

March 2010 Newsletter

Winter Member Meeting: "Stand Up For Somerville"

SCC held its Winter Member Meeting on Wednesday February 24th, at the Healey School in Somerville. There was great music to start off the night with dinner at 5:30, followed by the Member Meeting itself at 6:30. The centerpiece of the meeting was "mini information sessions" that provided opportunities for Members and others interested to learn about SCC's work. These sessions included information on Community Corridor (Green Line) Planning, Real Estate Development, Anti-Displacement Organizing, Jobs for Somerville Residents and Leadership Development and Financial Education. We also elected our Board of Directors and Officers for 2010, giving SCC six wonderful new board members - Cassie Arnaud, Regina Bertholdo, Katjana Ballantyne, Matthew Kardonsky, Josh Wairi, and Mulugeta Zegeye. Along with all the night's activities, we joyously gave our annual Hazel Hughes award to Yvette Verdieu, a SCC Board member for 6 years who personifies community leadership, both inside SCC and in the community at large. We also happily gave our annual Norris Weston award to Allison Driscoll, an attorney from Goodwin Proctor who has provided countless hours of pro bono legal service to SCC. Overall the night was a great success and it was wonderful to see so many people engaged in the various workshops offered!

First-time Homebuyers Class first week a success!



SCC's First-Time Homebuyer Seminar got off to a great start last week with SCC's conference room packed to capacity for the first two sessions of our four-part class. During the first session, residents of Somerville and surrounding communities had a lively discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of being homeowners. Later, a loan officer from a local credit union gave an informative and engaging talk on how best to navigate the mortgage process. For the second session, participants heard from a local real estate broker and Somerville-based home inspectors, and many asked questions about their particular circumstances. Next week, our prospective homebuyers will attend presentations by a real estate attorney and an insurance agent, and they will get important information from SCC staff on budgeting and credit. If you're interested in getting on our first-time homebuyer's class waitlist, please contact Matt Shuman at 617-776-5931 ext. 225.

First Session of LDI a Success

On February 27th, SCC launched the third annual Leadership Development Institute to strengthen relationships and skills among leaders in our community. This year's cohort includes 22 leaders who have fought for change in their workplaces, in their home countries and, of course, in Somerville. By convening a group with so much collective wisdom and experience to learn about power, relationship building and other fundamental aspects of leadership, SCC hopes to provide more and more members of our community with the capacity and support to make real change. This year's institute is unique in that, for the first time, it is completely bilingual in Spanish and English. Speakers of both languages will use interpretation equipment so that all participants can speak and listen in their native language. We look forward to building relationships across language, race, and class to promote strong leadership throughout our community.