

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette - November 2014

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History Walks & More Offered to All During College's Parents Weekend

As part of Oberlin College's Parents' Weekend activities, the Oberlin Heritage Center has expanded its guided tour schedule for Friday-Sunday, November 7-9. Oberlin residents and out-of-towners are encouraged to take part! This will be the last opportunity to enjoy a neighborhood history walk until next spring. Online reservations may be made at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org for the **Freedom's Friends Underground Railroad History Walk (Friday, November 7 at 3 p.m. or Saturday, November 8 at 11 a.m.)** or the **"One Step More" Oberlin Women's History Walk (Saturday, November 8 at 1 p.m. or Sunday, November 9 at 11 a.m.)** Not enough time for a 75-minute history walk? Take a quick "crash course" in Oberlin's early history with the **Sneak Peek/Oberlin Origins 30-minute tour at the Monroe House (73½ South Professor Street) offered Saturday, November 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Walk-ins are welcome and mini-tours begin on the half-hour. Additional information including fees and history walk starting locations are available on the OHC [website](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700. Plan your visit to Oberlin to include a very special event at The First Church in Oberlin on Sunday afternoon...read on for more!

Music and History Connect in Honor of Oberlin's Early Religious Heritage

All are invited to attend a community-wide celebration of music and history on **Sunday, November 9 from 3-4:30 p.m.** when The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ and the Oberlin Heritage Center present **Oberlin Connections through Hymns**. Join community members, visitors, area churches, religious leaders, and dignitaries for a stirring hour-long "sing" of historic hymns in the First Church Meeting House (106 North Main Street; parking available behind the church and across the street at Langston Middle School). The afternoon concludes with the **dedication of a new Ohio Historical Marker recognizing Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921)** who graduated from Oberlin College in 1847 and became the first woman in the nation ordained as a minister in 1853, at a time when most people considered it highly inappropriate for a woman to give public speeches, let alone become a minister. The marker also commemorates **The First Church, U.C.C.**, which was built in the 1840s, and was home to internationally famous minister Charles Grandison Finney. Through the years, the church has been a speaking venue for such notable figures as Frederick Douglas, Mark Twain, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is free and open to the public. For information about the hymn sing, contact Mary Louise Van Dyke at mlvandyke@oberlin.net, and to learn more about the historical marker dedication, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

20th Century Stories from Around Town

Author **Eugenia (Geni) Poporad Vanek** highlights Oberlin sites and events from the award-winning *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from Historic College Town*, the Heritage Center's recently-published, oral-history based book of recollections from 52 Oberlin women whose lives span the 20th century. This free, public presentation takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser

Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) on **Thursday, November 20 at 7:15 p.m.** and is part of Kendal's Third Thursday Lecture Series. Hear about the original Apollo Theater and Allen Hospital; memories surrounding a changing downtown landscape; and efforts to renovate the New Union Center for the Arts and to build Splash Zone aquatic center in Oberlin. Some vignettes showcase national figures and events in the news while others share seemingly everyday occurrences that give vibrancy to small town life. More information at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or (440) 774-1700.

OHC College Student Interns take the Spotlight in Community Program

Being part of a college community offers many opportunities to learn more about people and places around the world – without ever leaving home. In **Sharing Stories from Overseas**, several of the Oberlin Heritage Center college student interns introduce us to their international roots and their recent studies abroad. Among those featured are History major **Hanna Van Reed '15**, who recently spent a semester studying at Pembroke College at the University of Cambridge in England, and **Rand Zalzala '16**, an Architecture major from Baghdad, attending Oberlin College with the help of the Iraqi Student Project (IS)), which enables Iraqis to study in American colleges and then take their skills back to help in the rebuilding of Iraqi society. Also presenting are **Monica Monsalve '15**, a Politics major with a concentration in International Studies & Comparative Latin American Politics who spent last semester studying in Sao Paulo, Brazil and **César Palacio '16**, a double major in Clarinet Performance and History who spent two Winter Terms participating in the Panama Project teaching music to Panamanian students. The illustrated presentation takes place on **Tuesday, November 25 at 7:15 p.m.** in Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public. For more, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Hosts Introductory Workshop for Local History Organizations

