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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

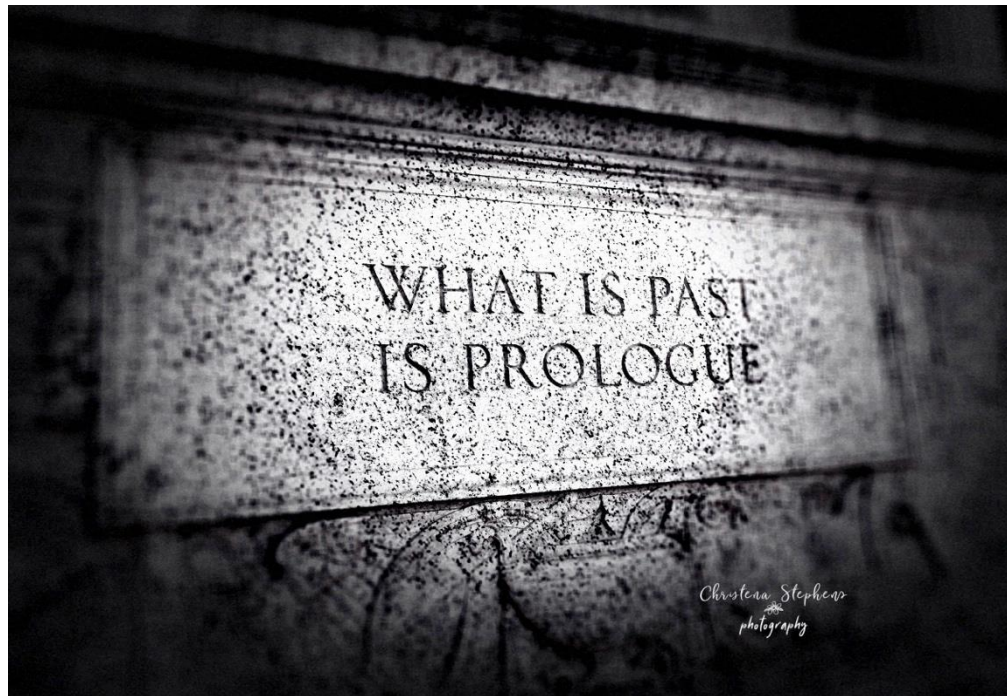
- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
- **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
- **Announcements**
- **Happenings Gallery!**

## 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

## “What is Past is Prologue”



By  
**DonnaMarie Woodson**

**A quotation of William Shakespeare from his play “The Tempest.” The phrase means that history sets the context for the present. By knowing what has happened in the past, we can determine appropriate courses of action for the future.**



**“ And by that destiny to perform an act Whereof what's past is prologue, what to come In yours and my discharge. ”**

**William Shakespeare (The Tempest)**

**As I was watching President Biden designate three National Monuments in honor of Emmett Till and his mother, the prophecy of Shakespeare’s quote is very real and apt commentary at this moment in history.**



**President Biden at the White House Event reflecting on establishing the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Where the President and members of the Till family gathered to formally approve the new monument.**

**“In a time when there are those who seek to ban books, bury history, we’re making it clear, crystal, crystal clear: While darkness and denialism can hide much, they erase nothing,”**

**“We can’t just choose to learn what we want to know,” Biden said from the Indian Treaty Room. “We have to learn what we should know. We should know about our country. We should know everything. The good, the bad, the truth. Who we are as a nation.”**

**President, Joe Biden**

**But apparently, some people would rather rewrite history or flat out refuse to acknowledge the facts.**

**These are extremely dangerous times that we live in today, an inflection point in our history.**

**Governor DeSantis is spewing the same racist rhetoric and attitudes that resulted in the murder of Emmitt Till.**



**Emmitt Till was a Black teenager whose murder in 1955 helped galvanize the civil rights movement. Biden designated the monument on what would have been Till's 82nd birthday.**

**His mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, insisted on an open-casket funeral so visitors could see her son's body, mangled beyond recognition – a decision that bravely resisted sanitizing the brutality of racism, allowing the world to see.**

**Almost seven decades later, dozens of states like Florida have taken steps restricting how issues of race or racism are taught in schools, leading to fresh concern that America's darkest chapters are being held from students' view, so they won't understand why – *“What is Past is Prologue.”***

Let's take a look at the civil rights laws that have either been reversed or significant crippled.

