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March 8, 2016

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Delaware Historical Society's Contemporary History Series to Tackle "The Conversation About 'The Conversation' About Race"

The Social Justice Panel is the first program in a yearlong Contemporary History Series.

Wilmington, DE — The Delaware Historical Society's **Contemporary History Series** will launch on **Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 6 p.m.** with a distinguished panel having "A Conversation About 'The Conversation,'" exploring how the community can have a direct and respectful discussion about the intersection of race and public policy. The discussion will be moderated by *The News Journal*'s former Editorial Page Editor John Sweeney and panelists will include: community educator, playwright, and activist Bebe Coker; Executive Director of the Hope Commission Charles Madden; New Castle County Police Chief Elmer Setting; and Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine Jr.

Throughout 2016, the Delaware Historical Society will host four programs as part of the Contemporary History Series in which a range of contemporary issues will be explored through the prism of their historical contexts. The goal is to provide a much needed forum for healthy debate on issues directly affecting our communities. Top experts in the fields of social justice, the environment, urban planning, and voting and civil rights will present issues in the form of panel discussions, lectures, and teacher workshops, which have been designed to facilitate open dialogue and encourage diverse perspectives and participation.

The next program in the series will be a Climate Change Panel on April 14, 2016, which will be moderated by former U.S. Representative Tom Evans and will include a screening of the documentary, *Battle for the Barriers*.

WHAT: "A Conversation about 'The Conversation,'" the first program in the 2016 Contemporary History Series.

WHO: Panelists will include: community educator, playwright, and activist Bebe Coker; Executive Director of the Hope Commission Charles Madden; New Castle County Police Chief Elmer Setting; and Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine Jr. *The News Journal*'s former Editorial Page Editor John Sweeney will act as moderator.

WHERE: The Copeland Room of the Delaware History Museum, located at 504 N. Market St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Free parking provided by Colonial Parking in the 6th and Shipley St. lot.

WHEN: Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 6 p.m.

The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested and can be made by calling (302) 6557161 or deinfo@dehistory.org.

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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, expected to reopen in September, 2016.

For more information on the Delaware Historical Society, call (302) 6557161 or visit www.dehistory.org.

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