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# THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE

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**Greetings!**

**We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.  
This War on Oppression will only be won as one  
mass movement.**

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## **Sections**

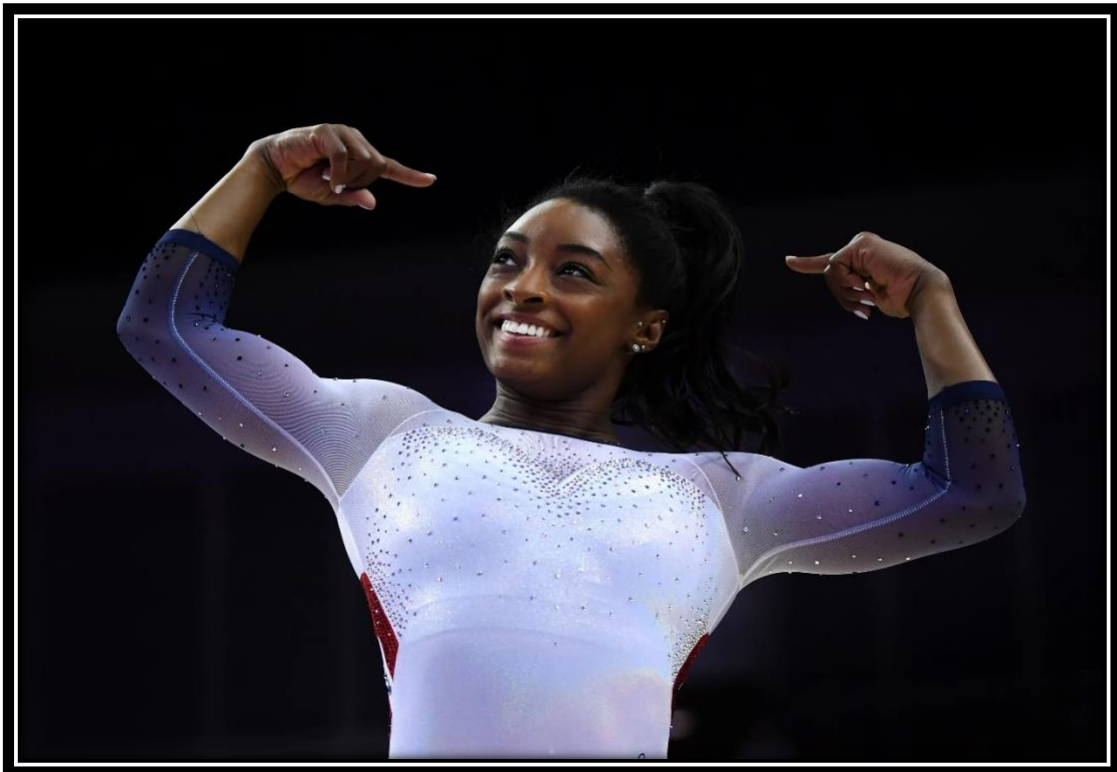
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
- **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
  - **Announcements**
  - **Happenings Gallery!**

## 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

Simone Arianne Biles (born March 14, 1997)



**The G.O.A.T.**

**By DonnaMarie Woodson**

Simone Biles is without question the G.O.A.T. of Olympic gymnasts! And, the most decorated gymnast in U.S. history. Every time I watch her perform my mind is blown! Her strength, and drive, place her at a level of excellence few of us ever achieve.



Simone Biles

And, she's done it again! Officially becoming the first female gymnast to perform the Yurchenko double pike during a competition on May 22, 2021. However, the judges only gave the celebrated champion, a score of 6.6., which, by any measure of everyone watching who wasn't a judge that night, was far too low, considering the difficulty of the move.

[Click on to Check it out!](#)



If you didn't see it with your own eyes you might not believe that any human could accomplish such a feat.

Judges rate gymnasts on a [scoring system](#) that takes into account the difficulty of the moves they perform. The Yurchenko double pike has a low starting score, which people think intends to either discourage gymnasts from attempting the dangerous move, or to keep a G.O.A.T like Biles from running away with the gold. Or both.

It's a tragedy that we may never see this world class athlete rewarded for doing something that might not be done in competition again.

**Biles response to her score:**

*"They're both too low and they even know it," She added in the Times interview. "But they don't want the field to be too far apart. And that's just something that's on them. That's not on me."*

This history making performance at the U.S. Classic in Indianapolis marked her first time competing since the 2019 World Championships.

Simone Biles is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and a three-time World all-around gymnastics champion. In 2015 at the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, she became the only female gymnast to ever win three consecutive all-around titles. She is also



the most decorated American female gymnast, with a total of nineteen medals, fourteen of them gold.

[I love this Tweet from freelance writer, David Dennis, Jr.](#)

*"What do Simone Biles' coaches actually do at this point? Lol do they just buy action figures and shoot them off of rubber bands and go "can you do that?"*

Biles told the press that she had to give herself a pep talk before attempting the move. *“I was like, ‘It’s OK, I’ve done this so many times, I’ve been doing this for months now.’”* In the video, she can be heard telling her coach, *“I just got a little nervous on the landing.”*

In a tremendous act of courage, the 24-year-old opened up this April about one of her biggest motivations for competing in the Olympics this Summer: to represent survivors of sexual abuse, especially the victims of the former Team USA gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar.

*“I feel like, if there weren’t a remaining survivor in the sport, they would have just brushed it to the side. But since I’m still here and I have quite a social media presence and platform, they have to do something. So, I feel like coming back, gymnastics just wasn’t the only purpose I was supposed to do.”*



Tom Bradbury/Getty Images

In May 2018 Simone and the other survivors were awarded the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. At the 2018 U.S. National Championships, she designed and wore a teal leotard that she stated was meant to honor the survivors of Nassar's abuse, as a statement of unification.



Biles Family

Simone Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, the third of four siblings. Her birth mother, Shannon Biles, was unable to care for Simone or her other children – Adria, Ashley, and Tevin. All four went in and out of foster care.

In 2000, Biles' maternal grandfather, Ron Biles and his second wife, Nellie Cayetano Biles, began temporarily caring for Shannon's children in the north Houston suburb of Spring, Texas, after learning that his grandchildren had been in foster care.

In 2003, the couple officially adopted Simone and her younger sister Adria. Ron's sister, Shannon's aunt Harriet, adopted the two oldest children.

I was lucky enough to discover this early film footage of an amazing child, now Olympic Champion. Here she talks about her beginnings and shows you just how “superbad” she is!!

*Click on and Enjoy!*



In 2013 Simone competed at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Antwerp, Belgium. She qualified first in the all-around, second in the vault final, sixth in the uneven bars final, fifth in the balance beam final, and first in the floor final, making her the first American gymnast to qualify for the all-around and all four event finals since [Shannon Miller](#) in 1991.

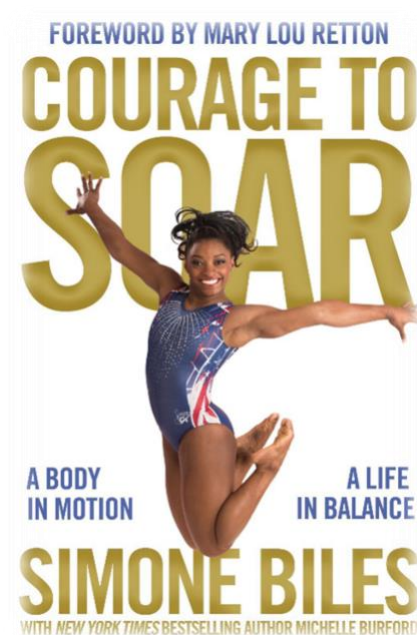


At the age of 16, Biles became the seventh American woman and the first African American to win the [world all-around title](#).

In the 2016 Summer Olympics, Simone won her first Olympic gold medal in the gymnastics team event. The only gymnast for Team USA to compete on all four events in the final.

In 2017 the Olympian took a hiatus and co-wrote an autobiography with journalist Michelle Burford, [Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance](#).

Biles said, *"I want people to reach for their dreams and there are so many people who have inspired me with their love and encouragement along the way- and I want to pass on that inspiration to readers."*



The book hit number one on [The New York Times](#) best sellers Young Adult list the week of January 8, 2017.

As we look forward to the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics, I wonder whether or not the (IOC) will judge her poorly again with low scores on the Yurchenko double pike. Well, for an Olympian like Biles, it doesn't really matter. She will continue to be great—simply because she is great! This is what Simone told the *Times* when asked why she'll continue to perform the Yurchenko double pike in competition, again, and again and again.

### *"Because I Can"*



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Simone Biles Gymnast and Olympic Gold Medalist) (May 23, 2021) (May 29, 2021)

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<https://www.mytwintiers.com/gallery/olympian-in-the-making-simone-biles-childhood-photos/>

<https://www.simonebiles.com/bookhttps://www.esquire.com/sports/a36530138/simone-biles-summer-olympics-yurchenko-double-pike-explained/>



## Editorial

# Police Reform in America is Long Overdue

By

Tarik Kiley

May 23, 2021

According to CNN.com, “President Joe Biden will mark the solemn anniversary of George Floyd's death this week by hosting Floyd's family at the White House, giving the President a fresh chance to



Gianna Floyd 7. George Floyd's daughter after meeting with President Biden at the White House

pressure lawmakers on Capitol Hill to reach an agreement on police reform legislation.”

If anything, the year 2020 unveiled the racism that is at the core of American policing.

It is not that police brutality got worse in the last few years...it is just being filmed. Previously it was less likely to get police brutality on film. The Rodney King case in 1992 was a rarity in that it caught police brutality on film. Now, with the introduction of cell phone camera technology, bystanders are more readily able to film police abusing Black citizens and able to share it on social media.



**The use of technology is pertinent here because police officers are no longer able to fabricate stories about Black suspects, “not complying.” Camera footage catches the entire encounter for all of us to see with our own eyes.**

**The uniqueness of the George Floyd case is that it has introduced the precedent of holding police officers accountable for their violence towards Black people. So many times, we were told that police officers were justified in murdering Black people for various reasons, and oftentimes, the Black victim of murder was put on trial in the court of public opinion and made to look like a villain who deserved to be murdered. How many times have we heard, “it looked like the suspect had a gun?”**

**Also, the police have been used as political tools to enforce racism in America. When African Americans fought Jim Crow and segregation in the south, particularly during the Civil Rights movement, it was the police force that was used to punish African Americans for breaking what history now has proven to be unjust laws. Without the use of force and the fear that it induced, Jim Crow and segregation would not have been able to endure.**

**So, the Civil Rights movement required African Americans to break unjust laws, knowing that we would be punished with extreme force. While it has been politicized, the police historically have not had the burden of serving and protecting Black people but have been instead used to enforce a racial caste system, that is rooted in violence.**

**With the George Floyd case though, American policing is now on trial. Historically, African Americans, since the abolishment of slavery, have**



**sought to have equality before the law. Instead of being heard, we have faced a militarized response from police. Regardless of the peacefulness of protest, police consistently have responded to our grievances with militarized force—riot**

**gear, and an asymmetrical use of weapons such as tear gas. Police in America react to African American protest as an occupying army would. According to the American Bar Association:**

**Before the summer of 2020 #BlackLivesMatter demonstrations nationwide following the death in May of George Floyd from a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on his neck; before the 2015 Baltimore, Maryland, protests after the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody; and before the Ferguson, Missouri, protests after the 2014 shooting death of Michael Brown by a police officer (and the lack of indictment of the officer who shot Brown); there were the Los Angeles riots of 1992 after the acquittal of police officers for beating up Rodney King.**

Before the 1992 Los Angeles riots came the 1965 Watts Riots (also in Los Angeles) after an African American driver and his stepbrother were pulled over by the police. The Watts Riots occurred in August 1965, days after the Voting Rights Act was signed, months after the Selma-to-Montgomery Civil Rights march occurred, and a year after the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



We must consider the mentality which is being employed when our communities are being policed. American policing has roots in slave patrols. Slavery was a political condition as it was also a socioeconomic one. Slaves were not allowed to defend themselves and lived in a social world without rights.

Still to this day, this legacy endures. This is how groups such as the Black Panther Party for Self Defense were discredited. This country will have to be continually forced to see African Americans as human beings when we have been historically seen as property.



Only when the shift occurs for us to be seen as full-fledged human beings with human rights occurs--only then will self-defense against racist aggression and accountability for murdering us seem reasonable. Only when my claim to a right to live seems reasonable, will murdering us be considered wrong. Of course, none of this should be controversial. ***Murder is wrong.***



I do not think the solution here is taking money from police departments. The solution here is a fundamental change in mentality. It is a change from seeing Black people as things to

seeing us as human beings. It means instead of stereotyping Black people as criminals and thugs, instead a shift to seeing Black people as humans with human needs.

It also means a shift from the ethnocentrism and desire to assimilate other cultures that White America seems so ready and willing to do.



The George Floyd case will prove to be the essential precedent we need to hold police officers accountable for their actions and to hold America responsible for its actions.

## Works Cited

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<https://theconversation.com/the-racist-roots-of-american-policing-from-slave-patrols-to-traffic-stops-112816>

# Announcements



## Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 3rd at 7:00 PM

Zoom

## Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Wednesday, June 9th at 6:30 PM

Zoom

## N. Meck Progressives

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00 PM

Speaker: Mecklenburg County District Attorney

Spencer Merriweather.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83031017987?pwd=QnlhYkxaT>

[FBPTWhjWGVpdkJWYWtBdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83031017987?pwd=QnlhYkxaT)

# Announcements



## Senior Dems of Mecklenburg County

June Meeting - featured guest Larken Egleston

District 1 City Council Member

Friday, June 11, 2021 at 11:30 AM EDT – 1:30 PM

Online: [us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us)

## African-American Caucus of Mecklenburg County

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 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!





**The Executive Corner:**

**Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson**

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson,**

**Rev. Glencie Rhedrick**

**Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle**

**Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson**

**Contributor: Tarik Kiley**