Delve Deeper into “Revolution ’67”
A film by Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon of the Princeton Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “Revolution ’67” that premieres on July 10, 2007 at 10 PM on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

“Revolution ’67” is an illuminating account of events too often relegated to footnotes in U.S. history — the black urban rebellions of the 1960s. Focusing on the six-day Newark, N.J., outbreak in mid-July, “Revolution ’67” reveals how the disturbances began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality and ended as fateful milestones in America’s struggles over race and economic justice. Voices from across the spectrum — activists Tom Hayden and Amiri Baraka, journalist Bob Herbert, Mayor Sharpe James, and other officials, National Guardsmen and Newark citizens — recall lessons as hard-earned then as they have been easy to neglect since. A co-production with the Independent Television Service (ITVS), in association with WSKG.

ADULT NONFICTION


Anderson, Elijah. Streetwise: Race, Class and Change in an Urban Community. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992. This ethnographic study of an anonymous city explores the struggle of both blacks and whites of different classes for common ground and viable communities.


Frost, Jennifer. An Interracial Movement of the Poor: Community Organizing and the New Left in the 1960s. New York: New York University Press, 2001. Students for a Democratic Society, the organization that came to be seen as synonymous with the white New Left, began community organizing in 1963 hoping to build an interracial movement of the poor through which to demand social and political change. Organizers established a strong presence in numerous low-income, racially diverse urban neighborhoods in cities including Chicago, Cleveland, Newark, and Boston.


Kirp, David L. Almost Home: America’s Love-Hate Relationship with Community. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001. A variety of stories collected from across America to re-create the immediate experience of community — tales that give meaning to the much bandied-about ideal of civic virtue and describe what happens when people make decisions that reshape one another’s lives.


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Reissue in paperback: Melville House, 2007. An account of the buildup, chaos, and aftermath of the 1967 Newark riots. Being reissued on the 40th anniversary of the devastating event, No Cause For Indictment explores the issues still facing urban America: poverty, political corruption, and racism. This edition includes an introduction from the editor of the original manuscript about the tumult surrounding the book’s publication, and an afterword interviewing the author about the struggles he faced after publication.


Wolff, Virginia Euwer. Lemonade. New York: H. Holt, 1993. This novel is told in verse through the eyes of a fourteen-year old girl living in the projects. She works as a babysitter for a teenage mother who is herself struggling to keep ahead.


PUBLIC TELEVISION

See it on PBS

POV 20

"P.O.V.: Street Fight." A film by Marshall Curry, 2004. (83 min.) Covers the turbulent campaign of Cory Booker, a 32-year old Rhodes Scholar/Yale Law graduate running for mayor of Newark, N.J. against Sharpe James, the four-term incumbent twice his age. www.marshallcurry.com

"Rebels With A Cause." Produced and directed by Helen Garvey, 2000. (109 min.) Documentary film with archival footage and interviews with activists involved; traces the history of Students for a Democratic Society through the 1960s. www.zeitgeistfilms.com

ADULT FICTION

Block, Brett Ellen. The Lightning Rule. New York: William Morrow, 2006. Set in late 1960s Newark following days of deadly race riots, a white detective in the city’s predominantly black Central Ward is reassigned from desk duty to a case involving the murder of a young black teenager found dead in a subway tunnel.


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Myers, Walter Dean. 145th Street: Short Stories. New York: Delacorte Press, 2000. 10 short stories that serve as snapshots of a pulsing, vibrant community with diverse ethnic threads, through all of its ups and downs.

Williams, Vera. A Chair for My Mother. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1982. In this picture book a young girl tells how she, her mother, and her grandmother save up all of their spare coins in a big glass jar for the day when they will buy a much-needed easy chair to replace their old furniture and possessions destroyed in a fire.