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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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## Sections

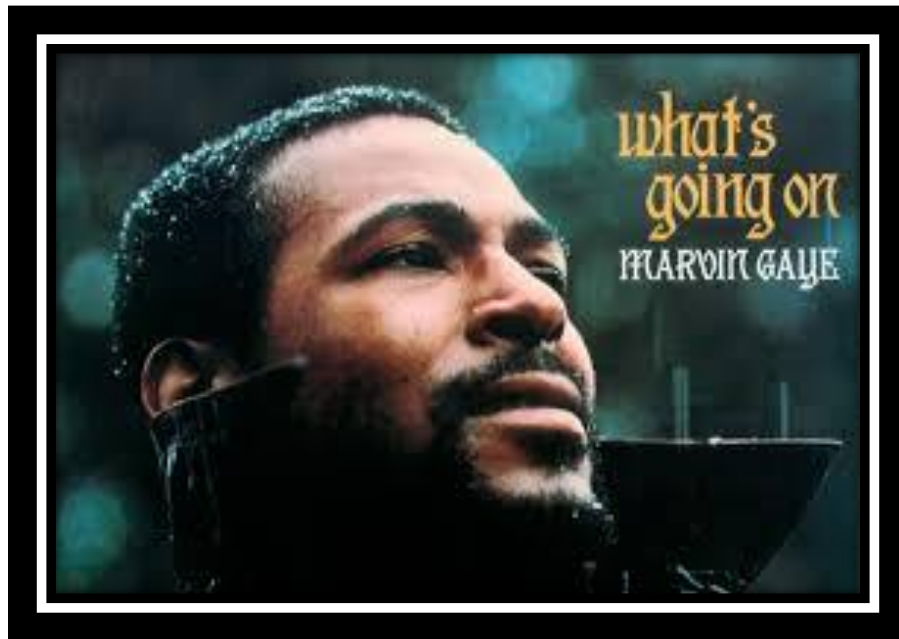
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
  - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
    - **Announcements**
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## Our Mission Statement

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

## “What’s Going On?”



## Marvin Gaye

(April 2, 1939 – April 1, 1984)

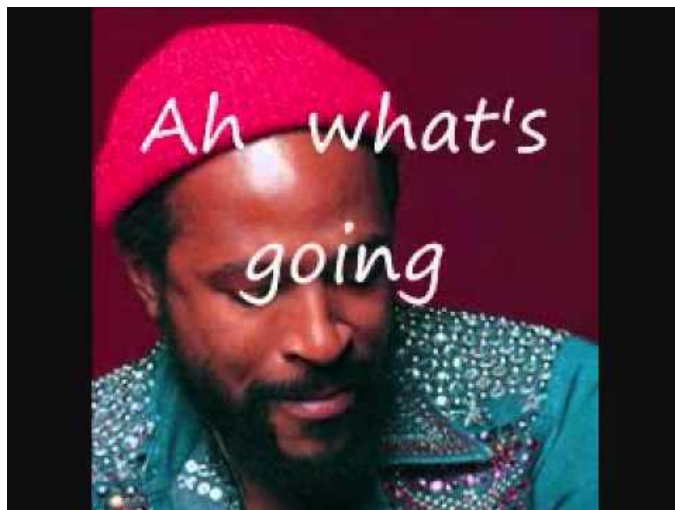
By DonnaMarie Woodson

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.



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.

#### Works Cited

<https://www.npr.org/2000/08/07/1080444/npr-100-whats-going-on>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marvin\\_Gaye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marvin_Gaye)

## Editorial

### Using Social Media in Nonviolent Protest

**By Tarik Kiley**

**May 26, 2018**

One could arguably say, that one of the biggest tools of the Civil Rights Movement in 1960's America, was the use of the media. Because, the Civil Rights Movement was televised, the country and the world became aware of the plights of African-Americans in the southern states. The evils of Jim Crow were exposed to the daylight through the mass media.



Today, the blights of oppressed groups such as African Americans has been exposed to the daylight once again, but these tales are not necessarily being discovered by major news outlets, solely. For example, in the cases of police brutality, the cops are being filmed on camera phones by ordinary citizens. Some argue that police brutality, and oppression in America, has not gotten worse, it is simply being filmed.

