

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

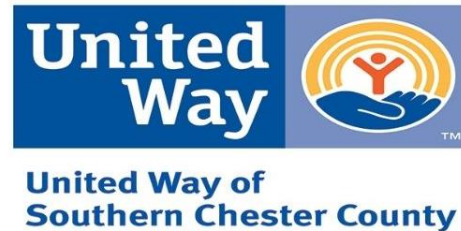
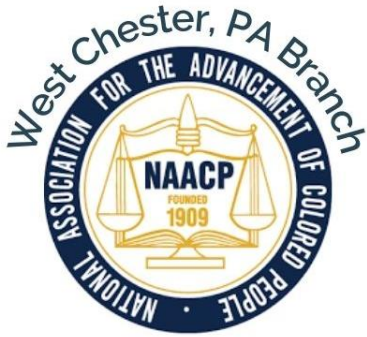


Dr. Tracey Ray Robinson (she/her)
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, West Chester University

SCHEDULE

12 | Welcome & Overview
12:05 | Topic Overview
12:30 | TED Talk
12:50 | Breakout Rooms

THANKS TO OUR PROMO PARTNERS







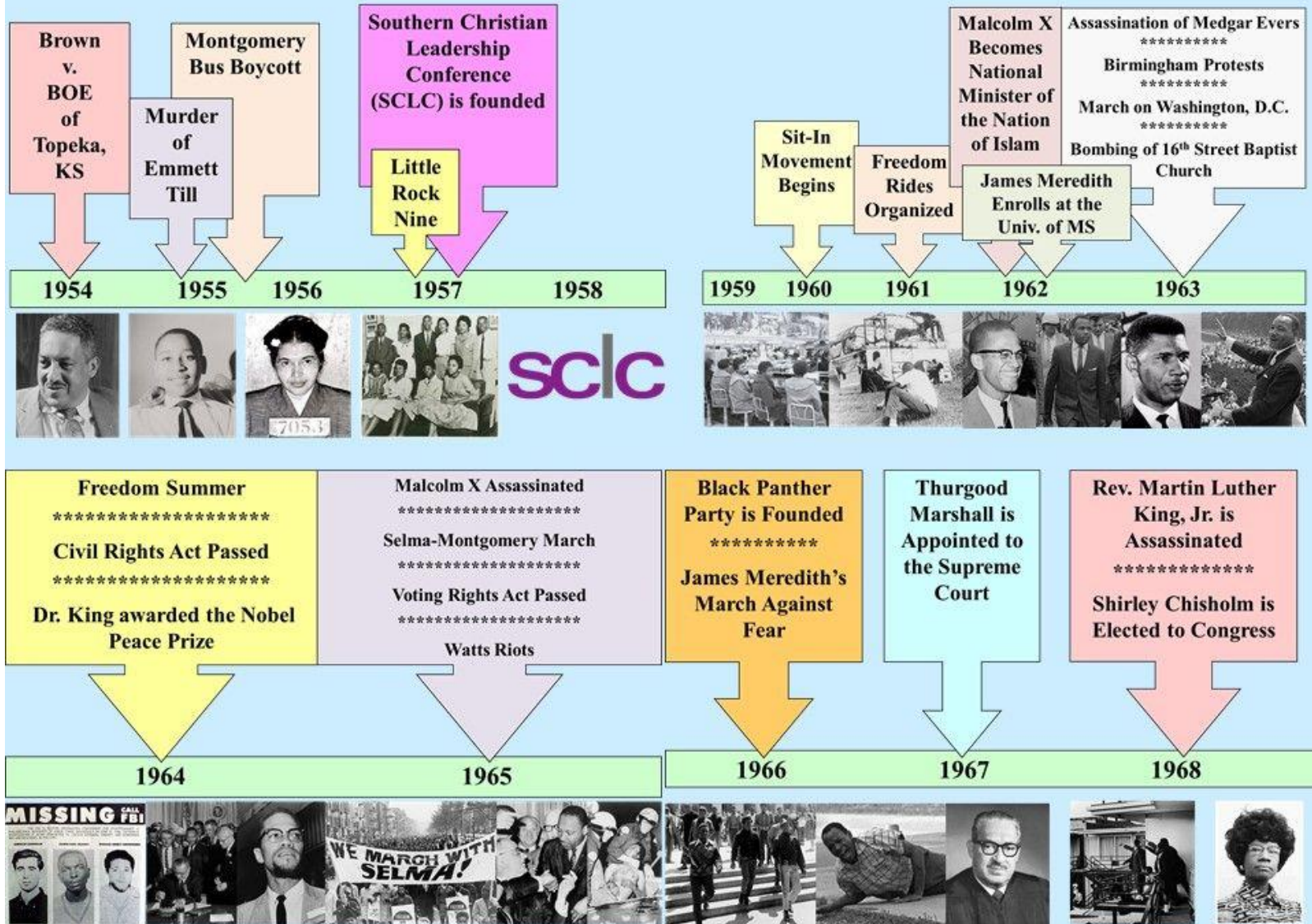
- **White Fragility** – Discomfort and defensiveness on the part of white people when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice
- **White Privilege** – Inherent advantages possessed by white people on the basis of their race in a society characterized by racial inequality and injustice
- **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





