

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

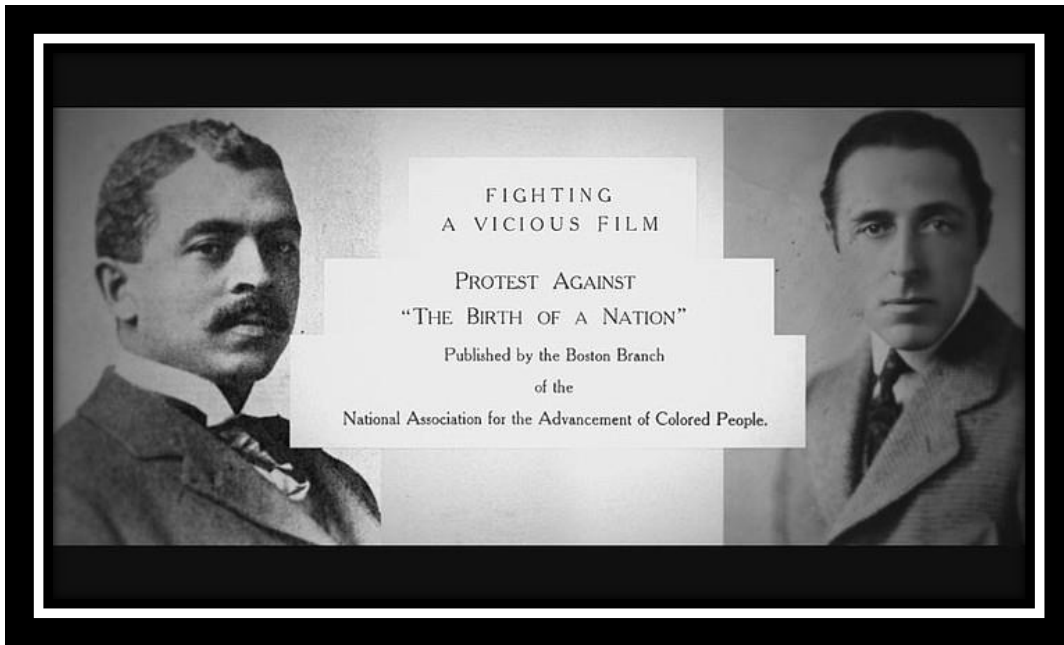


[William Monroe Trotter](#) (April 7, 1872 – April 7, 1934)

Father of the Civil Rights Movement

[“Birth of a Movement” \(2017\)](#)

By DonnaMarie Woodson



A newspaper editor and real estate businessman based in Boston, Massachusetts, William Monroe Trotter was an activist for African-American civil rights and an early opponent of the accommodationist race policies of [Booker T. Washington](#). In 1901, he founded the [Boston Guardian](#), an independent African-American newspaper, as a vehicle to express that opposition.

Active in protest movements for civil rights throughout the 1900s and 1910s, he activated and mobilized a movement and took on racism and the king of that genre, D.W. Griffith's film, "[Birth of a Nation](#)".



The film premiered on February 8, 1915 and for 3 horrific hours established what I call the blueprint for race relations in America.

The Independent Lens production, “Birth of a Movement” (2017) chronicles the life of William Monroe Trotter and his significance in the birth of the civil rights movement that we continue to mirror today. “Birth of a Nation” may be the blueprint for racism and racist films in America, but William Monroe Trotter was the blueprint for opposition and elements of the modern day civil rights movement.

A recruitment film for the [Ku Klux Klan](#), (KKK) “Birth of a Nation” romanticized the old ante bellum south and stereotyped black men as hyper-sexual rapists, lazy, watermelon eating buffoons who must be killed or kept in their subservient place to save the white race.



A contemporary and colleague of [W.E.B. DuBois](#), Trotter earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Harvard University, and was the first man of color to earn a Phi Beta Kappa key there. Seeing an increase in segregation in northern federal facilities, he began to engage in a life of activism, to which he devoted his assets.

Trotter would use all his determination in the fight to stop “Birth of a Nation” from being shown. The Boston Globe reported, 1,000

demonstrators would “storm” the State House demanding the film cease screenings.

Trotter led 3,000 Black men and women through the streets of Beacon Hill singing hymns. One protester’s remembrance of the moment: “I look over the vast crowd of Negro men and women and the thought came to me, ‘This is a united people ... all the Black people coming together — Washington, DuBois, Trotter — forgetting their differences, 10 million Negroes would be united. A nation would really be born.’”



