

Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette – December 4, 2009

Third Annual Alternative Gift Fair

Looking for something a little different for the people on your holiday shopping list? Don't miss Oberlin's Third Annual Alternative Gift Fair and help contribute to a more just, value-filled, and healthy world. The Fair takes place **Monday through Friday, December 7-11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Oberlin College Science Center's Bent Corridor**, corner of Woodland and Lorain Streets, and **Saturday, December 12 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at First Church in Oberlin**, corner of Lorain (SR 511) and Main (SR 58) Streets. The Alternative Gift Fair offers an array of unique holiday gift giving opportunities from local nonprofits doing good work in the community and around the world. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit participants and make a difference in their work serving others. Stop by the Oberlin Heritage Center's table and say hi. 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. You'll find something for everyone at the only-in-Oberlin Alternative Gift Fair!

Black Oberlinians and the Civil War

As a prelude to Civil War sesquicentennial (2011-2015) activities around the state, the Oberlin Heritage Center welcomes **Dr. Kelly D. Selby**, a Walsh University assistant professor of history (and formerly an Oberlin Heritage Center graduate student intern) to discuss Oberlin-area African-Americans' participation in the war and the effect that their service had on their lives when they returned home. **Oberlin's Sable Arm: Black Ohioans and the Civil War** is a free, public presentation taking place on **Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin's Heiser Auditorium**. Details may be found on the Oberlin Heritage Center's [website](#) or call (440) 774-1700. Selby obtained her Ph.D. in nineteenth-century United States history from Kent State University in 2008. Her dissertation was on "The 27th United States Colored Troops: Ohio Soldiers and Veterans."

History to Go: Oberlin Heritage Center on the Road!

In recent months staff members of the Oberlin Heritage Center went armed with a laptop, PowerPoint presentation, and projector to speak with a variety of organizations throughout Northeast Ohio and at the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums conference at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. The Twigbenders of Amherst, a crew of intrepid Adventure Cycling Association bicyclists camping at Findley State Park, and a reuniting World War II battalion staying at the Oberlin Inn all enjoyed learning about Oberlin and the Underground Railroad. Academic secretaries attending a conference at Oberlin College had a crash-course on the history of Oberlin and the college's founding. Residents of Pleasant Lake Villa Nursing Home in Parma enjoyed a virtual tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Staff members have also been busily sharing ideas with area educators and staff and volunteers of local historical organizations about websites, membership, children's camps, oral histories, heirloom preservation, writing about history, genealogy, and the National History Day program. Oberlin Heritage Center's junior docents will take a trip on December 5 to the First Ladies' Museum in Canton as a way to expand their horizons and experience tours at another site. For more information, go to <http://www.oberlinheritage.org/about/speakers> or call Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700.

Pat Murphy Appointed to American Association of Museums

Accreditation Commission

The American Association of Museums has announced the appointment of the Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director Patricia Murphy to serve on its nine-member Accreditation Commission for a five-year term. The Commission is responsible for rendering decisions regarding accreditation status for all museums. Commissioners are senior museum professionals with significant experience in all aspects of museum management and operations. The Commission meets three times a year in Washington, D.C. Pat Murphy led the Oberlin Heritage Center's work to obtain museum accreditation which it achieved in 2005. She has served as a peer reviewer for the American Association of Museums for five years. Murphy stated: "Achieving accreditation by the American Association of Museums was by far the most difficult and most gratifying accomplishment that the board, staff and volunteers and I have worked on since I arrived at the Oberlin Heritage Center (then the Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization) in 1993. I am deeply honored to be asked to serve on the Accreditation Commission as a representative of small museums. I believe very strongly in the importance of advancing museums and historical organizations through standards and best practices." For more information on museum accreditation, visit <http://www.aam-us.org/museumresources/accred/about.cfm>

Museum Educator Liz Schultz to attend THATCamp

Elizabeth Schultz, the Oberlin Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator and webmaster since 2007, is among a select group of professionals in all fields "where technology and the humanities collide" who will be attending THATcamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp) in Columbus on Jan. 15-16. THATcamp is a user-generated "unconference" on digital humanities inspired by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. THATcamp Columbus is a collaborative effort of the Ohio Humanities Council and the Center for Public History and Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University.

Annual Fund Update

The Oberlin Heritage Center has received \$32,000 in contributions for general operating support through the generosity of more than 245 donors to this year's Annual Fund campaign. We are grateful for this tremendous outpouring of support which is extremely helpful in this very lean year. We hope to raise at least \$35,000 by the end of the year. Please help by making a secure contribution to the Annual Fund [online](#) or by [downloading](#) a contribution form and mailing it to the Oberlin Heritage Center by December 31, 2009. Each and every donation is needed and very much appreciated!

Please share this information by forwarding this e-mail to a friend.

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