

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – April 2015

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CWRU History Offers Insights into the Development of the Western Reserve

Richard E. Baznik presents the story of the challenging, yet oh-so-fruitful merging of two respected northeast Ohio institutions of higher learning in **Forever Young: The History of Case Western Reserve University**. Western Reserve College, the first permanent college founded in the Western Reserve of Connecticut in 1826, was a product of the dreams and aspirations of regional leaders who had to temper their religious goals to deal with the politics of the times. Nearly six decades later, and 26 miles northwest of the college's home in Hudson, Leonard Case, Jr. left funds to create a school of applied science in Cleveland. It may have been inevitable that the two institutions would get together one day, but it wasn't easy. The story of the schools' eventual consolidation also offers insights into the development of the broader region. Baznik is Vice President Emeritus for Public Affairs at Case Western Reserve University and presently serves as University Historian for CWRU and also is a Trustee of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Baznik's new book *Beyond the Fence: A Social History of Case Western Reserve University* reflects more than ten years of research and writing. The illustrated program takes place on **Tuesday, April 21 at 7:15 p.m.** in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

OHC Hopping on Easter Weekend!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is one of three locations for the annual **Downtown Oberlin Easter Egg Hunt** taking place **Saturday, April 4**. The event starts at 11:00 a.m. on the New Union Center lawn (39 South Main Street) for those 3 years of age and under; then moves to the OHC green space (80 South Main Street) next to the Oberlin Post Office at 11:30 a.m. for ages 4-6, and finishes on Tappan Square at 12 noon for ages 7-10. For more information, visit the Oberlin Business Partnership at www.oberlin.org.

Connecting College, Community & Career

To celebrate 20 years of placing Oberlin College students in off-campus jobs in the nonprofit and public sectors, **Oberlin College's Bonner Center for Service & Learning's Community Service Work-Study Program (CSWSP)** will welcome **Laurie Stein** (OC '06) to campus **April 1-3**. Laurie worked at the Oberlin Heritage Center through CSWSP from 2002-2006 and as an OHC Museum Fellow following graduation. As an intern, Laurie was a wonderful docent, researcher, program presenter, webmaster and more. She went on to earn her M.A. in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University, and is currently the curator at the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Historical Society in Lake Forest, Illinois. We're delighted that Laurie will be a special guest at the OHC Annual Meeting where members and friends will have a chance to catch up with her in person. While in Oberlin, the CSWSP will host students and community partners for a luncheon on **Friday, April 3** to hear Laurie discuss her experience as an Oberlin College work-study student at the Heritage Center and the impact it had on her career.

Springtime Brings History Lessons Out-of-Doors Again!

As warm weather approaches, the Heritage Center brings back many opportunities to learn about local history while enjoying the chance to move about and breathe in the fresh spring air. Groups may reserve a guided 90-minute history walk on a number of different topics, including: **Freedom's Friends** (Abolition/Underground Railroad), **Scholars & Settlers** (Tappan Square), **Soldiers & Civilians** (Civil War), **"One Step More"** (Oberlin Women's History), **Radicals & Reformers** (Westwood Cemetery) or the **Downtown Oberlin Historic District**. The **Amazing Oberlin Smartphone Race** is a fun, fast-moving, and

user-friendly approach to exploring Oberlin history. All you need is enough people to make up two teams to set up a friendly competition, with a Smartphone for each team, and you are off and running! Even the younger set can enjoy a history walk designed just for them! **I Spy Oberlin: History and Architecture Scavenger Hunt** offers a guided one-hour activity for families with children ages 5-11. Contact Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Liz Schultz (tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org) to make reservations for outdoor history walks now through October. The Freedom's Friends and Scholars & Settlers History Walks also will be scheduled regularly beginning in June for individual reservations. Visit the OHC website (www.oberlinheritagecenter.org) or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Heritage Center's Historic Photos Featured in Oberlin IGA's New Look

Have you seen the marvelous "new look" of the **Oberlin IGA** featuring big, beautiful historic photo collages that recall the "old days" of Oberlin? Leo Braidon, the IGA's new owner, along with graphics design firm KDM P.O.P. Solutions Group of Cincinnati, worked closely with the Oberlin Heritage Center's Collections Manager, **Maren McKee**, to develop an in-store photo panel exhibit for the walls of the store's newly redecorated interior. In all, some 50 reproduced images from OHC's collections, representing such Oberlin "themes" as streetscapes, local businesses, landmarks, Oberlin sports, music, and more are displayed throughout the store. Stop by the IGA one day soon to enjoy what makes this community "Hometown Proud!" OHC seeks additional 19th and 20th century photographs depicting varied aspects of Oberlin community history and life to add to its photo collection. If you have some to offer (by donating them to OHC or allowing staff to borrow them to scan a digital image and then return the originals to you), please contact Collections Manager Maren McKee at history@oberlinheritage.org.

