
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

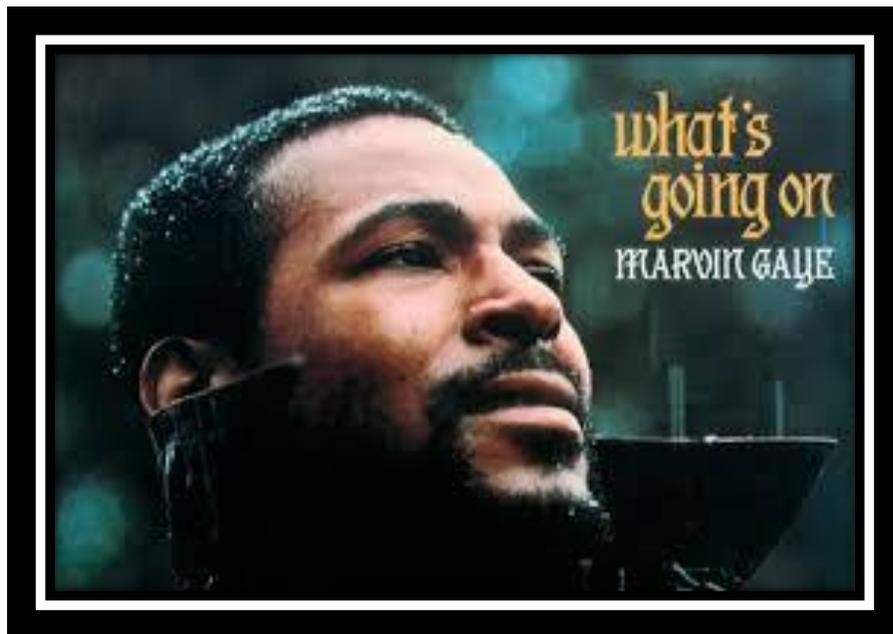
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
 - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
 - **Announcements**
 - **Happenings Gallery!**

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

“What’s Going On?”



Marvin Gaye

(April 2, 1939 – April 1, 1984)

By

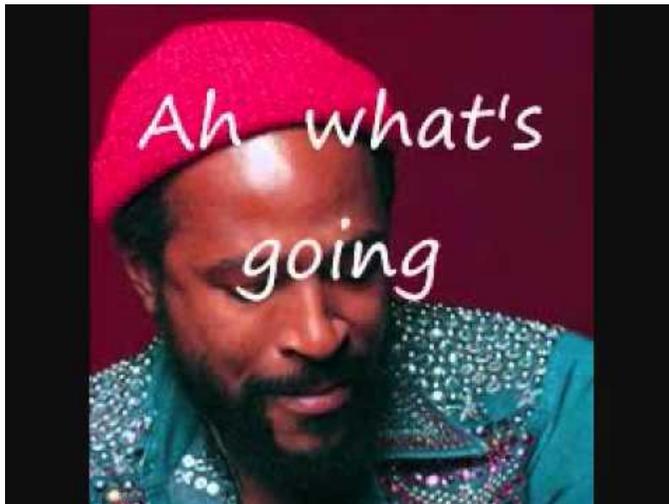
DonnaMarie Woodson

Released on May 21, 1971, Marvin Gaye's ["What's Going On?"](#) was an unexpected release that turned the ultra-smooth Gaye into a poet prophet whose lyrics remain as impactful and moving today as they were during the turbulent decade of the 70's.

I remember my mind being blown by the intensity of the song's pain, truth, and beauty; it was a deeply moving experience then as it is today.

It opens with the ambient noise of a party; it's a homecoming for a Vietnam veteran. Beneath the celebration, there's uneasiness.

[Click on photo to listen to song](#)



The central theme of ["What's Going On"](#) and the album of the same name came from [Marvin Gaye's](#) own life. When his brother Frankie returned from Vietnam, Gaye noticed that his outlook had changed. He put himself in his brother's shoes and wrote a

song that stands among the most tuneful works of consciousness-raising in American music.

