
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

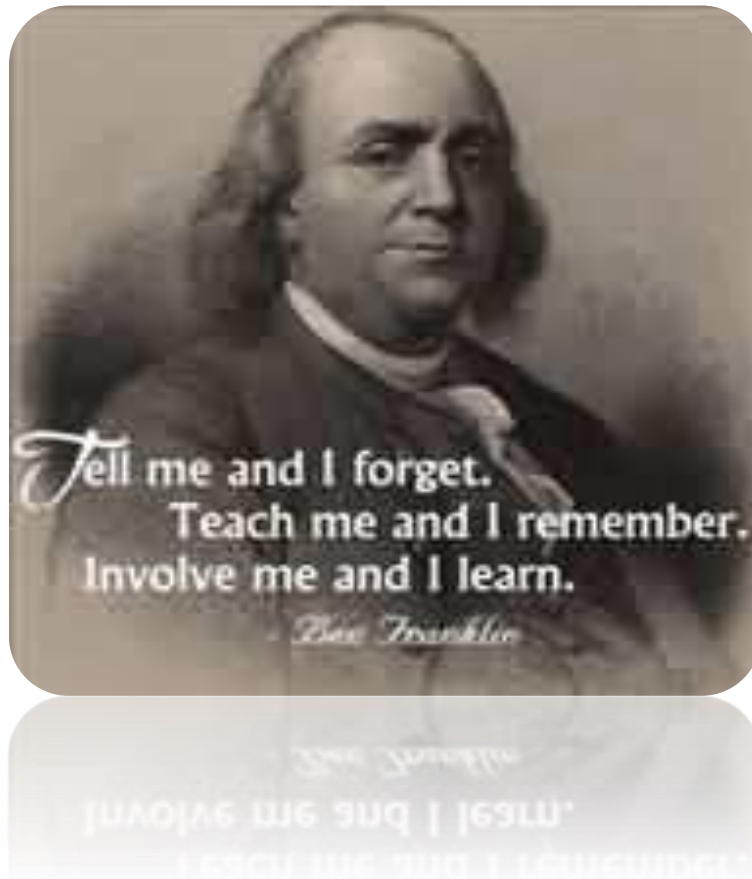
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
 - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
 - **Announcements**
 - **Happenings Gallery!**

Our Mission Statement

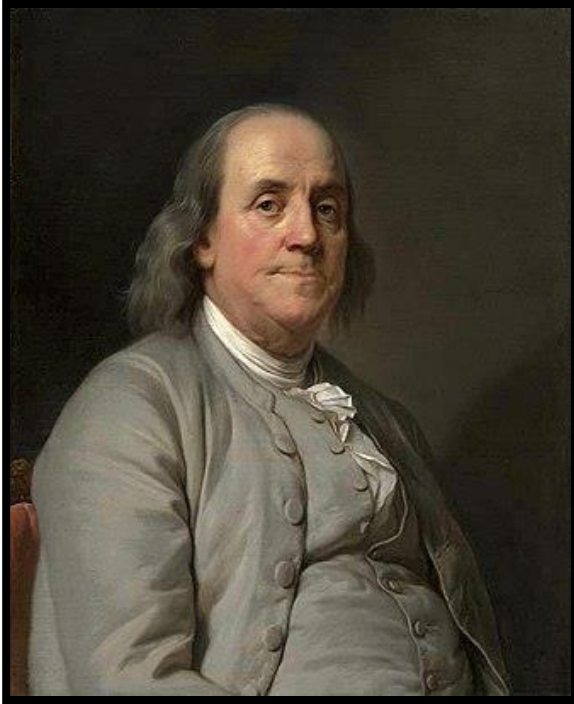
The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

Will We Keep Our Republic?



