



## HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

December 2024

Our December newsletter! But first a musical interlude:

[https://youtu.be/sBqbqnC\\_b-k?si=XEdCCI7v7w9D8j-O](https://youtu.be/sBqbqnC_b-k?si=XEdCCI7v7w9D8j-O)

**Mark Packer:**

Heavy Culture, the classics reading group facilitated by Mark Packer, has just completed its 34<sup>th</sup> year.

**J. Chester Johnson:**

***Calling Forth The Elaine Race Massacre***

***by J. Chester Johnson***

A few years ago, a very small number of Americans had ever heard or were cognizant of the Elaine Race Massacre. More recently, we have witnessed a major expansion in the knowledge of this national tragedy among an increasing share of the American population, although a consequential number of United States citizens are still ignorant about those bloody days in Phillips County, Arkansas during early October, 1919 when local white citizens, white vigilantes from Mississippi, Tennessee, and neighboring, Arkansas communities, and white federal troops with machine guns murdered Black sharecroppers and their family members.

Articles by the *Smithsonian*, *Associated Press*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, etc., amid considerable public discussion and commentary, have increased awareness of the Massacre, which could arguably be the most significant attack by whites against Blacks in our country's history. It is also my belief that the Library of Congress probably chose my book, **Damaged Heritage**, to be included in the Library of Congress shop – at least, in part – as a result of the book's focus on the Elaine Race Massacre.

My friend, Steve McAleer, who organized a recent discussion on **Damaged Heritage** by a men's book club in Providence, Rhode Island for which I participated via zoom, just brought to my attention a new book, **The Presidents and The People**, released in July, 2024 and published by W. W. Norton & Company. The author is Professor Corey Brettschneider of Brown University. This book devotes three pages to the Elaine Race Massacre, mainly in connection with the approach taken by President Woodrow Wilson toward race relations at the time, which, in the words of the author, led to "the outpouring of Black blood". There is no question that this outpouring of Black blood included the Elaine Race Massacre.

While I may not agree with all the facts about the Massacre as Professor Brettschneider reports them, it is important to acknowledge that the inclusion of the Elaine Race Massacre in this book represents another example of a burgeoning recognition that the Massacre constitutes an important, if not an essential moment in American history.

**J. Chester Johnson:**

***DAMAGED HERITAGE and  
J. Chester Johnson on  
Times Square Jumbotron Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>***



In the midst of the last weekend preceding the seasonal holidays, the Times Square Jumbotron in New York City will, on Saturday, December 21st, display and give attention, on its three-story high screen, to the revelatory book, **DAMAGED HERITAGE** by J. Chester Johnson. The book contrasts the terrible violence surrounding the largely unknown Elaine Race Massacre along the Mississippi River Delta in 1919 with the remarkably poignant, racial reconciliation that occurred a hundred years later between a black woman and a white man, descendants of opposite sides of the Massacre.

To read more about this Jumbotron event, **DAMAGED HERITAGE**, and J. Chester Johnson, please [CLICK HERE](#)

**Rod Hatter:**

I look forward to year 2025. I had a mild stroke in late 2024 and even though I am unaware of any negative consequences would prefer not to repeat the experience. Josette is also in good health.

My continued good health is a wonderful benefit. It cannot last forever since I cannot last forever. Now I can continue work on my memoirs and spend time with my extraordinary grandchildren, my wonderful sons and their wives and my precious wife Josette. Who could ask for more?

**Doug Hall:**

There might be some interest among a few of my classmates about the New York launch of my memoir at Rizzoli Bookstore on January 15. I've attached the announcement card. Perhaps you can post it or at least let people know of the event in your newsletter.



**William Neaves:**

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters.

Here's a northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) enjoying a sunflower seed on 12/29/2024 at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas.



**In Memoriam:**

'65	John Lowell	9/28/24	Coral Gables, FL
'65	Robert Finch	9/30/24	Chatham, MA
'65	Grant Ujifusa	10/21/24	Lafayette Hill, PA
'65	Gaylen Brewster	9/26/24	Vero Beach, FL
'65	Van Buren Cunningham	9/22/01	
'65	Theodore Goltz	1/13/23	
'65	Burns Raushenbush	1/25/20	Dover, Del.
'65	Hamilton Triplett	10/17/24	Bald Head Island, NC
'65	Frank Ulcickas	10/03/24	Nashua, NH
'66	Thomas Gilmore	7/20/24	Philadelphia, PA
'66	Barry Sherr	9/12/24	Lebanon, NH
'66	Noel Solomons	3/23/24	Guatemala
'66	John Shaefer	10/06/24	Roseville, CA
'66	Peter Haff	2/03/24	Chapel Hill, NC
'66	Frank Orban	10/10/24	Lancaster, PA

This list looks long, but it's 2 months report. Still.....

Tom Black

co-class secretary

*The days are getting longer!*