

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – October 2013

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Good Things Come in Threes

James A. Garfield, Jacob Dolson Cox, and James Monroe: this trio of northeast Ohio friends were movers and shakers in late-19th century Ohio state politics and became powerful influences in the nation's history as well. In 1860, Garfield (the future U.S. President) was the then-on-leave Principal of the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute; Cox (a future Ohio Governor) had formerly served as Superintendent of the Warren Schools; and Monroe (yet-to-be-elected a U.S. Congressman) was a professor at Oberlin College. Learn more about how these young men, all three academics and progressives, came to be the intellectual giants of the Ohio Legislature. *The Intellectual Triumvirate* is presented **Tuesday, October 15 at 7:15 p.m.** by James A. Garfield National Historic Site Park Ranger **Allison Powell** and Site Volunteer **Andrew Mizsak**. The event takes place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium and is free and open to the public. *Please note that this program will not be presented if the government shutdown is still in effect. If that is the case, the Heritage Center will offer an alternate program on the same date and time. The new topic would then be announced on the www.oberlinheritage.org website. If questions, please contact the Oberlin Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.*

Kids Can “Capture the Moment” in this Year’s Arts & Culture Day

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), five community arts and education organizations have teamed up to keep kids entertained and parents happy by offering fun, hands-on activities throughout downtown Oberlin. This year's Arts and Culture Day takes place on **Friday, October 18**, with activities **from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** hosted by the Allen Memorial Art Museum (87 North Main Street), FAVA (39 South Main Street), the Oberlin Heritage Center (at the Little Red Schoolhouse, behind 73 South Professor Street), and the Oberlin Public Library/America Reads (in the Library, located at



65 South Main Street). The theme, “*Capture the Moment*,” ties in with the Art Museum's current exhibits that feature realism, or portrayals that are true to life. 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.oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.



OHC Annual Fund Campaign Underway

Now is the time to make a gift to the Heritage Center's **2013 Annual Fund** which provides much-needed 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, 114 donors have contributed \$14,600 (41%) toward the goal to raise \$35,000 for general operations by December 31, 2013. 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.*

Anniversary Celebration: Rewarding in So Many Ways!

Quite a festive Anniversary Celebration took place at the Oberlin Heritage Center on Sunday, September 8, as some 150 members and friends came together to enjoy a beautiful late summer evening under the tents on the OHC grounds. The event focused on three milestones: honoring 20 years of leadership by **Pat Murphy**, Executive Director, and **Mary Anne Cunningham**, Assistant to the Director; celebrating the 110th anniversary of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society, the forerunner of OHC; and continuing the growth of the Endowment for History Education at its 10 year mark. Bright balloons and shiny bows, affixed to photos highlighting progress from “Then” to “Now,” marked many of the changes that had taken place inside and out over the past 20 years. It was great fun and very rewarding to consider how much has been achieved through the help of OHC’s exceptional supporters through the years. A keepsake booklet, which includes a wonderful re-cap of “**O.H.I.O. Then; Oberlin Heritage Center Now!**” is available by request, or download a copy at www.oberlinheritage.org/about/awards. We are thrilled to report that the event raised an additional \$15,000 for the Endowment for History Education, a fund which will support the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator position on OHC’s professional staff. The fundraising campaign is now 75% of the way toward its goal to raise an endowment of \$800,000 for this purpose.

Who Has Been Visiting the Heritage Center?

Last month, five musicians from South Africa toured the Oberlin Heritage Center as part of a week-long visit to the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. (They had welcomed an Oberlin delegation to their school earlier in the year.) The group included teachers and students from **North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) Conservatory and School of Music**. They had a great time learning about Oberlin history on an Upstairs/Downstairs tour of the Heritage Center, led by **Liz Schultz**.

