

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette - January 21, 2009

The Promise of Opportunity in 19th Century Oberlin

Oberlin College history professors **Carol Lasser** and **Gary Kornblith** will present the Oberlin Heritage Center's first program of the New Year on Tuesday, January 27 at 7:15 p.m. in Heiser Auditorium at Kendal at Oberlin (600 Kendal Drive). Drawing on data compiled from tax lists and census records, this talk will compare how ordinary black and white Oberlinians fared economically from the antebellum era through the end of the 19th century. The two presently are collaborating on a book manuscript with the working title "*Elusive Utopia: A History of Race in Oberlin, Ohio.*" Each received the Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Historian Award in 2008.

Award Nominations Sought

The **Oberlin Heritage Center's Community Awards program**, now in its eighth year, is accepting nominations of individuals, businesses or organizations whose outstanding accomplishments are in keeping with the Heritage Center's mission to "preserve and share Oberlin's unique history and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit." Anyone may submit a nomination. Award categories include:

- Community Historian – given to an individual who contributes to our knowledge of the history of our community through research, writing, and/or educating others.
- Heritage Guardian – given to an individual or group dedicated to the ideals of conservation and preservation and who serves our community as a leader in preserving Oberlin's history, historical records or historic buildings
- Teacher of the Year – given to an area educator who inspires students to get involved in history, historic preservation or community service
- Keep Oberlin Beautiful – given to an individual, business or organization that helps to enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the community
- Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year – to be given to a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center
- Business Leader Service award – presented to a business that provided exceptional support to the Oberlin Heritage Center in contributions and/or contributed services during the past year.

Downloadable entry forms are available at www.oberlinheritage.org (follow the links from the home page's calendar of events box). **Deadline for submitting a nomination is February 3, 2009.** Award recipients will be notified in March and will be invited to attend the Oberlin Heritage Center's annual meeting in April to receive their awards.

Where are They Now?

Heritage Center members and friends tell us how fond they have been of our college student interns and often ask "Whatever became of...?" (fill in the name of one of our hard-working college students). Heritage Center staff members are pleased to still be in touch with many former interns, applauding them as they pursue careers, attend graduate school, travel the world, get married and start families. We will share news with our e-list from time to time. We're delighted to begin this feature with an update from former intern, **Laurie Stein**. Laurie graduated from Oberlin College in 2006 and worked full-time as the Heritage Center's Museum Fellow for the 2006-2007 school year. She left Oberlin to pursue further study at Eastern Illinois University, where she will receive her M.A. in Historical Administration in May 2009. As a graduate student, she completed a six-month internship in the Publications Department of the Chicago History Museum (www.chicagohistory.org). Just last month, she was hired as the Curator of the Lake Forest-Lake

Bluff Historical Society (www.lfbhistory.org) where she presently is working on a new exhibit, set to open in May, on the history of golf in Lake Forest. In her spare time, Laurie also works as a tour guide at the Robert McCormick Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois (www.cantigny.org). Laurie became engaged on New Year's Eve to long-time boyfriend, Alex Hunt. Congratulations, Laurie (and Alex), on all the exciting new developments in your life!

History to Go!

Some Oberlin Heritage Center workshops, presentations by speakers, history walks, and "Lessons in the Past" (old-fashioned school program for youth) are available for groups for a fee. Keep the Heritage Center in mind when planning your club or organizational calendar, coordinating a reunion, or looking for a unique way to entertain a large number of out-of-town guests (such as those visiting for a weekend wedding or other special occasion). Contact us for more information by calling (440) 774-1700 or e-mailing members@oberlinheritage.org.

How You Can Help

Members are the Oberlin Heritage Center's most important resource. If you are not yet a member, consider becoming one today. Download a membership form at www.oberlinheritage.org/memberflyer2007.pdf and join the Oberlin Heritage Center! If you already are a member, there are many other ways to help -- visit www.oberlinheritage.org/contribute.html to find out how! Every contribution is appreciated!

You May be Interested...

Budget Travel Magazine is hosting a contest to find the "Coolest Small Towns in America." Visit <http://www.budgettravel.com/bt-srv/coolestsmalltowns/?wpisrc+newsletter> to submit a nomination, then return to vote on February 9.

Leadership Lorain County's four-session Breakfast Series – **Board Survival Guide: Board Membership in Challenging Times** – offers practical knowledge and useful resources to both current and potential Board members of nonprofit organizations. The series takes place at Lorain County Community College's Spitzer Conference Center (1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria) from 8-9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, February through May. Fee is \$120 (some discounts available) and registration deadline is late January. Register online at www.leadershiploraincounty.com or by phone at (440) 366-4700.

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