

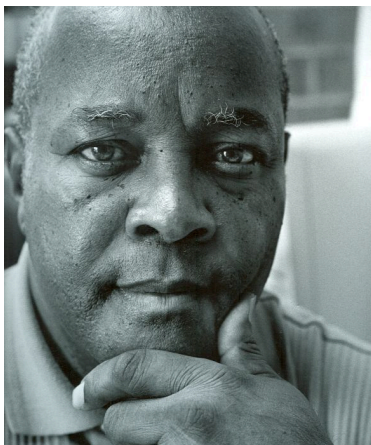
A print-link for neighborhoods of change

NORTHSIDE NEWS

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The Marian Cheek Jackson Center For Saving and Making History



The 2019 Northside Festival is dedicated to Mr. Fred Battle 1943- 2019

This year the Northside Festival will honor Mr. Fred Battle, who passed on Monday, April 1st 2019. Mr. Battle was a great leader and civil rights advocate in the town of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Orange County. He wore many hats — political activist, tireless public servant, beloved mentor, and Northside community pillar— and was always a leading voice for social justice. At the Festival we will celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Fred Battle. Come one, come all!

What is the Northside Festival?

It's not an information fair. It's not an amusement park. It's not a market. Nothing's for sale. Everything's free—and everybody's free. Nobody can afford what anyone else can't and *everybody's everybody*.

The Northside Festival renews the end-of-year festivities at Orange County Training School, the Black school that used to stand on the ground of the new Northside Elementary. The May Pole ribbons will be flying. Kids of ALL ages are invited to join in old-school potato sack and 3-legged races.

It's a union and reunion. Whether your cousins or teachers lived in Northside homes, or you've just moved in, or you worship at one of our pillar churches, or you have a friend who has done any of the above, or you've just

heard how great this neighborhood is and always has been: join us! Come dance in the street, play Spades, feast. Re-unite!

It's a celebration of gifts. You will be knocked out by our local talent—Bubba Norwood on drums, the amazing Jr. Weaver Gospel Singers, the CEF Advocacy Choir offering yet more of its ingenious adaptations of popular songs in support of affordable housing.

And it's an anniversary; The Marian Cheek Jackson Center and the Community Empowerment Fund are each celebrating 10 years in community. What a joy. To mark the day, we're hosting the Rev. Troy F. Harrison Honorary Pig Pickin'—with the help of our friends at Parrish Brothers Farm.

Your plate is waiting.



Great music, great food, great people. In the end, the Festival is about being together in the face of everything that would keep us apart. I can't wait to see you.

—Della Pollock

Celebrating the Festival's Tenth Anniversary: It's all about the music!

Bubba Norwood Returns

Mr. Thomas James “Bubba” Norwood started playing the drums at a tender young age in the Northside neighborhood he grew up in. In a recent interview, he laughs as he recalls his early years:

“When I was real small, I used to pull limbs off of trees and beat up our furniture...I got lots of whoopin's for putting scars on the furniture. I just liked to beat on things. Drums were just in me.”

He played in the band at Northside and in the legendary Lincoln High School band known for parading through the streets of Carrboro and Chapel Hill in their uniforms at Christmas with lit-up hats. People loved it. Bubba was playing with Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts when Ike and Tina Turner came to town, needing a drummer. Doug Clark recommended Bubba, and he auditioned.

After Ike and Tina talked to his mother, he got permission to go on the road with them. He was just seventeen. They played what was then called, the “Chitlin Circuit”:

“We would play all the states but each year we would end up in the theaters. ... the Howard (DC), the Apollo (NYC), the Uptown (Philly), the Regal (Chicago), the Royal (Baltimore).”

He was asked to back up artists like Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Coasters, Jerry Butler, Curtis Mayfield, Patti La Belle, Marvin Gaye, Little Richard, the Monkees, and Albert King. “When I left Ike and Tina, I could play with just about anybody.”

Bubba plays with guitarist and vocalist Harvey Dalton Arnold at this year's Festival.

Praise the Lord: It's the “Junior” Weaver Gospel Singers!

“Oh, well. It's just Jesus. I know it's just Jesus. Oh when you are burdened, His Name relieves us. ...”

Some of you reading this newsletter may remember this opening song that Sister Susie Weaver and the Weaver Gospel Singers sang every Sunday morning on WSRC radio station. It was their theme song, and it would always be followed by a half hour of singing, praising, and obituary updates of persons in our community who had passed on. Sis. Susie Weaver and her husband, Mr. Bynum Weaver were owners of the funeral home, which is why there were obituary updates!

Wanda, Paulette, Sheila, Cleo, and Marsha were the younger members of the group and sang along with their mothers, who were the adult members of the Weaver Gospel Singers. So get ready for a reunion of the “Junior” Weaver Gospel Singers at our Northside Festival on April 27th! This year we want to take a trip down memory lane and relive that moment in time when we were encouraged to “just call on Jesus, our heavenly Father. He satisfies.”

—Kathy Atwater



Pig Pickin' to Honor Rev. Troy F. Harrison



We are blessed to be partnering with the Parrish Brothers, Melvin and David, to host the Rev. Troy F. Harrison Honorary Pig Pickin' at the Northside Festival. The Parrish Brothers are known for their beautiful worship services, their delicious bbq, their generous spirits, their deep faith and dedication to their land. For years, Parrish Bros. Farm has partnered with Heavenly Groceries to eliminate food waste and create a better food system. They continue to own and operate one of the longest standing black-owned farms in Orange County.