What's What with S.W.O.T.s?

Last month, 60 of OHC's members and friends came together in four focus groups to discuss the organization's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats as an initial step in developing a new five-year strategic plan for the Heritage Center. Comments from the brainstorming sessions were organized within broad areas of operations, including human resources, collections, educational programs, buildings & grounds, governance, public/community relations and funding. The discussions underscored areas of strength (such as talented staff and a strong volunteer network), weaknesses (building accessibility, inadequate directional signage, and lack of space for collections and programming), opportunities (expand programming for young adults; use emerging technologies to reach out to more distant audiences) and threats (find ways to address misperceptions about the organization in some markets of the community). OHC Board President **Nick Jones** led a session at the Oberlin Public Library on March 21 attended by 25 people which summarized the information gleaned from the early-March S.W.O.T. sessions. OHC's planning team will be giving shape to the new plan in the coming months and invites your input. Contact Nick Jones with your ideas and suggestions (nrjones360@gmail.com).

Second Annual Hubbard Prize Awarded at Regional National History Day

Three Oberlin High School students took home the Oberlin Heritage Center's **Hubbard Prize** at the National History Day Ohio District 3 competition that took place **Saturday, March 27** in Cleveland. The prize was created by OHC members **Gail and Ned Hubbard** of Centreville, Virginia in honor of his grandparents, Pliny Deane and Laura Rote Hubbard, who were the second owners of the Heritage Center's historic Jewett House and resided there from the mid-1920s to the 1960s, before the historical society acquired the property. The award is designed to recognize student historians who live in Lorain County and present an outstanding paper, documentary or website project. This year's recipients **Hannah Cipinko**, **Angela Mavrigh** and **Cat Mavrigh** created a website on Rosalind Franklin and her contributions to the understanding of DNA. The project, titled "Picture 51: The Untold Legacy of Rosalind Franklin" advances to National History Day's state level competition April 25 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. The students will attend the OHC Annual Meeting on April 1 and have a chance to meet the Hubbards who

will be in attendance as well. The team will be available to talk one-on-one with interested Annual Meeting guests prior to dinner.

Oberlin High School student **Lucy Cipinko** also will attend the Annual Meeting and be available to share some of what she learned in writing her National History Day paper on Mary Church Terrell, one of the first African-American women in the nation to earn a bachelor's degree (from Oberlin College in 1884). Lucy also advances to the NHD state competition next month. Congratulations to all the young local historians and to their advisor, Oberlin High School teacher (and OHC Trustee) **Donna M. Shurr**.

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News

How fun it was for OHC staff to hear recently from Western Reserve High School student volunteer **Annalee Sekulic** who is spending her junior year abroad as a Rotary exchange student in Finland. Anna reports that she has become very comfortable conversing in Finnish, and that she loves exploring, writing in her journals, and having spectacular views of the Northern Lights. She returns to this country in late summer, and OHC plans to host Anna in a public presentation recapping her experiences in Finland later in the year...stay tuned for more!

Thanks to volunteer **Elizabeth Kuperman**, the Oberlin Heritage Center's tour program is featured in a [public service announcement](#) on WOBC, the Oberlin College student-run freeform style community radio station on your dial at 91.5-FM. Listen in at www.wobc.org.

A national search is underway to fill the Executive Director position at the Oberlin Heritage Center when current director **Pat Murphy** steps down later this summer. The [job description and application guidelines](#) are posted at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org. Deadline for applying is May 18 and anticipated start date for the position is August 17, 2015.

