
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

Mary Jane Patterson

First African-American Woman to Receive B.A degree



(September 12, 1840 – September 24, 1894)

By

DonnaMarie Woodson



Born in Raleigh, NC, Patterson was the oldest of Henry and Emeline Patterson's seven children. By 1856 the family had settled in Oberlin, Ohio, which had a large community

of black families; some were freed slaves and some were fugitives. Many of those families hoped to send their children to the racially integrated coeducational college at Oberlin. Henry Patterson worked as a skilled mason there and the family boarded black students.

Mary Jane Patterson was the first African American woman to earn a bachelor's degree (Oberlin College, 1862). Oberlin was popular because it had a racially integrated co-ed campus. In 1833 American clergymen John Shipherd and Philo Stewart founded this utopian community in Northeast Ohio named for an Alsatian pastor, John Frederick Oberlin.

Under Shipherd's leadership, Oberlin College set important precedents. It was the first college in the United States to admit African American students on an equal footing with whites (1835) and the nation's first coeducational institution of higher education (1837).

Social reforms, including female moral reform, temperance, missionary activity, and particularly antislavery activism, permeated Oberlin. In its early years it was a station on the Underground Railroad.

Patterson graduated with highest honors in 1862, becoming the first Black woman to receive a B. A. degree from an established American college. Eventually, her four siblings graduated from Oberlin College, and all became teachers.



Cheyney University of Pennsylvania - 1837

According to Blackpast.org, "Patterson spent the next year as a teacher in the southern Ohio town of Chillicothe. In 1865 at the age of 22, she left Ohio for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

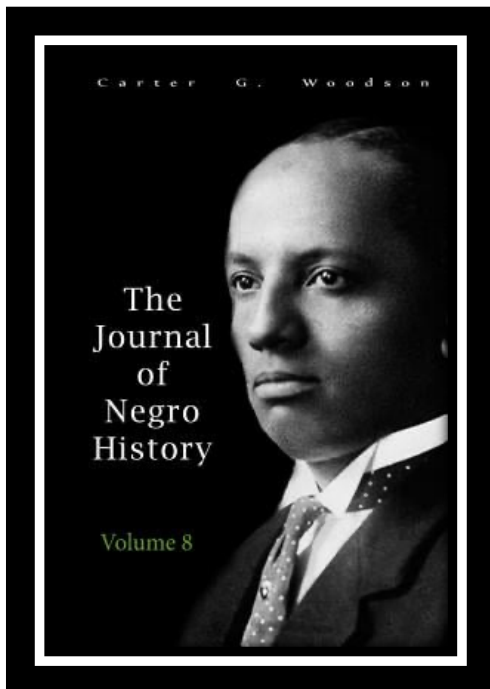
where became an assistant to Fanny Jackson Coppin at the Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth (now Cheyney University of Pennsylvania).

Patterson became a successful teacher. And, in 1871 she was appointed as the school's first Black principal, from 1871 to 1872 and she taught at the Institute for Colored Youth for the next five years. Patterson spent her career creating new educational opportunities for African Americans after the Civil War.

Patterson became a successful teacher in Washington, D. C., at the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth known today as Dunbar High School (Washington, D.C.). In 1871 she was appointed as the first black principal of a high school in Washington, DC.

However after one year she was demoted to assistant principal under Richard T. Greener, the first black graduate of Harvard University. Greener left after one year, and Patterson was reappointed to the position of principal until her resignation in 1884.

Among her achievements were the establishment of high school commencement and the addition of a teacher-training program. Patterson's commitment to thoroughness helped her establish the school's strong intellectual standards and increased the school's enrollment from less than 50 students to 172.



Notable Black American Women quoted a description of Patterson written by Mary Church Terrell, another Oberlin alumna, in the July 1917 Journal of Negro History:

“She was a woman with a strong, forceful personality, and showed tremendous power for good in establishing high intellectual standards in the public schools. Thoroughness was one of Miss Patterson’s most striking characteristics as a teacher. She was a quick, alert, vivacious and indefatigable worker.”

Patterson was also a humanitarian and devoted time and money to many organizations. She, Josephine Beall Bruce, Anna Julia Cooper, Charlotte Forten and Mary Church Terrell, founded the Colored Women's League of Washington, DC in 1894, a predecessor of the National Association of Colored Women. The League focused on training kindergarten teachers and providing industrial and homemaking skills for working-class women.

Mary Jane Patterson died at the tender age of 54, on September 24, 1894, at her home in Washington, DC.

