturday, June 28, Village public safety officials will be testing the town's emergency sirens located throughout South Orange. Please do not call the South Orange Police Department or other emergency responders.

In a real emergency, residents would be notified through traditional communications systems.

If testing proves that the emergency siren system is a viable part of our emergency operations, residents will be notified via the Gaslight and the South Orange Web site ([www.southorange.org](http://www.southorange.org)) before the system is put in place. ▲



## Innovative Village history class to be taught at CHS

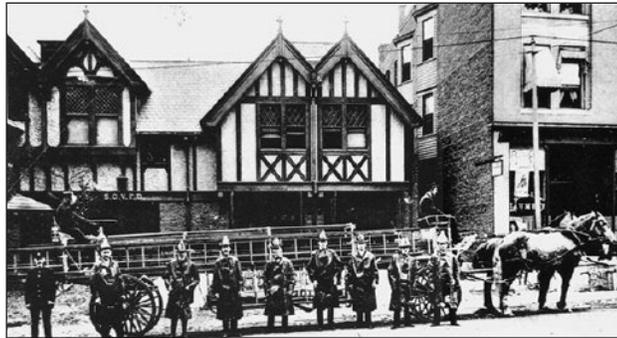
Can the history of South Orange be taught in conjunction with Columbia High School's American History program?

Yes, says the South Orange Historical & Preservation Society. And they've got the backing of Columbia High and Seton Hall University to carry it through.

SOHPS has proposed a local history curriculum to be developed and possibly even taught by Seton Hall professors and history majors. The university and the historic society are working with Chris Preston, supervisor of social studies for the South Orange Maplewood School District, to develop the new curriculum. The exact date of implementation is still unknown.

"This is a big thrust for us," said Joanne Douds, an SOHPS board member. "Our intent is to have all South Orange kids have a pride in where they come from, not just because they live here, but because they understand the unique history of this place. These kids didn't just grow up anywhere. We have some of the most important historical structures in the nation sitting right here in South Orange."

By going through the program, said Douds, students "will be interested in the history not only of



*Village Hall, a Tudor revival structure built in 1893, is one of South Orange's many historic treasures, shown here in 1905 with fire department personnel in front. Historic places such as this will be covered in a new local history course being developed by SOHPS.*

this town but of other people's towns. They will seek to learn history when they travel to other places."

To kick off the program, SOHPS has just awarded its first annual \$1,000 scholarship to a South Orange student at Columbia High. The scholarship was awarded on June 4, but the recipient's identity was not known at deadline time.

In the future, said Douds, scholarship applicants will be limited to those students who enroll in the elective South Orange history curriculum.

This year's kick-off scholarship was given for the best 2,500-word essay on the history of the South Orange Train Station. Douds said the topic tied into the society's recent bestowal of the 2008 Preservation Award. It was given to New Jersey Transit in recognition of their historic restoration and accessibility modifications at the station. The presentation ceremony and reception were held May 20. ▲

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

*June, July, August, 2008*

## Inside

■ Welcome to six new businesses

■ Young Filmmakers and Videomakers Festival at the Library, June 9

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■ Villagers of the Month: two 2008 CHS graduates

# Biz buzz

☛ **Robyn Ross** fine jewelry and designer clothing opened April 12 at

67 South Orange Avenue. Owner Robyn Fields said she offers clothing brands unique to the area because the brands' owners don't want to be over-distributed. "They're contemporary women's brands," she said, "perfect for the type of clientele in this town." Her high-end jewelry includes 14- and 18-carat gold, diamonds and gemstones.

☛ **Barrels Hot Dogs** newly opened at 50 South Orange Avenue, touts "great hot dogs, great atmosphere and great prices!" Owners Phil Candura and Ron Gaudiosi opened in mid-April, confident that South Orange was perfect for them. "In general, it's the clientele we expected," said Candura. "There's lots of pedestrian traffic and good proximity to schools. We like the idea that it's a village and it has a good administration. We were truly welcomed. It's a great community."

