

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – December 2013



MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074 (440)774-1700

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Follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on

'Tis the season! #GivingTuesday is December 3, 2013.

Please remember the Oberlin Heritage Center in your giving plans this year!

Alternative Gift Fair Combines Holiday Shopping with Giving Back!

Don't miss Oberlin's **Seventh Annual Alternative Gift Fair** and help contribute to a more just, value-filled and healthy world. The Fair takes place **Monday through Friday, December 2-6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Oberlin College Science Center's Bent Corridor, located at the corner of Woodland and Lorain Streets. The Fair offers an array of holiday gift giving opportunities from community nonprofits, including a selection of fair trade coffee, chocolates, handcrafted jewelry, textiles, books and more. You may also make donations directly to Oberlin nonprofits on behalf of friends or relatives and receive a beautiful card detailing how your gift supports the good work they are doing locally and globally. (For more information, take a look through the pages of the [2013 AGF Gift Catalog](#) at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org.) Stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center's table at the Fair and check out our three special gift "bundles" offered this week only: ***Books in a Bag, Children's Special, and Comic/Card Combo*** – with **savings at more than 20%** off the retail price. The event is sponsored by the President's Office of Oberlin College and the Bonner Center for Service and Learning. Admission is free and open to the public.

Time Flies When You're Having Fun—20 Years at OHC

In 1993, the Oberlin Historical & Improvement Organization, fondly referred to as O.H.I.O., transitioned from the all-volunteer group it had been for the past 90 years, to one led by a professional staff. With the hiring of **Patricia Murphy** as Executive Director, the "sleeping giant" – known today as the Oberlin Heritage Center – began to awaken. Pat's assistant, **Mary Anne Cunningham** came on board shortly thereafter. Enjoy a fun review of two decades of progress made by the nonprofit organization in this upbeat illustrated presentation on **Tuesday, December 17 at 7:15 p.m.** The award-winning museum and historic preservation group has come a long way from those early days when Pat sometimes worked with the Monroe House front door purposely open to encourage visitors to enter! Free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).



Super Sneak Peek Saturday at the Heritage Center!

OHC's 500 Facebook fans are being rewarded on **Saturday, December 7** with an opportunity to stop by and enjoy a FREE guided **Oberlin Origins/Sneak Peek** tour offered on the half hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take a brief time-out from the hustle and bustle of the season and step back in time through the doors of the beautiful 1866 Monroe House. You'll hear fascinating stories of events and individuals that shaped Oberlin's first one hundred years. It's a good introduction to the town and college's early beginnings and a great way to get better acquainted with the Heritage Center! Good things happen if you LIKE us on Facebook. (And if you aren't one of the original 500, [friend](#) us today so you'll be part of the next reward!)

This OHC Mid-Winter Program Will Warm Your Heart!

The original residents of the 1884 Jewett House, Frank Fanning Jewett and Sarah Frances Gulick Jewett, were one of the "power couples" of Oberlin's first century. Among his many professional accomplishments, Oberlin

College professor, Frank Jewett, mentored young Charles Martin Hall who discovered an economically efficient process for making aluminum and founded ALCOA. Sarah Frances Jewett or “Fannie” was a successful writer and editor of numerous books on public health and hygiene. Both Frank and Fannie were committed to doing good work in the community by being involved in many aspects of civic affairs and Progressive Era social causes. Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, **Norman Craig**, offers a “prequel” to the Jewetts’ lives in Oberlin by taking us back to an earlier time, in Yokohama, Japan, when two young people, far from home, met and fell in love. The illustrated presentation, **Marriage Made in Japan and Nourished in Oberlin**, will both engage and charm the audience. Craig’s extensive study of the Jewetts and Hall recently has been enhanced by new information acquired through colleague **Yoshimitsu Miyagi** whose research comes directly from Japanese sources. The event takes place on **Wednesday, January 29 at 7:15 p.m.** and is free and open to the public. Location: Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive).

Ancient History Comes Alive in OHC’s New Home School Series

Learn how to use a compass and maps – important tools that guided our early seafaring world explorers. Discover the drama of ancient Indonesian dance. Gather together the “Three Sisters” and find out why they were so important to the People of the Longhouse. Curious kids will enjoy delving into the wonders of the ancient world in the Oberlin Heritage Center’s new **Home School Series** that takes place at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) on four successive **Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., February 26 through March 19**. This year our study of world cultures includes: **Stone Age Britain; Ancient Indonesia; Age of Exploration: Voyages at Sea; and The Five Nations of Iroquois**. The series is designed for boys and girls ages 8-13, and participants must enroll in all four sessions. Fee is \$40 for children or grandchildren of OHC members; \$45 for nonmembers. Register by January 18 to receive a \$5 discount per child. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

With Winter Upon Us, Can Spring Be Far Behind?

