



Johnson House Annual Report

The Johnson House is the only documented station on the Underground Railroad that operates as a museum in historic Germantown.

2010

Let the Next Phase Begin!

Phase of the Johnson House restoration project, Mobilization I, is complete and we are well into planning for the implementation of the Phase II! Working closely with preservation architects Kise Straw & Kolodner, a comprehensive plan was developed to repair and restore the house and stabilize the outbuilding. The roof on the main house was replaced with very long historically accurate cedar shakes with beveled butts, the crumbling chimneys were rebuilt, and the windows on the third floor of the house were repaired. All of the gutters, flashings, and downspouts will were replaced to ensure that water is kept out of the house. The entire Germantown façade was pointed with new mortar that will not only help our landmark look great, but also more importantly keep water from seeping through the walls. There is much more work to be done in the near future, and your continued financial support is needed to preserve the Johnson House for current and future generations.



A view of the new roof of cedar shakes, one of the rebuilt chimneys and new gutters and flashing.

We launched a new website in April 2010! Visit the site to learn about 2011 events and on-going programs at www.johnsonhouse.org

2010 in Review

The Johnson House Historic Site, Inc. (JHHS) Board of Directors dedicated 2010 as a year of intense hard work and planning to strengthen the organization. Cornelia Swinson was hired as the new executive director after serving as a board member for many years. New directors were added to the board: Patricia Bass, R.. N./M.A.; Michael Quintero-Moore and Dr. Diala Toure, Ph. D.

The Johnson House anticipates that the 2011 program year will present new opportunities for collaboration with new partners and build upon and expand programs piloted during 2010.

The Board and staff remains dedicated to its mission of preserving the legacy of this American Treasure by providing exceptional education programs and partnering with the community. In addition to annual events various "Fund-" and "Friend-" raising events such as *The Conductors Ball*, and *Jazz in the Garden*, will be held in hopes of generating revenue and increasing membership and visitation to the "House".

Visit the Johnson House in 2011! Historic Germantown

The Johnson House is a proud member of Historic Germantown (HG), a collaborative of fifteen historic and cultural organizations located within miles of one another in the heart of one of the nation's oldest and storied communities. Over the course of three decades, the consortium has undertaken a range of

projects in pursuit of its mission: “To foster an appreciation of the diverse character and meaning of our cultural heritage in order to preserve and revitalize our community. To this end, we cooperate in providing knowledge and resources to help preserve Germantown’s historic sites, interpret them to the public, and incorporate them into the life of the local

community.” To learn more about HG collaborative efforts visit their website at: www.freedomsbackyard.com



2010 Programs & Events

145th Anniversary of Juneteenth

Johnson House celebrated the anniversary of passage and ratification of 13th Amendment to the US Constitution ending slavery in the United States. Over 150 men, women and children enjoyed an outdoor festival held along the 6300 block of Germantown Avenue with activities for the whole family designed to bring history to life for all to enjoy. Harriet Tubman told her story of helping African Americans to seek their freedom. If you missed this living history experience plan to attend next summer!



Millicent Sparks portrayed Harriet Tubman in front of the sole remaining outbuilding and adjacent to garret where escaping slaves were said to have hid.

Women’s History Month

Historic Women in Action celebrated accomplishments of women who lived and worked to preserve the Johnson House Historic Site as agents of change in Germantown during the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibit provided a glimpse into the lives of several individuals and groups of men and women who devoted their lives to become a beacon of conscience in the Germantown community for over 300 visitors.



Sandra Chaffe, Germantown Historical Society and Cornelia Swinson, Johnson House Executive Director examines Woman’s Club of Germantown artifacts.

The 4th of July

A large crowd gathered on the grounds of the Johnson House to watch a retired National Park Service Ranger and noted historical re-enactor, give a presentation on the life of black abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor Samuel Burris. Over 100 visitors were in attendance to share in this important presentation to highlight the role of African Americans and the struggle for freedom and independence.



Joe Becton, re-enacting abolitionist Samuel Burris

10th Annual Jazz in the Garden

The temperature read “hot” on that Saturday afternoon in August but not as hot as the jazz!

Over 200 braved the heat and ate a sumptuous meal under tented tables along with our friends and neighbors, supporters, business partners, and public officials in our historic gardens.



Sonny Keaton, Organ Q-Tet, Reel Jazz



Guests enjoy the music, food and each other!

The Education Never Stopped!

a history, arts, culture education program was developed around the ancient Southern African ethical principle meaning 'humanity towards others. This fascinating adventure aimed to help students to understand the value and challenges of working and walking together to achieve FREEDOM AND HOPE in Historic and modern-day Germantown. A memorial will be built in the garden made from cement footprints molded by students. Partners included were: the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust and Kaman & Erland EKE, LLC.



Joel Erland of Kaman & Erland, EKE, LLC help our summer tour students dip their feet in cement!



Molding feet for memorial UNBUNTO “

UBUNTU (ooboonto’)

ShIPLEY School Students Volunteer



Thanks Shipley School student volunteers for helping with our fall landscape clean-up after your tour!

Freedom Essay Contest

Commemorating the 322nd Anniversary of the First Protest Against Slavery generated diversity in school participation including: traditional public schools, charter public schools and home schoolers. Students in different grade levels submitted essays on three topics: impact of protest on society; impact of the civil rights movement; and the difference between protest yesterday and today. Two winners were home schooled sisters!



Proud winners receive their monetary awards: (front row): Zora Mitchell, Nina Mitchell. (back row): Miquael Baylor; Theodore J. Fox; and Hunter Baylor.

2010 in Review

2010 Accomplishments

Tours/Events

3,244 tour admissions
1,197 event attendees

Community Partners

Black Writers Museum
Classic Town Germantown
Color Book Gallery
Commonwealth Youthchoirs
EKE Architectural Artworks
ENPYSC Youth Summit
Germantown Community Connections
Greater Germantown Business Assoc
Historic Germantown
Mosaic Theatre Productions
National Trust for Historic Preservation
People's Festival
Speak Out Cancer Foundation
6300 Germantown Avenue Alliance

Programs

The Road to Freedom Project
The UNBUNTO Project

Volunteers

Mary Morrow-Farrell
New Covenant Church Youth Group

The Shipley School
Donnie Smith

Internships

Mastery Charter School
The Cyberhood Initiative

Grants

Department of Community & Economic Development
Green Energy Program
PA Historic & Museum Commission
Philadelphia Commerce Department

Our Generous Donors

The Johnson House Historic Site thanks the generous individuals, businesses, organizations, foundations, and government agencies who continue to support our important work. Your unrelenting support is what enables the Johnson House to continue its function as a historic mainstay of the Germantown community.

\$500 - \$999.00

Patricia J. Bass
Friends of John Myers
M. Lawton Associates

\$100 - \$499

6300 Block Alliance
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Sheila Bennett
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Classic Management
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Joan Spry
George Timbers

Benjamin Tisdale
L. M. Williams
Patricia Williams
Kimberlee Wilson-Mander

*Thousands travelled
through this Underground
Railroad Stop, were you
one of them?*



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