☛ **Burjazz Café** at 61 Academy Street, offers delicious salads, wraps and sandwiches in a cozy café setting. Long-time South Orange resident Mitchell Burgess opened in March. "I didn't want anything fried," he said. "Everything is healthy and fresh." At the same time, the atmosphere, music and interior colors (wine and mint green) reflect the relaxed mood he wanted to convey.

☛ **Calapaz International Trading** at 6 Village Plaza, offers international accessories and textiles for all types of clothing, tablecloths and other decorating purposes. Owner Emefa Yador of West Orange opened the store last July. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

☛ **Jesse's Shear Genius**, at 131 South Orange Avenue, held its grand opening on May 17. Owner

Lianna Richardson said the shop serves both men and women and specializes in cutting and coloring. Hours are Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

☛ **New Beginnings**, opened Mar. 1 at 307A Irvington Avenue. Co-owners Petalyn Rollins of East Orange and Verona Knight-Right of South Orange, offer an upscale variety of new, used and antique merchandise (including clothing and furniture). Rollins said they chose to locate in South Orange because people who live here "will appreciate what we offer."▲

## Free health fair in September

Concerned about your body? The Village Department of Health is hosting a free health fair for residents and their families on Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Baird (#5 Mead Street).

Screenings will be conducted to test eyes, blood pressure, spines, skin (for cancer), antioxidant levels, hearing and blood glucose (fasting required). In addition, blood donations (non-fasting), massage therapy and figure analysis will be offered.

Free smoke alarms, radon test kits and gun safety locks will be distributed and fair goers can examine an electrical safety display. Kids can enjoy coloring books, face painting and educational handouts.

Participating with the Health Department will be Total Hearing Screening Care, Northern Eye Institute, Blood Center of NJ, South Orange's fire, police and rescue personnel, NJ Animal Coalition, South Orange Chiropractic Center, PSE&G, Essex Regional Health Commission, Seton Hall, UMDNJ, Spa Lady of South Orange, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Nutritional Tables, Lions Club, an acupuncturist, a cardiologist, and more.▲

## West Nile Virus testing season now under way

The South Orange Department of Health began collecting dead birds for the West Nile Virus season on April 15. Crows and blue jays are the most common carriers in New Jersey. Testing them for WNV is the best way to know where the virus is circulating and where enhanced mosquito control activities may need to occur, says the Health Department.

If you find a dead crow or blue jay, or if you have any questions, call the Animal Control Officer at (973) 378-7715, x7711.

WNV is transmitted primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. The larvae are commonly found in polluted water in roadside ditches, outdoor containers, swimming pools, and clogged roof gutters. To reduce the mosquito threat around your home, empty and refill outdoor bird baths daily, tilt wheelbarrows, and empty watering cans.

To reduce mosquito bites, you should avoid shaded areas, limit evening outdoor activity, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, and use insect repellants with 20% to 30% DEET. For more information, visit [www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health).▲

## SOMEF gives \$6.5K in educator awards

Three Marshall School teachers and three elementary principals recently received \$6,500 in educator grants from the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation.

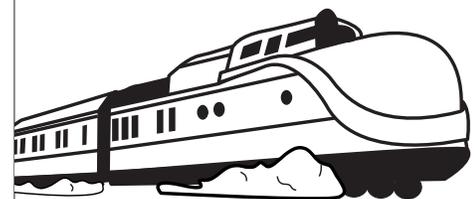
Marshall teachers Bebe Greenberg, Donna Grohman and Jennifer Smalletz will attend a workshop on the teaching of writing at Columbia University this summer.

The principals awarded are:

- Patricia O'Neill, Clinton School, to attend the Principal's Center for Educational Leadership.

- Thomas Gibbons, South Mountain School, to purchase a reading support software training program.

- Dr. Maryrose Caulfield-Sloan, Jefferson School, to develop a multi-modal learning center.



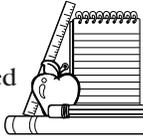
## Midtown Direct adds third morning pickup

In case you haven't noticed yet, New Jersey Transit's Midtown Direct express train is offering expanded service from South Orange. Effective May 11, the #6318 train began departing South Orange at 8:10 a.m. It arrives at New York Penn Station at 8:46 a.m.