The Oberlin Heritage Center will hold an introductory session on the **American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Standards for Excellence Program ("StEPs")**, which is a self-paced voluntary program that guides small historical organizations through reviews and enhancement of their current policies and practices and helps them work to implement best practices in their organizations. This 90-minute session is free and will outline how the program works and how it can benefit local history organizations. Organizations are encouraged to send two representatives, including a board member, and a staff member or volunteer to the workshop, which will be offered in Oberlin on **Wednesday, December 10 at 10 a.m. and repeated again at 3 p.m.** Oberlin Heritage Center presenters also will gauge interest and discuss possibilities for a series of workshops in 2015 for organizations wishing to work together on accomplishing StEPs. The Heritage Center is offering this program as service to other local history organizations in cooperation with the Ohio History Connection Local History Office. Reservations are required by December 5 and location information will be provided upon receipt of reservation. Please contact the Heritage Center's AmeriCorps Member **Kaitlyn Goss** at kaitlyn.goss@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700 to make a reservation or for further information.

Help OHC Design A Tour of Downtown Oberlin

In the coming year the Oberlin Heritage Center will be developing a self-guided tour of historic downtown Oberlin that visitors can take on tablets or iPads. It will include fun facts, historic photographs, and more. What would **you** like to know about downtown Oberlin? Please take 2 minutes to answer 3 questions and help us make sure the tour meets your interests. Click on this link to take the brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FV68KMT> .

Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Report

The Anniversary Celebration special edition includes an 8-page colorful inset chronicling many accomplishments made by the organization since its earliest beginnings in 1903. See how the Heritage Center has developed through the years to become one of the foremost small history museums in the country, while continuing a number of traditions that began as far back as a century ago. You may review this wonderful recap of stories and photos in [2013: An Anniversary Celebration Year!](#) by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (select “Annual Reports” on the pull-down tab beneath the “Events and News” main menu heading). We work diligently to list all donors and volunteers in the Annual Report. Apologies to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted (and please let us know who you are!).

Annual Fund Underway – Help End the Year on Top!

The Oberlin Heritage Center’s once-a-year, end-of-the-year campaign for annual operating support is underway with a lofty goal of \$38,000 to be raised by December 31, 2014. We’re more than halfway at this time thanks to 180 donors who have contributed \$26,500. Donate online at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or mail your gift to the OHC Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. Your donation is especially needed at this time to help end a very lean year in the black. Every gift, regardless of size, helps the Heritage Center in a BIG way!

Thanksgiving Weekend Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Warmest thanks are sent to all of the Heritage Center’s members and friends for the tremendous support you provide to keep Oberlin’s rich history alive for future generations. The Oberlin Heritage Center will be closed on **Thursday, November 27** so that staff, interns, and volunteers may celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with families and friends. The Heritage Center will be **open from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 28 and Saturday, November 29**. Guided tours of the Oberlin Heritage Center will be offered on **Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Please join OHC in extending a warm welcome to **Kaitlyn Goss**, the new Local History Corps/AmeriCorps member for Northeast Ohio (Cleveland area) who will be based at the Oberlin Heritage Center for the coming year. Kaitlyn, who hails from the Dayton area, has a BA in Anthropology and a MA in History with a Public History focus, both received from Wright State University. Prior to joining AmeriCorps, Kaitlyn worked part-time at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, and also has volunteer/intern experience with the National Afro-American Museum (Wilberforce, OH), the Clark County Historical Society (Springfield, OH), and the Dayton Society of National History. One of the major projects Kaitlyn will be working on this year is getting regional organizations participating in the StEPS program of the American Association of State and Local History (for more on this, see elsewhere in this newsletter). Kaitlyn will devote about half of her time to Oberlin Heritage Center activities and the other half to assisting other history organizations in our region. Her term of service runs through August 2015. (You may recall OHC announced in our September E-News that that we expected Kelly Wilson to come on board as the AmeriCorps member, but life sometimes takes a turn of events, and Kelly withdrew from the program about a week before she was to arrive.)

