
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



In Memoriam



Jade X Jackson
Activist, Mother, Sister, Blessing, Friend

“A true Activist is willing to make sacrifices for the good of all mankind.”



Jade X Jackson

November 11, 1965 – December 3, 2022



My dear friend and mentor, Jade Jackson, passed away on December 3, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. Even though her failing health took her away from this world, Jade’s lifelong mission to fight for justice for all will remain a beacon of light in our hearts forever.

Jade is survived by her son Joshua, brother – Derrick, and all of us who loved her so much.



Jade will always be remembered for her amazing story and life of lifelong dedication to activism.



Remembrances

Janelle Nicole Caudle

Jade, your ever enthusiastic presence will be missed. Your love for others was real, which made you such a phenomenal activist.

You so loved The Poor People's Campaign - A National Call for Moral Revival. This is a picture from the planning session taken the beginning of March 2017. You are surrounded by like-heartedness. You made the movement grow to what it is today.



There are no words to express how much impact you had on so many of us.



Gina Gregory Burns

Thank you, Maya Burns, for creating this loving tribute to Aunt Jala Alyshia Mckenzie-Burns 💔💔



Shamaiye Haynes

Jade wrote a book! Did you know she is an author too! I have not read the book yet but will be doing so soon. ❤️ We met in 2017 during the Darrell Bonapart campaign. Rest in Power Lady Jade! ❤️

Ann Harlan - Jade's passing

Our dear Jade has passed from this world into the next. She will be dearly missed. She was prepared for this transition and weary from the years of struggling with health issues. I will miss her dearly - she was so kind and did so much good despite her health issues.

I will miss you my dear sister.

Darrell Bonapart - Just found out that very dear friend and mentor has passed away. Jade Jackson I love you dearly and I am so appreciative that I met you during this lifetime. I learned so much from you. Oh my God, my heart is so heavy right now.





Autumn Alston - *I first met Jade Jackson in 2016 with the Hillary Clinton campaign. We continued protesting a variety of things. She always believed in me. And it was an honor to watch her fearlessly fight for justice even with all of her health struggles. May she truly rest in power.* 💜💙💜💙

Nwafor Leeda Agunwah

Just found out that Jade Jackson passed away!!! RIP!!! Charlotte politics and community organizing may never be the same again!!! sleep well my friend!!!!



Rev. Rodney Sadler

“Jade”

The world lost one of its brightest stars yesterday...no...I should say Heaven gained one of its brightest stars. A light that shone so brightly can never be extinguished...she shines on to be sure...look for her beyond the clouds in this world that often obscure the glory of the celestial realm. She will be there glowing brightly!

I remember the first time I met Jade X Jackson (Jala McKenzie Burns). She was working as one of the lead organizers for the Hillary Clinton campaign. The race in North Carolina was tight and it seemed that we had a chance of winning it if we just pressed a little harder. She was working with campaign organizer April Jones as one of her top lieutenants and was giving her all to bring the victory to the Clinton Campaign.

When I first met her, she was gruff, all about the business. You could see the intensity that she brought to her job. Everyone had a role to play, and everyone should be about doing what they were to do...or else! She handed out responsibilities like a United States Marine Corp drill sergeant assigned

orders of the day. I would later find out that she was once a Marine, so that was just natural for her.

We became friends fairly quickly after that. It's hard not to befriend someone who is so committed to the cause of a more just world. We worked together for the last few weeks of the campaign and then after learning about her passion for all the issues around justice at April's going away party as she left the area for a job in D.C, we became fast friends.

Those first few months after trump was sworn in were rough for most of us. Instead of stewing in a funk, Jade began to organize those of us who were wondering what we could do for good in those dark days. So, Jade became a lead organizer with a local effort called "Tuesdays with Tillis" that brought together a cadre of progressive activists to protest outside of obdurate Senator Thom Tillis' office.

Every week she would call on me to pray, to speak, to get the world out...and she would take the mic, usually MCing these events or offering a rousing speech. Those speeches were punctuated by the persistent phrase, "Thank you for fighting for me; thank you for fighting for you; thank you for fighting for a Moral America!"

