

# Delaware Humanities Forum

## Forum Footnotes

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January 2009



*Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Frame*

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year from the Delaware Humanities Forum. We are pleased to continue delivering news through our monthly "Forum Footnotes" electronic newsletter. We hope that you will help us in our goal to "connect people, cultures, and ideas" by forwarding this email on to your friends.

### BETWEEN FENCES OPENS TODAY IN YORKLYN



### Smithsonian Exhibit Continues its Tour of Delaware

The Center for the Creative Arts (CCArts) in Yorklyn, Delaware, is one of four venues the Forum selected to host "Between Fences," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition that explores the cultural impact of fences throughout American history. The exhibit will be on display at CCArts January 16 through March 6, 2009.

The official opening reception takes place on Friday, January 23 from 6-8pm, featuring a presentation by photographer Kathleen Buckalew and a performance by Evelyn Swensson.

Ongoing events include docent-guided tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon, Wednesday evenings at 6 pm, and Saturdays at 1 pm, starting January 16 and continuing through March 6. Tyvek panels artistically painted by community members will be displayed on the split-rail fence surrounding CCArts, thus creating a "Good Neighbors Make Good Fences" public art installation. Artwork by photographer Kathleen Buckalew featuring American fences and walls will also be on view, as will historic photographs of the Yorklyn

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know that DHF sponsored a documentary about the 1968 riots in Wilmington, Delaware?**

*A Dream Deferred* is a poignant recounting of the riots and the subsequent, record-breaking National Guard occupation of the city. It combines interviews with Civil Rights pioneers, historic images from 1968, footage taken on the streets of Wilmington in 1968, and discussion with news reporters, influential community members and students at

area, and photos taken during the 2003 flood, which created a barrier for CCARTS to overcome. Books and activities on the fences theme will be available in the "Front Yard" reading area, and a PowerPoint presentation created by the Delaware Center for Horticulture showing fences and walls in local garden settings will run continuously.

For more information, visit <http://www.ccarts.org/BetweenFences.php>

## HUMANITIES SALONS CONTINUE

### March "We the People" Program Takes Place in NCC

In December, the Forum launched the first of a series of Humanities Salons. For the first Salon, Chairman Kim Burdick hosted 25 select guests at her home, the historic Hale-Byrnes House, for an evening of 18th century history, music, and delicacies. (See image.)



Additional Humanities Salons will take place throughout the year at the private homes of our Council members and other Friends of the Forum. Our next Salon is on March 18th, when a member of our Speakers Bureau will host a small group of Friends of the Forum for high tea. The hosts have arranged for an interactive presentation on the attire of a Civil War-era woman.

We encourage you to become a Friend of the Forum today and take part in our yearlong anniversary celebration. (See below for how to become a Friend of the Forum.)

## A MONTH OF POETRY

### American Poets

While National Poetry Month does not take place until April, other national holidays in January and February present a special opportunity to look at some of our nation's most revered poets, and how they expressed their feelings about social issues through their work.

DHF encourages you to curl up under a blanket and refamiliarize yourself with some great American works of poetry in the next month. A timely piece is *Harlem*

Delaware State University and the University of Delaware.

*(This film is available at the Wilmington Library and will soon be available in many Delaware public libraries.)*

The riots were, in large part, a reaction to the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. [Click here](#) for a link to some famous speeches given by Dr. King, whose memory our nation honors on Monday, January 19th. This holiday was established in 1986 following seven years of legislative efforts.

(sometimes called *Dream Deferred*) from *Montage of a Dream Deferred* (1951) by Langston Hughes. A line from this poem was taken for the title of the play, *A Raisin in the Sun*.

### **What happens to a dream deferred?**

**Does it dry up**

**like a raisin in the sun?**

**Or fester like a sore -**

**And then run?**

**Does it stink like rotten meat?**

**Or crust and sugar over -**

**like a syrupy sweet?**

**Maybe it just sags**

**like a heavy load.**

***Or does it explode?***

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langston\\_Hughes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langston_Hughes). *Harlem*: Reprinted in *Selected Poems of Langston Hughes* under the title *Dream Deferred*. Rampesad, Arnold & Roessel, David (2002). In *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*. p.426 & p.676, Knopf

Langston Hughes' work, *I Too Sing America*, is another timely piece. (<http://www.americanpoems.com/poets/Langston-Hughes/2383>)

Learn more about Mr. Hughes and other American poets on these and other websites:

<http://www.poets.org/>

<http://www.americanpoems.com/>

## **Thank you for your interest in the Delaware Humanities Forum.**

As you may recall, the Forum is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year. It is thanks to you, for your interest in and support of the humanities in Delaware over the years, that it is possible for us to reach this milestone.

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Forum today by making a donation. Your check, payable to "Delaware Humanities Forum," can be mailed to the address at the bottom of this email. On-line donations will be accepted through our website soon.

Friends of the Forum are the first to find out about opportunities, such our Humanities Salons, and through the generous support of our Friends, the Forum offers nearly all of

its programs free-of-charge to the citizens of Delaware.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Marilyn P. Whittington  
Executive Director  
Delaware Humanities Forum

#### ABOUT THE DELAWARE HUMANITIES FORUM

The humanities-subjects which include literature, ethics, political science and history-help people make a connection between their own lives and other people, cultures, and ideas. Through grants and public program offerings, the Delaware Humanities Forum builds bridges to connect the daily life and work of people to the universe of human experience, thought, and imagination. The Forum brings the public together with cultural, educational, and civic institutions statewide, and focuses on issues of public interest and concern.

As a state division of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Delaware Humanities Forum supports organizations by awarding grants and implementing project initiatives such as lectures, symposia, exhibitions, classroom programs, and media projects. Your non-profit organization, school, library, or government agency may qualify for funding from the Forum and can obtain subject matter experts for lectures and presentations. To learn more about funding opportunities and the other resources available through the Delaware Humanities Forum, visit our website at <http://www.dhf.org> or call 302.657.0650 or toll free 800.752.2060.

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