



73½ South Professor Street
P.O. Box 455
Oberlin, OH 44074-0455
Phone: 440-774-1700
Fax: 440-774-8061
Website: www.oberlinheritage.org
E-mail: members@oberlinheritage.org

For Immediate Release: September 6, 2011

For More Information, Contact: Patricia Murphy, Executive Director at (440) 774-1700 or patm@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee Presents “Learning from China”

Donna M. Shurr, an Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee and local educator, presents an illustrated program on Wednesday, September 28 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium, sharing some of what she learned from a recent summer study trip to China with the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA). The NCTA is a multi-year initiative funded by the Freeman Foundation to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning about East Asia in elementary and secondary schools nationwide. The theme of this year’s NCTA China Study Tour was “China’s Role in the World.” Shurr, a teacher at Oberlin High School, traveled with a group of fourteen K-12 teachers, chosen on a competitive basis from across the United States. The presentation, hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, is free and open to the public.

NCTA study trips are intended to provide individual educators with professional development opportunities to expand their understanding of East Asia and ultimately help strengthen the curriculum on East Asia in their school districts. The experience also enriches the entire community, as participants bring awareness of China, its culture, and history to wider audiences. Shurr’s presentation offers a selection of photographs and stories from her travels to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Olympic Village in Beijing, factories and museums in Hangzhou and Shanghai, and many other places of interest including a public high school in rural China. The evening promises to be educational and enjoyable for all.

Donna Shurr has been a member of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Board of Trustees since 2004. In addition to teaching Family and Consumer Science at Oberlin High School, she also is a member of the art department, and coordinates Ohio History Day projects at the high school. Shurr taught “Hands-on-History” day camps for the Heritage Center for eight summers. She has a B.S. in Education from Framingham State College (Massachusetts) and a M.S. in Education from Nova Southeastern University (Florida). She is the 2002 recipient of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Community Teacher of the Year Award. In 2007, Shurr traveled to Japan as one of 200 American educators selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program.

For more information about this or other autumn programs offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center, please call (440) 774-1700, or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org. You may also visit the Oberlin Heritage Center’s website at www.oberlinheritage.org to learn more about this award-winning nonprofit organization with its mission to preserve and share Oberlin’s unique heritage and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.

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