
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

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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

Nikki Giovanni



Black American Literary Royalty

By
DonnaMarie Woodson



With the reality of this turbulent new year, I started thinking about the history of our country and those who fought for liberation during the Civil Rights Movement. The passing of literary icon Nikki Giovanni on December 9, 2024, caused me to reflect on the profound impact of her poetry and commentary.

Yolande Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni Jr. (June 7, 1943 – December 9, 2024) was an American poet, writer, commentator, activist and educator. One of the world's best-known African-American poets, her work includes anthologies, poetry recordings, and nonfiction essays and covers topics ranging from race and social issues to children's literature.

A beloved poet and public intellectual for over 50 years, Giovanni wrote at the intersection of love, loneliness, gender, race, creativity, and more. She won numerous awards, including the [Langston Hughes Medal](#) and the [NAACP Image Award](#). She was nominated for a 2004 [Grammy Award](#) for her poetry album, *The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*.

This quote from Nikki eloquently describes the movement and the importance of this ongoing fight for freedom, passing the torch to the younger generation and the ongoing struggle for human rights.

“You have children so that you can start somebody off where you have finished,” Giovanni said in 1978. “[W]hether it’s our literary children, or our physical children or our emotional children, I want somebody to be able to say: ‘OK, since Nikki learned that, I can go forward.’”

“She was a disruptor whose sensibilities as a writer were informed by her deep knowledge of history and the struggles of the civil rights and Black power eras. She used lyricism and poetry to capture the ups and downs of African American life in the late 20th century, providing her students a blueprint to channel language, to dream, to shake up the world.”



Giovanni gained initial fame in the late 1960s as one of the foremost authors of the Black Arts Movement. Influenced by the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power Movement of the period, her early work provides a strong, militant African-American perspective, leading one writer to dub her the "Poet of the Black Revolution."

During the 1970s, she began writing children's literature and co-founded a publishing company, NikTom Ltd, to provide an outlet for other African-American women writers. Over subsequent decades, her works discussed social issues, human relationships, and hip-hop. Poems such as "Knoxville, Tennessee" and "Nikki-Rosa" have been frequently re-published in anthologies and other collections.

In 1987, Giovanni was recruited by her partner and eventual wife, Virginia Fowler, to teach creative writing and literature at Virginia Tech. There, Giovanni later became a University Distinguished Professor.

She received the NAACP Image Award seven times, 20 honorary doctorates, and various other awards, including the Rosa Parks and the Langston Hughes Award for Distinguished Contributions to Arts and Letters.

She received the Life Membership and Scroll from the [National Council of Negro Women](#), and was an Honorary Member of [Delta Sigma Theta](#) sorority. I am also a member of this distinguished organization, Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated, Nu Chapter, University of Michigan.

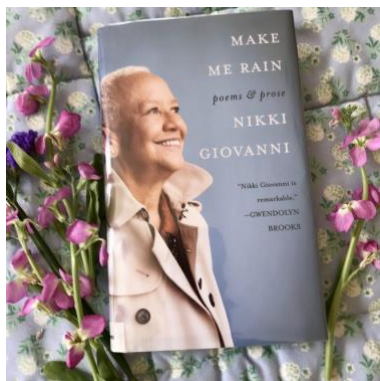


Soror Giovanni announced her retirement from Virginia Tech in September 2022, having taught there for 35 years. She was conferred the title of University Distinguished [Professor Emerita](#) by the university in December 2022.

On December 9, 2024, Giovanni died of complications from [lung cancer](#) in a hospital in [Blacksburg, Virginia](#). She was 81. She had been working on a memoir titled *A Street Called Mulvaney*, and her final poetry collection, *The Last Book*, is set for publication in 2025.

I grew up on Nikki's powerful words and the energy the Black community felt after the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. In 2025, we all need an even greater sense of determination for ourselves and the coming generations.

