

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – June 2012

MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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The Quilt as Story Teller

Textiles can tell a story of their time by fiber type, dye method and printed or woven pattern. Quilts can add to the story through design details, both regional and personal, and the crafter's construction techniques and level of skill with a needle. And when the name of the maker is known – and some family genealogy, associated place, and especially pictures are added – the quilt goes beyond being simply a voice to being a whole conversation! The quilt becomes the vehicle for keeping a family story going for generations into the future. Join us **Tuesday, June 5 at 7:15 p.m.** for an illustrated presentation by the Oberlin Heritage Center's Collections Assistant, **Prue Richards**, featuring examples of quilts from the OHC collections and the stories they hold within them. The event is free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

Oberlin is Your “Quilt Connection” this Summer!

“Quilt Connection 2012” is taking place throughout the community in conjunction with the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts' (FAVA) 15th biennial juried *Artist as Quiltmaker* exhibition at the New Union Center (39 South Main Street) running through July 29. Plan your Oberlin visit in June to coincide with the special “**Quilt as Story Teller**” guided tour at the Oberlin Heritage Center. This special 60-90 minute tour takes place in the Monroe and Jewett Houses and features some of OHC's historic quilts (c. 1830 to c. 1920) rarely seen on display. Quilt tours will be offered on **Fridays at 10:30 a.m.** and **Saturdays at 3 p.m.** from **June 8 through 23**. Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** discusses textiles and techniques of construction, and the makers, owners, and occasions associated with a variety of wonderful examples ranging in size from small doll quilts to impressively large full-size bed quilts. Information about how to care for quilts will be available at the end of the tour. Space is limited to 10 people per tour and reservations are required. \$10 per person; \$6 per OHC member. Register online at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Teen Camp Looks at Museums “Behind the Scenes”

The Oberlin Heritage Center and Allen Memorial Art Museum are teaming up to offer “**A Week at the Museums**” camp for teens the week of **June 25-29 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Perhaps you've wondered “Where does all of this stuff come from?” when you've entered a museum, or “How do they choose what goes on the wall?” as you look around the gallery. This is a great opportunity for kids to go beyond the public spaces and learn about daily operations by talking with museum staff, trying activities just like the pros, and working on a mini-project that friends and family can see at the end of the week. Perfect for youth wanting to learn more about museums and careers in art and history. Participants also can volunteer at the museums following the camp to earn service hours (and a rebate on their camp fee!). Fee: \$75 (\$65 for children and grandchildren of OHC or AMAM members). Register by June 9 to receive an additional \$5 “early bird” discount. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 for a camp flyer.

Soldiers & Civilians History Walk

Commemorate the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States by joining us for this 75-minute guided history walk and learn about Oberlin's perceptions of the Civil War both on the battlefield

and at the home front. Hear stories of exhausting marches, longing for loved ones, struggles for equal treatment, and moments of daring by Oberlin residents. Offered **Saturdays in June at 11 a.m. (June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30)**. Tickets must be purchased in advance through www.oberlinheritage.org or at the Monroe House's Museum Store. Fee is \$6 per adult; free for OHC members (a **NEW** benefit of being a member!), college students and children (the tour is best suited for 9 years and older). All history walks also are available to groups by appointment. For more information, call (440) 774-1700.

More OHC Happenings in June

Warm-weather months are some of the busiest of the year at the Oberlin Heritage Center! Visit the Oberlin Heritage Center's booth on Tappan Square during Oberlin's **Juneteenth** festivities taking place **Saturday, June 16**. And stop by the Heritage Center's table on South Main Street (just south of the Oberlin Post Office) during Oberlin's seventh annual **Chalk Walk** celebration on **Saturday, June 23**. Visit www.juneteenthoberlin.com for more information on this year's Juneteenth theme, "The Coming of Emancipation," or www.oberlinchalkwalk.com for more on this colorful and creative "paint-the-sidewalk" event.

OHC Offers Textile Workshop in July

Learn to care for your quilts and other textile treasures (wedding gowns, military uniforms, hand-embroidered linens, etc.) in the very best way possible to preserve them for future generations. **Textile Care and Preservation in Your Own Home** will be offered as an all-day workshop on **Saturday, July 14 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)** at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** addresses the materials, techniques, conditions, practices and spaces available to us in our own homes that can help improve and extend the lives of our special textile heirlooms. A folder of handouts and resources will be provided for each attendee and participants are invited to bring one or two textile pieces of their own for evaluation during the afternoon session. Fee: \$50 (\$45 for OHC members) includes box lunch. Pre-registration required; limited to 15 participants. Make your reservation online at www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 to request a workshop flyer.

