Tomorrow is the 40th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, which sparked rioting in Washington and more than 100 other cities. This month a series of events will recall that time and its effect on the nation.

CONFERENCE on "Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth." Exploring the causes and effects of the social unrest after King's assassination and the efforts at civic healing. 5-10 p.m. today, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. tomorrow, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. University of Baltimore, 1420 N. Charles St., Baltimore. www.ubalt.edu, baltimore68@ubalt.edu. $60 adults; $40 students. One-day registration, $45 adults, $30 students.

SERMONS in the tradition of King are offered by preachers from across the nation at daily Eucharist of the Washington National Cathedral. 7:30 a.m. today and tomorrow, Bethlehem Chapel, noon in the Great Choir. www.cathedral.org. Free.

PARADE: The 29th annual King parade will feature high school marching bands and city officials, including Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) and D.C. Council member Marion Barry (D-Ward 8). Noon Saturday. Ballou Senior High School, 3401 Fourth St. SE, ending at Good Hope Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE. 202-698-1866, www.mlkinparade.org.

The assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., left, triggered rioting in Washington in April 1968, above, and in cities nationwide.

SYMPOSIUM on race, justice and citizenship, featuring Charles Ogletree, Harvard University professor. Sponsored by the Link Southern Maryland Chain Chapter. 6:30 p.m.-midnight tomorrow, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Greater Mount Zion Church, 3170 German Chapel Rd., Prince Frederick. 410-257-9599. Free.

SERMON by Dean Samuel T. Lloyd, asking people to recommit to King’s vision of racial equality and nonviolence. 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Washington National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW. www.nationalcathedral.org. Free.


SYMPOSIUM AND FESTIVAL at Georgetown University. The Lannan Literary Programs present "Let Freedom Ring: Art and Democracy in the King Years, 1954-1968," featuring readings, performances, lectures and discussions to explore the contributions of poets, writers and artists to the public discourse of the Civil Rights movement. April 15-17. Georgetown University, 37th and O streets NW. lannan.georgetown.edu. Free.


— Compiled by JILLIAN S. JARRETT
Events mark King anniversary

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By Michael Farr - Communities in the region will mark the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s assassination tomorrow with a variety of events commemorating his legacy in the civil rights movement.

In the District, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty will help open the Friendship Public Charter School’s new elementary campus in Southeast, at the intersection of Martin Luther King Avenue and Milwaukee Place Road.

The school building, formally Southeast Academy of Scholastic Excellence, which shut down in 2005, took two years and $15 million of renovations to be made ready for use. About 80 percent of area residents qualify for low-income subsidies, according to the school.

"The resurrection of this school has a linear connection to Dr. King’s principles and provides an opportunity for students in the community to receive a quality education," school officials said.

Two men who were ushers at King’s funeral — Donald Hense, chairman of Friendship’s board of trustees, and the Rev. Calvin Butts III, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York — will join Mr. Fenty for the 9:30 a.m. event.

Other events include Howard University honoring King tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the Andrew Rankin Chapel. The event will include reflections from his life, performance of two of his favorite songs and a dramatic reading by a theater student.

NBC News also will be on campus to film a program called "Black in America," hosted by news anchor Brian Williams. The program will include a documentary by a young black man about his family, said Ronald Harris, associate professor of journalism.

Beginning today, the University of Baltimore will mark the anniversary by hosting a three-day conference, which will be attended by scholars in such fields as race relations, civic engagement and 20th-century history.

The conference is called "Baltimore ’68: Riots and Rebirth — Three Days of Scholarship, Art, History and Civic Dialogue." It is sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council.