

Remembering Newark's Summer of Discontent: Forty Years Later

Reflections of the Summer of 1967

Dr. Clement Price, Director, Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University-Newark

It was a summer like none other before or since. In 1967, beginning on July 12th, civil disorders in Newark ultimately took the lives of twenty-six citizens. Those who bore witness to the violence, the physical destruction and near collapse of an old American city, still place it among the most vivid memories of their lives. It was an inter-ethnic, interracial, inter-generational near catastrophe played out on the streets of one of the nation's oldest and most ethnically diverse cities. It occurred at a time of national anxiety, brought on by seemingly endless warfare in Vietnam, and when the modern civil rights movement had achieved its initial objective only to be confronted by the harsh reality that the right to vote was a meager first

step toward enjoying a full measure of the American Dream.

What occurred in Newark from July 12th to July 17th was at once an enduring tragedy, the near end of an era of civic irresponsibility and racial injustice and the near beginning of an era in which Newark became a city deserving of empathy for what it has endured and what it seeks to accomplish in the future. Much will be said this season about Newark's 1967 Summer of Discontent, and an array of local not-for-profit organizations will respectfully acknowledge that the disturbances and legacies of that summer should be remembered and inform the new Newark that is now taking shape. Now is a time to remember that the hoped for future of Newark will require a reconciliation of contested memories, an agreement that Newark is deserving of our fealty in this year of the fortieth anniversary of the difficult summer of 1967.

Selected Bibliography

Governor's Select Commission on Civil Disorders. *Report for Action: An Investigation Into the Causes and Events of the 1967 Newark Race Riots*. New York: Lemma Publishing Corp, 1968, 1972.

Hayden, Tom. *Rebellion in Newark: Official Violence and Ghetto Response*. New York: Vintage Books, 1967.

Herman, Max. *Fighting in the Streets: Ethnic Succession in 20th Century America*. NY: Peter Lang, 2005. (See also Dr. Herman's website: www.67riots.rutgers.edu)

Mumford, Kevin. *Newark: A History of Race, Rights and Riots in America*. New York: NYU, 2007.

Porambo, Ron. *No Cause for Indictment: An Autopsy of Newark*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1971.

Winters Stanley ed. 1979. *From Riot to Recovery: Newark After Ten Years*. Washington DC: University Press of America.

For more sources, please see "Newark Riots Resources" at The Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library, www.npl.org and Dr. Max Herman's website, www.67riots.rutgers.edu

Information in this brochure as well as other events, articles and items related to the 1967 civil disturbances are available at the Star-Ledger's website, www.nj.com/newark1967 and www.jerseyhistory.org

Wednesday, October 24:

9 AM – 3 PM: The Turbulent Years: Urban Unrest in the 1960s. Professional development program for middle and high school teachers. Discussion with sociologist Dr. Max Herman; tour of "What's Going On?" exhibit; discussion of how US history curriculum can be taught through the New Jersey lens. A certificate for 6 credit hours will be given to participants at conclusion of the workshop. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Registration required; call 973-596-8500 ext 236 for registration and fees.

12:15-1PM: Brownbag Lunch Lecture by Father Augustine Curley on the "1854 Anti-Catholic March and Violence in Newark." NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. 973-596-8500, ext. 234.

Tuesday, October 30:

5-7 PM: Panel Discussion to Re-Visit The Governor's Select Commission on Civil Disorders, 1967-68. Newark Museum. 49 Washington St. Hosted by NJ Department of State, Newark Museum, and Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, 973-353-5414. Ext. 11.

Wednesday, October 31:

12:15-1PM: Brownbag Lunch Lecture by Madera Edwards on the "Plainfield Riot." NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. 973-596-8500, ext. 234.

October 2007

"The Health Status of Newark: 40 Years Later" University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark, NJ. Date, time, and location to be announced. 973-972-2498

Thursday, November 15:

4-7 PM: Riot, Revolt, Revolution: Perspectives in History. Professional development program for middle and high school teachers. Explore how memory, personal context and experience play an important role in the understanding of history through the events of 1967 in Newark within the "What's Going On" exhibition. A certificate for 3 credit hours will be given to participants at the conclusion of the workshop. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place Registration required; call 973-596-8500 ext 236 for registration and fees.

