

---

# 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**

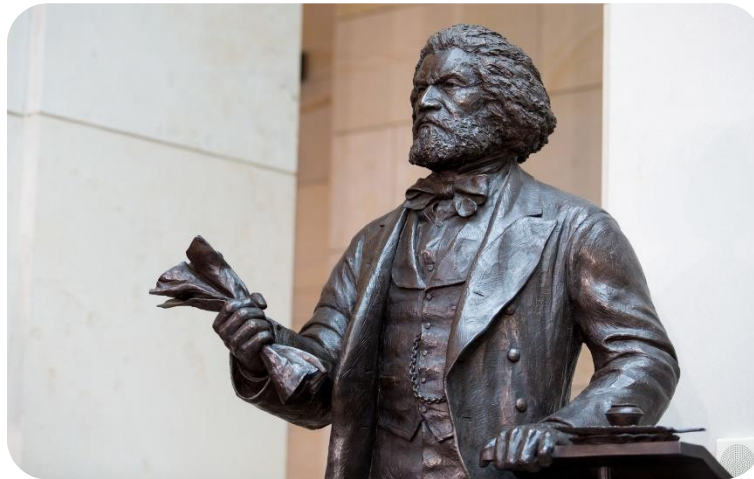
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
  - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
    - **Announcements**
    - **Happenings Gallery!**

## 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

### 'What To The Slave Is The Fourth Of July?'



Frederick Douglass Statue Emancipation Hall

## Frederick Douglass

(February 1817 – February 20, 1895)

By DonnaMarie Woodson

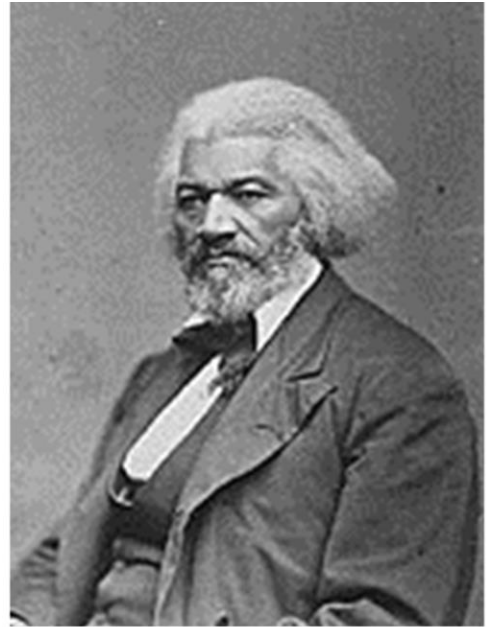
In today's climate as we re-evaluate our monuments and the underlying meanings behind our holidays; I felt this historic speech from the great orator Frederick Douglass, was quite apropos.

**"What to the slave is the Fourth of July?"** posed Frederick Douglass to a gathering of 500-600 abolitionists in Rochester, N.Y., in 1852. Admission to the speech was 12 cents, and the crowd at the Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society was enthusiastic, voting unanimously to endorse the speech at its end.

[This speech](#) would be remembered as one of the most poignant addresses by Douglass, a former slave turned statesman. Douglass gave it on July 5, refusing to celebrate the Fourth of July until all slaves were emancipated.

On July 3, 165 years later, the same question was posed on a stage in the basement of the National Archives, in Washington, D.C. This time by actor, Phil Darius Wallace dressed like Frederick Douglass and wearing a wig, speaking to a 100 or so people, plus the livestream audience, in the William G. McGowan Theater. The event was put on with the help of [the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site](#), which hosts an annual reading of the speech, entitled *The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro*.

Frederick Douglass





## *Phil Darius Wallace*

*(Click on picture to see video)*

*"This Fourth [of] July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn. To drag a man in fetters to the grand illuminated temple of liberty, and call upon him to join you in joyous anthems, were inhuman mockery and sacrilegious irony. Do you mean citizens, to mock me, by asking me to speak to-day?"*