By the beginning of 2017, we were fast friends. I remember welcoming her into the Moral Monday Movement and introducing her to Dr. (Bishop) William Barber. He welcomed Jade with open arms, and she became an icon of that movement in short time. It wasn't long before she had surrendered herself for civil disobedience and became one of the movement's lead speakers for issues of healthcare and poverty.

It was as we worked for issues of justice, that she surprisingly started calling me her mentor (???). It was an extreme honor I shared with several other people, like Dr. Barber, Rev. Glencie Rhedrick, Joel Segal (the Muse of Social Justice) and soon Rev. Amantha Barbee. I never quite understood why she who was so experienced as a union organizer would give me such an honor. She said it had something to do with the way that she saw I lived my life for

Christ. Well, I don't know about her, but if she thinks she was learning from me, I was actually learning from her!

I remember the first conversation we had about faith and her desire to get back into a church. She asked me about local congregations that she might visit to find a new church home. She wanted somewhere where she could go and be welcomed with open arms...somewhere where she could with her mixed "race" blackness and her distinctive genderedness and her sometimes sailor tonguedness feel safe and supported and Loved. We talked about several congregations but eventually landed on Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church.

I told her about their dynamic young minister, Rev. Amantha, Barbee, who had recently become the pastor there and who was leading this congregation in great ways, preaching prophetically from the pulpit. It wasn't long before she began attending and anointed Reverend Barbie as one of her mentors, as well.

She loved Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church. She was called to be a deacon there. I think she would have enjoyed more than anything else standing in the pulpit and preaching there. Given a few more years, I know that would have been a reality for her. Her Christian faith and desire to serve had grown so much that she had even enrolled in seminary. Were it not for the condition of her health, she would be finishing her first semester as an M.Div. student at Union Presbyterian Seminary next week.

Jade excelled at everything she did. When the Poor People's Campaign began, she not only became a local leader, Dr. Barber appointed her to be one of the tri-chairs for the state of North Carolina with Mother Joyce Johnson and Sister Ana Blackburn. She organized her butt off! As she worked, she raised others up with her. One of her first disciples was Catherine DeMallie. She and Cate became fast friends, sisters even. It was because of her work with Cate that Cate soon became a local leader with the Poor People's Campaign in the Piedmont Circle.

Jade was a woman of many talents, but all of them focused on issues of justice. I've never seen anyone fight more tenaciously to bring about justice in this world. Those who have suffered much are often those willing to do the most for others. All of the suffering that she endured in her life because of her "racial" and gender identity and because of poverty, she poured into her work with the

Poor People's Campaign, fighting to ensure that no one else would have to endure the indignity of poverty, racial Othering, or being cast aside. She was a ferocious lioness whenever she took the stage to speak. You knew that whether it was for two minutes, ten minutes, a half hour, however long, she would touch people's minds, hearts, and souls. And she delivered her oration with a powerful voice honed in U.S. Marine Corps. To hear her was not just to be charged up, it was to be convinced of the God-based imperative, to do justice in this world for those whom the world might have called least, but whom God loves dearly.

As I think on my relationship with Jade, I have to admit that she gave me far more than I could ever give her. She showed me with clarity what Christ's love looks like. She showed me what it meant to be there constantly for someone and to give them undying support because that's what she did for me. Even as she left this world, Jade showed me what it means to be truly Christian and to trust God fully. I thank God for Jade and all the ways she made this world better for all of God's children made in God's image!

I'm sure she would want to say to you all one more time, "Thank you for fighting for me; thank you for fighting for you; thank you for fighting for a Moral America!"

(She asked me to share this video with you all to let you know that she was comfortable with her decision to go home. Though paralyzed here, she's walking with Jesus now!)



Click link to view video:

<https://www.facebook.com/100036339228786/videos/456878923272789/>



My very special interview with Jade for our first edition of the CharMeck Chronicle. I will treasure our time together forever.

Love you, Jade. 💔💔



Jade X. Jackson Interview June 29, 2017

Special Memories With Jade



Farewell, my dearest friend. Until we meet again.

