

House Hours

Monday 8a–6:30p
Tues–Thurs 8a–12a
Friday 8a–1a
Saturday 10a–1a
Sunday 10a–3p

Dining Hours

Monday 8a–3p
Tues–Thurs 8a–9p
Friday 8a–10p
Saturday 10a–10p
Sunday 10a–3p

Reservations

To make a dining or program reservation give concierge a call or email:
concierge@commonhouse.com
(434) 566-0192

The Commoner

AUGUST 2019 — ISSUE NO. 9

The Commoner



DO THE BEST
YOU CAN
UNTIL
YOU
KNOW
BETTER.

—THEN—

WHEN
YOU
KNOW
BETTER.
DO BETTER.

August

- THURS, 8/8 **Cocktail Masterclass** 7pm
- MON, 8/12 **Vibe Riot Community Concert** 5pm
- WED, 8/14 **Men's Mornings** 8am
- THURS, 8/15 **David Wax Museum Pre-Release Listening Party** 7pm
- SAT, 8/17 **Somm Scala: Wine Odyssey** 6:30pm
- SUN, 8/18 **Smallmouth Fly Fishing** 9am
- THURS, 8/22 **RdV Wine Tasting & Dinner** 5:30pm
- TUES, 8/27 **Women's Networking w/TheSheLab** 11:30am

– **Recurring** –

Music on the Rooftop



w/ rotating artists
Every Wednesday, 7–9pm

Rooftop Yoga

Every Saturday, 9–10am

Friday Night Social

w/ the Analog DJs
Every Friday, 9pm–late

 common__house
 facebook.com/commonhouse



– **Every Week** –

Tasting Tuesday

5:30–7pm, Tea Room
Free revolving tasting presented by wineries, sommeliers, and retailers

Half-Off Wednesday

All Day, Dining
Half price wine bottles from the menu

No Corkage Saturday

Grab a bottle from the downstairs rack and sip away your Saturday

All events are at Common House unless otherwise noted.

Visit charlottesville.commonhouse.com for updates, current menus, and hours.

Program Highlights

Vibe Riot Community Concert

Monday, August 12, 5-7pm

Music is a language that unites us. East Coast indie band, Vibe Riot, brings together the best of hip hop, jazz, rock, soul, and reggae to create artful expressions of love and community. Imbuing a spirit of healing, Vibe Riot is performing a special concert on the anniversary of August 12th that is open to everyone. Come enjoy their powerful lyrics and harmonious sounds before joining us down the street at the Haven for an interfaith service from 7-9pm as a part of Unity Days C'ville. ▶ *Free, Open to the public*

David Wax Museum Pre-release Listening Party

Thursday, August 15, 7-9pm

Folk duo David Wax Museum's highly anticipated album *Line of Light* will be released to the public on August 23rd on Nine Mile Record and they are sharing it with us ahead of time with an exclusive listening party. Enjoy a lively milieu of interviews with WNRN's Tad Abbey and performances of their new tracks. Produced by My Morning Jacket's Carl Broemel, *Line of Light* weaves the personal with the political, global landscapes with spiritual longings, and all that binds us together through darkness and light. ▶ *Free, Guests welcome, Doors open at 7pm.*

Women's Networking w/ TheSheLab

Tuesday, August 27, 11:30am-1pm

A seasoned executive of biotechnology, Nikki Hastings, is breaking glass ceilings and paving the way for women in STEM fields. A doctorate of Biomedical Engineering, Nikki is a passionate innovator and creative leader who has served as the Vice President of Operations at HemoShear Therapeutics before co-founding CvilleBioHub, where she is the Executive Director. Over lunch, she will share stories about woman in STEM that evoke and inspire. As technology continues to evolve and transform our lives, the need for fuller representation is pressing. Learn from someone who is already closing the gap and pioneering a path for future leaders to come. ▶ *\$12 members, \$20 guests; RSVP required*

OPPORTUNITY

Growth & Expansion

Common House is growing with new positions available in Charlottesville, and many more to come in Richmond... soon.

Please visit commonhouse.com/careers for more information or to apply.

Membership Manager

An engaged community builder who love connecting people. Someone who can analyze metrics and execute deliverables. Familiar with C'ville and willing to travel to RVA. 3-5 years management experience required.