"What's Going On" looked at the forces shaping American culture at the beginning of the 1970s, that moment when hippie-era idealism crashed into the realities of poverty, of mystifying war, drug abuse and racial misunderstanding. Gaye didn't shout, didn't demand anything. His approach was cautious: "Father, we don't need to escalate." He might have set out to deliver one of those call-to-action

sermons he'd heard growing up, but he veiled it in the sweet butterfly anguish of his voice and all kinds of musical seductions.

In 1970, Gaye found himself at several crossroads. His marriage to Anna Gordy, sister of Motown founder Berry, was crumbling. (they were married for 13 years until 1977) He was devastated by the death of one of his duet partners, [Tammi Terrell](#). He stopped performing live and went into seclusion.



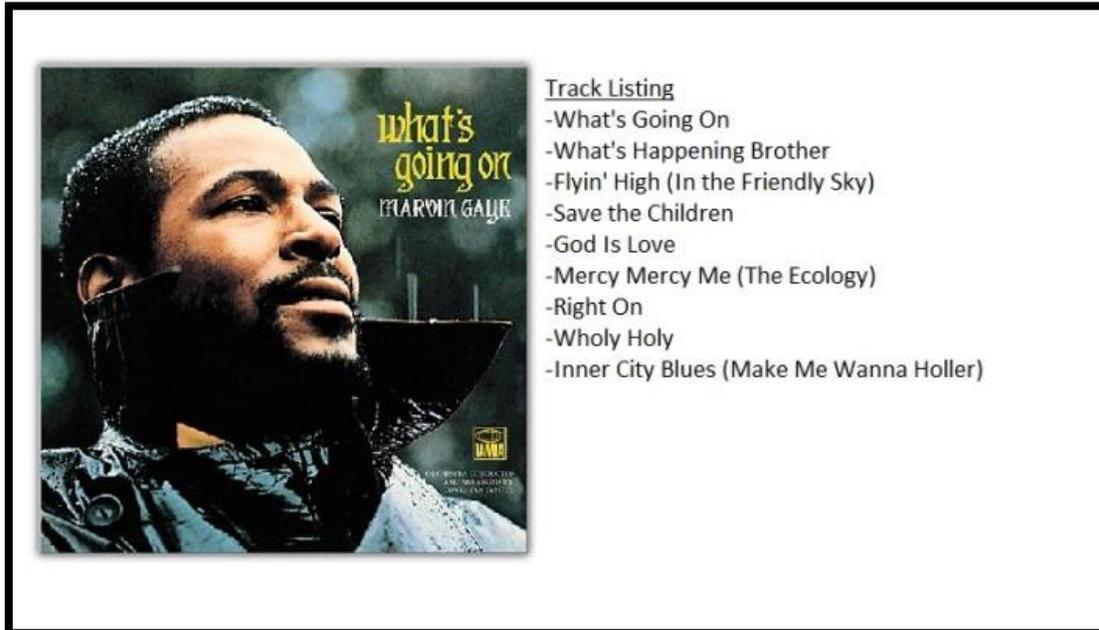
When Motown called to see how his new songs were coming, he'd reply with something from the headlines. He'd say, "Have you read about those kids who were killed at Kent State?" he told biographer David Ritz. His world view was expanding and the prospect of singing bright three-minute love songs seemed less appealing.



He'd also outgrown the Motown assembly line, the one that made him a star of the lover man on bended knee variety. He decided to change everything about the way he worked. He produced himself — a radical move at Motown. He used multitracking to layer several lead vocals into a back and forth. His album became an interconnected

suite, a gallery of songs reflecting the state of the union as Gaye

saw it, from neglected ghettos to the thriving community churches, to the abused environment. It wasn't jazz or pop. It wasn't protest music in the strictest sense. It wasn't pure gospel either, but it sure had that spirit.



Motown, and particularly the label head [Berry Gordy](#), didn't understand "What's Going On." The label sat on it for months, until Gaye threatened he'd never record there again. When the single and album finally did reach the marketplace, both exploded. The troubled recluse was reborn as a crusader.

His song helped change the national conversation. And his success forced Motown to give others, notably [Stevie Wonder](#), artistic freedom. Gaye relished the visibility, but he knew that the real triumph was the way he transformed vexing social problems into an imploring emotional appeal. The song started as a party but became something else, something much closer to a prayer.



