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# THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE

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**Greetings!**

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

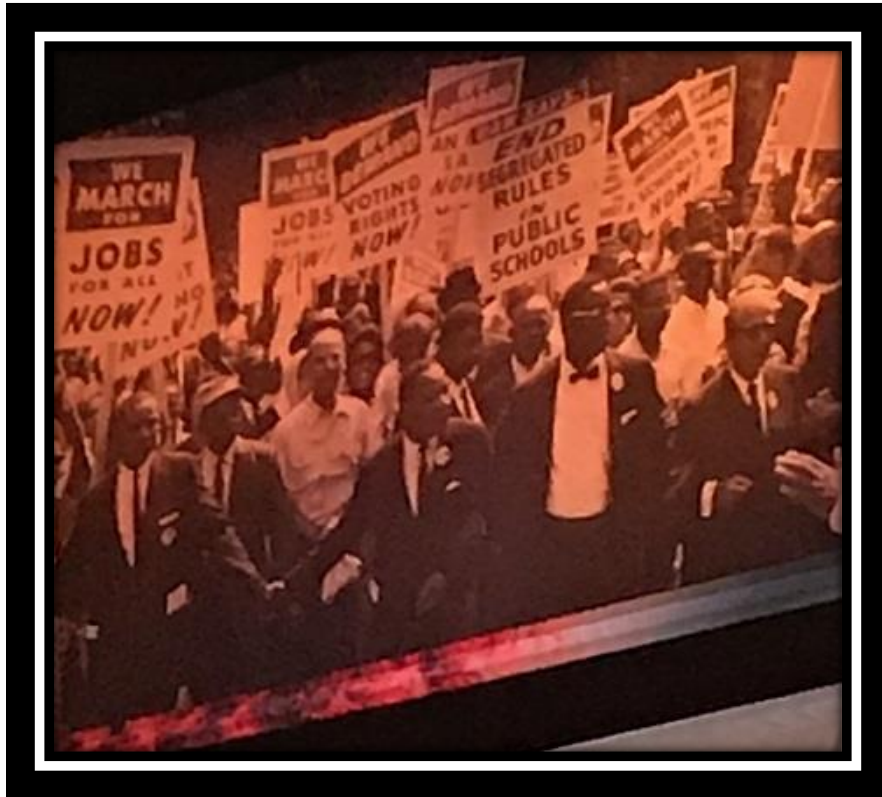
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## Our Mission Statement

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

[The Atlantic Race + Justice Symposium](#)

Booth Playhouse at Founders Hall

October 17, 2017

By DonnaMarie Woodson



While the 2016 shooting of Keith Lamont Scott gained national attention, the city of Charlotte and the state of North Carolina have long grappled with issues of racism and inequality in the criminal justice system, and in related institutions, from schools to the voting booth.

Taking into account the political, historical and demographic

currents that shape the story of race in America—and in Charlotte—*The Atlantic* posed the question: What would “liberty and justice for all” actually look like in Charlotte?

This event is the third in *The Atlantic's* annual Race and Justice Summit series, which explores racial disparities in justice and access across the country. (The Atlantic)

The seven panel topics included:  
 Confronting History: Monuments and the Confederacy, Race and Justice in Mecklenburg County, Is There a Crime Wave? Looking at the Local Level, The Power of Art, The Police and the Community, Reforming Juvenile Justice: What’s Next? and Creating a More Equitable Charlotte.



Leading off with “Confronting History: Monuments and the Confederacy” was [Bree Newsome](#) who garnered national attention by climbing the flagpole in front of the South Carolina Capitol Building,

bringing down the Confederate Battle Flag after the murder of 9 parishioners by the Domestic Terrorist, White Supremist, Dylan Roof at Emanuel AME Zion Church in Charleston.

The flag was originally raised in 1961 as a statement of opposition to the Civil Rights Movement and lunch counter sit-ins occurring at the time.



Bree Newsome bringing down confederate flag.

The battle flag was never adopted by the Confederate Congress, never flew over any state capitols during the Confederacy, and was never officially used by Confederate veterans' groups. The flag probably would have been relegated to Civil War museums if it had not been resurrected by the [resurgent KKK](#) and used by Southern [Dixiecrats](#) during the 1948 presidential election.

Southern historian Gordon Rhea further wrote in 2011 that:  
It is no accident that Confederate symbols have been the mainstay of white supremacist organizations, from the Ku Klux Klan to the skinheads.

They did not appropriate the Confederate battle flag simply because it was pretty. They picked it because it was the flag of a nation dedicated to their ideals: '[that the negro is not equal to the white man](#)'. The Confederate flag, we are told, represents heritage, not hate. But why should we celebrate a heritage grounded in hate, a heritage whose self-avowed reason for existence was the exploitation and debasement of a sizeable segment of its population?



