

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – July 11, 2009

A Writer Returns Home

The Oberlin Heritage Center hosts “**John Vanek: A Writer Returns Home**” at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Tuesday, July 21 at 7 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public. Vanek, a physician and award-winning poet, will read selections from his new book of poems, *Heart Murmurs*. John (Jack) Vanek was born and raised in Cleveland, graduated from Case Western Reserve University and the University of Rochester School of Medicine, and practiced medicine in Lorain County for many years. He has published four dozen poems and presently has a novel-in-progress. Jack and his wife, Geni, were long-time residents of Oberlin, and they now make their home in Sandusky and St. Petersburg, Florida. Copies of the book will be available for purchase (and signed by the author) at \$15, with Vanek donating \$2 from every purchase to the Oberlin Heritage Center. Visit <http://mysite.verizon.net/vanekj> to learn more about Jack Vanek’s poetry and prose, or order his book direct from <http://smithdocs.net> or Amazon.com Books.

Old-Fashioned Family Fun

Join us on **Saturday, August 1** as the Oberlin Heritage Center takes part in the **17th Annual Lorain County Family Fun Fair** featuring activities for families with young children at venues all over downtown Oberlin. Visitors of all ages will have a chance to learn about the early days of the community by enjoying old-fashioned games, crafts, school lessons, and sweets from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the grounds of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Our 2009 class of Junior Docents, teens who just completed a week-long summer camp/docent training workshop, will be on hand helping throughout the day – come meet them and be awed by their knowledge and enthusiasm! Make sure to stop by the “Jupies Old-Fashioned Sorghum Taffy Pull” tent and try your hand at making pulled taffy – you can take home a taffy-covered apple for \$2. There also will be free popcorn samples from Campbell’s Popcorn in the West Side Market. Their “Dichotomy” popcorn was listed as “Best of Cleveland” in 2007. Look for the Heritage Center’s Oral History group recording memories of the Apollo Theatre and collecting other favorite Oberlin stories from the past. All Fun Fair activities at the Heritage Center (except as noted) are free and open to the public.

Letters of Support Needed for Morgan Street Bridge Rail Project Award Nomination

Pat Murphy is preparing a nomination for the Morgan Street Bridge railing project for an Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM) History Outreach Award. As part of the nomination packet, letters of support are needed from people and organizations who think the bridge rail restoration was a good project that has had a positive impact on the community and its understanding of local history and appreciation of volunteerism. Such letters bring the project to life and show that it is meaningful to the community – supporters are encouraged to mention their own part, if any, in the project, and tell any stories that help people understand it. More information about the Bridge Rail project is available at <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/whatsnewarchive?view=7>. You may write a letter or send an e-mail (or ask a friend or colleague to do so) by July 24 if you feel this is a deserving project. As an opening sentence, for example, you could say: “I am writing in support of the nomination of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Morgan Street Bridge railing project for a History Outreach Award.” Letters may be addressed to: OAHSM Award Committee, c/o Patricia Murphy, Executive Director, Oberlin Heritage Center, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. E-mails may be addressed to patm@oberlinheritage.org. Previous Oberlin Heritage Center projects that received OAHSM History Outreach Awards include the *Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage* series of

community programs (award received, 2008) presented for Black History Month in February 2008, the book *Investing in Community: The History of the Nord Family of Ohio*, by Martha Pickrell (2005); the booklet *Sarah Margru Kinson: The Two Worlds of an Amistad Captive*, by Marlene D. Merrill (2004) and the *Biking Tour of Historic Oberlin* (2003)

Oberlin Heritage Center Making Big-Time News!

The Oberlin Heritage Center and the community of Oberlin were in the spotlight in the Sunday, June 21 edition of the *Chicago Tribune Magazine*. The magazine's Family Travel section featured "college towns way too cool just for school," and the community of Oberlin was in the company of Oxford, Mississippi, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Palo Alto, California and Amherst, Massachusetts. The Oberlin write-up included this to say about the Oberlin Heritage Center:

At the **Oberlin Heritage Center**, a local museum and historical society, visitors can get a glimpse of this storied past with tours of historic sites, including the **1866 Monroe House**, the **1836 Little Red Schoolhouse** and the **1884 Jewett House**. While adults learn about Oberlin's role as a hotbed of abolitionism, women's activism and scientific discovery, kids will love being transported back to the 19th century with the hands on, one-room period schoolhouse (oberlinheritage.org).

