

EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

RAISING THE VOLUME

with Marcus Amaker & Charlton Singleton

Raising the
Volume
Episode IV

*A Conversation
on Growing Up
in Charleston
and Life as a
Journalist and
Author with Herb
Frazier*

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Sixth Grade and Up



CHARLESTON
GAILLARD
CENTER

CORE SUBJECTS AND 21ST CENTURY THEMES

Mastery of core subjects and 21st century themes is essential for all students in the 21st century. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history and government, and civics. In addition to these subjects, schools must move forward to include not only a focus on mastery of core subjects, but also an understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving 21st century interdisciplinary themes into core subjects.

Global Awareness

1. Use 21st century skills to understand and address global issues.
2. Learn from and work collaboratively with individuals representing diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work, and community contexts.

Civic Literacy

1. Participate effectively in civic life through knowing how to stay informed and understanding governmental processes.
2. Exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship at local, state, national, and global levels.
3. Understand the local and global implications of civic decisions.

Work Creatively with Others

1. Develop, implement, and communicate new ideas to others effectively.
2. Be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives; incorporate group input and feedback into the work.
3. Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work, and understand the real world limits to adopting new ideas.
4. View failure as an opportunity to learn; understand that creativity and innovation is a long-term, cyclical process of small successes and frequent mistakes.
5. Implement innovations.
6. Act on creative ideas to make a tangible and useful contribution to the field in which the innovation will occur.

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Episode IV: A Conversation on Growing Up in Charleston and Life as a Journalist and Author with Herb Frazier

OVERVIEW

Everyone has a story. It's our place to take a moment to listen. Once you listen, your eyes open. You can put yourself in someone else's shoes and try to comprehend their experiences. You may be inspired, you may come away with more knowledge, or you may find a bit of yourself in someone else.

Raising the Volume is a series of Black stories. Stories about Black entrepreneurs, judges, authors, artists, and leaders in our community. Stories that need to be heard. Led by the Gaillard Center's Artists-in-Residence, Charlton Singleton and Marcus Amaker, Raising the Volume gives a platform to Black community members and opens us all up to honest discussion.

As you introduce this series to your students, follow the bullet points below for discussion. Your students will find that they are challenged to think about uncomfortable things. Those conversations are what will help us change our world. In the words of Judge McFarland, "To break down racial barriers, start where you are." Let's start where we are and see what change we can bring to our community.

For each lesson, split your class into small groups for discussion or discuss as a whole. Choose the model that is the most comfortable for your students so they feel free to discuss opinions openly.

Teachers, if you are interested in scheduling a cross-school discussion on Raising the Volume Episode IV, please email Sterling deVries at sdevries@gaillardcenter.org. Through cross-school Zoom calls, we can offer students from one school a different perspective on the video with students from a second school. We will schedule class-to-class meetings where whole groups can discuss various topics covered in Episode IV.

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EPISODE IV



(CLICK THE IMAGE TO WATCH EPISODE IV)

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LESSONS

Herb Frazier grew up in Ansonborough Housing Projects on the peninsula of Charleston. He attended Buist Elementary when it was segregated. He recalls looking through the chain link fence behind Buist and seeing a public pool on George Street, a pool for whites only.

Imagine yourself on one side of a fence peering through and seeing a side you cannot access due to the color of your skin. How would this make a child feel? How about an adult?

Mr. Frazier's family was stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba when he was fourteen years old. He moved from an all-Black school in Charleston to being 1 of 5 Black students at a primarily white school. He says, "If I had gone to an all-white high school [in South Carolina] that would have been traumatic." However, he described going to a majority white school in Cuba on the military base as "no big deal."

Why? What was the opinion of different races in South Carolina compared to the military base in Cuba? Why do you believe the military base was more accepting of different races?

Mr. Frazier went to Allen University and The University of South Carolina to study journalism. At that time, there were no Black role models in journalism, so he looked up to Clark Kent, the superhero we know as Superman.

Imagine that you have a goal in life, but no one that looks like you has made a mark in that particular field. Mr. Frazier had to turn to fiction to find someone that he identified with to reach his goal. More recently, the United States elected the first ever woman, and woman of color, as the Vice President. We are still breaking down racial barriers. Until 2020, no little girl of color had a role model to look up to in the White House.

Why do you believe it takes so long to break down racial barriers? Can you think of any professions that are challenging to take on due to racial or sexist discrimination?