STEVIE WONDER and MARVIN GAYE
(Recording on Hohner Harmonicas)

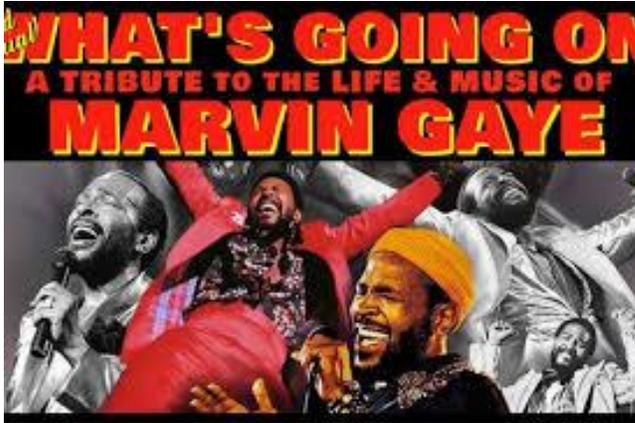
Marvin Gaye (*born Marvin Pentz Gay Jr.*) was an American singer, songwriter and record producer. Gaye helped to shape the sound of [Motown](#) in the 1960s, first as an in-house session player and later as a solo artist with a

string of hits, including "[Ain't That Peculiar](#)", "[How Sweet It Is \(To Be Loved By You\)](#)" and "[I Heard It Through the Grapevine](#)". He also recorded duets with [Mary Wells](#), [Kim Weston](#), [Diana Ross](#) and [Tammi Terrell](#); later earning the titles "Prince of Motown" and "Prince of Soul".

During the 1970s, he recorded the albums [What's Going On](#) and [Let's Get It On](#) and became one of the first artists in Motown (joint with Stevie Wonder) to break away from the reins of a production company. His later recordings influenced several contemporary R&B subgenres, such as [quiet storm](#) and [neo soul](#). Following a period in Europe as a tax exile in



the early 1980s, he released the 1982 Grammy Award-winning hit "[Sexual Healing](#)" and its parent album [Midnight Love](#).



On April 1, 1984, Gaye's father, [Marvin Gay Sr.](#), fatally shot him at their house in the West Adams district of Los Angeles; a result of a physical altercation when Gaye intervened in a fight between his parents.

Since his death, many institutions have posthumously bestowed Gaye with awards and other honors—including the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

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Editorial

Hatred at the Southern Border

**More Than 150
Families Separated
at the Border
Remain Locked Up
in Texas**



By Tarik Kiley

May 25, 2019

It has been all over the news that President Trump's regime is separating migrant families at the USA's southern border. According to Catherine E. Shoichet, a writer with CNN politics, as of her writing on May 17th, 2019 over 1,700 cases of possible family separation have been identified in a court ordered effort, thus far. The cruelty of family separation should be noted here, because many of these migrant families are fleeing harsh conditions such as gang violence in

their home countries and are simply seeking asylum in the USA. The Los Angeles Times Editorial Board mentions this in an article published on May 8th, 2019.

Mr. Trump has turned a cry for help into a criminal act. Instead of helping others who need our help, he has criminalized them. Though the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board says the initial policy was



changed somewhat last June, Mr. Trump’s initial policy was as follows:

“The policy was a simple one: If a migrant family crossed the border and asked for asylum, the parents would likely be

sent to jail on misdemeanor criminal charges and the children farmed out to other relatives in the U.S., to family friends, or to strangers in the foster care system.” Now though the policy was changed somewhat, family separation still could occur if “necessary for the safety of the child,” as ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego. Now the intention of the court order could be debated but, Mr. Trump’ government has used the court order as a loophole to continue family separations. As the Los Angeles Times mentions, “According to immigrant advocates, children are being taken from their parents based on long-ago convictions for crimes — such as driving under the influence — that would seem to have little or no bearing on whether the parents actually pose a risk. Families are also being separated on the mere suspicion that an adult is not really the parent.”

Now why is it important for us to care about migrant families being separated at the border?



