

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette - October 2014

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Award-Winning Autumn at OHC!

Great news and more great news arrived at the Heritage Center last month! The **Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA)** awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award to OHC's Past President of the Board, **Walt Edling**, and a History Outreach Award to the oral history book *Bonnets to Boardrooms: Women's Stories from a Historic College Town*, edited by **Eugenia Poporad Vanek**. The awards will be presented at the OLHA Annual Meeting and Conference on Saturday, October 4 in Worthington, Ohio.

The **Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO)** congratulated the Heritage Center for earning **Standards for Excellence re-certification**. The Standards for Excellence program promotes ethical practices and accountability in nonprofit organizations across the state. At the completion of the re-certification process, the Standards for Excellence advisory committee highlighted several areas of the Heritage Center's operation that deserved special commendation including *Organizational Evaluation, Program Cost Analysis and Evaluation, Board Diversity, and Financial Policies and Procedures*. The Heritage Center first received OANO's Standards for Excellence certification in 2012 and presently is one of 34 Ohio organizations to achieve this status.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**, a federal agency, announced that the Oberlin Heritage Center was selected to receive a **2014 Museums for America Award**, one of 196 projects (out of 554 grant applications) to be funded this year. The Heritage Center's \$24,277 grant focuses on Learning Experiences through technology and will help enhance its website and create two new tablet-based tours. In announcing the 2014 awards, Susan Hildreth, IMLS Director, stated "Our grants are highly competitive. The Institute of Museum and Library Services enlists hundreds of library and museum professionals throughout the United States to review grant applications and make recommendations on projects most worthy of funding. Receiving a grant from IMLS is a significant achievement, and we congratulate the Oberlin Heritage Center for being among the 2014 IMLS museum grantees." OHC was one of five Ohio museums to receive Museum for America grants this year, along with the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, the Columbus Museum of Art, the Massillon Museum, and the Springfield Museum of Art.

Oberlin: Hotbed of Abolitionism – Review Finds Inspiration in Morris' Book

Here's what the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* had to say about the new book by **J. Brent Morris**, professor at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort:

In Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community, and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America, Morris seeks to cut through 'historical mythology' to recover exactly how and why Oberlin became so crucial to the antislavery crusade...[the] exciting story and colorful, larger-than-life characters, along with Morris' liberal citation of their thundering invective...make for a gripping account.

For the full book review, go to

http://www.cleveland.com/books/index.ssf/2014/09/historian_j_brent_morris_shine.html. Morris will speak at a free community program on **Monday, September 29 at 4:30 p.m.** in Moffett Auditorium in the Oberlin College Mudd Center. The event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Oberlin College Library, the Oberlin College Archives, the Oberlin College History Department, the Oberlin Heritage Center and the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group. Books are available for purchase at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store, online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or at the event itself, where Morris will be available to sign books following his presentation. Books purchased through the Heritage Center prior to the event will receive a 15% discount; OHC members receive another 10% off all purchases through the Museum Store as a benefit of membership.

Oberlin's Jacob Dolson Cox: Military and Political Leader

Historian and author, **Eugene D. Schmiel**, brings to life an important figure in local, state and national history when he presents two distinct programs on Oberlin College graduate (1851) Jacob Dolson Cox. Schmiel recently wrote a comprehensive biography about the military commander and 28th Governor of Ohio (who also happened to be married to Helen Finney, eldest daughter of renowned evangelist and Oberlin College president Charles Grandison Finney). Join us at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) on **Wednesday, October 15** at 7:15 p.m. for **Jacob Cox and the 'Oberlin Letter' – Military Hero and Controversial Politician** to learn more about Cox's and the nation's evolution of thinking on political and racial views during the years surrounding the Civil War and the era of Reconstruction. Get to know the heart of **Jacob Cox: Oberlin's Finest Civil War General** in a brown-bag lunch presentation at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) on **Thursday, October 16 at 12 noon**, when Schmiel takes a closer look at Cox's personality, his Oberlin training and educational focus on the ministry and theology. A book signing follows. Copies of the new biography, ***Citizen General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era*** are available in the OHC Museum Store or shop online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. Each of these events is free and open to the public. The programs are co-sponsored by the Heritage Center and the Oberlin College Archives, with the Oberlin Public Library collaborating on the "History for Lunch" event.

Community Arts and Culture Day Keeps Kids Busy on Day Off!

While area teachers take the day to participate in a wide-range of professional development workshops sponsored by the North Eastern Ohio Educational Association (NEOEA), local community arts and education organizations are teaming up to keep kids entertained and parents happy by offering fun, hands-on activities throughout downtown Oberlin. This year's **Arts and Culture Day**, with the theme "*Art of the Americas*," takes place on **Friday, October 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** with activities hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Allen Memorial Art Museum (87 North Main Street), FAVA (39 South Main Street), and the Oberlin Public Library/America Reads/Eastwood-Prospect PTO (in the Library, located at 65 South Main Street). Stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse (behind 73 South Professor Street) for old-fashioned schoolyard games and enjoy folksinger **Judy Cook** perform Early American songs at 11:30 a.m. and at 2 p.m. All activities are free and open to the public; the event is geared to children ages 6-12, who must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Why Participate in Annual Fund? Varied Reasons/Valuable Results!

