

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – October 12, 2009

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Morgan Street Bridge Railing Re-use Project Wins Statewide Award

“Rescue, Restore, and Re-Use: The Morgan Street Bridge Railing Project at the Oberlin Heritage Center,” an innovative historical recycling project, won an Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums’ History Outreach Excellence Award on October 3rd. Accepting the award were project volunteers Bert Latran, Jr., Trustee, James W. White, Board President, Richard Holsworth, Honorary Trustee, and OHC member George Clark. One hundred twenty-five history museum professionals and volunteers from around the state attended the ceremony at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.

The bridge railings were originally part of the Morgan Street Bridge over Plum Creek from about the 1880s until 2008 when they were removed by the City and replaced. Fast action by George Clark and other Oberlin Heritage Center volunteers rescued the railings before they went to the scrap heap, and ownership of them was transferred by the City to the Heritage Center. Volunteers headed by trustee Walter Edling repaired and refurbished the railings and converted them into an attractive fence on the Heritage Center grounds, just south of the Jewett House at 73 S. Professor Street. A dedication ceremony was held in May 2009, during National Historic Preservation month, and a handsome plaque now explains the origin of the railings and how they came to the Oberlin Heritage Center. Other organizations receiving History Outreach Awards this year included the Akron-Summit County Public Library, The Betts House (Cincinnati), Lakeside Heritage Society, the Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County, the Sandusky Library/Follett House Museum, the Shelby County Historical Society, and the Wood County Historical Museum.

Community Arts & Culture Day for Families

Many young students have the day off from school this Friday, October 16, while Oberlin and other area teachers are attending NEOEA workshops. What a great time to get out and enjoy free hands-on learning fun at various sites around town! Community arts and culture organizations, including the Oberlin Heritage Center, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA) and the Oberlin Public Library are hosting free activities for families. The Oberlin Heritage Center will host historic games, crafts, and activities at the Oberlin Depot (240 S. Main Street, across the street from McDonalds) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Children accompanied by parents or grandparents can write with a quill and ink, play marbles, express their creativity with craft projects, walk on stilts, and try other fun outdoor and indoor games. The depot also has an outdoor playground for youngsters to enjoy.

Also as part of Community Arts and Culture Day, beginning at noon until 3:00 p.m., the Allen Memorial Art Museum (southeast corner of Main and Lorain Streets) will offer a mask-making activity and West African Drumming Workshop instructed by artists from Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio. AMAM student docents will help with this fun day of creating and learning about art from West and Central Africa. Down the street at the New Union Center for the Arts (39 S. Main St.), FAVA is hosting a LEGO and block building workshop from noon to 3 p.m. Parts and pieces will be provided, but please note that participants will not be allowed to take projects home. Instead, photographs will be taken of completed models and posted for all to see so that building blocks may be saved for future use. From noon until 5:00 p.m., the Oberlin Public Library is holding “Game On!” — a day of games and activities for kids ages 8 -18 in the library meeting room.

Life in Pittsfield and Oberlin, 1890-1909: The Diaries of Harriet Pomeroy McRoberts

Family historian Lynn Youngblood will share stories and illustrations about the life of her great, great-grandmother who was among the early settlers of the area and whose farmhouse on Hallauer Road has been in the family for 175 years. Lynn Youngblood grew up on the family farm and is a graduate of the Ohio State University and Oberlin High School. She has spent years transcribing diaries and going through family papers and pulling together a remarkable story of a pioneer woman, her family and place in the world. Her presentation is free and open to all and will take place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27th.

Times are Tough: Support the Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund Campaign

A recent Business Volunteers Unlimited survey of Northeast Ohio non-profits shows that nearly half are awash in red ink and many will need to seriously downsize to survive. The problem is especially acute for arts and history organizations. About a third of the groups surveyed stated they expect to dip into reserve funds this year. The Oberlin Heritage Center has pared expenditures to the bone and is struggling to complete the year without dipping into reserve funds. Heritage Center staff and board members are very gratified by the contributions and words of encouragement it has received from friends and members from near and far in response to its Annual Fund appeal for general operating support. To date, 197 individuals, families and businesses have contributed a total of \$24,562 to the campaign which runs through December 31, 2009. Please help us continue our work by making a contribution today. You may make a secure on-line gift at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or mail your gift to the Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074.

Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Report Available

The Heritage Center's 2008 Annual Report is now available online at <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/cms/files/File/Annual%20Reports/OHC%202008%20ARr.pdf> or you may request a copy to be mailed to you by calling (440) 774-1700 or by sending an e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org. The organization's Annual Reports for the past five years are accessible online.

The Apollo is Back in Business: Hip, Hip Hooray!

Now owned by Oberlin College, the historic Apollo Theater is again showing movies following the completion of the first phase of its renovation which is being conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Oberlin Heritage Center Board President Jim White took part in a filmstrip-ribbon cutting ceremony at the celebration of the reopening on October 2. A PowerPoint presentation on the history of the theater produced by Oberlin Heritage Center executive director Pat Murphy was shown as part of the festivities. The Heritage Center is collecting and compiling information, memories and photographs of the theater to document its history for future generations and for future presentations and projects.

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