20 Years of Interns at the Oberlin Heritage Center

Since 1994, the Heritage Center has partnered with Oberlin College and other educational institutions (local high schools and colleges/universities/graduate schools near and far) to provide on-site museum experience for students in a broad range of areas, including museum administration, collections care, educational programming, and public relations. Over the course of the past two decades, some 120 different interns have been part of the OHC team. Several have chosen career paths that reflect the work that they did at the Heritage Center as students. For example, **Adina Langer** (OC '06) is a public history consultant and entrepreneur. She teaches a course on the theory and practice of digital history at Georgia State University, and is a writer and lead editor for the public history blog *History @ Work*, sponsored by the National Council for Public History. Check out her website and read through some of her thoughtful blogs at www.artiflection.com. **Anita Buckmaster** (OC '95) is the operations officer for the New Haven (CT) Preservation Trust. She and her colleagues just received a 2015 Award of Merit from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for creating a website (<http://NewHavenModern.org>) which includes a wealth of information about New Haven's remarkable Modernist architecture. Applause, applause all around! We love hearing from former interns and are encouraged by all the good work many are doing to preserve and share history all across the nation.

Members' Update

A warm welcome to new OHC members: **P. Lal Arora** (Oberlin), **Ann Farnsworth** (Scarsdale, NY), **Anne Goss** (Brookville, OH) and the **Quincy Gillmore Civil War Round Table** (Elyria). Special thanks to current Endowed Life member **Betty Weinstock** (Oberlin) who increased her support from the Aluminum to the Silver level of giving. New members are critically important in maintaining the good health of the organization today and into the future. Please [join](#) by visiting www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

Last Call for Inscribed Bricks at OHC This Year

We'll be sending an engraving order soon to our local stonemason (OHC business member **Sugar Ridge Stoneworks/Chris Meluch**), so order now if you've been thinking about an inscribed brick at the Heritage Center to honor a special person or occasion in your life. The Oberlin Heritage Trail, which criss-crosses the grounds at the Oberlin Heritage Center, is lined with more than 400 bricks that feature one-of-a-kind messages celebrating, remembering, and creating lasting legacies. Bricks ordered by May 1 will be installed in Spring/Summer 2015; bricks ordered after that time will be installed in Spring 2016. For more information, visit the Heritage Center's [website](#) and click on "Make a Gift" to purchase a brick online or download a mail-in brick order form.

Also of Interest

All are welcome to the free genealogy workshop **Getting the Most Out of FamilySearch.org** hosted by the Oberlin African-American Genealogy and History Group at The Bridge (82 South Main Street, Oberlin) on **Saturday, April 4 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** The event will be led by Deborah A. Abbott, Ph.D., a nationally recognized genealogist and lecturer specializing in research methodology as well as African American research. Advance registration is required at www.oaaghg.com.

The **Pittsfield Township Historical Society** will host a **50th Commemorative Anniversary Ceremony** at the Pittsfield Township Hall (NW corner of Routes 303 and 58) on **Saturday, April 11 2015 from 2-5 p.m.** The event honors those who lost their lives and homes in the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado, and activities include discussion, reflection, original stories from survivors, and refreshments. RSVP to pthspittsfield@gmail.com.

The **Friends of the Oberlin Public Library** (65 South Main Street) will host its annual **Spring Book Sale, April 15 - 19** (Thursday through Sunday, various times) with the Friends' Pre-Sale on Wednesday, April 15 from 5-8 p.m. Stop by to check out a great selection of books, music and movies! Details at www.oberlinpl.lib.oh.us.

Historic **First Church, Oberlin, U.C.C.** (106 North Main Street) will welcome the **Cleveland Orchestra's Amici String Quartet** to perform on **Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m.** in a concert to benefit homeless families served by **Family Promise of Lorain County**. In addition to a Beethoven String Quartet, the three members of the ensemble will be joined by Mark Atherton, Bassist and James Howsmon, Pianist to play the beloved Trout Piano Quintet by Schubert. Donations invited. Meet-the-Artists reception following. For more information, visit www.familypromiselorainco.org.

The **Tenth Annual Family Day** will be celebrated at the **International Women's Air & Space Museum (IWASM)** on **Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Enjoy an afternoon of fun that focuses on the Amazing Superman who originated in Cleveland and the Incredible Finella who represents the women air force service pilots who bravely served during World War II. Combine history, art, entertainment and fun for one great afternoon at IWASM, located at Burke Lakefront Airport (1501 North Marginal Road, Cleveland). Free and open to the public. Visit www.iwasm.org for more.

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