
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.

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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.

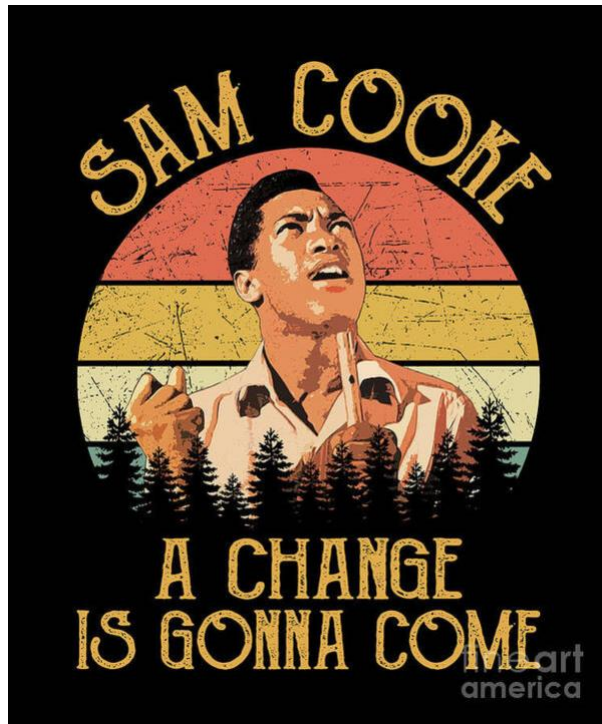
Spotlight

Women Artists of the Civil Rights Movement



By
DonnaMarie Woodson

Music can be a powerful motivator. I remember going to my first



Moral Monday in 2017 after “the orange Thing” was elected and, on the ride up, listening to Sam Cooke’s “A Change Gonna Come.” My favorite Resistance song. ([click here for video](#))

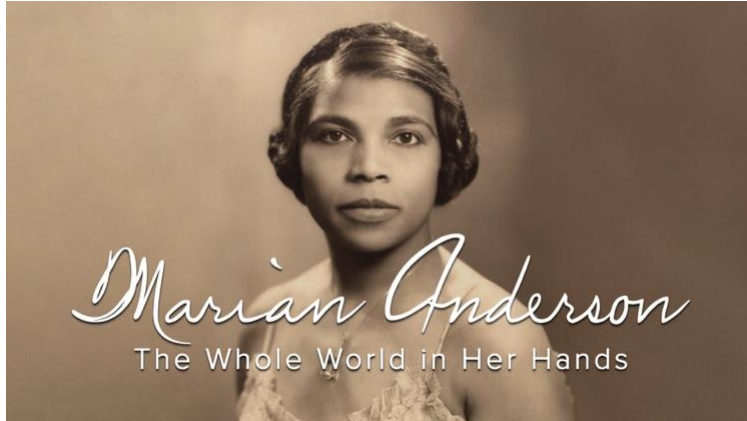
August 28, 2023, marked the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. That monumental March influenced the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended the segregation of public institutions and prohibited

employment discrimination based on race. This helped pave the way for the 24th Amendment to the US Constitution, permanently ending poll taxes in federal elections.

Women Artists and the Civil Rights Movement

Despite having few speaking roles, women shined in the musical performances. The March on Washington had a powerful soundtrack of women musicians who delivered moving messages and passionate calls to action, interacted with speakers, and provided dynamic cultural grounding for the event. Many of the March’s most memorable performances were by women.

It also laid the groundwork for creating the Voting Rights Act 1965, which outlawed discriminatory voting practices. The March on Washington undeniably increased popular support for civil rights nationwide, inspiring legal, social, and institutional desegregation advances.



Marian Anderson -

Marian Anderson endeared fans around the globe and broke through color lines with her rich contralto singing voice. In 1939, twenty-four years before the March on Washington, she delivered

a defiant open-air performance on Easter Sunday to 75,000 attendees at the Lincoln Memorial. Ten-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr. was among those listening to Anderson's performance that day. It had a profound influence on him.

