

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – September 2011

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## “The Best Summer Camp Ever!”

A recent summer camper at the Heritage Center endorsed his week-long experience as “the best summer camp ever!” The Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA), in partnership with the Ohio Historical Society, tends to agree and announced last week that the **Oberlin Heritage Center’s Summer Camps** will receive a **History Outreach Excellence Award** in the public programming category during the OLHA Annual Meeting in Worthington in early October. The Heritage Center has offered summer camps for the past 15 years, bringing local history to life in a variety of ways designed especially to engage young people. Many children, ages 8-17, have participated through the years, and we are starting to see some, now grown-up, returning to the Center to continue nurturing their passion for history as volunteers and interns (see “Student Project Mixes Maps and Photos” paragraph below)! To put your name on the mailing list for next year’s summer camp offerings, send an e-mail to [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Smithsonian Museum Day

The Oberlin Heritage Center will take part in *Smithsonian Magazine’s* 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum Day by providing free tour admission to visitors plus one guest who present the Museum Day Admission Card on **Saturday September 24** for the **10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. guided tour**. A downloadable version of the free ticket is at [www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday](http://www.Smithsonianmagazine.com/museumday) along with a listing of hundreds of museums participating around the country (33 museums in Ohio alone!). Museum Day allows for one day only the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian’s Washington, D.C.-based properties to be emulated throughout America. Don’t miss this great opportunity to take a free tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center or to visit another participating museum.

## Learning from China

Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee and Oberlin High School teacher **Donna Marie Shurr** presents “**Learning from China**” on **Wednesday, September 28 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium, Kendal at Oberlin. The illustrated program offers highlights of a summer 2011 study trip to China with the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), which was supported by The Freeman Foundation. Traveling to Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou, Donna was part of a group of 14 American teachers who received valuable firsthand experience on China’s role in world history and in today’s global economy. The event is free and open to all. For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## Let’s Go for a Walk!

Have you had a chance yet to take part in one of the Heritage Center’s guided history walks? The **Freedom’s Friends History Walk**, which focuses on individuals and events that marked Oberlin as one of the most active stations of the Underground Railroad, is offered **Saturdays in September at 11:00 a.m.** Reservations are required and may be made online at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or in person at the Monroe House’s Museum Store (73½ South Professor Street); fee is \$6/adults, with \$1 discount for OHC members and for college/university students; free for children under 18 years (most likely enjoyed by children 9 years and up). Next month, experience the **Radicals and Reformers History Walk** through Westwood Cemetery to find out more about the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. If you’d like to learn how to present this 60-minute scenic walk, join us for **History Walk Training** on **Sunday, September 18 from 1-4 p.m.** Register by September 14 for this free workshop. Questions? Contact Liz Schultz at [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **Student Project Mixes Maps and Photos**

One of the wonderful things about summer is that there are so many student interns and volunteers at the Heritage Center working on new projects. **John Olmsted** returned as a volunteer and created a pilot “Mapping History” page on our website. He took digital copies of historic photos in the collection of the Heritage Center and placed them on a Google Map of Oberlin. To explore the project, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) and click on the Research and Learn tab, then follow the link at Historic Photos on the pull-down menu. You’ll reach your destination by clicking on [Oberlin Historic Photo Map Project](#). Let us know what you think of the project. John will be pursuing a Ph.D. in History this fall at the University of California, Berkeley. We’re very grateful to him for making these first steps and creating a fun local feature, and you may be interested to know that John was one of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s young “summer campers” several years ago!

## **Local Historical Societies: Save the Date!**

Mark your calendar now for **Friday, October 28** (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) when the Ohio Historical Society’s Local History Office, in collaboration with the Oberlin Heritage Center, offers a collections care workshop designed for local history museum staff and interns, board members and volunteers. The session is one of a series of workshops taking place this fall around the state based on the American Association for State and Local History’s “StEPs” (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organization). **“Building a Meaningful Collection Workshop”** will be presented by Andy Verhoff, Local History Coordinator for the Ohio Historical Society, and **Prue Richards**, Collections Assistant at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Register [online](#) by October 24 at [www.ohiohistory.org/register](http://www.ohiohistory.org/register) or call 1-800-858-6878 for more information.

## **Welcome New Members**

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to new members **Tina Abraham** (Wellington), the **Papenfuss Family** (Avon Lake) and **Trecia Pottinger** (Oberlin). Your membership is important and appreciated! If you like what the Oberlin Heritage Center does to preserve and share the community’s nationally significant history, please support the organization by becoming a member. Visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) to join online or call (440) 774-1700 ([members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org)) to request a membership brochure be sent to you.