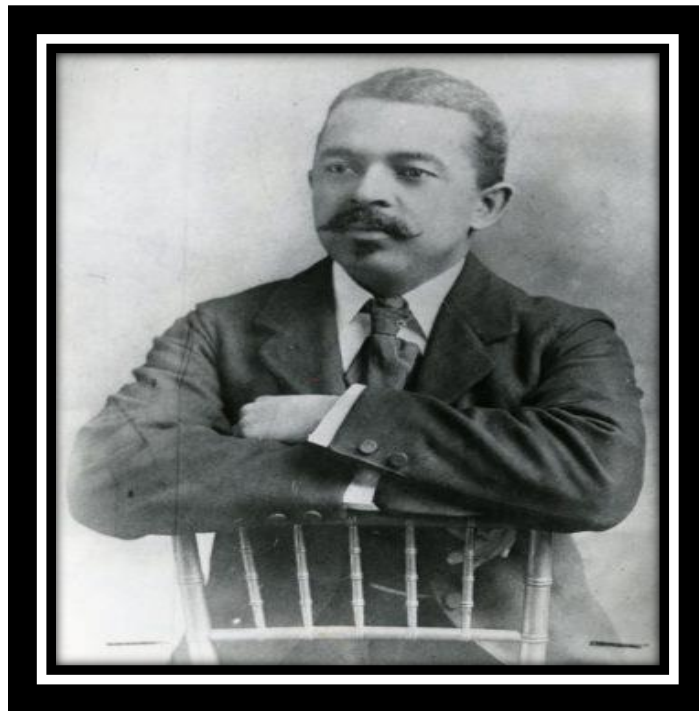
Trotter had a reputation for being a firebrand and he opposed the idea of being accommodating by keeping separate and polite with whites. This difference in approach resulted in Trotter

leaving the Niagara organization he founded with W.E.B. DuBois and founding the National Equal Rights League. His protest activities were sometimes seen to be at cross purposes to those of the NAACP.

In 1914, Trotter had a highly publicized meeting with President Woodrow Wilson, in which he protested introduction of segregation into the federal workplace. Wilson was a known white supremacist and as a matter of fact, screened “Birth of a Nation” at the White House.

The tremendous acclaim “Birth of a Nation” received established the formula for stereotypical racist films that endures today. So, in our continuing fight for justice, we proudly walk in the history and groundbreaking footsteps of our civil rights forefather –

William Monroe Trotter



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Monroe_Trotter

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Birth_of_a_Nation

<http://atlantablackstar.com/2017/02/14/william-monroe-trotters-boycott-birth-nation-laid-foundation-civil-rights-movement/>

<http://www.wcvb.com/article/cityline-the-birth-of-a-nation-vs-william-m-trotter/8587753>

Editorial

Running for the School Board: The Forgotten Contest

By Tarik Kiley

July 20, 2017

It appears a lot of activists have been focusing their attention on President Trump and our NC Senators, Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. It *is* important to focus on them because of Trumpcare and the repeal and replacement of Obamacare actions by the GOP dominated Federal government.

Why is the CMS School Board contest so important?



According to the CMS website the school board is responsible for these five things:

- **Hire the superintendent**
- **Establish policy**
- **Determine annual operating and capital budgets**

- **Approve student assignment boundaries**
- **Oversee the management of the school district’s major systems, including budget and finance, curriculum and instruction, personnel and auxiliary services.**

Let’s highlight a few of these items understanding that determining the budget is such an important function. Do you feel that the school your child attends has adequate facilities? Are some schools getting less funding than others? Well, the budget allocates certain funds for certain purposes so to answer these questions, one would have to study the CMS budget.



Additionally, the setting of student assignment boundaries is an important function. Where your child attends school can be crucial to their access of proper educational resources. Is your child being assigned to a low performing school? Is it a neighborhood school or not? Of course, the last thing you want for your child is to be assigned to a school that is segregated by race and class. Of course, it is understandable to want your child’s education to be well-funded. As the future of your child is one of your main concerns, it is essential to pay attention to the school board elections.



Also, it should be noted that public schools can be the primary economic incubator for the societal future. Whoever sits on the school board has to have in mind the economic needs of society. Schools cannot be antiquated and built on a 20th century model. Schools have to be built on a 21st century economic model and policy should reflect that.

Is the school to which your child is attending incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in their curriculum? As robotics, biotechnology, and computer coding are the job skills of the future, our school board members must understand this to have a vision for the future.

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/boe/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.wsoctv.com/news/local/cms-releases-possible-changes-to-student-assignment-plan/525665431>



Announcements

Coalition of United Progressives–CharMeck

Coalition Cookout for a Cause!

Sun, August 27 - 11 AM · 5 PM

Freedom Park Shelter #3

1900 East Blvd, Charlotte 28203



Freedom Park Picnic GoFundMe Page

<https://www.gofundme.com/coalition-charmeck-picnic>

A special thanks to those who have contributed to our event:

Donald and Alyene Keen, Yvette Huet, Dorene Welch, Betty Gunz

Announcements



Check out the Coalition's new website at:

<https://coalitionofunitedprogressivescharmec.com/>

Coalition of United Progressives Movie Night

"John Lewis: Get in the Way"

Tuesday, August 15th – 6:30 pm

Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church

3435 Nevin Rd

Charlotte, NC 28269

The Ripple Action Group

The Young Adult Panel Forum

Saturday, August 5th - 2-4 pm

Cornwall Center 2001 Selwyn Ave.

Charlotte NC 28207

Announcements



Indivisible Charlotte Daily Rallies at Tillis' Office

9300 Harris Corners Parkway, Charlotte 28269

Monday - Friday - 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

You Can Vote

Pride Parade Voter Registration

August 27, 2017 at 12pm - 3pm

**Uptown Charlotte
200 S Tryon St
Charlotte, NC 28202**



Please submit your group events to donna.marie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings



Gallery!



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

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