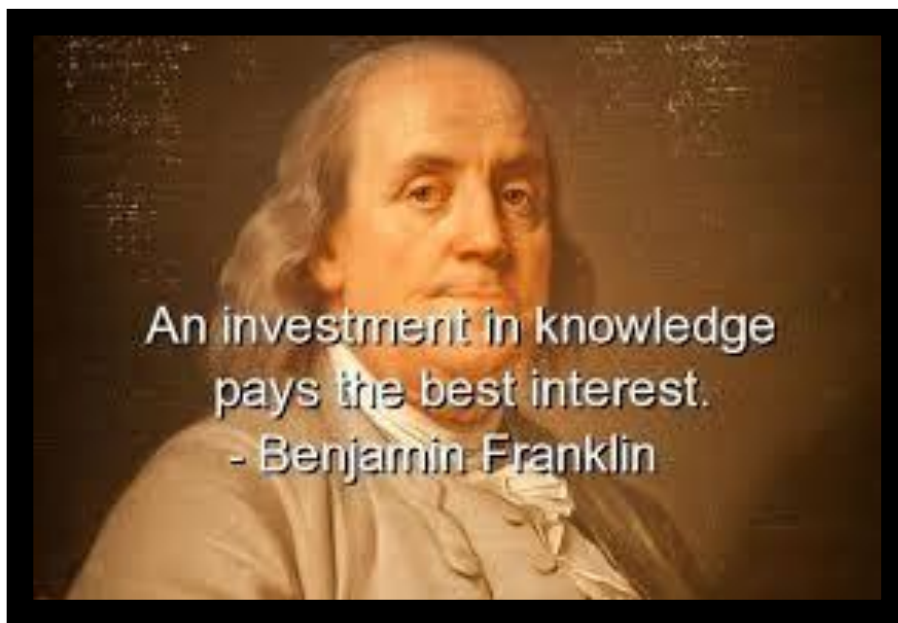
By DonnaMarie Woodson



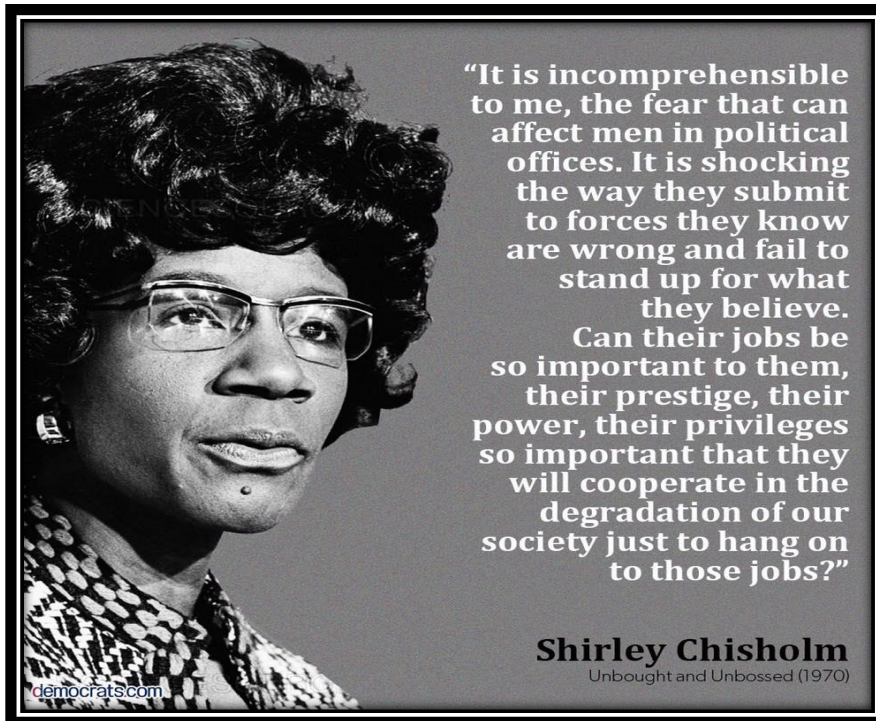
A quote I've been reflecting on lately is attributed to one of our Founding Fathers, [Benjamin Franklin](#), at the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Upon leaving Independence Hall on the final day of deliberation he was asked: "Well Doctor, what have we got a Republic or a Monarch?" Franklin replies, "A Republic if you can keep it."

Benjamin Franklin understood the fragility and commitment that it would take to keep this new form of government. And, Franklin's quotes serve as reflections of his times and poignant words of wisdom.

His quotes are especially relevant today.



Expounding on Franklin's point of "...a Republic if we can keep it", this

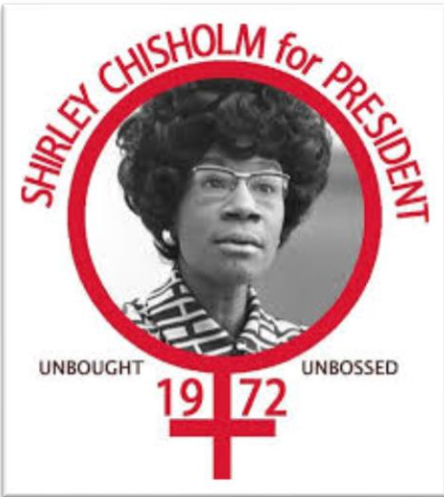


remarkable trailblazer, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, lays down the truth in this quote of what those in power have done and continue to do. By placing greed and their need for power before the best

interests of the country, they weaken the Republic and are extremely dangerous.