Spring Break may sound like the distant future, but it will be here sooner than you may think! Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** is already at work investigating some great new topics for two Spring Break Camps presented in late March. Boys and girls ages 8-13 can examine the evidence in a world of intrigue during our **March 24-25** mini-camp, **Undercover History: Spies, Detectives and Police**. Mystery meets splendor in the **Ancient Egypt** mini-camp offered **March 26-27**. Camps take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street). Fee for each two-day camp is \$40 for children or grandchildren of OHC members; \$45 for nonmembers. Register by March 1 to receive a \$5 discount per child. Partial scholarships may be available to those who qualify for schools’ free lunch programs. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700 for more information.

OHC’s Annual Fund Progress

“Thank you for all you are doing to keep significant memories alive – for how else can coming generations know? And knowing, learn some enriching lessons?” We LOVE hearing from OHC supporters WHY they choose to make a donation to the Annual Fund. Gifts of any size are needed and appreciated and help provide essential income to balance the budget each year. As you may know, memberships, tour fees, and fee-for-service projects help pay the monthly bills, but they do not fully cover the basic costs of operating the Oberlin Heritage Center. **To date, the 2013 Annual Fund has raised \$21,000 from 165 donors.** If you have not yet contributed to this once-a-year, end-of-the-year appeal, the Heritage Center needs your support to reach its goal of \$35,000. In addition to a tax receipt, you’ll get OHC’s assurance that your donation will be used effectively to preserve and share Oberlin’s important history. Make a gift online or mail your contribution to the OHC Annual Fund, P.O. Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074. The Annual Fund campaign continues through December 31, 2013.

Oberlin Heritage Center Values Openness and Accountability

On the heels of the 2012 Annual Report, we have posted O.H.I.O.’s (the Oberlin Historical & Improvement Organization is the legal name for the Oberlin Heritage Center) **Form 990 for fiscal year 2012** to our website and we welcome your review. Tax-exempt non-profit organizations are required to annually submit Form 990 to

the IRS. This document contains information about the organization's finances, governance, and program and service offerings. To locate the document, go to www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click on the “[IRS Form 990](#)” beneath the “About” tab. You’ll have access to detailed financial information plus a multi-page narrative that outlines the organization’s history and showcases the past year’s programs and events. According to Donna M. Weaver, CPA, MT for **Cohen & Company, Ltd.** (the company that performs our yearly audit and files our federal tax return), “The annual Form 990 tax return can create opportunities to garner more support for your organization and its cause.” The Heritage Center’s Business Manager, **Bethany Hobbs**, also highlights that Form 990 shows that our organization has a series of responsible policies in place regarding whistleblower, record retention/destruction and conflicts of interest. For more information, contact Patricia Murphy, Executive Director at patm@oberlinheritage.org or call (440) 774-1700.

OHC Staff, Board and Volunteer News

Volunteer **Ron Gorman**’s latest blog, [Thomas Tucker and Charles Jones: Missionaries FROM Africa](#), tells the fascinating story of two Oberlin College students, originally from Sierra Leone, who became missionaries in the American South during the Civil War. Ohio History Corps member **Jen Graham** (a recent Oberlin College graduate herself in 2012), delightfully finds many commonalities among students attending Oberlin College from one century to the next in her essay, [There’s Mischief in this Man: William Mallory and the Oberlin Collegiate Experience](#). Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org to access both blogs from the links in the “What’s New” box on the website’s home page.

Warmest wishes go with Mature Services member **Beverly Miller** who begins a new position as a teacher’s aide at Little Lighthouse Learning Center in Lorain. Beverly worked at OHC’s front desk and also did some docenting and gardening here during the past nine months. We’re so glad that Beverly plans to continue to volunteer at the Heritage Center every chance she gets!

Deepest condolences are sent to the family of **Kurt A. Breunig** who passed away November 12, 2013 following a sudden illness. Kurt was an OHC member and local attorney who had just begun a three-year term in April serving on the Heritage Center’s Board of Trustees.

Who Will Be the Heritage Center’s Next Community Award Recipients?

