

---

# 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

*Let Music Soothe Your Soul* 

Rest and self-care are so important. When you take time to replenish your spirit it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel.

*Eleanor Brown*

—  
[BeyondtheWaitingRoom.com](http://BeyondtheWaitingRoom.com)

[BeyondtheWaitingRoom.com](http://BeyondtheWaitingRoom.com)

**By DonnaMarie Woodson**



Growing up in the 60's and 70's, I've seen my share of hate, cruelty, pain, and death, all in the name of racism. A false construct that has labeled people as either White or Black, the privileged or the "other."

But, lately, this unrelenting onslaught of malice and inhumanity day after day, month after month, and year after year weighs so much heavier on my heart than ever.

I'm a warrior in this Struggle and will fight these injustices until my very end. So, for those self-care moments, I seek music as my sanctuary. The soul stirring performances and lyrics that pull at my heartstrings feed and reenergize my soul and help me to carry on.

The Civil Rights Movement has always been accompanied by music. Artists pouring out their heartache into lyrics which serve as a source of energy and community as we share these tumultuous times together.



Ever since there has been social injustice in the world, there have been people protesting our many societal ills. In a variety of instances, people have expressed oppression through chant and songs.

During the 20th century, folk and blues artists started to raise their voices to shed a light on social injustices. Notable artists included [Odetta](#), [Lead Belly](#) and [Nina Simone](#). [Billie Holiday's](#) 1939 anti-lynching tune, **"Strange Fruit"** is widely regarded as an important catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.



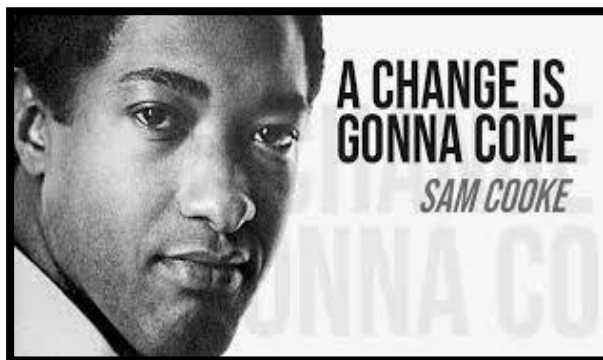
Billie Holiday - "Strange Fruit"

Even though the 60's are often called the golden age of protest music, it continues to evolve throughout the years. In the 70's soul music started to overtake folk as the voice of social consciousness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Web007rzSOI> (click for audio)

Punk also started to emerge as the voice of disenfranchised youth. In the 80s/90s there was the development of socially conscious rap music. The 2000's saw several protest tunes about President Bush and the Iraq War (which was that decade's Nixon and Vietnam). In recent times, Trump being elected President of the USA ushered in a new era of protest.

Flipping through my library to share some of my favorite inspirational protest songs from throughout the years, these choices are close to



my heart. So, for the times (like me) when you're feeling like crawling into a ball and staying in bed all day, (give yourself a little time) but, then get up and out because for sure, the Struggle continues!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEBlaMOmKV4> (click link for video)

Let's continue to uplift and love one another.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBulBaDSOa4> (click link for video)



[https://youtu.be/HUZOKvYcx\\_o](https://youtu.be/HUZOKvYcx_o) (click link for video)

### Works Cited:

<https://www.ongoinghistoryofprotestsongs.com/home/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billie\\_Holiday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billie_Holiday)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam\\_Cooke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Cooke)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odetta>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead\\_Belly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead_Belly)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nina\\_Simone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nina_Simone)

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck

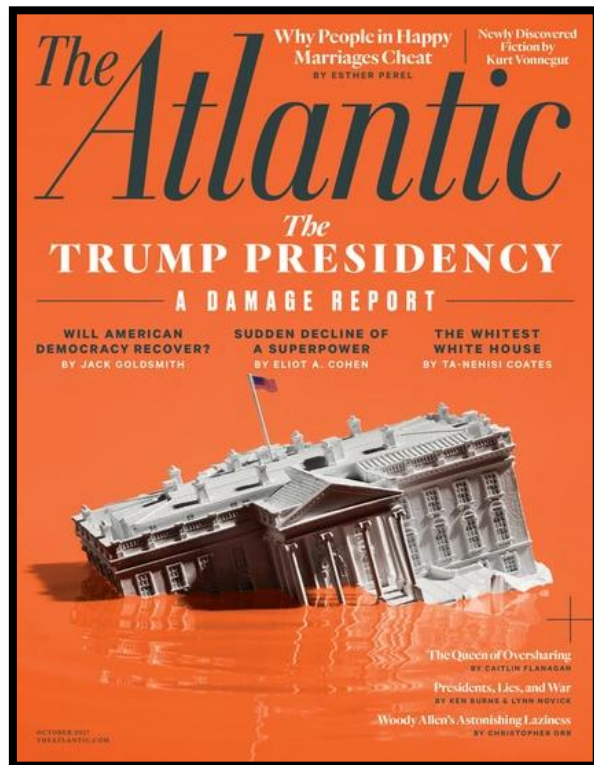
## **Editorial**

# **Ignoring the Constitution: Peaceful Assembly in the Age of Trump**

**By Tarik Kiley**

**August 28, 2020**

The First Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees the right of citizens to assemble peaceably and to petition their government for a



redress of grievances. But, despite this right, any student of history can identify the fact that these rights have not been fully recognized in this country for Black and Brown people. There seem to be two sets of laws—one for Blacks and one for Whites.