Communications Project Manager

A meticulous and detail oriented creative with the ability to organize a team around deadlines, and execute projects within a budget. Design and communications experience preferred. Some travel required.

Programming Coordinator

High energy and detail oriented curator of experiences. A forward-thinker passionate about hospitality and top-level production. Events or programming background preferred. Some travel required.

Stronger Together

Remembrance and education

by A. Sheehan
Common House

HOPE IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH optimism. It isn't a conviction that is blindly predicated on the belief that things will turn out better than they once were. Hope is in the action—the tireless work and education—to ensure that they do.

No one knew what to expect during the first-year anniversary of August 12. Downtown was a scene from a dystopian novel where helicopters circled the perimeter, cones barricaded walkways, and police were on guard, en masse, at egress points along the Mall. There was little need to be on Main Street; most eateries and businesses flipped their signs to closed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community.

120 miles away in Lafayette Square, Unite the Right II was occurring. Although the City of Charlottesville denied white nationalists a permit to reconvene in Market Street Park (the former Lee Park), there was an air of uncertainty whether the alt-right would mobilize in town and violence would erupt as it had the previous year during two days of trenchant demonstrations resulting in 33 injured and three lives lost.

Time has challenged us to think differently. Charlene Green, the Head of Charlottesville's Human Rights Commission, notes: "Everyone was on edge last year. After it all happened there

was no sense of community, no sense of unity. There was little room to grieve and reflect. Because it was the first-year anniversary, what occurred makes sense—but it wasn't productive. We are now engaged in more generative ways to propel us forward."

As we move into our second year since the rallies, Charlottesville is headed in a community-driven direction with the launch of Unity Days last May. The impetus behind the city-sponsored event series is to lean into the untold stories of our histories and discover actionable steps we can make together toward inclusivity and justice.

"Each month this Summer is themed," Charlene explains, "Focus is not just on what happened two years ago but to educate people on how we arrived where we did by looking at history and inspiring community involvement through dialogue and understanding."

May was centered around the region's history of racial relations. One of Unity Days' opening events was a walking tour of Confederate monuments that sparked the events of August 11th and

12th. Participants met in Court Square where they were guided by Dr. Andrea Douglas (Jefferson School's Executive Director) and Dr. Jalane Schmidt (a Religious Studies professor at UVA) who provided a contextualized history of such statues as Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee, and discussed the role these objects play in national conversations on place and race today.

Virginia has the largest tally of Confederate monuments: 376. These statues were not erected during the Civil War but during segregation. Their place in public spaces reinforces a Jim Crow

ethos by nodding to a romanticized Antebellum past. In the wake of Charleston's shootings in 2015, municipalities across the country made efforts to remove Confederate statues and rename street names. When the former Vice Mayor Wes Bellay

called for the removal of Robert E. Lee, the alt-right attacked with lawsuits, torch-lit protests, and nefarious activities that turned deadly.

After what occurred, the placement of statues still remains in gridlock. The reason may lie in a defunct state law.

Continued on pg.7 →

"It is incumbent upon us to look at Charlottesville's history and connect the dots."

→ **Charlene Green**

New Hill Development

An Interview with Yolunda Harrell

by A. Sheehan
Common House

HISTORY TEACHES US TO PAY ATTENTION. The events of August 11th and 12th have brought longstanding issues of inequality and injustices into the national spotlight. Cast in the shadow of injury and loss, we must confront painful questions: How did we arrive where we are? What can we do to heal?

I had the opportunity to sit down with Yolunda Harrell of New Hill Development—an African American-led enterprise dedicated to empowering our community. She is creating channels for upward mobility through financial literacy, economic development, and affordable housing to strengthen the African American middle class. Inspired by the legacy of Vinegar Hill, New Hill seeks to restore a once thriving neighborhood, built on principles of inclusion, diversity, and advancement for all.

How can we better discuss the history and legacy of Vinegar Hill?