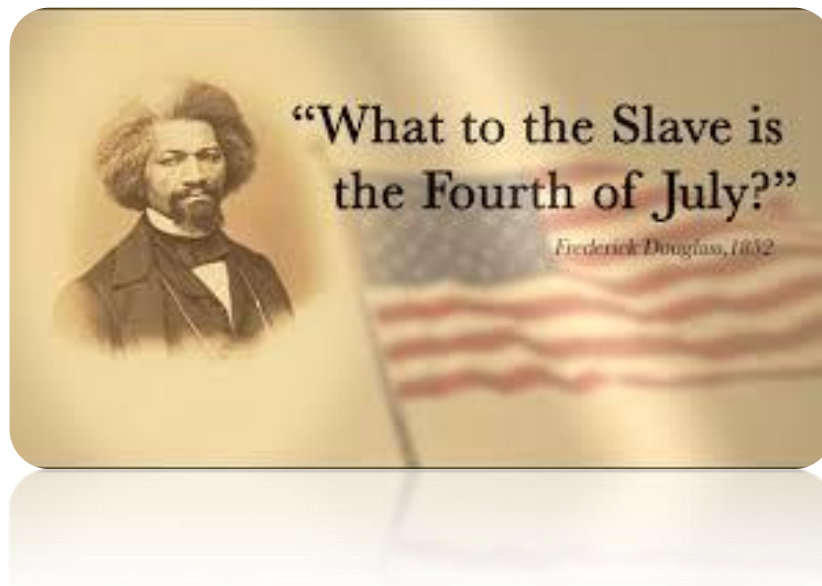
The sincerity of the performance captivated the audience as Wallace qua Douglass said, "Hope is much needed, under the dark clouds which lower above the horizon. The eye of the reformer is met with angry flashes, portending disastrous times."

Douglass delivered these words to abolitionists in the wake of the [Compromise of 1850](#), a package of legislation that, among other things, [amended the Fugitive Slave Act](#). From Douglass' point of view, the Compromise — which obliged citizens, including residents of the Northeast, to return fugitive slaves to their owners — equaled a nationalization of slavery. He hoped to inspire others to rise up in political resistance.

When asked why this speech has staying power, Wallace, the actor playing Douglass, said, "I will say that if it were maybe 15-20 years ago, I don't think we'd feel the heat of the speech the way we do in 2017 because of some of the events that have taken place in ... the past three or four years. ... It resonates with a lot of the things that have been happening today."

Attendee Alicia Cohen of Loudoun, Va., who is African-American, agreed. She remembered her father offering a similar sentiment to Douglass': "I remember when I was a little girl and, you know, how everybody gets really excited about July Fourth. And my father ... said, 'There's no reason to be excited about July Fourth.' He said, you know, that was not for us.

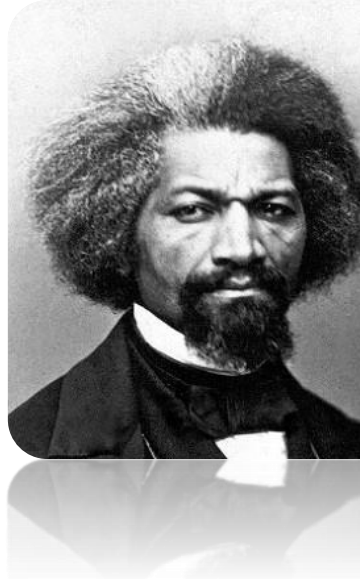
And I was learning one thing from home and one thing from school, and I was conflicted. ... And my dad, although he was a smart man, he didn't necessarily articulate it the way Frederick Douglass did, but he felt the same way."



Douglass' speech is as much a brutal accounting of national hypocrisy on what he referred to as a day of "tumultuous joy" as it is a call to action. Douglass, indeed, wished for the Fourth of July to be celebrated — and viewed the Founding Fathers as figures to be exalted in national memory saying, "I cannot contemplate their great deeds with less than admiration. They were statesmen, patriots and heroes, and for the good they did, and the principles they contended for, I will unite with you to honor their memory."

But, Douglass continued, "your fathers, who had not adopted the fashionable idea of this day, of the infallibility of government, and the absolute character of its acts ... they went so far in their excitement as to pronounce the measures of government unjust, unreasonable, and oppressive, and altogether such as ought not to be quietly submitted to."

Douglass noted the tone of complacency that had overtaken the country just 76 years after the Declaration of Independence. He chastised the politicians of the hour but noted that the ultimate responsibility rests on the shoulders of the citizens, not the government.



*"Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them."*

*Frederick Douglass*

*Frederick Douglass*

Frederick Douglass born ( Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey) was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, gaining note for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. Accordingly, he was described by abolitionists in his time as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Likewise, Northerners at the time found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been a slave.

