

YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL



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Before The Yiasou Greek Festival There was Greek Night

Greek Night 1970-1977

Did You know that The Yiasou Greek Festival is a result of Holy Trinity's Greek Night? Greek Night served as the church's annual fundraiser from 1970 until 1977 when it outgrew itself. Parishioners brought their families, friends and special guests to enjoy an evening of Greek Culture. The event took place in the Hellenic center, which is now called the Father C Hall. It seemed appropriate to rename the facility after the beloved Fr. Phaethon Constantinides since it was his idea to host Greek Night and it was also his idea to introduce the festival to the Charlotte Greek Community.

The Yiasou Greek Festival 1978

The first festival, a three day event consisted of a room with crafts for sale, a cultural and religious exhibit, a "White Elephant room" with attic sale items and a room of Greek food items. The children's attraction was a donkey ride with a photo taken afterward. The traditional pastries such as baklava and koulourakia sold successfully. Approx. 3,000 people attended the first festival and surpassed everyone's expectations. Today, Yiasou Festival is a four-day event that draws more than 45,000 visitors and has become one of the largest Greek festivals in the United States.