Just this week **Trip Advisor** posted a review of the Heritage Center by an Oberlin College parent who had taken part in one of the Freedom’s Friends History Walks earlier in the summer. The reviewer gave the tour a big five-star rating and added: *After four years of visiting our son at the college, we finally took the guided walk about The Underground Railroad. A wonderful guide. We learned so much about the town and the history we had been surrounded by on all our visits. Very worthwhile.* If you haven’t yet had a chance to experience the Freedom’s Friends walking tour yourself, the Heritage Center will offer it three more times this season during the College’s upcoming Parents Weekend (November 8-9). Watch for more information in next month’s E-Gazette or visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

Not long ago, we enjoyed meeting representatives of **Plum Creek Technology**, a new start-up company made up of a few Oberlin College alumni and students, who chose the Oberlin Heritage Center to film a video for a Kickstarter project they have in the works. The company has developed a patented app for smart phones that will automatically alert users when they are within a certain distance of historical points of interest. How fun to have your own “history tour guide” wherever and whenever you travel! For more information about this exciting project that nicely weaves together the historical past with technology of the future, visit www.plumcreektechnology.com.

OHC Staff and Volunteer News

Welcome to **Jen Graham**, the newest Local History Corps /AmeriCorps member based at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Jen is a 2012 history honors graduate of Oberlin College who settled in to the local community immediately upon graduation. She will be working at the Heritage Center full-time for the next year and will serve as a resource for other history organizations in northeast Ohio. Meet Jen “in her own words” by visiting the OHC website and reading her blog post “**New Kid on the Block.**”

We’re delighted to have a great team of student interns at the Heritage Center this fall. Returning for their third year at OHC are **Monica Monsalve** (Oberlin College ’15) and **César Palacio** (Oberlin College ’16). Monica spent the summer interning at HistoryMiami, a museum dedicated to the history of South Florida.

In the spring semester, she will study abroad in Sao Paolo, Brazil continuing her studies as a Politics major with a concentration in International Studies and Comparative Latin American Politics. César is a double major in Clarinet Performance and History, who kept busy this summer performing in Master Classes at The Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, being a Fellow at the Marrowstone Music Festival in Bellingham, Washington and interning as an assistant band teacher at his former high school, the Prestonwood Christian Academy, in Plano, Texas. Welcome to **Hanna Van Reed** (Oberlin College '15), a History major from the Philadelphia area, who first became acquainted with the Heritage Center as a volunteer this past summer. Hanna will be studying history at Pembroke College at the University of Cambridge in England after the new year. It's a pleasure to work with Kent State University graduate student, **Melissa Clifford**, of nearby Wellington, who is doing an internship this fall at the Heritage Center. Melissa is working on a Masters in Library and Information Science with a focus on museum studies. **Garrett Dickerson**, of Elyria, is another welcome addition to the intern team this fall. Garrett is a recent graduate of Alabama A&M with a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning and Community Studies.

OHC volunteer **Ron Gorman** is at it again! Check out the second installation of his two-part series on the Lane Rebels in his blog [James Bradley – from Hopeless Bondage to Lane Rebel](#). Then take a few moments more to read Ron's newest blog post this month, [Lucy Stone and the Margaret Garner Tragedy](#), which tells of the Oberlin connection to the heart-rending story of this freedom-seeker who was the inspiration for Lorain native Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Beloved*.

Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** and a team of OHC volunteer docents will "see how others do it" on their annual docent field trip taking place on Saturday, October 12. This year's destination is Kent, Ohio, and includes a visit to the Kent State [May 4 Visitors Center](#) and the opportunity to experience the May 4 Monument Walking Tour on the KSU campus. The docent group will be joined by Oberlin College students in Associate Professor of History **Renee Romano**'s class, "*Historical Memory in the United States*," to learn more about the development of this new permanent exhibit that tells the story of the Kent State shootings set in the context of the 1960s. Romano, an OHC Board Member, served as a research consultant for the May 4 Visitors Center and Walking Tour project. Let us know if you are interested in becoming a volunteer docent at the Heritage Center for the coming year.

