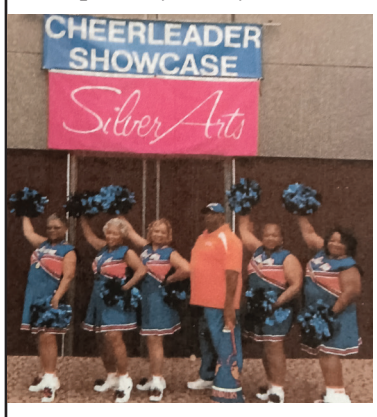
April 2024 *A Print Link for Neighborhoods of Change* Volume 13, No. 3

Northside News

2024 Northside Festival Performers and Entertainment

Compiled by Kathy Atwater & Aisha Booze-hall



Orange County Jammers

The Orange County Jammers were organized in 2005 as a part of the Silver Arts initiative of the Orange County Senior Games. Since the group's inception, "The Jammers", as some affectionately call them, have stayed true to their reputation as a high-spirited and enthusiastic group of senior cheerleaders who love performing for a crowd to bring joy to their hearts and put smiles on their faces. These seniors are 50 and above in age. The Jammers have been very active in the Triangle area for the past few years. Activities include Susan G. Komen for the Cure; events sponsored by several centers in Chapel Hill, including the Hargraves, Jackson, Passmore, and Seymour Centers; the annual Chapel Hill Community Dinner in honor of Mrs. Mildred "MaMa Dip" Council; and numerous monumental birthday celebrations. This squad has had different members along the way and they welcome others to join!



The Jammers performing at the 2018 Northside Festival.

UNC Blue Lightning





Blue Lightning performing at the 2023 Northside Festival.

Blue Lightning is UNC's premiere Stomp 'N' Shake cheerleading team that was established in 2018. This organization provides students with an avenue to participate in a more rhythmic kind of cheer and dance that originally began on campuses of historically-black universities such as Winston-Salem State University and Virginia State University. They uplift and bring entertainment to the community through a style of cheer that is often looked down on. Blue Lightning is more than known to create a rumble on their campus

Junior Weaver Gospel Singers

The Junior Weaver Gospel Singers are children of some of the original Weaver Gospel Singers, which was founded and directed by Rev. Sister Susie Weaver. This group performed all across the research triangle area, had a prison ministry as well as singing every Sunday morning on WSRC radio station. As children, the Junior Weaver Gospel Singers would be sitting and watching their parents sing in the community churches and at the WSRC station and at times would sing with them. The Junior Weaver Gospel Singers are composed of, now recording artist Doris Sheila Caldwell Evans , Paulette Caldwell Dean and Cleo Caldwell who are the daughters of Doris C. Caldwell, vocalist and the pianist for the Weaver Gospel Singers. Marsha Atwater is the daughter of Elizabeth C. Atwater, who also was the vocalist of the original Weaver gospel singers and Wanda Weaver is the daughter of Sister Susie Weaver, again, the founder of the Weaver Gospel Singers.



DJ Avon Lassiter

Avon also known as Aquaboogue, will be a community DJ for the Northside Festival. He worked as a DJ on and off before retiring from the hospital. Throughout his life, he has always loved music. After graduating from Chapel Hill High School he continued DJing at several parties and events for classmates who positively encouraged his skclls. Before retiring, alongside DJingg he also played in a band called Liquid Pleasure before shifting to mostly performing gospel music. When DJing at these events Aquaboogie got such robust positive feedback that encouraged him to invest in his skill when he had more time. If you're interested in having Aquaboogie pay at one of your events then please contact him at 919-338-9761.



Mr. Avon DJ'ing at a Northside Student Welcome event.

Finesse

Finesse is an R&B/Motown band comprised of talented musicians who have been performing for over 20 years in the Triangle and beyond. Their goal is to inspire and touch hearts and souls in their community and music has done throughout generations around the world. To book them for an event, contact their booking manager Otis Sanders at osanders67@yahoo.com or 919-381-8403.



Finesse performing at the Northside Festival in 2017.

Emcee Cortland Gilliam



Cortland Gilliam is a poet, educator, cultural organizer, and Ph.D. candidate in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In his creative and academic work, he explores the hues and textures of racialized experiences, identities, and histories. Within community Cortland serves as the Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Marian Cheek Jackson Center and as the Town of Chapel Hill's second Poet Laureate.

Ask Ms. Keith Edwards

Originally published in the April 2023 Northside News

I have never been to the Northside Community Festival. What is the purpose of it?



Hello everyone,

I hope everything is going well in your lives. I know you haven't heard from me in a while, so let me tell you I'm glad to be back answering your inquiries. To answer the question, the Northside Festival started as a gathering of many people who live in the Northside community to reconnect with one another and have a lot of fun. The gathering became so popular with not only the Northside community but people from other communities in the Town of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The gathering progressed into a full-blown festival for all. It is a fun time for people to reconnect with lifetime community members, new members, and for hosts of others who want to forget about life's problems for a few hours and enjoy themselves.

Every time I attend the Northside community festival, I feel as if this is the way that life is supposed to be. With people from every walk of life gathering together as human beings reaching out to each other with love and understanding. We need this all over this world. If this is your first time attending, I hope you can walk away feeling the same way. We welcome all.

Since this is a free event, the Jackson Center will be providing hot dogs, drinks, and other foods. However, we at the Jackson Center ask that if there is anyone who wants to volunteer or donate food for the festival, it would be greatly appreciated! We have some aluminum pans. You can stop by our office at 512 W Rosemary St. to pick one up before April 27th. You can bring your pan when you come to the festival, the earlier the better!

