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Explore Historic Oberlin During May Holiday Weekend

Looking for something memorable and out of the ordinary for your family to do this Memorial Day and Oberlin College Commencement/Reunion Weekend? Explore historic Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center by enjoying a guided tour or history walk offered Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 23-26. Discover the history surrounding Tappan Square, learn more about Oberlin's role as a major stop on the Underground Railroad, or enjoy the debut of the new Oberlin Women's History Walk and find out about local influences on women's rights and the fight to secure them. Advance reservations are required for most Heritage Center events and may be made online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or by visiting the OHC office in the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street. Free parking is available near 20 West Vine Street in Oberlin.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's main site features three beautifully preserved buildings including the Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836), and the Jewett House (1884). Together the buildings and the stories they hold within offer visitors a glimpse into Oberlin's past and tell how ordinary people in this community did some extraordinary things to influence the history of our nation. Guided mini-tours of the first floor of the Monroe House will be offered every half hour from 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 23 and from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25. Walk-ins are welcome. Admission is \$3 per adult; free to OHC members, college students and children.

Reservations are required for the thematic neighborhood history walks led by Oberlin Heritage Center docents throughout the weekend. The Freedom's Friends History Walk includes stories of abolition and the Underground Railroad in Oberlin as visitors travel through the square and end at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. This history walk will be offered Friday, May 23, Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25 at 3 p.m. and also on Monday, May 26 at 1 p.m. If you miss taking part this weekend, this history walk will be offered on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. beginning in June and continuing through the end of August.

The Scholars & Settlers History Walk focuses on the early history and architecture surrounding Oberlin's downtown, park-like setting of Tappan Square. It will be offered Saturday, May 24 at

5 p.m. and again on Sunday, May 25 at 11 a.m. Should you be unable to attend this weekend, it also will be offered on Sundays at 1 p.m. from June 1 through the end of August.

The Oberlin Women's History Walk will be offered Friday, May 23 at 5 p.m. and again on Saturday, May 24 at 11 a.m. This is the only time (other than to groups by appointment) that the Women's History Walk will be offered to the public this year. This new history walk is inspired by the 1834 pledge made by Oberlin "founding father" John J. Shipherd to "elevate the female character" through education. You'll become acquainted with stories of powerful Oberlin women including Lucy Stone, Marianne Parker Dascomb, Adelia Field Johnston, Mary Church Terrell, and Lucy Stanton Day, and hear how they used John J. Shipherd's promise to shape what it meant to be a woman in Oberlin and in the United States.

Each history walk is \$6 for adults; free to OHC members, college students and children accompanied by adults (although reservations still must be made in advance). The Heritage Center's guided walks are approximately 75 minutes and most likely to be enjoyed by ages 9 and up. In case of rain, the neighborhood history walks will be cancelled and refunds provided.

The Heritage Center's Museum Store will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Stop by for a variety of Oberlin-themed and history-related mementos and gifts, including the new oral history publication *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, as well as Oberlin afghans, Oberlin history playing cards, Apollo Theatre tee-shirts, and the award-winning Oberlin History comic book.

For more information about the Heritage Center or its summer calendar of tours, summer camps, and community events, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, or call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

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