The end-of-the-year Annual Fund campaign is underway with this year's goal to raise \$38,000 for the Heritage Center's general operations. To date, \$21,500 has been received from 133 donors. When asked why they contribute to the Annual Fund, responses run the gamut from being a fan of local history, to admiring a well-managed organization, to having a soft spot in their hearts for their hometown. We especially liked the reasoning given by one young family whose contribution was accompanied by this warm note: "*Oberlin has played a vital role in so many key events in American history. It is our responsibility to help preserve it.*" The Annual Fund helps balance the budget each year and every gift, regardless of amount, is appreciated and used effectively. Please send your gift to the OHC Annual Fund (P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074) or make a secure online contribution at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> by December 31, 2014.

B&B Tradition Pairs Welcoming Hosts with Enthusiastic Guests

Many thanks to 20 Oberlin Heritage Center volunteers and their families who hosted incoming Oberlin College first-year students and their parents for the College's orientation at the end of August. The bed-and-breakfast placements raised over \$4,000 for the Oberlin Heritage Center's general operations. Not only is this B&B effort one of OHC's biggest fundraisers of the year, but those convenient and family-friendly accommodations help make this transition time much easier for both parents and students. If you would like to become a host for next year's end-of-summer B&B event, contact OHC coordinator **Gail Wood** at ohcbnb@gmail.com.

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Congratulations to our latest group of community residents and students who completed a docent training session last month: **Julia Elrod, Barb Enos, Linda Gilmore, Ann Ingram, Penny Jaffe, Elizabeth Kuperman, Samia Mansour, Maren McKee, Alexandra Nicome, and Liz Ragosta.**

Volunteers are working overtime at the Heritage Center! Last month, volunteer **Melissa Clifford** of Wellington, took a week's vacation from her job as a Technical Services Representative at Ross Environmental Services (Elyria) to volunteer those 40 hours at the Heritage Center. In addition to working full-time, Melissa is a graduate student in the Kent State Masters in Library and Information Science/ Museum Studies Program and receives internship credit for the hours that she volunteers at OHC. Melissa has been working every Saturday at the Heritage Center since September 2013, digitalizing oral histories, guiding tours and most recently joining the ranks as an OHC blogger. Check out her recent blog post at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and find out more about what she has been doing at the Heritage Center (and actually *listen* to some of the original oral history interviews she's been working with to hear some of her favorite stories from Oberlin's past).

William Yin, an alum of Oberlin High School (Class of 2009) and University of Washington/Seattle (2014), has been volunteering weekly this summer and fall as a research assistant, looking into the history of Oberlin landmarks. William's enlightening history feature on Oberlin's World War II Memorial Garden is posted on the Heritage Center website. Check it out at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on Research & Learn on the home page then scroll to Oberlin Monuments & Outdoor Sculpture). William also is busily adding to OHC's Pinterest page – stay up to date by clicking on the "Pinterest Icon" in our E-Gazette's masthead, or visit <http://www.pinterest.com/oberlinheritage/>.

Multi-talented volunteer **Ron Gorman** (docent, researcher, program presenter, and writer) has published a new blog on the Heritage Center website to observe the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Market Heights, an important yet often overlooked Civil War battle in which the Union victory was led by Ohio's first African American regiment, the 5th United States Colored Troops (USCT) infantry. One of the commanders of the 5th USCT was Oberlin's own Giles W. Shurtleff. Read more about this particularly ferocious battle and the heroics of the men involved in Ron's commemorative feature [The Battle of New Market Heights: The 5th USCTs "Glory"](http://www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org (click on "Blog" on the home page's left-hand sidebar).

Liz Ragosta, fresh from OHC's docent training workshop, jumped right in and helped out Museum Education & Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**, at the Pioneer Craftsman Experience last month at Mill Hollow in the Lorain County Metroparks Vermilion River Reservation. Liz R. brings a wealth of experience sharing stories of slavery from her past work as a guide for Monticello and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in Charlottesville, Virginia, and she was a great asset to the Heritage Center's hands-on-history sessions about the Underground Railroad presented to 3rd – 5th graders during the two-day event. We're also fortunate to have the volunteer assistance of **Elizabeth Kuperman** who comes in weekly to do research and also has helped with special events. Her strong professional background in nonprofit management, training and development makes her a great addition to OHC's Development Committee as well. Hardly a week goes by without seeing these tremendously dedicated volunteers at the Heritage Center: **Charlotte Bosch** (Docent), **Beverly Miller** (Public Relations/Office Assistant), **Jean Simon** (Public Relations/Office Assistant), **Bud Spierling** (Docent/Front Desk), **Kelsey Voit** (Collections assistance), and **Ed Wardwell** (Treasurer). Thank you one and all – weekly helpers and those who help as needed. Volunteers are a key element in keeping the Heritage Center a vibrant organization!