Business Manager, **Bethany Hobbs**, attended "*Taking Charge of Change*," the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO) annual conference, presented in Columbus last month. The Heritage Center was recognized with OANO's Standards for Excellence certification in 2011, and is presently working toward re-certification in this program which promotes ethical practices and accountability in nonprofit organizations.

Bed & Breakfast Tradition: Opportunity for Friend-Making and Fund-Raising

Many thanks to a dozen 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 about \$3,000 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 **Ann Livingston** at alivingston@oberlin.net.

Members' Update

Welcome new members: **Maryann Baker** (Parma), **Richard & Lauren Donegan** (Villas, NJ), and **Gerald & Aiden Zeitlin** (Oberlin) An extra special thank you to **Adam & Heidi Freas** (Oberlin) who recently became new Endowed Life Members at the Oberlin Heritage Center. OHC could not carry out its mission to

preserve and share Oberlin's nationally significant history without the tremendous support of members near and far. Please join us in keeping the community's rich and diverse heritage alive for future generations. If you are not yet a member, we encourage you to become one today by visiting www.oberlinheritage.org.

Also of Interest

Climate 911: Climate Change is a Public Health Emergency will be presented by **Wendy Ring, MD** on **Sunday, October 6 at 4:30 p.m.** in Hallock Auditorium, in Oberlin College's A. J. Lewis Center (122 Elm Street). The 56-year-old family physician is riding a bicycle across the U.S. to draw attention to global warming as a public health emergency. Free and open to the public. For more, visit www.oberlin.edu

The **Lorain County Preservation Network (LCPN)** is hosting an exhibition of preservation activities going on across Lorain County on **Saturday, October 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Black River Landing (421 Black River Lane, Lorain). The event is free and open to the public. Stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center's display which features recent preservation work at two neighborhood buildings affiliated with the Heritage Center, including the Group Home (89 South Professor Street, Oberlin) and the Vineway Building (82 South Main Street, Oberlin).

Lorain County's Public Libraries are teaming together for the biennial **Lorain County Reads** event on **Thursday, October 24 at 2 p.m.** at the Spitzer Conference Center on the campus of Lorain County Community College (1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria). This year's focus is on local history, and the event's featured speaker is television personality and author Neil Zurcher. Area historical societies, including the Oberlin Heritage Center, will have information about "History Close to Home" activities and tours happening throughout Lorain County. The event is free and open to the public, although pre-registration is required. For information, or reservations, call the Lorain Public Library System at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

Lorain County Community College hosts a free public series of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. "**1863 – Crucible of Victory**" includes these upcoming activities:

***Why Does the Civil War Matter Today?* (October 9 at 7 p.m.)** presented by **George Vourlojianis, Ph.D.**, professor of History at Lorain County Community College. Held in the Spitzer Conference Center, Room 118.

***Contributions of Ohio's African American Communities to the Union War Effort* (October 16 at 7 p.m.)** presented by **Dr. Kelly Selby**, Assistant Professor of History at Walsh University in Canton, Ohio. Held in the Spitzer Conference Center Grand Room.

Book Discussion of Doris Kearns Goodwin's ***Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* (October 23 at 7 p.m.)**, led by Dr. George Vourlojianis. Held in the Spitzer Conference Center, Room 207/208.

Steven Spielberg's movie ***Lincoln*** will be shown (**October 25 at 7 p.m.**) as part of the LCCC Film Society's fall film series. Held in the Stocker Arts Center Hoke Theater.

For more information or to register for any or all of the sessions, call (440) 366-4126 or visit www.lorainccc.edu/civilwar.

Congratulations to all our members and friends at **Kendal at Oberlin** as this premier retirement living community celebrates its 20th anniversary this fall! Don't miss the chance to read a marvelous new book "*The History of Kendal at Oberlin*," by historian and Kendal resident (and Oberlin Heritage Center Board Member) **Richard Baznik**. Thank you for all Kendal does to make Oberlin a better place!

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