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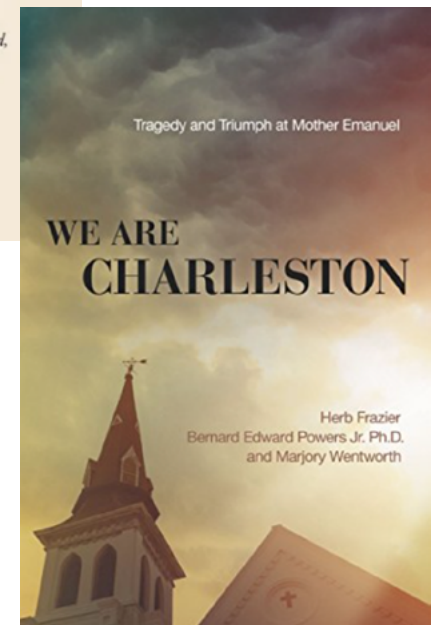
LESSONS

Mr. Frazier traveled the world as a 34-year veteran of journalism. He states, "The most important travel was to Sierra Leone...writing about the West African connection to South Carolina and Georgia. I lived a half a block from Gadsden's Wharf, a place where our ancestors were brought to this country. I don't think any of us knew that connection." The realization that he grew up next to the docks where many captured Sierra Leoneans were brought to Charleston in the slave trade was unknown to Mr. Frazier until adulthood.

Why do you believe visiting Sierra Leone and making the connection between West Africa and Charleston was an impactful part of Mr. Frazier's life and career?

As Herb Frazier looks back at his decades-long career in journalism, he says that journalism now and then is fundamentally the same, however, "How you deliver the news, how you collect the news and the structure of the newsroom, that's vastly different."

How has the news changed over the last fifty years?



[Click here](#) to read an excerpt of the book, *Behind God's Back* by Herb Frazier.

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ABOUT HERB FRAZIER



Herb Frazier is a Charleston, South Carolina-based writer. He's the former marketing director at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston. Before he joined Magnolia, Herb edited and reported for five daily newspapers in the South, including his hometown paper, *The Post and Courier*.

In 1990, the South Carolina Press Association named him Journalist of the Year. He has taught news writing as a visiting lecturer at Rhodes University in South Africa. He is a former Michigan Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan.

After leaving daily journalism in 2006, Herb led journalism workshops in Sierra Leone, Zambia, Ghana, Suriname, Guyana and The Gambia for the U.S. government and a Washington-based journalism foundation.

His international reporting experience includes West Germany during the fall of the Berlin Wall, humanitarian relief efforts in Bosnia and Rwanda during its post-genocide. He also reported on the conflict in Sierra Leone. Herb has written about the historical and cultural ties between West Africa and the Gullah Geechee people of coastal South Carolina and Georgia.

He is the author of "Behind God's Back: Gullah Memories." He is a co-author of "We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel" with Marjory Wentworth and Dr. Bernard Powers Jr. Herb's forthcoming book, "Crossing the Sea on a Sacred Song," is the story of an African funeral song that links a woman in Georgia with a woman in Sierra Leone.

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ABOUT CHARLTON SINGLETON



A native of Awendaw, SC, Charlton Singleton began his musical studies at the age of three on the piano. He would then go on to study the organ, violin, cello, and the trumpet throughout elementary, middle and high school. In 1994, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from South Carolina State University. Since that time, he has taught music at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as being an adjunct faculty member at the College of Charleston. In 2008 he co-founded and became the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra: an 18-piece jazz ensemble of some of the finest professional musicians in the Southeast and the resident big band in Charleston, SC. Mr. Singleton is also the organist and choir director at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Charleston, SC. In November of 2016 he was named the inaugural Artist-in-Residence at the recently renovated Gaillard Center in downtown Charleston. He remained in this position until July 2019; at that point he was named Artist-in-Residence Emeritus.

In this position he continues to lead the Summer Youth Jazz Orchestra Camp as well as lead the “Jazz Through the Ages” assembly, which attracts a capacity crowd of students at the Gaillard Center.

As a performer, Charlton leads his own ensembles that vary in size and style. He has performed in France, Great Britain, Scotland, Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, the Netherlands, as well as many great cities throughout the United States. He is a founding member of a new ensemble called Ranky Tanky. The group is a quintet that interprets the sounds of Gullah from the Southeast Coast of the United States. In 2017 Ranky Tanky reached the top of the Billboard, iTunes, and Amazon Contemporary Jazz charts with their self-titled debut recording. In 2019 they accomplished the same feat with the release of their sophomore effort, “Good Time”, which recently won the 2020 Grammy Award for “Best Regional Roots Music Album”.

In addition to performing, he is in demand as a speaker, clinician, composer, and arranger. He has also shared the stage with and/or worked with some of most talented entertainers in the world, including Bobby McFerrin, Jimmy Heath, Slide Hampton, Houston Person, Darius Rucker, Fred Wesley, and Cyrus Chestnut to name a few. Outside of music and entertainment, he and his wife, MaryJo, are the proud parents of Shalamar and D’Marcus, as well as their pets...Sassy, Jango, Mojo, Kota Bear, Pumpkin, and Ginger.

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