

FROM THE PUBLISHER...



We are back and look forward to publishing some great content this fall.

A few items deserve attention and thoughtful rumination:

It appears that after some thought, the Winnie Davis Chapter #259 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has “reimagined” the Confederate statue to remain just where it sits: as a sentinel on the Pittsboro traffic circle in front of the Historic Chatham County Courthouse. The next scheduled County Board of Commissioners meeting is Monday, August 19th and it should be interesting...

Dog whistle politics and direct solicitation of the worst impulses of Americans has an effect not only in our national dialogue, but in our local communities as well. A new business in Siler City, A & I's Chicken Shack, was directly confronted in a letter from a group claiming to be “White Nationalists” that told them to “get out of Siler City” and that “White folks will not let a nigga boy come into our town and succeed.” The community mobilized via public support of the business and condemnation of the negative letter to show the world that although “Jimmy Crow” may still be still on its perch, the flock is getting smaller.

Local municipal elections are around the corner in Chatham County. *Chatham County Line* will cover the local elections and will offer all candidates the opportunity to send us a portrait, provide website and/or social media contacts and up to 450 words on who they are, why they are running, and what they plan do for the people if elected. (150 words per topic.) In addition, we welcome any candidate, political party, and/or PAC to place a political ad in September and October promoting their ideas and platform.

— Randolph Voller

Jesus and the Children

by Dr. Grace Galloway

I'm numb. Every time I think things just could not get any worse, they do. This time it's about the babies. Originally, I just could not find the words to express the depths of sadness and despair. I was quite literally, lost for words. I could not express my horror, fear and yes, disgust when I first heard about children and parents being separated. Surely it can't be true. I've been numb ever since I read about children and babies being ripped from their parents' arms at our southern border in order to discourage those seeking refuge in America. We hung out a sign – America is closed... except if you are Norwegian.

Horrified and Speechless. Then I thought, “who's taking care of the babies? Who's changing their diapers or feeding them? Who bathes them?” When I heard there were only FOUR qualified workers for one thousand children my jaw dropped. This can't be possible. Who comforts them when they cry and call for their parents? Now we hear that the staff are told not to comfort them or touch them. How do you change a diaper without touching the child? Daycare centers have a ratio of 1:4 or at worst 1:6. It gets worse – now the number reaches 11,000. So we, America, are the very monsters that we decry. We rip the children from the loving arms of their families and then put them in an environment that is traumatizing, unhygienic and terrifying. What could possibly go wrong? If we were looking to foster aberrant behavior in children this would be top of the list. That is why we abolished orphanages.

America is the statue of Liberty – Give me your tired, your poor and hungry. America is that shining city on the hill that calls to people all over the world. We have always been a sanctuary for refugees. America strives for justice, to help the unfortunates. We fight for children's rights, for equality. We're not perfect, we're not there yet. But we have tried to be better, to continue to be that example to the rest of the world of what could be. The policy that Mr. Jeff Sessions and Mr. Trump have instituted to forcibly separate children from their parents as a deterrent for those seeking asylum is cruel, egregious and yes, it IS child abuse. This is not a policy that was started by Democrats. It was started by you, Mr. Trump and your attorney general. Stop lying. And you can stop it immediately if you wished. You started it, you can stop it.

This is NOT a policy that makes any sense. As a mother and a grandmother, I reacted viscerally. My stomach twisted into a knot and my throat closed up while tears rolled down my cheeks. I kept hoping this was all a dream. What happened to the America that I love? Surely this must be a mistake, fake news...but no. It is not a mistake. It is not fake news.

Those that feel this policy is just fine, thank you very much, also make the comparison between criminals



... who's taking care of the babies? Who's changing their diapers or feeding them? Who bathes them?

that are imprisoned and thus separated from their children. What absolute balderdash!! The people at our Southern Borders are refugees, many seeking asylum from countries that are ravaged by violence and corruption. That is a completely different scenario. And crossing the border illegally is a MISDEMEANOR not a felony.

I ask all of you out there – how would YOU feel if your child was taken from you with no guarantee that you would see that child again? For a misdemeanor – the same as speeding, or jaywalking. How would you feel if you were stopped with your child for jaw walking and your child was taken from you with no guarantee or knowledge that you would see your child again? How would YOU feel if you saw your child in a

CAGE and had no recourse to provide solace and relief to her? How would you feel if you were sent hundreds of miles away from your baby knowing you may never see her again? Mr. Sessions has twisted history to justify his policy. He says that the Jews were interned to prevent them from leaving the country. What? How quickly he forgets that over 6 million were massacred, that children were separated from their parents forcibly and cruelly, that many children also died during this separation. Mr. Sessions and Mr. Trump both display an alarming lack of empathy.

We do not do this. I could cite all sorts of studies that show that forcible separation of a child from the parent has severe negative impacts on that child's growth and development. I could also cite studies that child psychologists have conducted that show these severe negative experiences stunt a child's growth both physically and developmentally. These toddlers are still in their early stages of development where they learn trust. This is when they must learn the world is safe and their parents will protect them. Oh, said someone, they're not all toddlers. Some of them are teenagers.

OK. Let's play that game. How would you feel if your teenaged child was taken from you without a word of explanation, especially a child that has just escaped from the gangs and the crime ridden streets that you ran away from. You came to seek sanctuary and instead we pulled your children from you, put them in cages and then put you in jail. Then we send you back to where you came from without your child because we can't find him. This is punishing the victim in spades. We err on the side of justice - ALWAYS.

I wondered when someone would cite come biblical passage to justify this heinous behavior. As if on cue, Mr. Sessions managed to take the words of St. Paul out of context and use the exact same citation used to justify slavery. Well Mr. Sessions and Mr. Trump I'll give you a higher authority than Paul. Jesus said, “Suffer little children to come unto me.” He also said, “the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them”. He always showed great compassion and love towards the children. He also said, “What you do to the least among you, you do to Me.”

“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

— Matthew 18:1-5

This is not who we are. Let the children go to the loving arms of their parents. We are violating every single human right imaginable. Let's be true Christians. Let's take lessons from the Christ who preached and lived kindness, charity and love. Let us do unto others what we would have them do unto us.



Dr. Grace Galloway, Ph.D., MS, MSN, FNP-BC is a public health advocate for issues that impact children's and veteran's health and wellness.

Resolution recently passed by the Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners

chatham
County Line
“where all voices are heard”
<https://chathamcountyline.org>

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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum “where all voices are heard.” We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters — including our cultural life — comprehensively and in-depth. Our commitment is to create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published ten times a year.

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A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF A HUMANE NATIONAL POLICY ON IMMIGRATION AND COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT OF PERSONS DETAINED AT THE BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, all leaders and citizens of good will understand the necessity and wisdom of reforming the immigration system of the United States, and that a bi-partisan solution is the best solution; and
Whereas, in the absence of this reform, conditions on the Mexican border and at ports of entry generally have become a source of international criticism and mounting dismay and disappointment at home; and
Whereas, this global criticism and domestic concern rests upon indisputable evidence that federal authorities are separating families, holding minors under inhumane conditions, denying access to counsel, prohibiting third-party inspection of detention facilities, and blocking safe routes to asylum;
Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Pittsboro Board of Commissioners, formally ask our Congressman and our Senators to use their influence and intercession to alleviate the physical and legal condition of the thousands currently in detention, and commit themselves to a reform of our immigration law that is consistent with long-held national values of humane and compassionate treatment for all who seek to join our community.

Adopted this the 22nd day of July, 2019.

Cindy S. Perry, Mayor