The July 1 issue of *Preserve America News* (<http://216.3.143.84/newsletter/july09/july09.htm>), the newsletter of Preserve America, a national initiative in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, featured the Oberlin Heritage Center in an article on "Developing the Next Generation of Heritage Stewards." The Heritage Center's children's summer camp programs were highlighted among those of three other Preserve America Communities (in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Oregon) that have found creative ways to integrate summer youth programs with historic preservation and heritage education.

Bed & Breakfast Hosts Needed

The Oberlin Heritage Center seeks residents to host parents and college-age students during Oberlin College's Freshman Orientation at the end of August. Hosts are needed for one or more nights between Monday, August 24 through Wednesday, August 26 (with the greatest demand being on Monday night). If you can offer a private bedroom (double or twin beds) and a private or shared bathroom, with a simple breakfast provided in the morning, please let us know. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Oberlin Heritage Center, with OHC members and friends volunteer their time and opening their homes, while out-of-town guests contribute to the Oberlin Heritage Center for their accommodations. It's a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador and many long-time friendships have resulted through these bed-and-breakfast stays. For more information, or to volunteer as a host, please contact Oberlin Heritage Center Board Member, Cathe Radabaugh, at cathe.radabaugh@oberlin.edu or (440) 774-4646.

Oberlin Heritage Center Receiving World-Wide Attention

Wednesday, July 8 was an especially exciting day for staff and interns at the Oberlin Heritage Center as we welcomed three separate groups of guests from around the world. In the morning, a delightful family from Seoul, **Korea** stopped by to inquire about reservations for the August bed-and-breakfast accommodations offered by Oberlin Heritage Center volunteer hosts. Their daughter would be an entering Conservatory student

in the fall. Later that same morning, a minister from Frankfurt, **Germany** came by to learn more about the founding of Oberlin as he was interested in the religious underpinnings of our community. Alex Holomuzki-Zgonc, our college student summer intern (from OSU) through Leadership Lorain County, gave the couple an impromptu tour of the Monroe House providing them with a lot of information on Oberlin's earliest history. In late afternoon, a woman from **Norway**, who was visiting the Oberlin Conservatory, stopped in as she passed by, just curious to see what to see what the Oberlin Heritage Center was all about. She was interested in Oberlin history and returned the next day for one of our regularly scheduled walk-in guided tours led by Andrew Watiker, another of our great college student intern team (from Oberlin College). It's always fun to make new friends at the Heritage Center from both near and far!

You May Be Interested...

A high-five to OHC Board Member, **Bert Latran, Jr.**, and his friends in the **Scottish Games British Motorcycle** group (which also is an OHC organizational member) as 70 motorcycling enthusiasts came together for the Ohio Scottish Games held last month at the Lorain County Fairgrounds. Bert described the gathering as a "sea of cycles" -- what a sight that must have been! The group has been getting together for at least 20 years -- beginning with just a handful of cyclists and growing through the years. The previous record attendance at the Ohio Scottish Games for this British motorcycle group was 50 participants.

Save the date of Wednesday, **August 26, 2009** and take part in the 89th anniversary and 15th annual Oberlin area celebration of women gaining the right to vote, by planning to attend the **Women's Equality Day** dinner and program beginning at 6 p.m. at the Oberlin Inn (7 North Main Street). This year's theme is "Speaking for All: Women in Journalism," with WKSU Reporter/Producer Karen Schaefer as the featured speaker. For more information, contact Ovidia Guaderrama at (440) 775-3711.

Have you checked out the Oberlin Heritage Center's newly re-designed website at www.oberlinheritage.org -- please take a look and let us know what you think!

We hope you will share this information with a friend.

To remove your name from the Oberlin Heritage Center's e-news mailing list, please respond to this e-mail by clicking on the "REPLY" button, and typing "UNSUBSCRIBE" on the subject line.

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