

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette - December 2014

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

To subscribe to the free E-Gazette, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or send e-mail to members@oberlinheritage.org.

Follow the Oberlin Heritage Center on   

Kids Winter Fun Days - Busy Parents Will Enjoy, Too!

The Heritage Center offers two **Kids Winter Fun Days** on **Saturdays, December 6 and 13** for boys and girls ages 5-12 to allow parents the opportunity to gain a few extra hours to finish holiday shopping, wrapping or baking. Children will make crafts, play games, and enjoy music and cartoons of the season, all under the supervision of an adult educator and assistants. Parents can drop off children at the Oberlin Depot (240 South Main Street) anytime **between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.** – and kids can stay for a couple hours or for the full day! (Those who plan to attend all day should bring a bag lunch.) The fee for OHC members is \$4/hour/child or \$3/hour/child for multiple siblings; non-members are welcome as well and just add \$1 per hour/child. Reservations are required, and payment is due at the time of pick-up. To register, e-mail ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org or call the Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 with (1) the name/age of child(ren), (2) approximate time of drop off/pick-up, and (3) your phone number.

Cass Gilbert Featured at AMAM's Tuesday Tea Talk

The Oberlin Heritage Center's executive director, **Patricia Murphy**, will speak at the Allen Memorial Art Museums **Tuesday Tea Talk** on **December 9 at 2:30 p.m.** She has done extensive research and writing on the early career of American master architect Cass Gilbert (1859-1934), whose designs include the U.S. Supreme Court building, the Minnesota State Capitol, and other recognizable and lesser-known works throughout the country. Several Cass Gilbert structures grace the campus and community of Oberlin, including the Art Museum, Finney Chapel, and the Allen Mercy Hospital. **Cass Gilbert and the Allen Memorial Art Museum in Context** offers an introduction to the architect and his career with a glimpse at Gilbert's ambitious and not-entirely-realized plans for Oberlin. The event takes place in the AMAM's East Gallery and is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.oberlin.edu/amam/.

What's New in History Museums & Historic Sites Leadership?

OHC Museum Education and Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** is just back from a three-week seminar on "Developing History Leaders," which she attended along with 20 other public history practitioners from across the nation who gathered in Indianapolis to learn from experts and from one another about changes occurring in the field. This premier training program is sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and others. Liz will share some of what she learned regarding public history's changing role in education and communities at the Heritage Center's free, public program taking place at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) on **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:15 p.m.** As a preview, you may enjoy reading Liz's [blog](#), "Ready for Change," written as one of a series of participant updates posted at www.historyleadership.org during the course of the seminar.

OHC to Help Local History Organizations Take StEPS toward Excellence

Representatives from local history groups are invited to Oberlin to attend an introductory session on the **American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Standards for Excellence Program ("StEPs")** on **Wednesday, December 10 at 10 a.m. and repeated again at 3 p.m.** This 90-minute workshop is free and will outline how the StEPs program works and how it can benefit local history organizations to work toward implementing museum standards in their institutions. Discussion also will include the possibility of providing a series of workshops in 2015 for organizations wishing to work together on accomplishing StEPs. **Reservations are required by December 5.** To register, or to obtain further information, contact the Heritage Center's AmeriCorps Member **Kaitlyn Goss** at kaitlyn.goss@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700.

Who Will Be the Heritage Center's Next Community Awards 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 2, 2015. Award winners will be announced and saluted at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Annual Meeting on April 1, 2015.

Save the Dates – OHC Community Programs Coming in Early 2015

Wednesday January 28 at 7:15 p.m. – *Who Hauled Hall on Top of Hall?* – An entertaining and informative focus on "new" developments in the Charles Martin Hall and aluminum legacy, presented by Oberlin College Emeritus Professor of Chemistry **Norman C. Craig**. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Thursday, February 5 at 7:15 p.m. – *On the Home Front* – An eye-witness view from the Civil War's rural Midwest home front with family letters, songs, and images, presented by folksinger/author **Judy Cook** accompanied by husband **Dennis Cook**. Location: Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium.

Tuesday, February 17 at 4:30 p.m. – *Rules of Engagement: Civil War Courtship Letters and the ‘Homefront Imaginary’* – Drawn on the correspondence of Oberlinians Giles Waldo Shurtleff and Mary E. Burton as well as that of Elliott Grabill and Anna Jenney, the presentation looks at how Civil War soldiers turned to women on the home front for emotional support and relationships beyond the battlefield to sustain them during the conflict. Oberlin College Professor of History, **Carol Lasser**, offers this program, which is co-sponsored by OHC, the Oberlin College Archives, and the college’s Department of History. Location: Moffett Auditorium in Mudd Library on the college campus.

Wednesdays, February 25-March 18 from 1-3 p.m. *Homeschool Hands-on-History Series* designed for boys and girls ages 8-13. Look for details in January!

Week of March 23, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. *Spring Break Camp(s)* designed for boys and girls ages 8-13. Details coming soon!

OHC Blogs – History Bits with By-lines

Spend a few moments reading the latest blog posts at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org and you’ll be glad you did. Not only do these history nuggets enlighten readers about a variety of fascinating people and events from Oberlin’s past, the creative process of sharing research and writing about it offers many insights into what the OHC staff and volunteers are exploring in their work at the Oberlin Heritage Center. Kent State graduate student intern, **Melissa Clifford**, loves being involved with the OHC Oral History Project and has found some fun ways to share a bit about what she’s been learning in a three-part holiday blog series. Last month she posted [Oral History: Thanksgiving Traditions](#)...watch for her blog on Oberlin Christmas celebrations to be added to the website by mid-December. Docent volunteer, **Ron Gorman**, is a Civil War enthusiast and educator par excellence. Don’t miss his story of Oberlin’s own John W. Steele, a colorful, yet distinguished Union officer nationally recognized for his heroics in [A Medal of Honor and a Holy...euchre deck?](#)

It’s a Small World at the Oberlin Heritage Center!

For a local history organization in a relatively small town, it's amazing how frequently we find that Oberlin Heritage Center connections extend across the miles and through the years! When OHC member **Judy Cook** joined the Board of Trustees last spring, current Board member **Gail Wood** kept thinking to herself that Judy looked very familiar - the question remained, though, from where did Gail know her? A few weeks ago, the two women realized that they both entered Oberlin College at the same time in 1966; as undergrads, they had several mutual friends in common and knew of each other on campus by their *maiden* names, Judy Stiles and Gail Horn. Gail graduated with Oberlin College's class of 1970, married classmate **Reid Wood**, and has resided in Oberlin ever since. Meanwhile Judy took a semester off and graduated with the class of 1971, then married **Dennis Cook** and lived in Maryland near Washington DC. She and Dennis returned to Oberlin in mid-2013 when they moved to a cottage at Kendal at Oberlin. Judy and Gail are delighted that the Oberlin Heritage Center has brought them back into each other's circle of friends once again.

While attending the “Developing History Leaders” seminar in Indianapolis last month, OHC’s Museum Education & Tour Coordinator **Liz Schultz** was delighted to cross paths with former OHC college student intern **Elena Rippel**. The Indiana Historical Society hosted a book-launching party for its new Indiana-history publication “*Hoosiers and the American Story*,” and seminar participants were invited to attend. Liz recounts the chance meeting, “*I was eating appetizers and listening to the*

remarks of the IHS president, and what name do I hear him say? Elena Rippel! And there she was, off to my left, with IHS staff. I talked with her afterward and it turns out that while she was earning her master's in public history at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, she was called in to work on this project. Her supervisor added that she had requested the best and got Elena. So Elena pulled together a great many captions and images for the book...I got the two author's signatures, but got Elena's first...I don't want to downplay all I'm learning from experts and peers at this workshop, but seeing Elena honored was a highlight. I had to wait in line to say hello because she was talking with the president of the Indiana Historical Society!"

Five-Star Tour Reviews at the Oberlin Heritage Center

We loved welcoming many visitors to the Heritage Center in the waning weeks of autumn – group tours, plenty of parents and students during Oberlin College's Parents Weekend, Lorain County Community College history students working on an assignment, local Cub Scouts, and more! We also appreciated receiving feedback after these recent visits – and the reviews were so glowing we just had to share a sampling (for more, visit www.tripadvisor.com):

Fantastic Tour: This is truly a wonderful historic tour of the early beginnings of a small town. It is a completely different perspective on the Underground Railroad and women's acceptance in an academic world. Early settlers had such a great vision for the future. We had a wonderful guide who is very knowledgeable about the beginnings of Oberlin and the surrounding area. This is truly a gem of a find for history buffs!!!!

History Buffs Should Not Miss Oberlin Heritage Center: Oberlin, OH is home to one of the world's great colleges and conservatories, and is also filled with local and national history. The first coeducational college, and the first to admit students regardless of race, Oberlin played a key role in the abolitionist movement prior to the Civil War, serving as a strategic stop on the Underground Railroad that spirited escaped slaves to freedom in the North and in Canada. The Oberlin Heritage Center conducts an informative tour of local sites that played a role in that history, which includes the famed 1858 Wellington Rescue. The tour includes important church, school and other sites and memorials, together with an informative docent narrative. If you are in the area and are interested in local ante-bellum/Civil War/African-American history, this is a couple of very well-spent hours.

If you've never toured the Oberlin Heritage Center or if you haven't had a tour lately, think about adding a visit to your 2015 calendar, and please post your own review on Trip Advisor! For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org/visit.

Your Holiday Shopping Can Benefit the Heritage Center!

If you are a Cyber Monday (December 1) shopper or do any of your holiday shopping online this season, please remember to start with ShopforMuseums.com 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. If you are shopping on Amazon.com, support the Oberlin Heritage Center through **Amazon Smile** and when you shop, **Amazon** gives to the charitable organization of your choice at no extra expense to the customer. The Heritage Center is listed under its legal name, the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization. Sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/>. And remember the Oberlin Heritage Center's own Museum Store for Oberlin-themed books and mementos, OHC gift memberships or the honor of having a century-old brick inscribed with a name or special occasion – what better way to bring holiday cheer to someone

whose heart belongs to Oberlin? Purchase Museum Store items [online](#), at the Monroe House (Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or stop by and see us at the **Oberlin Winter Market** (Eastwood School, 198 East College Street, on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

Holiday Hours at the Oberlin Heritage Center

The Oberlin Heritage Center will be **closed December 24/25 and January 1**. 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.

OHC's Annual Fund Progress

Oberlin is a very important part of my life, as it is my hometown. I enjoy helping to keep its name and history made visible and available for all to see and know about. (What a lovely note from an out-of-state Annual Fund donor!) **To date, the 2014 Annual Fund has raised \$32,000 from 211 donors, including 100% of OHC's Board and Staff!** 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 \$38,000. Read on to see how you can help!

#GivingTuesday – Your Support Matters to OHC!

Remember the Oberlin Heritage Center on **December 2, 2014** as a spirit of generosity encircles the world. **#GivingTuesday** is a day for giving back, reaching out, and making a difference to the philanthropic causes that mean the most to you. History matters to everyone – many stories of the past continue to have meaning in our lives today and need to be shared with future generations. You can help preserve Oberlin's own important place in our nation's history, by making a secure [online](#) donation or sending a check made payable to the Oberlin Heritage Center to MPO Box 0455, Oberlin, OH 44074-0455. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or contact members@oberlinheritage.org or (440) 774-1700. Your contribution is tax-deductible, and gifts of any size are needed and appreciated!

