

# “The Invisible College and the Montgomery Civil Rights Movement”

Presented by the Clifford J. and Virginia F. Durr Lectures  
and Auburn University at Montgomery



2012

CLIFFORD & VIRGINIA DURR  
*Lecture Series*

# Andrew Beck Grace



Andrew Beck Grace is an independent documentary filmmaker whose films have aired on public television stations and at film festivals across the country. Grace teaches in the Department of Telecommunication and Film at the University of Alabama. His talk focuses on a new film, “The Durrs of Montgomery.”

Grace received an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Wyoming, where he made his first documentary feature about the re-enactments of Custer’s Last Stand in southern Montana. Grace spent several years out West making films, freelancing for magazines and working as a producer for NPR News before moving back to his home state. He is currently at work on a documentary, funded by the Independent Television Service, called “Eating Alabama.”

# The Rev. Robert Graetz



The Rev. Robert Graetz openly supported the Montgomery Bus Boycott while serving as the white pastor of a black congregation in Montgomery, Ala. He is the author of *A White Preacher's Memoir: The Montgomery Bus Boycott*, and *A White Preacher's Message on Race and Reconciliation*.

Born in Clarksburg, W. Va., Graetz attended Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, in 1950 and received his B.D. in 1955 from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. His first full-time pastoral assignment was at Trinity Lutheran Church, then a black congregation in Montgomery. During this time, he had a personal friendship with Rosa Parks and became secretary of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization that was founded to organize the bus boycott. Graetz and his family were harassed and ostracized by many other whites for their support of the boycott.

After serving numerous congregations in Ohio and Washington, D.C., throughout his career, Graetz returned to Montgomery with his wife Jeannie in 2008. The Graetzes are active in many community activities, including One Montgomery and the League of Women Voters. They host the annual Graetz Symposium at the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University.

# Program

**Welcome:** Dr. John G. Veres III, Chancellor

**Greetings from Durr Family:** Lucy Durr-Hackney

**Introduction of Speakers:** Dr. Jennifer Brown, Interim Provost

**Film Showing and Lecture:** Filmmaker Andrew Grace, "The Durrs of Montgomery"  
Keynote Address: The Rev. Robert S. Graetz

**Closing Remarks:** Dr. Jennifer Brown, Interim Provost

**Reception immediately following: 10th floor Library Tower, West Room**

Be sure to join us Monday evening, 5-7 p.m., in the Goodwyn Hall Gallery for the opening of "Silhouettes of Courage: March to Equality," an art exhibit curated by AUM students featuring images of Rev. Graetz, Virginia Durr and other local Civil Rights leaders.



# The Durr Lectures Advisory Committee

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