This is Biblical. Morality commands us to not murder one another and to be kind to our neighbors. Not only has Mr. Trump not been kind to his neighbors to the south, but

also his neglect has led to the *death* of children. Six migrant children have died when in custody, according to BBC News, in an article dated May 23rd, 2019. According to BBC News, “A 10-year-old girl from El Salvador died in US custody last year, a previously unreported case that brings to six the number of migrant children known to have died after being detained by border authorities in eight months. The girl had a history of congenital heart defects and died in September at a hospital in Nebraska, officials say.” Also, Mr. Trump unnecessarily declared a “National Emergency” on February 15th, 2019 because he believed this would allow him to circumvent Congress and obtain funds for his southern border wall.

Why does Mr. Trump want a border wall with Mexico so badly?

Let's call it what it is. This is racism. Mr. Trump is not advocating for a border wall with Canada but, is advocating for one with Mexico. The difference here is that Canadians are white and speak English, while Central and South Americans are brown and speak Spanish. Mr. Trump even admitted to being a nationalist to the entire nation, but what he did not say, is that he is a white nationalist. Dave Boyer of The Washington Times, in an article published on October 23rd, 2018, mentions that Mr. Trump's declaration of being a nationalist, does in fact have racial and nativist connotations.



It could also be argued more directly that Mr. Trump's xenophobia, first against Muslims and now against Central and South American immigrants, is actually steeped in nativist sentiment and white nationalist political philosophy. He paints foreigners as criminals and has attempted to strip them of their human rights. This is the evidence he has shown us.

Why is it important that we end Mr. Trump's nativist policies?

In the USA, we cannot afford to be xenophobic. This country is made up of people of various ethnicities, religions, etc. from all around the

world. If we scapegoat anyone based on religion, or race then we are actually hurting ourselves.

We cannot allow the USA to be torn apart by a dictator who divides



Americans against themselves. As John Jay mentioned in Federalist Paper #5, in so many words, distrust leads to distrust, and if we fight one another, in fact, we are weak in the eyes of the world, and are actually “formidable only to each other.”

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Announcements



Beatties Ford Town Hall

Hosted by Mujtaba A. Mohammed - NC Senate

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Beatties Ford Library

2412 Beatties Ford Road

Charlotte, NC 28216

(Joint Legislative Update with Delegation Chair, Representative Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.)

Please RSVP at MohammedLA@ncleg.net.

Democrats of N. Mecklenburg Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 6th, 2019 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Announcements



Dem Good Time Family Fun!

Family Fun and Potluck

Hosted by Hosted by Mecklenburg County Democrats

Precincts 135, 145, 151, 239

Saturday, June 8th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Hucks Road Park

5435 Hucks Rd. Charlotte 28269

(Bring a dish to share if you'd like.)

North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

Tuesday, June 11th, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

(Off Gilead, in front of Earthfare)

RSVP – Email: n.meck.progressives@gmail.com

Announcements



West Boulevard Town Hall

Hosted by Mujtaba A. Mohammed - NC Senate

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Branch Libraries

2157 West Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28208

(Join Senator Mujtaba Mohammed and Representative Carolyn Logan for their first Joint Legislative Update at West Blvd Library.)

Please RSVP at MohammedLA@ncleg.net

Pack The Chamber For The #bufferzone Vote!

Hosted by Charlotte Reproductive Action Network

Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center

600 E. 4th St. Charlotte, NC 28202

Sign up to speak here:

<https://charlottenc.gov/CityClerk/Pages/Speak.aspx>



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

Happenings Gallery



(1st photo: Representative Carla Cunningham, District 38 Senator Mujtaba Mohammed.
2nd photo: 1st North Charlotte "Dem Good Time" Heidi Pruess, Phillip Benson,
DonnaMarie Woodson, 3rd photo: Senator Mujtaba Mohammed, DonnaMarie Woodson
4th photo: Dimple Ajmera Meet and Greet 5th photo: University Town Hall with
Representative Carla Cunningham and Senator Mujtaba Mohamed attendees Sean
Thompson, Kevan Woodson, DonnaMarie Woodson, Kathy Gister.)

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley