



James H. Johnson

December 10, 1932 - February 2, 2016

James H. Johnson, Architect, passed away February 2, 2016, at the age of 83. Jim, as he was known, was well recognized for his unique architectural designs and innovative structures, including the Liberty Pole, Temple Sinai, the Mushroom House, Church of St. John the Evangelist, St. Januarius Church in Naples, NY, the Phyllis Wheatley Library and many custom homes. Jim graduated from the School of Architecture, Oklahoma State University. He moved to Rochester in 1957 and received his architectural license in 1959. He established his own practice in 1960, at the age of 27, with the commission to design Our Lady of Mercy Parish Center. Jim combined architectural design inspiration with engineering ingenuity in his passion to fulfill his clients' dream visions and make them a reality. From the drafting board to the finished project, Jim had a hands-on approach and brought considerable knowledge to each phase of the construction process. His love of nature inspired many of the organic forms his designs represented. He received awards for his pioneering contributions, including the Liberty Pole Design Competition, the Lillian Fairchild Award from the University of Rochester, and the Landmark Society's Lifetime Achievement Award. Many of his significant works are being archived at the Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester. In addition to his work, he enjoyed spending time with his family sharing his interests in the arts, sports, fishing, skiing, hiking, and boating. He combined his love of travel with his passion for studying the built world around him. Jim is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Sarah; daughters, Amy (Fred) Schwendler of Akron, OH, Sarah E. (Bruce Johnson) Johnson, Julie B. (Robert Yockel) Johnson, Jennifer (Sothara Chin) Johnson of Washington, DC; grandchildren, Fritz and Henry Schwendler, Madeline Johnson, Genevieve, Stefan and Juliana Chin.

A Memorial Service will be held at 4:00pm, at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Rd, Rochester, 14625, on February 11, 2016. A Celebration of Life will follow the service. Friends are invited to bring a written memory or photo for the family's Memory Book.

Contributions may be made to Landmark Society, 133 South Fitzhugh St, Rochester, NY 14608 or Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607. To share a memory of Jim or send condolences to the family, visit www.anthonychapels.com.

Events

FEB **Service** 04:00PM

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Temple Sinai

363 Penfield Rd., Rochester, NY, US, 14625

Comments



“ Hi Johnson family,

As I'm in Israel, I'm kind of out of the loop.
I came across the sad news of Jim's passing away, and I just wanted to send a note.
I really loved Jim. He was such an inspiration for me.
There were things he said and did which I'll never forget.
How to take a corner that doesn't quite fit, and make it into an interesting architectural feature.
Once he dipped his hand into some white paint and put it onto a sculpture idea I was working on. Such loving encouragement.
I'll never forget.

Yours Truly,
Paul Kalnitz

Paul Kalnitz - June 09, 2016 at 02:58 AM



“ To all The Johnson Family: I was sorry to hear about Mr. Johnson's death. But reading about him brought back so many memories of my grandparents (Don & Zoe) and all the wonderful times they shared with your family. Somewhere in my files I have a wonderful narrative that my grandfather wrote about a trip they had taken with Jim to visit his family in the Ozark mountains. They had such a fun time, I remember my grandfather talking about it for weeks after they got back. Your entire family brought much joy to my grandparents over many years of friendship. Please know you have my sympathy and prayers as you go through this sad time.

-Joe Bovet

Joe Bovet - February 11, 2016 at 08:20 PM



“ I am so sorry to learn of Jim's passing - and just after the lovely article appeared in the local paper regarding your great house. I have fond memories that take me back to our Brighton Pres church days - remember when I stayed with the girls while Sarah and Jim traveled? We had fun, and they made me feel like I knew what I was doing in your kitchen making dinners :) I am so sorry - and will miss seeing Amy, young Sarah, Julie, and Jenn - and all their children. Thinking of all of you, Laurie Mahoney

Laurie Mahoney - February 11, 2016 at 12:07 PM



“ Mr Johnson was such a sweet man; truly remarkable in his field; and we knew him as the wonderful husband to Sarah(our two children took cello lessons from her); at the famous Father's day cello recitals at their home, Mr Johnson would graciously ready refreshments for the guests following the recital. He'd so happily discuss his architectural accomplishments with any of us adults who "asked"...Loved him !
Our deepest condolences to Mrs Johnson and all of his family.
Ken and Janice Smith(and Christopher and Hilary too)

janice smith - February 11, 2016 at 10:19 AM



“ Our Deepest Sympathy, AIDD Staff purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James H. Johnson.



Our Deepest Sympathy, AIDD Staff - February 10, 2016 at 04:41 PM



“ From your extended BOCES family at Linden Park. purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of James H. Johnson.



From your extended BOCES family at Linden Park. - February 08, 2016 at 02:18 PM



“ Sincerest sympathies to my former colleague Sarah and the rest of Jim's family. May you find comfort in your warm memories of the years you had with Jim.

John Denison
Wilmington, NC

John Denison - February 08, 2016 at 01:01 PM



“ With love, Sue and Vince Chang purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James H. Johnson.



With love, Sue and Vince Chang - February 07, 2016 at 11:22 PM



“ We are thinking of you at this time, when so many emotions are at hand. Your dad will be remembered for his creations, and so much more. While talking with him that night, it read clear he was very happy to be in your house for your neighborhood holiday party this year, to be in a space he helped create, that others will enjoy for years to come.

We also enjoyed being in his home for your mom's birthday celebration last year, to see another of his beautiful designs. I am sure he will be missed; be sure to celebrate in his life.

Doug Jacobs-Perkins

Doug - February 05, 2016 at 06:34 PM



“ Dear Sarah and family,

So sorry to hear about the passing of Jim. He was such a wonderful man and friend of The Maloy family. He made such a significant contribution to architecture and so much more. May your many fond memories help you through this difficult time.

Richard Maloy



Richard Maloy - February 05, 2016 at 12:05 PM