

THE COMMUNITY NEWS  
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Thursday February 7, 2008

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*What's on tap*

**Film recounts Wilmington's response to King assassination**

Posted Tuesday, February 5, 2008

In celebration of Black History Month, the Delaware Humanities Forum will hold a free screening of the documentary film, "A Dream Deferred: Remembering the Occupation," on February 28.

Following the film a community discussion will be led by local black history scholars.

The film depicts the rioting that took place in Wilmington after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, and the nine-month occupation of Wilmington by the National Guard that followed.

The film, by local filmmakers Serviam Media, will be shown at Theatre N at Nemours.

The 30 minute film will start at 6 p.m. followed by a one-hour forum, led by Bebe Ross Coker and Dr. James Newton, where members of the community can recount their experiences, ask questions and share views about the film.

"The forum recognizes that now is the time to remind the people of Wilmington and all of Delaware of the unique place our city and state holds in US history," says Marilyn Whittington, executive director of the Delaware Humanities Forum. "The film is a way to keep alive the memories of those who lived through the riots and the occupation so that future generations can connect with them."

Wilmington experienced two days of rioting that included looting, burning, and gunfire. The police and the National Guard were forced to intervene to bring the riots under control and Wilmington remained under martial law for nine and a half months. In many other U.S. cities there were riots, yet the National Guard stayed in those towns for days, not months. To this day, Wilmington holds the record for the longest military occupation of any US city since the Civil War.

"We have just honored Dr. King through a community service holiday on January 21st and will continue to recognize him during Black History Month in February 2008, but April 2008 deserves special attention as it marks the fortieth anniversary of Dr. King's assassination and the riots," said JulieAnne Cross, February program coordinator.

"The topic of this film is so timely, which is why we plan to show it now and continue to schedule screenings throughout the year. Over the next several months, we would like to see students in Delaware as well as the general public become intimately familiar with their own history as it relates to the loss of Dr. King. I know that I will never look at Wilmington in the same way again."

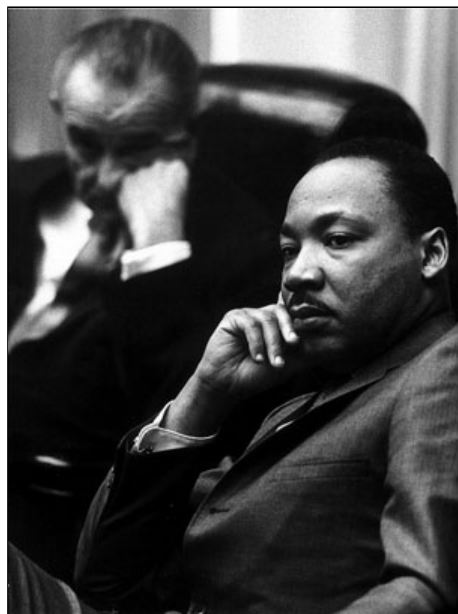


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE  
**Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. sits in on a White House meeting with President Lyndon Johnson in 1966.**

More about programs, funding, and other resources available through the Delaware Humanities Forum, visit [www.dhf.org](http://www.dhf.org) or call 800 - 752 - 2060.

► **Current Weather for New Castle County**

**Hockessin, DE**  
 9:51 AM EST  
 Clear  
 50°F  
 W 18 MPH

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**JANUARY**

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