
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

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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

“Hidden Figures of American History”



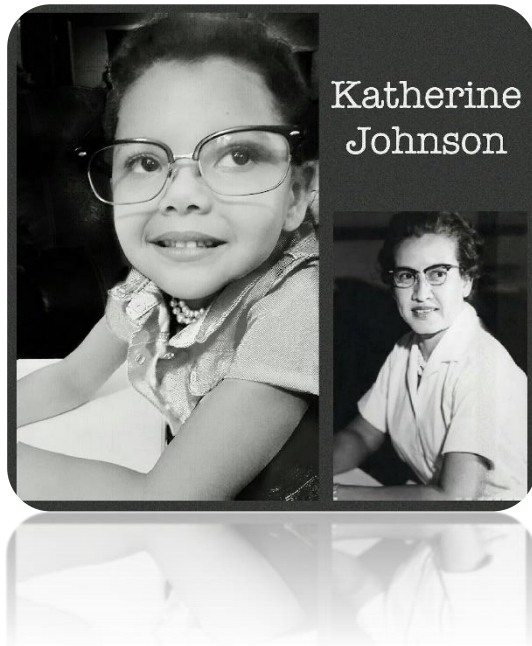
Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson

(Born August 26, 1918)

By

DonnaMarie Woodson

In honor of Women’s History Month, I’m spotlighting Ms. Johnson for her lifetime achievements as an incredible woman, mom, and American hero.



I’m a black woman in my 60’s and before the 2016 film “Hidden Figures” had never heard of this amazing woman and her contributions to our country.

I wept with pride during the final credits at the realization of what she was able to accomplish in a time where her very presence was suspect and her gifts underestimated.

Imagine, a little “colored girl” (the term at the time) born in White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in 1918, excelling as a mathematician at NASA and charting John Glenn’s Friendship 7 mission in 1962, making him the first American to orbit the Earth; rocketing the United States to the top spot in the race for space.

During the segregation era of the 1950’s and ‘60’s, that’s just what [Katherine Johnson](#) did; breaking barriers not only as an African-American woman but as a respected mathematician at the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#).

From an early age, Katherine’s brilliance with numbers was recognized by her parents, Joshua and Joylette Coleman. But, because Greenbrier County did not offer public schooling for African-American students past the eighth grade, the Colemans

arranged for 10-year-old Katherine to attend high school at nearby town [Institute](#), West Virginia.



Katherine graduated from high school at 14 and entered West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University), a historically black college. Taking every math course offered, Katherine graduated [summa cum laude](#) at 18 in 1937, with degrees in Mathematics and French.

Reading her story I reflected on the importance of the United States Supreme Court ruling [Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada](#) (1938). The court held that states that provided public higher education to white students also had to provide it to black students, to be satisfied either by establishing black colleges and universities or by admitting black students to previously white-only universities.

This ruling demonstrates why we must stay vigilant and keep the doors open for everyone, lest we go back in time. Think about it,

without Katherine's expertise at NASA, who knows how the space program would have evolved.

John Glenn, not trusting his life to the new electronic calculating machines, requested Katherine to plot the trajectory of his Friendship 7 mission the old fashioned way, by hand on her desktop mechanical calculating machine.



John Glenn (July 18, 1921 - December 8, 2016)

Katherine remembers:

"If she says they're good, then I'm ready to go." John Glenn's flight was a success and marked a turning point in the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Katherine's skill and accuracy in computerized celestial navigation spanned decades at NASA and were critical to the



success of their missions. She calculated the trajectories, launch windows, and emergency backup return paths for many flights from Project Mercury, including the early NASA missions of John Glenn and Alan Shepard, the 1969 Apollo 11 flight to the

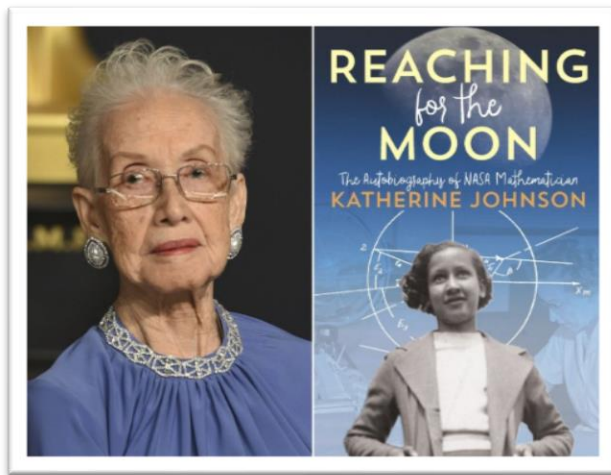
Moon, through the Space Shuttle program. Johnson also performed calculations for a planned mission to Mars.

One of the highlights of Katherine's life was In 2015 when President Obama awarded her the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#).