## **Endowment Campaign Update**

The Endowment Fund for History Education is now at **\$53,500** toward our goal of \$400,000. A successful campaign will fully endow the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator staff position, and make the Oberlin Heritage Center less dependent on grant money to do the community educational programming, outreach to schools, and summer camps for children, all of which are such an important part of the organization’s mission. Special thanks to new **Endowed Life** members **Jane Ross Moore** and **Stephen & Mary Ann Johnson**. Endowed Life members are making a big difference at the Oberlin Heritage Center – please consider joining this wonderfully supportive group with a gift or pledge (payable over 5 years) of \$2,000 or more to the Endowment Fund for History Education. For more information, contact Executive Director Patricia Murphy ([patm@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:patm@oberlinheritage.org)) at (440) 774-1700 or Board Member Nick Jones ([nrjones360@gmail.com](mailto:nrjones360@gmail.com)) at (440) 774-3671.

## **Out and About: Staff and Intern News**

**Pat Murphy** has written a chapter for **The Small Museum Toolkit**, a new collection of six books that serve as a launching point for small museum staff to pursue best practices and meet museum standards. Pat’s chapter on “Human Resources Administration: Building an Effective Team” appears in Book 3 of the Toolkit, which focuses on Organizational Management. The series is published by AltaMira Press ([www.altamirapress.com](http://www.altamirapress.com)) for the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

The Oberlin Heritage Center salutes former intern, **Adina Langer** (Oberlin College, 2006), who worked with **Prue Richards** as a collections volunteer during her senior year. Following graduation, Adina began an internship at the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation in New York City, assisting the chief curator and marketing director with projects related to creating a World Trade Center Memorial and Museum. Three years later, Adina received her master's degree from NYU in Public History and Archives and went to work full time for the non-profit organization, since re-named the **National September 11 Memorial & Museum**. Most recently, Adina has been very busy working as the memorial exhibition content manager and curatorial assistant. Take a few moments to learn more about all the good work going on at the Memorial and Museum by visiting [www.911memorial.org](http://www.911memorial.org). The Memorial will be dedicated this month on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and opens to the public on September 12, 2011. The Museum expects to open in 2012.

### **Also of Interest**

The **Oberlin College Archives** announces ten digital collections and exhibits using archival materials, which are presently online thanks to support provided by a grant from the Mellon Foundation. Other exhibits are in development, including "**Oberlin and the Civil War**," a joint presentation by the Archives with the Oberlin Heritage Center that will be available for viewing later this fall. To learn more about these engaging digital resources visit <http://www.oberlin.edu/archive/exhibits/virtualcollections.html>.

**Ohio as America: Ohio's Story at Your Fingertips!** Attention 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers and Homeschool Families! The Ohio Historical Society has launched a new online textbook to bring Ohio's history to life and it is free for the 2011-2012 school year. Aligned with new and current Ohio Academic Content Standards, the electronic guide includes online lesson plans, student activities, assessment tools, videos and more. Check it out at [www.ohioasamerica.org](http://www.ohioasamerica.org) or call (614)297-2343 for more information.

**Imagine...Whirled Peace! International Peace Day is September 21, 2011**, and Tappan Square has been reserved 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for planting "Pinwheels for Peace" followed by a community gathering in song at 5 p.m. Anyone can take part, and you can get the pattern for making pinwheels at [www.pinwheelsforpeace.org](http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.org) as well as ideas to encourage individuals, families and communities to come together to discuss and work toward building peace. Residents at Kendal at Oberlin, Peace Community Church, Langston Middle School and First Church have already signed on as local participants. Learn more and count down to Peace Day by visiting [www.10daysofpeace.com](http://www.10daysofpeace.com).

Congratulations to the community of **Oberlin** for being recognized as one of Ohio's BEST Hometowns in **Ohio Magazine's** sixth annual Ohio's Best Hometowns (November) issue, which will hit the newsstands October 26, 2011. Editors selected Oberlin because the city embodies all of the qualities and characteristics that make Ohio hometowns so special: historic landmarks and architecture, quaint shopping and galleries, as well as an amazing sense of community. **Pat Murphy** led a tour of historic downtown Oberlin and the Oberlin Heritage Center during Ohio Magazine's site visit to the community this past summer; she was one of several local leaders who helped show off the city in the final selection process.

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