



PREVIOUS

Mary Bogest: Remember the past, prepare for the future



## Mary Bogest: Jamestown Pig Pickin' sets a new record

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Special | Mary Bogest

The theme was “Patriots & Pigs” at the seventh annual Jamestown Pig Pickin’, a fundraiser for Family Service of the Piedmont.

This fundraiser has been a success from the beginning. More than 700 attended this year's event on the lawn of Jenny and George Ragsdale's Magnolia Farm. According to Jody Susong, marketing and development officer for Family Service, \$115,000 was raised, a new record.

This is the second year that sponsors have been invited to a pre-pig pickin' event for the sponsors — the Swine Soirée held poolside at Magnolia Farm. The Swine Soirée featured cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, friendship and fellowship. Special thanks for the Swine Soirée go to the Full Moon Oyster Bar. Thanks also go to Jamestown United Methodist Church, which provided parking, a lot of parking.

There will be many more "thanks" as this column goes on.

With camera and notebook in hand, I arrive at the Swine Soirée. I knew early would be the best time to get my desired photos. The pig pickin' "pig" (paper mache, I think) now named "Hamlet" greeted me as I arrived. Brenna Farley gets the credit for being the first to nominate the name "Hamlet." She won two tickets to the Jamestown Pig Pickin'.

It was a hot evening, so just the thought of being poolside for the Swine Soirée was appealing. I first spotted Dr. Lenny Peters with Pia Inca. Peters, founder of Bethany Medical Center and Peters Medical Research, has become a premier advocate for our community through the Lenny Peters Foundation. Peters began this nonprofit in 1993 to give back to the communities that touched him in his life journey.

We are so fortunate that High Point and the surrounding area has been the beneficiary of so much of his philanthropic efforts. Especially in the past two years it seems that almost every nonprofit organization event has been the beneficiary of a Lenny Peters Foundation sponsorship. The Lenny Peters Foundation was the presenting sponsor. If you are wondering what other community touched him in his life journey, that community is Kerala, India. His foundation provides financial assistance to over 200 orphans for housing, food and education through the Jayamatha Orphanage.

I need to find out the rest of the story sometime.

Bob Brown chatted with Peters, Inca and Dr. L'Tanya Bailey, an orthodontist specialist who has a ton (not a medical term) of awards and recognitions. Bailey maintains a full schedule in her orthodontics practice in High Point while also continuing as an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I admit that I am awestruck by Brown who grew up on the other side of Commerce Street and raised by his grandmother of whom he still speaks glowingly of today. Brown has an endless number of stories to share involving such luminaries as President Richard Nixon, Bobby Kennedy and Brown's close friendships with Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, just to name a few. This month Brown will add to his honors as vice chairman of the High Point University Board of Trustees. Jack Finch will become chairman.

Recently, Brown spoke at the Rotary Club of High Point (he was introduced by my friend Herman Hunter). Brown shared a story involving one of our most admired citizens, Bill Horney, whose 100th birthday is near. Here it goes. Many years ago while Brown and his late wife Sally were in Nigeria helping to set up their government (yes, that is correct), Brown said the new government needed an official seal. He literally called around the globe trying to find a company that could print such a thing. Then one day he was advised that there was a company, Mirro Products (owned by Bill Horney), in a place called High Point, North Carolina, Brown literally went around the world to get the government seal that is still used to this day.

I strolled around the pool, carefully avoiding backing up, as I took photos. I spotted Lou GTCC President Randy Parker and his wife Ann, Billy Ragsdale, Jan Hartley, Janice Kubinsky, Mary Jo and Harold Creech, Carolyn and Belvin Smith, co-chairpersons Elizabeth Swaim and Curtis Collins. The event's theme, Patriots and Pigs, was in honor of veterans and military service members. Honorary Co-Chairmen Bruce Dillon and Dana Hughes were recognized for their longtime support of veterans in Jamestown as members of the Jamestown Veterans Committee.

Next my mission was to get a photo of BBQ Joe (Housand) and his crew. It had to be done early, before over 700 guests arrived. My hat really goes off to Joe II (Big Joe) owner of BBQ Joe's Country Cooking and Catering as he donated all of the barbecue chicken and the pork. I love his barbecue so much, I even had it for dessert. Yep.

Joe's passion is cooking and he says, "Running a restaurant is more than just a business. It is a chance to share delicious barbecue and country cooking that ties us to our home, family, and community."



BBQ Joe's was a signature sponsor along with Southern Event Rental. There were other sponsors at the gold, silver and bronze levels.

Then, it was time for barbecue, music (by UBU), dancing and also patriotism including the presentation of the flag, a very special and emotional Pledge of Allegiance led by decorated WW II Normandy survivor Ray Hurley followed by an equally heartfelt rendition of the "National Anthem" sung by Kolby Garrison, who is blind, with her service dog Amelia at her side. Thanks also go to Cub Scout Pack 85 and Boy Scout Troop 8.

What a beginning to a wonderful evening.

That wonderful evening continued as I ate my barbecue with my dear friends Chris and Charlie Greene. What a year they have had. I am pleased to say that both of their scans have shown that they are cancer free. Many stopped to chat with both Charlie and Chris, including their close friend James McNeil, Carlvena and Otis Foster and many, many others. Last year, Chris was the honorary Pig Pickin' chairperson. Jamestown is near and dear to her heart as she taught at Ragsdale High School for many years. She will receive another high honor, the "Julia B. Nile For Love of Family Award" from Family Service on Sept, 26 at their annual meeting. I'll be there.

Family Service thanks all of the sponsors, hosts and everyone who played a part in the most successful Pig Pickin' to date. See you next year.

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