In our own backyards, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, performed kettling on peaceful protestors. Peaceful protestors were tear gassed in Charlotte for exercising their 1<sup>st</sup>

Amendment rights. And, this did not occur a long time ago in the Civil Rights' movement. In fact, this happened in Charlotte, NC in the year 2020.

This is critical here because when free expression is under threat, then the entire concept of living in a democracy becomes questionable. If Black and Brown people cannot express anger, sadness and their grief, then are we truly living in a situation where we are equal before the law? If the law is used for repression, and to defend racism and white supremacy, then is that really democracy?



Also, though President Trump claims that he isn't racist, let's examine the current political climate, and how he has stepped on people's constitutional rights. Let's examine how his actions towards protesters threatens democracy.



In response to the George Floyd protests, President Trump said, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts." This suggests that he condoned shooting protesters. Then he claimed to be the law and order president. He didn't distinguish here. He implied that all protest is unlawful. And, even though violent looting should not be tolerated, his statement here was a hallmark to a segregationist police chief, who made a similar statement in the 1960's.

**Undoubtedly, President Trump's response to protest has been heavy handed and intolerant.**

**Then President Trump said that he would declare Antifa a terrorist organization. This is comical here, because "Antifa" stands for "anti-fascist." This is hilarious because if he is against those who oppose fascism, then obviously he is a fascist or/and a fascist**



**sympathizer. Didn't the USA fight a whole World War against fascism?**

**President Trump also seems to not understand the organic nature of Black Lives Matters protests. This is not a foreign power threatening America sovereignty. These are American citizens who are upset with**

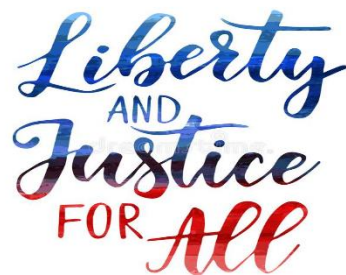


**the existence of police brutality and the perpetuation of racism—racism in policing and racism in the legal system.**

**To top it all off, President Trump used violence to clear protesters so he could**

**make a Hitler-like photo of himself holding a Bible in front of St. John's Church. I'll stop here with President Trump's dictatorial tendencies, but I would like to make it clear that President Trump continues to stomp on the freedoms of American citizens.**

What's interesting here as well, is that we would expect this in an authoritarian government such as Russia's or China's. What makes it particularly egregious is the fact that we hold up ideals in the USA, such as "equality before the law," and "civil rights." With the power of observation, any citizen can recognize that the USA under President Trump is not living up to the concepts and ideals which each American child is taught in US public schools.



The point here is for Black people, Brown people and anti-racist Whites to rise up against President Trump and the racists. Racists claim that this is their country and that if we don't like it, we should leave. Let's prove them wrong and show them that we can live in an anti-racist society which guarantees the rights and liberties of all—that this is in fact our country, too.

## Works Cited

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/first\\_amendment#:~:text=Amendment%20I,for%20a%20redress%20of%20grievances.](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/first_amendment#:~:text=Amendment%20I,for%20a%20redress%20of%20grievances.)

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article243657237.html>

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/rights-protesters>

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/peaceful-assembly/us.php>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/us/politics/floyd-protests-trump-biden.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/06/america-george-floyd-protests-trump>

# **Announcements**



## **Down the Blue Ballot Town Hall**

**Hosted by LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg  
County and Jenna Wadsworth**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

**6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEufuisqjgrG9l875G7oxotCYsMKkbK6F1U>**

## **Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County**

**September Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm**

**Zoom**

## **Lights of Hope Across America**

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network**

**Saturday, September 12, 2020**

**4:00 PM**

# Announcements



## Women Warriors Series

DWMC

Wednesday, September 23rd

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 Gallery!

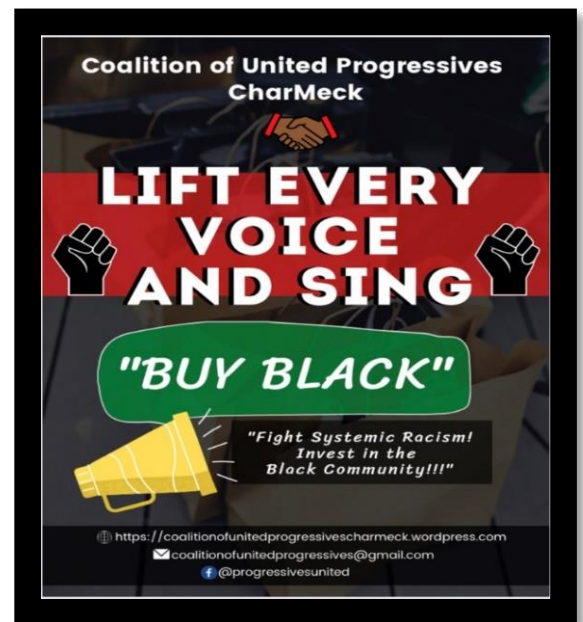


## Coalition of United Progressives Char-Meck

### Democratic National Convention



### Buy Black



**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**