

Stowe Prize Celebration

June 4th was a very busy day in Asylum Hill especially for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. The Big Tent Jubilee, the presenting of the Stowe Prize, the talk by the winner, and the networking fair were all part of one very busy day.

The Celebration of the Big Tent Jubilee is the Stowe Center's annual celebration dinner and fundraiser to support education programs. The Stowe Prize is awarded on alternate years to a writer whose written work makes an impact on a critical social issue in the tradition of Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. That writer traditionally gives an address in the afternoon that is preceded by the Inspiration to Action Networking Fair which takes place at Immanuel Congregational Church.



The fair was a great success as measured by the density both of those presenting and those looking for inspiration. There was barely room to turn around in the church hall, with dozens of conversations going on the entire hour plus. Photos are available at

<https://goo.gl/photos/vr2Jp4iRsYmkUBe46>

Gradually everyone made their way into the sanctuary where John Dankosky from WNPR



interviewed Ta-Nehese Coates for more than an hour. It was a riveting interview, and while the sound system and the church acoustics worked at odds with one another, the audience was in rapt attention the entire time. The very good news is that WNPR recorded the entire interview and it can be clearly heard at <http://wnpr.org/post/ta-nehisi-coates-makes-case-reparations#stream/0> This is especially

important because his topic of reparations for slavery is so important and the argument for it so cogent that it will likely require more than one listen to really understand. The rest of the evening was the grand celebration. The donors at the highest levels were treated to a private reception with Ta-Nehese Coates that included Governor Malloy among others at the Stowe House. They were then escorted by Alvin Carter the drummer, & Mellissa Noluthando the stilt walker, from the house to the big white tents.

The entire day was something Asylum Hill can be very proud of.

