

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

March 14, 2009



Vignettes about Growing Up in Oberlin, 1900-1940

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Free and open to the public. Enjoy hearing the varied personal experiences of a diverse group of individuals from Oberlin's past, born between 1883 and 1924, whose stories were recorded in interviews conducted as part of the Oberlin Oral History Project. Brief vignettes from the memories of **Foster Bows • Magdalene Jackson Cox • Stella Mallory Dickerman • Corinne Durand Dudley • Mary Wright Fisk • Harold Gibson • Maynard Gott • Mildred Morris Haines • Glenn Hobbs • Lewis Ives • and Robert (Bob) Thomas**, specifically about growing up in Oberlin nearly a century ago, have been extracted for this special presentation made by Oberlin Heritage Center Oral History committee members Priscilla Steinberg, and Mary Van Nortwick.

The Apollo: The Continued Saga of a Beloved Landmark

Oberlin College became the owner of the Apollo Theater on February 27th and announced plans to renovate the building and to continue to operate it as a movie theater. At a public forum on February 27th, the College stated that the theater would be converted to a multiplex and that changes to the façade were planned. We were delighted to read Oberlin College President Marvin Krislov's column in the online Oberlin College publication *The Source* on March 11th which clarified that the College does not wish to split the Apollo's main room into multiple screens and that they do plan to continue the single screen theater as long as it is economically viable. He also stated that there are no plans to make significant change to the Apollo's façade or marquee. Various needed repairs and safety and accessibility upgrades are being planned. He invites the community's input, support and creative ideas for the project.

The Oberlin Heritage Center Board President James White wrote a letter to College President Marvin Krislov and Sandra Hodge, Special Assistant for Community and Government Relations on March 11 to encourage the College to renovate the theater in a way that will preserve its special sense of place and authenticity and also encourage the College to preserve the theater's significant interior and architectural elements, including its magnificent Streamlined Moderne façade and marquee. Mr. White also encouraged the College and its architects to adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in preserving this historic resource. Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director Pat Murphy has agreed to serve on the College's Apollo Advisory Committee and will be advocating for thoughtful preservation of the building's significant features and its continued use as a single screen movie theater.

The Oberlin Heritage Center wishes to expand its knowledge and research and photographic files on the history and architecture of the theater. If you have photographs or documents on the theater that you would be willing to donate or let us borrow, or a memory of it you would like to write up and share, please contact Prue Richards at history@oberlinheritage.org or Pat Murphy at patm@oberlinheritage.org or give us a call at 440-774-1700. We are planning a future program

and online exhibit on the history of the Apollo. We are grateful to the Steel family for operating the theater for so many years. We are very glad that they participated in an oral history interview and allowed volunteers to do a video-taped tour of the theater in the past few years.

Community Awards Presentations & Annual Meeting Dinner

The Eighth Annual Community Awards will be presented at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting and dinner on Wednesday evening, April 1, at the Oberlin Inn. Those being honored include:

- ★ **Roland Baumann** – Heritage Guardian Award
- ★ **Sigrid Boe** – Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award
- ★ **Kurt Russell** – History Teacher of the Year
- ★ **Barbara Enos** – Community Teacher of the Year
- ★ **Kendal Mail Crew (Doris Sable, Coordinator, and Barbara Bennett, Mae Alice Donner, Joyce Dugan, Joan Ernst, Helen Fitzhugh, Dorothy Holbrook, Esther Hunt, Jane Ross Moore, Ann Potter, Catherine Rauch, Eunice Schaeffer, and Polly Warch)** – Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteers of the Year

Essayist and humorist, **Harvey Gittler**, will be the Annual Meeting's featured speaker.

Reservations will be taken through March 27. It promises to be a fun, festive evening – please consider joining us! For more information, or to download a reservation form, visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

Unique Gift Ideas

Looking for a gift idea that's a little different for high school or college graduations, Father's Day, or other special family occasions this spring? Consider a gift that offers *a chance to become part of Oberlin history*. An inscribed century-old brick placed along the walkway at the Oberlin Heritage Center is a creative way to recognize family and friends and leave a lasting legacy for future generations. For more information, visit the Heritage Center's website at <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/brick.pdf>.

End

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