Saturday, November 17

12:30 -1:30 PM, 2:30- 3:30 PM. Family Program: "Recording Your Experiences: Preserving History." Explore how stories from the past are recorded and preserved; videotape your story to take home. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations required, call 973-596-8500, ext. 234.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art, www.aljira.org; (973) 622-1600

Bethany Baptist Church, www.bethany-newark.org; 973-623-8161

Bonglorno Productions, www.revolution67.com

Central Civic Association; 973-985-9765

Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, Rutgers University-Newark, www.cornwall.rutgers.edu; 973-353-1750

Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University-Newark <http://ethnicity.rutgers.edu>; 973-353-5414. Ext. 11

Greater Newark and Jersey City LISC, www.lisc.org/greaternewark-jerseycity; 973-624-6676

Office of the Mayor, Newark, www.ci.newark.nj.us; 973-733-6400

Newark Arts Council, www.newarkarts.org; 973-643-1625

The Newark Museum, www.newarkmuseum.org; 973-596-6550

Newark Public Library, www.npl.org; 973-733-7837

Newark Public Schools, www.nps.k12.nj.us; 973-733-7338

New Community Corporation, www.newcommunity.org; 973-268-1236

New Jersey Department of State, www.state.nj.us/state/; 609-943-4992

New Jersey Historical Society, www.jerseyhistory.org; 973-596-8500, ext. 224

New Jersey Network, www.njn.net; 609-777-5030

New Jersey Performing Arts Center, www.njpac.org; 973-642-8989

People's Organization for Progress, www.njpop.org; 973-801-0001

Positive Community Corp., www.thepositivecommunity.com; 973-233-9200

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, www.umdnj.edu; 973-972-2498

WBGO FM/Jazz 88.3, www.wbgo.org; 973-624-8880

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: JULY-NOVEMBER 2007

All events free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Monday, July 2:

Opening of exhibit on the Newark Riots; runs through August 31. Newark Public Library, first floor lobby in front of the main elevator. 5 Washington St; 973-733-7775.

Monday, July 9:

5-9PM: Screening and discussion of "Revolution '67" documentary; preview of "What's Going On: Newark and the Legacy of the Sixties" exhibit. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations required; call 973-596-8500, ext 224.

Tuesday, July 10:

6:30-7PM: New Jersey Network broadcast of "Another View: 'Tender Territory - Part II,'" a documentary that examines the progress Newark has made 40 years after the rebellion and the challenges that remain. See local listings or call NJN at 609-777-5030.

10-11:30 PM: Public television premiere of "Revolution '67" documentary on P.O.V. series. Check local listings.

Wednesday, July 11:

7-8:30 PM: Book talk and panel discussion of Ronald Porambo's *No Cause for Indictment: An Autopsy of Newark*, a book about the 1967 disorders which is being reissued on July 28. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations required; call 973-596-8500, ext 224.

Thursday, July 12:

10 AM: Mayoral dedication of plaque commemorating 1967 disturbances. 4th Precinct Building. 17th St and Irvine Turner Blvd. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400.

12-2 PM: Free Screening of "Revolution '67" documentary. Newark Screens Movie Theater. Springfield Ave and Bergen St. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400

12:15-1:45 PM. Jazz in the Garden with Curtis Lundy Trio. Sally Carroll, former Director of the NAACP, and Sheila Anderson will speak in commemoration of 1967 disorders. Newark Museum. 49 Washington St. 973-596-6550.

4-6PM: Discussion with former Governor and 1967 Essex County Prosecutor Brendan Byrne. Newark Museum, Ballantine House. 49 Washington St. Limited space, reservations required; call the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, 973-353-5414, x11.

5:30-7 PM: March and memorial ceremony commemorating the 1967 rebellion. Begins at 4th Precinct building, 17th St and Irvine Turner Blvd; ends at memorial site at corner of Irvine Turner Blvd and Springfield Ave. Sponsored by People's Organization for Progress. 973-801-0001.

5-10 PM: JP Morgan Chase Sounds of the City. Outdoor concert featuring Don Braden & Stephen McClean, alumni vocalist from NJPAC's Wachovia Jazz for Teens; Rev. Stefanie R. Minatee & Jubilation Choir; music from 1967; and Dr. William Howard. NJ Performing Arts Center Theater Square. One Center Street. 973-642-8989.

8-9 PM: Radio broadcast of "Newark Today," call-in show with Newark Mayor Cory Booker, focusing on Newark riots. Listen at WBGO 88.3 FM. Call-in number, 1-800-499-9246, email newarktoday@wbgo.org.

9-10 PM: New Jersey Network broadcast of "Newark: The Slow Road Back" (1987), an award-winning documentary by Sandra King to mark the 20th anniversary of the Newark rebellion. Check local listings or call NJN at 609-777-5030.

10-11 PM: New Jersey Network broadcast of "The Slow Road Back 2007," a panel discussion hosted by Sandra King. Guests include: Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Rutgers Historian Clement Price, New Community Founder Msgr. William Linder and North Ward Center Founder Steve Aduato. Check local listings or call NJN at 609-777-5030.

