



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 16, Issue 2

February 2023

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by members of The Florida Youth Council! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC wrote about some of their favorite Civil Rights leaders as it relates to Black History Month. This allowed members to share, express and explore their personal insights, experiences and memories. We hope you enjoy learning about our experiences and our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

Catalina Andonie
John Baldino
Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Alexander Gonzalez
Leah Gorman
Morgan Griffin
JJ Humphrey
James Kuhlman
Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer
Michelle Sandiford
Josh Tapia
Lilibeth Vega
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore





A Civil Rights Leader

There are often two reasons for someone to be famous, either they are a very good or a very bad person. Martin Luther King was among the good ones who dedicated his life to the community. Martin Luther King was also known as MLK Jr. He gained popularity after he became the leader and spokesperson of the Civil Rights

Movement in the 1950s and 1960s.



Martin Luther King was an American activist, minister, and humanitarian. He was a great inspirational speaker that motivated African Americans to stand up for their rights using non-violence and actively participated in many protests,

boycotts, and sit-ins. He was a peaceful man that based his faith on Christian beliefs and non-violence. His inspirations were the work of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. The Nobel Committee awarded him the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the field of civil rights.

By Catalina Andonie

My Favorite Civil-Rights Leader



February is Black History awareness month. As everyone takes time to remember all the great ones during this time, I think Martin Luther King, Jr. is at the top of the list. He did so much for the movement that he wound up giving his life to the cause. He felt everyone had the same right to be treated the same no matter the color of their skin. He took his fight all the way to Washington DC where he organized one of the biggest marches in history where he then concluded it by giving his now historic “I have a dream” speech. Years after his death, a national holiday was even established in his honor that still goes on to this day. On this day every year people gather in countless towns across America and hold parades and other special events to remember MLK and his many accomplishments. These are just a few reasons I remember MLK and why he is my favorite in this month of remembering black history.

By Derek Carraway



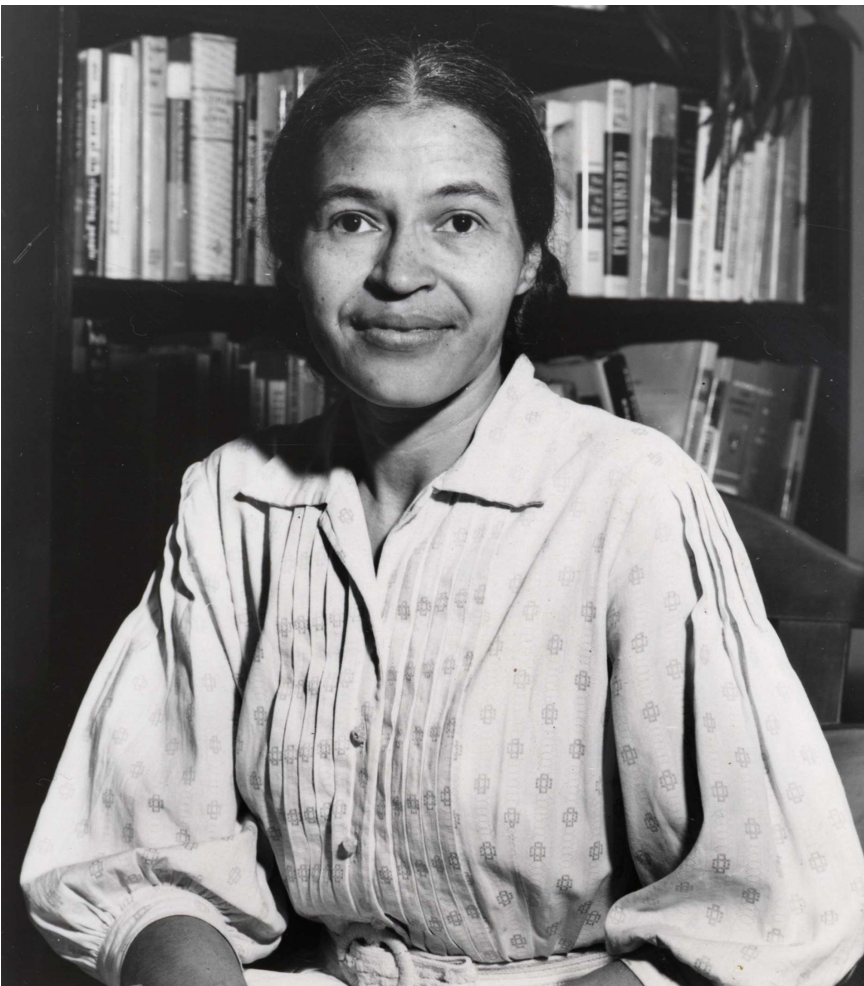
BLACK HISTORY MONTH





On and Off The Bus

My Favorite American civil rights leader is Rosa Parks. The reason for Ms. Parks is because she refused to vacate a seat on a bus in favor of a white gentleman in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1955, Park rejected a bus driver's order to leave a row of four seats in the "colored" section once the white section had filled up and move



