



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

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Contact: Elizabeth Schultz, Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org

Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Warm-Weather History Walks

As warm weather returns to northeast Ohio, so do the Oberlin Heritage Center's popular outdoor history walks. All ages can enjoy time outside and learn more about Oberlin's unique history and architecture through these fun, learning opportunities:

Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race! *Scheduled by appointment, April through October.* If you like history, hiking and a healthy dose of friendly competition, you'll love this group activity that's ideal for teens or adults. One member of the team needs a smart phone to receive clues which will lead the group to a landmark in Oberlin – figure it out, and you're on to the next! There are fourteen clues in all; the race is 2 miles and takes 90 minutes (that is, if you're quite clever, light on your feet, and don't stop for ice cream!) Fee is \$25 per race for nonmembers, \$20 for OHC members (one fee covers all participants). Check to see if your race date and start time are available by contacting the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz, at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

For those interested in exploring Oberlin history in greater depth amidst the company of friends old and new, the four-part **History Hikes & Happy Hour** presents a different theme each week, led by an Oberlin Heritage Center staff member, with the option to continue the discussion afterward at a local watering hole. The series is offered **Wednesdays in June at 3:30 p.m.** and includes the **Scholars & Settlers** (Tappan Square), **Freedom's Friends** (Underground Railroad), **Radicals & Reformers** (Westwood Cemetery) and the new **Oberlin Women's History Walk** where visitors will learn about local influences on women's rights and the fight to secure them. Fee is \$25 for the full series (\$20 for OHC members); cost of refreshments not included. Reservations may be made at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Those who prefer the occasional history walk, several options will be offered throughout the summer months:

Scholars & Settlers History Walk. *Sundays at 1 p.m., June 1- August 31.* Stroll around Tappan Square while hearing stories of Oberlin's earliest residents and the triumphs, debates and scandals linked to the landmarks surrounding this inviting town center. The guided walk combines historical facts and fun anecdotes about the beautifully preserved buildings standing today, as well as former buildings that once occupied some sites around Tappan Square.

Freedom's Friends History Walk. *Saturdays at 11 a.m., June 7 – August 30.* Prior to the Civil War, as many as 3,000 African Americans passed through or lived in Oberlin after escaping from slavery. Learn about Oberlin's famous freedom seekers and those known to have helped them make their way to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

I Spy Oberlin: History & Architecture Scavenger Hunt. *A History Walk for the Younger Set! June 7, July 5, August 2, and September 6 at 3 p.m.* Designed for children ages 5-11 with an adult companion. Families are guided through historic Oberlin while keeping their eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. (Takes place rain or shine: we'll "spy" inside the Heritage Center's historic building if inclement weather.) Fee is \$3 per child and accompanying adults are free. Fun and engaging for all!

Radicals and Reformers History Walk. *Saturdays at 11 a.m. in September.* Be inspired by stories of spirited men and women who simply refused to maintain the status quo as you are guided through the beautiful park-like setting of Westwood Cemetery.

History walks are a great way to entertain guests over the **Memorial Day holiday weekend** and the Heritage Center will offer several guided walks at various times during **May 23-26, 2014**, which coincides with Oberlin College's Commencement/Reunion Weekend. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for specific themes, dates and times of these holiday offerings.

Tickets for individual history walks must be purchased in advance and are \$6 for adults; Heritage Center members, college students and children accompanied by adults are free. (Although tickets are free, reservations still must be made in advance.) The walks are approximately 60-75 minutes and are most likely to be enjoyed by ages 9 and up. History walks also are available to groups of eight or more at other times by appointment.

To make a reservation for any guided history walk and find out where the walks begin, visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's website at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or stop by the Monroe House Museum Store at 73½ South Professor Street (parking available at the entrance to 20 West Vine Street), or contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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