Our entertainment this year will be outstanding, and they can't wait to entertain you! Kudos to the Jackson Center and all those who are organizing or participating in this event. Security will be provided.

Love to all, and if my health permits, I will see you at the festival!



Meet Northside Neighborhood's Talented Tailor: CYNTHIA LENNON

Barbara Ashdown



From her tiny shop on the top floor of Midway Business Center, 109 Graham Street, Cynthia Lennon transforms both young and mature women's garments into stylish, wearable masterpieces. Lennon, a masterful seamstress and tailor, remakes all types of garments: pants, skirts, tops, jackets, dresses; even torn-up beloved pet toys. She makes old things like new - only better. And ensures that newer things fit the owners to a "T".

Lennon, owner of Cynthia's Tailor Shop, grew up on a small family-owned farm in Eastern North Carolina. She was one of ten children. She and her siblings helped with all the farm chores, including harvesting the tobacco.

In addition to tobacco, Cynthia adds that the farm had "three pigs and mules that helped pull the plows before tractors were added." The family also had a garden growing mostly collards, corn and cucumbers.

The other source of the family income was money her mother earned from making and selling quilts. Transactions were made by word of mouth. She learned as a child of six years to sew squares of material together to make a complete quilt. Everything was done by hand although eventually the family acquired a pedal-driven sewing machine.



Cynthia loves to sew. As a young girl and continuing through most of her early life she made some of her own clothes: shirts, pajamas, skirts, dresses, etc. She also made her brother an elementary school "graduation" suit.



Lennon was one of almost 200 in her high school class. She remembers that her school became integrated during the years she attended school. She loved school. Learning, she said, was fun for her being with friends and it "gave me an opportunity to get away from just being on the farm."

During high school and through her college years she studied business administration because she "did not want to become a farmer." She graduated with a degree in business administration from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.



After graduation she wanted to move out of the area but chose to stay at home and take care of her parents. She accepted a job with Blue Cross & Blue Shield (BCBS) of North Carolina, assigned to the Chapel Hill office.

She met her husband, Jerry, while working at BCBS. Eventually they married and, during their first ten years together, had four daughters.

After leaving her job to become a stay at home mom, she continued to sew for others, making bridal gowns and other clothing as well as altering items. In 1990 she was introduced to Scott's Tailor Shop at Five Points in Durham. She altered clothing for that business at her home while continuing her other sewing work.

She opened her first business outside of her home in 2004. She ran a small shop at University Square in Chapel Hill. She worked there eight years. She then moved to University Mall, expanding her business to include three other seamstresses.



When University Mall closed in 2022 for redevelopment, a customer told her about an available space closer to UNC. She moved to her current location at the Midway Business Center on Graham Street and has continued her business there for the last two years. As a result of this move she has lost about half of the customers she worked with at University Mall and hopes to regain more clientele through word of mouth and local publicity.

She is an extremely talented and experienced tailor. Her numerous types of alterations and sewing have included:

• HEMING, SIZING, AND FITTING

• USING WORN GARMENTS FOR PATTERNS TO CREATE A NEW GARMENT THAT IS SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL

• REPAIRING AND RECONSTRUCTING

• SEWING ON TRIMMING, BUTTONS, ZIPPERS, STRAPS, SEQUINS, PEARLS, FAUX GEMS, AND ALL OTHER POSSIBLE GARMENT ENHANCEMENTS

• PATCHING JEANS, ETC

She prefers to sew women's garments, although she has also worked with both men's and children's clothing. She feels rewarded to "see people's eyes light up" when they are happy with the way their garments make them look and feel.

Cynthia's Tailor Shop is open from 11am to 3pm, Tuesdays through Fridays. She can make arrangements for private appointments at other times as necessary. She can be contacted at 919-929-6236. Her website is http://www.cynthiastailorshop.org

K. N. Jones Memorial Care, LLC

Where Compassion Meets Service

K.N. Jones Memorial Care, LLC began operating on January 1, 2024. Born and raised in Chapel Hill, Kristina N. Jones, our founder and licensed funeral director is committed to providing compassionate and affordable care to all families served.

We proudly serve Chapel Hill, N.C. and surrounding areas. However, we are willing to serve anywhere in the state.

Where is your building?

We do not have one. We contract with a local embalming facility and crematory. We also have separate office space to store important documents and records.

What if I already have a preneed with another funeral home?

We are unable to sell preneed contracts at this time. However, your contract CAN be transferred to us at the time of your death.

Where are viewings held?

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- Direct cremation and immediate burial

- Ship-in and ship-out

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- Competitive pricing

We would love to help you honor the life and legacy of your loved one. Our dedicated team is available to assist your family 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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knjonesmc@gmail.com knjonesmemorialcare.com



In Memoriam



Mr. Garland Foushee
May 17, 1918 - March 28, 2024
(105!)



Mrs. Martha Atwater Barbee
April 7, 2024



Mr. Xavier Marcell Purefoy
April 2, 1973 ~ March 24, 2024

May Birthdays

May 3 Janie Alston
May 3 Cleo Caldwell
May 6 Diana Koo
May 7 Valerie Foushee
May 18 Kay Gattis
May 19 Richelle Watson
May 24 Josh Davis
May 29 Jennette Farrington
May 30 Donnie Hollywood Riggsbee
May 30 Gladys Pendergraph-Brandon