The Parrish family has had a role in building and sustaining every part of Chapel Hill/Carrboro. If you haven't been lucky enough to have their barbecue, you may remember their sister Louise's famous pies and pound cakes at the Carrboro Farmer's Market. Regardless, you won't want to miss this - 150 lbs. of delicious, local hog! And don't worry. If you don't eat pork, we'll have a wide variety of food for you, too. We're proud to share the best food yet in honor of Rev Troy Harrison, former pastor at St. Joseph, co-founder of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center, and low-country chef supreme.

—Hudson Vaughan

The Maypole

Ms. Esphur Foster Recalls a Joyful Northside Tradition

Ms. Esphur Foster has lived in her home on Cotton Street in historic Pottersfield for almost 80 years. Here she recalls the May Day festival that capped each year at the Orange County Training School, the first public school for Black children, K-12.

Who can believe that May Day is coming around the corner? Bees are buzzing and pollinating, birds are chirping and whistling, flowers are blooming, trees are bursting out all over in blossoms, and the air is filled with children’s talking and laughter. Little girls practice the wrapping of the Maypole. Mothers are calling the little girls to come in the house to get their hair straightened and curled so that they will look beautiful for wrapping the Maypole. Finally the day has come for little girls with satin belts the colors of the rainbow to match their petticoats under their white organdy dresses, along with white socks and black patent leather shoes, to join in the dance. Oh, what a sight to behold! Now the lively songs are played and the girls skip to the dance steps that they have been taught and the pole is wrapped in bright plaid designs.

We’ll honor the OCTS spring festival by braiding our own Maypole at the Northside Festival. Everyone is welcome to share in the springtime joy!



Calling all
card sharks and
crafty folks!!!
BE A PART of the
Northside Festival
Spades Tournament
and Community
Quilt Making!



Serving food, playing games,
setting-up, demonstrating a dance
move.... Want to lend a hand?
Send us an email at:
www.jacksoncenter.info!

What Does the Northside Festival Mean to You?

“The Maypole dance brings back great memories.”
- Mr. Bruce Washington

“I loved seeing the community come together and the way neighbors just pulled people off the street to join in the festivities!”
- Ms. Kathy Atwater

“The Northside Festival is a 700-person family reunion.”
- Mr. George Barrett

“I absolutely love the Northside Festival: the community, the diversity, the fellowship, the friendships, the joy, the love. There are many faces I see only at this event. I keep meeting new people and learning new things, and best of all, I dance (the only time I ever dance in public!)”
- Ms. Michelle Hayes

“All of them have been real nice; I’ve enjoyed every one of them.”
- Ms. Gracie Webb

Fill a Pan, Give a Pan

Do you have a signature side dish you’d like to share? Why not cook something up for the Northside Festival? If you’ve got the recipe, we’ve got the pan. Actually, we’ve got two. Come by the Jackson Center, and pick up an empty pan... and a second one to pass on to a friend. Then bring your culinary creation to the festival and sample the many other homemade dishes. Taste the abundance!

Ask Keith

Q: At the Northside Festival one year you said that you wanted to “bottle up this day up and spray it all over the world.” What did you mean by that and why should neighbors come to the Northside Festival?

A: Love. We were all gathered and having fun. There were people from every background; economic, racial, young and old, you name it! It is what the world should look like and how we should respect and treat one another. For the few hours we were together it was all about having fun, and that is what we need. No stress, no politics, nothing but God’s love the way he intended it. This year I am asking everyone to come out to the Northside Festival in honor of Mr. Fred Battle, one of Chapel Hill/Carrboro/Orange County treasures, more precious than gold.



THE REV. TROY F. HARRISON
HONORARY PIG PICKIN’
NORTHSIDE FESTIVAL: REUNITE | SNEAK PREVIEW
LOCAL PIG & BBQ FROM PARRISH FARMS IN HONOR OF REV. H

If you are interested in receiving a digital copy of the newsletter, send us your email address! contact@jacksoncenter.info

Coming Soon: Freight Train Blues

Music Maker Relief Foundation partners with the Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department and WUNC to present the Freight Train Blues Music Series at Carrboro Town Commons (Farmer’s Market). Beginning on May 24th, the four-part series will feature performances from blues, gospel, and folk musicians on Fridays at 6:30pm.

On June 7th, the series will showcase the Eastern NC Gospel Jubilee feat. the Glorifying Vines Sisters, Bishop Albert Harrison & the Gospel Tones, James Barrett & the Golden Jubilees, the Dedicated Men of Zion, plus special guests.

The Glorifying Vines Sisters are a thriving musical institution based in Greenville, NC. They’ve been tearing up the road for decades and tearing up every church they visit. But they don’t confine themselves to churches; they’re comfortable playing secular venues, too. “If we’re going to do like Jesus did,” says singer and manager Alice Vines, “then we’re going to go wherever we’re called to go.” She adds, “And we’re going to enjoy ourselves when we get there.”

With over four decades of experience, the Vines Sisters continue to record and perform, and if you hear them—whether at a church in Farmville, the Carrboro Farmers’ Market, or one of their stops along the road—the Glorifying Vines Sisters will definitely have you up, in both body and spirit.

May Birthdays

- 5/3 Janie Alston
- 5/17 Garland Foushee
- 5/19 Richelle Watson
- 5/24 Josh Davis
- 5/30 Donny “Hollywood” Riggsbee

