

January 18th, is a very special day.....because a very special lady will celebrate her 98th birthday today! Your own life has undoubtedly been touched by her and we would like to invite you to use the opportunity of her birthday to help us thank her.



Ninety-eight years ago today Mazie Jones Levenson was born to Dr. John Walter and Mattie Blackburn Jones in what is now widely known as the Jones House. When Mazie eventually inherited the family home, she wanted to find a way that it could serve the Boone community and proposed to the Town of Boone that it purchase the home from her at a nominal sum with the stipulation that it should become a Community and Cultural Center to serve the Boone community for posterity. Because of Mazie's foresight and her love for the Boone community and for the arts, the Jones House has now become a well-known and well-loved landmark in downtown Boone. It has been the site of countless community events and celebrations over the years such as 4th of July celebrations, Christmas parades and events, and so much more. It has also been the site of innumerable private events such as weddings, showers, retirement celebrations, birthday parties, and the like.

If you have ever been part of any event or celebration at the Jones House.....

If you have ever enjoyed ice cream, watermelon, or other such treats on the lawn.....

If you have ever admired it aglow in its holiday finery during the Christmas season.....

If you have ever enjoyed a Summer Concert on the Lawn....

If you have ever browsed the galleries, attended a gallery reception to meet the exhibiting artist, or even purchased a work of art....

If you have ever been to a meeting held at the Jones House....

If you have ever simply enjoyed a picnic or sitting on the lawn.....

If you have ever taken lessons or if your child has taken lessons at the Jones House.....

If you have ever played in the leaves of the giant maple trees in the fall.....

If you have ever been to a wedding, or a shower, or a reception, or a party at the Jones House.....

If you have ever simply walked your dog on the lawn.....

If you have ever rented the space for your private or public event.....

If you care about what the Jones House means to our community.....

....then you may very well want to pay tribute to the woman behind the concept as she celebrates her 98th birthday!

Yes, the Town of Boone does indeed own the building and takes wonderful care of it...

And yes, the Watauga County Arts Council is responsible for presenting almost all of the programs and activities which the community enjoys at the Jones House...

And yes, there are many volunteers and community members who have worked and contributed over the years to help the Jones House become what it is today.....

But if it were not for Mazie Jones Levenson's inspiration and encouragement, it is quite likely that this gracious old building which has contributed so much to this community over the years would not even be here...or it might be an office building or a parking lot instead! And the more than 150,000 people who have visited it during these years would have never had the experience and the pleasure of enjoying the Jones House Community and Cultural Center in the heart of downtown Boone.

On Saturday, January 21st I will be attending a small gathering in Winston Salem honoring Miss Mazie and I will be taking with me a card which already bears several signatures and to which you are cordially invited to add your own name and greeting. Or, if you would prefer, I will be happy to take any cards, small gifts, and congratulatory wishes you may wish to send her. Although her health is not perfect, she's in amazingly great physical and mental health and I know she will be quite delighted to know that her hometown friends and community wish her well.

Since there will be a gallery reception from 6:30 until 8:00 on Friday evening, January 20th at the Jones House (honoring the Watauga High School Art Alumni Open Invitational Exhibition) I will be there that evening. So anytime between now and the close of that Friday evening, you are welcome to bring by your own card or to come add your name to the card upon which we have already begun collecting signatures.

Also, I have sent this email to quite a few people, but undoubtedly I have missed many more so please help spread the word by sharing this information with those whom you think might want to participate.

With best wishes,

Cherry

Cherry Johnson

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