True Blue: Did You Know the Oberlin Heritage Center is a Blue Star Museum?

The Oberlin Heritage Center is among the more than 1,500 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia which are committed to extending a warm welcome to active military families this summer season. Now in its third year, the Blue Star Museum program is a collaboration begun by the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families (a national nonprofit founded to support and connect military families). Participating museums agree to provide free admission to active military and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Some museums, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, even extend their Blue Star welcome to service families all year round. Museums include children's museums, fine arts museums, history and science museums. For more information, including a full list of participating museums, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Members' Update

New members at the Oberlin Heritage Center include **Marie Bell** (North Ridgeville), **Ted & Sherri DeMarco** (North Ridgeville), **Dan & Rosemary Ortiz** (Grafton), **Janet Wanyek, Kelly M. Wessell** (Medina) as well as new business/organizational members: **Pittsfield Township Historical Society** (Wellington) and **Sustainable Community Associates**. (Members are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) Thank you for joining OHC!

Summer is a great time of year to take advantage of the newest benefit for Oberlin Heritage Center members – FREE guided history walks. That’s a \$6 savings on each differently-themed walk, including Soldiers & Civilians (Civil War) History Walk in June, Freedom’s Friends (Underground Railroad & Abolitionist) History Walk in July and August, and Radicals & Reformers (Westwood Cemetery) History Walk in September. If you are not yet a member, we hope to welcome you soon – **please join!** Visit www.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700 (members@oberlinheritage.org) for more information.

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer Update

Liz Schultz (Museum Education and Tour Coordinator) sends us this e-mail from Italy, where she is part of a 6-member delegation taking part in a young-professionals’ cultural exchange trip through Rotary International: *It's been beautiful, non-stop, filling, and educational. I've seen several museums, including an impressive new one near Perugia about agriculture and biodiversity... There is so much history here! The really old and slightly smaller hill towns are my favorites so far, especially Orvieto and Gubbio. The landscape is amazing and sometimes you don't even know which way to look. Green hills, trees, sky, castles. We've had dinner in a castle - twice! Two different castles! But there is one problem, and it's almost hard to admit. Too much food. Seriously. It's absolutely fantastic, but we have been having 4 course dinners at least once every day, and sometimes twice. It's a very good thing we are walking about 5 miles a day. I've (even) sewn my shoes back together once!* Liz continues on her journey through the first half of June and returns to the Heritage Center mid-month. In addition to leading a summer camp for kids on “Italy through the Ages,” in late July, Liz will present a community program on her travels in the fall.

The Oberlin Heritage Center extends a warm welcome to **Michelle Myers**, our Leadership Lorain County intern, who begins a 10-week internship at the Heritage Center the week of June 4. A graduate of Midview High School, Michelle just completed her first year at Swarthmore College. She comes to the Heritage Center with some excellent experience as a Junior Docent at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and having developing sample curricula for 6th graders on the topic of abolition. This summer, Michelle will be helping with tours and youth programs and learning more about marketing, public relations and fundraising during her time at the Heritage Center.

We’re thrilled to receive exciting news from two former interns: **Kathy McCardwell** (OC ’06) , a four-year OHC student intern and one-year Museum Fellow, has accepted a position as Librarian/Archivist with the Colorado Railroad Museums in Golden, CO. She recently became engaged to Dave Poe, a software engineer, and together they are planning an October wedding in Kathy’s home state of Kentucky. **Rachael Blake** (OC ’01), one of the OHC’s former Jewett House Scholars-in-Residence, graduated in January 2012 from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary with a PhD in Marine Science. She has accepted a post-doctoral position at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA and will be working on a large collaborative project that focuses on responses of Gulf Coast ecosystems to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Interns are an invaluable asset to the Oberlin Heritage Center! We love keeping in touch with them after they’ve “left our nest” and take pride in the good work these young people contribute in so many different ways throughout the world.