We don't discuss it in a way that is comprehensive. It'd be great to curate

the stories of those who lived in Vinegar Hill to see what life was like then and what was like after it was razed. How were businesses effected? Families? Often people go through school here having not heard about Vinegar Hill. If our local history were taught at all levels of education—especially at the

“There’s room for everyone to thrive without it being a competition.”

collegiate level—we could make better informed decisions and policies that are equitable for everyone. We are still, as a community, are living in the devastating effects of Vinegar Hill’s razing. It shows up in unequal wealth distribution, job opportunities, and racial relations.

When talking about racial relations in our city, it is important to not convey one side versus the another but to tell the whole history through a full spectrum of perspectives and stories. Old images of Vinegar Hill often show its destruction but parts of the neighborhood were not blighted. The footprint looks different now than what it was. McIntire Road cuts through it and parts are chopped

up but some businesses did remain. What Vinegar Hill was—and what New Hill aspires to—is to be a center for all members of the community.

In what ways does New Hill echo Vinegar Hill?

The goal is to get back to a place of ownership and create an ecosystem as it existed before. We hope to make a hub that’s culturally relevant to the African American experience: a place where we can come together, have shops and spaces that are our own while still being inclusive to all. We hope to create avenues toward upward mobility and wealth creation where more and more individuals are thriving not just surviving.

What is the Star Hill Small Area Plan?

After Vinegar Hill was razed, part was folded into the Downtown Mall but large parcels remained underutilized—including Star Hill. With our Small Area Plan, we want to create spaces that reflect the needs of the community and ensure no one is left out of the decision-making process.

We recently launched an online platform PNKYA which allows

individuals to engage within the comforts of their own homes. It is a way to join the conversation: to share your perspectives and hear from others. The platform is a means to balance the needs of each neighborhood with the broader community.

In Charlottesville, there is a shortage of affordable housing and career opportunities. Data and market analyses show us what is driving the local economy and where there are gaps to grow. For example, the tech industry is really taking off here. And jobs within the tech world are good and well paying—so it is important that we ensure a diversity of employees are represented from racial and cultural standpoints.

What you want people to know most about New Hill?

The aim is to create an ecosystem that helps promote diversity and inclusion; one where everyone has the same access to resources and opportunities.

As we approach the anniversary of Aug 12, what do you think are the most important conversation to have around race and history in C'ville right now?

It would be to acknowledge that we don't talk about it enough and often times, there is a sense of forward moving but there is still a lot working against people at a systemic level. For things to change, we need to be open to having dialogue on our systems: What do our institutions look like? Our schools? Is there a diverse teaching staff? Does everyone feel represented?

When there aren't people like you around, you start to believe that a space isn't for you. Places like Common House are great because it is inclusive here; people are represented and therefore

feel a sense of belonging. In our broader society, we often talk about diversity but what we practice needs to match our words. A lot of good work is occurring but we need to keep moving in a more equitable direction.

Final thoughts?

There's room for everyone to thrive without it being a competition. There are enough resources to go around and that's what we want to bring forth with New Hill.



UNITY DAYS, CONT.



^ Robert E. Lee statue



^ Vinegar Hill from above, 1960's

Stronger Together, from pg.4

Under a 1904 Virginia law, local governments have the power to erect war memorials but are not permitted to remove or deface them. Only the state possesses the authority to do such.

Earlier this May, Judge Richard Moore ruled that the statues cannot be removed by localities. In his Plaintiff's brief, he stated that the statues can be seen as both military memorials as well as racist symbols but because the statues are of war generals, they, under state law, are categorized as war monuments and therefore cannot be removed. The case is anticipated to go through appeal at Virginia's Supreme Court.

What the walking tour provided was context: to see the statues firsthand as not static objects but active agents that hold weight. The judge's ruling was, too, discussed. It sparked conversations on how to move forward starting with localities having the right to choose what occupies our public spaces.

The months of June and July were in dialogue with one another, with June focusing on institutional oppression and July spotlighting what leaders in our community are doing about it. Systemic issues pervading beyond racial divides included an exploration of hypermasculinity and its harmful effects

on boys, men, and women with the 2015 documentary "The Mask You Live in" and an in-depth look at issues facing LGBTQ+ communities coinciding with national Pride month.