Her obituary in the September 25 edition of the *Washington Evening Star* noted that she “co-operated heartily in sustaining the Home for the Aged and Infirm Colored People in this city, and other Kindred organizations,” and “devoted much of her means and time to forming and sustaining an industrial school for girls of her race.”

Although she is a not well-known figure, Mary Jane Patterson was a pioneer in black education and paved the way for other African American female educators. Her pioneering educational attainments and her achievements as a leading black educator influenced generations of black students.

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Editorial

The COVID-19 Vaccine and the Danger of Science Denial

By

Tarik Kiley

September 25th, 2021

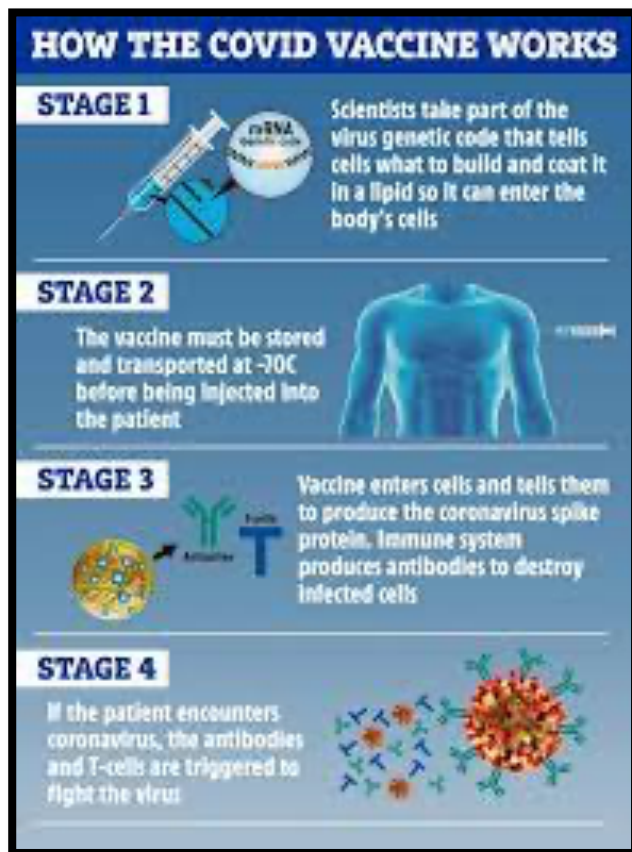
It should be obvious to the average American that the discussion around



the COVID-19 vaccination has become politicized. According to theconversation.com, “In the U.S., polling on intent to get vaccinated shows a massive political divide. Counties that went for Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election show higher vaccination rates than

counties that went for Donald Trump. Attendees at the Conservative Political Action Committee’s summer meeting cheered the fact that the U.S. didn’t meet Biden’s July 4 vaccination goals for the country.

Politically motivated denial of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness tracks with a dramatic politicization of trust in science itself.” The key point here is that some people with a particular political ideology deny that science is real. There are actually some people who do not think in a way that supports observation, fact, and evidence. This is interesting considering that we have recently come out of the Trump presidency, which used certain mental constructs such as “alternative facts.” This is the idea that there is no such thing as objective truth. Now, for any truth



to be objective requires that it be replicable. More than one person should be able to do the same experiment and get the same results from that experiment. This is how factual evidence is established.

So, the idea of the truth is one that is based in evidence. The ability to verify evidence is based in observation as done with the five senses—sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste. Critical thinking allows a person the ability to take sense-based evidence and evaluate it in terms of determining what is true and what is not true.

Much of the science denial regarding the COVID-19 vaccine though, is based in distrust. It is based in distrust of the government. Now, historically speaking some distrust of the government is warranted, particularly for marginalized groups—African Americans for example. This distrust comes from knowing the history of detrimentally racist science practices such as Eugenics, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, and other medical racism. But the COVID-19 vaccine is being utilized on such a massive scale as to make me question the ability of the government to hurt so many people. A conspiracy on the level of a global pandemic would require an enormous number of resources and coordination.

It is evident that the shift from believing in science reflects the shift of conservative America to embracing a more sinister right-wing authoritarianism. Authoritarians have always been distrustful of information. This explains why many dictators throughout history have shut down the media and tightly controlled the flow and exchange of information in the populations they rule over. As dystopian as this sounds, George Orwell's book, "1984" explores the idea of the crackdown on free thought.



Unfortunately, under an authoritarian government, you think what you are told to think. This brings about a sad situation for doctors. Because, if authoritarian political leaders say that the information from doctors is untrue, regardless of evidence, then political followers are likely to believe their political leaders over their own senses. This explains, for example how people have believed their political leaders who recommend unproven and harmful home remedies, such as former President Trump's endorsement of bleach to treat COVID.