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.





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**.



<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rosa-Parks>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/rosa-parks-civil-rights-activism-beyond-montgomery-bus-boycott/>

"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."



MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT



5,000 At Meeting Outline Boycott; Bullet Clips Bus

By JOE AZBELL
Advertiser City Editor

An estimated 5,000 hymn-singing Negroes packed the Holt Street Baptist Church to its outer doors and spilled over into three streets blocking traffic last night as they voted to continue a racial boycott against buses of the Montgomery City Lines Inc.

Meanwhile, J. H. Bagley, manager of the Montgomery City Lines, reported that a bus driven by driver B. S. Johnson, apparently was fired on by a person with a .22 caliber rifle in the Negro Washington Park area.

Bagley said the bullet hit the rear of the bus and Johnson could not determine from where it was fired.

ENFORCE LAW
The bus company manager also reiterated a previous statement that his firm would not violate the law on segregation of bus passengers and that he would continue to require all of his drivers to enforce the law. "If they don't, the drivers can be fined or sentenced," he said.

Meanwhile, police reported an unidentified party threw a large stone and struck the front of a City Lines bus at the intersection of S. Jeff Davis and S. Holt street late yesterday. No personal injury and only slight damage to the bus resulted, officers said.

In a resolution passed at the meeting, the emotional group voted to ask "all citizens of Montgomery" to refrain from riding buses of the Montgomery City Lines Inc. until the bus transportation situation is cleared up to the "satisfaction of citizens" who ride and patronize them.

The resolution, among other things, stated that "citizens of Montgomery" have been intimidated, embarrassed and coerced while riding the public conveyances and in view of the humiliations they have endured they agreed that they would refrain from using the buses.

It also declared that a "delegation of citizens" was prepared at all times to sit down with officials of the Montgomery City Lines and develop with them a program that the bus lines' patrons would find satisfactory and equitable.

The resolution stated that "no methods of intimidation" would be used or had been used to keep anyone from riding the buses but it asked that a person's "conduct" be his guide.

wrong and our whole foundation of government is wrong.

HELP FINANCE

The resolution passed by the group asked that these "citizens" who live long distances from their jobs and could not ride with other "citizens" ask their employers to finance the trips to and from work. Others who own cars were asked to form pools to take others to work.

Rosa Parks was fined \$10 and fined \$100 for violating a state law requiring racial segregation on city buses.

Thousands of Negroes boycotted city buses yesterday and only about 3 to 10 per cent of the Negroes who normally ride the buses broke the boycott. The boycott reflected an "economic protest" in protest of the arrest.

APPEAL DECISION

Fred D. Gray, Negro attorney, told Judge John B. Scott he would appeal the decision of the court to Montgomery Circuit Court. The move apparently was intended as the first step in testing the constitutionality of transportation segregation laws in this state of the Confederacy.

Signing the \$100 appeal bond for the woman were K. D. Nixon of Montgomery, a former state NAACP president, and Gray.

Gray entered a plea of innocent for his client. The woman did not testify. Assisting Gray was another Negro attorney, Charles Langford.

The court hearing continued only about five minutes. City Prosecutor Eugene Lee called bus driver J. F. Blake to tell how Rosa Parks refused to leave her seat in the white section and move to the Negro section in the rear last Thursday night. Blake said he asked the Negro woman and other Negro passengers to move to the rear of the bus but the Parks woman refused to leave her seat.

Blake said there were 22 Negroes and 14 whites seated on the bus. He sought to equalize the seating, he said, by asking some of the Negroes to move to the rear.

Lee asked Judge Scott to amend the complaint against the Parks woman to make the warrant read a violation of the state law instead of the city ordinance. Gray objected but Judge Scott allowed the amendment.

The state law sets forth as illegal the failure by any person to comply with the assignment or transportation order of a bus driver to enforce separate facilities for the white and Negro races.

