

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – October 2012

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Oberlin History Comic Book Receives OLHA History Outreach Award

Oberlin: Origins and Onward!, the Oberlin Heritage Center's creative new history comic book by **Bentley Boyd**, will be honored at the annual meeting and conference of the Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) on **Saturday, October 6**, in Worthington, Ohio. The lively and entertaining book, designed to appeal to all ages, will be recognized with the History Outreach Award in the Media and Publications category. ***Oberlin: Origins and Onward!*** may be purchased online at www.oberlinheritage.org, or at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store at the Monroe House, [Ben Franklin/Mindfair Books](#), [Uncommon Objects](#) at the New Union Center for the Arts, or the Cardinal Shop at [Kendal at Oberlin](#).

OHC offers Election Coverage – 1840s Style!

Art Historian **Marcia Goldberg** puts a local spin on “**The Campaign in the Wilderness**,” the story of the presidential campaign of 1840 with incumbent Martin Van Buren being challenged by Ohio's favorite son William Henry Harrison. The event at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium on **Tuesday, October 9 at 7:15 p.m.** is free and open to the public. Goldberg's presentation features a political banner made for an 1840 Harrison rally in Elyria and an 1838 Birds Eye View of Oberlin, two of the earliest works by the artist Alonzo Pease, an early Oberlin settler. On display before and after the talk guests can get an up-close view of an actual piece of memorabilia from the 1840 election – a red Harrison campaign bandana from the Oberlin Heritage Center's textile collection.

Community Arts and Culture Day – No School/Lots of Fun!

Area youngsters have the day off on **Friday, October 12** because of NEOEA professional development teacher workshops, and the Oberlin Heritage Center is partnering with local arts and culture organizations to offer FREE family fun. This year's theme is “**Arts and Culture of the Renaissance**,” tying in with the Allen Memorial Art Museum's exhibit “Religion, Ritual, and Performance in the Renaissance.” **Between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**, kids and parents can journey together as “pilgrims of learning” among the Art Museum, FAVA, the Oberlin Public Library (with America Reads) and the Oberlin Heritage Center. (Tip: The more sites you visit the better your chances to win a prize!) At the Heritage Center's Little Red Schoolhouse you can ring the bell and play schoolyard games, most of which date to even earlier than the Renaissance. OHC also will host activities and crafts about the great late-Renaissance scientist and teacher Galileo. For more information, contact Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Baseball: Personal Stories of the Game

As the World Series approaches, “warm-up” with this entertaining presentation by Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee, **Steve Johnson**, who shares some of his favorite stories as a major-league fan of America's most popular pastime on **Tuesday, October 16 at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium. Topics include his friendship with a major league umpire, his involvement with the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), his volunteer work at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and

his own on-going research. Steve also talks about baseball sites he has visited and the great and not-so-great players he has met through the years. Accompanying the illustrated program will be a display of vintage photographs and memorabilia from Johnson's private collection. The event is free and open to the public.

OHC Annual Fund Campaign Underway

Now is the time to make a gift to the Heritage Center's **2012 Annual Fund** which provides much-needed general operating support for all the good work going on at the Heritage Center that you read about in the monthly E-Gazettes! At this time, 135 donors have helped OHC get to the halfway mark toward the goal of \$35,000 to be raised by December 31, 2012. Your help is especially important in a year when funding is extremely tight. You may make a secure online contribution at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or send your gift to the Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. All gifts are needed and appreciated.

Bed & Breakfast Fundraiser another Big Success!

Many thanks to 18 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 23 bed-and-breakfast placements raised about \$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, as evidenced in this thank-you note received by **Ann Livingston**, one of the OHC coordinators of the B&B program: *"Thank you for connecting us with [our hosts]. We could not have asked for anything more. Their warmth, kindness, enthusiasm and interest in our daughter's journey were heartwarming and made our first experience at Oberlin one that we will never forget. It was just a wonderful way for us to begin this emotional—at this point—journey!"* If you would like to become a host for next year's end-of-summer B&B event, contact OHC Treasurer, **Cathe Radabaugh** at cradabaugh@oberlin.edu or 440-774-4646.

CAP Grant Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center is one of 97 museums throughout the nation that received a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant in 2012. CAP grants are intended to assist small museums in providing appropriate care for their collections and historic structures. In mid-October, **Shelley Paine**, a professional conservator from Chicago and **Lorri Sipes**, a historic preservation specialist from Ann Arbor, Michigan, will make a two-day site visit to the Heritage Center to do a thorough assessment of all corners of our buildings and collections, from basements to attics (and yes, they've even asked us to provide ladders and flashlights!). Each will follow-up their visits with written reports of their findings, which will be used to guide staff and Board in developing long-term planning goals and objectives in those areas. The CAP grant is administered by [Heritage Preservation](#) and funded by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#).

Help OHC Find Photos of These Oberlin Women

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking photographs of Oberlin women for possible inclusion in a future publication of 20th century Oberlin women's stories recorded in interviews from the Oberlin Oral History Project. The photos will also be added to the Heritage Center's historic photo collection. Photos may either be donated to the Oberlin Heritage Center or they can be scanned at the Heritage Center and

returned to owners who provide written permission for their use. Among the women whose photographs we are currently seeking are: **Mabel Brown, Bernice Grant, Grace Harlow, Margaret Haylor, Molly Ludwig, Harriet Reynolds, Minnie Louise Rucker, Janie Scott, and Elizabeth Spurlock.** If you own a photo of one of these women that you are willing to share or know someone who does, please contact the Oberlin Heritage Center's Collections Assistant **Prue Richards** at 440-774-1700 or history@oberlinheritage.org.