***What are some of the new forms of communication being used to document oppression? How are these tools being used to document resistance to oppression in nonviolent protests?***

Twitter can be used when someone wants to communicate with a large group of people. Instagram can be used to document protests with short videos shared with other users. GroupMe allows groups of



protesters to communicate with one another without being broadcasted to the outside world. Facebook can be used to document a struggle through,

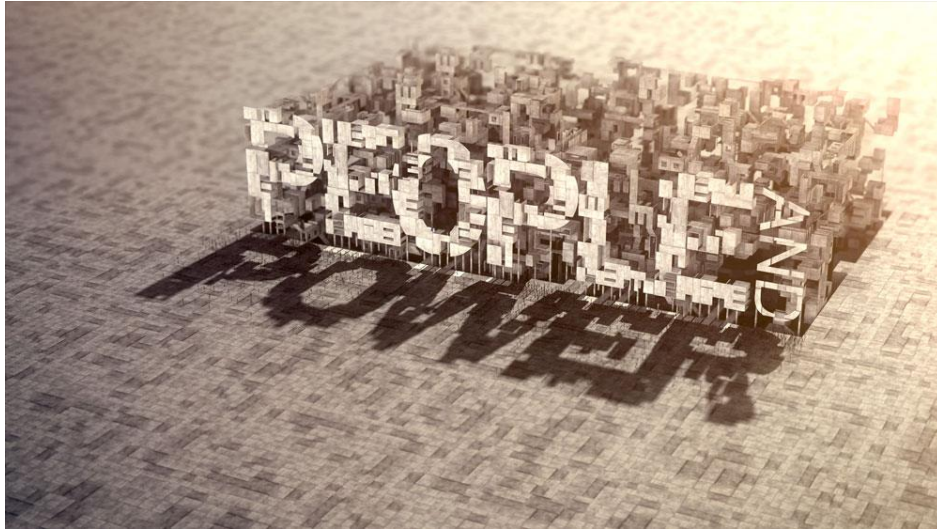
pictures, words and videos.

These are some examples of social media which could and do have a broad impact on organizing and nonviolent protest, today. Truly, communication has evolved. It has been democratized. Protesters and organizers are no longer dependent on major media outlets to get their stories out to the public.

In the study of ancient history, historians said that “The mob *is* Rome.” In other words, the hearts and minds of Romans was the essential battleground of Roman politics. If you could convince others of your *ideas*, then you could have actual power. This is important today, because with the democratization of information, ideas can be endorsed in the hearts and minds of people, without necessarily having to be endorsed by major institutions.

Of course, the use of social media does have a flipside. A person using social media to organize nonviolent protest could be thrust into the spotlight, unwittingly. Being thrust into the spotlight could place





someone on the radar screens—and thereby induce scrutiny—by the authorities. Even though nonviolent resistance comes with

some sort of risk attached to it, social media does *connect* people. Because social media connects people, it can lead to serious decentralization in leadership structures. Of course, admittedly, a movement needs to have some sort of formal leadership to be effective. Yet, the decentralization which occurs as the result of social media, could lead to the discovery of leaders who would remain invisible, otherwise. With the new decentralization, younger and less established leaders can have a platform on which they can be judged by the public on the merit of their ideas. Today, people just need a vehicle of information exchange and a way to express their political views. This platform is social media.

Today, people power has become as important as it ever has been in political history. Social media allows the average person to tap into this power. Social media does this by allowing ordinary people to create and tap into larger networks. The ability to network is really at issue here. Today, people can express their political views on a larger scale and use a network to communicate the merit of their ideas to the general populace.

## Works Cited

<https://www.wired.com/2015/10/how-black-lives-matter-uses-social-media-to-fight-the-power/>

<https://the-inkline.com/2017/02/07/how-to-use-social-media-as-an-effective-tool-for-nonviolent-civil-resistance/>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2017/01/31/it-takes-more-than-social-media-to-make-a-social-movement/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.4e567b8d3853](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2017/01/31/it-takes-more-than-social-media-to-make-a-social-movement/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.4e567b8d3853)

<https://www.media.mit.edu/posts/learning-from-civil-resistance-around-the-world/>

# Announcements



## Nonviolent Moral Fusion Direct Action Training

**NC Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**

**Monday, June 4, 2018, 11:00 AM**

**Bicentennial Mall (1 E. Edenton St.)**

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

## NC Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

### Rally

**Monday, June 4, 2018, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**Bicentennial Mall (1 E. Edenton St.)**

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

Please contact [margiestorch@gmail.com](mailto:margiestorch@gmail.com) if you wish to carpool.

## North Carolina Democracy Teach-In

**Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral  
Revival and Friends of the Earth U.S.**

**Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Union Presbyterian Seminary Charlotte Campus**

**Charlotte, NC 28210**

# **Announcements**



## **Red4Ed - Tell Meck Commissioners to fully fund CMS budget**

**Charlotte Mecklenburg Association of Educators - CMAE**

**Monday, June 4 at 5 PM - 7 PM**

**Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center**

**Charlotte, NC**

## **Mecklenburg Fair Courts Rally and Press Conference**

**Democracy North Carolina**

**Monday, June 4, 2018, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Mecklenburg County Courthouse**

**Charlotte, NC**

**(For more information on the event, contact the Western Piedmont Organizer, Artie Hartsell at [arthur@democracync.org](mailto:arthur@democracync.org))**

## **Democrats of N. Mecklenburg Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, June 7, 2018 7:00 PM**

**MAGNOLIA WOODS**

**12125 STATESVILLE ROAD**

**HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078**

**(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS)**

**[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)**

# Announcements



## North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

Tuesday, June 12th, 2018

6:30 PM

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

## Poor Peoples Campaign "A National Call for Moral Revival"

### Rally

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Washington DC.

Bus from Charlotte is being organized by Health Care Justice – NC and the Freedom Center for Social Justice. Click here for more info. Tickets are \$50 (\$25 for students and seniors).



# Announcements



## Senator Jeff Jackson's Gameplan Phone Bank

Advent CoWorking

933 Louise Ave, Suite #101, Charlotte, 28204

**Purpose:** Targeting voters in flippable districts across the state and letting them know there's an election this November 2nd.

- They've got a great challenger running in a competitive race who deserves their support as a voter and a volunteer.
- This challenger could be one of the keys to unlocking the governor's veto which would dramatically shift the political landscape.

Sign up here <http://www.jeffjacksonnc.com/gameplan-phone-bank>

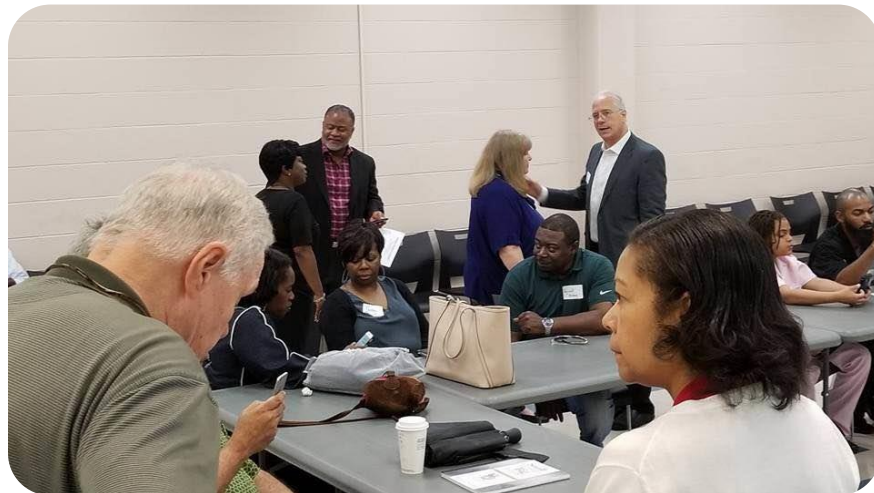


Please submit your group events to [donnamarie93@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie93@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

# Happenings Gallery



## Campaign to end involuntary homelessness – “One Charlotte”



**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**