

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – December 2010

Vintage Photo Chat at the Bridge

What's old often comes back around again, as evidenced by the popularity of vintage clothing, jewelry and styles that reflect the look of days gone by. **Liz Schultz**, the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, will visit the "Backspace" at The Bridge (Oberlin's Community Technology Center at 82 South Main Street) on **Thursday, December 9** to chat with teens about fads and fashions through the generations as illustrated in old photographs and early techniques of photography. Interested teens also can learn how to take digital photographs and make them black-and-white or sepia-toned for that old-fashioned flair. Youth can bring old family photos to digitize and restore as well. The drop-in style program takes place from 3-6 p.m. and is free and open to those in grades six through twelve. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

Fannie Bailey, Oberlin and the Civil War

As a prelude to Civil War sesquicentennial (2011-2015) activities around the state, the Oberlin Heritage Center welcomes back **Dr. Kelly D. Selby**, a Walsh University assistant professor of history, to discuss the Oberlin home front during the Civil War through a look into the personal journal kept by Fannie White Bailey, the wife of an Oberlin harness and saddle maker, who lived in Oberlin while keeping this diary in the 1850s and 1860s. Bailey's journal provides a glimpse into the daily events of her life and those of her community and also illuminates the complex and diverse nature of how the Civil War altered Ohioans' lives at that time. Selby's illustrated presentation take place on **Tuesday, December 14, at 7:15 p.m.** at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

Nordson Corporation Delivers Early Holiday Gifts to OHC

Christmas came a little early at the Oberlin Heritage Center this year with two exciting gifts from the Nordson Corporation (Westlake). Pat Murphy, the Oberlin Heritage Center's Executive Director, announced the receipt of a \$2,200 donation to fund a new pilot program that the Oberlin Heritage Center will launch in Summer 2011 in cooperation with the City of Oberlin Recreation Department's free Playground Experience at Prospect School. The new program is designed to improve literacy skills for children in grades K-3 through engaging history activities. Once-a-week sessions will be taught to students for 6 weeks by Liz Schultz, the Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, with the assistance of interns and volunteers. The Nordson donation will help cover staff time, supplies and materials.

Another special delivery arrived at the end of the month as a truckload of used (but like-new!) office furniture was donated to the Oberlin Heritage Center and other area nonprofits by Nordson Corporation as it prepared to move to a new location nearby. The Heritage Center received a delivery of much-needed file cabinets, shelves, office chairs, flat-screen computer monitors, and a conference table. The staff and volunteers at the Heritage Center are all-smiles as they put the new furnishings to good use!

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 by **February 1, 2011**. You may click [here](#) for an entry form or visit the “What’s New” sidebar at www.oberlinheritage.org. Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting on April 6, 2011.

Holiday Shopping at the Oberlin Heritage Center Museum Store

Looking for something different for the people on your gift list this holiday season? The Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store has a great selection of unique gift items for adults and children alike. The elegant blue tiles inspired by Julia Monroe’s parlor décor make a decorative or practical gift. Order an engraved century-old brick for our Heritage Trail in honor of someone you love or to mark a special occasion for someone on your holiday gift list. Give the gift of an Oberlin Heritage Center membership to the person who likes being part of a good thing. Wrap up an Apollo Theater tee-shirt, a deck of historic Oberlin playing cards, or a one-of-a-kind piece of Jean Simon’s exquisite hand-made jewelry and see the smiles come out this holiday season. From a wide selection of books on Oberlin history to a fun display of old-fashioned wood toys, you’ll find something for everyone at Oberlin Heritage Center’s Museum Store! Visit Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or shop online at www.oberlinheritage.org. Remember, Heritage Center members receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store.

Annual Fund Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center depends upon the generosity of caring people from throughout the country to preserve and maintain Oberlin’s history and historic sites and to support our educational programs. The Oberlin Heritage Center has received \$29,000 for general operating support through the contributions of more than 250 donors to this year’s Annual Fund campaign. We are grateful for this outpouring of support which is extremely helpful in a very lean year. We hope to raise at least \$35,000 by the end of the year. Please help to whatever degree you are able by making a secure contribution to the Annual Fund [online](#) or by [downloading](#) a donation form and mailing your gift to the Oberlin Heritage Center by December 31, 2010. Each and every donation is needed and very much appreciated!

Pat Murphy Honored as a Lorain County “Woman Of Influence”

Congratulations to Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director, **Pat Murphy**, who was among those recognized as Lorain County “Women of Influence” during the Women’s Leadership Lunchbox Series, hosted by Leadership Lorain County on November 17. Other honorees included **Claudia Jones** (Retired Development Officer for Oberlin College and an active community volunteer and member of the Oberlin Heritage Center!), Jeanine Donaldson (Executive Director YWCA Elyria and a community activist), Joan Lowry (Retired radio and TV commentator and reporter and a community volunteer), Angie Martinez (Hispanic Community Liaison for Lorain County Children’s Services and a Hispanic community activist), Jane Spiegelberg (Retired clinical psychologist and associate director of The Nord Center and a community volunteer) and Gail Stumphauzer (CEO of Leadership Lorain County and a community volunteer). Applause, applause to all who work hard to enhance and encourage the good things happening in our communities!

Oberlin’s Martin Luther King Monument Inspires North Carolina Community Memorial

The City of Sanford, North Carolina, located in the geographic heart of the state, recently announced the completion of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. that was inspired by Oberlin’s own Martin Luther King monument, designed in the mid-1980s by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Art and Oberlin Heritage Center Life Member, **Paul Arnold**. After doing some research and learning about the City of Oberlin’s MLK marker, Sanford officials contacted the Oberlin Heritage Center to receive more information about the local landmark, and also talked with Professor Arnold who gave permission for a similar design to be erected in the City of Sanford. The Sanford memorial will be dedicated before the end of the year. Check out the [photos](#) on the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Flickr pages (www.oberlinheritage.org) to see the strong resemblance between the two monuments.

Cincinnati Magazine Names Oberlin a Top Ten Cool College Town

The October 2010 edition of *Cincinnati Magazine* feature on “Legends of the Fall” includes a visit to Oberlin and a tip of the hat to the **Oberlin Heritage Center** as a great place for history buffs to explore (“where you can learn about Oberlin’s involvement in everything from the Boxer Rebellion to the aluminum industry”). Bravo to Oberlin Heritage Center business members, the **Oberlin Inn** and the **Hallauer House Bed and Breakfast** who also were mentioned in this spotlight on communities with “culture, charm and character.” For a copy of the article, e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

Oberlin Memories of World War II Program Script Available

The Oral History program hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center last month at Kendal at Oberlin attracted one of the largest crowds ever and sparked many personal recollections from those in attendance. If you would like to read the script from the program, which includes excerpts from Oberlin Heritage Center oral history interviews, you can receive a copy via e-mail by contacting members@oberlinheritage.org.

Happy Holidays to All Our Readers

The Oberlin Heritage Center Board, staff and volunteers wish all of you a very happy holiday season. Enjoy this fun Christmas tidbit from Robert S. Fletcher’s, *A History of Oberlin College: From Its Foundation Through the Civil War (Vol. 1)*: “**Apparently, it was the Episcopalians who introduced into Oberlin the celebration of Christmas. As late as 1863 most Oberlinites looked upon it as ‘a sort of heathen institution’ and treated December 25 exactly like any other day. In 1866, however, Christmas services were held at Christ Church, and the merchants rejoiced in much buying of presents.**”

Also of Interest

Oberlin Heritage Center member and award-winning program presenter, **William Loren Katz**, appears in an interview on National Public Radio in celebration of Native American History Month, which will be broadcast Wednesday, December 1 (various times). After the interview airs, you may retrieve this segment of “Tell Me More” by going to www.npr.org/tellmemore. The Oberlin Heritage Center received the History Outreach Excellence Award from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM) for William L. Katz’s lectures on Black Indians in 2008.

Applications are now open for **2011 Summer Seminars in American History** sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute. K-12 history, social studies and English teachers are invited to apply. Taught by renowned historians on college campuses in the U.S. and the U.K., these one-week seminars give educators the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of topics in American history – while gaining practical resources and strategies to take back to their classrooms. Apply by February 1, 2011. For more information, click [here](#) or visit www.gilderlehrman.org.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History also offers more than 100 lectures presented by eminent historians discussing major topics in American History. Audio podcasts are available for free, simply by registering and signing in on the Gilder Lehrman website. Topic categories include The Founding Era, Civil War Era, Abraham Lincoln, Early Twentieth Century, and 1945-Present. For a full list of available podcasts, click [here](#) or visit www.gilderlehrman.org.

Mercy Allen Hospital Auxiliary’s Holiday Home Tour takes place from **1-5 p.m. on Sunday, December 5** and just happens to feature the homes of four Oberlin Heritage Center members! Enjoy the historic charm of an 1880s Italianate brick home alongside the simple grace of some of the most modern and efficient homes in Oberlin. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Carlyle Gift & Flower Shop, Herrick Jewelry and Picket Fence Gift Shop at the hospital, and also will be sold the day of the tour at the hospital (200 West Lorain Street).

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