COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Join us on Zoom to engage in a conversation about Rosa Parks and Black history.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT NOON

The real story of Rosa Parks -- and why we need to confront myths about Black history
by David Ikard
THANKS TO OUR THOUGHT LEADERS

Fredda Maddox, Esq. (she/her)
Sheriff of Chester County

Rev. Dr. Richelle Foreman Gunter (she/her)
Associate Minister, St. Paul’s Baptist Church of West Chester
Chair of Political Action & Religious Affairs Committees, NAACP West Chester

Reverend Dr. Lawrence E. Claiborne (he/him)
Youth Pastor, St. Paul’s Baptist Church of West Chester

Dr. Tracey Ray Robinson (she/her)
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, West Chester University

SCHEDULE
12:00 | Welcome & Overview
12:05 | Topic Overview
12:30 | TED Talk
12:50 | Breakout Rooms
THANKS TO OUR PROMO PARTNERS
A FEW HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

- Please be mindful and respectful to all.
- Some may have never have dealt with these topics before while others may have lived through traumatic experiences.
- Please mute yourself and turn off your video during the TED Talk video streaming.
- Feel free to eat your lunch while viewing the video.
- Please unmute yourself and turn on your video immediately after the TED Talk video streaming to encourage open dialogue.
DEFINING KEY TERMS

- **White Fragility** – Discomfort and defensiveness on the part of white people when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice.

- **White Privilege** – Inherent advantages possessed by white people on the basis of their race in a society characterized by racial inequality and injustice.

- **Segregation** – The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment.

- **Civil Rights Movement** – A nonviolent social and political movement and campaign from 1954 to 1968 in the U.S. to abolish legalized institutional racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement.
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Timeline: Major Events in the Civil Rights Movement

1954
- Brown v. BOE of Topeka, KS
- Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Murder of Emmett Till
- Little Rock Nine

1955

1956
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is founded

1957
- Malcolm X becomes National Minister of the Nation of Islam
- sit-in movement begins

1958
- Freedom Rides Organized
- Assassination of Medgar Evers
- Birmingham Protests
- March on Washington, D.C.
- Bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church

1959
- James Meredith Enrolls at the Univ. of MS

1960

1961
- Malcolm X assassinated
- Selma-Montgomery March
- Voting Rights Act Passed
- Watts Riots
- Dr. King awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

1962
- Black Panther Party is Founded
- James Meredith’s March Against Fear

1963
- Thurgood Marshall is appointed to the Supreme Court

1964
- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. is Assassinated
- Shirley Chisholm is elected to Congress

1965

1966

1967

1968
Misconception: The civil rights movement and leaders such as Dr. King and Rosa Parks had America’s support.

• The civil rights movement was **not a supported cause** by majority of Americans at the time it was happening.

• Dr. King, Rosa Parks, and other now-beloved leaders were hated by most of white America and **labeled traitors and communists**.

• For instance, a 1961 Gallup survey revealed that **only 22%** of Americans **supported** what the **Freedom Riders** were doing.

[https://www.blackexcellence.com/5-misunderstood-civil-rights-movement-facts/](https://www.blackexcellence.com/5-misunderstood-civil-rights-movement-facts/)
One of the most significant events of the civil rights movement was the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was sparked by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama to a white person on December 1, 1955.

The boycott lasted for more than a year and resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court decision declaring segregation on public buses unconstitutional.

Parks has stated that she was not tired when she refused to give up her seat and that she was not the first person to refuse to give up their seat on the bus that day. Instead, Parks' decision to resist was a planned and intentional act of civil disobedience.

“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired,” wrote Parks in her autobiography, “but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rosa-Parks
MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

October 19, 1956

This is a historic week because segregation on buses has now been declared unconstitutional. Within a few days the Supreme Court mandate will reach Montgomery and you will see race-busing integrated buses. This will be not only a tremendous responsibility of maintaining dignity, but a tremendous responsibility of maintaining dignity. The public and the private citizens and members of our race. If you commit it.

For your help and convenience the following suggestions are made: everyone should study and memorize them so that our non-violent demonstration may not be abandoned. Their suggestions:

1. Not all white people are opposed to integrated buses. Accept goodwill on the part of many.
2. The slogan has been for the use of all people, take a reserved seat, in word and act on as you enter the bus.
3. Demonstrate the same dignity of our Montgomery people to your nation.
4. In all things observe ordinary laws of courtesy and good behavior.
5. Remember this is not a victory for Negroes alone, but for all Montgomery and the South.
7. Allow enough to absorb and understand enough to turn an enemy into a friend.

Now for some specific suggestions:

1. The bus driver is in charge of the bus and has been instructed to obey the law. Assume that he will cooperate in helping you occupy any vacant seat.
2. Do not deliberately sit by a white person, unless there is no other seat.
3. In sitting down by a person, white or colored, say "May I have this seat?" and then sit down. This is a court case.
4. If you do not have a seat, but have one, do not strike back. If pushed, do not push back.
5. If struck, do not strike back. If pushed, do not push back.
6. If talked to, say nothing. If pushed, do not push back.
7. If any incident, talk as little as possible, and always in a quiet tone. Do not get up from your seat. Report all serious incidents to the bus driver.
8. For the first few days try to get on the bus with a friend in whose non-violence you have confidence. You can upload another by a glance or a prayer.
9. If another person is being yelled at, or laughed at, do not react to the provocation, but be firm and say, "I pray for the oppressor and the race, but I still refuse to be a part of it."
10. According to your own ability and personality, do not be afraid to use new and creative techniques for achieving reconciliation and racial change.
11. If you cannot take the bus, walk for another week or two. We have confidence in our people. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.
The real story of Rosa Parks -- and why we need to confront myths about Black history

By David Ikard

Black history taught in US schools is often watered-down, riddled with inaccuracies and stripped of its context and rich, full-bodied historical figures. Equipped with the real story of Rosa Parks, professor David Ikard highlights how making the realities of race more benign and digestible harms us all -- and emphasizes the power and importance of historical accuracy.

"Rosa Parks was only 42 years old, she had only worked six hours that day, and she was a seamstress, and her feet were just fine. The only thing that she was tired of was she was tired of inequality. She was tired of oppression."
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Sweet Charity
Food, Fun, Philanthropy

Tues, March 28, 2023 from 4 to 7
Chester County Food Bank
Brief Intros

• Who are you? What brought you to today’s Community Conversation?
• What did you want to learn? What have you learned?

Discussion Questions

• How do myths and misconceptions about historical figures and events, like the story of Rosa Parks, impact our understanding of the past and present?
• What can we do to learn the true history of these events and people?