The new service is added to two earlier trains at 7:34 a.m. and 8:22 a.m.▲

# In The Schools

**Columbia High School** was recognized by the GRAMMY Foundation as one of



only 14 schools nationwide to be chosen as a 2008 GRAMMY Signature School. The program recognizes top U.S. public high schools committed to outstanding music education. CHS received a grant of \$5,000 to benefit the guitar and/or piano programs.

**Allison Philips**, a CHS sophomore trumpet player, was selected as a member of the 2008-2009 New Jersey All State Jazz Ensemble after passing a rigorous audition. Only 18 students are invited into the exclusive ensemble. Previously, Phillips was selected as a member of the 2007-2008 All North Jersey Region Jazz Ensemble.

**The CHS Girls Fencing Team** was this year's state fencing champion. They took first place in the Santelli Tournament and first place in the NJSIAA Team Tournament. They were also the Star-Ledger Team of the Year. Their coach is Holly Buechel.

**CHS senior Samiel Cameron** was one of four students selected to receive the 2007-2008 Princeton Prize in Race Relations of Essex-Hudson Counties and Northwestern New Jersey. Her unique project, "Highlighting Columbia High School: Fears, Facts and Folklore," was a series of public events at which community members could meet and discuss facts and perceptions about Columbia High School.

**The CHS Ultimate Frisbee Boys Team** won the Eastern Championship title. They competed in a two-day tournament in Pittsburgh against 16 of the best high school teams in the eastern U.S. The sport was founded at CHS in 1968. ▲

## RECYCLE: It's a Good Thing!

The Village encourages all residents to recycle from the curbside using green and blue toters. (Green for newspaper, with separate comingle container, and blue for high-grade paper.)

If you don't already have toters, consider buying one or both. They are available from DPW at a cost of \$88 for the green toter with gray commingle can, and \$75 for the blue toter. Your purchase will help the Village boost its recycling intake.

Since toters are oil-based products, the price is likely to rise soon. (Last increase, more than \$3 per toter.) Buy now before the current supply runs out.

For a purchase form, call DPW at (973) 378-7741 or print the form from the Web site, [www.southorange.org](http://www.southorange.org).

### Saturday Container Drop-Offs

*June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27  
8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.  
(no arrivals after 1:30 p.m.)  
DPW Yard, 300 Walton Avenue*

Special disposal containers are provided. Two proofs of residency are required. Not open to commercial or industrial companies. Call DPW for questions about permissible drop-offs.

### Electronic Drop-Offs

Five Saturdays remain in the 2008 schedule for free electronic drop-off in South Orange and 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.

Saturday Electronics Drop-Offs  
*8 a.m. - noon*

- June 7, South Orange
- Aug. 2, Maplewood
- Sept. 13, South Orange
- Nov. 1, Maplewood
- Dec. 20, South Orange

LIBRARY LIBRARY LIBRARY

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

✓ The 34th annual **Young Filmmakers and Videomakers Festival**, Monday, June 9, at 4 p.m. Winning works of high school and college students will be shown. A moderator will discuss the films and answer questions.

✓ **Wii for Seniors**, an interactive and physically stimulating game from Nintendo offers fun and exercise, July 17 and 31, Aug. 14 and 28, at 1 p.m. Scrabble also available.

✓ **"The Learned Ladies"** a French classic comedy by Moliere will be performed by the Next Stage Ensemble of the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey on Tuesday Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

✓ **Free College Planning Class**, Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### Lecture Series

*Thursdays, 1 p.m.*

• June 26 - "Stem Cells - Then and Now," Dr. Donald Kent, physician and professor of the history of medicine at Drew University.

• July 10 - John Wargacki, Seton Hall English professor, will discuss the book, "The Greatest Salesman in the World," by Og Mandino.

• July 24 - "The Nun's Garden: Mother and Daughter," Helen Frank and Holly Scalera, artist and poet.

• Aug. 7 - "How the Court System Works," Alvin Weiss, retired Superior Court judge and lawyer.