We love hearing from youth volunteer, **Annalee Sekulic**, who is spending her high school junior year abroad as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in Helsinki, Finland. For a fresh and fun look at Anna's "journey of a lifetime," follow her wonderful blog at <http://annaleesekulic.blogspot.com>.

Members Update

Congratulations to **Rhonda Worcester** (Wellington) who became a new member as the winner of OHC's "Windows of Oberlin" Scavenger Hunt! The Oberlin Heritage Center also welcomes new members **Michael & Cheri Lavigne** (Oberlin), **Anne Martin** (Oberlin), **Liz Ragosta** (Oberlin), **John & Jenny Sekulic** (Wakeman), and **Austin Spenzer** (Avon Lake). New members are vital to the Heritage Center's good health! If you are not yet a member, or if your membership has lapsed, your participation at any level would be tremendously helpful and appreciated. Please join or renew at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/getinvolved/join. OHC members are like family and we were saddened by the recent passing of Endowed Life member **Etta Ruth Weigl** who was a dear friend of the Heritage Center for more than 20 years.

Also of Interest

Congratulations to **Leadership Lorain County** as the 2014 winner of a Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education Award for **Northeast Ohio's Coolest Internship!** The Heritage Center has been fortunate to host a LLC intern each summer since the year 2000.

Music at the Meeting House, a concert series celebrating music in the Oberlin community, and featuring The First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C.'s (106 North Main Street) newly rebuilt 1911 Steinway piano, takes place **September 28, 2014 at 4 p.m.** Free and open to the public.

A **Woman's Suffrage Celebration**, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the 1914 Suffrage March in downtown Cleveland, takes place **Friday, October 3 at 11:30 a.m.** with a gala afternoon tea/luncheon at the Emerald Necklace Inn (Fairview Park, OH) and a first-person portrayal of suffragist legend Josephine Saxer Irwin (presented by **Charlene Connors**, of the Cleveland-based nonprofit "Women in History" and also an OHC member). The celebration continues **Saturday, October 4** with an open house from **noon to 3 p.m.** at Josephine's Orchard Greenhouse and a tour of Fairview Park (Rockport) Cemetery which Josephine fought to preserve and which now is her final resting place. For ticket information and further details visit www.emeraldnecklaceinn.com.

Lorain County Community College hosts a free lecture series on the Civil War with a focus on the year 1864 held on **Wednesday evenings, October 8, 15 and 22 at 7 p.m.** in the Spitzer Conference Center Grand Room. For information on the topics presented, or to register for any or all sessions, visit www.lorainccc.edu/civilwar or call (440)366-4126.

The Firelands Archaeological Research Center (FARC) hosts two special events in honor of October being Ohio Archaeology Month. The 5th annual Ohio Archaeology Dinner will be held on **Thursday, October 9, at 6 p.m.** at the Amherst Sandstone Village Grange Hall, featuring a presentation on the 1850 sinking of the side-wheel steamer "**The Anthony Wayne: Fact and Fiction.**" For ticket information visit www.firelandsarchaeology.org or call (440) 452-9552. On **Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, bring your possible pre-historic artifacts – such as stone or flint projectile points – to the free, public "**Artifact Identification Day**" held at the Research Lab at the Sandstone Village. Location for both events: 763 Milan Avenue in Amherst.

The **Friends of the Oberlin Public Library** will host its bi-annual **Fall Book Sale, October 9-12 (various times)** with the **Friends' Pre-Sale on Wednesday, October 8th from 5-8 p.m.** Stop by the library (65 South Main Street) to check out a great selection of books, music and DVDs.

The **Allen Memorial Art Museum's Tuesday Tea Talk on October 14 at 2:30 p.m.** features Oberlin College Professor of History (and longtime OHC member) **Steven Volk** discussing Frida Kahlo and a trio of other artists known as *los tres grandes*—Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Siqueiros – whose works helped to form Mexico's post-Revolutionary identity. Free and open to the public. Location: 87 North Main Street, Oberlin.

The **Historic Euclid Avenue Walking Tour** is offered in downtown Cleveland every **Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. through December 16.** Learn about historic dime stores such as Woolworth's and Kresge's, the incredible Arcade which was modeled after the great light courts of Europe, the 5th Street Arcades, The 9, including the Cleveland Trust Rotunda, renowned department stores such as Halle's and Sterling Linder, important social clubs such as The Union Club and the GE Chandelier. Rotating historic characters such as Congresswoman Frances Payne Bolton, Mayor Tom Jackson, and Alan Freed will educate and entertain with stories of yesteryears. Reservations are appreciated and a donation is encouraged to help fund future tours. The tour is part of the "Take a Hike" program of the Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation. For more information, visit www.clevelandgatewaydistrict.com or call (216) 771-1994.

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