Oberlin Heritage Center 2011 Annual Report

“**Continuing Oberlin Heritage Center’s Tradition of Excellence**” is the theme of the Heritage Center’s [2011 Annual Report](#), which may be reviewed by visiting www.oberlinheritage.org and clicking on “Annual Reports” under the “Events and News” main menu and pull-down tabs. The Annual Report of the preceding year is printed each fall, so that it may include a financial audit summary of the year just past (which is finalized in the summer). 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!).

Members’ Update

Welcome new members: **Barbara Chase** (LaGrange), **Jerry & Nancy Davidson** (Columbus), **Marilyn Garn** (Amherst), **Ron Gorman** (Columbia Station), **Sheila Ives** (Rocky River), **Sandra Ruth** (Amherst), **Arthur W. Sprague** (LaGrange, IL), and **Larry & Sue Young** (Oberlin). OHC members hail from 139 different communities throughout the country, representing 32 states and the District of Columbia, as well as two foreign countries! If you are not yet a member, we’d love to include you in our worldwide circle of supporters! Every member is important to the Heritage Center. Visit www.oberlinheritage.org and click on the “Join” tab to [become a member](#) today!

OHC Staff, Intern and Volunteer News

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** traveled to Italy this last May and June as part of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange. Since her return she has given several talks about her travels and professional observations of museums in Italy as part of the educational mission of the exchange. She has already spoken to over 200 people through presentations for the Oberlin Rotary Club (the sponsor of her exchange), Elyria Rotary Club, and Oberlin Heritage Center members, visitors, volunteers, and youth camp participants. In the coming months she will also present at Rotary Clubs Amherst, Elyria-Sunrise, and Vermilion.

The Heritage Center’s team of docents and other guests took an educational field trip into Cleveland last month where they experienced a guided history walk through Lake View Cemetery (considered Cleveland’s outdoor museum and arboretum), lunched in Little Italy, and then toured Dunham Tavern (once a stagecoach stop on the old Buffalo-Cleveland-Detroit post road). The docent group, led by **Liz Schultz**, always enjoys this annual opportunity to see other sites in northeast Ohio and learn from their counterparts at other museums.

A warm welcome to **Barbara Chase** (LaGrange) and **Ron Gorman** (Columbia Station) both of whom attended the OHC’s Freedom’s Friends History Walk Training in the spring and then jumped right in and began helping to lead history walks throughout the rest of the summer and into the fall. We sure appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to share knowledge of the Underground Railroad with Oberlin visitors.

Richard Donegan (Ohio History Service AmeriCorps member) gave an illustrated presentation on “Oberlin and Emancipation” at the 66th Annual Reunion of the 759th Railroad Battalion, a gathering of WWII veterans and their families, at the Oberlin Inn last month.

Welcome back to three Oberlin College student interns (all three of whom are Bonner Scholars, which means they have a particular interest in community service): **Rocio Leon** ('13), **Monica Monsalve** ('15) and **César Palacio** ('16). Rocio, a History and Latin American Studies double major from San Diego, is excited to be back at the Heritage Center after taking a year off, which included studying abroad in India. Monica, an Economics major, spent the summer at home in Miami, FL where she interned with the International Rescue Committee helping refugee families from Cuba and Haiti. César is a double major in Clarinet Performance and History, and he kept busy this summer in his hometown of Dallas, TX teaching private lessons and performing.

Also of Interest

The American Association of Museums has unveiled a new name and logo! Now known as the **American Alliance of Museums** (and still referred to as AAM!), the organization’s mission is to nurture excellence in museums through advocacy and service. Learn more at www.aam-us.org.

Congratulations to **Burt Logan**, the new chair of the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Commission. Logan, the Executive Director and CEO of the Ohio Historical Society, was the featured speaker at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting in 2011. The Commission, which also includes the Heritage Center’s **Pat Murphy**, is responsible for the leadership of AAM’s accreditation program.

We salute the **Community Foundation of Lorain County** for being recognized with the Foundation Leadership Award by the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as part of the observance of **National Philanthropy Day on November 2, 2012**.

The **Black River Historical Society** in Lorain is seeking a full-time Executive Director. The position description is posted at www.loraincityhistory.org.

The **Firelands Archaeological Research Center (FARC)** presents the **3rd Annual Ohio Archaeology Dinner on Thursday, October 18, 2012** at 7 p.m. in the Amherst Sandstone Village Grange Hall (763 Milan Avenue, Amherst, OH 44001). The speaker is **Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf** on “How Geology Influenced the War of 1812: The Battle of Lake Erie.” For tickets, visit www.firelandsarchaeology.org or contact James Barnes at (440) 988-5483 or jobarnes@oh.rr.com.

Hear the remarkable tale of **Grandma Gatewood: Ohio’s Legendary Hiker** on **Friday, October 26, 2012 at 1 p.m.** at Lorain County Community College’s Center for Lifelong Learning in the Spitzer Conference Center. Emma Gatewood was the first woman to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955 when she was 67 years old. She also helped start Ohio’s Buckeye Trail, part of which runs through southern Lorain County. For fee information, visit <http://www.edenvalleyenterprises.org/calendar.html>.

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