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*Photo Available Upon Request*

## **Six Honored at Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting**

More than 175 members and friends of the Oberlin Heritage Center gathered at the Oberlin Inn on April 1 to celebrate the nonprofit's accomplishments of the past year and to look ahead to the organization's future. OHC's Museum Education & Tour Coordinator Liz Schultz and volunteer/docent Ron Gorman presented the feature program "Old Secrets & New Stories," which included a sampling of extensive new research they have done on Oberlin's Underground Railroad activity in anticipation of a future publication on the topic from the Heritage Center.

Highlighting the evening were the 14th Annual Community Awards presentations for outstanding dedication to history, service, and the Oberlin community. Among those honored were:

**Danielle Camino**, who received the Community Teacher of the Year Award for tremendous dedication to teaching art (at Oberlin High School) while also instilling in her students valuable lessons in local history, service to others, and community pride;

**Mary Louise VanDyke**, who was recognized with the Heritage Guardian Award for preserving important aspects of the community's musical and spiritual history, and for building bridges through hymnology to bring people together from a diverse community of many different backgrounds and beliefs.

**Sheila Hicks**, a social studies teacher in Oberlin's Langston Middle School who was saluted as History Teacher of the Year for opening her students' eyes to the value and relevance of history in the world they live in today;

**Ron Gorman**, who received the Community Historian Award for his vast knowledge of the antebellum period which he shares with the Heritage Center through his work as a docent, researcher, blogger, and program presenter;

**Beverly Miller**, who was honored as the Oberlin Heritage Center's Volunteer of the Year for her weekly service as an OHC public relations liaison with downtown businesses and community visitors; and

**Oberlin College's Community Service Work Study Program**, who received the Business Service Leader Award for partnering with the Heritage Center over the past 20 years by providing student interns to assist in all areas of museum administration, visitor engagement and collections care.

Heritage Center Board President **Nick Jones** conducted the annual business meeting which included the election of other officer holders, including 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Gail Wood**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Ken Grossi**, Secretary: **Barb Enos** and Treasurer: **Ed Wardwell**. Voted in as new Trustees were **Ron Gorman** and **Claudia Jones**. Past President **Walt Edling** and long-time Board officer **Robert B. Calhoun** were appointed as Honorary Trustees.

Board President Jones also spotlighted several major accomplishments made by OHC in the past year including the completion of the Endowment Fund for History Education campaign which fully endows the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator professional staff position. Nick Jones also thanked **Pat Murphy** for her exceptional leadership as executive director since 1993. He noted that Pat will be stepping down at the end of the summer and will assist the board in a national search for her replacement. She is also helping the organization to create a new Strategic Plan. She helped transform the 110-year-old organization from an all-volunteer group to an award-winning, accredited model small museum led by a small professional staff. Murphy then saluted the staff, board and volunteers and thanked them for the opportunity to serve the organization and to facilitate its growth.

For more highlights from the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations, visit [www.oberlinheritagecenter.org](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org).

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