

## 253 Jane

My 18-year-old self lives in Jane. During the Athens, Georgia “race riots” of 1970, this passionate, skinny, privileged white girl, daughter of a liberal university professor, stepped up and offered to join the march from the Black Burney-Harris High School to the white Athens High School, demanding full integration and equality for all Athens youth.

Predictably, I met with ridicule and rejection at the hands of two Black girls in my art class. After all, this was the time of Black Power, and I was the enemy.

Their reaction cured my naivete but reseeded my compassion and dedication to equality in America.

It took the Janes of the world 50 years to figure it out. At a 2020 rally for Breonna Taylor, a young Black woman who was fatally shot by police in her own home, white women acknowledged and used their privilege, linking arms to form a protective barricade between Louisville Metro Police and Black protesters.

Jane represents the circle of white folk who put their bodies on the line to help protect Black demonstrators marching in Black Lives Matter rallies. By using our privileges and differences to advantage, we *can* care for our sisters and advance the causes of justice and equality. It will take all of us.