"Hidden Figures", the 2016 Oscar-nominated biographical drama is an inspiring history lesson about Katherine Johnson, [Dorothy Vaughan](#), and [Mary Jackson](#), 3 brilliant African-American women whose careers represent one of the most remarkable, untold stories in American history.



On February 22, 2019, fifty-seven years after her calculations helped the first American orbit the Earth, NASA officially renamed



a West Virginia facility in honor of Katherine Johnson. The center is now known as the *Katherine Johnson Independent Verification and Validation Facility.*

Staff at the Fairmont facility are responsible for making sure the software on NASA's high-profile missions runs safely and successfully, the center's website states.

Jim Bridenstine, NASA's administrator, said the facility carries on Johnson's legacy of "mission-critical computations."

"I am thrilled we are honoring Katherine Johnson in this way as she is a true American icon who overcame incredible obstacles and inspired so many," Bridenstine said in a statement.

This isn't the first time Johnson's name will appear on a NASA



building. In 2016, NASA dedicated a newly opened building at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, in Johnson's honor.

This is our shared American history and I encourage everyone to learn more about this incredible woman who proved that we are capable of achieving great feats even when the odds say it's impossible.



Believe in infinite possibilities!

Mathematician Katherine Johnson receives a replica of the plaque dedicating the Computational Research Facility at NASA's Langley Research Center in her honor, May 5, 2016. (NASA/Langley)

Works Cited:

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/nasa-katherine-johnson-hidden-figures>

<https://ginzy.me/uplifting/hidden-figures-american-history-paving-way-forward>

Editorial

The 'Green New Deal' Makes Sense to Me

By Tarik Kiley

February 24, 2019



The “Green New Deal” seeks to fight climate change by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and to invest in renewable energy. It also proposes an “Economic Bill of Rights” where people have access to single payer healthcare, a living wage and job security, a free college

education, affordable housing and clean, affordable public transportation.



In order to accept “The Green New Deal”, you have to believe certain things about the economy. First, you have to believe that the economy

changes over time. Some industries are sunset industries and diminish over time, while other industries are sunrise industries, and grow over time. Also, change in industries is driven by innovation. And, you have to believe that global warming is real.

Additionally, the investment in clean energy as presented in the “Green New Deal”, will require a divestment in an industry which is currently extremely profitable for some. That industry is big oil. Also, investment in clean energy will spark a massive change in the auto industry—from design to how cars are manufactured. These changes can seem scary to those who are currently reaping enormous profits from these industries.

This is one of the reasons, this country is not interlinked by high speed rail, as of yet. The internal combustion engine should have gone the way of the dinosaurs, by now. But car



inefficiency is too profitable, right now. But it is entirely feasible that this country could have national public transportation in the form of high-speed rail. President Eisenhower built the Interstate Highway System to accommodate cars and it is feasible to build an interstate high speed rail system.

And, there are other things which you would have to believe.

For instance, you have to believe that people deserve access to affordable healthcare. Some people consider affordable healthcare to be too socialistic, but people also made this argument when President FDR proposed Social Security in the first “New Deal.”



My understanding is that the USA has some of the best healthcare and healthcare technology in the entire world, but the American people can hardly afford it. This brings up a problem of access. The Affordable Health Care Act under President

Obama helped somewhat, but still the for-profit health care system in the USA is still entirely too expensive for the average person to readily access.



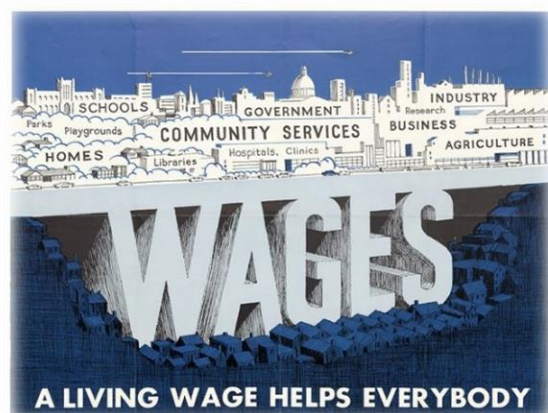
Also, you have to believe that people deserve a living wage, and some type of job security. If you purely believe in the work

ethic, which says, especially for able-bodied males, that if you do not work, then you do not eat, then you will question the viability of a living wage. You would argue that you get paid what you are worth, as determined by the market, and for example CEO's of corporations make so much more than workers, because their labor is more valuable.

While this seems to make sense economically, it doesn't address the perverse outcomes of the wage system, such as an inability to afford

rent, homelessness, and increasing poverty in a world of plenty.

