



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

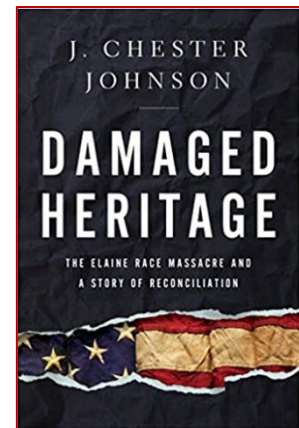
July 2025

The July newsletter! We've gotten a few replies to the query about the number of doctors, but nothing on how you are spending your summer. That's a shame but it allows more room for my pictures. On to the news:

J. Chester Johnson:

*Where Is The Follow-up Book To DAMAGED HERITAGE by J. Chester Johnson?
Here's the Story:*

After the publication in 2020 of *Damaged Heritage: The Elaine Race Massacre and A Story of Reconciliation*, my racial healing efforts were principally devoted to the 85-90 presentations I have given on the book, mainly via zoom-type gatherings. Second and importantly, I realized that the message of *Damaged Heritage* was not the end of my racial healing commentary. Rather, I began to write pieces and notes on white responsibility and white protocol necessary for individual, person-to-person, Black to white and white to Black, racial healing – assuming, as I have for a long time, that the institutional approach to the country's race conundrum has been demonstrably inadequate, and that we have been left with the individual, person-to-person option, the only real option the country held in the first place. The institutional one has been, at best, a placeholder for the future.



A multitude of books has rightly been written about white injustices, both violent and administrative (which had its own violent components), perpetrated against Blacks, and while such books were true and of great relevance, virtually no books have been authored on white, individual, current responsibility and white protocol leading to the achievement of real racial healing between Blacks and whites, a subject that needs much more attention through discussion, explanation, debate, writing, and lifestyles.

Then, in late summer and early fall of 2023, my agent and I had discussions and communications with one of the well-known publishers. Within weeks, we collectively came to a basic understanding of the envisioned book that I would write and that would address tenets for racial healing in this country, including especially the way that Black-white, personal relations must play a significant role in any movement toward a solution for white racism against Blacks in the United States. By the early fall of 2024, I had crafted a manuscript, which my agent submitted to the publisher and which was consistent with those 2023 communications.

Additional communications ensued during the fall of 2024. As we all remember, a contentious national debate in connection with a presidential election was then occurring. By late November 2024, shortly after the election, the publisher withdrew from the project, which the publisher had helped to inspire. In the context of the altered political and attitudinal environment that the nation incurred at the time, my agent contacted other leading publishers over several, succeeding months, and while we received strong and supportive written comments from a number of those publishers about the manuscript, such as “compelling. . .masterful historian. . .accomplished author. . .important. . . excellent and extremely worthy”, we also determined that the book did not satisfactorily meet major criteria, as expressed in concerns about “who will buy the book?” In response, my agent and I decided to withdraw the manuscript.

Nevertheless, this setback will not stop me from writing about white responsibility and white protocol in the pursuit of racial healing between Black and white persons in this country. Toward that end, I will be utilizing internet distribution capability, such as this distribution, and postings on my own writing website: jchesterjohnson.com; in the near future, I may also employ additional platforms. The first such distribution and posting will occur in a couple of weeks, and I plan to continue this process of distribution and posting every other week for at least a year.

With peace and in friendship,

J. Chester Johnson

Also from JCJ:

*Racial Reconciliation Memorial
Unveiled in the Former Hometown
of J. Chester Johnson;
Video and Picture Attached*

There are three major components to this distribution:

- (i) [video of the actual dedication](#) (Saturday, June 28, 2025) in Monticello, Arkansas of the racial reconciliation bench, 2/3rds of a ton celebrating the City's public commitment to racial reconciliation and commemorating the martyrdom of one black man and one white man, murdered together by the local Ku Klux Klan in 1868 and left to rot together in the Arkansas sun;
- (ii) (ii) picture of the bench resting permanently in front of the Monticello City Hall (see below); and
- (iii) (iii) a [congratulatory statement](#) to the City of Monticello from the Elaine (Arkansas) Massacre Memorial Committee.

Click on each to gain access. Both the video and the picture were prepared by Jeffrey Newton Photography of Monticello, Arkansas.



Mary Mackey:

I am in Rio de Janeiro Brazil right now, preparing to read poems about climate change from my new collection *In This Burning World* to environmental historians from Latin America and the Caribbean. It's winter here, so it only gets up to about 79°F in the daytime, so I'm glad I brought a sweater.

My medical insurance is with Kaiser Permanente; so technically, I have 25,270 doctors. However, I only see five of them: primary care, physician, dermatologist, gynecologist, ophthalmologist, and a dentist who is not part of Kaiser.

Ted Leary:

I have at last count 7 docs to treat my various Old Guy ills. 6 of them are officed in the Cedar Sinai medical building here in Beverly Hills. Last year or so when I was getting ready to pay the building parking lot cashier she looked at me seriously and said " Maybe you should get a season pass."

Phil Ardery:

I see five doctors and currently have no chronic health issues. The five are dentist, internist, dermatologist, optometrist, and podiatrist.

Mike Holland:

5 doctors also! Many thanks for all you do!

Elaine Bostwick:

That is a very good question. I feel my social life is with Doctors and their staff. I have often wondered if anyone else goes to as many Doctors. I count at least nine. Most are annual checkups. Doctors, vegetables, and swimming have so far kept me young.

Bill Weld:

My count is as follows: Regulars - 4, including dentist Occasionals - 2

Perhaps the question could be framed "how many in the last two years", so you have comparable results, and to state the obvious, female count is likely to be one higher than male. (ed. note: maybe, but they escaped the prostate issue!)





William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters (e.g., Trump's friendship with Jeffrey Epstein).

Here's a Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas on 7/8/2025.

Tom Black:

OK, I screwed up in the alert message. I told you I had 5 doctors, and I iscounted; I have 6. Also, I asked you for your summer activities and got zero response. So, I'll assume you are all stay-at-homes. Not me! Here's the first activity:

For the last 5 years my family has had a reunion over a couple of days in Maine. I have shared our group photo with you for the last two years. This year you get one more instalment:



In Memoriam (This is 2 month's submission)

'65	Susan Contatto	05/02/22	Ann Arbor, MI
'65	Todd Cobey	03/09/25	New York, NY
'65	Barry Forman	09/27/23	Seattle, WA
'65	David Stoughton	03/27/24	Santa Monica, CA
'66	Richard Horvitz	04/08/25	Grand Rapids, MI
'66	Robert Kurucz	03/01/25	Cambridge, MA

Ok for this month. You still have August to tell us about your summer escapades. You can't all be stay-at-homes!

Tom Black

co-class secretary