Kudos Corner

Hats off to the amazing **Gail Wood** who made 11 (yes, eleven!!) 45-minute presentations to each of the 11 classes at Oberlin's Prospect Elementary School with a "show-and-tell" about the new Oberlin History comic book. Gail, a retired Oberlin 3rd-grade schoolteacher (and Oberlin Heritage Center Board member and docent volunteer) prepared the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders for the Oberlin visit of **Bentley Boyd**, the creator of *Oberlin: Origins & Onward!* Gail reported that both she and the kids really enjoyed reading selections from the comic book together and that the students were full of fun and funny questions. In anticipation of Boyd's May 22 visit to the school, one class even penned a comic book of their own to present to Boyd upon his arrival. Boyd's school appearance was a huge hit as he engaged and enthralled the children with hand-drawn illustrations sprinkled with insights into how he followed his own dreams and became a successful author and illustrator. We heard that the children were so inspired by Boyd's visit that some of the kids begged their teacher to let them stay inside during recess so they could practice their cartooning! Indeed, that's the highest compliment anyone could ever receive! Boyd kindly autographed a number of comic books that are available at the Heritage Center's Museum Store. The 24-page book is \$6.95, with a 10% discount for OHC members. Purchase your copy online at www.oberlinheritage.org or visit the Museum Store, open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Monroe House. The Museum Store also carries other titles by Bentley Boyd published in his Chester Comix series.

Biking Tour of Historic Oberlin

The Oberlin Heritage Center's "**Biking Tour of Historic Oberlin**" recently was revised and reprinted thanks to funding from the city bed tax. This booklet is a wonderful read – full of great stories and fun historic photos – for anyone with an interest in Oberlin history, whether a cycling enthusiast, warm-weather walker, or armchair reader. The booklet, first published in 2003, received the History Outreach Award from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums that same year. Free copies are available at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday or stop by the OHC literature table at any of our upcoming community programs.

Wish List: Ways You Can Help at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Bed-and-Breakfast volunteers are needed to host guests (parents and college-age students) coming to town for Oberlin College's Freshman Orientation taking place Monday, August 27 through Wednesday, August 29 (with the greatest demand being on Monday and Tuesday nights). 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. It's a great opportunity to be an Oberlin community ambassador. The Oberlin Heritage Center benefits from all proceeds raised by the accommodation fees (and it's one of our biggest fundraisers of the year). 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.

Help us replace some of our weary-looking flags and fund new red-white-and-blues for the Oberlin Heritage Center this busy visitor season! The 50-star American flag that flies high above the Oberlin Heritage Center ground from the Colonel Richard R. Hallock memorial flagpole costs \$40 to replace. A new 36-star American flag, displayed at the front door to the Monroe House, is \$90. (There were 36 states in the Union in 1866 when the Monroe House originally was built.) A new state of Ohio flag, also flown proudly at the Monroe House entrance, is \$24. For more information, or to make a gift, contact Pat Murphy at (440) 774-1700 or patm@oberlinheritage.org.

The Heritage Center's Membership Committee is looking for two or three new volunteers. The committee helps keep the organization's membership strong and vibrant by identifying prospective members, engaging new members, and encouraging lapsed members to renew. We meet every other month on the first Monday from 4-5 p.m., and volunteers may be assigned another 30-or-so minutes of membership calls and notes that can be done at their own pace from home. If you are interested in becoming more involved at the Heritage Center – this is a great way to get started! Contact Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director, at (440) 774-1700 or members@oberlinheritage.org.

Also of Interest

Congratulations to Oberlin College associate professor of history and African American studies (and Oberlin Heritage Center member) **Renee Romano** who has published a co-edited collection, *Doing Recent History: On Privacy, Copyright, Video Games, Institutional Review Boards, Activist Scholarship, and History that Talks Back*. The book features her essay “*Not Dead Yet: My Identity Crisis as a Historian of the Recent Past*,” which explores the methodological and disciplinary challenges of researching and writing histories of events that have taken place within the last two decades.

Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year (and recent Oberlin College graduate), **Tim Krumreig**, keeps racking up the awards this year. Tim was honored by the College's Bonner Center for Service & Learning with the “Spirit of the BCSL” Award at its End-of-Year Celebration last month.

Stephanie K. Meeks, President of the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, recently delivered a keynote address at the Heritage Ohio Preservation and Revitalization Conference in Toledo. She commended the preservation work being done in our state that is transforming communities and making them not just places to live, but places to *love*. The central message of her speech focused on the power of preservation to drive positive social change. “We have a compelling story to tell about the connection between preservation and the very real social issues facing us as a nation today, from job creation to affordable housing to sustainable communities,” stated Meeks. And how exciting to see a photo of Oberlin's West College Street accompanying Meeks' illustrated presentation! Downtown Oberlin was designated as a National Register Historic District in 2003 with the nomination being prepared by the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Visit Gilder Lehrman's new *Home for History* website, a superb new resource on the web for teachers, students, scholars, and lovers of American history. Featuring *History by Era*, a chronological and thematic curriculum online, spanning “Exploration” to the “New Millennium,” 50 original essays by renowned historians offering a range of views on American history and more than 300 podcasts of lectures and talks on a broad span of topics. Visit www.gilderlehrman.org.

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