Maren McKee, Collections Manager, attended the American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN September 17-20. The conference was one of the best attended in recent years, with more than 1,060 museum and history folks from across the country coming together to share their passion for history. Maren attended several informative sessions on collections care and management and is pleased to report that the Oberlin Heritage Center continues to be at the forefront of collections care best practices. The highlight of the conference, however, was the keynote speaker, humorist and radio personality, Garrison Keller. He kept the audience in stitches with his observations about the local history of St. Paul.

Mary Anne Cunningham, Assistant to the Director, represented the Heritage Center at the autumn quarterly meeting of the Northeast Ohio Inter-Museum Council, hosted by the **Southern Lorain County Historical Society** in Wellington. Founded in 1942, the NEOIMC serves more than 120 institutional members in a seven-county region, from large internationally known museums in major urban centers to metro parks, nature facilities, and small local history museums. Pick up a free copy of the [Northeast Ohio Museums Discovery Guide](#) at the Heritage Center or contact members@oberlinheritage.org to have one sent to you. (Did you know it's the *most requested* brochure by out-of-town visitors arriving at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport?)

Mature Services front desk staff person, **Linda Gates**, has been blogging! Learn more about how history is chronicled in Oberlin High School yearbooks and particularly the community's business growth. Linda has been documenting advertisements in 20th century annuals and she has discovered a lot of fascinating history in those pages. Meanwhile, super-volunteer and graduate student intern **Melissa Clifford** does some Halloween Holiday blogging of her own with stories of holiday traditions taken from the Oberlin Oral History project. This is part one of a three-part holiday blog series – watch for more stories celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas in coming weeks. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click “Blog” on the left sidebar.

Pat Murphy, Executive Director, was featured in The WEOL Morning Show's “Spotlight on Oberlin,” when the local radio morning show went on-the-road recently and spent three days broadcasting from downtown Oberlin. To hear the interview and find out what other city leaders, educators and business owners have to say about happenings in the community, visit <http://weol.northcoastnow.com/weol-morning-show/>.

Museum Education & Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, is off to Indianapolis for the three-week seminar “Developing History Leaders,” recognized as one of the best professional development opportunities in the country for future leaders in history organizations of all types and sizes. Liz will share highlights from all that she learns in a free community program, aptly titled **What's New in History Museums and Historic Sites Leadership**. The presentation takes place on **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium at **Kendal at Oberlin** (600 Kendal Drive).

Congratulations to Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee **Richard E. Baznik** upon the publication of his new book **Beyond the Fence: A Social History of Case Western Reserve University**. Dick began his career at Case Western Reserve University in 1968 and served as special assistant to the president and vice president for public affairs. Now retired, yet still serving as university historian, his new book reflects more than ten years of research and writing. Published by Case Western Reserve University, the book is available at the CWRU Bookstore located at 11451 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, (216) 368-2650.

Members Update

A warm welcome goes out to **Ellen Mavrich** (Oberlin) as the newest member at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Special thanks to current Endowed Life members **Dick & Dina Schoonmaker** (Oberlin) who increased their support from the Copper to the Aluminum level of giving. Members are the lifeblood of this organization – [Please join](#) if you are not a member! Or, forward a copy of this newsletter to a friend and encourage him/her to join! Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and help OHC continue to be a strong and vibrant organization doing good work in the community!

Kudos Corner

Applause, applause for **Carol Lasser**, Oberlin College Professor of History (and Oberlin Heritage Center Honorary Trustee and recipient of OHC's Community Historian Award) who is among a select group of nominees being lauded at the **2014 Lorain County Woman of Achievement** luncheon hosted by the Elyria YWCA on **Wednesday, November 12** at DeLuca's Place in the Park (6075 Middle Ridge Rd, Lorain). Carol was nominated for the award by **Jen Graham**, former Local History Corps/AmeriCorps member at the Oberlin Heritage Center (and an Oberlin College '12 honors history major). Advance tickets for the event may be purchased at the Elyria YWCA (318 West Avenue, Elyria) or call (440) 322-6308.

Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Oberlin Heritage Center!

Planning to do some online shopping at Amazon.com this holiday season? Support the Oberlin Heritage Center through **Amazon Smile** and when you shop, [Amazon](#) gives to the charitable organization of your choice at no extra expense to the customer. The Heritage Center is listed under its legal name, the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization. Sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/>

Shopping online at other retail outlets or planning a holiday get-away? Shop via www.shopformuseums.com to support the Oberlin Heritage Center at **no extra cost to you!** A percentage of your purchase amount will be donated to the Oberlin Heritage Center when you make purchases at hundreds of your favorite outlets like Macy's, Kohl's, Target, Staples, Best Buy, Hilton Hotels, Hertz, Expedia, Priceline and more.

And remember the **Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store** as a source for great holiday gift-giving ideas. Books, tee shirts, Oberlin afghans, history playing cards and other Oberlin-themed mementos are available at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on the "Shop" button). Consider an inscribed century-old brick placed along the Heritage Center walkway to honor a special person or occasion in your life, or provide a gift of an OHC membership to family and friends who like to support a well-managed nonprofit doing good work in the community! For more information, contact members@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Also of Interest

The second in the **Music at the Meeting House** series of concerts celebrating the rebuilding of the 1911 Steinway piano at The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ (106 North Main Street) will take place **Friday, October 31 at 8 p.m.** Acclaimed trumpet player James Tinsley will perform. Katie Cross will accompany at the piano. Free admission. All are welcome.

Bob Minton, a long-time Civil War re-enactor, will address the **Quincy Gillmore Civil War Round Table**, on **Monday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at **Lorain County Community College's iLoft**

Building, Room 207 (1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria). The topic is *Military Leadership during the Civil War*, and it is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jim Jablonski at jjjablon@aol.com.

Carol Lasser, Oberlin College professor of history (and Oberlin Heritage Center Honorary Trustee and Life Member) is the guest speaker at the **Allen Memorial Art Museum's Tuesday Tea on November 11 at 2:30 p.m.** Professor Lasser explores what the *Ohio Star Signature Quilt* reveals about the culture of early Oberlin, as part of **the Life and Art in Early America** exhibit running at the AMAM through June 2015. The event is free and open to the public. Location: 87 North Main Street, Oberlin.

The first **Garfield Symposium**, sponsored by the Friends of James A. Garfield takes place **Friday and Saturday, November 14-15** at the **James A. Garfield National Historic Site** (Mentor) and Lakeland Community College (Kirtland). Get to know the 20th president of the U.S. and help build a Garfield network. For more information call 440-658-9023 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfJamesAGarfieldNHS/events>.

The **Bay Village Historical Society** hosts its quarterly membership meeting with a potluck on **Thursday, November 20**, at 6:30 p.m. followed by a free public program at 7:00 p.m. on **Ohio's Unsung Heroines/Women in the Civil War**. The event takes place at the Bay Village Community House (303 Cahoon Road). For more information, or to make a reservation, call (440) 835-4472.

A **World War II Poster Exhibit**, based on a collection from The College of Wooster art museum, is a free display, open to the public, in the Friends Gallery at **Kendal at Oberlin** now through December 15. The gallery is open 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Visitors should enter the Heiser Community Center (600 Kendal Drive) and the receptionist will direct you to the gallery. For more information, call (440) 775-0094.

Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out is an annual essay contest encouraging social responsibility while fostering appreciation for people of differing religions, races, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. Private, public, online and home-schooled students (grades 6-12) in the Ohio counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit are invited to submit 500-word essays describing a real-life act of discrimination they experienced or witnessed, outlining how they responded to that particular incident and detailing creative ways they all can make their schools or communities more inclusive. And, for 15 students and three schools, there's a real reward for being a voice for positive change in the world -- \$100,000 in cash prizes and scholarships. Sponsored by The **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage**; complete rules can be found at www.maltzmuseum.org or call (216) 593-0577/

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