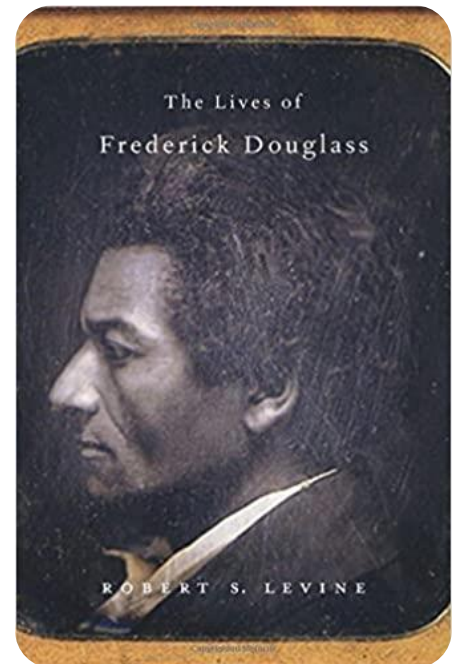


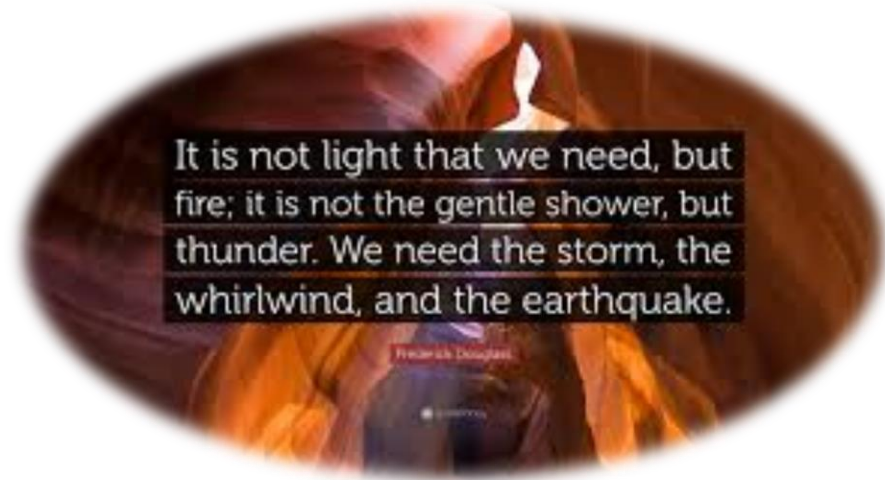
What stands out to me about Douglass' 4<sup>th</sup> of July speech is the Call to Action. We can gripe, get angry, and march but, if there is no powerful action to change our circumstances, it will just be played on a loop over and over again as it has for hundreds of years.



According to University of Maryland literature professor [Bob Levine](#), "Part of the power of the speech is tapping into an American ideology and arguing that there is a powerful reform side to American ideology," said Levine, who specializes in American and African-American literature and is the author of *The Lives of Frederick Douglass* (2016), "and that, history can change — things can change. Or else he wouldn't have given the speech."

After his address in Rochester, Douglass sold 700 copies of the speech on the spot, Levine said.





Douglass' call for, "not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the

whirlwind, and the earthquake" is echoed in contemporary activism — by citizens and by some politicians — as the two major parties remain bitterly divided over a legislative agenda and just about everything else.

**Works Cited:**

<https://www.npr.org/2017/07/05/535624532/what-to-the-slave-is-the-fourth-of-july-frederick-douglass-revisited>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_Douglass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Douglass)

[https://www.english.umd.edu/featured\\_profiles/1379](https://www.english.umd.edu/featured_profiles/1379)



## Editorial

# The Importance of Appearances: Black Images in the Media

By Tarik Kiley

June 28, 2020



Recently, the image of Aunt Jemima was removed from the pancake and syrup breakfast brand, and was determined to be racist. Why is the media portrayal of this Black American woman so important? It is important because media portrayals and symbols matter.

When I was a kid, I remember watching movies such as “Boys in the Hood”, “Menace to Society”, and “Dangerous Minds”, which depicted the Black ghetto as impoverished and full of crime. “Dangerous Minds” was particularly heinous in its depiction of Black youth as anti-intellectual and opposed to academic learning.

There were other films like this which I viewed as a child. One of them was called “Colors.” Just like “Dangerous Minds”, it portrayed Black youth as ignorant, but this one really went overboard by portraying Black and Latino neighborhoods in Los Angeles as being completely overrun by gangs.

While gangs were a reality in Los Angeles, at the time of the release of this movie, this particular movie was brutal in its symbolic nature. Basically, Black people lived in “bad neighborhoods” according to the rhetoric which these movies espoused.



## ***Why such exaggerated portrayals of Black people?***



D.W. Griffith's Birth of a Nation

Well, racism. Racism places the Black person, particularly young males, as the antagonists in the political story which is media portrayal. Political attitudes influence the media. What is particularly disturbing here is that the director of "Boys in the Hood" was a Black man named, John Singleton. This is particularly disturbing because it shows

how some Black people have internalized exaggerated stereotypes about themselves. Popular imagination is the staging ground for racism.

