
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one
mass movement.

Sections

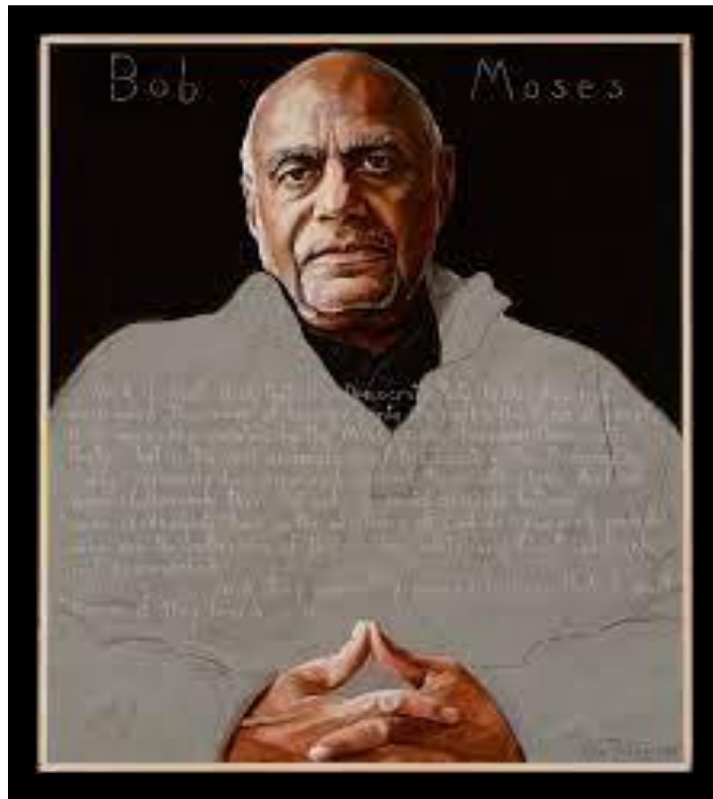
- Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson
 - Editorial - by Tarik Kiley
 - Announcements
 - Happenings Gallery!

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

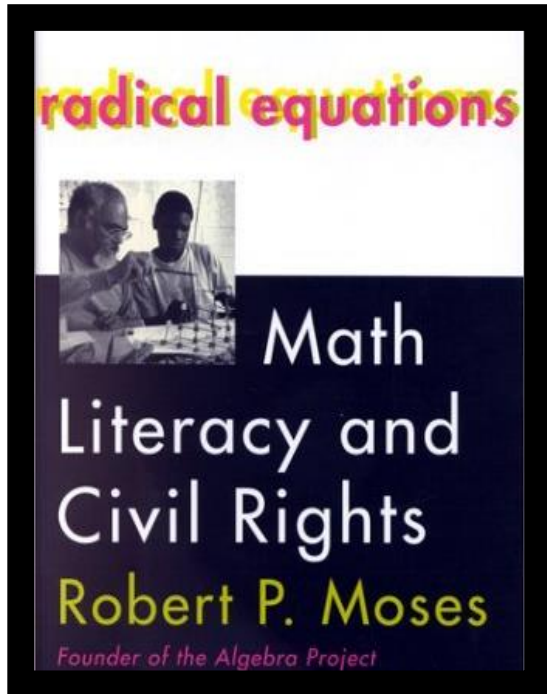
Bob Moses -1960s Civil Rights Leader



(May 19, 1930 – January 12, 1965)

By DonnaMarie Woodson

Robert Parris Moses, 1960s civil rights leader who saw Math as a road to equality, died Sunday, July 25, 2021, at his home in Hollywood, Florida. He was 86.



I have a faint childhood memory of hearing Bob Moses' name, but I did not know his full story; only that he played a role in the civil rights movement.

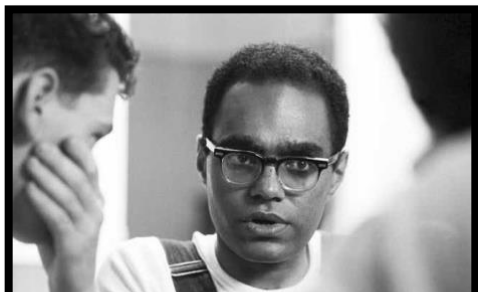
The life of Bob Moses was in every sense an American history story. In the early 1960s, before all the big speeches and the TV coverage, he left Harvard and a teaching career and moved to Mississippi to register Black voters in some of the most dangerous places in the country.

A janitor's son raised in New York public housing, Mr. Moses was mentored by civil rights veterans **Bayard Rustin** and **Ella Baker**. Moses became one of the influential black leaders of the civil rights struggle, with a vision of grassroots and community-based leadership.

Although Moses' leadership style was different from Rev. **Martin Luther King Jr.**'s, King appreciated the contributions that Moses made to the movement, calling them inspiring. Moses initiated and organized voter registration drives in the South, sit-ins, and Freedom Schools for the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee** (SNCC)

An innovative leader of the civil rights movement who, after enduring beatings and jailed for registering Black voters in Mississippi in the 1960s, picked up the civil rights torch 20 years later by developing the nationwide [Algebra Project](#) in 1982.

He received a [MacArthur Fellowship](#) and other awards for this work, which emphasizes teaching algebra skills to minority students based on broad-based community organizing and collaboration with parents, teachers, and students.