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Montgomery Co.

Gray objected that the state law was not a city law and could not pertain to his client. Lee replied the state law covered all transportation.

Passed by the Legislature in 1957, the state statute authorizes bus companies to provide and enforce separate facilities for white and Negro races. Violation is punishable by a maximum fine of \$500.

It was understood that Gray intended to defend his client.

The court hearing was calm and quiet, and at times witnesses were almost inaudible as they spoke.

PER CENT BOYCOTT

The steps leading into the north side of the courtroom and the sidewalk, along with the curbside walking into the east entrance of the courtroom, all were jammed with spectators and witnesses.

Meanwhile, Montgomery City Lines Manager J. H. Bagley yesterday afternoon estimated that some 90 per cent of the Negroes were refusing to ride the buses in protest of the hearing.

The boycott was uncovered Friday after thousands of unsigned circulars were reportedly being spread throughout the Negro districts in Montgomery.

Acting upon the orders of Police Commissioner, Clyde Sellers said there was to be no violence yesterday afternoon arrested a 19-year-old Negro youth who allegedly tried to restrain a Negro woman from getting on one of the morning buses.

Fred Daniel, 19, of 1046 Hall St., was jailed on a charge of disorderly conduct, according to Police Chief J. J. Ruppenthal. Arresting Patrolman H. M. Hammond and C. A. Weaver said Daniel grabbed a Negro woman by the arm about 7:15 a.m. at the intersection of Hall and Thurman and pulled her away from a City Lines bus she was attempting to board.

NEGRO TAXI CARS BUSY

All Negro taxi cab operators in the city reportedly had their drivers to charge only 18 cents a head yesterday from the hours 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. and from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. in an effort to make the bus boycott effective.

Several buses seen at downtown streets carried nothing but white passengers from front to rear.

MTGY ADVERTISER

DEC 6 1955

November 19, 1956

INTEGRATED BUS SUGGESTIONS

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 be re-boarding integrated buses. This places upon us all a tremendous responsibility of maintaining, in face of what could be some unpleasantness, a calm and loving dignity befitting good citizens and members of our Race. If there is violence in word or deed it must not be our people who commit it.

For your help and convenience the following suggestions are made. Will you read, study and memorize them so that our non-violent determination may not be endangered. First, some general suggestions:

1. Not all white people are opposed to integrated buses. Accept good will on the part of many.
2. The whole bus is now for the use of all people. Take a vacant seat.
3. Pray for guidance and commit yourself to complete non-violence in word and action as you enter the bus.
4. Demonstrate the calm dignity of our Montgomery people in your actions.
5. In all things observe ordinary rules of courtesy and good behavior. Remember that this is not a victory for Negroes alone, but for all Montgomery and the South. Do not boast! Do not brag!
6. Be quiet but friendly; proud, but not arrogant; joyous, but not boisterous.
7. Be loving enough to absorb evil and understanding 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" or "Pardon me" as you sit. This is a common courtesy.
4. If cursed, do not curse back. If pushed, do not push back. If struck, do not strike back, but evidence love and goodwill at all times.
5. In case of an 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.
6. For the first few days try to get on the bus with a friend in whose non-violence you have confidence. You can uphold one another by a glance or a prayer.
7. If another person is being molested, do not arise to go to his defense, but pray for the oppressor and use moral and spiritual force to carry on the struggle for justice.
8. According to your own ability and personality, do not be afraid to experiment with new and creative techniques for achieving reconciliation and social change.
9. If you feel you cannot take it, walk for another week or two. We have confidence in our people. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

THE MONTGOMERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
THE REV. M. L. KING, JR., PRESIDENT
THE REV. W. J. POWELL, SECRETARY

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."

| DATE - ZOOM IN AT NOON | TOPIC |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| February 14, 2023 | Black History |
| March 7, 2023 | Food Access |
| April 18, 2023 | Environmental Justice |
| May 16, 2023 | Healthcare |
| June 13, 2023 | Juneteenth |



Sweet Charity
Food, Fun, Philanthropy

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

 **CHESTER COUNTY**
community
FOUNDATION
www.chescocf.org

 **Chester County**
FoodBank
BEYOND HUNGER
new location ↑

The poster features a woman on the left eating a cookie and a group of people on the right, including a man in a suit and several women, some wearing pink aprons and hats, standing behind a table.

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?



**Sheriff Fredda
Maddox, Esq.**



**Rev. Dr. Richelle
Foreman Gunter**



**Reverend Dr. Lawrence
E. Claiborne**



**Dr. Tracey
Ray Robinson**