



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 – April 8, 2013

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

Photo Available Upon Request

Oberlin Heritage Center Celebrates Accomplishments with Members and Friends

The Oberlin Heritage Center celebrated the past year's accomplishments with an upbeat gathering of 150 members and friends at the Oberlin Inn on Wednesday, April 3. The history and historic preservation organization has roots in the community that date back to 1903. As part of the festivities surrounding the Heritage Center's 110th anniversary, Charlene Connors of the Cleveland-area nonprofit, *Women in History*, presented a light-hearted yet enlightening program as the infamous con artist Cassie Chadwick. Chadwick's turn-of-the-century targets included the Citizens' Bank in Oberlin which, paradoxically, both hurt and helped the local community.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Oberlin Heritage Center's 12th Annual Community Awards for outstanding dedication to history, service, and the Oberlin community. **Pat Gorske Price** received the Community Historian Award for preserving and sharing the history of the Oberlin High School Marching Band (1961-1970) during the era of James Billingsley. **Beth Blissman**, Director of Oberlin College's Center for Service and Learning, was honored as the Community Teacher of the Year, and **Rebecca Lahetta**, an Oberlin High School alum who has returned to teach at her alma mater was recognized as History Teacher of the Year. The **Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award** went to Charlie Warthling and the Lorain County JVS for the World Trade Center Memorial which was designed and constructed by students and staff on the JVS campus. **Rudd Crawford** was applauded with the Heritage Guardian Award for being the guiding light in the creation of the Oberlin High School Memorial Site. **Dina Schoonmaker**, an Oberlin Heritage Center honorary trustee who has been involved in nearly every aspect of the organization for more than 20 years, was recognized as the OHC Volunteer of the Year. Western Reserve High School freshman, **Annalee Sekulic**, an OHC volunteer and teen docent, received the Youth Community Service Award.

Heritage Center Board President Walt Edling conducted the annual business including electing new Trustees **Kurt A. Breunig**, **Barb Enos** and **Renee Romano**. Ed Wardwell was elected as Treasurer of the Board, while Robert B. Calhoun and Gail Wood were re-elected as 2nd Vice-President and Secretary respectively. Appointed as Honorary Trustees were **Marianne Cochrane**, **Cathe Radabaugh**, and **Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick**.

Pat Murphy concluded the program by noting several major accomplishments made by OHC in the past 20 years since the organization transitioned from an all-volunteer group to one led by a small professional staff. She underscored that the completion of the Endowment Fund for History Education campaign remains a pressing need for the organization, and one which OHC will continue to focus on over the next year.

For more highlights from the Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations, visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

###END