• Aug. 21 - "The Yiddish Theatre," Abe Bunis.

### Regular Programs

• S. O. Book Review Group (adults) - June 23, 7:30 p.m., "Life & Times of the Thunderbolt Kid," by Bill Bryson. Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m., "The Importance of Being Ernest," by Oscar Wilde.

• Open Stage Poetry for Teens (9th grade and up) - June 19, July 17, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. Perform poetry, spoken word, sing a song, play an instrument!

• Wednesday movies will be shown the second and fourth Thursday of every month this summer. ▲

# Experience the ART of Friendship

Join The  
Baird Friends  
of the Arts

Dear Friends,

The 2008-2009 Baird Friends of the Arts membership drive is now under way, highlighting activities scheduled from September 2008 through August 2009. Your membership gift is a commitment and partnership that we value and depend on.

As you know, The Baird has developed a notable reputation for bringing diverse, professional and always cost-friendly programming to the Village, a feat made possible by residents (and visitors!) who join local businesses and the Village as sponsors.

Please consider becoming a member of The Baird Friends of the Arts today. In return for your gift, we promise a year of world-class cultural opportunities. I look forward to seeing soon you at one of our events!

Judy Wukitsch, Assistant Director  
South Orange Department  
of Recreation & Cultural Affairs

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Level  1  2  3  4 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Visa or Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Village of South Orange" and mail to: Friends of the Arts, Baird Center,  
#5 Mead Street, South Orange, NJ 07079. For more information: (973) 378-7754, [www.thebaird.org](http://www.thebaird.org).

I would like information on volunteering for cultural arts programming.

## Baird Arts Recognition Program

### Level 1: ESSENTIAL \$100

- Personal recognition listing in select programs.
- Advance notice of all art openings, concerts, lectures, workshops and classes.
- Attendance at members-only previews.
- Free admission to Crafts at The Baird preview night.

### Level 2: SIGNIFICANT \$150

All "Essential" benefits, plus:

- 10% discount on adult art classes.
- Discount tickets for Jazz at The Baird series.
- Autographed CD by a South Orange jazz great.

### Level 3: QUINTESSENTIAL \$250

All "Essential" and "Significant" benefits, plus:

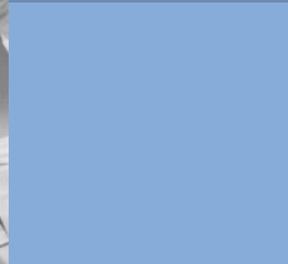
- Recognition on the donor fund plaque.
- Invitation to Giants of Jazz II sound check.
- Preferred seating, party of four at Giants of Jazz.
- Attend exclusive pre-performance reception.
- 10% discount on the first \$100 in purchases at Crafts at The Baird.

### Level 4: GRACIOUS

We appreciate all levels of support.



*Diverse,  
Professional and  
Always Cost-Friendly  
Programming*



## Premier Performances

**Giant of Jazz II** - This is the annual concert that established South Orange as a notable venue for world-class jazz. Recent years' events have drawn people from as far as Boston and as near as Tillou Avenue.

**Jazz at The Baird** - Five monthly concerts from January through May offer an intimate venue for appreciating renowned and rising jazz musicians. The casual environment encourages interaction between performers and listeners.

**Summer Concerts in the Park Series** - Our popular summer series brings an eclectic mix of free concerts to Meadowland Park every Wednesday in July, from jazz and folk, to pop and rock 'n roll. Past performers have included Jon Lucien, Dizzy Gillespie & His All Star Orchestra, and the Caribbean Jazz Project.

## Theater at The Baird

**Dreamcatcher Repertory** (Theater in Residence) Contemporary plays and musicals are staged by the company's professional actors, who also offer theater classes for teens and adults.

**Flying Ship Productions** (Theater in Residence) Pre-teens develop skills in musical theater under the tutelage of a professional musical touring troupe.

**Penny Pretzel Playhouse** - From across the U.S. and Europe, exceptional puppet presentations for children and adults are introduced by this professional playhouse.