Both Ben Franklin and Shirley Chisholm's truths sum up how I feel in these troubled times.



As the first black woman elected to the United States Congress in 1968 and becoming the first black candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States, Shirley Chisholm's commentary on politicians submitting to forces they know are wrong rings even more prophetic in our current Congress.

I'm a child from the 60s and have seen my share of hate and evil. But, even living through the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy - all three cut down before they could fully realize their vision of America - there was despair and anger in the country. But I've never experienced this level of complicitous and in your face pure greed in our government.

The Congresswoman's quote hits the nail on the head and expresses the existential crisis we are now experiencing as a country.

At this pivotal point in our Republic. Will we indeed keep it?

Works cited

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

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

Editorial

The Art Scene in Charlotte

By Tarik Kiley

November 28, 2019

When I think of Charlotte, I don't think of the arts. Instead, I think



of button down bankers and fabulous restaurants. More specially, when I think of music in Charlotte, I don't think of any notable sound.

Now, when I think of other cities, I do think of a unique and identifiable art scene and a unique and identifiable musical sound. New York had Hip Hop. Baltimore had Baltimore Club Music. Atlanta had their own version of Hip Hop. Miami had the drum and bass sound. Chicago had House Music. New Orleans was the birthplace of Jazz, albeit 100 years ago. Detroit gave us Motown. Each city I have just mentioned was a place of musical and artistic innovation.



Despite the lack of musical innovation in Charlotte, the opportunity to create a unique Charlotte's art scene is becoming more possible over time. NoDA has evolved into an arts cultural district in its own right, and Camp North End has become a great place

for creativity to take hold. One issue for the arts in Charlotte is the question of funding. The Sales Tax for the Arts, Parks and Recreation just failed on the November ballot. It seems that there are greater priorities than public funding for the arts in Charlotte.

Now, admittedly, the Arts and Science Council has done a great deal with its Culture Blocks program. Culture Blocks has made it possible to promote equal access to the arts and to support artists with programming on the grassroots level.



It is also important to note, that Charlotte artists need to be more organized.

Sometimes, persons will want to book an artist and pay them with "exposure." Unfortunately, exposure

does nothing to help an artist put food on the table. Instead, if artists refuse to work for free, then persons hiring will see that

there is value to Charlotte's art, and that it deserves monetary support. For example, Charlotte artists can form a



union where no one artist is forced to work for pennies. Instead, the union can set reasonable wages for artists, meaning that no artist will work for less than their worth.

And, it is about Charlotte artists feeling that their work is valuable.

To revisit the idea of public funding for the arts, the city of Philadelphia has a city wide public arts program called "Mural Arts Philadelphia." This is a 30 year old program which has significantly shaped the "civic landscape" of Philadelphia. This arts program has connected people in new ways, and its proponents believed that art could be a transformative experience.



Perhaps, as Charlotte becomes more diverse, it will consider the arts more of a priority.

When you can be exposed to various cultures, know people who worship differently than you do and have all types of

music available for your enjoyment, then maybe Charlotte's art scene will take off, and public funding will make more sense, and the city of Charlotte could become innovative, as well.

Works Cited

<https://ui.uncc.edu/story/Charlotte-Arts-Scene-Growth>

<https://noda.org/>

<https://www.muralarts.org/about/>

Announcements



N. Mecklenburg Progressives Dinner

Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 PM

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr.

Huntersville, NC

(just off Gilead, across the parking lot from Earthfare)

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 11th 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dorothy Waddy Pavilion

3132 Manchester Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217

(Please bring an unwrapped toy)

N. Meck Democrats Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 PM

Cornelius Elementary School

21126 Catawba Ave.

Cornelius, NC 28031

Announcements



"Dem Friends"

Thursday, December 12th at Noon

Asian Buffet & Grill

11032 East Independence Blvd

Matthews, NC 28105

704-246-6962

(Every 2nd Thursday of the month)

Reception Celebrating Women Elected to Office

Hosted by Charlotte Women's March

Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Levine Museum of the New South

200 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

Tickets: \$35 - \$100 - [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Announcements



African American Caucus of Mecklenburg County Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 PM
2005 E Arbors Dr,
Charlotte, NC 28262



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@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

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