- Supreme Court **guts affirmative action**, effectively ending race-conscious admissions in 2023.
- ***Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013**. The law's **Section 5** required states with a history of racial discrimination to get permission from the Justice Department or a federal court before changing voting practices.
- **Voting Rights Act, *Allen v. Milligan***. The most effective civil rights law on the books. And over the past decade, the Court led by Chief Justice John Roberts has demolished it, bit by bit.
- **Upcoming Supreme Court case**: For decades, **Section 2** of the Voting Rights Act has been a potent protection against racial gerrymandering, the drawing of legislative lines to dilute the power of the vote for communities of color. In fact, **challenging gerrymandering is the main way Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act has been used before. That law's strength may soon be a memory.**

***Food for thought:*** Will we look back at this moment and breathe a sigh of relief that we learned from and refused to repeat the past? Or will we mourn the loss of progress and be doomed to repeat it again?

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## Editorial

# Mindset, History and Freedom

By

Tarik Kiley

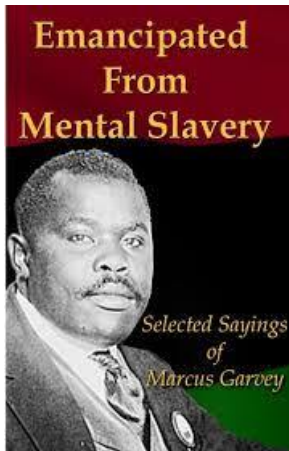
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With some authority, it could be safely said that African Americans have faced enormous obstacles while living in the USA, for hundreds of years, now. While we have made significant

progress, white supremacy and white nationalism continue to be malignant tumors. The recent anti-woke movement, as espoused by Florida's Ron DeSantis, the removal of AP African American Studies in high schools in Florida, and the recent Supreme Court ruling against Affirmative action, all prove that racism continues to thrive in this country.

The hope of a post-racial democracy, which reached its apex with the election of President Barack Obama to two terms, seems to be waning. So, the struggle for equality continues, and although exhausting, needs to continue for African Americans to be truly free. Still, it is truly exhausting to have to face unreasonable obstacles, which act to diminish our life chances. We have no time to rest.

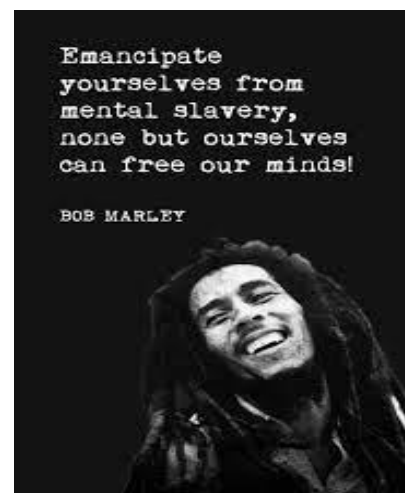


One major way to fight racism and resulting disadvantages is to look at our political psychology. Marcus Garvey talked about the lingering effects of colonialism, imperialism, and slavery. He coined the term “mental slavery” to describe a political psychology, which enforces the status quo of European dominance in the minds of the formerly enslaved.

Marcus Garvey specifically made the argument that it is not enough to free one’s body from captivity but is also important to free one’s mind. This includes fighting ideas such as colorism, where lighter skinned people are seen as more attractive, or for example, where kinky hair is seen as less attractive than straight hair. These ideas are not enforced by physical chains, but have become part of our culture, without realizing its basis in slavery.

### **How do we fight mental slavery?**

Well, we can’t use a Eurocentric system to teach African roots. We must teach African roots, ourselves, and this includes an understanding of Black History. This means countering the Eurocentric narrative, which claims that Africans are inferior, and that European colonialism and European imperialism were somehow “civilizing” forces for Africans.