America has enough houses to house the homeless, and corporations



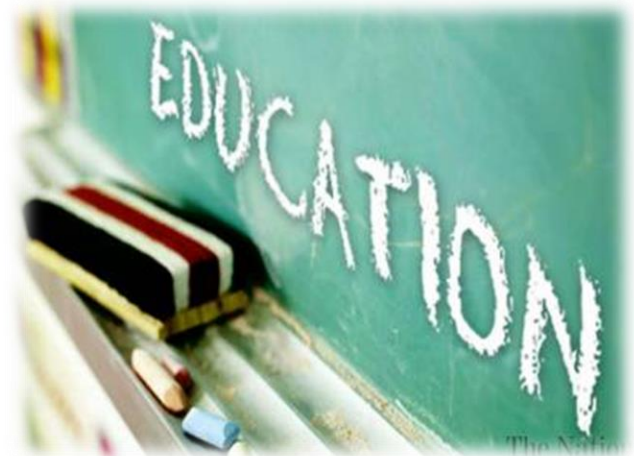
have enough profit to pay their workers more, but these outcomes do not occur because of persons who are driven solely by a profit motive. In order for everyday people to have a living wage, the private sector would have to be driven by some type of social responsibility in addition to a profit motive.



It is similar to what we were taught on the playground as children. We are to share our toys and play well with others. We were taught a sense of fairness which made greed morally wrong.

But, in the USA today, greed is actually to be rewarded and social responsibility neglected.

This country has some of the best universities in the world. But increasingly students are going into massive debt to finance their college education. We have free k-12 education, and public education has made America one of the smartest and most



innovative countries in the world. The USA has invented so many things—the car, the airplane, the computer, the cell phone—because we have the know-how. But, if you cannot afford knowledge, then that produces an unnecessary cost on society. This is part of the reason why libraries are free. Having a country of smart, innovative people benefits everyone.



The biggest argument against the “Green New Deal’ though, would be its cost. Now, not its monetary cost, per se, but its cost when viewing the wastefulness

of the government. Many see the government as wasteful and a poor steward of the peoples’ money. If the government is wasteful, then they will surely manage the “Green New Deal”, poorly. But this is not primarily a question of waste, but again a question of priorities.

Spending an enormous amount on the military is not seen as waste, so perhaps the “Green New Deal” is not purely a waste but considered a waste to those who see it as unnecessary.

Additionally, people may make the argument that financing the “Green New Deal” will make it prohibitively expensive. But yet the USA continues to spend a great deal on the military, without necessarily addressing whether that is necessary or not.



A “Green New Deal” requires a shift in priorities. While no economy can produce all goods in equal amounts, we can have the “Green New Deal”, if the country shifts priorities.

Works Cited

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/want-a-green-new-deal-heres-a-better-one/2019/02/24/2d7e491c-36d2-11e9-af5b-b51b7ff322e9_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.f9ba3f49f9f7

https://www.gp.org/green_new_deal

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/14/politics/green-new-deal-proposal-breakdown/index.html>

Announcements



Queen City Unity- New Volunteer Open House

Hosted by Queen City Unity

Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Aldersgate Life Plan Services

3800 Shamrock Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28215

How Charlotte Got Segregated:

A discussion with Tom Hanchett

Hosted by Rachel Kubie and Tom Hanchett

Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Morrison Regional Library

7015 Morrison Blvd.

Charlotte, NC 28211

Announcements



Democrats of N. Mecklenburg Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 7th, 2019 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

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

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Charlotte Advocacy Workshop

**Hosted by North Carolina Center for Nonprofits and
Foundation for The Carolinas**

Friday, March 15, 2019 at 8 AM – 9:45 AM

Foundation for The Carolinas

220 N. Tryon

Charlotte, NC 28202

Tickets: www.ncnonprofits.org

Announcements



Building Futures: A Symposium on Affordable Housing

Hosted by Habitat Charlotte

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6 PM – 8 PM

Halton Theater at CPCC

1206 Elizabeth Ave.

Charlotte, NC 28204

History Night with Dr. Tom Hanchett

Hosted by Aldersgate Life Plan Services

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM – 8 PM

Aldersgate Life Plan Services

3800 Shamrock Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28215

North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

Monday, March 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



19th Annual Black History Concert:

Women Movers of the Movement

Hosted by A Sign of The Times/Arts & Science Council

Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Great Aunt Stella Center

926 Elizabeth Ave.

Charlotte, NC 28204

Tickets: \$15 - \$25

www.eventbrite.com



**Please submit your group events to donnaMarie93@gmail.com by
the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.**

Happenings Gallery

Mecklenburg County Delegation “Listening Session”



(Mecklenburg Delegation including: State Rep. Chaz Beasley, State Senator Joyce Waddell, Representative Wesley Harris, Representative Kelly Alexander, State Senator District 38 Mujtaba Mohammed, Natasha Marcus NC Senate District 41 and State Senator Jeff Jackson. Claudia Sandoval, State Senator Mujtaba Mohammed, DonnaMarie Woodson, Tera Long, Barbara Bleiweis, April Benson, Joel Segal)

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