**Bob Moses Freedom Summer
1964**

In 1964, he helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, bringing hundreds of White college student volunteers to help with the voter drive to generate national publicity and pressure Congress to enforce Black voting rights.

(President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the landmark Voting Rights Act the following year.)

In a statement by NAACP President Derrick Johnson,

"He (Moses) knew that justice, freedom and democracy were not a state, but an ongoing struggle. So may his light continue to guide us as we face another wave of Jim Crow Laws. His example is more important now than ever."

As I am writing this piece, I can't help but ask, will my generation live up to the accomplishments, and stay steadfast during setbacks like our ancestors? Will we go bold and re-dedicate ourselves to the ongoing struggle for Civil Rights?

We are duty-bound to pass the torch on to the next generation and serve as an example of how to stay strong in the battle for Justice, Freedom, and Democracy.



“Let us “Reimagine America” by developing a new political construct. Enacting policies that benefit all Americans. So, we can live in a country run “For the People and By the People.”

The decisions we make today will determine our legacy; how we honored our ancestors and their resolute determination to bring about - Change!

The Struggle Is Real!

"Fifty years later, those of us who are committed to **the cause of justice** need to pace ourselves because our struggle does not last for one day, one week or one year, but it **is the struggle of a lifetime**, and each generation must do its part."

— Rep. John Lewis
about the anniversary of
The March On Washington
for Jobs and Freedom

#mow2013




photo credit: By Marcus S. Telesda, U.S. News and World Reports, via Wikimedia Commons

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Editorial

Voting in the Era of Suppression

By

Tarik Kiley

July 25, 2021



In recent years, Republicans has pursued a new effort to suppress the vote on the state level. President Biden has called it “Jim Crow on steroids”, according to CNN.com. The ACLU says that “these measures include cuts to early voting, voter ID laws, and purges of voter rolls.” CNN also continues to say that “Biden called on Congress to pass the *For the People Act* and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* to block the nationwide assault on voting rights.”

The move to suppress the vote is also an assault on truth, as former President Trump continues to push the “Big Lie”, saying that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him. Also, most significantly Democratic Texas lawmakers fled the state of Texas to counter restrictive voting laws from being passed.

In response to voter suppression attempts from the Republicans in various states, the Democrats are focusing on empowering Black and Brown voters ahead of the 2022 midterm elections. According to CNN, “DNC officials say the Coalitions & Community Engagement department will focus on partnering with organizers in targeted communities to reach voters of color as well as identifying and developing future leaders and diverse political candidates for the Democratic ticket.” So, what are the forces at play here?



Gov. Ron DeSantis Florida

There are two significant forces at play here. One force is the scared, mainly White conservative voice which is afraid of losing political power. The other force is the multiethnic coalition which is starting

to use the vote to elect a more diverse set of political leaders and representatives. Because so much power of the federal system is concentrated on the state level, those scared of losing their power, are using the state level in order to restrict the vote in a way to ensure that multiethnic coalitions do not win. If the vote can be restricted at the state level in various states, then that means less power for non-Whites locally. It should be understood here that the states have a lot of power.

What are some of the tools that can be used to fight voter



suppression? Well, the Brennan Center says that we can work to make sure that eligible voters are not being improperly purged from voter rolls. We can also stop gerrymandering,

“the practice of drawing the boundaries of electoral districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage over its rivals (political or partisan gerrymandering) or that dilutes the voting power of members of ethnic or linguistic minority groups (racial gerrymandering),” as defined by Britannica.com.

There are other things that can be done such as making sure that we have candidates who represent our interests, and run in every single election, and being diligent about registering people to vote. We should also make sure that everyone knows the importance of their vote and making sure that eligible voters exercise their right to vote.

The most important point here is that we must preserve free and fair elections. We saw what happens when power is concentrated unfairly in the hands of some while being denied to others. This is what Jim Crow was. We don’t want to return to the Jim Crow era. This means that no one should be allowed to use dirty tricks to suppress the vote.

Here it is important to note that the United States is an increasingly multiethnic nation, and that the representation in our government will surely start to reflect this reality. This is the ultimate nightmare



for White Supremacists. They are afraid of losing power. This is particularly notable, because non-Whites in America have only asked for equality and really have no designs of replacing or harming White Americans.

The fear is unfounded.

Still, the fear exists, and fear can be a powerful motivator. Still, non-Whites shouldn't have to suffer because of paranoia and fear. We still must fight xenophobia and fear of the "other," and realize that not only is the USA a multiethnic country, but we also live in a multiethnic world. This means that we must see the humanity in one another and understand our interdependence.



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Announcements



Dems of N. Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 5th at 7:00 PM

Cornelius Elementary School

21126 Catawba Ave.

N. Meck Progressives

Monthly Meeting

Monday, August 9th at 6:30pm

Speaker: Rev. Ray McKinnon, Director of Recruitment &

Leadership Development at LeadNC

ZOOM

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, August 11th at 6:30 PM

REGISTER ON FACEBOOK PAGE

ZOOM

Announcements



LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg County Monthly Chapter Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18th AT 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Advent Coworking

933 Louise Ave. Ste 101, Charlotte

Zoom Registration Required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411234567>

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Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery!

TRUTH!



THE STRUGGLE IS REAL!

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Rev Glencie Rhedrick

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley