

## Stockton Manahawkin Instructional Site Screens 'American Denial' Film on Racial Bias Research

Free Screening to be Held Wednesday, Feb. 24

### ***For Immediate Release;***

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**Galloway, NJ** – Stockton University will host a screening of the film "American Denial," which follows the story of Swedish researcher Gunnar Myrdal, whose landmark 1944 study probed the nation's racial psyche. The screening will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.** at the Manahawkin Instructional Site, located at 712 East Bay Ave. in Manahawkin.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to the Manahawkin screening by calling 609-626-3883.

The film weaves a narrative that exposes some of the potential underlying causes of racial biases still rooted in America's systems and institutions.

Myrdal, an intellectual social visionary who later won a Nobel Prize in economics, first visited the Jim Crow South at the invitation of the Carnegie Corporation in 1938, where he was "shocked to the core by all the evils [he] saw."

Myrdal wrote his 1,500-page investigation of race, "An American Dilemma," with a team of scholars including black political scientist Ralph Bunche. The research is now considered a classic.

The research challenged the veracity of the American creed of equality, justice and liberty for all. Myrdal argued that critically implicit in that creed, which Myrdal called America's "state religion," was a more shameful conflict: White Americans explained away the lack of opportunity for blacks by labeling them inferior. He argued that this view justified practices and policies that openly undermined and oppressed the lives of black citizens.

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The film considers whether, 70 years later, America is still living in a state of denial, in an era marked by the election of the nation's first black president.

"American Denial" sheds light on the unconscious political and moral world of Americans, using archival footage, newsreels, nightly news reports and rare southern home movies from the 1930s and 1940s, as well as research footage, websites and YouTube films showing psychological testing of racial attitudes.

The film explores "stop-and-frisk" practices, the incarceration crisis and racially patterned poverty. Historians, psychologists and sociologists offer expert insight and share their own personal stories. The provocative film challenges assumptions about who we are as a nation, and what we really believe.

This is one of a series of films that will be shown at Stockton through the Indie Lens Pop-Up, a neighborhood series that brings people together for film screenings and community-driven conversations. Featuring documentaries seen on the PBS series Independent Lens, Indie Lens Pop-Up draws local residents, leaders and organizations to discuss what matters most, from newsworthy topics to family and relationships. Make friends, share stories and join the conversation. For more information, visit: [www.pbs.org/independentlens](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens).

For more information on activities and classes at the Manahawkin Instructional Site, visit: <http://www.stockton.edu/manahawkin> or call 609-626-3883.

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