to the back of the bus. Her defiance sparked a successful boycott of buses in Montgomery a few days later. Residents refused to board the city's buses. Instead, they carpooled, rode in Black-owned cabs, or walked, some as far as 20 miles. The boycott dealt a severe blow to the bus company's profits as dozens of public buses stood idle for months. The boycott was led by a newcomer to Montgomery named Martin Luther King, Jr. I found out there are two more civil rights leaders in the same place in Montgomery, and they are interconnected and joined the fight in Detroit.

Rosa parks passed away in 2005 and she was 92 years old leaving a legacy that will never be forgotten.

By Leah Gorman



A Man of Steele

In the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and even up until today, the Civil Rights Movement has been led by courageous men and women who wanted to break down the barriers of discrimination, segregation, and disenfranchisement. The most well-known member of the group was Martin Luther King, Jr. Many others joined him to protest, march, and boycott in nonviolent ways. They included Rosa Parks, Malcom X, John Lewis, Hosea Williams, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young, Jr. among many others.



My favorite Civil Rights leader is Reverend C.K. Steele who is the father of my good friend and fellow musician Darryl Steele. Reverend Steele was a preacher at the Bethel Baptist Church in Tallahassee and fought to gain equality for African Americans. In 1956, when he found out that two Black students were arrested for sitting the white section of a city bus, C.K. Steele organized a bus boycott. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., Steele, and the boycotters would rather “walk in dignity than ride in humiliation.” Two years after the boycott, the Tallahassee bus service was integrated.

Steele also worked to integrate Tallahassee schools and other public places. His activism was important to the city, the State of Florida, and the nation. He worked with Martin Luther King, Jr. to form the Southern Leadership Conference and was its first vice president. He participated in many national Civil Rights protests and believed that all protests should be nonviolent. C.K. Steele kept going even though the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross in front of his church, marched in front of his house, and threw bottles through his windows. He was a man of steel trying to make the world a better place where everyone is included.

By John Howard Baldino



American Civil Rights

The American Civil Rights leader that is an big influence to me is Martin Luther King Jr. by the way he has said that everyone has a different skin color and tone doesn't matter what color you are you should not be separated from one another everyone is equal in their own ways which means that you should not be split be-



tween two different areas of one town or one state because of what they look like it should be how can we get people together in the same area without discrimination and very

judgmental of what someone looks like or by what someone says about you or what you say about them

I know that it is hard for people not to be judgmental about someone just because of the way they look or because of the way people act. When you really think about what we say about someone they will say the same about you. The only way to make a positive out of a negative is to not say anything that would offend someone.

A good rule to follow is to always say something nice about other and never something mean or hurtful. This is all of what Martin Luther King taught. He wanted us to avoid conflict because it causes a lot of problems. A lot of problems were happening before segregation. It is up to us to be the solution.

By Morgan Griffin

Taking a Stand, by Taking a Seat



When asked to write about my favorite African American civil rights leader, I always think of Rosa Parks. We all know the woman who chose to remain seated on the bus, refusing to move, but how many of us know her background? For most of us, all we really heard was that she refused to get up out of her seat when ordered by the white bus driver, and then she was arrested. But there is much more to her story.

When Rosa was a child in Alabama, only the white children rode school buses. African American kids had to walk. At the time this was the custom but as she grew older city buses became open to all people. However, there were many rules about how they were seated. There was a “colored” section in the back of the bus and white people would sit at the front. If there were more white people than the space reserved for them, the bus driver had the authority to move African Americans out of their seats. Not only that, but when an African American boarded the bus, they paid the driver in the front, and then had to get off the bus and go to the back and re-enter through a back door so they would not walk past the white people who were already on the bus.



Rosa Parks had been involved in the civil rights movement and was a member of the NAACP and was already wanting to change the segregation policies in her state. The day she made her protest was soon after the murder of Emmett Till and she was angry. It also turned out that this bus driver was the one she had met years before who took her money and then made her get off and left her standing in the rain. S this time when he ordered her to move, she decided to take this opportunity even though it meant being arrested. The reason I admire Rosa Parks is because she

persevered through rough times and was willing to fight against a system that was stacked against her. As a person with a disability, I too have had challenges with the bus system, though less extreme, and so she is a source of inspiration for me.

By Serena Wetmore





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round.

We hope to hear from you soon!



820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100
Tallahassee, FL 32301