Stereotypes do not allow for judging a person on their character attributes. Actually, the one dimensional nature of stereotypes prevent people from seeing individual differences and relies on generalizations. So, no, all Black people do not play basketball, for example. Stereotypes tend to short-circuit the ability to reason.

Stereotypes can be particularly damaging to children who may not see a well-rounded representation of themselves in the media, and who may not see the role models they need to identify with in order to imagine their own societal success. Stereotypical role models might encourage Black children to play basketball, or football, do rap music, or somehow see themselves in limited roles in society. Still, contrary to these stereotypes, there are Black doctors, lawyers and engineers.



*The Help* - Aug 10, 2011

***Does having limiting beliefs about one's role in society have negative outcomes?***



My non-scientific answer is, “yes.” Because, if you only believe that you can do certain things in society, then you start to believe that you will fail at anything outside of these limits. One’s whole identity could become limiting.

This is what makes teaching Black History in schools so important. Obviously, history is rife with examples of Black people who have built their life’s work on outstanding achievement. In fact, the elementary school I attended as a child, was named after a famous Black explorer called, Matthew A. Henson. I also was a recipient of Black History teaching in that elementary school. As a child, I was taught about Garret Morgan, and Marcus Garvey for example. I wonder how many other Black children received a Black history education in public schools. I believe my exposure was due to the fact that Baltimore was a majority Black city at the time, and many of the teachers I had were Black. While I do admit, I lived in Los Angeles, CA as a child as well, where the Black History teaching was not as great, the Black History I received played a large role in my belief in my own efficacy. Because of this, my self-esteem was higher than if I was only fed stereotypes.



So, I argue for Black History to be taught in schools. In fact, it should be a mandatory part of k-12 education. Children should be learning about people like Mae C. Jemison, so that they too know that they can be an astronaut. I truly believe that children have unlimited potential, and limiting beliefs should not inhibit that potential.

## Works Cited

<https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/Media-Impact-onLives-of-Black-Men-and-Boys-OppAgenda.pdf>

<https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1411&context=edissertations>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/aug/12/media-misrepresents-black-men-effects-felt-real-world>

<https://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/jimcrow/links/essays/vcu.htm>

<https://www.demilked.com/famous-black-women-photos-recreated-cristi-smith-jones/>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/18/837776218/across-america-frustrated-protesters-rally-to-reopen-the-economy>

# **Announcements**



## **Cocktails with the Congress**

**Hosted by North Carolina Democratic Party**

**Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> – 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

**We're back again -- this time with Patricia Timmons-Goodson for NC-08 and Cynthia Wallace for NC-09! Join these awesome candidates for Cocktails with Congress on Wednesday, July 1st**

**🍷 Save your spot at [action.ncdp.org/july-cocktails-with-congress](https://action.ncdp.org/july-cocktails-with-congress)**

## **Social Distance Social with Sen. Marcus and Judge Marvel**

**Hosted by Keep Judge Rex Marvel and Natasha Marcus,  
NC Senate District 41**

**Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Facebook**

**Join Judge Marvel for another edition of “Social Distance Social.” This week we will have a conversation with Sen. Natasha Marcus who will give a legislative update including information about Judicial redistricting in Mecklenburg County.**



# **Announcements**



## **Freedom Stories: Do Black Lives Matter in Appalachia?**

**Hosted by International Storytelling Center**

**Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Join us for the first Freedom Stories community conversation, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This free, digital event will be streamed live from ISC's Facebook and YouTube accounts. Q & A will follow. Viewers can submit questions via Facebook chat.**

## **Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County**

**July Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm**

**Zoom**

## **Sister to Sister Educating Empowering and Elevating**

**Hosted by the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

**Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Register: <https://bit.ly/CACSistertoSister>**

# **Announcements**



## **Virtual Event Series: Women of Color Leadership Forum**

**Hosted by North Carolina Democratic Party**

**Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm**

**Tickets:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/events/289535825572803/>**

## **Women Warriors Series**

**DWMC**

**Presented by Issues and Resolutions Committee**

**Wednesday, July 22nd – 7:00 pm**

**Zoom**



**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!



- **Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice**  
**July 4<sup>th</sup> “Black Out”**
- **AMP Reclaim Our Vote Coalition**  
**Wednesday, July 22, 2020**  
**7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**  
**Zoom**
- **New – “Buy Black” Initiative**  
**Coalition of United Progressives Char-Meck**

**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**