

# OPINION

## THE CHRONICLE

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## Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

## Reflect on the labor ahead this Labor Day

Labor Day is Monday. While many people are looking forward to a day of shopping and relaxation, we should take time to reflect on Labor Days past. According to History.com, Labor Day has been paying tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers as a federal Holiday since 1894. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century.

America's labor force in the South consisted of mostly slave labor before 1865. The African slaves had all kinds of skills, which were not used for themselves but for the economic boost of their slave masters. There were free black people, who eked out a living. The wealthy African-Americans would come later.

Post-1865, black people had to find ways to survive, seeing that they were no longer slaves. African-Americans used their ingenuity and the skills they had learned as slaves to become self-sufficient. Except, forces arose to thwart their efforts, such as the Klu Klux Klan.

Then the Jim Crow laws came to try to keep them down. But African-Americans couldn't be kept down. Until now.

Back in the day, the day of segregation, education was paramount. Teachers rose to the top of the list and were counted as prominent, along with preachers and lawyers. It was a noble profession to be a teacher. And reading and writing were priorities. It appears that is no longer the case.

This Labor Day, the African-American community in Winston-Salem needs to take some time to remember the good old days when there were no schools with mostly black children on a list of under-performing schools, let alone 11 of them. Take a little time to reflect. Then resolve to get to work to help Winston-Salem schools get back on track.

Andrew Snorton is doing his part. He held a project to promote reading in East Winston on Saturday. The Wake Forest University alumnus from Snellville, Georgia, took hours to travel from Georgia and spend 2 1/2 hours of his time at the East Winston Library. He thinks it's important for people to read, because reading leads to higher-level skills. Higher-level skills lead to higher-level jobs.

This Labor Day is a time to develop a plan of action to combat the new forces against African-American students: complacency and lack of interest. Poverty has been blamed for a lot of things, but it's hard to blame it for poor reading when the Forsyth County Library system provides free books to check out. And electronic reading devices such as tablets and computers also are increasingly available from libraries (the East Winston Library is trying to raise money for some to help students with homework).

Television and the Internet have stolen the interest of children these days, but African-American children can't afford to allow that to continue to happen. They can't let history repeat itself, becoming the new slaves in the economy.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Donate to help students learn and enjoy library in East Winston

**To the Editor:**  
We are writing this letter on behalf of the Friends of the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, (formally named East Winston Library). We are in need of donations to help support the programs that we assist for this library.

Over the years, East Winston Library has served in the support of providing funds

for the children's Summer Reading Program, assistance with the back-to-school supplies and food, free and low-cost books, documental movies, DVDs, CDs and other programs.

We also were responsible for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Heritage Center, and in May 2016, we are proud to have spearheaded the unveiling of the Historical Marker for this library.

Many of the children in our city don't have the access to computers, books and other research items in their homes, so they are able to come here and feel safe to get help with their homework, read a book, mentoring and the use of the computers.

This has been made possible through the generous funding that we have received from our members, fundraising, our community and citizens like you.

As our end of the year is fast approaching, we are still in need of additional donations to continue our positive works at the Heritage Center and in the community.

We believe that it has been the spirit of giving that has allowed this library to remain, and we would like for you to make a generous contribution to support our efforts through check or money order payable to: Friends of the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, P.O. Box 20022, Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

For further information, call 336-749-5090 or email [mjewslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mjewslibrary@gmail.com).

**Friends of the Malloy/Jordan East Winston Heritage Center**  
Rev. Andrea Walker, President

### Poetry event involving children shows promise for future

**To the Editor:**  
If you missed the Youth Poetry Slam on July 28 at the W. R. Anderson Jr. Community Center, be sure to attend next summer. The creative energy in the room was palpable as children ages 5-12 spoke their poems from the stage to an audience of friends and family.

I was honored to represent Winston-Salem Writers at the judges table. The hard work that staff members Betty Wallace and Bryant McCorkle had done was evident, and the serious work on the part of the children warrants recognition.

These children may look like fun-loving summer campers — and they are. But more importantly, they are young poets, already discovering their voice. Somewhere among them, you will find the next Lucille Clifton, the next Langston Hughes.

To these writers, I say, "Keep writing, and continue to develop the voice only you have been given."

**Donna Wallace**  
President, Winston Salem Writers

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### Trump's plan on undocumented immigrants is dangerous

**To the Editor:**  
Donald Trump reinforced today [Aug. 25] that he would deport 16 million people, including every undocumented immigrant and American citizen born here to undocumented parents. Confirming what we've seen from the start of his campaign: Donald Trump will be Donald Trump. No one can change his hateful rhetoric or dangerous policies to send a deportation force, into American communities, rescind DACA and DAPA, end birthright citizenship, and even ban remittances to families in Mexico in order to help build his giant wall.

He may try to disguise his plans by throwing in words like "humane" or "fair," but the reality remains that Trump's agenda echoes the extreme right's will — one that is fueling a dangerous movement of hatred across the country.

Enough is enough. Donald Trump must stop playing games with the lives of law-abiding immigrant families in order to save his campaign. These are families who contribute to the greatness of our country and that need a president who will fight to keep them together — not someone who will denigrate them and tear them apart.

**Jennifer Palmieri**  
Hillary for America  
Communications Director

### Clinton plans will help rural North Carolina

**To the Editor:**

Last week, U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield [D.-1st District] and Greenville, N.C. Mayor Allen Thomas released a new report on how Hillary Clinton's economic plans will benefit the economy of rural North Carolina.

The plan cites an analysis of an independent report by a former economic adviser for U.S. Sen. John McCain.

Butterfield said: "Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine are running to build an economy that works for all people, not just those at the top. And when they say 'all,' they mean it. Analysis based on the findings of a former economic advisory to John McCain found that Hillary's jobs plan could create more than 325,000 jobs here in North Carolina. She focuses on the fundamentals of growth that we've known here in North Carolina for a long time — her plan will invest in our small businesses, invest in our roads and bridges, combat rural poverty, and support North Carolina's farmers."

**Arial Ruffin**  
North Carolina Press Assistant  
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## We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com) before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com).

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