## Visual Arts

**Pierro Gallery of South Orange** - Founded in 1994, the gallery has attained a significant reputation in the visual arts world. It seeks to expose, educate and enlighten visitors of all ages, backgrounds, interests and abilities with compelling exhibitions and related programming. Outreach programs include district school visits with hands-on components and informative talks.

**Book Arts Round Table** - For those who love book and paper arts, this is a creative forum that convenes monthly to share ideas, techniques, collaborations and opportunities.

**The Print Studio** - Our professional studio offers etching and galley presses for limited edition prints and books.

**Arts Classes and Workshops** - Visual arts programs for teens and adults are taught by working professionals. Highlights include "Art With A Master," glass bead-making, drawing and various forms of dance. Age-appropriate classes in art, music and dance are offered for toddlers to middle schoolers.

# IT'S HAPPENING AT THE BAIRD!

## AT THE BAIRD

(973) 378-7754  
www.thebaird.org

### PIERRO GALLERY

(973) 378-7754  
www.pierrogallery.org

#### "Wake Up! Are We Desensitized?" June 1 to July 27

Multimedia artists explore issues of security, social intolerance, war, politics and the state of the world post 9/11. Curated by Raleigh Ceasar, the exhibit includes works by Frances Heinrich, Hernando Rico Sanchez and Mary Tasillo. A panel discussion with the curator and artists will be held Sunday, June 22 at 2 p.m.

Gallery hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., and by appointment.

### DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATER

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

#### "Touch The Sky" - A Dreamcatcher Junior Production

Dreamcatcher's Laura Ekstrand has adapted the insightful songs and stories of John Farrell, singer, songwriter, author and peace educator, in a revue for family audiences. Performed by and for young people, the show embraces the experience of being young, from the ridiculous to the sublime. July 25 to Aug. 3.

#### Summer Theatre Conservatory

Enrollment continues through June for Dreamcatcher's Summer Theatre Conservatory. Classes run from July 7 through Aug. 1, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Baird. Actors ages 10 to 17 can attend one, two, three or all four weeks, switching each week to a different specialty. Stage professionals teach all classes and students receive individual attention.

- Week 1, Actors' Workshop.
- Week 2, Musical Theatre Workshop.
- Week 3, Writing for the Stage.
- Week 4, Student Talent Showcase.

The cost is \$200 for one week, \$360 for two weeks, \$510 for three weeks, and \$640 for four weeks. Limited scholarships are available.

## HAPPENINGS

### Main Street South Orange

(973) 763-6899, or visit  
www.MainStreetSouthOrange.org

• **June Lunchtime Concert Series** - every Wednesday in June, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Spiotta Park (South Orange Avenue and Village Plaza), grab lunch from a fabulous Village restaurant and eat while enjoying outdoor entertainment.

• **The 2nd Annual Celebrate South Orange "Take this town and love it!"** starts off Saturday, June 14, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Spiotta Park with home-grown live music, food, kids' activities, a merchant's bazaar, safety and wellness demos. Also learn about local organizations.

That evening, stay for the community supper, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Savor delicious fare from local restaurants for a nominal price.

New this year: Auction Alley. Bid on original art created by local artists. Proceeds will fund downtown beautification projects.

• **Main Street Farmers' Market** - Wednesdays, June 25 through Oct. 29, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Sloan Street parking lot. New this year: Music at the Market Series, every week in July, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### On Stage at SOPAC

SOPACnow.org • (973) 275-1114

• June 7, 8 p.m. - Annual Spring Benefit Gala, "A Night of Vintage Soul," featuring Angie Stone, Phoebe Snow and Ryan Shaw, \$150 mezzanine, \$250 orchestra.

• June 10, 7 p.m., Pat Metheny with host Christian McBride, \$20-\$50.

• July 11-13, 17-20 - "Children of Eden," a heartfelt and humorous examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children. Tickets \$20, \$18, \$15. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m.; Sunday shows at 3 p.m.

### Sign up for summer programs at the Adult School

(973) 378-7620 • www.somadultschool.org

This summer, get fit in mind and spirit. Take a class in performing arts, computers, language or even survival skills in the woods. Affordable classes are taught by experienced and inspiring teachers. Most classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning June 17 at South Orange Middle School. They are open to anyone age 14 and older. Schedules and course descriptions are published in the Adult School's summer 2008 catalog and on the Web site.