He recalled her Lincoln Memorial concert in an award-winning essay five years later. When he invited her to perform at the March on Washington in 1963, he reportedly cited her concert as an inspiration for the gathering. Because she was Black, Constitution Hall had refused to let Anderson perform at their venue. Cultural Historian Scott Sandage wrote that, to African Americans, "Anderson's concert came to symbolize the promise of protest." With its clear emancipatory symbolism, the Lincoln Memorial became an essential site for asserting Black civil rights.

Anderson was originally scheduled to sing the national anthem at the start of the March. However, traffic congestion delayed her arrival, so she was rescheduled for the end of the event. After Dr. King's address, she sang a beautiful rendition of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Later that year, President Lyndon B. Johnson. Awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



Mahalia Jackson - “The Queen of Gospel,” credited family and faith with nurturing her musical talent. Blending spiritual expression with civil rights activism, she touched the hearts and souls of countless Americans during her lifetime. She was also a longtime friend of Dr. King, often performing alongside him at civil rights events.

Her performance at the March on Washington was scheduled as the last musical event of the day, a prestigious slot in the program just before Dr. King gave his speech. During her performance, she led two hymns: “I’ve Been ‘Buked and I’ve Been Scorned” and “How I Got Over.”

Joan Baez



known as an outspoken supporter of civil rights since her early days as a performer. Raised in New York by a Mexican father and Scottish mother, she endured racial discrimination as a child that strengthened her resolve for social justice as an adult. When touring Southern states, she refused to play at segregated college venues. Instead, she often chose to perform on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. At the March on Washington, at 22 years old, she gave a stirring performance of **“We Shall Overcome.”** Thereafter, the song became a staple of her concert repertoire.

Listen to the official audio for the Documentary of the March on Washington' released by Folkways in 1963. Part 1 features Joan Baez, President Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Marian Anderson. This authorized recording was produced by the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership.

Link: <https://youtu.be/y7-rK9i89dA?si=9bqFQrjE0ciAs2ND>

Odetta

Dubbed “The Queen of American Folk Music” by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Odetta was a legendary folk artist whose work included traditional music, blues, and spirituals. Although her work



influenced numerous musical giants, like Harry Belafonte and Bob Dylan, as a Black woman, she often struggled for equal opportunity and recognition in the industry.

She dedicated much of her work to civil rights causes, often appearing at marches and protests throughout the South. She became known as “The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement”. At the March on Washington, she sang “Oh Freedom” and “I’m On My Way,” two songs strongly associated with the emancipation from slavery.

In 1999, President Clinton honored her with the NEA’s National Medal of the Arts.

Nina Simone – was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, composer, arranger, and civil rights activist. Her music spanned styles including classical, folk, gospel, blues, jazz, R&B, and pop. Her piano playing was strongly influenced by baroque and classical music, especially Johann Sebastian Bach, and accompanied expressive, jazz-like singing in her contralto voice.



Nina Simone in Concert (1964), for the first time she addressed racial inequality in the United States in the song “Mississippi Goddam”. This was her response to the June 12, 1963, murder of Medgar Evers and the September 15, 1963, bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, that killed four young black girls and partly blinded a fifth.

She said that the song was “like throwing ten bullets back at them”, becoming one of many other protest songs written by Simone. The song was released as a single, and it was boycotted in some southern states. Promotional copies were smashed by a Carolina radio station.

Rolling Stone has ranked Simone as one of the greatest singers of all time on various lists.

Considering the state of our country today, I’ve been thinking about the March on Washington and its significance to racial equality and how we can take what they accomplished in 1963 and re-interpret it for today’s struggle.

We are being forced to go back to Jim Crow times, which will be the death of humanity in America. No more DEI because, why, racism. Institutional Racism!

Let the music move us to Resist against the fascism infecting our country. And may you all be motivated by your favorite resistance song so we can fight for the rights of us all!

