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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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## 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

## “50 Years of Friendships”



**Attention CT Class of 1973!**  
The 50th Reunion is planned for the weekend of  
Friday, August 25, 2023 to Sunday, August 27, 2023.

MEET & GREET	FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023
50TH REUNION GALA	SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023
50TH REUNION PICNIC	SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

COST FOR 50TH REUNION WEEKEND \$150  
BEFORE JUNE 1, 2023

AFTER JUNE 1, 2023, TICKET PRICE WILL BE \$175

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE via  
Cash App: \$CT73Reunion  
Zelle: casstech73reunion@gmail.com

By  
**DonnaMarie Woodson**

When I first received my Class Reunion invitation, it blew my mind!! No way, it's been 50 years since my Cass Tech High School graduation.



My classmates weren't strangers. Even though it might be years since we've seen one another, the conversations

and memories flowed just like it was yesterday.

The advocacy work that I love is intensely stressful, so taking time for Joy is of utmost importance. Last weekend being able to reunite with friends from Jr. School, High School and College brought me boundless Joy!



Jr. High School Friends



Jason, Debra, me, Janniellis

The icing on the cake is that our son Jason and our daughter-in-love, Janniellis flew into town to meet Kevan and my school chums and share in these precious moments.

Hugging my family and friends last week felt so good and will remain a constant reminder that I'm...

*Grateful, Thankful, and Blessed.* 🙏

**With the daily chaos we're inundated with, it's more important than ever to find Joy with our families and friends. Time is fleeting – 50 Years?!!!!**

**So, let's live, laugh and love everyday. ❤️**

**Double Click on Photo for Slideshow.**



## **Editorial**

# **Are Some People Just Invisible?**

**By  
Tarik Kiley  
8/31/2023**



**expressing increased hostility towards out-groups.**

**It seems as if we have a care deficit in American society. Instead of seeing one another in community, often we are scattered into hostilities. It seems to be that people are retreating into their own in-groups and**

**Instead of sticking together, we seem to find political reasons to despise one another. Still, if we are to have a humane society, then we must look at what is good for our entire community in this United States of America, and not just what is good for one in-group of people.**

**There are certain issues that should concern us all if we are to be altruistic. Two issues that concern us all are work and homelessness. While there are other issues at hand as well, these issues have become critical. These issues have often been placed under the term, “welfare.”**



Living in community means being a part of something bigger than oneself and creating space for people, families, and a local economy

**The United States of America has a history based in the Protestant work ethic. This ethic basically says that “if you don’t work, then you don’t eat.” It is primarily applied to adult men. In America, unemployment, for men, is a badge of shame, and the main place of cooperation is the business space. In this context, your fortune has a moral connotation applied to it. Those who are rich are seen as morally deserving, and the poor are often stigmatized for being poor.**

**Also, the space of voluntary relationships, works alongside the business space to frame how society works in the USA. The work ethic ties into capitalism, in that those who work hard believe that they will be rewarded for their productivity. Although many workers are not rewarded for their productivity, the belief that one can create one’s own fortune lies at the heart of our society as expressed through the profit motive. The profit motive essentially translates into each person in the business and voluntary spaces, asking “What is in it for me?”. Essentially, we live in a plutocracy, where wealth is virtue.**

**If wealth is virtue, then when do we lend a helping hand?**

**Often, people who need help from their community, in the USA, are stigmatized. This stigmatization generally applies to able-bodied men. Regardless of the causes of poverty, adult men who are impoverished, in this society, are looked down upon.**



**More specifically, homelessness is one condition that stigmatizes the unfortunate. For whatever reason, the homeless are looked down upon, by many, but not all, people who are housed. Some don't understand the underlying causes of homelessness, and therefore, do not act to understand the direct circumstances of those who become unhoused. According to endhomelessness.org, "In 2022, counts of individuals (421,392 people) and chronically homeless individuals (127,768) reached record highs in the history of data collection."**

**Without pretending to understand the roots of homelessness, in this author's opinion, there is no reason for thousands of people to be unhoused. A handful of people slipping through the cracks, can make sense, but thousands of people slipping through the cracks, points to a flaw in our social system.**



**One of the main flaws in our system is the existence of high housing costs. According to endhomelessness.org, “Implementing solutions to the housing affordability crisis in [certain] areas would tremendously advance the goal of ending homelessness.” Some of the cities with high housing costs include, “San**

**Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington, D.C., Portland, and Seattle.”**

**Still, housing affordability is an issue that exists not just in the major cities mentioned, even though it is highly evident in these cities. If the question is about housing, then there are solutions. For example, there is the solution of tiny-housing communities, and incentives toward building more housing stock, and particularly market grade affordable housing. There is also the de-stigmatization of affordable housing through the building of mixed income communities. Just as policy was leveraged to build single family homes in the suburbs, so can policy be enacted to encourage the building of more housing, and investments into more affordable housing.**

**Overall, it seems to make sense to lend a helping hand where it is needed. Everyone doesn’t have to necessarily be a philanthropist, but the Biblical adage of “helping your neighbor,” still applies. Yes, you are your brother’s keeper. So, to answer the question in the title of this article, no one is invisible. Instead, the people who are kind, and not cruel, who work together, will make the USA a kinder, and gentler place.**





**The politics of indifference, or hatred towards the less fortunate, shouldn't be accepted. Capitalism says that "greed is good." The greedy are seen as alpha wolves, who command the attention and respect of the rest of the pack. When the actuality is that the rest of the pack will eventually vote with their feet and gravitate towards those leaders who are compassionate, and those leaders who care for the needs of the group, and who act to benefit the others in the pack.**

### **Works Cited**

**<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness/>**

**[https://homelesslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Homeless Stats Fact Sheet.pdf](https://homelesslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Homeless_Stats_Fact_Sheet.pdf)**

# **Announcements**



## **Democrats of North Mecklenburg:**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 PM**

**North County Regional Library**

**16500 Holly Crest Ln, Huntersville 28078**

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

### **Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Meet and Greet – 6:30 PM**

**Program – 7:00 PM**

**Caldwell Presbyterian Church**

**1609 E. Fifth St, Charlotte 28204**

## **N. Meck Progressives**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 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



**September 22-24, 2023**

**DoubleTree by Hilton South Charlotte Tyvola**

**Register:**

**<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dwnc2023convention>**

**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**