Ms. Newsome spoke with [Vann Newkirk II](#), Staff Writer with The Atlantic, on how removing the symbols of racism is a step, but, we

must not be distracted by the symbolism instead push forward and fight against the underlying cause and systems built into the fabric of our country.

I believe this conversation undergirds the rest of the conversation and realities of the symposium. The lack of acceptance of our shared history in America has caused so much pain and horror that if we can't face racism head on, what possible hope is there for the future of this country?

“Race and Justice in Mecklenburg County” was next on the agenda, addressing the disarrangements which resulted in the killing of Keith Lamont Scott.





**Ron Brownstein, Senior Editor with The Atlantic moderated the speakers including: Robert Dawkins, State Organizer, SAFE Coalition, NC, Marcus Kirkman, Sr., Life and Wellness Coach, DASH Mentoring, Regan Miller, Chief District**

**Judge, 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Kevin Tully, Public Defender, Mecklenburg County, and Robyn Withrow, Assistant District Attorney, Mecklenburg County.**

**The conversation centered around the truth of implicit bias and how it affects the very idea of Race and Justice. The following video is the complete panel discussion. (35 min)**



**Robert Dawkins, State Organizer, SAFE Coalition**

***Kevan Woodson***  
**(Steering Committee member)**

**In this 10-min. interview, Kevan shares his thoughts and takeaways from the day.**



***Kevan Woodson, Jennifer Roberts***



**There is so much work to be done on so many levels in our communities that it is imperative we activate ourselves and others in the fight for justice and race relations, not only in Charlotte but all America.**

**[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern\\_display\\_of\\_the\\_Confederate\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_display_of_the_Confederate_flag)**

**<https://www.theatlantic.com/live/events/race-justice-charlotte/2017/#event-speakers>**

## Editorial

### The Hope of Brotherhood

By Tarik Kiley

October 24, 2017



Several days ago, a Black man hugged a White man who was a Neo-Nazi Skinhead. While hugging him, the Black man asked the White man, “Why do you hate me?” This had to have taken an incredible amount of courage on the Black man’s part. It had to have taken a big heart to show love to someone who hates you.

This is the hope of Brotherhood (and Sisterhood). This is the hope that all people can be brothers and sisters and can be shown that they are loved even when it seems like that other person does not deserve love. This is truly a big lesson for people such as myself to learn—to love because it is the right thing to do—to desire peace in the face of animosity.

However, people, including myself, miss out on the lesson to love one another as we love ourselves. The major religions of the world instruct us to love one another. The Quran speaks of reconciliation and the mercy of Allah. It says that your enemies are not your enemies truly, so soften your heart towards one another. And, of all things, be merciful, as Allah is merciful. The Bible speaks on the



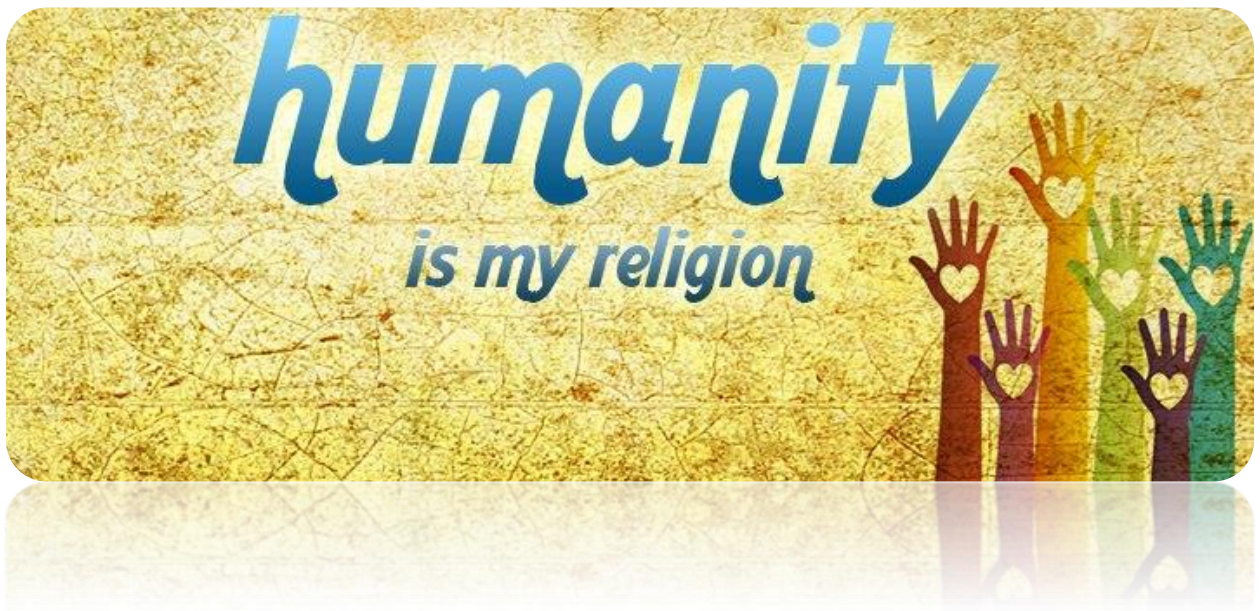
unity of brothers. It says that since God created us all, we are not to hate one another. If you love God, then you must love your brother.

