
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

Shout Out to Charlotte!



Charlotte
Charlotte activists met the immigration crackdown with 'bless your heart' resistance

By
DonnaMarie Woodson

I'm so proud of Charlotte for, in the words of my favorite Congresswoman Alma Adams, "Showing Up and Showing Out" when the evil calling itself ICE came to town!



Charlotte was definitely a force to be reckoned with as she stood up for her immigrant community and told ICE – NOT TODAY!! From marches to signs, horns honking, and testimonies, we showed this country what it means to be united in our cause for freedom and equality.

(A protest against the arrival of federal agents in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 19 November 2025. Photograph: Matt Kelley/AP)

Not since the Civil Rights Marches have I seen such dedication and understanding that We the People HAVE the Power to live in a free and fair society.

The [article in The Guardian](#) on Nov. 21st sums up perfectly how Charlotte learned from ICE attacks in other cities and employed a "Bless his heart"- type strategy that was effective in raising awareness and offering a unified voice from the "Hornets' Nest."



The city of Charlotte has long adopted the hornet as its symbol. It stems from the Revolutionary War and the militia's fight against Charles Cornwallis and

Activists patrolled neighborhoods where CBP and ICE had been seen operating, following vehicles and at times honking horns in warning. Border Patrol agents arrested two women who had been honking horns in a truck behind their own, smashing a window to get at them.

Others documenting CBP and ICE presence at hotels in the region, tracking license plates and car types, going as far as searching Walmart back parking lots looking for early-morning staging areas in the towns surrounding Charlotte and in the Appalachian mountains.



Between the work of groups such as Indivisible and Siembra NC, they've been able to discern clear patterns in how immigration enforcement

operates. Agents would target work vehicles early in the morning, for example, said Garcés. "It's actually not out of totally out of our control to know where are these guys hunting people down," he said. "We can know that, and we can also be much more in communication about what we see and where we see."

When CBP left Charlotte, Siembra, NC, it published video evidence of a 47-vehicle convoy on its way to Atlanta.



I believe these prophetic words will always ring true.

FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE JEWS

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the communists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out –
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me –
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

Pastor Niemöller

(14 January 1892 – 6 March 1984)

1946 post-war confessional prose piece by the German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller (1892–1984). It indirectly condemns complicity of German intellectuals and clergy following the Nazis' rise to power and subsequent incremental purging of their chosen targets.

Works Cited:

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<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/23/activists-immigration-charlotte-north-carolina>

<https://www.siembranc.org/>

**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 working to establish a coalition that benefits everyone.

Editorial

Deconstructing Our Current State of Affairs

By

Tarik Kiley
11/22/2025

In the United States of America, we are facing a crossroads. We are faced with the decision to either come together as a more perfect union or to let political opinions divide us against one another. We can either fight one another in factions, as expressed in “Federalist #10” by James Madison, or work towards building bipartisanship between political parties.



According to [time.com](https://www.time.com), “One of the worst consequences of our current political climate is the spike in feelings of alienation many of us are experiencing in our relationships with family members, neighbors, former friends, and coworkers who differ from us politically.” Division has made it difficult for us to move forward on common goals as a country. Instead of seeing one another as neighbors, we are seeing one another as a source of blame and conflict.

We are facing the reality of threats to our political norms including the increasing normalization of political violence. The idea of political violence in the USA is becoming more and more commonplace, and we are moving away from our norm of political discourse to one of wanton violence.

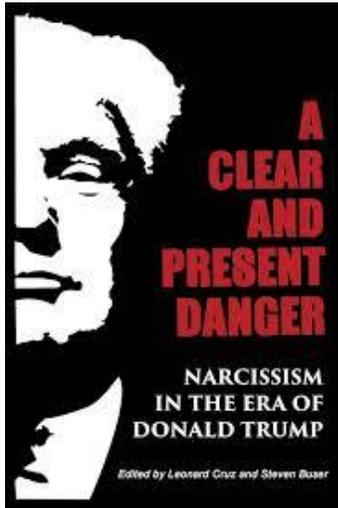
Unfortunately, this legitimization of political violence is coming from the highest office in the land. This is evident in actions such as the current President of the United States, Mr. Donald Trump, pardoning the January 6th rioters, who attacked the capitol in his name, to dispute the results of the 2020 presidential election.



We have also returned to a very oversimplified mentality of “us vs. them,” or in-group versus out-group political thinking. This can be found in Mr. Trump’s immigration policy. With his immigration policy, Mr. Trump is essentially attempting to punish people who look Latino, as “illegal immigrants” and “criminals.” This is of course a very oversimplified view of Latino people, and this viewpoint is fueled and driven by racism.

Mr. Trump’s inability to show empathy for others, as evident through his many actions, is also partially driven by narcissism. According to the [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org), “Narcissistic personality disorder is a mental health condition in which people have an unreasonably high sense of their own importance. They need and seek too much attention and want people to admire them.

People with this disorder may lack the ability to understand or care about the feelings of others. But behind this mask of extreme



confidence, they are not sure of their self-worth and are easily upset by the slightest criticism.”

