



ANCESTRAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY HONORING JAMES COLLINS JOHNSON

Lecturer in Dance Dyane Harvey-Salaam and students in her course “The American Dance Experience and Africanist Dance Practices” welcome Chief Ayanda Clarke for a collective Ancestral Remembrance Ceremony honoring James Collins Johnson and the naming of the easternmost East Pyne Archway for him. The ceremony to be led by Chief Ayanda includes a traditional spiritual blessing of the space acknowledging Johnson’s ancestral spirit through dance, music and spiritual ritual.

Mr. Johnson, whose story was unearthed and shared through the Princeton & Slavery Project, was a fugitive enslaved African from Maryland who worked on campus for more than 60 years, first as a janitor and then for many years as a vendor of fruits, candies and other snacks that he sold from a wheelbarrow. When he died in 1902, alumni and students purchased a headstone for him in Princeton cemetery, and inscribed an epitaph that described him as “the students friend.” Last April the University Trustees accepted a recommendation to name the archway for Johnson.

October 22, 2018, 3:30-4:30 P.M.
East Pyne Archway, Princeton University campus

Presented with support of the Campus Iconography Committee and Princeton & Slavery Project.

Free and open to the public
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