How can you love God, and hate your brother?

Also, the basis of all of this, ancient Jewish law, *The Ten Commandments*, spoke on the sanctity of life by saying, “Do not murder/kill.” The reasoning behind this, it could be argued, is that every person’s life is sacred and valuable, so no one’s life should be taken from them by another.

Then if people should value life, and value their brothers and sisters, then who is a brother or sister?

Well, it could be argued on three levels—in this author’s opinion. There is the *family*, the *community* and then, all of *humanity*.



In your family, there are your biological brothers and sisters. Because of human nature, it is for the most part easier to love your siblings more than a stranger. This is perhaps because the family is

**the primary unit of socialization. People tend also to love who and what they know, and what they are most familiar with. In the community though, the next level, people can form bonds of friendship outside of their immediate biological family. Places such as the church and the school, serve as a secondary place of socialization and because of this, is a place where persons can form friendships and bonds which are not immediately biological. This is perhaps the logic behind people forming tribes/nationalities.**



**People bond in an extended, communal family, and thereby use the community as a vehicle to form alliances and bonds which assist in individual survival by pooling the resources of the group. Also, the community tends to serve as a place to perpetuate the immediate family by introducing outside persons to the gene pool and thereby hybridizing and helping the immediate family unit to grow.**

**This all seems quite evident, but the third level of brotherhood and sisterhood it is not quite so simple to explain or to accept. Because**

we are socialized in the immediate family unit, we accept it. Because, we are socialized inside the tribe/nation, we accept it. But, there are families and nationalities which people are unfamiliar with, so people do not accept them.

If people are not socialized with one another, then they tend to see one another as alien. Therefore, the Black man's gesture was so important. He hugged the racist, because he knew that people are all one human family. People simply do not know one another on the level of humanity. The species is divided, so individual people are divided.

It is this author's hope that as society continues to advance technologically, as people can get to know one another— by communicating globally, traveling globally, and socializing globally— that people will grow to see one another as brothers and sisters, simply because we are all human. When people can love another human as a brother or sister, and grows familiar with another person's culture, their family, their community, then perhaps we will reach the Hope of Brotherhood—the hope of a united society.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIHktEJsJXI>

<https://abuaminaelias.com/brotherhood-in-the-quran-and-sunnah/>

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Brotherhood>

<http://www.jewfaq.org/brother.htm>

# **Announcements**



## **Charlotte 2017 Vote for Charlotte's Mayor, City Council & School Board**

**Election Day: November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Vote Early: October 19<sup>th</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **Ways to Vote**

- 1. Early Voting is Now – November 4<sup>th</sup>**
- 2. Election Day is November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**NO PHOTO ID NEEDED TO VOTE**

**Questions?**

**Call the hotline!**

**1-888-OUR-VOTE**

# Announcements



Calling All Justice Seekers, Solutionaries,  
Earth Defenders, and Community Builders,

We are excited to announce that registration is now open  
for the 4th Annual NC Climate Justice Summit (NCCJS), November 17-19th  
located again at the Haw River State Park!

At the NCCJS, we are growing everybody's movement. With folks from  
across our state, we dive deep into multi-racial and inter-generational  
dialogue about the biggest challenges facing us.

[Learn More](#)

At this year's Summit, we will explore how to build greater unity across  
these frontline struggles: the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, coal ash, CAFO hog  
waste, deforestation and gentrification. By using the ***four Rs of social  
transformation***, we will identify common ground  
to ***Reform*** and ***Resist*** systemic injustice, ***Re-imagine*** how to collectively  
win on our shared issues, and develop skills to ***Re-create*** new models for  
local economies and ecological restoration.

We will also creatively share our own stories so that we can better  
understand how to be in solidarity with each other.

[NC Climate Justice Summit](#)



# Announcements



## The Repairers of the Breach

### Poor People's Campaign

The Poor People's Campaign first Mass Meeting was here in Charlotte on August 9th. Yes, we made history! Since then Dr Barber and others have been traveling the country. He has had meetings in cities just like Detroit, Mi (yay my place of birth); Los Angeles, CA; Long Island, NY; Phoenix, AZ; and many other cities.

We here in North Carolina, are having strategic meetings for organizing and educating people on the campaign. We will have 3 phases, which we are currently in Phase 1 which is the organization and education. We are being careful with not putting too many details out for obvious reasons. Please be on the lookout for information for future Town Hall meetings that will be statewide.

To read more click on the link below.

<https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/upcoming-events/past-events/>



Please submit your group events to [donnamarie93@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie93@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

# Happenings

## America's Healthcare Crisis Forum



# 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**

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck