

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – October 27, 2009

## **Tappan Square History Walk**

The final history walk of the season takes place **Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m.** Register in advance for \$6 per person by visiting [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or by stopping by the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street or you may sign-on at the start of the tour (space permitting) for \$8 per person (\$1 discounts for Oberlin Heritage Center members). The Tappan Square history walk begins at the northwest corner of Main and College Streets and proceeds around the square for the next 75 minutes. You'll learn about early residents and hear stories of triumph and misfortune and walk away with a lively appreciation of Oberlin's unique heritage and buildings. Each walk is limited to 20 people. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. For more information, call (440) 774-1700.

## **Stories from Oberlin in the 1930s and 1940s**

Take a step back in time and revisit life in Oberlin during the 1930s and the 1940s through the stories of people who lived here. The Oberlin Heritage Center's Oral History committee, chaired by Dina Schoonmaker, has put together an insightful array of first-hand accounts from people who lived in Oberlin during the Depression and its aftermath. Local residents including Scott Broadwell and Robin Jindra and Oberlin Oral History Committee member Nancy Gray will read brief excerpts from transcribed oral history interviews in a free one-hour program sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center and presented at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium on **Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:15 p.m.** For more information, visit [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or call (440) 774-1700.

## **What's the Buzz?**

What are people saying about the Oberlin Heritage Center? Check out the latest buzz at <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/about/buzz>.

## **Not So Old; But Good!?**

Did you know that...documenting and preserving the history and architecture of the recent past is getting increasing attention throughout the country? Many such buildings approach or reach the 50 year mark where they may become eligible for landmark designation and many have already been altered beyond recognition or demolished. The Oberlin Heritage Center and City of Oberlin Historic Preservation have documented many mid-century modern buildings and houses through the city-wide historic site inventory. The Oberlin Oral History project includes an interview with the late Doug Johnson, the architect of many modern houses in Oberlin. Nina Freedlander Gibans, the project director for "Cleveland Goes Modern" (a 2007 exhibit which is spawning additional projects) convened a meeting at the Cleveland Restoration Society on October 26 with people from throughout Ohio (including Pat Murphy from the Oberlin Heritage Center) who are working on various projects to document modern architecture. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has an initiative on Modernism and the Recent Past and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office is working on documenting buildings from 1940 to 1970 in the greater Dayton area and also is developing a statewide historic context on Modernism. As the Joni Mitchell song "Big Yellow Taxi" (1970) goes, "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

## **On the Lookout for....**

The Oberlin Heritage Center is seeking photographs and memorabilia to document the history and architecture of the Peoples' Bank building at 47 South Main Street which was built in 1958. (This building was most recently the home of the Ohio Motorists/AAA and is soon to become the Oberlin branch of LorMet Community Federal Credit Union.).

## **Please Support the Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund**

The Oberlin Heritage Center has received numerous honors and accolades for its programs and accomplishments and its effective use of volunteers. Not only a strong community asset, it is a destination for many visitors and plays a key role in promoting heritage tourism. Your gift helps preserve and share history with residents and visitors and helps educate the next generations about history and the importance of preserving heritage. Please help sustain our operating budget and help the organization end the year in the black by making a year-end contribution at <https://secure.oberlinheritage.org/donation.shtml> or by sending your donation to the Oberlin Heritage Center Annual Fund, MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. Each and every contribution is needed and appreciated! Making a gift in honor or in appreciation of a special friend or loved one is a great gift for someone who has everything and they will receive an attractive card informing them of your gift.

## **IRA Tax Rollover Extended**

As you consider a year-end gift to the Oberlin Heritage Center, keep in mind that the IRA Rollover Provision, which applies to charitable donors ages 70½ and older, has been reinstated by Congress and the White House through December 31, 2009. This allows those 70½ and over to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to public charities without counting the distributions as taxable income. Ask your tax advisor for details.

## **Call for Oberlin Heritage Center Community Award Nominations**

In the next few weeks, take a few minutes to consider nominating an outstanding individual, organization, or business whose accomplishments in serving the community are in keeping with the Oberlin Heritage Center's mission *to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make the community a better place to live, learn, work and visit*. Award Categories include:

- *Community Historian* - for an individual who adds to the knowledge of the history of Oberlin through research, writing, and/or educating others
- *Heritage Guardian* – for an individual or group dedicated to the ideals of conservation and preservation and who serves our community as a leader in preserving history, historical records, or historic buildings
- *Oberlin Heritage Center Volunteer of the Year* – for a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center
- *Community Teacher of the Year* – for an area educator who inspires his or her students to get involved in community service
- *History Teacher of the Year* – for an area educator who inspires his or her students to learn more about history

Anyone may submit a nomination. Entry forms may found at

<http://www.oberlinheritage.org/cms/files/File/AwardsBrochure2010.pdf> . Submissions should be made by **February 2, 2010**. Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting on April 7, 2010.

## **Holiday Shopping at the Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Store**

Looking for something different for the people on your gift list this holiday season? The Museum Store has a great selection of unique gift items for adults and children alike. How about a historic Apollo Theatre tee-shirt for that movie buff on your list? The eye-catching and enlightening *Comix with Content* by Bentley Boyd appeal to both kids and kids-at-heart: check out our new titles such as *The Civil War* series, *Slavery's Storm* (including Nat Turner's Revolt, Dred Scott's Case, John Brown's Raid), *Wonder Women* (including Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, and others), or the *Freedom Train* (Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and more). A deck of Historic Oberlin playing cards is the perfect gift for everyone – educational and fun, easy to wrap,

mail, or stuff into a stocking. Visit the Museum Store online at [www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org) or stop by the Monroe House during the Heritage Center's business hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Remember that Heritage Center members receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases.

## **Also of Interest?**

**Going Green through Historic Preservation** – As winter nears, owners of older homes and buildings will find many useful pointers on these National Trust for Historic Preservation links, [www.PreservationNation.org/weatherization](http://www.PreservationNation.org/weatherization) and [www.PreservationNation.org/issues/sustainability](http://www.PreservationNation.org/issues/sustainability). In Oberlin and elsewhere, preservation is a key component in a sustainable community.

**Historians on the Record: Audio Podcasts from the Gilder Lehrman Institute** – Since 1996, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has presented eminent historians discussing major topics in American history. Now you can hear these great historians on your computer, iPod, or other portable media player. For more information, visit <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/historians/podcasts/>.

**Field Trip Grants for Educators: Don't Miss the November 3, 2009 Application Deadline** – The **Target Corporation** will award 5,000 field trip grants of up to \$800 each for the next K-12 school year. Managed by Scholarship America, the program is open to education professionals who are at least 18 years old and employed by an accredited K-12 public, private, or charter school in the United States that maintains 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status. Educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff of these institutions must be willing to plan and execute a field trip that will provide a demonstrable learning experience for students. Grant funds may be used for visits to art, science, and cultural museums; community service or civics projects; career enrichment opportunities; and other events or activities away from the school facility. Funds may also be used to cover field trip-related costs such as transportation, ticket fees, resource materials, and supplies. Grants will be awarded in February 2010. Applications can be completed online anytime between August 5 and **November 3, 2009**. Complete program information is available at the [Target Web site](#).

**Essay Contest for Secondary School Students on "Stop the Hate!"** – The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood is sponsoring its second annual essay contest to foster thinking and conversation about discrimination that students see in their everyday lives and how they can combat it. Students in middle and high schools in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Stark counties are eligible to participate and educational materials, cash prizes and scholarships are offered to winners in various categories. More information is available online at [www.mmjh.org](http://www.mmjh.org).

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