

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Letters Written by Rosa Parks

Collection reveals her inner struggles with racism

(CBS)—Rosa Parks is known as the mother of the Civil Rights movement, but she is still an enigma in many ways. A new collection of personal items at the Library of Congress may change that, providing crucial dimension and complexity to this civil rights icon.

"I think what has happened to Rosa Parks is something very similar to what happened to Dr. King," said Maricia Battle, curator of photography for the new collection. "He was frozen in the 'I Have a Dream' speech. For Rosa Parks, she was frozen for being the woman who didn't give up her seat."

The new collection of 7,500 manuscripts and 2,500 photographs—many of which have never been seen by the public—opens to researchers this week to coincide with what would have been Parks' 102nd birthday.

In one letter, Parks describes her historic refusal to forfeit her seat on that Montgomery bus on December 1, 1955: "I had been pushed around all my life and felt at this moment that



Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks holds the hand of a well-wisher at a 2001 ceremony honoring the 46th anniversary of her arrest for civil disobedience, at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich. (AP photo)

I couldn't take it anymore," she writes. "When I asked the policeman why we had to be pushed around? He said he didn't know. 'The law is the law. You are under arrest.' I didn't resist."

In another letter, the seamstress turned activist reflects on the systemic emotional damage wrought by Jim Crow.

*continued* ▼ on page 10

**A COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE**  
Initiated by The Oregon Black Portland

On exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society  
**February 1 – June 28, 2015**

Explore local WWII shipyards, the Vietnam War, & other historical programs, including Portland's Jewish families & businesses in the 1940s & 50s.

**Complementary Community Dialogues**

<b>The Great Migration: The City and Flood</b> January 18 at 7pm	<b>High Rise Clubs, Restaurants, and the Music</b> March 20 at 7pm
<b>The Community: Jewish Churches &amp; Social Clubs</b> February 13 at 7pm	<b>Academic Perspectives: Displacement</b> April 22 at 2:00pm

For more information, please visit the website or call.

Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, Oregon 97205 | 503.226.1100

**Self Enhancement, Inc. Presents**  
**Gospel Brunch 2015**  
Featuring: The SEI Sounds of Soul Music Choir  
**Sunday, March 15th**

**VIP Admission - \$50**  
(VIP Buffet entry 1pm)

**Center for Self Enhancement**  
**3920 N. Kerby Ave.**

**General Admission - \$35**  
(Buffet entry 1:15pm)

Honoring Paul and the Linda Lawrence Knack - Life Has Options Award  
Linda Harris - Excellence in Education Award

For More Information Visit: [www.selfenhancement.org](http://www.selfenhancement.org)

**The NMF**