

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette - May 20, 2009

The Grand Oberlin History Extravaganza!: May 22 to 25

Here's the line-up for all that's happening May 22-25, hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Tours

Advance reservations are appreciated for all tours but walk-ins are welcomed also on a space available basis (arrive 10 minutes early). Each weekend tour costs \$6 per adult; discount for members.

Oberlin Heritage Center Guided Tours: 75 minute tour of 3 historic sites beginning at the Monroe House, 73 ½ S. Professor St., at the back of the Conservatory parking lot facing the Litoff Building construction site. **Friday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

Tappan Square History Walk: 60 minute tour. Begin at flagpole at southeast corner of Tappan Square, Main and College Streets. **Friday 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. / Saturday 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. / Sunday 12 noon & 2 p.m.**

Freedom's Friends – Underground Railroad and Abolitionist History Walk: 60 minute tour. Begin at northwest corner of Vine and Pleasant Streets in Martin Luther King Jr. Park. **Friday – 11 a.m. Saturday – 11 a.m Sunday – 3 p.m. Monday – 1 p.m**

Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Store and Office Hours at Monroe House: Visitor information, museum store of history themed books, gifts, etc. Located at 73 ½ S. Professor St. Free parking at 20 W. Vine St. just west of Midas Muffler at South Main and Vine Streets. **Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Closed Sunday and Monday)**

Oberlin History Central at the Oberlin Depot: Located at 240 S. Main Street. Free Parking on north side of South St. and across S. Main/Route 58. **Friday, 1 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, 12 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, 1 to 5:30 p.m.**

The Oberlin Depot, a two-room passenger station built in 1866, will provide a historic setting for many of the activities that the Heritage Center will offer from Friday through Monday. (The Depot is owned by The Nord Family Foundation, who handsomely refurbished it in 2004 for use by local non-profit organizations.) Visitors can drop by the Depot to enjoy mini-exhibits of photos of Oberlin College and adjoining residential neighborhoods as they evolved in the 20th century. Most of the photographs were taken by William Farquhar (OC 1943), Albert J. McQueen (OC 1952 and Professor Emeritus), and Prue Richards (OC 1970 and the Heritage Center's Collections Assistant). Children can take part in history themed activities, fun and games. Visitors can pick and choose from a series of public presentations, each about an hour long.

Presentations at the Oberlin Depot (240 S. Main Street):

Seating for the Oberlin Heritage Center's Depot programs is limited and is on a first come, first-served basis. Admission is free, although donations and Oberlin Heritage Center memberships will be gratefully accepted.

- **Friday** at 4 p.m. **Oberlin College Architecture: A Short History** by **Jane Blodgett** (OC 1954), local historian and Oberlin Historic Preservation Commissioner. Jane will present a popular illustrated lecture initially developed by her late husband, Oberlin College history professor **Geoffrey Blodgett** (OC 1953) and presented to generations of students and alumni.
- **Saturday** at 10:30 a.m. **Oberlin’s Invisible Leading Lady** by **Prue Richards** (OC 1970), Collections Assistant, Oberlin Heritage Center. Learn about Oberlin’s “first lady,” **Julia Finney Monroe** (1837-1930), and how her story is interpreted today at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Monroe House which was her home for five decades.
- **Saturday** at 1 p.m. **An Arm Chair Tour of Downtown Oberlin’s Historic District** by **Pat Murphy**, Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director. Enjoy a chronological look at downtown’s existing buildings illustrated with photographs from the Oberlin Heritage Center collection.
- **Saturday** at 2:30 p.m. **Giles Waldo Shurtleff (1831-1904): The Man Behind the Statue** by **John Mercer**, historian, Olmsted Falls High School teacher, and PhD. candidate at Kent State. Learn about Shurtleff’s Oberlin years and his remarkable experiences during the Civil War, including his year in a Confederate prison camp, his service with white troops at Cross Lanes and Fredericksburg, and his service leading the 5th United States Colored Troops.
- **Saturday** at 4 p.m. **Looking Beneath the Gown: The Saga of Academic Regalia at Oberlin** by **Steven Plank**, Oberlin College Conservatory Professor of Musicology. The distinctive history of academic dress at Oberlin—the wearing of mortarboards and gowns. . . *or not*—is a saga profoundly shaped by religious values, issues of individuality and community, convention, and politics. Learn how Oberlin wrestled with adopting academic dress a century ago and the ways in which political circumstance radically reshaped that tradition in recent decades.
- **Sunday** at 1 p.m. **The Anti-Slavery Collection of the Oberlin College Library: A Monument to “The Town That Started the Civil War”** by **Ed Vermue**, Special Collections and Preservation Librarian, Oberlin College Library. Learn about anti-slavery publishing in the 19th century and the vision put forth in 1884 that brought this literature together to become one of the premier such collections in the world and the foundation of the college library’s Special Collections.
- **Sunday** at 2:30 p.m. **A Social History of American Architecture** by **Jane Blodgett** (OC 1954), historian and City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commissioner. Enjoy this introduction to a new DVD of the lectures of the late Oberlin College history professor **Geoffrey Blodgett** (OC 1953).
- **Sunday** at 3:45 p.m. **Oberlin College, 1949 to 1952** by **Albert J. McQueen** (OC 1952), Oberlin College Professor Emeritus, Sociology, who shares remarkable stories and color slides from his days as a student at Oberlin College. You’ll hear about student life, Oberlin’s first student cooperatives, the 1952 mock convention and much more.
- **Monday** at 2 p.m. **Travel Back in Time with Tip Maddock** by **Dennis Lamont**, transportation historian. Learn about and from the historical records left by an extraordinary Oberlinian, Fred H. “Tip” Maddock (1874-1952), who chronicled the history of Oberlin’s commercial establishments in the first half of the 20th century and was the local agent for the interurban railroad.
- **Monday** at 4 p.m. **A Virtual Tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center** by **Liz Schultz**, Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Education and Tour Coordinator. Enjoy this virtual visit to the three historic buildings and collections that help tell the history of our community in its first century.

