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Photo Available Upon Request

Oberlin Heritage Center's Oral History-Based Book Receives Statewide Excellence Award

Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town, the Oberlin Heritage Center's new oral history-based publication featuring powerful recollections from fifty-two 20th-century Oberlin women, was honored at the annual meeting and conference of the Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) on Saturday, October 4, in Worthington, Ohio. Pat Murphy, the Heritage Center's Executive Director, accepted the History Outreach Award in the Media and Publications category on behalf of the organization and the many volunteers and staff who worked on the book. This is the sixteenth award that the statewide local history association has bestowed upon the Oberlin Heritage Center in as many years.

The well-received book came about as an outgrowth of the Oberlin Oral History Project and the stories that dozens of volunteers collected from more than 100 interviews of long-time community residents over the course of the past three decades. Reviewing and organizing the interviews became a labor of love for the book's compiler, Eugenia Poporad Vanek, who devoted more than five years to researching and writing the publication. The amply illustrated book includes biographies and photos of the Oberlin women as well as an index. Dr. Vanek, an educator as well as an OHC Honorary Trustee, relied heavily on the historical resources of the Oberlin Heritage Center in producing what author Tracy Chevalier (*The Last Runaway*) referred to as "a treasure trove of strong voices and intriguing details." Vanek was assisted in the endeavor by volunteers Charles Dial, Sarah MacLennan Kerr, Marlene D. Merrill and many others.

Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town is available for purchase (\$19.95) through the Heritage Center's website (www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) as well as at the OHC Museum Store (73½ South Professor Street), Ben Franklin/Mindfair Books (13 West College Street), FAVA's Uncommon Objects (39 South Main Street), and Kendal at Oberlin's Cardinal Shop (600 Kendal Drive). It also may be purchased through Amazon.com. Proceeds support the mission of the non-profit Oberlin Heritage Center: *to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.*

For more about the Heritage Center's Oral History Project, or the Center's full calendar of community programs, tours and history walks that feature many facets of Oberlin history, including the Underground Railroad, women's rights, historic preservation and more, please visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

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