This is evident in Mr. Trump’s behavior. Also, helpguide.org states, “...people with narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) are in love with an idealized, grandiose image of themselves. This is evident in Mr. Trump’s need to be showered with praise and gifts on a consistent basis. It also explains his need to bully others. Ultimately, Mr. Trump’s narcissism makes him psychologically unfit to lead.

Though, despite his mental incapacity to lead, Mr. Trump still has those who obey his orders. They are “ICE” and the “border patrol.” Unfortunately, they both have symptoms of acting as the Gestapo did under Hitler. They do so in a few ways. They abuse their power, utilize arbitrary detention, and use ruthless tactics to suppress dissent. In fact, we’re not that far from Mr. Trump using his police force to investigate those he considers to be his political enemies.

When faced with Gestapo tactics, the American people cannot remain passive. We can’t just accept what is happening without resisting. We can resist in various ways.

First, we cannot treat political violence as if it is normal. We have to insist on maintaining our democratic institutions, and our civil liberties. These include the freedom of speech, press, and religion, the right to assembly and association, the right to due process and a fair trial, and other similar ideas.

We also have to face the fact that authoritarian regimes often promise civil liberties, while ignoring them in practice. Such is the practice in Mr. Trump's USA. Under Mr. Trump, civil liberties and human rights are consistently trampled upon. This is important to understand, because we don't want to be reduced to a state of slavery, or live in a country that spits on international law.



We need to move the culture forward. Just as in the 1940 movie, “The Great Dictator,” by Charlie Chaplin, we need to comment on our times through literature, film, music and art. Expressing ourselves, and moving the culture forward implies that we will not be silent. We

cannot be silent, because silence and complicity only fuels injustice, while cultural expression suggests a state of action that leads towards justice. Increasing cultural expression leads to the idea of communicating with others. As social creatures, we utilize language to accomplish what we could not do individually. So, people still need to express through language, their ideas, and hopes and dreams for the future.

We also need to take voting as a serious duty of being a citizen in a republic. Although the Electoral College still picks presidents, the US Congress, state and local elections, are decided through popular vote. An organized and active electorate is a major bane to dictatorship, because informed people will more likely vote fools out, and replace them with people who consider their best interests at heart...or at least, we hope so.



This goes back to the idea of social contract, or the consent of the governed. Society must agree to be ruled, and rule is not something that can be imposed on the people. In our representative democracy, the ballot is truly powerful.

This should be inherently understood.

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Announcements



“Words and Movements”

Check out our new Blog!

Sign up for a subscription to receive new blog posts.

Link: <http://wordsandmovements.blog>

Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 6:30 PM

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

Meeting in the *Multipurpose room*

Organizations to Check Out:

- **League of Women Voters of Charlotte-Mecklenburg**
- **NC Poor People's Campaign**
- **New North Carolina Project (Dr. Aimy Steele is the Founder and CEO)**
- **Public Schools Strong Mecklenburg**
- **Red Wine & Blue NC and Facebook group**

- **Red Wine & Blue's LKN Troublemakers (Local Women Making Good Trouble)**
- **Swing Blue Alliance**
- **Unity in Community and Facebook group**

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County
Holiday Party

Thursday, December 11, 2025

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Tim Fulton Walker and Owen Law Offices
301 East Park Avenue (Dilworth) 28202

Dress Code: Business Casual with a festive flair (no jeans please)

RSVP here please.

(DWMC will provide all food and drinks, including beer and wine. However, you're welcome to bring a favorite wine or other beverage to share.

Parking is along E. Park Ave., Cleveland Ave., and at Dilworth Elementary School off Euclid Ave.

(Please bring an unwrapped child's gift (toy, book or stuffed animal) to be donated.)



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

Happenings!



REGIONAL HUB FOR
CIVIC ACTIVISM

Website for upcoming events:
<https://indivisibleclt.org/>

Join Us on Dec. 4th @ 7:30 pm



VOICES of Black Women: Connecting Cancer Research, Care, and Advocacy

Thursday, December 4th
at 7:30-8:30pm EST | 4:30-5:30pm PST

Join ACS CAN's Black Volunteer Caucus (BVC) for a virtual fireside chat on the American Cancer Society-led groundbreaking research study, VOICES of Black Women. The panelists will provide an overview and the impact of VOICES; discuss how VOICES can help bridge the gap in cancer research and care for Black women, and how we can ensure the findings inform our advocacy efforts. Learn more about VOICES at: cancer.voices.org.

Scan the QR code to register or visit:
fightcancer.org/bvcvoices



SEE YOU MONDAY!

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF
HAROLD'S CHICKEN & ICE BAR
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
DEC. 1ST, 2025

REV. DR.
**RODNEY
SADLER**
for NC House 106

AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS
OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY

HOLIDAY Party & Passing of the Torch

DECEMBER 4, 2025

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Club Nile
5741 North Graham Street
Charlotte, NC 28269
www.aacofmeck.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