**Trip to Tanglewood** - as part of the Adult School's 75th anniversary celebration, a weekend adventure to Tanglewood and the Berkshires is planned for Aug. 1 to 3. Violinist Joshua Bell and cellist Yo-Yo Ma are on the bill.

### Join Weekly BNI networking

The Maplewood/South Orange Prosperity Chapter of Business Networking International invites local business owners and salespeople to the weekly networking

breakfast on Fridays at 6:45 a.m. at Sona Classic Indian Cuisine, 6 Highland Place in Maplewood. BNI offers a steady source of business referrals through word-of-mouth marketing. Call (973) 519-0042 to reserve a place. The meeting cost is \$15.

### Middle School's MLK Club hosts "Respect, Reflect & Remember"

More than 52 speakers from around the world will speak to students at South Orange Middle School on June 19 during the "Respect, Reflect & Remember" program hosted by the MLK Cultural Horizons Club.

Among the speakers will be representatives from Doctors Without Borders, the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, a Holocaust survivor, a WWII liberator, a Rwandan genocide survivor, a former homeless veteran and many more.

Instead of going to class on June 19, students will hear a different guest speaker in each period where their normal classes are scheduled. An evening program for the community is also planned.

The students have raised more than \$6,000 since October for the RRR program. Community sponsorships are still being sought. For information, go to the club Web site: www.mlkclub.org.

The MLK Club develops student leaders while providing service to the school and the global community. Current projects include fundraisers for Malawi, East Africa and the Republic of Haiti. Closer to home, club members partner with local businesses to improve school conditions.

### If you love the woods . . .

June events at South Mountain Conservancy include organized hikes on the 14th, 22nd and 28th. The Forest Regeneration Corps will need volunteers on June 14, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Bio-Blitz, June 20 and 21, will be a 24-hour study to count plant and animal species in the reservation. Learn more at www.somocong.org.

### Register for Newstead 5K, Sept. 27

The 6th annual Newstead 5-K run, 2-mile walk and kids' fun run will take place Saturday, Sept. 27. Registration will start at 8 a.m., with running events starting at 9 a.m. at South Mountain Annex, 112 Glenview Road. Applications will be available in early August at Sneaker Factory, 308 Millburn Avenue, Millburn. Or e-mail newstead5k@hotmail.com. Proceeds will benefit the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation.

### Classic film under the stars:

#### "It Happened One Night"

Come to Meadowland Park at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, June 27 for an "al fresco" showing of a popular 1930s comedy. "It Happened One Night," a love story intertwined with screwball humor, was the winner of four Academy Awards. Directed by Frank Capra, it stars Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert. The movie is presented by the South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

# South Orange Public Library

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

## Catch the reading bug Summer reading 2008

**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.

**Opening Day Festivities** will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Drop in anytime between 11am and 7pm for games, crafts, and other fun activities for the whole family.

### Programs for children, teens and families will include:

Monday Night Family programs with visits from live butterflies, dancing, puppet shows, storytellers and more.

Thursday after noon art projects with tie-dye, papier-mache, photo art and more.

Thursday Evening specials with mehndi and open stage poetry for teens, breadmaking, creative writing and

Friday  
Movies  
(for all ages)  
Enjoy a movie  
and popcorn!

Video Gaming  
(4<sup>th</sup> grade +)  
Every other  
Tuesday.  
Playstation II /Wii

Chess and  
games  
(all ages) Tuesdays.  
Chess and many  
other board games.