Still, as a society, we must understand that science, exists regardless of one's belief in it or not. People continue to get sick from disease, and the science of medicine helps to fight disease, in an ideal situation. In other words, ethical doctors will work to treat, cure and or eliminate disease. They work to do no harm, and to use their senses and observations to administer medical care. The key word here of course is "ethical"—as the doctors who practiced medical racism, of course were not ethical. Ethics is a key factor here.

Not only is it important here for our doctors to be ethical, but it is also important for our leaders to be ethical as well. Some conservatives, use the idea of the “love of freedom” as reasons not to wear a mask, and not to get vaccinated. But your freedom stops at the border of causing harm to others. People are not free to drink and drive, to murder one another, and not to infect other persons with deadly diseases. So, leaders who pander to some misguided ideas of freedom are inherently unethical



Ethics is that branch of philosophy that considers the morality of one’s actions. Science is about factual evidence, but “Ethics is based on well-founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues,” according to the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. Science without ethics can be problematic, as exemplified in stories such as “Frankenstein” where a mad scientist brings a hideous monster back from the dead.

But, today the lack of ethics is coming from political leaders, much more than from the scientific community. For example, former President Trump swept the COVID pandemic under the rug and did not act ethically in working to prevent its spread throughout the USA. In this case, Trump is the madman. Former President Trump failed the test of reason and failed the test of ethics, as authoritarian leaders continue to do.



For us to conquer the pandemic of COVID-19, we must take a critique of unbridled lack of ethics and unbridled lack of reason. We need to think critically, and act ethically. The need for reason and morality are now more important than ever. Hopefully, we can make a course correction and stop the growth of authoritarianism by doing something as simple as thinking critically for ourselves, understanding, and accepting science, and not following politicians who have no actual knowledge of the subject about which they are talking.

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Announcements



Charlotte Women's Movement

Reproductive Rights Rally
Saturday, October 2nd at 9:00 AM
First Ward Park 301 E. 7th Street

North Meck Dems

Monthly Meeting
Thursday, Oct 7th at 7:00 PM
ZOOM

N. Meck Progressives

Monthly Meeting
Friday, October 8th at 6:00 PM
Speaker: State Senator Jeff Jackson
Candidate for U.S. Senate
RSVP: n.meck.progressives@gmail.com

Senior Dems of Mecklenburg County

Monthly Meeting

Friday, October 8th at 12:00 PM

RSVP Facebook Page

ZOOM

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 13th at 6:30 PM

RSVP Facebook Page

ZOOM

Unity in Community

Wednesday, October 20th, 6:30-8:00 pm

Virtual forum to discuss education in CMS

**Guest speakers will include local school
stakeholders, staff, and students**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89454087102>

Meeting ID: 894 5408 7102

join via phone

1-301-715-8592

Announcements



Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum

Every Tuesday - Forum begins at 8:30 am

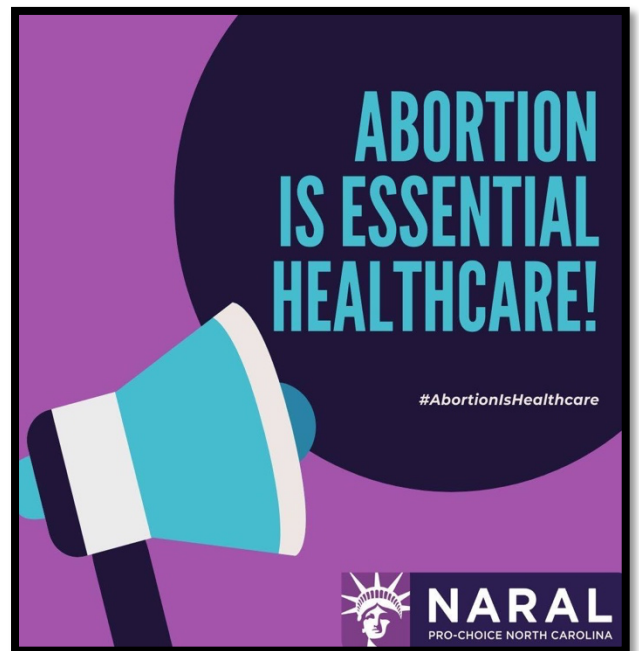
WebEx meeting room opens at 8:15 am.

CLICK HERE after 8:10 a.m. to join meeting.



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the CharMeck Chronicle.

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

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