Check out the new Apollo Tee-Shirts, Jewelry by Jean Simon, and other great gift items at the Depot mini-museum store during the weekend!

Congratulations Graduates!

The Oberlin Heritage Center proudly salutes three of its Oberlin College interns who are among those graduating on May 25th. Our very best wishes go with **Chelsea Baker, Mirelle Luecke, and Philip Parsons**. Congratulations, too, to all the Oberlin High School graduates and especially Valedictorian **Mary Enos** who has been an active participant and volunteer for the Heritage Center's summer camps for many years.

Applause, applause to the OHC's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Elizabeth Schultz** who is in the 24th graduating class of **Leadership Lorain County**. Liz will graduate May 27th with some 40 other members of the Class of 2009. The mission of Leadership Lorain County is to foster life long leaders who serve as catalysts for positive change. Liz explains what the year-long experience has meant to her: "Leadership Lorain County has opened my eyes to the natural, cultural, and entrepreneurial resources of Lorain County, but the greatest part was seeing the personal engagement that thrives behind the scenes and drives the county." Liz marks her second anniversary with the Oberlin Heritage Center on June 1.

Introducing Architecture and Historical Spaces into your Curriculum

The Oberlin Heritage Center is collaborating with Oberlin College's Allen Memorial Art Museum to host a Teacher In-Service Workshop on the afternoons of Tuesday, June 9 through Thursday, June 11, 2009. The workshop is open to regional educators of all grade levels and disciplines. Participants will learn about a wide-range of styles represented by Oberlin buildings, and how to use architecture and historic objects to lead into discussions of history, culture, technology, mathematics, and any number of other subjects. Guest presenter, Cara Armstrong, Curator of Education at Fallingwater, one of the most renowned buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, will lead one of the sessions on teaching through architecture. Download a registration form at <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/files/whatsnew/attachments/AMAM-WorkshopForm6-2009.pdf> . **The deadline for reserving your place is June 1, 2009.** For more information, contact Jason Trimmer, Curator of Education at AMAM, by calling (440) 775-8671 or sending an e-mail to Jason.trimmer@oberlin.edu. Funding for the workshop is made possible through a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Welcome Summer Interns

Oberlin Heritage Center staff and volunteers look forward to staying connected to one of our year-round college student interns – **Andrew Watiker** – who will remain on staff through the summer. Andrew is a political science major from Scarsdale, New York, and he just completed his 3rd year at Oberlin College. Please welcome newcomer **Alexandra "Alex" Holomuzki-Zgonc** who will be joining the Heritage Center staff this summer as our Leadership Lorain County summer intern. Alex is an Ohio State University student from Lorain. We are also very pleased that Oberlin College Bonner Scholars **Ondrea Keith** (who helps with publicity) and **Brittnei Sherrod** (organizer of our new junior docent camp) will be helping from time to time during the summer, as will former Museum Fellow/teacher **Maria Surovy**.

If you are not already a member of the Oberlin Heritage Center, we'd love to have you join us! See our website at www.oberlinheritage.org for details.

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