June's Unity events brought to bear how history isn't just one man's story but is a collection of many. When the lens of viewing our past is widened, we can go beyond limiting outlooks that have and continue to marginalize groups of people under the fallacy of otherness. The pernicious effect of othering is no more prominently seen than with slavery as well as its legacy of oppression that is still felt in our current institutions, landscapes, and neighborhoods.

Vinegar Hill was once a thriving neighborhood of African American economic and social life. Despite segregationist laws, many residents owned their own single-family homes and businesses that served Charlottesville's black and white communities. The neighborhood grew even under the thumb of a post-war era where resources and opportunities were limited. Although over 55 homes and businesses were African-American owned, many dwellings were rented from white property owners who failed to provide adequate plumbing or electricity. In spite of poor living conditions,

Vinegar Hill prospered and became a tight-knit community that over 500 people called home.

Charlottesville grew in the 1950s and with that, Vinegar Hill's central location between the University and Downtown became a point of interest for developers. Concurrently, during the height of Harry Byrd's Massive Resistance policy, the housing authority (CRHA) was established and brought their thinly veiled agenda of "slum cleansing" to the City with the belief that redeveloping Vinegar Hill would improve the local economy by creating "better shops and apartments." In 1964, an announcement was made that the neighborhood would be razed.

Residents of Vinegar Hill were not able to weigh-in on the planned destruction of their homes because of a hefty poll tax that impeded their ability to vote. Even those who were able to vote weren't able to fight the City's red-tape: in 1965, despite a growing resistance against the razing, sounds of bulldozers reverberated through Downtown's corridors. What were once thriving businesses and beloved homes were reduced to rubble. An entire community was forced into public housing projects, which set the stage for cycles of poverty, trauma, and loss that



^ Westhaven housing project that became home to many displaced residents



^ Children playing in Vinegar Hill

still exist for many of Charlottesville's African America residents today.

Fifty years later and the 20 acres remain underdeveloped aside for a smattering of fast food restaurants and the Omi hotel. Plans for revitalization are tenuous at best yet real estate growth in the heart of Downtown is robust. Stakeholders to the Center of Developing Entrepreneurs (CODE)—the large-scale tech-incubator replacing Main Street Arena—plan on creating a park to honor Vinegar Hill. The park isn't meant to only acknowledge displacement but to celebrate what Vinegar Hill really was: A place of vitality. A hub of connection. And the hope is to bring that to light.

Under current state law, Antebellum war memorials cannot be removed by localities but we do have the power to create public spaces and the objects in them that we want to commemorate and celebrate. Vinegar Hill Park is a start.

Unity's Days July screening of *Working for a Better Day: The Drewary Brown Story* offered another promising display of how we can better shape our surroundings. Drewary Brown was a freedom fighter who championed racial and social reform. He co-founded the Monticello Area Community Action Agency and served as president of the NAACP's local chapter. To honor his

legacy, as the film details, the West Main Street Bridge was named after him following his passing in 1998 and each year, a plaque is awarded to a community member who is "removing barriers and building bridges" toward a just and equitable society.

As we enter into August, that is the spirit Unity Days aims to deepen: Togetherness. To create true and meaningful connections takes stepping outside of the present moment and looking to the past to see who and what came before us. We must ask ourselves: How did we arrive where we are? What is the full story? And how do we want to move forward so that history doesn't repeat itself?

On August 12th 2017, Klansmen, neo-Nazis, neo-fascists, and white nationalists descended onto Market Street Park in protest of the removal of Robert E Lee. Many were armed with semi-automatic weapons while chanting hateful rhetoric directed at counter-protestors. Street brawls ensued. Spray gases were admitted. DeAndre Harris was beaten. A state of emergency was issued. Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Pilot Berke M. Bates were killed in a helicopter crash while on their way to secure the city. At 1:45pm, James Alex Fields Jr. drove his car into a crowd of

counter-protestors. Bodies flew. 19 were injured. Of the victims who were hit was Heather Heyer, who when rushed to the hospital, was pronounced dead from blunt force trauma to the chest.

"It is incumbent upon us to look at Charlottesville's history and connect the dots," Charlene Green states, "especially as we move into August. We hope Unity Days is an opportunity for remembrance but also education: to honor those who came before us and pay attention to the space we're in now. There's a lot to pay attention to but it's a powerful thing when we come together to share our stories."

It is only by opening up about our deeply painful past that hope is made possible. Hope isn't something that is ready-made but it is in the struggle, the hard-fought battles, the unsung heroes who often don't appear in our history books but whose names deserve recognition. They are Drewary, DeAndre, Jaline, Andrea, Berke, Jay, Heather, and Charlene. They are also of the names of every displaced person of Vinegar Hill—and those who are currently building bridges to mend the divide: racial, social, political, economic, environmental, gender, and generational.

History shows us that the arc toward justice is indeed long but we have hope. And hope is the best gift we have. <>

House Perks

As a member, these businesses have shared discounts specifically for you. Visit charlottesville.commonhouse.com/house-perks to learn how to take advantage (password "206member").

HOME & RETAIL

Alton Lane

Free dress shirt with purchase of blazer, suit, or tux

Ashby

10% off jewelry and new merch items

Blanc Creatives

15% off handmade cookware

Clementine

10% off jewelry and new merch items

Clover

10% off new gifts and accessories

Criquet

20% off shirts and accessories

Darling Boutique

20% off clothing

e.g.

15% off boutique clothing

Hart Studio

20% off handmade jewelry with free shipping

In Vino Veritas

10% off curated wine; free personal tasting

Jean Theory ***NEW**

15% off designer denim

Melody Supreme

10% off new vinyl

New Dominion Bookshop

10% off new books

Quattro Tizi

15% off men's urban fashion

Rider Boot Shop

15% off luxury leather boots

Rockbridge Guitar Co.

20% off base model guitars

Shockoe Atelier

15% lux denim and personal fitting

Verdigris

20% off of one item

EXPERIENCES

The Albemarle Angler

10% off fly fishing and supplies

Monticello Wine Tours

10-15% off wine tours, private airport shuttles, and corporate transportation

Rivanna River Co.

10% off any rafting trip.

Virginia Discovery Museum

10% off children's birthday parties

LODGING

Fort Lewis Lodge

15% off stay: Thursdays through Sundays

Oakhurst Inn

10% off rooms and a \$30 Food & Beverage credit

Quirk Hotel

10% off reservations and a \$25 food credit

SERVICES

Aqua Hand Car Wash

20% off monthly membership; 10% off any drop-in service

J.W. Townsend Landscaping

10% off any landscape cleanup

Lifeview Marketing and Visuals

10% off all services

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Boar's Head Resort

Discounted initiation fees for any membership

Formula ***NEW**

Use code "CH2019" for 20% off any class package

NUA Medical Spa

10% credit from any treatment in April and May

M3

20% off 4 & 8 class passes; \$75 first month rate

Patcha Thai

Free hot stone add-on with any massage

Posture Studio ***NEW**

10% off all pilates and yoga classes

Pürvelo

15% off all 5, 10, & 20 cycling class packages

Pure Barre

20% off 20 class pack; \$89 first month unlimited

Smooth Skin Laser

10% off any package for permanent hair removal

Tread Happy

20% off 5 & 10 class running and training packages

“SWITCHING TO AN ALL DAY MENU MEANS WE CAN BE more things to more people. Our membership base is diverse and has busy schedules that often don’t fit into designated lunch or dinner hours. We want to accommodate everyone’s needs.

Sometimes it’s 9pm and you’re craving a ham sandwich. Other times, it’s 3 in the afternoon and you want to split a pizza with friends. When you are home, you get what you want and that’s what we’re shooting for: To be a home base for everyone.”

—Chef Matt Greene

The menu will continue to rotate every three months and be seasonally-based with fresh local ingredients. We’ll have a breakfast menu with a range of morning offerings—ricotta toast, charred eggplant, granola parfait, omelet of the day—as well as a forthcoming dessert menu to satisfy your sweet tooth. Bon appétit.

Second Mountain
rum, spices,
fresh citrus, hazelnut



All Day, Alright

The Common House menu is changing to an all day, all item occasion to bring you more of what you love—when you want it.



Artichoke Flatbread
grilled mushrooms, fried artichokes,
hummus, chili purée, cilantro

To make a reservation:
concierge@commonhouse.com
(434) 566-0192