OHC Staff, Board, Volunteer and Intern News

Business Manager, **Bethany Hobbs**, and Board Treasurer, **Ed Wardwell**, attended the “Strengthening your Nonprofit” seminar offered last month by Cohen & Company, CPAs. They attended sessions on Board Governance, Becoming Sustainable-Remaining Relevant: The New Face of Philanthropy, and an Accounting & Auditing Update.

Congratulations to **Melissa Clifford** as she graduates from Kent State University on December 13 with a Master's in Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) and a specialization in Museum Studies. As part of the requirements for her degree, Melissa began volunteering at the Oberlin Heritage Center over a year ago, and recently completed a 150-hour internship under the supervision of OHC's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, **Liz Schultz**. All the while attending school and volunteering at OHC, Melissa also has worked full-time for Ross Environmental Services in Elyria. We're delighted that Melissa plans to continue volunteering at the Heritage Center as her schedule permits.

Congratulations and all good wishes to former college student intern **Preston Sundin** (OC '11) who recently completed his master's thesis and will graduate from National Taiwan University this

month. In January, he begins teaching Chinese at an all-girls boarding school outside Albany, NY. You may recall that, while an intern and docent at the Heritage Center, Preston translated our guided tour of the Monroe House into Chinese.

OHC Members Update

Welcome OHC members **Tracy Chevalier** (London, England), **Melissa Clifford** (Wellington), **Tim Elgren & Gail Johnson**, **Linda Gilmore** (Elyria), **Peter & Leila Mattson** (Great Neck, NY), **Maren McKee**, **Eugene Schmiel** (Gainesville, VA) and new business member, **Green Circle Growers**. (Members are from Oberlin unless indicated otherwise.) We note with sorrow the passing of a long-time member, former board member and honorary trustee, **Reino ("Ray") Aalto**, at age 96. He joined the board of "O.H.I.O." in 1982 and served until 1992 (including several years as Treasurer). Ray continued to be an avid supporter of the Heritage Center throughout his life, and he will be missed by his many OHC friends.

The Heritage Center needs your support to continue its good work in the community. 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!

Also of Interest

Oberlin's annual **Alternative Gift Fair** takes place **Monday through Saturday, December 1-6 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Support Oberlin's nonprofit community by visiting the Fair to find meaningful gifts that give *twice* – your donation or purchase of a fair trade product will please the recipient **and** benefit the nonprofits that do good work in the community. During the week, the AGF will be held in Bent Corridor at the Oberlin College Science Building (119 Woodland Street). On Saturday, the AGF will take place at the Oberlin Winter Market at Eastwood School (198 East College Street). For more information, contact Kathryn Spencer at (440) 775-1175 or kathryn.spencer1881@gmail.com.

Here's another clever, colorful gift idea for the holidays! **The Community Foundation of Lorain County** has produced a beautiful 19-month **Patchwork Trails** calendar, which includes all of the barns featured on Lorain County's Patchwork Trails scenic route. All proceeds from the calendar benefit Lorain County 4-H. Calendars are available at the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Store for a minimum \$5 donation. For more information, visit www.patchworktrails.org or visit the Patchwork Trails of Lorain County's page on Facebook.

Music at the Meeting House, a concert series celebrating music in the Oberlin community, takes place **Wednesday, December 10 at 4:45 p.m.** with a selection of vocal chamber music performed by Oberlin Conservatory students. The program features the newly rebuilt 1911 Steinway piano located in the Meeting House of **The First Church in Oberlin, UCC**, on the corner of Routes 511 and 58. The event is free and open to the public.

Leadership Lorain County's Internship Program is an amazing opportunity for college students in Lorain County to experience a strong internship, become more familiar with the county, and develop professional skills to enhance future careers. Current college students whose primary residence is in Lorain County, Ohio can learn more about **Northeast Ohio's Coolest Internship** (as recognized earlier this year by the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education) at an information fair on **December 30, 6-8 p.m.** at the LLC office (201 Burns Road, Elyria). For more information, visit www.leadershiploraincounty.com.

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.