
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

R.E.S.P.E.C.T – Aretha Franklin

“Queen of Soul” R.I.H



Aretha Louise Franklin

(March 25, 1942 – August 16, 2018)

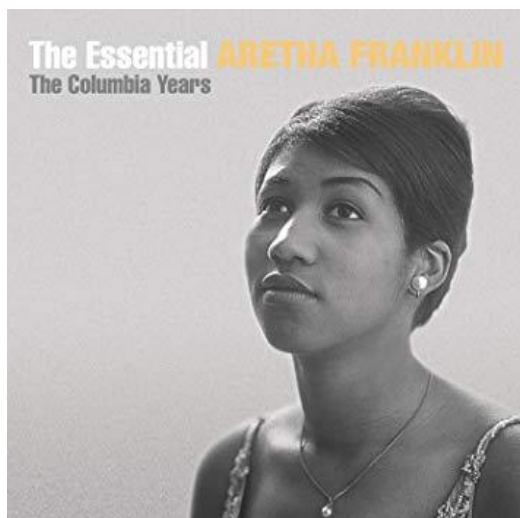
By DonnaMarie Woodson

Aretha receiving the Medal of Freedom from President Bush



Growing up in Detroit, Michigan in the 1960's, every day on my radio I jammed to the greatest music of all time; Motown, [Sam Cooke](#), the [Godfather of Soul James Brown](#), and, the incomparable Aretha Franklin. She sang from the very depths of her soul becoming an icon and forever soundtrack of our lives.

Aretha began her career as a child singing gospel at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, where her father, [C. L. Franklin](#), was the minister. In 1960, at the age of 18, she embarked on a secular career, recording for Columbia Records.



After signing to Atlantic Records in 1967, Ms. Franklin achieved commercial acclaim and success with songs such as “Respect”, “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman”, “Spanish Harlem” and “Think”. By the end of the 1960s, she was being called “the Queen of Soul”.

Recording 112 charted singles on *Billboard*, including 77 Hot 100 entries, 17 top ten pop singles, 100 R&B entries and 20 number-one R&B singles, Aretha became the most charted female artist in the chart's history. She won 18 Grammy Awards and is one of the best-



selling musical artists of all time, having sold over 75 million records worldwide.

Aretha received numerous honors throughout her career including a 1987 induction into the Rock and Roll

Hall of Fame, in which she became the first female performer to be inducted. She was inducted to the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2005.

In August 2012, Aretha was inducted into the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame and listed in at least two all-time lists on *Rolling Stone* magazine, including the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time, and the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time.



Today we both mourn and celebrate the life of a musical pioneer, Civil Rights Activist, and without dispute the reigning "Queen of Soul."

Click below and take a listen back at her remarkable career and journey through the soul-stirring music of Ms. Aretha “Queen of Soul” Franklin.



Works Cited:

<https://iheartfilmblog.com/2018/08/16/r-e-s-p-e-c-t-aretha-franklin-queen-of-soul-rih%F0%9F%92%9C%F0%9F%8E%B6/>

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

Editorial

Fractured THE STATE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

By Tarik Kiley
August 22, 2018

Most progressives can readily agree that we have elected the most idiotic and unqualified person possible in the personage of Donald Trump to be the President of the United States of America. His regime is a real threat to democracy and flies in the face of the concepts embodied in the US Constitution.

And, yet, some people support Donald Trump, but a lot of people are in dismay. People are upset with the fact that their everyday problems, and needs are not being addressed and remedied by Mr. Trump. Some needs are more shocking such as the Flint Water Crisis or the lack of electricity in Puerto Rico after a crippling hurricane. Others seem more mundane, such as safety from school shooters, and jobs that pay a living wage.

Yet, the pervasive feeling seems to be one of mediocracy. Gone seem the days of flying to the moon, inventing computers and other cutting- edge technologies and the supreme example of the USA as the world’s “international police.”

Now are the days of defeated and failed ideologies rearing their ugly heads once more—white nationalism, in the form of Confederate sympathizers and Neo-Nazis, on the far right and on the far left, Socialism. America seems to be turning into a hodge-podge of defeatists with defeated ideas.

The Global State of Democracy

Exploring Democracy’s Resilience



There are two ways out of this political mess. One is cultural power and the other is economic revival.

But, before talking about this, let’s talk about ending political corruption. In no republic should big money hold such

sway in elections and governance as it does in the postmodern United States. Also, namely, Donald Trump has been hit with scandal after scandal, and he is only two years into his four-year term as president.

Donald Trump has attacked everything in his dementia, from our international allies in NATO, to the concept of truth and science, itself.

Yet, I digress.

What do I mean by cultural power?

Well, it may not be feasible for the USA to continue its military dominance of the world. There are too many asymmetrical “small wars” that cannot be combated with conventional arms. Also, by employing arms conventionally, the USA can be seen as an imperialist menace, occupying others’ countries. Of course, this is not the way to win hearts and minds abroad.



Instead, people the across the world have been influenced by US culture. Music such as jazz, hip hop and rock and roll have been accepted by

audiences worldwide. Chinese schools are hiring native English-speaking Americans to teach English in their schools.

American hip hop dance is loved globally. People wear jeans, originally an American fashion trend, all over the world. Here, I am not necessarily talking about the cultural colonialism of say a Coca-Cola, but people adopting American culture, voluntarily and willingly. Additionally, we need to keep inviting international students to study at our universities to become more immersed in our culture. This will win more hearts and minds than bombs ever could have or ever will.

What do I mean by economic revival?

Well, first, the next administration needs to undo the tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration. Tariffs and protectionism are bad for the economy for so many reasons. Without going into those reasons here, per se, free trade is good for the world. It is perfectly logical for certain industries to be in decline, such as coal mining, as the economy grows and changes over time. Buggy whip makers are not coming back into fashion, because we drive automobiles now, and we no longer need whips for horse drawn carriages which we no longer use.



America needs to become the world's leading innovator again. The government needs to invest in research and development of new technologies. No, we do not need a "Space Force", because, we already have NASA, but we do need cutting

edge technology. We need clean energy, high speed trains, cheap global communications, electric cars, etc.

So, it seems reasonable, that sharing our culture with the world will make so many more friends for the USA, than will bombs and soldiers. Also, advancing the technological economy and the global economy, in general, will increase the standard of living for so many, and help to alleviate poverty.



Postmodern democracy depends on peace. People who are well nourished and happy are less likely to engage in war. Besides, there is intrinsic value in spreading the arts and civilization, and seeking to increase the standard of living, for Americans and for those abroad.

Works Cited

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<https://newrepublic.com/article/147319/witnessing-fall-american-empire>

<https://newrepublic.com/article/149008/america-choosing-decline>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/21/opinion/sunday/adapting-to-american-decline.html>

Announcements



Educate To Engage LLC

'New Jim Crow' Fall Dialogue Series

Wednesday, September 5th, 2018, 5:45 PM – 7:45 PM

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

301 E. W T Harris Blvd

Charlotte, NC 28262

Democrats of N. Mecklenburg Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 13, 2018 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Aim Higher Now

Charlotte Fair Kickoff

Monday, September 10th at 6:00 PM

3623 Latrobe Drive, Suite 124

Charlotte, NC 28211

Announcements



North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

**Speaker: Corine Mack (President of the NAACP Charlotte
Mecklenburg County Branch, Consultant, Center for Community
Change)**

Monday, September 10th, 2018 at 6:30 PM

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

(Off Gilead, in front of Earthfare)

Candidates' Forums: A Woman's Perspective on Issues

**The League of Women Voters Mecklenburg
Thursday, September 20th, 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

First United Methodist Church

501 N. Tryon St.

Charlotte, NC 28202

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 by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery



(Celebrating Diversity at the Puerto Rican Festival 2018 Symphony Park – Deb Zahn, DonnaMarie Woodson, Cynthia Perry, Linda Schragger, Diana Martin, Kevan Woodson, Gordon B. Daniels, Ellie Espada)

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

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