

505 North Market Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
Ph: 302-655-7161
FaxL 302-655-7844
dehistory.org



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Contact: Colin McDermott at cmcdermott@dehistory.org (302) 298-2390
September 9, 2016

***Bending Toward Justice:
The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American Democracy***

A Contemporary History Series Program featuring Dr. Gary May
Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Delaware

Wilmington, DE – September 8, 2016. Join the Delaware Historical Society on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. as we welcome Dr. Gary May, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Delaware. Dr. May will discuss his new book, *Bending Toward Justice: The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American Democracy*.

Dr. May will present the history of African American's struggle to overcome centuries of bigotry in order to tear down the barriers placed before them, blocking their right to vote, and how the effort continues today. "Dr. May is an eminent scholar whose important work shows the impact of historic struggles to secure the right to vote. This is a very timely discussion to have, given that 17 states in this presidential election have restrictive voting laws in place, such as requiring photo identification and documentary proof of citizenship," said Dr. Katie McDade, Head of the Read House & Gardens and Public Programming.

Dr. May is the author of four books, *John Tyler: The American Presidents Series*, *The Informant: The FBI, the Ku Klux Klan and the Murder of Viola Liuzzo*, *Un-American Activities: The Trials of William Remington* and *China Scapegoat: The Diplomatic Ordeal of John Carter Vincent*. Copies of *Bending Toward Justice*, will be available for purchase at the event thanks to the Ninth Street Bookshop. The lecture is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, please call (302) 655-7161, or email deinfo@dehistory.org

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in Wilmington; as well as the Read House & Gardens located in historic New Castle, recognized as an "American Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service; and The Center for African American Heritage, which will be included as part of the expansion of the Delaware History Museum, which will re-open on October 1, 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 655-7161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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This program is a collaboration between the Delaware Historical Society's Center for African American Heritage, WITN22, and the City of Wilmington.

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