R.I.P 🙏❤️❤️▲👑



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Editorial

The Left Needs a New Coalition: Freedom and Representation in the MAGA Era

By

Tarik Kiley

12/28/2024



At least since the 1960s, the Democratic Party has been the party of diversity. The Democrats also had solid support from labor because of the precedent set by FDR's New Deal in the mid-twentieth century. But,

in the new era of Trump's populism, people are more concerned with the cost of eggs. People want economic ease.

According to thenation.com, "[Trump] framed economic hardships as proof of Democratic incompetence, tapping into the frustrations of working-class communities who increasingly felt alienated from a Democratic Party that seemed more concerned with elite agendas than with their daily challenges."

The coalition has shifted. Many Democratic Party supporters now tend to be more educated and, unfortunately, less in touch with the experiences of average, everyday working Americans.



Still, diversity remains an important issue because a move backward toward white nationalism, as expressed through President Trump's anti-immigration stance, patriarchal rhetoric, and

Christian fundamentalism, promises to impact many people, including Black people, Brown people, LGBTQ people, working-class White people, non-Christians, and women. With President Trump's anti-immigration stance, the question of America as a multi-racial democracy has come into question.

The definition of insanity is to continue to do the same actions repeatedly, expecting a different result. So, if the Democratic Party is no longer one of diversity solely, how do Democrats continue to support and build a political union?

Democrats need to understand that the identity politics of Americans is shifting. The Democratic Party cannot assume that all non-Whites identify with being an oppressed minority. American culture is shifting. For example, forms of Black music, such as Hip-Hop, Jazz, R&B, etc., have become some of America's leading cultural exports to the rest of the world. Famous African-American athletes like Simone Biles have represented the USA at the Olympics.

Non-white excellence and achievement are palpable.

While the fruits of the Civil Rights Movement, otherwise known as the Second Reconstruction, were essentially one of voting rights for Black people, the current fight is one of socioeconomic power. The battle of the first half of the 20th century was one where Black people were trying to move up from slavery. This included a push towards more education and opportunity, particularly with industrial jobs. The fight was for justice, and justice was defined as fairness or equality under the law.



According to history.com, Under Jim Crow, “Black people couldn’t use the same public facilities as white people, live in many of the same towns, or go to the same schools. Interracial marriage was illegal, and most Black people couldn’t vote because they were unable to pass voter literacy tests.

Jim Crow laws weren’t adopted in northern states; however, Black people still experienced discrimination at their jobs or when they tried to buy a house or get an education. To make matters worse, laws were passed in some states to limit voting rights for Black Americans.”

Jim Crow laws have been defeated, and many southern cities such as Atlanta, GA, for example, are the epitome of the New South. In Atlanta, schools such as Morehouse University and Spelman continually educate the elites of Black America. The Black elite have developed unique interests that have evolved since the 1960’s era of Civil Rights.



While Black Americans still struggle with racism, as expressed through police brutality, for example, many are more concerned with the American dollar than with political power, as expressed through voting. So, what is the US government going to do about the rising cost of

living, inflation, creating increasing job opportunities, and easing the ability to become entrepreneurs? How will education be made more easy to obtain, and when will the prices of housing actually become affordable?

Vice President Kamala Harris made a mistake while campaigning.

She emphasized President Trump's poor character, instead of examining his policy proposals. President Trump only had a concept of a health care plan. He has no real economic plan except for tariffs, and he is clearly out of touch with the youth of the country and their needs. This needs to be explored as opposed to being misled by the red herring of mass deportations and white nationalism.



White nationalism is a red herring because it baits all of the racists to express their racism and expect a return to a "great" era of resurgent racism. Unfortunately for President Trump, racism can no longer succeed in an era of non-White achievement and excellence.

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Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 pm

**North Regional Rec Center, 18121 Old Statesville
Road, Cornelius (south of Bailey Road)**

Light refreshments will be served.

Democratic Women of North Carolina

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th

6:30 pm Reception, 7:00 pm Program

Hope Community Hall

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

1609 E 5th St, Charlotte, NC 28204



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

Happenings!



The Executive Corner:

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

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

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