PEACE  

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Mahalia Jackson, around 1960

Courtesy of the National Museum of African American History and Culture

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**Please feel free to comment on the articles in this newsletter.
If you have any story ideas or commentary, email us at
donnamarie93@gmail.com and tarikkiley@gmail.com.*

We are attempting to build a coalition that benefits all.

Editorial

Standing up to Bullies

By

Tarik Kiley

1/28/2025

Let's get to the point here. President Donald Trump is scapegoating



immigrants. He is using demonizing language such as, “illegals”, and “aliens” to disconnect his audience from experiencing the humanity

of other people on this planet. He has turned the American Dream into the American nightmare by denying basic human rights to the immigrant population. He continues to assault others with the threat of mass deportations. On the scale of rhetoric of this type, he is one step from creating and maintaining concentration camps. This is serious.



President Trump’s language is the type of language that a classic bully would use. My dad was the same type of bully as President Trump. He had “king of the castle”

syndrome, and a particular disdain for the helpless. According to what I have seen with my own two eyes, President Trump is truly a verbal, emotional, and racist bully. He name-calls. He spreads rumors. He teases and excludes others. He mocks other cultures. He is also misogynistic and has bragged about his unwanted contact with women.

While I don’t want to make this article about character, sometimes character counts. The only way to stop a bully is to stand up to a bully and be assertive when faced with aggression. Even if you can’t change the bully, you can stop the bully from picking on you. Passivity has no place here.

We need immigrants. They work hard to fulfill their American Dream. The United States of America wouldn’t have been built through the decades, if not for immigration. But, if I were an immigrant in President Trump’s USA, I would be very pessimistic. Immigrants to the USA often serve as our cheap labor and can often be taken advantage of.

I would be pessimistic in realizing that not only am I at risk of having my labor exploited, but I will face scapegoating, in this country, as well.

Many immigrants come to The USA with hope for their children. The U.S.-born children of immigrants need support to obtain the American Dream as found in the Dream Act, for example.

According to americanimmigrationcouncil.org, “While the various



versions of the [Dream Act] bill have contained some key differences, they all would have provided a pathway to legal status for undocumented people who came to this country as children.”

In other words, people, particularly children, need a clear path toward becoming citizens, not demonizing language. There is just no proof that immigrants are all criminals. That is the type of demonization that leads to concentration camps, reservations, ghettos, and political violence. We don't need more violence in this country.

No one wants to be racially profiled. What people do want is a higher standard of living and a better quality of life for themselves and their families. People do want access to higher education or a trade. The way to help people improve their lives is to stand up to bullying and help others obtain the social mobility that we all desire. Upward mobility and freedom from tyranny are part of the American Dream that we all desire.

President Trump is no friend of America. Understand this. President Trump wants to get rid of immigrants, particularly browned-skinned immigrants from Latin America, but he caters to those sympathetic to the Confederate cause.

Now, Latino immigrants want to be here, and the majority of them prove it by working hard, but Confederates fought against this country, to be able to leave the country, and take territory with them. Why would you support those who want to dismantle the Federal government over those who work hard to show their support for this country, and who quite clearly work to progress towards further upward mobility?



Not only do the American people need to stand up to President Trump's nonsense, but we need to form a coalition to do so. The old coalition of diversity as found in the post-1960s era Democratic Party, needs to be deeply examined.

New alliances must be forged, and a new clear path for moving forward needs to be determined.

We might be uncertain what the new coalition might look like. But that is no reason to fold. We just can't keep using the same tactics repeatedly and expect different results. Instead, we need to examine our strategy, figure out new tactics, and then create a clear plan of goals for the future of the USA.

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Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 6th at 6:30 pm

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

Speaker: County Commission at Large Leigh Altman

Zoom Link: <https://demsofnorthmeck.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=765fdf3806a10a2c360de71c2&id=b15c7de466&e=e90d0cd318>

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 12th

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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