The idea of Africa as the “dark continent” full of primitive, jungle dwellers, is not only highly inaccurate, but it continues to contribute to Black peoples’ feelings of low self-esteem. If we knew our true history, which was only interrupted by slavery, then we would feel a collective pride in our culture. For example, White Christians didn’t bring Christianity to Africa. Ethiopia was one of the original Christian nations, and has had Biblical ties to Judaism as well, with the connection to the Queen of Sheba.

White Nationalists and White Supremacists know that educated people are unsuitable for slavery. Booker T. Washington, and WEB DuBois, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, knew and completely understood, that education was the fundamental tool that African Americans needed to increase our life chances, and to never become slaves again.



*Florida A&M University* Top Public HBCU

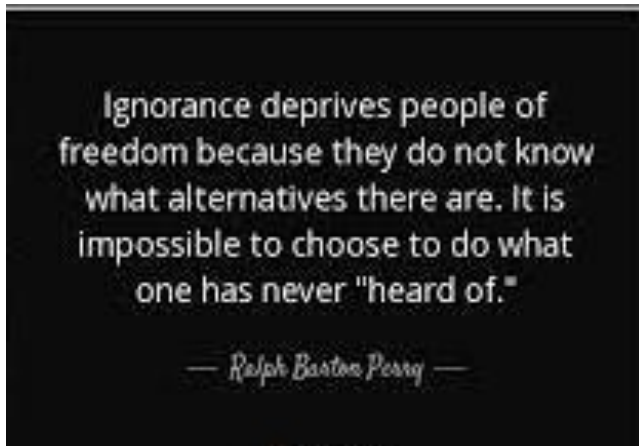
This was Booker T. Washington’s reasoning behind industrial education for Blacks, and for the establishment of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), particularly Tuskegee University. While WEB DuBois had a slightly

different concept with his idea of the talented tenth, it was still based on education. The talented 10<sup>th</sup> would be that 10 percent of African Americans who would earn advanced education in liberal arts, and by way of this knowledge, be able to lead African Americans as a whole.



**It also benefits people from different cultures to know Black History. If they knew of Mali, and other highly advanced western African societies, and if they knew that much of Africa was already trading with the rest of the eastern world before the Europeans brought colonialism, then they would have much more respect and understanding, and it wouldn't be as easy to dehumanize Black people. This is why we must fight for Black History curriculum for all people.**

**Ignorance is our greatest enemy. Imagine all the Black heroes that**



**you don't know about, because you are not being taught the truth of history. Our ignorance only enforces racism. Our knowledge will set us free. This is why we, as Black people, need to continue to codify our culture. Each generation**

**needs to be responsible for biographies, storytelling, and recording our cultural achievements.**

**We also must do the deep dive necessary to learn the history of Africa, and to write the academic books on African history about the continent and about the African Diaspora. We also must look at the stories that we tell through popular culture. For example, is Hip-Hop about being a thug, committing crimes, and being part of drug culture? Or is it about building a culture as an alternative to gangs and delinquency as expressed through Afrika Bambaataa's Zulu Nation?**

**Obviously, the idea and definition of what constitutes Hip-Hop has been muddled through the years. And we don't seem to see how corporate and commercial interests are pushing a specific narrative towards our communities. To counter the destructive narratives, we must free ourselves from mental slavery, and fight to tell our own stories.**

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# **Announcements**



## **Democrats of North Mecklenburg:**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, August 3rd at 6:30 PM**

**North County Regional Library**

**16500 Holly Crest Ln, Huntersville 28078**

## **Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County**

**Paint the Town Blue Fundraiser Gala**

**Thursday, August 10, 2023, 5:30 PM**

**Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts**

**1030 Woodward Ave.**

**Charlotte, 28206**

## **N. Meck Progressives**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm**

**Birkdale clubhouse, 8915 Devonshire**

**Drive, Huntersville, NC**



**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



Thursday, August 10 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**DWMC ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA**

**Paint the Town BLUE!**



HONORING SENATOR JOYCE WADDELL

Heist Brewery & Barrel Arts, 1030 Woodward Ave, Charlotte 28206



**CHARLOTTE PRIDE**

**FESTIVAL & PARADE**

LITETOWN CHARLOTTE AUG 19-20, 2023 CHARLOTTEPRIDE.ORG

**The Executive Corner:**

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

**Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle**

**Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson**

**Contributor: Tarik Kiley**