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** - an individual who adds to the knowledge of the history of Oberlin through research, writing, and/or educating others
- **Heritage Guardian** – an individual/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** – a volunteer who makes extraordinary contributions of time and talent to the Oberlin Heritage Center
- **History Teacher of the Year** – an area educator who inspires students to learn more about history
- **Community Teacher of the Year** – an area educator who inspires his or her students to get involved in community service
- **Keep Oberlin Beautiful Award** – an individual, business or organization that helps to enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the community.

Download an [entry form](#) by visiting the “What’s New” sidebar at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and submit your nomination by February 1, 2014. Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Annual Meeting on April 9, 2014.

New Oberlin App Keeps You in Touch with All Things Oberlin

Oberlin’s official mobile app for your Smartphone provides the latest announcements and events in the **City of Oberlin**, at **Oberlin College**, and throughout the downtown business community, including the **Oberlin Heritage Center**. A free [download](#) may be found at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org . The app’s interactive

features allow you to access a variety of important city, college and business-related information at your fingertips. Whether you live down the street or across the country, the new Oberlin App is a great way to stay in touch with what's happening in Oberlin.

Members' Update

Welcome OHC members **Kevin & Gail Flanigan** (Grafton), **Gary & Penny Jaffe** (Oberlin), **Diana Leonard** (Collins), **Paul, Cindra & Willow Lipke-Benn** (Oberlin), **Andrew & Erin Miranda** (Oberlin), and **Jean Schaefer** (Tomahawk, WI) We think it's pretty neat that slightly more than half of OHC members hail from Oberlin (58%), while the others (42%) represent 29 states across the nation and two foreign countries! If you're not a current member, we encourage you to connect with OHC's far-reaching community of supporters. Visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and click "Join" to become a member today!

May the Joy of “Christmas Past” be Yours this Holiday Season!

Christmas. The **25th of December 1862** was one of the most dismal days of the year. The mud in the streets was unfathomable. The rain poured down in torrents all day long. And yet it was a “merry Christmas” for the simple reason that neither mud nor rain could make everybody’s friend “Old Santa Claus” forego his annual visitation at the firesides of all such as did not forget for him to prepare. Though we opine that the good old Saint this time had to travel by some other means of locomotion than the famous “sledge drawn by reindeers” a complete picture of which exists in every child’s imagination. The mud was too deep for even such famous steeds. This year he must have wanted the Chariot of the Clouds propelled by the wings of the storm. But at all events it suffices to know that he arrived in due time, and Christmas morn beheld his annual deposit, from tiny stockings protruding trumpets and drums, candies and dolls, gun-cracks and goodies. ... and hear the prattling, the shouting, the laughter, which are all loud thanksgivings and praise for Santa Claus – *Excerpt from the Lorain County News (December 31, 1862)*

Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Heritage Center!

If you are a Cyber Monday (December 2) shopper or do any of your holiday shopping online this season, please remember to start with ShopforMuseums.com whenever you shop online to create a FREE donation for the Oberlin Heritage Center. Just follow the quick and easy instructions on the Shop for Museums home page and shop at hundreds of stores nationwide including Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Coldwater Creek, The Gap, HP, Kohl's, Macy's, Office Depot, Old Navy, Sears, Walgreens and many more. There is no extra charge to you and no cost to the Oberlin Heritage Center, which receives a percentage of your purchase amount. Online shopping through ShopforMuseums.com is quick, easy, and spreads the joy of gift-giving just a little bit further this year!

Holiday Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center

The Oberlin Heritage Center will be **closed December 24/25 and January 1** to allow staff and volunteers to enjoy gathering with their families for the holidays. The Heritage Center and the Museum Store will be open regular hours throughout the rest of the holidays, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guided tours are offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or call (440) 774-1700.

Also of Interest

Fill up a beautiful, hand-made ceramic mug with coffee, tea, or hot chocolate provided by Oberlin's local restaurants, and enjoy a free brass and organ performance of holiday favorites in **The Empty Mugs Holiday Brass & Organ Spectacular**. Now in its fifth year, the event benefits Oberlin Community Services through the sale of \$10 mugs crafted by members of the Oberlin Pottery Co-op. The concert takes place **Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at First Church in Oberlin, U.C.C. (106 N. Main St.)

To remove your name from the Oberlin Heritage Center's e-news mailing list, please respond to this e-mail by clicking on the "REPLY" button and typing "UNSUBSCRIBE" on the subject line.