Friday, July 13:

12-2 PM: Free Screening of "Revolution '67" documentary. Newark Screens Movie Theater. Springfield Ave and Bergen St. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400

7:30-8PM: Radio broadcast of "WBGO Journal" program focusing on Newark Riots. Listen at WBGO 88.3 FM. 973-624-8880.

11:30-12 PM: New Jersey Network re-broadcast of "Another View: 'Tender Territory - Part II.'" See July 10 for details. See local listings or call NJN at 609-777-5030.

Saturday, July 14:

12-2 PM: Free Screening of "Revolution '67" documentary. Newark Screens Movie Theater. Springfield Ave and Bergen St. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400

1-2 PM: New Jersey Network rebroadcast of "Newark: The Slow Road Back" (1987). See July 12 for details.

2-3 PM: New Jersey Network rebroadcast of "The Slow Road Back 2007." See July 12 for details.

Sunday, July 15:

12-2 PM: Free Screening of "Revolution '67" documentary. Newark Screens Movie Theater. Springfield Ave and Bergen St. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400

Monday, July 16:

12-2 PM: Free Screening of "Revolution '67" documentary. Newark Screens Movie Theater. Springfield Ave and Bergen St. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400

Tuesday, July 17:

7-9 PM: Screening of Henry Hampton's "City of Promise" documentary on Newark. Panel discussion with Junius Williams and Richard Cammarieri. Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church, 275 W. Market St. Call 973-623-8161 for information.

12-2 PM: Free Screening of "Revolution '67" documentary. Newark Screens Movie Theater. Springfield Ave and Bergen St. Hosted by Office of the Mayor, Newark. 973-733-6400

Friday, July 20:

6 PM: Program commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Black Power Conference held in Newark in 1967. African American Cultural Center, 15 James St. Hosted by People's Organization for Progress, New Black Panther Party, and other organizations. Call POP for more information: 973-801-0001.

Wednesday, July 25:

6-8PM: Lecture and book signing by historian Kevin Mumford, author of *Newark: A History of Race, Rights and Riots in America*. Newark Public Library. 5 Washington St. 973-733-7837.

Saturday, July 28:

12-3 PM: "Struggle on Springfield Avenue": Guided walking tours of Central Ward. Start at NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations are required; please call 973-596-8500, ext. 234. Suggested donation: \$5 per person.

Saturday, September 15:

12:30 - 1:30 PM, 2:30 - 3:30 PM: Family program: "The Making of an Exhibition: What's Going On?" NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations required; call 973-596-8500, x234.

Wednesday, September 19:

5:30 - 7:30 PM: Opening of photo exhibit on the riots by Ben Fernandez. Runs through October 29. Atrium of The Priory Restaurant, 233 West Market St. Hosted by New Community Corporation, 973-268-1236.

Wednesday, September 26:

5-8 PM: Opening reception for "What's Going On? Newark and the Legacy of the Sixties" Exhibition. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations are required; call 973-596-8500, x224.

Wednesday, October 3:

12:15-1PM: Brownbag Lunch Lecture by Thomas LaPoint, author *A Time of Trouble*. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. 973-596-8500, ext. 234.

6:30-8:00 PM: Discussion with Sociologist-Max Herman author of *Fighting in the Streets: Ethnic Succession and Urban Unrest in 20th Century America*. NJ Historical Society 52 Park Place 973 596-8500 x234.

Saturday, October 6:

9 AM - 4 PM: Long Hot Summer in Retrospect - Part II: A Scholarly Symposium. All-day conference exploring the aftermath of 1960s urban unrest. Keynote speaker: Roger Wilkins. NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. Reservations are required; call 973-596-8500, ext. 224. Fee: \$25.

1-3 PM: Family Program: "Painting History: Introduction to Painting for Families." Explore Jacob Lawrence's paintings in "What's Going On?" exhibit. Reservations required, call (973) 596-8500, ext 233. Ages 5 and up.

Wednesday, October 17:

12:15-1PM: Brownbag Lunch Lecture by Beverly Crifasi on the "Horseneck Riots." NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place. 973-596-8500, ext. 234.

Thursday, October 18:

Public opening of three exhibits: *Bending The Grid* - Helen Stummer: *Rest in Peace; 5 Days in July*, a video installation by Chuck Schultz and Esther Podemski; *Community Development Corporations and the Rebuilding of Newark Since 1967*. Exhibits run through February 23, 2008. Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art; 591 Broad Street; 973-622-1600.