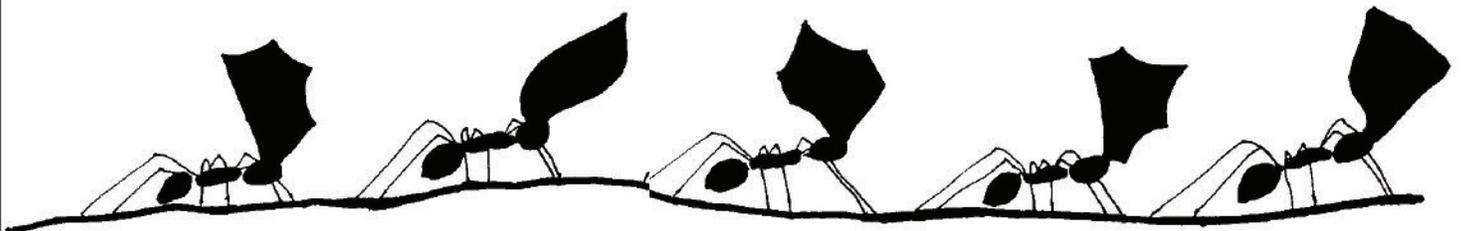
Storytimes  
(various ages)  
Stories and more for  
babies, toddlers and  
families.

Animation Club  
(6<sup>th</sup> grade and up)  
Mondays. Watch,  
read, create and  
discuss animation.

**Contact the library for program details.**  
**For adult summer programs see the *at the library* section of this Gaslight.**

### *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  
The library will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



## 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**  
**x2020**  
**Animal Control**  
**x7711**  
**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

## Villagers of the Month

**Our summer Villagers of the Month are two vibrant seniors at Columbia High School. For each, a positive grounding in South Orange has given them bright prospects for the future.**

### Adeola Songonuga

"I want to make a positive contribution to the lives of others," says Adeola Songonuga, and she's



not waiting for the future to do it. Throughout her high school years, Adeola has been a devoted

community volunteer. She has prepared dinners, served food and cleaned dishes at the Goodwill Soup Kitchen in Newark, she helped build two houses for Habitat for Humanity in Newark, and set up literacy events for children at South Orange Public Library.

Adeola's personal gains in responsibility and altruism are steering her toward a career dream – she wants to be a women's rights lawyer. To get there, she will study political science and women's studies at Georgetown University. Her challenging high school experience in Mock Trial gave her research and debate experience, as well as a glimpse into her own future.

Columbia also allowed her to hone her leadership skills as secretary of the school's student council and as president of the Key Club and Rebel (an anti-smoking group). She is a peer counselor and student ambassador, meeting with students in other schools to talk about youth issues.

"I really got confident in high school," she said. "I had awesome teachers and coaches."

Outside academia, Adeola is a 400-meter runner on the track team, she captains the cheerleading squad and in her "spare" time plays

violin in the school orchestra.

She was born in Nigeria and moved to South Orange at age six. She lives with her parents Mary and Sofoluwe Songonuga and two sisters, ages 10 and 14. ▲

### Ayesha Makhdoom



How do you maintain calm in a library full of children and teens? By providing activities that keep them enthralled.

Ayesha Makhdoom understands that principle. She is co-founder of the South Orange Public Library's Amine Club, a weekly, well-attended gathering for teens interested in manja and animation.

As a part-time library employee since her sophomore year, Ayesha saw the need for the club and acted on it. She worked with library staff and the Friends of the Library, gaining valuable leadership experience from a job she loved.

The library "was my first job and I learned a lot about responsibility," she said. "I learned about social conduct, that patrons have to be treated in a certain way even if they're friends of mine, because I'm a part of the library. I loved the work and getting to know everyone else who works there."

Ayesha's sponge-like enthusiasm propelled her active high school experience. She served on the yearbook committee, student council, Key Club, the Shakespeare Festival Committee and the Math Team. At the same time, she qualified for five advanced placement courses.

This fall, she will attend Rutgers New Brunswick, where she plans to study pharmacology with a minor in business.

Animation and drawing will continue to be her passions. "I draw 24/7," she said. "It's something to get lost in and not worry about anything else."

Ayesha came to the U.S. from her native Pakistan. Her father had been working in this country for 18 years before the family joined him permanently. "He wanted to keep us all together," said Ayesha, who was 11 when the family arrived. At Rutgers, she'll still be close to her family — mother and father Rahima and Abdul Makhdoom, two younger sisters and three younger brothers. ▲

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